

## **Development Initiative in Bundelkhand Region**

Workshop Note  
27-28<sup>th</sup> June 2003

### **Introduction**

Bundelkhand Region comprising of four districts in Madhya Pradesh and seven districts of Uttar Pradesh, is one of the poorest regions of the country. It is reflected in the Human Development and Gender Development Indices prepared by the State Government. One of the major problems in the region is lack of livelihood opportunities & poor management and productivity of existing natural resources. Groundwater is the most common source for drinking and irrigation. Although agriculture is the mainstay of the population, only 35% of the net sown area is irrigated. Rainfall is very erratic and falls in sporadic showers. Being a pastoral economy, the livestock population is very high but milk productivity is low. Out of 108 poorest districts in India identified by the government of India, nine districts are in the Bundelkhand region. Five districts of Uttar Pradesh namely Banda, Hamirpur, Jalaun, Jhansi, Latitpur and four districts of Madhya Pradesh, Chattarpur, Panna, Sagar, and Tikamgarh fall under the PACS programme.

### **Reaching out for Integrated Development**

Since last two decades the areas of concern for development in the region remain unchanged. Various grassroots organizations have been involved primarily in mobilizing community members into SHGs, Farmer groups, Youth Groups etc. The geographical expanse of activities and intensity of issues are being initiated with the limited staff and financial support. As a result, the impact is visible at village level and very few CSOs could make tangible impact beyond the implementation area. Attempts made so far couldn't achieve the desired results primarily because very little efforts have been made by the CSOs to establish network for policy advocacy and sustainable initiatives at the grassroots for effective local resource management. On the other hand, slow pace of development and low voice from the field could not attract even donars.

Based on the demand from the grassroots, it was felt that integrated perspective for development in the region needs to be developed by all the local CSOs working in the area. The Management Consultants invited potential CSOs from the region to develop an integrated development framework for the region. 72 participants attended the two day outreach workshop on 27th and 28th June in TARAGram, Orchha. The participants were representatives of grassroots CSOs ( 50+ ) , Government representatives, corporate and Banks. For the first time in the history of Bundelkhand, several national, regional, and local civil society organizations were working together within time-bound frameworks to bring about a fundamental transformation in the region.

### **The Workshop Proceedings**

The morning started with 72 active participants in the training centre, ready to share their knowledge and skills with each other, an introduction. The introduction reflected the development potential in the region. The first day focused on bringing all the CSOs to a common understanding of the Bundelkhand region and development concerns. A general understanding of critical issues and concern in the region was presented by Development Alternatives. Later four issues specific sessions on Governance, Empowerment, livelihood and natural resource management were organized. The objective of the presentation was to sensitize the participants on the models/approaches of multiplication at the grassroots. All the resource persons were the representatives of CSOs working on the respective issues.

Every presentation was followed by discussion for participatory sharing and collective learning. A moderated exercise to respond to the above four key issues for development challenges in the region was organized. Four working groups were formed on the respective four key issues. The group was entitled to decide and finalize the thrust area. After discussion, the working groups made a presentation on their understanding of the respective stakeholders, needs in the context of the thrust area as a “Civil Society Perspective for Bundelkhand”.

## **Enabling Mechanisms**

The enabling mechanism had session by two external agencies. Two agencies namely Charkha for development communication and CMS for learning systems are working for PACS programme to develop a strategy. Charkha is developing a communication strategy while Catalyst Management Services (CMS) is developing Monitoring, Evaluation And Learning System (MEAL). The objective of the presentation was also to share the understanding and get the feedback from the primary stakeholders i.e. CSOs on the above two. Later the Management Consultant presented on the role and importance of networking & resource pooling for the sustainability of the programme. A documentary on the revolt by villagers in Bihar against army sensitized participants on the impact of collective effort at grassroots.

Second day was specifically designed to develop a framework and perspective plan for integrated development initiatives. The day started with a recap of first day highlighting key issues and areas of concern, followed by a presentation on the programme perspective by the Management Consultant. A group exercise was organized to identify opportunities (with reference to key issues/thrust areas) and a situation analysis (with respect to accelerators/barriers). Later, the group presented their group understanding and for active participation of the participants question and answer session was organized. For operationalisation of issues into project ideas, based on the two days discussion, some cross cutting issues were identified and presented to develop a framework to identify issues and areas that needs to be put in place to make things work.

The cross cutting areas of concern were:

- Livelihood as driver for NRM and Empowerment
- Strengthening Partnerships
- Fund Raising from Parallel Sources

## **Way Ahead**

The interested organisations are developing concept paper on the identified issue and areas of their interest and skills. At present eight concept papers, four from Uttar Pradesh districts in Bundelkhand and four from Madhya Pradesh respectively. Some of the organisations have initiated dialogue with the interested CSOs for developing joint proposal. The concept papers will be appraised as per the PACS norms and based on the emerging issues and areas of concern, the Management Consultant plan to organise issue specific workshop/meeting to facilitate the interested CSOs in developing appropriate proposal. Seven projects from the region are under the process of appraisal. The initiative will strengthen the grassroots CSOs by bringing all the stakeholders together for integrated regional development.

