



NEWSLETTER

Odisha Forestry Sector Development Project

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Forest Flower - A Blessing



***Woodfordia fruticosa* (Linn.) Kurz of the family Lythraceae is a plant of tropical and subtropical region with a long history of medicinal use. A small tree of open waste land and degraded places. The flowers are traded for use in ayurvedic formulations. Earlier flowers were used to make into the vermillion dye and used during Holi. It propagates mainly by branch cuttings and seeds.**

A wide range of chemical compounds including tannins (especially those of macrocyclic hydrolysable class), flavonoids, anthraquinone glycosides, and polyphenols have been isolated from this species in recent times. Extracts and metabolites of this plant, particularly those from flowers and leaves, possess useful pharmacological activities.

Koraput DMU has added another first of developing medicinal plants cluster to its credit. Members of 10 Project VSSs and nine neighboring villages could collect and trade in 'Dhataki' flower (*Woodfordia fruticosa*) worth ₹2,25,875. This happened due to the combined actions of the State Medicinal Plant Board (SMPB) and OFSDP. Dhataki flower is available in plenty in local forests but there is little demand in the locality though the flower is having multiple medicinal applications. People who collect these from forest, used to exchange it for salt or any other household goods of low cost in local market.

SMPB team came into discussions at Koraput on a business proposal for Dhataki flower. The DFO, Koraput DMU directed the IGASA team of OFSDP and FLE at Koraput DMU to organize business activities in the flower production areas. In the meantime, market linkage was established with Dabur India. The process started in Laxmipur Range (FMU) with 285

members of 10 VSS with the project and 9 neighbouring villages. Under the guidance of the experts of Dabur Company, Dhataki Flower was collected, properly dried and packaged. 285 beneficiaries collected the flower from nearby villages and forest. In total, 14,085 kg of raw flower was collected. Only ₹14,600 was spent in the process as material cost. After preliminary value addition (drying, sorting and grading), the quantity reduced to 13,185kg. The Dabur Company purchased and lifted the whole raw flower @ ₹15 per kg from the village point. On qualitative checks at their receiving factory, payment of additional amount was also made by Dabur to the cluster. Net profit was shared amongst all beneficiaries as per their collected stock proportionately sold to the Dabur Company. This pilot project has encouraged VSS members to enhance their economic returns further on production/ collection and trading next season & for sustainable resource management through improvised practices on collection & value addition.



Deepak Mishra, FLE, Koraput

7TH HPC MEETING



7th High Power Committee Meeting of Odisha Forestry Sector Development Society (OFSDS) was held on 11th June 2012 at the State Secretariat. The Chief Secretary and President of OFSDS Sri Bijay Kumar Patnaik, IAS chaired the meeting. The Project Director summarized the overall status of the Project highlighting the physical and financial achievements so far. On forest restoration activities, against the target of 1,38,000 ha of ANR, 39,650 ha of Block plantations and 19,000 ha of Non JFM teak plantation, achievement has been made for 1,46,426 ha ANR, 37,111 ha Block plantation and 11,605 ha Non JFM teak plantation up to 2011-12. The Chief Secretary emphasized that the Forest Department should explore the possibilities of taking up more block plantation area in the project divisions by reducing the block plantation targets under other schemes. HPC also observed that the eco-tourism group at Chotkei need to be exposed to other successful resorts and eco-tourism area so as to build their capacity and

improve their services in hospitality management. Annual Action Plan and Budget for the year 2012-13 was also approved in the meeting.

