



# AJY MIRROR

A Quarterly Newsletter of  
AMA JANGALA YOJANA

July-Sept 2021

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## PROJECT DIRECTOR'S COLUMN

Ama Jangala Yojana has stepped into 6th year of its intervention. During this period, the project has mobilized 4605 VSSs for Sustainable forest resource management in JFM mode. There are also continuous efforts for convergences with other line Departments to mobilize resources for the holistic livelihood development of those communities. In spite of many constraints faced during most part of the current year, the committed team effort of the project personnel could bring visible changes in the livelihoods of the forest fringe dwelling communities. In this issue of AJY Mirror, a brief description of the major achievements of the present quarter has been placed for reference of all the readers.

The effort put in by the Forest Divisions, P-NGOs and other stakeholders for sustainable forest management, livelihood improvement & income generation activities are commendable. The learnings of the project interventions in the field in terms of success stories on the above aspects have been collated in this issue.

In this issue of quarterly newsletter 'AJY Mirror' an attempt has also been made to bring some success stories from the grass root interventions. The success stories along with the successful VSS management reports are placed in this edition to highlight the major progress of the project at all levels. Apart from these, this newsletter also contains the snapshot of the major events organized during this quarter across the Project Divisions. It is hoped that other communities will be inspired by the achievements shared by some of our Project stakeholders which have been placed in this newsletter.

**Dr. (Mrs) Meeta Biswal, IFS**

PCCF (Projects) & Project Director  
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*"What we are doing to the forests of the world is but a mirror reflection of what we are doing to ourselves and to one another"*



Ama Jangala Yojana (AJY) has been implemented through Odisha Forestry Sector Development Society (OFSDS) since the year 2016-17. By September 2021, the project has reached out to 4605 VSSs under 22 Divisions. In addition to this, about 14,263 women SHGs have been linked to various income generating activities under AJY. In spite of restrictions imposed due to Covid 19 pandemic situation, INR 7,605.93 Lakhs could be mobilized through convergence with line Departments under different Schemes, benefitting about 3,77,833 persons during the current year.

Assisted Natural Regeneration (ANR)-with gap plantation in 20,000 ha of forest land belonging to 446 VSSs under 18 Forest Divisions have been carried out during this quarter. Similarly, maintenance work of ANR (without gap plantation) has been completed in the assigned forest areas of VSSs under 22 AJY Divisions. Apart from these, construction of all 165 VSS buildings, which were proposed in the last year have been completed. In addition to this, skill based Capacity Building Training programmes and support for income generation & livelihood enhancement have been conducted through convergence with line Departments for the women SHGs of the project area.

## PROGRESS OF AJY ACTIVITIES

### 1.1 Community mobilization

Community mobilization is a vital component of Ama Jangala Yojana. Though the project is now in the final year of its implementation, community mobilization activities

such as monthly VSS meetings, GB & EC meetings of the VSS, awareness campaigns and convergence meetings have been carried out at VSS level during the present quarter.



G.B. meeting at Sinduria VSS, Keonjhar Division



G.B. meeting held at Kholamunda VSS, Deogarh Division



EC meeting at Gaduan VSS, Keonjhar WL Division



EC Meeting at Dangapathar VSS, Deogarh Division



GB meeting at Kodiposa VSS, Keonjhar Division



GB meeting at Kashipal VSS, Keonjhar Division



EC meeting at Rangamatia VSS, Keonjhar (WL) Division



EC meeting at Badhamunda VSS, Deogarh Division



Awareness meeting on Malaria and Dengue at Bagapada VSS, Khariar Division



Dengue & Malaria awareness meeting at Gupteswar Range, Jeypore Division



SHG meeting for IGA planning at Badhamunda VSS, Deogarh Division



VSS level IGA Planning meeting at Jhariapada VSS, Baliguda Division

## 1.2 Assisted Natural Regeneration

During the present quarter, Assisted Natural Regeneration (ANR)- with gap plantation has been carried out in 20,000 ha of forest area belonging to 446 VSSs under 18 Forest Divisions of the project. In addition to this, 2nd, 3rd & 4th year care &

maintenance work for Assisted Natural Regeneration (ANR)- without gap plantation has been carried out in 75,837 ha of assigned area under 1965 VSSs.



