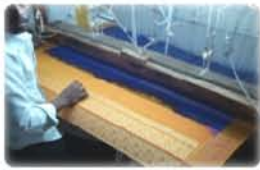


INITIAL INCEPTION REPORT



PROMOTION OF LARGE SCALE TASAR SERICULTURE BASED LIVELIHOODS IN WEST BENGAL



Under
MAHILA KISAN SASHAKTIKARAN PARIYOJANA (MKSP-NTFP)
(A sub-component of NRLM)

Project Implementing Agency (PIA):

**PROFESSIONAL ASSISTANCE FOR DEVELOPMENT ACTION
(PRADAN)**



INITIAL INCEPTION REPORT

A. Organization (PIA) detail

PRADAN is a voluntary organization registered under the Societies Registration Act of 1860. PRADAN was founded on the belief that individuals with knowledge resources and empathy towards the marginalized must work with poor people if mass poverty is to be removed proactively. PRADAN's works in an "area saturation" approach, attempting to reach out to most poor people in the geographical area of operation of a project team around four broad themes of engagement – expanding livelihood opportunities, work on rights and entitlements, access to basic services for poor people and getting caring and capable people on board to do so at an expanding rate. PRADAN professionals, divided into 36 teams, work with over 3 lakh families in 4,138 villages across eight of the poorest states in the country to stimulate and support these poorer households to dream for a better future and stimulate their sense of agency.

In PRADAN the primary units of social mobilization at the grassroots are SHGs. PRADAN consider SHGs as foundation to assist community especially woman in her movement towards sustainable livelihoods and well-being in a way that she takes charge of her own development. A SHG¹ begins as a thrift and credit association of poor women with similar social and existential contexts.

PRADAN works with the community to develop sustainable sources of livelihoods. The activities have evolved over the year and vary across different locations and states. The broad categories of our livelihood intervention are:

- Improved agriculture around food and cash crops
- Integrated Natural Resource Management; involving
 - Improvement of land & water resources in the lands of poor,
 - Raising plantations both fruit and others of economic value,
 - Forest based livelihoods like Tasar, Lac etc
 - Livestock based livelihoods, and
- Rural micro-enterprises

PRADAN assists SHG member families to take up one or several of these streams, so that each family would eventually be able to generate additional income equivalent to 200 days' local peak wages. PRADAN organizes exposure and training programmes, trains community based service providers (such as pump operators, suppliers of critical inputs and services, etc.) selected by the SHGs, promotes producer organisations² where necessary, develops service linkages and leverages missing infrastructure from public agencies.

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

1. Objective

The proposed project will be implemented by PRADAN in Paschim Medinipur & Bankura districts of West Bengal seeks to work with 2,654 families particularly focusing on Tasar as a sub sector through women SHGs as the mobilization base.

The current state of affairs in Tasar sector in the State warrants attention to improve infrastructure support in seed multiplication, promoting establishment of Tasar host plants as economic block plantations, effective utilization of existing resources/infrastructure, extension support for effective dissemination of technologies/improved package of practices for cultivation, rearing of silkworms, upgrading skill levels of the farmers to undertake sericulture activities for income generation, generating adequate trained manpower with technical knowledge and motivational skills, revamping departmental machineries for implementation of development initiatives and their monitoring, coordinating with line Departments, directing efforts for privatization and emphasizing the development of entrepreneurship in Tasar silk sector, with the help of Community Based Organizations. The broad and specific objectives of the project are as follows:

¹ Self Help Group

² PRADAN has so far promoted 13 poultry cooperatives in MP, Chhattisgarh and Jharkhand under the new State level Mutually Aided Cooperative Societies Acts and 3 Tasar rearers co-opertive in Bihar and Jharkahnd, more are planned in the near future.

- Building capacities of all participating families in adopting skills to effectively and profitably engage in livelihood activities based on Tasar sericulture,
- Introduction of improved technologies and practices to push the productivity frontiers for accelerated growth in Tasar Sector,
- Strengthening seed sector to eliminate the key supply constraint in Tasar sericulture.
- Investment to create alternative market mechanisms to ensure fair prices for cocoons.
- Promote Producers' collective to provide sustainable systems of services to producers.
- Design development and dissemination

The main focus of the this project is to facilitate rapid growth in the sub-sector of Tasar Sericulture through capacity building of poor tribal families to facilitate adoption of improved technologies and practices and enabling them to access mainstream markets to sustain the economic gains.

