Scaling Up Community Nutrition Gardens in India How PEOPLE are the key to success or failure

Securing Nutrition, Enhancing Resilience Project (SENU)

Sep 2023





Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) Gmbl

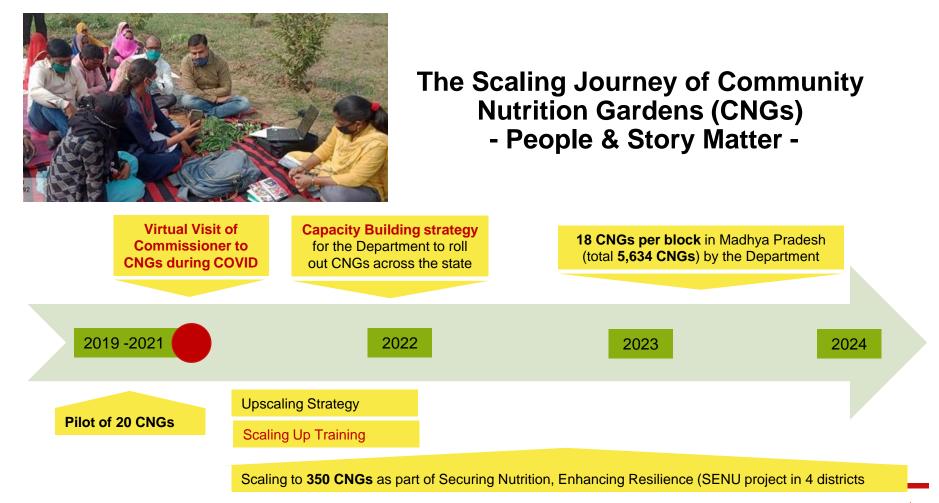
What is a Community Nutrition Garden?

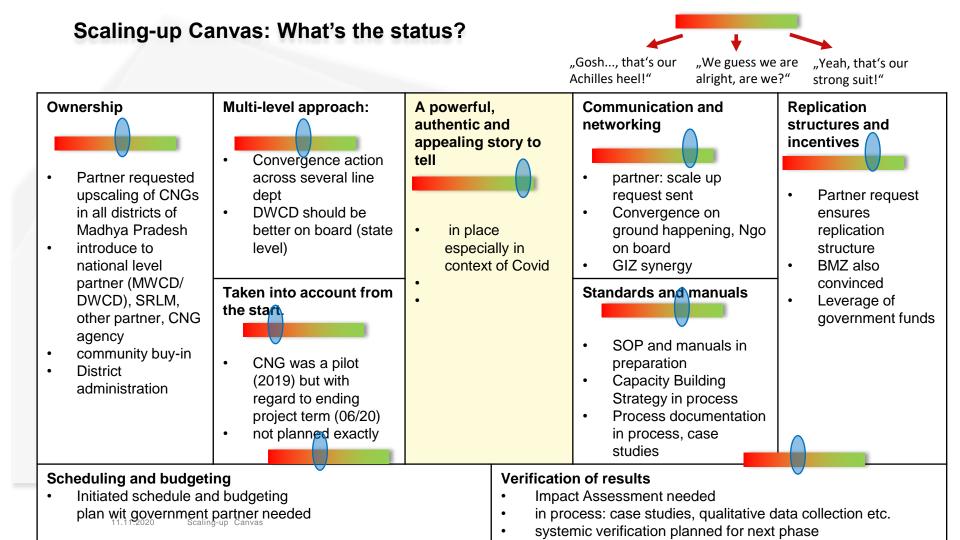
Objective: Ensure year-round availability of seasonal nutritious fruits, pulses and vegetables for household consumption and sale

Concept

- 10-15 women of a self-help group (SHG) under State Rural Livelihood Mission cultivate the gardens
- SHG women get Community Land
- Plantation of fruit trees, intercropping of vegetables, pulses following agroecological gardening practices and integrate livestock
- Leverages provisions under social protection scheme for guaranteed work (MGNREGS) like wages, input costs etc.







