

Social Forestry under MGNREGA

for creating jobs for old age people, handicap, widows, and women.

State Level workshop for MGNREGA officers

SKM Hall, Patna: Dec 21, 2012

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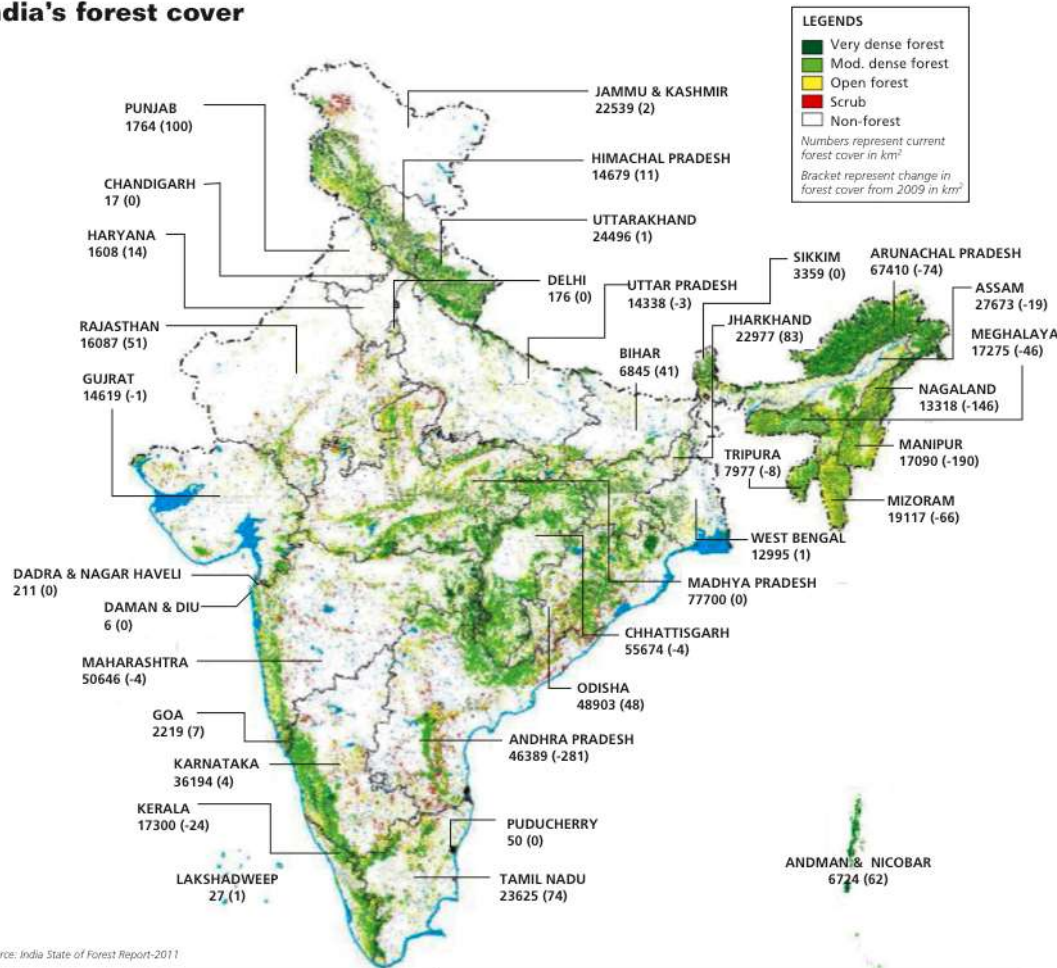
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The image features a landscape with a bright orange and yellow sky at the top, transitioning into a dark green foreground. The text "Why Plantation / Forestation" is centered in the middle of the image in a white, serif font.

Why Plantation / Forestation

India's forest cover has significantly declined in last century

India's forest cover



Source: India State of Forest Report-2011

The increased level of climate warming is due to several reasons and human beings are one of contributors here.

