



OFSDP

Orissa Forestry Sector Development Project

Newsletter

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Special Issue on Exposure Visits to WORLP Sites

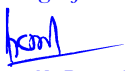
January, 2008

From the desk of Project Director:

The Project aims to promote sustainable forest management and poverty alleviation through creation of alternate livelihood options duly linked with forest conservation. The major activities are to be planned and implemented by the VSSs through preparation of Comprehensive Micro Plans not only for restoration of the degraded forests assigned to the community, but also for overall development of the village. One important sub-objective and approach which the project has adopted for the realization of aforementioned goal is "enhancing capacity of Forest Department, VSSs, SHGs and the community at large".

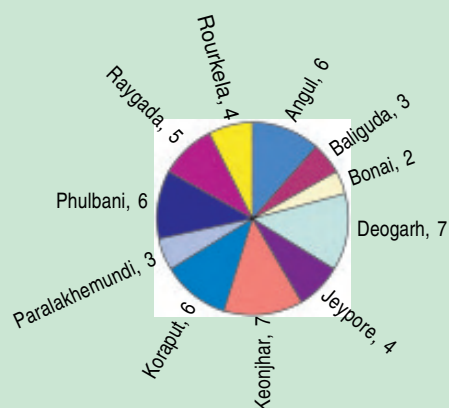
Apart from training programmes for various stakeholders, project lays special emphasis on exposure visits for getting first hand experience and interaction with persons who have undertaken successful interventions elsewhere in the state and outside. During his visit to Bolangir in May 2007, Sri S.P. Nanda, Agriculture Production Commissioner and Vice President, OFSDS was greatly impressed by the results of several initiatives under Western Orissa Rural Livelihood Project (WORLP) and had detailed discussion with me for replication of such initiatives under OFSDP. I also visited two WORLP watersheds in August 2007, and the success of the interventions has been very encouraging, particularly convergence with other schemes, livelihood intervention, processing etc. Following this, visits by forest officials at the cutting edge, VSS representatives, and members of NGO teams were planned to expose them to some sites under WORLP. The overall objective of the exposure visits was to build the capacity of the VSSs and enhancement of their knowledge on various income generating activities particularly alternative livelihood options.

The detailed programme for the visits was very ably planned by the WORLP Project Director Shri G.B. Reddy and his team of officers. The PIAs coordinated the field visits as planned and made all out efforts for sharing their experiences and transferring the learnings. In this issue of the Project Newsletter an attempt has been made to document. On a preliminary analysis of the reports of visits, it is heartening to note that the VSS members have learned a lot, and gathered vast information in the course of visit to various sites and interaction with the beneficiaries, and project officials, exposure visits which would definitely be helpful in bringing success to similar programme under OFSDP, and will be reflected in the Micro Plans and village development plans through forest conservation and livelihood promotion.


Arun K. Bansal



No. of Teams from different DMUs



WORLP: A Profile

The Western Orissa Rural Livelihoods Project (WORLP) is funded by the Department for International Development (DFID) and is implemented in four districts namely, Bolangir, Nuapada, Kalahandi & Bargarh. The project started during the year 2000 and will continue till 2010. The project would cover 290 watersheds spread over 545 villages. WORLP would undertake various watershed based activities and provide special emphasis on improving the livelihood conditions of the poorest in these villages. The project activities includes soil & water conservation, improvement in the cropping systems, plantation programmes, Micro Finance and micro enterprise activities. SHG development and capacity building of primary stake holders. The project has an over all out lay of \$ 32.75 million. The Orissa Watershed Development Mission under the Department of Agriculture manages the project implementation at the State level.

