

3

Project Profile

38 – 10 – IND –648 (2011-12)

Project Title

Promoting Social Entrepreneurship through Pig Rearing among the Musahar Community especially Women in Gaya District, Bihar (Extension Project)

Recipient Organization

DESHKAL SOCIETY

Gaya, Bihar

Project Objectives

This is an extension of the project to promote entrepreneurship amongst Musahar community for livelihood security through supporting pig rearing in the selected villages of Janak Pur, Ayodhya Pur and Shankardas Nawada in Wazirganj block in Gaya district of Bihar. 200 women are to be supported under this project. This project has been conceived as an extension of earlier CIDA funded project to reach out to more women. Due to social stratification of castes, Musahars have been pushed to the lower most layer with a life of deprivation and disempowerment. Deshkal society has taken a well-articulated perspective of improvements in livelihoods as an entry point for larger goal of social justice for musahar community.

The objectives of this short-term proposal are as follows.

- To expand livelihoods opportunities for musahar community through pig-rearing
- To empower women for adopting community-based pig production system.

The project will benefit 200 musahar families in 3 villages of Shankardas Nawada, Janak Pur and Ayodhya Pur of Wazirganj block in the district of Gaya.

Development Results

Current Status of the Project

The activities have been undertaken to mobilize the community in three project villages. Women SHG groups formed under 'jeevika' project of the Government of Bihar (GoB) have been mobilized for this project. Women have already been identified through SHGs who would be supported through this project. As a start up project activity all beneficiary women were mobilized to construct the shelter for piglets. All the families have undertaken construction of 'piglet shelters'.

'Jeevika' project of GoB with the World Bank support is being implemented in these villages. Therefore, women SHGs have already been mobilized. 'Jeevika' groups are already saving regularly and maintaining the account books. Many of these groups have also completed a few cycles of borrowing and internal lending. It has been an appropriate decision by Deshkal society to mobilize and strengthen the existing 'Jeevika' groups rather than creating new groups. Membership of 'Jeevika' group was decided to be the key eligibility criteria for benefit from CIDA supported project. Thus, under this project 100 women in Shankardas Nawada, 50 in Janak Pur and 50 in Ayodhya Pur have been identified. All these women have completed building shelters for piglets as part of their first commitment to participate in this initiative.

Deshkal Society has already engaged a veterinary doctor specialising in pig rearing who has planned all subsequent interventions such as training musahar women on 'piglet care', check up of the piglets before distribution and regular monitoring camps to help musahar women in pig rearing. Deshkal society has planned to provide 4 piglets to each woman while 1 piglet will be self contribution of each woman. The places for procuring 'piglets' have been identified as total about 1000 piglets need to be procured. Deshkal Society has planned to undertake distribution of piglets by November end.

Project Inputs, Issues and Interventions

As mentioned earlier, the project targets musahar community members. Historically attached to land owner farmers for providing agricultural labour, musahars are now free from such permanent commitment. Socially considered to be amongst the lowest layers even amongst 'dalits', musahars live in a state of marginalization, impoverishment and illiteracy. Literacy level is below 5% amongst Musahars and below 1% amongst musahar women. CIDA project support is, therefore, targeted most appropriately for the benefit of such a community group.

Pig rearing has been a traditional occupation amongst musahar community and has shown certain resilience. There is considerable migration of menfolk amongst musahar as per agricultural season particularly in April and July. Women are usually left behind and take responsibilities of household, family and child care care and pig rearing. Migration is high when its drought situation. Fortunately this year it has rained well in this drought prone region and people look forward to a good crop. Musahars are largely involved as agriculture labour or as share croppers.

Another major issue is survival rate of piglets and mortality in infancy. Winters is not a very good season for infant piglets as they are vulnerable to diseases. The expert guidance from veterinary doctor, awareness and check up camps regularly with

musahar community should mitigate this risk.

A positive aspect of work in musahar community by Deshkal society has been its earlier involvement to ensure security of homestead land tenure for them. More than 350 families have already received title to their homestead land. This has been an extremely critical intervention by Deshkal society to strengthen this otherwise completely assetless community. This background of Deshkal society helped them build quick rapport for this project.

Deviations in Implementation

There are no deviation in project plan or proposed outputs of the project. Instead of creating new SHGs, synergetic relationship with ongoing 'Jeevika' project has been a good idea as these SHGs have already reached some state of maturity and it avoids duplication of the efforts. This approach to adapt to actually ground situation has been a positive aspect to ensure timely progress of CIDA supported project activities. The project implementation is going on as envisaged. Deshkal society felt that no changes may be required and allocations under each budget head will be used as envisaged.

