1. **Objective and relevance (the world around us)**

* **What is the main purpose with the intervention, including challenges that need to be addressed?**

The main purpose is to improve the living condition of 600 poor farmer families in 20 villages in Sunderbans, West Bengal, India. The strategy will be to organise the farmers and through extension on knowledge promote better farming, fish ponds and multipurpose protection of dykes. This improved organisational management and capacity among the farmers, which will lead to more effective advocacy targeting official national programmes regarding farmers.

**Challenges**

In spite of all the improvements according to the cooperation between IGF Denmark and the partner JGVK for many years the poverty remains high due to low production in agriculture which constitute 95 % of the livelihood in the area. The low productivity is caused by the depleted soil fertility, inefficient farming methods, salt problems partly related to climate change and periodic cyclones. The poverty is caused by non-efficient farming which is a big problem in the Sunderbans as it reduces resilience, income and health levels resulting in migration and trafficking.

Even though India has experienced an enormous economic growth during the past decades the development has been concentrated to the cities and the poverty is still very high in the rural areas. The politicians seem to have forgotten 80% of the population living in the rural areas. During the recent years national programmes have been launched to support the farmers, but very often the implementation of these programmes did not bear fruit due bureaucracy and lack of capacity.

This leaves a desire in the community for poverty reduction trough increased and resilient production within farming and livestock.

When the COVID-19 pandemic resulted in a strict lock down of India for many months, the country and particularly the poor migrant workers suffered. 1,5 - 2 million migrant workers returned home to Sunderbans causing much food scarcity. There are no prospects of them to return to their former work in others states for many years to come. Due to the sufferings, they experienced being away from home many of them want to stay home. In this respect a very urgent issue is to create jobs for this group which are non-existing at the moment.

In this light, this intervention aims to increase food production through agriculture, animal husbandry and fish production with environmentally friendly methods comes in the picture with high utility. Subsequently the devastating storm Ampham in the in May 2020 destroyed or damaged many houses along with the agriculture production and broke down the dykes.

* + **If the intervention is an extension of a previous intervention, please describe: what results have been achieved so far? What are (still) the major challenges? To what extent do this intervention include new objectives, a new strategic approach or new target groups?**

**Previous intervention**

The local farmers have for a long time requested the partner organisation for agricultural support. The first step was the construction of a model farm at JGVK seven years back funded by IGF Denmark. A couple of skilled farmers at JGVK conducted demonstration camps for the farmers about organic farming, good practice in taking care of animals etc. This activity led to a pilot project implemented with SUG (Seniors Without Borders) in 2017-2019; j.nr 16-1910-MP-sep

The objective was poverty reduction and food security for the poor farmers via better production in agriculture, livestock and fishery and more benefit from government programmes through advocacy.

The strategy was to organise the farmers in production groups called Farmer Family Groups, (FFG), increase production through extension on knowledge on production methods and joint efforts. The farmers experienced increased production in all 3 sectors in the project period of 2 years. The project also increased the awareness of the farmers regarding the impact of climate change and the need of environmental protection. Advocacy activities were undertaken by JGVK staff vis-a-vis the local authorities and the civil society through regular meetings and experience exchange among farmer groups. The awareness among the farmers regarding the suboptimal support from government is now obvious. The pilot project was popular and until now all the FHG members have retained their membership. In the final project report, continuation and further development of the efforts has been strongly recommended.

**Challenges**

The major challenges in the new intervention will still be lack of strong farmer organisation which is only initiated, poor knowledge regarding farming methods and poverty due to low productivity, lack of good governmental services and climate change effects.

**New strategy, objectives and target groups.** In the new intervention, advocacy activities will be much more dominant, as sustainability has highest priority. Hopefully solved via linkage to some of the different governmental agriculture programs which for the moment are not implemented satisfactorily and thus unable to secure sustainability. JGVK and the other CBOs will play a very active role. It will involve a very close cooperation between the authorities and the involved CBOs specially JGVK. The government has, both orally and in reports, acknowledged their limited ability to fulfill the programs. They have expressed their interest and need for such activities as our intervention as a model solution and direct cooperation with civil society actors as JGVK. The solution might be that local NGOs with their capacity will get the responsibility for the programs. The new intervention will include many new farmer families and among them also farmers living along the riversides having specific challenges with breach of the dikes. It means that besides agriculture, livestock and fishery maintenance of dikes will be an issue. A number of new civil society actors as CBOs will also participate.

Organising the farmers at the village level will continue, but a new organisation will be introduced: Farmer Village Development Committee (FDC) involving the farmers from the FHG’s and other potentially strong persons in the area, this is the outcome of the experience from pilot project. In the pilot project the skilled farmers from the Demonstration Farm, were responsible for the training. In the new intervention skilled farmers are still important, but the training programme will be upgraded in the sense that it will also include specialists from different institutions with specific knowledge in the different sectors. They will come from universities and agricultural colleges in West Bengal and Bangladesh. To strength the initially training we also want to attach a Danish expert with interdisciplinary knowledge between the different sectors, experiences from Africa in using this knowledge.

The Danish agronomist has developed and published more reliable, easy and climate-smart methods to establish and manage soil-improving/conserving multipurpose plants and trees that can fix nitrogen from the air, to recycle ash and to establish also other types of trees and grass.  These innovations can reduce input cost for farmers and increase resilience and sustainability.

Briefly, without commercial inputs, these methods e.g. caused: -two to many times better germination of the best agroforestry trees, -made it possible effectively to introduce nitrogen-fixing bacteria from one field to another, -increased growth much, and -increased resilience to hot sunny periods (Google Torsten Mandal and PDF or XPS). This can contribute to a more sustainable supply of inputs to farms like feed, manure and wood, to multipurpose fencing e.g. around dikes, a special local silk production, shelter and feeding site for semi free-range poultry etc. Some methods and experiences can be modified for multiplying mangrove trees or for seeding better dyke protecting grasses.   Likewise, innovative, appropriate methods can be learned from Bangladesh.

* **Describe the context of the intervention:** 
  + Describe the conditions that apply in the area where the intervention will take place, and which are expected to influence the intervention (e.g. social, economic or political conditions, or other projects or activities in the area that can supplement the intervention).

**Geographically and socially:** The project area, The Sunderbans, is the world’s largest mangrove delta and runs out in the Bay of Bengal. The area is covering 10.000km2 and is constituted by 105 islands. Half of them is protected reserve forest. Sunderbans is very isolated as access to the area is primarily by sea. The eco-system of the mangrove forest makes the water level rise with 8 meters every time it is tide. Recently a bridge has been constructed connecting the biggest island Basanti with the mainland. In the islands the road infrastructure is poor with very few asphalt roads, the rest being brick or soil roads. In the rainy season the area is a lot more inaccessible. In the Sunderbans the population is approximately 5 million people. The population is constituted of emigrants from many parts of India and especially Bangladesh, who migrated there to get their own land and make a living. The majority of the population has small land allotment and some are landless. The population is categorized among the world’s poorest with a yearly income of 450-500 USD per family. The main occupation of the population is farming, fishery, day labor and domestic jobs. The agricultural activities are limited due to impoverished soil and no tradition of alternative agricultural methods. The fishery production is staggering due to illegal overfishing. The isolated location of the Sunderbans and the poor infrastructure makes income generating activities hard to sustain. Poverty together with other socioeconomically factors such as weak health conditions, poor nutritional status, low or no level of education dominates the daily life of the population in the Sunderbans. Recent natural disasters including typhoons and the poverty have rendered more than 40 % of the population into migrating laborers in other parts of the country, undermining the social fabric of the region. The population is mostly Hindus, but there is a great minority of Muslims and Christians (mostly tribals). In daily life the religion and other relations does not play a big role and members from all the groups will participate in the project. Family planning has been taken in by many of the families in the Sunderbans where the average number of children born is two to three, but some families still have eight to ten children.

