

Pathways Semi-Annual Report- 2014 (CARE India)

Progress and Results by Objective: Describe the progress of the project, including where the project is progressing as expected, where it is not, whether the project is still on track to complete expected results, and if not, what proposed modifications are contemplated.

1. Objective 1: To increase the productive engagement of 52,000 poor women in sustainable agriculture, and contribute to their empowerment

a. Project Dashboard *In this section, we would like to compile information on key project numbers to keep track of who we are working with and the project reach (cumulative). You can separate these by either different geographies e.g. districts or by different impact groups if you are working with more than one impact group. Adjust the table columns accordingly.*

<i>Impact and target groups, members and outreach</i>			
	Kandhamal	Kalahandi	Total
Number of villages	61	47	108
Number of groups by type			
Self Help Groups (SHG)	181	219	400
Cooperatives	1	2	3
Farmers Club	6	8	14
Forest Rights Committee	23	38	61
Van Smrakshan Samiti (Forest Protection Committee)	7	15	22
Pani Panchayat (Water User Group)	4	13	17
Watershed Committee	8	16	24
Total number of poor women smallholder farmers (Impact Population) in collectives	2250	2538	4788
% of women in leadership position	80	70	75
Total number of other target group			
• Men and Boys e. g. spouses, other	5,028	7,344	12,372
• Elite including traditional leaders	61	47	108
• Other	5,028	7,344	12,372

b. Results by change lever

1. Change Lever 1 - Capacity: Improved knowledge, skills, relationships, self-confidence, and conviction of women smallholder farmers.

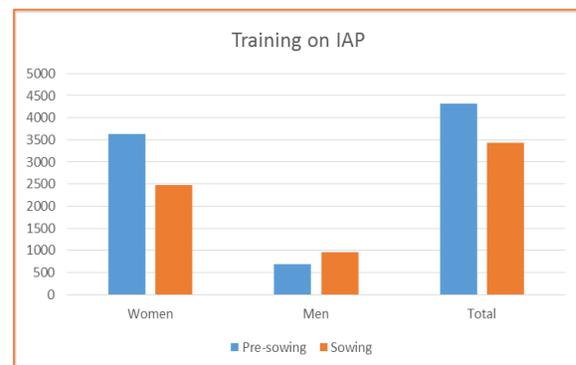
Capacity building on improved agriculture practices:

Training programs for the impact population (IP) women smallholder belonging to Schedule Caste and Schedule Tribe communities were organized on improved agriculture practices. Improved agriculture practices (IAP) such as summer ploughing, soil testing to identify soil quality and requirements, green manure through broadcasting of *dhaincha*, seed germination test, seed treatment, nursery bed management, application of right quantity of fertilizer, weed management were covered under these trainings. These IAPs covered the pre-sowing and the sowing stages of the monsoon crop cycle of 2014. Trainings sessions were organized at the village and hamlet level to cover not only the IPs but also to cater to the needs farmers of the entire village. Progressive farmers those were groomed and developed under the project in the previous crop cycle took a lead role and supported the frontline workers viz. CRPs in imparting training to farmers of their own village. Involvement of progressive farmers in the trainings was especially effective as they shared their experience of adopting the IAPs in the previous crop cycle and the good results obtained out of that.

Training on pre-sowing and sowing practices

	# of groups	Women	Men	Total
Pre-sowing	510	3630	695	4325
Sowing	371	2475	962	3437

Source: Monthly Progress Report (MPR)

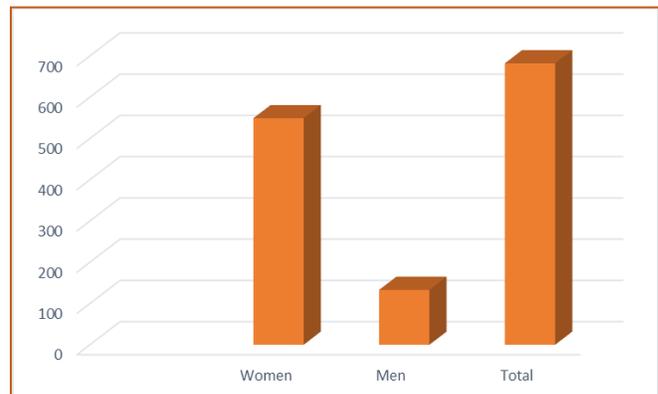


Capacity building on livestock management

Livestock forms an integral part and is one of the sources of income that Pathways IP are dependent on. Poor management of livestock leads to loss of ruminants and less profit for the families. Mostly it is the women who are responsible of taking care of the livestock. To build their skills and improve their knowledge on livestock management trainings were organized. Subject experts and officials of the government veterinary department were roped in to impart the training to the farmers. Importance of backyard poultry and Goatery, care and management of chicks during brooding period, housing, feeding and disease control of adult birds and Goats in backyard farming, importance of vaccination were some of the topics covered during these trainings.

Training on Livestock Management

Women	Men	Total
549	133	682



Capacity building on Non Timber Forest Produce (NTFP)

Collection and post collection management of Mahua Flower:

Mahua flower is one of the major NTFP available in Pathways operational area (Kandhamal and Kalahandi district of Odisha) and majority of the IPs are engaged in Mahua flower collection as part of their livelihoods. After analyzing the existing collection and post collection practices, training modules and information, education and communication (IEC) materials were developed focusing on improved collection and post-collection management practices of Mahua flower. IPs were sensitized and trained on the sustainable collection practices and improved methods to help improve the quality of produce for getting better price. In general, Mahua flowers are hand-picked from the forest floor, which is sometimes bushy and inaccessible. Therefore, for the convenience of collection, the forest are set on fire so that the floor becomes charred and the white flower are clearly visible. If the fire is not controlled it can become a forest fire which destroys much biodiversity. On the other hand, it is generally observed that the flowers are sold without proper drying. Post collection management of Mahua involves drying, cleaning, grading and packing. However, due to lack of knowledge of proper method and skills the collectors resort to traditional method and do not grade flowers based on quality parameters of the market. Adequate sensitization measures and handholding support were provided to the IPs to maintain the quality standard of the produce through proper post collection practices.

