

# M S Swaminathan Research Foundation

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### **STRATEGIES FOR GENDER AND SOCIAL INCLUSION IN FISHERIES TECHNOLOGY FOR SUSTAINABLE LIVELIHOODS IN TSUNAMI AFFECTED AREA**

**S.Chinnaraja, R.Durairaja, V.Senthilkumar, C.Nagaraja and Sudha Nair**



# Beyond Tsunami: An Agenda For Action

Prof M S Swaminathan, The Hindu, 17 Jan 2005

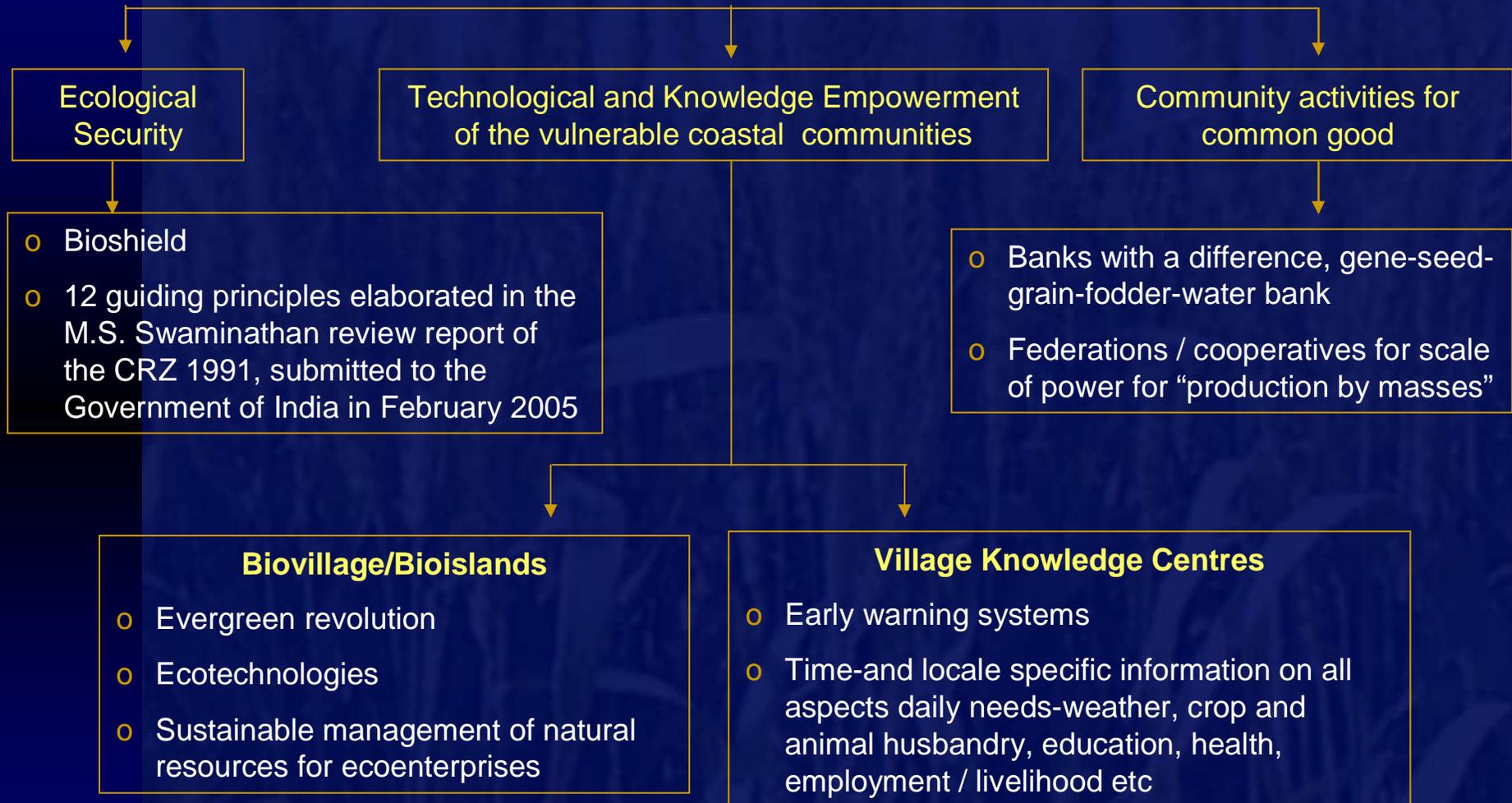
**Immediate Action** : Trauma relief, psychological support and support for life and livelihood

## **Medium and Long Term Rehabilitation**

- Strengthening the ecological foundations of sustainable human security
- Rehabilitating livelihoods and fostering sustainable livelihood security
- Agronomic rehabilitation
- Putting in place a network of village knowledge centres
- Strengthening the capacity of Panchayati Raj Institutions in disaster management and mitigation



# Components of Capacity Building



All these activities are tailored in such a manner as to ensure social, economic and gender equities

