Chhattisgarh Agricon Samiti





STRATEGY









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Foreword



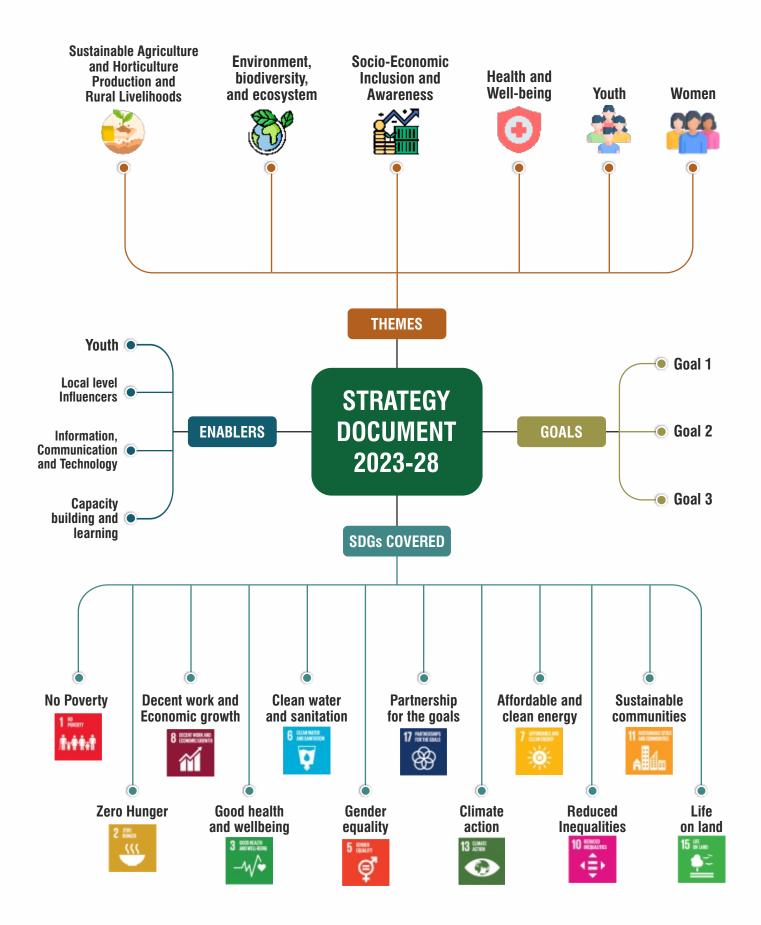
Manas Banerjee Secretary Chhattisgarh Agricon Samiti

he Strategic Plan 2023–2028 aims to guide Chhattisgarh Agricon Samiti (CAS) for the next five years and describes how CAS intends to work together with our partners and take strides towards our vision and mission.

It articulates how CAS will leverage its enthusiastic human resource team, partnerships, mentors and all its strengths in a strategically planned and directed manner to mobilize urgent and sustained action.

CAS intends to broaden its area of reach and make a realistic impact on the ground level. Our vision encompasses multiple domains and therefore pushes us to work in a multi-dimensional manner.

I urge you to read the plan itself to learn more about our goals for the next five years.



Introduction

he quality of life of all 8 billion us is depleting day by day. Whether we acknowledge it or not, but rising population, climate change, and scarcity/depletion of natural resources are all affecting the quality of life of each and every living being on this planet.

Homo Sapiens have an added set of factors which can contribute to a decrease in their quality of life, such as socio-economic factors; physical, emotional, and mental health related problems; financial/social/geographical/gender/disability-based exclusions etc.

Quality of Life has been defined by WHO as an individual's perception of their position in life in the context of the culture and value systems in which they live and in relation to their goals, expectations, standards, and concerns.

One of the major factors which directly and indirectly impacts one's quality of life is one's Livelihood.

Livelihood is important because it is not just an individual's income but the way one earns. Different types of work require different skill sets and each one brings with it a different kind of exposure, different set of experiences and different income potentials.

Therefore, it is the factor that more or less defines one's life by providing a shape to one's socio-economic status, mindset and thought process, and accessibility to various resources.

The depleting quality of life is a substantial challenge which can only be tackled with a collaborative approach and unified vision.