The Purpose

OFSDP planned exposure visits for VSS representatives, OFD officials, and selected members of NGO teams who are directly involved in facilitating the preparation of Micro Plans. The **purpose** of the Exposure Visits are:

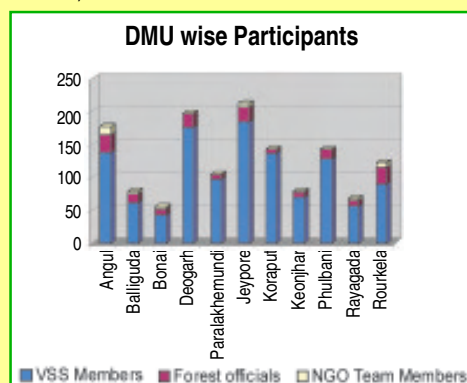
1. To gain first hand information about the WORLP initiatives;
2. To study the Best Practices in the WORLP operational area;
3. To understand the dynamics involved in formation of groups, committees and functioning of the same;
4. To understand the details of the livelihoods improvement strategies, and how they benefit the households, and the communities;
5. To understand the economics of profit-making Income Generating Activities.
6. To carry home ideas/initiatives that are relevant in respective OFSDP intervention areas.

Sequence of events of the Exposure Visits

- Step-I** : Visiting group is briefed on the objectives of the Exposure Visit before the journey
- Step-II** : Visiting Group arrives at the designated Watershed Project Office
- Step-III** : Welcome and introduction of both the parties
- Step-IV** : Briefing on the WORLP Project objectives, implementation strategy and activities in the watershed village by the officer in-charge.
- Step-V** : Reaching the village and settling down at the meeting place for familiarisation with people & activities
- Step-VI** : Visiting the activities and the fields around seeking clarifications.
- Step-VII** : Thanks giving, and the Group departs for their respective places.

Participants Profile

A total of 1381 participants have undertaken the exposure visits to the WORLP. Of these, 85% of the participants are VSS members/leaders from 11 Divisional Management Units (forest divisions), 12% forest officials (FEOs, VFWs, Foresters, Forest Guards) and 3% NGO team members.



Profile of Activities visited

All visiting teams put together got an opportunity to get exposed to almost every activity that WORLP has taken up in the project villages. Each visiting team got the opportunity to spend a full working day in one WORLP target village, witnessed the activities; interacted with the people and got clarified on activities of great interest to them. The WORLP project interventions or activities could be divided into following five broad categories:

1. Natural Resource Management related activities
2. Soil land water conservation activities
3. Community Development related activities
4. Support for Income Generation Activities
5. Revolving Fund to Self Help Groups

Observation by VSS members

Rayagada & Tikri FMU, Rayagada DMU



(Briefing session for Rayagada & Tikri FMU Visitors)

On 2nd Nov.07 the team from Rayagada & Tikri FMU started for Manigoan watershed village. At Manigoan Panchayat Office the team was briefed about WORLP activities undertaken in the said village.

In the beginning the detail activities were briefed. The following programme and assets which has been created under WORLP was shown / explained to the team.

1. Construction of 25 wells & 22 tube wells.
2. Creation of 19 Farm ponds
3. Financial Grant to Group Rs.1.65 lakhs.
4. Financial Grant to poorest Rs.2.55 lakh
5. Under EPA a masonry mandap constructed in the village.

The Purunagarh FMU VSS members visited Ainlapali and Bindanpali Watershed project in Bargarh district. They have learnt about various activities like water harvesting structure, farm pond, fish pond, etc. and under Natural Resources Management compost pit, vaccination, veterinary kit, poultry, goatery, duckery farming, rice processing business, paddy business and collective marketing etc.

Durgapur FMU, Angul DMU

The barren land about 500 Acres in the vicinity of the Uparjhar village (20 km. from Bolangir) has been developed through horticulture farming and a portion of the land was planted with **medicinal plants** by the villagers through watershed project and **maize cultivation** in 108 Acres of land and a pond has been dug out for **pisciculture**. **Vermi compost pit** has been introduced in the village for better fertility of the land.



