

Internal Document – Not for Circulation

Country India

Programme Document 2025-2028



Country and Duration		India; January 2025 to December 2028 (4 Years)		
Programme title		India Country Programme		
Outcome	Nr of persons reached	Strategic areas / Key approaches	Strategic Partners	% of funds
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> O1 Agroecological transformation of food systems	Participants: 14,000 w / 11,500 m Sensitized pers.: 300,000 w/ 300,000 m Beneficiaries: 14,000 w/ 11,500 m	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PUSH (Production, Demo plots, Farmer seed systems, Farmer Field Schools, etc.) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PULL (Market access, value addition, etc) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> POLICY <input type="checkbox"/> WASH <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Emergency	tbd	46%
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> O2: natural resource governance	Participants: 6,330w / 1,830 m Sensitized pers.: 2,410 w / 2,110 m Beneficiaries: 6,500 w / 5,820 m	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Access and control over natural resources (NR -Governance) (Eco-system focussed) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Land use planning for access and control over natural resources including land, forest, community and natural forest, protection of wildlife conservation areas through agroecology to reduce encroachment, - Sustainable management of marine ecosystem: through seaweed farming, mangrove rehabilitation, beekeeping, aquaculture. <input type="checkbox"/> Extractive industries (LSM) Human rights, Compensation/ Transparency <input type="checkbox"/> Extractive Industries (ASM) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Climate Change Adaptation/Disaster Risk Reduction	tbd	14%
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> O3: gender equality	Participants: 6,576 w/ 7,876 m Sensitized pers.: 22,550 w / 32,650 m Beneficiaries: 23,200 w/ 23,200 m	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Gender-based violence <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Women's social mobilization and leadership <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Women's economic empowerment <input type="checkbox"/> Masculinity <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Empowerment of youth	ILS Law College	16%

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> O4: Locally led development	Participants: 555 w / 500 m Sensitized pers.: 5,000 w / 3,000 m Beneficiaries: 2,800 w / 1,700 m	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Core Support to partners for outcome 1,2,3 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Civil Society Strengthening in general <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Learning and advocacy	tbd	6%
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Management (Coof)		<i>Management funds (after cost allocation) should not exceed 10% of the programme budget.</i>		18%
		Total		100 %

Financial data		
	Local Currency: INR	Exchange rate: 94
Expenses¹	FCFA	CHF
Total Estimated overall budget 25-28	711218160	7572640
Expenses in Core programme	275138000	2927000
Expenses in Build-up programme	436690160	4645640
Total expenses	71128160	7572640
Incomes	FCFA	CHF
European Union	34'600'000	368'085
SDC Targeted Contributions	94'000'000	1'000'000
Fund Raising South	432145344	4597291
CROPS International Funding	79'900'000	850'000
Total income	640645344	6815376
Required additional funding SDC/free donations	71182816	757264

Brief Programme Description

The Country programme will focus on two thematic areas. First, will be on the **building inclusive food systems through sustainable management of natural resources and deepening agroecological transition**. The second thematic area will be on **Gender equality with a specific focus on empowerment of vulnerable women and girls**. The work on Gender Based Violence (GBV) will be undertaken as a part of furthering the agenda of **locally led development**. Both these themes are of great importance to India. India suffers from high burden of food insecurity and malnutrition. The State of Food Security and Nutrition report by FAO² shows that India has a high prevalence of malnourishment evident in low birth weight, stunting and wasting in children, proportion of women who suffer from anaemia and more than half the population which is unable to afford a healthy diet. Furthermore, food systems contribute to one third of the Green House Gas (GHG) emissions.

Climate Crises are growing in intensity, frequency and impact. Natural resources, which form the basis of our food system, are getting depleted. 40% of India's forest and 30% of the soils are considered degraded³ and groundwater levels are falling rapidly. Therefore, there is an urgent need to transform the food systems.

Gender inequalities and disparities are glaring. India ranks 129 out of 146 countries on the Global Gender Gap report. In terms of economic opportunities women register 30% gender parity in estimated income. As per National Family Health Survey (NFHS) 5 data 1 in 3 women face physical violence in India prevalence of Child Marriage is also high at 22%. Women own few resources and assets. They work hard on the farms but access to government support is negligible. The burden of care work and domestic work is high with limited leisure time for women. Though women do majority of the work the main household decisions are

¹ Here only estimated figures are expected. Detailed guidance of the repartition of Core and Build-up programmes will be decided annually in the budget process.

² FAO 2024. The State of Food Security and Nutrition in the World. Financing to End Hunger, food insecurity and malnutrition in all its forms

³ Menon R 2023. Soil degradation in India spells doom for millions. WEF 2024. The Global Gender Gap Report. National Family Health Survey 2022. NFHS 2019-2021. Ministry of Health and Family Welfare. Government of India

taken by men. Among women the situation of widows and Domestic Violence (DV) survivors is the most distressing. They face social stigma and discrimination and have limited economic and livelihood resources to take care of themselves and their family. As in previous years, in this Country Programme as well, we will address gender equality as a crosscutting as well as a separate thematic area.

Total number of people directly involved (persons we work with) in the programme (m/w)⁴: 66,572

Total number of people benefitting from the programme (indirect beneficiaries) (m/w)⁵: 709,700

⁴ *No double counting allowed here.*

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1. Thematic foci

A. Thematic Focus A: Agroecology and Natural Resource Governance for Climate Resilience and Inclusive Food System

A.1. Problem statement

India's tribal and rural areas are home to small and marginalized farmers, forest dwellers, fisherpersons, and other vulnerable communities who are on the front lines of climate change impacts. These communities face significant socio-economic and environmental challenges that threaten their livelihoods and food security. Despite some policy progress, they remain largely uninformed and excluded from decision-making processes (ORF 2023⁵; UN in India, 2021⁶).

Socio-Economic Challenges

Small and marginal farmers constitute about 86% of India's agricultural households, operating on less than one hectare of land, and they often earn less than their consumption expenditure (Agricultural Census, 2015-16⁷). They farm small parcels of unirrigated land and, suffer from risks related to climate, production (increase in pest and diseases, use of substandard inputs etc.), and market risks like fluctuation in prices for input (seed, fertilizer, fuel etc.) and outputs (grain, vegetables) as well as changes in market demand and restriction for certain crops (India Development Review, 2023⁸).

The problem of small farmers' livelihoods is further aggravated by the push of Green Revolution technology, which has several negative impacts, such as soil and water depletion, pesticide pollution, increased cost of inputs, increased market dependency, loss of biodiversity, and health problems emerging from the use of chemicals. The focus on high-yielding varieties of wheat and rice led to the neglect of traditional crops, reducing dietary diversity and contributing to nutritional imbalances (Accion, 2023⁹).

The most recent data from the National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB) shows that in 2022, a total of 11,290 farmer suicides were reported, marking a 3.7% increase from the previous year. More than half of these farmers - precisely 7034 farmers' committed suicide due to indebtedness (Alpana Lal, 2022¹⁰). Nearly 52% of farmer households in India are indebted with an average debt of Rs 74,100 (CHF 761).

Among the small and marginal farmers those belonging to the Dalit and Adivasi communities are the most underprivileged as many are landless and work as agricultural labourers or wage labour in informal sector where they find it difficult to make a living.

Environmental Degradation and Climate Change

According to the IPCC's AR6 report, global temperatures will likely surpass the 1.5-degree threshold by 2024 under the most optimistic scenario. The global sea levels will increase by 0.57 meters by

⁵ [Climate change and food security in India \(orfonline.org\)](#)

⁶ The United Nations in India. (2021). *Nutrition and Food Security*. [Nutrition and Food Security | United Nations in India](#)

⁷ Agricultural Census. (2015-16). *All India Report on Number and Area of Operational Holdings*. <http://agcensus.nic.in/document/agcensus2015/AllIndiaTable7.pdf>

⁸ India Development Review. (2023). *Making agriculture viable for small and marginal farmers*.

<https://idronline.org/article/agriculture/making-agriculture-viable-for-small-and-marginal-farmers/>

⁹ Accion. (2023). *Growing resilient futures for India's small-scale farmers*. <https://www.accion.org/growing-resilient-futures-for-indias-small-scale-farmers>

¹⁰ [Agrarian Distress and Indebtedness Among Rural Agricultural Households in Uttar Pradesh | RESEARCH REVIEW International Journal of Multidisciplinary \(rrjournals.com\)](#)

2100. The agricultural draughts in South Asia could become 150-200% likely if global warming reaches 2 degrees Celsius. Additionally, extreme events such as heatwaves, floods, and cyclones are expected to become more intense, posing significant risks to food security and water availability across the globe. In India, climate models indicate a rise in the intensity and frequency of extreme heatwaves, Rainfall patterns are becoming increasingly erratic, with a predicted increase in heavy monsoon precipitation, while moderate rainfall events decline¹¹.

Climate change impacts, including rising temperatures, erratic rainfall, and increased frequency of extreme weather events, pose significant threats to Indian agriculture (The United Nations in India, 2021). These changes exacerbate soil degradation and water scarcity, with about 30% of India's administrative blocks reporting unsustainable groundwater levels (Accion, 2023¹²). The agricultural sector contributes 22.7% of national greenhouse gas emissions, primarily due to unsustainable agricultural practices (CEEW, 2023¹³).

Agroecological Adoption and Opportunities

Adoption of sustainable agricultural practices remains low, with less than 5% of India's net sown area utilizing methods such as agroforestry and natural farming (CEEW, 2023¹⁴). Although the Indian organic food market is valued at approximately \$2-3 billion USD and is growing at a compound annual growth rate (CAGR) of around 20-25%, the benefits are not reaching rural farmers. This growth is driven by increasing consumer awareness and demand for healthier, sustainable food options. However, farmers in rural areas have limited access to organic markets in peri-urban and mega-urban areas, and there is no premium price for organic produce in local markets (IMARC, 2023¹⁵).

Malnutrition and Healthy Diets

The IPCC's Six Assessment Report (AR6) projects that 8 to 80 million people could be at risk of hunger by mid-century, depending upon global warming scenarios. The report emphasises that South Asia (among other vulnerable regions viz Sub-Saharan Africa, and Central America) is particularly at risk with malnutrition expected to rise due to climate-related disruptions. India is already experiencing disruptions in food production due to more frequent droughts and heat extremes, with small-scale farmers facing significant risks.

India is home to a significant population that is malnourished or undernourished, which affects their physical and mental growth. The 2024 global hunger index¹⁶ states that India ranks 105th out of 127 countries with GHI score of 27.3 which places it in the "serious" category. According to the Global Food Security Index 2022, India has a prevalence of undernutrition of 16.3%. Further, 30.9% of children in India are stunted, 33.4% are underweight, and 3.8% are obese (Global Food Security Index, 2022¹⁷). 55%¹⁸ of Indians could not afford a healthy diet, ranking India fourth among the

¹¹ [Climate Change 2022: Impacts, Adaptation and Vulnerability | Climate Change 2022: Impacts, Adaptation and Vulnerability](#)

¹² Accion. (2023). *Growing resilient futures for India's small-scale farmers*. <https://www.accion.org/growing-resilient-futures-for-indias-small-scale-farmers>

¹³ CEEW. (2023). *Sustainable Agriculture & Eco-Friendly Farming Practices in India*. <https://www.ceew.in/publications/sustainable-agriculture-and-eco-friendly-farming-practices-india>

¹⁴ CEEW. (2023). *Sustainable Agriculture & Eco-Friendly Farming Practices in India*. <https://www.ceew.in/publications/sustainable-agriculture-and-eco-friendly-farming-practices-india>

¹⁵ [India Organic Food Market Size, Share, Growth 2024-2032 \(imarcgroup.com\)](#)

¹⁶ [Global Hunger Index \(GHI\) - peer-reviewed annual publication designed to comprehensively measure and track hunger at the global, regional, and country levels](#)

¹⁷ Global Food Security Index. (2022). *India Food Security Index*. <https://impact.economist.com/sustainability/project/food-security-index>

¹⁸ FAO, IFAD, UNICEF, WFP and WHO. 2024. The State of Food Security and Nutrition in the World 2024 – Financing to end hunger, food insecurity and malnutrition in all its forms. Rome [The State of Food Security and Nutrition in the World \(SOFI\) Report - 2024 | World Food Programme \(wfp.org\)](#)

nations considered (FAO, 2024¹⁹). While the cost of a healthy diet in India remains relatively low at approximately 3.066 Purchasing Power Parity (PPP) per person per day, it remains unattainable for a substantial portion of the population due to low-income levels, reduction on farm diversity and lack of understanding of what constitutes a balanced and nutritious diet.

