

Design suitable approach for promoting Nutrition Sensitive Farming System (NSFS) as foundation for Healthy tribal Community in Banswara, India

Introduction

As per National Family Health Survey Report-3 (2005-06), 52 per cent of married women in India are anemic and 58 per cent children below 2 years of age are stunted, due to under nutrition. Community leaders and elderly farmers, both men and women list a number of food items which were part of traditional food system and believed to provide rich nutrition but are now at the verge of extinction. Young generation farmers hardly know them; there is limited knowledge about their cultivation practices and many other challenges like information gaps on their nutrition values and health benefits.

Study Objectives

This research will capture information from tribal community groups in Banswara, Rajasthan and adopt participatory processes to capture information pertaining to such traditional foods and key challenges in their cultivation/adaptation. It will amalgamate Participatory Learning and Action (PLA) tool and test the same for application of PLA-Nutrition Sensitive Farming System with 600 farmers in 30 groups. This will help in evolving framework for community led NSFS to tackle under-nutrition in tribal dominated central India. It will also provide leads on how the PLA approach can be extended to promote nutritive sensitive farming system for addressing problem of under nutrition.

The study will address the problem of reduction in traditional food diversity by bringing out challenges anticipated in promotion of nutrition sensitive agriculture practices. Information generated will be consolidated in the form of possible PLA modules and implementation processes. They will further be tested with 30 groups (600 respondents) to bring out community driven PLA framework including food diversity, list of barriers & enablers across agriculture for promoting agriculture led nutrition security for wider tribal families. The findings will be useful for communities themselves, government, development stakeholders in nutrition security which are working within pillar-3 perspective of LANSA.

Partners

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