



A Quarterly Newsletter of OFSDP, Phase-II

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## From Project Director's Desk

Odisha Forestry Sector Development Project, Phase-II aims at sustainable forest management through participatory planning and inclusive growth of community by promotion of sustainable livelihood promotion through inter-sectoral convergence. The project envisages to contribute in providing alternative sources of income for the forest fringe dwelling communities through its Income Generation Activities (IGA) programme of livelihood component. OFSDP-II has also been emphasizing inclusive sustainable development of forest fringe communities through convergence of various schemes of line Departments. This is aimed to maximize the resource mobilization for the target beneficiaries.

Divisional Management Units are encouraged to augment the Income Generation Activities in the project villages through target VSS and SHGs.

The socio-economic impact of the inter-sectoral convergence undertaken at the VSS level are reflected in the steady growth of access to resources for the communities and project stakeholders. In order to recognise and collate the impact of VSS level interventions of the project a special edition of Banayan Newsletter has been assigned which highlights some of the success stories of the Divisions. The efforts of OFSDP-II project personnel at ground level are showcased through these community focussed Case Studies and Success Stories. On the basis of community's response and adoption of livelihood initiatives, there is an opportunity to illuminate the Livelihood Improvement planning and implementation focus in the project areas.

In this special edition of Banayan, Forest Divisions covered under OFSDP-II project, namely; Sambalpur and Jharsuguda of Sambalpur Circle and Sundargarh Division of Rourkela Circle have been covered. Apart from convergence activities, progress on other project components like community mobilisation and capacity building in these Divisions have also been highlighted in this issue.

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*"Climate change is no longer some far-off problem; it is happening here, it is happening now."*

-BARACK OBAMA



## SUCCESS STORIES FROM SAMBALPUR DMU

### BACK YARD POULTRY: A PROMISING LIVELIHOOD OPTION FOR POOR FAMILIES

Laxmibati Bhoi a tribal lady is staying with her husband at Salesingh VSS of Maneswar Block under Sambalpur Forest Division. Her family of five members is in the category of Poorest of the Poor (PoP) in the village. The family stays in a Kutcha house with very limited assets like one kutcha house, one cow, two bullocks, and one cycle. They have one acre of land. Their main source of income is from wage labour. Their average annual income is about Rs 25,000/- and have only 6-7 months of food security in a year.

#### Project intervention

Improved poultry farming, as a livelihood intervention was launched in the village in the form of Back Yard Poultry (BYP) scheme benefiting poorest of the poor families such as landless, SC & ST farmers as part of economic and livelihood enhancement support in association with Animal Husbandry and Veterinary Department in convergence mode. Based on the baseline survey and VSS level meetings, Laxmibati Bhoi's family was selected as one of the beneficiary under this scheme. Laxmibati Bhoi was given 50 numbers of 28 days old Banaraj or RIR chicks to rear which are low input technology

dual purpose chicks. The chicks were also vaccinated against major poultry diseases. The family was assisted in the construction of a night shelter in their backyard. The family used to give feed and water to the chicks in the evening and allow the birds to roam around in the backyard and village during the day time so that the birds could feed on the natural ingredients including insects, white ants, grass and other kitchen waste. The birds were reared for 60 days and then marketed either in the nearby or bigger markets. In last fiscal year, Laxmibati Bhoi reared 5 to 6 batches and generated an additional income of Rs. 16000/- to Rs. 24000/- per annum with an average profit of Rs. 3500/- to Rs.4000/- per cycle of 60 to 65 days.

Laxmibati Bhoi is one of the 120 SC / ST/ landless farmers who have benefited from OFSDP-II supported BYP scheme of Veterinary Department in Sadar FMU of Sambalpur Forest Division. Thus the rural poultry farming not only generates additional income but provides consistent employment opportunities to rural women which helps to bring the desired socio-economic changes in their household income.



*Backyard poultry by marginalised community member under convergence mode in the Sadar Forest Range in Sambalpur*

### MARKETING OF MYCROBALANS AS A POTENTIAL SOURCE OF ALTERNATE LIVELIHOOD: A SUCCESS STORY OF RENGALI FMU OF SAMBALPUR DIVISION.

