



OFSDP

Orissa Forestry Sector Development Project

Newsletter

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From PD's Desk

It is a significant moment for all of us as the project has reached the half way mark. In between, we have experienced successes, faced challenges, in some areas faced bottlenecks which we learnt to overcome. Our continuous effort has been and is to put up the best foot forward in all our initiatives.

With activities in the full swing, I take this opportunity to share that in every project DMU the plantation of different species is going on and in every DMU we have ensured convergence at various levels. The nodal officers from the PMU are constantly keeping a track of the progress of their respective DMUs. The third party verification report is being scrutinised as well.

Training and sensitisation programmes are being organised as per the schedule. Our emphasis is on proper documentation for future reference.

Our journey to preserve and expand greeneries and providing decent livelihood opportunities to the inhabitants in the rural loop continues....

Arun K. Bansal

Promoting 'HUMUS BUILDING'

OFSDP is promoting 'Humus Building' which is an organic way of growing crops. This is to lessen the risks of consuming rice, wheat and vegetables grown by using pesticide and insecticide. OFSDP initiated the process by organising circle level training on 'Humus Building' from 8th to 11th June '09 at Rayagada, Berhampur, Angul and Keonjhar divisions.

About 120 participants, comprising of Member Secretaries, FEOs, Team Leaders and Farmers attended the training. Mr. V. K. Mohan, IFS, CCF, Nasik, Maharashtra was the resource person. The training adopted a mixture of practical and theoretical methodologies. The objectives of the training were to improve the

soil health and fertility and to encourage the use of organic humus in Forestry and Agriculture; to create an alternative option of livelihood by taking humus building as an enterprise; to promote sustainable development of land and use of humus in the Decentralised Nursery (DCN) as planting medium and to develop Model Agro-forestry Farm.

The participants with an enhanced knowledge expressed their willingness to replicate the humus building in the DCN and promote 'humus building,' as an activity for alternative livelihoods. The hope and expectation of OFSDP to promote organically grown crops that minimises the health hazards is on its way to success....



Humus Building Training at Rayagada



Humus Building Training at Angul

Training on "Need Based Soil & Moisture Conservation Measures"

A five day training on 'Soil & Moisture Conservation' was organised by Orissa Professional Development Service Consultancy at Rayagada. The training session dealt with different aspects such as basics of Natural Resource Management & soil water conservation, principles for managing the local resources, soil erosion and erosion control measures, drainage line treatment, soil volume calculation and check measurement. During the session the cadastral map reading, different methods of land treatment and suitable time of execution



Soil conservation process

in the field were explained in a simplified manner to the participants. Around 28 participants, comprising of Range Officers, FEOs, and Member Secretaries from 11 project divisions participated in the training.

Independent Third Party Verification

Independent Third Party Verification of the assets created under the project at PMU, DMU, FMUs and one VSS in each FMU was carried out by the two selected organisations namely, Society Of Retired Forest Officers and ICONCEPT. Field verification is complete. The draft report is received from the contracted firms and is under direct scrutiny at PMU level.

In the meanwhile, findings with regard to survival percentage of plantation interventions have been sent to DFO-cum-DMU chiefs for immediate action for casualty replacement and ascertaining the regions.

Gramshree Mela at Puri

A new exposure for SHGs.....

Santoshi Maa and Kanan SHGs of Kathergada VSS participated in Puri Gramshree Mela and sold collectively product worth Rs. 47025/-. Within 10 days of sale they got net profit Rs. 7986/- excluding logistic expenses. Formed in the year 2006 and 2002 Santoshi Maa and Kanan respectively, these SHGs were ignorant of internal lending, micro enterprise and income generating activities.



The motivation of ARYAN (NGO partner) coupled with availability of local resources resulted in convergence with District Sales and Marketing Society, Koraput and paved way for them to attend Puri

Second General Body Meeting



Second General Body meeting of Orissa Forestry Sector Development Society was held on 30th April 2009 at Secretariat, Bhubaneswar. Bio-diversity Conservation, emphasis to be given on availability of drinking water through repair and renovation of tube/dug wells under EPA, MART study on Livelihood opportunity Analysis and Plantation were few points of discussions. The annual report of the society for the year-2007-08 was adopted after thorough discussion and two posters titled "Rooting Sustainability" and "Laying Foundation of Convergence" were inaugurated in the meeting. It was decided that these posters will be published in Oriya also.

