



June - November 2022



Half Yearly Report

Project No: 321-105-1032

Project Title: Empowered communities foster climate adaptive agriculture and livelihood practices of marginalized communities in three Panchayats of Maldah District, West Bengal, India

Submitted By

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For Social Welfare Institute


Secretary

Details of the Organization

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Reporting Period	June to November 2022 (6 Months)
Report submitted to	Misereor Postfach 10 15 45/ 52015 Aachen, Germany.

Goal of the Project:

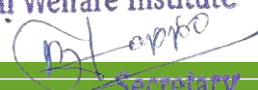
Marginalized households of 3 gram Panchayat in West Bengal have improved their living Condition through greater Food Sovereignty and increased access to Government resources.

Objectives of the project -

Objective- 1: 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 2: 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 3: 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.

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Area Details

DISTRICT	BLOCK /S	GP COVERED	VILLAGES	POPULATION COVERED
MALDAH	HOBIBPUR BLOCK	Aktoil	17 NO	4782 NO
		Mangalpura	12 NO	1554 NO
		Hobibpur	14 NO	2500 NO
		-		



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

Introduction

It is known to all that, according to Human Development Index, 7 districts of West Bengal state rank far behind out of 19 districts. Malda district is one of them. However, 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 Malda 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. Another negative factor in the culture is the heavy use of county liquor, early marriage, gender discrimination and superstition due to lack of awareness and education, which contributes too many social problems and responsible for slow advancement of the ST/ SC communities.

The health facilities available to the area are practically not adequate. In the time of serious diseases or any other emergency the only means of transport is bi-cycle or by walk to nearby PHC or Hospital which is about 15 km. from this area. During the rainy season, it is extremely difficult to come out the town. Importantly, men and young men leave the villages looking for jobs elsewhere leaving the women and children at the mercy of local conditions, problems and often without any support. Tribal women contribution in the family's income is not less than men's contribution, but in the patriarchy-form of the tribal society, which is prevalent in this area, they are economically dependent on the male members. This is basically, because they lack Decision-making power in every aspects of life. Mostly they do not possess any landed property or asset. In the tribal society, women cannot perform rituals, plough, make roof of a mud house and cannot perform last rituals for the departed soul. Although there has not been any cultural preference for a male child, a female child is not preferred as part of the influence of other cultures. This is due to wrong assumption that a female child is other's property and she cannot prolong/ continue the name of the dynasty. This is why male child's education is preferred and female child's education is neglected in all most of all cases.

Activities undertaken

By the initiating month of this half year, the project team had prepared a total execution plan of the set activities. It was done on pen and paper and in the presence of the society director. At the very beginning of this, heal year the entire



This objective is about the more and more access to the Govt. schemes and entitlements by the beneficiaries of the target project areas. The team has worked on the set activities so that people could know more about the Govt schemes and can relate the need for that and can apply accordingly. There are good numbers of entitlements that this project team has worked for the last year, which has been elaborated in details with a broader outline of achieving this objective both at quantitatively and qualitatively.

1. Interface meeting with PRIs and line departments and target group

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 community selected the participants. In this meeting, people shared their problems on MGNREGS, NSSF etc.

2. Sensitization of Women health issues in relation to MCH

10 meeting of women health right in focus to Mother, Child Health has conducted in 3 GPs where total 227 women attended. In all health meeting, we discussed on health & hygiene, adolescent health, care of Ante Natal Care & Post Natal Care & importance of Institutional delivery. We have build up rapport with ICDS, ASHA worker and ANM of sub-centers of 3 Gram Panchayats. ICDS monitoring committees have been formed to monitor the nutrition of pregnant mother, lactating mother and the children below 6 years.

Major Out comes

- Mothers get the knowledge of caring their child.
- They learnt how to make nutrition mix in their houses.



3. 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 and we awareness on personal hygiene.

