



Community led Management of COMMON PROPERTY RESOURCES

A win-win SHG-local government partnership model,
creating economic, social and environmental value



February 2016



About DRCSC

Development Research Communication and Services Centre (DRCSC), a non-profit development organization, formed in 1982 has been working as a resource centre for collection, collation and dissemination of information on various socio-economic issues and to highlight the struggles of various NGOs, CBOs and individuals to ensure social justice; especially for informal sector workers, indigenous communities and small & marginal farmers/landless labourers as well as self employed artisans. Along with that, since 1992, the centre focused on Sustainable Agriculture & Natural Resource Management for improving food & livelihood security of the rural poor. The centre stands for ensuring food and livelihood security of the rural poor through sustainable management of natural resources on the basis of principles and action.



About Change Alliance

Change Alliance, a wholly owned subsidiary of Christian Aid, UK has been working a various portfolio of projects with an ambition of bridging the social and economic gap in the Indian Masses and make growth inclusive and sustainable. Change Alliance provides market-leading development services and training, high quality technical and advisory consultancy, and capacity building to the development and private sectors and to government. Change Alliance is committed to working in partnership as a catalyst for change and understands the need to bring strategic stakeholders together to tackle complex challenges in a fast-moving development landscape



About Re-emerging World

Re-emerging World (ReW) is a strategic advisory firm working with leading Multinational Corporations (MNCs), Businesses, Social Entrepreneurs and Institutions on their inclusive growth agenda in emerging markets. ReW focuses on innovation, insights and models at the intersection of business value creation, social and environmental impact. ReW was given the responsibility for conducting this study and report preparation.

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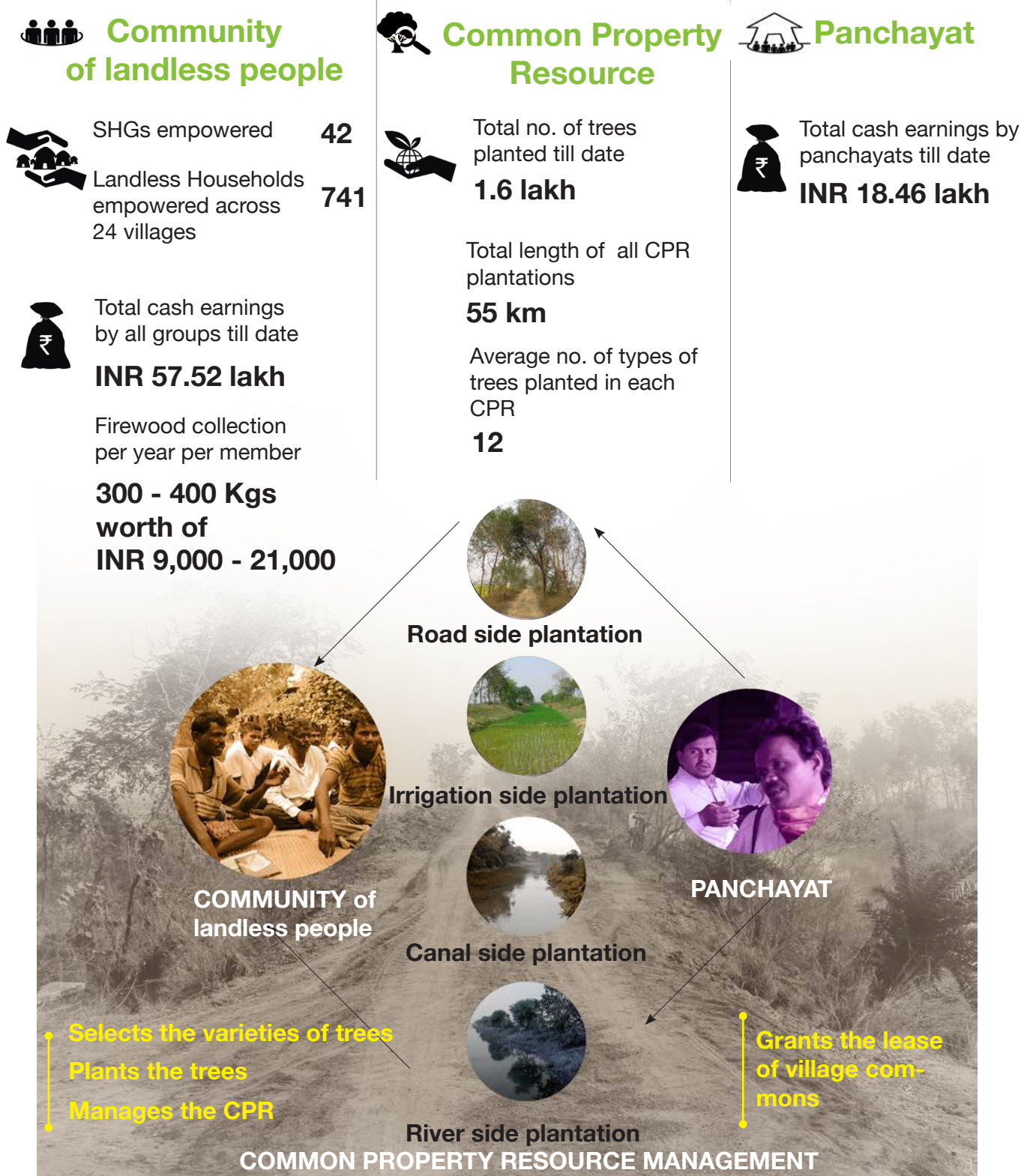


Summary of Impact Delivered from 1998 to 2016

Landless families in the villages of West Bengal suffer from acute shortage of food, fodder and firewood. At the same time, the common properties in the villages including fallow lands across road sides, river embankment of irrigation canals remain underutilised or gradually degrade.

