



Half Report

PROJECT
**Empowered Communities
foster Climate Adaptive
Agriculture and Livelihoods**

(P No - 321-105-1032)


Social Welfare Institute, Caritas

Raiganj - 733134

Uttar Dinajpur

West Bengal

For Social Welfare Institute


Secretary

Name of the Agency	Social Welfare Institute, Raiganj
Address of the agency's registered office	Social Welfare Institute, Caritas Raiganj - 733134 Uttar Dinajpur West Bengal
Correspondence address of the agency, with e-mail ID, Landline no., Fax no.	Social Welfare Institute, Caritas Raiganj - 733134/ Uttar Dinajpur/ West Bengal <i>Website : www.swiraiganj.org</i> <i>E-mail ID : swiraiganj@gmail.com</i> Ph. No: 03523-252431 Office Mob. No : +918670956037
Reporting Period	June 2021 to November 2021 (6 Months)
Report submitted to	Misereor Postfach 10 15 45/ 52015 Aachen, Germany.

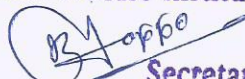
Submitted by - **Social Welfare Institute, Caritas**

Raiganj - 733134
Uttar Dinajpur
West Bengal

Submitted To - **Misereor**

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INTRODUCTION



In 2006 the Ministry of Panchayat Raj named Maldah one of the country's 283 most backward districts (out of a total of 640) It is one of the eleven districts in West Bengal currently receiving funds from the Backward Regions Grant Fund Programme (BRGF). No notable industry is made here. Most of the people of the district are agricultural laborer and unskilled laborer. According to Human Development Index, 7 districts of West Bengal state ranked far behind out of 19 districts. Maldah district is one of them. Though the Central and State Governments have launched numerous schemes and programmes for poverty amelioration, but it has not in any way changed or affected the condition of the people in Habibpur block of Maldah district. It is all due to their lack of awareness, information and illiteracy. The literacy levels are extremely poor. The dominant tribal culture is also gradually losing its identity due to lack of socio-political patronage and depletion of local sources of livelihood.

In the month of 1st June- 2021 SWI has launched the project named ECFCAL in the district of Maldah at the proposed villages of the target Block of the district with the technical and financial support of MESSOREORS. The purpose of the project is reduction of socio-economic fissure between socially excluded and deprived communities such as Schedule Tribes & Schedule Caste community and the general population through non-discriminatory access to rights for livelihood, health and nutrition, in the target area of West Bengal by bringing into a sustainable, participatory and inclusive way through the process of empowerment for joining the mainstream of population. However, this would be done extensively through animation-based approach ensured by the mass participation of the target community members and households. However so far we have completed the first six months activities as per our physical and financial plan. This report will elaborate the status of the project so far with major outcomes achieved by the end of the 6 months as presets.

PROJECT AREA

DISTRICT	BLOCK /S	GP COVERED	VILLAGES	POPULATION COVERED
MALDAH	HOBIBPUR BLOCK	Aktoil		
		Mangalpura		
		Hobibpur		

MALDA
Administrative Units



1. AKTOIL

Village coverage - 17
 Total population - 28750
 Population coverage- 4782
 Community Participation - 2524
 Women participation - 1200

2. MANGALPURA

Village coverage - 12
 Total population - 3063
 Population coverage- 1554
 Community Participation - 1155
 Women participation - 550

3. HOBIBPUR

Village coverage - 14
 Total population - 4576
 Population coverage- 2500
 Community Participation - 1200
 Women participation - 700

GOAL & OBJECTIVES

GOAL - Marginalized households of 3 gram Panchayat in West Bengal have improved their living Condition through greater Food Sovereignty and increased access to Government resources.

OBJECTIVE 01 - By 2024,60% target households of 3 GPs in Habibpur block in Maldah district of West Bengal will have increased access to government resources/ schemes and entitlements.

OBJECTIVE 02 - 60% (2064HH of 3440 HH) Marginal farmers of 3 Gram Panchayat in 1 blocks in West Bengal will have greater food sovereignty by 2024 through adopting 'Climate Adaptive Agriculture Practices (CAAP), optimum water resource management and marketing of produce through organized markets and networks To enhance the health & Nutrition status of women &child of the community.

OBJECTIVE 03- 40 % of community based organizations groups / committees of 3 GPs of Habibpur block in Maldah district of West Bengal have increased participation, ownership and support in management of village level governance and administration.