Cutting of tree in huge number and a significant reduction in forest cover over the past century has resulted greenhouse effect which ultimately causing global warming and climate change we are experiencing today.

Plantations improve the living environment in various ways

- Reduction of CO₂ which causes greenhouse effect (1 acre of tree removes up to 2.6 Tonnes of CO₂)
- Plantations assist in cleaning the soil and prevents erosion
- Plantations help cleanse the air by intercepting the airborne particles, reducing heat and absorbing such pollutants as CO, SO₂, NO₂.
- Trees remove air pollution by lowering air temperature, through respiration and by retaining particulates



Forestation is also a socio-cultural phenomenon



- It provides direct employment
- It leads to development in infrastructure
- There is transfer of skills and market creation with agro-based products and services.
- It provides sustainable employment generation for the rural households
- Basic malnutrition problem of poor children will be solved through supplementation of fruits

There are certain forest models that provide the local people with products, like: wood as fuel, fruits, nut and herbs along with opportunity for agricultural purpose.

- 90% of energy in the rural areas is derived from fuel wood.
- Presently it is taken out from the existing forest and trees'
- Such project will not only meet this demand but shall also protect the eco-system.

Forestation is a matter of national importance and is being highlighted as well

- Honorable PM announced Green India campaign on direct actions by communities through Joint Forest Management Committee

Main Focus:

- Increase forest coverage
- Density as a whole of the country & conserving bio-diversity
- Increasing plantation from 1.6 million hectare to 3.6 million hectare annually
- Forest meets 40% of energy needs of country overall and the needs of 80% of rural folks survive on it



Why social forestry projects were not successful till now?

- Lack of user friendly guidelines
- Delay in technical sanctions resulting from centralization of authority
- Gram Panchayat were not given task of PIA's
- Lack of community involvement
- Inflexible norms for procurement of planting material
- Over dependence on environment and forest dept

The background of the slide features a landscape with a green field in the foreground and a bright orange and yellow sky above. The text "Social Forestry" is centered in the green field area.

Social Forestry

Objectives

- ✓ Social forestry terminology was first used in 1976 by the National Commission of Agriculture
- ✓ Objectives
 - To give up the dependence on the existing forest
 - To put un-used and fallow land to appropriate use – plantation by common man
 - To plant trees along railway lines, roadsides, river and canal banks and panchayat lands



Why Social Forestry under MGNREGA – The basics

The Model



- ✓ Schedule 1 of NREGA Act includes drought proofing including afforestation and tree plantation
- ✓ Social Forestry model involves attaching bodily weak people as Vanposhaks for taking care of the plants replacing iron/bamboo gabions with 'Human Gabions'
- ✓ 4 families of the same community/caste are tagged to take care of 200 plants (1 unit) on a roaster for 5 years and are paid under the labour component of MGNREGA
- ✓ This instills ownership feeling and helps ensure survival of plants

Plantation on Individual farmers land

- ✓ Lands belonging to BPL, IAY, SC/ST and small marginal farmers can be taken up for social forestry under individual development scheme
- ✓ Farmers are provided planting material inputs and irrigation facility for 200 plants
- ✓ If farmers have small land holdings and can't plant 200 plants they are provided planting material and proportionate man-days like 150, 100 and 50 plants
- ✓ Farmers get 100 man-days for 5 years continuously to work as Vanposhaks on their individual land
- ✓ Horticulture plantation on farmers land provides them sustainable source of income after 5 years from harvest of fruits

Plantation on household premises of SC/ST and IAY beneficiaries

- ✓ Plantation is done on household premises of SC/ST and IAY beneficiary families
- ✓ 200 plants (1 unit) in the SC/ST and IAY beneficiary “Tola” is considered equivalent to plantation on government lands
- ✓ 4 families are tagged to take care of saplings planted in the tola
- ✓ Plants like lemon are planted which supplement nutritional needs of poor people
- ✓ Harvest of fruits can provide alternate source of income to families in distress times