Since 1998, DRCSC started facilitating innovative community led Common Property Resource(CPR) management models in Birbhum District to ensure these communities obtain most of firewood, fodder and timber requirement from a CPR and also are able to generate additional cash income . The following exhibit summarises the impact and benefits delivered by those models.

Exhibit 1



The Community Management of CPR is designed as a win-win model for the People, Local Government and the Environment

Who is benefiting?

DRCSC facilitated CPR management model focuses on SHGs primarily composed of marginalized and landless families of the village.

How this model is different from the other CPR management models?

The nine innovative features of the DRCSC facilitated model makes it distinct

- Creation of economic wealth both for Community and Local Government
- Selection of primarily landless community to manage the CPR leading to the creation of a committed and sincere steward team
- Inclusive process of selection of varieties of trees driven by the local agro-climatic features, needs of the community and with their collaborative participation
- Bottom up implementation of the management of CPR leading to ownership of results
- Delivering non-cash economic value from year 1 through cultivation of pigeonpea, herbs and soyabean
- Encouraging plantation of multiple varieties of trees which balances the year round need of fodder, firewood and long term cash generation through sale of woodlots
- The proper selection of trees ensures that most of the trees re-grow from their trunk after the branches and portion of the trunk have been cut for wood and there is no need for replanting
- Selection of trees with different life cycles which ensures their felling for sales at different time intervals
- A 20-25 years agreement between local community and government ensures long term ownership and planning

What are the benefits and impact delivered ?

Community managed CPR models delivers multi-faceted and long term impact to the communities.



Economic

Benefits delivered

Year round source of fuelwood, fodder and other products including herbs, pigeonpea and soyabean

Substantial cash income generation opportunity through sale of woodlots after an average cycle of 7-8 years which is used to buy live stocks

Additional income generating opportunities through engaging in the management of other CPR and also through time savings in collection of food, fodder and firewood

Impact Created

Enhanced self consumption with monetary and time savings

Additional cash Income and creation of assets

Generation of additional employment opportunities



Social

Benefits delivered

Strengthen group dynamics among the landless and marginalized communities

Sharing of by products from the CPR to the other locals during social ceremonies

Reduced search and collection efforts for firewood and fodder for women members of the SHG households

Impact Created

Empowerment of marginalized communities

Enhanced social visibility

Greater time savings for the women members which they use for other productive activities



Environmental

Benefits delivered

Conservation and diversification of the natural ecosystem brought out by plantation of multiple varieties of trees

Natural growth of diverse varieties of trees in the CPR

Large scale plantation significantly contributes in reduction of green-house gas concentration

Impact Created

Enhanced diversification and resilience of local environment

Natural growth of the ecosystem

Green House Gas reductions

How it impacts the local government?

The community managed CPR model supports the local government in its effort to promote the well-being of the marginalized communities of the village, preserve and enrich the local environment through effective management of village commons and also generates internal revenue opportunities.

1. Promotes the well-being of marginalized communities

The strategic role of CPRs in advancing developmental benefits to marginalized communities has been traditionally established. Local government as the potential enablers of this model can create the space for impacting the vulnerable communities of the village.

2. Enrichment of local environment through effective management of village commons

As the community is centrally involved from the first step of transformation of the village common, the expected environmental benefits from such a management is greater and more tangible.

3. Reduced maintenance cost of village commons

As the CPR model is based on the village commons and is effectively managed by the SHG through planting of trees, the direct cost of repairs of a village common like a river bank incurred by the panchayat reduces.

4. Contribution to the internal revenue streams

The model entitles the local government to receive 25% of the total cash value generated from the sale of woodlots by the community.

Community Speak



“ This benefits from the CPR is extended to other villagers as well. With the diversity of trees we get a range of by-products from it and for a longer period of time. ”

Kalu Seikh, Group Member

Darbeshji Group, Kashiara, Birbhum

Local Government Speak



“ DRCSC has introduced this pioneering model which has contributed to overall benefits for our villagers, the local environment as well to the panchayat ”

Budhan Hansda, Ex-Sub Pradhan

BipratiKuri Gram Panchayat, Labhpur, Birbhum



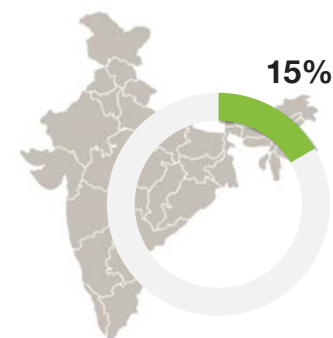
Defining Common Property Resources and its role in advancing rural economies in India

Common Property Resources have traditionally emerged as a strategic community asset with a particular relevance for rural poor

Common Property Resources have traditionally existed, however their management, contribution and impact particularly in the rural context has increased over time.

