



Building Resilience in Agriculture for Food Security

Field Visit – 8th & 9th October 2015, Orchha, Madhya Pradesh

Day I – 8th October 2015

- 11:00 Arrival in Jhansi
- 12:00 – 12:30 TARAGram Mela: Sustainable Livelihoods for Bundelkhand
(A cultural event organised by local communities to demonstrate sustainable livelihood models)
- 12:30 – 13:00 Overview on DA's initiatives in Bundelkhand
- 13:00 – 13:30 Lunch at TARAGram Orchha
- 13:30 – 16:30 Visit to NRM Initiatives at Dhikoli
- Brief on the scientific solutions for watershed management, waste water treatment and, agro-met technologies, WADI
 - Discussion with experts from Central Agro Forestry Research Institute (CAFRI), Madhya Pradesh
- 16:30 – 18:00 Visit to WADI Model, Babina
- Visit to WADI model functioning on renewable energy source in resource scarce Bundelkhand
 - Discussion with farmers and field team
- 19:30 onwards Dinner at TARAGram Orchha

Day II – 9th October 2015

- 09:00 – 09:30 Visit to Radio Bundelkhand- Community Radio, TARAGram Orchha
- Visit to the Radio station and a brief on its functioning
 - Discussion with the field reporters and the radio team
- 09:30 – 10:30 Presentation on GIS mapping
- 10:30 – 12.30 Visit to Gaushala:
- Exploring various cash flows in agriculture economy- agro processing units and vermicompost units
 - Discussion with Self Help Group Women running the Gaushala
- 13:30 – 14.00 Lunch at TARAGram Pahuj
- 14:00 – 16:00 Visit to Demonstration Centre, TARAGram Pahuj
- Brief on the design and substance of training and capacity building workshop for farmers
 - Discussion with farmers of Harit Kisan Mandal
- 16:00 – 17.00 Round table discussion with field participants

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8th and 9th October 2015, Orchha, Madhya Pradesh

A two day trip from New Delhi to Orchha, in Tikamgarh district Madhya Pradesh and Babina in Jhansi district, Uttar Pradesh will include various interventions that demonstrate land and water management solutions, diversification of agriculture and value addition to local agriculture produce by farmers clubs and women's collectives. The solutions demonstrate the strength of local community institutions and application of science and technology to provide robust indigenous and appropriate solutions for building environmental, social and economic resilience of small and marginal farming communities exposed to climate impacts. The Yatris will also have an opportunity to interact with local community groups and government agencies at the Annual **TARAGram Mela** organised at the TARAGram Livelihood Resource Centre, in Orchha. The Yatris will stay at the TARAGram Hostel in Orchha and visit the following initiatives:

Science and Technology Solutions for Natural Resource Management

Interventions at **Dhikoli village in Jhansi District** demonstrate various techniques for managing the critical water resource. At this location, the science behind setting up and functioning of Integrated Watershed Programme shall be detailed in accordance to the geographical features of the region. A waste-water treatment plant is also set up at this location, which extends the intervention from conservation to management and re-use of resources. The technical understanding required to set up such a plant shall be explained by experts. The science of practicing agro-horti model for diversification will also be discussed taking examples from current practices. Additionally, Dhikoli also has a system of agro-met, which provides climate risk information to the farmers. This tool shall also be thrown light upon during the course of the field visit.



Agriculture diversification and use of renewable energy for resource management and livelihood security

Wadi, an agro-horticulture based farming model has helped tribal communities at **Babina** to enhance the potential of their underutilised, degraded land resources for sustainable small farm based livelihoods. Run-off water harvested in the area through construction of temporary check bunds across river streams have built-up ground water resources to support the required irrigation to these farm plots. The food-water concern addressed by a WADI model is further supported by solar based irrigation pumps enabling irrigation security thin low input costs and no environmental impacts. Interventions at Babina, have not only shown positive results on natural resource management but have enhanced livelihood security due to diversification and thus reduced risk to climate change.



FIELD NOTE

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Exploring cash flows in agriculture economy to optimize livelihood security



The Ram Raja Gaushala is a women run enterprise development model. Completely run by local women, the Gaushala is a livelihood centre where women’s groups produce low cost Vermi compost and also provide agro-processing services for enhancing value of the local farm produce, mainly spices. Linked to agriculture support services for seeds and improved practices for spice production at the farm, this centre links the farm to markets for value added produce. The Gaushala, also demonstrates application of bio-gas based energy for running small machinery for agro-processing, creating multiple revenue lines for the Women’s Federation that manages this centre. The Gaushala is creating new opportunities for income and livelihood opportunities for farmers both women and men in the region. The Gaushala has demonstrated social and economic benefits to woman, through enhancing farm incomes and enterprise development opportunities for local communities.

Capacity Building of farmers for enhancing production and managing resources

The TARAGram Farmer’s Resource Centre near the Pahuj river, Babina block of Jhansi district provides training and demonstration services to build capacities of farmers and supports them to make appropriate choices for seeds, crops, farm inputs and sowing, irrigation and harvesting practices. It has demonstrations of rain water harvesting systems, agro-horti models, and micro irrigation techniques. These are illustrated by the resource persons at the Centre to sensitise the farmers to make informed choices in agriculture, especially in the context of increasing unpredictability and shifts in weather patterns, a consequence of the changing climate. Local farmers have been organised in a farmer’s cluster known as Harit Kisan Mandal. This Mandal organises training extension meetings and on farm demonstrations to increase awareness of the farmer community in the village of Pahuj cluster. This Mandal has now been organised into a Farmer’s Producer Organisation to enhance their bargaining capacities and improve their ability to access information, advisories and services.



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