Menakapadaa hamlet of Jharmunda Village is located in Nisanbhanga Gram panchayat of Rengali Block. This Block is co-Terminus with Rengali FMU of Sambalpur Forest Division. Menakapada village is having 94 households of homogeneous tribal community. During Batch-III Micro plan preparation carried out by the Menakapada Vana Suraksha Samiti (VSS), it was seen that out of 94 households 81 households were landless and dependent on the Share Cropping and were engaged as daily labour in the nearby industries.

During the village transect walk, a tool of micro-planning process, the project staff facilitated the counting of about 20 numbers of Harida (*Terminalia Chebula*) and 35 numbers of Bahada (*Terminalia bellirica*) trees on the transect path. However, the villagers did not collect these NTFPs available in these trees due to lack of demand in local market. It was also found that though there were six SHGs functioning in the village, no SHG had taken up an IG activity so far. In order to provide economically viable livelihood options

and supplementary family income to the economically vulnerable families of the village, the SMS (Livelihood) of Sambalpur DMU, in collaboration with the Young Professional consultant of ORMAS, DRDA, Sambalpur, the



PNGO team and FMU coordinators of Rengali FMU started mobilizing the wSHGs members and non SHG women VSS members who were often associated with NTFP collection to generate income from Myrobalan collection.



Formation Of Utkarsh Producer Group Menakapada ,Rengali FMU



Selling of Harida and Bahada to Dabour Baitarani Initiatives By Utkasha Producer Group, Menakapada

As procurement of Myrobalanis is only a seasonal work, SHG members and other women associated with its collection get a meager additional income. In view of this situation, the project team proposed that women of Menakapada village to form a Producer Group for NTFP collection so as to save themselves from exploitation of the petty street vendors and to earn good additional income. They were also sensitized on the benefits of forming a Producers Group. After detailed discussion and regular social mobilization, the Utkarsh Producer Group was formed on 19th December, 2020 by enrolling 30 members. Each member contributed Rs 100.00 each as membership fee to the Producer Group.

Initially, it was estimated that 4 quintals of Harida and 7 quintals of Bahada would be collected from the forests adjoining the village. For marketing of collected Myrobalan, the Dabur Baitarani Initiatives Agency was consulted and the rate was finalized to sell Harida @ Rs.32 per kg and Bahada @ Rs.30 per kg without nut. As the sale agreement was formalized, the women members took more interest on collection of the same. A training was organized by the FMU with the help of Dabur Baitarani Initiative for value addition of product. This entire exercise are observed to be very productive for the community groups' which ensured a positive result as an income generation activity.

#### Income Status for Financial Year 2020-21(First Year)

Harida Collection In Quintals	Harida Rate / in Quintals	Income (Rs)	Bahada collection in Quintals	Bahada Rate / in Quintals	Income (in Rs)	Total Income in Rs	Avg. Income / Member in Rs.
10	3200	32000	70	3000	2,10,000	2,42,000	8066

With this extent of income in the initial year, women members of Utkarsh Producer Group are now self-motivated and are aiming to increase their earning in the coming season by collecting more product from the nearby villages

/ VSSs and double the profit. The intervention of VSS and effort of Producer group members successfully established alternative way of livelihood to combat their acute financial constraint and at the same time, inspiring other VSSs of Rengali FMU to follow their foot prints

## SWEETCORN CULTIVATION ASSURES VIABLE LIVELIHOOD: A CASE STUDY ON SUCCESSFUL CONVERGENCE INITIATIVE

One of the main nutritional benefits of sweet corn is its high fiber content. It aids digestion and decreases the risk of heart diseases, strokes, Type-II diabetes and bowel cancer. Because of these high nutrition values, sweet corn fetches good market price. Thus, cultivation of sweet corn assures good income.

The Hybrid maize/sweet corn cultivation programme is being implemented by the Agriculture Department in Menswar Block and was initiated by OFSDP-II in convergence mode with an objective to supplement the income of poor. Hybrid maize mini kits were distributed to 18 numbers of beneficiaries belonging to five VSSs of Dhama FMU who had shown interest in hybrid maize cultivation and were enrolled in the programme.