Biodiversity and Forest Management

India's forests are threatened by monoculture practices, unsustainable harvesting and deforestation which undermine the ecological and economic benefits of diverse forest species (CEEW, 2023²⁰). This leads to the disruption of ecosystem functions and services, such as pollination, nutrient cycling, and climate regulation. Despite legislation like the Panchayats Extension to Scheduled Areas Act (PESA) and Community Forest Rights (CFR), the recognition and support for forest rights are limited (only 2% of CFR rights are recognised), impeding efforts to enhance livelihoods through non-timber forest products (NTFPs) (Accion, 2023²¹).

Gender Disparities

Women constitute 79% of the rural workforce in agriculture, yet only 13% own land (The United Nations in India, 2021). Their significant contributions to farming are often unrecognized, and they lack access to resources and decision-making power (CEEW, 2023). The feminization of poverty and agriculture further marginalizes women, who are critical to food security and nutrition (Impri India, 2023²²).

¹⁹ FAO. (2021). *State of Food Security and Nutrition in the World 2021*. <https://www.fao.org/3/cb4474en/online/cb4474en.html>

²⁰ CEEW. (2023). *Sustainable Agriculture & Eco-Friendly Farming Practices in India*. <https://www.ceew.in/publications/sustainable-agriculture-and-eco-friendly-farming-practices-india>

²¹ Accion. (2023). *Growing resilient futures for India's small-scale farmers*. <https://www.accion.org/growing-resilient-futures-for-indias-small-scale-farmers>

²² Impri India. (2023). *The Plight Of Small Farmers In India: Income Disparity And The Need For Reform*. [The Plight Of Small Farmers In India: Income Disparity And The Need For Reform - IMPRI Impact And Policy Research Institute \(impriindia.com\)](https://www.impriindia.com)

A.2. Solution statement

A.2.1. Theory of change

At the heart of our mission is a bold vision to **accelerate the transition to agroecology and participatory natural resource management**. This journey aims to improve food security, nutrition, climate resilience, and transform local food systems. By working closely with communities, local institutions, and partners, we are committed to driving meaningful change that benefits both people and the environment.

Our journey begins with a deep respect for traditional knowledge and practices that have sustained communities for generations. We actively integrate these practices into modern agricultural systems while facilitating safety net programmes (such as employment, crop insurance, disaster compensations, direct income support) that support vulnerable populations. By generating data and insights through climate adaptation planning and advocating for government support of peasant cultivars, we inform policies that can be scaled to achieve broader impact. This evidence-based approach helps shape policies that align with the needs of smallholder farmers.

A key component of our work is **promoting climate-resilient agroecology (AE) practices**. We provide farmers with access to AE inputs, through strengthening Farmer-Managed-Seed-Systems (FMSS) which are essential for sustainable farming. By encouraging diverse cropping systems, integration of livestock and trees, and soil and water conservation techniques, we help build resilience against climate shocks. We recognise that transitioning to AE is a process and will take time. While farmers are experimenting with and slowly adopting AE practices, we will also create awareness about the ill effects of hazardous pesticides such that their use is reduced in the local communities as are adverse health effects.

We work not only at the farm level but also at a **landscape level** by focusing on management and protection of forests which fall in the uplands and are critical for ecosystem services. Our efforts also focus on **creating demand for agroecological produce** among consumers, strengthening value chains to ensure farmers can access markets that reward sustainable practices. We are confident that strengthening the markets will help in convincing more and more farmers to adopt AE such that we are able to work in an area saturation mode.

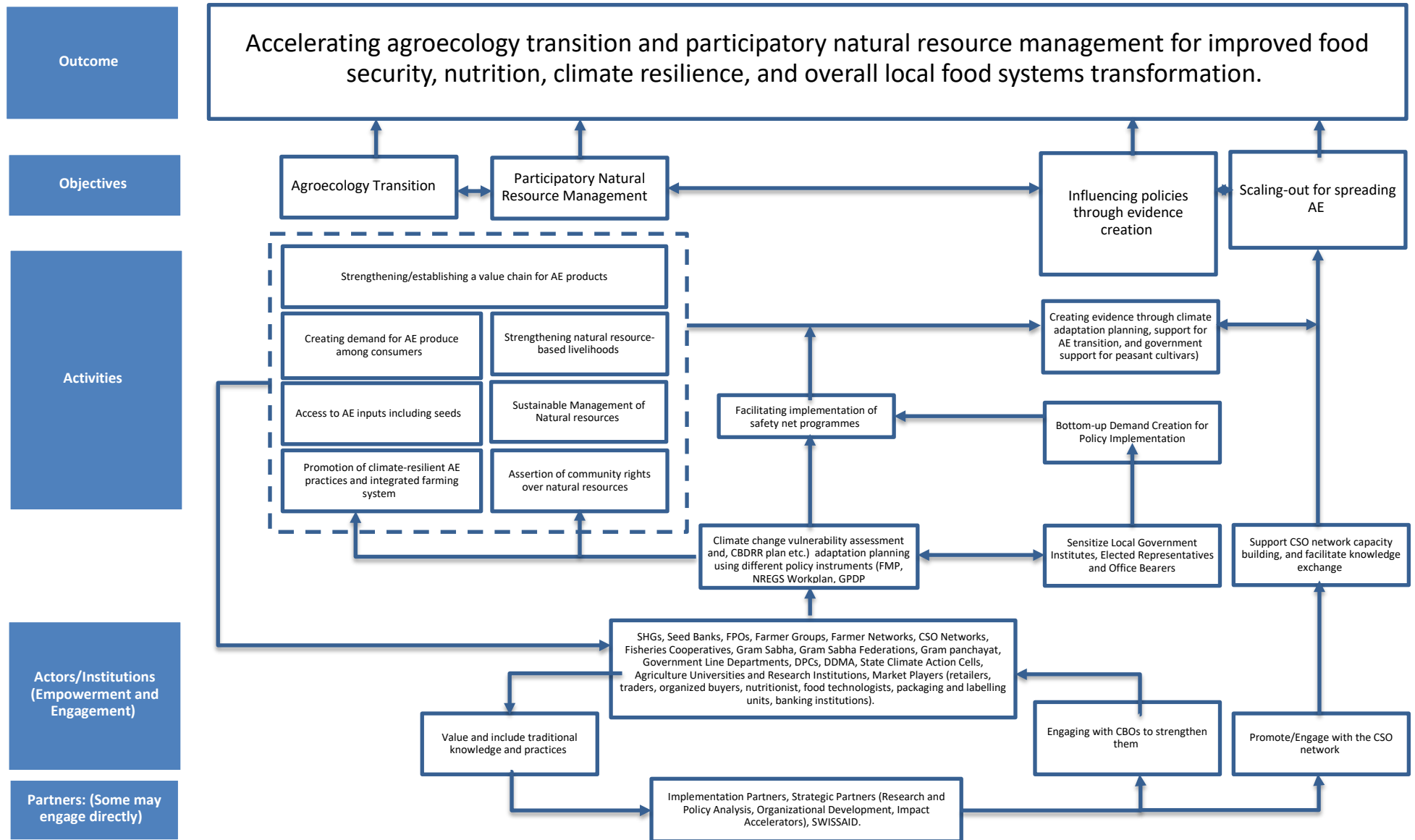
Empowerment is central to our approach. We support communities in **asserting their rights over natural resources**, ensuring they have a voice and decide how these resources are managed. Through vulnerability assessments and adaptation planning, we work with communities to develop strategies that protect and sustain their environment, while strengthening livelihoods based on natural resources.

Our vision extends beyond individual communities. We **engage with civil society organizations** (CSO) networks to spread agroecological practices, support capacity building, and facilitate knowledge exchange. By **influencing policies and building bottom-up pressure**, we advocate for the wider adoption of sustainable farming practices.

Collaboration with various actors and institutions is crucial to our success and our role is creating platforms and facilitating this **multi-stakeholder engagement**. From self-help groups and seed banks to government agencies and market players, each plays a vital role. Together, we are building a future where communities manage their resources sustainably, food systems are resilient, and the environment is protected for generations to come.

The process flow chart that depicts our story of change is on the following page.

Figure 1: ToC AE



A.2.2. On what we build?

In the strategic period from 2019 to 2024, SWISSAID India (SWI) focused on empowering marginalized, small-scale farmers and advancing gender equality, recognizing these as crucial elements for sustainable development in central India. By integrating gender equality into all livelihood projects and addressing gender-based violence, SWI aimed to empower women and improve their equal participation in agricultural and community activities. Our efforts in small-scale farming centred around promoting agroecology to help farmers withstand climatic and social shocks. We facilitated the development of less climate-sensitive livelihoods and supported community institutions in securing legal rights over natural resources, enabling income generation through the collective marketing of non-timber forest products (NTFPs). Our initiatives, including the Sustainable Tribal Livelihoods (STL), Rights over Natural Resources (RNR), CRISP, introduced innovative approaches which moved into the realm of food system transformation and highlighted neglected and underutilized species (NUS) with CROPS4HD, further supporting sustainable agricultural practices.

The insights gained from the India Country Programme (2019-2024), especially through the RNR and STL projects, have been invaluable. These initiatives emphasized institutionalizing climate change adaptation planning and strengthening community institutions and leadership. We learned the importance of empowering communities to seek legislative rights and govern local natural resources, facilitating the creation of Meso-level business enterprises like Gramsabha federations. As a result, a federation of 55 Gramsabhas came into existence and grew to have an annual turnover of over 400,000 CHF annually. Almost all of this is paid to community members in the form of wages. The initiative is also supported by the state government by funding 150,000 CHF for NTFP enterprise building through the state Human Development Commission. A key takeaway was developing a bottom-up demand for effective policy implementation through demonstrative work and evidence creation. Our efforts showed that building strong community institutions is critical for fostering resilience and ensuring sustainable management of local resources.

The STL project revealed that practices such as mixed cropping, inter-cropping, and line sowing significantly increase overall land production. 2943 households adopted 4 or more agroecological practices. Kitchen gardening interventions enhanced the duration and diversity of available vegetables, improving nutrition and food security. Total of 2394 kitchen gardens were established. Diversification of livelihoods through fisheries, livestock, and NTFP marketing proved effective, offering additional income sources for communities. We also supported communities in setting up seed banks, a critical step in promoting seed sovereignty and resilience. The CROPS4HD project further streamlined seed bank functionality, ensuring they were operational in supplying seeds to farmers and marketing surplus seeds. Total of 18 seed banks have been set up and have provided seeds to 6007 farmers.

In the CROPS4HD project, ongoing participatory trials and varietal selection of NUS demonstrated the potential of these crops to enhance resilience. 240 varieties of 11 crops are being screened for climate resilience, pest and disease tolerance, yield and taste. 6000 farmers are diversifying their crop production. Promoting NUS cultivation and marketing agroecological products through dedicated markets and linking farmer-producer organizations (FPOs) with organic retailers and large buyers created new economic opportunities. Consumer awareness and nutrition education programmes, such as food festivals, seed festivals, cooking competitions, and producer-consumer meetings, have been instrumental in building trust and understanding between farmers and consumers. These efforts have included exposure visits to farmer fields, which help bridge the gap

between rural producers and urban consumers. 18 separate marketplaces were set up for agroecological produce and 47,000 producers directly linked to consumers. By building on these experiences and insights, SWI has established a strong foundation for future initiatives. Our commitment to valuing traditional knowledge, creating evidence for policy influence, and promoting agroecological practices has been solidified through these projects. This foundation enables us to continue supporting sustainable livelihoods, climate resilience, and food security for small-scale farmers, fisherpersons, forest dwellers, and vulnerable communities in central India.

During the last strategy period we also witnessed the emergence of networks such as the National Network on Natural Farming (NCNF), Consortiums such as Consortium for Agroecology Transition (CAT) facilitated by Bharat Agroecology Fund (BAF) and Climate RISE by Dasra. Additionally, the governments support towards natural farming has become increasingly visible in Govt Schemes like National Mission for Natural Farming (NCNF). States like Andhra Pradesh and Sikkim have been promoting natural farming across their respective state territories. Similarly, Odisha and other states have been focusing on the promotion of millets. In such a scenario, if CSO can scale up AE transition and showcase the benefits, then the state/national govt/ and or consumers can drive the change.

