

PROJECT FACT SHEET



Where the Rain Falls

Location: Chhattisgarh

WtRF in India is a community-based *in situ* adaptation project to increase resilience of *Adivasi* women to shocks and stresses around water owing to climate change in Jashpur district of Chhattisgarh. While phase I of WtRF has focussed on research for situational analysis followed by improved water management for adaptation planning, the interventions of phase II seek to address chronic risks like food and water insecurity arising out of climate change and impacting *Adivasi* women's access, control, and management of natural resources. The project has so far promoted strong community institutions to increase *Adivasi* women's access, control, and management of resources; developed a cadre of community animators; forged linkages of *Adivasi* households with various Government departments for various inputs, services, and entitlements; piloted crop improvement and diversification; and initiated work on improved soil, land, water, and forest management with community participation in project villages.

Goal

By 2025, 3000 *Adivasi* women and girls are empowered, participate effectively in governance, and have enhanced resilience to chronic risks arising out of climate change.

Objectives

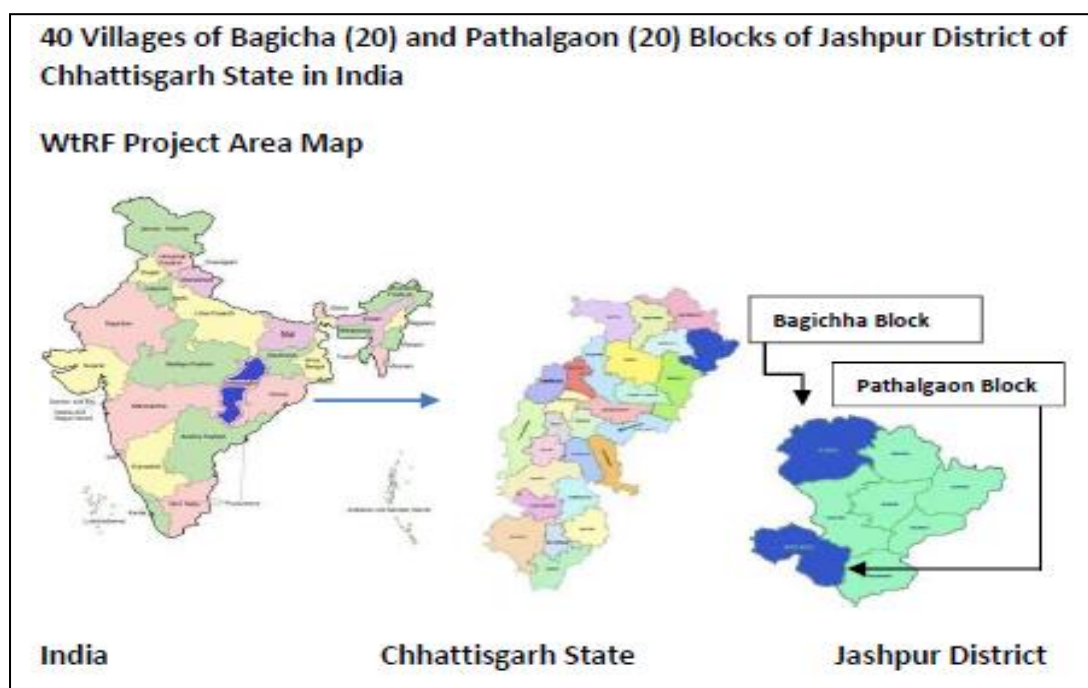
- To enhance capacities, capabilities and confidence of *Adivasi* women and girls to adapt and cope with environmental risks and related economic risks arising out of climate change.
- To support inclusive and effective collectives for building solidarity, promoting gender equity and facilitating access of *Adivasi* women and girls to opportunities, entitlements, resources, services, and markets.
- To engage with other critical actors (households, communities, government, market, local authority) to support equitable participation of *Adivasi* women in agriculture, markets, and decision-making related to governance of productive resources and assets.
- To facilitate governance and management of community resources with effective participation of local communities especially *Adivasi* women.

communities especially *Adivasi* women.