Chhattisgarh Agricon Samiti's (CAS's) vision and mission are structured in a way to strive for achieving a better quality of life of people living in our areas of reach.





Vision

Chhattisgarh Agricon Samiti has the vision to scale up the quality of life of people in different communities.



Mission

Chhattisgarh Agricon Samiti is focused on facilitating people to increase their standard of living by disseminating knowledge on sustainable livelihood opportunities and supporting them in attaining overall well-being.

Core Values of CAS



I Themes

The major themes that we will be working on in the next 5 years are:

- Sustainable Agriculture, Horticulture Production and Rural Livelihood
- Environment, Biodiversity and Ecosystem
- Socio-Economic Inclusion and Awareness
- Health and well-being
- Youth
- Women

Sustainable Agriculture, Horticulture Production and Rural Livelihoods



ver the last 15 years, CAS has worked majorly in rural and tribal areas of Chhattisgarh, and these areas are predominantly agro-based economies. Therefore, over the next 5 years, the primary focus of CAS's work will be on sustainable agricultural practises and rural livelihoods.

 The primary source of livelihood in rural areas is Agriculture. The change in management of natural resources contribute to increase in livelihood opportunities. The more sustainable agriculture and allied activities are, the more sustainable livelihood will be.

- As the population burden is increasing, the demand will keep on increasing. Thus, to ensure sufficient supply of resources for the future, we focus on sustainable agriculture practices. When agricultural activities are operated sustainably, they help in preserving, conserving, and restoring habitats that are critical by helping improve soil health and water quality, as a conventional form of intensive agriculture led to salinization and degradation of soil and declining levels in groundwater.
- Multi-cropping, afforestation on the barren lands, diversified farming,

- intercropping, no-tillage farming, farm bunding and the system of rice intensification are some of the major sustainable agriculture practices which helps increase the food security.
- Diversified farming encourages the growth of multiple species on the same land. One can rear cattle and grow animals on the same land where plants are grown. In crop rotation, different crop varieties can be grown on the same land area in different seasons.
 Similarly, multi-cropping and other agricultural practices aid in soil health, pesticide reduction, and carbon sequestration.

Environment, Biodiversity, and Ecosystem

verexploitation of natural resources, urbanization, soil erosion, and excessive use of fertilisers and pest control has led to the destruction of biodiversity. There is also a lot of burden on the ecosystem to deliver services, which is only increasing due to climate change and impaired natural cycles.

Another area in which we will work is, to ensure biodiversity and restore ecosystem services.

Promoting agroforestry practices, reducing tillage, planting perennial crops, and emphasising the replantation of indigenous plants using traditional sustainable methods will help in restoring biodiversity and various ecosystems.



Another area in which we will work is, to ensure biodiversity and restore ecosystem services.

Socio-Economic Inclusion and Awareness



ue to certain conventional attitudes, preconceived norms, certain orthodox beliefs, lack of awareness, geographical limits etc. many sections of the society become excluded.

The most disadvantageous sections of our

society are basically the weaker sections: children, women, gender minorities, and persons with disabilities who face various socio-economic barriers in accessing information, health systems, and other basic services. This exclusion has resulted in increased poverty and a deterioration of community finances.

CAS aims to empower such communities by connecting them to various social security schemes for those who are unable to avail the benefits due to a lack of awareness, as well as ensure that benefits and channels reach children and women. Caregivers who are understanding and aware, the inclusion of people with physical and psychosocial disabilities, and a prejudice-free environment for everyone where all contribute to a higher quality of life.

Health and Well-Being

his is one of the major themes for the CAS to continue working on. It is the umbrella that encompasses most of the problems that hinder the development of people and societies, not only in our areas of focus but everywhere around the world.

Whether it is work productivity or quality of life, health affects important areas of life. Mental, social, and physical well-being are all considered to be parts of good health. Our mental well-being directly impacts our ability to emote, think, work, build and maintain relationships, and handle external stresses. If proper health is not taken care of, it hampers our social, financial, and



physical well-being.

