

SAFE-World Project/Initiative Summary

Country: India

Project/Initiative Title: KRIBCHO Indo-British Rainfed Farming Project (West) 1992

Nos. farmers: 4200 farmers Hectares: 4000

Agro-Ecological Zone: II

Improvement types

1x	2x	3	4	5x	6x	7x	8	9
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A. Key Impacts

A1 – Productivity

	Before/Without	After/With	% change
Sorghum	400 kg/ha	800-1000 kg/ha	100 –150%

A2 – Impacts on natural capital

- ?? Reduced soil erosion (from 10-30 t/ha)
- ?? Increased fodder grass production for terrace bunds (especially valuable to women)
- ?? Water retention improved
- ?? Water tables up 1m in 3-4 years

A3 – Impacts on local community (social capital)

- ?? 232 groups in 70 villages (4180 members)
- ?? 150 extensionists trained (jankars)

A4 – Impacts on households and individuals (human capital)

- ?? Seasonal migration during dry season down 60%
- ?? Increased self-esteem amongst women
- ?? Reduced alcoholism and wife-beating
- ?? Increase in group savings (average funds 650 Rs per household)
- ?? Therefore substantial increase in income for agriculture

A5 – Key changes in farm / regional system

- ?? Extra water harvesting/ retention means additional rabi crop possible

B. Types of Sustainable Agriculture Improvements

- Type 1: Better use of available renewable natural capital
- Type 2: Intensification of single sub-component of farm system
- Type 3: Diversify by adding new productive natural capital and regenerative components
- Type 4: Better use of non-renewable inputs and technologies
- Type 5: Social and participatory processes leading to group action for making better use of natural capital

Type 6: Human capital building through training-learning programmes

Type 7: Access to Finance

Type 8: Add value by processing to reduce losses and increase returns

Type 9: Add value by direct or organised marketing of produce to consumers

Type	Yes/No	Narrative
Type 1	x	Water harvesting systems
Type 2	x	
Type 3		
Type 4		
Type 5	x	
Type 6	x	Training
Type 7	x	
Type 8		
Type 9		

D. Contact Point for Project/Initiative

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E. Project Narrative

*KRIBCHO Indo-British Rainfed Farming Project (West)*¹

This participatory soil and water conservation project began in 1992 and is based in contiguous upland areas of Gujarat, Rajasthan and Madhya Pradesh. The region is populated mainly by Bhils and Bhilala scheduled tribes, and the project works in some 70 villages. Land degradation is severe, soils are poor, and agricultural production is usually inadequate to support most families. As a result, the practice of seasonal migration to urban areas during Nov-March has become common, with remittances earned during this period vital to people's livelihoods.

The project adopted a participatory approach to work with local communities on problem

¹ Source: Smith (1999)

analysis, development of options, and implementation of workplans. Key priorities for local people were water-harvesting systems to increase infiltration and ponding of water, tree planting and joint forest management, and grazing land improvements. The project explicitly works with local groups of 15-25 households at hamlet level that had formed for savings and credit schemes. There are now 232 groups in 70 villages, with an average membership of 18 households. Funds raised by each group now average Rs 650, generated mostly from increased agricultural production (giving a total fund base of Rs 151,000).

Basic grain yields (rice, wheat, pigeonpeas and sorghum) have improved from 400 kg/ha to 800-1000 kg/ha. The increased fodder grass production from the terrace bunds is also valued highly. The improved water retention (water tables have risen by 1 metre over the past 3-4 years) means that a *rabi* season crop is now feasible for many farmers using residual moisture. An unproductive season has now become productive, and seasonal migration has decreased by some 60%. In addition, micro-environments for rice production have been exploited, such as rice strips behind terrace bunds or in gullies. The project also reports greater pride and self-esteem amongst people, including reduced alcoholism amongst men, and increased school attendance.