ANR with Gap Plantation at Muniapur VSS, Deogarh Division



ANR with Gap Plantation at Balibahal VSS, Deogarh Division



ANR with Gap plantation at Sundra VSS, Keonjhar Division



ANR with Gap Plantation at Khuntabandh VSS, Deogarh Division



Plantation Sign Board of Pipilia VSS in Ghatgaon Range, Keonjhar Division



Plantation Sign Board of Barabuli VSS, Kalahandi South Division

### 1.3 VSS Buildings

There was a provision for construction of 165 numbers of multipurpose VSS buildings in the villages under AJY during

the last year. By September, 2021, all the VSS buildings have been completed and handed over to the communities



VSS building cum meeting hall at Mandalpadar VSS, Baliguda Division



VSS building cum office at Petpura VSS, Deogarh Division



VSS office cum meeting hall at Nuasahi VSS, Phulbani Division



VSS office cum meeting hall at Tentuli VSS, Angul Division

### 1.4 Capacity Building Initiatives

Skill based Capacity Building Training programmes and support for income generation & livelihood enhancement

have been conducted through convergence involving the 28,820 members of VSS & women SHGs of the project area during the present quarter.



Capacity Building Training (CBT) for SHG members at Gupteswar Range, Jeypore Division



Mushroom cultivation training through Convergence at Redhakhhol FMU, Redhakhhol Division



Tailoring training at Santoshpur VSS of Ghatgaon Range, Keonjhar Division



Mushroom Cultivation training to SHGs at Baradangua VSS, Keonjhar Division



Selection of Beneficiaries for Tailoring Training at Jadichatar VSS, Keonjhar Division



Training on SHG record keeping at Tentulipada VSS, Kalahandi South Forest Division

### 1.5 Convergence initiatives

Convergence with line Departments to ensure the livelihood opportunities for the forest dependent communities so as to reduce their dependence on forests is one of the core objectives of Ama Jangala Yojana. The AJY team could be able to mobilize INR 3219.08 Lakhs through convergence with

other Departments under different Schemes, benefitting about 1,58,863 persons during this quarter. In addition to this, the AJY team has accomplished many activities pertaining to community infrastructure development and livelihood improvement for the benefit of the forest fringe communities. Some major initiatives taken during this quarter are presented in brief.



Mushroom bed demonstration through convergence with OLM at Jareikela VSS, Deogarh Division



Mushroom production through convergence with OLM at Jareikela VSS, Deogarh Division



Commercial Brinjal Cultivation through convergence with Horticulture Department at Khuntabandha VSS, Deogarh Division



Commercial Brinjal Cultivation through convergence with Horticulture Department at Khuntabandha VSS, Deogarh Division



Vaccination to Goat at Nuagoan vss of Khamar FMU



Cattle Vaccination at Redhakhhol Division,



Motivational training to SHG members for Pisciculture in Kondaguda VSS, Borigumma FMU of Jeypore Division



Pisciculture in convergence with Fishery Dept. through SHGs at Kondaguda VSS, Jeypore Division



Nutri-garden support through convergence with OLM at Ranimunda VSS, Khariar Division



Nutri-garden support through convergence with OLM at Dabri VSS, Khariar Division



Earthen Compost Pit support to farmers at Kodaldunguri VSS through convergence with MGNREGS, Khariar Division



Earthen Compost Pit support to farmers at Dabri VSS through convergence with MGNREGS, Khariar Division

### 1.6 News in Short:

The 72nd Vana Mahotsava has been celebrated across AJY Divisions followed by awareness meetings and plantations. Here are some snapshots of the event.



Celebration of 72nd Vanamahotsav at Tirtiapada VSS of Kalahandi(S) Division



Celebration of Vanamahotsav at Khariar Division Khariar Division



Plantation activity on occasion of Vanamahotsava at Kardapal VSS, Deogarh Division



Mangalpur VSS of Keonjhar Division has been honoured as Prakriti Mitra Awards during the Vanamahotsaha-2021

Many innovative models and success stories have been created by the continuous effort of the project personnel and VSSs during this period. Some of them are worth replication in other areas and are included here to encourage other VSSs.