Working on the health and well-being of the people in rural and tribal areas will be pivotal to the process of making CAS's

Youth

dolescents, young adults, and youth are people in a defining stage of their life. In this stage of life, people go through hormonal changes, experience peer-pressure, academic and relationship-based stressors, have a new and changed environment, have newfound freedom, and many such other changes.

They are also full of energy and have a little extra time at their expense. At such a point in life, it is very easy to be negatively influenced and inculcate several bad habits which continue into adulthood.

Therefore, the young people need the right kind of guidance and support so that they channelize their energies in the right direction and thus become better adults and contributing citizens.



The young people need the right kind of guidance and support so that they channelize their energies in the right direction



Women

evelopment has no meaning if half of the population is bereft of it. Therefore, working for the empowerment of women, is not just important but essential.

CAS stands against any type of gender-based discrimination, gender-based violence, accessibility, availability related problems and all gender related disparities. CAS supports women empowerment through their socio-economic inclusion, support in providing better accessibility, bridging digital and tech related disparities.

SDGs covered

CAS's 5-year strategy has been planned to keep in mind, how we can contribute to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) to be achieved by 2030.

These are the SDGs that we will cover in the next 5 years, in our areas of reach.

- No Poverty
- Zero Hunger
- Decent work and Economic growth
- · Good health and wellbeing
- · Clean water and sanitation
- · Gender equality

- Partnership for the goals
- Climate action
- Affordable and clean energy
- Reduced Inequalities
- Sustainable communities
- Life on land



ENABLERS

Youth

AS believes in the voice, power, and energy of youth for effective outreach. Youth will enable CAS by acting as a catalyst to drive the whole community towards a better future. CAS will provide youth with the right guidance to channel their energy positively for their own

communities. Mobilizing youth and their skills rightly, can leave significant changes in the community.

Youth will be empowered to use their different skill sets to engage the communities and propagate awareness within community.

Local level Influencers

AS will associate with local-level PRIs, mitanins, Anganwadi workers, traditional healers, FPOs, SHGs, and other similar groups to extend the outreach of our policy interventions and program implementation. The impact of these groups will be to a greater extent as most people

and leaders of these groups come from their community which makes it easier for them to communicate, understand and correlate to the feelings and situations of local people.

CAS believes that Local level influencers will be one of the important enablers in our change strategy.

Information, Communication and Technology

nformation enables CAS in better understanding the problems, advocating, and proposing solutions, and planning and strategizing based on data driven statistics rather than assumptions.

Communication is essential at each step of the way. Communicating with partner organizations is important to form long, sustainable, and healthy relationships which bring about real-life changes for the beneficiaries. Intra organizational communication is essential for the proper functioning and coordination between the team/s and coordinated implementations. Communication with the beneficiaries is essential using both conventional and non-conventional methods for awareness, messaging, collecting information and other such purposes.

Technology enables CAS to easily gather data, access and analyze the data and utilize several tools to communicate effectively. Data collection tools, audio-video methods, messaging tools, social media, websites, etc. are tools that enables us to communicate with different set of audiences.

Capacity building and learning

AS will focus on the enhancement of learning and understanding on tools, methodology, processes as per the need that arises during different stages.

People must adapt themselves to changing

requirements and to get accustomed to that change one needs to enhance the capacities. An environment where one can learn and enhance their capacities will be provided.

Goals

Chhattisgarh Agricon Samiti aims to improve the quality of life, of the people living in rural and tribal areas of Chhattisgarh. To make our vision come to life, we have decided to target the following goals in the next 5 years.

GOAL 1

Ensuring sustainable livelihood practices and production patterns through an efficient and inclusive supply chain at the local and regional level and by creating a resilient system in a changing climate and environment.

GOAL 2

Empowering communities for social inclusion, reducing various inequalities, supporting human rights, gender equality, child safety and rights, the inclusion of people with physical and psychosocial disabilities, for appreciation of diversity, and fostering a culture of peace and nonviolence amongst all.

GOAL 3

Support the communities on nutrition, healthy diet, hygiene, and physical exercise, generating awareness amongst people about mental health, psychosocial distress.

To be able to specifically monitor our progress and evaluate our methods and strategies, we have several outcomes and outputs defined under each goal.