**Political context:** In 1978 the Panchyayati Raj Institutions (PRI) system was implemented in all districts of West Bengal as an attempt to reduce the wide spread poverty. West Bengal is divided into **Districts**, as for example South 24 Parganas and North 24 Parganas which covers the Sunderbans area. The districts are then divided in Blocks and each Block is divided in **Gram**  **Panchayats** (GPs). The GPs are constituted of 5-30 members where each member represents one geographic area of the Block and the voters living in that area – which is also called the **Gram Sansad**. Both on District and Block level there is an administrative part and a politically elected part. The GP is considered the lowest level of the political system in the West Bengal and it is the nearest public institution for the common villagers to seek an influence politically. At GP level there is another local governance body constituted called the **Gram Unnayan Samati (**GUS). Translated it means Village Development Committee which is elected by the Gram Sansad (the villagers that one GP member represents). The GPs and the GUS are responsible of making yearly plans for different public activities for the Gram Sansad that they are representing; these plans are called **Sansad** **Plans.** They should reflect the national action plans for different public program. Because of pressure from the Field Health Workers in our health/malnutrition projects yearly plans for activities in health and nutrition are now made. Because nobody put the poor farmers problem on the agenda, the same plans are not made for the agriculture sector. It is an obvious place to advocate for the rights of the farmers and this will be an important issue during the intervention.

Just now the farmers in India have demonstrated for months against new reforms in the agricultural sector for example removal of the intermediaries and the security of minimum prices for their products. The small farmers are a huge number of people, but their power is limited because of lack of organization.

For many years different **national programs** exist in relation to the agriculture sector. One is called **NABARD, Farmers Club Program.** The goal of this program is capacity building and empowerment of the farming community and more particularly the small and marginal farmers across rural areas. These clubs are supposed to qualify the local farmers, support the them with advice, and even economical help. Very few of these clubs are running satisfactorily. Mainly because of lack of man power and qualified advisors and civil societies lack of knowledge of the program. There is no access to advisors in agriculture technology or training programs. The funds for this activity are often sent back to Delhi or end up in the wrong pockets. Most important is that most of the farmers are unaware of the offer from the government. It means they do not demand their right or suggest appropriate solutions. The local authorities leave the farmers on their own without providing support through skilled advisors to the clubs. It is obvious that activation and cooperation with this program will contribute to our intervention and strengthen the sustainability.

Another existing but poorly implemented national program is is **Crop Insurance**.The insurance will be paid in four stages – for any losses suffered during plantation, cultivation and during post cultivation, when crops are lying in the field and in any adverse weather situations. This insurance scheme is free of cost for the farmers since the government will pay the full premium. Another is a **Welfare Scheme**; every farmer will get Rs. 5000 per acre in two instalments from the agriculture department. **Krishak Bandhu** scheme is a third where the grant of Rs. 2 00.000 will be given to the family of farmers who die (age between 18 to 60 years) due to any reason, including suicide.

Due to the desperate need of improving and increasing agriculture production, the Indian Government has recently implemented a new law with the goal to double the agriculture production in 2024. At present there are no visible activities or sign of implementation of this law in the Sunderbans from the local authorities. Thus, relevant for the intervention being applied for.

Due to its lack of capacity the local authorities seek collaboration with civil society organisation through Private Partnership Programmes (PPP programmes) in various forms, in which JGVK has participated previously, for example through construction of toilets, trial with fish species etc, which the authorities were unable to undertake.

* Describe whether the intervention takes place in a stable or fragile context. If the intervention takes place in a fragile context.

The intervention will take place in a fragile context in relation to climate and environment as mentioned earlier. The frequent natural disasters increase the vulnerability of the civil society as ongoing development is often destroyed or neglected due to life threatening obstacles such as the need for food, safety and shelter following for example a flood. Our partner organisation JGVK has many times provided humanitarian aid in these situations providing shelter in the organisation buildings, food and support for rebuilding houses and people rely on their help which contributes to the resilience in the civil society.

It is evident that this fragility is a part of the global climate change challenge and will not be eliminated in foreseeable period, but this intervention will attempt to reduce the increasing risks of floods with better multipurpose vegetation, methods of establishment, and management of the usually steep, bare dikes to increase the resilience towards the consequences of natural disasters. In the long-term perspective this intervention will contribute to reducing the pressure on the mangrove forest

Our project area is located in the rural area which is fragile contexts in relation to economy as earlier described. This is due to the fact the economic growth and development is centred in the urban areas. This fragility is targeted through the main objective and sustainable income generating scope of the intervention. Politically or socially the area is not fragile.

* **Describe how this intervention will strengthen civil society organising to advance social justice (realisation of people’s rights, reducing inequality and fighting poverty, participation in decision-making processes, equal access to resources, and just institutions).**

Previous interventions and collaboration between JGVK and IGF-Denmark has proven that organisation of the civil society in SHGs and for this project FHGs is an effective way of strengthening the civil society. It is now obvious for the local people too that organisation formation is a way to be stronger and more influential. The FHGs will be strong source of capacity building of the main target group. This will happen through 1) increasing awareness of the gaps in their legislative rights in the form of national programs and the reality at the moment 2) increasing knowledge in farming skills and dike management and how to use or create channels for expressing one’s opinion and seeking political influence in order to ensure one’s legislative rights in relation to the national programs for the farmers. This comes together in supporting the fight against poverty in the area through increased production supported by the national programs.

By awareness building on the farmers’ rights and supporting them in ways to obtain these in reality by speaking their voice to the duty bearers, we expect the result to be an improvement in the inequality experienced by the poor in the geographically isolated area. The participation of the FHGs and FDCs in the decision-making process at the relevant institutions will further strength the intervention to advance social justice.

The number of FHGs will increase because main focus will be strengthening of the farmers, but the inhabitants, that are not yet organised will also benefit. Apart from organisation it is obvious that capacity building is crucial and we are talking about capacity building in many subjects – technical (for example agriculture, dike maintenance, economy, marketing etc), political knowledge, political awareness, advocacy etc. The increased capacity among the local people will give them greater self-confidence too and the strength to speak up about their problems and demand their rights.

* **What climate- and environmental conditions do the partnership and/or the intervention need to respond to? And how have the partners responded to it? This could be in relation to the conditions of the target groups, the number of flights or the activities of the intervention, and how these affect the environment or climate in the area.**

**Climate and environmental conditions**

The climate in the inhabited areas of the Sundarbans is subtropical with an annual rainfall of 2,2meters. Earlier, rain started mid-June and continued 5 months with heavy rain till October. Due to climate changes, rainfall is reduced and has been unpredictable the last few years, causing risks for drought and floods. Outside the monsoon period, freshwater scarcity is widespread. Off-season irrigation of wetland rice with standard methods can no longer be relied on. Therefore, many farmers have started to pump groundwater 200-300m deep in the dry season, when only a small amount of freshwater is available and it is only slowly recharged from distant hills. This results in drinking-water pumps run dry. Climate-changes destabilise water flows from mountains. An increase in sea level occurring at an accelerating rate and increased frequency of extreme winds necessitates modified agriculture for the farmers’ survival.