Collection and post collection management of Hill grass:

Hill grass, the other NTFP available in pathways operational villages, has economic importance that is directly useful for household consumption and can form the basis for economic upliftment in the areas. Hill grass is one of such forest species that is grown as a cash crop in the area for its inflorescences that are used for making brooms.

Pathways communities collect hill grass from the nearby forest for their household

consumption and sell the surplus in the local market. It is encouraging to see women entrepreneurs who are into broom making in the locality. During the course of our intervention, it was observed that there is a gradual decrease in the quantity of produce available in the local forest. In this context, a two pronged strategy have been designed around Hill grass in consultation with the IPs in the villages. Skill trainings were provided to the selected (involved in this value chain) IPs for sustainable collection and post collection management of Hill grass. Further orientations were conducted to the selected IPs who are processing hill grass for selling purpose. This training constituted quality and its cost benefit aspects.

By seeing the potential of hill grass, skill set of the women, and its economic importance, commercial cultivation of hill grass seems to be one of the ways to have raw material of required quality and quantity. There are existing models in Kandhamal district, where hill grass is commercially cultivated. Pathways developed a plan to cultivate Hill grass on an experiment basis in pathways villages as a pilot. Cultivation of hill grass is comparatively easy and requires less financial inputs which can be grown on marginal lands, wastelands and fallow land. It grows well on a wide range of soils varying from sandy loam to clay loam. For this pilot villages were identified and 5000 Hill grass saplings were planned for the nursery.

Sensitization on Fair business practices:

There are various unfair business practices e.g. barter system, piece rate, forced selling existent in the operational villages which restrict IPs' getting actual realization of price for what they sell. In order to minimize village trader level unfair practices especially, on weighing and measures, massive sensitization drives were taken up with the use of pictorial IEC materials. Dos and don'ts focusing during selling produce were provided to the IPs by the frontline workers. Understanding of standard weighing scales was focused through pictorial messages as majority of the IPs have almost no exposure to standard weighing scales. Mandates were created with the support of collective leaders and village opinion leaders to use standard measures in the villages during selling their produce. Every villages were arranged with a weighing scales temporarily with standard weights to minimize the cheating and enabling villagers to know how much are they really selling and what effective price are they getting.

Exposure visits for IP to higher order markets:

Exposure of community members to different markets including block and district level markets, and traders was organized to build their capacity of market engagement. Such exposure helped IPs to interact and observe functioning of traders. Additionally, they become exposed to use of support systems viz. warehouse, backyard, drying yard, and weighing scales. They also learnt storing techniques practiced by traders and efforts which they put in to maintain quality.

Interface with markets, understanding of terms and conditions of trading, negotiation with traders were realized as aspects of critical importance by the IPs. IPs attributed increase in revenue to market exposure and subsequent greater understanding of market dynamics.

Strengthening Collectives:

Taking forward the collective strengthening processes started in the initial implementation stage, several capacity building measures were taken up during the reporting period.

Book keeping and documentation:

Building documentation skills of leaders and office bearers of Self Help Group (SHG) of all categories A, B, C, and D (categorized based on their efficiency and effectiveness by administration of Collective Readiness Tool and) was focused during the reporting period. While some of the groups were maintaining their records themselves, other groups were heavily dependent on either a person from their village or the CRP for maintaining their records. Further, not all groups were maintaining the minimum essential records which would help them in managing their thrift and credit function internally and also to establish financial linkage with bank/external financial agency in future. SHGs were mobilized to identify a member from within the group with minimum writing skills, groups without such a person identified a villager or a family member of one of the group members for the training on record keeping and documentation. Training was imparted on maintenance of four type of records viz. meeting register, cash book, group pass book, and individual pass book. Besides formal trainings, continuous handholding support was extended to the identified record keepers during the group's monthly meetings and follow-up visits.

Towards self-dependency in record keeping:



SHGs from categories C and D, poor in governance and management systems were capacitated to formulate and document rules and regulations, regularize monthly meetings and savings and credit activity through orientations and handholding during follow-up visits. Several groups have now initiated savings after a discontinuation of 3 to 4 years. Regular meetings were organized where all the SHGs have a fixed date for their monthly meeting.

Strengthening collectives for better water management:

Water User Groups (*Pani Panchayats*) and Watershed Committees were capacitated on crop planning for sustainable utilization of water. The members, based on water availability, in their

area, were trained crop selection. The Water User Groups that required development intervention, (as currently there exists no provisions of financial support from the government) emphasis was given on estimate preparation and to share the plan with different government line departments and the *Palli Sabha* (village level assembly for planning and decision on development schemes) for convergence and incorporating in the village development plan respectively.

Strengthening governance system:

Women, as electorates, have a critical role to play in strengthening governance in local bodies through their active participation and monitoring of the electoral process in addition to the deliverance of development initiatives. Thus, with an objective to build capacities of SHG women and the PRI representatives to have better understanding in terms of voter rights and duties, Pathways, piloted a project viz. 'Realization of Citizenship through a demand led approach to Good Governance'. SHG leaders and members were oriented to facilitate their enhanced understanding on women's role in political system and their rights and responsibilities as women voters.