INVOLVED & REQUIRED STAKEHOLDERS FROM STATE TO VILLAGE LEVEL

URBAN COMMUNITY DISTRICT AND AGRICULTURE SRLM WOMEN SHGs LOCAL BLOCK OFFICIALS RESOURCE PERSONS BODIES know how etc. DISTRICTS/BLOCK LEVEL VILLAGE LEVEL STATE LEVEL MGNREGA HORTICULTURE SOCIAL AND ANGANWADI **GRAM PANCHAYAT & GRAM** NABARD VOLUNATRY WORKERS **ROZGAR SAHAYAK** ORGANISATION marketing and



Provisions under Social Protection Scheme MGNREGA (Employment Guarantee Act)

- MGNREGA has issued letters and guidelines for rolling out CNGs across the state
- CNG models:
 - Minimum 1-hectare land with fruit plantation, inter-cropping of vegetables, pulses
 - 2-hectare and above land with fruit plantation, inter-cropping of vegetables, pulses along with livelihood activities like cow-shed, fisheries etc
- CNG proposal is technically and administratively sanctioned by MGNREGA
- SHG women get MGNREGS wages for working in CNG
- MGNREGS has provisions for saplings, wells, rain-water harvesting, land preparation etc.

Capacity Development at organization, system and individual level

- Organization level:
 - CNG is now a regular program, and it is continuously monitored in terms of physical progress right from setting up to market linkage for the produce
 - Development of IT solution for monitoring the physical progress of CNGs (Sep'23)
 - Pool of Master Trainers for every district

Capacity Development at organization, system and individual level (contd.)

- System level
 - Issuing of letters and guidelines
 - Charting out a standard and uniform way of developing CNG through an implementation manual in collaboration with technical experts from agricultural universities
 - Development of training manual and soft skills manual
 - Formation of district level coordination committee consisting of relevant departments for the roll-out of CNGs in the districts to ensure broad level ownership and convergence
- Individual level
 - Trainings of government officials at the state, district and sub-district levels (2000+ trained); some online sessions for SHG members also
 - Exposure visits for SHG members, community leaders, government officials (70+ participated, ongoing)

CNG Progress

- Identified sites for CNG 1200+
- Work Sanctioned 814
- Work started 699
- No. of SHG women involved 12000+
- Funds allocated by the Govt. Department -5.65 million euros

Securing Nutrition, Enha



Ownership Challenges



- Ownership by Department
 - CNG is viewed as an infrastructure development activity by the department officials
 - GIZ is playing a key role by sensitizing the department officials about the nutrition and livelihood aspects of this initiative, a long-term view
- Ownership by SHG Women
 - SHG women will be motivated till they get the MGNREGS wages (3 years)
 - For ownership beyond 3 years, livelihood is an important motivating factor
 - GIZ is working with SHG women in coming up with activities like marketing of the surplus produce, fisheries, cattle etc

Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH

Registered offices Bonn and Eschborn

Friedrich-Ebert-Allee 36 + 40 53113 Bonn, Germany T +49 228 44 60 - 0 F +49 228 44 60 - 17 66

E info@giz.de I www.giz.de Dag-Hammarskjöld-Weg 1 - 5 65760 Eschborn, Germany T +49 61 96 79 - 0 F +49 61 96 79 - 11 15



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Capacity Development Strategy (Apr'21)



Two Experts (Oct'21-Nov'22) Now a full-time resource since Jan'23

Training Sessions (Jan'22 – ongoing)

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Business Proposal for MGNREGA Park, Sehore (Aug'22)



Implementation Manual (Sep'22) Technical Training Manual & Soft Skills Manual (Sep'22)



IT Solution for Monitoring (by Sep'23) Training of Master Trainers (2 resources per district by Oct'23)



Exposure visit of SHG members, community leaders, government officials (70+ participated, ongoing)

Capacity Development Journey