Bamboo Plantation for flood control

- ✓ Bamboo plantation is done in flood prone areas
- ✓ Bamboo plantation can be submerged under water for more than 1 months
- ✓ Bamboo plantation is done in September after floods recede along the river banks
- ✓ Bamboo have very fast growth and can control outbreak of floods from next season
- ✓ 5 Bamboo saplings are planted in 1 pit (3*3*3) and distance of 4*4 m is kept between pits
- ✓ Bamboo supports rural households in house construction and energy needs

Vanposhak has the ownership of plant as it gives him/her livelihood

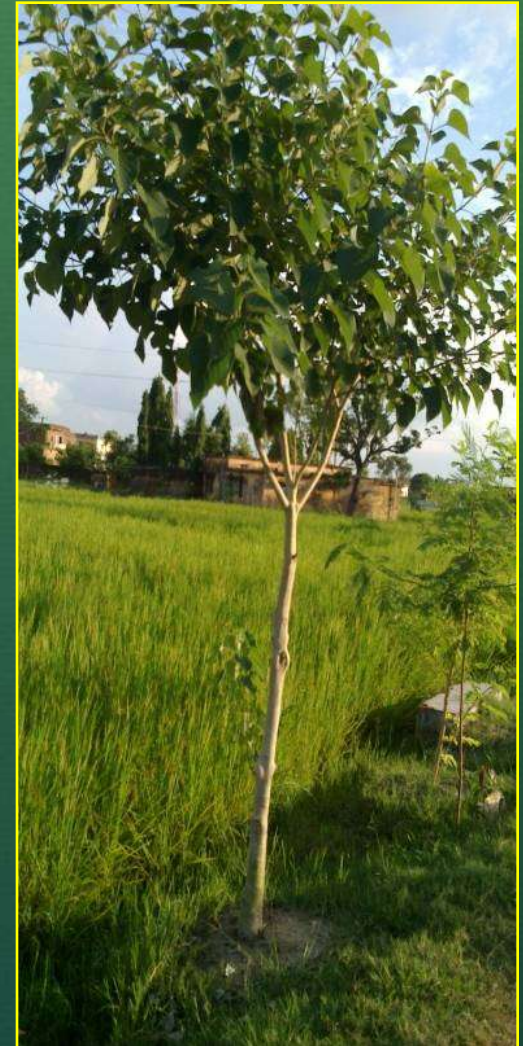
Responsibilities of a Vanposhak

- ✓ Watering
- ✓ Guarding
- ✓ Weeding
- ✓ Preparing bed
- ✓ Trimming of plants
- ✓ Providing wood stick support
- ✓ Can do intercropping to get additional income



Daily wages will be given on the basis of survival of plants

- ✓ If the plant Survival Rate is more than 90%, one man-day will be derived
- ✓ If the Survival Rate is more than 75%, 1/2 man-day will be derived
- ✓ If the Survival Rate is less than 75%, such families will not be allowed to work as Vanposhaks and will be replaced with new families



Local support is provided to ensure survival of the plant

- ✓ Every 200 plants will be provided one hand pump for irrigation.
- ✓ In adverse calamity if plants dies, it will be replaced by the village elected body.



Why this concept was conceived?

- ✓ In general needy persons were not getting the desired benefits in the wage employment program
- ✓ More than 80% of the funds were siphoned at various levels
- ✓ Continuous employment as in a factory was absent in conventional MNREGA works
- ✓ Employment opportunities for the bodily weak viz. old, women and handicapped were non-existent
- ✓ No tangible assets were being created



Benefits over
Conventional
MGNREGA work

Stone age work in MNREGA

- ✓ Manual labor is used in earth cutting works which can be easily done by machines
- ✓ Labor can be used in other productive activities and focus should be on agriculture operations
- ✓ Shift needed from unskilled labor to skilled to increase living standard of rural folks
- ✓ Social forestry has been a part of wage employment schemes but not been implemented
- ✓ Sustainable employment is not provided and no durable assets are created

Conventional Earth Cutting Work under MGNREGA?