To prevent intrusion of saline water from the tidal rivers in the habited islands of the Sundarbans delta, embankments or dykes was built along the riverbanks. Apart from cyclones, flooding also occurs during the high-tide period. Tidal cycles of river raise water levels up to 8 m twice daily. Increased pressure due to rising water during the hightide, breaks the embankments in weak spots. Most of the dikes are weak, made of clay without grass, and weak spots often break. Flooding poses a threat to the population and their livelihood. Salt water can damage cultivation for years. Knowledge is needed on how to establish and manage protecting vegetation specially on the dikes

"The cultivated are usually damaged by salts and unsustainable methods due to shortage of knowledge of sustainable, affordable reliable, productive methods resulting in falling or stagnant yields."

**The partners respond** to the depleted soil has up to now been the formation of the Demonstration Farm where the partner tries to give the farmers some valuable information about farming, new methods of cultivation and livestock. It has involved knowledge to climate changes and our impact on the environment. It was followed by the pilot project with SUG. To prevent abuse of limited sweet subsoil drinking water, JGVK has advocated for not using groundwater for irrigating. Instead, it advocates for use of rainwater from the ponds. The problem is that it is very expensive to make ponds and maintain them.

Our partner tries to articulate climate changes and environmental problems to its beneficiaries as often as possible in a more informal way.

The pilot project with SUG was also a response to some of the challenges.

**Effect of the intervention**: The intervention will help in preserving the unique eco system in the Sunderbans mangrove rain forest, the survival basis of a big area region of about 40000 km2 in the local region. This will happen through improved agriculture on more organic basis which will not only result in increased production but also increased CO2 absorption, less outlet of nitrogen and pesticides from the fields to the local water system reducing pollution, improving the local environment and aquatic lives.

The partnership/collaborators (our starting point)

* **Describe the experiences, capacities and resources of participant partners (including the Danish organisation) as well as other actors (e.g. their experiences with the subject matter concerned, knowledge of the context in which the intervention will take place, networks and relationships).**

Main partners in the project are the two applicants**, IGF-Denmark** (Indien Gruppe Fyn – Denmark) and **JGVK** (Joygopalpur Gram Vikash Kendra). In the implementation of the project we will also use other **local CBOs** (Community Based Organisations) to utilise and support the local infrastructure in a network in our communication with the target groups.

**IGF-Denmark,** registered as aNGO in 1992, has worked with the partner JGVK in the Sundarbans and in Orissa in a period of about 2 decades. We use a holistic approach and participatory cooperation at grassroot level to build up a strong civil society through organisation, awareness and capacity building. We have addressed poverty reduction in sectors such as agriculture, but also education, health care, vocational training, home industry and social equality have been dealt with. Advocacy activities have had more and more place in our effort. IGF-Denmark’s members have different professional backgrounds within technique, environment, health, management and social science. They normally support the partners with capacity building and monitoring of the project activities by staying on the project sites for 1-3 months at a time.

With this background IGF Denmark has the experience, capacity and resources to deal with the actual subject. More specific the big Livestock project from 2005-10, several smaller projects in relation to Food security, implementation of the Demonstrating Farm and the pilot project with SUG has given the experience in agriculture. Through the implementation of all the projects IGF Denmark has built up a strong capacity in project management and specially after implementation of the health projects IGF Denmark has valuable knowledge in how to work with advocacy in relation to accountability. Via our collaboration with our partner JGVK we have learned a lot about networking and is familiar to the context in which the intervention will take place.

**JGVK** is a user-based organisation working at grassroots level. It is a leading CBO independent of political, ethnic and commercial groups. The organisation was founded in 1990 and registered as an official NGO in 2001.The organisation has vast experience with capacity building, advocacy work and management of projects funded by a variety of donors, including CISU/Danida, Haldor Topsøe and the West Bengal Government. JGVK has up to now organised ca 2500 women in SHGs (Self-Help Group) , which has increased their capacity and empowered social equality through micro-credit and awareness generation. This has resulted in, election of female SHG members in local policy, better economy through increased production in kitchen garden, home industry, fishery production, health, vocational training and environment improvement all of which caused positive change in the local community as well as in the surrounding environment. Just like IGF Denmark JGVK has through implementation of all the projects over the last many years together with IGF Denmark built up the necessary experiences, capacities and resources to deal with the actual intervention. Over the last seven years JGVK has managed the organic research and demonstration farm and has succeeded in organizing more than 500 farmers in organic farming. Experiences from this work are overwhelming. Also, in relation to advocacy JGVK is now very strong, among other things because of the respect JGVK meet from authorities and the government because of the work they have done and their integrity. JGVK has also extensive experience in the work with smaller CBOs in connection with the implementation of projects to strengthen civil society organisations. JGVK has a big network not only with other CBOs but also different institutions, private firms etc.

In 2014 JGVK was awarded the **Presidents Gold Medal** for its efforts for environment and civil society development. In February 2021 the **Governor of West Bengal** visited JGVK on request from some of his political colleagues. He was very much enthusiastic to see what JGVK has achieved and donated 100.000kr. Also, in February 2021 the **Danish Ambassador in India**, Freddy Svane, visited JGVK for the 3. time. He was again impressed by the results JGVK can show and satisfied with the outcome of danish developing help. He expressed his support to JGVK in its continued work in Sunderbans

**Local CBOs: Kishalaya Tarun Tirtha (KTT**), based in Gazna, Gaighata. Since 2004, KTT has been involved with arsenic infected drinking water projects supported by CISU and initiated by UBU/IGF Denmark/JGVK. KTT is well known in its area for its work with arsenic and GPs, schools and training of women in tailoring. KTT has also developed advocacy capabilities and has supported local inhabitants to apply for funds for deep tube wells. **Banani Society** works in Gosaba Block, Chottomollakhali GP. They have experience with animal husbandry and the recently terminated agriculture project. **Sundarbans Foundation**, in Amlamethi in Gosaba island, a very small CBO having very close relation to its very poor beneficiaries. **Janakalyan Samiti**, BermajurI Sandeshkhali. A small organisation, which has implemented many projects over the last 1½ decades. None of them has the capacity and strength as JGVK, but are very dedicated to work for the society. They will need some capacity building and support from JGVK.

* **Describe any previous acquaintance or cooperation between the partners, and how these experiences have fed constructively into the development of the proposed intervention.**

In the context of the cooperation between the IGF Denmark and JGVK, more than 25000 women are organised in 2500 Self Help Groups (SHGs) and about 100 village committees (VCs), which have increased gender equality in families and politics, inclusive more elected women. Also, in many projects, organisation of the beneficiaries has improved the project activities including advocacy and the beneficiary’s capacities. In the health project the field health workers managed to mobilize women, who then compelled the local hospital in Basanti to improve its services. The pregnancy- monitoring and hospital-delivery has increased significantly. Also, the beneficiaries ensured that the authorities followed the national program for preventing and treating malnutrition among the children. Thus, people in the civil society experienced that advocacy results in political change which is very valuable for this intervention, which is based on advocacy activities. The partner JGVK again will organise, inspire and activate people using these previous good examples, to inspire and activate government programmes.

