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From Project Director's Desk

The Odisha Forestry Sector Development Project, Phase-II (OFSDP-II) is a multi-sectoral and multidimensional initiative of the Government of Odisha being implemented through the Department of Forest, Environment, and Climate Change with the funding support of JICA. The project aims to mobilize resources and optimize fund utilization to strengthen the capacity of community stakeholders and to boost their income generation activities through handholding and convergence initiatives. The project has mobilized livelihood support to thousands of Common Interest Groups (CIGs), Self Help Groups (SHGs), and Poorest of Poor (PoPs) through inter-sectoral convergence and project assistance. PMU has provided support to the grass root SHGs, CIGs, and PoPs in showcasing and selling their produces in different District level and State level platforms viz. Adivasi Mela, State Level Kalinga Herbal Fair, Adi Bazar, Pallishree Mela and District level special trade fairs.

This edition of Banayana highlights some of livelihood support activities and initiatives taken by different DMUs under the project. The current issue of Banyana contains the details of successful measures taken up by various VSSs under different DMUs for comprehensive management of forest fires during this fire season. The issue even carries special field stories of Women SHGs of Sundargarh, Sambalpur and Baripada Forest Divisions, showcasing their adaptive and business skills to harness new livelihood activities in their respective groups.

This edition of newsletter showcases various reports of successful achievements, emphasizing meaningful accomplishments. These highlights are likely to inspire all stakeholders to execute the project mandate in a strategic manner.

Dr Meeta Biswal, IFS PCCF (Projects) & Project Director OFSDS



COVER STORY

Vermi Compost Brings Joy to Women Farmers – "A Tale of Success in Sudargarh Forest Division"

Organic Farming proves to be a best alternate option to the modern-day inorganic farming with high dependence on the use of chemicals in the form of fertilizers and pesticides. Organic farming is expected to play a crucial role in restoring the fast-depleting environmental conditions through the use of nature-based inputs in agriculture. In the scenario of substantial transformation from inorganic to organic farming, use of vermicompost is significantly increasing and gradually substituting the chemical fertilizer in farming. Though substantial extent of agricultural land is still under the use of chemicals fertilizers and pesticides, larger extent of forest lands, particularly the plantation sites are so far free from extensive use of chemicals. Under the aegis of OFSDP, Phase-II, Sundargarh Forest Division has taken initiative towards organic based management of forests and freeing it from chemicals.

In order to save the reserve forests allotted to VSSs from the adverse effects of chemical applications, the OFSDP-II Team of Ujalpur Forest Management Unit coordinated with Krishi Vigyan Kendra (KVK), Sundargarh and as per the technical advice from the Soil Scientist of the KVK started the production of vermicompost in the VSSs area under OFSDP-II. In total, 83 vermicompost production tanks were constructed in 10 VSSs within a period of one month. Apart from their own funds, the SHG members used the loan amount received from the Revolving Funds of VSSs for the vermicompost production. First of all, the tanks were filled with cow dung and bio degraded waste materials. In the first week of April 2022, two quintal of earthworm were brought from a leading farmer of Baleswar District. The variety of earthworm used yielded good result within a span of 6 months. From these tanks, approximately 850 quintal of vermicompost was supplied to different ranges of Sundargarh Forest Division. The process of distribution of vermicompost to different ranges and payment for the same were regularly monitored by the DFO and ACF of Sundargarh Forest Division so as to ensure that the SHG members get adequate and timely payment for their produce.

Prior to the launch of vermicompost production in the VSS area of Sundargarh Division, large quantity of

the compost was procured by the Forest Division from Cuttack. However, after taking up its production in the division itself with the involvement of SHGs as the income generation activity, this enterprise has directly benefited the SHG members as well as the forest department which can get the required quantity of vermicompost easily with far less transport cost. The department could procure pure vermicompost near the plantation sites, substantially saving the transport cost. The SHG members earned a handful of profit by selling Vermicompost @ Rs. 20.00/- per Kg with a profit margin of Rs 15.50/- per kg of Vermicompost. A small amount of Rs. 0.50/- per kg was utilized for packing and Rs. 4.00/- per Kg for transportation.