Damage of work due to excessive rainfall



No Durable Asset is created



Damage of natural mulching area

- **According to MNREGA act** “ ...Is to provide for one hundred days of guaranteed wage employment in every financial year to every household whose adult members volunteer to do **unskilled manual work**”.



Convention work provides intermittent employment e.g. pond digging, then new work needs to be taken up

Avg Man-day: 30.11 (As on 11 Oct, 2012; www.nrega.nic.in)

Whereas

Social Forestry provides **continuous employment for 5 years** just like a *factory*

Avg. Man-day: 91.25

Potential impact of plantations – The maths

50,000 wood cum fruit bearing plants per grampanchayat increase forest cover by 8.33%

1000 families get **continuous employment** for 5 years

250 man-days generated **everyday** in that GP

Labour Expenditure of **Rs. 1.31 Crores** per year

Rs. 89.22 Lakhs of *pucca work* every year, such as construction of drainage, PCC roads etc

Other Benefits of Social Forestry under MGNREGA

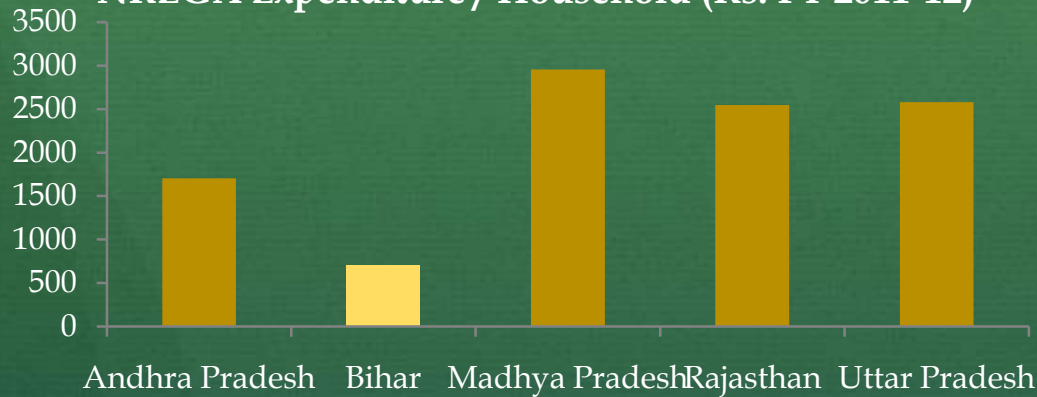
- ✓ To divert healthy persons to other agricultural works for curbing the scarcity of labour force.
- ✓ To ensure nutritional security for rural folks
- ✓ To ensure Food, Fodder and fuel wood through Social Forestry at Gram Panchayat level.
- ✓ To ensure sustainable employment generation by creating durable assets. Ex: Agro base industries.
- ✓ To increase Horticulture plantation
- ✓ To control soil erosion and floods through bamboo plantation
- ✓ To increase bamboo production for bio-fuel in power sector

Idea to Action

The success story of Social Forestry under MGNREGA in Bihar

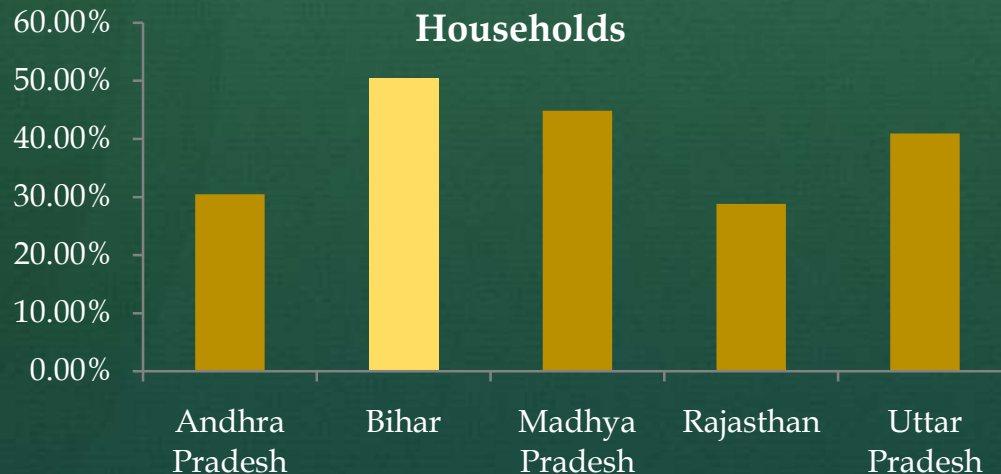
Bihar is the most suited for Social Forestry under MNREGA