4. Awareness on TB, HIV, Leprosy and Covid 19

We have conducted 7 awareness meeting of community in accessing TB, HIV, Leprosy and Covid 19. 150 people participated in the meeting. In all 3 target GPs, communities got updated information about the TB, HIV, Leprosy and Covid 19.

Major Out come

- People come to know the symptoms, causes and personal hygiene.

- They again come to know causes of HIV, how it spread.
- People know about the Leprosy disease.



5. Awareness meeting on various Govt. schemes (Social Welfare & social security) to Volunteers, CBOs, VO, SHGs and target populations.

We have organized 20 village levels awareness meeting on govt. schemes and the participants were 534. 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.

Major Out comes

- People know about the new rules Swasthya SathiCard.
- People come to know about Health ID card.
- They know about Ayushman Bharat Yojana.

6. Awareness on MGNREGS/ SASPFUW/ MKSY/ BSKP/ horticulture/fishery/ARDS, NRLM

We have organized 18-village levels awareness meeting on MGNREGS/ fishery andNRLM schemes and the participants were 323. In those meeting discussed with the community on different Govt. schemes, beneficiary eligibility, documents and the procedure to access the schemes. Identify their need and find probable ways increasing their livelihood.



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Major Out comes

- Peoples about various rules on MGNREGS.
- People can know about various schemes of fishery department.
- They get an idea on the fish farming.

7. Legal Aid Program for SHG/FCs, Village leaders with DLSA

District Legal Services Authority conducted 5 Legal Aid Program for SGH/FCs, village leaders. 148 No of people attended the meeting. The program was mainly legal aid for women and children and where and how people will aid the legal aid.

Major Out comes

- People get a clear idea about DLSA.
- People get ideas about new laws.

8. 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). 129 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 and we organized 2 jewellery training program for SHGs.

Out come

- Through this, training farmers can learn about their various benefits.
- Farmers can learn about various modern technologies.

9. Formation of Village level PDS monitoring committee

We have conducted 2 Sensitization meeting of community in accessing Public Distribution System. Total 30 no. of selected beneficiaries participated in the meeting. In all 3 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.

10. Exposure visit to different demo plot for farmers and or SHG groups

We are organized an Exposure visit to different demo plot for farmers and or SHG groups on 02.10.2022 at Dakshin Dinajpur Krishi Vigyan Kendra (D.D.K.V.K.). 15 farmers are participated in this visit. They met with the Staff and Teachers/Scientists and they are understood us about modern technique of farming. We also learned about the problems of farming and how to solve the various kind of problems. We visited also the various plots around KVK.

Out come

- Farmers learned about the farming of Dragon fruits.
- Farmers group are also known about the modern technique of farming.



Activities undertaken

OBJECTIVE 02

This particular Objective was about the updated and upgraded knowledge on modern agriculture and practices of climate smart agriculture by the set target community. This particular objective has a major concern on to make the farmers more resilient to climate proofing cultivation practices and to update their technicalities on modern farming through trainings and capacity building events. Sets of major activities has been planned accordingly so that the target no of HH members could have increased production and better technical knowhow on modern agro practices.

1. PLA/PRA to identify need and resources of the community

8 PLA meeting with villagers have been conducted. 120 women and 67 men are attended the meeting. We identified need and resources of the community. We also advise them on their various problem and resources.

Out come

- Identified more resources in that location.
- Identified their need and problems.

2. Interface meeting with line departments (Agriculture Office) for promotion of CAAP.

We are 73 farmers linkage with Agriculture office for promotion for CAAP. They are dividing into 4 groups for the interface meeting.

Out come

Farmers get a lot of communication with the agriculture office.
Farmers get to know about various schemes at the right time.

3. 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. 140 No of participants have attended the meeting.

Out come

- Youth farmers have learned about old traditional farming.
- Old farmers have learned about new modern farming.





4. 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 .137 participated in those training. They are known as the benefits of soil testing.

Out come

- Everyone knows about the need for soil health testing.
- Farmers can learn about the various elements in the soil.