- To generate knowledge products from field learnings to contribute to future program and advocacy strategies of CARE India and beyond.

Specifics

Invariably all project villages are dominated by *Adivasis*; women constitute around half of the total population; the average family has five members and the average number of households per village is 174. Jashpur district receives a normal rainfall of 1400 mm with 65 rainy days a year, however, there has been a sharp decline in rainfall since 1990. Water levels in the district's wells have been falling, and the change in rainfall has



PROJECT FACT SHEET

severely and adversely impacted the local food production system. Availability and access of forest-dependent households to Non-Timber Forest Products (NTFPs) - so essential for household food security - has reduced. In all villages agriculture has shifted from multi-cropping to mono-cropping, forcing people to migrate seasonally for labour. In some villages owner-agriculturists are now surviving as labour.

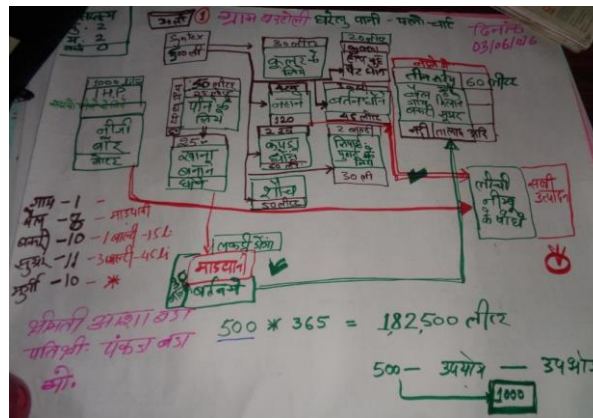
In this context, WtRF is implementing the following strategies:

- Reducing existing vulnerabilities of Adivasi women and their households** (e.g., through integrated water resources management, animal and crop protection, land development, improved soil and manure management, and enhanced access to rainfall and temperature forecasts).
- Building new forms of resilience** (e.g., improved access to seeds and other inputs for diversifying crop production, setting up mechanisms for grain and seed storage, promoting forest-based and off-farm livelihoods, developing local markets, strengthening local governance and community institutions, improved systems of natural resource management and governance).
- Strengthening existing mechanisms, practices and opportunities which provide for resilience** (e.g., promoting agro-biodiversity where paddy varieties are concerned, supporting revival of water storage structures, esp. the community-owned ones, promoting community institutions like *sangats*, SHGs, and JFMCs, strengthening linkages with government organisation (esp. agriculture and allied sector institutions and the State Forest Department) and private service providers, and ensuring access to safety nets like MNREGS, PDS and minimum procurement prices of nationalized NTFPs).

Progress So Far

Promoting Climate Literacy

- Developed climate literacy modules and 18 project staff and animators underwent training of trainers to facilitate training at community level.
- Facilitated climate change discussions at hamlet level in 40 project villages where 3379 villagers including 1957 women participated.
- Developed flip book on climate change and its effects, and on adaptation measures through collectives which aids generating awareness among Adivasi women and their households on it.



Climate Smart Agriculture

- Trained 623 farmers on System of Rice Intensification (SRI), 1127 farmers trained and assisted to pilot mixed/inter cropping methods, under relay cropping methods 151 cultivated *masoor* (red lentil) and 96 farmers cultivated mustard further the project under collective farming activities supported 430 farmers to grow potato and 10 farmers on chick peas cultivation.
- 507 farmers of 14 villages of Pathalgaon block linked with National Food Security Mission (NFSM)-Rice and 200 farmers of 20 villages of the block linked with NFSM-Pulses with the support of Department of Agriculture through inputs and technical support for SRI paddy and pulses respectively.



