

Building Sustainability in Rain-fed Agriculture Production System

Challenges and Opportunities to bring Bundelkhand in Agriculture Growth Path

28th September, 2018

Hotel Palash Residency, Bhopal
Madhya Pradesh





Building Sustainability in Rainfed Agriculture Production System: Challenges and Opportunities to bring Bundelkhand in Agriculture Growth Path

Background Note

28th September 2018, Bhopal, Madhya Pradesh

Context

Rainfed agriculture accounts for about 60% of the net sown area in India. Though the largest acreage of food crops in India is under rainfed situations, farming is mostly regarded as a subsistence activity in these regions. Some regions under rainfed farming have witnessed higher dissemination of technologies, still the dry areas particularly the arid and semi arid regions are stressed due to variability in rainfall and longer dry spells. Bundelkhand region has become synonymous with droughts and poverty inspite of large government efforts made in the past. Therefore, there is a need to devise specialized solutions for these water chronic areas and devise systemic changes that would address the problems of Bundelkhand farmers.

About Revitalising Rain-fed Agriculture Network – Bundelkhand Chapter

The network is a group of organisations concerned with the development of agriculture sector in Bundelkhand region. It has participants from the civil society organisations such as Development Alternatives, People science Institute, Ekta Parishad, Bundelkhand sewa sansthan & technical agencies like INTACH and RRAN network (WASSAN). The network also includes other NGOs' working in the sector such as Navrachna, Haritika, CIWSA, Parihit and Gandhi Sewa Ashram. The network is developed keeping in view the Core vision of the RRAN i.e. to make rainfed agriculture more productive and sustainable & advocate favorable policy for the rainfed regions.

Key Expectations of the Network

The network aims to facilitate in developing a new vision of agriculture development in Bundelkhand through established proof of concepts and Influence policy for climate resilient agriculture.

RRA Network has proposed alternative paradigm for rainfed agriculture from present policy of extending green revolution technologies to rain-fed areas. The logic of 'productivity' driven agriculture investments does not work and is in fact the major problem in rain-fed agriculture systems. The alternative to this model and the one that works in rain-fed areas, according to RRA's experience is the model that focuses on security of farmers' incomes and is consistent with the Natural Resource availability and management in the region. The present consultation aimed to arrive on appropriate strategies for Rainfed Agriculture in Bundelkhand region by developing consensus among various stakeholders like, farmers, farmers institutions, civil society practitioners and policy makers.



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Venue: Hotel Palash Residency, Bhopal, Madhya Pradesh

TIME	ACTIVITY
09:30 – 10:30	Tea and Registration
10:30 – 10:45	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Expectation Setting • Brief Introduction of the participants in the round table
10:45 – 11.45	<p>Session I: Presentation: Status of Agriculture</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rain-fed regions in India (Country Perspective) • Bundelkhand Region <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Status and Trends – Water management – Soil and land systems – Livestock – Seeds and other inputs <p><i>Followed by discussion</i></p>
11:45 – 13:30	<p>Session II: Round-table: Sustainable agriculture systems</p> <p>Farmers' Perspective and Civil society Perspective</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Based on your experience, what are the challenges for small holder farmers in the region? • What are the possible models, solutions, cases that provide perspective to designing sustainable agriculture systems in Bundelkhand (MP)? Insights on relevant models on Zero Budget Natural Farming, organic farming, comprehensive agriculture systems, etc • What should be Strategy for Agriculture Development in Bundelkhand?
13:30 – 14:30	Lunch
14:30 –15:30	<p>Session III: Presentation of Bundelkhand Agriculture Strategy</p> <p><i>Followed by discussion</i></p>