A.2.3. Principles, Approaches, instruments and roles of SWISSAID

The India country programme is built on the following principles:

(A) Risk-Informed Actions

SWI prioritizes risk-informed actions by integrating climate change and disaster risk sensitivity into project design. We understand the importance of preparing for future climate and natural hazard scenarios, focusing on a mid-term horizon of one generation. In our projects, we carefully consider potential hazards, risks, and traditional as well as widely recognised adaptation measures and set clear boundaries on what can and cannot happen, ensuring that no project increases risks for the communities we work with. All of our livelihood projects include actions to adapt to climate change, helping communities build resilience and sustainability in the face of uncertain environmental conditions.

(B) Leave No One Behind (LNOB)

Our programme is deeply committed to the principle of leaving no one behind, ensuring that all marginalized groups are included and represented in our work. We recognize the diversity and intersectionality of multiple discriminations, whether based on landlessness, race, ethnicity, religion, gender identity, sexual orientation, age, or disability. In each context, we identify which groups need special attention and tailor our efforts to address their unique needs. We promote diversity and inclusion in all projects, and our initiatives gather LNOB-disaggregated data to ensure we are effectively reaching and supporting those most in need. We especially encourage the participation of women and youth.

SWI seeks to work with the following approaches during the new strategy period.

A) Agroecological Approaches

SWI is committed to advancing the agroecological (AE) transition by rethinking agricultural ecosystems holistically. The approach goes beyond merely reducing or substituting inputs, focusing instead on redesigning the entire agroecosystem, fostering connections between

producers and consumers, and influencing relevant policies. Also, a key element is managing natural resources sustainably at the landscape level and promoting agroecology throughout the area. This includes protecting and managing forests, which are essential for the holistic development of the ecosystem. These practices enhance biodiversity, improve soil health, and boost ecosystem services such as water and fodder availability, leading to higher productivity, better food security, improved nutrition, and diversified incomes for small-scale farmers.

To broaden the impact of agroecological practices, the India Programme focuses on scaling them out through collaborations with networks and large organizations, such as NGOs operating across multiple villages and districts, especially those newer to agroecology. By working with civil society organizations (CSOs), farmer-producer organizations (FPOs), and other stakeholders, the programme promotes knowledge-sharing and capacity-building. This helps replicate successful demonstrative models in new regions, reaching more communities and spreading sustainable practices.

Recognizing the vital role of women in agriculture and community development, the India Programme seeks to mainstream gender concerns into all livelihood projects by designing them in a way that empowers women, promotes gender equality, and enhances their leadership in decision-making. By integrating gender concerns into all livelihood projects, the India Programme ensures women have equal access to resources, leading to more resilient and inclusive communities. The programme is also identifying opportunities to involve youth more effectively in its initiatives.

B) Human Rights Based Approaches

SWI and the India Programme prioritize participatory natural resource management as a key strategy. By empowering communities to assert their rights over natural resources, SWI facilitates sustainable practices informed by local knowledge. The programme supports the creation of community institutions like Gramsabhas and their federations, enabling them to manage resources effectively. This approach helps communities develop Meso-level business enterprises, fostering economic growth while maintaining ecological balance.

The India Programme promotes the formation of Self-Help Groups (SHGs), community seed banks, and the strengthening of Gram Sabhas and their federations. It also organizes farmer-producer organizations (FPOs). These community institutions are essential for spreading agroecological (AE) practices, establishing systems for bio-input production and labour sharing, and ensuring the quality of produce through Participatory Guarantee Systems (PGS). They also facilitate access to critical services like livestock vaccination and provide a steady supply of AE produce to market players. Additionally, these institutions play a crucial role in securing rights over natural resources, such as forests and fishponds, and in creating rules for their sustainable management to enhance livelihoods.

SWI strategically leverages government funds to support community-led initiatives, empowering small and marginal farmers. SWI facilitates the implementation of crucial programs like the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGS), Pradhan Mantri Kisan Samman Nidhi (PM-KISAN), and the PM Fasal Bima Yojana. Additionally, SWI aligns its efforts with national missions launched under the National Action Plan on Climate Change (NAPCC) and the National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) to ensure farmers access vital safety nets. SWI also guides farmers in securing pensions, disability support, and other benefits, ensuring that vulnerable groups like the elderly and differently abled farmers receive the necessary assistance. By coordinating these

efforts with local governance mechanisms such as Gram Panchayat Development Plans (GPDP), SWI enhances resource mobilization and promotes participatory governance.

SWI collaborates with civil society organizations (CSOs) and networks to influence policies and local decision-making related to climate change adaptation and agroecology. By working with research institutions and experts, SWI contributes to evidence generation through demonstrative work. This helps drive policy changes that benefit small-scale farmers and marginalized communities.

Role of SWISSAID

Adhering to the principles of Leave No One Behind (LNOB) and Gender Justice and working with multiple approaches described above, the specific role that SWISSAID India would play, and the tools used in implementing the country programme are tabulated below.

Table 1: Role of Swissaid in AE

Approach	Role	Tool
Agroecological Approaches	Facilitator and Sponsor	SW will support in designing and facilitating capacity-building processes for the promotion of agroecology, food systems strengthening and natural resource management; by using tools such as participatory vulnerability assessment, participatory climate change adaptation planning, farmer-led/action research, and peer learning.
	Analyst	SW will analyse strategies for and outcomes in terms of agroecology transition, management of natural resources, nutritional security, and farmers' income using in-house monitoring and evaluation tools, and internationally recognised assessment methods such as ACT, B-ACT, TAPE etc.
	Convenor and networker	SW will actively participate in and contribute to national-level coalitions (such as the Consortium for Agroecology Transformation – CAT), networks (NCNF, RRA, ASHA) and large-scale government initiatives (APCNF). SW will convene learning and knowledge dissemination convenings of partner organisations and key stakeholders.
	Amplifier of Voices	SW will dialogue with the implementing partners on the integration of GTA in the socio-economic empowerment of vulnerable women.
Human Rights Based Approach (HRBA)	Facilitator and sponsor	SW will support and sponsor the facilitation of capacity-building processes for the implementing partner organizations, right

		holders and duty bearers to keep the HRBA approach at the centre stage. SW will facilitate inter-partner collaboration and convening of partners and other stakeholders.
	Advocate and Amplifier of voices	SW will identify skilled and knowledgeable resource persons to produce critical and credible evidence on community-led climate change adaptation, participatory natural resource management, natural resource economics and strengthening of natural resource governance. SW will encourage partners and key stakeholders to deliberate on this evidence and use it to strengthen the implementation of legislative rights at the grassroots.

A.2.4. Risks and assumptions

Key Assumptions:

Our programme is guided by several key assumptions that are critical for the success and sustainability of our initiatives:

1. Community motivation remains strong throughout the project period. Continued engagement and enthusiasm are crucial for successful implementation and sustainability.
2. Communities show a willingness to adopt agroecological practices and natural resource conservation approaches through experimentation and demonstration, realizing the benefits of sustainable practices.
3. Growing nutrition awareness among consumers will increase demand for agroecological products, supporting market expansion and interest in/demand for sustainable agricultural practices.
4. Market players, including retailers and organized buyers, will support marketing agroecological and natural produce, establishing a reliable supply chain for small-scale farmers.
5. Existing government programs, schemes, and budget provisions will continue without major disruption, allowing us to leverage these resources for scaling up interventions and maximizing impact.
6. Local government institutions will recognize and integrate participatory planning processes and community-lead climate change adaptation strategies. This convergence is essential for integrating community-driven climate change adaptation approaches into broader local development planning frameworks and processes.

7. State-level officials actively participate in project advisory committees and provide support in sensitizing district government and elected representatives from the beginning.
8. Government resources are also channelled for adaptation and resilience building work as they are usually allocated for mitigation measures.
9. SWISSAID and partner organizations will effectively mobilize financial resources from government funds, philanthropic foundations and others, ensuring adequate funding for project implementation.
- 10.

Table 2: Risk and Mitigation Measures AE

Risks and mitigation measures			
External risks	Probability	Impact	Mitigation measures
Supportive laws and legislations such as FRA, NMNF, NREGS, and NDMA, get amended and delay project progress.	Medium	High	Midcourse corrections in the project design and budgets to reduce impact of such policy changes on communities and strengthen their voice for rebuttal.
Delays in receiving government funds leveraged through project activities.	High	Medium	Meticulously follow the planning and implementation cycles of government institutions. Sensitize elected representatives and community leaders to follow-up. Create a resource envelope by identifying multiple sources of funding and try seeking bridge funds, gap funds. Support community institutions/CSOs to raise funds from CSR and other local donors.
Outbreak of disasters, pandemics, social unrest	Low	Medium	Alternative communication and monitoring mechanisms (such as use of virtual mode). Generate community awareness about aid available from government and other organizations and facilitate access to those. Inform donors transparently and negotiate changes in the scope of project, budgets etc.
Space for policy dialogues shrink due to political factors.	High	High	Access the policy spaces and adapt programme to the state and national policy.

Programme risks	Probability	Impact	Mitigation measures
Village elites coopt the participatory planning processes and seek more resources.	Low	Low	Participatory vulnerability assessments. deliberations and approval of plans/beneficiary selection through village institutions such as Gramsabhas.
The State and District Disaster Management Agency, elected officials are not responsive to Climate Adaptation Planning	High	Medium	Identify Champions within the government with whom we could work. Link the work on climate adaptation planning to govt priorities such as enhancing farmers' income.
Unavailability of skilled project staff at a low remuneration that SWI usually offers. And their subsequent attrition.	Medium	Medium	Recruit young, trained people and groom them. Pay incentives to the extent possible. Find out non-monetary ways to keep the motivation and spirit of development cooperation high.
Internal risks	Probability	Impact	Mitigation measures
Failure/delay in receiving project funding from a local donor	Medium	Medium	Initiate conversations with two or three donors simultaneously. Innovate blended financing structure wherein SWI can use partner capacity and public resources.
Project staff attrition	Low	Medium	Recruit young, trained people and groom them. Pay incentives to the extent possible. Find out non-monetary ways to keep the staff motivation and spirit of development cooperation high.

A.3. Programme outcomes

N°	SWISSAID outcomes:
OC1	1 million people - all genders equally – contribute to inclusive local food systems and have improved their nutrition (incl. water) through accelerated agroecological transition.
OC2	500'000 people - especially the most vulnerable people - benefit from fair natural resource governance and have increased their climate resilience and natural resources management capacities.

Table 3: Programme outcomes thematic focus A

N°	Programme outcome	Related to SWISSAID outcomes:	Short description, explanation for the adaptation or the split into different outcomes
<i>Thematic focus A: Accelerating agroecology transition and participatory natural resource management for improved food security, climate resilience, and overall local food systems transformation.</i>			
IN O1	20,000 people - all genders equally – contribute to improved food security, climate resilience, and inclusive food systems: through accelerated agroecology transition and participatory natural resource governance/management.	OC1 and OC2	Two outcomes are merged as agroecology and natural resource governance/management are interrelated and both contribute to food security, climate resilience and an inclusive food system.
IN O2	Precedents are established in three states to mainstream farmer varieties into the public seed chains	OC1	This will require setting up of an alternate institutional mechanism, operating procedures, defining seed quality standards for release of farmer varieties/ or evaluation of farmers varieties and making them available through the govt seed outlets with subsidies.

A.4. Indicators

Table 4: Indicators thematic Focus A

N°	Indicator name	N°	SWISSAID indicator
<i>Thematic Focus A: Accelerating agroecology transition and participatory natural resource management for improved food security, climate resilience, and overall local food systems transformation.</i>			
IN 01: 20,000 people - all genders equally – contribute to improved food security, climate resilience, and inclusive food systems; through accelerated agroecology transition and participatory natural resource governance/management.			
1A	The proportion of households with moderate or severe food insecurity	1a	Percentage of households with moderate or severe food insecurity
1B	The proportion of women whose dietary diversity has increased	1b 1e	The proportion of women and men with a diverse diet Documented examples of demonstrating the outcomes of agroecological transition of food systems.
1C	The proportion of households applying a diverse set of agroecological practices	1c	The proportion of households applying a diverse set of agroecological practices
1D	No. of crops and No. crop varieties are conserved in farmer-managed seed systems.	1d	Number of plant varieties, species and conservation facilities managed by small-scale farmers.
1E	No. of consumers have enhanced their knowledge of and access to healthy and nutritious food.		No equivalent
1F	No. of CBOs that have developed and implemented participatory natural resource management plans.	2a	Number of local government units implementing sustainable land use plans or DRR/CCA plans
1G	No. Hectares being managed in a sustainable manner.	2b	No. Of hectares being managed in an integrated manner. Documented examples of demonstrating the outcomes of improved natural resource management or climate change adaptation. (Target 6)

1H	No. of people from CBOs participating in natural resource management planning by influencing decision making and budgets in their localities.	2c	Number of people participating in and influencing public service provision, decision-making and budgets in their localities
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B. Thematic Focus B: Empowerment of Vulnerable Women and Girls²³

B.1. Problem statement

Thematic focus B relates to **rural vulnerable women particularly DV survivors and widows as well rural adolescent girls**. This section describes the problems of these three groups, which show a high degree of commonalities as they originate from the same root cause of gender-based discrimination.