NREGA Expenditure / Household (Rs. FY 2011-12)



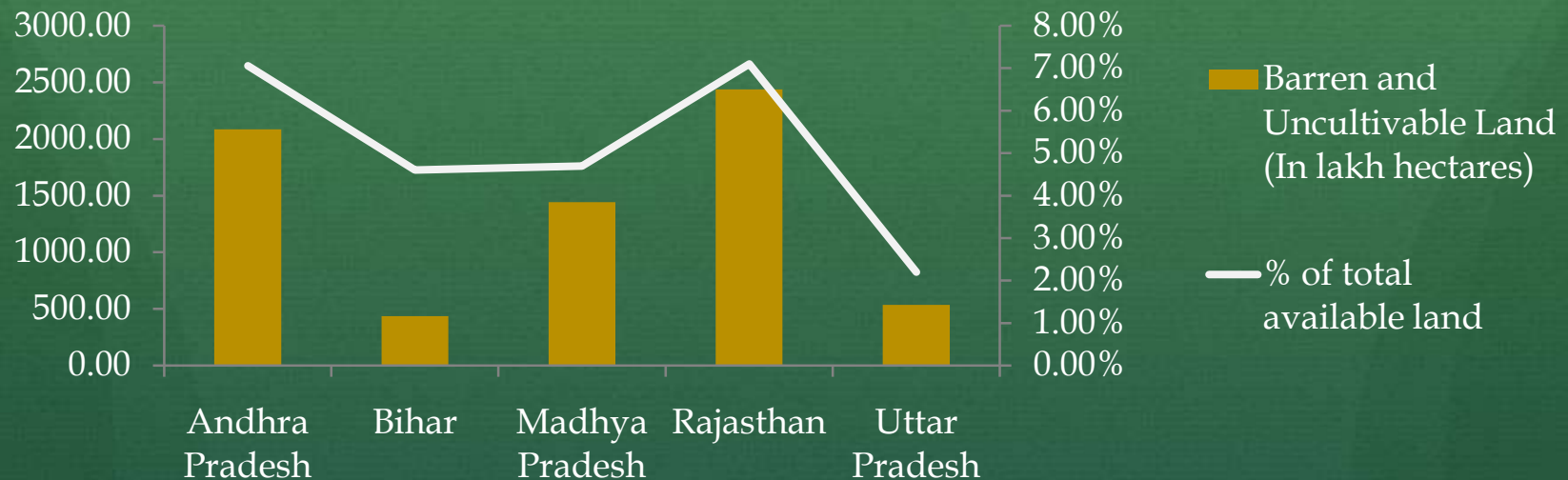
✓ The performance of Bihar with regard to per capita expenditure stands at an abysmal Rs. 702/ year

BPL Households as a % of total Rural Households



✓ The requirement of NREGA work for Bihar is huge with regards to the highest BPL population in absolute terms as well as in percentage of total rural households

Bihar is more suited for plantations as well



- ✓ Barren/Uncultivable land as a percentage of total available land is least for Bihar and the population pressure is also the highest, making availability of land for earth cuttings works very difficult
- ✓ Bihar is regularly struck with natural calamities; floods and droughts, thus the uncultivable land is unfit for conventional NREGA works of earth cutting

Bihar is more suited for plantations as well (contd..)

- ✓ The fertile land of Bihar has a rich and very ancient history which even goes back to the very dawn of the human civilizations.
- ✓ The topography of Bihar can be easily described as a fertile alluvial plain occupying the Gangetic Valley.
- ✓ Rich farmland and lush orchards extend throughout the state.
- ✓ The principal fruits are: mangoes, banana, jack fruit and litchis.