REMINISCENCES OF UNFORGETTABLE LEARNING EXPERIENCES

Satyajit Dwary

Development Officer, NGO Team, Patna FMU, Keonjhar DMU

Visit to : Radha Krishna Micro Watershed Project, Bolangir District

The journey for the exposure visit to Pipilipalli-Badibahal of Bolangir District started on 13th November 2007 with a traditional send off by DMU Assistant Chief and IFS Probationer and FMU Chiefs. All of us, myself, Sri K.C.Bindhani, FEO, Sri Laxmidhar Mohanta, VSS Members from Ghatgaon, Patna & Telkoi FMUs were very excited. When the bus started moving all of us were charged up to shout hurray amidst a colorful send off. During whole night the bus passed through meandering roads of Kanjipani Ghat, dense forests of Badarama, and through the towns of Sambalpur and Bargarh.



The warm welcome extended to us by Rashmi Ray (LST Member of WORLP) and the villagers of Pipilipalli-Badibahal can not be expressed in words. Both the villages are covered under Radha Krishna Micro Watershed in a cluster approach. Watersheds under WORLP have a special

component for livelihood improvement, like in our project, OFSDP. Under individual scheme the team visited WHS (Water Harvesting Structure) at Pipilipalli with an ayacut area of 5 acres of Rasika Bhoi. The benefits accrued to him by multiple cropping of onion, green chilly and brinjal, made possible by WHS, resulted in significant rise in his income. He purchased another 22 acres of land.

The SHG activity revolves round onion trade. With funds from Watershed Project, the SHG Members have constructed low cost onion storage godown and sale onions at a higher price during off season. The SHGs earn around Rs.14,000/- profit per annum. The mango orchard developed by synergizing inputs from Horticulture Mission with Watershed Mission with pitch irrigation through earthen pots (Mathia Jala Sechana) is an unique experimentation of absorption of new technology by traditional community, generally known to resist advance technology. The beneficiaries expect a net profit of Rs.15,000/- from third year.

The business plan prepared by the community for SHG activities with facilitation from WDT & LST Members should be followed in OFSDP. The team was highly impressed and motivated with Gram Bikash Yojana in Badibahal village. The Community Level Worker (also a SHG Volunteers and equivalent to animators of OFSDP) has been trained under Capacity Building initiatives and has mastered "accounting" and do not rely on PIA in the matter.

While returning I could feel the sign of accomplishment on the face of all the participants who feel privileged to visit such a village where holistic developmental initiatives with active involvement of community has brought in a paradigm shift in livelihood support. In my earlier exposure in previous assignments NGO Sector spreading over a decade I have not witnessed such institutionalized success and all of us vowed, not only to replicate but also to surpass and flaunt our activities so that after a couple of years others will make a beeline to our project areas as we had been to Pipilipalli-Badibahal.

B. N. Pradhan, FEO, Angul DMU

Visit to : Watershed Project Ainlapali and Bindanpali, Bargarh, District

Our team started journey to the designated Watershed Project village Ainapali & Bindhanpali of Baragarh District on 28th October 2007. We reached Sohela in the early morning after a 12 hour journey. After refreshing, the team moved towards the office of the Project Implementing Agency (PIA) where we were given very warm welcome by the project personnel. Mr. S. Lenka, District Nodal officer briefed us on the basic concept of the Project - to promote the livelihood of the villagers as well as improvement of water table.

After this, we visited Maa Kantagosein Watershed at Ainapali and Bindhanpali. Through a transact walk, we visited water harvesting structure, pond with bathing ghat, nursery, fish pond, farm pond (individual & Series), common compost pit, poultry farm, gotery farm, village canteen, linkage road to village from pond and School, wall painting for public awareness and transparency. In farm pond scheme different size of farm pond excavated at the lower side of the crop field according to the size of the crop field. Through this the crop can be saved form drought, and a second crop can also be raised. The team interacted with the beneficiaries & SHG group about the improvement through Watershed Project.

Two SHGs were financed by the Watershed Committee by which they have been able to take up trading of puffed rice, and rice processing. In individual benefit scheme the poorest of the villagers have been able to improve their income through petty business, village canteen, weaving, banana cultivation, and collective marketing under revolving fund management.