India has made progress on gender equality through constitutional provisions and international commitments like CEDAW, but challenges like domestic violence remain on high scale. India's reports to the CEDAW Committee have acknowledged the prevalence of gender-based violence (GBV) in the country²⁴ Domestic violence, a form of GBV is one of the most pervasive of human rights violations, denying women equality, security, dignity, self-worth, and their right to enjoy fundamental freedoms. **In rural India, prevalence of DV is as high as 31.2²⁵** . By making available counselling, mediation and legal services, the DV survivors are being supported to come out of the violent relationships. However, even after the violent relationships end, the adverse physical, psychological, social and financial implications of DV on survivors and many times on their children are far reaching. Most of the survivors are from rural poor families and without any tangible/intangible resources like awareness on rights/entitlements, education, vocational skills, livelihood assets, social capital, self-confidence and self-esteem, which compound the adversities in their life.

Widowhood is another indicator of vulnerability for rural poor women²⁶. After the death of the husband, widows suddenly become the main earner to cater to all the family needs for food; housing; education; health; dowry; and debt repayment, while they also perform the role of the primary caregivers in the family. This creates an enormous economic, social and emotional burden for the widows, which is often unmanageable due to lack of socio-economic resources.

For navigating the adversities in life, the DV survivors and the widows need support from the extended families, communities, civil society organizations and most importantly from the state. Many times, these **women are not able to reach out to the institutions due to resource constraints**. Even if they reach them, they do not always get efficient support on account of gender social norms and gender inequitable attitudes, apathy and lack of capacities on the part of various institutions. In fact, on account of their vulnerabilities, these **women are often stigmatized and even abused**. In such a hostile environment and due to the lack of integrated socioeconomic support, earning a better living and rebuilding life becomes a distant dream for most of the DV survivors and widows from the rural poor families.

Besides, DV survivors and widows, **rural adolescent girls** are also another vulnerable group. Latest research studies conducted by SW IN show that **due to patriarchal socialization**, the adolescent girls possess very poor communication and negotiation skills, restricted mobility and hardly any awareness about sexual and reproductive issues. Their agency is often curtailed which prohibits them from making decisions affecting their lives, including those related to their

²³ Since there is only one outcome under this theme, the thematic focus and the outcome are the same.

²⁴ <https://data.unwomen.org/global-database-on-violence-against-women/country-profile/India/cedaw>

²⁵ https://dhsprogram.com/pubs/pdf/OF43/India_National_Fact_Sheet.pdf

²⁶ <https://journalofsocialsciences.org/article/socio-economic-structure-of-widowhood-in-india--past-and-present/>

education, jobs, mobility, age of marriage, choice of groom etc. Due to domestic workload and gender stereotypes, they are deprived from acquisition of employability/livelihood skills. Comprehensive life skill education programs for adolescent girls covering their male peers, teachers and parents can address some of the above vulnerabilities. However, such programmes are not available in rural settings. As a result, **rural girls continue to face multiple disadvantages**. All these disadvantages have immediate as well as longer term implications for adolescent girls as they make the transition to adulthood. Most of these acts as **risk factors exposing girls to gender based violence and discrimination** in their future lives.

The problems described above **call for systematic engagement with the rural vulnerable women and girls and with their ecosystem** (family, community, civil society and the state) particularly with men and boys, to facilitate sociopolitical and economic empowerment.

B.2. Solution statement

B.2.1. Theory of change

Rehabilitation of DV survivors and widows (hereafter vulnerable women) is a multifaceted journey encompassing measures in economic, vocational, social, educational, health, and secondary DV prevention domains, which calls for a group of civil society organizations (CSOs) having different domain expertise.

The **programme will promote a consortium of gender sensitive CSOs having expertise in one or more domains** including promotion and strengthening livelihoods for vulnerable women and their young children, policy advocacy with the state for execution of legal rights and social security entitlements, secondary DV prevention, life skill education for adolescent girls, women leadership development, building gender sensitive communities and institutions.

For facilitating improvements in the living conditions of the vulnerable women, the consortium of CSOs will strive to bring about multi-level transformation in the internal and external factors related to them and their ecosystem consisting of family, community and the state.

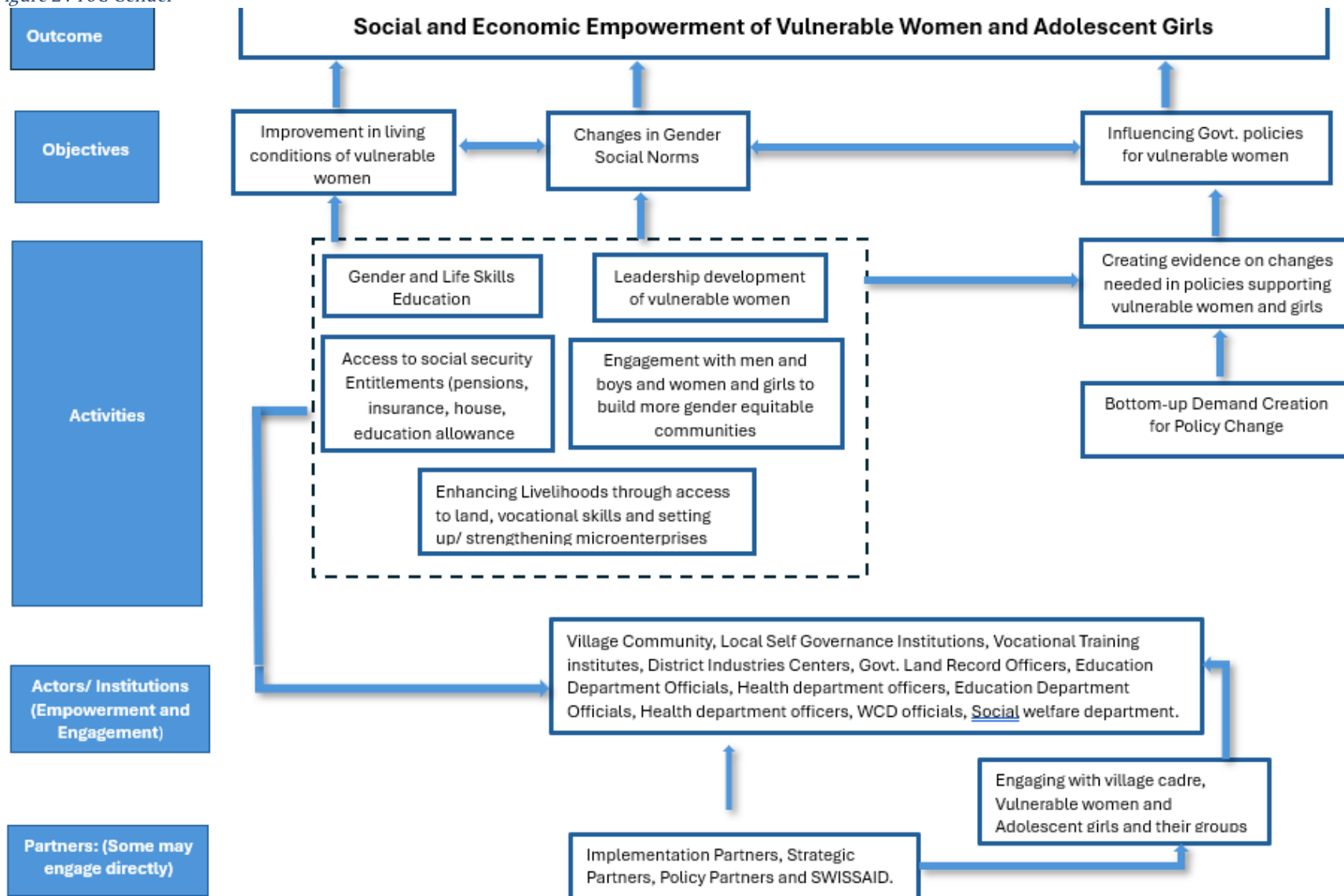
After mobilizing the vulnerable women for improving their support seeking behaviours, the linkages between them and the consortium CSOs will be facilitated which would **provide the women tailor-made support, based on the participatory need assessment**. It would be for a) accessing social security entitlements like Public Distribution Systems (PDS) ration, pensions, child upbringing schemes, health insurance etc., b) promotion/strengthening resilient livelihoods through asset creation, vocational and entrepreneurship training, access to micro finance, educational enhancement, and wherever possible acquisition of rights over natural resources and their management in an ecological way, c) responding to gender based violence and discrimination faced by the vulnerable women, d) promoting mental wellbeing through counselling, creating spaces for socialization, leisure and networking. Using this integrated support, women will improve their social and financial conditions and build confidence and self-esteem.

Simultaneously, consortium member CSO, expert in state engagement and advocacy for rights and entitlements of vulnerable women and their children, will **advocate with the government for formulation of pragmatic govt. policies, appropriate revisions of existing policies**, and overall timely execution of the policies and schemes by removing technicalities, designing innovative interventions and their stringent monitoring, all with a gender perspective.

One or more of the consortia CSO members will engage with the institutions like family, community and religious institutions, which are an integral part of the ecosystem of the DV survivors; widowed women and their children, with a view to foster among them gender equitable attitudes. There will be **specific engagement for the gender empowerment of men and boys** so that they act as supportive agents to challenge gender-based discrimination and violence. This will reduce socio- cultural constraints and risk of gender-based violence and discrimination against the vulnerable women and will create more conducive environment for their socio-economic development.

Socio-economic capacity building interventions and policy advocacy will **support the vulnerable women in earning income and social security coverage, in reducing experiences of gender-based violence and discrimination in their lives and in enhancing their participation** in the socio-political processes. This will help build their agency to take independent actions towards ameliorating their vulnerabilities, improving their living conditions and wellbeing, which is an essential part of the empowerment. Along with the response and rehabilitation work for reducing the vulnerabilities of the DV survivors and widows, some of the consortium CSOs will take up school-based life skill education programmes not only with the adolescent rural girls but also with their male peers, teachers and parents. This will help the adolescent girls to enhance their gender and sexuality awareness, communication and negotiation skills, employability skills. More importantly, life skill education will help the girls increase their confidence and self-esteem. All this will make them less susceptible to socio-economic vulnerabilities, gender-based violence and discrimination, unlike their previous generation.

Figure 2 : ToC Gender



B.2.2. On what we build?

Over the last two country programs (2013-18 and 2019 -2024) SW India developed its separate program on domestic violence. During the first country program, the work focussed on building capacities of the CSOs, and the government stakeholders for supporting the DV survivors and empowering them. During this period, more than 3000 women survivors of DV were supported and nearly 1200 government officials were provided training in gender issues and the application of the Domestic Violence Act. Gender project evaluation as well as the country program evaluation in 2017 and the internal strategic review with the partners in 2018 highlighted the increased capacities of SWISSIAD and the partner organizations in DV response but at the same time brought forth the need for taking up primary prevention work for sustainability. Taking this recommendation into account, rigorous work on DV prevention by coordinating with multiple stakeholders was taken up, which benefitted 11700 women and 14500 men during 2019 -2022 (Towards Gender Equality project)²⁷As a result of the prevention work, there was a significant increase in gender and legal awareness as well as in co-sharing of responsibilities by men/boys and reduction in dowry, child marriages.

In its humanitarian response work during drought and COVID 19 pandemic, SW IN and its partners supported nearly 2,29,730 persons of whom 1,13,980 were women, to overcome the adverse consequences of the disasters. During this period, SW and the partners had an intense engagement with nearly 5000 vulnerable women, widowed due to farm suicides and COVID. As a result, SW has a good understanding of the vulnerabilities of the DV survivors and widows from rural poor areas. This understanding reiterates that after the response work is over, there is a glaring need for initiating long term, multi coordinated socio economic development processes for rehabilitation of the vulnerable women. We propose to unify the expertise of SW IN and its partners in addressing GBVD issues and their expertise in ensuring sustainable livelihoods and social security coverage for improving food; nutrition and income security and build on it to improve the living conditions and the socio-economic status of the vulnerable rural women.