ACTIVITIES UNDERTAKEN

Objective-1 - Access to government resources/ schemes and entitlements

A. Interface meeting with PRIs and line departments and target group– Total 6 Interface meeting between PRI-Govt. Officers (GP) and community was conducted in each Gram Panchayat office and 132 people from village and 10 GP officials participated. The participants were selected by the community. In this meeting people shared their problems on MGNREGS, NSSF etc.

Out Come:

- Payments of MGNREGS was discussed and settled for the unpaid laborers.
- Grass root problems on different matters has discussed and settled accordingly.

B. Sensitization of Women health issues in relation to MCH – Total 10 meeting of women health right in related to Mother and Child Health was conducted in 3 GPs and 205 women attended the meetings. In all health meeting we discussed on health & hygiene, adolescent health, care of Ante Natal Care & Post Natal Care & importance of Institutional delivery. Rapport with ICDS, ASHA worker and ANM of sub-centers of 3 Gram Panchayats have been structured. ICDS monitoring committees has formed to monitor the nutrition of pregnant mother, lactating mother and the children below 6 years.

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Out Come:

- Pregnant and lactating mothers access services of Ante Natal Care and Post Natal Care from sub-centre, Primary Health Centre and Block Primary Health Centre.
- Better and bigger awareness among the family members of the pregnant lady has shaped.

C. Organize Health camp at village level - 2 health camps are done in all 3 GPs. 250 people have participated in those health camp. We are identifying 1 TB present, 1 high sugar present supporting them through local PHC MO and Doctors from Maldah.

Out Come:

- 250 people received free medical checkup and medicine in health camps.
- 1 thalassemia persons screened and referred to hospital for further treatment
- 1 TB patients were screened and send to the hospital for further treatment 1 person are screened as thalassemia patients and referred to district hospital.

D. Awareness on on TB, HIV, Leprosy and covid 19 - 4 Sensitization meeting has been conducted for the target community in accessing Public Distribution System. 88 people participated in the meeting. In all 4 GPs communities got updated information about the quantity and rate of PDS their due share of rice, wheat, sugar and how many days in a week can they get also were clarified. Many got new information on the subject.

Out Come:

People are aware about 5 types of ration cards (NFSA – AAY, PHH, SPHH, RKSYS I& II) Communities got updated information about the quantity and rate to their each ration card.

E. Awareness meeting on various Govt. schemes (Social Welfare & social security) to Volunteers, CBOs, VOs, SHGs and target populations. - Total 20 village levels awareness meeting on govt. schemes and the participants were 255. The participants were mostly Schedule Caste and Schedule Tribe community. In those meeting the agenda was on MENREGA scheme, Samobethi Prakalpa, job card, and different Govt. schemes, Beneficiary eligibility, documents. People had wrong concept of schemes. Discussed with the community their need, find probable and discusses the proper ways to access different government schemes for increasing their livelihood.

Out Come:

- New job card received- 125.
- 42 persons applied for job.
- 25 Received job in their area on soil leveling.

F. Awareness on MGNREGS / SASPFUW / MKSY/ BSKP/ horticulture/fishery/ARDS, NRLM -Total 16 village levels awareness meeting on MGNREGS/ fishery andNRLM schemes has been organized where total 310 participants has been covered. In those meetingsthe community has been given ideas on different Govt. schemes, beneficiary eligibility, documents and the procedure to access the schemes. Identify their need and find probable ways increasing their livelihood.

Out Come:

- People are received their pending job money.
- 20 people applied for job.
- 10 person received job in their area on soil leveling, excavation of pond.
- Appliedfor new job card received-25

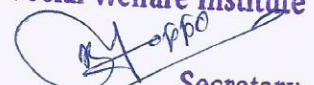
G. Legal Aid Program for SHG/FCs,Village leaders with DLSA - 5 Legal Aid Program for SGH/FCs, village leaders was conducted by District Legal Services Authority. 150 people attended the meeting. Each of the program was mainly on legal aid for women and children.

Out Come:

- People are well aware about the location of their "Village Legal care and seaport center".
- 5 people got suggestion on their particular case.
- People came to know about District Legal Services Authority which helps women, children and poor people without any court fees.

H. Formation and training of volunteers led TOT of farmers group and SHG in selected GPs. - We have organized 6 sensitization meetings for community leader on National Social Security Schemes (NSSS). 112 people participated in the meetings. The agenda was the procedure, eligibility of beneficiary; documents for NSSS especially widow pension, pension for differently able persons and the family benefit scheme and more and more new topics are discussed in those meeting.