2. Tasks

The details of the task to perform, the plans to perform and the present status is captured in the following table

Tasks	Plan	Status
Preparation of DPR	The Detailed project Report of the state will be made by taking care of all the norms of the project within first quarter.	In progress
Recruitment of project Staff	Recruitment of staffs will be done at different levels for implementation at the village level to staffs that will monitor at block, district, state and at project level. Staffs that will provide support in maintenance of accounts and information.	All the staff planned have been placed except project specific assistants and subject matter specialists (SMS) for whom the process is on
Preparation of Project Implementation Plan & Flow	PRADAN teams at the district level would anchor the implementation of the project. The teams would make plan (as part of the Annual plan of the Team) and set up Field Implementation Units (FIU) that would spearhead grassroots action. The field implementation units would be based at Block level and would be comprise of Professionals, Subject Matter specials and assistant. The FIU would work in the existing SHG clusters and would directly engage with the producers to form primary groups, train producers and CRPs ³ , provide support in planning and implementation and create mechanisms for sustenance.	Will be initiated after the recruitment process is over
Orientation & training of staff on MKSP	Training of staffs on Tasar sericulture, agriculture, SHG promotion and activity group promotion will be important to build understanding around MKSP ⁴	Will be initiated after the completion of recruitment process
Training & exposure visits of members of generic and livelihood community based organizations	Existing community based organizations viz. Women self help groups (SHGs) and producer groups will be strengthened to consolidate the ongoing activity while new groups will be formed to expand the activity in neighboring areas.	Will be initiated after the formation of the groups
Finalization and Identification of potential	Cluster/Villages which have potentiality to undertake Tasar Sericulture as an activity based on availability of host plant or potentiality to raise host plant will be	Will be initiated soon

³ Community Resource Persons

⁴ Mahila Kisan Sashaktikaran Pariyojana

Tasks	Plan	Status
village/cluster	mapped out. It would start after orientation.	
Baseline Survey	A baseline data on Tasar sericulture practices, farmers Knowledge around the activity, status of SHG and agriculture shall be done in the identified project villages.	Will be initiated soon
Project Inception Workshop	This workshop will be organized at State level and all the stakeholders will be invited to understand the project and roles of the stakeholders.	Will be initiated soon
SHG saturation in the selected area	Formation of SHGs in the project villages will be done in a saturation mode	Will be done after the village identification
Introductory discussion in SHG and at village level	Discussion on implementation with role clarity of various actors; Family and village level planning steps; PEC (Project Execution Committee) formation, CRP selection	Will be done after the SHG saturation
Identification of SHG members	This process will go on simultaneously during village selection in consultation with SHG members.	The process will be initiated just after the Introductory discussion in SHG and at village level
formation & training of TVS & PEC	All the families under the selected village would be covered under SHGs and an activity group would be formed out SHGs called Tasar Vikas Samity (TVS) to take up the activities. Selected members of the TVS will form Project Execution committee (PEC) at the village level. PEC is the executing body at village level and would be trained before implementation. It would be responsible for execution of project.	Will be initiated soon
Community exposure	Before planning at village level, the exposure visit of few representatives from all those villages, where intensive planning would be conducted shall be completed so that all members get clarity about the plan for different activities. Some activity based exposures are being given for maximum effect on field.	Will be initiated soon
Livelihood planning with families	In the identified villages, detailed household level livelihood planning would be organized. The details around the livelihood aspects will be mapped out.	Will be initiated soon
Resource Mapping	The different resources of the village will be put down on the cadastral map to build a common understanding of the implementation team and the community	Will be initiated soon
Designing of training modules and training calendar	The training modules around different activities and their sub activities will be made to build understanding, issues, deliverables and ways to tackle the problems in the activities, will be done	Will be done after the livelihood planning
Formation of activity groups	Activity groups around livelihood prototypes identified, during the plan will be formed to take care	Will be initiated soon

Tasks	Plan	Status
	of the implementation strategy in detail i.e. TVS (Tasar Vikas Samity)	
Introducing systems of accounts and formation	System of accounting, managing different books for maintaining cash, stock and assets created will be introduced at the PEC level.	Will be taken up once the PEC are formed
Monthly Work schedule and prepare budget	Based on the above, the PEC would accordingly prepare a monthly work schedule and fund requirement	PEC will be trained
Activity Group training	The activity group shall be provided training for the activities like raising plantation, building infrastructure and about the details of the activity	Will start after the activity groups are formed
Supporting producers	The producers at and around different activities will be trained in detail about the activity	Will start after the producers are selected
Indent by TVS to PRADAN	The TVS would send the indent for the above plan to PRADAN	This is the desired process and will be taken up depending on the maturity of PEC. However to start the project and cut down delay because of seasonal constraints PIA will involve SHGs also.
Work Initiation	The work would be initiated on the ground by PEC at this stage	Will be initiated soon
Fund transfer and payment	PRADAN would help the TVS to open a bank account in the nearest branch and transfer funds in the TVS bank account as per indent	This is the desired process however to start the project it might be taken up depending on the maturity
Periodic self and internal review	Review will be done periodically for the smooth functioning at field, team and state level.	Will be initiated once the activities roll out
Review at implementation level	TVS would meet on weekly basis to monitor its work and it shall prepare the progress report – physical & financial and submit to PRADAN on monthly basis.	Will be started shortly
Periodic internal and external monitoring	The project will be monitored periodically through field visits by the team and central unit members	Will be initiated once the activities roll out
Data capturing, analysis and reporting	The TVS shall submit the report to PRADAN on monthly basis along with next month plan and indent	Will be started shortly