During the ongoing country programme period (2019- 2024), SW IN and its gender partners have also gained experience of working with adolescent rural girls by operating village centres for girls and conducting capacity building programmes on gender, law, leadership. Based on this experience, SW will be able to design and support school-based interventions on life skills enhancement as a prevention measure. In fact, the community interventions and the school-based interventions will supplement each other to amplify the overall impact on the rural adolescent girls.

B.2.3. Principles, approaches, instruments and role of SWISSAID

For achieving the goals under this theme, following principles and approaches will be adopted.

Principles

1] Leave No One Behind (LNOB)

²⁷ Mid term country program evaluation, 2022

The principle of LNOB calls for better inclusion of marginalized groups. The projects under this theme are for the empowerment of DV survivors, rural women widowed due to farm suicides / COVID pandemic and rural adolescent girls. All of whom are already vulnerable and marginalized target groups. However, within them also, special attention will be provided to intersectionality of class, caste, religion, disability and gender. Vulnerability criteria and scale will be developed to ensure inclusion of women and girls from Dalit communities, minority religions, ultra poor families and transgenders. SW will make efforts to build perspective of all the implementing partner organizations on diversity and vulnerability issues. MIS will be developed to maintain LNOB disaggregated data.

2] Gender just actions /gender sensitivity

The focus under this theme is on socio-economic empowerment of vulnerable women and girls and hence the principle of gender just actions/gender sensitivity is very much intrinsic to the theme. All the project strategies and activities will be gender sensitive, they will take into consideration practical and strategic gender needs and in no way, they will promote gender stereotypes in the society. This principle is an integral part of the gender transformative approach described below.

Approaches

1] Gender Transformative Approach (GTA)

GTA are strategies that address, challenge and reshape harmful gender norms to free all individuals from the impact of these norms and to create more gender equitable relationships, communities and societies.

The perpetration of gender-based violence and discrimination (GBV-D) is perpetuated and justified by social norms that define roles of masculinity and femininity, render women as subordinates to men, and restrict their rights, freedoms and access to resources. The evidence suggests that while addressing different factors around any form of GBV-D, its sustained prevention is not possible without addressing social motivations around violent and discriminatory behaviours. Many times, social as well as cultural norms can act as a break on social change. Therefore, any changes in the legal and material resources like access to land; income, or changes in the individual knowledge and attitude alone, may not lead to significant empowerment. Hence, for socio-economic empowerment of women and girls, there is a need to challenge and shift the social and cultural norms which lead to violence and discrimination against them. For this purpose, interventions to improvise gender attitudes and gender equitable behaviour of men, women, adolescent girls and boys would be an integral part of the projects under the theme of Gender Equality.

2] Human Right based approach (HRBA)

HRBA aims to ensure that human rights are at the centre of the development efforts, leading to more equitable and just outcomes. Adoption of key components of the HRBA in the projects under Gender Equality theme will be as follows –

- Empowerment: The project will focus on empowering women and girls to claim their socio-economic rights. For this purpose, necessary information, knowledge and skills will be imparted to them which will also include gender training and life skill education for girls. Feminist approach is an integral part of this key component.

- Participation, Inclusion and Non-discrimination: The projects will encourage inclusion and the active participation of vulnerable women and girls as well as transgenders from all the castes, communities and religions, and those with disabilities without any discrimination. They will be involved in the decision-making processes in the project execution. Considering the intersectionality, vulnerability criteria and scale will be developed for determining the project participants.
- Accountability: The projects will hold the government institutions accountable for upholding human rights and to provide mechanisms for individuals to seek redress. This will be mainly in the context of access to social security schemes of the government ensuring food security, shelter, education of children etc and implementation of laws protecting and promoting rights of the girl children and women.

3] Multi-stakeholder approach

Adoption of feminist approach and ecological approach necessarily entail working with a wide range of stakeholders. For empowering the women and girls and for creating more conducive environment for their sociocultural development, the programme will engage with the expert civil society organizations, social institutions and the government. Also, efforts will be made to create stakeholder synergies to facilitate more effective and coordinated support for the target groups and to upscale the work.

4] Integration of prevention with rehabilitation

To strengthen and sustain the programme impact, prevention and response work will be integrated in two ways. Firstly, the programme will gender empower the vulnerable women and the social institutions surrounding them to challenge the gender stereotypes and the gender norms, which will reduce the incidences of gender-based violence and discrimination. Secondly, the programme will not only engage with women with vulnerabilities on account of DV/widowhood, but it will engage with the adolescent girls on issues including life skills, employability skills, gender awareness, agency building etc. This will empower girls and reduce the possibilities of the girls experiencing gender-based violence and discrimination when they grow up.

Role of SWISSAID

Adhering to the principles of Leave No One Behind (LNOB) and Gender Justice and working with multiple approaches described above, the specific role that SWISSAID India would play, and the tools used in implementing the country program are tabulated below.

Table 5: Role of Swissaid Gender

Approach	Role	Tool
Gender Transformative Approach (GTA)	Facilitator and Sponsor	SW will support in designing, facilitating capacity building processes for economic empowerment of women, for engaging with men; boys; girls and women on challenging gender social norms and gender stereotypes. It will also be a sponsor.
	Convenor and networker	SW will support capacity building of CSOs on the thematic issues and will

		play lead role in promoting networks for knowledge sharing, advocating rights of the vulnerable women groups and integration of life skill training in formal education of adolescent girls.
	Dialogue partner	SW will dialogue with the implementing partners on integration of GTA in socio-economic empowerment of the vulnerable women.
Human Rights Based Approach (HRBA)	Facilitator and sponsor	SW will support and sponsor facilitation of capacity building processes for the implementing partner organizations, right holders and duty bearers to keep the HRBA approach at the centre stage.
	Advocate and Amplifier of voices	SW will identify/ create platforms and spaces for showcasing and advocating the successful strategies for empowerment of women and girls with HRBA. While advocating with the duty holders, opportunities of networking will be explored with the like-minded organizations which will help in amplifying the voices for the cause of human rights of vulnerable women and girls.

B.2.4. Risks and assumptions

Key Assumptions

1. Civil society organizations having expertise in providing distinct support to the vulnerable women are operational in the same or nearby geographies to ensure coordinated support.
2. Allocation of budgets for government programs and social security schemes continue with the same or more quantum in the subsequent financial years.
3. Educational department gives approval for conducting the school/college-based empowerment programs for adolescent girls in rural areas.

Table 6: Risks and Mitigation Measures Gender

Risks and mitigation measures			
External risks	Probability	Impact	Mitigation measures
Adverse impact of climate change and	Medium	Medium	The geographies proposed for the project implementation exhibit medium climate

other natural disasters on promotion/ strengthening of agriculture-based livelihoods among vulnerable women.			sensitivity. The strategies for economic empowerment do not exclusively focus on agriculture-based livelihoods. Hence, the impact of the risk on the projects would be medium. Risk mitigation measures would be to promote livelihood diversification as a part of livelihood strengthening.
Further down fall of the rural economy may restrict creation of employment / livelihood opportunities for vulnerable women and their children.	Medium	High	Multiple factors like absence of livelihood diversification, climate change, low agriculture productivity, high input costs, rising agriculture debts inadequate infrastructure development are likely to worsen rural economy. Its pace may not be drastic however, it will have significant impact over the project activities. Risk mitigation measures would include a) exploring innovative livelihood models like service-based livelihoods, collective models of livelihoods, b) synergizing with CSRs, government training and financial institutions for augmenting resources.
High food inflation adversely impacts rural poor families than anyone else. Sustained high food inflation, arising out of complex national /international factors, may hinder the efforts of improving living conditions of the rural poor women.	High	High	India has been witnessing constant and significant increase in food inflation over the last four years. It curtails accessibility and affordability of food especially for the vulnerable population groups. Mitigation measures would be policy advocacy for expanded support to the vulnerable women through public distribution system of the government especially during the lean period of summer.
Programme risks	Probability	Impact	Mitigation measures
Acquiring rights over natural resources (like land titles) is a lengthy process and may go beyond project period.	Medium	Medium	Identification of committed civil society organizations who would be willing to follow up this work beyond the project period.
Internal risks	Probability	Impact	Mitigation measures
Serious governance, leadership or financial management issues within the partner organizations	Low	High	Mitigation measures would be stringent partner identification process, regular monitoring, provision of need based organizational development support to the partner organizations.

B.3. Programme outcome

Thematic focus

10,000 women and girls, with the co-responsibility of men and boys, increasingly enjoy a life without gender-based discrimination and violence and strengthen their full sociopolitical and economic potential in a more gender inclusive society.

Program Objective /Outcome

Same as above

Table 7: Programme outcomes thematic focus B

N°	Country Programme outcomes	Related to SWISSAID outcomes:	Short description, explanation for the adaptation or the split into different outcomes
Thematic focus B: 10,000 women and girls, with the co-responsibility of men and boys, increasingly enjoy a life without gender-based discrimination and violence and strengthen their full sociopolitical and economic potential in a more gender inclusive society.			
IN O3	10,000 women and girls, with the co-responsibility of men and boys, increasingly enjoy a life without gender-based discrimination and violence and strengthen their full sociopolitical and economic potential in a more gender inclusive society.	OC3	The number of beneficiaries is revised to 10,000 which is proportionate to the programme/project size.

B.4. Indicators

Table 8: List of Indicators thematic focus B

N°	Indicator name	N°	Swissaid indicator:
Thematic focus B: 10,000 women and girls, with the co-responsibility of men and boys, increasingly enjoy a life without gender-based discrimination and violence and strengthen their full sociopolitical and economic potential in a more gender inclusive society.			
IN O3- 10,000 women and girls, with the co-responsibility of men and boys, increasingly enjoy a life without gender-based discrimination and violence and strengthen their full sociopolitical and economic potential in a more gender inclusive society.			
3A	Proportion of women indicating a substantial improvement of living conditions (target increase of 30% to baseline)	3b	Proportion of women indicating a substantial improvement in living conditions
3B	Proportion of adolescent girls and women aged 15 years and above subjected to physical, sexual or psychological violence in the previous 12 months (target 10% reduction to baseline)	3c	Though the indicator is the same, the target is reduced from 20% to 10% as it would be feasible to achieve during the country program period
3C	Increase in number of vulnerable women and girls benefitted by the social protection and livelihood promotion policies of the government	3d	This indicator will capture the contribution of SW and its partner organizations towards improved implementation of the government polices

2. Sufosec Outcome 4: who we work with and how?

2.1 Stakeholder analysis, partners and strategic partners

N°	SWISSAID outcome 4:
OC4	100 empowered national and local partners have increased their agency and decision-making power, and SWISSAID has embraced a more equitable partnership approach, reinforcing locally led development.

Table 9: Outcome for locally led development and equal partnerships

N°	Location and partnership	Related to SWISSAID outcome:	Short description (outcomes)
IN O4 : Empowered national and local partners have increased their agency and decision-making power, and SWISSAID has adopted a more equitable partnership approach, strengthening locally led development.			

Table 10: List of indicators locally led development

N°	Indicator name	N°	Swissaid indicator:
Locally led development			
IN O4 : Empowered national and local partners have increased their agency and decision-making power, and SWISSAID has adopted a more equitable partnership approach, strengthening locally led development.			
4A	Proportion of empowered national and local partners have reached at least Level 3 (co-decision) on the Power Assessment Tool in their collaboration with SWISSAID	4a	Proportion of empowered national and local partners have reached at least Level 3 (co-decision) on the Power Assessment Tool in their collaboration with SWISSAID
4B	Documented examples demonstrating the outcomes of locally led practice, shifting power to national and local actors	4c	Documented examples demonstrating the outcomes of locally led practice, shifting power to national and local actors

Locally led development is one of the focus areas of India Country Programme. In India we collaborate with local organisations to co-create projects. Our partnership profile until now has been of small and medium scale organizations. 93% of the funds are transferred to partners who implement the projects. Partners are at the forefront of efforts to engage with policy makers. We plan to **conduct a partnership survey using the power assessment tool**. Based on the findings of the survey we will reflect and make necessary changes in partner engagement strategy to empower local partners and create greater local ownership of the work. We will begin to roll this out in the second quarter of 2025.