* Describe the contributions, roles and responsibilities of the partners and other actors.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Partners and other actors | Contributions, roles and responsibilities |
| IGF- Denmark | * Together with JGVK make final plan strategy * Select staff with JGVK (project leader, 2 coordinators, 4 supervisors, 20 facilitators * Selection the local experts for the training with JGVK * Supervision, feedback, monitoring of project activities * Communication with CISU (reporting, accounting) * Communication and dissemination of project results * Support in advocacy activities * Technical support to more affordable, climate-smart sustainable methods |
| JGVK | * Daily overall management of the project (staff, accounts, reporting monitoring etc) plus supervision of the CBOs * Preparing training material and plans with the teachers * Training of field staff in selected topics * Responsible for workshops, awareness meetings in the villages * Development of advocacy and awareness strategies together with their local community groups (VCs, FHGs, FDCs etc) * Responsible for advocacy activities in cooperation with target groups * Responsible for contact with authorities in relation to advocacy * Suggestions and feedback to IGF Denmark |
| The CBOs | * Daily management of their project funded work * Participation in training sessions and workshops held by JGVK * Development of advocacy and awareness strategies together with their local community groups * Participation in local government meetings * Suggestions and feedback to JGVK/IGF Denmark |
| Community groups  SHGs, FDCS, VCs, | * Regular meetings in the groups to discuss, design and develop community-level activities and village plans that include project-related topics and changes * Participation in training sessions and workshops organized by project partners * Provide assistance to field staff in relation to project activities when needed. * Assist field-staff with establishment of new groups * Development of community advocacy and awareness strategies together with field staff and implementation of these * Positive interaction and advocacy with local level government representatives * Whenever possible: suggestions and feedback. |
| Specialists from agricultural institutions in India/Bangladesh | * contribution with specialised knowledge in relation to agriculture, organic farming, livestock, fishery, dikes etc * Responsible for the training programmes and training of supervisors/extension workers * Responsible for follow up |
| Extern specialist | * Experience with interdisciplinary cooperation between different sectors (agriculture, environment, climate changes etc) which will strengthen the training * Participate in preparing of the training material with the local specialist * Share knowledge on modern learning methods with local trainers * Share knowledge about activity-based learning – learning by doing etc * Contribute with international experience from agricultural projects in a low income setting |

**Extern specialist**: The report from the SUG project showed that it is very difficult to find a local expert with the necessary knowledge and experience in both agriculture, climate, environment, and adaptation to the local small-scale farmer. This might be one of the reasons for the ineffective running of the Farmer’s Club through the governmental programmes, namely lack of good agriculture advisors. Therefore, with respect to finding one through partnership was received positively by the local partner. Therefore IGF-Denmark would like to use a Danish expert (Torsten Mandal), having many years of experience with environmentally friendly, pro-poor, productive agriculture and agroforestry in tropical climates combined with innovative, participatory, low-cost methods. Local experts in agriculture, agroforestry, climate and environment from Kolkata and Bangladesh will participate from the very beginning in cooperation with and under supervision and guidance from Torsten Mandal. The need of his presence will diminish throughout the project, while the local people and the experts develop capacity to get overview and learn innovative solutions to the typical key-problems. The participation of a Danish expert also has a big impact on the teaching process. The danish education system is more efficient compared to the Indian. From other projects we have experienced the positive impact and enthusiasm from the students, who have experienced the danish educational system – ABL (Activity Based Learning). Instead of learning by heart and lectures. Torsten has long experience with research, advice and training in Africa and some from e.g. India. Torsten will also provide online support, e.g. train trainers and advisors, and continuously provide support also in form of demonstration trial plans, training materials, monitoring and adjusting guidelines and plans to local needs.

* **Describe how the intervention will contribute to developing the relationship and collaboration between the partners**.

Over the past many years, collaboration between IGF-Denmark and JGVK have built up a strong basis of partnership through mutual trust, understanding and common view on making efforts to attain improvement among the local target groups. The collaboration is based on complementing each other’s strengths and weaknesses. Strong points in IGF-Denmark being capacity, experience with development, organisation, and management, whereas JGVK has the local knowledge, access to the local civil society and the authorities, and experience with implementing projects in India.

Through joint implementation of project-activities, the partners have improved their capacities in various fields and sectors. Both have gradually upgraded their organizational structure, working on democratic principles and involving staff and members. With support from IGF-Denmark JGVK and the CBOs in the region have improved their capacity with respect to management through planning, data collection, data analysis and monitoring in sectors such as health, education, education, textile design, vocational skills development, agriculture and advocacy.

The new intervention will be based on all the positive experiences and knowledge from the previous collaborations and involvement in the new activity areas will for sure contribute to further improvement of the relationship and collaboration between the partners. Especially the main topic for the intervention that will contribute to a fruitful collaboration: the situation for the poor farmers, the condition of the agriculture production and the lack of focus on this problem has for a long time been a challenge for both JGVK and IGF Denmark, they want to take up. Organising the farmers in groups and undertake cultivation on joint basis is a new area that will contribute much in the future collaboration.

The relationship with the new CBOs will be strengthened during the project and hopefully in such a way that it will also be new addition to future collaboration.

* **Describe how the intervention will contribute to strengthening the partners’ relations to other actors, e.g. authorities, other local, national, and international organisations, networks, alliances, private companies or other financial support**.

The intervention will build up an all-important agriculture development basis through improved low-cost methods with strengthened civil society actors such as the SHGs, Farmer Household Groups (FHGs), the FDC’s and the CBOs as the network organisations.

It will contribute to enhancing JGVK's position as an important player to the local authorities and in this way strength JGVKs role in advocacy activities, which is of extreme importance both in in this intervention and in future activities. Through the intervention, JGVK will cooperate with a number of CBOs and in this way strengthen the capacity of the them and thus a new basis of relation to this important groups in the society. A cooperation with local institutions like Jadavpur University in Kolkata and other technical/ professional institutions in relation to design the training programmes for the farmers is essential and will for sure strength the relations to these settings.

Because the intervention will strengthen JGVKs role as a strong NGO in the region it will probably also strengthen its role in relation to future financial support.

Target groups, objectives, strategy, and expected results (our intervention)

* **Describe the composition of the target groups: specify approximate number of people in primary (the persons who will participate in the activities of the intervention) and secondary (persons who will be affected by the activities of the intervention without having participated in them) target groups disaggregated by e.g. gender, social groups or other relevant factors.**

**Primary target groups**:

1. Community targe groups: Farmer Household Groups (FHG) and Farmer Development Committees (FDC)
2. The CBOs consisting of the partner JGVK and the network organizations

**Secondary target group:**

Local governmental institutions

**A. Community target group** is 600 poor farmer families from 20 different villages (20 villages consisting of 600 men and 600 women (1200 people) directly involved through FHGs (Farmers House hold Group) along with their family members about 3000 children and aged people of both sexes. They survive mostly of crop cultivation, livestock and fishery and ad hoc supplementary incomes as daily laborers, sale of some of their products. This group represents more than 90% of the local population, the rest being teachers, shop keepers, people from different service traders. **The target group consists of two subgroups: one subgroup living away from the rivers.** They own land of varied size in average ½ ha and10-20% are homestead owners or landless. Due to lack of capacity, poor organisation and scarcity of water and exhausted soil, the productivity from their land plots is very low. **The other subgroup are the riverside dwellers**, where the percentage of landless is a little higher. They survive with ad hoc agriculture on their land and on the dykes, fishery, livestock and as daily labourer. This group by the riversides is specially exposed to flooding due to intrusion of water from the rivers caused by breaches in the dykes. Due to climate change, their vulnerability is increasing. In spite of their differences, the groups are placed in the same target group named Farmer Household Groups (FHGs).