The participants highly appreciated all the project works done under the watershed mission. The team members feel that similar planning and implementation under OFSDP will definitely result in higher income to the people in the project villages along with improvement in the health of the Forest.

Nibedita Das

NGO Team Leader (HDI), Kaniha FMU, Angul DMU

Visit to: Watershed Project, Adendunguri Village, Agalpur Block, Bolangir District

Villagers shared how WORLP has played pivotal role to develop their capacities & livelihood aspects. In Adendunguri WORLP Water Harvesting Structure has increased the level of IGAs of the villagers apart from setting up an **Information Centre** (people can get the application forms for old age, widow pension, jobs, and courses etc. at Rs.2/- for each) and a **First Aid Centre**. Besides this there are also books on Agriculture for the farmers. From the first aid centre, they get treated for minor ailments.

SHG plays a vital role in the livelihood aspects of the poor. The SHG has established a **Grain Bank** in the village to collect grains at the time of harvest and sell it during the period of scarcity. WORLP capacitated them through loan assistance and training.

Besides the group development, WORLP also looks for the capacity building & livelihood support for individual activities. A widow in Adendunguri village got sewing machine assistance as a result of which she is able to increase her income level to repay loan and could repair her house. She said, now her income level is increasing day by day which is enough to sustain her family.

OFSDP will surely help in improvement of livelihood & IGAs of the people. With the increase in income level, people will depend less and less on the Forest as a result of which forest cover will improve.

Sri Raj Kishor Kullu

Team Leader NGO (YUBA SHAKTI), FMU Rajgangpur, Rourkela DMU

Visit to : Maa Phulmati Watershed Project in Kalahandi district

The exposure visit party comprising of 18 VSS members from 10 VSSs, 2 FEOs, 3 VFWs, 1 Forester and 2 NGO team members reached Pastikudi of Kesinga Block under Kalahandi Division on 16.11.07 morning. The Programme Officer Sri Bikash Ranjan Kar BST of Maa Phulmati Watershed Project welcomed the party and narrated about the activities taken up by the Watershed project in Pastikudi village. Then the members of the exposure party interacted with the President of the Project regarding Micro Plan preparation, PRA exercise and different livelihood programme namely fishery, goatery rice business and kerosene dealership etc taken up in the village. They also acquired the knowledge of identification of EPAs, IGAs, formation and functioning of the SHGs. After interaction with the project staff about the different project works, they saw farm ponds made by the CIGs and acquired the knowledge of raising cotton cultivation and the profit earned by the CIGs. They also visited the sanitation work taken up in the village and saw the bathing structure constructed near the tube wells and dug wells for women. The IGAs namely, kerosene dealership unit, rice business unit and Goatery taken up by the female SHGs were also visited by the exposure visit party. The exposure visit party saw farm ponds made by the different CIGs for vegetable cultivation and fishery activities. They also saw land development works made by contour bonding for cultivation. At the end of the visit; they sat down for a discussion and their doubts were clarified by the Programme Officer, Sri. Bikash Ranjan Kar.



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Sri J. P. Sahu and Sri S.K. Majhi, FEOs, Balliguda DMU

Visit to : Maa Kanta Gosian Watershed Project in Bargarh district

An exposure visit party comprising 21 VSS members, 2 FEOs, 2 VFWs, 1 NGO team member visited Anlapali and Bidhanapali villages of Sohala Block in Bargarh District. The party left Balliguda on 01.11.07 and reached Sohala Block headquarters on 02.11.07 morning. Enroute, the VSS members studied the forest growths of Khandamala, Boudh and Bargarh districts and made comparisons. They observed the barren and bald hills without forest cover in Boudh and Bargarh district and felt that it is the right time to start protection of forests of Kandhamal district with people's participation.

