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Empowering women farmers through agriculture based interventions in Kota, Rajasthan

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Abstract

Rajasthan Grameen Aajeevika Vikas Parishad (RGAVP), Jaipur as a lead agency is implementing Mahila Kisan Sashakti Karan Pariyojna (MKSP) project titled “Empowering women farmers through agriculture based interventions in Rajasthan”. MKSP is a sub component of National Rural Livelihood Mission (NRLM) and it is supported by Ministry of Rural Development (Government of Rajasthan). One of the core functions of RGAVP is to support programs of community financial inclusion, institutional building, capacity building, skill development and rural livelihood promotions. Initiatives have been taken to strengthen rural livelihoods to build on social and financial capital generation. Agriculture and livestock based livelihoods interventions were undertaken in selected clusters within block level, where community institutions are mature. The focus is on strengthening the livelihood of the poor through productivity enhancement in agriculture and livestock. Implementing the intervention is a challenge due to factors such as low landholdings, low fertility of soil, gravel mixed soil with low depth, arid or semiarid zone, no or protective irrigation, poor literacy community etc. RGAVP played crucial role of designing agriculture and livestock based intervention suited to the community in consultation with professional consultants and by drawing expert services. Major crops taken up under kharif intervention were soybean and urd. Wheat and mustard crops are chosen for intervention in *rabi* season across partners. Similarly, interventions on livestock based livelihoods were designed to enhance productivity through goat and dairy based livelihoods. These livelihoods intervention were supported under MKSP through financial support from the GOI & Rajasthan Government. The focus in both agriculture and livestock interventions was on improving agriculture package of practices, animal rearing practices, while developing local cadre Krishi Sakhi and Pashu Sakhi.

Keywords: MKSP, livelihood, interventions, productivity, capacity building

1. Introduction

India is a biologically and culturally diverse country and a rich source of products emanating from the use of bio cultural knowledge of tribal peoples and local communities. These goods offer the potential for reducing poverty and strengthening local economies, while stemming the erosion of biodiversity, traditional knowledge and culture and strengthening community cohesion.

However government has also taken initiative and this is one of them. MKSP is planned to support families for strengthening their agriculture and livestock based livelihoods. MKSP project is a project to empower 3600 women farmers (SHG members), across 47 villages in 2 blocks of district Kota, Rajasthan with RGAVP as PIA with financial support from National Rural Livelihood Mission (NRLM), a flagship program of MoRD, New Delhi and Government of Rajasthan. MKSP focuses on building upon the social capital created and scaling-up the existing interventions. The overall project outlay is of Rs 6 crores for 3 years starting from 2016-2019 in Kota.

MoRD is contributing Rs 3.6crores under MKSP component of NRLM (National Rural Livelihood Mission) and Government of Rajasthan support is Rs. 2.4 crores. The objectives are promoting sustainable livelihoods of rural households through an improved farming system approach (agriculture and livestock), enhancing household level income through enhancing productivity in agriculture and livestock, building market linkages through women-led Producer Companies. Similar works have been taken up for empowerment keeping the traditional ways in mind.

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2. Material and Methods

The study was conducted in 47 Villages in two blocks namely Itawa (23) and Sultanpur (24) of Kota, Rajasthan from which cadres like Krishisakhi (KS) and Pashusakhi (PS) are selected who are solely responsible for all the activities related to agriculture and livestock in their Aajeevika groups. For example in a village like Jhadol, 7 SHG with 83 members are there who make 3 Aajeevika groups (average 28 on each group). 1 KS-PS per group are placed. This makes 3 Aajeevika

group in which 3 KS-PS are placed. The groups were provided with questionnaire that was based on general survey of the total SHG members in that village. The information regarding the SHGs in the village is given in Table 1 & 2.

So considering the information there are 47 villages in which total 120 KS and 120 PS are working with 120 Aajeevika groups consisting of 3600 members in both blocks of district Kota.