Ensuring sustainable livelihood practices and production patterns through an efficient and inclusive supply chain at the local and regional level by creating a resilient system in a changing climate and environment.

Agriculture is the main source of livelihood in the rural areas of Chhattisgarh, and it is a practice that is highly dependent on climatic conditions and natural resources. CAS aims to build resilience and adaptability towards climate change, which will eventually provide food security and Agriculture/Horticulture allied livelihood.

Innovation in Agri production for sustainable crops, livestock, and forestry production systems that are resilient and competitive.

Innovation in agriculture production practices like changing crop patterns, integrating crops and livestock, managing landscapes, adopting agroforestry practices, and embracing diversity can help farmers become more resilient to extreme climate changes.

- **Output 1.1.1** Adaptation of modern sustainable and resilient farming practices combined with indigenous practices.
- Output 1.1.2 Increased income through Agri-allied activities like poultry, dairy, fisheries etc.
- Output 1.1.3 Increased income by awareness and implementation of CFRA

Outcome 1.2

Establishing supply chain systems and creating economic opportunities for small-scale and vulnerable farmers by establishing a robust social institution.

Creating livelihood opportunities for small-scale and vulnerable farmers through the establishment of supply chain systems with the help of robust social institutions. Many government schemes also support various agro-allied livelihood opportunities; thus, integrating agricultural and allied services with schemes and supply chains can increase people's income capacities.

- **Output 1.2.1** Improved income of farmers by intervening in supply chain systems.
- **Output 1.2.2** Creation of local producer groups to support adaptation and explore market linkages for both input and output.

Enhance equitable access for all, especially small and marginal producers, and vulnerable populations, to the economic natural resource market, services, and information technology through improved policy and program dissemination.

Improved program intervention and distribution of services, technologies, and natural resource markets to small, marginal, and vulnerable farmers improve equity in access.

- **Output 1.3.1** Providing Vulnerable people with equitable access to natural resources by connecting them to subsidies, policies & schemes.
- **Output 1.3.2** Increased outreach to market through government E-NAM mandis or different marketplaces nearby.
- **Output 1.3.3** Increase in bank credit linkages and financial risk products such as crop insurance.
- *Output 1.3.4* Awareness on various land, forest, and other natural resources rights.

Outcome 1.4

Developing accessible ICT technologies to disseminate new manufacturing technologies, government policies and programs, weather and climate data, and market opportunities.

Adopting ICT technologies to disseminate information about new production technologies, agroallied sector-related government programs, and schemes, weather forecasting, climate-based information, and market opportunities help in increasing the accessibility of information to small and marginal farmers.

- **Output 1.4.1** Information gathering and collection with the help of technology and understanding the trends through data driven statistics.
- **Output 1.4.2** Knowledge dissemination on manufacturing, government policies, programs, and climate through various technologies.
- Output 1.4.3 Training and capacity building on various agriculture crops and practices
- *Output 1.4.4* Creation of local, technical, environmental centre.

Mitigating climate change through the transformation and resilience of agri-food systems through the implementation of climate-smart agriculture practices

Climate-smart agricultural practices enabled by the transformation of agri-food systems contribute to the mitigation of climate change and the reduction of the risk of weather- and climate-related loss.

- **Output 1.5.1** Sustainably increase agricultural production and income by incorporating agriculture practices like regenerative agriculture
- Output 1.5.2 Strengthened resilience towards climate change and variability
- **Output 1.5.3** Reduction in agricultures contribution towards climate change
- **Output 1.5.4** Homestead nutrition garden/kitchen garden to ensure food and nutritional security of the family



Restore and promote biodiversity for food conservation and restoration of various ecosystem services and degraded natural cycles.

Overexploitation, urbanisation, industrialisation, and excessive use of natural resources led to the destruction of biodiversity. Introducing farming practices like multi-cropping helps in soil management by reducing the degradation and desalination of the soil, maintaining sustainable crop production systems, and ensuring food security.

Similarly, promoting forestation, controlling excessive water extraction, wastewater treatment, limiting the use of harmful chemicals in the industries and replantation of indigenous plants helps in restoring the biodiversity and various ecosystems.