One among the 18 beneficiaries of sweet corn cultivation

programme, Shri. Chhabila Bel, a member of Goipura VSS under Dhama FMU is a poor man with three children cultivated sweet corn in half acre area investing around Rs. 2500/- on soil preparation, fertilizer application and other expenses in the month of July. He has harvested around 950 number of sweet corn pods from his half acre land. The price for each sweetcorn pod is Rs. 20/- per piece in the local market. Thus, he sold his produce for around Rs. 19,000/- earning a profit of Rs. 16500/- within in three and half months. The other beneficiaries of the scheme also earned approximately the same profit as in the case of Shri Chhabila Bel.

The cultivation of sweet corn to promote livelihood is a successful sustainable livelihood programme which can be promoted in other VSSs.



*Site selection & seed distribution for Sweet Corn cultivation in Dhama FMU*



*Glimpses of Sweet corn farming in Goinpura VSS*



*SRI Method Paddy cultivation in Rantal VSS*



*Black Rice cultivation in Rantal VSS*

## SUCCESS STORIES FROM JHARSUGUDA

### PROMOTION OF KITCHEN GARDEN- 'MO UPAKARI BAGICHA' UNDER CONVERGENCE

Kitchen gardens can play an important role in providing food to the rural households security by supplementing rations and providing essential nutrients. In order to supplement the income of the local community members and augment vegetable production locally, promotion of household level kitchen garden was initiated under OFSDP-II in different VSSs in Jharsuguda Forest Division. In Belpahar FMU, the project personnel of OFSDP-II coordinated with Horticulture Department and distributed kitchen garden kits among the 50 numbers of beneficiaries. The Agri-

convergence programme is observed to be beneficial not only in this Kumar VSS but the same was implemented in six other VSSs of the Belpahar FMU covering 277 community level beneficiaries. The villagers who availed the kits under Mo Upakari Bagicha cultivated varieties of green vegetable in their own piece of land which provided their day-to-day vegetable requirements to a large extent. Members also sold residual vegetable in bulk in the local market and earned some extra income to meet their domestic expenses.

As many as 277 households were covered in seven VSSs of Belpahar Forest Range in Jharsuguda Forest Division to ensure livelihood support through vegetable production activity in their own backyard. Total amount of Rs 13, 85, 000 convergence work was completed in association with Horticulture Department.

Belpahar FMU project staff coordinated with Block and



District Horticulture officials and provided wire mesh and cement poles to permanently protect the kitchen garden form domestic animal grazing in the vicinity. The wire mesh and cement poles were distributed to 192 members belonging to six VSSs for installation around their kitchen gardens. FMU staffs monitored the installation of wire mesh and cement poles and its subsequent maintenance by the beneficiaries around their garden.



*Community mobilization & seed distribution during Kitchen Garden promotion in Kumar VSS, Jharsuguda DMU*

## PROMOTION OF MUSHROOM CULTIVATION AS VIABLE LIVELIHOOD ALTERNATIVE

Mushrooms can be safely cultivated indoors on household basis as well as for commercial use. Mushrooms grows on biodegradable waste such as wheat on rice straw. Mushroom cultivation is an easy agricultural practice especially for women and a suitable income generating activities, capable of augmenting the household economy. In convergence with Mission Shakti 31 Mushroom sheds were constructed for 31 SHGs in 8 VSSs for enabling mushroom cultivation. The trained SHG members now produce mushroom and sell it in the local market which has increased their source of income and has become a good livelihood option.

During this quarter in Jharsuguda Forest Division under inter-sectoral convergence programme of OFSDP-II, Belpahar Forest Range ensured inclusion of maximum community members in Mushroom cultivation activity. In convergence with Mission Shakti total 310 households were covered from as many as 31 SHGs affiliated to 8 VSS in Belpahar for Mushroom Cultivation. As per the progress of Mushroom cultivation total Rs 3,72,000 amount of works have been undertaken with the support of Mission Shakti in Belpahar Forest Range.

A capacity building programme has been organized under OFSDP-II project to develop skill and knowledge of SHG members on mushroom cultivation. After the completion of the training programme, SHG members started mushroom cultivation with an average investment of Rs. 50,000/- in individual groups. This was inclusive of raw material purchase and labour contribution of all the members. After approximately 22-24 days they sold their first harvest in the local market at a price of Rs. 200/- per kg. They went on to the second phase cultivation and decided to expand their capacity to increase their income level as well.

