

Enhancing Income of Farmers using Group Approaches

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ABSTRACT

The group dynamics refers to a set techniques such as role playing buzz sessions, observation and feedback of group process and group decision which have been employed during the past decade. BIGs is a group of rural poor Farmers/farm women who have interest and volunteered to organize themselves into a group for eradication of poverty of the members. To make the livelihood sustainable the formation of BIG has been planned as the Brewing Interest Group is the body of interested farmers. This model assessed by Krishi Vigyan Kendra, Jabalpur in this On Farm Trials and selected two groups (Seed Production of Pea and Lac Production) comprises of 20 members in each group selected for assessment. The performance of the technology taken by number of ideas broad casted, response analysis, number of emerging on the basis of response analysis, Brewing Interest Group linked with financial institution and over impact of the livelihood improvement. Both group earned the profit through this dynamic approach some of Rs.81,000 profit and Rs. 21,415 respectively. Since problem was identified low household income due to unorganized agri-base entrepreneurs however this group dynamics approach through Brewing Interest Group over come two this problem which is our ultimate outcomes "Entrepreneurship development through group approaches".

The BIGs is a voluntary association of 20 interested farmers /farmwomen having the common goal of socio-economic and sustainable development, discussing their problems and resolving it through appropriate participatory decision making. BIGs is a group of rural poor Farmers/farm women who have interest and volunteered to organize themselves into a group for eradication of poverty of the members. They agree to save money regularly and convert their savings into a common fund. The group members desired to use this common fund as well as such other funds which have been may received through group under common management enterprises for upliftment of BIGs.

Group dynamics relates to the interactions among group members in a social situation. The attention is concentrated on the dynamics of members of formal or informal farmers / farm women Interest Group in the organization. Group dynamics refers to a sort of political ideology concerning the ways in which groups should be organized and managed. This ideology emphasis the importance of democratic leadership, the participation of members in decisions and the gains both to society and

to individuals to be obtained through co-operatives in groups. It is a set techniques such as role playing buzz sessions, observation and feedback of group process and group decision which have been employed during the past decade. To make the livelihood sustainable the formation of Brewing Interest Group has been planned as the Brewing Interest Group is the body of interested farmers.

Groups were formed for various reasons such as economic, psychological, sociological and cultural and also due to physical proximity or common interests, threats and attitudes. Individuals become members of the groups for their security, status, power, self-esteem and fulfilling individual objectives.

METHODOLOGY

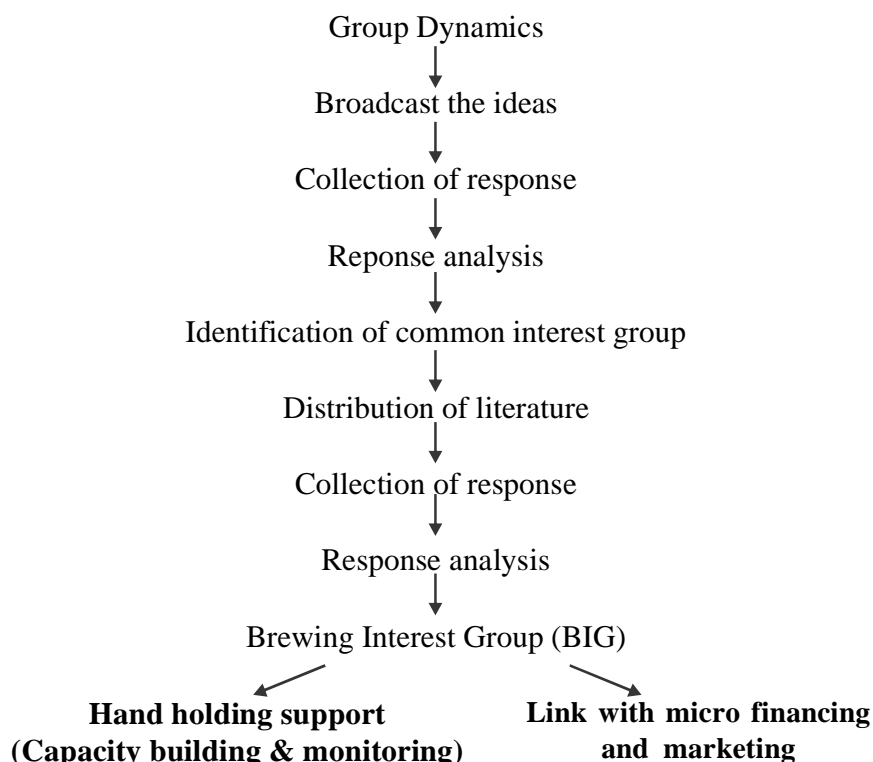
BIGs formation is a Social Mobilization Process which is not a spontaneous. The process has to be induced by the facilitator or any agency involved to initiate and sustain for poverty eradication, development and strengthening of BIGs. The issues which are key to the poverty eradication and employment generation. The entry

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point could be different for different situations according to the location & conditions. Though the process of BIGs formation can not be standardized, yet some guidelines could be framed to use by the field level functionaries.

Brewing Interest Group model assessed through Krishi Vigyan Kendra, Jabalpur in selected two groups one was Seed Production of Pea and second group was

Lac Production on Chheola plantation, consisted of 20 members for each selected group. The performance of the technology taken by number of ideas broad casted, response analysis, number of emerging on the basis of response analysis. Brewing Interest Group linked with financial institution and over impact of the livelihood improvement.