- Output 1.6.1 Indigenous peoples and local communities to build on their knowledge, experience, and capacity for action to help achieve biodiversity restoration
- **Output 1.6.2** Restoration of water cycle and nutrient cycles by understanding current climate trends and changes







Outcome 2.1

Encouraging women's rights to access, express, to control services, resources, technology, institution, and economic opportunities. Include women in the decision-making process & facilitate strategies and programs for gender-responsive policies.

Women constitute a major part of the population, they must be included in decision-making processes, and they must be facilitated with equal opportunities in every sphere of life with the help of gender empowerment policies and programs.

- **Output 2.1.1** Increased women participation in the services like higher education, healthcare, financial services like bank linkages, insurance etc.
- **Output 2.1.2** Increased women participation in social, institutions, committees, forest right committee, school management committees, health committees etc.
- **Output 2.1.3** Bridging the digital gender disparity through digital literacy, safety in cyber spaces and understanding the technology better.
- Output 2.1.4 Increase in reach to economic livelihood opportunities, through dissemination of knowledge and facilitating with strategies.
- Output 2.1.5 Awareness on gender specific rights considering human rights to have better involvement in decision making processes in home, communities, and societies and their rights of inheritance, financial rights, and social rights.
- Output 2.1.6 Supporting women against violence of any kind (including violence in communication) by sensitizing them along with awareness to the community and the family.

Outcome 2.2

Upscale schools, and institution to be disability and gender sensitive and provide a safe, non-violent, inclusive environment for all.

Discrimination is one of the biggest roadblocks to inclusivity, until and unless discrimination is prohibited at the root level, inclusivity will always be restrained and defunct. We are aiming to upscale schools and institutions to be sensitive to disability and gender by providing them with a safe and secure environment & measures.

- **Output 2.2.1** Increased awareness and sensitivity on person with disabilities and psychosocial disabilities by embedding the idea of inclusion.
- **Output 2.2.2** Encouraging community, caregivers, and institutions to provide healthy and safe spaces for children by reducing violence against them and protecting their rights.

Outcome 2.3

Ensuring all eligible within communities are linked with social security schemes and programs especially persons with disabilities and psychosocial distress.

There are many social security schemes and programs for people with disabilities and psychosocial distress, but most of the time they are unable to avail the benefits of such schemes due to the lack of information channels and awareness. We are aiming to ensure the proper reach of benefits and channels to affected people.

- Output 2.3.1 Increased reach of community and people to social security schemes
- Output 2.3.2 Awareness within communities for Persons with physical and/or psychosocial disability for their social inclusion
- **Output 2.3.3** Awareness of the community on CFR, IFR, and support PRIs local institutions to access the rights of Commons.

Outcome 2.4

Engaging youth & community and building a social capital to be a catalyst advisor towards sustainable developmental changes.

Long-term change is possible when it is initiated from within the community as opposed to external interference. Taking SDGs as the base, youth can act as a catalyst to drive the whole community toward a better future. When youth is guided in the right direction to channel their energy and provided with the required skill set, it can bring remarkable changes within society. CAS arranges for the training and mobilization of such youth for a better and brighter future for the community.

- **Output 2.4.1** Engage community specially youth to support developmental goals within their villages and community.
- **Output 2.4.2** Training youth and community level volunteers on various aspects of development and building a local resource pool for different thematics.





Outcome 3.1

Aware community on nutrition and diet, hygiene, and physical exercise, generate awareness amongst people on mental health, psychosocial distress, and linkages to universal health services.

Most of the time people are unaware of the importance of a good lifestyle and how to tackle issues related to mental health and psycho-social distress to maintain good health, therefore the need arises to make them aware so that they can incorporate healthy practices in their day-to-day life.

- Output 3.1.1 100% awareness on mental health and psychosocial distress & disability.
- *Output 3.1.2* Connecting all eligible people to govt. health care programmes & services.
- Output 3.1.3 Awared community on WASH to prevent diseases like malaria and diarrhoea
- **Output 3.1.4** Improvement in nutrition by encouraging community nutrition garden in aanganwadi and schools along with nutritional supplement provided by government.

Outcome 3.2

To increase the capacity of community and local institutions to understand psychosocial distress and support people to overcome psychosocial needs.