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Out Come:

- Closed 2 old pensions has again restarted.
- 2 applications have submitted for widow pension.
- 3 families have collected the documents for family benefit scheme.
- 3 differently able persons are enlisted and referred to district hospital for health check up.

I. Formation of Village level PDS monitoring committee- We organized 2 meeting for forming PDS monitoring committee at Mangalpura and Aktoil G.Ps. 35 people attend in the meeting. At last the meeting we formation 2 group for PDS monitoring and 21 people join this group.

Out Come:

- They have started visiting the PDS shops regularly and monitor the quantity.
- People have started asking for Cash memo against their purchase.
- Dealers have displayed card wise quantity chart.

Objective 02 - Greater food sovereignty by 2024 through adopting 'Climate Adaptive Agriculture Practices (CAAP), optimum water resource management and marketing of produce through organized markets and networks To enhance the health & Nutrition status of women & child of the community.

A. PLA/PRA to identify need and resources of the community - 8 PLA meeting with villagers have been conducted. 105 women and 55 men are attended the meeting. We identified need and resources of the community. We also advise them on their various problem and resources.

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B. Interface meeting with line departments (Agriculture Office) for promotion of CAAP. - We have total 72 farmers who have been linked with Agriculture office for promotion for CAAP. They are dividing into 4 groups for the interface meeting.

Out Come:

- Farmers are linked ADA office for training on various cropping.
- 40 farmers received training from ADA office.
- 20 women received 20 each chicks for income generation program

C. Promoting dialogues between old and youth on environment conservation and traditional agricultural practices and methods. - 8 meetings were conducted for interaction Promoting dialogues between old and youth on environment conservation and traditional agricultural practices and methods. However total 58 persons attended the meeting.

D. Training village youth, farmers and volunteers on soil health, agriculture according to temperature and rainfall - We have been conducted 6 Training village youth, farmers and volunteers on soil health, agriculture according to temperature and rainfall. Total 95 participated in those training. They are known as the benefits of soil testing.



Out Come:

- Farmers are known as the benefits of soil testing.
- Farmers can find out where the soil tasting center.

E. Training on Integrated Resource Management (crop, vegetables, fish, poultry etc.) for the farmers -We have conducted total 5 Training on integrated resource management. We completed 2 training on traditional jewelry, 1 training on fishery and 2 training on vegetable cropping. 38 farmers and 50 house wives participated in these trainings.

F. Promotion of Integrated Pest Management (IPM) in 20% villages- We have organized 16 Village level Awareness on Integrated pest Management. 255 persons took part in the meeting. At last we organized 2 training on pest management.

Out Come:

- 25 farmers received trainings on IPM.
- 50% among them have started practicing the same.

G. Awareness on Integrated Nutrient Management (INM) 20% villages - 16 Village level Awareness on Integrated Nutrient Management. 255 persons took part in the meeting. The agenda of the meeting was on Govt. scheme allotted for farmers, services available.

Out Come:

- Increase proper knowledge nutrient management.
- Increase knowledge on various health benefits.

H. Promotion of Nutrient garden in 20% villages (vegetable seeds distribution)
We have conducted 8 meeting on nutrient garden in all GPs. We have been formed 25 kitchen gardens in the community. We have distributed various types of vegetable seeds as well. Increased participation, ownership and support in management of village level governance and administration.



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I. Formation of new SHG and strengthening of weak SHG (budgeted). - We have been conducted 6 meeting for formation and regular meeting of new SHGs. 102 women participated in those meeting. They are known as the benefits of formation a new SHG in this meeting and they are ready to formed new SHG.

Out Come:

- Formation 3 new SHGs.
- Formed 2 SHGs are joined into Sangha.
- They are facilitated to join the Govt. framework of SHG for further trainings.

J. Formation and strengthening of farmers group, farmers club, women farmers group - We have organized 6 awareness meeting for Formation and strengthening of farmers group, farmers club, women farmers group. 85 people are attending in our meeting. They are known benefit of farmers club and various government schemes for farmers group.

Out Come:

- Formation 2 new farmers group.

K. Linkage meeting between NABARD/ADA & farmers groups- We have organized 4 linkage meetings between ADA and farmers group, farmers club, women farmers group. 78 people are attending in our meeting. ADA discusses benefit of farmers club and various government schemes for farmers group.

Out Come:

- 12 farmers are applying for agriculture machinery with 50% government subsidy.

L. Staff Capacity building

Two orientation and staff capacity building is done where staff came to know about the project objectives and their role responsibility in the project, inputs given on Govt. schemes etc. Their confidence increased to work.