Table 1: List of Villages in block Itawa

MKSP Monitoring sheet (Itawa)									
S. No	Name of village	No of SHGs in village	No of HHs in SHG	No of approximate MKSP beneficiaries	No of Aajeevika Groups	No of Krishi Sakhi		No of Pashu Sakhi	
						Target	Achievement	Target	Achievement
1	Jhadol	7	83	82	3	3	3	3	3
2	KherliBorda	5	57	54	2	2	2	2	2
3	Chanda	7	89	89	3	3	3	3	3
4	Laxmipura II	7	80	78	2	2	2	2	2
5	Shaubhagpura	6	71	71	2	2	2	2	2
6	Shenava	6	68	65	2	2	2	2	2
7	Rone	7	93	88	2	2	2	2	2
8	Kherleboresal	6	72	60	2	2	2	2	2
9	Phoosod	4	52	49	2	2	2	2	2
10	Madanpura	11	141	100	4	4	4	4	4
11	Jatwadi	10	124	91	3	3	3	3	3
12	Rampuria	9	112	90	3	3	3	3	3
13	Chapol	8	102	90	3	3	3	3	3
14	Jhopadiya	6	79	60	2	2	2	2	2
15	Tikrada	7	76	60	2	2	2	2	2
16	Guwadi	9	105	90	3	3	3	3	3
17	Udaipura	7	90	80	2	2	2	2	2
18	Ganesh Khera	6	69	69	2	2	2	2	2
19	Nimola	9	123	100	3	3	3	3	3
20	Talav	9	118	90	3	3	3	3	3
21	Mundli	6	74	74	3	3	3	3	3
22	Prempura	8	94	80	3	3	3	3	3
23	Vijaypura	9	104	90	4	4	4	4	4
	Total	169	2076	1800	60	60	60	60	60

HH stands for Household

No of approximate MKSP beneficiaries are the number of household having both land and animals.

Maximum no. of members in Aajeevika group can be upto 50 and minimum is not less than 25.

Table 2: List of Villages in block Sultanpur

MKSP Monitoring Sheet (Sultanpur)									
S. No	Name of village	No of SHGs in village	No of HHs in SHG	No of approximate MKSP beneficiaries	No of Aajeevika Groups	No of KrishiSakhi		No of PashuSakhi	
						Target	Achievement	Target	Achievement
1	Dhansuri	7	87	75	2	2	2	2	2
2	Bagteri	9	105	80	3	3	3	3	3
3	Notara	7	112	80	3	3	3	3	3
4	Surela	6	70	65	2	2	2	2	2
5	Kherlikalaya	7	75	64	2	2	2	2	2
6	Morpa	7	80	70	2	2	2	2	2
7	Dabar	8	84	65	2	2	2	2	2
8	Motikua	6	72	55	2	2	2	2	2
9	Kherlimahavit	7	86	58	2	2	2	2	2
10	Ballabhपुरa	6	72	54	2	2	2	2	2
11	Chomakota	6	70	52	2	2	2	2	2
12	Chomamaliyan	10	111	80	3	3	3	3	3
13	Chandra vala	6	72	62	2	2	2	2	2
14	Udaipuria	7	80	60	2	2	2	2	2
15	Dhanwa	9	100	93	3	3	3	3	3
16	Jhopadia	4	45	42	2	2	2	2	2
17	Budadit	20	220	150	5	5	5	5	5
18	Harotiya	4	51	47	2	2	2	2	2
19	Mandawara	17	196	147	5	5	5	5	5
20	Kacholiya	7	86	74	2	2	2	2	2
21	Parliya	7	82	74	2	2	2	2	2
22	Kautsua	8	96	85	3	3	3	3	3
23	Dungarja	8	75	69	2	2	2	2	2
24	Jhargaon	3	109	99	3	3	3	3	3
			2236	1800	60	60	60	60	60

2.1 Eligibility Criteria for KS/PS

- Education - Minimum 5th class pass and should be able to read and write
- Age - 20 – 45 Years
- Should be member of any SHG formed under RGAVP
- Should be from same village.
- Should be interested and ready to adopt best practices in animal husbandry (PS) and Agricultural Practices (KS).
- Should have the leadership quality.
- Needy/poor woman who needs additional income.
- Should have her own animals and should be practicing improved animal management practices, which she promotes.
- Good communication skill.
- Willing to move within the nearby villages
- Good listening and knowledge sharing ability.