Change Lever 2 - Access: Increased access to productive resources, assets, markets, and appropriate and reliable services and inputs for poor women farmers.

(Access to agricultural inputs, access to output markets, access to financial services and credit, access to land, access to post-harvest technology and innovation, access to extension services)

Access to agri equipment:

This reporting period witnessed a favorable policy development in the state that facilitates and supports SHGs to acquire agricultural equipment. Under this scheme SHGs with sound track of governance and management systems were extended financial support by the government agriculture department to purchase agricultural equipment meant for reducing burden on women farmers. Several of the SHGs from Pathways area in Kalahandi district were linked up with the scheme and each group received a grant of Rs. 10,000 (approximately 165 USD) to procure a set of equipment for undertaking cultivation. Additionally, 61 SHGs organized their own funds to procure agricultural equipment.

Access to forest land

Enhancing IPs' access to forest land under the Forest Rights Act was taken up on priority basis throughout this reporting period. Restructuring Forest Rights Committee, orientation of members of reconstituted FRCs on policy provisions and procedures to facilitate claim submission pertaining to individual rights and common forest rights (CFR) were some of the highlights of the activities undertaken. Pathways through its partners worked closely with the Integrated Tribal Development Agency (ITDA) to facilitate the process of restructurization of FRC to comply with the requirements of representation of two third members from the

Scheduled Tribe community and representation of one third women members in the collective. Intensive follow-up activities were taken up with the help of Block Development Officer and Welfare Extension Officer for completing the process.

The process of ensuring land rights for the IPs was accelerated and supported on the wake of the declaration by the state government to complete the process of submission and settlement of individual land rights along with the pending and rejected claims and CFR rights within 2014. The concerned government machinery in the Pathways district came forward to work closely with Pathways for expediting and completing the process. Activities such as enabling FRC and *Gram Sabha* (village council) for identification of left out households, pending claims, rejected claims pertaining to individual land rights and developing a road map to address these issues were undertaken. Simultaneously, facilitating CFR rights process focusing on rights identification, resource mapping and demarcation were undertaken in selected pathways villages. To develop CFR models emphasizing on all processes beginning from resource identification and mapping, claim submission and formation of resource conservation and management group and developing resource management protocols post rights settlement, a collaborative process was initiated in partnership with ITDA and Vasundhara (a state level agency working on FRA issues). This partnership focused on facilitating CFR models in selected Pathways villages and taking the learning and experiences gained in the process to the state government for upscaling. While the above collaborative action would be undertaken in few villages, CFR rights claim submission will be carried out in all the Pathways villages during this period.

Access to revenue land

For ensuring revenue lands for the IPs, in collaboration with Landesa land need assessment exercise was administered in sample villages covering all the 9 Pathways blocks. The purpose of the exercise was to understand the extent of awareness of different groups such as, women from have land and landless category, men, PRI representatives and local revenue officials on land rights, identify information deficit and knowledge gaps, and social, attitudinal and practice barriers. Methods such as individual household interviews and focused group discussions were adopted. Findings of the assessment was used in preparing the training materials for land rights and land allocation literacy. Prior to administering the tool was field tested to contextualize it which was followed by training of CRPs who were the investigators.

Access to credit

Addressing the problem of loan repayment among the defaulter SHGs was taken up on priority basis. The diagnostic survey undertaken revealed that a majority of the SHGs who had taken loan from bank for agriculture and other economic activities could not repay their loan and became defaulter preventing them to apply and obtain further loan. To address this long outstanding problem, SHG members were oriented on the schemes providing concession and waiver on the loan. SHGs were supported to collect loan ledger statement from the bank and to read these information to get themselves updated on the loan status. This was followed by interaction between the defaulter SHGs and the concern banks where discussion was held on the progressive schemes from which the groups can be benefited. Following these orientation and interactive sessions, most of the defaulter SHGs used their group saving to repay the

entire outstanding loan while some of the groups initiated loan repayment which they had stopped doing. For leadership sharing among the members within SHGs, series of discussions were held on convening meetings and cash deposit in bank by members on rotation basis, ensuring accountability for cash in hand (members sharing responsibility for cash management). This helped all members to be active, ensured transparency and avoided dependency on a few members for group activities.

To minimize dependence on external loan to meet financial requirements for agriculture, SHGs having substantial amount of internal savings were mobilized to facilitate dialogue among themselves on using the group savings to meet members' credit requirement for agricultural activities. **Some** of the groups planned and undertook an exercise on making estimation of credit requirements of the members for 2014 monsoon season and extend internal loan. Within some SHGs, thought process have started to build up a corpus fund which could meet the above-mentioned need of their members. This intervention also resulted in reviving the grain bank to help its members during food distress months.

Market information:

The IP group leaders were made the link between markets and the community in their villages. Market information in terms of traders' operating in the nearby markets, prices prevailing in various markets and offered by traders, quality specification at the immediate market interface, marketing costs to be incurred for carrying out the intervention were some of the major aspects on which they were regularly updated. This led farmers to take informed decision on selling their produce in the market that provided the maximum return.