The meeting was chaired by Shri Ajit K. Tripathy, IAS, Chief Secretary and Chairperson High Power Committee. Shri S.P. Nanda IAS, Agriculture Production Commissioner, Chairperson Governing Body was present in the meeting. All members of High Power Committee and Governing Body were present at the meeting. Member Secretary and Project Director & CEO, OFSDS Shri A.K. Bansal IFS, and other officers from PMU attended the meeting from project side along with all project DFOs-cum-DMU Chiefs.



Gramshree Mela. They planned to utilise the profit in agriculture. Now they have gained confidence of marketing of their local product with better price and interested to take part in the forthcoming Gramshree Mela organised by ORMAS.

Kailashpur: Changing for better

Nestled in the hills of Rayagada district, Kailashpur is a small village comprising 121 households. It's a Gram Panchayat headquarter, around 15 km from the block headquarter, Kolnara. It is primarily a home to the 'Kondha' tribe who depend mostly on forest produce, animal husbandry and shifting cultivation.



Children of Kailashpur studying at the VSS building

In 2006-07, OFSDP project was launched in Rayagada district and in the first batch Kailashpur was selected as one of the JFM sites in Rayagada FMU. VSS office building was constructed under the project.

Villagers planned to use the building as a study centre. In August'08, VSS decided to start a literacy programme for women and children through a village volunteer. Village children come to study post 5 pm and on Saturdays and Sundays from 10 am. The women have flexible learning schedule. Most of them are members of SHGs. Apart from educational activity, the building is also utilised for SHG meets, palli sabha, gram sabhas and serves as village information centre and site for village functions.



Neelakantheswar SHG meeting at VSS building

Impact through EPA

Empowerment of SHG

Karada is a tribal village in Gunupur FMU of Rayagada DMU. The villagers rely on Podu cultivation for livelihood and depend on traditional methods. In the year 2006-07 this village was covered under OFSDP. Under the EPA one tube well was established to address the drinking water problem in the village. A VSS office was also built in the village Samaja Kalyan Mahila Sanchay Samiti, women SHG was formed and with the encouragement of VSS started NTFP business. It financed Rs. 20000/- to purchase tamarind. Despite innumerable problems posed by middlemen, the SHGs continued their business and made a profit of Rs. 7000/-. The women are more confident now...

Trotting long distances avoided

Sikabadi VSS of Gunupur FMU, Ramnaguda Block of Rayagada district comprises of 100 scheduled tribe households depending upon paddy cultivation. For milling rice they were facing lot of problem as they had to go to Ramnaguda, 18 km away from the village. Under EPA a rice- holler was installed in the village and is being maintained by the VSS. Initially VSS provided support to meet fuel expenses but gradually it has become self-reliant and has earned a profit of Rs. 4,500/- which was deposited as Village Forest Development Fund in the VSS account.



SHG expanding business

Aswarani SHG of Bandhakaranja VSS of K.Singpur FMU in K.Singpur Block of Rayagada district started tamarind business and earned a profit of Rs. 1174/-. Being quite motivated they initiated collective marketing of Black Gram and earned a profit of Rs. 1642/-.



Their VSS building is being used for vaccination, revenue collection, non-formal education, collection of forms like old age pension, land mutation, SC/ST certificate etc. and meetings of the SHG.

Water crisis resolved

Under EPA activities one gravitational water supply tank was constructed at Kadomchora VSS of Kashipur FMU of Kashipur Block under Rayagada district in first batch. The villagers are happy with this drinking water facility. It is also used for kitchen garden. During the season Sri Korada Majhi and five others cultivated Tomato, Potato, Brinjal, Chilli, Tobacco, Maize, Beans etc and supplemented their earnings. This has encouraged other villagers to initiate kitchen gardens.



Contributed by – Ashok Ku. Panda, FLE, Rayagada



Convergence Lifeline

OFSDP's aim is to reach out to the extremes and serve the poorest. "Lifeline Express" helped explore and serve the anonymous and serve the suffering humanity. The express reached Koraput on March 12, 2009, and stayed put for a month. The focus was on 'grahana khandia' (clip lips), polio, cataract flaws and major ear operations. Doctors from Orissa medical colleges as well as other states attended to the villagers. All facilities – well-equipped operation theatres, check-up rooms, meeting halls, classrooms – were provided. Post-operation, patients were shifted to district headquarter hospital for follow-up care. Eighty beds were booked for the purpose. The service was organised by Rajiv Gandhi Foundation (in coordination with the Central Government) and supported by *IMPACT INDIA* and *MAITRI* NGO.

