

Selection of Community Hunger Fighters

Wardha

LANSAs staff who visited the intervention villages on a daily basis, discussed about the nutrition awareness programme and the residential training in the villages whenever possible. Discussion with Sarpanch, Grampanchayat members, Anganwadi workers, ASHA worker, forest department, the elders in the villages and meeting with women were held. The need for community hunger fighters (CHF) to create nutrition awareness at the community was explained. Field investigators of LANSAs visited each village of Wardha to announce about the selection of CHFs through selection meeting. People who were active at village level were identified and were asked to attend the meeting. The information about the date and time of meeting was written on the wall in schools and anganwadi centres (where space is earmarked for writing health messages) in each village. The selection of the CHFs for the first residential capacity building was done through two rounds (ie) i. Selection by the community and ii. Selection by MSSRF through an oral interview.

i) Selection by the community: Selection of CHFs was done during August and September 2016.

As these months are the planting period, most of the villagers were available in the evening.

The details of date, time and place of meeting are given in Table 1.

Table 1. Details of the date, time and place of meeting conducted at village level

SN	Village Name	Date	Time	Venue
1.	Vitpur	19/08/2016	7.00 - 8.30 pm	School ground
2.	Saheli	20/08/2016	6.30 - 8.30 pm	Farmer Knowledge Center
3.	Borgaon Gondi	22/08/2016	7.30 - 8.45 pm	Tukadoji Maharaj Mandir
4.	Susund	24/08/2016	6.30 - 8.30 pm	Village Square (open place)
5.	Heti	25/08/2016	7.00 - 8.30 pm	Village Square (open place)

At the start of the meeting, a presentation on the nutritional status of the village, food consumption pattern, existing agricultural practices, interventions in progress, linking agriculture to nutrition and the need for nutrition awareness programme was done. The need and role of CHFs was also explained to the participants and they were asked to select CHFs. It was suggested that about five persons could be selected from each village with gender and caste representation.

Household participation and gender representation in the village meetings and gender composition of selected CHFs are given in Table 2. Details about caste representation are presented in Table 3.

Table 2. Household participation and selection of CHF's in village meetings

Villages	Number of males and females in the village		Number of males and females who attended		% male and female participation		Gendered Composition of selected persons		No. of HHs attended (actual number of HH)		% of HHs rep
	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Actual no. of HH	HH's attended	
Saheli	300	276	60	11	20	4	4	0	143	68	48
Vitpur	137	127	32	16	23	12	3	3	71	19	27
Susund	249	142	33	07	13	5	2	3	123	37	30
Heti	111	88	05	24	5	27	4	1	45	21	47
Borgaon Gondi	380	344	21	12	6	3	2	0	174	30	17

Household participation in the meetings: Less than fifty percent of households participated in village meetings. The maximum participation at 48 % and 47% was at Saheli and Heti respectively. While the number of selected CHF's were five or more from three villages, it was 4 in Saheli and two in Borgaon Gondi. In spite of Borgaon Gondi being the largest village among FSN villages with 174 households, there was only 17% representation of household in the village meetings and the proportion of male and female who attended the meeting was a meagre 6 and 3% respectively.

The gender participation in the meetings varied from one village to another. In general participation of women was lower than that of men except in Heti where proportion of women who attended the meetings was higher than that of men. An inverse relationship between attendance and selection was observed in three villages. In Vitpur and Susund though women's participation was much lower than that of men, an equal number or more women were selected as CHF's. However in Heti it was reverse. While 27% of the women's population had participated in the meeting, as compared to 5% of the male population, out of the five selected CHF's only one was a woman and the remaining four were men. This suggests that rather than numerical presence, other aspects had played a role in selection of CHF's. Two villages namely Saheli and Borgaon Gondi had no female representation.

Table 3. Details of participants based on caste

Villages	Existing caste pattern			Caste proportion of participants					Selected members by the community
	Caste	No. of households	No. of individuals	Sub caste	No. of Household attended	No. of individuals attended	% of Household attended	% of individuals attended	
Saheli	OBC	7	30	Wani	2	2	29	7	2
	ST	45	179	Gond	25	25	56	14	
	SC	15	57	Mahar	2	2	13	4	
	Others	76	310	Gowari-41 Lodhi-1	39	42	51	14	Gowari-2
Vitpur	Others	16	61	Gowari	4	8	25	13	1
	SC	27	105	Mahar	8	20	30	19	3
	ST	28	98	Gond	7	20	25	20	2
Susund	OBC	81	317	Mali	25	28	31	9	3
	ST	32	127	Gond	8	8	25	6	2
	SC	4	22	Mahar	2	2	50	9	
	Others	6	25	Gavali	2	2	33	8	
Hetii	Others	22	98	Gowari-6 Gavali-5	7	11	32	11	Gowari-1
	SC	20	88	Mahar	11	15	55	17	2
	ST	3	13	ST	3	3	100	23	1
Borgoan Gondi	OBC	31	125	Kalar	8	8	26	6	
	SC	2	7		0	0	0	0	
	ST	124	514	Gond	24	24	19	5	2
	Others	17	78	Dhangar	1	1	6	1	

Caste representation in the meetings and selection of CHF:

In Saheli majority of the households belonged to the general category followed by ST, SC and OBC. In the meeting more than fifty percent of the general category as well as the ST households participated. Only two households each of the SC and OBC caste groups participated. Yet among four selected CHFs who finally got selected, two belonged to the OBC and two from general caste.

