



सत्यमेव जयते

Ministry of Tribal Affairs
Government of India

VAN DHAN

Mechanism for Marketing of Minor Forest Produce(MFP)
through Minimum Support Price(MSP) & Development of Value Chain

PROCUREMENT

VALUE ADDITION

MARKETING

COMMUNITY

Monthly Progress Report



Digitalization and Sensitization of Tribal Gatherers

A collaborative approach to extend
the reach to Tribal community



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VAN DHAN PROGRAM

Digitalization and Sensitization of Tribal Gatherers

A collaborative approach to extend the reach to tribal community



Submitted by
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Ministry of Tribal Affairs
Government of India

In Association with



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1. Project Description

A. Introduction

Forests are home to many peoples, including a substantial population of indigenous peoples. It provides the source and means of survival. Center for International Forestry Research (CIFOR) Director General David Kaimowitz says: “One hundred million people depend on forests to supply key elements needed for their survival, either goods and services or incomes. Tribal communities live in forests, and therefore, in India they are called ‘janjatis’ (forest dwellers). Their socio-cultural life is mostly woven around nature. Forest trees and common property resources are basic to tribal communities, directly benefit them like a foster mother and fulfill their biological, cultural, religious and emotional needs (Malik, 2004). To fulfil their livelihood requirements the tribals gather Minor Forest Produce (MFP). MFPs has become one of the source for meeting their cash needs. Thus, MFP collection and marketing holds critical importance for tribal’s as they spend a major portion of their time on it and derive a major portion of their income from it.

But, the truth is that the tribes are far from getting their due share from this activity. The reasons for this are many and varied. Bulk of the Non-timber forest products (NTFP) are moved out of the tribal world in unprocessed form. The economic implication of this is that the tribes, who are legally ‘owners of the forest produces’ lose out on the creamy benefit of value addition.

‘**Sankalp Bharat Sashakt Bharat**’ the **Sankalp Patra** – Lok Sabha 2019 of the Government under ‘Inclusive Development’ has mentioned establishing 50,000 ‘**Van Dhan Vikas Kendras**’ in tribal dominated areas. Recognizing this, Ministry of Tribal Affairs, Government of India, announced the Scheme “Mechanism for Marketing of Minor Forest Produce (MFP) through Minimum Support Price (MSP) & Development of Value Chain for MFP”. Government has announced Minimum Support Price (MSP) of 50 items to provide fair and remunerative returns to the tribal gatherers. Towards development of Value Chain for MFP, Government has announced ‘**Van Dhan**’ program keeping the tribal forest gatherers as the focus, to ensure training on sustainable harvesting with primary level value addition, skill up gradation and processing through setting up of **Van Dhan Vikas Kendras (VDVKs)**

The scheme envisages to establish 3000 Van Dhan Vikas Kendras (**VDVKs**) in the financial year 2019-20 from the list of SHGs groups from **Aajevika SHGs**, Joint Forest Management Committee (**JFMCs**), Large Area Multipurpose Cooperative Societies (**LAMPS**) comprising of majority of tribal members, covering 27 States & 307 predominant tribal districts through 100% grant funding from Government of India routed through TRIFED. Each of the community owned VDVK unit will be formed by bringing together 15-20 SHGs, each comprising of 15-20 members. Each VDVK will have around 300 members and will undertake procurement, primary value addition, marketing & selling of MFPs.

Under Ministry of Electronics & Information Technology (**MEITY**), CSC eGovernance Services India Limited a special purpose vehicle (also referred as **CSC SPV**) are provided a task to set up Common Services Center (CSCs). CSCs are internet enabled access points for delivery of various

Digital Services (e-Services) to the citizens. These enable citizens to avail of the Government and other services closer to their locality in a transparent and timely manner. The ability of CSC to avoid direct interaction of citizens with Government offices brings transparency, accountability and efficiency in the delivery of services through a reduced turnaround time.

Because of the large network of CSCs reaching to the panchayat level, TRIFED has engaged CSC SPV for supporting in the Van Dhan implementation through:

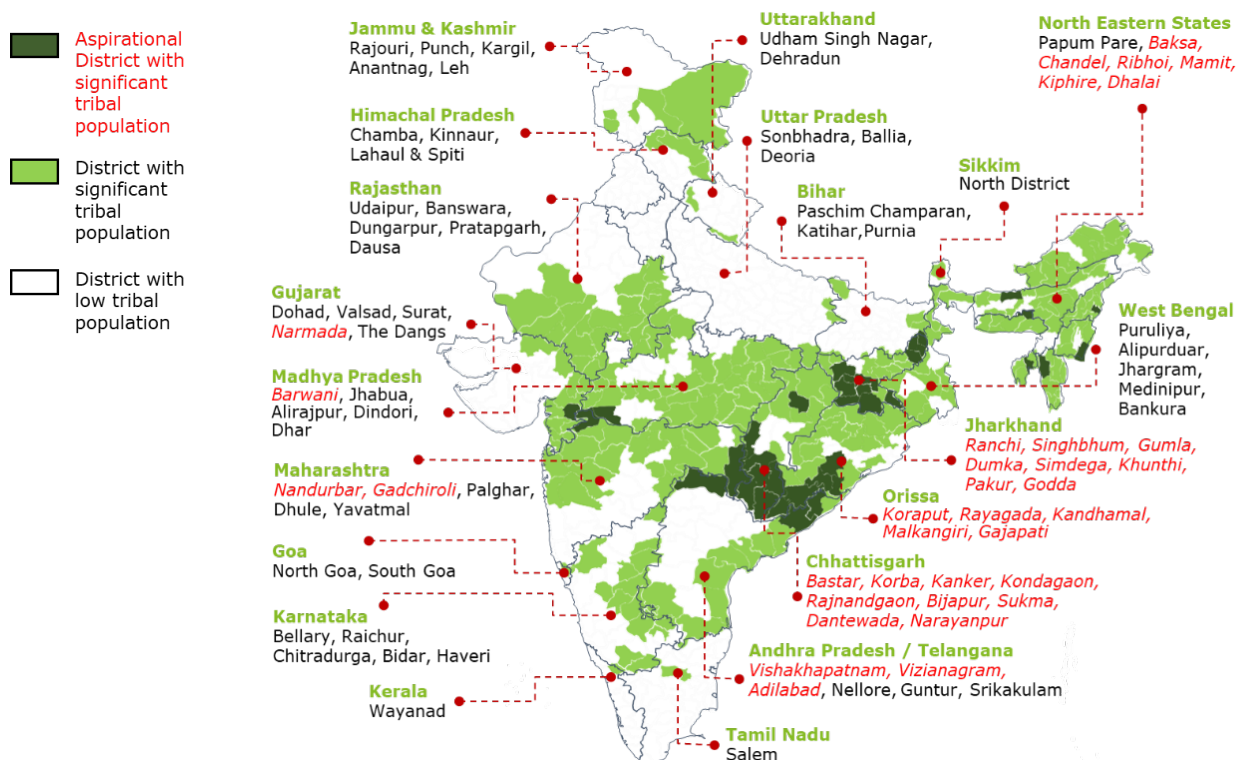
- (i) Digitization of MFP ecosystem at the last mile as well as;
- (ii) Necessary Program Management support at District and State levels to assist the respective implementation bodies.

B. Objective

- (i) To generate tribal **livelihoods** & provide **income enhancement** for around 9 lakhs tribal gatherers in the first year with the plan to reach around 45 lakhs tribal gatherers in the next five years
- (ii) To provide sustainability to MFP based livelihoods of the tribal gatherer in the MFP rich districts and boost MFP production & trade in the country for development of mainstream MFP based industries
- (iii) To develop IT platform with dashboard with mobile application for monitoring and on boarding of tribal gatherers.
- (iv) To identify and onboard tribal SHG and non-SHG members gathering MFP.
- (v) To identify and onboard Village haats and Warehouses where MFP products are sold and stored respectively.
- (vi) To form of Van Dhan SHGs for Van Dhan Vikas Kendras (VDVKs) in coordination with local NRLM Aajeevika.
- (vii) To conduct sensitization and induction program for tribal SHG members.

2. Geographical Area Coverage

The scheme will cover all the **27 states & 307 predominant tribal districts** of the country. Under the 100-day plan, it is envisaged to establish 600 VDVK units in the 307 Districts with 2 VDVK unit in each District. The map indicating the States & Districts is shown below-



3. Work Progress: Month's Highlights

Sr.	Activity	Remarks	Status
1	PMU & Other Teams On-Boarding		
a	Onboarding of Deloitte PMU	TRIFED has engaged with Deloitte to provide program management unit support for implementation of the Van Dhan program	Task Completed
b	Onboarding of CSC SPV PMU	TRIFED has engaged with CSC SPV (Meity) for supporting with their more than 4.5 lakhs IT-enabled CSC network for the implementation of the Van Dhan program	Task Completed
c	Engagement of Aajeevika SHGs (National Rural Livelihood Mission) (NRLM)	TRIFED has engaged with Ministry of Rural Development for onboarding Aajeevika SHGs for onboarding them in the Van Dhan program & establishing VDKV units	Task Completed
d	Engagement of Joint Forest Management Committees (JFMCs) and LAMPS	TRIFED will visit & engage with State Forest Department/ Forest Corporation/ Tribal Welfare Department for onboarding the JFMCs/ LAMPS/ Other tribal SHGs promoted by them in the Van Dhan program	In-Process
e	State & District Level CSC team	TRIFED through CSC SPV has appointed team members at each of the 27 states & 307 tribal districts for supporting in the implementation of the Van Dhan program	Task Completed
2	Online Survey Design & Questionnaire		
a	Survey forms for tribal Gatherers, Haat Bazaars & Warehouses	TRIFED along with the CSC team has prepared the online survey forms for collecting information about the tribal gatherers, MFP haat bazaars, & warehouses	Task Completed
b	Mobile IT platform	CSC SPV will develop a mobile IT platform for collecting the survey information & monitoring of the program implementation	In-Process
3	Other Tasks		