HELP, an OFSDP partner NGO responsible for Balda FMU, took interest in it and became a member of local NGO team for this work. Main role of *HELP* was to identify above disease cases at village level and to make aware villagers and particular patients and his/her family to take the benefit of this service. Secondly, it was the



Geetanjali Arlap of Balda village- before and after receiving the grahana khandia operation

responsibility of the NGO to guide the patient starting from admission for health check up- operation (if required)—Post operation follow up- and leaving the patient in his/her house. In this process apart from patients from OFSDP villages (particularly from Balda FMU field) six persons from other villages were benefited.

Sahadev Khara, Mashia Khila, Geetanjali Arlap, Phulsari Pangi, Kamalalochana Sisam underwent operation for correction of cleft lip and Sundararai Khila underwent eye operation.

Atish Ku. Behera, DFO-cum-DMU chief, Koraput



First Step Towards Improvement of Livelihood Standard Through Convergence Approach-Koraput DMU

A one-day workshop on "improvement of livelihood standard through convergence" was organised in Balda FMU building on 21st April'09. Around 100 state, district and block level officials from OFSDP, NRHM, DWSM, ICDS, OFSDP and partner NGOs along with front line workers such as AWWs, ASHAs, SEMs and animators (NGOs) participated in this workshop. This follow up activities were taken after the initial meeting held by the District Coordinator, Project Director with NRHM and Officers of DSWM and the DFOs during his last circle visit.

Workshop adopted a participatory methodology by making the frontline workers develop and present social maps of their respective village. Telephone numbers of different offices/ departments were provided to all participants in this workshop through an Oriya leaflet. Participants discussed about the issues like lack of coordination between villagers and SEM for maintenance and tube well repairing, undue demands of villagers for equal distribution of SNP food to all villagers; lack of motivation for institutional delivery and immunisation programme amongst the community that constrains the

implementation of various schemes and chalk out plans to address the issues.

Proposed solution

- Discussion between animator and frontline workers on their respective field problems
- Village level cooperation to the frontline workers by concerned VSS president
- Use of VSS building as immunisation center and permanent / temporary display of immunisation chart (If there is no AWC)
- Co-operation of villagers to help SEM in handling his equipment
- Emphasis on the poor to benefit from the GKS fund
- Discussion by PR members in block level meeting for improvement
- GP level meetings for VSS president and animators
- Initiative by VSS presidents to construct individual latrines with cooperation of DWSM
- Advance information by BPOs to VSS president and animators for planning health activities.

ANR – 1, 38000 Hectares

Block Plantation-39650 Hectares

AR-19000 Hectares

Coastal Plantation – 2810 Hectares



Convergence Leads to Community Development



Kendughati is one of the remote village, 70km from Kucheita Gram Panchayat of Gurundia CD block in Rourkela Forest Division. This village consists of 115

households with a population of 368 numbers. As it is remote, not much development has taken place.

During heavy rain, soil erosion is too high and causes siltation leading to less cultivable land. Cultivation is fully traditional and purely depends on monsoon. So they used to sell forest products such as: fire wood, mahua, sal seeds, Siali leaf etc., in near by market and some are working as daily wage labourer to supplement their incomes.

In 2007, OFSDP activities started in the village with formation of VSS. Through the VSS several works like Decentralised Nursery, Silviculture operations, Pitting, Plantation and SMC work have been done by the active participation of the villagers. From EPA fund three dug wells were renovated and one

solar light has been provided to the villagers.

Soil conservation department, Lahunipara was informed about the soil erosion. Bhumi Panchayat has been formed consisting of 10 members by soil conservation department. Through the soil conservation department one water harvesting structure, one earthen check dam, pond renovation, 3 nos. of gully control measurement, 5 nos. of LBS and 3 nos. of brush wood check dam have been constructed in the village.

Around Rs. 1, 00,087/- has been spent for the soil conservation work till date and work is under progress. With the initiation of OFSDP, a road between Kendughatti and Kucheita Gram Panchayat HQ, has been laid during 2007-08 with National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme fund over a length of 3 Km at the cost of Rs. 2 lakhs. This has made the people to connect to the rest of the world through out the year.