Exhibit 2

% of CPR land in India's area



15%

CPR Land per rural household size(Ha) 0.31

Defining CPR for this study

The Government of India defines CPRs as resources accessible to and collectively owned\held\managed by an identifiable community and on which no individual has exclusive property rights. The study focuses on the distinctive category of the CPRs referred as common village land or commons which is formally held by the village panchayat which can be inclusive of road side grazing/ pasture land, river side land, canal side land.

CPRs as drivers of rural development

CPRs in particular in the Rural India Context, constitute an important component of community assets. They play a key role in responding to the needs and stresses faced by the landless rural communities through providing them with a range of physical products, cash income and employment generation opportunities and overall contribute in larger social and ecological gains.

Exhibit 3 Rural Dependency on CPRs

Households reporting collection of any materials¹ from CPRs

48%

Households fulfilling their fuelwood requirement from CPRs

58%

Households fulfilling their fodder requirement from CPRs

25%



Source: http://mospi.nic.in/rept%20_%20pubn/452_final.pdf

¹Any material refers to fire wood, fodder, medicinal herbs, manure, timber, edibles.

Recent policy initiatives strengthening CPR management

At the central level, several policy initiatives have been brought out for strengthening the management of CPRs. An important policy directive is the Joint Forest Management Act which outlines and conveys the state governments to engage village communities for the protection, regeneration and development of degraded forest lands. Watershed Development Guidelines in another public intervention aiming at treatment of degraded lands through a participatory approach.

The centrally designed public interventions to leverage CPR management for promoting of socio-economic conditions of the rural poor as the overall ecological conditions is testimony to potential role of CPR in promoting rural development.



A win-win SHG – Local Government Partnership model to Create Economic, Social and Environmental Value through CPR

DRCSC's innovative model of CPR management creates economic value both for community and local government, and delivers long term social and environmental benefits

The context



As per the Socio Economic and Caste Census 2011, 38.37% of the total rural households in India and 48.02% in West Bengal are landless. With the absence of any land assets and wage earning opportunities, the landless communities largely depend on the common grazing grounds and forests lands to meet their basic needs of food, fuelwood and fodder. With rapid deforestation causing an acute shortage of firewood and fodder, the vulnerabilities of the landless communities has aggravated further.

With a motivation to enhance the food and livelihood security of the marginalized through optimally leveraging CPRs, Development Research Communications and Service Centre (DRCSC), a Kolkata based NGO, first successfully introduced the concept of a community managed CPR in Kashiara village, located in the Labhpur Tehsil of Birbhum District in West Bengal in the year 1998.

About the model

In DRCSC facilitated CPR model, a SHG mostly comprising of landless members enters into an agreement with the local panchayat to build and manage a CPR at unutilized/underutilized village common for period of 20-25 years.

