

**INITIAL INCEPTION REPORT ON
EMPOWERING RURAL AND TRIBAL MAHILA KISAN OF
DISTRICT DAHOD THROUGH SUSTAINABLE
AGRICULTURE LIVELIHOOD INTERVENTIONS**



**Under MAHILA KISAN SHAKTIKARAN PARIYOJANA (MKSP)
(A sub-component of NRLM)**

Project Implementing Agency (PIA):



N M SADGURU WATER AND DEVELOPMENT FOUNDATION

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INITIAL INCEPTION REPORT

A. Organization (PIA) detail

The organization started its rural development activities in 1974. In the initial years, it operated under the name of Shri Sadguru Seva Sangh Trust. For administrative and legal purposes, it started functioning in the name of a registered organization, N M Sadguru Water and Development Foundation (“**SADGURU**”) since 1986, without any change in the management structure, leadership, area of operation and activities.

It is also recognized by various State Governments and the Central Government for the implementation of the Government programme for the Rural Development, Tribal Development and poverty alleviation

LEGAL STATUS

The organization has been duly registered under various statutes such as;

- i. Public Charitable Trust Act
- ii. Societies Registration Act
- iii. Foreign Contribution (Regulation) Act (FCRA)

It is also recognized by various State Governments and the Central Government for the implementation of the Government programme for the Rural Development, Tribal Development and poverty alleviation.

Presently, Sadguru is very actively operating in few districts of three adjacent, neighborly states, forming almost compact and contiguous area; Gujarat, Rajasthan and Madhya Pradesh. It has strong presence and coverage in districts Dahod and Panchmahal of Gujarat; districts Banswara and Jhalawar of Rajasthan and district Jhabua of Madhya Pradesh. Less intensive activities are in the district Dungarpur, Chittorgarh and new Pratapgadh of Rajasthan, Ratlam and Mandsaur of Madhya Pradesh

SPECIAL FEATURES OF PROJECT AREA Of the above present project area, the district Dahod of Gujarat, district Banswara of Rajasthan and district Jhabua of Madhya Pradesh are predominantly tribal districts, there by extremely poor and backward. The present proposal is for Dahod district of Gujarat, which is among the poorest district by almost all indicators of the development and human development indexes

VISION

Elimination of acute poverty among tribal and rural communities with natural resources restored, developed and expanded.

MISSION

Sadguru endeavors to develop and expand environmentally, technically, socially sound natural resource interventions leading to poverty alleviation, through community participation, and empowering disadvantaged groups such as the tribal, rural poor and women to ensure equitable and sustainable development.

DEVELOPMENT APPROACH

Sadguru's broad approach is to integrate various activities around water and land resources and their development and management. Only such integrated approach of various activities around land and water resources can guarantee sustainable and community managed land and water usage system.

THE ORGANIZATION'S STRATEGY

The organization's strategy broadly rests on;

- Community empowerment and ownership of projects to ensure the management and sustainability.
- Water harvesting, water management and coverage.
- Conjunctive use of water for improving livelihoods.
- Diversification in agricultural pattern, focusing on more profitable venture like horticulture, floriculture, vegetables.
- Equity and gender consideration with strong organizational capacity and institutional building

FOCUSED ACTIVITIES OF THE ORGANIZATION

Major focused activities of Sadguru are;

- I. Community Managed Water Resources Development including drinking water
- II. Micro Watershed Development
- III. Forestry - agro forestry, farm forestry, joint forest management, horticulture & floriculture - supported by advanced technology of drip System
- IV. Village Institutions Development (various users groups, SHGs, etc.)
- V. Rural Energy
- VI. Rural Sanitation
- VII. Training and Capacity Building
- VIII. Public advocacy and Networking

Our standing as an organization

By virtue of good governance and transparency we are holding following prestigious certifications.

- Highest (SE 1A) rating by NSIC-CARE Performance & Credit Rating
- ISO 9001 : 2008 certificate
- Accredited by Credibility Alliance since 2008 – One of the first NGOs to get it.
- Programs funded by government, corporate houses, foundations, and community
- Well known for high degree of success, performance, accountability, integrity and transparency

Combination of above all is rare in NGOs sector.

Our organization has formed total 1603 SHGs. At present most of SHGs are engaged with sustainable agriculture based on livelihood- vegetable cultivation, fruit orchard development, floriculture activities, seed multiplication programme, vermin-compost making activities, agriculture input supply to SHGs members. The Sadguru Foundation is actively involved in promoting participation of women in agriculture based activities. Presently we are promoting different type agriculture based women institution - SHGs, Women Horticulture Cooperatives, Women federation for agriculture saving and credit.