Vermicompost has now proven as the second most profit earning Income Generating Activity (IGA) for the SHGs operating in Sundargarh Forest Division under OFSDP-II, after Mushroom Cultivation. Both these IGAs were extensively adopted by the VSSs /SHGs due to the promotional initiatives undertaken by Sundargarh Division under OFSDP-II. All District level officers from different line departments also visited these VSSs and SHGs and appreciated their works related to IGAs

In Ujalpur FMU, 53 SHG members earned the profit of more than Rs. 7 lakhs after deducting all expenses out of vermicompost production. Particularly in Phuldhudi VSS, 16 SHG Members belonging to five SHGs received a profit of Rs. 3.23 lakhs. Besides, they constructed 30 permanent vermicompost tanks and doubled the production of earth worms in 6 months. As the demand for cow dunk increases, its price was hiked from Rs. 1000/- to Rs. 2000/- per tractor within a period of one year. In the village roads no more cow dung is seen as the VSS members are collecting the cow dung and utilize them for vermicompost production. The number of vermicompost production tanks have gone up from 83 to 128 in ten months. Farmers are also using the vermicompost for vegetable cultivation instead of chemical fertilizers in their home yard and earn good profit by reducing the production cost. It was observed that the demand for vermicompost in the District Herbal fair organized at Rourkela was quite high as two quintals of the same were sold in two days



RCCF Of Rourkela Circle & DFO, Sundargarh Visited Phuladhudi VSS and Encouraged SHG Members Involved In Vermicompost Production



District Collector, PD-DRDA, DFO, DDH, ACF, BDO Visiting Ujjalpur FMU To See The Progress On Vermicompost Production

SPECIAL STORY

Layer Poultry Farming: A Successful Livelihood Option for Enhancing Household Income for Pabapali VSS Members

Pabapali VSS under OFSDP-II is located in Padiabahal FMU of Ghenupali GP under Jujumura Block in Sambalpur District. The total village population is 523, living in 146 households. All community groups in the village are living together without any conflict. The major sources of livelihood are agriculture and field labour work. The total area of agricultural land in the village is 216 ha. In this village, 143 households possess gharbari patta land and rest 3 households are land less. Most people in Pabapali village depend on forest and forest products for day to day living.

Maa Kamala SHG of Pabapali VSS

Livestock is a major supplementing livelihood option in the rural areas and particularly for the tribal households. Even for land less families, goat and poultry rearing are always considered as a regular supplementary income generating activities. Back yard poultry rearing contributes significant level of income to these families. It has the high market demand in the rural areas and at the same time needs low level of investment for the establishment. Neighbouring communities require poultry during several festive occasions, rituals and for regular nutritional intake. Colour birds are suitable to the climate prevailing in A this area and their inclusion in the poultry unit yields sustainable income to the families. Maa Kamala SHG rears 500 nos of colour birds. As there is good market demand for these birds, the SHG members are able to sell them for a better price, that too at their doorsteps.



In order to organize the layer farming as a sustainable income generating activity for the families living at subsistence level, following handholding assistance were provided from the project side

Organization of the families whose livelihood is based on livestock rearing in the form of a 'Production group' for collective functioning, a 'Livestock committee' was formed comprising of SHG members whose major livelihood is livestock rearing, including poultry. The committee focuses on the improvement of livestockbased interventions within the SHG group. SHG members managed the livestock committee, whose members deposited contribution money as 'corpus fund', used for deworming and vaccination and to meet other expenses. The committee members conducted regular meetings on fortnight basis to review and plan the production activity. The committee also took decisions on inclusion of suitable members in the committee and to get benefit from different schemes and programmes.

