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# NewsUpdate

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Launching  
**Food & Nutritional  
Security intervention**  
for Korku Tribe

South Asian  
Nations  
to jointly fight hunger  
& malnutrition

# South Asian Nations

## to jointly fight hunger & malnutrition

**10,000 smallholder families from Bangladesh, India, Nepal and Pakistan will double their yield in the next 7 years.**



**F**our days preparatory phase workshop of the new SAF-BIN project from November 07-10, 2016 held at Nepal deliberated on an extensive program in the fight against hunger and malnutrition.

According to the Global Hunger Index report released by the Washington based International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI) South Asian countries faces serious hunger problem and ranks poorly low like India (97), Bangladesh (90), Nepal (72) and Pakistan (107).

Agriculture is the dominant sector of their economies and, agrarian structure is dominated by landless laborers, small and marginal farmers. Participants at the workshop developed common understanding of the preparatory phase, overall framework and focus areas to address the food security and climate change issue of smallholder farmers.

Led by Caritas Austria through common participatory process, 10 representative's form Caritas organisations in Austria, Bangladesh, India and Pakistan planned to carry out situation analysis in their respective countries to general details for developing the program.

The first phase of the project

Strengthening Adaptive Farming in Bangladesh, India and Nepal (SAF-BIN) had achieved impressive results. More than 4000 smallholder families had increased their yield to one third within five years project at a cost of 150 Euros per family.

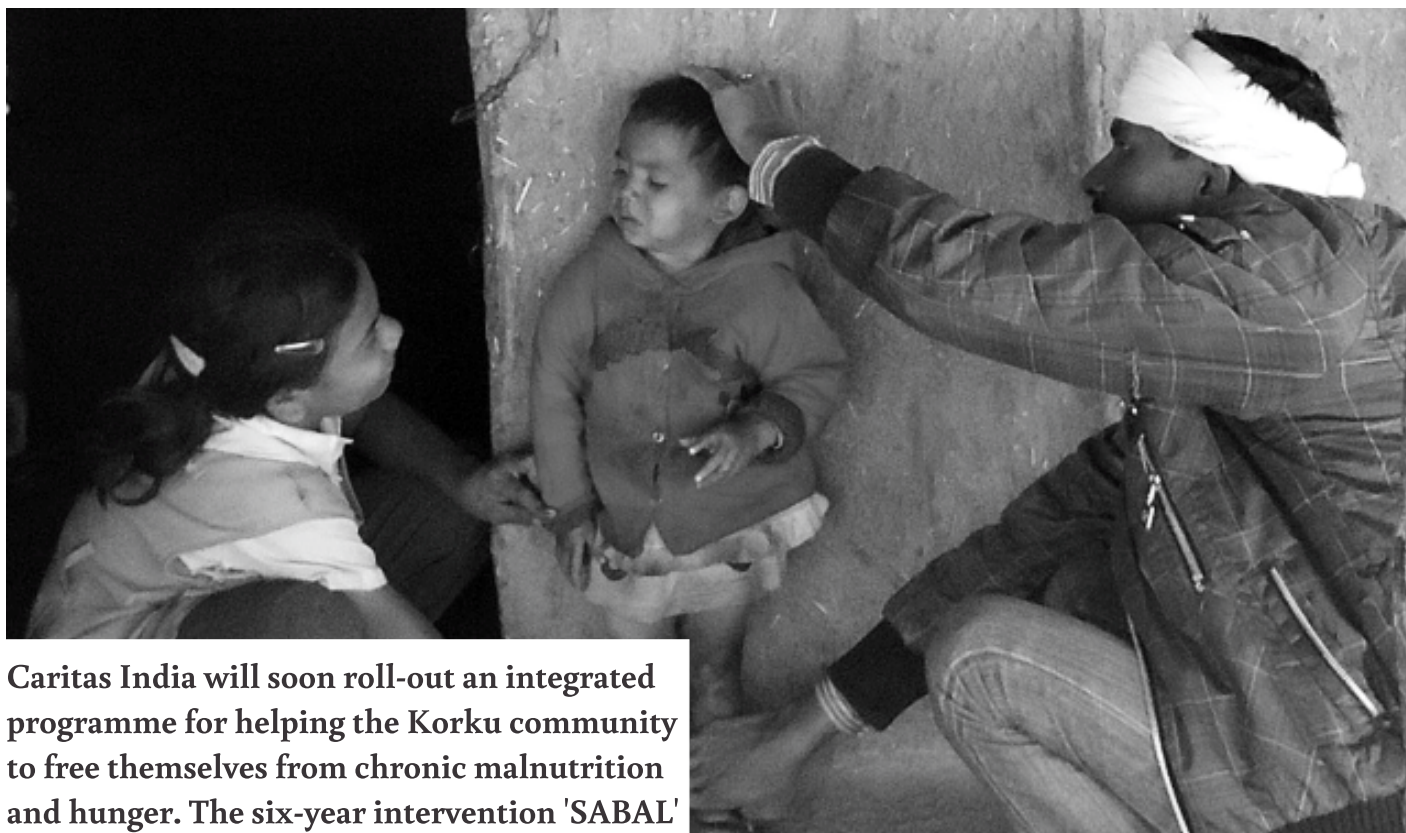
It is been proved that improvements in the large group of smallholder farmers are more successful in the fight against hunger and malnutrition than expensive high-tech farming.

