State-Level Support to Livelihood Promotion Strategies in Jharkhand

Millennium Development Goal:
Goal 1: Eradicate extreme poverty and hunger

Target:
Halve, between 1990 and 2015, the proportion of people living on less than a dollar a day and those who suffer from hunger

Relevant India Development Goal:
Reduction of poverty ratio by five percentage points by 2007 and 15 percentage points by 2012; providing gainful and high quality employment to the labour force added over the 11th Five-Year Plan period

Background

Jharkhand is one of India’s richest states in terms of natural resource and mineral wealth. However, inequality remains widespread, and a significant proportion of the population is unable to benefit from government schemes or programmes to reduce poverty. The state’s population is predominantly tribal with high levels of poverty. Fifty-four percent of the scheduled tribe population and 57.5 percent of the scheduled caste population in rural areas live in poverty. This is significantly higher than the national average.

The government of Jharkhand is committed to extending the outreach of poverty alleviation programmes to the poorest of the poor. With support from UNDP, the Rural Development Department of the state government is implementing a project on livelihood generation strategies. As part of the project, the Jharkhand State Livelihood Promotion Society (JSLPS) has been registered under the Society Registration Act 21 of 1860, chaired by the Chief Secretary of the government of Jharkhand.

Objectives

The project aims to strengthen state government’s capacity to effectively deliver livelihood schemes and programmes by enhancing coordination between various government departments responsible for implementing national and state livelihood support programmes. In addition to strengthening the ability of the government to implement livelihood strategies and programmes, the project also aims to actively mobilize disadvantaged groups to generate greater awareness and access entitlements and economic opportunities.

Project Information

Area: Poverty Reduction

Budget: US$ 2.5 million

Duration: 2009-2012

Implementing Partner(s): Department of Rural Development, Government of Jharkhand; Jharkhand State Livelihood Promotion Society

Location(s): Ten blocks in five districts (Hazaribagh, Pakur, Palamau, Ranchi and West Singhbhum) of Jharkhand
Results so far

• A drip irrigation prototype for individual small and marginal land holdings demonstrated in five districts with more than 300 farmers, has now been upscaled by the Rural Development Department across the state
• Prototypes available for upscaling to generate incremental income for the disadvantaged communities engaged in non-timber forest production, lac and paddy cultivation
• Participatory micro plans have benefited 500 villages through identifying available livelihood options
• Supporting self-help groups in establishing and managing a poly nursery for growing improved varieties of vegetable seedlings has enabled women members to generate an additional revenue stream
• Housing plan developed for people living Below the Poverty Line along with the Rural Development Department
• Design of curriculum to train local village development committees to enable better utilization of Backward Region Grant Funds
• More than 2,000 women SHGs have received financial support under the Swarnajayanti Gram Swarozgar Yojana (SGSY) enabling these groups to develop livelihood proposals
• Design of JOHAR, a livelihood project initiated by the Rural Development department

Looking to the Future

• Support the implementation of the National Rural Livelihoods Mission (NRLM), the national flagship employment programme in the state
• Promote Community Resource Persons (CRP)- based development model where community takes charge of the development process
• Introduce a Block Resource Centre that acts as a single window facilitating information dissemination, livelihood promotion and financial inclusion
• Develop JSLPS as a state-level institution for assessing capacity building needs, and for networking with resource agencies on different sectors and sub-sectors to help in the training and capacity building of various stakeholders
• Advocacy to upscale successful livelihood models in the state as part of the national poverty reduction programmes such as SGSY and NRLM
• Support establishment of management decision support system for effective monitoring of livelihood programmes
• Institutionalize skill development and placement services through skill development missions and Rural Self-Employment Training Institutes in the state

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