3. Output

The detailed processes / outputs during the project would include:

Sl.	Project Activity	Detailed processes / outputs during the project period
1.	Silkworm rearing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ 1431 families would be involved in silkworm rearer's ○ Each family will be provided with rearing equipments. ○ Each family would produce 8,000 to 10,000 commercial grade cocoons. ○ Number of Rearer's Collectives – 4, would help in storage of cocoons to avoid distress sale ○ No. of producers' collective formed - 4.
2.	Tasar seed production (Grainage)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Total number of Grainage: 39 ○ Each Grainage entrepreneur would be provided with grainage hall and required equipments. ○ Grainage would be an individual enterprise at village level ○ Each Grainage entrepreneur would produce 5,000 to 6,000 DFLs in one Grainage cycle ○ Individual Grainers would serve the requirement of 25-30 rearer's in each Grainage cycle.
3	Basic seed production unit	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Total number of basic seed production unit: 1 ○ Each basic seed production unit would be provided with one Grainage hall along with processing unit and required grainage equipment. ○ Basic seed production unit would be owned by the collective. ○ Each unit would produce 25,000 to 30, 000 basic seed ○ Individual basic seed production unit would serve the requirement of 50 -60 Grainage entrepreneurs
4.	Building capacities of all participating families ,	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Hamlet level visioning / planning exercises, ○ Technical training for productivity enhancement, ○ Handholding support by Community Resource Persons (CRPs), on a day-to-day basis, ○ Exposures for adopting improved practices, ○ Selection and extensive training of CRPs. Reviewing effectiveness and providing and on-field support.
5.	Promoting and nurturing Producer Institutions to ensure sustained availability of linkages and services for the participating families,	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Number of producers' collective: 2 ○ Awareness building around the need to collectivize, ○ Membership training to build a sense of ownership and to understand the accountability as a member, ○ Exposure and training of the governing board members, ○ Training and support to staff to effectively deliver the goods and services mandated by the organization.
6.	Market Support	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Design development in Tasar weaving clusters and its promotion ○ Design competition among weavers ○ Design competition among design student/ institutes <p>The above would bring in brand image for Indian Tasar and also the required demand pull</p>

Project Specific Outputs in the project period:

➤ Total Family Coverage under the Project	:2,654
➤ Total Family Coverage under Direct Livelihood	:1,525
➤ Total Family Coverage through indirect livelihood benefits	:381
➤ Total Families to be mobilized into SHGs	:748
➤ Total Area (in Ha.) of Plantations to be raised	:130
➤ Total Area (in Ha.) of Natural Forest to be rejuvenated	:946
➤ DFLs to be produced by the end of 3rd Year:	
▪ Basic Seed DFLs (Lakh Units)	:0.50
▪ Commercial DFLs (Lakh Units)	:5.10
➤ Total Cocoon Production by the end of 3rd Year	:290,14 Lakh Pieces
➤ Value of the Project output by 3rd Year (Rs. In Lakh)	:756

These would lead to additional income of approximately Rs 10,000 -15000 for 60 % of participant women

C. Activities undertaken so far

The different events taken place in concern with the MKSP NTFP projects are as mentioned below:

1. Approval Date	: 12 th July 2012
2. MoU Date	: 22 nd October 2013
3. Sanction Date	: 12 th August 2013.
4. Fund Release Date	: 29 th October 2013

D. Activity Schedule
D.1 Gantt chart of schedule of activities

The implementation schedule has been broken down into sub-activities and schedule for first year is illustrated on a Gantt chart below:

ACTIVITIES	M	M	M	M	M	M	M	M	M	M	M	M
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
Month→	(Nov)	(Dec)	(Jan)	(Feb)	(Mar)	(Apr)	(May)	(Jun)	(July)	(Aug)	(Sep)	(Oct)
Year→	2013			2014								
PLANNING												
Preparation of Inception Report												
Preparation of DPR												
Staff deployment												
Staff orientation/ Training												
Finalization of villages												
Identification of SHG members												
PEC formation, training												
Community exposure												
Family/Village level Planning												
ACTIVITY												
Raising of Block Plantation												
Raising of Kisan Nursery												
Selection of private entrepreneurs/SHGs												
Preparation of land for nursery												
Collection of Arjuna seeds												