- SHG members were urged to give focus on the scientific aspects of poultry rearing process like shed, feed and breed management. Though bird rearing is a regular and culturally inbuilt practice in this cluster of villages, it needs improvement in management process which includes providing proper shed facilities for stocking the birds. Awareness among SHG members were created for construction of clean and separate shed for the birds in order to avoid transmission of disease and risk from the threat of other animals. SHG members were motivated to provide hygienic and nutritionally enriched food to the birds for their proper growth.
- Provisioning livestock care facility: Providing proper animal-health care guidance is a major challenge in the rural areas. The existing services of the veterinary department are not easily accessible by all the households in the village and hence the SHG members had to be facilitated to access the veterinary facilities on regular basis with the cooperation of the State Veterinary Department.
- Infrastructure Development: In order to ensure proper cold storage of the animal medicines, Livestock Resource Centre was established with proper cold chain. The centre stocked all required medicines and other requirements.

Interventions/ Activities undertaken in the village:

Training of SHG members: Trainings were organized for SHG members on different aspects of poultry management including management of feed, vaccination and deworming, shed construction and hygiene management etc. Resource persons from livestock department and barefoot trainers were engaged for building the capacity of SHG members with respect to construction of shed and other allied production activities like preparation of termite, azolla tank and feed preparation.

Shed Construction: Materials used for the construction of shed for grazing unit were provided through the project. The labour and locally available materials like bamboo etc were contributed by SHG / VSS members.

Provision of supplementary nutrition: Termite pot and azolla units were provided in each model to ensure the supply of nutrition requirement for the birds. Termite and dried azolla added to the feed in regular interval.

Vet Care Management: A Livestock Resource Centre has been established at Badsahair with the provision for medicines at reasonable price. SHG members collect required medicines from the centre and ensure de-worming and vaccination at community level. Preservation of vaccine in a cold storage was an issue, which was sorted out by provisioning vaccine carriers. Along with medicines, SHG and community members also availing technical guidance and information from the resource centre. BVO, Sambalpur actively involved in this facilitation process and extended support and guidance for proper poultry management.

Documentation: SHG level vaccination calendar is being prepared for effective planning and monitoring of activity. Model wise stock size, weight and feeding details were documented by the SHG to monitor the growth of birds.

Recognitions: The DFO, BVO and FMU team visited the units and appreciated the effort and involvement of units. The DFO suggested the SHG members to scale up the unit and assured support to the farmers for constructing the shed under MGNREGA and replicate this model.

The SHG members, with proper technical guidance and infrastructural support were able to successfully adopt the poultry as an IGA intervention. Systematic feeding, health care of their birds and protection from external threats and animal attacks are well taken care of by the SHG members which are quite important for the success of poultry farming. For instance, during the period of ranikhet spread, poultry growers were able to keep their birds isolated and followed regular de-worming and vaccination saving the stock size. This protected and controlled poultry model also supports the members' kitchen gardens as the birds are prevented from damaging their garden.





CASE STUDY- Forest Protection in Sundergarh Forest Division

Amgova VSS of Sundargarh Forest Division

Amgova village is situated in Amgova G.P. which is 45 K.M. away from Bargaon Forest Range of Sundargarh Forest Division. The village is surrounded by the forests of Khatkurbahal Beat and Panchora Section. The total population of this village is 394, constituting 84 households. Out of this, 77 households belong to ST, five belong to SC and two belong to other category. Most of the households are under BPL category as per 2011 census. There are 8 numbers of active Women SHGs promoted by ICDS. They are mainly involved in regular thrift and credit activities only. The community facilities like primary and secondary schools, Anganwadi Centre, community centre and a kalyan mandap are located in the village and fully benefits the villagers. The major livelihood options available to the villagers are agriculture and daily wage labour. Apart from this, collection of mahua flower, char seeds, hill broom, sal leaves, kendu leaves are other source of income of the villagers. Other life-supporting activity of the villagers is the selling of NTFP produces, paddy, vegetables etc.

This village is known for mutual understanding and cooperation among the different groups of the villagers since 1983. From the very beginning, the villagers were protecting their neighbourhood forest area of 150 ha. of Banglapahad Reserve Forest. The movement for the cause of forest protection was led by the late Laxmidhar Kalo, Paramananda Kalo, Purna Ch. Kalo and few environmentally conscious people in the village. They formed a "Forest Protection Committee" in the village. They mobilized the communities in this as well as neighbouring villages and

conducted regular meetings on monthly basis for creating awareness on the need for protecting the forest from illicit felling, poaching of animals and encroachment. When JFM program was launched in state, this Forest Protection Committee of this village was converted into Van Surakshya Samiti (VSS) and was registered with the Forest Department. Since then, forest protection work is being carried out by the village with untiring commitment. However, due to the demise of some of these leaders, there was some decline in the momentum in forest protection process.

