

UPDATE ON AMA JANGALA YOJANA

2019-20 (Up to December, 2019)

Ama Jangala Yojana (AJY) is the flagship program of Government of Odisha, being implemented through Odisha Forestry Sector Development Society with the objective to promote sustainable forest management in the state. The project lays emphasis on livelihood support for the communities living in the forest fringe villages in participatory mode. For this, the project envisages strengthening of the community based initiatives for protection of the forest and creation of alternate livelihood opportunities to reduce pressure on forests.

Project objective- Restoration of degraded Forest and Improvement of livelihood opportunities of the forest dependent communities

Project Period: The Project Period is for 6 years, i.e. from 2016-17 to 2021-22.

Target Outreach- 7000 VSSs

Financial Outlay: The total approved outlay of AJY Program for 6 years is Rs.1170.03 Crores which is to be met from 4 sources, namely from CAMPA, (Rs. 511.31 Crores), State Plan (Rs. 285.35 Crores), MGNREGS (Rs. 322.18 Crores) and NRLM, (Rs. 51.19 Crores).

Area of Operation: The scheme is presently being implemented in 23 Territorial and Wildlife Divisions (Divisional Management Units / DMUs) of the State. Up to 2018-19 a total of 3180 VSSs have been covered under the scheme with an additional target of 540 VSSs for implementation during FY-2019-20. Apart from this, 8619 women self help groups are also linked with various income generating activities and schematic benefits of various departments. All the activities are being carried out with active participation of local communities.

Achievements of AJY as on December, 2019

- Area coverage under AJY- 23 Forest Divisions (DMUs), 128 Ranges (FMUs)
- No of women SHGs in AJY area: 8619
- No of VSS where PRA completed- 2966
- No of VSS where Micro Plan process completed – 2831
- No of VSS buildings constructed and handed over to the VSSs-300
- Survey and Demarcation completed in 3114 VSS

- Total area Demarcated- 169748.76 Ha
- Block Plantation as of date- 1010 Ha (87 sites)
- ANR without gap- 1,60,731 Ha
- 15 PNGOs - (112 Team Leaders, 241 DOs) and 19 DEOs have been engaged in the project
- 2560 Animators are also engaged in the Project

Some of the Major progress during the financial year, 2019-20 (up to December, 2019) are given below:

a) Preparation of Guidelines for AJY

For smooth implementation of various activities under AJY, the following guidelines have been framed and circulated to the DMUs to follow.

- i. Guidelines for Collaboration with p- NGOs and Reporting Formats for P- NGOs
- ii. Guidelines for Accounting Procedures under CAMPA
- iii. Guidelines for Survey and Demarcation of area to be assigned to VSS
- iv. Guidelines for preparation of Micro plan
- v. Format for preparing Micro-plan
- vi. Guidelines for Soil and Moisture Conservation Measures
- vii. A calendar of operations has been prepared and circulated to the Divisions.
- viii. A Capacity Building Training Calendar has also been circulated to the 23 Forest Divisions.
- ix. Guidelines for Selection of sites and Construction of VSS Building.
- x. Guidelines for initiating Entry Point Activities in AJY VSS under MGNREGS.
- xi. Guidelines for promotion and strengthening of SHGs and IGAs

b) Progress of commissioning services of partner NGOs as support organization

Partner NGOs are being engaged as support organisation for smooth implementation of the scheme. In each FMU one P-NGO team consisting of one Team leader and two Development Officers has been deployed for every 20 VSS. In total 112 PNGO teams are being deployed by 15 P-NGOs in 23 Forest Divisions. Apart from this, 2559 Animators have been deployed under the project to support the VSSs in the grassroots.

c) Progress on Capacity Building

Capacity building of the local communities and the forest personnel for smooth implementation of the AJY Scheme is given all priority. **ELEVEN** numbers of training modules have been prepared on the following themes and steps have been taken to impart the training.