Under the livelihood component of OFSDP-II, the selected 31 SHGs of these 8 VSSs carried out income generation activities and economic conditions of the members of SHG is expected to be strengthened by adoption of this Mushroom cultivation. Under OFSDP-II it is further planned to support them in market linkage facilities and strengthen their production activity by facilitating bulk sales process. The SHGs have also planned to continue the activity with the support of OFSDP-II as they have gained the farming skills, financial independence and self-sufficiency on mushroom cultivation.



*Mushroom Beds prepared by community members under Belpahar FMU*

## PROMOTION OF AROMATIC RICE CULTIVATION TO AUGMENT INCOME OF COMMUNITY

Under the OFSDP-II livelihood component, Jharsuguda DMU has been promoting augmentation of income generation activities through innovative convergence programmes. In this regard, Belpahar and Kolabira FMUs have taken initiatives for promotion of aromatic rice cultivation in the VSS area with the cooperation of Agriculture Department through convergence mode.

Aromatic rice is one of the major types of rice which is in high demand in the market. It is a medium to long-grained rice. It is also known for its smell and taste, which is caused by the chemical compound present in the grain when cooked. The grains have light and soft quality rice.

A total of 391 numbers of farmers of 29 VSSs have been selected by the OFSDP-II field staff to be included in support programme of Agriculture Department for long grain aromatic rice cultivation. A marginal farmer was offered quality paddy seed assistance and soil preparation support per hectare from the Department. An eligible farmer has received approximately Rs 20,000 per hectare towards the support programme of promotion of aromatic long-grain rice cultivation in Jharsuguda Division.

Initially the members of the VSSs are sensitized through organized campaigns of OFSDP-II and the local officials of Agriculture Department about the need for adopting long-grained rice cultivation for increasing paddy production from very subsistence level to surplus level for market. As this method of cultivation assures high yielding of paddy with basic level of input, many farmers of the project villages were mobilized to adopt this programme in their farm land.

In Kolabira Forest Range 42 marginal farmers of 17 VSS have been assisted under the programme. Similarly, in Belpahar Forest Range, 349 numbers of farmers of 12 VSSs received assistance from Agriculture Department for aromatic rice cultivation. They were assisted with paddy seed material from the Agriculture Department for long-grained aromatic rice cultivation in their own land. In Kolabira Range an amount of Rs1,68,000 assistance received by the VSS members and in Belpahar Range an amount of Rs 81,00,000 assistance received by the VSS members. Under inter-sectoral convergence work a total of Rs.82,68,000 assistances was availed to the VSS members for promotion of aromatic long grain rice cultivation activity.



*Promotion of Aromatic Rice cultivation in Kolabira FMU*

## AGRICULTURE ASSISTANCE PROGRAMME IN CONVERGENCE MODE

### Potato Seed Distribution:

The staff members of Kolabira and Bagdihi FMUs sensitized and mobilized members of various VSSs under their FMUs to opt for cultivating potato crop in their own land. In coordination with Horticulture Department, potato seeds were distributed among 102 farmers belonging 22 VSSs. In Kolabira Range, 71 farmers of 19 SHGs under 15 VSSs of OFSDP-II were assisted under this programme. In Bagdihi Forest Range a total of 31 farmers were included in the support programme of promotion of Potato cultivation belonging to 7 SHGs of 7 VSS under OFSDP-II.



*Potato seed distribution among VSS members in Kolabira FMU*

## DISTRIBUTION OF SEEDLINGS OF THE FRUIT BEARING TREE SPECIES

In Jharsuguda Forest Division, 3500 number of fruit bearing tree seedlings were distributed by Forest Department among the 350 VSS members in FMU Bagdihi. The farmers were motivated to plant these seedlings in their own home land as a measure to promote better livelihood support under OMBADC.



*Seed distribution programme in Bagdihi FMU*

In Kolabira FMU staff sensitized and motivated the VSS members for planting fruit bearing trees in their home land. Coordinating with an NGO, named Ekalya Gramya Utthan, the FMU distributed 2050 numbers of seedlings of fruit bearing trees among 205 VSS members for planting in their own home land for getting better livelihood support.



