



PROJECT FACT SHEET

SUMMARY

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,

Where the Rain Falls Location: Chhattisgarh

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
- 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 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:

- ① 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)
- ② 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)
- ③ 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)

Key Statistics

Since initiating implementation phase, WtRF has:

- Piloted improved paddy cultivation and crop diversification in 72 acres of land with 72 households
- Guided soil and land development works for groundwater recharge and contingency water storage in 20 acres of land with 20 households
- Mapped water structures in 20 villages, and identified 20 water structures in two villages for rehabilitation

- One masonry check dam rehabilitated through community water awareness
- Effectively linked 223 Households to various entitlements and government schemes aimed at livelihood security and livelihood promotion
- Supported 750 women and their households to voice water, livelihood and air pollution related concerns in Gram Sabha and Panchayat meetings
- Organised 15 Village Development Committees (VDCs), one in each project village, to enhance ownership of and impart sustainability to adaptation efforts
- Revived 72 SHGs and organised 10 new SHGs to mobilise women as key stakeholders in the program and to increase both social and financial capital of the resource-poor households
- Developed a cadre of 20 grassroots animators, drawn from within the community to support the community in adaptation planning and implementation

Case Study

Dumarpani village of Butunga Gram Panchayat in Bagichha Block is a forest village in the Badalkhol wildlife sanctuary. Out of the 70 Pahadi Korba (a Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Group - PVTG) families residing in Dumarpani, 50 families have got the Records of Rights (RoR) over the forest land under their possession. The remaining 20 families could not get the RoR, due to lack of knowledge and timely information on the application process.

Dileswar Ram, the WtRF Animator for Dumarpani, realised the importance of RoR for PVTG households when he attended the training on Panchayati Raj and Forest Rights Act (Recognition of Rights of Scheduled Tribes and Other Traditional Forest Dwellers), 2006 organised by the project in August 2013. Dileswar, himself from the Pahadi Korba community, conducted door-to-door visits and Paadaa Sabhas (hamlet-level meetings), and engaged with the local Forest Guard to ensure that women from the RoR-deprived PVTG families get their forest land rights. He facilitated the land rights applications of PVTG families and their subsequent forwarding by Paadaa Sabhas. He also actively participated in the demarcation process to ensure justice for families. Dileswar's hard work paid off when all the 20 families received the new RoR over their forestland under FRA 2006 on 26th January 2014. The names of both the female and male members' of these families appear in the RoRs issued to them.

