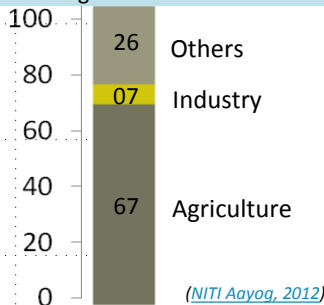


# SMALL FARMER CENTRIC SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE PROGRAMME

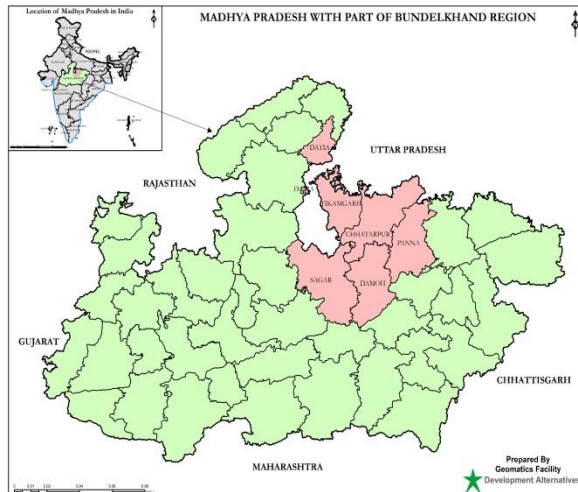
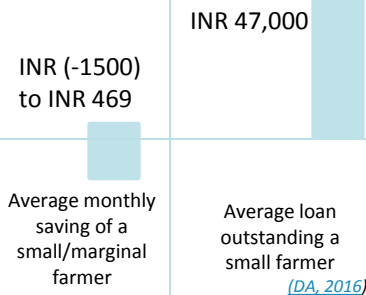
## Bundelkhand Region, Madhya Pradesh (MP), India

State of Agriculture reflects the difficult conditions faced by small farmers in the region.

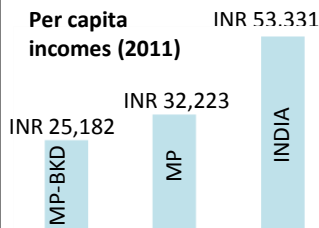
67% population is in agriculture; ~77% of those are small and marginal land holders



Returns from farming makes it an unattractive sector of employment.



Compared to India, per capita incomes in MP-BKD are much lower, between 50-55% of national average.



The seasonal migration rate in Bundelkhand is 39.4%.

(NITI Aayog, 2012)

Primary causes:

- High risks in agriculture
- lack of alternate economic opportunities and
- non-assured drinking and basic needs fulfillment

### Bundelkhand Region of Madhya Pradesh

Area	308,352 km sq	Almost size of Poland
Population	8.6 million	Similar to Switzerland
HDI (2017)	0.594	Same as Ghana

Poorest performing regions in India, in terms of Infant and Child Mortality Rate (NITI Aayog, 2012)

Region	Infant Mortality Rate	Child Mortality Rate
INDIA	42	56
MP-BKD	62	83

The Agro-climatic conditions of the region makes farming a challenging profession. (NIDM, 2014)

1800s: 1 Drought in 16 years  
1900s: 1 Drought in 05 years  
2000s: 1 Drought in 03 years

Mere 38% Irrigated area as a % of Gross Sown Area. Monsoon rains, over 3 month, averaging 75 cms -100 cms, are usually erratic.

Current Paradigm is inadequate to find solution to Agriculture situation of Bundelkhand.

The Government of India has set itself a target of doubling farmer incomes by 2022.

### KEY GOVERNMENT INITIATIVES

Increased irrigation potential Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchayi Yojana	Productivity Enhancement Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana	Crop Insurance Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bina Yojana
Aims to, amongst others, expand cultivable area under assured irrigation and enhance the adoption of precision-irrigation and other water saving technologies. 7.6 million additional hectares in 2018.	Aims to enhance investment in agriculture and to maximize farmer returns. A similar initiative - National Mission on Sustainable Agriculture aims to achieve 4 per cent annual growth in farm production.	Bringing 50 percent (98 million hectares) of the gross cropped area under this scheme in 2018-19 and giving insurance companies a target of enrolling 10% more non-loanee farmers than the previous season.

#### Gaps:

- Lack of dedicated focus on comprehensive agriculture system including – public investments in soil health; seed diversity, livestock development and developing critical irrigation systems.

## DEVELOPMENT ALTERNATIVES

### CATALYSING CHANGE TOWARDS COMPREHENSIVE AGRICULTURE SYSTEMS

A consortium of stakeholders, including Development Alternatives, INTACH and People Science Institute, with Revitalising Rain-fed Agriculture Network committed a three

#### Reduce high risks

*To ensure there is minimal crop damage and all farmers have a basic source of income ensured from agriculture.*

#### Ease of Doing Farming

*To make farming an attractive sector of employment – looking at ways to make it less labour intensive, market-easy*

#### Enhancing Income

*To explore ways of enhancing incomes from agriculture through economies of scale, value addition*

### OUR THEORY OF CHANGE

**Comprehensive agriculture systems** are those in alignment to the natural resource endowment of the region. It aims to design production systems such that:

- It is suitable to the water availability in the region
- It is adaptive and adds to the nutrition of the soil
- It benefits from existing bio-mass and livestock for a locally smart agriculture

#### Reduce high risks



Critical irrigation for ALL



Community based seed systems



Millets and crop diversification

#### Ease of Doing Farming



Agronomic innovations



Extension livestock



Soil Health

#### Enhancing Income



Community institutions



Access to market and credit

### OUR ACTION AND STRATEGY

## POLICY

## RESEARCH

## PRACTICE

**DA, INTACH and PSI, with Revitalising Rain-fed Agriculture (RRA) network** as knowledge partners have formed a core group for agriculture transformation in Bundelkhand – Madhya Pradesh Region. Other partners include **Ekta Parishad, Bundelkhand Sewa Sansthan, Navrachna, Haritika, CIWSA, Parihit and Gandhi Sewa Ashram**. The consortium facilitates dialogue and conversations amongst civil society organisations, farming leaders and the government to deliberate and develop strategies for agriculture development in the region.

In next two years, the consortium, through policy, research and practice, collectively aims to:

- Increase the public investments towards comprehensive agriculture systems in Bundelkhand region
- To demonstrate, through better utilization of public funds, an agriculture model with reduced risks and benefits to small holders.