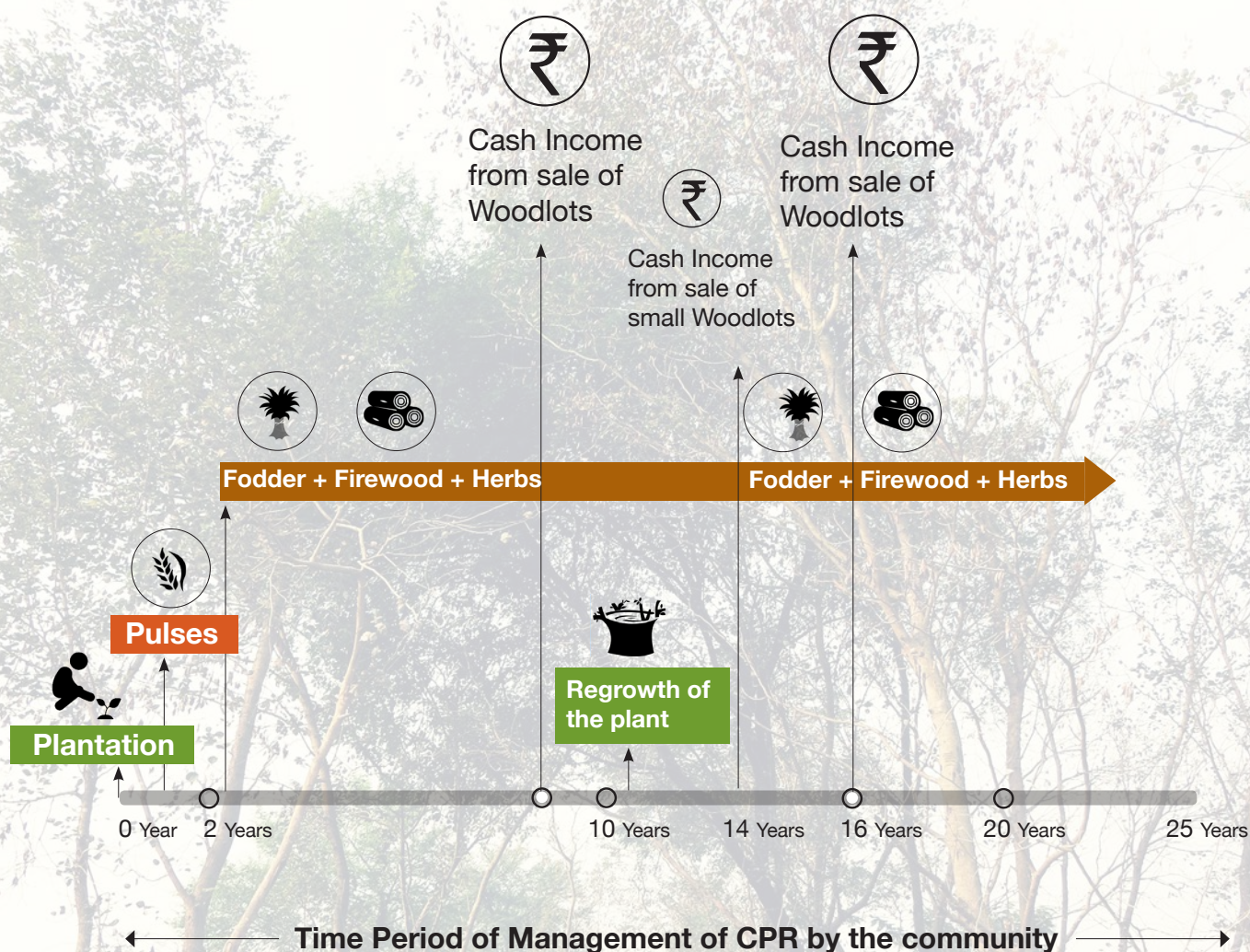
When the trees gets matured, some of them will be felled taking prior permission from Panchayat and 25% of the sale proceeds will be shared with the Panchayat and the rest equally among the SHG members. The onus of selection of trees in CPR and CPR management lies with the community.

¹ <http://secc.gov.in/stateSummaryReport>




Exhibit 4 DRCSC facilitated CPR model sets to optimally leverage village commons through effective management by the landless communities



Exhibit 5 Life cycle of CPR and its benefit



Key Roles and Responsibilities for each stakeholder

 Self Help Group	 Panchayat	 DRCSC
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Selects & proposes for the village common to be used as CPR • Selects and plants the trees in CPR • Manages the CPR • Decision of felling the trees • Arranges for selling the woodlots • Disposal of 25% of sale proceeds to panchayat 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Grants the lease agreement for the usage of village common as CPR • Approval for trees for selling • Mitigation of social problems within the SHG 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Beneficiary identification and selection • Capacity building, training and awareness of beneficiaries • Facilitating the formation of SHGs • Facilitating the discussion with panchayats • Assistance in nursery management

9 Innovative features of the model

The DRCSC facilitated CPR model has nine innovative features as outlined below

Exhibit 6 Cash sharing model:



Community 75%
Panchayat 25%

1. Creation of economic wealth both for Community and Local Government

Every 8th-10th year, 25% of sales proceeds from the woodlots are shared with the local government by the community. The pilot project till now has created INR 57.52 lakhs of economic wealth for the community and INR 18.46 lakhs for the local government.



2. Selection of primarily landless community to manage the CPR leading to the creation of a committed and sincere steward team

The model specifically focusses on engaging the landless communities of the village to participate and lead the management of village commons. Through this engagement approach, the model successfully taps the latent desire of the landless SHG members of accessing and managing a 'land asset'. This motivation is channelized in diligent caretaking of the CPR over its entire lifecycle.

3. Inclusive process of selection of varieties of trees driven by the local agro-climatic features, needs of the community and with their collaborative participation

The process of selection of the varieties of trees in a particular CPR model is driven by three key criteria. Firstly, those trees are selected which can respond and grow well in the local agro-climatic conditions. Secondly, the intrinsic needs for potential by-products from the CPR also influences selection of trees by the SHG. Thirdly, all the members of the community including men, women and children actively participate in the process of selection of trees. DRCSC has been facilitating this selection process using the Social Analysis System (SAS) tool, developed by professors of *Carleton University* to drive better initiative and ownership by the community.

4. Bottom up implementation of the management of CPR leading to ownership of results

The SHG leads the site selection for CPR, selection of the species of the trees to be planted with the help of a Resource Partner like DRCSC. After the saplings are planted the SHG usually allocates in rotation one of the group members to guard the saplings during the day against damage caused by the grazing animals.



5. Delivering non-cash economic value from year 1 through cultivation of pigeon pea

The benefits of fire wood and fodder for the community from CPR usually starts from the third year. In order to hold the interest of the community in the CPR in the initial years, this model encourages the community to grow pigeonpea and soyabean in the space between the planted saplings. The pigeon pea can be grown in the first year and sometimes in the second year also.