To further the agenda of locally led development **two projects will be developed**. Small Organisations headed by women, Dalits, minorities, indigenous groups would be prioritized as partners. The focus of these projects would be to strengthen the civil society. The project would include **components of organisational development plus thematic work**. **Two themes** would be chosen out of Gender based violence, youth and Climate Change and forest-based livelihoods. The log frames developed would be simple which the small organizations would be able to report on.

In the current strategy period, we plan to **diversify partnership portfolio to include large organizations as strategic partners**. This could be in terms of policy engagement; help implement a new approach such as the landscape approach to AE or other ways which help multiply impact and achieve scale. Having a diversity in the partner portfolio will help us enhance our impact as well as co share the responsibility of raising funds.

Some projects like the GBVD have been working with very long-standing partners. This was particularly important as the ongoing EU co-financed project is working with a consortium of partners where a trustful relationship is important, and synergies could be utilized from the beginning. In general, SWISSAID partners to have a diversified donor base and dependency on SWISSAID as the only donor is low. Nevertheless, we are aware that with a few smaller organisations the dependency created is higher a fact which will be considered in the exit strategy.

Table II: List of strategic partners

Stakeholder's name	Description (+ since when the partner works with SW)	Stakeholder's role and added value indicate links and existing collaborations of partners
Thematic focus A: 20,000 people - all genders equally – contribute to improved food security, climate resilience, and inclusive food systems; through accelerated agroecology transition and participatory natural resource governance/management.		
Strategic partners		
Landscape based AE	New partner	Strategic partner will be medium to big sized NGO who has done watershed development / soil and water conservation work and has some experience of natural farming and livelihood diversification. They should be interested in including food system transformation as a part of their organizational strategy. They are expected to contribute to co-creating the project and raise funds for it. Since soil erosion and lack of water resources for protective irrigation is a big issue in India working with organization who has done this groundwork will allow us build on it and work at the landscape level.

Climate adaptation Planning	New partner	A national NGO will be a strategic partner who would open doors at the policy level and influence adaptation planning process at the state and national levels, actively engage in knowledge management, and raise funding for this work.
<i>Current partners</i>		
DRCS (1)	2010 (CROPS)	Has sound experience of promoting agroecological approaches including integrated farming system. Have learnt the work local market development as part of CROPS4HD. Doing good work on strengthening FMSS.
Bhittibhumi (2)	2009 (CROPS)	Strongly grounded in community has a rich experience in FMSS and promoting AE farming. The FMSS are learning space for other partners and CSOs. Is good at networking and spreading the work on AE and Seeds.
Sahja Samruddha (3)	2012 (CROPS)	Has good experience of AE approaches and seed conservation. Has integrated the work on market development and FMSS well as a part of CROPS4HD.
WASSAN/RRA network (4)	2020 (CROPS)	Has established a good collaboration with Agriculture universities and many government stakeholders to push for an alternate seed system for farmers varieties. Has pioneered the release of 2 finger millet varieties in Odisha.
SRISHTI (5)	2018 (RNR)	Has done great work in facilitating the establishment of Gram Sabha Federations to strengthen the village gram sabha and engage in collective sale of NTFPs.
<i>Other stakeholders (the nature of engagement with them will be finalised)</i>		
CEEW	Public Policy think tank working on policy issues related to Climate and Sustainable Food Systems	These are potential stakeholders with whom we would like to explore collaboration.
National Coalition of Natural Farming (11)	Coalition of NGOs, Donors and Researchers, Government institutions, farmers organisations working to accelerate the spread of AE in India	

Consortium of Agroecological Transformation	Collaboration of foreign donors, Indian Philanthropies and Indian organisations and networks looking to speed up AE transformation in India	
Kerala Institute of Development Studies		
Ashoka Trust for Research in Ecology and Envnt	It's a non-profit organisation focused on environmental conservation and sustainable, socially just development. ATREE engages in the generation and dissemination of rigorous interdisciplinary knowledge. It also ATREE works across landscapes on issues pertaining to biodiversity conservation and restoration, water security, sustainable resource use, livelihoods and human well-being, and climate change adaptation and mitigation.	
Keystone Foundation	They work to achieve livelihood security for indigenous communities, agriculture and food security, land and community rights, community health and development, and conservation of biodiversity. While active in the Nilgiri Biosphere Reserve they also support organisations working with indigenous communities throughout the country	
Thematic focus B: 10,000 women and girls, with the co-responsibility of men and boys, increasingly enjoy a life without gender-based discrimination and violence and strengthen their full sociopolitical and economic potential in a more gender inclusive society.		
Strategic partners		
ILS Law College, Pune, Maharashtra. (5)	National level renowned law school established in 1923. Committed to promotion of legal rights and expansion of legal services, they have an active legal aid cell and a women's studies centre through which they have been working particularly, to promote women's rights. Partnership collaboration of SW and ILS has been from 2013 till date.	ILS Law College has proven capacities to work closely with the government departments, judiciary and legal service authorities at the state/national and to contribute to policy, advocacy initiatives. It is an expert training and resource organization. ILS Law College has a potential to leverage resources from the

		government which can supplement to the SW projects.
<i>Current partners</i>		
Halo Medical Foundation (6)	2012	Strongly grounded in the community, decade long experience of working on GBV issues, issues of single women, livelihoods and on humanitarian response. Sound collaboration and coordination with the district administration for policy implementation. Have developed expertise of working on DV prevention, social norms and working with boys/men and adolescent girls.
Gramin Vikas Sansatha, Latur (7)	2019	Strongly grounded in the community, decade long experience of working on DV response. Well connected with the block level administration for facilitating access to social security and other govt schemes. Has a good reach to the adolescent girls, boys and men in the project areas. Have some experience of working on livelihood issues for single women.
Manavlok (8)	2013	Strongly grounded in the community with decade long experience of working on GBV issues particularly on DV response through their well-functioning counselling centre. Have expertise and experience of working with single women on livelihood issues, on humanitarian response work. Good collaboration with the district administration.
<i>Potential partners for new projects</i>		
Swayam Shikshan Prayog (SSP), Osmanabad, Maharashtra (9)	Established in 1998, SSP works in 7 Indian states with 350,000 women on training them as farmers, entrepreneurs, leaders to increase their economic and social resilience. Winner of the Equator Prize for pioneering women led agroecological climate resilient farming model and entrepreneurship in India. Not currently partners.	High level expertise and experience of working on the SW project themes. Trainer and a resource organization. Collaborations with multiple international and CSR donors, creating co-funding opportunities.

Society for Promoting Participative Ecosystem Management (<i>SOPPECOM</i>), Pune, Maharashtra (10)	Established in 1995 and expert in knowledge management, feminist research and policy engagement all around gender, rural livelihoods and natural resource management. An active member of national level network on the rights of women farmers titled Mahila Kisan Adhikar Manch (MAKAM)	SOPPECOM can provide strong support in policy engagement for formulation and effective implementation of policies related to widows and women survivors.
<i>Other Stakeholders</i>		
District and state level skill /vocational training institutes in the project districts.	These institutes are associated with state /national skill development missions (NSDM), campaigns operated by the government. They offer vocational training courses either free of charge or for minimal fees.	Projects will facilitate collaborations/convergence with these stakeholders for vocational training of the rural vulnerable women and their children for livelihoods promotion.
District industrial centres (DICs)		Projects will facilitate collaborations/convergence with DICs for vocational training of the rural vulnerable women and their children, for market linkages for livelihood promotion.
Govt. financial institutions	They have mandate of providing loans /micro credit to SHGs / specific target groups at a subsidized interest rate.	They can make provisions of financial resources for income generating activities.
Education department and govt. schools in project areas		Projects will facilitate collaborations with these stakeholders for running school-based programs on life skill and employability enhancement education.
<i>UNICEF</i>		Potential to plan joint consultations for knowledge creation, policy advocacy on the issues related to adolescent girls particularly child marriage, which would also help in visibility to SW. Collaboration for learning and exchange of knowledge products/ thematic material.
<i>Donors</i>		
SDC GPFS (12)	They have been supporting CROPS4HD since 2021	
EU (13)	Co-funds the work on GBVD project	
FEDEVACO (14)	Co-fund the work on GBVD project	

3. Knowledge management

3.1 Cross-cutting themes

3.1.1 Gender mainstreaming

Gender analysis will be undertaken at the time of project design. Based on past experience the following strategies will be adopted for ensuring that the projects work to create more equal relationships between men and women

- *Building women's agency and leadership capacities:* In all the projects we are promoting mixed group institutions or women's only groups. Traditionally women do not have much experience of participation in decision making in public spaces, limited exposure to government departments and understanding of markets. Through our projects we will work with women to build their leadership skills such that they are active in both women only (e.g. seed banks, self-help groups) and mixed groups institutions and able to voice their opinion and concerns especially on the management of the natural resources such as forests and fisheries and markets.
- *Addressing the drudgery and workload of women:* Agroecology often entails preparation of additional labour for preparation of bio-inputs or adoption of improved agronomic practices such as line sowing or System of Crop Intensification. Also, many of the activities undertaken in agriculture such as sowing, weeding, harvesting, post harvesting are repetitive tasks involving a lot of physical labour. To address this issue tool banks/resource centres will be established to demonstrate tools and equipment's which can help reduce drudgery.
- *Management of economic activities by women's groups:* Women's groups will be encouraged to run small processing units and undertake income generation activities. They will learn how to use the processing machines, earn money as well as learn about the quality requirements set by traders. This will help them manage small enterprises and give them confidence to engage in economic activities as a manager and decision maker.
- *Recognition and valuing the knowledge of women:* Peasant cultivars are available in many farming communities today as women have safeguarded the seeds and associated knowledge. As we work on the revival and popularisation of farmers seeds, we will give due to acknowledgement to women and their body of knowledge and women will be encouraged in leadership positions in seed banks. Women will be promoted as champion farmers and nutrition campaigns highlighting the benefits of consuming NUS and traditional crops will be undertaken with their leadership. Likewise, women also have a lot of information about uncultivated food and other NTFPs. They will be in charge of popularisation of these foods.

For the Community of Practice on Gender an exchange on the effectiveness of women networks in relation to prevention and protection of gender-based violence is recommended by the executive committee and foreseen for the new programme phase. SW India team is interested in the topic and will actively contribute with their experience and expertise in this field.

3.1.2 Climate adaptation

As described in context analysis and problem statements, India and its population is highly vulnerable to climate change impacts. Heat waves, changing rainfall patterns and extreme weather events have a particularly adverse impact on agriculture. Climate adaptation is thus of crucial importance for the communities we work in.

SWI is currently in the development phase of a dedicated project on climate change adaptation planning (CAP) deriving from our experience working together with the communities on CAPs in the past. A participatory tool to assess climate change and its effects has already been successfully introduced and applied in several communities. In the next phase, SWI will assess how this tool could be combined with CEDRIG operational at the design stage of the livelihood projects and natural resource management projects. The recommendations emerging will be integrated into the project.

3.1.3 Conflict sensitivity

Applying Conflict-Sensitive Programme Management (CSPM) in India is highly important due to the country's diverse and complex socio-political landscape. Some factors which are particularly relevant in the work of SWI are:

1. **Diverse and Multi-Ethnic Society:** India is home to a vast array of ethnic, religious, and linguistic groups. Project design takes these factors into account and measures are in place to prevent and/or mitigate tension between the different groups (e.g. diversity in participants).
2. **Development and Inequality:** Rapid economic development has led to significant disparities in wealth and access to resources. Through its interventions, SWI ensures that projects work with the most marginalized communities (LNOB) <https://www.ifrc.org/document/better-programming-initiative-how-do-conflict-sensitive-context-analysis> and when needed fills gaps and shortcomings of the government.
3. **Resource Management:** Conflicts over natural resources, particularly water and land, can arise. SWI interventions are geared towards an equitable management of these resources preventing disputes and fostering cooperation between the different interest groups.
4. **Disaster Risk Prevention and Response:** While SWI is in general not directly engaged in disaster risk prevention and response we might support emergency response in project zone in case of major events such as floodings, droughts etc. Here a conflict-sensitive approach in carefully assessing the beneficiary group and implications for the ongoing project is of major importance (do no harm).

For new projects, conflict analysis will entail a stakeholder analysis, combined with identifying connectors and dividers and how diverse stakeholders/interest groups have to be included and managed by the project. This will be enhanced with a risk analysis and defining measures to mitigate these risks.

SWI requests capacity building on Divider & Connector Analysis.