## SUCCESS STORIES FROM VSSs

### DIVERSION BASED IRRIGATION (DBI); AN INNOVATIVE APPROACH TO ELIMINATE WATER CRISIS IN THE TRIBAL VILLAGES

Story-1

#### A case study of Gunjiguda VSS

Gunjiguda village under Thuamul Rampur (S) Forest Range is one of the inaccessible area in the southern part of Kalahandi District. Thuamul Rampur is geographically enriched with natural resources, and is recognized by its rich history, heritage and culture. About 70% of the people are from Schedule Tribe category in the entire Range area, and are mostly illiterate. Almost all the people within the Forest Range live in forest fringe areas where development mechanisms are far from the reach of the people. The village Gunjiguda is situated at a distance of about 16 km from the Range Office with 18 numbers of tribal households. One VSS was constituted through active involvement of AJY team during the year 2020-21. During the microplanning process in the village, the AJY team was able to know that there is severe crisis of water in the village owing to its undulating landscape and scanty rainfall. The villagers also explained that there is a perennial water source near the village which can be effectively utilized to address the water crisis in the village. Later the facilitating P-NGO was able to find a suitable agency to overcome the water issue in the village. Livolink Foundation, the only partner of TATA & Allied Trusts and a pioneer institution in Diversion Based Irrigation Structures (DBI) came forward to help the community to address the water issue in the village in a participatory mode. The Foundation, who was also implementing various development projects in the tribal pockets of the District, took special initiative to install a DBI structure in Gunjiguda village.

Livolink Foundation agreed to complete the project within a short period with material support and sought matching labour contribution from the community. After going through a series of consultations and meetings, the villagers came forward and were engaged in excavation work for laying of pipes over a running length of 2 km and provided voluntary labour contribution for masonry work. The project completed within stipulated time. All the households in the village are now provided with one water outlet point for domestic use and another for their kitchen garden and agricultural use. In addition to drinking water, 18nos of households are benefitted from the project for irrigation for crop cultivation, raising vegetables in kitchen garden, bathing & washing.

Because of intervention of AJY team, the DBI project was accomplished on time for which the severe water crisis of the village was solved. The villagers are now cultivating a variety of crops in their kitchen garden and are expressing their gratitude to the AJY team for their support and guidance.



Community meeting at Gunjiguda village followed by pipe laying by the VSS members



## KHARIF POTATO CULTIVATION; A NEW APPROACH TO BOOST THE ECONOMY OF TRIBAL PEOPLE- A SUCCESS STORY FROM KORAPUT FOREST DIVISION

Story-2

Potato cultivation during Kharif season has failed to achieve its objectives in many parts of Odisha during the present year. However, the members of Khilua VSS under Semiliguda Forest Range of Koraput Division have earned substantial profit through potato cultivation adopting the principles of 'System of Crop Intensification'. The sincere effort of the project staff of Smiliguda Forest Range and P-NGO (IAEET) in this regard is worth mentioning. This story explains the achievements of the VSS members through a successful convergence initiative.

Khilua is a small tribal village under Semiliguda Forest Range of Koraput Division. The occupation of the people living in the village is primarily agriculture followed by daily wage earning. The cultivation practice followed in the village is completely rain fed and mostly traditional. Hence, it is very difficult to take up any crop during Rabi & Summer seasons. Potato is usually cultivated in the District during winter season and hence, cultivation of potato during Kharif season was completely a new concept for the farmers. However, looking at the climatic suitability, the Government of Odisha has taken initiative to replicate Kharif potato cultivation in most of the tribal districts of Odisha. The AJY team had taken this opportunity and motivated the VSS members to cultivate Kharif potato under rainfed condition. The P-NGO and the project staff facilitated the entire process including convergence with the Horticulture Department and provisioned seed potato, fertilizers and pesticides as per the provision of the scheme. In the beginning, many farmers expressed their interest for potato cultivation, out of which 14 were selected on the basis of land availability. After

a round of discussion with the VSS members and project personnel, the Department organized training for the farmers on the cultivation aspects of Kharif potato during June, 2021.

During the third week of June, they were supplied with 81 bags of seed potato each weighing 50kg along with other materials to the selected farmers in the government approved subsidized price. About 3.0 ha of land were covered under rain fed potato cultivation in this village. The cost of the input materials was mobilized from the fund available with the VSS on loan basis. Under the innovative practice of system of crop intensification, the farmers were able to harvest about 300 quintals of potato by the end of September, 2021. The VSS members are encouraged by the fair price of the potato during the off season and have earned a good amount of income. This was a successful convergence initiative taken up by the AJY team which has fetched considerable benefit to the VSS members though many farmers in the district have incurred huge losses due to erratic rainfall during the year.



## BACKYARD POULTRY FARMING ; AN INITIATIVE BY SANTUAKALA VSS FOR SUPPLEMENTING HOUSEHOLD INCOME & REDUCING DEPENDENCY ON FOREST RESOURCES

Story-3

People of Santuakala VSS under Belghar Range of Balliguda Forest Division were solely depending on agriculture and collection of forest products for their livelihood & income. The VSS was taken up under Ama Jangala Yojana in the Year 2020-21. Improvement of the livelihoods and creation of alternate livelihood opportunity was one of the core agenda of Ama Jangala Yojana program. Since inception of the project in the village, the Forest Department Staff were organizing various awareness programmes and trainings pertaining to Income Generation Activities (IGAs) for the VSS and Self Help Group members. It was opined by majority of the members of the village to take up poultry rearing as the priority IGA during the micro-plan preparation. Following this, the Department staff and the PNGO representatives explored the suitable line Department for possible convergence. Accordingly, a comprehensive plan was placed before Kutia Kandho Development Agency (KKDA), Tumudibandha for convergence and was agreed up on.