5. Training on Integrated Resource Management (crop, vegetables, fish, poultry etc.) for the farmers

We are conducting total 5 Training on integrated resource management. We completed 2 training on traditional jewelry, 1 training on fishery, 4 training on vermicompost. 45 No of progressive farmers along with 46 no of homemakers participated in those trainings.

Out come

- One SHG successfully grows a vermicompost hub.
- One person successfully grows bio-flock fish farming.



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6. Promotion of Integrated Pest Management (IPM) in 20% villages

We have organized 16 Village level Awareness on Integrated pest Management. 387 No of total participants have participated in the training events. Training on pest management were also been performed simultaneously.

Out come

- We provide organic pest management books for our trainees.
- They apply organic pest management technique in their crops.

7. Awareness on Integrated Nutrient Management (INM) 20% villages

14 Village level Awareness on Integrated Nutrient Management. Total 342 persons took part in these meetings. These meetings were conducted mostly to aware people on major available Govt. schemes to relation with their need and how to access those. In the same connection, they also were suggested to take help from the “Duare Sarkar” programme initiative by Govt.

Out come

- Villagers known about why is nutrient management necessary
- They know how to community wells and other drinking water sources can be affected.

8. Promotion of Nutrient garden in 20% villages (Vegetable seeds distribution)



We have conducting 8 meeting on nutrient garden in all GPs. 177 persons took part in the meeting. We have been formed 80 kitchen gardens in the community. We have distributed various types of vegetable seeds.



Out come

- 80 families have already formed their kitchen garden.
- People understand the importance of kitchen garden.

9. Formation of new SHG and strengthening of weak SHG (budgeted).

We have been conducted 4 meeting for formation and regular meeting of new SHGs. 126 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 have facilitated to join the Govt. framework of SHG for further trainings.



10. 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. 142 people are attending in our meeting. They are known benefit of farmers club and various government schemes for farmers group. 2 new farmers groups have formed through this major task.



11. Linkage meeting between NABARD/ADA & farmers groups

We have organized 4 linkage meeting between ADA and farmers group, farmers club, women farmers group. 104 No of target community members have attended these meetings. 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.
- 30 people have received all mustard seeds and fertilizers.

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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.3 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 Janani Suraksha Yojana (JSY), ICDS, Old age pension, Family benefit schemes, Widow Pension, IAY (Indira Avas 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:

- Animator up dated their knowledge.
- The Animators appreciated the presentation of the resource person and the new knowledge about MNREGS.
- The animators realized the importance of communication and sharing of information and knowledge with others

Monthly Staff Meeting

6 staff monthly meeting have been conducted every month in Social Welfare Institute. In these meeting coordinators, collect monthly activity report and action plan for the next month. In each meeting a short input session has given on reporting and monitoring, documentation including photo documentation so that all the good practices are noted kept recorded and they are helped to overcome from their weaknesses.

Out Come:

- Monthly report and monthly plan for the next moth has submitted to coordinator.
- Discussed about the project goal & objectives
- It is a helpline for the project progress.

Quarterly Review Meetings

For the proper monitoring and project supervision, quarterly review meeting has been conducted. In addition, 27 staff of SWI had attended the meeting. Coordinators presented the project wise presentation. It helped the staff compare their work, which helped them to improve in their work. 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 and lesson learnt

Challenges	Solutions
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Social gathering/festival/marriage and election hampers meeting/training Baseline survey is difficult in rainy season/ working days, for people are not available, they go for field work ANADA DHARA is a Govt. scheme for SHGs. It is mandatory for SHGs to be in it. The SHGs have to be in the cluster to open bank account 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Whenever possible according to the convenience of the people 2meeting/ trainings were arranged in a day to bind the programmes. We are trying to visit according to their time and concerns. We approach cluster leaders to help the new SHG to open bank account.