Challenges and Risks

Immediate challenge for Deshkal society is to procure such large number of piglets in short span of time. The procurement will have to be from various places as it is not possible to get such large numbers from one place. Though Deshkal society has done the survey of places where piglets are available, but procurement will be an effort.

Pig rearing faces risk of premature deaths due to diseases particularly in winter season. Therefore, awareness and extra handholding may be required to mitigate such risks. Deshkal Society is aware and is already in discussion with their veterinary doctor on such issues.

Fortuantely due to good rains, migration of families or menfolk in the community is not likely to be very high. This should ease situation of women to enable them for management of pig rearing.

As pig rearing is not something alien or new to musahars, there are not any significant risks perceived. Previous studies have shown it to be one of the most resilient livelihood option in this community.

Sustainability of Results

Deshkal society has long term plans with this community. Also there has been a good decision to work with 'Jeevika' SHGs rather than create new SHGs. 'Jeevika' program has long term mandate and support to strengthen these SHGs.

Pig rearing being an activity that 'musahars' have traditionally been involved with. There is basic knowledge with each family on management of pigs. They are also aware of markets where they can procure piglets or sell mature pigs.

Vetrinary support and insurance support planned by Deshkal society should strengthen pig rearing as a continuous activity and mitigate stress situations. All these support measures in the project should ensure sustainability of this activity.

Key Success Factors

Community Participation

Participation of community in project activities is a key success factor. SHGs are actively getting engaged and was well evidenced in building of piglet shelters.

Identification of women to be supported through this project has been undertaken by active involvement of SHGs.

Community will be involved in procurement and distribution of piglets. SHG coordinators have undertaken these responsibilities and Deshkal Society is working with them on these processes.

Community participation will also be critical in vetrinary camps that have been planned.

Cost Efficiency and Appropriateness of Resource Utilization

To ensure ownership of the activities and results, community contribution is an essential part of the project. 'piglet shelters' have already been constructed by the target families. Also one of the piglet will be contributed by the family. In this manner, there is participation by sharing of costs by the community.

The major expenditure head in this project is purchase of piglets. Deshkal society has planned to procure piglets from the local weekly markets. This will also help build linkage of beneficiary families within the local markets.

Timely & Informed Action

The project is of very short duration. It was essential for all the steps of community process to be clear to ensure timely implementation. Community mobilization, identification of target families/ women, consultative finalization of procurement and distribution of piglets, training and awareness, vetrinary camps, etc. These have been well worked out by Deshkal society and the work is progressing well. In fact, Deshkal Society has been able to successfully develop project activities based on its rapport with the community. Community too could quickly engage in the project and made good progress. The prime activity of piglet procurement and distribution is planned to be taken up by end of this month. It will be essential to ensure timely implementation of this activity.

Partnerships and Networking

While pig rearing is traditional occupation amongst musahars, Deshkal society is promoting more scientific methods to ensure maximum benefits to the community. Association with veterinary doctors is strengthening the project. Deshkal society is also in process of building association with Agricultural Technology Management Association (ATMA) for capacity building of community for pig rearing. The project has already built linkage with 'Jeevika' SHGs at the grassroots level. These linkages are important elements for sustainability of the project activities.

Cross Cutting Themes

Capacity Development

To build capacities of musahar community, the project has envisaged trainings with help of a local veterinary doctor. There are also efforts going on to take women SHG leaders for a week long training on pig rearing to a premier veterinary institute in Ranchi. All this efforts will help community gain scientific approach. The trainings are aimed to help community understand about hygienic practices, the risks of diseases infant piglets face, protection, management of pigs during growth period, reproduction management, etc.

Gender Integration and Equality

Project is aimed at 'musahar' women as primary beneficiary. Women's SHGs play the key role in implementation. Traditionally too, it is women who take the responsibility of rearing the pigs and have knowledge and expertise for the same. The training efforts also aim mainly at women. All project activities are planned in consultation with women members of SHGs. Issues of integration and equality are built in to the nature of project itself.

Poverty Alleviation

Pig rearing is a resilient livelihood option. Even in stress periods, musahars have been able to carry on with this activity. Within a short span of a year, it can bring the owner almost double the amount of investment besides added benefits from further reproduction and multiplication of piglets. Pigs in general are resilient animals and survive well once out of infancy with minimal care. Musahar' community does find it profitable.

Environment

Pig rearing fits well within the community social setup. Shankardas Nawada where monitoring visit was made had fairly clean habitat and very neat 'piglet shelters' It has been planned to use kitchen waste for feeding piglets. This will help better management of waste. The pigs survive easily on natural environmental waste and byproducts but care is required to protect agricultural crops from the pigs. Usually musahars are

well aware of this and being involved in agricultural work themselves, they take good care of this aspect.