6. Encouraging plantation of multiple varieties of trees which balances the year round need of fodder, firewood and long term cash generation through sale of woodlots



One of the core features of the model is the presence of at-least 12-15 varieties of trees and 6-7 varieties of shrubs in each community managed CPR model. This diversification ensures the community starts getting a variety of by-products including fuelwood, fodder and other food products from the 2nd or 3rd year. In the medium term, the diversity enriches the local natural ecosystem.

A typical well diversified CPR will have fast growing trees for primarily sale as wood lots and which generate fodder, firewood as well like *Leucaena leucocephala* (Local: Subabool), *Albizia lebbek* (Local: Sirish), *Dalbergia sissoo* (Local: Sissoo) and edible fruit, flowers and oil seed trees like Mango, Jack-fruit, Tamarind, *Sesbania grandiflora* (Local: Bak Phul), Neem.

The typical diversification approach ensures that the community stays interested in the maintenance and well-being of the CPR throughout the year.



7. The proper selection of trees ensures that most of the trees regrow from their trunk after the branches and portion of the trunk have been cut for wood and there is no need for replanting

The careful selection of the trees in the CPR ensures that after the mature trees have been cut for woodlots, fresh saplings appear from the trunk and the CPR regrows without the need for another round of planting of new trees. In many CPRs where only *Acacia auriculiformis* (Local: Sonajhuri) is planted, after the trees are cut for selling, there is no regrowth and CPR turns barren unless the entire process of replanting of trees is initiated.



8. Selection of trees with different life cycles which ensures their felling for sales at different time intervals

Another innovative feature of the CPR model is the presence of trees with different maturity cycles: short, mid and long duration. This features allows for felling of only one category of trees based on their maturity cycles at a point of time. The presence of trees with different maturity cycle ensures that the CPR never turns completely barren.



9. A 20-25 years agreement between local community and government ensures long term ownership and planning

In the CPRs facilitated by DRCSC, the lease agreement between the local government and the SHG extends for 20-25 years. Given the long term nature of the agreement, it results in long term planning of the types of trees that can be planted. In other cases, where the agreement with the community is of 5-6 years, the SHGs are only interested in planting fast growing varieties of trees like Sonajhuri resulting in only cash earnings at the end of 5th/6th year and the CPR may once again become barren if another round of fresh planting does not take place. The SHG and the extended community also does not benefit from year round firewood, fodder like a well-diversified CPR.

Delivering Impact on all 3 dimensions: Economic, Social and Environment

The CPR models facilitated by DRCSC has been calibrated to deliver impact on all the three dimensions: economic, social and environment. It is a difficult task as most of the other CPR models focus on one or two dimensions only. The study of the three types of CPR models: road side, river side and canal side, facilitated by DRCSC in the Labhpur Block distinctly revealed the economic, social and environmental impact created by the intervention.



Economic Impact

Non-cash Benefits		Total quantity annually received per SHG household	Consumption Value	Additional Cash Earnings
	Food: pulses, pigeon pea, fruits	50 Kgs	INR 3,000*	 Cash earnings per SHG member from sale of woodlots Maximum INR 32,000 Average INR 8,392
	Firewood	3-7 Quintals	INR 9,000-21,000	
	Fodder	3-5 Quintals		

*Of pulses in the first year of plantation of CPR

1. Enhanced self-consumption of food, fuelwood and fodder along with monetary and time savings



“ The year round benefits in from of various fuel, fodder and food, is of high importance to us.

”

Bharat Hansda,
Marangburu Dal, Dhultikuri, Bolpur-Shantikentan Block

Starting from the 1st or 2nd year of plantation of CPR, the SHG members start getting a range of by products: food, fodder and firewood from the CPR. Depending on the mix of trees planted, the group starts getting a variety of food items including pigeon pea, soya bean and herbs. Firewood and fodder, the other two basic requirements in a rural household also gets fulfilled on a regular basis from the CPR. The utility value of these products is high for landless communities as they are deprived of any direct and easy access from any other source. This in turn allows them to save on cash and time which they can potentially use for other productive activities.

2. Generation of additional cash income every 8th -10th year

The other tangible economic benefit is the generation of additional cash income for the SHG group members through the sale of woodlots from the CPR. As the model has a long term duration, the likelihood of earning cash income from sale of woodlots is also higher for the SHG members, there by impacting their overall economic conditions.



Social Impact

Empowerment of Marginalized Communities



Greater group dynamism among the SHG members



Improved individual social visibility through extended benefits from the CPR model

Indirect impact on Other Communities



Formation of similar SHG groups engaging in CPR management

Reduced search efforts for firewood and fodder for women

1. Strengthening group dynamics of the marginalized and landless communities



“ For marriage and social ceremonies held in our village we readily offered fuelwood collected from the CPR ”

Mayurakshi Dal
Gangrampur village, Birbhum

The group style management of CPR plays a key role in strengthening the dynamics among the landless SHG members. The members individually and collectively develop better inter personal and management skills which not only impact their lifestyles but also instils in them with greater confidence to seek other opportunities.