In the year 2019, the Bargaon Forest Range inducted Amgova village under OFSDP-II and 79.5 ha. of forest land was allotted to the VSS for protection. With reconstitution of VSS, the villagers got the opportunity to improve their livelihood and manage their forests sustainably. The VSS has taken following initiatives towards achieving sustainable management of the nearby village forest:

- i. Conducting regular awareness meetings on forest fire and forest protection and its management.
- ii. Awareness meeting on sustainable collection and procurement of NTFP
- iii. Awareness on hazard of burning of stubbles in paddy field which leads to forest fire.
- iv. Creating awareness among the residents of Amgova and neighbouring villages on the need for preventing illicit felling and hunting of wild animals.
- v. Motivating regular patrolling by committee members.
- vi. Awareness and promotion of the use of fuel-saving stoves by the villagers.

Due to the implementation of above measures of forest protection on a mission mode by the VSS, the village derived the following benefits:

- Drastic reduction in forest fire. There has been no forest fire during the current year due to regular forest patrolling by the VSS members
- Reduction in illegal felling
- Complete prevention of hunting
- Prompt address of issues related to forest protection, utilization and management by VSS.
- Substantial improvement in livelihood status due to convergence with line departments.
- Development of good and healthy mutual relationship between the villagers and the forest department.

These participatory forest management measures have shown significant achievement so far. Adverse impacts like illegal feeling and burning of stubble in the paddy field have drastically reduced. Apart from this, controlled use of fuel wood is being adopted by most of the villagers.



Involvement of VSS Members In Plantation Work



Distribution Of Vegetable Minikit Under Convergence Programme

During the financial year 2020-21, a village level Ten year-micro plan was prepared by using PRA tools by the VSS members for sustainable management of the forest allotted to the community in JFM mode. The micro plan helped the VSS to plan the village development activities keeping in view the available resources in the village. Based on this micro plan, Annual plan of activites have also been prepared for implementation under OFSDP-II. In the Annual plan, community's need and preferences were give primary importance, keeping the spirit of JFM. For instance, as per the demand of local community, fodder species were planted in different parts of neighbouring hillocks. Usufruct yielding trees were planted on the foot-hills to ensure benefits to the local community. The villagers have been actively participating in cleaning, high stump cutting, pitting, planting and SMC Works inside the treatment area allotted to the VSS. Apart from improving the overall forest condition in terms of growth and recharge of ground water level, these kind of labour intensive activities within the forest area had helped the villagers by providing livelihood during the pandemic situation of COVID-19.



Fuel Fodder Plantation Area



Eye Check Camp Under Convergence Programme



Induction Meeting For Reconstitution of VSS

Series of convergence activities / programs like distribution of vegetable mini kits for kitchen garden, participation of unemployed youth in DDU-GKY counselling camp, conduct of eye camp and road connectivity, distribution of onion and potato seeds, distribution of chicks etc. implemented in the village have helped the VSS members to increase their socio-economic status. Different types of capacity-building programs were also organized at VSS and FMU levels for the benefit of villagers, particularly for undertaking various income generation activities The VSS has been sanctioned with an amount of Rs.2 00 000/- as Revolving Fund for the distribution to SHGs / PoPs / CIGs for the economic



CB Training Programme of VSS on Utilisation of Vegetable Kits

development of their households. Out of this amount., Rs. 1,50,000/- has been disbursed so far to three SHGs for undertaking vegetable cultivation.

Sri Paramananda Kalo, the treasurer of Amgova VSS expressed his gratitude to OFSDP-II and appreciated the guidance and support offered by the project staff. According to him, the new interventions with the application of new technology have not only uplifted the standard of living of the VSS members substantially and also gave them of new hope of sustained livelihood security. Moreover, women participation has significantly increased in VSS activities and its decision making.

