

**SUSTAINABLE LIVELIHOODS AND
ADAPTATION TO CLIMATE CHANGE
PROJECT**

DRAFT SOCIAL MANAGEMENT FRAMEWORK
24 FEBRUARY 2014

MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT
NATIONAL RURAL LIVELIHOOD MISSION
NATIONAL MISSION MANAGEMENT UNIT
(NMMU)

A. INTRODUCTION

1. Despite experiencing higher economic growth rate of 8 percent in the Eleventh plan period, India still has about 25 percent of its rural population living in poverty. There is growing concern that climate change could slow down India's progress in poverty reduction and push vulnerable populations in poverty. The frequency and magnitude of droughts, floods and other extreme events has been steadily increasing. Rainfed agriculture, which constitutes nearly 58 percent of the net cultivated area in the country, is expected to be significantly impacted by climate change. Over 39 districts in India have been identified as chronically flood-prone, and there is growing perception that floods have become more unpredictable and damaging.

2. Climate change can adversely impact the rural households through its negative effect on agricultural productivity, water and biomass availability, health, infrastructure, among others. The main agricultural livelihoods of the poor (crop cultivation, livestock, fisheries, etc.) are mainly dependent on natural resources such as rainfall, fodder, water bodies. Climatic hazards that affect the availability of these natural resources, adversely affect the livelihoods of the poor by impacting agriculture production, affecting incomes and preventing building up of assets. Low access to productive resources, financial services and information as well as low assets and high debt, greatly enhances the vulnerability of the rural poor to climate related shocks and stresses. Households exposed to repeat climate hazards face further deprivation due to distress sale of assets, high debt burden, etc. Hence, there is a need to build the adaptive capacity in the rural-poor communities through multiple interventions.

3. The Sustainable Livelihoods and Adaptation to Climate Change Project (SLACC) enhances the activities being undertaken under the National Rural Livelihoods Mission (NRLM), which is a national program of the Ministry of Rural Development, Government of India. It brings in the climate change lens into the NRLM and aims to strengthen community based climate planning and adaptation measures into the sustainable livelihood program.

B. PROJECT SUMMARY

4. **Development Objective.** The Sustainable Livelihoods and Adaptation to Climate Change Project (SLACC) aims to improve the adaptive capacity of the rural poor, to climate variability and change affecting farm based livelihoods, through community-based interventions.

5. **Implementation Area.** The SLACC project will be implemented in 200 villages of about 16 blocks of Bihar and Madhya Pradesh. The states of Bihar and Madhya Pradesh have been identified for implementation of the project based on the readiness of the SMMU, existing capacity and experience in sustainable agriculture, the agro-ecological profile of the state, and anticipated climate change risks. The 200 villages are likely to be spread across 8 blocks (sub-district administrative units).

6. **Targeted Beneficiaries.** The key beneficiaries of SLACC project will be the rural-poor supported by the NRLM – including, self-help groups of women and their federations, common

interest/producer groups such as farmers' groups, livestock rearers' groups, and their higher order collectives such as producer companies. These institutions represent the rural-poor, the majority of whom directly depend on climate-sensitive sectors such as agriculture, livestock and fisheries and have limited adaptive capacity. The project will specifically reach out to tribal and other small and marginal farmers from disadvantaged social groups, including women farmers and community leaders.

7. **Component 1 – Community-based Climate Change Adaptation.** SLACC will support the 3 components listed below. The objective of component 1 is to support community-based risk assessment, planning and implementation of climate adaptation interventions. The key activities include: (a) mobilization and capacity building of community institutions on climate change activities (b) community-led adaptation assessment, participatory planning, and implementation of climate adaptation interventions; (c) financing community adaptation grants to poor rural households (SHGs/Federations) upon approval of a community adaptation plan; and (d) implementation and handholding support to community institutions through local resource agencies. The climate adaptation interventions will be locale-specific, focus on climate risk management and involve interventions both at the household level and/or community level. Funds for implementation of climate adaptation interventions will be provided by the SLACC project, by NRLP's Community Investment Support, as well as through convergence with other Government programs (such as MKSP, MGNREGS). The key activities to be financed are: community climate adaptation assessment and planning, community adaptation grants, village-level automatic weather stations and agro-advisories, training and deployment of Community Resource Persons, state and cluster level implementation teams. The key outputs of this component are: (i) community utilization of climate financing mechanism for adaptation interventions in 400 community institutions; (ii) community based climate adaptation measures are implemented by at least 200 community institutions supported by Community Resource Persons;; (iii) enhanced community capacity for planning and implementing climate adaptation plans in 400 community institutions. The key outcomes of this component are: strengthened and diversified livelihoods and sources of income in poor community institutions; strengthened community capacities for systematically assessing climate risks and planning adaptation interventions for livelihood sustainability.