PROJECT FACT SHEET

- 60 farmers of one project village linked for black gram with KVK Jashpur under National Mission on Oilseed and Oil Palm (NMOOP) through inputs and technical support.
- 60 women farmers of one project village linked with KVK Jashpur under NMOOP for horse gram cultivation in 70 acres of land through inputs and technical support.
- Organised seven block level seed fairs to promote indigenous/disappearing variety and exchange of these seeds to cope with climate change involving farmers and other different stakeholders, 41 varieties of seeds exchanged between 197 farmers and over 1400 farmers participated in the seed fairs.
- Conducted soil test in 598 locations in 40 project villages with approximately 15 tests per village to guide in soil treatment and selecting crop type. Out of these soil test in 200 locations conducted in convergence with KVK Jashpur.
- Linked 173 farmers with mobile based agro-meteorological advisory services besides establishing weather update facility in 40 villages.
- Developed a module on scientific harvesting and management of trees and forest resources, and trained 974 Adivasi women and other forest collectors on it.
- Developed 12 community agro-forestry models in 12 project villages; and developed one scientific harvesting garden in another project village. 50 farmers have been supported with agro-forestry on mango, guava, black berry, jack fruit, lichi and lemon plants.



Community-led Soil and Water Conservation

- Developed training module on participatory water audit and sustainable multiple-use water management and 17 field staff and 18 volunteers trained on participatory water audit to facilitate it at village level. Facilitated participatory water audit and sustainable multiple-use water management among 232 households of 5 project villages to address water insecurity.
- Guided soil and land development works for groundwater recharge and contingency water storage through 566 number of 5% model pits, 131 number of percolation tanks, 5 number of check dams, one masonry check dam and 3 number of pond renovations.
- Mapped water structures in 40 villages, and identified water structures for rehabilitation.
- One masonry check dam was rehabilitated through Water User Association.
- One community pond renovated through convergence.
- Financial assistance provided to implement 74 activities in 40 villages based on CAP priority related to improved water management and benefit 4500 households.



Collectivisation and Financial Inclusion

- Organised 40 Village Development Committees (VDCs), one in each project village, to enhance ownership of and impart sustainability to adaptation efforts.
- Revived 152 SHGs and formed 20 new SHGs with 1694 women to mobilise them as key stakeholders in the program and to increase both social and financial capital of the resource-poor households.
- Conducted value chain study to identify and recommend potential alternate livelihood options for local communities to diversify their household income.
- 219 women trained and facilitated with undertaking alternative livelihood options (mushroom cultivation, fishery, microenterprise, goat rearing and piggery).

PROJECT FACT SHEET

- Developed training and learning material, and trained 18 animators, 2 Block Coordinators and 69 VDC members on village and community development, schematic linkages, and collective decision making.
- 22 SHGs provided with Revolving Loan Fund (RLF) of Rs 25,000 for undertaking Income Generation Activities (IGAs) like collective farming on paddy, goat rearing, grocery shop business, mushroom cultivation, and procure and sale of Mahua (*Maduca latifolia*).
- Trained 800 SHG members on basic processes and bookkeeping.
- Developed training manual on SHG visioning, training of trainers organised for field staff and project staff on SHG visioning, and 236 SHG leaders and animators trained on SHG visioning.
- Trained 155 SHG leaders and animators on best practices of SHG management, leadership and inclusive social action.
- Conducted need assessment of 10 Joint Forest Management Committee (JFMCS) in Bagicha block, developed training and resource materials on joint forest management and organised training of trainers for 14 persons on it.
- Established two Block Level Motivation Teams (BMTs) in Bagicha and Pathalgaon blocks to select, recognise and facilitate adoption of good practices by the impact population on community water management, climate smart agriculture and strengthening of SHG. The BMTs have recognised and felicitated 16 members SHGs, SHGs members, VDC, 5% model beneficiary, SRI-line sowing farmer, vermi-compost farmer, pitcher irrigation technique farmer and animators for their performance. Role model toolkit guidelines developed to identify and promote role models.
- Developed a cadre of 20 grassroots animators, drawn from within the community to support the community in adaptation planning and implementation. Capacitated them on climate smart agriculture (CSA); SRI-line sowing; mixed/inter cropping; pitcher irrigation technique; vegetable cultivation; vermi-compost; bio-pesticide; soil and water conservation techniques; scientific harvesting and management of trees and forest resources; and strengthening of collectives to promote collectives and facilitate/handhold on various interventions of the project.