Sri R. N. Senapati, IAS, Agriculture Production Commissioner-cum-ACS and Vice President of OFSDS, Sri J. K. Mohapatra, IAS, Principal Secretary, Finance Department, Dr. Taradatt, IAS, Principal Secretary, Revenue & Disaster Management Department, Sri R. K. Sharma, IAS, Principal Secretary, Forest & Environment Department, Sri P. N. Padhi, IFS, Principal Chief Conservator of Forests, Odisha, Sri Vinod Kumar IFS, PD, OFSDP, Sri B. P. Singh, IFS, Special Secretary, Forest & Environment Department, Sri H. K. Bisht, IFS, CCF Wildlife (representing PCCF (WL)), Sri S. K. Popli, IFS, Director, ST and SC Development Department, Mrs. M. Mohanty, Addl. Secretary, Planning & Co-ordination Department, Sri Rajiv Kumar, IFS, Additional Project Director, OFSDP & Sri R. Raghu Prasad, IFS, Joint PD, OFSDP were present in the meeting.

Dream of 60 years fulfilled in 6 months

Electricity to Badeguda village was a dream upto December 2011. Due to the concerted convergence efforts of OFSDP, villagers are now enjoying electricity and very happy. Badeguda village is located in Tikabali Forest Section of Phulbani DMU and Chakapad Tehsil of Kandhmal district under Sankarakhol Gram Panchayat.

Badeguda is a small tribal village with total household of 55 only. The village is situated only 1 km distance from the panchayat headquarters. OFSDP activities started in this village in 4th phase (2010) by forming VSS. While preparing micro plan, villagers opted for electricity connection. Under the project activities, three SHGs namely Kubusuru, Maa Baraladevi and Maa Kalijai were involved for Income Generation Activities. The group members were trained in various SHG activities and entrepreneur development. During training programmes, SHG members highlighted necessity of electrification. SHG backed by other VSS members wrote application to Energy Department, which was meticulously followed by the staff of Forest Department. Finally, work for electrification started in the month of June 2011 and got completed within 6 months. Two concrete pillars and an 11KV transformer were set up. VSS members also contributed labour for the work. The VSS got the electricity connection in the month of December 2011. Their dream came true and they are very happy.

Nishikant Jena, FLE, Phulbani



Waving Hand to **WEAVERS**

Bansuli is a forest fringe village of Kotpad FMU of Jeypore DMU. People of this village are traditional weaving communities, and they also depend upon forest for their livelihood.

A VSS was formed on initiatives from OFSDP. IGASA team of OFSDP explored opportunity of IGA with skill improvement for weaver households, who have been weaving 'Odhoni' (8' X 2' size) and cloth floor mat (6' X 4' size) for eight years. Odhoni made from fine cotton is used in different functions (ceremonial usage) and the second product i.e. cloth floor mat is basically used in tribal villages as floor mat for comfortable sitting and sleeping. IGASA team suggested to add new products for better income. Two SHGs named 'Maulimaa SHG' (10 members) and 'Dharani SHG' (11 members) representing 21 families were formed during November 2011. Each group was imparted skill development training and supported with business development plan of ₹20,000/- for weaving new products that is 'Small Asana' of size 1 ½' X 1 ½' and 'Large Asana' of size 6' X 1 ½'. The mats are prepared by using the torn pieces of cloth weaved together with cotton thread. The encouraging response from the buyers (local and Jeypore) has encouraged two SHGs to produce these two products regularly.



They had also participated for first time in State Level Adivasi Mela 2012 at Bhubaneswar with their finished product worth ₹4910 and were able to do business of ₹9400/- resulting in a net profit of ₹4490/-. Now other SHG groups in the VSS have also started to produce the two new products on initiatives introduced by Project. Now they are confidently doing more business with these two new products.

Rama Kant Mohanty, FLE, Jeypore

BIO-GAS : AN ALTERNATE FOR FUEL WOOD

The mangroves along 50 km sea coast of Bhadrak district is locally known as BANIPAHI. The Bain (*Avicennia marina*) is the dominant species largely due to its geographic adaptation and higher tidal water influence. The mangroves worldwide are facing heavy degradation due to anthropogenic & developmental pressure. New research findings at the same time indicate a higher (5 time more) CO₂ sequestration capacity. The mangroves have the capacity to mitigate the present climate change physiologically & genetically for future.

