

10. Transparency and Regular Audit of JFMCs:

In order to continue transparency of the JFM activities, the Transparency Boards should be regularly updated and JFM level audits should be conducted. All the assets created should be regularly visited by members of the JFMCs / EDCs.



11. Mini-CCFCs and Crafts & More:

Mini Community Common Facility Centers (Mini-CCFC) are the production houses where Project trained artisans manufacture several handicrafts and other goods. These handicrafts and goods are being sold by 'Crafts and More', a marketing wing of Tripura JICA project. Crafts and More has set up 7 Sales Outlets in Tripura. All these Mini-CCFCs and the Sales Outlets should run effectively even after the Phase-I Project. The online sales also should run seamlessly.



12. Conservation of Bio-diversity-

The JFMCs/EDCs should protect the flora and fauna available in the Project areas.



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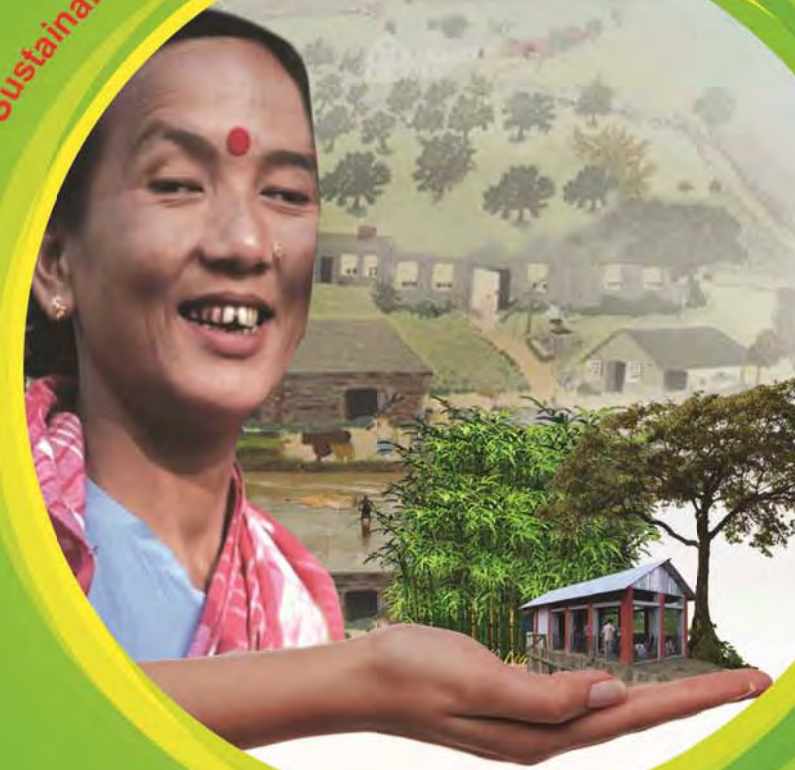
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Sustainability of the Activities of Tripura JICA Project (Phase -I)



Tripura JICA Project

Forest Dept., Govt. of Tripura



Introduction

Tripura JICA Project has been under implementation in the State since 2007-08. The main objectives of the Project include improving the forest density in the state, improving soil and water conservation regime, conservation of bio-diversity and alleviation of poverty of the forest dependent communities. Some of the major achievements of the Project include, raising of 55,655 ha. of plantation; 8,754 ha of agro-forestry; 2,513 check-dams of Model-I, Model-II and Model-III; construction of 399 Vocational Training Centers(VTCs); 58 Multi Utility Centers (MUCs) etc. through 463 JFMCs/EDCs. In the 16 Re-grouped Villages (RGVs), the Project had constructed market sheds, kitchens, drinking water facilities, pre-primary schools etc. For rehabilitating, the Jhumia families of the Re-grouped Villages, agro-forestry plantations @ 1 Ha per family were also raised.

The achievements also include forming of 1549 SHGs within the 463 JFMC/EDCs, construction of 55 mini Community Common Facility Centers (mini-CCFC) for producing various bamboo & other handicrafts; terracotta and handloom products by the Project trained artisans. The sale of these products is done through 7 Sales Outlets of "Crafts and More", a marketing wing set up by the Project.

