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AJY MIRROR

A Quarterly Newsletter of
AMA JANGALA YOJANA

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EDITORIAL

Providing sustainable livelihood to every citizen of the state is a daunting task of a welfare state. To achieve the same a multipronged strategy is required which not only needs to be area specific but also has to be cost effective and innovative. Various state Government departments and other agencies have tried to address the challenges of livelihood promotion in their respective schemes.

The Ama Jangala Yojana which has been entrusted the responsibility of livelihood promotion in forest fringe areas of Odisha, has made an attempt to collaborate with the other agencies and converge the development programmes to augment resources to uplift the live of forest dependent communities through its innovative approaches.

One of the major strategies under the Ama Jangala Yojana is to converge with the programmes of various departments to bring in a holistic impact. An effective

convergence arrangement is established with other programmes like MGNREGS, a rural employment programme of the government and with programmes of other departments and organisations like Department of Agriculture, Animal Resources Development, RWSS, OREDA, Horticulture etc., for undertaking interventions.

In this issue of our quarterly newsletter 'AJY Mirror' an attempt has been made to bring some success stories of collaborations in various DMUs on community development. The AJY implementation had been collaborated with schemes like MGNREGS, PM Ujjwala Yojana, OREDA and some other agencies to converge the programmes and to meet their objectives to find success at the grass root level.

I wish all the AJY Divisions will continue their innovative works for the community and share their achievements so as to achieve the overall goal of AJY.



Lalit Kumar Tiwari, IFS

Addl. PCCF (Projects) & Project Director,
Ama Jangala Yojana, OFSDS

CONVERGENCE IN AMA JANGALA YOJANA

Convergence of schemes and resources is now the need of the hour to enable the protected benefits to trickle down to their logical end. Convergence is also one of the key mandates in the Ama Jangala Yojana.

Entry Point Activity in Angul DMU

The Chhotagolagadia VSS under the Chhendipada FMU in Angul DMU had achieved a new feat by collaborating with other programmes under the aegis of Ama Jangala Yojana. This has created a new symbol of participatory development where community demands can be met from any programmes for the collective benefit of the community.

As a part of Entry Point Activity (EPA) under AJY the VSS actively pursued and mobilized resources to renovate the Maa Mnagala Pitha of the village. With the initial support from AJY, the VSS converged with MLA LAD fund and mobilize additional 1.5 Lakh rupees to develop the religious place.

This proved by the VSS that the convergence of programmes and resources can be an effective way of creating mile stones in the development process.



Construction of Maa Mangala Pitha in convergence with MLA LAD Fund

Convergence with Animal Resources Development Department under AJY

Under Deogarh DMU, a vaccination camp was organized at the Kadalipal VSS in Barkote FMU under AJY in convergence with the Veterinary Department. The VSS in Kadalipal consists of 44 families with a total population of 245.

In the vaccination camp as many as 120 cows, 125 goats were immunized. Because of this vaccination camp 30 families out of 45 are benefited. Sri Lalit Mohan Behera, Chairperson of Kadalipal VSS and Executive Members of the VSS were present and coordinated the event. The Livestock Inspector, Mr. Tulsi Prasad conducted the vaccination and checkup camp. Preventive measures like keeping the enclosures clean and dry, segregation of infected animals, etc were also educated to the VSS members.



Veterinary Vaccination Camp in convergence with ARD Department

AJY brought light in the village of Jambrijhola under Koraput DMU

Every evening after sunset, the villagers of Jambrijhola struggled to establish regular connection with outer world due to lack of light and electricity. The un-electrified Jambrijhola almost lost after every sunset and life compelled to limit itself in the closed doors inside the thatched huts.

AJY team visited the village Jambrijhola in such a situation and found the 27 households with a small population of 109. They were in dire need of light and electricity. As a response to the requirements of the villagers all households were provided with a solar lamp. This can be charged during the daytime and can lit in the evening. This small step

proved as a vital mile stone for the villagers who believed that with minimum facilities in the village they dare to see many such dreams pertaining to the all round development of their village.