At Sohala Sri S.Lenka, Specialist Natural Research Management and other workers of Maa Kanta Gosian Watershed Project briefed the working of WORLP Project in Anlapali and Bidhanapali villages under the Watershed Project. The main objectives of the project are to enhance earning capacity of the poor people under BPL category, proper utilization of natural resources, restoration of natural resources, development of human as well as animals, increase of Common Interest Groups and proper utilization of water, land, forest, and animals. The party visited Anlapali and Bidhanapali villages and found a man made forest of fodder species well protected by the villagers. They have planted gliricidia which is a non browsable species on the road side and have also provided half moon trenches near the plant for water conservation. A villager has opened a shop through finance from the project. A pisciculture tank has been dug by a group of villagers through loan under CIG where breeding of fishes is carried out and they earn about Rs.33,000/- per year by selling the fingerlings since last three years. They also saw vegetable cultivation with intercropping of high breed mango and varieties of vegetables are cultivated as pest control measure. They are using bio-fertilizers for hygienic purpose and are using bio-pesticide to control the pest. They are keeping two liters of cow urine, 500 grams cow dung, 100 grams cooked sugar (Guda) and leaves of neem, karanja and arakha in a mud pot for seven days from which a juice is collected and diluted with water as per requirement for use as bio pesticide. Since the entire area is drought prone, they have adopted water conservation method and have dug small pits of 5'x5' on the top corner alternately in each field in a series of crop field from higher side to lower side and rain water stored in those pits is utilized during drought in paddy fields and also in vegetable crops.



ଗତ ୦୪.୧୧.୦୭ ତାରିଖ ଦିନ ମୁଁ ଶ୍ରୀ ଗୋପାଳ ମାଝୀ ପୋଡ଼ଗଣୀଲ ବନ ସଂରକ୍ଷଣ ସମିତି ସଭାପତି, କାଶୀପୁର ବନାଞ୍ଚଳ ତରଫରୁ ଆମେ ୧୪ ଜଣ ବନ ସଂରକ୍ଷଣ ସମିତି ସଭାପତି, ଜଣେ VFW, ଜଣେ ବନପାଳ ଓ NGO ର ଟିମ୍ ଲିଡରଙ୍କ ସହ exposure tour ରେ ବଲାଙ୍ଗିର ଜିଲ୍ଲାର ବେଲପଡ଼ା ବ୍ଲକର ବୁଦାମୁଣ୍ଡା ଗ୍ରାମକୁ ଯାଇଥିଲୁ । ସେଠାରେ ଶ୍ରୀମୁକ୍ତ ପଟ୍ଟନାୟକ ଆୟମାନଙ୍କୁ ଉନ୍ନତ (hybrid) ମକା ଚାଷ ହୋଇଥିବା ଚାଷଜମିକୁ ନେଇଥିଲେ । ଜଳଛାୟା (watershed) ତରଫରୁ ୧୦ ଜଣ ଚାଷକୁ ଗୋଟିଏ ଗୁପ୍ତ କରି ଏକ ଏକର ଜମିରେ ୫ କେ.ଜି. ମକା ବିହନ demonstration ନିମନ୍ତେ ଚାଷ କରାଯାଇଥିଲା । ପ୍ରାୟ ୮୦୦ ରୁ ୯୦୦ ଟଙ୍କା ଏକ ଏକର ପିଛା ଖର୍ଚ୍ଚ ହୋଇଥିଲା ଏବଂ ଅମଳରେ ପ୍ରାୟ ୧୨ ରୁ ୧୫ କ୍ୱିଣ୍ଟାଲ ମକା ମଞ୍ଜି ଏକ ଏକରରେ ଅମଳ କରାହେଉଥିବା ଆୟକୁ ଜଣାଇଥିଲେ । ଗୋଟିଏ ଗଛରେ ୩ ଟି ମକା ଓ ସେଥି ମଧ୍ୟରୁ ଗୋଟିଏ ମକା ଅନ୍ୟ ଦୁଇଟି ମକା ତୁଳନାରେ ଅପେକ୍ଷାକୃତ ବଡ଼ ହୋଇଥାଏ । ଏକ କ୍ୱିଣ୍ଟାଲ ମକା ମଞ୍ଜିର ଦାମ୍ ପ୍ରାୟ ୬୦୦ ରୁ ୭୦୦ ଟଙ୍କା ହୋଇଥାଏ । ତେଣୁ ମୋଟ ରେ ସେମାନେ ପ୍ରାୟ ୭୦୦୦ ରୁ ୮୦୦୦ ଟଙ୍କା ଚାଷି ଏକ ଏକରରୁ ପାଇଥାନ୍ତି । କିନ୍ତୁ ଆମେ ନିଜ ଗ୍ରାମ ପୋଡ଼ଗଣୀଲରେ ଏକ ଏକର ପିଛା ୫ କେ.ଜି. ବିହନ ଲଗାଇ ଆମର ପ୍ରାୟ ୬୦୦ ରୁ ୮୦୦ ଟଙ୍କା ଖର୍ଚ୍ଚ ହୋଇଥାଏ । ଆମ ଜମିରେ ଥିବା ମକା ସେଠାର ମକା ଠାରୁ ଛୋଟ ଏବଂ ଗୋଟିଏ ଗଛରେ ଗୋଟିଏ ମକା ହୋଇଥାଏ ଏବଂ କମ ଗଛରେ ୨ଟି ମକା ହୋଇଥାଏ । ଆମ ଚାଷରେ ୫ ରୁ ୬ କ୍ୱିଣ୍ଟାଲ ମଞ୍ଜି ଏକର ପିଛା ଅମଳ ହୋଇ ପ୍ରାୟ ୩୦୦୦ ରୁ ୩୫୦୦ ଟଙ୍କା ଚାଷି ପାଇଥାନ୍ତି । ତେଣୁ ମୁଁ ସେହି ଉନ୍ନତ ଧରଣର ମକା ଚାଷର ଏକ ମକା ଆଣିଅଛି ଏହିକି ଯେ ମୁଁ ସେହି ବିହନ ଆମ ଜମିରେ ଚାଷକରି ସେମାନଙ୍କ ପରି ଅଧିକ ଅମଳ କରି ଲାଭବାନ ହେବି ।