However, the Mangroves (Banipahi) have been used to face heavy pressure of exploitation for firewood and fodder collection by local community. The Bhadrak (WL) Division cum Divisional Management Unit of OFSDP organized training and motivation programmes on alternate livelihood options, for convergence programs like fodder development with CDVO, Biogas with OREDA, and other Horticultural schemes. The training motivated Smt Kanchan Das of Nandapatana EDC for availing Biogas scheme

from OREDA. Her household has 8 cattle. However, she had the financial problem to meet the beneficiary contribution of about ₹10,000/-. The Field Level Expert of OFSDP initiated dialogue and facilitation for the Biogas beneficiary with EDC & their Member-Secretary, Sri. Ghanashyam Barik. The EDC agreed to provide individual loan for Biogas. A loan amount of ₹5,000 was provided from VFDF of EDC. The family got subsidy of ₹8,000 from OREDA for a size of 2 cum Bio-Gas plant. By this process, Mrs. Kanchan Das and her family got benefit of biogas plant which is now providing a smoke free home and free from washing of blackened utensil. Simultaneously, two works i.e. cooking & child care are & much more are possible in the household. Sri Sudhansu Das husband of Kanchan Das remarked that though the initial expenditure was difficult for poor people like us but it is having lots of benefits. The biogas is a good alternative to fire wood earlier obtained from mangrove forest.

Gopal Chandra Mohaptra, FLE, Bhadrak



Eye Opener for SHG to IGA



A failed IGA attempt can also teach us too many things for future business plan. This has been proven in the case of Ulsura VSS of Bonai FMU. Women SHGs were main beneficiaries of the VSS revolving fund, but in this VSS several attempts for establishing IGA with the SHGs with repetition since 2008 had failed. FLE & IGASA of OFSDP took initiatives to form a Common Interest Group (CIG) in order to utilize the revolving fund for the better livelihood options of the villagers. They discussed with VSS members. 14 male members having common interest of livelihood formed into a CIG named 'Pragati'. Membership fee of ₹50 per month started to be deposited. A Business Development Plan of ₹29,000 for Mahua flower business was prepared –to be funded with loan of ₹20,000 from revolving fund of VSS and ₹9,000 of own contribution. VSS sanctioned loan to Pragati CIG in the month of March, 2012. CIG collected 40 quintals of Mahua flower in phases with an average purchase price of ₹12/- per Kg and traded their procurement @ ₹16 per kg. On repayment of loan with agreed interest to the revolving fund, they earned a profit of ₹13,700 within three months time. They are now preparing for their second business. This activity of CIG has opened the eyes of SHG members and now they are interested to do repeat IGA. Now the competition is on amongst SHGs of village for loan from VSS for IGA with a business plan.

*Debabrata Pati, FLE-Bonai
Sylvester Kiro, ULCM-Bonai*



Potato

EARNED GOOD PROFIT TO PRIYADARSHNI SHG

Thunkupada is a small tribal village of Rajgangpur FMU under Rourkela DMU. Villagers depend on agriculture for their livelihood. OFSDP intervention started in the village on constitution of VSS in the year 2010-2011. 15 women of the village with the help of IGASA team of OFSDP formed a SHG named 'Priyadarshani'. Most of the SHG members are illiterate. They save ₹50 per month. Earlier, they were unable to do any Income Generation Activity for want of awareness and business acumen. IGASA team of OFSDP helped them to chalk out a business plan for potato cultivation.

They obtained loan of ₹15,000 revolving fund of their VSS for IGA purpose in the month of November 2011. They purchased 900kg seeds @ ₹10 per kg, invested further ₹1000 for cultivation and ₹5000 towards labour cost. They harvested 40 quintals of potato of good quality and sold them @ ₹1200 per quintal. They repaid the VSS loan with agreed interest and finally earned a profit of ₹28,295. They distributed the profit amount equally amongst SHG members. This experience of cultivation with loan for IGA has built their confidence. They are additionally planning for banaraja poultry business. They now believe that potatoes cultivation can be a major livelihood option for them.

