

Impact Evaluation of Special Central Assistance (SCA) on Horticulture Development of Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe Farmers in Himachal Pradesh

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The Special Central Assistance (SCA) was conceptualized to provide an added thrust to the scheduled castes Sub- Plan (SCSP) and Tribal Sub- Plan (TSP) in order to accelerate socio-economic development of the SC and ST categories. The main objective of SCA to SCSP and TSP is to give a thrust to family oriented schemes of economic development of SCs/STs with reference to their occupational pattern and the need for increasing the productivity of and income from their limited resources as well as by providing resources for filling the critical gaps and for providing missing vital inputs so that the scheme can be more meaningful. Similarly, resource inadequacy affecting the implementation of various schemes/ programmes under Tribal Sub- Plan had prompted the Government of India to supplement the efforts of the State Government by extending SCA as an additive to the state TSP. The scheme called SCA to TSP and SCSP was launched in 1977-78 to bridge the resource gap for the implementation of SC/ST schemes. Thus, in order to bridge the economic disparity between farmers of tribal and non-tribal areas and also between general categories and SC/ST farmers, Government of India has providing a special grant in the form of SCA to Tribal Sub- Plan. The SCA scheme has been implemented in villages having 50 per cent or more ST population and 100 or more ST persons in non-scheduled areas. After the implementation of SCA for more than 35 years it is now necessary to evaluate whether the assistance has been able to fulfill the objectives for which it was implemented or not.