ଗୋପାଳ ମାଝୀ

ସଭାପତି, ପୋଡ଼ଗଣୀଲ ବନ ସଂରକ୍ଷଣ ସମିତି

VSS Members from Lamtaput FMU

During the visit to Korlapita village, Bolangir, the members learnt about functioning of watershed committee, where Sarpancha of the village is a member. The dates for the meeting are fixed, intimated to the members for attendance once in the 1st week of every month. Once the date is fixed no change of date is allowed. The villagers from different villages attend the meeting as per schedule date and time. Discussions are made on each and every project and decisions taken.



The members also learnt about transparency meetings of the villagers, which are done regularly once in a month. There, the accounts are maintained in presence of large number of members, who are given liberty to ask different questions on the project work and expenditure to clarify their doubts. The committee also monitors the proper utilisation of funds, Income Generation Activities, timely re-payment, and guides the members.



VSS Members from Talcher FMU, Angul DMU

The team visited a mixed cropping, mainly groundnut with black gram and pisciculture programme organized by Pragati Mahila Mandal, Larki Village, Nuapara a SHG through watershed project. They have also raised plantations of fuel wood species, economic species like teak, cashew nut and palm. Soil conservation measures like contour bonding, check dam and gully plugging have been undertaken in the area.

A well run IGA by a SHG

Smt. Pratima Bhoi, President of Binapani Mahila SHG of village Manigaon in Bolangir district stated that they were running goatery under SHG and profit is deposited in the bank account. They were given Rs.2000/- as loan initially by WORLP. The SHG returned the loan and again availed a loan of Rs.15,000/- for goatery. After repaying Rs.15,000/- to WORLP, again the group availed a loan of Rs.30,000/- to expand their business. Now the SHG is running well with 12 members. If any member wants money she could avail the same on interest. In stead of sharing the profit, currently they are depositing it in their account.