Outcome : Sustainable livelihood through group Dynamics

Fig. 1: Process or steps of Group Dynamics

Table - 1 : Technology Assessment on Group Dynamics

Crop/ Enterprise	Farming situation	Problem diagnosed	Title of OFT	No. of group	Technology assessed	Parameters of assessment
BIG	All situation	Low household income due to unorganized agri-based entrepreneurship by the farmers	Assessment of group dynamics through brewing interest group (BIGs)	15	1. Formation of group 2. Members in each group 20	1.No. of ideas broadcasted 2.No. of responses per idea 3.No. of emerging BIGs 4.No. of BIG linkages with micro finance 5.Net profit earned 6.Over all impact of livelihood

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Seed contributes about 20-25 % in the enhancement of production whereas farmers use grain as seed due to non availability of quality seed of various crops. Hence, looking to the need of the farmers, seed production groups were formulated based on the existing societies and status

of the farmers to enable them to produce and utilise their own seed and may practise across fence exchange of seed with needy farmers AND SALE OF SEED TO OTHERS. The Table 2 showed that the farmers response and emerging BIGs with microfinance linkages.

Table – 2 : No. of activities for different Brewing Interest Group

No. of ideas	No. of responses per idea	No. of emerging BIGs	No. of BIG linkages with micro finance
(i) Seed production	Seed production group of Pea-03	-	50% through Seed village scheme (GOI)
	Seed production group of Paddy-03	-	- do -
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Seed Production group of Gram 03 • Production group of paddy (SRI) 01 • Organic farming group 01 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ICRISAT-NFSM 100% for seed Critical input-20 % by GOI 50 % by KVK
(ii) Generation of additional income	Lac cultivation group- 01	-	100% through KVK
		• Bamboo cultivation group 01	100% through National bamboo mission (GOI)
		• Vermicomposting group 02	50 % by KVK

Table-3 : Profit earned through the activities (Seed production) by Brewing Interest Group

No. of farmers	Area / ha	Seed Production (q.)	Cost of Production (Rs.)	Grass return (Rs.)	Net Profit (Rs.)
20	04	38	90,000	1,71,000	81,000
01	04	27.5	38000	68750	30750

* Sale rate of grain- Rs. 2500 / q.

* Sale rate of Pea seed Rs. 4500 / q.

Group formed for the production of seed during rabi 2008-09 They produced (38 q.) quality seed of pea variety PSM-3 and ready to sale @ Rs 4500 / q. Hence they get net profit of Rs. 81,000. Seed production group consisted of 20 farmers and each have one acre of land with the joint efforts they earn Rs 4275 as net profit

from one acre land.

The group of farmers showed pleasure towards the given idea of seed production and said that the productivity of land remain same , However seed gave an additional income through increase in cost of produce.

Table- 4 : Profit earned through the activities (Lac cultivation) by Brewing Interest Group

No. of farmers	No. of plants	Lac Production (kg/plant)	Cost of Production (Rs.)	Grass return (Rs.)	Net Profit (Rs.)
20	225	338	6625	27040	21415 from 225plants with in 150 days

Production and profit of the lac cultivation shows that the plants of Chheola which have no economic use were used for lac cultivation and gave Rs 21415 within 150 days. Thus per plant income

has been earned sum of Rs. 95 and per family Rs. 1070.75 This amount will provide economical facility to meet out the day to day requirement of the family.

The farmers of the area were having no economic use of chheola plants except wood for fire. Hence they were very enthusiastic for lac cultivation to all the plants of chheola especially which were planted on bunds.

Table: 5 Seed produced and area spread of seed through Group approaches

Crop	Variety	Seed produced (q)	Area spread (ha)
Paddy	PS-3	850	130
	MR-219	1450	120
	JR 201	310	90
Gram	JG-63	1040	150
	JG-16	900	120
	JG-14	140	75
Pea	PSM-3	13700	26000

Table 5 indicated that the seed produced by the group of various crops and their varieties. The pea variety PSM-3 seed produced 13700 qt. and covered largest area of 26000 ha in the district. Whereas JG-63, JG-16 and JG-14 produced 1040, 900 and 140 qt. seed and spread on an area of 150, 120 and 75 ha respectively in the district.

CONCLUSION

BIGs is a group of rural poor Farmers/farm women who have interest and volunteered to organize themselves into a group for eradication of poverty of the members. They agree to save regularly and convert their savings into a common fund. The members of the group agree to use this common fund and such other funds which they may receive as a group through a common management for upliftment of BIGs. Brewing Interest Group model assessed through Krishi Vigyan Kendra, Jabalpur in this On Farm Trials we have selected two groups one was Seed

Production of Pea and second group was Lac Production in chheola plantation compresses 20 Number each selected for assessment. The group of farmers showed pleasure towards the given idea of seed production and said that the productivity of land remain same , However seed gave an additional income sum of Rs.4275 from one acre land through enhance the production. The farmers of the area were having no economic use of chheola plants except wood for fire. But through lac cultivation they earned sum of Rs.95 per plant and per family Rs.1070.75. Brewing Interest Group enhance the agricultural production as well as house hold income of the poor farmers, achieve is our ultimate goal of Brewing Interest Group (BIGs). Therefore 15 BIGs groups are formed in different aspects viz. Seed production of Gram and Paddy, SRI in Paddy, Organic farming, Bamboo cultivation, Vermicomposting etc. As for as area spread is concern to seed production group maximum area covered Pea variety PSM-3 followed by Gram and other crops. Thus the group dynamic approaches is very easy approach for enhancing income of farmers / farm women.

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