

Intervention:	Desertification Control – Development of small tree-based farming systems by combining high-value, high-quality agri-horti-forestry plantation on tribal smallholder lands to support the Indigenous People (“Adivasi”)
Country:	Republic of India (States: Gujarat and Maharashtra)
Date:	1995-2010
Challenge:	Environmentally sustainable income generation for marginalized tribal populations living in chronic poverty conditions, distress migration, and with very low-level of confidence.
Objectives:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Erosion control, water retention, alleviation of rural poverty caused by degraded natural resources and non-suitable land-use patterns;</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Increase the productivity to enable tribal farmers to raise incomes from marginal productive or degraded lands through a diversified production base;</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Establish and support local decision-making structures and boost confidence people in self and in the system;</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Promote decentralised storage, processing and marketing systems for the horti-produce to enhance the bargaining power of farmers;</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Catalyse the relevant structural policy changes at the State and national levels.</li> </ul>
Approach of the Intervention:	<p><u>Technology standardisation:</u></p> <p>Conversion of 0.4 hectare of degraded land into a family-based agri-horti-forestry system (“wadi”)<sup>1</sup> consisting of 20 mango and 40 cashew trees with 400 forest trees on farm boundary; Technical and financial support for 6 years to each participating family.</p> <p><u>Technology demystification:</u></p> <p>Extensive up-gradation of local skills and knowledge to make the perceptibly complex technology very simple to use by local people</p> <p><u>Participatory approach with appropriate external facilitation:</u></p> <p>Local decision-making at group and individual levels for project interventions to promote local ownership, responsibility and initiatives.</p> <p><u>Pro-poor, pro-women approach:</u></p> <p>The participants should be a tribal not owning more than 2 hectares land; Processing related employment exclusively for landless; Women Self-Help Groups and representation in committees in decision making positions.</p> <p><u>Processing and marketing support:</u></p> <p>Infrastructure and support services to encourage local processing and to tap domestic and export markets.</p> <p><u>Innovative financing approach:</u></p> <p>Part-loan financing to expand the coverage and to diversify to other income generation interventions in a predominantly grant based environment</p>

<sup>1</sup> “Wadi” is a local term commonly used for small orchards owned by individual household.

	<p><u>Sector dialogue for structural policy changes:</u></p> <p>Encourage the adoption of the project concept by the Governments at the State and Union levels</p>
<p>Benefits and Impacts:</p>	<p><u>Micro-level: Sustainable livelihood</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>□ Direct income gains to over 25,000 tribal households moving them out of below poverty line on a sustainable basis;</li> <li>□ Distress migration reduced: only 14% households migrate compared to over two-third of the households before the project; several other health and social benefits to the community;</li> <li>□ Development of over 10,000 hectares of degraded and marginal productive lands into high-production ‘wadis’ – tree-based farming systems;</li> <li>□ Reversal of soil erosion and increased forest cover due to soil conservation measures and plantations on farm boundaries;</li> <li>□ Promising opportunities of up-scaling, already increased competition among private entrepreneur to procure the produce;</li> </ul> <p><u>Meso-level: Empowered community with high growth potential</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>□ Over 200 metric tonnes of cashew nuts processed during 2005-06;</li> <li>□ Brand building as all the cooperatives market the produce with a single brand name;</li> <li>□ Farmers expanding their orchards without any further subsidy;</li> <li>□ Over 300 metric tonnes of organic manure and 50,000 mango grafts produced and sold in 2005-06 by women and landless participants;</li> </ul> <p><u>Macro-level: Policy impact</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>□ The State of Maharashtra has launched a large scale programme to replicating the concept; Some other States like Madhya Pradesh and Karnataka are also preparing projects on this concept;</li> <li>□ The Government of India is preparing a national programme of over EUR 40 million with the help of NABARD and NGO to replicate the concept across the tribal regions of the country;</li> <li>□ NABARD has started executing a nationwide programme of EUR 35 million (Indian funds) to replicate the model;</li> </ul>
<p>Lessons learned:</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>□ An integrated approach combining the social mobilization/ capacity building with a tight technical assistance is instrumental/ vital;</li> <li>□ Direct economic benefits can be quite substantial, provided the wadi plantations are successful;</li> <li>□ Developing a ‘perfect’ and ‘locally feasible’ technology and service oriented approach is a non-negotiable;</li> <li>□ Participatory investments into livelihood improvements lead beyond economic benefits and improve social justice and democratization (“resource governance”);</li> <li>□ India needs concrete examples of “best practices” to demonstrate new development models;</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>□ Forward and backward linkages are very difficult to establish, but are crucial, therefore, require continued support to the target group;</li> <li>□ Systematic and continuous monitoring is vital;</li> <li>□ Changing role of the NGO from a facilitating agency to a demand-based service provider is a must for developing local ownership;</li> <li>□ Involvement of a government patronised national organisation (NABARD) substantially helps establishing credibility of the project with State and Union Governments;</li> </ul>
Wider application:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>□ The project is being replicated and up-scaled by the Union and State Governments even though they were not directly involved in developing the project in the beginning</li> </ul>
Implementing agency & partners	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>□ KfW Entwicklungsbank</li> <li>□ National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD)</li> <li>□ BAIF Development Research Foundation (NGO)</li> </ul>
Contact persons:	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Dr. V. Tagat, NABARD, Mumbai, India  <a href="mailto:dpd.fs@nabard.org">dpd.fs@nabard.org</a>; <a href="mailto:venkatesh.tagat@nabard.org">venkatesh.tagat@nabard.org</a>  Tel: +91-22-2653 0083  Fax: +91-22-2652 3895</li> <li>2. Mr. Girish Sohani, BAIF, Pune  <a href="mailto:gimate@rediffmail.com">gimate@rediffmail.com</a>  Tel: +91-20-2523 1661  Fax: +91-20-2523 1662</li> <li>3. Nand Kishor Agrawal, KfW Delhi, India  <a href="mailto:nandkishor.agrawal@kfw.de">nandkishor.agrawal@kfw.de</a>  Tel: +91-11-2464 7113  Fax:+91-11-2464 1203</li> </ol>