2. Enhanced social visibility of the group members resulting through extended benefits from CPR model

The benefits from the CPR is not strictly exclusive to the SHG group which manages it. The tangible benefits in form of fodder, firewood and other by-products is also shared by other landless people. The SHG members also willingly share firewood with other villagers particularly during social ceremonies.

These efforts of community sharing in turn results in greater social visibility of the members involved in the community management of CPR.

3. Formation of similar SHG groups of landless people engaging in CPR management of village commons

One of the distinctive impacts generated from the success of the DRCSC facilitated model is the formation of multiple SHG groups engaging in community management of the CPR. These SHG groups are similarly comprise of other landless people in the village. Thus, the model as a whole potentially contributes to the empowerment of the landless communities through the catalyst effect of forming groups and engaging in CPR management.

4. Reduced search efforts for firewood and fodder for women of the SHG households resulting in their greater time savings

The product benefits from the CPR is yielding a direct impact on the lives of women of the SHG households. Previously, the women members had to frequently engage in the search and collection process of firewood and fodder from multiple grazing fields in their village or nearby villages. Now with the direct access to the CPR, they once or twice engage in the collection of firewood and fodder and stock them in their households. This has rendered them with greater time savings which they are allocating for productive activities.



Environmental Impact

Creation of a Natural Resource Base



Total stretch of CPR plantation covered by the DRCSC models 55 km



Total number of trees planted through the CPR model till date 1,60,050

Diversity in the natural ecosystem



Average different varieties of trees planted in a CPR

12

1. Diversification of the local natural resource base



“ The DRCSC CPR model has made our local environment more resilient to natural disasters

”

Swapan Bagdi,
Chetna Sangh Chais Dal,
Lahadda, Birbhum

One of the distinctive elements of the DRCSC facilitated CPR model is the presence of multiple varieties of trees and shrubs. Some of the key trees planted in this model include *Leucanena leucoepphala* (Local: Subabool), *Albizia lebbek* (Local: Sirish) and oil seed trees like Mango, Jackfruit, Neem. In a medium term, this in turn contributes to the diversity of the local natural resource base.

2. Preservation and growth of varied species of trees

While the focus in traditional CPR model, is the protection of 2-3 varieties of trees through massive plantation, in the DRCSC facilitated CPR model the focus centres on preservation and growth. Through community driven selection and plantation activity, the existing ecosystem is bestowed with the varied species of trees. Over the period, this not only allows for their natural preservation and but also for their growth.

3. Creation of local bio-diversity reserves and making the local environment more resilient



The varied plantation activity enables the creation of local bio-diversity reserves in a previously unutilized/under-utilized village common. The CPR renders shelter to different types of birds, animals, pollinating insects which adds to the diversity of the local natural ecosystem.

The CPR models also play a key role in reducing soil erosion and protecting the nearby crop fields from unexpected natural disasters like flood. Thus, the intensive mixed planting contributes to the resilience of the local natural ecosystem.

4. Large scale plantation significantly contributes in reduction of green-house gas concentration in the local environment

The large scale plantation of varied varieties of trees contributes to the reduction in green-house gas concentrations in the local environment. This in turn adds to the resilience factor of the environment.



Scaling up the CPR Model

The innovative features of the model can be adopted and leveraged by the Panchayats and Rural Development Department to maximize the impact of village common resources on the community and environment

Over the years, Common property resource management has emerged as a strategic development tool for the Gram Panchayat and Rural Development Departments across the Indian States. It enables them to increase the productivity of unused/under-utilized village commons which can deliver greater impact on various fronts to the under-served local communities and environment.

Panchayats have already started leveraging CPR models for advancing tangible benefits to the rural



CPR comprising of single type of trees in Birbhum:
Acaia Auriculiformis

In the recent years, the Gram Panchayats in the Birbhum District of West Bengal have started adopting and leveraging CPR model for facilitating the socio-economic development of rural poor using village commons. The key element of the panchayat driven CPR model is the large scale plantation of a single species of trees particularly *Acaia Auriculiformis* in the designated area of the village common.

The tangible cash return within a shorter time period through this type of CPR plantation model is a promising feature, however there are certain trade-offs that needs to be considered.

- Non-cash benefits in form of various by-products from the CPR to the community is limited: The presence of single variety of trees in a CPR restricts the range and the nature of benefits which the community can acquire from it over a period of time. For example, in case of *Acaia Auriculiformis* CPR plantation, the community does not receive the year round benefits of getting substantial amount of fuelwood, fodder and other food products.



“ The range of benefits from a single plantation CPR model is limited for the SHG group ”

Manik Das,

SHG member, Chetna Sangha
Chasi Dal, Lahadda, Birbhum




- With a shorter lifecycle of the CPR, the size of overall cash benefits to a single community reduces: Typically, the lifecycle of *Acaia Auriculiformis* CPR plantation ranges from 5 to 7 years after which the community potentially receives a substantial amount of cash from the sale of woodlots. However, once felled the saplings need to be replanted again to generate another round of sale of the woodlots.
- The propensity of single species CPR plantation to add to the diversity of the local ecosystem is limited: Insights from the local communities' reveal that mixed plantation of trees in a CPR significantly contributes to the diversity element of the local natural ecosystem. This addition to the diversity is relatively limited by a single type of plantation in a CPR.

