

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 2024, 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.

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 (MoEF&CC)
Duration	September 2024-July 2028

Objective

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



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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 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.

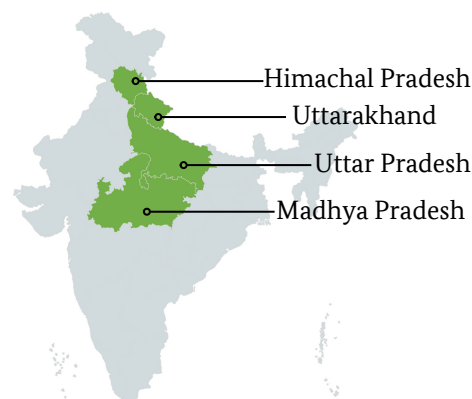
Contribution to 2030 Agenda



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 programmes have been published, in coordination with relevant stakeholders.
- Increased income of local self-help groups and Farmer Producer Organisations (FPOs) through the sustainable management of forest and agroforestry ecosystems.

Project Implementing States



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