BARIPADA

Achieving Self-Reliance in Livelihood through Backyard Poultry rearing

Usually, people prefer local backyard poultry units of small size, ranging from 20 to 30 birds per household rather than bigger units. Such mini backyard units are becoming popular as it provides supplementary income as well as good nutrition value to the family without incurring extra expenditure.



In Mayurbhanj district, the backyard poultry rearing is regarded as an "ATM", because of easy selling of birds and the eggs locally at any time & anywhere guaranteeing adequate cash in hands. The activity is also quite popular and successful because of availability of good quality chicks & eggs and existing demand for local poultry during the festival period like Makar Sankranti in the district. Joka is one of the VSSs under Bangriposi FMU which has successfully taken up in the backyard poultry as an IG activity promoted by OFSDP-II since 2018.

In the year 2022, Kaluram Soren a PoP has taken Rs. 20000/as loan from Revolving Fund provided through the VSS for rearing of local backyard Poultry. This Revolving fund provided by OFSDP-II has proved to be a real helping hand to Kaluram Soren to increase his family income and become economically self-reliant by adopting local Poultry. After six months Sri Kaluram Soren earned a good profit by selling the

birds during the festival period. From this income, he started repaying the loan with interest to the VSS and feels happy to carry on this profitable enterprise. Now Kaluram Soren sets an example to other members of the VSS by demonstrating how the backyard poultry rearing could be successful

in income generation and ensure livelihood security to the forest dependent communities. Kaluram's successful experience has also proven that with proper guidance and support, backyard poultry rearing can be an economically viable business for the communities living in forest fringe villages.

SPECIAL FEATURES: FIRE MANAGEMENT

Forest Fire Management under OFSDP, Phase-II

The most common hazard in forests is forest fires, a phenomenon as old as the forests themselves. They pose a threat not only to the wealth of the forest but also to the entire ecosystem, seriously disrupting the biodiversity, ecology, and environment of a region. During summer, when there is no rain for months, the forests become littered with dry, senescent leaves and twigs, which could easily burst into flames ignited by the slightest spark.

Both man-made and natural factors, including climatic conditions such as high temperature, wind speed and direction, the level of moisture in soil and atmosphere, and prolonged periods of dry spells, contribute to forest loss. Fire is one of the oldest methods used to clear land for farming and other purposes, and it is still widely employed by people. This is a significant concern not only due to the added threat to biodiversity and other natural systems but also because of the impact on deforestation, especially when caused by fire.

Human related causes are responsible for 90% of forest fire. Some of those causes which are commonly observed in the forest area at different DMU are as under:

- Collection of MFP such as Mouha flower and Kendu leaves
- Graziers make small fire to get good grazing grasses
- Driving away of wild Animals
- Hunting of Wild Animals
- · Burning paddy stubble in the field
- Shifting Cultivation
- · Sometimes for recreation
- Careless visitors throwing cigarette butts
- Growing human Population

However, with inputs and advanced planning at the VSS level and among forest staff, forest fire incidents can be significantly reduced, contributing to the conservation of forest resources. To safeguard forests from fire incidents, several precautionary measures have been implemented in all the Divisions.

- Recognizing the significant threat posed by forest fires, VSSs were motivated to actively participate in fire prevention and control measures during the summer season.
- Campaigns for fire prevention have been organized in all target villages, utilizing a mobile awareness vehicle known as the "Green Rath." This vehicle is equipped with an audio system, playing informative songs, and carries printed pamphlets/leaflets addressing the theme of forest fires. The "Green Rath" systematically moves through each village to raise awareness among the people. To further enhance awareness, notices in Odia and English have been strategically placed at the entry points of each forest block. These notices outline the penal provisions for setting forest fires under the Odisha Forest Act, aiming to inform the public about the consequences of such actions.
- Instructions have been given to forest staff to obtain undertakings from suspects and to file cases against habitual offenders who deliberately set fires.
- As a primary step, a Divisional level forest fire map has been created, highlighting vulnerable points based on the previous year's Forest Survey of India (FSI) report. Only a limited number of points were affected by fire in the areas assigned to the villages.
- Participatory fire line clearance initiatives have been undertaken, involving Self-Help Groups (SHGs) and VSS members, focusing on vulnerable areas in all categories of forests.



