

# STRENGTHENING GENDER RESPONSIVE FOREST ECOSYSTEMS MANAGEMENT AND AGROFORESTRY

## Context

India's forest ecosystems, covering 21.76% of the geographical area (ISFR 2023) and 8.65% under agroforestry (GROW Report, NITI Aayog), play a vital role in supporting rural livelihoods, providing ecosystem services, and serving as carbon sinks to meet the country's Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs). With 275 million rural people in India depending on forests for livelihood security, those living in the vicinity are directly dependent on forests for Non-Timber Forest Products (NTFPs) and numerous other ecological services (Pandey et al. 2016, ISFR 2023). However, increasing climate risks—floods, droughts, and heatwaves—threaten ecosystems and rural well-being. To address these challenges, it is essential to integrate a gender perspective, recognising the different ways men and women manage and utilise forests and agroforestry ecosystem services.

## Objective

The gender-responsive and climate-resilient management of forest and agroforestry ecosystems has been strengthened in selected states of India.

Project Name	Strengthening Gender Responsive Forest Ecosystems Management and Agroforestry (G-VAN)
Commissioned by	German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ)
Project Regions	Madhya Pradesh, Himachal Pradesh, Uttarakhand and Uttar Pradesh.
Lead executing agency	Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change
Duration	2024-2027

potential, especially at the local or community level, to use agroecological measures within the scope of a One Health approach. For this, the exchange of information and the cooperation between different sectors and stakeholder groups is paramount.



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Communities engaging  
with forest and  
agroforestry ecosystem  
services.



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*Blending trees with crops to boost eco-friendliness and biodiversity.*

## Approach

Building on the lessons from its previous phase, Sustainable Management of Forest Ecosystem Services (2021–2024), the Strengthening Gender Responsive Forest Ecosystems Management and Agroforestry (G-VAN) Project has recently commenced its implementation. Adopting a landscape-level approach, the project combines natural resource management with environmental and livelihood considerations. The approach will support multi-stakeholder planning and sectoral integration, leveraging social, economic, and environmental linkages to balance development and conservation at the landscape scale.

The following three core areas define the implementation approach of the project:

- Strengthening the institutional framework for gender responsive and climate resilient forest and agroforestry management.
- Supporting partners in equitable planning and practical implementation of gender-responsive and climate-resilient forest and agroforestry management.
- Empowering local communities, especially women and marginalised groups, through sustainable forest and agroforestry management.

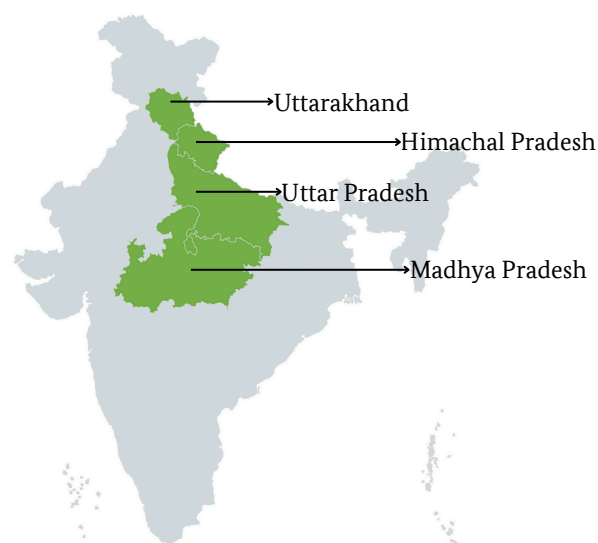
## Contribution to the Agenda 2030



## Expected Outcomes

- The technical and institutional capacities, for gender-responsive and climate resilient forest and agroforestry management are strengthened.
- Forest and agroforestry areas are increasingly managed in a gender-responsive and climate-resilient manner, aligned with officially accepted development plans.
- Gender-responsive planning documents, procedures, curricula, guidelines for funding programs have been published, in coordination with relevant stakeholders.
- Increased income of local self-help groups and FPOs through the sustainable management of forest and agroforestry ecosystems.

## Project Implementing States



*Disclaimer: The geographical map is for informational purposes only and does not constitute recognition of international boundaries or regions; GIZ makes no claims concerning the validity, accuracy or completeness of the maps nor assumes any liability resulting from the use of the information therein.*

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