2.2 Selection process of PS/KS

- Application
- Publicity in the SHG
- Invite application through discussion in CLFs/ VOs meetings.
- Acceptance by GBLGs/DLGs/CLFs/VOs members.
- PS/KS will be suggested by GBLGs/DLGs members.
- Preliminary selection for capacity building and deployment in the field.
- Final selection done by CLFs/VO's/CRP office bearers with consulting agency.

2.3 PS/KS Role and Responsibilities

- PS/KS will mobilize 25 - 50 (1 Aajeevika Group) members to promote animal husbandry and agricultural practices or activity group (Aajeevika group) in her own village.
- Mobilization of community/SHGs members and educating them for preventive measures in goat and dairy animal rearing like- vaccination and deworming and agricultural practices like seed replacement, seed treatment etc.
- Regular home visit of Aajeevika members (per day 2 families).
- They have to conduct regular monthly meeting of GBLGs/DLGs.
- They will provide door step services to the members for preventive measures and provide immediate support for 24 hours.
- Have to submit collected data (home visit format) in cluster monthly meeting.
- Have to give receipt to Aajeevika members for any service charges like medicine, deworming, castration, mineral mixture, seed treatment, seed replacement etc.
- Attend regularly trainings and transfer the knowledge to community.

- Will provide training to livestock beneficiary on improved animal husbandry practices, livestock and Agriculture Para Professional will provide technical and hand holding support to them.
- Demonstration of IAM (Improved animal management, (Improved Agriculture management) practices in field.
- Will help in organizing animal health camps in the village and facilitate treatment, vaccination and deworming, etc. of the animal with the help of AH Govt. department.
- Ensure all animals are vaccinated and de-wormed amongst target families.
- Ensure all enrolled members follow improved practices.
- Facilitate GBLGs/DLGs rearer's monthly meeting/ training with the help of Livestock and Agriculture Para Professionals (with training module and tool).
- Provide first aid to Aajeevika members.

3. Results and Discussion

- Upscaling livelihood interventions under MKSP with 3600 women farmers by organizing them into producer collectives in 47 villages across 2 blocks of Kota district of Rajasthan.
- 3600 families will be covered under agriculture productivity interventions and livestock interventions.
- Increase in productivity to the tune of 30-50% for various crops, namely soybean, pulses, wheat and mustard.
- Vermicomposting Unit, Azolla Unit and NADEP Compost is prepared by women farmers in a large number which helps them make soil more fertile and start adopting new methods of sustainable organic farming, leaving behind traditional one.
- Qualitative benefit of increasing capacity building by taking more risks towards many interventions.
- 120 Trained Livestock Service Providers (Pashu Sakhi) will be available within the villages for providing healthcare services to members.
- 120 Trained Agriculture Service Providers (Krishi Sakhi) will be available for providing technical support to farmers on improved Package of Practices (PoP).
- Table 3 and 4 provides us with the information regarding the interventions used by the SHGs in the two districts for agriculture as well as livestock.
- Formal linkages with agricultural universities to strengthen the capacity of extension workers under the project.

Similar empowerment work has been done in Doria ditrict of Kota where the public awareness programmes were helpful in consumer awareness of the logo and the quality of Kota Doria, but further efforts are required to raise consumer awareness (Srivastava, 2016) ^[3].

