

# Peer Learning Workshop

23<sup>rd</sup> August 2005



## Poorest Areas Civil Society Program (PACS)

BIHAR

Management Consultants



Development Alternatives



Pricewaterhouse Coopers (P) Ltd

Supported By

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## Introductory

The 5<sup>th</sup> Peer Learning Workshop was organized on the 23<sup>rd</sup> August 2005, a day after the State Development Conference, at Maurya hotel in Patna the capital city of Bihar. The Management Consultants, Meal Representative, the Resource and Communication organizations and the Civil Society organizations participated in this workshop with the following objectives:



- Presenting and Discussing Livelihood and Capacity Building Strategies
- Incorporating the development conference learning with the CSOs plan of action and presenting a log frame
- Explaining DIIS (desktop interactive information system) by MEAL

After a short introduction by Mr. Rakesh Jha, discussion ensued on how to incorporate the learning from the state development conference into the PACS program. All the participants agreed to develop and present a log frame of their action plan on the basis of the previous activities and the learning from the State Development Conference.

## Livelihood Strategy

Prior to the presentation by the CSOs, the Resource Organizations presented livelihood strategy paper in the workshop.

### *Livelihood scenario in Bihar*

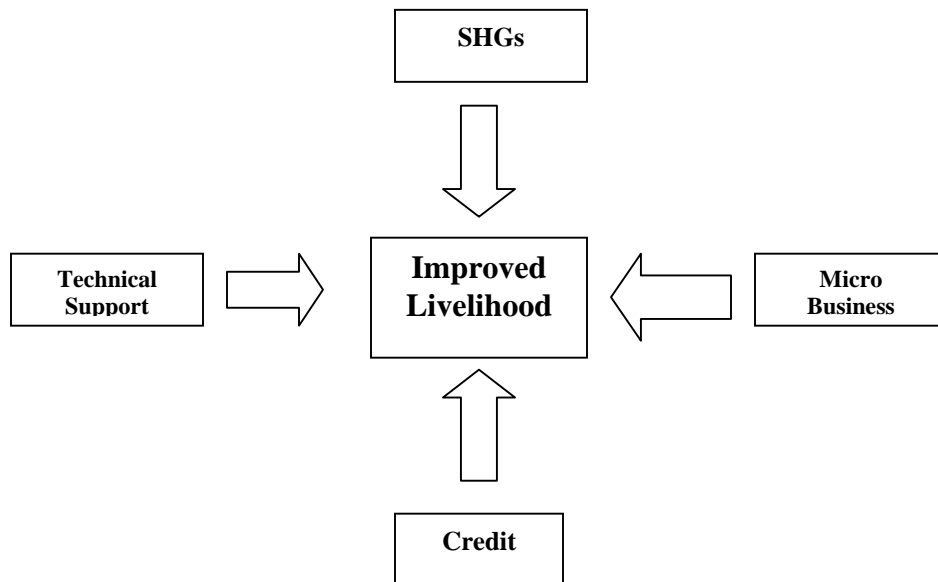


- 55% of the people are poor in Bihar and almost 90% of them live in rural areas. The largely available capital is labour and almost no proper land reform has been done.
  - Bihar has the lowest wage rate.
  - 82% of rural population are engaged in agricultural sector
  - The landless mostly comprise of Dalits/SCs. Concealed Land-Leasing is prevalent, Social insecurity and economic deprivation lead to large scale Migration
- There is a prevalence of recurring flood and drought, Poverty Reduction programmes are not properly implemented and financial institutions are hardly cooperative
  - NGOs lack market-led approach
  - Industrial Sector is declining

### *An Approach towards improving livelihood scenario*

Since PACS has been focusing on forming and strengthening the SHGs, it was thought that the SHGs should form the base of livelihood promotion. To build this premise, three essential supports are required: Technical, Market feasibility and Credit availability. None alone can work for the betterment of the poor. For example, Bank linkages alone cannot be the solution as there are plenty of cases where the SHGs become bankrupt and pay loans by selling their personal belongings. Moreover, emphasis should also be made on the marginalized sections that do not have any skill

other than labour. For them extensive training program should be designed and conducted by the CSOs.



Improving livelihood would also require leveraging resources, cross sharing of ideas and experiences besides policy advocacy and ensuring food security. It would also need introduction of more and more scientific methods and imbibing market-led approach among the entrepreneurs.