The successful partnership and on-farm adaptive research models of the first phase will be replicated in the new phase and the partnership model will be extended to generate a consortium model for funding the new phase.

Rev. Bishop Paul Simik, Apostolic Vicar of Nepal; Fr. Krishna Bahadur Bogati, Executive Director of Caritas Nepal; Dr. Yubak Dhoj GC, Director General, Department of Agriculture, Govt. of Nepal and Mr. Georg Matuschkowitz, Head of International Programmes, Caritas Austria launched the knowledge outcomes 'Approaching Resilience', 'How do Farmers Adapt to Climate Change' and SAFBIN brochure of SAFBIN I.

# Launching Food And Nutrition Security Intervention For Korku Tribe

Dr. Saju M.K., ZM - West



**Caritas India will soon roll-out an integrated programme for helping the Korku community to free themselves from chronic malnutrition and hunger. The six-year intervention 'SABAL' will be implemented in the Korku dominated Khalwa block of Khandwa in Madhya Pradesh and Melghat region of Amravati district in Maharashtra.**

**C**aritas India's intervention comes as a response to the startling findings of the National Family Health Survey-4 (NFHS-4) (NHFS-2015-16) which highlighted the grave situation of hunger and malnutrition prevailing in Khandwa and Amravati districts, which have a sizeable population of Korkus. NFHS-4 reported that 49.9% of Under 5 years of age (U5) children of Khandwa are 'underweight', 23.2% are 'wasted' and 46.8% of children are 'stunted'.

For implementing SABAL programme in 93 villages of Korkus, Caritas India will partner with Khandwa Diocesan Social Services (KDSS) Khandwa, Spandan Samaj Seva Samiti Khandwa (SSSS) and Jeevan Vikas Sanstha (JVS) Amravati. Fr. Frederick D'souza, Executive Director Caritas India, said that the upcoming programme is a comprehensive solution to the chronic hunger and malnutrition of Korkus.

“Korku community has historically been impoverished by several intertwined factors like hostile climatic conditions, crop failures, dipping agriculture productivity, decline of traditional agriculture practices and isolation from the development mainstream”, Fr. Freddy said. Caritas India will

seek to identify and promote community-based solutions for the curse of pervasive hunger and malnutrition in the Korku dominated areas, he added.

The programme will be implemented with financial support from the Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ) of German Government and technical support from Caritas Germany. It will work towards reviving traditional agriculture systems, particularly millets and forest-based food systems, so that Korku community will have access to sufficient nutritious food throughout the year. Apart from this, the programme will promote sustainable agriculture practices with viable soil and water conservation measures. Caritas India will also increase people's participation in grassroots-level governance processes so that entitlements of health services are enjoyed, in full measure, by the Korku community.

SABAL will endeavour to address the major nutritional problems of public health significance in the Korku areas like Protein Energy Malnutrition (PEM), Vitamin A deficiency (VAD) and iron deficiency anemia (IDA).

“Since the Satpura ranges are frequently hit by drought and drought-like situations preschool children, adolescent girls, women of reproductive age group and the elderly of Korku community have become the most vulnerable segments of population, nutrition-wise, in both Madhya Pradesh and Maharashtra”, Dr. Saju MK Zone Manager-West Caritas India said.