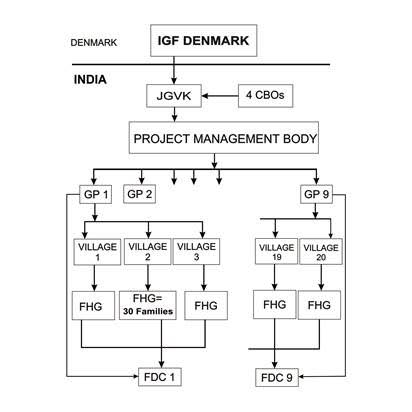
**Farmer House Hold Group** (FHG): Farmer House Hold Group has been introduced in the terminated food security pilot project. Each household is represented by the husband and wife or some other members available in the household. More than one member, preferably both the genders, is included as introduction of joint decision process, which is necessary along with need of division of labour and responsibility within the households. It is concerning crop, fishery and livestock production and plant/tree growing program on/along the dykes. By including both the genders a gender equality approach is introduced which is expected to be more efficient and target a general issue of women as a particularly vulnerable group in the civil society. The advantage being it attempts to solve some of the basic hindrances experienced earlier where decisions taken either by the women or the men in the family needed to be discussed being cumbersome and time consuming. Experience from the terminated pilot project has shown promising results and the number of the members in the “old FHGs” are almost intact.

The 20 villages are distributed in 9 GPs placed in 4 Blocks and 2 Districts. In each village approximately 30 families will be organised in one FHG, it means 20 FHGs will participate. Every FHG will be divided into three working groups in relation to vegetable and croup, fishery, livestock and dikes.

**Farmer Development Committee:** Based on the successful experience with organizing the women in SHG’s and VC’s, Similar to the Village Council (VCs), the FHG’s desired similar organsiation for them selves, which led to the decision on formation of Farmer Development Commitee (FDC) in the new intervention. The 20 members of each FDC will be elected from the FHG’s (10) and other community members (10) with special qualifications decided by the members. The FDCs will support the FHG’s in their activities with agriculture production system, simultaneously be the FHG’s voice and secure the interest of the FHGs in different places here under advocacy with the authorities. There will be one FDC in each GP=9 covering a number of villages and FHGs**.** The FDCs will play an important role in the continuing of the intervention activities.

**CBOs including the partner organisation JGVK.** They are direct actors in the project, as they are responsible for undertaking all down-stream project activities. The four CBOs, which will be involved as network organisations, are **Banani society, Bermajur Gram Vikash Kendra, Baikunthapur Development society at Kultali and Kishalaya Tarun Tirtha (KTT).** They have all shown interest for the project. JGVK is the strongest and the lead partner with overall responsibility for implementation of the project. All the partner organisations need capacity building but mostly the CBOs. It will be mainly in (1) training of the personnel and farmers, (2) advising farmers in their production and land-water-used, and (3) improved low-cost establishment, (4) advocacy and (5) monitoring.

From JGVK ca 25-30 will participate in the capacity building activities and ca 50 from the CBOs

**Organisation’s diagram**

**Secondary target group**

**Local Government institutions** This is a very important target group as they stand for political, financial, technical and advisory responsibility to the community and the state as a whole. The Government includes all the different departments with specific objectives to render support to the communities at the Panchayat, block and state level. It is obliged to support the local communities and to implement the national programs for the farmers s, e.g. support with irrigation through rainwater harvesting, conveyance facilities etc.

We are talking about politicians from 9 GPs and politicians from 4 Block and 2 District and to some extent state level. In practice it will be politicians that are responsible for the intervention sectors – agriculture, fishery and dike maintaining. From the GPs around 225 (25x9) will participate, on Block level around 50 and at District level around 15 politicians.

* **Describe how the target groups will participate in- and benefit from the intervention**.

**The Farmer Households Group (FHG)** members will participate through their being organised in FHG’s. Through this they will get training/education either in farming, animal husbandry or fishery and maintenance of the dikes. They will participate in different working groups, formulate group regulation binding for all, open group account to save money supported by the SHG, VC members and JGVK, participate in awareness generation, capacity building meetings, participate to prepare production and work plan and initiate cultivation and production under supervision of the staff, the FDC members and JGVK/CBOS.They will participate in advocacy activities in the civil society both in planning and implementation, as well as with the authorities and the public fora.

**Farmer Development Commitee (FDC).** FDC will support the FHG’s in all their activities with agriculture production and fishery. Simultaneously they will be the FHG’s voice and secure their interest to the outside world. One FDC will represent all the FHGs in one GP and will therefore be empowered to put forward wishes and demands from the villages to the duty bearers. Through advocacy activities to the authorities, they can develop scopes for the villages through dynamic processes for the farmers hereunder development of production methods for improvement of the environmental conditions and climate change.

**JGVK and the CBOs** will have a very active role in the intervention. They will have the responsible position in relation to carry out the project. They will participate in many activities depending of the capacities of their staff. In relation to advocacy activities, they will play a very active role both in planning and execution. Because of its greater experience and relation to the authorities JGVK will have the main role.

**The benefit**

For the **FHGs** there will be many. Their capacities will be increased both in relation to their role as farmers and fishermen and also in relation to their role as members of the local society. The increase in their technical qualifications will contribute to increase in their production together with the power of being organised and work together, having their economy under control via bank accounts etc. All this will contribute to their self-confidence. This too will help them in their role as a member of the society. In this relation they will, through the intervention, participate in a number of activities where they will be informed and get knowledge about their rights and also duties in relation to the authorities. A group of people with self-confidence is strong when it comes to demanding their rights and asking for accountability

**FDCs**, where half of the members are involved in FHGs and half ordinary citizen will get extended training in advocacy beside the training of the FHGs and will be very experienced in represent the society for the authorities. For **the CBO’s inclusive JGVK** itwill be increased capacities to support the different target groups in their activities, hereunder organising the FHG’s, FDC’s, their capacity building within agriculture, production and advocacy. JGVK and the CBOs will also support the farmers with sale of their quality products with a higher price, where the FDC’s will be involved later. Their knowledge and experience in working with advocacy will increase very much.

**The local authorities** will participate as the target for the overall goal because they are considered to be of extreme importance for consolidation of large-scale development in agriculture in the region. They will be invited to meetings, seminars etc regarding the status of the farmers and how to improve it. They will be presented for the base line study and the critical gaps in relation to governmental programmes. Gram panchayats (GP’s) at the village level and Panchayat Samities (PS) at the block level are the two tires lie closest to the project activities. Therefore, most efforts will be made to these tires through regular meetings through supply of data and leaflets. Together with the GP and PS members, the Government officers from Block development office, District and sub-divisional officers will be invited to visit the activities in the field and participate in meetings with the FHGs and FDCs members at JGVK centre. In this way the local authorities will see with their own eyes how it is possible to solve some of the important problems in Sundarbans – example of good practice

**The benefit** will be more detailed information of the living condition of the farmers, more knowledge about environmental and climate influence on the region, information of critical gaps in the official programmes and presentation of possible solutions to fill these gaps. They will be presented for local NGOs (JGVK and the CBOs) and their capacity and their wish to cooperate in implementing the programmes.