*Beyond Tsunami, The Hindu, 17 Jan. 2005*



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- MSSRF has made an attempt to promote eco-entrepreneurship to develop multiple livelihood among fishing communities through Self-Help Groups approach.
- Eco technology suggested multiple livelihood system for job led Economic growth with a pro-poor, pro-woman, pro-nature orientation to technology and public policy



# SUSTAINABLE LIVELIHOOD (SL) FRAME WORK

- SL framework identifies five types of assets and capital upon which livelihood are built, increasing access to which can make a central contribution to poverty reduction as following:
  - ◆ Human capital
  - ◆ Social capital
  - ◆ Natural capital
  - ◆ Physical capital
  - ◆ Financial capital



# GENDER AND POVERTY ISSUES AMONG THE FISHING COMMUNITY

- Traditional norms and values, discrimination against the participation of women in decision making in family and community.
- Poverty is widespread phenomenon among rural fishing community because of sole dependency on the income generated through fishing activities.
- Women also lack access to market and rural infrastructure, credit and microfinance services.
- Health and education seem to be the important issue in parallel with poor sanitary conditions.



# Fisherwomen SHGs & Micro finance

- The tsunami affected fisherwomen have revived fish vending and small business through Revolving funds.
- The support extended by MSSRF helping around **750 fisherwomen (41 SHGs)** to engage in fishing related activities and supporting their domestic expenditure and micro enterprises.
- The women has avoided taking loans from money lenders and their capital has increased with the interest.



# FISHERIES TECHNOLOGY TAKEN FOR SUSTAINABLE LIVELIHOOD

- In order to improve the living conditions of fishing community and sustainable livelihoods income generating activities were introduced to empower women under SHGs to earn extra income on their own, to help their family to enhance their socio-economic status.
- Use low input cost for the sustainability of natural resources and aquaculture based livelihoods like Mud Crab fattening through floating cages in back waters and Fish & Shrimp pickles preparation were identified.
- An exploratory survey was conducted to assess the availability of water crabs and possibility to introduce the crab fattening as an enterprise.



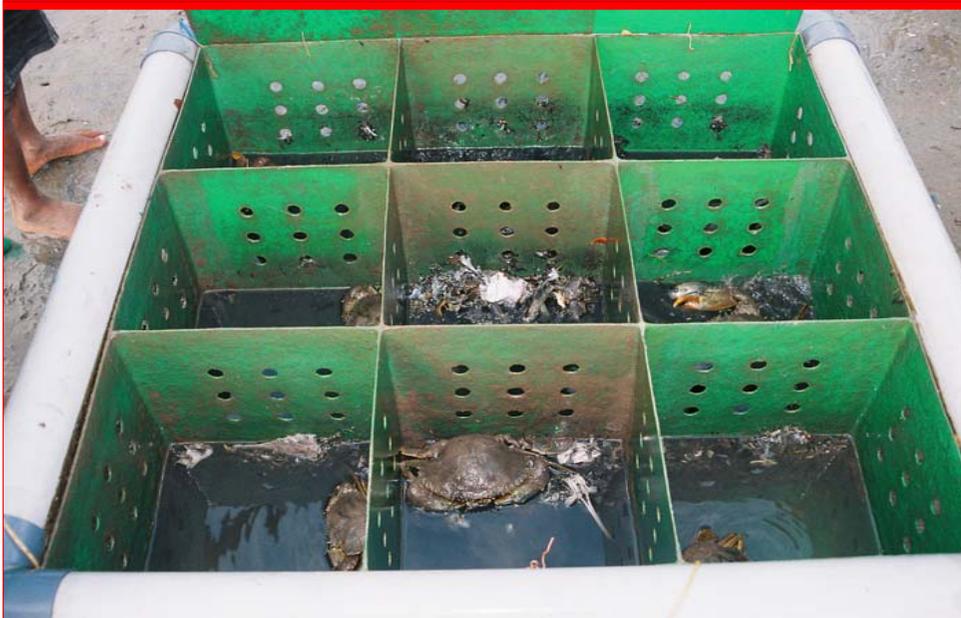
# FORMATION OF FISHERWOMEN SHGs

The fisherwomen earn from traditional ways of fishing activities. So the fisherwomen were facing the problems like unemployment, poverty and lack of alternate occupation.

MSSRF has formed the fisherwomen SHGs and trained them to involve in the crab fattening in floating cages and Fish & Shrimp pickle preparation.



# CRAB FATTENING BY FISHERWOMEN



# FISH & SHRIMP PICKLES PREPARATION BY FISHERWOMEN



# CONCLUSION

- The fisherwomen have revived fish vending and other small business and status in household has increased particularly where they have become successful entrepreneurs supported by Revolving funds.
- The fisherwomen have used the natural resources efficiently and effectively for their sustainable livelihood and increased their family income, with the support from family and community
- SHGs formation with an accent on savings, credit, training and capacity building programme to enterprises, developing the marketing management, access to infrastructure facilities and micro finance resources is seen an effective strategies for empowering the fisherwomen.





Nature provides for everyone's  
need but not for everyone's  
greed

*Mahatma Gandhi*

