

## Program Background:

With 33% of the world's poor population who are still dependent on natural resources and climate dependent livelihood options, India is considered one of the most vulnerable countries vis-à-vis impact of climate change. As per the Climate Change Vulnerability Index developed by Maplecroft, India stands 13th most vulnerable position largely due these factors. It is this section of population who will be the first to bear the impact of climatic variations and irregular weather patterns that are already beginning to create havoc every year.

Infrastructure for Climate Resilient Growth in India (ICRG) is a Technical Assistance (TA) program supported by UK's Department for International Development (DFID) to provide technical assistance to the Ministry of Rural Development (MoRD) in three most vulnerable states of Bihar, Chhattisgarh and Odisha. The key objective of ICRG is to improve the design and implementation and synergise its resources with Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA) in order to build climate resilience of the rural poor, particularly those dependent on rain-fed agriculture. The program aims to strengthen the capacity of the community to help increase demand of work under MGNREGA as well as those of implementation agencies such as administrative and technical personnel, and PRI members at district, block and sub block levels. The program is being implemented in 103 blocks of these three states with a focus on women and other vulnerable groups.

Change Alliance is partnering with ICRG to implement this program in eight districts and 35 blocks of Bihar.

## Processes Undertaken:

A total of 922 villages have been identified in Bihar for the implementation of this program with key focus on capacity building of administrative and technical staff of MGNREGA at all levels (district/block/sub-block). The activities include:

- Demonstration of climate resilient works (CRW) through hand holding on site
- Coordination with district, block and Gram Panchayat level MGNREGA personnel
- Promoting convergence of MGNREGA works with other complementary programs, keeping the government priorities in view
- Sensitising gram panchayats towards identifying NRM works to address climate vulnerabilities
- IEC activities with local communities, SHGs, MGNREGA workers, Panchayati Raj Institutions
- Collecting information as per the ICRG program needs

To achieve the above, some of the activities undertaken by CAPL are as follows:

**Training and awareness generation among communities:** For any planning on adaptation to climate change in rural areas especially in diverse geographical conditions, it is necessary that solutions are evolved keeping in mind the local needs. Hence involvement of the community is important in the planning, monitoring, and sustaining of climate change adaptation and mitigation programs. Change Alliance held many orientation meetings and training programs for various stakeholders including members and other community based organisations on creating awareness on the importance of management for adaptation and sustainable use of natural resources. It also sought to facilitate the critical analysis of women's role in decision-making.

**Training and orientation of PRIs and frontline MGNREGA functionaries:** Though MGNREGA is recognized as one of the measures in climate change adaptation, the level of awareness among the implementing agencies is abysmally low. To understand the importance of different ecosystem services aligned to MGNREGA activities, a wider awareness amongst the implementing agencies is necessary. Change Alliance also held trainings for government officials involved in its implementation such as ward members, MGNREGA officials including PO, PTA and PRS, and Panchayat Samiti members.

**Convergence and livelihood promotion:** Bihar is affected by the twin problems of flood (north) and draught conditions (south). The regular climate variations affect the Climate Resilient Works (CRW) especially that of the vulnerable communities. The convergence activities with MGNREGA infrastructures help the communities tackle such extreme conditions. . The livelihood convergence is done at three levels: 1) Identify potential opportunities around CRW sites and converge with fishery department and horticulture department, 2) Non-financial convergence is done with SHG groups around CRW areas where the identified SHGs would be given rights of plants protection and harvesting, 3) Agricultural practices intervention is done such as linking of the farmers with agriculture department for supply of seeds and recommended crop practices.

### **About Change Alliance:**

Change Alliance is a for-profit organisation providing CSR consultancy and other development sector services to both companies and civil society organisations. Our services include end-to-end CSR strategy, design, implementation and management of large programs, in-depth research, baselines and end-term impact assessments, mid-term evaluations, and training and capacity building across sectors and industries. We have expertise and a successful track-record in conducting large-scale research, monitoring and evaluations, trainings, and implementing campaigns especially in education, gender, livelihoods, and climate change. And our 60 years legacy of developmental work, engaging with civil societies across the globe, and working with over 300 partner organisations in India has helped clients reach the remotest corners of the country.

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