Solar Lamps distributed to Beneficiaries under AJY

CONVERGENCE WITH PM UJJAWALA Yojana (PMUY) UNDER AJY: A PARADIGM SHIFT

Ujjwala Yojana have been a real opportunity for the VSSs working in various nook and corners of the state as both the Forest Department and VSSs wanted since long back to reduce the dependence of people living in forest fringe villages on the forest resources. At the same time it is creating potential for alternative livelihood for the villagers living in the vicinity of forest areas. Ujjwala Yojana thus not only helped these families a smoke less healthy environment in the villages, but also saved hours of time for the rural women that would have spent searching firewood had there been no scheme like Ujjwala. Moreover it also reduced the pressure and dependence of the tribal people on the forest resources.

The role of Vana Suraksha Samitis, the P-NGOs and the Forest Department is very crucial here as all these key players are to work in close cooperation and coordination with each other in identifying the eligible BPL women beneficiaries who are 18+ years of age.

Deogarh Division

After a series of meetings conducted by the P-NGOs in Khajuribahal VSS of Barkore FMU in Deogarh, potential beneficiaries were called with filled in KYC application forms and submitted to the Kandhal Indane Gas Agency. In the Khajuribahal village 39 BPL families were chosen as beneficiaries for the scheme. Shri F.M Sahu, the Range Officer distributed the gas connections to the beneficiaries in an informal ceremony.



Convergence with PM Ujjwala Yojana in Deogarh Division

Jeypore Division

After series of meetings, sensitization and publicity campaigns, the beneficiaries were invited to camps in each of the VSS and generated application forms along with relevant documents. Due to detailed publicity campaign, large numbers of potential beneficiaries turn up for enrolment in these camps. After scrutiny, 113 beneficiaries were selected. On October 17th 2016 the then Regional Chief Conservator of Forest Mr. M. Maloth Mohan, IFS distributed gas connections to the beneficiaries in a function organized by the Jeypore Forest Division.



Convergence with PM Ujjwala Yojana in Jeypore Division

Koraput Division

The inhabitants of village Patamaliguda in Podagada G.P of Dasmantpur Block were using firewood as their fuel to cook. After the initiatives under AJY scheme, Partner NGO-I.A.E.E.T., Koraput and Forest Department intervened and motivated the villagers to refrain themselves from destroying the forest and offered the option of cooking gas. The villagers appreciated the initiative and accepted to enroll themselves under Ujjwala scheme to get gas connection in their houses. Ten households got gas connection from Indane Gas under the Scheme after depositing Rs. 1683/- per family. Patamaliguda VSS took a leading role in executing this scheme to reduce pressure on forest woods and motivating the 75 families to adopt the gas cooking method.



Convergence with PM Ujjwala Yojana in Koraput Division

SUCCESS STORY

PROMOTING IGAS IN SHGS UNDER BAMRA DMU IN CONVERGENCE WITH ITDA KUCHINDA

DFO, Bamara Forest Division

Ama Jangala Yojana, the flagship programme of the Government of Odisha is being implemented by the Odisha Forestry Sector Development Society (OFSDS) in Bamra DMU under three field management units viz. Bamra FMU, Kuchinda FMU and Jamankira FMU. During 2016-17 year 71 AJY VSSs have got selected from taking up different

activities. With the aim of reducing the biotic pressure over forests, income generation activities needed to be planned in these villages. 285 No SHGs have been identified in 71 AJY VSSs for taking up these activities, different income generation activities have considered for selecting a feasible IGA. Accordingly, 13 SHGs have identified for taking up Mushroom cultivation as an income generation activity.