This combined effort resulted in about 25 acres of land fully getting irrigated and 15 families of Sarnacocha and Ganjutola could cultivate Rabi crop. This has increased the villagers' confidence which is encouraging the project team to proceed further.....

Dr. K. Murugesan, DFO-cum-DMU Chief, Rourkela

Convergence of OFSDP with Various Departments

1. Consulted Rural Water Supply Society and DWSM for digging of bore well, implementation of Swajaladhara and construction of bathroom. The list of interested villages submitted to the Executive Engineer, RWSS.
2. Consulted Panchayats/PHCs for Health camps and suggested organising camp in January. Rogi Kalyan Samiti work started at Tentulipadar.
3. Consulted Soil Conservation Department on the schemes of Watershed and JIBIKA and submitted list of the poor families in each village.
4. A discussion was held with DPC-SSA for Education centre at Maudiguda, P. colony and Tentulipadar and a list of villages, dropout/non school going children has been submitted through respective SIs.
5. Construction of drains and renovation of ponds has been finalised by Civil Supply Department.
6. Consulted Southco, Collectorate development section and Block and JFM sites submitted for utilisation of Biju Gram Udyoga Yojana. In Maudiguda survey work for electrification already started.

Relief from a painful drudgery

A tribal village named "Gutuma" under Luhagudi G.P of Mohana block in the district of Gajapati was facing acute water scarcity since long. Women folk used to walk 2 kms. in hilly terrain to fetch water for drinking and other domestic chores. OFSDP planned a gravity flow system from a perennial stream called Gumi nallah for water supply. When grounded in last week of March, 2009 providing continuous water supply through tap in the village itself, the beaming women profusely thanked OFSDP saying "We have been relieved from a painful drudgery".

J.S. Mohanty, DFO-cum-DMU Chief, Paralakhemundi



Misinformation led to fear – A challenge OFSDP met and resolved



Spreading fear in minds

Jharbeda is a remote village in the Kuarmunda Range comprising 163 households. Project work started in 2007 and plantation and other activities were taken up

with immediate effect. Miscreants provoked the villagers by informing them that their forest will be taken by the foreign funding agency. After that villagers who were protecting forest for last three decades stopped protecting the forest and on top of it are sending their cattle for grazing in plantation site. The reasons for unwillingness in the project were detected after discussion with the villagers by the staffs and NGO team.

Challenge met

The forester and NGO team tried their best to motivate the villagers to bring them on right track. Regular interaction led to gaining confidence back on the project. Now the VSS members are actively participating in the meetings and protecting forests against grazing as well.



Women's participation has increased substantially and they are playing the lead role in decision making. Villagers contribute 10 Kg paddy per house hold per year for guarding the forests.

Setting a new trend - Chutiabila VSS



Chutiabila VSS of Kuarmunda FMU, Rourkela stands out for its unbiased action which is manifested in mass watering of desiccated plants.

Despite scanty rainfall, residual process of soil moisture coupled with SMC measures nourished 90% of plants in the dry spell which is rare in such bouldery tract of south-western part of the JFM area.

Jirga Ekka, VSS president along with Ramesh Ekka, the nursery grower observed the young tender leaves of planted crop. After consulting with Sri Sanjiv Singh Deo, the local youth leader they engaged a water tanker having the capacity of carrying 15,000 litres. Around 250 VSS members participated in watering the plants and protected the JFM area from grazing and fire. This action will motivate other VSSs to follow their footsteps.

Nalini Kanta Behera
FMU Chief-cum-R.O., Kuarmunda

Livelihood pivotals - Koliponga VSS



EPA's intervention engineered a sea change in livelihoods of Koliponga VSS. Earlier in paddy cultivation the total output is around 20 Qtl by the village with average production of 10 Qtl of paddy per Acre.

But with water facility through diversion weir under EPA, 3 Qtl per acre increased and addition to this 5 acre up-land also cultivated with same quantity production. In the process villagers gained 125 Qtl paddy worth Rs 2, 05,000/-.

Apart from paddy, they also grew vegetables like Brinjal, Tomato, Bhaji Saga, Sunflower, Cauliflower, Onion etc. and engaged in brick making for their own house repair & construction. In 63 days they made 1, 05,000 nos of bricks and benefited Rs 62,195/-.



APC Shri S.P. Nanda was interacting with villagers during his circle visit.