Key Lessons and Recommendations

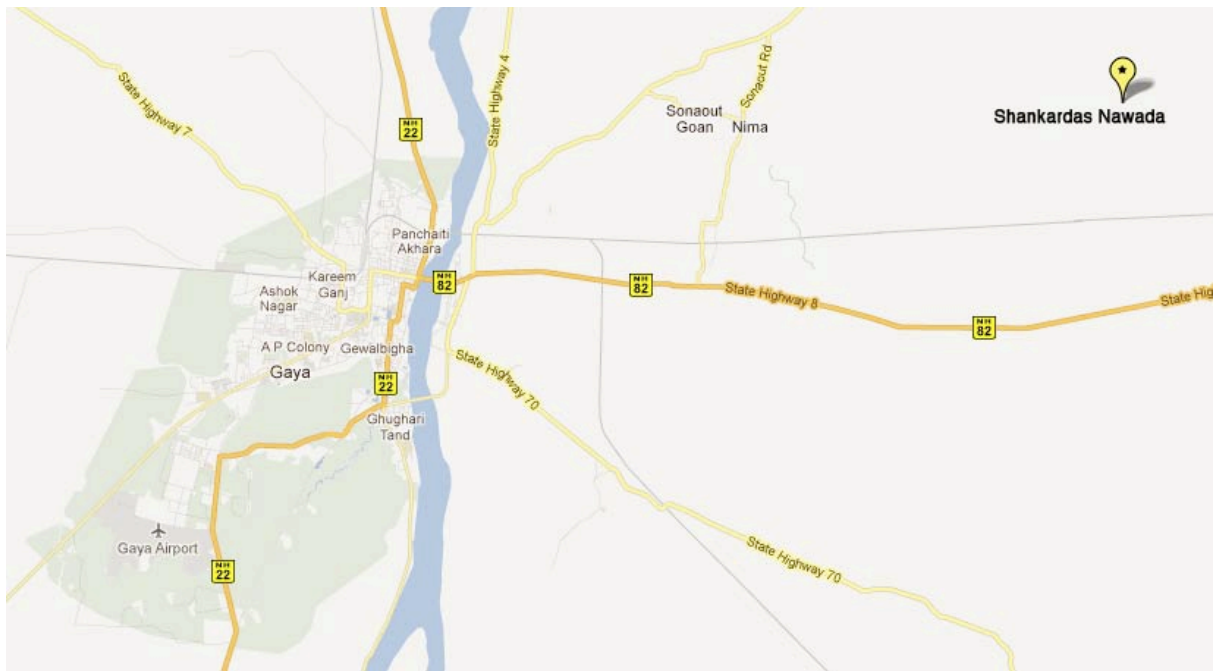
It is too early to mention lessons from the project. It has been only a few months and only entry point activity has taken place to mobilize the community. The project aims to reach out to musahar community to improve their socio-economic conditions. The achievement of project objectives will obviously go much beyond the time line of project activities. Recommendations at this stage are possible only for project activities.

1. It may be good to have a formal association with 'Jeevika' project. A discussion with state and district office of 'Jeevika' may be helpful to ensure long-term interest of SHGs in this activity.
2. One round of training for women prior to distribution of piglets will be good and may be planned with the veterinary doctor.
3. Insurance of piglets is proposed in the project and it would involve not only one time payment of premium but setting up mechanism for getting the claim, repayments of premium, etc. The groundwork on these aspects should be initiated through this project.
4. Procurement and distribution of piglets, veterinary checkup, insurance and trainings will require continuous timely efforts to complete the project by December end. Weekly planning of activities should be done and any risk of delays should be mitigated in time.
5. Methods of participation by musahar women in procurement and distribution should be worked out well to ensure community satisfaction and motivation in the rearing process.

Meetings and Interviews during Monitoring Mission

1. Discussions at Deshkal Society, Gaya.
 - Dr. Sanjay Kumar
 - Mr. Narayan Kumar
2. Meeting with women SHG members at village Shankardas Nawada
 - Munki Devi
 - Meena Devi
 - Sunita Devi
 - Shivrani Devi
 - Sita Devi
3. Discussion with veterinary doctor

Locations visited during Monitoring Mission



Map showing location of Shankardas Nawada - one of total three project villages



Musahar Community Settlement at Shankardas Nawada

Photo Gallery



Existing piglet shelters in use



Use of kitchen waste for feeding pigs



Piglet shelters built under the project



Women SHG members participating in project



Discussion with Deshkal Society head, Dr. Sanjay and Mr. Narayan



Meeting with women SHG members during monitoring mission



Piglet shelter and cleanliness



View of habitation st Shankardas Nawada