ACTIVITIES	M 1	M 2	M 3	M 4	M 5	M 6	M 7	M 8	M 9	M 10	M 11	M 12
Month→	(Nov)	(Dec)	(Jan)	(Feb)	(Mar)	(Apr)	(May)	(Jun)	(July)	(Aug)	(Sep)	(Oct)
Year→	2013		2014									
Making cattle proof trench												
Procurement of FYM, Poly Bags etc.												
Filling up of poly bags												
Soaking of seed, Heap formation & germination of seeds												
Placing germinated seed into poly bags												
Maintenance of seedlings												
Supply of seedlings												
Raising of Plantation												
Survey & selection of villages & Govt./ private land/waste land etc												
Selection of beneficiaries												
Formation of Self Help Groups												
Allotment of land to beneficiaries/SHGs												
Land husbandry												
Making cattle proof trench												
Digging of pits & filling with rooting media												
Procurement of seedlings												
Transplantation of seedlings												
Maintenance of plantation												
Assistance to Nucleus Seed Rearer's												
Selection of Nucleus Seed Rearer's (NSR)												
Signing of agreement with NSR												
Supply of inputs for maintenance of plantation												
Supply of Nucleus seed to NSR												
Crop & Rearer's' insurance												
Conducting silkworm rearing												
Silkworm Rearing assistance to NSR												
Assistance to Basic Seed Rearer's												
Selection of seed farmers												
Signing of agreement with BSRs												
Supply of inputs for maint. of block plantation												
Supply of Basic seed to BSRs												
Crop & Rearer's' insurance												
Conducting silkworm rearing												
Harvesting of seed cocoons												
Disposal of seed cocoons												
Assistance to Private Graineurs												
Identification of private graineurs												
Construction of Grainage building												
Procurement & supply of grainage equipment												
Supply consumables												
Procurement of seed cocoons by graineurs												
Processing of seed cocoons												
Production of commercial DFLs												
Sale/supply of pierced cocoons												

ACTIVITIES	M 1	M 2	M 3	M 4	M 5	M 6	M 7	M 8	M 9	M 10	M 11	M 12
	Month→ (Nov)	(Dec)	(Jan)	(Feb)	(Mar)	(Apr)	(May)	(Jun)	(July)	(Aug)	(Sep)	(Oct)
Year→	2013			2014								
Assistance to Commercial Rearer's												
Identify Commercial Rearer's (CR)												
Establish linkages												
Supply inputs for rearing												
Supply rearing equipment												
Provide insurance cover to com. crops & rearer's												
Procurement of commercial DFLs												
Silkworm Rearing assistance to CR												
Creation of Infrastructure facilities under the project												
Assistance to Basic Seed Production Units												
Assistance to Rearer's' Collectives												
HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT												
Trainers Training Programme												
Technical training of project personnel												
Technical training for Households for implementation of sericulture activities												
Nursery farmers												
Nucleus Seed Rearer's												
Basic Seed Rearer's												
Private Graineurs												
Commercial Rearer's												
Study tour/ Exposure visit												
Technical training for sectoral activities												
Improved Agriculture												
vegetable cultivation												
Exposure of beneficiaries to improved practices												
Training of Community Resource Persons (CRPs) for extension of activities												
Orientation and training on Tasar												
Exposure to improved practices												
Technical and Refresher Training												
On-field training / handholding provided by CRPs to the Project Families												
Tasar Silkworm Rearing												
Tasar Seed Production												
Est. of Community Arjuna Nursery												
Improved agriculture												
Vegetable cultivation												
Institution building of Producer Collectives												
Membership training												
Leadership/ Governance Training												
Exposure of Board members & staff												
Nurturing of New Self-Help-Groups (SHGs)												
Membership training (25%)												
Leadership Training (20%)												
Book keeping Training (7.5%)												
Exposure of Cluster & Federation Members (2.25%)												
Livelihood Visioning (50%)												

ACTIVITIES	M 1	M 2	M 3	M 4	M 5	M 6	M 7	M 8	M 9	M 10	M 11	M 12
Month→	(Nov)	(Dec)	(Jan)	(Feb)	(Mar)	(Apr)	(May)	(Jun)	(July)	(Aug)	(Sep)	(Oct)
Year→	2013		2014									
Trainers Training programme												
PUBLICITY AND EXTENSION												
Workshop/seminar												
Printing passbook/pamphlets												
Krishi mela												
DISEASE MONITORING												
DOCUMENTATION AND EVALUATION												
DESIGN DEVELOPMENT & DIVERSIFICATION												
CONSULTANCY AND ADVOCACY												
TECHNOLOGY EXTENSION AND BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT SUPPORT												
PROJECT ADMINISTRATIVE EXPENSES												
PROJECT MONITORING COST												

At the end of year 1, based on the experiences & after due revisions the activities for subsequent years shall be prepared.