Anyone and everyone can go through psychosocial distress at any given time, for that one needs to be aware and learn to cope with it and this can be realized only when one understands social-emotional needs. We arrange for awareness channels that help increase the local institutions and community's capacity and strength to understand psychosocial distress and help people in overcoming the needs arising from it.

- **Output 3.2.1** Identify and train people within community who will be supporting and handling people with psychosocial distress.
- **Output 3.2.2** Identify and train care-givers, FLWs, school teachers to support social emotional learning, child safety and rights.
- Output 3.2.3 Support Mechanism within community to tackle issues with child, adolescent, youth, women, adults, and elderly
- **Output 3.2.4** Identification of people suffering from distress with the help of the community, children, and caregivers to handle psychosocial distress to create a community-based sustainable framework.

Outcome 3.3

To prevent drug & substance abuse, especially among children adolescents, and youth.

The usage of intoxicants like alcohol, and drugs are very harmful to health in many ways. It affects one's professional life, family life, and overall well-being. Sometimes addictions even lead to criminal offenses due to the drain of wealth. Therefore, we are aiming to prevent alcohol, drug, and substance abuse within the community.

- **Output 3.3.1** Awareness campaigns in schools and colleges on ill effects of substance abuse.
- **Output 3.3.2** Reaching students, adults and adolescent youth and mentor capacitate them to handle pressure stress and anxiety, relationship management and anger management.

Theory of Change

Research

For any change to happen and for proper implementation of the project, the study of the area where we want to bring change must be researched elaboratively. For doing so, we need to gather information through surveys and interviews in the targeted area. CAS believes in a bottom-up approach, i.e., focusing on the ground level and then upscaling the levels in a targeted manner. Research is one of the pivotal steps in the change strategy.

Advocacy

CAS believes in strong advocacy of all social interventions and proponents of People-centric and people-specific implementation models to achieve firm and active participation of individuals and communities. Advocacy about the Gaps in implementation, Gaps in Policy, etc. with the concerned departments of the government and all stakeholders are the key components of our work strategy which will be done as and when needed.

Partnerships

CAS believes in partnering up with other Non-profit organizations and stakeholders who share similar visions and are actively working in different areas of development. We also believe in sharing our research & data with our other collaborators and partners for effective social intervention. CAS believes in building strong partnerships with concerned departments of the Govt., other CSO, Village and district-level representatives, etc.

Implementation

CAS implements all its projects by ensuring the participation of the community and by incorporating the knowledge and opinions of rural people in the planning and management of development programs. It firmly believes in inclusive community participation in the identification, planning, and problem-solving process. The entire implementation process is carried out directly through the communities with which CAS works as an advisor for implementation.

Implementation strategies

Behavioural change

CAS aims for behavioural change in people, by motivating them intrinsically. We want to bring a good and long lasting change in people's lives; therefore, it is important to instil in them the need to keep on improving their quality of life; so that they embrace the positive changes rather than rejecting them.

Communication strategies

Internal and External Communication of the organization is well planned and strategized. We use diverse channels of communication, depending on the context, ranging from direct information exchange to beneficiaries, to information booklets, magazines, newsletters, and other methods. Technology plays a major role by providing digital tools of communication that are fast and more effective than the conventional ways and methods.

Innovation

At CAS, we look at problems and hurdles as opportunities to modify, customize and innovate accordingly. We aim to find innovative solutions and go above and beyond rather than blindly following the prevalent solution. For that CAS focuses on brainstorming and finding different ways to solve the same problem. Then we look out for the most effective solution to tackle the problem.

Inclusive strategy

Though CAS has a targeted demographic, it aims to serve the needs of all the people living in their targeted area. The plan of action should not exclude anyone based on gender, caste, religion, or sect. We practice social inclusion policy to bring equity in implementation policy.

Digital technology

For transparency and better streamlining of operations and processes, we emphasize using digital technology for organizing, communicating, and implementing projects. This is an effective way to broaden our digital outreach and engage beneficiaries and stakeholders.

Risk analysis and informed planning

CAS analyses the risk with all the data collected during research and other processes and then carries out the planning process keeping all the possible risks in mind to achieve our goals







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