a	Formation of 14 field teams	TRIFED has formed 14 teams at the HO level comprising members of State CSC Office, TRIFED Regional Office, Advisors, PMU team for visiting all the 27 states for sensitization & promotion about the Van Dhan program and formation of VDVK units. They teams would start the field visits from first week of July, 2019	Task Completed
b	Identification of CSC VLEs in all the 307 districts	CSC SPV will identify all the CSC Village Level Entrepreneur (VLEs) for conducting the field survey in July 2019	In Process
c	TRIFOOD – MFP Processing Centers	TRIFED is the process for selection of Project Management Consultancy (PMC) for establishing two MFP processing units at Jagdalpur, Chhattisgarh & Raigad Maharashtra. The PMC will be appointed in the second week of July.	Task Completed

4. Other activities

A. Meetings

The following meetings with various Stakeholders were organized for the sensitization & promotion of the Scheme & implementation of the Van Dhan program:

Date of Meeting	Objective	Detail of the Meeting
4 June 2019	Sensitization Meeting with <ul style="list-style-type: none">Hon'ble Minister for Tribal Affairs, Shri Arjun Munda,Hon'ble Minister of State for Tribal Affairs Smt. Renuka Singh,Chairman, TRIFEDSecretary, Ministry of Tribal Affairs and other officials	MD TRIFED apprised the Hon'ble Minister & other officials about the activities carried out by TRIFED for tribal livelihood generations and the plan for implementation of the Van Dhan program.
7 June 2019	<ul style="list-style-type: none">TRIFED meeting with all stakeholdersDiscussion on the role and responsibility of CSC PMU	Meeting held for TRIFED Central Team, PMU, TRIFED Advisors, TRIFED RMs, UNICEF at TRIFED office for developing the implementation plan for Van Dhan program and integration of CSCs
11 June 2019	Meeting with <ul style="list-style-type: none">Hon'ble Minister for Tribal Affairs, Shri Arjun MundaSecretary, Ministry of Tribal Affairs and other officials	Meeting held at Hon'ble Minister's chamber for presenting the plan for implementation of Van Dhan program & the way forward.
18 June 2019	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Conducted meeting on the collaboration of CSC SPV and TRIFED and future strategy of Project Implementation	Meeting was organized for TRIFED MD, CSC SPV CEO, PMU at TRIFED office for sensitizing the CSC team about the Van Dhan program implementation
27 June 2019	Workshop Launch for Advocacy by <ul style="list-style-type: none">Hon'ble Minister for Tribal Affairs, Shri Arjun Munda,Hon'ble Minister of State for Tribal Affairs Smt. Renuka Singh, For the 14 visiting teams teams, RMs, Advisors etc. for the initiation of Van Dhan field visits to States & Integration of CSCs role	Workshop was held for TRIFED Central Team, PMU, TRIFED Advisors, TRIFED at TRIFED office for Sensitizing the teams for field visits for the establishment of VDKV units.

B. Webcast

A national wide webcast was scheduled on 25th June, 2019 at 10.00 Hrs at CSC SPV office for all the State CSC teams. The session was addressed by Shri Pravir Krishna, MD, TRIFED and Shri. Roy Mathew (Principal Consultant). MD TRIFED shared the details about Van Dhan Scheme, MFPs and Tribal gatherers. In addition to this he shared the process of approaching the tribal gathers. Mr. Roy Mathew shed light on the process of the scheme to be channelized from various levels i.e. central, state and districts.

The speakers mentioned the involvement of various stakeholders such as District collector, JFMs, LAMPs, NRLM and SHGs. At the end of the session the speakers answered the questions raised by

the live audience. The webcast was viewed by all the CSCs in pan India.

C. Field Visits

MD TRIFED had visited the state of Rajasthan along with on 14 June 2019 for meeting the District Collectors for sensitizing the District Collectors, NGOs, Foundations and other stakeholders about the Van Dhan program and establishment of VDVVs

D. Snapshots of Meetings

1. Sensitization Meeting with the Hon'ble Minister of Tribal Affairs, Hon'ble Minister of State for Tribal Affairs, Chairman TRIFED, Secretary, Ministry of Tribal Affairs & Other officials at TRIFED on 4 June 2019



2. Meeting with the Hon'ble Minister of Tribal Affairs, Secretary, Ministry of Tribal Affairs and other officials for discussing the Van Dhan Plan at the Hon'ble Minister's Chamber on 11 June 2019



3. Advocacy Workshop Launch by Hon'ble Minister of Tribal Affairs, Hon'ble Minister of State for Tribal Affairs and other officials at TRIFED on 27 June 2019



4. Webcast for all the CSC SPV Village Level Entrepreneurs (VLE) at CSC SPV office on 25 June 2019



5. State Level Field Visit by MD TRIFED at Commissioner Office Tribal Area Development Department, Udaipur, Rajasthan on 14 June 2019



6. Webcast engagement of the VLEs at the Panchayat level at Morena District, Madhya Pradesh on 25 June 2019



