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# ENHANCING RURAL RESILIENCE THROUGH APPROPRIATE DEVELOPMENT ACTIONS (ERADA)

Two-thirds of the farmer households in rural India have landholdings less than one hectare, that is mainly used for subsistence purposes. Further, the *Socio-Economic and Caste Census 2011* indicated that 56 per cent of rural households owned no agricultural land. As a result, about 51 per cent of rural India depend on manual labour, mostly on farms, for income. Agricultural yields are increasingly volatile and incomes uncertain due to the effects of climate change, such as increase in extreme temperatures and more erratic rainfall patterns. On the other hand, livelihoods in the non-farm sector is still developing in rural areas.

In the absence of sufficient local sources of income, rural people leave their homes and migrate to work in urban areas. However, the situation is not better in urban areas, especially for the families migrating out of distress. They work short-term and informal jobs under unprotected working conditions. The COVID-19 pandemic, especially during the first wave in 2020, resulted in loss of income, shelter and social attachment for most migrant workers - about ten million returned to their home villages in April 2020 (Ministry of Labour, 2020). As they mostly come from rural regions that were already at risk of poverty before COVID-19 (SDG Index, 2020), the loss of transfer payments caused additional economic pressure on these regions and vulnerable households.

The Indo-German development cooperation project 'Enhancing Rural Resilience through Appropriate Development Actions (ERADA)' is commissioned by the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ) in cooperation with the Ministry of Rural Development (MoRD), Government of India. The project, implemented by Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH, aims to strengthen the resilience of rural regions and enhance the ability of vulnerable people to make a living by building upon locally available development programmes as well as improved natural resource management. ERADA is part of BMZ's *Corona Immediate Programme*.

MoRD is the nodal agency for most of the development and social programmes in rural India including the *Mahatma Gandhi NREGA*, world's largest public works programme, making a substantial contribution to rural livelihoods and infrastructure development. More than half of the *Mahatma Gandhi NREGA* expenditure goes towards sustainable natural resource management including land and soil management, water harvesting and conservation, and protection against extreme weather events, such as drought and flooding, thus creating significant climate adaptation and mitigation co-benefits.



<b>Project name</b>	Enhancing Rural Resilience through Appropriate Development Actions (ERADA)
<b>Commissioned by</b>	German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ)
<b>Project region</b>	Bihar, Jharkhand, Madhya Pradesh and Rajasthan
<b>Lead executing agency</b>	Ministry of Rural Development
<b>Duration</b>	09/2021 – 08/2024

## Objective

The objective of the project is to strengthen the livelihoods of vulnerable households based on locally available natural resources and developmental support programmes.

ERADA is operational on a national level and in eight blocks across eight aspirational districts in four Indian states namely Bihar, Jharkhand, Madhya Pradesh and Rajasthan.

## Project Approach

The project is strengthening livelihoods for women, youth, migrants and vulnerable communities in rural areas to enhance their income generation opportunities, thus providing them the opportunity to stay back and not migrate out of distress, and be better positioned for upcoming pandemics and other crises. The project aims at the long-term, sustainable strengthening of the local natural resource base, through *Mahatma Gandhi NREGA*. This includes digital and institutional infrastructure measures that improve the natural resource base to be climate change resilient as well as agroecological approaches that make the use of the resource base more resilient, through adapted cultural techniques and varieties. The project will strengthen the convergence of different government support programmes for the conservation and sustainable management of the natural resource base, augmenting sustainable livelihoods and strengthening rural resilience.

The project has three outputs:

Improving wage work potential of vulnerable households and enhancing the natural resource base

Long-term green livelihood development, in convergence with NRLM and other relevant national and state level programmes

Improving convergence and strengthening of multi-stakeholder platforms for providing better access to vulnerable households

## Contribution to the International Agreements for Implementation of the 2030 Agenda

ERADA contributes to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs):



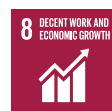
SDG 1: No Poverty by improving wage work generation under *Mahatma Gandhi NREGA* programme in the pilot locations



SDG 2: Zero hunger by promoting green enterprises, value chain development and other livelihood opportunities for women, youth, SC/ST and vulnerable communities



SDG 5: Gender Equality through promotion of women empowerment through economic and social development activities



SDG 8: Decent Work and Economic Growth through development of additional wage employment and innovative long-term livelihood development opportunities

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