Aditya K. Mishra, FLE, Rourkela

Boosting Income by fish

Sialikudar is one of the remote tribal village of Banki FMU under Rourkela DMU. Three sides of the village is surrounded by forest and the Brahmani river flows on one side. Villagers mainly depend on forest produce and agriculture for their livelihood. OFSDP intervention started in the village in the first phase by forming VSS from 2007. On formation and functioning of VSS, 4 SHGs from village were identified and graded for implementation of IGA. Initially, groups were not capable enough to undertake any IGA with loan. In the year 2010, IGASA team started motivating all the SHGs. Regular meeting with members, training programme and exposure visits were organized. In this process, Jharana SHG came forward for new IGA of fishing by villagers, since the members of this SHG stay on the bank of river Brahmani. They took loan of ₹30,000/- from VSS in January 2011. The SHG members also contributed ₹8,000.

From this amount, they purchased all required item for catching fish from the river. Now, they are able to catch fish of approximately 8 to 10 kg per day on an average and for 4-5 days in a week. They are selling fish from their village @ ₹80/- per kg. In last six months, they have sold fish more than ₹20,000. Till date, they have partially returned principal and interest of ₹1600 to VFDF of VSS. The SHG thank IGASA team and OFSDP for boosting their confidence in adopting a new livelihood of income.



Adiata Kumar Mishra, FLE, Rourkela

Trainings / Workshops

from April to June, 2012

Two Project level workshops were held at PMU on 10.05.2012 & 18.05.2012 for review of Comprehensive Capacity Building Impact Assessment (CCBA), preparation of Capacity Building Strategy Document (CBSD), by CBSA and finalization of training modules, training calendar and monitoring formats during 2012. Sri Vinod Kumar, IFS, Project Director presided over the workshops and Additional Project Director, JPD(IME),



JPD(A&F), DPD(FT&T), DPD(Finance), DPD(P&A), Resident Project Manager, GC, attended as facilitators. Representatives of CBSA, CBSA Coordinators, FLE, FES (CB) of Angul, Balliguda, Balasore(WL), Bhadrak(WL), Bonai, Deogarh, Jeypore, Keonjhar, Koraput, Paralakhemundi, Phulbani, Rayagada, Rourkela and Satkosia (WL) Divisions Divisions participated with desired informations.

Two days training programme on 'Positive Attitudinal Changes and Orientation Programme on different OFSDP activities' for initiation of Forest Guards into functions of Member Secretaries of VSS were organized at G. Udaygiri. The participant Forest Guards, 48 in number



were selected and nominated for this training cum orientation by the DFO cum DMU Chiefs to act as Member Secretary in charge of VSS in lieu of Foresters who are having more number of Project VSS in Phulbani, Balliguda, Rourkela, Koraput, Jeypore and Keonjhar Divisions. They attended the training programme in two batches i.e one on 23rd & 24th June and other on 26th & 27th June, 2012, where Dr Abraham P Ruby of 6th Sense Resources Pvt. Ltd, Bangalore, Sri Rajiv Kumar, IFS, Additional PD and Sri P C Mishra, IFS, Dy PD (FT &T) imparted the training. Sri Vinod Kumar, IFS, Project Director, OFSDP inaugurated the second batch training & concluding session of 1st batch training and explained the participants for their orientation and challenges they have to address in implementation of traditional and new forestry programmes in the field for forest dwelling community with JFM, livelihood activities, plantations of productivity, and for benefit of carbon trading.



A Workshop on “Orientation on Project Activities” was held in the Conference Hall of PMU on 29.06.2012 for new DMU Chiefs, Assistant DMU Chiefs and FMU Chiefs, who have taken positions in the Project divisions in 2012. The Project Director inaugurated the workshop. The Additional Project Director, Joint Project Director (A&F), Deputy Project Director of PMU and Resident Project Manager GC explained different ongoing project activities and

action plan for the coming year to the participants. 13 participants from 7 Divisions interacted in the above workshop.