## TRELLIS SYSTEM VEGETABLE CULTIVATION

The Trellis system farming is an easy method to grow plants and receive maximum solar energy for growth. At the time of harvesting, it is easy to pluck the vegetable from the plant. Under this programme in convergence with local Horticulture Department officials, 8 VSSs are identified from FMU Kolabira and Bagdihi to adopt this method on pilot basis.

In addition to the creeper vegetables growing on trellis, the farmers can use the land under the hanging trellis to grow other crops.

Total of 12 VSS members from 8 project VSSs were selected

for this programme. They were sensitized and trained for promotion of Trellis system of vegetable cultivation. They were also offered vegetable seeds along with cash subsidy for cultivation in Trellis system.

In coordination with Horticulture Department 12 beneficiaries implemented the Trellis system of vegetable Cultivation for better profit and as an incentive, they got subsidy from Horticulture Department. VSS members of Bagdihi received assistance to the tune of Rs 1,39,425 and one VSS selected under this programme in Kolabira FMU received Rs 13, 675 amount of assistance under convergence programme.



*Training on vegetable cultivation & seed distribution under Kolabira & Bagdihi FMU*



## EXCAVATION OF FARM POND

In order to support the farmers during water scarcity and dry spell during Kharif season farm pond has been dug out under MGNREGS. This was initiated in several VSSs covered under OFSDP-II as part of inter-sectoral convergence with Soil Conservation & Watershed Development Department in Belpahar FMU of Jharsuguda Forest Division.

The main objectives of farm pond programme are

- To create water storage facility during rainy season with minimum investment and provide life- saving irrigation in the event of erratic rain fall during Kharif
- To undertake Integrated Farming System for sustainable agriculture with additional income generation to farm families and making them self-reliant
- To ensure income generation and employment creation for unskilled labourers as per mandate of MGNREGS



Convergence programme under MGNREGS in Kolabira FMU

During last quarter, under OFSDP-II convergence initiative, three farm ponds have been excavated in Banki, Nuagaon and Pakelkhol VSS. Total of Rs 4,79,000 was mobilized through convergence with MGNREGS programme for excavating three ponds creating man days 159 households in three VSS.

Farm Forestry as Livelihood Initiative under Agri-Convergence Programme:

The Farm forestry aims at improving the trees outside the forest area. It also contributes to the improvement of livelihood of the VSS members. The VSS members are encouraged for tree plantation and tree based farming systems in their private land. A total of 180372 numbers of seedlings have been planted in Batch II & III VSS areas out of which, 95431 seedlings are Forest species ,57558 seedlings are horticulture species and 27383 seedlings are eucalyptus. Out of 56 VSSs in Bagdihi and Kolabira FMUs of Jharsuguda DNU, 46 VSSs have been covered under Farm Forestry plantation.



## FARM FORESTRY AS LIVELIHOOD INITIATIVE UNDER AGRI-CONVERGENCE PROGRAMME

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### Numbers of species planted under Farm Forestry in Batch II & III

Name of the FMU	Forest Species	Horticulture Species	Eucalyptus	Total no. of seedlings planted
Kolabira	76840	25059	16186	118085
Bagdihi	18591	32499	11197	62287
<b>Total</b>	<b>95431</b>	<b>57558</b>	<b>27383</b>	<b>180372</b>

Farm Forestry Plantation activities were also under taken in 15 VSSs of Belpahar Range of Lakhanpur Block covering 103.2 ha. of private land comprising 250 number of beneficiaries during the FY 2020-21 under OFSDP-II. In this project 50,400 plants have been planted through different models of farm forestry plantation i.e. timber species plantation, horti-NFTP plantation etc. In first phase out of 15 VSS villages, 8 VSS villages included under Agri-convergence project funded by DMU Jharsuguda and in second phase 4 VSS villages were newly added under farm forestry activities under OFSDP-II. In first phase 18000 gabion were provided to 129 farmers covering 8 VSS villages and in second phase 1880 gabion were provided to 23 farmers covering 3 VSSs.



*Farm forestry plantation activity taken up in Kolabira FMU*

During the second quarter of FY 2020-21, the project staff verified and reported that the casualty was 14,017 out of 52,280 numbers of seedling planted in 18 VSS Villages. Out of this, 7,828 were of forest species & 6,189 were of horticulture species. 7828 numbers of forest species seedlings have been planted against casualty replacement by Forest Department. Rest 6189 numbers of horticulture species (mango) have been planted against casualty replacement under Agri-Convergence Project.

