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Programme
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World
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Programme

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Mundial
de Alimentos

**Executive Board
Second Regular Session**

Rome, 13 - 14 May 1999

REPORTS OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR ON OPERATIONAL MATTERS

Agenda item 6

BASIC ACTIVITY WITHIN A COUNTRY PROGRAMME APPROVED BY THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR (1 JULY–31 DECEMBER 1998)— INDIA 5569.01

Improvement of food security through forestry
activities in tribal areas

**Number of beneficiaries
(yearly average)** **608,250 (workers and their
dependents)**

Duration of activity Five years (1997–2001)

Cost (United States dollars)

Total cost to WFP 44,179,375

Total cost to Government 224,201,458



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NOTE TO THE EXECUTIVE BOARD

This document is submitted for information to the Executive Board.

Pursuant to the decisions taken on the methods of work by the Executive Board at its First Regular Session of 1996, the documentation prepared by the Secretariat for the Board has been kept brief and decision-oriented. The meetings of the Executive Board are to be conducted in a business-like manner, with increased dialogue and exchanges between delegations and the Secretariat. Efforts to promote these guiding principles will continue to be pursued by the Secretariat.

The Secretariat therefore invites members of the Board who may have questions of a technical nature with regard to this document, to contact the WFP staff member(s) listed below, preferably well in advance of the Board's meeting. This procedure is designed to facilitate the Board's consideration of the document in the plenary.

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Should you have any questions regarding matters of dispatch of documentation for the Executive Board, please contact the Documentation and Meetings Clerk (tel.: 066513-2641).



1. The Country Programme for India, which was approved by the Executive Board in January 1997, includes a basic activity on tribal development. The long-term objective of this activity is sustainable improvement in the food security of the most vulnerable tribal and scheduled caste population. The key activities are community-oriented forest development, agricultural production and alternative income-generating activities, combined with revolving credit funds for women's groups.
2. Immediate food security is increased by providing food at concessional rates to daily labourers from the poor tribal and scheduled caste population who are recruited by the Forest Departments in the states of Bihar, Orissa, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan and Uttar Pradesh. These are among the poorest states in India. The aim is to provide for each worker and his/her dependents at least 90 to 120 days' worth of food rations, thus strengthening household food security. Over the five-year period of the Country Programme (1997–2001) 62.8 million family rations will be distributed to benefit an average of 125,600 families a year. Over this period, WFP will provide 91,355 metric tons of wheat, 42,600 of rice, 12,560 of pulses and 3,465 of oil at a total cost of 44 million dollars.
3. It is estimated that an amount of 667 million rupees will be generated through the concessional sale of commodities to the workers, interest on bank deposits and sale of empty bags and containers. Investment schemes will be generated through a participatory process involving the beneficiaries, both women and men, in the formulation and implementation of village microplans with assistance and cooperation from the State Forest Departments, the Joint Forest Management (JFM) committees (Village Forest Protection and Management Committees) and NGOs. The bulk of funds (80 percent) will be utilized in 439 villages. Ten percent of the funds will be used to support sectoral programmes in agriculture-related activities in village clusters as well as micro-credit programmes and income-generating activities for women. Six percent of the funds will be used for activities such as the creation of drinking-water facilities and health camps in tribal villages; the remaining four percent will be used for project support. At least 20 percent of the total funds will be channelled through NGOs. One third of food rations are directly targeted for distribution to women and 30 percent of generated funds are programmed on activities which benefit women directly. It is estimated that 61,460 families will benefit from the assets created through microplan projects such as small irrigation works, plantations, drinking-water and income-generating schemes.
4. Villages will be selected on the basis of well-defined criteria: high food insecurity and concentration of scheduled tribes and scheduled castes, high concentration of landless or functionally landless people, remote forest-dependent communities with limited developmental activities in villages, existence of a registered, active and motivated Village Forest Protection and Management Committee, and presence of NGOs and other village development groups. The emphasis of the investment programme will be on improving household food security.
5. An additional benefit will be to help strengthen the State Forest Departments' relationship with the poor forest communities. This activity is also expected to facilitate the joint management of forest resources.
6. The Operational Contract for India 5569.01 was signed between the Government of India and WFP on 7 November 1998 and the activity is being implemented in all five states.