Promoting Inclusive Governance

- Developed Community Action Plan (CAP) in 40 project villages to guide development interventions within the purview of climate change situation.
- Undertook capacity needs assessment (CNA) of 73 Panchayat Raj Institutions representatives; developed one PRI training module; trained 13 animators and 82 PRI representatives of both blocks on the roles and responsibilities of the later for promoting climate resilient livelihoods.
- Trained 54 PRI representatives of Bagicha and Pathalgaon blocks on Panchayat Raj system and the legislation on it; importance of Gram Sabha; rights and responsibilities of citizens; functions of Gram Panchayat; roles and responsibilities of Member, Panch and Sarpanch; and development schemes and programs, and their implementation.
- The project team made presentation of its activities with State Rural Livelihood Mission (SRLM) at Raipur and explored opportunities for leveraging government sponsored schemes for supporting WtRF project participants.
- Two project villages (Mudapara and /Jabla) selected as model villages by Jashpur district administration for focussed interventions by departments like Agriculture, Horticulture, Animal Husbandry, Watershed, Fishery, Revenue and Electricity to diversify income source and double the household income in next one year.

PROJECT FACT SHEET

Gender Integration in Community Based Adaptation

- Conducted gender analysis in 40 project villages among 951 men and women (including 614 women) to understand gender relationship and gender analysis report prepared.
- Organised gender sensitisation workshops where 1258 men and women (including 594 women) in 40 project villages to support equitable participation of Adivasi women in agriculture, markets, and decision-making related to governance of productive resources and assets.
- Developed REFLECT manual, 15 REFLECT Circle facilitators who facilitate REFLECT circle process in 10 villages for triggering social change process.
- Trained 825 Adivasi women on legal literacy programs that focused on improving community understanding on their rights and entitlements over natural resources and building awareness on various schemes and welfare measure available from various service providers.
- Developed training modules for increasing awareness of Adivasi women and girls and also of government functionaries, on the former's rights over resources (forest, land, and water) and trained 17 field staff on it.



Water, Sanitation & Hygiene (WASH)

- Developed 10 training modules on water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) practices and developed 18 WASH champions from among the community who subsequently trained members of 100 SHGs of two blocks of Jashpur district on WASH practices and how to link with Government schemes in these regards.
- 33 defunct tube wells repaired with the support of state Public Health Department.

Micro-insurance Literacy and Coverage

- Conducted a micro-insurance study to identify the risks and insurance needs of tribal communities and to make recommendation to insurance providers on possible opportunities for offering products relevant to their risk profile
- Developed a video for generating awareness on micro-insurance among participant households
- 576 farmers (including 279 women) in 29 project villages and 44 farmers (including one woman) belonging to three villages enumerated under crop insurance, as a result of project efforts.

CARE India is a leading national humanitarian development and relief organization with an extensive global reach through the CARE International confederation, of which it is an affiliate member. Through carefully designed programs in Education, Health, Livelihood, and Disaster Preparedness and Response, CARE India seeks to address poverty and social injustice in the country. We work with women and girls from the most disadvantaged and poor communities, especially Dalits (socially marginalized communities) and Adivasi (Tribals). We aim to bring about gender transformative change through our projects and programs as we believe that equipped with the proper resources and given equal opportunities, women have the power to lead whole families and entire communities out of poverty.

CARE India Headquarters: A-12, Bhilwara Towers, Third Floor Tower-II, Sector-1, NOIDA, Uttar Pradesh- 201 301, India. Ph: +91-120-4048250. Email: contactus@careindia.org