Three capacity building training was conducted for staff in the beginning of the project. In the training resource person spoke about various Government Schemes such as Janshiksha Yojana (JSY), ICDS, Old age pension, Family benefit schemes, Widow Pension, IAY (Indira Awas Yojana), MNREGS etc. He explained in detail that when and why it started and who are the beneficiaries, the allotted amount under each scheme, documents concerning the scheme and the mode of transmission of the allotted fund to the concerned beneficiaries. He mainly focused on Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme-How to get the job card, what are the works that can be taken under this scheme.

Out Come:

- Project staffs has got better knowledge on different schemes and Govt. entitlements.
- The animators realized the importance of communication and sharing of information and knowledge with others.

M. Monthly Staff Meeting - 6 staff monthly meeting have been conducted every month in Social Welfare Institute. In these meeting coordinator used to collect monthly activity report and action plan for the next month. In each meeting a short input session has been provided to the team on reporting and monitoring, documentation including photo documentation so that all the good practices can be noted and recorded. Gradually the team of the field staffs are taking grip of the project with their updated skills and experiences.

Out Come:

- Monthly report and monthly planning are being practiced.
- Input session helps better understanding of the project purposes among the staffs.
- It is a helpline for the project progress.

N. Quarterly Review Meetings – SWI used to perform internal review meeting of their all projects half yearly basis so that each one of the SWI coordinator can be aware about their different projects and progress accordingly. It's basically sharing of project progress along with the major obstacles faced by the project teams. This helps in understanding of different situation of different projects that the project team is overcoming using common senses and their dynamisms. Leadership qualities of the coordinators and supervisors can also been experiencing in such meetings. Presentation of the projects status however, describe the presentation and documentation skills of the coordinator. Coordinators also collect the report and support the staffs.

Out Come:

- Evaluation is done for every project.
- It helps staff to keep record of the project.
- Helping to learn from other project.



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CHALLENGES FACED

Major Challenges	Strategies adopted as Solutions
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Social gathering/festival/marriage and election creates obstacles in conducting trainings, workshops and other programmes. • Difficulties due to heavy rain and other natural calamities in this year has faced by the project team in performing different activating on proper time. • Sometimes building rapport with the Govt. dept. and their officials has become a bigger problem than the normal. Since this project has a bigger opportunity in linkage with line Dept. so field team suffered a bit while doing that. • Situation of COVID however did not created problems as such but major gathering for trainings, meetings has conducted with a prior permission. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Planning has been done in such a manner so that participants could attend the same in smooth. Some time we merged two different programme in a same day with different time frame as well. • Climatic hazards has been handled with alternative days on engagement of the field staffs. They also had to sacrifice their holidays due to the same. • This part of the problem basically managed by the coordinator and the field staffs in joint manner. Introductory meetings followed by regular follow up visits has slicker the process a lot. • Proper precautions has been taken by the entire team while conducting field based programme. Vaccination of the community members was also given priority methodically.

AT A GLANCE

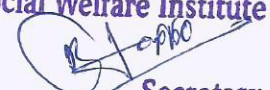
June 2021 to November 2021				
No.	Activities	Target	Achieved	Participants
1.1	Interface meeting with PRIs and line departments and target group	6	6	132
1.2	Sensitization of Women health issues in relation to MCH	10	10	205
1.3	Organize Health camp at village level	2	2	250
1.4	Awareness on TB, HIV, Leprosy and Covid 19	7	7	155
1.5	Awareness meeting on various Govt. schemes (Social Welfare & social security) to Volunteers, CBOs, VOs, SHGs and target populations.	20	20	255