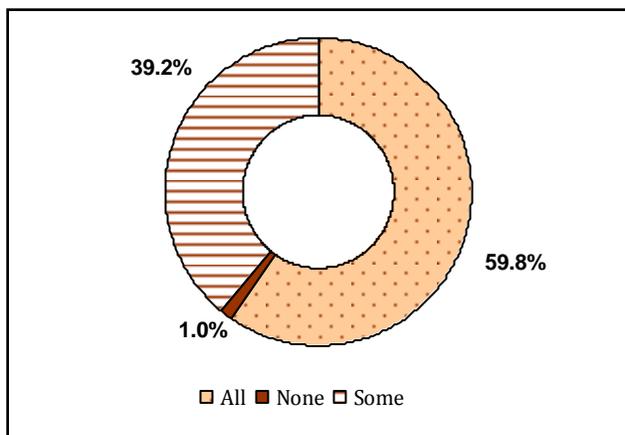
Change Lever 3 - Productivity: Improvements in yield and income through adoption of sustainable and intensified agriculture and value addition.

(Yields and income from farm activities, income from wage labor, nutrition outputs)

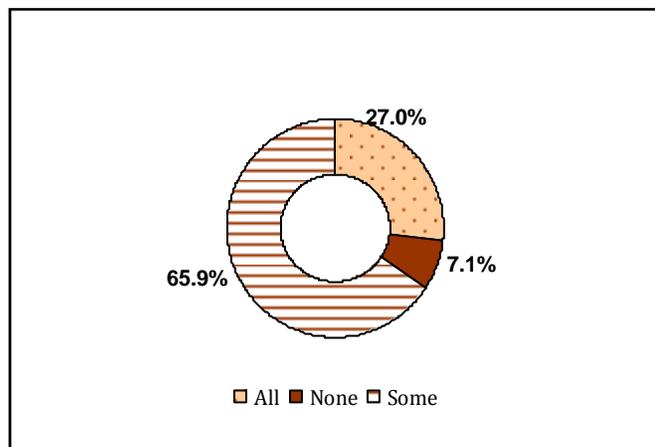
Adoption of IAP by farmers

Input and Land Selection

Paddy value chain



Maize value chain

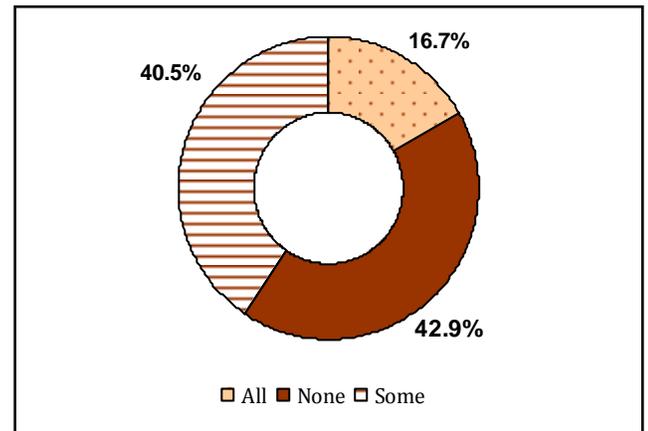
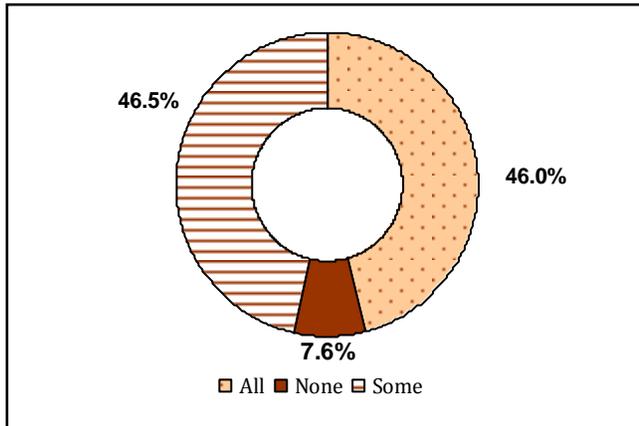


Use of

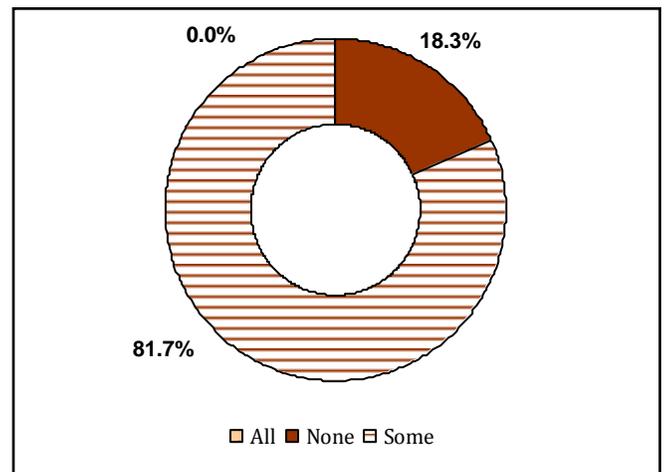
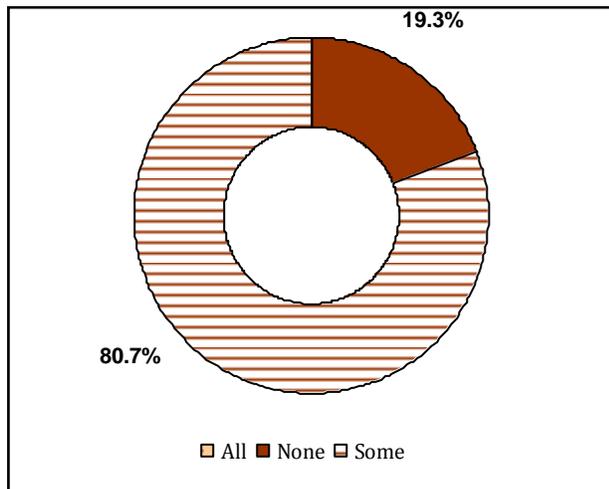
■ All ■ None □ Some