A detailed proposal was prepared to initiate and execute this IGA covering all the aspects of operational process at a cost of Rs. 2.5 Lakh rupees and this was taken up by ITDA, Kuchinda as per the proposal of Sub-Collector, Kuchinda. As per the convergence plan approved by the District Administration, ITDA supported 50% of the financial assistance required under the project, the training requirements decided to be supported by AJY. The rest of the expenditure was to be borne by the VSSs and the SHG groups in the form of labour component and materials available at their disposal. SHG members were entrusted marketing of the product.



IGAs Promotion in SHGs in Bamara DMU in convergence with ITDA, Kuchinda

A DMU Level capacity building training programme on Mushroom Cultivation was organized on at Bamra on dated 6th December 2017 in presence of Sri Chanchal Rana, IAS Sub Collector, Kuchinda, Sri Sanath Kumar N., IAS, DMU Chief Bamra and Sri Abhiram Panigrahi, Secretary, PNGO, SIDI

Smt. Sudharani Pattnaik, Lady Demonstrator ATMA, provided the introductory training on Mushroom Cultivation. All concerned VSSs Presidents, SHG members, and respective field functionaries participated in the training. Apart from it VSS level capacity building trainings were organized in

all FMUs targeting SHG members. Success of the Project will lead to progress of livelihood of the forest dependent communities and thereby improving the forest quality with reduction in biotic pressure.



Mushroom Cultivation taken up by SHGs under Bamara DMU

SAFE DRINKING WATER BY SOLAR ENERGY MADE THE VILLAGERS HAPPY DMU Chief-cum-DFO, Rourkela Division

Safe drinking water is one of the basic needs of life. But, it was lacking in Arjunchuan VSS under Banki FMU of Rourkela DMU. There are 115 numbers of Household in the village with a total population of 600. During Microplan Preparation & PRA process under AJY, the P-NGO Team identified safe water scarcity as one of the basic problem and tried to solve the problem of villagers. After the approval of GB of the VSS,



Solar Energy Based Drinking Water Supply at Arjunchuan VSS

a community consultation programme was organized with all the local stakeholders including Sarpanch, PS Member of Sankhaposh GP, FMU Chief of Banki, AJY Coordinator of Rourkela DMU. It was decided to approach the RWSS, line Department and Odisha Akshyaya Shakti Bikash Sangha (OASBS) to solve the problem of villagers. By this initiative, a 5000 Litre tank with machinery capacity of 1HP/900 WP by Solar Energy was established in Arjunchuan VSS within seven month with the support of RWSS Lahunipara and Odisha Akshyaya Shakti Bikash Sangha. Now the villagers are happily drinking the safe water with use of renewable energy source in their own village.

CASE STUDY

TURNING DEGRADED FOREST INTO GREEN FOREST: A PHULBANI DIVISION EXPERIENCE

Ama Jangala Yojana was implemented in Bolangir Forest Division during 2016-17. In the first phase, out of 524 Nos of VSS, 140 Nos of VSS has been taken up under the scheme. The total assigned area is 13375.9 ha with a treatment area of 7392.96 ha in 140 Nos of VSS. Further during the Current year i.e. 2017-18 20 Nos of VSS has been taken up in Cluster basis.

Under Afforestation activities 140 ha of AR Plantation in 10 Nos of VSS and ANR without Gap has been taken up over 7392.96 ha in all 140 VSS.

With a view to encourage the Joint Forest Management Committees in matter of forest protection and conservation the State Government have instituted "Biju Pattanaik Award for Forest Protection and Conservation" This award is being given at the State and Sub-Division level every year during the celebration of Vana Mahotshava Week in the 1st Week of July. On the occasion of celebration of 68th Vana Mahotshava, the Uperjhar VSS of Bolangir FMU has been awarded as the best VSS at the State Level. Besides that, Karlamal VSS has been adjudged as the best VSS under Patnagarh Civil Sub-Division.