8. **Component 2 – Scaling and Mainstreaming Community Based Climate Adaptation:** The objectives of this component are to build core operational capacity and relevant knowledge base/networks for broader scaling and mainstreaming of climate adaptation interventions. The key activities include: (a) capacity building of NRLP staff and creation of a cadre of CRPs; (b) facilitation of knowledge dissemination on climate adaptation, including policy inputs for scaling-up of the community-based climate adaptation approach within the NRLM; c) additional support to National Livelihood Resource Organization (NLRO). The key activities to be financed are: training of NRLM staff in SLACC and non-SLACC areas, training of Community Resource Persons from non-SLACC areas of NRLM, development and publication of knowledge products including policy briefs, website and annual meetings of consortium of resource organizations, policy seminars, additional financing for NLRO to establish SLACC support team, and, procurement of thematic technical support. The key outputs of this component are: (i) 200 district and sub-district staff of NRLM trained on climate adaptation; (ii) a cadre of 400 trained CRPs; (iii) differentiated IEC and knowledge products on climate adaptation (community adaptation planning tool and manual, CRP training curriculum, web-based inventory of climate

adaptation actions, audio visuals); (iv) a website of a consortium of resource organizations on climate adaptation; (vi) seminars for sharing insights/lessons for policy making with Government, donor and NGO; (vi) guidelines on climate change adaptation developed for national livelihoods implementation framework; (vii) and policy briefs on themes relevant to climate adaptation and rural livelihoods.. The key outcomes of this component are: (i) strengthened operational and adaptive capacity of national and state officials and representatives for integrating climate adaptation into livelihood support activities; (ii) enhanced access to technical information and expertise on climate adaptation and livelihoods; (iii) evidence of climate change mainstreaming into national and state livelihood program frameworks.

9. **Component 3 – Project Management and Impact Evaluation:** The additional financing will support Component 4 of the NRLP by augmenting the management units within the NRLM and SRLM institutional structure to enable coordinated functioning and efficient implementation of SLACC. The activities that the project will invest in include: (a) establishment of climate adaptation units staffed with full-time professionals within the NMMU and the SMMUs of the participating states; (b) appointment of state-level implementation teams for providing field implementation support to CRPs and community institutions; (c) establishment of a monitoring system and evaluation arrangements (baseline, mid-term and end-of-term). The key outputs of this activity are: climate adaptation units in NMMU and SMMU, delivery of services by state level implementation teams as per agreed Terms of Reference, and evaluation reports (baseline, mid-term and end-of-term). The key outcome of this component is efficient and effective.

C. BRIEF PROFILE OF THE STATES

10. Madhya Pradesh comprises 50 districts with a population of 72.6 million, as of 2011. 75% of the total population of the state is rural and is mainly engaged in climate sensitive activities, namely agriculture and forest dependent livelihoods. The incidence of poverty in the state is among the highest in the country, with people living below the poverty line increasing from 44.6% in 1993-94 to 48.6% in 2004-05. The major land use in Madhya Pradesh is agriculture (49.5% of geographic area) followed by forest (28.25%). Agriculture plays an important role in the livelihoods of the rural poor with nearly 71% of the state's population is dependent on it. With two-thirds of the gross cropped area being rainfed, agriculture is vulnerable to climate variability and change. The likely impacts of climate change on the state are: Gradual increase in temperatures and erratic/uneven rainfall, increased and intensity of droughts, shifts in cropping and decline in productivity, increased soil erosion and depletion in the ground water table. Of Madhya Pradesh's 45 districts (2001 census), 14 are categorized as having 'very high' vulnerability of agriculture to climate change, while 16 are categorized as having 'high' vulnerability based on– sensitivity, exposure and adaptive capacity. The 14 districts with very high vulnerability are: Jhabua, Rajgarh, Mandsaur, Shajapur, Dindori, Ratlam, Dhar, Sidhi, Vidisha, Shivpuri, Ujjain, Bhind, Bharwani and Shahdol. The 16 districts with high vulnerability are: Rewa, Mandla, Dewas, Neemuch, Khargone (West Nimar), Betul, Guna, Sehore, Umaria, Damoh, Panna, Satna, Chhatarpur, Datla, Chhindwara and Katni.