## Capacity Building Strategy

### *The inputs required at CSO level*

- Developing state level advocacy groups and partnership for development and fund leveraging
- Clear goal and purpose (Vision & Mission), HR & Administrative policies and systems, Effective Planning, Monitoring & Evaluation (PME) system and Road map for organisational growth
- Process documentation, MIS, Case studies, Best practices, Annual report and Compliances with statutory requirement
- Livelihoods promotion, SHGs, Micro-Credit/Finance Local Self Governance, Rights & Women empowerment and Cadre building for voluntarism



### **Expected output in the project Areas**



- Access to Facilities & Infrastructure: Improved & functional PHC, Better equipped & functioning education system at GP level, Access to block offices &

- interaction with respective officials and Access to information
- Livelihood Opportunities: Food Security, Entrepreneurship development in villages, Access to capital fund, Improvement & Strengthening of existing livelihood practices
- Strengthening Local Governance system: Regular Gram Sabha meetings, Increased participation of women in PRI, Preparation & execution of village development plans, Effective implementation of state sponsored development programmes, Improved service delivery system (health, education, administration etc.) at Gram Panchayat level
- Control over Rights: Ownership of the marginalized over land, Money for work, Women voice & identity, Equality in access to education, health facilities, resources etc, Government machinery free from caste or gender biasness

## Presentation by Different Groups



The CSOs organized in four groups presented their plan of action in the house

### ***Presentation- Livelihood (Group 1)***

*Activities:* Horticulture, Floriculture, Animal husbandry, Fisheries, Poultry farming Handicraft (lac, silk etc) Carpentry, Food processing Bee culture, Vermi compost, Mushroom growing, Nursery, etc.

*Mode:* By Survey- (a) Household Survey (b) Village Survey (c) Market Survey. Identifying problems relating to the availability of raw material and market, Providing training as per need (technical and managerial aspects) and Evaluation

*Strategy:* By Constituting Core Committee, Information Sharing, Meeting after each three months, Monitoring and Evaluation

### ***Presentation - Marginalized & Deprived (Group 2)***

*List of deprived:* Dalit, Mushher, Dome, Vagabonds, Women, Widows, Handicapped, Elderly people, Land less and Flood effected people

*What to do? :* Making them aware about their rights, Govt. Schemes, Providing legal aid., Constituting Pressure group where ever required., Associating them with other activities of organization., Providing them leadership training, Organizing Janadalat, providing necessary infrastructure to the Vega bonds

*Who will do?* All NGOs including PACS partners, Core Committees specially constituted in this regard.

*Mode of intervention:* Working at four levels: at the level of target group-the dalits, at the level of society-the common mass, at the level of Organization and at the level of the Government.

*How to achieve?* Enhancing awareness through IEC materials and other methods, Trainings, Follow up of recommendations of the Core Committees.

### ***Presentation– Right to Information (Group-3)***

*Action:* Collection of information (RTI): Social security and development scheme, Monthly meeting of Forum, Meeting with block officials, Meeting with Dist. level officials, Meeting with state officials, Sensitization meeting with community, Pressure Building program, Meetings with PRI members, and development of IEC materials

*Activity:* Contacting CENCORD, Action Aid, etc, Meeting with Block Officials by CSO partners, Discussion on progress & future plan and strategy and Sensitization meeting to make accessibility to information, Extensive awareness building program- Dharnas and rallies at block level.



*Mode:* Concept building among partners, Understanding on - Social security and Development scheme, Initiative will be taken to make information easily available at block level, Initiative will also be taken to make the state government issue directives to implement Right to information, Member of Gramsabha and also the general people would be made aware and capacitated on this issue.

### ***Presentation– Panchayati Raj (Group 4)***

*Issues:* Environment building, Selection of candidate and training, Preparation of I-cards, Inspection, Active Participation of women and children, Strengthening information system and Booth Managements



*What:* Awareness generation among the voters, Organize workshop as per working area, Identify and get enlisted the name of those that are not in the voting list, Collection of related information and dissemination accordingly, Identify sensitive booths, Contact with concerning officials and ensure security provisions

*How:* Extensive awareness generation programs - pamphlets, posters, songs, meetings, conferences, street shows etc. Through training and capacity building, Developing public relations, Constituting Information Centers at Panchayat level, etc.

*Who:* CSOs of every district and network partners, MC will provide IEC Material

## **DIIS (Desktop Interactive Information System)**

Paucity of time kept the presentation on DIIS brief, nevertheless, the MEAL coordinator tried to explain the content and purpose of the DIIS in as much detail as possible. The main purpose of DIIS is to make information easily available to all the stakeholders; from the CSOs in the remote areas to the organizations situated abroad. It contains all sorts of information, including CSO's profile, village profile, MEAL information, etc. Moreover, the websites of the CSOs are also linked with it. The DIIS is available both in Hindi and English.

## Vote of Thanks

Mr. Rakesh Jha gave the vote of thanks however, before that a discussion ensued on the administrative aspect of the project. PWC representative explained in detail the reasons behind the delay in payment and the logic behind reducing the total budget of some CSOs. It also clarified several other doubts of the CSOs. In the end Mr. Rakesh Jha heartily thanked the CSOs, the ROs and all the participants for making the Peer Learning Workshop a success.

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