Extract from Exposure visit report of Gunupur and K.Singpur FMUs, Raygada FMU (Visit to : Village Malmunda in Bolangir district)

“So far as the learning from the interaction is concerned, the WORLP project run in the village stresses to develop the resource *i.e. Jala, Jami, Jungal, Jantu & Jana*. The committee harnesses the natural resources for the betterment of the village people. In livelihood opportunity, the committee has given Rs. 9,000/- to each of the 97 households which is non-refundable by nature. The villagers have created their bread and butter by starting Tailoring, Rickshaw pulling, House repairing, Poultry, Goat rearing, fishing, horticulture and other independent businesses. It has given Rs.20,000/- to each of the 7 SHGs for Income Generating Activities. The committee has also collected a development fund Rs.170,000/- from the beneficiary of the upper class households to meet the wants during the natural calamities, health hazard and other most wanted things. They have a target to maintain the watershed after the life of the WORLP fund. ‘Swajala Dhara’ is a welcome scheme to supply water for the entire villages to support their irrigation and other purposes. Thus the exposure visit was satisfactory and will help to replicate most of the learning in our JBIC supported OFSDP target villages.”

A meeting hall also has been constructed by the villagers Malmunda of Bolangir district with supply of materials by Watershed. A Development Fund or Welfare Fund has been created by the Watershed Committee. Currently the fund has grown to Rs.170,000/-. Women’s participation is appreciable. Transparency in accounting has been maintained. From the welfare fund they meet the emergency expenses of village poor and people affected by natural calamities. They have a plan to use this fund to maintain the Watershed after the project is over.



Outcome of the Exposure visits

The visitors were exposed to a variety of activities such as farm, off-farm IGAs, small enterprises and also the processes involved in community mobilisation and community organisation. The exposure visit, as opined by many, was quite successful as the team members had a good experience on different aspects of the WORLP interventions.

The VSS members learned a lot and gathered vast experience from these visits which would definitely be helpful in bringing success to similar programme as envisaged under OFSDP and will be reflected in the Micro Plans run and village development plans through forest conservation and promotion of appropriate IGAs.



Some WORLP Activities



Restoration of Degraded Forests

Coastal Plantation

Community / Tribal Development

Biodiversity Management

Coastal Plantations



Considering the potential of coastal vegetation in minimizing the adverse effects of natural calamities, the Project envisages restoration and/or establishment of mangroves and Casurina plantations in the coastal regions in Bhadrakh and Balasore districts. The Governing Body of the Society in its meeting held in May 2007 decided to initiate this activity during the current year. Accordingly, the DFOs Bhadrakh and Balasore prepared scheme for raising mangrove and Casurina plantations along with required community development works aiming at community support in their establishment. Community mobilization was initiated through village meetings and organizing the communities in to VSSs. The socio economic surveys are to cover current utilization of mangroves and other natural resources, and to explore for compensatory fuel and fodder plantations, and marketing support for milk in collaboration with OMFED.

Nursery works have started for raising mangrove plantations over an area of 310 ha. in the two divisions in 4 sites. For mangrove plantation fish-bone canal systems will be developed to introduce sea water where the tidal flow is disturbed due to topographic conditions and mangrove species will be planted on the slope of the canals. Both physical and social fencing will be provided to protect mangrove forest. The social fencing by the VSSs concerned will be prioritized, together with live fence introduction.

It is proposed to raise Casurina plantations over an area of about 100 ha during the next year for which areas have been selected and nursery works initiated. It is proposed to organize a two day refresher training course, in collaboration with OUAT, for VFWs, foresters, and FGs who will be associated with raising casurina plantations.



General Consultancy

The General Consultant, a consortium comprising Nippon Koei Private Ltd. Japan (Lead firm), Natural Resources International Ltd. U.K., and Sutra Consulting Private Ltd. India, started functioning from 13th December, 2007 with the following experts.

