Sustainable Livelihoods and Adaptation to Climate Change Project (SLACC)

Building Synergies to Promote Climate Resiliency in Farm Livelihoods in India

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What problem is being addressed?

- **Agriculture is the dominant livelihood of the poor**
  - 156 million households engaged in farming, (about 700 million people dependent on agriculture)
  - 72 percent of rural work force
    - Almost 100 million women cultivators and women farm labor
  - Land and water are constraining; ecological degradation is rampant
  - Agricultural productivity inextricably linked to rainfall trends

- **Climate hazards perpetuate low economic equilibrium and poverty stagnation**
  - Climate change projected to increase weather variability in India
    - Higher temperatures; greater seasonal variance; Increased intensity and variability of monsoons; and higher frequency of extremes
  - Farmers are practicing risk avoidance or adopting reactive measures of adaptation
    - Low risk-return farming resulting in low equilibrium
    - Borrowing money, distress sale of cattle, mortgaging jewels assets
  - Last mile delivery of agricultural inputs and services is non-existent
  - Limited access to climate-risk information and risk transfer mechanisms
    - Less than 1% and 7% of country’s farmers have access to agro-advisory services and weather risk insurance

- **Potential to integrate risk management approaches in livelihood strategies**
  - Assess climate risk and calibrate adaptation response for rural households and communities.
  - Build capacity for improved farm-level knowledge and decision making
  - Create synergies and address climate risk in government’s research and operational programs in rural development and agriculture sectors
What is SLACC?

**SLACC Project**
- $8 million from the Special Climate Change Fund for SLACC
- US$ 52.2 million co-financing from NRLM, MKSP, MGNREGS and Bank credit linkage

**Co-financed project – 1: NRLM has set the livelihoods agenda in India**
- Covers 70 million poor households, across 600 districts and 6000 blocks in the country through self-managed Self Help Groups (SHGs) and federated institutions
- Builds capacities of the poor and facilitates access to rights, entitlements, public services and social indicators of empowerment.
- Promote existing livelihoods portfolio of the poor, in farm and in non-farm sectors.

**Co-financed project – 2: MKSP under NRLM is Driver for Sustainable Agriculture**
- Largest women farmers program in the country that focuses on empowering households in agriculture in 14 states
- Focuses on agriculture productivity enhancement, improving market access, value addition through post harvest processing and access to assets (water bodies, lands etc.)
Where do we work?

Combined states’ population: 172 million

Pilot areas: 4 Districts in Bihar and Madhya Pradesh affected by floods and droughts

Why Bihar and Madhya Pradesh?

- Very high to high vulnerability of agriculture to climate change
- Institutional capacity for implementation is high (best forming states in NRLP)
- Good scope for convergence with MGNREGS and MKSP
CSA Interventions in SLACC

**Crop Smart**
- Drought/flood tolerant varieties of seeds/crops;
- Improved livestock breeds; Diversification of cropping system; Adjusting farm schedules;
- *Carbon-saving* practices in paddy and livestock production.

**Ecologically Smart**
- Natural resource management
  - Watershed development
  - Grazing land management
  - Drainage management
  - Carbon-saving land based practices

**Technology & Knowledge Smart**
- Capture knowledge and best practices in country; Participatory CBA planning and science based triangulation using weather and satellite data; local weather based agro-advisories and ICT services; farmer climate school; climate smart CRPs

**Financially Smart**
- Weather based index insurance

**Federation-level and household level interventions**
- SLACC Fund + Convergence with NRLM, MKSP and MGNREGS
- Technology and knowledge transfer for scaling up to all NRLM states
Partnerships: SLACC will help bring in the state-of-the-art in climate adaptation in the country into NRLM...

- WOTR: Agro-meteorology, Weather-based agro-advisories
- E-Sagu: IT based personalized agro-advisory service
- Dhan Foundation: Weather-based Index Insurance
- ICAR NICRA: climate resilient agriculture
- FAO-SPACC Pilot Project: Participatory Climate Monitoring, Farmer Climate Schools
- Best Practices from elsewhere through South-South exchange

SLACC synthesizes, pilots and establishes strategy for mainstreaming into NRLM
Conclusions

• SLACC’s approach to mainstream elements of climate smart agriculture and climate-resiliency into a core livelihood operation helped in client ownership and buy-in at the national and sub-national levels.
• This approach has potential to make a larger impact on the ground

Advice to TTLs

• Ensure solid alignment with Bank’s country and sector engagement
• Especially for large countries, consider use of GEF or other CC instruments to co-finance a larger lending operation rather than a stand-alone
• Build on lessons from the country portfolio
• Be clear about ‘additionally’ in designing a project from inception stages. Accordingly, access TF resources to undertake an Impact Evaluation to measure resilience outcomes.
• CSA operations should be developed using a cross-sector dialogue with the relevant ministries.
• Ensure a close working arrangement with key counterpart ministry but also with MoEFCC who (in case of India) is the GEF Secretariat for the Government and has the ultimate sign-off responsibility
• Plan efficient and on-time roll-out of interventions to benefit farmers and to capture the seasonal effect of interventions. Initially, focus on low hanging fruits.