REVIEW OF Project Activities

The meeting to reviewing the Project activities of 2011-12 & Action Plan for 2012-13 was held on 17th & 18th April, 2012 at PMU. On the day 1st, a presentation was made on 'Gender consideration' for implementation in the Project by Ms Anuradha Mohanty of NGO, PECUC. On the 2nd day a presentation on 'Innovative uses of GIS and for Information System Based monitoring' was made by Sri Anil Oberoi, IFS, PCCF (IT) Madhya Pradesh. Review on plantation preparedness, Nursery Stock, utilization of unspent amount of Plantation, status of Nakshatra Vana, progress of CBSA, Saving utilization plan, consolidation matters were also discussed.



Transfers/Postings

Consequent upon promotion to the grade of Chief Conservator of Forests, **Sri Anup Kumar Nayak**, IFS allowed to continue as RCCF, Baripada and Field Director Similipal Tiger Reserve.

Consequent upon promotion to the grade of Chief Conservator of Forests **Sri Jitendra Kumar**, IFS transferred from the post of Conservator of Forests (KL), Cuttack and joined as Regional Chief Conservator of Forests Berhampur.

Dr. J.P Singh, IFS, RCCF Berhampur transferred and joined as PD, World Food Programme & Mission Director OBDA.

Consequent upon promotion to the grade of Chief Conservator of Forests **Sri Rajiv Kumar**, IFS joined as Additional Project Director OFSDP. He was working as Joint Project Director in OFSDP.

Sri Debidutta Biswal, IFS Joint Project Director in OFSDP transferred and joined as Additional Secretary to Government, Forest & Environment Department.

Sri S. S. Mishra, OFS (SB) DFO-cum-DMU Chief Angul transferred and posted as DFO Berhampur Forest Division.

Consequent upon transfer of **Sri S. S. Mishra**, **Sri Jagmohan Mishra**, OFS (SB) joined as DFO-cum-DMU Chief, Angul on 4th May 2012.

Sri Arun Ku. Mishra, OFS (SB) DFO-cum-DMU Chief Bonai transferred and posted as DFO Athagarh Forest Division.

Consequent upon transfer of **Sri Arun Ku. Mishra**, **Sri Santosh Kumar Banchur**, OFS (SB) joined as DFO-cum-DMU Chief, Bonai on 2nd May 2012.

Sri Sarat Ch. Mohanty, IFS DFO-cum-DMU Chief Keonjhar transferred and posted as Dy.PD OBDA Bhubaneswar.

Consequent upon transfer of **Sri Sarat Ch. Mohanty**, IFS, **Sri Ajay Kumar Jena**, IFS joined as DFO-cum-DMU Chief, Keonjhar on 20th May 2012.

Sri Ramani Ranjan Das, OFS-I (SB) on promotion got transferred from the post of ACF, Bonai Division and joined as DFO-cum-DMU Chief, Rayagada on 30th May 2012.

Sri Atish Ku. Behera, IFS DFO-cum-DMU Chief Rourkela transferred and posted as DFO Phulabani (KL).

Consequent upon transfer of **Sri Atish Ku. Behera**, IFS, **Sri Bhagaban Pati**, OFS-I (SB) transferred from DFO, Jharsuguda (KL) Division and joined as DFO-cum-DMU Chief, Rourkela on 2nd May 2012.

Sri Pradeep Kumar Sethi, OFS-I (SB) transferred from DFO Sambalpur (KL) Division and joined as DFO-cum-DMU Chief, Satkosia on 4th June 2012 on vacant post.



The quarterly newsletter of the JICA assisted Odisha Forestry Sector Development Project provides timely information relating to different project activities for the knowledge of various stakeholders.

For any comments/Suggestions, please write to:
Deputy Project Director (P&A)
E-mail : dpd.pa@ofsdp.org

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SFTRI Campus, At/Po. Ghatikia, Bhubaneswar-751 003
Phone : 0674 2386016, Fax : 0674 2386085
E-mail : webmail@ofsdp.org
<http://www.ofsdp.org>

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