Tirhut Division

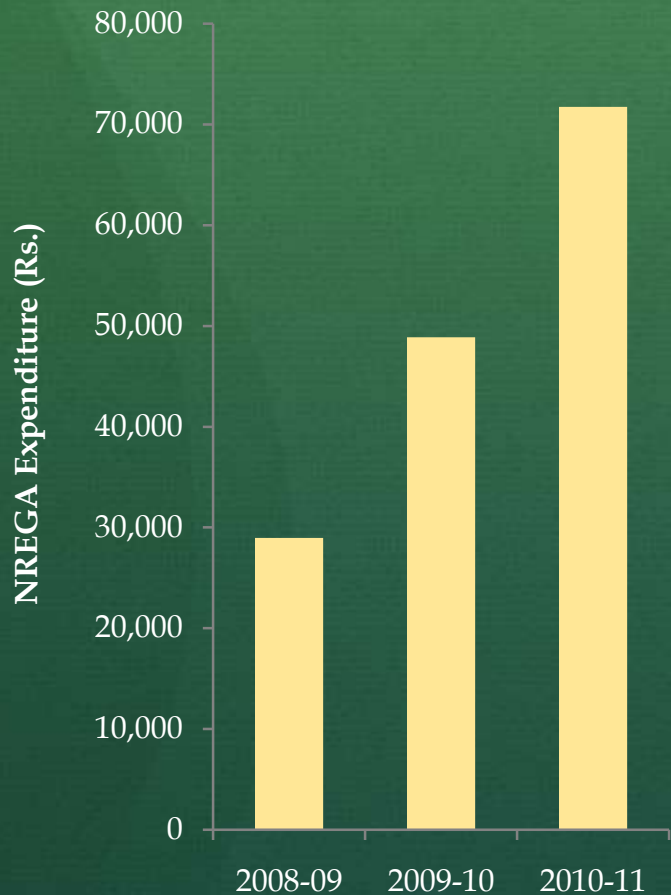
Where the revolution started

Tirhut Division -All districts are flood affected and working season is only 5-6 months.

Tirhut Division comprises six districts viz. Muzaffarpur, Vaishali, Sheohar, Sitamarhi, East Champaran and West Champaran



Impact of Social forestry in Tirhut division



- ✓ Total expenditure increased from Rs. 289.56 crores to Rs. 717.56 crores
- ✓ Total households provided employment increased from 10.28 lakhs to 14.41 lakhs
- ✓ SC man-days increased 2.4 times from 8.47 lakhs to 20.23 lakhs
- ✓ Women man-days increased 2.75 times from 4.68 lakhs to 12.86 lakhs
- ✓ Average man-days increased from 17.45 to 28.74
- ✓ Total disability persons provided employment increased 2.45 times from 4559 to 11141

Paigambarpur Gram Panchayat, Sakra block, Muzaffarpur District planted between -- July-August 2009



**South Patjirva Gram Panchayat Barriah block, West
Champaran District plantation of Amla on flood protection
bund in around 12 km.**



Plantation on the sides of rural roads of **Areraj Block, East Champaran** , 30th August 2009



How to disseminate the project?

- ✓ Creating pilot project in each and every block in 1 Gram Panchayat where the mukhiya and all MGNREGA functionary get trained
- ✓ Creating one Gram Panchayat at the district level where the Mukhiya is himself interested to do 100% plantation related works and using it as model Gram Panchayat
- ✓ Performing road shows exhibiting the benefits of this model
- ✓ Conducting divisional, district, block and panchayat level workshops
 - Creating awareness through various talks/presentations
 - Solving ground issues through Q&A sessions
 - Performance reviews and recognition of top performers
 - Distribution of manuals and other literature