D.2 Description of each activity in one or two lines along with reasoning for timing of activity

1. Raising of Block Plantation: Tasar culture was being practiced by tribal's originally in natural forest patches near their dwelling areas. But, due to increasing pressure on land and shrinking forest area, the lush green forests of Arjun and Asan are no more available near the villages/dwellings. Raising of Block plantation on private wastelands not only add to the shrinking forest cover but also diversifies the Livelihood options for the poor marginalized families, generates fuel wood post rearing.

Large tracts of Upland available in the project districts, which are highly degraded and it is very difficult for a poor tribal family to convert it in to agricultural purpose. These lands are also suitable for raising Arjuna plantation, which would also conserve the soil and moisture in the area besides generating income for the individual family up to Rs.15000/- every year 3rd year onwards for over five decades

Identification of Land: The process initiates from the end of December through survey of area & selection of village, to have a good time in hand for the preparatory works before monsoon.

Concept seeding: The preparatory works of Concept seeding of the programme, Exposure of beneficiaries, Selection & training of service provider, Selection of land for plantation etc continues till end of February.

Selection of nursery site: Nursery activities start in the month of March at the peak of the summer, with hot westerly winds blowing. Since most of the work is to be done during this time, two critical criteria should be applied in deciding the nursery site, the nursery site should be near reliable sources of water and the nursery site should be within 1 km of the transplantation site. This will help avoid plant transportation over long distances, which is costly.

Nursery: The nursery process carried out till End of June to early July, so that required height of seedlings is available in the early July for transplantation. Nursery process starts from seed collection in the month of March to dibbling in the month of April May. May and June month is mainly for the irrigation and maintenance of plants

Pit digging: Earthwork based activities such as pit digging and cattle proof trenches should initiates along with in the month of April itself so that the pits and trenches get sufficient sunlight and heat to be devoid of harmful microorganisms.

Cattle proof trench: As in most of the uplands, the prevailing practice is that after the harvest of paddy crop in the month of December and January the cattle remained free for grazing. In absence of any fencing, the entire plantations might get grazed by the animals. The CPT is done mainly to prevent grazing animals (mainly cow, buffalo and goats) to enter inside the plantation area in initial years

Soil conservation: Soil and moisture conservation measures to harvest rainwater and to improve soil moisture locally are the first step to enhance the productivity or the carrying capacity of these lands. These plantations will increase the vegetative cover of the wasteland making it less prone to erosion and run off.

It is preferable to start soil and moisture conservation activities before the transplantation of Arjuna or Asan seedlings. The work should be completed by the end of June. Ideally, the work should have been completed before the onset of monsoons to trap the monsoon water in the year of planting itself.

Intercropping: To sustain the interest of the plantation owners during the gestation period of the plantation, PRADAN encourages the farmers to intercrop in the plantations. Intercropping is carried out specifically with leguminous crops that fix nitrogen in their roots and benefits the plants in growth and development.

The gestation period of Tasar plantation is three years and the plantation is available for conducting Tasar silkworm rearing from 3rd year onwards. During the three years gestation period, it is possible to take up inter cultivation of different crops in between the Tasar food plants. The plantation area would be encouraged to take up inter-cultivation with pigeon pea, Red gram (Tur dal), vegetables etc.

2. Maintenance of Tasar host plants: The entire plantations would be raised on privately owned wastelands that are un-bunded and un-terraced areas having low moisture and nutrient retention capacity. In such a situation, promotion of uniform and vigorous growth in the plants in the subsequent year is a major challenge. This would be ensured under the project through intercultural operations (hoeing and manuring). Every year two intercultural operation is conducted; first at the onset of monsoon in the month of June-July with loosening soil, basin formation and fertilizer application and second at the end of monsoon mainly to break the capillaries at the surface, thereby retaining water and nutrient for a prolonged period.

3. Seed Rearer's (SR's): Seed Crop Rearing involves building seed cocoon stock through the Multiplication of basic and nucleus seeds. Adopted Seed Rearing and Nucleus Seed rearing would be taken up between the period September and November every year whereas Basic seed Rearing initiates from the month July and continue till August. Moreover, the activity has a cycle and seeds are available in specific periods of the year. But the preparatory works for the Seed Rearing like Survey of area and selection of village, Concept seeding of programme, Exposure of beneficiaries, Selection and training of service providers, Selection of beneficiaries, Selection of rearing field, Training on flora management for rearer's etc starts from January itself for the smooth implementation of the programme.

3. A) **Basic seed Rearers (BSR's):** Basic seed rearers are selected among the pool of commercial rearers based the certain criteria and rearers and rearing field that multiples the basic seed that is called basic seed rearing and produces seed cocoons for the Pvt. Graineurs. The graineurs purchase the selected seed cocoons and processes the seed cocoons in their grainage produces commercial dfis that would available to the commercial rearers

3. B) **Nucleus Seed Rearer's (NSRs):** The Adopted Seed Rearer's (ASRs) will also be selected from among the progressive Tasar rearer's for Nucleus seed Rearing. Till the block plantation becomes productive, Adopted Seed Rearing will be conducted on natural Tasar host flora as far as possible away from the commercial rearing site. Nucleus seed rearing would be taken up between the period September and November every year.