3.2 Key knowledge management products

Table 12: key events/products for institutional knowledge management

N°	Knowledge management objectives ²⁸	Knowledge Events/Products	Risks and/or assumptions
Thematic Focus A			
A	To showcase and share the experience of developing separate Market Place for AE products with the aim of influencing its uptake by the government and attract funding partner.	Events & Presentation on regional and national level geared towards government and donors	Availability of time and good consultant to document this work
B	Document the AE transition based on STL experience, with focus on role of women farmers, to help other CSOs engaged in promotion of AE practices	Products: - Case Studie for awareness-raising on AE & Gender - Case Studie as a base for the SUFOSEC Impact Study - Short videos of farmers on AE transition, changes in dietary diversity etc	
C	Manual on climate change adaptation planning (CCA) to facilitate its uptake by govt and other actors	Manual	Will be an outcome of the project
D	Document capturing the work on seed quality standards for peasant cultivars to showcase the learnings emerging from the CROPS4HD project for donors / govt. stakeholders	Product (tbd)	Will be an outcome of the project
Thematic Focus B²⁹			
F	Enhancement of capacities of the civil society actors in project areas and beyond in addressing child marriage and domestic violence issues.	Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) for the civil society actors to prevent /stop child marriages. Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) for civil society actors to respond to DV cases.	
G	Enhancement of capacities of the state/national government duty bearers responsible for prevention and stopping of child marriages under the Prevention of Child Marriage Act.	Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) for the government duty bearers to prevent/stop child marriages.	

²⁸ Knowledge products A to C are already planned under the currently ongoing project on Gender based violence and discrimination ,2023-26. Knowledge product D will be based on the projects undertaken in the country programme.

²⁹ For this thematic B there are no major risks and assumptions.

H	<p>Dissemination of learning emerging out of implementation of the project on prevention and response to Gender based violence and discrimination with respect to baseline study and endline evaluation of the project.</p> <p>It will benefit the stakeholders working on GBVD issues and will also give visibility to SW and help in attracting funders for future work.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Project dissemination workshop - Brochure - Short videos to capture the changes 	
I	<p>To contribute to upscaling the work related to the rehabilitation of DV survivors and widows in newer geographies</p>	<p>Compendium of learning and best practices of rehabilitation of DV survivors and widows from vulnerable, rural settings</p>	
J	<p>Enhancement of capacities of the civil society actors in project areas and beyond in addressing child marriage and domestic violence issues.</p>	<p>Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) for the civil society actors to prevent /stop child marriages.</p> <p>Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) for civil society actors to respond to DV cases.</p>	
K	<p>Enhancement of capacities of the state/national government duty bearers responsible for prevention and stopping of child marriages under the Prevention of Child Marriage Act.</p>	<p>Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) for the government duty bearers to prevent/stop child marriages.</p>	
L	<p>Dissemination of learning emerging out of implementation of the project on prevention and response to Gender based violence and discrimination with respect to baseline study and endline evaluation of the project.</p> <p>It will benefit the stakeholders working on GBVD issues and will also give visibility to SW and help in attracting funders for future work.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Project dissemination workshop - Brochure - Short videos to capture the changes 	

4. Management and Program Quality Management

4.1 Management objectives

Table 13: Management objectives

N°	Management objectives	Management outputs	Risks and/or assumptions
IN A	The SW India team contributes and raises 40% of the India programme costs as part of fundraising South	Contribute to FR for India	The existing funding sources for India will remain and not decrease. Additional HR support is provided if this cannot be managed by existing HR. Staff requirement will depend on better understanding of donors and efforts which need to be put in to raise funds.
IN B	SW India collaborates with 3-5 strategic partner and has engaged with new networks and consortiums.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> This will allow us to enhance our impact Increases the potential for fundraising south (joint proposals)	
IN C	Develop visibility for the SWISSAID India programme by maintaining quality of implementation, strong partnership engagement and showcasing our work.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Developing effective communication material Produce documents Systematizing experiences Organise workshops and webinars	There is a communication officer in the team
IN D	Capacity of staff built in networking, fundraising, and engaging with consortiums	This will be reflected in achievement of outcomes 1 to 3 above	
IN E	Staff reduces engagement in day-to-day project implementation, take adequate rest and vacations, and overtime is kept to a minimum.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Low burnout 	Staff turnover stays low and new positions can be filled in a timely manner.

4.2 Quality management -Programmatic Evaluations

Table 14: Evaluations planned

N°	External, Peer or internal Evaluations	Project Names	Risks and/or assumptions
A	CROPS4HD Endline Survey (internal)	CROPS4HD Phase I	
B	GBVD endline survey and evaluation (external)	EU GBVD	
C	TAPE Evaluation (internal)	Landscape Approach to AE	The project would start in 2025 and would have completed three years of implementation.

5. Programme geography

We plan to work in select areas in six states on inclusive food system: Madhya Pradesh (MP), Maharashtra, Chhattisgarh (CG), Odisha, West Bengal and Karnataka. **We are adding one new state which is Madhya Pradesh**, based on the location of the potential strategic partner, donor interest and overall food insecurity and vulnerability.

The work on GBVD will be focussed in Maharashtra where we have worked with DV survivors and widows and for locally led development on GBVD we may add a few partners in Chhattisgarh in the districts adjoining the border with Maharashtra. Some of the poverty and vulnerability indicators for the state are given in the table below.

Food Insecurity and Vulnerability Indicators for States

States	Stunting (0-5 years)	Anaemia among women (15-49 years)	States with high farmer suicides	% of tribal population in rural areas who are poor
Year	2019-2021	2019-2021	2022	2011-2012
Maharashtra	35%	54%	1	62%
Chhattisgarh	35%	61%		53%
Madhya Pradesh	36%	51%	5	55%
West Bengal	34%	71%		50%
Odisha	31%	64%		63%
Karnataka	35%	48%	2	31%
India	36%	57%		45%

Source: National Family Health Survey 5, 2019-2021

National Crime Record Bureau 2022

Tendulkar Committee Estimates of poverty among tribals

The geographical area of intervention has been decided based on a) poverty and vulnerability b) past body of work c) committed partnerships d) presence of potential organisations with whom we wish to partner. E) donor priority.

MP, CG and Odisha have high levels of poverty, food insecurity and presence of indigenous populations. Parts of Maharashtra that we focus on Marthawada and Vidarbha have high poverty levels, poor gender indicators which are as high as that of the poorest states in India. The farmer's distress is particularly acute with Maharashtra ranking first in farmers suicides and Karnataka the second. While 75 percent of Indias districts are hotspots of extreme events a relative ranking shows that Maharashtra and Karnataka rank 3 and 4 respectively on the Climate Vulnerability Index which considers, exposure, sensitivity and adaptive capacity. In West Bengal we work in Sunderbans an area most affected by climate change and recurrent disasters. The state has high percentage of the population which face food insecurity and malnutrition.

In the mid-term review the Evaluators recommended maintaining the current geographic spread. They pointed out that most of the partners are based in Maharashtra and most of the other states are single partner state or two partner states where we build on the work done with the partners in the past. They suggested that SW projects should derive evidence from different states, field situations and agroecological conditions. They pointed out that single state focus would be risky

in terms of finding right partners, right state policy ecosystem, and right variety of soil and land conditions to draw credible evidence from.

Our target beneficiaries will be for **gender**:

- 1) adolescent girls in the age group 13-18 years
- 2) vulnerable women (DV survivors and widows in need of rehabilitation support) and for **food systems transformation**:
- 3) small and marginal farmers
- 4) forest dwelling communities
- 5) youth.



Current Projects:

- ★ Projects which have state level impacts (CROPS4HD)
- ★ Project which has impacts at region in a state (EU GBVD)
- ★ Projects which have district level impacts (CAP and STL)

6. The programme and its projects (funding of projects and project durations)

6.1 Fundraising Strategy South and North

Fundraising South

1. There are philanthropic organisations in India which are working to find solutions to India's problems for example **Rain matter foundation, Rohini Nilekani Philanthropies, India Climate Collaborative and Azim Premji philanthropies**. They are led by passionate individuals who wish to see change at scale. There are also donors such as **GIZ and IKEA** foundation who are supporting projects on regenerative agriculture. We will showcase the work SWISSAID is doing by developing appropriate communication and visibility material. Participate in the different consortiums which are being formed to create an ecosystem for change towards agroecological transformation in India and identify potential funding opportunities therein. These are **Consortium for Agroecological Transformation and Climate RISE alliance**.
2. We will build networks with **research/academic institutions** with whom we can partner on evidence creation for AE, and new initiatives such as weather advisory services or technological solutions.
3. We will develop basket of concept notes, indicators and shortlist NGOs as potential partners so that we can respond quickly to proposals.

Fundraising North

1. Organising regular exchange with FR North to share project ideas and learn about donor interests so that the projects developed are attractive to Swiss donors.
2. Invite IFR to India to get to know the projects
3. Take large project proposals and prepare shorter proposals focussing on components that are of interest to major donors
4. Creating a FAQs to help Fundraisers North answer questions about why projects in India need to be supported
5. Sharing communication material of successful work such as – testimonials, case studies, photographs.
6. Encourage the FR team to explore new types of funding outcome-based financing, blended financing, trust based funding and scan for research funding as well.
7. Investing in digital applications for M and E which can provide good data about the project performance. This would also be required if we wish to access outcome-based funding.

Fundraising North & South

8. We will explore the potential for **impact funding and blended finance** through mechanisms which could be established in Switzerland or in India.

6.2 Project list and financial volume

Table 15 : Project funding list

	India	SWISSAID	Sufosec	Budgets	amount	Donor South Sud	amount	SDC CC	amount	SDC TC+M	amount	Donor north	Difference
50022501 Coof India 2025		support	Support (for Coof only)	1'368'000			1'368'000	SDC CC					-
50022402 Climate Adaptation Plans		Outcome 2	Outcome 2: Climate-resilient Ecosystem	539'000	100'000	India Climate Collaborative, MacArthur Foundation							439'000
2nd Phase CAP		Outcome 2	Outcome 2: Climate-resilient Ecosystem	120'000									
500226NN Improving Quality of Life of DV survivors		Outcome 3	Outcome 3: Empowered Civil Society	350'000							100'000	Fedevaco	250'000
500225NN Landscape approaches to AE		Outcome 1	Outcome 1: Zero Hunger	200'000									200'000
500226NN Forest Based Livelihood - Dev phase + main project		Outcome 2	Outcome 2: Climate-resilient Ecosystem	350'000	100'000	Rohini Nilekani Philanthropy		SDC CC				100'000	150'000
Total core				2'927'000	200'000	0	1'368'000	-	-	-	100'000	100'000	1'039'000
500225NN Landscape approaches to AE		Outcome 1	Outcome 1: Zero Hunger	1'650'000	1'650'000	GIZ							-
50022302 End GBV		Outcome 3	Outcome 3: Empowered Civil Society	517'640	480'000	EC					37'000	FEDEVACO	640
500226NN Developing agency of girls		Outcome 3	Outcome 3: Empowered Civil Society	240'000								100'000	140'000
500226NN Gov and CSO response to DV		Outcome 4	Outcome 4: Locally led Development	200'000	189'000	Call for proposal tbd							
500227NN Youth for climate action		Outcome 4	Outcome 4: Locally led Development	200'000	200'000	call for proposal tbd							
Total build up				2'807'640	2'519'000	0	-	-	-	-	37'000	100'000	140'000
50012101 CROPS4HD India		Outcome 1	Outcome 1: Zero Hunger	138'000					138'000	SDC GP			-
50012501 CROPS4HD India		Outcome 1	Outcome 1: Zero Hunger	1'700'000	1'000'000	IKEA, CSR India, Sandoz			700'000	SDC GP			-
Total SDC TC+M				1'838'000	1'000'000								-
Grand total													1'179'000

6.3 Project timeline

Table 16: Project timelines [link](#)

	start	end	2025				2026				2027				2028				Budgets	annual average	25-26
			1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4			
50022501 Coof India 2025	01.01.2025	31.12.2028																	400'000	100'000	
50022402 Climate Adaptation Plans (CAP)		31.12.2027																	539'000	179'667	
2nd phase CAP		01.01.2028																	120'000		
500226NN Improving Quality of Life of DV survivors	01.07.2026	30.06.2029																	350'000	140'000	
500225NN Landscape approaches to AE	01.04.2025	31.03.2029																	350'000	175'000	
500226NN Forest Based Livelihood - Dev phase + main project	01.01.2026	31.12.2028																	350'000	116'667	
Core																			2'109'000	711'333	700'000
500225NN Landscape approaches to AE	01.01.2027	31.12.2028																	1'650'000	825'000	
50022302 End GBV	01.03.2023	28.02.2026																	517'000	430'833	
500226NN Developing agency of girls	01.06.2026	30.06.2029																	240'000	96'000	
500226NN Gov and CSO response to DV	01.01.2026	31.12.2028																	189'000	63'000	
500227NN Youth for climate action	tbd																		200'000	100'000	
Build up																			2'796'000	1'514'833	
50012101 CROPS4HD India	01.07.2021	30.06.2025																	138'000	164'045	
50012501 CROPS4HD India	01.07.2025	30.06.2029																	1'700'000	485'714	
SDC TC+M																			1'838'000	649'759	