11. Bihar is 12th largest state of India in terms of size (94,163 sq. km) and 3rd largest by population, 10.38 crores as per Census 2011. Bihar is a part of the Gangetic plains and hence has rich soil and abundant water resources. Agriculture plays a key role in the socioeconomic

development of the state. Around 90 percent of the population is rural with high dependence on agriculture livelihood. About 41.4 percent of the population lives in poverty. Bihar is also India's most flood prone state and 76% of the population in North Bihar lives under the recurring threat of flood devastation. In 2013 alone floods affected more than 5.9 million people in 37,678 villages in 20 districts in the state. Floods are an important reason for low crop productivity in these areas.

F. Relevant Policies and Programs

12. *National Rural Livelihoods Mission:* The NRLM, launched within the MoRD in June 2011, is a national program that aims at creating efficient and effective institutional platforms of the rural-poor enabling them to increase household income through sustainable livelihood enhancements and improved access to financial services. A major focus of the NRLM is to stabilize and promote the existing livelihoods portfolio of the poor, in farm and non-farm sectors. At the national level, the National Mission Management Unit (NMMU) supports the NRLM. At the state level, the State Rural Livelihoods Mission (SRLM), constituted by the state government, oversees the implementation of all NRLM activities through a State Mission Management Unit (SMMU). The NRLM reaches poor households through self-help groups typically made up of women and their federated institutions, and also supports specialized institutions such as "common interest"/"producer groups". The NRLM has a World Bank-supported National Rural Livelihood Project (NRLP) that is focused on selected blocks in selected districts and an agricultural theme based Mahila Kisan Sashaktikaran Pariyojana (MKSP) as two large projects which are described in greater detail below. The proposed SLACC project will work with both of them.

13. The NRLP's social assessment documents the key social lessons from earlier livelihood projects in India and elsewhere, and field consultations carried out in representative project areas. It has highlighted the exclusion of the poorest Tribals, Scheduled Castes, minorities, migrants and other disadvantaged groups from development programs. Restrictive social norms for women and gender barriers prevents women from participating in development programs and decision-making processes. To address these issues and other social constraints, a social management framework for NRLP has been prepared. The SMF provides for priority targeting of tribal groups to ensure that they are equitable participants and beneficiaries in the project interventions and institutions. Regular and informed consultation would be undertaken with tribal groups to ensure their continuing consent and support of the project. Tribal areas would be closely monitored. In tribal and backward areas, SHGs would be encouraged to adapt their norms to suit tribal conditions and those of other vulnerable people.

14. **JEEViKA** - Bihar Rural Livelihoods Project (BRLP) is being implemented to address rural poverty in Bihar through the collaboration of the poor, the Government of Bihar (GoB) and the World Bank. This initiated is implemented through a Society registered with GoB by the name of Bihar Rural Livelihoods Promotion Society (BRLPS). BRLPS through the BRLP aims to improve rural livelihood options and works towards social and economic empowerment of the rural poor and women. The BRLP intervenes with the community through the following four themes or programmes: institution and capacity building, social development, microfinance and

livelihood. The BRLP objective is to enhance social and economic empowerment of the rural poor in Bihar. BRLPS will be implementing the SLACC project.