AJY PROGRAMME: A GRAND SUCCESS IN SATKOSIA WILDLIFE DIVISION, ANGUL

Thirty one Vana Suraksha Samitis (VSSs) have been formed in the peripheral regions of Satkosia Wildlife Sanctuary by Satkosia wildlife division. These VSSs are included in the third phase of Ama Jangala Yojana (AJY). Nearly 1550 hectares of Reserve Forest (RF), Demarcated Protected Forest (DPF) and Revenue Forest (RF) located close to the above mentioned 31 villages and hamlets have been earmarked for VSSs for proper management and protection of forest resources. Pillar posting for demarcation of forest land boundaries have been done with the stakeholders of villages and hamlets after reaching consensus. Formation of Executive Committees, Micro plan committees and Convergence committees have been done after due ratification by Palli Sabhas in the respective villages and hamlets. All the 4895 members, both men and women had participated in the deliberation of 31 PalliSabhas conducted for this purpose. Of the total members attended the Palli Sabhas, SCs were 410, ST 1788 and women numbered 2372. It was heartening to note that the members who took part in the discussion in the PalliSabhas put forth their opinion confidently.



Community orientation meeting at Nuagaon VSS under Satkosia WL DMU

Twenty skill development training camps were conducted for the office bearers of VSSs. These trainings were conducted cluster wise and they were imparted training on five subjects relating to protection and management of forest resources. The subjects chosen were 1) community mobilization 2) micro plan preparation 3) survey demarcation and pillar posting 4) soil moisture conservation and 5) ANR and Silvi cultural operation. A total number of 564 men and women

of 31 VSSs participated in the twenty training camps conducted for skill development activity.

The remarkable achievement of the AJY programme is that the incidence of forest fire has become a thing of the past in the forests adjoining to above mentioned VSSs during the year 2017. This was possible for sustainable use of forest resources. The members of VSSs meet every month at executive meetings and make resolutions for protection of biodiversity and effective use of forest produces. This has become beneficial for AJY programme.



Dandabahali Forest Transact mapping in progress under Satkosia WL DMU

ADDING VALUE TO SATKOSIA TIGER RESERVE THROUGH AMA JANGALA Yojana DFO, Satkosia Wildlife

Satkosia Tiger Reserve is spread along the magnificent gorge over the mighty river Mahanadi in Odisha. It is the second Tiger Reserve of the State spanning an area of 963.87 Sq. Km. It has tremendous genetic and ecological importance. The area represents one of the best deciduous ecosystems in the country, having many rare and endangered species.



Forest fire prevention campaign by P-NGO under Satkosia WL DMU

Apart from the Division area of 964sqkm (approx) 263nos of revenue village one situated within 10km. adjoining to the Division boundary. The people of these villages depend upon the Satkosia Tiger reserve to meet their livelihood and forest based requirement.

Objective behind implementation of AJY in Satkosia DMU.

- Make a positive contribution to conservation of nature, natural and cultural resources and stimulate private conservation.
- Promote local development and sharing of economic benefits in a fair manner at regional and local levels.
- Increase environmental awareness among the villagers through VSS for restoration and technical management of forest.
- Empower local SHG Groups to manage ecotourism and generate incentives for conservation through alternative and additional livelihoods options to reduce pressure on forest.
- Provide villagers with a personal experience of nature.

Outcomes at these initiative so far have seen:-

- Visible increase in the awareness level for protection of forest and wildlife.
- Reduced biotic pressure on Satkosia Tiger Reserve.
- Visible socio - economic Development of village communities.
- Increased livelihood optioned to reduce pressure on forest.
- Reduced forest fire incidents during the pick summer. Employment generation: - 11,000 person-days Generated in 30nos of VSS excluding the material component



Forest Transact Mapping of Baragoatha Dalasahi under Satkosia WL DMU

REPORTS

Water Filter Candle Distribution Programme at Belaguda in Koraput DMU

Belaguda Village under Laxmipur Range of Koraput-DMU is situated at a distance of 28 Km from the Laxmipur Range Office. In Belaguda village availability of drinking water in major problem, which is attributable to the lack of natural water sources. A stream is the only source of water for the villagers, which is used for all purposes. There is a Tube well in Belaguda village, which is defunct. During rainy seasons the villagers face a lot of problem for pure drinking water. Scarcity of drinking water often causes health hazards



Water Filter Candle Distribution at Beleguda VSS in Koraput Division

to the people. A Small Initiative was taken by the Forest Department for providing the safe drinking water facility in Belaguda Village. Forest Department distributed 24 filter candle to the each of the household of Belguda village on 3rd March 2017 on entry point activity under Ama Jangala Yojana.