* **Describe how the target groups and relevant actors have been involved in the development of the intervention as well as the partners’ legitimacy to act as champions of the target groups’ cause.**

This application is based on a long process consisting of interaction between IGF-DK, JGVK and the farmers living with low productive agriculture and in poverty with the desire to change their situation. The first attempt to support the farmers was the construction of JGVKs demonstration farm in 2008. and after that the pilot project with SUG in 2017-2019 (please see the introduction and relevance)

For formulation of this application several workshops were held at JGVK in participation with farmer families, the SHG members, IGF - DK and JGVK members, with suggestions to the major content of the intervention involving the number of villages, organisational structure, different activity issues, mode of operation on village base, operation through establishment of FDC (Farmer Development Committee) was suggested, the absence of which was felt in the pilot project. Poor capacity level in the area experienced from the pilot project was mentioned along with the different challenges with respect to economic and environmental sustainability and need of support with experienced and capacity strong persons from IGF-DK was mentioned. For advocacy activities meeting with the different authority members and Government officers were held at JGVK, where the participants commented that such field and result based interventions are very appropriate for advocacy and cooperation can be a way for sustainability. A guideline was finalised for advocacy activities and establish of an Advisory Committee of both participants of the project and politicians was decided.  **JGVK** has already built up a very constructive relationship with the authorities. Their leaders often visit JGVK, in which case a great deal of advocacy activity is undertaken. With increasing demand for improvement in the rural areas, the authorities must use the local Civil Society Organisations (CSOs)s to work for them in the Sundarbans. With its capacity and infrastructure and working experience, JGVK has become an important CSO, and the authorities are increasingly collaborating with JGVK for activities in the Basanti area. JGVK uses any opportunity to influence the Government to support JGVK in its activities. So, in fact, JGVK has proved its legitimacy, not only as the users’ representative vis-à-vis the authorities, but also as the authorities’ support in their work with the citizens. As far as the **CBOs** concern, their legitimacy in the project is obvious as they are both project partners and an integral part of the target group

* **Describe the strategy of the intervention – how and with what methods will the intervention be implemented so that it leads to the objectives, including how the intervention balances between the elements of the Development Triangle**

The project timeline will consist of an initial Preparation phase from the project beginning 1. September 2021 with staff recruitment, training of staff and elaboration of information and training material. Then the baseline study will be conducted. Following this process, the advocacy activities targeting both at right holders and duty bearers will be implemented simultaneously with capacity building, both in relation to farming/dikes and advocacy

The strategy from here is based on 1) empowerment 2) seeking political influence and 3) making political changes

**Preparation phase**:

* Recruitment of staff involves selection of 1 Project leader, 2 Coordinators, 4 Supervisors and 20 Facilitators (= farmers(males/females) who are extraordinary skilled and show great interest in the project,).
* Involvement of specialists/experts from different institutions like Jadavpur University, Kolkata and from Bangladesh
* All the specialists/experts including the Danish will make plans and produce material/information for training of farmers
* Training of the project staff and facilitators in different aspects of agriculture (incl. agroforestry), livestock keeping and fishery, dike problems by capacity-strong persons from India and Bangladesh supported by a Danish agronomist trainer (training materials in local language produced with JGVK).
* Also training in group formations, - dynamics, participatory learning and action and baseline study. JGVK itself is very experienced in this field
* Training of the staff in data collecting and Management Information System by experienced JGVK staff.
* Special training of the supervisors with respect to advocacy, how to mobilize people, awareness generation with respect to their rights and the duty bearers; JGVK has strong capacity in advocacy and many years of experience with respect to the civil society and the authorities as well and will be responsible for the training in advocacy.
* The baseline study will be conducted by the 4 supervisors and the 20 facilitators along with the SHG members in the villages. They will provide data for the study and indicators to monitor. The study will investigate the implementation status of the national farmer programmes in the 9 GPs and the actual status of the productivity among the 30 families in each village.
* Information material will be prepared based on the baseline findings. JGVK and the other CBOs will present the findings and explain the problems among the farmers to the politicians at all level of the government system and the civil society. Information material at the civil society will consist of posters, pictures, leaflets and demonstrations to overcome the high density of illiteracy in the area
* Media coverage will be established. JGVK publishes a newspaper regularly at least 4 times a year where the issue will be emphasized. JGVK has over the last decade established a good relation to the local press and will also use this to communicate the message of the importance of putting the situation of the farmers out in public
* Once a month there will be staff capacity building, training, meetings on roles and responsibilities, advocacy techniques and preparation of advocacy materials

1. **Empowerment**

**Strategy towards right holders**

This phase includes capacity building of all stakeholder groups, including some service deliveries. The objective of this phase is to empower the stakeholders to be aware of their rights in relation to public schemes and financial and political support. Also, to empower their skills to actually increase their agricultural output based on scientifically proved and locally anchored methods including proper maintenance of the dikes

* Capacity building of JGVK and the CBOs with respect to knowledge building – specially the CBOs
* Selection of the families together with the SHG members and the project staff, JGVK will undertake community meetings in the selected 20 villages to inform and discuss about the project and its implications. Together with SHGs the staff and JGVK will choose about 30 families (husband and wife or e.g. widows, widowers and unmarried) from each village out of the families who will participate in the development programme. It comes to 600 families totally= 1200 farmers
* JGVK, the other CBOs, the Project leader and the 4 Coordinators will conduct community workshops about the impact of the bad situation in farming (economically, in relation to environment etc) and awareness and information of the governmental programmes in relation to improve productivity in farming, animal husbandry and fishery and also maintaining dikes, what is working, what is not - based on the finding from the baseline study.
* After training in group formation (group dynamics including group constitution), the 1200 farmers will be organised in 20 FHGs
* Training of the farmers in the 20 villages about farming (also organic), animal husbandry, fishery, dike maintaining, economy and advocacy – through participatory demonstrations and reflective learning techniques
* After having received training, the farmers will use the new knowledge while working in the fields, dams or dikes. In relation to fishery, two demonstration ponds will be established otherwise all production and results will be situated at the farmers land. Seed banks in relation to introduction of new crop production will be constructed for the whole project area. A few other items for use in the project will be purchased for example a hatching machine (see Budget notes)
* The farmers will work on planned programmes and get regular supervision and supplementary training by Coordinators assisted by the Facilitators
* The advocacy training will be through seminars, workshops, meetings and individual coaching in order to mobilize the farmers and make them take charge of own development
* The FDCs (Farmer Development Committee) will get supplementary training in advocacy and how to deal with the authorities

**Strategy towards duty bearers**

In this phase the strategy towards the local government will mainly be to build good rapport with identified political sections such as Gram panchayats (GP’s) at the village level and Panchayat Samilties (PS) at the block level, who are the two tires lie closest to the project activities. Main focus will be on the offices responsible for agriculture and dikes in the Sunderbans

* Preliminary discussions with the politicians about the situation of the farmers and the status of the national programmes.
* Sharing results from the base line study
* Inviting local politicians to observe training sessions and meetings with the farmers or other right holders to highlight transparency and collaboration with duty bearers

1. **Seeking political influence**

**Strategy towards right holders**

The strategy will aim at capacity building among the right holders towards seeking access to legislative channels.

* Introduction of how to work with advocacy in practice with a right based approach, and examples of different advocacy activities such as deputations, demonstrations and participating in meetings with local government authorities. Good examples from other projects will be used for example the establishment of an outreached camp in a remote village after 80 female villagers debuted in front of the block health department.
* Support the right holders to work on how to put the farmers situation on the agenda for example via participation in 2. And 4. Saturday meetings (meetings between politicians and the civil society)
* Support the right holders to make the GPs responsible for yearly Sansad plans (see page4) not only for health but also agriculture

**Strategy towards duty bearers**

To approach the politicians with advocacy, an Advisory Committee will be formed involving politicians, govt. officers, journalists together with members of the project (JGVK, CBOS, farmers) as members to make the efforts more efficient. This is a new approach, which is decided during IGF DKs meetings with the Indian politicians in August 2019 and 2020.

* Set up an Advisory Committee (15-20 members) consisting of both duty right holders and duty bearers and regularly meetings in this Committee and making the out come of the meetings public
* Meetings between JGVK, the CBOs and the politicians at block level about the situation of the farmers and “the critical gaps”
* Meetings between JGVK, the CBOs about the necessity of having the farmers condition on the political agenda.
* Community meetings are arranged between the farmer groups and policy makers in the villages, creating unofficial channels to seek political influence. The aim of these meetings is to create dialogue rather than confrontation.

1. **Political change**

To ensure political change, the results of the activities in the project villages (organization of farmers, training, joined farming, mobilization etc.) are included as a strategic service delivery in advocacy targeted both towards right holders and duty bearers.

