

INDIA - TOWARDS FOOD SECURITY



Description

The Indian states of Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh, Chattisgarh, Maharashtra, Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Kerala, Jharkhand, Orissa and West Bengal are the target states for this project.

A total of 176 villages across 30 Districts from the states have been selected for the project. All the project villages are predominantly agricultural in nature, characterized by poor rainfall, and frequent droughts. These villagers depend on rain water for their agricultural needs. Degradation of natural resources and low soil productivity has been observed in many of the identified villages.

The recurring failure in crop production and acute poverty, causing multiple issues including malnourishment, has led to large scale migration in search of employment. Environmental degradation, low agricultural productivity, large scale migration, high indebtedness, absence of saving base, poor access to institutional credit, poor access to marketing and extension services are some of the issues faced by the target group.



Recipients

The prevailing caste system and its practices in many parts of the country has led to inequitable development processes especially in the rural areas. The dalits and other excluded communities are the most vulnerable, who under the circumstances suffer the most. The recipients in the project villages are subjected to acute poverty and in many cases hardly get a meal in a day to sustain themselves. The situation has led to many cases of malnutrition especially among children and women.

Work for Food

The project provides food in exchange for work that will benefit the communities agriculturally. The work includes digging holes for ponds, deepening and digging wells, pasture land development and fencing, digging compost pits, tree plantations, desilting wells, removal of stones from land, and road construction.