



Nutrition sensitive micro planning for food and livelihood security



Nutrition Sensitive Micro planning is the way to bridge the gap between problem & solution with the aim of ending hunger & poverty. It has been designed to supplement and complement the Government of India's most ambitious social and livelihood security and public works programme – MGNREGA or National Rural Employment Guarantee Act being implemented from 2008. The Micro Planning ensures a decentralized planning process with the participation of every community member, in not only deciding what is required by them individually but also for the entire community. The planning involves:

Identification of the resources and problems of the village. The entire community takes a renewed look at the known environment and draws its conclusions on the status of land, natural resources, agriculture, services and excluded families.

Resource Mapping & Social mapping wherein the observations of the transect walk are summarized and drawn up by the participants and used as a tool for need assessment and

prioritization. The houses of the malnourished children are demarcated on the resource map. The skewed access to services and resources of these families clearly defines the reasons for malnutrition.

Action Planning based on the mapping, where both individual and community plans are finalized collectively.

Planning Redefined – “Earlier decisions were taken by the Panchayat at the block level and we used to know about it only when work started but now the entire village is involved right

FHI project area data

Total no of Micro Planning Meetings – 4755

Villages covered – 385

Direct beneficiaries reached – 89375

Households that have made their individual plans - 33337

from day one and throughout the process”, Sohanlal Pargi, living in Sera Nagla Village of Banswara District



Prioritizing Nutrition– The community driven micro planning transformed the face of MNREGA plans from being solely infrastructure focussed to giving

nutrition its due accord. During resource mapping the families with malnourished children were identified first for various schemes and benefits.

Apna Keth Apna Kaam (our field our work) is the principle behind the development of individual plans and this has seen an upsurge in the number of days of employment and consequently the wages too. The maximum number of work days per farmer used to be 10-15 at the rate of 65 INR to 120 INR per day. This has now gone up to 60 days per farmer fetching up to 140 INR per day.

Dimaag hi kul gaya!!! (our minds were opened) is the excited reaction of the members of Ganesh Bhagwan women’s group in Obla village of Banswara district after they attended the Gram Sabha for the very first time. “It is always the men in the village who attend but this time after participating in the micro planning we decided to go as a group and understood how decisions are taken in the gram sabha”

Under the Individual Benefit Scheme

(IBS) goat rearing, cattle sheds and land leveling has gained popularity as it has supported the land less and daily wage earners. The goat can be sold whenever there is a sudden need for cash money.

Collective Ownership and Responsibility has been ensured in most instances by inviting the representatives of panchayat and block to be an integral part of the prioritizing and planning process.

Making service providers accountable

Communities are for the first time aware of their entitlements and are making demands for the same. The Communities now insist on being given receipts for plans submitted and follows up with the Panchayat for the budget sanctions.

The **Yojana Banao Abhiyaan** (Microplanning campaign) of the Ministry of Rural Development in Jharkhand gave a huge impetus to the Micro Planning process in the state and has demonstrably proved that the process can be effectively scaled up. 5 members (2 village volunteers, 2 ward members and 1 Gram Rozgarsevak) were identified in every GP and were imparted a 3 day training at the block level on the micro planning process. The team moved to every village and facilitated the entire micro planning process right up to its submission in the Gram Sabhas. Almost 60 new job cards were issued, 7-10 ponds were excavated per village and people got work for 15-75 days depending on their requirement.



“After the resounding success of gram sabhas, we have undertaken theme based Gram Sabhas on issues like water conservation and vermi composting. Also one day every month has been assigned as MGNREGA day where people walk in with their queries and problems and we try to resolve the problems”, Suresh Kumar Gaurav, Mukhiya, Satyengarh Village, Deogarh district

The overall outcomes of Nutrition Sensitive Micro planning

4400 individual action plans developed and submitted out of which 1939 plans amounting to Rs. 3 lakhs got sanctioned. 583 of the sanctioned plans were for the families of malnourished children in Anandpuri Block of Banswara, Rajasthan.

The Micro planning exercise has created an opportunity to link MNREGA to other schemes and provide benefits to communities. Linking with *Kapil Dhara* Scheme provided wells for 51 families, *Swach Bharat* Mission toilets were constructed in 1802 households, 185 families could get drinking water supply through *Nal Jal yojana* in *Khargone District of MP*.

- AWCs were built in many villages and mini AWCs were planned in many more
- There has been considerable increase in the MGNREGS fund utilization



Good Practice	Number per village	unit cost	Cost sharing and Linkages	Responsibility
Nutrition sensitive MGNREGA micro planning	Prior to the gram Sabha a 2 day planning exercise with targeted HH-severe undernourished child, women headed families, migratory labours, landless, etc. with focus on, dietary diversity, agriculture, health & access to food throughout the year	152000 INR/ Block	Block level Selection & training of volunteers & PRI members 850 INR/head x 50 heads x 3 days District trainers team 2 x 750 x 3 days Awareness campaigns 20000 INR Yajona Bano Abhiyan - Jharkhand	BDO & Panchayat Samity



Scalability, replicability and sustainability

The village development planning under the MGNREGS through the Gram Panchayat is an ongoing process. The Gap lies in the participation of the most excluded households in the planning process, knowledge of community about existing schemes including available budgets and nutrition focus of the plans. The LANN PLA meetings in coordination with the NRLM SHGs preceding the Gram Sabha will sensitize the community about the scope to improve individual and community assets through the MGNREGS and the other departmental schemes. Volunteers from the village can be oriented about the schemes by the Block officials who will in turn coordinate with the Panchayat in preparing the plans before the Gram Sabha, ensure participation on day of Gram Sabha and follow up status of work generated under the plan and the sanction of funds. The LANN sensitization will curb corruption at the grassroots level. More people will be encouraged to attend the Public hearings and access the public redressal systems.