

Powering Agriculture through Women Empowerment

Women are integral part of the agriculture and contributes significantly.

Based on the village profile Climate Smart Agriculture (CSA) offers a set of technologies and practices to maintain sustainable productivity in gender-equitable manner.

BISA-CIMMYT with Maharashtra Govt. is improving livelihood of female farmers and strengthening their empowerment in 1,000 tribal villages by promoting CSA.



Photo: CIMMYT

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THE SITUATION

Although the abundance of natural and human resources, the farmers of tribal areas of Maharashtra deficient of sustainable livelihood. Primarily rain-fed, these areas further threatened by climate change induced erratic rainfall. Gender equitable climate smart technologies and practices are the key to enhance resilience and improve productivity.

THE DRIVERS

Primarily relied on agriculture, the tribal community often faces severe crop losses. This leads to several adverse consequences to drudgery stricken female farmers. Simple and labor-efficient technologies that reduce their drudgery and improve productivity were attractive to them.

THE INNOVATIONS

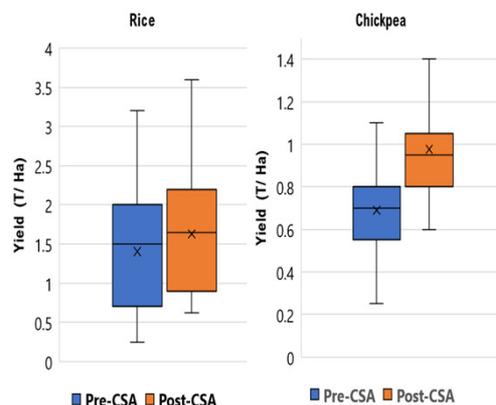
Climate Smart Village Program (CSVP) tests and validates a board spectrum of technologies and practices such as improved seeds, input efficient technologies; brings multiple govt. and private partners together to participate in cross-cutting technological and intuitional options to build a climate resilient farmers' community. The proven solutions with learnings are then scaled up for greater good.

THE CHALLENGES

Though labor saving technologies were well-adopted, few constrains were reported by farmers primarily related to water conservation because of hilly/ undulated terrains. Though ICT based agro-advisories was very useful for them, the hindrance was literacy and poor technical capacity of the farmers.

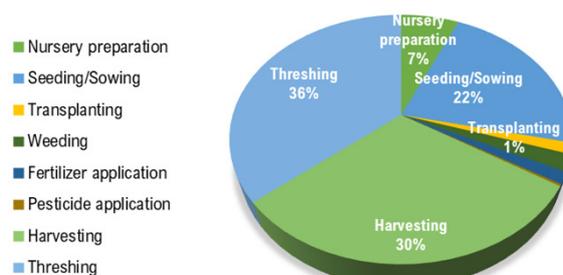
THE IMPACTS

Implemented technologies and practices are proven to be effective and scalable in the areas with same characteristics. The major two crops, rice and chickpea showed significant improvement in yield (0.2 and 0.3 T/Ha respectively) and in income.



In agricultural management women farmers' major contribution is in, but not limited to sowing, transplanting, harvesting and threshing. Using small machineries the drudgery of female farmers has decreased 39 labor days per Ha for entire cropping cycle.

Reduction in drudgery: female farmers



This program is being implemented since 2016 in Maharashtra state of India by Borlaug Institute for South Asia (BISA), International Maize and Wheat Improvement Center (CIMMYT) with technical collaboration of CGIARs Climate Change, Agriculture and Food Security (CCAFS) and financial support by Govt. of Maharashtra.