The KKDA authorities along with the Forest Department staff made an appraisal visit to the village and selected 25 beneficiaries for implementation of the poultry based livelihood intervention. The beneficiaries were supplied with poultry basket along with chicks and accessories to 25 beneficiaries of Santuakala VSS as a revolving support worth of Rs. 10,000/- per beneficiary. This small amount of support could be able to fetch larger benefit for the inhabitants of the village in terms of nutritional security and income. Through this support, the VSS members are now able to earn Rs. 12,000/- to 15,000/- per month from sale of eggs and live birds. Country bird rearing is now a popular practice among the VSS members to earn additional income for their living. "This type of small, but useful intervention is extremely suitable for enhancing the household income of the villagers in the tribal landscape in Odisha"- Opined by the Divisional Forest Officer, Balliguda "This also reduces the loss of forest resources as the dependency of the local people on forest is reduced due to alternative engagement".



*Poultry rearing by Santuakala VSS members*



## EXEMPLARY EFFORT FOR COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT & LIVELIHOOD IMPROVEMENT HAS MADE THE VILLAGE LIVELIHOOD SECURE: A SUCCESS STORY OF KODALDUNGURI VSS UNDER KHARIAR DIVISION

Story-3

Kodaldunguri, a village under Dabri Gram Panchayat is located at a distance of 14 km towards the south of Khariar Forest range under Khariar Division. Total number of household in this village is about 150 with mixed population of ST, SC & OBC. Most of the families belong to BPL category and subsistence agriculture is the main source of their livelihood followed by daily wage earnings. A large section of population also depends upon NTFP collection during the peak season. The village was included under Ama Jangala Yojana during the year 2016-17 after formation of a Vana Suraksha Samiti in the village. About 51 ha of area in Kodal PRF have been assigned to the VSS for the protection and conservation. Since beginning of the project the villagers expressed their keen interest in protection of Forest and other NTFP Products with active involvement of women members. The activities associated with the project such as community mobilisation, livelihood promotion, protection of forest and monthly VSS meetings are being conducted regularly in the VSS.

The AJY team was instrumental in kindling their spirit and extended handholding support for the holistic development of the community. The VSS is carrying out the project activities for restoration and conservation of forest resources with the support of AJY team. In addition to this, the VSS is also performing exemplary work for prevention and control of forest fire with the help of Department.

The effort of the VSS for livelihood improvement of the community is remarkable. They are putting extra effort for ensuring alternative livelihood for all VSS members in convergence with line Departments. For this purpose, the P-NGO and the Departmental staff supported the VSS for a long term convergence based association with Odisha Livelihood Mission, Department of Panchayati Raj & Drinking Water, Department of Veterinary & Animal Resource Development and other NGOs such as World Vision to fulfil the project objectives and to improve the livelihood of the VSS members.

About 50 beneficiaries benefited through Livestock Vaccination camps organized at different times by the

Department of Veterinary & Animal Resource Development, 20 numbers of farmers got nutritional garden support through convergence with Odisha Livelihood Mission and almost all farmers got support from Horticulture Department for vegetable cultivation. In addition to this, two numbers of beneficiaries got support for goat farming through World Vision and 42 number of farmers got support for earthen compost pit through Panchayati Raj Department. The compost pit is helping the community in two ways - one for making the village garbage free by pitting the garbage and second to make available decomposed compost for agricultural use. All these activities added substantially to the household income of the VSS members.

The Odisha Livelihood Mission has organized training for the cultivation of various vegetables in the backyard and the crop fields to meet the household nutritional requirement and to earn additional income by selling the vegetables in the market. Farmers are getting additional income in shape of monetary benefit to the tune of Rs. 10000-12000 per farmer by cultivating a variety of vegetables and selling them in the nearby market.

In addition to this, various skill based trainings on income generation & livelihood aspects have been given to the SHG members in the village with handholding support, which has been helpful for their income augmentation through group initiative.

The involvement of VSS members in various programs and their proactive attitude make them an example for community development in the locality.



Goat Rearing by poorest of the poor family member



Earthen Compost pit support by the Panchayati Raj Dept.

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