DRCSC is willing to support scale up the CPR model in partnership with the local Government

The DRCSC facilitated CPR model with its proven parameters of successfully impacting the communities of landless people and the local environment, holds the potential to be adopted and scaled up. With its salient design principles, the model can be leveraged as strategic tool for delivering socio-economic benefits to the landless communities through the utilization of the village commons and create a win-win model for local community and government.

Exhibit 7

Opportunities for creating greater impact

Distinctive Features of the model	 Economic	 Social	 Environmental
SHG driven selection of multi-purpose plants for the CPR	The expected cash and non-cash benefits to be maximized from the CPR as the SHG needs drives the selection of trees	With the SHG engagement from the first stage of CPR management, the social dynamics of the group and individual members to improve further	Involvement of the local community in the selection, plantation and management of trees maximizes the impact to be created in environment
Diverse variety of trees and shrubs in CPR	The range of benefits in form of firewood, fodder, pulses and other products in an year round basis to the SHG	The surplus by-products can be shared with other landless people in the village	The diversity of trees in CPR can contribute to the enrichment of the local natural ecosystem in form of flora and fauna
Long time lease agreement for the management of CPR	The life cycle value addition of the CPR to the SHG in particular and the village community in general is higher	Longer engagement time period contributes to the social dynamism of the group and also individually	The long term presence of a single CPR contributes to the resilience, diversity and growth elements of the natural ecosystem

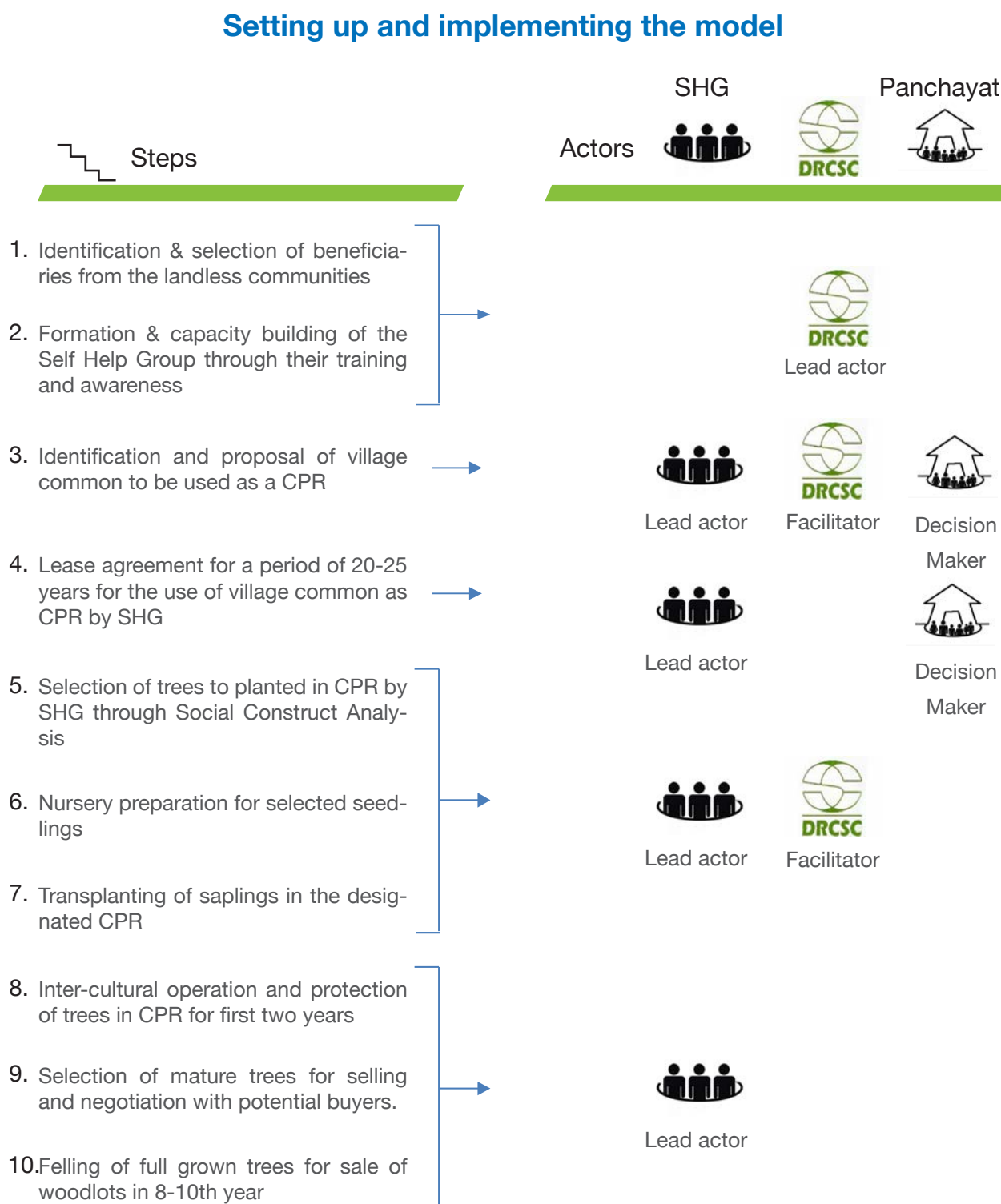


“ There are resources available in a village. And these resources can be best utilized by the community for the community ”