■ All ■ None □ Some

Inputs



Pest and Disease Management



Source – PPT data 2013

Mahua flowers value chain

Aggregation process of Mahua Flower:

Mahua value chain analysis that was undertaken by the Pathways team indicated that village communities do not have much control over their produce and largely bank on individual effort to sell off their produce. The price thus fetched by them was hardly ever fair and in tandem with the market realities. Aggregation process of Mahua flower was initiated in both the districts to empower the IPs through collectivization to achieve economies of scale and better negotiate with the market. The aggregation process followed a systematic approach which began by first calculating the surplus produce in a village, followed by orientation on the importance of the aggregation of produce, sharing market information, market exposures,

product quality management, and establishing market linkages. Right planning process, films and IEC materials were used to ensure involvement of IPs at every stage of the process.

Aggregation of Mahua flowers was carried out in 40 villages across both the districts. A total of around 201 tons of Mahua flowers were sold to various district based traders leading to a turnover of around INR 40, 92,149 (approximately 67,924.56 USD). In this process the villagers had an average of 19% price gain over the base price (*prevailing price in the non-project villages*).

Experience sharing meetings were organized after completion of aggregation process intervention. This community level sharing forum not only highlighted IPs understanding of the approach but also identified the support IPs anticipate from different stakeholders. The entire process helped the community gradually developed faith on the approach and were ready to take the mandate forward as they were confident of the process. Impact Group leaders and the IPs, having been through the process, understand the quantum of efforts required to undertake aggregation process in the village and have realized that collectivization is the approach for higher price and revenues for their produce. This was reflected in their enthusiasm during the prospective planning exercise undertaken by Pathways where the IPs decided the different produces for which collective marketing would be initiated.

Income realized by farmers through aggregation and collective marketing

District	# of villages	# of HHs	Quantity sold (in top)	Revenue generated (in INR)	Additional revenue over and above base price (in INR)
Kandhmal	14	244	11	230602	29866
Kalahandi	26	1174	190	3861547	744182
Total	40	1418	201	4092149	774048

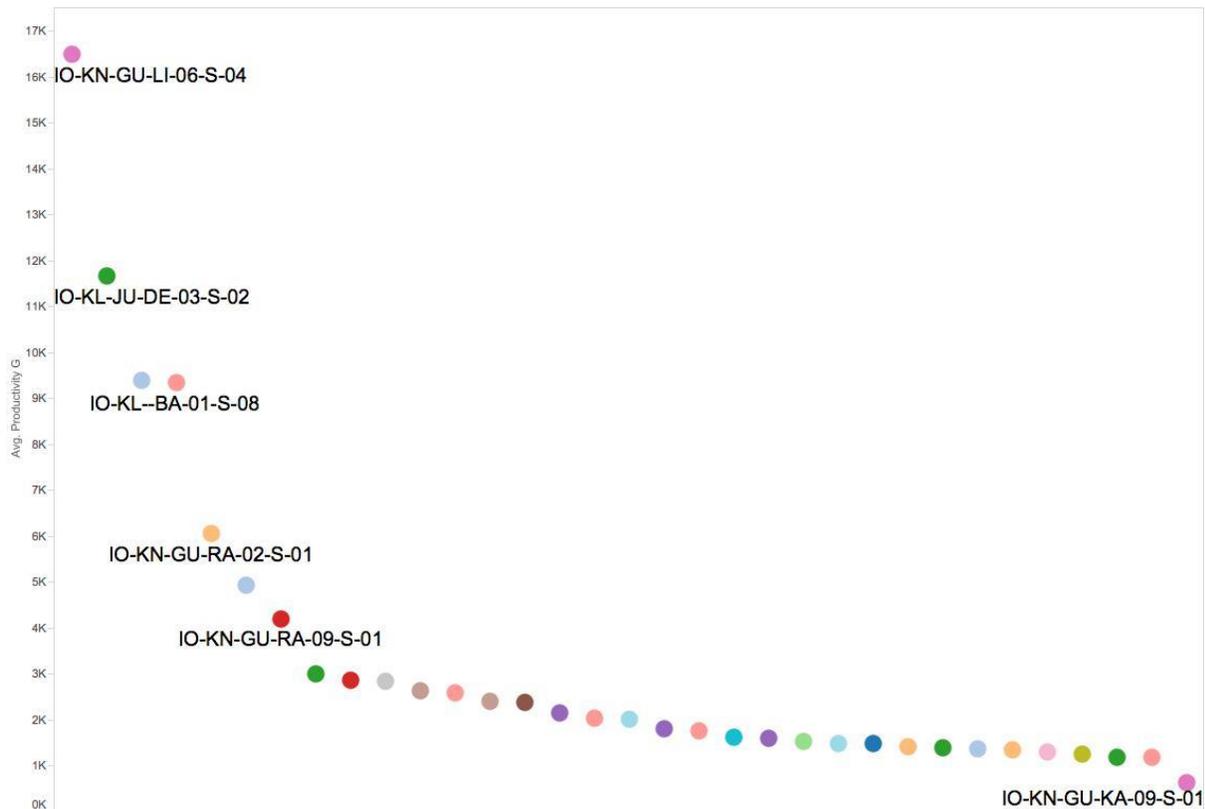
Engagement with government led paddy procurement system:

To engage the IPs in the government led paddy procurement system, related information was provided to the impact population with an objective to maximize IPs involvement to get the minimum support price (MSP) fixed by the government i.e. Rs.1310 (approximately 21.74 USD) per quintal for 2014. Subsequently, government declared a bonus of Rs.50 per quintal to the farmers as partial crops damaged due to the cyclone (Phailin) experienced by Odisha. The IPs were linked to the government system by getting their names enrolled in the list for selling their surplus paddy through government led procurement centers. IPs were also sensitized on the prevailing fair average quality standard (FAQ) of paddy and process of quality checking to ensure the quality of paddy as per the market requirement. As a result of this massive sensitization drive IPs were able to take an informed decision for selling their produce.