The Fire management strategy also includes the following measures:

- Intensive training to the front-line staffs and firefighting squads before onset of fire season.
- Engagement of Fire watcher for immediate action taken to prevent forest fire where fire spots are identified.
- Awareness campaign involving VSS member's / PRI institution / other line departments / school children on the theme of forest fire.
- Sensitization and creating awareness among the mahua and other NTFP collectors to prevent forest fire and also to make them aware not to adopt the destructive practices of lighting fire for easy collection of Mahua or other NTFP. Use of fire blowers to swipe and collect the leaves and slashes under Mahua tree in forest fringe areas and control burning and also application of social fencing for NTFP collection like mohua and kendu leaves.

In addition, few more tangible fire preventive measures that have been taken up by the Divisions, especially for the plantation and Forest Area are as detailed below.

- Provision of incentive measures to nearby villagers/VSSs.
- Divisional control room has been made operational 24X7 with operator deployment having landline, mobile phone, VHF control.
- Awareness raising through wall paintings, song and leaflets.
- Competition among villagers to protect forest from fire through attractive award and prizes.
- Regular village meeting for creating awareness among people.
- Sharing of the contact numbers with the villagers for providing immediate information on forest fire incident details.

PHOTO GALLERY

Glimpses of forest management activities undertaken in various Forest Divisions of OFSDP-II





Sensitization programme of VSS members on Forest Fire Management at Divisions





Awareness programme on Forest Fire Management at Athamallik Forest Division





Forest fire put out by community and awareness programme on Forest Fire Management









Fire line maintenance and creation at Subarnapur Forest Division







Street Play for Forest Fire awareness

ବନାଗ୍ନିନିବାରଣସଚେତନତା



ମନମୁଣ୍ଡା,୨୮।୧(ନି.ପ୍ର):ବୌଦ୍ଧ ବନଖଣ୍ଡ ଅଧିକାରୀ ଦେବପ୍ରିୟ କମ୍ପଙ୍କ ଆବାହକତ୍ୱରେ ମନମୁଣ୍ଡା ଗେଞ୍ଜାରେ ବନାଗ୍ନି ନିବାରଣ ସଚେତନତା ଆରୟ ହୋଇଯାଇଛି । ମନମୁଣ୍ଡା ବନାଞ୍ଚଳ ଅଧିକାରୀ ଶ୍ରାବସ କୁମୁରାଙ୍କ ପ୍ରତ୍ୟକ୍ଷ ଡହ୍ନାବଧାନରେ ବନପାଳ ପ୍ରକାଶ ଚହ୍ର ସେଠି, ଦେବକାନ୍ତ ବେହେରା କାର୍ଯ୍ୟକ୍ରମ ପରିଚାଳନା କରିଥିଲେ । ବନ ସୁରକ୍ଷା ଲୋକଙ୍କ ସହଯୋଗ ବିନା ଅସୟବ । ଜନସାଧାରଣ ଏଥିପ୍ରତି ଧାନ ଦେବାକୁ ବୁଝାଯାଉଛି । ଓଏସଏସଡିପି କ୍ଷେତ୍ର ସଂଯୋଜକ ବସନ୍ତ ମିଶ୍ର, ପିଏନଜିଓ ବିଭୂଦର ମହାନ୍ତି, ବିକ୍ରମ ବିଶୋଇ, କାଚଳ ପଟ୍ଟନାୟକ ପୁମୁଖ କାର୍ଯ୍ୟକ୍ରମ ପରିଚାଳନାରେ ସହଯୋଗ କରୁଛନ୍ତି ।

Awareness through media coverage



Oath taking activity



Rally and oath taking activity

Please send your comments and inputs to:

Odisha Forestry Sector Development Society SFTRI Campus, Bhubaneswar, Odisha, India. Phone: 0674-2386084, 2386016 email: webmail@ofsdp.org

design and print: info@thirdeyeco.in

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