Vitpur had a near equal number of ST and SC households, (28 and 27 respectively) with only 16 belonging to the general category. One third of the SC households and one fourth each of the ST and general category households attended the meeting. Of the six CHFs who were selected, three belonged to SC households, two from ST and one from general category, tilting the representation in favour of SC households, though with representation for other castes as well.

Sixty six percent of the households in Susund were OBCs. STs formed 26% and the remaining were SC and general category. The predominant caste group in the meetings, naturally, was from the OBC household, though one fourth of the ST households also participated. Two households each from the SC and general category also participated in the meeting. Of the five selected CHFs, three were from OBC and two from ST. The scheduled caste and general caste did not have any representation.

Heti, had 45 households, of which, 22 belonged to general category and 20 to SC. There were only 3 ST households. A majority of SC households and all the 3 ST households attended the meeting while there was one third representation by the general category. Of the four selected CHFs there was one representation each for the ST and general category each while two belonged to SC households.

The predominant caste in Gondi was ST with 71% of households belonging to this group. Eighteen percent were OBCs and about 10% were other category. There were only 2 SC households. In the meeting, there was no representation from either OBC or SC castes, while only one household from the other category participated in the meeting. Hence it was not surprising that the two selected CHFs belonged to the ST community.

Selection by MSSRF through Interview: Further to the identification and short listing of the CHFs by the community, another round of selection was done by MSSRF at the office for the following reasons:

- In Saheli, all the selected CHFs had reservations in participating in the programme for one reason or another. Of the two, who were OBCs, one was not keen to continue since the general category caste dominated in the village and the other person felt that he was not competent to be a CHF. The other two CHFs belonging to the general category had formal employment and felt that they could not give the time.
- As far as Vitpur village was concerned, MSSRF staff felt that, since there were only 71 households, 3 CHFs were enough over 6.
- In Susund, among 5 selected CHFs, except for one, the rest did not want to be CHFs.
- In Heti, only two of the chosen four wanted to continue as CHFs.
- In Borgoon Gondi, only one person selected by community was finalized by MSSRF as it was felt that the other, who was a newly married female was new to the village and hence may not be able to function as CHF.

Based on the above observations a further interview was held at MSSRF office, to which the following were invited.

- The willing CHFs selected by the community in order to reconfirm
- Progressive members of the village to identify new CHFs to take the place of those who could not or were not willing to continue and whom MSSRF felt were not suitable.

The details of the selected CHFs by interview are given in Annex 1.

Profile of CHF selected by interview based on gender and caste:

While the selection of MSSRF addressed the gender balance of CHFs to some extent (Table 4), the caste balance could not be addressed. In Saheli, Heti and Borgaon Gondi, all selected CHFs were from the same caste and there was no representation for other castes while in Vitpur and Susund, selected CHFs represented the major castes of the village.

Table 4. Details of CHF selected by interview based on gender

Villages	Number of male and female in the village		No. of male female selected	
			By Interview	
	Male	Female	Male	Female
Saheli	300	276	2	2
Vitpur	137	127	2	1
Susund	249	142	1	2
Heti	111	88	1	1
Borgaon Gondi	380	344	2	2

Table 5. Details of CHF selected by interview based on caste

Villages	Existing caste pattern			Selected members through Interview
	Caste	No. of households	No. of individuals	
Saheli	OBC	7	30	
	ST	45	179	
	SC	15	57	
	Others	76	310	Gowari-4
Vitpur	Others	16	61	
	SC	27	105	Mahar 2
	ST	28	98	Gond 1
Susund	OBC	81	317	Mali 1
	ST	32	127	Gond 2
	SC	4	22	
	Others	6	25	
Heti	Others	22	98	
	SC	20	88	Mahar 2
	ST	3	13	
Borgoan Gondi	OBC	31	125	
	SC	2	7	
	ST	124	514	Gond 4
	Others	17	78	

General Observation : There was expectation for monetary benefit mainly in Saheli

Gondi	12.	Ms. Dipali Mangam	F	19	12 th fail	Borgaon	Gond (ST)	--	--	Nuclear	5 M - 2, F - 3	--
	13.	Mrs. Hema Madavi	F	28	12 th fail	Tembhari Ta. Arvi Wardha	Gond (ST)	--	--	Nuclear	4 M - 1, F - 1 Children M - 2	Anganwadi Helper for six month
	14.	Mr. Naresh Mandari	M	21	12 th fail	Boragon Gondi	Gond (ST)	2 Acres	--	Nuclear	4 M - 2, F - 2	Forest Labor Forest Department
	15.	Mr. Pradip Ivanathe	M	20	12 th pass	Boragon Gondi	Gond (ST)	--	--	Nuclear	4 M - 3, F - 1	--