Profits earned by farmers by group



Increase in production by farmers by Group – Paddy Value chain



Change Level 4 - Household Influence: Increased poor women farmer contributions to and influence over household income and decision making.

Unequal distribution of workload at home and farm, poor say in decision-making around agriculture and household activities, gender based violence and unequal access to productive resources, technology, information and resource based collectives were identified as some of the key gender themes around which the project worked. During the reporting period two themes, unequal distribution of workload and gender based violence, were focused. Discussion and deliberations were initiated among the IPS and their spouses through SHG platform. Village meetings were also organized to involve other men in the community. Discussion was facilitated using pictorial poster on 'daily clock' in order to make the exercise interactive and enable the participants to relate the issue to their lives. Use of pictorial poster led to higher engagement of participants and there has been increasing demand for engaging with the community (both women and men) on such kind of discussions. Role plays were also organized by the CRPs to facilitate discussion on the identified themes. CRPs were trained and provided with facilitation guide to carry out these discussions and deliberations among the impact population and menfolk.

Change Lever 5 - Enabling Environment: More positive and enabling attitudes, behaviors, social norms, policies, and institutions.

(Engaging men and boys, local institutional structures, women’s meaningful participation in collectives)

Reflect approach has been adopted to engage with women farmers and men and boys in households and communities to trigger thought processes and initiate discussion on gender issues. Ground work for establishment of Reflect Circle (RC) was undertaken in 35 villages. Promotional meetings in these identified villages were organized focusing on relevance and importance of RC and identification of facilitators to manage the RC. The RC facilitators were selected from among the impact population with leadership quality, mobilizing capabilities, and good articulation skills to manage the RC. RC being a new concept for CARE India need for intensive training and handholding support was visualized. Training for the project team on operationalizing and streamlining RC has been planned. Similarly, the RC facilitators would be trained on social mobilization processes, facilitation skills, and reflect approach during the next quarter.

Male change agents or male champions were identified in each operational village to promote gender equality. Supportive men having interest and participating actively in gender discussions and those were keen to exchange dialogue with other men on the issue were identified as male change agents to champion the cause of gender equality. To begin with, these male change agents were sensitized on gender issues especially on existing unequal workload distribution between women and men.

Coupled with the above initiatives awareness generation and sensitization on gender and power relationships particularly on the issues of unequal workload sharing and gender based violence was organized through video shows at village level.

International Women’s Day was celebrated in project area. The event was used as a platform to facilitate cross exchange of experiences and information among collectives members. Selected SHGs were felicitated for their exemplary work. This platform was used to encourage male change agents to share their experiences and stories.

c. Partnerships: Describe all internal and external partnerships and linkages you have described.

Partner	Describing what you are doing with the partners and results of these partnerships. What lessons have you learned from these partnerships?
Vasundhara (local NGO) Integrated Tribal Development Agency	Pathways team in collaboration with Vasundhara (state level resource agency working on FRA) and ITDA planned to develop CFR models in an integrated manner encompassing all processes. Under this initiatives various measures were planned to realize the forest rights of the IPs in Kandhamal district. Orientation of Forest Rights

Partner	Describing what you are doing with the partners and results of these partnerships. What lessons have you learned from these partnerships?
(ITDA)	Committees; receipt and documentation of CFR claim, resource identification, mapping and demarcation through use of technology; institution building and strengthening for development of management protocols for resource governance post rights settlement; would be taken up under the process. This initiative would develop models on CFR under FRA the learning of which would be used for scale up.
District watershed Mission	For strengthening watershed committees, under the ongoing Integrated Watershed Management Project, in terms of their role and responsibilities in project implementation, financial transparency and enhancing women's participation in project activities support was drawn from the District Watershed Mission in Kalahandi district.
ICRISAT	ICRISAT supported IPs especially, in Kalahandi district for mass propagation of pigeon pea. ICRISAT provided seeds to the farmers free and technical knowhow. Under this 85 farmers were supported from 13 villages covering around 72 acres of land.
KVK – technical support unit of government agriculture department	Pathways continued its partnership with KVK in both the districts. KVK provides technical support to the frontline workers of the project. This partnership was extended to include some of Pathways villages “model village” under KVK's model village development scheme.
District Veterinary Department	Vaccination camps were organized in Pathways village with the help of the Veterinary department. Under this partnership most of the vaccines were provided by the department and the project procured the rest to meet the needs.
Research institutions - Orissa University of Agriculture and Technology (OUAT)	OUAT continues to provide technical guidance for development of resource materials for capacity building of CRPs and women farmers around improved agriculture practices.
Landesa	In partnership with Landesa Pathways is working on women's land rights issues. Under this partnership support through capacity building of the implementing team and SHG leaders was planned to be provided on land issues.
ITVS	ITVS's provides films to be used in the project area and through the the power of real life stories of women from around the world to drive change.
Dimagi	Dimagi supported Pathways providing IT based solutions for monitoring project outcomes. CommCare application was developed

Partner	Describing what you are doing with the partners and results of these partnerships. What lessons have you learned from these partnerships?
	to capture information on PPT tools for paddy and maize value chains to provide real time data to the implementation team. In the second phase reference material with voiceover and video features was planned to be incorporated in the CommCare application which could be used for imparting knowledge and information to the impact population.