Sadguru foundation has experienced on NRM, SMC, village institute development, promotion capacity development and sustainable agriculture. Many of the projects are fully managed by women' beneficiaries and their village level institutions including their own federations such as horticulture federation, SHG federation at cluster / taluka level

SHG federation

Sadguru has promoted block wise (each block one federation namely Garbada and dhanpur) SHGs' federations of Dahod district of Gujarat. There are 374 SHGs and 3933 members of SHGs federation. The federation supports SHGs to become institutionally and financially sustainable as it provides support to them at various stages.

Federation emphasizes networking at various levels starting from local level to state and it has enabled SHGs to deliberate on common issues and have a sharing of experiences to build up solidarity.

Federation's leaders have participated in livelihood skill training programs and leadership development programs. Livelihood skill training program helped them to become economically empowered. Leaders participated in training on vermi compost and they in turn also promoted vermi compost in the project villages. Result of usage of Vermi compost is quite encouraging. Trained leaders of vermi compost program have started to earn money by selling vermi or vermi compost. Their expenditure on chemical fertilizer has also reduced and yield of crops and vegetables have increased considerably. This process of economic empowerment has also helped them in enhancing their self esteem as leaders of federation.

B. Executive summary of the project/Brief description of the project

1. OBJECTIVE

District Dahod is among the most backward districts of Gujarat. It is predominated by the tribals mostly depending upon rain fed agriculture on their small and marginal land holdings.

In the tribal area entire family is engaged in Agriculture and women in most cases contribute more than male members of the family. However, as prevalent in our country, in this area also women do not get due recognition and empowerment through this activity as they are not recognized as farmer and so never given benefit.

Rural poverty in general and backwardness of women in particular could be attributed to lower income from agriculture crops due to very poor yields and virtually no sustainability in agriculture activities compounded by very poor irrigation facilities.

Government of Gujarat has massively promoted self help groups of women named Sakhi Mandal in the district in which nearly 10000 women are the members in Dahod district. This is a very favorable opportunity to link these women members of Sakhi Mandals of Dahod district with agriculture based livelihood activities. Hence, the present proposal addresses the issue of women's' participation in sustainable agricultural development to enhance their livelihood in the proposed project area. With the promotion of proposed programmes by women and improve the yields of the crops by intensification cropping pattern through the skilled women farmers.

The soil health improvement is another important aspect of the proposal.

Agriculture (Para worker) Community Resource Person, men and women, will be groomed on institutional and technical aspects with a view that they will be serving as service providers in the local area.

Training, exposure and constant handholding to the Women's institutions and Agriculture Para workers will be the key strategy of the project. The Women Institutes and the Local Resource Persons are expected to be leading the project implementation with facilitation support by the project staff.

The project will be implemented with **9,000** small and marginal women farmers spread over in **120** villages. There will be in total **6** Cluster of villages, each cluster with **20** villages and **1500** women farmers. In Dhanpur, Garbada and Dahod there would be two clusters in each taluka. It is planned that **70-80** women farmers representing from each village in the project.

The villages are those where Sadguru has been working in agricultural productivity enhancement programme for 3- 4 years.

To empower women in agriculture by making systematic investments to significantly enhance their participation and productivity thereby creating and sustaining agriculture based livelihoods of rural farm women, most of them being small and marginal farmers.

The objective of this project proposal are in line commensurating with the specific objectives of Mahila Kisan Sashaktikaran Pariyojana, a sub component of national Livelihood Rural Mission. The objectives could be broadly states as ;

The specific objectives of present proposal on MKSP are ;

- i. To enhance the participation and productivity of women in agriculture.
- ii. To create sustainable agricultural livelihood opportunities for women in agriculture
- iii. To improve the skill and capabilities of women in agriculture to support farm based activities.
- iv. To enable women to have better access to input, market and services of the government and other agencies

2. TASK

Tasks	Status
Deployment of Staff	All the 4 staff(one project coordinator, and three taluka coordinator) planned have been placed
Orientation & training of staff on MKSP	Done
Identification of CRP and Para professional	Done (we have selected 30 Para professional and 90 CRP)
Finalization of clusters / villages	Done(we have selected 110 villages of three talukas of Dahod district)
Identification and selection of SHG and SHG member	Done (we have selected 4000 women farmers ,1400 of Dahod,1400 of Dhanpur and 1200 farmers of Garbada taluka)
DPR preparation	Village level meeting was done ,we have submitted complete DPR second week of April 2014
Para professional training for sustainable agriculture	Among the 5 day training ,we have completed 3 day training and remaining 2 day training we will give on 24-25 April 2014
Community resource person (CRP) training for sustainable agriculture	Among the 5 day training ,we have completed 3 day training and remaining 2 day training we will give on 6-7 May 2014
Community member (women farmers) training for sustainable agriculture	we have given training to total 716 women process is On going
Technical protocol	Training modules in accordance with project objectives has been developed
Baseline Survey	Process initiated

3. Output

The key outputs of the project would be as follows.