What is Sustainability in the Project

At this juncture, the "Sustainability" of the assets created, institutions formed and processes developed during Tripura JICA Project (Phase-I) is the most important task. It simply means that all JFMCs/EDCs/SHGs/JLGs should run as they were running during the Project period. The assets created in JFMCs like plantations, check-dams, buildings etc should be maintained as per the requirement; harvesting, value addition and marketing of bamboos, broom grass, large cardamom, Gandhaki etc. should be continued as before. The Officials of the Forest Department at various levels are required to facilitate these activities seamlessly and sustainably leading to achieving the objectives as afore said.

The following are some of the measures for sustainability-

1. Regular Meetings : Meetings of the General Body of the JFM Societies should be conducted at least once in a year and meeting of the Executive Body once in a month to discuss various issues relating to management of these societies. It should be ensured that maximum number of people attend these meetings.



2. Protection Committees and regular Roster Duties : Within every JFMC/EDC the monthly duty rosters for Protection Committees should be maintained. These Protection Committees should perform the patrolling over the JFM/EDC project areas for protection of forest land, natural forests, plantations and all the assets created under the Project in the Project Implementation Period.



3. Protection of JFM/EDC Boundaries : JFMCs and EDC project areas were demarcated on the ground with 15 boundary pillars for each JFMC/EDC. These pillars were also digitized and maps were prepared by GIS Cell of the Project Management Unit (PMU), Hatipara. Protection Committees and Forest Officials at various levels are required to see that the said boundaries are neither obliterated, nor defaced nor encroached upon. Efforts should be made to see that these Project areas are not allotted as Pattas under RoFR Act.



4. Registration under Societies Registration Act, 1860 :

The JFMCs and EDCs were registered as Societies under Societies Registration Act, 1860. These JFMC/EDC societies are required to manage their affairs as per the Memorandum of Understanding(MoU) and 'By-Laws' of these societies with the active participation of Forest Officials at various levels. The activities also include regular and transparent election to the Executive Committees.



5. Regular maintenance of Records of JFMCs/EDCs/SHGs/JLGs :

In each and every JFMC/EDC, 17 different records are to be maintained. In every Self Help Group 8 records are to be maintained. In Agro forestry JLGs, 2 records are to be maintained. All these records should be updated every week. This should be ensured by concerned Range Officers



6. Fund Sources for running JFMCs/EDCs: Every JFMC/EDC could earn their own funds through the following means :

i. Sustainable Harvesting and Sale of Bamboos :

Entire sale proceeds of bamboo should be deposited in the Revolving Fund and out of this 50% of which should be utilized for management and development of the JFMCs / EDCs. Bamboo Harvesting and Management Committees constituted in all Ranges should discharge their duties as per the constitution. 3% of the sale proceeds also should go to the Bio-diversity Management Committees.



ii. Sustainable Harvesting & Sale of other NTFPs : 5% of the sale proceeds from selling of the Broom-grass, Gandhaki, Black Cardamom and other NTFPs should be kept in the Revolving Fund (RF).

iii. Lease Money for Check-dams for fishery :

JFMC/EDCs are leasing out their check-dams in the name of interested SHGs every year and getting lease money. This also could form as one of the major revenue sources of the JFMCs/EDCs.



iv. Interest Earned on the loans given to SHG :

From the Revolving Fund account of the JFMCs, loans are given to SHGs for micro enterprises. All these loans carry an interest rate to 2% which could also form part of the revenue of the JFMC/EDCs.



v. Fines etc levied by the JFMC :

Fines could be levied for grazing, illegal collection of firewood and other NTFPs.

vi. Selling of firewood, small timber, bamboos and other NTFPs to the members themselves :

Some of the JFMCs/EDC have started a best practice of selling NTFPs to their own members on payment of a nominal price. This could earn significant amounts to the JFM/EDC Revolving Fund account.



7. Regular Maintenance of VTC & MUC :

VTCs and MUCs should be regularly maintained. They should maintain fencing and flower garden as was instructed. All meetings should be conducted in the buildings.



8. Regular Maintenance of soil & water conservation structure :

All the check-dams constructed by the Project should be regularly maintained and should be used for fishery, minor irrigation etc.

9. Tapping funds from other sources for JFM Development :

JFM Societies could tap funds from Panchayat, Block, and Districts etc from other schemes with the active involvement and facilitation by the Forest Department. These funds should be utilized for all developmental works of the JFMCs / EDCs.