**Strategy towards right holders**

* The different advocacy approaches chosen by the right holders towards the authorities are set into action
* JGVK and the CBOs will arrange regular demonstration of project activities for the whole villages and neighbour villages in order to spread the positive impact of implementing the public schemes in relation to farming and dike maintaining.

**Strategy towards duty bearers**

This phase consists of securing the implementation of the public schemes within agriculture and dike maintaining and securing the activities to be out phased or allocated into local political caretaking or in cooperation with local NGOs after the project ends.

The activities mentioned below will target at all levels of the political system (PRI)

* JGVK/other CBOs will conduct strategy development meetings and workshops with local politicians, policy makers and GP members on the farmers rights according to national programmes.
* JGVK and the other CBOs will on a regular basis report and share relevant data form the project with local relevant authorities in order to visualize the concrete impact of the intervention
* JGVK/the other CBOs will invite politicians to visit the villages with organized farmers working after modern organic principle. The demonstration sessions will be used as the best practice model as a tool in advocating towards political change. This will demonstrate a possible way of implementing the national programmes
* The same procedure in relation to fish ponds and dikes
* JGVK/other CBOs will have meetings with the politicians on how they can use the results
* JGVK/other CBOs will have meetings with the politicians on how they can use JGVK and other CBOs as facilitators of the implementation of the programmes
* JGVK and the CBOs will together with the politicians make plans for how JGVK and other CBOs can continue the activities supported by the government and if possible, extend it to other villages.

In relation to the **Development Triangle,** we will this time increase the focus on advocacy. The training of staff and the farmers will be a **strategic service delivery of** the project**.** **Organizational capacity building** of JGVK and the other CBOs will include strengthening of their capacity to implement the project and be able to see how to use the results. These two sides of the triangle will be the basis for the **Advocacy** activities. These activities have to ensure the sustainability of the project activities which means increased integration of these activities with the rural farmers through governmental programmes. It will imply a bigger understanding from the authorities for the condition of the farmers and the necessity of interventions.

The strategy in relation to advocacy will focus on visualising the gaps between the national programmes and reality (both for the farmers and the politicians). The results from the project will show a way to fill these gaps and will be presented for the politicians. This strategy has shown good results in several of our previous projects, where the authorities have taken over the project activities on pregnancy monitoring and way of manage malnutrition as described in the national health scheme

The advocacy strategy will involve sharing of the baseline study with the politicians, awareness building among them about the problems and a plan for future cooperation. It means regular meetings with the politicians, workshops and other common activities plus IEC material.

**Strategy in relation to gender**

The strategy in relation to the farmer stakeholders have been described earlier, with the purpose to ensure equal participation of male and female household members.

In relation to staff and trainers, the recruitment strategy will aim to ensure an equal number of female and male facilitators. Based on earlier projects, targeted women as the main stakeholders, it is realistic that JGVK will be able to recruit as many females as males It will be a part of the recruitment process to ask specifically for competent females in the project area to battle the gender bias in society. JGVK has from previous livestock projects good relations to female farmers who are good examples of possible female facilitators. During training sessions, the trainees will be asked to pay special attention to female participants, so they have the possibility to participate equally.

* **Describe the objectives, activities, expected results and indicators (or similar ways of formulating criteria of success) of the intervention**.

**The overall objective of the project is:**

To improve the living condition of poor farmer families in Sunderbans, India through capacity building and advocacy

The immediate objectives are aligned with each of the three phases described in the strategy section. **Immediate objective 1: Empowerment – establish, strengthen and consolidate farmers organisation and production in the FHGs**

**Immediate objective 2: Seeking political influence - make** **the farmers in the FHGs able to advocate their problems to the duty bearers of the national programmes on farming and dikes.**

**Immediate objective 3: Political change – make the authorities accountable** **for the national programs in relation to farmers.**

**Criteria of success in relation to objective 1)**

* A majority of the selected farmers have after training experienced increase in productivity
* A majority of the dikes in the project area are in better condition after start of the project
* A number of village meetings have been held with sharing results from the baseline study and discussing critical gaps
* A number of orientating meetings with politicians have been held – for example about data from baseline study

**Criteria of success in relation to objective 2)**

* A majority of the farmers have participated in several seminars or workshops in relation to advocacy
* The Advisor Committee has been established
* Local newspapers are covering the project and the problems of the farmers trying the problems on the political agenda
* Meetings in the villages between politicians and the farmer groups with the farmers problem as the main topic
* The results from the project (the monitoring reports) have been presented for the politicians
* Some politicians have visited some of the farmer groups and have been presented for the results
* Members of FHGs have participated in 2nd and 4th Saturday meetings from the FHGs
* Agriculture is a topic on the agenda of the 2nd and 4th Saturday meetings
* **Sansad Plans** have been made

**Criteria of success in relation to objective 3)**

* A majority of the politicians have visited several farmer groups and the farmers have demonstrated the result of the project activities
* A number of meetings between JGVK and CBOs and the politicians about the “critical gaps” in the national farmer programs have been held and have discussion how to overcome them.
* Funds via NABARD allocated at GP level have increased in several GPs
* More example of activities from other agricultural programs
* Negotiation between JGVK and the local government about the continuation and extension of the project in cooperation with the government through PPP (Private Partnership Program) have been held

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | **Expected output** | **Activities** | | **Main responsable** |
| **Præparation phase** | A+B: A capable group of staff and extension workers ready for implementation  C: Information on our starting point before the intervention  D: Available information material for farmers, civil society and the politicians | A: Recruitment of staff and extension workers  B: Preparing and execute training for trainers, supervisors and facilitators  C: Baseline study in 20 villages  D: Information material made based on baseline study | | A. JGVK, CBOs  B: Experts from India/Torsten Mandal  C: Supervisors  D: JGVK/CBOs/project leader/supervisors |
| **Obj 1:**  **Empowerment** | A: Identification of the 30 farmer families in each village =600 families=1200farmers.  B: The 600 families are organized in FHGs and FDCs are made.  C: The farmers capable to adapt and implement the knowledge about agriculture, livestock, fishery and dikes.  D: The productivity and resilience in relation to dikes improves.  E: Strengthening of the farmers' knowledge and ability to learn, implement and follow-up in their fields.  F: Farmers become aware of their role in their future and secure a sustainable intervention impact.  G: Duty bearers are aware of project aim and the existing relevant national programs | A: Awareness and information meetings about the project in the 20 villages.  B: Training FHGs in group formation, group dynamic, participatory learning and action, baseline study etc.  C: Training of FHGs, demonstration-trials for new methods, multiplication of plant materials.  D: FHGs implement new methods in their own fields  E: Regular supervision, discussions, and additional training to the FHGs  F: Preliminary training in advocacy to FHGs and FDCs including their rights and how to make the duty bearers accountable.  G: Preliminary meetings with JGVK/local CBOs and politicians and relevant authorities. | | A: JGVK and CBOs  Staff.  B: The supervisors and the extension workers.  C: The supervisors/fascilitators.  D: (ditto)  E:ditto  F: JGVK/CBOs/supervisors  Supp. by ext. workers.  G: JGVK/CBOs. |
| **Obj. 2: political Influence** | A: Guidelines for advocacy activities are made with right-holders.  B: Constructive dialogue replaces conflicts, inaction, and top-down approaches.  C: Decision makers are updated about gaps in the national programs and their responsibility  D: Politicians and administration are more aware of the problems and are open to appropriate solutions.  E: Politicians and land-use departments will appreciate results and follow-up. | A: Capacity building of FHGs, FDCs, staff and others on advocacy approaches and on accountability.  B: Community meetings with FHGs, JGVK/CBOs and politicians who contribute to appropriate solutions.  C: Advocacy meetings with decisionmakers.  D: Meetings between FHGs, politicians and land-use authorities.  E: Demonstration of the results of the project in the villages. | | A: JGVK/CBOs/project leader/supervisors  B: JGVK/CBOs.  C: JGVK/CBOs.  D: JGVK/CBOs.  E: JGVK/CBOs/Staff. |
| **Obj. 3: Political change** | A: The politicians, advisors and authorities have an illustrative and concrete example of a possible way to implement the national programs.  B: The politicians, advisors and authorities will be presented for how to fill up the critical gaps and how to use the results.  C: Public-Private Partnership programs are under construction. | | A: Demonstration of villages with organized farmers and working after modern sustainable methods to the politicians and departments.  B: Meetings between JGVK/CBOs and the farmers about the results of the project activities.  C: Meetings between JGVK/CBOs with the politicians and authorities on how to proceed. | A: JGVK/CBOs  FDCs  Supervisors.  B: JGVK/CBOs  FDCs.  Supervisors.  C: JGVK, CBOs |
| **Obj 1,2 and 3** | A: Guidelines for implementing organizations on how the project will be organized and activities can be continued.  B: The main actors will know their roles.  C: Supplementary training of JGVK and the CBOs  In land-use project management and advocacy.  . | | A: Make the implementing organizations aware and prepared for their roles during the intervention and after.  B: Describe the role of the  main actors.  C: Make partners able to fulfil their responsibility – incl. the CBOs- with advocacy and capacity building.  D: Preparing and execute training for the staff. | J A: GVK/IGF Denmark (incl. Torsten Mandal)  JGVK staff.  B: JGVK/CBOs  C: JGVK/ IGF/project leader/.  D: JGVK/CBOs/Torsten Mandal |