The broad overall impact of all the programmes included in the proposal would be as follows;

- a. Net increase in income of women - members of Sakhi Mandals - in agriculture on a sustainable agriculture basis.
- b. Increasing productivity 80% of the present level and in term of money would be Rs 20000 to 25000 per hector, present is Rs 10000 to 13000 per hactor.
- c. Decrease cost of cultivation by adopting low cost input up to 20% (Rs 800 to 1200 per hactor).
- d. Improvement in food and nutritional security of women and children thereby increasing the health and nutrition status.
- e. Improvement in Soil health and overall ecology.
- f. Increased level of skills and performance by women in agriculture.
- g. Improved market access for women's produce/product.
- h. Socio and economic empowerment of women and their grass root level institutions.
- i. Emergence of new and active women leadership

C. Activities undertaken so far

1. Approval Date :
2. MoU Date: 25TH JUNE 2013
3. Sanction Date: 25TH JUNE 2013
4. Fund Release Date: 10TH JANUARY 2014

D. ACTIVITY SCHEDULE (GRANT CHART)

Activity	JAN	FEB	MARCH	APRIL	MAY	JUNE	JULY	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC
Planing												
Deployment of Staff												
Orientation & training of staff on MKSP												
Finalization of clusters / villages												
Identification of SHG members												
Mahila kisan Profile												
Identification of Para-workers												
Identification of CRP												
DPR												
Baseline Survey												
Initial inception report												
Training to CRP												
Trainings to para-professionals												
Training to Community												
Training to leaders & PRI												
Exposure visits of CRPs to immersion sites												
Exposure visit of para-professional to immersion sites												
Exposure visit of Community to immersion sites												

D.1 Description of each activity (1-2 sentences)

Baseline survey

Baseline survey is conducted to map the status of Mahila Kisans in reference to socio-economic background, age, education, skills, occupation, institutional membership, income, land ownership, potential for IG activities etc.

Mahila Kisan profiling

Detail profile of targeted Mahila Kisan is prepared to determine the scope of targeted interventions.

DPR Preparation

Detailed project report is to be prepared in reference to project objectives, tasks, outputs along the stipulated timeframes. The DPR shall be based on the model template developed and submitted to the district authorities .

Technical protocols documentation

The technical protocols on sustainable agriculture shall be customized in reference to the local context. Four protocol booklets shall be developed in Gujarati language for wider dissemination.

Value-chain Studies

The proposed value chain studies shall be undertaken on specific items under farm, off farm and NTFP sectors. These studies shall build on the findings of similar studies focussing on the applications of solutions to the PIA's MKSP operational area. Such knowledge management inputs are expected to drive consolidation and convergence with an aim to maximise gains for the mahila kisans.

Training module development: Print

Six sets of training modules shall be developed: 1. Technical Protocols of Sustainable Agriculture, 2. SHG and Federation Management, seed production, collection, processing, storage and marketing, 4. Livestock management, 5. Horticulture crops, 6. Business Development Plan

Procurement of training equipment & material -Flex posters, Cards, Drawing Sheets, markers

Purchases shall be made in bulk to get benefit of scale based on the training requirement. The content for flex posters and cards shall be developed by the experts and consultants of sadguru working for this project.

Training and extension to CRP

Need based training shall be imparted to CRPs based on customized modules adapted and developed for the purpose. They shall be provided exposure on exemplary work being done by counterparts in similar projects within or outside the district.

Trainings and extension to para-professionals

Need based training shall be imparted to para professionals based on customized modules adapted and developed for the purpose. They shall be provided exposure on exemplary work being done by counterparts in similar projects within or outside the district.

Training to Community members

Lead farmers and leaders from among Mahila Kisans shall be trained and facilitated to be the catalyst in the change and transformation processes

Training to leaders & PRI representatives

PRI representatives shall be sensitized about Women issues and MKSP. Additional resources shall be mobilized from other schemes with the facilitation of PRIs for convergence with MKSP

Training to producer group leaders/ Training to producer federation and marketing society leaders

Need based training shall be imparted to strategically position producer group/ federation/ marketing society leaders as catalysts for accelerating production and marketing activities.

Demonstration plots for sustainable agriculture Protocols and practices

Sadguru shall demonstrate sustainable agriculture protocols in four crops during the current year. The demonstration shall be used for orientation of CRPs, PRPs and select lead women farmers.