Objective 2: To enhance the scale of high quality women responsive agriculture programming
Knowledge and incentives applied to scale improvements in program quality across other CARE initiatives, partners and development organizations. A table for responses is included below. In this section, include information on how Pathways is influencing other CARE programs, operations and strategies

Focus areas	Describe giving bulleted examples
Is your Pathways team engaging with other CARE project teams to learn and improve implementation? Please describe how.	<p><i>Describe what aspects of Pathways have you passed on and to what extent are they being used by these programs.</i></p> <p>The concept of “Immersion exercise” carried out in Pathways to understand the IP and their community was adopted by another project of CARE India (Where the Rain Falls).</p> <p>Following tools of Pathways were used by other CARE India projects viz. <i>WtRF and KLEAP</i>:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Collective Readiness Tool; ● Baseline Tool; ● Household Profile; ● Village Profile
Have you shared Pathways results, tools or lessons with colleagues and CARE partners beyond the Pathways team? How?	<p><i>Describe any internal mechanisms, presentations on Pathways you have done within CARE and the results of this sharing. How many people attended? Were there any outcomes from these presentations?</i></p> <p>Pathways progress was assessed on the critical parameters of quality. The Program Quality and Performance Assessment Tool was administered to assess the project and the report was shared with the members of the other projects of CARE India. This sharing generated interest among members especially, on the aspects such as Theory</p>

Focus areas	Describe giving bulleted examples
	of Change, learning agenda and working with partners.
Have you adopted Pathways tools or lessons and included them in any new proposals in the past 6 months? Please list those including the total value of the proposal, whether we have won the funds and how many people the project targets.	<p><i>Describe any new proposals or programs that you have been involved in where aspects of Pathways have been integrated or adapted? Indicate the program, amount of funding, donor and other relevant information.</i></p> <p>Pathways gender focus; livelihood context; collective strengthening approach were adopted and incorporated in the “InFoRM”, a USAID proposal submitted recently.</p> <p>WtRF (Where the Rain Falls) project adopted the collective strengthening, livelihood strategy and the M&E approach of Pathways. Immersion exercise and the M&E tools of Pathways were adopted.</p>
Is Pathways an anchor project for your long-term program? Please describe how Pathways is informing your broader country strategy and progress made in the past 6 months.	<p><i>Has Pathways influenced strategic programming in the country? Describe how and give some examples.</i></p> <p>The learning approach focus in Pathways was adopted by CARE India in its long term Tribal and <i>Dalit</i> (low caste) development programs.</p>
Other	<i>Include other ways in which Pathways has influenced CARE programming / strategies</i>
Other	<i>Include other ways in which Pathways has influenced CARE programming / strategies</i>

Objective 3: To contribute to the global discourse that surrounds women and agriculture by influencing debates and policy dialog on women and agriculture at local, national and global levels.: *Strengthened relationships, effective dialog, and proactive engagement with external actors in learning partnerships and platforms at multiple levels. A table for responses is included below.*

Focus Area	Describe giving as much detail as possible
Have you shared Pathways experiences, tools or lessons in external forums or events? Please describe	<i>Describe meeting, venue, organizers and other relevant details of meetings where Pathways has been presented or where Pathways approaches, experiences, and tools have been presented/discussed.</i>

Focus Area	Describe giving as much detail as possible
the events, the participants and the strategic value.	
Have any external stakeholders – donors, partners, etc – come to see CARE’s Pathways work in the field or come to meet with Pathways staff to learn more? Please describe these visits.	<i>Describe visits by external stakeholders where Pathways has been discussed. Describe who, from where, aspects of Pathways discussed and any known results or use of the information by the external visitors after the visit.</i>
Does your team have a regular external communications system (newsletter, etc), have you shared any reports externally or hosted an external event featuring Pathways? If so, please describe this/these.	<i>Describe any Pathways publications that you have produced that have been disseminated. Include details on the content of the publication, number of people to who these have been disseminated, any feedback on the publication, etc if available</i>
Other	

2. Lessons Learned: What lessons have you learned during the past 6 months that will help you to achieve your intended results moving forward? To what extent have these lessons led to modification of the results identified in the results framework?

Note: To complete this section, teams should organize a reflection session at country office level and with partners that reviews the last 6 months’ results by change lever and objective. Reports should include the 1-2 most significant lessons you learned by change lever, and objective. Each lesson should clearly communicate what you had initially expected, what actually happened and what changes you have made, if any, as a result of this lesson.

Lessons Learned	Proposed Modification/ Way Forward
<u>Lever 1:</u> Training along with personal counselling and engagement is effective for mobilizing IPs and effective in bringing behaviour change.	Women leaders at village level and animators at hamlet level were identified to provide follow-up support to the IPs and collectives with the help of the frontline workers.