15. Madhya Pradesh District Poverty Reduction Project. The MP SRLM is implementing the Bank supported Madhya Pradesh District Poverty Reduction Project. The development objective for the project is to improve the capacity and opportunities for the targeted rural poor to achieve sustainable livelihoods. The project is implementing strategies on social inclusion, with a specific focus on inclusion and social empowerment of the disadvantaged and marginalized groups specifically the SC and ST households in the in the project areas. The SMF has specific interventions to develop and/or strengthen formation of SHGs among the STs in specific areas of the project and target women SHGs across the 14 project districts. The project teams and the community intuitions have been appropriately oriented and trained to include and engage the poor from the SCs, STs as well as women in the various project activities. The project has significant impact on empowerment of women in the project districts.

16. Both the states are also implementing a range of rural development, poverty alleviation and empowerment programmes such as Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MNREGS), food security and public distribution system (PDS), and a range of special interventions for marginalized sections, such as SC/ST, welfare of backward and extremely backward sections, minority welfare, labour welfare, social welfare, and land distribution schemes.

D. Key Social Issues

17. SLACC project aims to improve adaptive capacity of the rural poor, to climate variability and change and secure and sustain the livelihoods of the poor through community-based interventions on agriculture, land and water, fodder, livestock, fisher and other financial and institutional measures etc. The long term social impacts are assessed to be beneficial in the form of increased livelihood security and sustainability, and increased capacity to undertake collective action. So overall, the project would provide significant and direct socioeconomic benefits to the rural poor households.

18. The key beneficiaries of SLACC project will be the rural-poor supported by the NRLM – including, self-help groups of women and their federations, common interest/producer groups such as farmers' groups, livestock rearers' groups, and their higher order collectives such as producer companies. These institutions represent the rural-poor, the majority of whom directly depend on climate-sensitive sectors such as agriculture, livestock and fisheries and have limited adaptive capacity. The project will specifically reach out to tribal and other small and marginal farmers from disadvantaged social groups, including women farmers and community leaders.

19. The Social Assessment (SA) studies and stakeholder consultations undertaken for NRLP, as well as Bank supported livelihood projects in Bihar and MP highlight the exclusion of scheduled caste and scheduled tribe communities and their habitations from a range of development/social welfare programs and services. Tribals, migrants and other isolated groups/habitations have limited access to information and development benefits. The other barriers are language and lack of sustained outreach and capacity building efforts by the government and project agencies.

20. Many of the project villages in MP and Bihar are likely to have the presence of tribal people. Hence, OP 4.10 on Indigenous Peoples has been triggered to ensure compliance with the policy provisions on informed consultations, broad community support, culturally appropriate information and benefit sharing. The key social safeguard issue is to ensure that tribal people as well as other traditionally excluded social and livelihood groups such as the scheduled castes, migrant workers, marginal farmers and other vulnerable groups in remote and dispersed rural habitations get identified and systematically included in the implementation processes, community level planning and capacity building activities, funding for adaptation measures and finally benefits. The project will not fund any activities that may result in land acquisition, involuntary resettlement and livelihood displacement.

21. SLACC recognizes the importance of gender equality, especially because climate change adversely affects the women disproportionately more and increases their vulnerability due to poverty and subsistence dependence on climate-sensitive livelihoods. Women farmers from poor tribal and scheduled caste households are recognized as the most vulnerable to climate change and related livelihood impacts, and SLACC will directly respond to their needs.

22. Women farmers are the primary beneficiaries, as well as primary leaders and drivers for assessing, planning, selecting and implementing SLACC interventions. SLACC will be working with women-led VOs and federations which will allow it to address the distinct vulnerabilities and capacity needs of women. Preparation and implementation of the community level adaptation plans will be led by women leaders from the VO and will reflect their concerns and priorities, including the need for training and capacity building. Rural women would be significant participants in various capacity building activities. The tools and methodologies for adaptation planning will be gender informed. Women trainers and community resource persons (CRPs) would be engaged in SLACC villages. Disaggregated data/information would be used to track gender differences in vulnerability and needs, perceptions/satisfaction, participating in community institutions, selection of interventions and technologies, awareness, ownership and ultimate beneficiaries. Project learning and publication would document gender issues/learning separately.