In order to organize production and supply of basic seed in the project area, it is proposed to organize Nucleus seed rearing through ASRs and procure the seed cocoons for preservation and processing by the producers collective at Basic Seed Production Unit (BSPU) These NSRs would be conduct rearing of Nucleus seed during the period September to December and the selected seed cocoons would be procured by the BSPU for preservation and processing to produce basic seed for the next season.

4. Assistance to Commercial Rearer's: Commercial Rearer's, mostly tribal people live in the forest or in the fringe areas are traditional activities and participates in the activities because rearing starts after the agriculture season generally in September, when the opportunity cost of labor remains low and end before the harvest of

paddy. The rearers would purchase the dfls in their own villages from the private graineurs and conduct rearing. The cocoon produced by the rearers called commercial cocoons and available in the market for yarn producers.

5. Assistance to Private Graineurs: A Grainage is an establishment where quality Tasar silkworm “seeds” are produced at village condition on scientific lines. The grainage owners are being selected by the rearers for conducting grainage and operate as an individual enterprise. The duration of activity is for 25-30 days and during the month September-October and produces commercial dfls that is available to the commercial rearers for conducting commercial crop rearing. Preparatory work for grainage starts from March onwards like Identification of Grainage owners, Construction of Grainage building, Procurement and supply of grainage equipment, Supplying consumables, Procurement of Seed cocoon etc.

6. Assistance to Basic Seed Production Units (BSPUs): There is a great deal of demand for Basic seeds in the project areas to increase DFL’s production by at least 50%, over and above the current scale of production. Further, the recent initiatives of to expand Tasar sericulture in Tasar producing states would need additional supply of basic seed. It is thus clear that any further expansion of Tasar sericulture would require augmenting the supply of basic seeds. The unit will be operated by the producers collective and ensure the supply of quality basic seed.

As this is a large construction work therefore activity needs to be completed before the monsoon. Preferably it should be constructed in between January to June then only it is going to help the Tasar families to catch the season. The unit will be constructed in a major tasar producing cluster.

7. Assistance to Rearer’s Collectives: To start with, the beneficiaries covered under the project will be brought together under the Rearer’s groups/ SHGs. These groups/SHGs shall be formed in to an activity group called Tasar Vikas Samity (TVS) or any other formal/ informal body. The Rearer’s’ Collectives shall be managed by the members themselves in accordance to prevailing acts, rules and regulations of the state.

Large-scale development of sub-sectors would require strong institutions, which would spearhead and sustain initiatives for the development of the sub-sector in the long run. Appropriate policy formulation, raising financial resources for investments, creating demands for research and extension, vigorous promotion of products, protecting the entitlements of the producers and widening stakeholder base are some of the important areas in Tasar Sericulture, which would require strong initiatives. Creation of appropriate organizations, designed to enhance the stake and control of the producers, would be a major challenge in the context of Tasar as majority of the producers come from the tribal and backward communities and are financially very poor. However, it is envisaged to create relevant institutions with the involvement of the producers and enabling them to exert their control in the long run.

8. Human Resource Development: The sector in the present context where states are reducing its size, there is high need of young and energetic people to rejuvenate it. The professional influx will help to anchor a multi-stakeholder in complex socio-cultural region of the country to deliver the mandate of establishing and spreading Tasar sector. This will strengthen the human resource systems for direct work, inclusion of new areas by influencing other actors, especially by strengthening capabilities of other civil society actors.

In the absence of the skilled people to support the Tasar Sericulture activity at the grass root, there is high level of deficit of the scientific know how at the community level. There is pressing need to engage with the community to build their skills, making them aware about new scientific practices of doing in the field of Tasar Sericulture and building their vision and understanding around collectives. So there is a high need to create a sector specialist cadre who works with a belief that engagement at cutting edge will bring the theory of change and one of our major strategies will be to create such a pool. CSB sanctioned ISDS (Integrated Skill Development Scheme) project to PRADAN for Skill Development for the existing producers of special SGSY projects in Bihar and Jharkhand. The training will be provided jointly by PRADAN and CSB and skilled person would be utilized in the field for the implementation of such projects. The PRADAN personnel would also be trained by the CSB around the technical skill, project implementation and monitoring under Trainers Training Programme.

Training and capacity building would very important component of the project. FIA team would require exposure visit to different organization for learning best practices and new technologies relevant to the project. Representatives from the target families can be taken to see related works of different agencies to broaden their understanding. To groom women to mature SHG members, knowledgeable and skilled human resources, these

women need different trainings like membership training of SHG, technical training on nursery, improved agriculture, Tasar production, entrepreneurial training, membership of people's institution, etc.