## Poorest Areas Civil Society (PACS) Programme

### Workshop for Development of Bundelkhand Region

27<sup>th</sup> –28<sup>th</sup> June'2003 at TARAGram, Orchha , Tikamgarh

#### List of the Participants

Sl.No.	Name of the Participants	Organisation
1.	Mr. Awadesh Singh	AISECT- Tikamgarh
2.	Gopal Bhai	Akhil Bhartiya Samaj Seva Sansthan
3.	Mr. Sanjeev Ranjan	ANaRDe Foundation
4.	Mr. Vinod Kaushik	ANaRDe Foundation
5.	Mr. S.K. Singh	B.G.V.S., Orai
6.	Mr. I.B. Verma	B.M.V.S., Gwalior
7.		Bahujan Sahakari Shiksha Samiti, Niwari
8.	Mr. Yashwant Singh	BAIF Dev. Res. Foundation
9.	Sehba Hussain	BETI Foundation
10.	Mr. Anupam	Business India Publications
11.	Ms. Kanika Datta	Business Standard Ltd.
12.	Mr. Ravindre Kumar	Catalyst Mgt. Services
13.	Reshu Nathan	Catalyst Mgt. Services
14.	Mr. Aman	Charkha
15.	Ms. Usha Ra	Charkha
16.	Mr. Shankar Ghosh	Charkha
17.	Ms. Sujata Raghavan	Charkha Dev. Communication Network
18.	Mr. Vinay Shrivasd	Chetna Samay Seva Sansthan , Nowgon ( Chhatarpur
19.	Mr. Ravindra Singh Chauhan	Chhatrasal Seva Samiti
20.	Ms. Zeenat Naizi	DA
21.	Ms. Charu Jain	DA
22.	Ms. Tulika Byce	DA
23.	Mr. Vivek Sharma	DA
24.	Mr. V.Sriraman	DA
25.	Mr. SN Pandey	DA
26.	Mr. Tarun Gupta	DA
27.	Ms. Reena Tete	DA
28.	Mr. Naveen Prakash	DA(TARAAhaat)
29.	Mr. Surya Pratap Singh Bundela	Darshana Mahila Samiti, Chhatarpur
30.	Ms. Manjusha Sullerey	Dastak Sewa Samiti
31.	Mr. Rajiv Goswami	Disha Damoh
32.	Mr. Kailash Soni	Disha Damoh
33.	Mr. Ajay Namdeo	Gaon Chetna Manch
34.	Mr. Ambrish Kumar	Gram Unmash Sansthan
35.	Mr. Bhagvan Singh Parmar	Gramin Kala evam Takniki Sewa Sansthan, Nogoan
36.	Mr. Antony Samy	H.B.M. Hospital

37.	Ms. Shudhra Pachouri	Human Rights Law Network
38.	Mr. Sanjeev Arora	INDCARE
39.	Mr. Ashok	Infochange
40.	Mr. V.S. Bhardwaj	Institute of Social Work, Training & Management Gwalior
41.	Mr. Tapeswar Singh	Institute of Social Work, Training & Management Gwalior
42.	Mr. B.B. Singh	J.C.M.B.S.
43.	Mr. Mahendra Dwivedi	Jay Vivek Yuva Mandal
44.	Shri Prakash	Krutika
45.	Ms. Saraswati	Mahila Jagruti Manch
46.	Afsar Jahan	Mahila Jagruti Manch, Chhatarpur
47.	Ms. Gayatri Devi	Mahila Samiti, Chhatarpur
48.	Mr.Dheerendra Singh	Mahila Samiti, Chhatarpur
49.	Mr. Dhirendra Sigh Rajput	Mahila Samiti, Chhatarpur
50.	Mr. Yaxinder Sharma	Mahila Shilp Kala Kendra , AGRA
51.	Mr. Ranveer Singh	Mansik Viklang Jewan Vikas Sansthan, Orai
52.	Mr. Dhruv Singh Yadev	MARGSHREE
53.	Mr. Awdesh	Panchayat Adhayan Kendra
54.	Dr. Rajesh Tripathi	PANNA
55.	Mr. Anil Kumar Singh	Parmarth Samaj Sevi Sansthan
56.	Mr. Nandlal Kol	Patha Coal Vikas Samiti Manikpur
57.	Mr. Subodh Tamrakar	Rural Environment Society
58.	Fr. Paul	Sagar
59.	Mr. Deepak Soni	Sagar Diober Service Society
60.	Mr. Mahesh Chaturvedi	Salja Seva Sansthan
61.	Mr. Radhe Krishana	Samarpan Jan Kalyan Samiti
62.	Mr. Rakesh Nath Tiwari	SAMARTHAN, Bhopal
63.	Mr. Manoj Chaubey	SARTHAK
64.	Mr. Abhimanyu	Sarvoday Sewa Ashram, Chitrakoot
65.	Mr. Adiya Mishra	SIDBI, Bhopal
66.	Mr. V.B. Rawat	Social Development Foundation, Delhi
67.	Dr.L.M. Saxena	Society for Environment and Development
68.	Mr. Ujjaz Ganguli	SRIJAN
69.	Mr. Jitendra Verma	SRISHTI
70.	Mr. Neeta Goel	SWAJALDPMU, Jhansi
71.	Mr. Arvind Dixit	Vikalp Sansthan, Tikamgarh
72.	Mr. Narhari Prasad Sharma	Zila Sewa Sangh, Shivpuri