1. Community Mobilization
2. Institution Building
3. Formation of SHGs
4. Accounting Procedures for DMU & VSS
5. Accounting Procedure of VSS
6. PRA
7. Micro Plan Preparation
8. Micro Plan Implementation
9. SMC In Hill Slopes
10. Nursery Techniques
11. Block Plantations

The Capacity Building Training (CBT) programs under AJY have been completed on implementation of AJY, GIS Mobile Application, Survey and Demarcation, Community Mobilization, PRA tools and Micro Plan preparation and Soil Moisture Conservation Measures and basic accounting procedures. Capacity Building Training programme have been conducted at PMU and DMU levels involving 82990 participants, covering 3180 VSS and members of 1820 SHGs. Capacity Building Trainings are regularly being conducted at FMU, VSS and SHG levels.

A special training for the DEOs (Accts) has been organized at PMU of OFSDS on 16-17th October, 2019 with participation of 24 participants from all 23 AJY Divisions. The training was on Basic Accounting procedures and maintenance of primary Books of Accounts.

d) Support for Building-cum- facilitation centre at VSS level:

There is provision of construction of a VSS building in each of the project villages under AJY with a built up area of about 421 sft. The purpose is to provide a designated place to the VSS members for conducting VSS meetings and livelihood activities. These buildings have been designed in such a manner that they can also be used for livelihoods activities of SHGs, conducting health camps, immunization programme etc. Due to paucity of funds, it has not been possible to construct VSS buildings in all VSSs. Hence construction of these buildings has been prioritized on the basis of performance of VSSs on Forest Protection and Management. So far a total 300 VSS buildings have been handed over to the community under Ama Janagal Yojana.

e) Entry Point Activities (EPAs):

Efforts are being made to converge the programmes of other Line Departments, as Entry Point Activities under AJY. There was a plan for 25% funds support from state plan under AJY for implementing EPAs which has been withdrawn from the current financial year. Presently the EPAs are being implemented through 100% external support.

Convergence Initiatives under AJY:

Several steps have been initiated at various levels to mobilize convergence under AJY, which are narrated below:

A. At PMU Level

- A compiled list of different schemes of other department has been sent to DMUs & P-NGOs for necessary follow up at field level.
- Dabur India & Baitarani Initiatives have been linked with AJY divisions for processing and trading of medicinal plant products collected by SHGs.
- Policy level decisions making, calling interdepartmental meeting at state level, preparing convergence plan etc. in line with different departments, has been achieved.

B. At DMU Level

- The Divisional Forest Officers cum DMU Chiefs have been advised for attending District Level Advisory Committee meeting for exploring other department's support for the VSSs.
- Line department Officials are invited to attend the DMU level review meetings to share, plan and act for convergence.
- DFOs also provide necessary guidance & support to FMUs for expediting convergence.

C. At FMU & P-NGO Level

- The list of staff with their contract details working under different line department at village / GP level have been prepared for coordinating and facilitating their services at VSS level.
- VSS micro plans are approved in Palli Sabha/ Gram Sabha.
- Contact with Block and District officials is developed for convergence and availing different schematic benefits for villagers.
- Line department staff are being invited to FMU level Meeting

D. P- NGOs

The team members of P NGOs are collecting details of personnel of line department at village level and the same are incorporated in the Micro-plan as additional sheet.

Programmes taken up through convergence in AJY VSS

Several programmes have been taken up through convergence in the AJY VSS. Some of the major ones are listed below

1. MGNREGS

- Renovation of ponds and drinking water facilities
- Construction of roads and bridges
- Construction of Community Hall and individual houses

2. Swacch Bharat Mission

- Construction of toilets

3. PMUY Scheme -Distribution of

- LPG with Chullah and
- CFL Bulb

The largest outreach of the convergence program both in terms of number of beneficiaries covered and in terms of number of schemes implemented has been achieved in Bonai, Angul, Keonjhar and Rourkela Divisions.

A total of Rs. 146,79,66,835/- has been mobilized so far under convergence for various activities under AJY in which 4,67,753 numbers of beneficiaries have been covered.