In case of Tasar, there are various kind of training to be provided at various stage such as in case of rearing, understanding Tasar sector with respect to rearing activity, maintenance of Tasar host plants, understanding backward and forward linkages, Tasar silkworm rearing technology, rearing management, cocoon storage and marketing. Such kind of training will be provided in batches of beneficiaries. Similar training will be also provided to the private graineurs also. Most of the training will be provided residential at village level school building /Gram panchayats Bhawan. Selected nursery farmers will be trained on nursery raising and maintenance. Residential training will be provided that will cover class room conceptual training as well as practical training in the field.

Extensive training will be provided on the vegetable cultivation on both the rabi and kharif vegetable right from the selection of varieties, nursery raising, pest control and maintenance of crop at the time of vegetative growth and fruiting. All the families will be trained on scientific practices and handholding supporting will be provided on the field directly to adopt the scientific practices so that the standard productivity could be achieved. Training will also provided on the selection of crop based on the type of land.

Additionally, PRADAN will also use the services of Subject Matter Specialist (SMS) to provide technical support to the beneficiaries at different stages of growth period of plants. A large number of village based resource persons would be trained under the project. This resource person would be part of a rigorous follow-up mechanism to offer handholding support to the beneficiaries of the project.

There will be multiple numbers of trainings to cater the knowledge deficits of professionals, Community Resource Persons and at Community level; trainings around extension services, handholding support to communities, improved agriculture, Vegetable cultivation, Institution buildings of Producer Collectives and Nurturing of SHG's will remain the prime focus. The HR development is a year round programme and therefore will continue throughout the year or seasonal if the activities are seasonal in nature. The engagements of trainings are elaborately mentioned in the Gantt chart.

9. Target Group: The target group would comprise of rearer's, private graineurs, reeler's and spinners. The farmers who have one or more hectares of forest plantation or who have 0.7 ha to 1 ha waste land and are willing to take up Tasar culture as subsidiary occupation would be the project beneficiaries in pre-cocoon sector. Unemployed youth or interested local entrepreneurs would be encouraged to raise Kisan nurseries for raising seedlings of Tasar food plants and/ or to organize grainage activity. Efforts would be made to cover as many tribal families as possible under the Project. The identification of target families will start right after the inception of the project from the very first month.

10. Community Resource Persons (CRPs) : Emphasis will be given on selection of beneficiaries, organizing Self Help Groups (SHGs) for various activities, signing of agreement with beneficiaries, development of infrastructure etc during the early period of the project, to get maximum project output and keep the tribal's interested in Tasar culture, utilization of the existing Tasar food plants in the forest areas/ raised under other schemes, Skill up-gradation, handholding support to beneficiaries in creation of activity groups are the primary activities which will be achieved by engaging Community Resource Persons (CRP). Disease monitoring, technological support etc will also be looked after by these groups of resource person's. Development of pool of Community Resource Persons will be a prime focus of the project.

Large pool of CRP will be built under the ISDS project of CSB that would help the project to run in a better way.

11. Strengthening of community based organizations (CBOs) : Entire project will be implemented by ensuring active involvement of the communities. Existing community based organizations viz. Women self help groups (SHGs), Activity groups and producer groups will be strengthened to consolidate the ongoing activity while new groups will be formed to expand the activity in neighboring areas.

Generic institutions like women SHG will be trained in addressing issues of health and nutrition security through community health trainings, raising perennial kitchen gardens etc. Capacity building of members of livelihood institutions will be undertaken.

12. Publicity and Extension: Under this head following work are to be done:-

- Workshops and seminars
- Printing and distribution of extension material.
- Audio visual demonstration.
- Krishi melas will be organized in the project area to bring the extension officials, progressive beneficiaries, group leaders, providers of support services etc., to a common platform to exchange the experience, ideas, problems and concepts.

The activities will be done round the year to promote the project, bringing in new ideas, bridging gaps and to revive the sector.

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

The project would be implemented by existing PRADAN team based at District level and headed by a team leader and anchor the project implementation. The team would set up a Field Implementation Units (FIU) at Block level that would spearhead grassroots action. The FIU would comprise Professionals, Subject Matter specials and assistant.

At village level where there is a potential of sericulture, all the women would be organized in to SHGs and after conducting a baseline survey the Tasar producers would be organized in to an activity group called "Tasar Vikas Samity" (TVS) out of SHGs comprise plantation farmers, rearers, graineurs, reelers and spinner. The TVS would further form a small group out TVS as Project Execution Committee" (PEC) to implement the project

The implementation structure will create space for the individual activities and will be supported by well stated processes to guide the implementation structure. At first village level planning will be done by the activity group (TVS) where individual families will express their interest, resource base etc. and based on the physical plan, TVS will place their requisition for the transfer of fund in to TVS account specially dedicated for the project implementation. The requisition will be further verified by the concerned PRADAN professional and will be submitted to PRADAN. Based on the requisition PRADAN team at District level would transfer the fund in to TVS accounts.