Similarly, during this quarter 3320 numbers of seedlings have been planted and 3320 numbers of gabions were provided to the farmers of Kumar VSS to protect the tree under Agri-Convergence Project.



## COORDINATION WITH AGRICULTURE DEPARTMENT FOR AUGMENTATION OF INCOME GENERATION ACTIVITIES

### Promotion of Lemon Grass Cultivation:

“Lemon Grass Cultivation” is an alternative source of livelihood and the same has been promoted to farmers of VSS in Belpahar FMU. After the convergence plan was discussed in BLAC and DAC meetings of OFSDP-II, 20 farmers of two VSSs of this Forest Range have been included by Horticulture Department for convergence support. The farmers were mobilized for Lemon Grass cultivation in their uncultivated land. Subsidy

programmes were offered to the farmers through MGNREGS programme and 20 farmers were assisted to the tune of Rs39,60,000/- under this convergence activity.

### Lemon Tree Plantation:

Lemon cultivation is cash profit farming. In this context FMU staff coordinated with Horticulture Department and 80 numbers of lemon seedlings were distributed to one farmer for lemon cultivation in Pokharasalhe VSS under Kolabira FMU.



*Lemon grass cultivation programme initiated in Belpahar FMU*



## SUCCESS STORIES FROM SUNDERGARH

### FROM DAY LABORER TO A SUCCESSFUL FARMER: TRANSFORMATION OF A TRIBAL YOUTH

Just few years ago, he was in search of day labor to meet his family's day-to-day requirements. He mortgaged his land for his sister's marriage. He was struggling for sustenance. But now he is smiling which speaks everything of his struggle, transformation, learning, and happiness. This is the success story of a tribal youth Manoj Oram, a 33-year-old man has now become inspiration to other youth of his village. Manoj stays in Sanpatrapali village of Tangarpali Block under the administrative jurisdiction of Sundargarh District. The entire responsibility of his family fell on his shoulder in the year 2008 when he lost both of his parents. He was the eldest son and his only sister was of marriageable age. He was forced to mortgage his 1-acre land out of 2.5 acres to borrow a loan from his relatives for his sister's marriage. He also has a younger brother. There was less hope of agricultural crop production from his non-fertile land. He had to depend upon the daily labor works for meeting his daily needs. Somehow he de-mortgaged his 1-acre land and started farming in the year 2015.



The Ujalpur FMU of Sundargarh started promoting livelihood-based income generation activities through convergence with line Departments under the OFSDP-II. The VSS Sanpatrapali in the village of Manoj Oram was included as the Batch-I VSS. Many discussions were held in the VSS meetings regarding the livelihood improvement programme. Being an active participant in the VSS meetings, Manoj was interested to get agricultural inputs from the Integrated Tribal Development Agency (ITDA), Horticulture, and Agriculture Departments. He has also participated in capacity-building programmes conducted by many Line Departments. During community mobilization process, the OFSDP-II Staff of Ujalpur FMU and the PNGO Staff always encouraged him for vegetable cultivation. Due to this motivation, Manoj developed his 1.5-acre land and started vegetable cultivation in 2018. Now he is regularly cultivating

vegetables like; Tomato, Brinjal, Ladies Finger, Pumpkin, Long Guard, cowpie, Cabbage, Cauley Flower, Mustard, etc. in appropriate seasons. He has received battery powered sprayer, diesel pump, plastic containers, vegetable seeds, fertilizer, and a deep bore well under convergence from different Departments which was facilitated under OFSDP-II. From the profit earned from vegetable cultivation, he purchased a new motorcycle, supported his younger brother to further study in Diploma Engineering. He has also taken his relative's unused lands and started the production of vegetables. He also planted hybrid banana saplings in one acre of land with support from the Horticulture Department. In the current year, he cultivated and earned Rs.1,10,000/- in just six months by producing 30 quintals of brinjal, 25 quintals of tomatoes, 3 quintals of bitter guard, 8 Quintals of cowpie, and 10 quintals of ladies finger and so on. The seedling input was provided by ITDA, Sundargarh. Looking at the changes in Manoj's life, other youths and neighbors are appreciating and seeking his guidance to follow his foot steps.