E. Stakeholder Consultations and Disclosure

23. SLACC Project preparations have included field visits and stakeholder consultations in Bihar and Madhya Pradesh, including interactions with the National and State Units set up under NRLP/NRLM, as well as the National Resource Organisation. A consultation workshop was also held with the leading NGOs that are working on community based climate adaptation. During the appraisal mission, further consultations are proposed both at the community and state levels in which community organisations and producer collectives of the rural poor, NGOs (including those implementing MKSP) will participate. Both the SMF and the SMF will be disclosed through the websites of the Ministry of Rural Development and SMMUs of Bihar and MP, and on the Bank Infoshop before completion of appraisal. Community orientation on SMF/SMF will be core entry level activity in all 200 SLACC villages.

F. Social Management Framework

24. The main purpose of this Social Management Framework (SMF) is to ensure: i) identification of the traditionally marginalized social groups such as women and men farmers from the scheduled tribes, scheduled castes, religious minorities, women headed households and others dependent on farm based livelihoods as project beneficiaries and participants; ii) their participation in adaptation planning, adaptation committees, training and capacity building interventions and implementation and monitoring processes of the project; iii) tribal and other excluded beneficiaries are meaningfully consulted throughout project planning and implementation process; iv) project interventions are socially and culturally compatible with the tribal communities; .

25. Both Bihar and MP state units have been implementing the Bank supported livelihood projects for more than 5 years. They not only have state project-specific social and tribal inclusion plans but also come under the SMF/SMF of the NRLP. Hence, both the state units have good operational familiarity with the core principles and requirements of these frameworks.

26. Given that the SLACC is complementary to the larger National Rural Livelihoods Project as well as the Bank-supported rural livelihood projects in Bihar and MP, and relies on the same State Livelihood Mission for implementation, the existing SMFs have been adapted for SLACC, The SLACC Social management Framework (SMF) draws upon the key provisions of the NRLP SMF and the Bihar and MP social inclusion and tribal development strategies, which are most relevant to the scale and focus of SLACC interventions. The Social Management Framework (SMF) reinforces the focus on poorest households, and recommends specific interventions for inclusion of the tribal and non-tribal beneficiaries in community institutions (SHGs, Federations), as well as livelihood financing and promotion interventions. The overall emphasis is on integrating the key SMF interventions in the planning and implementation of the Community Climate Adaptation Plans which will be implemented by field implementation teams/resource agencies. The SMF will rely more on the institutional arrangement created under SLACC for its implementation.

G. Key SMF Actions

27. The SMF envisages the following Key actions applicable to the SLACC project area that would be integrated in the local adaptation plans that would be prepared and implemented under SLACC. These actions are:

(a) Informed and Meaningful consultations held with women and men farmers from tribal, SC and other excluded groups and community leaders i) during village entry and adaptation planning; ii) throughout project implementation. Regular and informed consultation would be undertaken with tribal groups to ensure their continuing support for project interventions.

(b) A resolution of broad community support for SLACC interventions would be obtained from the participating village organisations (village organisations/federations, producer groups) as part of the village entry process;

- (c) The community adaption planning exercise would include collecting gender and socially disaggregated data on the presence of tribal and scheduled caste farmers, women farmers, and other households depending on climate-sensitive livelihoods;
- (d) Engagement of women farmers Climate-Smart CRPs.
- (e) Participatory Identification and Mobilisation of small and marginal women farmers from tribal, scheduled castes and other excluded groups to ensure that they are equitable participants and beneficiaries in the project interventions and institutions.
- (f) Climate Adaptation Committee in the community institutions will include women farmers from SC, ST and other excluded households;
- (g) Core Training on Social Inclusion, Tribal Development and Gender included as part of the capacity building interventions for the i) district and block/cluster teams; ii) Climate CRPs; iii) Community level Climate Adaptation Committee and federation members; iv) women farmers from SC, ST and other excluded households;
- (h) Training of women farmers from SC, ST and other excluded households in i) adaptation planning and practices; ii) Participatory video production and dissemination; iii) management community adaptation fund;
- (i) Participation of women farmers from SC, ST and other excluded households in IEC activities, demonstration interventions, and Exposure visits
- (j) Participation of Women farmers from SC, ST households and other groups in the Community Climate Adaptation Planning exercise.
- (k) Targeting of Women farmers from SC, ST households and other excluded vulnerable groups to enable them to access the Community Adaptation Grant. The adaptation grant will be utilized by the community institution to provide onward grant/credit support to member self-help groups and their constituent individuals for demand-driven climate adaptation activities. The Adaptation Committee will ensure the inclusion of Women farmers from SC, ST households and other groups in accessing the Community Adaptation Grant
- (l) Documentation of Local knowledge with tribal communities on climate adaptation
- (m) Climate Adaptation Interventions targeting individual households, such as Weather index insurance, will target small and marginal women farmers from SC, ST and other excluded households.
- (n) Climate adaptation interventions at the community level will ensure access of small and marginal women farmers from SC, ST and other excluded households.