At a glance / Project MIS

December 2021 to May 2022				
No.	Activities	Target	Achieved	Participants
1.1	Interface meeting with PRIs and line departments and target group	4	4	76
1.2	Sensitization of Women health issues in relation to MCH	10	10	227
1.3	Organize Health camp at village level	2	2	115
1.4	Awareness on TB, HIV, Leprosy and Covid 19	7	7	150
1.5	Awareness meeting on various Govt. schemes (Social Welfare& social security) to Volunteers, CBOs, VOs, SHGs and target populations.	20	20	534
1.6	Awareness on MGNREGS / SASPFUW / MKSY/ BSKP/ horticulture/fishery/ARDS, NRLM	18	18	323
1.7	Legal Aid Program for SHG/FCs, Village leaders with DLSA	5	5	148
1.8	Formation and training of volunteers led TOT of farmers group and SHG in selected GPs.	6	6	129

1.9	Formation of Village level PDS monitoring committee	2	2	30
1.10	Exposure visit to different demo plot for farmers and or SHG groups.	1	1	15
2.1	PLA/PRA to Identify need and resources of the community	8	8	187
2.2	Interface meeting with line departments (Agriculture Office)for promotion of CAAP	4	4	73
2.3	Promoting dialogues between old and youth on environment conservation and traditional agricultural practices and methods.	8	8	140
2.4	Training 2village youth, farmers and volunteers on soil health, agriculture according to temperature and rainfall	6	6	157
2.5	Training on Integrated Resource Management (crop, vegetables, fish, poultry etc.) for the farmers	5	5	101
2.6	Exhibition to promote organic produce, traditional seeds, implements	1	1	59
2.7	Promotion of community seed fair (in 20% villages).	2	2	66
2.8	Formation of community seed bank (traditional seeds and varieties)	2	2	53
2.9	Promotion of Integrated Pest Management (IPM) in 20% villages	16	16	387
2.10	Awareness on Integrated Nutrient Management (INM) 20% villages	16	16	342
2.11	Promotion of Nutrient garden in 20% villages (vegetable seeds distribution)	8	8	147
2.12	Promotion of multiple cropping (different types of grams (gram seeds distribution- Dal)	1	1	40
3.1	Gram Sansad level micro-planning preparation and collective actions.	6	6	105
3.2	Formation of new SHG and strengthening of weak SHG (budgeted).	6	6	126
3.3	Formation and strengthening of farmers group , farmers club, women farmers group	6	6	142
3.4	Linkage meeting between NABARD/ADA & farmers groups	4	4	104
3.5	Networking with marketing agencies at district/state level to connect at least 20% of producers groups.	1	1	24

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)	0	0	0
4.2	Training on CAAP for project core staff & TOT members	2	2	26
4.3	Monthly Review meeting.	6	6	36

Conclusion

All the efforts were made to complete and we have been successful completing of the project activities. 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. Involvement of different group of participants like Youths, adolescents and women are gradually increasing which signifies the effectiveness of the project and ownership by the community. They were also been given different trainings to update their skills and technical knowhow on the thematic concerns and topics.

However, it was observed that after the initial exuberance and involvement in the project, the community become committal about the programmer's objectives. They started owning this project and understanding the major need of this project at large. They started approaching to the Govt. offices for different causes which indicates the effective awareness been generated through this project. They also can be seen practicing with natural composting with different water conservation and harvesting models that indicates improved agriculture at a large. They started responding to the different matters of their wellbeing in the villages, and taking part in Gran Sava, which was totally lacking. 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. 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.