FLE, Rayagada

OFSDP's Tryst With World Environment Day

OFSDP observed the World Environment Day on June 5 with a deliberation on "Fluvio-Marine process along Orissa coast" in Bhubaneswar, along with a meeting of the Forestry Advisor Group (FAG). Dr. B.M. Faruque, Director, Geological Survey of INDIA (Retd) highlighted the geological status, erosion and accretion along the coast through the lens of non-accretionary tracts, growth stages of delta (Subarnarekha and Mahanadi), coastal processes and beach erosion, geophysical signatures and physiography of the continental shelf.

He said in the last few decades there has been tremendous pressure on the coastal zone for the development of fisheries, aquaculture, ports, harbors, and urban settlements that brought in environmental changes. He talked about the Sonapurpeta-Puri (particularly 2 km off the coast), having a rather narrow shelf, about 50 km wide, and Paradip -Subarnarekha coast continental shelf being bestowed with estuaries.

Dr. Faruque also raised concerns on the increasing sea level owing to global warming and the role of mangroves



and coastal plantations in mitigating the adverse impact of high-energy sea waves. Shri Siddhant Das, IFS, Regional CCF, Bhubaneswar, and Member Secretary, State Pollution Control Board opined presentations and discussions like this are needed at higher forums to impress upon the policy makers dealing with disaster management. Shri Arun K. Bansal, IFS, Project Director said the State Pollution Control Board will be the right forum to organise a workshop for policy and decision makers.

Success Stories - Baliguda

Rekindling Hopes with Solar Lights

Rangaparu VSS of Belghar FMU is one of the most interior villages, inhabited by the Kutia Kandhas. There was no electricity in the village. Two Tata Solar home lighting systems were installed in the middle of the village by the Project through EPA, at a cost of about Rs.40000/-. Thanks to the EPA, villagers are now able to organise their social functions and village level meetings in the evening after completing day's works.



Solar Home Lighting Systems in the Rangaparu VSS of Belghar FMU

Smiles on faces of womenfolk

During the preparation of EPA matrix in Baliguda, priority identified was to provide bathing enclosures for women in some of the VSSs. In both the first and second batch sites, six VSSs have constructed bathing enclosures. This brought smiles on faces of women who now are able to take bath in privacy. Through this small step the Project won the hearts of the women folk.



Bathing enclosure for Women

Ramesh Chandra Sethy, DFO-cum-DMU Chief, Balliguda



FAQs from the VSS members

Q.1 Will the Government cut and take away the plantations it is raising in the VSS area after they mature?

Such plantation and other silviculture operation for restoration will be carried out by VSS with the assistance from Forest Department. These plantations should be protected and nurtured by the respective VSSs. The VSS is entitled to 100% of the intermediate harvests. In case of the final harvest the VSS will be entitled to 50% share of the sale price after deduction of harvesting cost.

Q.2 How will the VSS benefit us?

If VSS is able to protect and regenerate the assigned forest, VSS members are entitled for the following benefits as per JFM Resolution, 2008:

- a. 100 % of the Intermediate harvest of firewood, poles and small timber and Collection of NTFP items from the assigned forest area free of cost,

including fodder, grass, fallen leaves, brush wood, broom grass, fencing material, wind fallen logs and tops, material for agriculture implements and repair of thatched house for their bonafide use and tubers, fruits, leaves etc. for domestic consumption.

- b. 50% of final harvest after deduction of Proportionate harvesting cost.

Q.3 If illicit removal of trees takes place in our VSS area what should the VSS do? What help can we expect from the Forest Department?

It is the duty of the VSS to protect assigned forest area and prevent illicit felling, poaching, grazing and in fire etc. In case a forest offence, the VSS should render all possible help to catch the offenders and hand them over to the nearby forest officials to take action. The VSS shall be entitled to the prescribed percentage of the sale price of the seized forest produce.

Appointment/Transfer

Sri Ajit Bhartuar, IFS Joint PD at PMU
 Dr. J.P. Singh, IFS, Addl. PD transferred from PMU and joined as Regional CCF, Berhampur but associated with OFSDP.

Publications



This Quarterly Newsletter of the JBIC assisted Orissa Forestry Sector Development Project will provide timely information relating to different project activities for the knowledge of multiple stakeholders.

For any comments/suggestions, Please write to-
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Photo feature



Sale not by volume.....



.....but by weight

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