The individual families with the help of PEC and the community service provider will implement the activities and the bills/ Master rolls of the works will be raised on weekly basis and payments will be made as per the bills/ Master rolls of the works produced. The bills against the grants will be submitted to PRADAN after verification by the representative of PRADAN along with representatives from PEC and the community service provider. Here the role of monitoring will be undertaken by the PEC & PRADAN. Individual families will carry out the activity under the handholding support of Service Provider and the Representative of PRADAN. TVS will submit the entire bill to PRADAN at the end of every month and after settling all the accounts fresh requisition will be placed based on the plan along with the physical and financial report.

The project implementation plan will be developed and the detailing of the plan will be done by conducting a specific TVS meeting for the planning process and proper minutes will be kept. The members of PEC will also be trained by PRADAN around the processes, financial management, monitoring etc.

Keeping such a small group will help members of the TVS to interact with each other effectively, maintain the regimentation of the activity. These Primary level organization's (called `Tasar Vikas Samity') main concern will be selection of rearer's, selection of proper rearing site, maintenance of host plants, promotion of new plantations, monitoring of quality standard of DFLs and helping rearer's to access services for rearing and marketing of cocoons.

Trainings and capacity building at different levels will further ensure the participation of the individual families and will help the families to express their interest in a logical manner. To ensure the objective of participation, different training events would be organized for community, PEC members, CRPs apart from planning events which themselves an element of capacity building processes.

1) For every aspect of interventions, there will be a strong focus on building required skills and capacities among the beneficiaries in order to enable them manage their livelihoods in the long run. Training would be provided to all

categories of beneficiaries to help them acquire technical skills. These trainings will help them to plan in a better way.

2) The TVS and PEC being the spearhead to roll out the project will be trained in different aspects of documentation and book keeping. They will also be trained around the activities and exposure visits around the activities will be done to broaden their perspective and to make a better implementation plan.

3) It is essential for the project to create appropriate mechanism for rigorous monitoring, door step delivery of services and enabling the producers to follow strict quality control regime. PRADAN would create cost-effective and efficient mechanism by involving village based resource persons/ service providers, who would perform the key functions of managing input-output linkages and ensure delivery of inputs and services at the doorstep. These people will give handholding supports in Tasar, Improved agriculture, Vegetable cultivation and SHG formation. They will manage linkages for seeds, would help the community in procuring inputs such as fertilizers, seedlings, DFLs, establishment of village level nursery for the production of seedlings and also help them in storage and marketing of cocoons. Under the project village level Community Resource Persons/ Service providers will be selected and provided with all kinds of training on the implementation and management of the project and delivering different kind of service even after the end of the project.

5) All the beneficiaries selected under the project would be from existing SHGs in the proposed area. Places where SHGs do not exist, the PIAs would form SHGs to initiate community mobilization. The beneficiaries will be organized in to activity groups at the hamlet levels that would be federated to producers' collective at block / district.

6) Rigorous training, exposure, facilitating experience sharing among producers and an internal review mechanism among the producer groups for assessing member performance and CRPs would go a long way towards supporting individual families/ producers to adopt best practices, set better standards and create space for mutual learning. The PIAs would involve the women institutions / producers' groups at every stage from planning, implementation and review in order to create a strong stake of the villagers. Delegating financial responsibility to the primary groups—including the task of fund handling, record keeping and periodic reporting of progress would be important procedures to build ownership of people in the project.

F. Expected Output

F.1 Expected Annual Output

➤	Total Family Coverage under the Project	:868
➤	Total Family Coverage under Direct Livelihood	:520
➤	Total Family Coverage through indirect livelihood benefits	:130
➤	Total Families to be mobilized into SHGs	:218
➤	Total Area (in Ha.) of Plantations to be raised	:80
➤	Total Area (in Ha.) of Natural Forest to be rejuvenated	:1,281
➤	DFLs to be produced :	
	• Commercial DFLs (Lakh Units)	:0.78
➤	Total Cocoon Production by the end of 1 st Year	:49 Lakh Pieces
➤	Value of the Project output by 1 st Year (Rs. In Lakh)	:112.11

F.2 Expected Convergence

The total project cost will be raised from three sources respectively MoRD, CSB, contribution from Beneficiaries and credit, other than that convergence from any other sources are not considered during conceptualizing the project. MoRD and CSB will provide the total grant of 86.5% having individual share of 64.9% & 21.6% respectively, the remaining 13.5% will be contributed by the project families either from their own contribution or by arranging loan.