An ecstatic Manoj Oram appreciates the extensive support he received from OFSDP-II project platform. He says that he owes his social and financial success to the OFSDP-II project and the programme and interventions of same which mobilized him to enroll in this agri-intensive community based programmes. He adopted this as sustainable income source which promises him net profit from the agricultural production in the ranges of Rs 2 lakh to 2.5 lakh rupees in a year. He terms this "just as miracle." Success of this community based interventions inspired many individuals of adjacent VSSs to look up to OFSDP-II interventions and their social mobilization based convergence programmes.



Manoj Oram with his farm produces & family

## INTERCROPPING IN FARM FORESTRY SITE: A SUCCESSFUL EXPERIENCE IN LAEPRIPARA FMU

The village Mahulpali is 12 km away from the Block Headquarter of Lephripara. The villagers are largely dependent upon agriculture and wage labour as the primary source of income. The VSS formed in Mahulpali Village as first batch VSS under OFSDP-II. During the period of implementation 3.647 hector of land was planted under Farm Forestry following the model B and C, involving 5 number of households.

Sri Om Prakash Patel is an active member of Mahulpali VSS. He is an ITI passed student. His family consists of 5 members and he is the only earning person in his family. He is running a shop in his village which provides him monthly income of around Rs.10,000/-. Also he is a farmer and owned 5 acres of land. Out of these lands, he cultivates in 4 acres and remaining 1 acre is fallow land and lying un-utilized. He also grows vegetables in his garden in different seasons randomly.

During the VSS Executive Committee meeting called for choosing the beneficiaries for Farm Forestry, Om Prakash was selected as one of the beneficiaries because of his constant dedication towards farming. Om Prakash chose model B because in his fallow land as there is inadequate facility for water supply and boundary arrangement. He preferred to plant Acacia species in 0.291 ha land and accordingly intimated to the VSS. He planted total of 291 numbers of Acacia seedlings

in his fallow land. Digging and planting work was done by him and financial support was provided by OFSDP-II. During the Kharif season, he started cultivating til/sesame, 3 kg mustard in Farm Forestry land as intercropping utilizing the presence of soil moisture. He harvested the til/sesame after 2 months.

Om Prakash was happy to see that his fallow land has become productive for growing trees and intercropping which was unimaginable a year back. He appreciates the guidance and support offered by OFSDP-II project through its timely intervention in successfully converting the fallow waste land into a productive farm land and a good source of family income.



*Farm forestry in Laepripara FMU*

## CAPACITY BUILDING INITIATIVES AUGMENTS FINANCIAL PROGRESS, A CASE STUDY OF UJJALPUR FMU

'Tireless efforts on the part of any individual leads even ordinary work to a success, yielding great benefits.' This is the firm belief of Nirakar Naik of Jhurimal Van Suraksha Samiti (VSS) of Ujalpur FMU. However, he also realizes, the success in any work also depends on the extent of skill possessed to carry out the work efficiently. Previously, Nirakar was not sure about the future of his farming because he did not possess sufficient skill required for adopting improved techniques in agriculture. He tried many a time to implement the improved farming methods, but could not be successful due lack of technical knowledge and proper skill to adopt those methods. The reason behind his failures were lack of proper communication, planning, coordination, and improper implementation.

The efforts of Nirakar Naik was noticed and discussed during the VSS meetings when he was sharing his failure stories with others. Based on the discussions with different departments in the BLAC Meetings, many convergence programs were planned and implemented in the Jhurimal VSS including the

capacity building programs. A ten-day long training program under Pradhan Mantri Koushal Bikash Yojana (PMKVY) Scheme was organized with the support from "Gram Tarang" in the VSS. Taking part in this programme, Nirakar attentively joined the training programme and was motivated to start afresh on his own. He immediately started ginger and turmeric



*Community orientation on vegetable production*

cultivation in 2-acres of land with his own initiative. At the end of the season, after harvesting and selling his produce in the nearby market, he earned Rs. 50,000/- as profit as the result of the first effort. After the continuous facilitation of OFSDP-II interventions, he further received ragi, green gram seed, vegetable seeds and battery powered sprayer from different convergence programmes. Hand holding support from VSS, FMU and PNGO staff was timely provided to him by field functionaries of the OFSDP-II project. While continuing

the ginger and turmeric cultivation, he also started producing vegetables like potato, mustard, tomato, onion, pumpkin and cowpea in the kharif & rabi seasons in his three-acres of land. He got benefit of Rs 2,50,000/- annually and from vegetable farming he gets an average income of Rs 50,000/- per year from just 30 decimal land. The individual success stories like that of Niarakar's are inspiring to other forest fringe dwellers who are looking to sustain their income with collective support facilities from projects like OFSDP-II.

