

Concept Note- WRITESHOP



Background

The central Indian tribal belt is home to the largest concentration of rural poverty in Asia. Out of the total tribal population (84 million) about 70 per cent live in the 100 districts of the states of Rajasthan, Gujarat, Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Orissa, Andhra Pradesh, Jharkhand and West Bengal. Most of these districts have thick forest cover and several of them also house wildlife sanctuaries as well as forest reserves.

The economy of the tribal people, which is traditionally characterised by interactions between forests, agriculture and migration, has declined over the years. With deterioration in quality of land and limited access to input-output market, agriculture based livelihoods have plummeted. In the absence of appropriate policy action to support agriculture development, tribal communities are increasingly being obliged to evolve a lifestyle of rain-fed farming followed by distress migration. The agrarian distress is manifested by unviable and vulnerable tribal economy, resulting in a vicious cycle of natural distress, forced migration, exploitation, debt traps and at times, acute destitution.

The Central India Initiative was launched in 2002-03 by the IWMI-Tata Water Policy Research Programme through support from the Sir Ratan Tata Trust, to undertake research studies in the tribal districts of central India to review processes which determine the relationship between tribals and irrigation in the central Indian undulating-hilly-mountainous tribal belt. To take the findings of research in more comprehensive way CInI cell got registered as a separate organisation as Collectives for Integrated Livelihood Initiatives. CInI at present work with 25 grassroots organisations, research institutes, international organisations and various government departments.

The learning from the field programmes are encouraging and there now seems to be a need to organise a WRITESHOP of all CInI partners for documentation of the best practices in the Central India tribal belt pertaining to livelihood. This proposed WRITESHOP would be providing the learning of last 3-4 years towards livelihood promotion for tribal communities and also to develop a common framework together for larger impact in the region.

Context

CInI has extensive geographical span of area with 126 districts in nine states. We work for empowering tribal livelihoods through our strong partner base and are heading to make our presence in the field as a “Resource Organisation”. As a resource organisation it is important to furnish all type of information related to tribal livelihood in the central

Indian belt to our target audience who can be implementers, concerned government organisations, research institutes, etc. Hence it is required to prepare inventory to identify, collect and collate good practices and document them.

Producing information material through participatory WRITESHOPS is one the important useful tools to study community development and create a resource hub particularly for the organisation like CInI. The aim is to develop materials, revise and put them into final form as quickly as possible, taking full advantage of the expertise of the various participants across the region. These are especially useful because they speed up the production and make it far more efficient.

The WRITESHOP will allow inputs from all participants to be incorporated, taking advantage of the diverse experience and expertise of all present. It will allow ideas to be validated by a range of experts in the field. The concentration of resource persons, editors, artists and desktop-publishing resources at one time and place, enables materials to be produced far more quickly than is typical for similar publications. And the sharing of experiences among participants develops networks that continue to be fruitful long after the WRITESHOP itself.

In this era of competition, it is the need of the hour to improve the knowledge base on the concept and strategies. The proposed WRITESHOP is a welcome and much needed activity. This WRITESHOP is a beginning.

Objectives

In the light of the context, the objectives of the WRITESHOP are divided into two parts:

General:

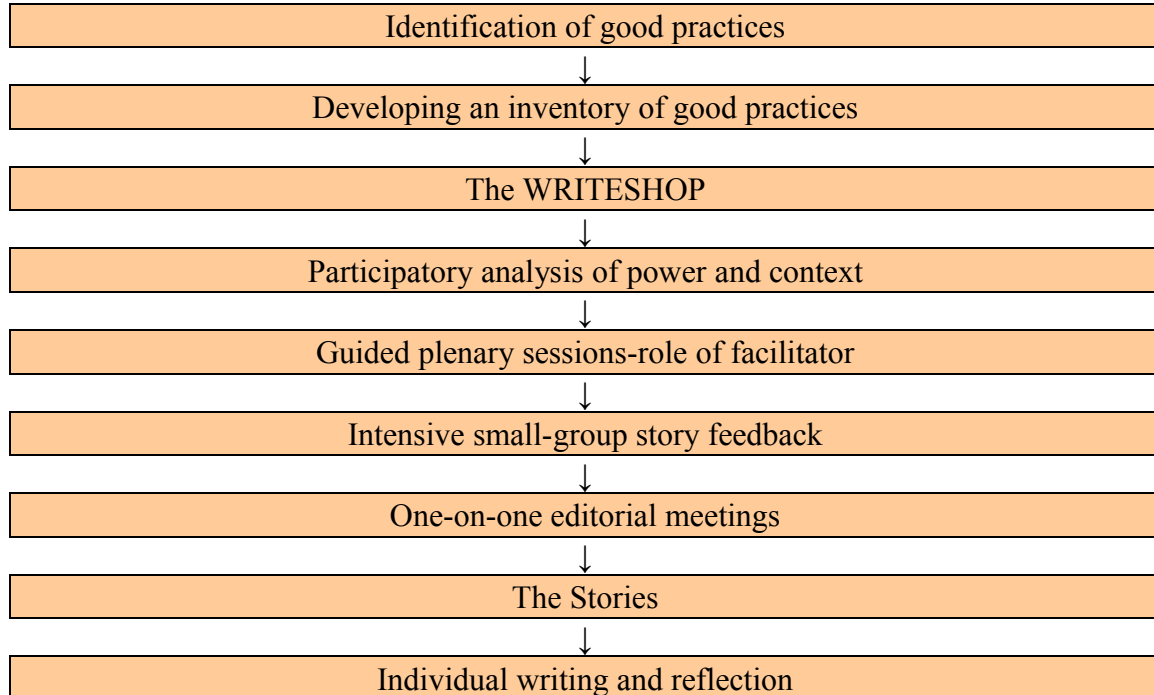
- To produce comprehensive information material in the form of a book that will serve as a knowledge pool in the Central Indian Region.

Specific:

- Identification and capture of good developmental practices in the CInI districts of Central India
- Documentation of successful case studies
- To identify various strategies to replicate success models
- To develop writing and editing skills in participants
- Strengthen linkages between partners

Process/Strategy

The WRITESHOP require lots of preparation, which is a step-by-step process.



Expected outcome

Expected outcomes from the WRITESHOP are:

- A solid writing foundation.
- Producing information material in the form of well written document having compilation of different good practices of the Central India Region.
- Publication in some of the good journals
- In the process of doing the WRITESHOP, the participants will feel a deeper sense of ownership of their own writing which could lead to the better implementation of the programme in the field.
- Identification of strategies and action recommendations to continue the study and documentation of the field experiences on the implementation of livelihood projects for tribal.

CInI is organising WRITESHOP from February 23 to 26, 2010

The venue is:

Gurukul
Krishi Gram Vikas Kendra (KGVK)
At- Rukka

PO- Neori Vikas
Dist- Ranchi
Jharkhand

Mr Ramchandrudu and his team of experts from WASSAN will be facilitating the WRITESHOP.