Vandana Majhi, Ex-Gram Pradhan (1998-03)
Bipratikuri Gram Panchayat,
Labhpur Block, Birbhum

Implementation approach of DRCSC

The SHG Panchayat CPR management model is central to its step by step implementation approach. The following infographic presents the ten steps of setting up the CPR model with three distinct actors involved: the SHG, the Panchayat and DRCSC with varying roles at each implementation step.






Success Stories







DRCSC facilitated CPR model brings about multi-dimensional empowerment of SHG of landless members

1. Brief Profile of the SHG

Name of the SHG	Year of formation	Total Members	Village
Darbeshji Bhoomihin Dal	1998-99	15	Kashiara, Labhpur, Birbhum
			

2. Key Highlights of their CPR model

Type of CPR	Total Number of trees planted	Year of Plantation	Total Investment (in INR)	Total Cash Earnings from the CPR till date
River-Road Side CPR	 4000	 1998-99	INR 9,500	 by the SHG INR 4.8 lakh
Length -4 km Width- 20 feet				 by the Panchayat INR 1.5 lakh



CPR managed by
Darbeshji Dal

3. The motivation behind engaging in a SHG managed CPR model

Belonging to the fishing community with no or minimal land assets, each member of the Darbeshji group had to daily travel to nearby villages to collect the basic necessities of their lifestyle: firewood and fodder. The group whose formation was facilitated by DRCSC, saw the opportunity of utilizing a long stretch of common fallow land in their village to plant and grow multi-purpose trees which not only renders them with fuelwood, fodder and other products but also be source of wealth creation. DRCSC, in its key role of facilitator convinced the gram panchayat to lease out the common land to the Darbeshji group for a period of 20 years to grow multi-purpose trees. The underlying condition of the agreement was sharing of 25% of total cash earnings from sell of woodlots with the panchayat.

4. The impact of the engagement on the SHG

This engagement of building and managing the CPR has benefited the group members in more than one way.

- **Continued delivery of mix of non-cash and cash benefits:** For the initial two years, each member of the group started getting two quintals of pulses from the CPR. From the second year onwards, each member has been receiving 10-12 quintals of fuelwood for their household. Darbeshji Dal has been able to earn a total of 4.8 lakh, INR 32,000 per member from three time sale of woodlots.
- **Transformed social stature of the group members:** Being the pioneers of this CPR model in their village, the Darbeshji group have carved a niche for themselves in the community. The Darbeshji group has attributed to the formation of similar SHGs in the village.



“ We never expected we will gain so much from this CPR model ”

Kalu Seikh,
SHG member

1. Brief Profile of the SHG

Name of the SHG

**Marangburu
Sangh**

Year of formation

2004-05



Total Members

17



Village

Dhultikuri, Bolpur-Shantini-
ketan, Birbhum



2. Key Highlights of their CPR model

Type of CPR

**Road Side
CPR**

Length -1 km
Width- 10 feet

Total Number of
trees planted



7000

Year of
Plantation



2005

Total Investment
(in INR)

INR 8,500

Total Cash Earnings from
the CPR till date



by the SHG

INR 2 lakh



by the Panchayat

INR 70,000



Marangburu Sangha

3. The motivation behind engaging in a SHG managed CPR model

The Marangburu Sangh, comprising of 17 landless labourers, attributes the motivation behind its formation the women SHG in its village. Engaged into a number of agriculture related activities including small nutrition gardens, integrated farming, the group has always led environment friendly initiatives in its village. In the year 2005, the group went into an agreement with local Block Development Office to build a CPR of 7000 trees on both sides of the one km stretch of village main road.

4. The impact of the engagement on the SHG

This engagement of building and managing the CPR has benefited the group members in more than one way.

- Short run and medium term tangible economic benefits for the SHG: Prior to the planting of trees, the group largely expected the cash returns from the sale of woodlots as the only benefit resulting from CPR after a period of 7-8 years. Exceeding their expectation, the group started receiving tangible benefits from the CPR in form of 50 kg pulses per member from the first year itself. Over the last ten years, the each member has 7 quintal of firewood. They have also invested the cash earnings from the sale of woodlots to initiate the building of their SHG meeting hall.
- Extended benefits to the other landless people by the group: Over the years, the Marangburu Sangh, has provided significant quantity of free firewood to the landless families of the village on social occasions including marriages. Apart from the firewood, the CPR developed and managed by the group has also been a source of fodder and other by-products not only for the group members but also for the other villagers.



“ Inspired by our efforts,
other SHGs have started
adopting this CPR
management model ”

Balu Tudu
Group Leader

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