DMU Level Capacity Building Training Programme at Padapada VSS in Kalahandi South Division

The geographical area of Kalahandi Revenue District is 7920 sq. km which is apportioned between both Kalahandi South and Kalahandi North Division having approximately 4070 sq kms and 3850 sq kms respectively. The Forest area of this division as per DLC is 1308.16 sq kms which is about 32.14

percent of the total geographical area of the division. This Division comprises of 7 Ranges, 24 sections and 85 beats.

Ama Jangala Yojana was introduced in Kalahandi South Division during 2016-17 in 125 VSS out of 377 VSS covering three Ranges i.e. Biswanathpur, Thuamul Rampur North VSS and Thuamul Rampur South VSS. Under AJY Scheme different activities have been taken up in all selected VSSs like Survey and Demarcation, Pillars posting, Soil and moisture conservation, Silvi cultural operation, Capacity Building Training Programmers at DMU level, FMU level and VSS level and micro plan preparation etc. Number of other interventions has taken place including Capacity Building Training. A DMU level Capacity Building Training was conducted at Podapadar VSS of Biswanathpur Range 28.01.2017. The participants of this training were villagers of Podapadar and adjoining village, P-NGO, PRA Expert from Koraput, AJY Support Staffs and Range officers along with 2 Forester and 2 Forest Guards from each Range of the division.

The objective of involving all the range staffs was to give them exposure and firsthand experience on conducting the PRA Exercise, so that the same will be replicated/implemented in the respective ranges.

The PRA Experts briefed the villagers with respect to PRA and were divided into 4 groups consisting of the villagers, forest staff and the expert members to do the task. Mainly four groups were formed as noted below.

1. Village Transact Group
2. SSG and Youth Group
3. Seasonal Calender Group
4. Well being Ranking Group

In one group of villagers had visited to the village and collect house hold data like in what type of home they are living e.g., Mati Kantha and Pakka Ghar, along with information about type of land in the village such as-

1. Up land/Barren land-59 acres
2. Plain land suitable for agriculture 30 acres

The second group consisted 4 SHG Members and Youth of that VSS. Here the PRA expert had given special training on different types of farming through which how they can be benefitted by income generating activities such as goatery, fishery and poultry etc.

The concluding remarks at the end of the training programme were given by chief Guest, Honorable Regional Chief Conservator of Forest, Bhawanipatna Circle Sri Suresh Pant IFS and vote of thanks was proposed by Asst Conservator of Forests, Kalahandi South Division.

New VSS Office-cum-Meeting Hall at Duibandhu VSS developed under AJY

Duibandhu VSS has been reconstituted on dated 24.08.2015 with 250 numbers of VSS members from Santokipada & Anlalpal village in Naranpur GP under Nilagiri WL Range of Balasore (WL) Division. The VSS has been assigned the forest area of 54 hactre from Tinikosia reserved forest. A VSS Office-cum-VSS Meeting Hall was constructed with active participation of VSS members. About Rs.400000/- (Rupees Four lakhs) only has been spent for construction of the VSS building as per the estimation. but the Forest department has released Rs.335000/- (Rupees Three lakh thirty five thousand) only for construction of the building work.



Duibandhu VSS building constructed under AJY Scheme

The villagers have donated the rest by affording their free labour for the construction work. The monthly meeting of Executive committee is being held in this building to discuss different issues on protection and management of forest. The VSS building is being maintained properly by the VSS members under proper supervision of Animator of this VSS.

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