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1.6	Awareness on MGNREGS / SASPFUW / MKSY/ BSKP/ horticulture/fishery/ARDS, NRLM	16	16	310
1.7	Legal Aid Program for SHG/FCs,Village leaders with DLSA	5	5	150
1.8	Formation and training of volunteers led TOT of farmers group and SHG in selected GPs.	6	6	122
1.9	Formation of Village level PDS monitoring committee	2	2	35
1.10	Exposure visit to different demo plot for farmers and or SHG groups.	0	0	0
2.1	PLA/PRA to Identify need and resources of the community	8	8	155
2.2	Interface meeting with line departments (Agriculture Office)for promotion of CAAP	4	4	72
2.3	Promoting dialogues between old and youth on environment conservation and traditionalagricultural practices and methods.	8	8	162
2.4	Training 2village youth, farmers and volunteers on soil health, agriculture according to temperature and rainfall	6	6	95
2.5	Training on Integrated Resource Management (crop, vegetables, fish, poultry etc.) for the farmers	5	5	98
2.6	Exhibition to promote organic produce, traditional seeds, implements	1	1	23
2.7	Promotion of community seed fair (in 20% villages).	4	4	152
2.8	Formation of community seed bank (traditional seeds and varieties)	2	2	22
2.9	Promotion of Integrated Pest Management (IPM) in 20% villages	16	16	255
2.10	Awareness on Integrated Nutrient Management (INM) 20% villages	16	16	245
2.11	Promotion of Nutrient garden in 20% villages (vegetable seeds distribution)	8	8	264
2.12	Promotion of multiple cropping (different types of grams (gram seeds distribution- Dal)	1	1	50

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3.1	Gram Sansad level micro-planning preparation and collective actions.	6	6	90
3.2	Formation of new SHG and strengthening of weak SHG (budgeted).	6	6	85
3.3	Formation and strengthening of farmers group , farmers club, women farmers group	6	6	102
3.4	Linkage meeting between NABARD/ADA & farmers groups	4	4	78
3.5	Networking with marketing agencies at district/state level to connect at least 20% of producers groups.	1	1	40
3.6	Exposure visit of farmers group	0	0	0
4.1	Orientation for project staff on project goal, objectives, Govt schemes etc. (board & lodge)			23
4.2	Training on CAAP for project core staff & TOT members			12
4.3	Monthly Review meeting.			36



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CONCLUSION

All the efforts were made to complete and we have been successful completing of the project activities. Therefore we could already see some of the changes in the community body language. They respond well, respect our staff both in villages where we work and in the Govt. offices and respond well. From this we are confident to help people and successful completion. The project has a long term effect somehow some could be achieved immediately and some possibly after a year interval. This warrants high level of technical and managerial capabilities on the part of project implementing strategies. Among other things, NGO's local presence, availability of competent technical staff including networking with community and other stakeholders is creating technically and in a prompt manner. However, it was observed that after the initial exuberance and involvement in the project, the community become slowly and non-committal about the programmer's objectives.

As an implementing agency SWI has started this project with a new dynamism and enthusiasm. Since the project has been launched in total new geographical situation and place so people's participation is a bit low and are gradually increasing. The ownership of the project by the community is gradually increasing. Women participation has seen tremendously high from the very beginning even better than the men participation in many cases. Youth and involvement of other mixed section are comparatively low than women. The team of the field staff are also very new to this sectoral however they are also been given different trainings and a regular base input sessions to upgrade their skills and knowledge. Overall, with all the prose and cones, the project has started with a fresh and dynamic approach to achieve the objectives of the project in all revenues.



DRUPES OF HARD WORK

Successstory on **Kitchen garden-**

Name: Basanti Murmu

Vill: Rahutara

Basanti Murmu is a female small farmer; she belongs to poor ST (Santhal) community. We conducted an awareness program on Kitchen garden and using by bio- fertilizer at the village Rahutara. We aware people about how to make use of the land which are simply not in use. We suggest them to cultivate different kind of vegetables and reduce the expense of family expenditure. We always tell them to cultivate using Bio-fertilizer. Cultivating vegetables by Bio-fertilizers our health remains healthy and fit.



Ms. Basanti Murmu attended our program and she liked it. She accordingly followed our suggestions and cultivated different types of vegetables in her small area. She basically cultivated cabbage and coli-flower in her kitchen garden. The seed was provided for her from the project fund. Now vegetables are ready to harvest to consume. She faithfully acknowledges that in this way she could save the small amount money for her family. Now she do not have to buy vegetables from the market.



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THE TEST OF BANANA

Success story on **Banana cultivation-**


Name: Santana Hembram

Vill: Maivita

Santana is a poor farmer belongs to backward Santhal community. She lives just near Bangladesh border at Maivita village. She has barren land. We organize a multi and inter-cropping cultivation program at their village on 10th July-2021. She was present in our program, listened attentively and was inspired by the words of Project coordinator Mr. Anjan Kr Biswas. Mr. Anjan Suggested Mr. Santana to cultivate banana in her one bigha of land. Santana planted banana plants in her land. Now banana plants are grown up in some of the plants flowers have bloomed and some have bore fruits. Santana is expecting some income from here. Santana is sincerely grateful to Project coordinator and Social Welfare Institute, Raiganj for their stretching helping hand towards him.



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