

Linking agro biodiversity value chains,  
climate adaptation and nutrition:  
empowering the poor to manage risk

Project Steering Committee Meeting  
17-19 May 2017  
Rome

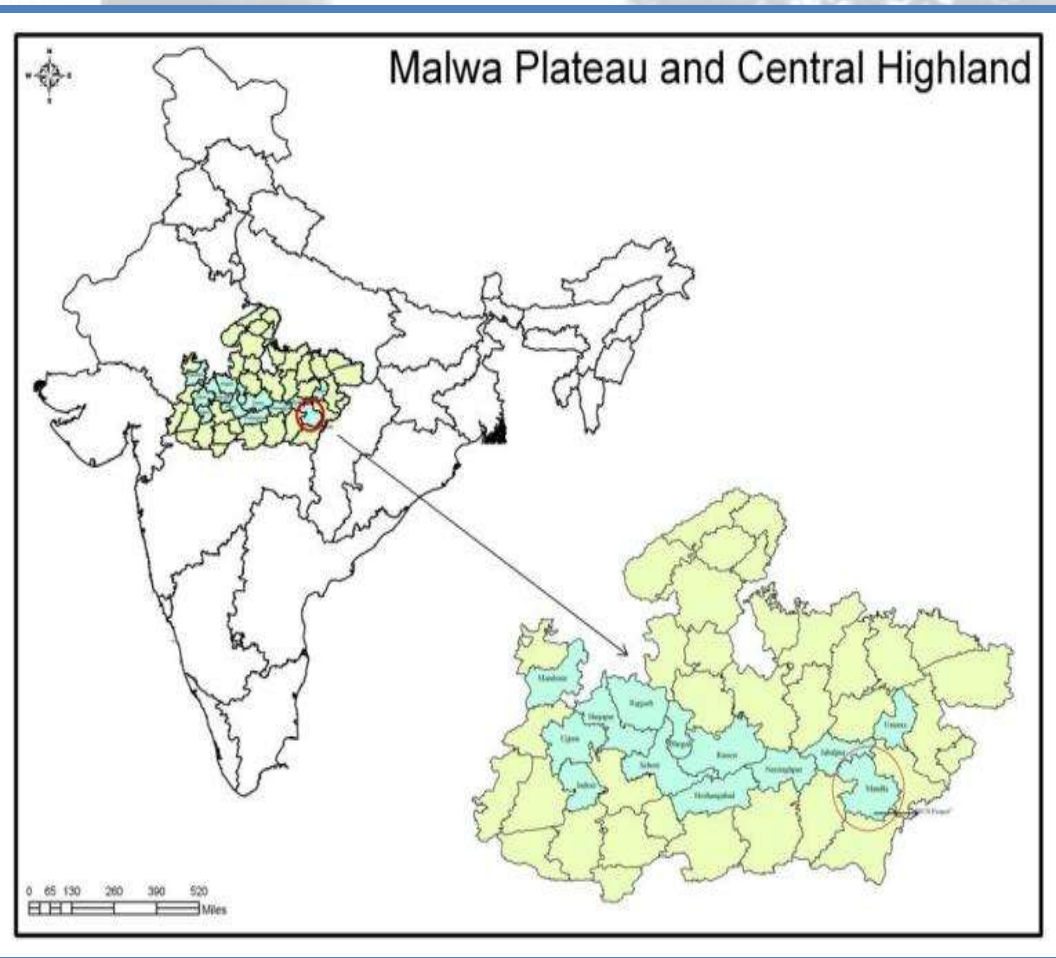
Progress Report by-  
Action for Social Advancement (ASA), India

IFAD-EU-CCAFS Project



# Project Area Information

- District- Mandla & Dindori of Madhya Pradesh province
- Predominantly Tribal
- Rice is main crop. Kodo & Little Millets are grown in the upland
- Pulses, maize, veg. are other crops
- Av. Rainfall 1100 mm



Project is working in 30 villages, 3000-4000 families, all smallholders

## Key Interventions in the Project since 2015 .....

- Understanding Agro-biodiversity of the area and developing strategies for interventions
- Promoting Varietal diversity of Key NUS crops (Millets)
- Mainstreaming conservation practices for agro-biodiversity
- Development of Value Chain of key NUS crops
- Creating enabling policy environment

# Progress update

*Understanding Agro-biodiversity of the area and developing strategies for interventions*

- ✓ Baseline survey
- ✓ Participatory Rural Appraisal, Five Cell Analysis
- ✓ Case Study
- ✓ Key strategies developed

# Progress update

## *Promoting Varietal diversity of Key NUS crops (Millets)*

- ✓ More than 15 new varieties of Minor Millets (Kodo, Kutki), introduced....., this including extinct varieties like Barnyard Millet & Foxtail Millet
- ✓ Through participatory selection 5-6 varieties found farmers' preferred; and being promoted thru. Crowd sourcing
- ✓ Crop museum established in six villages with existing and extinct Millet crops



# Progress update

## Mainstreaming conservation practices for agro-biodiversity

- ✓ Group Based Approach – women & men's Groups are the platform for concept seeding & institutionalization of agro-biodiversity
- ✓ Maintenance of Biodiversity Register by Village Council
- ✓ Identification, Recognition & Training of Custodian farmers
- ✓ Extensive training of village community on agro-biodiversity aspects (58 training organized participated by 1671 persons, 416 male and 1255 female till Feb' 2017 )
- ✓ Engagement with Government for training, varietal trial, sourcing of Breeder Seeds for seed production, etc.

# Progress update

## Development of Value Chain of key NUS crops

- ✓ Farmer Producer Companies (FPC) formed (3 Nos.) with Millet Producers (about 2700) to handle Millet Value chain activity
- ✓ Commercial Seed production & sale of Millet varieties started by the FPC since 2015 (Approx. 70 MT per year) of value worth EUR 35,000. This has resulted in supply of Good quality seeds in the area
- ✓ Aggregation of Millet grains of small producers and trading by the FPC in bigger market is emerging as popular activity. About EUR 85,000 (3000 MT) is the annual value of the turnover. This results in 20-25% price premium for the producers
- ✓ Both the above activities are done by FPC through obtaining commercial loans from banks

# Progress update

## Development of Value Chain of key NUS crops

- ✓ Market and weather information being provided through message to the producers through a third party service provider





# Progress update

## Creating enabling policy environment

- ✓ National / Regional Workshops conducted
- ✓ Participation in Bio-diversity Fair, etc.
- ✓ Joint publication of Case study, articles in journals etc.
- ✓ Organizing awareness campaign for general public through Millet Gala

[http://asaindia.org/embracing\\_millet2/workshop.html](http://asaindia.org/embracing_millet2/workshop.html)

# Key Learning

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# PHOTO GALLERY



A blue-tinted photograph showing a hand reaching out from the bottom right towards a chain-link fence. The fence runs across the middle of the frame, separating the foreground from a field of tall grasses and trees in the background. The overall mood is one of longing or reaching out.

**THANKYOU**