7. Organisational set up

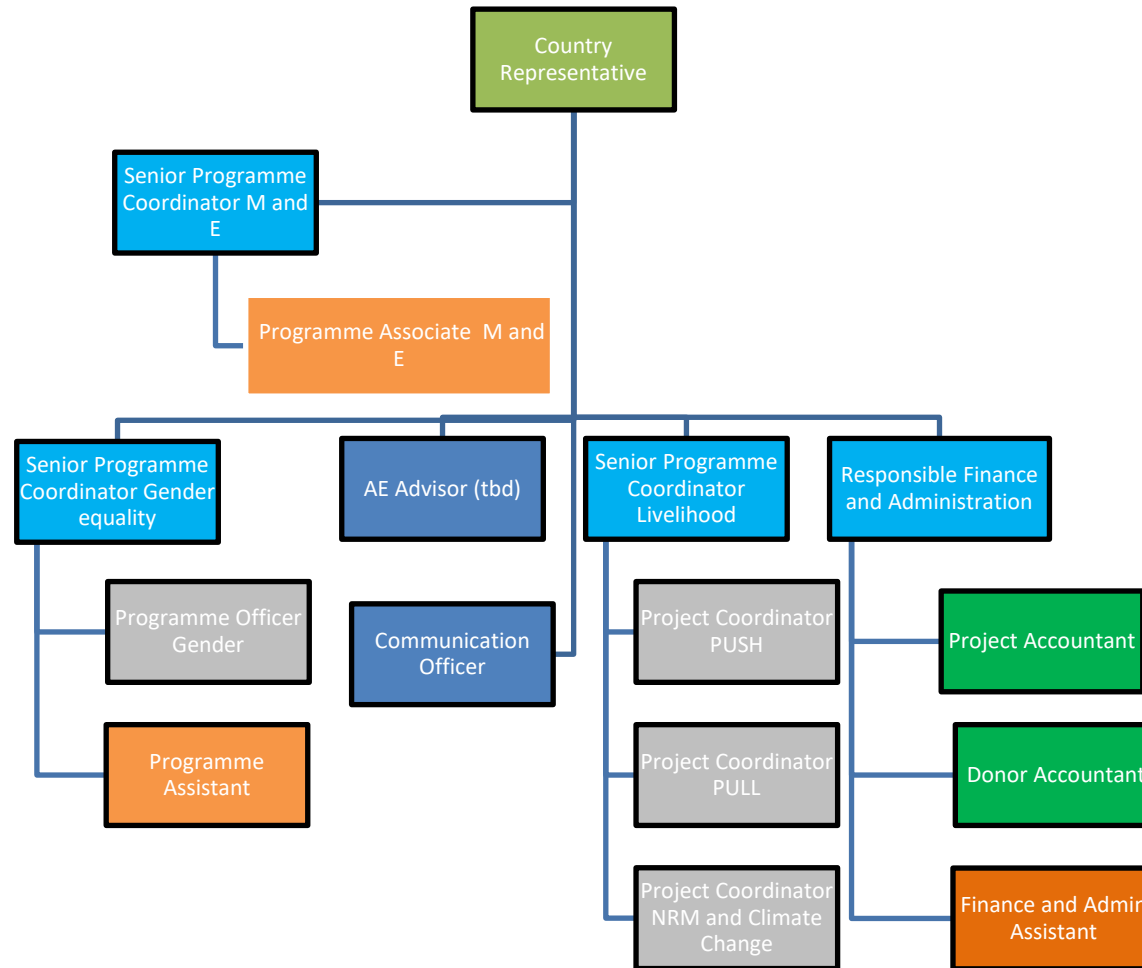
7.1 List of personnel

Table 17: List of Personnel in Structure and project-based positions.

Standard Positions of SWISSAID	Structure staff	% refinanced	Project based staff
Country Representative	Country Representative (1) (Kavita Gandhi)	20% (CROPS)	
Programme Unit			
Senior Programme Coordinator	Senior Programme Coordinator (2) (Sneha Giridhari, Girija Nandan Upadhyay)	100% Girija (CROPS) 80% Sneha (EU/FEDEVACO)	Senior Programme Coordinator (1) (vacant)
Project Coordinator			Project Coordinator (5) (Achut Borgaokar, Sejal Dave, Avani Rawal, Sagar Mohanty, 1 Vacant)
M+E advisor	Senior Programme Coordinator M and E (1) (Kalyan Tanksale)	0%	M and E associate (1)
Project Assistant	Programme assistant (1) (Manjushree Kogekar)	0%	
Administration Unit			
Responsible Finance, HR, Admin	Responsible Finance, HR, Admin (1) (Milind Hardikar)	20% (CROPS)	
Finance Officer / HR Officer			
Procurement Officer			
IT Officer			
Accountant/Finance Assistant	Project Accountant and Finance Assistant (2) (Rohini Kulkarni, Anirudha Shivade)	0%	Donor Accountant (1) (Seema Shilimkar)
Admin. Assistant			
Support Unit			
Communication Officer	Communication Officer (1)	0%	

7.2 Organization chart

Figure 3 : Organogram



MC members are the one in light blue and the CR.

7.3 Units and Projects chart

Unit	Project	Organisation
Livelihood	Climate Adaptation Planning (4 years)	Process to be finalised
	Strengthening Forest Based Livelihoods (3 Years)	Srishti + New partner
	Landscape Approach to AE (4 years)	To be finalised
	CROPS4HD Phase I (6 months)	Sahaja Samruddha
		DRCSC
		Bhittibhumi
		WASSAN
	CROPS4HD Phase II (4 Years)	Sahaja Samruddha
		DRCSC
		Bhittibhumi
WASSAN		
Gender Equality	Developing agency of rural adolescent girls through education, employability and empowerment (3 years)	To be finalised
	EU GBVD (15 months until Feb. 2026)	Grameen Mahila Vikas Sanstha - GMVS
		Halo Medical Foundation (HMF)
		Manavlok
	Indian Law Society (ILS)	
Improving Quality of Life and Livelihoods of DV survivors/ farm widows / covid widows (3 years)	To be finalised	
Humanitarian Response (3 months – needs based)	To be finalised	
Locally led developed	Youth for Climate Action in Rural Areas (2 years)	To be finalised
	Strengthening Govt and CSO response to GBV (2 years)	To be finalised

Table 18 : Project set up

8. Annexes

A. Abbreviations

Abbreviation	Definition
AE	Agroecology
ASM	Additional Surveillance measure
ATREE	Ashoka Trust for Research in Ecology and the Environment
BAF	Bharat Agroecology Fund
CAGR	Compound annual growth rate
CAP	Change adaptation planning
CAT	Consortium for Agroecology Transition
CBO	Community Based Organisation
CCA	Climate Change Action
CEEW	Council on Energy, Environment and Water
CFR	Community Forest Rights
CRISP	Climate Resilience through Indigenous Seeds Systems Project
CSO	Civil society organizations
CSPM	Conflict-Sensitive Programme Management
CSR	Corporate Social Responsibility
DDMA	District Disaster Management Authority
DICs	District industrial centres
DRR	Disaster Risk Reduction
DV	Domestic Violence
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
FMSS	Farmer Managed Seed Systems
FPO	Farmer producer organizations
FPOs	Farmer producer organizations
FRA	Forests Rights Act
GBV	Gender Based Violence
GHG	Green House Gas
GPDP	Gram Panchayat Development Plans
IMARC	International Market Analysis Research and Consulting Group
LSM	Living Standards Measure
MAKAM	Mahila Kisan Adhikar Manch
MGNREGS	Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme
NAPCC	National Action Plan on Climate Change
NCNF	National Network on Natural Farming
NCRB	National Crime Records Bureau
NDMA	National Disaster Management Authority
NDMA	National Disaster Management Authority
NFHS	National Family Health Survey

NMNF	National Mission on Natural Farming
NR	Natural Resources
NREGS	National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme
NSDM	National skill development missions
NTFPs	Non-timber forest products
NUS	Neglected and underutilized species
PDS	Public Distribution Systems
PESA	Panchayats Extension to Scheduled Areas Act
PGS	Participatory Guarantee Systems
PM-KISAN	Pradhan Mantri Kisan Samman Nidhi
PPP	Purchasing Power Parity
RNR	Rights over Natural Resources
SDC	Swiss Development Cooperation
SHG	Self Help Group
SOPPECOM	Society for Promoting Participative Ecosystem Management
SOPs	Standard Operating Procedures
SSP	Swayam Shikshan Prayog
STL	Sustainable Tribal Livelihoods
Sufosec	Sustainable Food System and Empowered Community
UNICEF	United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund
WASH	Water, Sanitation and Hygiene
WCD	Women and Child Development

B. Outcome and output indicators list (from Sufosec monitoring guide, plus own ones)

Details of the monitoring plan of each programme outcome indicator. To be updated every year with the last measured value.

N°	Indicator name	Unit	Baseline (2025, if any)	Target (2028)	Last measured value	Date
<i>Thematic focus A: Accelerating agroecology transition and participatory natural resource management for improved food security, climate resilience, and overall local food systems transformation.</i>						
<i>IN O1: 20,000 people - all genders equally – contribute to improved food security, climate resilience, and inclusive food systems: through accelerated agroecology transition and participatory natural resource governance/management.</i>						
1.A	The proportion of households with moderate or severe food insecurity					
1.B	The proportion of women whose dietary diversity has increased					
1.C	The proportion of households applying a diverse set of agroecological practices					
1.D	No. of crops and No. crop varieties are conserved in farmer-managed seed systems.					
1.E	No. of consumers have enhanced their knowledge of and access to healthy and nutritious food.					
1.F	Number of CBOs that have developed and implemented participatory natural resource management plans.					
1.G	No. Hectares being managed in a sustainable manner.					
1.I	No. of people from CBOs participating in natural resource management planning by influencing decision making and budgets in their localities.					

<i>IN 02: Precedents are established in three states to mainstream farmer varieties into the public seed chains</i>						
2.A						
<i>Thematic focus B: Women and girls fulfill their potential being freed from gender-based discrimination and violence</i>						
<i>IN 03: 10,000 women and girls, with the co-responsibility of men and boys, increasingly enjoy a life without gender-based discrimination and violence and strengthen their full sociopolitical and economic potential in a more gender inclusive society.</i>						
3.A	Proportion of women indicating a substantial improvement of living conditions			target increase of 30% to baseline		
3.B	Proportion of adolescent girls and women aged 15 years and above subjected to physical, sexual or psychological violence in the previous 12 months			target 10% reduction to baseline		
3.C	Increase in number of vulnerable women and girls benefitted by the social protection and livelihood promotion policies of the government					
<i>Locally Led Development: Strengthening locally led development through increase of agency and decision-making power</i>						
<i>IN 04: Empowered national and local partners have increased their agency and decision-making power, and SWISSAID has adopted a more equitable partnership approach, strengthening locally led development.</i>						
4.A	Proportion of empowered national and local partners have reached at least Level 3 (co-decision) on the Power Assessment Tool in their collaboration with SWISSAID					
4.B	Documented examples demonstrating the outcomes of locally led practice, shifting power to national and local actors					

<i>Management Objectives</i>						
Outcomes						
IN A	The SW India team contributes and raises 40% of the India programme costs as part of fundraising South					
IN B	SW India collaborates with 3-5 strategic partner and has engaged with new networks and consortiums.					
IN C	Develop visibility for the SWISSAID India programme by maintaining quality of implementation, strong partnership engagement and showcasing our work.					
IN D	Capacity of staff built in networking, fundraising, and engaging with consortiums					
IN E	Staff reduces engagement in day-to-day project implementation, take adequate rest and vacations, and overtime is kept to a minimum.					
IN F	The new Country Programme in 2028 will be developed together with partners					

C. Stakeholder Map

Figure 54: Stakeholder Map