Convergence with health, education and ICDS

Convergence with health

- ✓ More than 80% of people who go for treatment in primary health centres and block hospitals are poor and downtrodden
- ✓ 60% of such people belong to SC/ST and Mahadalit families
- ✓ Hospitals can work as media for job card demand and job demand
- ✓ Block Health Manager should compile records of people
- ✓ BHM should maintain the list of people seeking job as Vanposhak in their offices
- ✓ Maintain register for the following
 - If people are working as Vanposhak (Y/N), Have Job Card (Y/N)
 - If people want to work as Vanposhak, compile the records (list of people seeking job)
 - BHM should give records to PO in weekly Janta Darbar
 - PO should give all records to PRS
 - PRS should co-ordinate with Mukhiya to provide job cards to people at their doorsteps
 - PRS should ensure providing them work as Vanposhak in case of women and old persons
 - If job not provided within 15 days, unemployment allowance has to be given

Convergence with VHSND

- ✓ More than 80% of women who participate in VHSND come from poor families
- ✓ 60% of such people belong to SC/ST and Mahadalit families
- ✓ ANM should compile records of interested people seeking job in Mother care register in Col. 53
- ✓ BHM should update the records from all ANMs and maintain the list of people in their offices
- ✓ Maintain register for the following
 - If people are working as Vanposhak (Y/N), Have Job Card (Y/N)
 - If people want to work as Vanposhak, compile the records (list of people seeking job)
 - BHM should give records to PO in weekly Janta Darbar
 - PO should give all records to PRS
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Convergence with education

- ✓ Most of the students who study in primary and secondary schools in villages come from poor families
- ✓ Teachers hold counselling for parents and students of SC/ST families every month
- ✓ In counselling sessions teachers should compile records of all such families
- ✓ Ensure atleast 50 job cards and job demands of interested people per school
- ✓ Compiled records should be updated by Block Education Extension Office
- ✓ BEEO should maintain the list of people seeking job as Vanposhak in their offices
- ✓ Maintain register for the following
 - If people are working as Vanposhak (Y/N), Have Job Card (Y/N)
 - If people want to work as Vanposhak, compile (Job Card/Job demand seeking application form)
 - BEEO should give records to PO in weekly Janta Darbar
 - PO should give all records to PRS
 - PRS should co-ordinate with Mukhiya to provide job cards to people at their doorsteps
 - PRS should ensure providing them work as Vanposhak in case of women and old persons
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Convergence with ICDS

- ✓ Most of the families/women who go for help in Anganwadi centres come from poor families
- ✓ Anganwadi sevikas should compile records of such women
- ✓ Ensure atleast 100 job cards and job demands of interested people per Anganwadi centre
- ✓ CDPO should update records from all Anganwadi sevikas and centres
- ✓ CDPO should maintain the list of people seeking job as Vanposhak in their offices
- ✓ Maintain register for the following
 - If people are working as Vanposhak (Y/N), Have Job Card (Y/N)
 - If people want to work as Vanposhak, compile the records (Job Card/Job demand seeking application form)
 - CDPO should give records to PO in weekly Janta Darbar
 - PO should give all records to PRS
 - PRS should co-ordinate with Mukhiya to provide job cards to people at their doorsteps
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Role of project proponent cum facilitator at Gram Panchayat level

The project proponent cum facilitator at Gram Panchayat level works across the agriculture value chain to enable farmers realize the complete benefits of this initiative



Awareness Generation

Nursery

Plantation

Technical support

Maintenance

Processing of produce

Key activities

- Rights of laborers in NREGA
- Works taken on private lands under NREGA
- Benefits of plantation to farmers, panchayat and government

- Generate saplings of biofuel and horticulture
- Provide assistance to farmers in raising nurseries

- Plantation on government lands (roads, canals, river beds, schools, community lands)
- Plantation on farmers lands

- Provide material and technical support for planting material to government and farmers

- Ensure tagging of farmers and laborers take care of the plants
- 4 families are provided 100 days employment for 5 years for maintenance

- Buy-back of the produce
- Forward linkage with BPCL to complete biodiesel value chain
- Food processing for horticulture plantation

THANK YOU