Lessons Learned	Proposed Modification/ Way Forward
<p>Lack of visioning for business, scoping and business skills prior to financial linkage has been one of the major contributors of SHGs become defaulter.</p> <p>IPs Increased interaction with market helped leading to greater understanding of market players (particularly traders), greater knowledge on market access, and ability to track prices.</p>	<p>Business skills development and planning would be focused in the next quarter for SHGs to build their capacities to take up business of their interest before linking them to the financial institutions.</p>
<p><u>Lever 2:</u> Financial stability strengthens collective and is a key lever for its sustainability.</p>	<p>Collectives focusing on natural resource management especially, water resource management that are in need of financial support for their institutional renovation and development of resources are linked to different government schemes. These collectives are to be supported for estimation preparation and submission of plan with different line departments for convergence.</p>
<p><u>Lever 3:</u></p>	
<p><u>Lever 4:</u> Acceptance of gender messages by male members become easy when they see their fellow members demonstrating those practices</p>	<p>Male champions will be promoted further to carry forward the idea of workload sharing and promoting women's participation in decision making.</p>
<p><u>Lever 5:</u> Enhancing representation of women in NRM collectives is not adequate to ensure their effective participation</p>	<p>Facilitate participation of women in every meetings of the collectives and capacitate the women members through information dissemination</p>
<p><u>Partnerships:</u></p>	
<p><u>Objective 2:</u></p>	
<p><u>Objective 3:</u></p>	

Lessons Learned	Proposed Modification/ Way Forward
<u>Monitoring and Evaluation:</u>	
<u>Program Management:</u>	

3. Challenges and Risks: Are you aware of any significant risks or concerns that have not previously been identified, and that may affect your ability to achieve the agreed-on results? If so, indicate how you are addressing those risks and challenges? Note: This is the opportunity to raise awareness of any internal or external threats that have emerged to your ability to execute the project. This could include anything from staffing challenges to political turmoil or bad weather.

- 2014 is anticipating inactive monsoon season with reduced precipitation up to 30%. This might have a major adverse impact on crops, as most of the Pathways areas are rain-fed. Farmers are encouraged to go for short duration crop varieties in the up-land, prepare the field before the onset of monsoon so that each single drop is tapped. Farmers are also encouraged to go for 5% model in their farm land to deal with the scenario.
- CARE India's recent transition from CARE-Inc to CISSD delays the process of funds disbursement to the implementing Partners which might hamper timely implementation of planned activities to achieve the desired outcomes.

4. Program Management, Monitoring and Evaluation: What are the significant program management, monitoring and evaluation activities that have occurred in the past 6 months? *A suggested table format for responses is included below.*

Monitoring and Evaluation	
Monitoring and evaluation activities carried out in the last 6 months giving details	<p><i>Describe activities, who were involved, results. These could include dissemination of baseline findings, development of monitoring tools, etc.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Participatory Performance Tracker (PPT) Tool was administered to collect data from farmers on their adoption of improved practices focusing on paddy and maize value chains. The PPT tool also assessed the group performance of all SHGs to understand the impact of the project interventions. - Annual Review Study was conducted on a cohort of households to assess the project interventions.
Monitoring tools developed and being used. Please specify tools for	<i>Describe tools being used for monitoring and extent of use as well as summary of some of the results collected</i>

<p>activity/output tracking as well as tools for outcome monitoring.</p>	<p><i>through monitoring</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - PPT tool was used to assess individual farmers' performance on IAP in paddy and maize value chain. - Tools for conducting Midterm Review were contextualized.
<p>Review or reflection meetings</p>	<p><i>Describe any reflection meetings held, who, why, with what results? What lessons learnt and what adjustments being done based on these?</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Monthly and quarterly review and reflection meetings were organized at district and state level involving implementing staff including frontline workers, district and the state team. These meetings focused on reviewing and assessing the progress of the project, discussing and reflecting on the lessons learnt. ▪ Reflection meeting was organized in participation of the CARE India HQ technical team to discuss the progress of implementation, review the strategies and to plan and modify strategy. ▪ Review cum sharing meeting was organized with the implementing Partners organizational heads in January 2014. Project progress was assessed and a detailed discussion was carried out on different aspects of the project.
<p>Program Management</p>	
<p>Describe any changes in staffing in the last 6 months.</p>	<p>Portfolio of frontline workers were merged to allow them to work in all the three major domains of the project. This was decided in the wake of incorporation of more number of IPs, collectives and villages into the existing list. This arrangement was thought to be more feasible as number of villages each frontline worker be responsible would reduce resulting in their better management of time and activities per village.</p> <p>Women leaders and hamlet level animators are identified to provide handholding support to the IPs in a more sustainable manner.</p>
<p>Planning meetings carried out</p>	<p><i>Describe type of meetings, attendance, deliberations</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Monthly planning meetings were organized with the frontline workers to discuss the next month's planned activities and priorities. ▪ Two planning meetings were organized comprising

	<p>Pathways' state and district teams to revise strategies based on the experience and learning of the previous implementation period.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Planning meetings with Delhi HQ technical team was held to plan implementation strategies. ▪ Internal meetings of state Pathways team held to discuss and detail out the implementation plan (DIP) and budget for 2014 - 2015.
Value and assessment of technical support by global pathways team	<p><i>Describe technical support provided by the global team during this period and your reflections of its utility, timeliness, appropriateness etc</i></p> <p>Technical support and guidance was received from the global team on administration of PPT and ARS. Support was also received for tools for the Midterm Review that is planned in the next quarter. Global team was especially supportive in establishing linkages with external agencies such as Dimagi for partnership.</p>
Other	

5. Appendices to be included in the report:

- (i) Key activities for the next 6 months
- (ii) Group Training Activity Tracker (see template attached)
- (iii) Milestone tracker with key milestone status
- (iv) Case Studies or other reports to share