E. INSTITUTIONAL ARRANGEMENTS

28. The overall responsibility for implementing the SMF would rest with State-level Climate Adaptation Expert that would be engaged by State Rural Livelihood Missions (SRLMs) for managing project implementation in Bihar and Madhya Pradesh. The Adaptation Expert would get the key SMF actions implemented through the Team Leader and the Cluster level project implementation team. The Social Specialist in the SRLMs would be involved in integrating specific gender actions/concerns in the adaptation planning and implementation process, so as to ensure maximum participation by women farmers, indigenous peoples.

29. SLACC project will work with community institutions supported by the NRLM. These include the primary federations of women's self-help groups as well as common interest/producer groups and producer companies. The climate CRP in each village or producer company will be responsible for community level implementation and capacity building on gender, social and tribal inclusion actions, and their integration in climate adaptation planning, implementation and monitoring. The community level climate adaptation committee will provide regular oversight on implementation of the key SMF actions.

30. Community Resource Persons. In Resource Villages the active members of SHGs/Producer Groups will be developed as Community Resource Persons (Climate-Smart CRPs). These Climate-Smart CRPs will facilitate climate adaptation planning and provide hand-holding support for implementation of climate adaptation actions. Well performing CRPs will be utilized in later years for scaling up the climate adaptation interventions to other blocks and districts. The project will ensure participation of women and men farmers from SC, ST and other excluded groups as CRPs

31. An orientation on the SMF of SLACC will be provided by the Community Climate Adaptation Experts under the NRLP to the SMMU Community Climate Adaptation Experts and the State Implementation Teams.

32. **Grievance Redress.** The existing grievance redressal procedures under the Bank supported livelihood projects in Madhya Pradesh and Bihar would apply to SLACC villages as well. In addition the Community Adaptation Committee will maintain a record of grievances received. The grievances not resolved at Adaptation Committee level will be escalated to the executive committee of the primary federation and will be monitored by the Climate CRP. The Field Team leader will hold the overall responsibility of grievance recording and redressal. The project would enable women farmers from SC, and ST households to register complaints. The community organisations would also be sensitized and capacitated to handle social issues and grievances redressal. The contact numbers and addresses of the climate CRP and Cluster Team leader will also be shared with the community organisations.

33. **Monitoring and Reporting.** The key officials at the state and sub-district/cluster levels will conduct internal monitoring of the implementation of the SMF. An external Social Development Expert will be part of the environmental audit exercise. The expert will review the progress and quality of SMF implementation in Bihar and MP. The expert would identify any

key issues and gaps in implementation of the SMF and make specific recommendations for SRLM. The expert will also highlight any adverse social impacts of the project-supported activities and recommend remedial measures. The indicative indicators that would be monitored under SLACC include:

- Number of women farmers from tribal, scheduled castes and other disadvantaged groups mobilized through SLACC interventions
- Number of Climate Adaptation Committees formed with representation from women farmers from SC and ST households.
- Number of women farmers from SC, ST and other disadvantaged groups that have received training on i) planning and implementation of adaptation practices; ii) Community Adaptation Grant.
- Number of women and men farmers from tribal, scheduled castes and other disadvantaged groups engaged as climate CRPs
- Number of women farmers from tribal, scheduled castes and other disadvantaged groups that have accessed weather index based insurance
- Number of women farmers from SC, ST and other disadvantaged groups selected for demonstration of climate adaptation practices
- Number of women farmers from SC, ST and other disadvantaged groups participated in exposure visits;
- Number (%) Women farmers from SC, ST and other disadvantaged groups benefitting from the Community Adaptation Grant.