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SUCCESS STORIES

RECLAMATION OF WASTELAND – STORY OF A CHANGE

SUCCESS STORY

Agriculture is one of the most important and basic source of earning for the farmers living in the operational project villages. Farming HH members working night and day to get some income for their families. Lack of technicalities and other factors that was near to impossible. Every year they used to face crop loss and less profit. To address the basic issue SWI through this project has took some initiatives where better and improved method of agriculture has been discussed. On 12th May 2022, we went to Lakhitor village and discussed about increasing income by pursuing developed agricultural methods. After the meeting, it was clear that many acres of land are wasted due to shortage of water. Then we advised them to do orchard farming. 2 farmers, namely, Debasish Ray and Anjali Majhi agreed to this proposal because continuous water facility is not required in orchard farming. After that, we provided 30 saplings of Bharat Sundari jujube plant to each of the farmers. Each of them also bought 30 saplings of jujube plant and planted all 60 saplings in their respective orchards. They lifted water from a nearby pond and watered the plants. At present, the jujube plants are in full bloom and the farmers are hopeful that they will be able to sell the jujubes in the local market at Rs. 100-120 price per kilogram. On an average, they will get 5 kgs of jujubes from each plant. Therefore, they are hoping to get Rs. 30,000 from 300 kgs of jujubes. They are very happy now and have thanked ECFCAL. They are also planning to increase their orchard farm in future.



SOLOMAN & RAFAYAL BESRA MIXED FARMING PRACTICE

Success story

Mixed cropping is always a way of better farming technique and through this project mixed cropping system has also been introduced for the farmers. A meeting was held on 7th September 2022 in which training on mixed farming was provided. Set number of farmers has participated on the training programme but some among them immediately after started practicing this at their plots. Solomon was one of them. Solomon Basra was interested in this work but he did not have any perennial sapling. He let our organization know about this and then he was provided with 50 saplings of guava plant on 31st October. Presently, he has planted brinjal and leafy vegetables in the guava orchard. As of yet, he has sold vegetables worth of Rs. 20,000. However, before this training, he had no idea about this type of farming and the land was left as a wasteland. He is making profits from mixed farming and after 2 years, the guava trees will be in full bloom. Like Solomon another progressive farmers named Rafayal was interested too in it but he also had minimal idea and did not have quality saplings for this type of farming. He informed our organization about this problem and he was provided with 60 papaya saplings on 31st October. Now he is happily taking care of those plants. Like both of them, there are so many other farmers as well who are now growing different fruits and vegetable through practicing mixed cropping. This has not only helps with added income but also supports in minimizing the cost of farming at a same piece of land.



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WOMEN LED VERMICOMPOST PRODUCTION CENTRE

SUCCESS STORY

SWI always ensuring women participation in any of their projects at any time. In this project also they had a plan to start with some Income Generation Programme for the women folk of the operational area. Therefore they have been given some trainings on this part and organic fertilizer production was one of them and successfully running. On 22nd June, we went to Aragachi village and discussed about the production of organic fertilizer with a group of women. They were interested to know how they can be self-sufficient by working in this profession. Then we discussed about making an organic fertilizer production center and becoming self-sufficient from there in detail. After that, 11 women decided to produce organic fertilizer and develop a society of chemical-free agriculture in the coming days. They are now started selling their products to the local farmers at a standard rate. The added income they took their houses and utilized for different purposes. This also has an impact of raising confidence among themselves and being recognized their voice for their contribution and suggestions at family or community matters.



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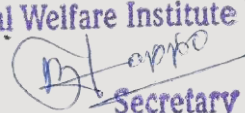
BIJOY MAJHI

DUCK REARING

S u c c e s s s t o r y

"My first preference was rearing ducks to my home staed land but I was no penny in my pocket and have also no technical knowhow. All of a sudden i came to know about this training by SWI in our village. I decided to join and now my dream has come true." - Majhi

Bijoy Majhi was a small farmer and was having a little amount of land for cultivation and that also one time. That was difficult for him to earn a better income for his family from that amount of land. However, his area of interest were in duck rearing. He was very interested to pursue this business. However, he did not have the required amount of capital to start this business. A training on duck rearing has been provided to him on 8th September. Our organization came to know about this problem and then he was provided with 5 ducks on 30th October to start with. He started rearing duck since then. At present, he is rearing ducks with utmost happiness and earning good income for his family.

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