## COLLECTIVE EFFORT OF COMMUNITY GROUP: SUCCESS STORY OF SELF-MADE SHG MEMBERS

The effort of Maa Tarini Self Help Group of Dhudinuagaon VSS of Dhudinuagaon GP under Balisankara Block in Sundergarh is a promising story of hard work and resilient efforts of community members. Although there are many SHGs existing in the village, Maa Tarini SHG is unique and its activities are noticeable. Strong motivation of the community members and collective efforts have given a new impetus to their development. The spirit of mutual cooperation has given them a unique identity at group level.

Under the livelihood component of Odisha Forestry Sector Development Project, Phase-II, the group was supported to adopt a new activity to augment their daily income level. After the training and mobilization support of the project officials, the group launched chick farming with the technical support from Veterinary Department under the supervision of Mission Shakti, Odisha Livelihood Mission and OFSDP-II team. They also invested Rs. 20,000 from their own savings in the total project cost of Rs 50,000/- initially.

In rural set up, lack of proper maintenance, supervision and market unavailability interrupt any product activity. Maa Traini SHG was also faced with similar challenges. Sale of eggs and meat was a problem at one time and the group members were losing their confidence initially. But, regular supervision and guidance from OFSDP-II field team gave them some ideas to generate business from new market areas. They approached the Government institutions in their locality and around their region to support their activity. They were able to create a market and by this they gradually eliminated the egg selling slump. They were able to repay their loan regularly and expand their business. In the last financial year they earned a profit of Rs.45,000/-. Now they are self-sufficient to maintain and supervise their business. Maa Tarini SHG has been able to inspire self-confidence in many other SHGs.



Community members of Maa Tarini SHG working on poultry activity

## PHOTO GALLERY



*DLT in JFM mode at Gaikanpali VSS, Sundargarh*



*DLT Work in Non-JFM Mode, Rasrajpur VSS, Sundargarh VSS*



*DLT renovation in JFM mode at Lariapalli VSS, Jharsuguda DMU*



*ANR PLantation in Chandinimal VSS, Jharsuguda DMU*



*Staggered Trench at Chandinimal VSS, Jharsuguda DMU*



*Weeding and Mairing at Plantation site at Thuropali VSS, Sambalpur DMU*



FF Plantation in Budakata VSS, Sundargarh DMU



FF Plantation in Gbantibud VSS, Sundargarh DMU



Patato Seed Distribution in Baragaon VSS, Sundargarh DMU



Plantation site in Menkapada VSS, Sambalpur DMU



Latitude: 21.689773  
Longitude: 84.143019  
Elevation: 250.2±20 m  
Accuracy: 1800.0 m  
Date: 08-10-2021 08:36  
Location: Basupali VSS, Sambalpur DMU

FF Plantation in Basupali VSS, Sambalpur DMU



Latitude: 21.321222  
Longitude: 84.260269  
Elevation: 300.53±4 m  
Accuracy: 2.7 m  
Date: 13-11-2021 13:49  
Location: Tamparsingha, Rameswar Bhoi

Black Rice promoted in Tamparsingha VSS, Sambalpur DMU



Vegetable Production in convergence Work, Rangidhipa VSS, Sundargarh DMU



VSS Building cum IGA Centre Mangalpur VSS, Sambalpur DMU



VSS Building-cum-IGA Centre at Chandinimal VSS, Jharsuguda DMU



VSS Building-cum-IGA Centre at Mahulmunda VSS, Jharsuguda DMU



VSS building -cum-IGA Centre, Kirabandha VSS, Sambalpur DMU



VSS building -cum-IGA Centre, Khagasader VSS, Sambalpur DMU

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