

Upscaling of Community Nutrition Gardens in Madhya Pradesh



GIZ Securing Nutrition, Enhancing Resilience (SENU) project



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424,000

women of child-bearing age,
pregnant and lactating women



86,000

young children (6-23 months)

From vulnerable communities in the states of Madhya Pradesh and Maharashtra, India (2015-2025), SENU follows a multi-sectoral approach linking nutrition education with community nutrition gardens, and nutrition governance.

Community Nutrition Garden (CNG) approach



Objective

Promote **year-round availability of diverse and nutritious food** for household consumption, **women and young children**, and for **economic empowerment** of food insecure women and their families

Promote CNGs as **nutrition field schools**, to foster co-creation and knowledge exchange through the establishment of **CNG Innovation Hubs**

Increase dietary diversity as the **core of the approach**, with the option to sell surplus produce in markets, thus promoting economic empowerment

KEY FEATURES

- Development and Maintenance of CNGs by Self-Help Groups (SHGs) of 10-20 women under State Rural Livelihood Mission (SRLM) on community land of 1-hectare, 2-hectare, and more than 2-hectare size, Anganwadi Centres, or school premises
- Wages to SHG women under MGNREGA for development and maintenance of gardens
- SHGs receive material inputs such as seeds, saplings, support for irrigation and fencing under MGNREGA and schemes from other line departments
- Promotion of agroecological practices
- Community mobilisation with involvement of men and active participation of Gram Panchayats to strengthen local governance

SENU STRATEGY OF CNG UPSCALING IN MADHYA PRADESH

- Implementation, using an integrated approach, up to 350 gardens in four project districts (Sheopur, Chhatarpur, Barwani, Khandwa) from 2021 to 2024 in collaboration with implementation partners SRIJAN and Harsha Trust. The initiative is linked with participatory [nutrition education](#) facilitated by Anganwadi workers with recipe demonstrations on site, role plays etc.
- Technical support to Department of Panchayat and Rural Development under Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA) for capacity building of officials and other stakeholders. The organisation Professional Assistance for Development Action is providing capacity building support to SHG members, and the team involved with the CNG implementation.
- The target is to develop **2,135** CNGs across Madhya Pradesh with a sustainable livelihood option for the women. It is expected to cover a **3,000**-hectare area across Madhya Pradesh, targeting around **22,000** landless marginal women and their families.

INVOLVED & REQUIRED STAKEHOLDERS FROM STATE TO VILLAGE LEVEL

WOMEN SHGs

Development and maintenance of CNG, management of CNG produce

COMMUNITY RESOURCE PERSONS

Community mobilisation and training

DISTRICT AND BLOCK OFFICIALS

For liaising, coordinating and carrying out execution along with women SHGs

AGRICULTURE

Providing seeds, what and how to plant, trainings on modern agricultural practices by Krishi Vigyan Kendras, smart irrigation know how etc

SRLM

Formation of SHGs, trainings for SHG management, market linkages for CNG produce management etc

VILLAGE LEVEL

ANGANWADI WORKERS

Providing nutrition education on good nutrition & hygiene practices

GRAM PANCHAYAT & GRAM ROZGAR SAHAYAK

For community mobilisation and involvement to create ownership, resolving issues pertaining to CNGs etc, and land

DISTRICTS/BLOCK LEVEL

HORTICULTURE

Providing seeds, saplings, what and how to plant, trainings on modern agricultural practices etc

STATE LEVEL

MGNREGA

Technical And Financial Support (Wages, Material Inputs), Land Identification

LESSONS LEARNT



Need for climate-friendly irrigation techniques



Adequate (natural) fencing to protect the gardens from stray animals



Early and constant involvement of community, especially men, and governmental stakeholders



Timely access to seeds and wages through governmental schemes



ACHIEVEMENTS



Community mobilisation and institutionalisation with Gram Panchayats



Women self-reported including at least 3 food groups in meals they prepare



Increased financial literacy, nutritional knowledge & alternate income sources led to economic empowerment for women



Increased active participation of women in village meetings



Women experience increased acceptance within the family and community



Developed a CNG training package with manuals covering implementation, training skills, and gender for use in Madhya Pradesh

STEPS OF IMPLEMENTATION

Identification, sensitisation and training of active women Self-Help Groups (SHGs)



Consultations with district officials and other stakeholders



Identification of appropriate public land of minimum 1 hectare



Women's responsibility for maintenance and harvest of the CNG



Provision of fruit seedlings and vegetable seed at subsidised rates from district nurseries



Weekly provision of CNG produce for rural mother and child health care centres (Anganwadi Centres) and schools



Wages under MGNREGA



Published by:

Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH
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Photos: © GIZ / SENU

GIZ is responsible for the content of this publication

April 2024



Scan the QR code to follow the journey of CNGs under MGNREGS



Scan the QR code to find out about the CNG Pilot Initiative