**Project Timeline**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Year, Quartile/**  **Milestone** | **2021** | | **2022** | | | | **2023** | | | | **2024** | |
| Q2 | Q3 | Q1 | Q2 | Q3 | Q4 | Q1 | Q2 | Q3 | Q4 | Q1 | Q2 |
| **Preparation phase** |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| **Training of FHGs** |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| **Implementation of farmers new knowledge** |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| **Advocacy activities towards political influence** |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| **Decision making with duty bearers on future implementation of the activities** |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |

* **Describe how the intervention contributes to establishing sustainable and lasting improvements for poor, marginalised and vulnerable target groups and strengthening the partners’ capacities after the intervention period.**

The strategy for the whole intervention is targeted sustainable improvements of the poor and marginalised farmer families, as the main target group, through advocacy. As a central element the sustainability in relation to social justice is secured because whatever the outcome of the project will be, the empowerment, capacity building and the capability to seek political influences among the farmers whether in relation to agriculture or as a civil citizen will remain in the farmer families after the project period terminates. With fulfilment of the project objectives, national agriculture programmes will reach a much higher level of implementation than now. This, either via the intervention from the government itself or in cooperation with JGVK and the other CBOs. Through this advocacy approach, continuous support is ensured to the involved farmers based on local legislative rights in the project area and hopefully also in the surrounding villages. As mentioned earlier, the government frankly admit their incompetence of fulfilling the governmental programmes and has previously invited the local NGOs to participate in the implementation. It is worth mentioning our experience from previous project, the possibility of the facilitators to be hired by the government to undertake these national programs after the project period terminates, is very big.

Sustainability in relation to environment and climate is a basis for the intervention. The training of the farmers will include how to protect the environment and climate and the solutions introduced for the dikes are more sustainable.

The new CBOs will be very much strengthened because this project is more advanced in relation to their earlier experiences. JGVK will be strengthened too, because this project is different from previous agriculture projects. It involves not only agriculture/dike maintaining per se but organisation of 1200 farmer families, making them working properly and further experience with advocacy with serious negotiations with the authorities about continuation and spread of the activities.

* + If the intervention is an extension of a previous intervention, there needs to be an additional description of how relations with other actors, advocacy, and long-term sustainability will be strengthened.

The new intervention will include more villages and more CBOs and the cooperation in this important sector will definitely strength the relation. . In the new intervention much more attention will be on advocacy and involvement of the farmers in this activity. A new organizational aspect will be involved – The Farmers Village Development Committee (FDC)– which will empower the local people in relation to the authorities. Together with new activities like creation of the Advisor Committee it will strength the advocacy part. The weakness of the governmental programmes has become obvious and therefor the necessity of the active engagement of local NGOs to get long-term sustainability through the government

* **Describe possible conditions (risks) that can hinder or delay fulfilment of the objectives and what possible solutions are available to mitigate these risks**.

The development in the covid-19 pandemic can of course hinder or delay the fulfilment of the objectives. It may be due to either continued or increased restrictions. Regular environmental calamities such as flooding during the monsoon and pumps without water in the dry season are to be expected and will occasionally hamper the participation by some families but will not affect the intervention’s objectives as such. However, extraordinary environmental events like a devastating cyclone or extremely concentrated heavy rain may create a setback. Saline water intrusion in the fields or, deficit in rainfall due to climatic change will have impact on agricultural activities.

It is experienced, that men are usually conservative in the way they run their profession. Also due to poverty, they are reluctant to take too many risks in changing agricultural patterns. So, there is a possibility, that they may be reluctant to participate in the changes proposed by the project. We will use behavioral change methods, the demonstration farm and good examples in order to ensure their contribution to the project.

Elections in West Bengal may give changed priorities. The state election is planned In April 2021 and will not happen until after the project period, which as advantage in the advocacy strategy targeted the duty bearers. JGVK is always staying outside party politics, so they can work with any government. To mitigate the problems the activities should be made independent of the political influence partly through advocacy activities and economically sustained system

* **Describe the plans to monitor, collect and use experiences along the way and at the end of the intervention. If an external evaluation has been planned (obligatory for interventions above DKK 2 million), this should be described.**

The project will utilize a Management Information system (MIS system) for data collection and monitoring. JGVK has good experience with MIS. All collected data will continuously be entered in an electronic data base. The MIS system has three purposes 1) adjusting strategy 2) provide reliable documentation for results and indicators 3) providing data for information material for stakeholders as part of overall strategy. This will help ensure transparency of the project. The MIS system will make it possible to extract information and illustrate tendencies in baseline data and on magnitude in for example production. The MIS system will enable continuous identification of risk factors for project implementation, such as progress according to timeline which allows for appropriate measures to be taken. The local project management team will be responsible of continuous quality control of the data entry, from paper-based r electronic. The facilitators will be mainly responsible for the data collection and monitoring of activities in the villages with support and supervision form the project leader and the supervisors. Feedback sessions will be conducted on a monthly basis at JGVK with the facilitators and the project management on data quality-and entry where data extracts will be shared with the project team. The MIS system will also provide an easy tool for regular reporting and dialogue between JGVK and IGF-Denmark on progress of the project. On monthly basis these extracts will be sent to the management team of IGF-Denmark. As mentioned, some of the data will be shared with the authorities as a basis for discussions External evaluation will be conducted at the end of the project by a local evaluator.

IGF-Denmark will visit JGVK once a year during the project period to review and discuss project progress in detail

Intervention-related information work in Denmark

* The purpose of the information work.

Information of the danish people of problems in South and how danish capacity and tax money can make a difference

* The target groups of the information work.

The members of IGF Denmark, Svendborg Gymnasium with whom JGVK cooperate and other danish people specially locals

* The means of communication to be used (social media, printed matter, theatre, events, or the like).

Via our Homepage, Letters to our members, events as meetings and talks and local medias