

# **Development of Sahariya Tribes of Sheopur District of Madhya Pradesh Through Forest Based Livelihood Interventions in Madhya Pradesh**

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The primary aim of Sahariyas tribal and forest centered project is to explore and promote participatory, village level, NTFP-based income generation activities in selected villages of Sheopur Forest Division of Madhya Pradesh. To achieve this objective, awareness generation and skill enhancement among the local Sahariya tribals, about the significance, ways and means of scientific management of NTFPs is being stressed upon.

An extensive baseline survey of the socioeconomic status of the tribal communities in project villages was carried out. Also, an assessment was made of the nature and extent of their dependence on NTFPs so as to get a rough idea about the types and scale of NTFP-based income generation activities that can be promoted in the project site with community participation. On the basis of subsequent feasibility studies for establishing NTFP-based microenterprises in the area, few NTFP processing and value addition opportunities have already been identified for implementation and support. Efforts to procure and transfer the relevant technology (e.g., pulveriser) to be used in those community managed NTFP-based enterprises are also on. Self Help Groups (SHGs) and NTFP samities have been formed and strengthened to impart local acceptability and sustainability to project interventions in the selected villages