Table 3: Interventions performed by KS and PS on Field with Modern Methods in block Itawa

Itawa				
Activities	July	Aug	Sept	Total
Agriculture Interventions				
Deep ploughing	1441			1441
Seed Replacement	1241			1241
Seed treatment	1013			1013
Line sowing	1285			1285
Pest Management		1541		1541
Weed Management		1441		1441
At least 1 organic manure (Compost)	909			909

Convergence with MNREGA by Gram Panchayat				
1.Land levelling		227		227
2.Nadep (Type of Compost pit)		269		269
3.Bunding		85		85
4.Plantation		7		7
Livestock Intervention				
HH getting Mineral Mixture (MM)	40	568		608
No. of Animals getting MM	173	1758		1931
HH getting their Animal Vaccinated	411	269	729	1409
No. Of Animals getting Vaccinated	1301	1230	3462	5993
HH getting their Animal Dewormed	441	402	399	1152
No. Of Animals getting Dewormed	684	611	512	1807
HH getting Animal Insurance			75	75
No. Of Animals getting Insured			81	81
HH getting their Animal Castrated	211		100	311
No. Of Animals Castrated	233		103	333
MNREGA				
1.Cattle shed		269		269

Table 4: Interventions performed by KS and PS on Field with Modern Methods in block Sultanpur

Sultanpur				
Activities	July	Aug	Sept	total
Agriculture Interventions				
Deep ploughing	1059			1059
Seed Replacement	680			680
Seed treatment	764			764
Line sowing	1036			1036
Pest Management		1163		1163
Weed Management		1254		1254
At least 1 organic manure (Compost)	111			111
Convergence with MNREGA by Gram Panchayat				
1.Land levelling				
2.Nadep (Type of Compost pit)				
3.Bunding				
4.Plantation				
Livestock Intervention				
HH getting Mineral Mixture (MM)	202	189	87	478
No. of Animals getting MM	311	232	114	657
HH getting their Animal Vaccinated	336	821	421	1578
No. Of Animals getting Vaccinated	526	101	626	1253
HH getting their Animal Dewormed	954	310	1010	2274
No. Of Animals getting Dewormed	367	456	306	1129
HH getting Animal Insurance	526	601	477	1604
No. Of Animals getting Insurance			81	91
HH getting their Animal Castrated			95	95
No. Of Animals Castrated			33	33
			54	54
MNREGA				
1.Cattle shed				

3.1 Expected Impact

3.1.1 The following impact is expected

- The project will enhance food security by 3-4 months for all the farmers.
- Farmers will have incremental income of Rs 8,000 - Rs. 12,000 per annum from agriculture interventions, provided rainfall is normal. As presented in Table 5.
- Farmers will have incremental income of Rs 5,000 - Rs. 8,000 per annum from livestock interventions. As per Table 6.
- Improved knowledge and skill levels of women farmers will lead to better sustainable agriculture practices and better management of livestock.

- Cadre of local service providers, who are linked with the Federations/Producer Companies, will be available for the farmers at the village level.
- Kitchen Gardens and increased milk production will enhance the nutrition level of the households.

Thus, the attainment in the field of income / employment and in educational front, the scenario of women empowerment seems to be comparatively poor. The need of the hour is to identify those loopholes or limitations which are observing the realization of empowerment of women and this initiative must be started from the women folk itself as well as more importantly policy initiative taken by the state and society (Shettar, 2015)^[2].

Table 5: Change in Income in Agriculture Intervention

Crop	Production before MKSP- Quintals per Acre	Rs/Quintal before MKSP	Total	Production After MKSP-Quintals	Rs/Quintal after MKSP	Total	Change in Income
Soybean	4	2400	9600	7	2800	19600	10000
Urd	.5	3500	1750	1.5	4300	6450	4700

Table 6: Change in Income and mortality rate in Livestock Vertical

S. No.	Milk Rs/Lit before MKSP	Milk Rs/Lit After MKSP	Change in Rs/lit	Mortality rate before MKSP	Mortality rate before MKSP	Change in Mortality rate
1	40	51	11	44 %	19 %	25 %

4. Acknowledgement

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