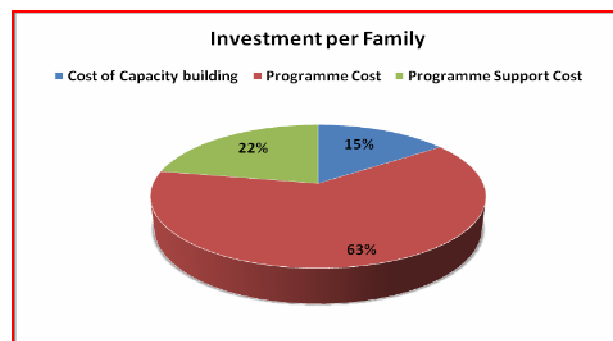
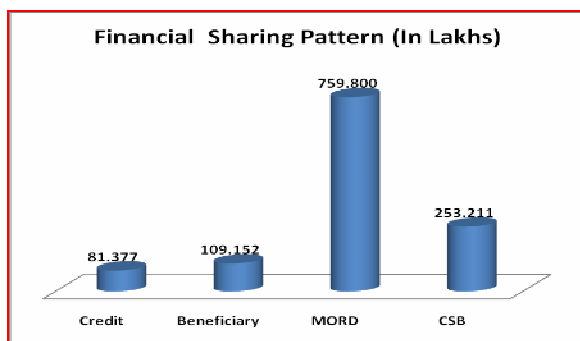


Promotion of Large Scale Tasar Sericulture Based Livelihoods in Maharashtra

MKSP project for tasar development in Maharashtra is implemented in Gadchiroli, Gondia, Chandrapur and Yavatmal districts with total project outlay of Rs. 12.035 crores shared by MoRD (Rs. 7.598 crores), CSB (Rs. 2.532 crores) and credit & beneficiary (Rs. 1.905 crores) covering 5790 beneficiaries including 3326 direct, 831 indirect beneficiaries and 1633 SHG members. The selected districts have been lagging behind on various development fronts especially in the farm sector, which forms the livelihood for a majority of the population. The target group would comprise the tribal communities mostly women belonging to Katkaria, Maria Gond and Kolam are among the primitive tribal Groups (PTGs) besides this Deewar belonging to Backward Communities, who practice tasar silkworm rearing as part of their tradition and culture. This project builds on the foundations of large scale social mobilization of women facilitated by BAIF and MSRLM's partners in Maharashtra and an array of livelihood propositions for the marginalized, based on Tasar sericulture that have been made standardized through decades of meticulous efforts by PRADAN with support from the Central Silk Board (CSB) under the special SGSY Projects in Bihar and Jharkhand. Main objective of the project is to augment silkworm seed production in private sector, nurturing Community Resource Persons and yarn conversion on pilot scale. Besides, the project envisages promoting integrated activities like improved Agriculture, vegetable cultivation and other best practices. The 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. The project also focus on design development & product diversification to increase producer's share locally and disease monitoring to ensure higher productivity to achieve desired income levels. The total project investment per family is worked out at Rs. 20,784/- per family and project grant of Rs. 17,493/- per family of which about Rs. 7,922/- is invested in equipments, Rs. 4,176/- towards capacity building and Rs. 5,490 /- towards creation of common assets for participating families.



Project coverage: The project cover 60 nursery farmers, 40 Nucleus Seed Rearers, 240 Basic Seed Rearers, 60 Private Graineurs, 2786 commercial rearers, 100 Reelers and 40 Spinners under the project. It is to establish one Basic Seed Production Unit, 5 Rearers' Collectives and 4 Reelers' Collectives besides a Cocoon Bank with the project assistance. Besides, Project would focus on Design development & diversification, disease monitoring, documentation etc.

Project Output: With this investment, it is proposed to raise 200 ha of tasar food plants, 1750 ha. of natural host flora would be regenerated, 0.48 lakh dfls of basic seed & 6.75 lakh dfls of commercial seed to be produced which will help in production of 211.78 lakh reeling cocoons during the project period. Finally an estimated 17005 kgs of Tasar Raw silk would be produced under this project. It is also proposed to nurture and promote 82 nos. of Community Resource Persons for future expansion programmes.

Tasar sericulture activities under this project will provide an incremental income of Rs. 10,000 to Rs. 18,700 to a producer-family (silkworm rearer's, Grainage entrepreneur, yarn producers and weavers) from their slack labor and idle assets. Given the economic profile of households, many a times, this level of income contributes to almost 100% income enhancement of the household. Participating Families would be able to invest their earning from project in debt redemption, recovery of mortgaged lands, buying pump sets, repairing or constructing houses and in educating their children in good schools.

Project monitoring: Central Silk Board is the co-ordinating and fund routing agency and also responsible for providing technological inputs and training of field staff of the Project Implementing Agency, BAIF through its Field Units in various sectors viz., seed, pre-cocoon and post-cocoon.

State Level monitoring committee (SLMC): The SLMC would closely monitor the implementation of the project by reviewing the overall physical and financial progress every quarter and suggest necessary actions for successful implementation of the Project, as per yearly work plans. The SLMC will be headed by the CEO of SRLM and they will constitute the committee at state level.

State Level Technical Project Support Group: As the proposed projects intend to transfer the proven technologies evolved by research institutes in seed, pre-cocoon and post-cocoon sector, to address any technical issues raised during implementation of the projects, a State Level Technical Project Support Group is proposed under the project, chaired by the Director/ Commissioner of Department of sericulture. The Director/ Commissioner would constitute the committee at state level.

Project Review Committee: A Project Review Committee is constituted at State level with the Secretary (Rural Development) of the state as the Chairman and the CEO of SRLM as Member Convener. The committee is constituted by RD secretary at state level and they would monitor and periodically review the project.

Project Management Board: The Member Secretary of CSB would be the Chairperson of the Project Management Board (PMB) with the Scientist in-charge of the projects, Central Silk Board and the Project Coordinator as Member Convener of the PMB. The PMB would take care of linkages amongst the MKSP Projects in Tasar sector in other states besides review and revision of the project after mid-term evaluation, if required.