National Consultant:

1. Mr. Madhav Gogate, Team Leader/Community Development Specialist
2. Mr. Nagendra Acharya, Capacity Development Specialist.
3. Mr. Ranjan Mallik, GIS Specialist
4. Mr. Shalabh Bharadwaj, Monitoring and Evaluation Specialist
5. Mr. Pranab Choudhury, Livelihood Improvement Specialist

International Consultant:

1. Mr. Shinichiro Tsuji, Community Development Specialist
2. Mr. Tomohito Shibayama, Monitoring and Evaluation/MIS Specialist

General Consultant will also engage ten Field Experts at DMU level to be stationed at Angul, Bhadrak, Deogarh, Jeypore, Keonjhar, Koraput, Paralakhemundi, Phulbani, Rayagada and Rourkela.

The General Consultant will provide technical assistance in process improvement and specifying procedures for project implementation at PMU, DMU, FMU and VSS level and will also provide assistance in organizing state/national level and International trainings and exposure visits.

The first interaction meeting with the General Consultant was held on 02.01.2007 at the Project Management Unit, SFTRI Campus, Ghatikia, wherein the progress of works was discussed, along with preliminary modalities for the Consultancy Services.



New faces in the Project

The following officers have joined the Project Management Unit at Bhubaneswar

Sri Bijaya Kumar Swain, IFS (SFS 1987), on promotion to the rank of Conservator of Forests, joined as Joint Project Director on 9th October 2007.

Sri Debidutta Biswal, IFS (RR 1988) on promotion to rank of Conservator of Forests, joined as Joint Project Director on 26th October 2007.

Sri A. C. Dinakar, IFS (RR 1989) joined as Deputy Project Director on 19th December 2007.

Changes in the field positions

Sri Sushil Kumar Popli, IFS (RR 1987) on promotion to the rank of Conservator of Forests joined as Conservator of Forest, Angul Circle on 24th October, 2007.

Sri Rama Nagraj Reddy IFS (RR 1982) joined as Field Director Simailipal Tiger Reserve and

Conservator of Forests, Baripada Circle on 7th November, 2007.

Sri M. R. Bhatta (on deputation from West Bengal cadre) joined as DFO-cum-DMU Chief, Paralakhemundi Division on 18th August, 2007.

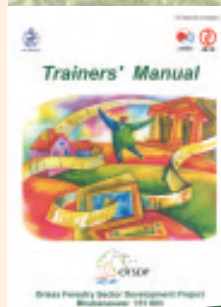
On promotion from Orissa Forest Service to Indian Forest Service, the following Officers attended the Induction Training at Indira Gandhi National Forest Academy, Dehradun from 6th August to 12th October, 2007.

1. Sri Prabhakar Sethy, DFO-cum-DMU Chief, Bonai Division
2. Sri Atish Kumar Behera, DFO-cum-DMU Chief, Koraput Division
3. Sri Ramesh Chandra Sethi, DFO-cum-DMU Chief, Balliguda Division.



Project Director Shri Arun K Bansal participated at the National Workshop on "Role of Civil Society in Forestry Sector Governance" organized by the Commonwealth Forestry Association, Indian Council of Forestry Research and Education,

and Forest Governance Learning Group, at the Forest Research Institute, Dehradun on 10th and 11th October 2007. The workshop was inaugurated by Shri Namo Narain Meena, Hon'ble Minister of State, Environment & Forests, Government of India. Mr. Bansal Co-chaired the Session on the theme "Forest Governance" with the Director, Indian Institute of Forest Management and made a presentation in which he highlighted various innovative features in the OFSDP including the ones that will result in institutionalizing the Role of Community Based Organizations (VSS) in sustainable management of forests.



Publications

Following documents have been published

1. VSS Management Manual
2. NGO Reporting Guidelines
3. Trainers' Manual
4. Impregnating the Micro-Planning Mantra - Report on Facilitators' Training on Micro Planning

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 various stakeholders.

For any comments/suggestions, please write to - **R.N. Sahoo**, IFS, Deputy Project Director, **E-mail : rnsahoo50@yahoo.com**

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