

## Social Issues

The social assessment exercise has highlighted the following key social safeguard and social development issues.

- (i) Ensuring Targeting, Inclusion, Participation and Access of small and marginal farmers, tribal farmers, SC and women farmers to agricultural inputs (seeds, fertilisers, credit, training, information, etc.), extension services and markets; need for the project to reach out to and involve these groups at all stages;
- (ii) Ensuring representation, inclusion and participation of small and marginal farmers, women farmers, tribal farmers and scheduled caste farmers in CACP preparation, farmer mobilization, and farmers' organisations; CACP planning to be based on strong participatory processes involving all primary stakeholders of RACP.
- (iii) Ensuring equitable access of these socio-economic groups to project resources and benefits.
- (iv) Dealing with traditional bias towards medium and large farmers with resources to influence project processes, farmer's institutions and benefit sharing norms; the need for customisation of project interventions to suit the requirements of small and marginal farmers and women.
- (v) Promotion and strengthening of community based approaches and capacity building for farmer mobilisation and resource use;
- (vi) Inclusion and participation of Tribals and other vulnerable groups.
- (vii) Inclusion and participation of women farmers in project institutions, interventions and benefits. Project interventions could increase gender imbalances and/or enhance the drudgery of women; these should be accompanied by other interventions that offset the imbalance by reducing drudgery, or re-distribute work responsibilities between women and men; Ensuring that women are not further disempowered because of, nor do they get excluded from, promotion of market-oriented agriculture;
- (viii) Addressing potential adverse impacts from utilisation of common and Panchayat lands Land.

Avoiding social conflict over water, natural resources and common lands. Addressing issues of inequitable sharing and unregulated use of water resources, both surface and ground water, and conceptualising water as a common resource, while it continues to be used as a private good