Distribution of small implements for drudgery reduction of Mahila Kisans

The list of items shall be finalized as per baseline findings. Transparent procurement & distribution shall be ensured leverage grants and subsidies under available schemes. The objective is to reduce the drudgery of Mahila Kisans through such tools and implements besides increasing their work efficiency and output.

Operational Fund of Producer federation

The support shall cover operation cost for three years and other costs related to business development planning etc.

Independent evaluation studies

The studies shall be conducted around themes like Sustainable Agriculture, Horticultural Enterprises, , Livestock activities ,seed production and Micro enterprise promotion with the key objective to continuously learn lessons for improvement and refinement.

Public information disclosure/ Social Audit

Public display of project information shall be made through wall writings, transparency boards, leaflets etc. Social audit shall be facilitated to promote participatory assessment of outcomes.

Support for setting up nursery entrepreneurs:

The healthy nursery is an important element in vegetable crop production. The production is very much dependent on the quality of seedling and the time of growth of the seedling which may help them to time the market for better return from vegetable production. It has been planned to have an all weather nursery equipped with shade net and poly house for quick and quality nursery.

- Training and exposure of community-within district- Training and exposures have been planned for effective adoption of technology.

- Training and exposure of community-Outside district- Training and exposures have been planned to get exposed to effective suitable technologies which are in use in areas other districts in the state.
- Training and exposure of community-Other state- Few technologies are in use in other states which can be used with some modifications or readily adopted.
- Training and Exposures of CRPs: As the CRPS are to support effectively they need constant training and exposures to enhance their knowledge and skills. A series of trainings and exposures have been planned for CRPs.
- Annual Women get together: Annual gatherings of women farmers have been planned to build on learning and experience Annual gatherings of women farmers have been planned where they will get positively exposed to experiences and also set agenda for the coming year where the focus of the all involved need focus.

E. How the individual activity will be undertaken & by whom

Sadguru foundation has drawn a detailed project implementation plan. Post recruitment of staff, orientation was organized for orientation of district and block level officials. This was followed by GP level orientation programme for PRI representatives. CRPs and PRPs have been identified and oriented before placement. Baseline survey survey was done and mahila kiasan card are under progress. The DPR shall be finalized incorporating specific targets and tasks in reference to the approved project proposal. Senior personnel of sadguru foundation and thematic consultants shall handhold the process during implementation. A project MIS shall be maintained backed by knowledge management inputs from time to time.

Implementation Plan shall involve key village persons, opinion leaders, SHG members. To create better synergy and convergence Sarpanch, Secretary, Ward members will also be invited in the meeting and share the plans with them and seek support. This will help develop clarity on project, actors, implementation Structure. Most of the components so finalized shall be integrated with respective sectoral plans during district planning.

E. Expected Output

E.1 Expected Annual Output

The expected outputs at the end of year 1 are:

- 4000 Family under cover sustainable agriculture.
- Set up 400 nursery entrepreneurs
- 120 under PRP & CRP
- 4000 farmer's pilot with these innovative farming options
- 90 CRPs trained and deployed to support the implementation.
- 30 Para Professional trained and deployed to support the implementation.
- 4000 women farmers directly benefit from such tools and equipment introduced under the project

Project Results

The broad overall impact of all the programmes included in the proposal would be as follows;

- a. Net increase in income of women - members of Sakhi Mandals - in agriculture on a sustainable agriculture basis.
- b. Increasing productivity 80% of the present level and in term of money would be Rs 20000 to 25000 per hector, present is Rs 10000 to 13000 per hactor.
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- h. Socio and economic empowerment of women and their grass root level institutions.
- i. Emergence of new and active women leadership.

F.2 Expected Convergence:

For land and water works, MGNREGs potential will be exploited while for agriculture and allied sector activities convergence would be initiated with Department of Agriculture and other line departments. Resources from other donor agencies would be converged for large scale interventions.

Under the project, the idea is to create prototypes for seepage pits in the low lands and water conservation in homestead land in this area. These structures are very suitable for small and marginal farmers, as irrigation wells have their own limitations being costly and need energy driven water lifting devices with running costs. These can be replicated on large scale under MGNREGS and the as a first step such structures would be created using MKSP funds in 2-3 patches of a few villages.

When other farmers from the same village and also other villages would see their use and benefits, they would also demand for them. The demand then would be facilitated to be channelized from MGNREGS. The technical and administrative staff would also be exposed to the idea so that a favorable climate is developed for scaling it in large numbers in the area. It is expected that a investment t the tune of Rs.100 lakhs can be attracted from MGNREGS and other such opportunities through convergence over the next three years.