



From Project Director's Desk

The Odisha Forestry Sector Development Project, Phase-II (OFSDP-II) is a comprehensive initiative led by the Government of Odisha, implemented through the Department of Forest, Environment, and Climate Change, with financial support from JICA. The project's primary objective is to mobilize resources and optimize the use of funds to enhance the capacity of community stakeholders, thereby boosting their income generation activities. This is achieved through targeted handholding support and inter-sectoral convergence initiatives.

The project has successfully mobilized livelihood support for thousands of Common Interest Groups (CIGs), Self Help Groups (SHGs), and the Poorest of the Poor (PoPs), assisting them through various sectoral convergences and project interventions. The Project Management Unit (PMU) has provided significant support to grassroots SHGs, CIGs, and PoPs by helping them showcase and sell their products at district and state-level platforms such as the Adivasi Mela, State Level Kalinga Herbal Fair, Pallishree Mela, and district-level sale cum exhibitions.

This edition of Banayana highlights the success stories of community members involved in various initiatives under OFSDP-II. It also outlines key livelihood support activities and initiatives taken by different DMUs (Divisional Management Units) to enhance income generation and improve livelihoods through project interventions, particularly the Revolving Fund mechanism. Furthermore, numerous convergence activities have played a crucial role in boosting income in forest-fringe areas.

The success stories featured in this newsletter demonstrate the project's sustained approach and the sincere efforts of the project team to improve the livelihoods of community members. These stories exemplify the lasting impact of the project's initiatives and offer inspiration for continued success.

This edition also showcases various reports of meaningful achievements, with a focus on accomplishments that are likely to inspire all stakeholders to carry forward the project's objectives in a strategic and impactful manner.

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PCCF (Projects) & Project Director
OFSDS

"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"



ALTERNATIVE LIVELIHOOD SUPPORT THROUGH CONVERGENCE

Khuntlamal village is located in the Rengloi Gram Panchayat under the Rengali block of Sambalpur District. The primary livelihood of the villagers is agriculture. The village comprises 114 households, categorized as follows: 23 households belong to the OBC community, 86 to the ST community, and 5 to the SC community, with a total population of 389 residents.

On September 24, 2020, a Vana Surakshya Samiti (VSS) was established in Khuntlamal by OFSDP Phase-II. Jubi Bariha, a local resident, was appointed as an Animator for the VSS. The village is located 20 kilometers away from the Rengali Forest Range Office under the Sambalpur Division.

Before this initiative, Jubi relied solely on paddy cultivation to support her family, which made it challenging for her to meet their daily expenses. However, an opportunity arose during the COVID-19 pandemic. She learned through the "Animator Rengali WhatsApp Group" about a provision under the Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana (RKVY) to cultivate flowers on 0.25 acres of land with 1,500 plants provided free of cost. Jubi contacted the staff of OFSDP Phase-II and the Horticulture Department in Rengali Block, Sambalpur District, to explore this opportunity. Seeing her enthusiasm, the staff identified her needs and encouraged her to take up flower cultivation.

Following their guidance, Jubi visited the Burla Nursery of the Horticulture Department and collected 1,500 marigold plants for her 0.25-acre plot. With technical support from the Horticulture Department, she began planting and diligently cared for the plants without using chemical fertilizers.

After three months, her marigold plants started flowering. She marketed the flowers locally to village marriage parties, the Jharsuguda market, and temples. By selling 140 kilograms of marigold flowers at ₹ 70 per kilogram, she earned ₹ 9,800, with a total expenditure of ₹ 2,500. This resulted in a net profit of ₹ 7,300. Since the scheme was free, the profits were a significant boost to her income.

Encouraged by her success, Jubi expanded her cultivation area in 2022-23 from 0.25 acres to 0.75 acres. To date, she has sold around 100 kilograms of marigold flowers at ₹ 60 per kilogram, with more harvests still underway. Additionally, she has participated in training sessions organized by the Krishi Vigyan Kendra, Burla, on flower cultivation management, market linkages, and entrepreneurship development. This training has further enhanced her knowledge and skills.

Jubi Bariha's journey demonstrates how targeted support and guidance can transform livelihoods, showcasing a successful model of sustainable agriculture and entrepreneurship.



CASE STUDY OF REVIVING FUND AND COMMUNITY SUCCESS

From Resilience to Radiance - A Tale of Entrepreneurial Triumph”

In the lush village of Aida, nestled within the Athmallik Forest Division, lived Manini Tripathy, a woman of remarkable resilience and determination. Married into a lower-middle-class family, her husband, a priest and small-scale farmer, worked tirelessly to meet their modest needs. However, the weight of financial struggles often overshadowed their aspirations, particularly regarding their children’s education. Amid these challenges, Manini found solace and empowerment through her involvement in a Self-Help Group (SHG). It was through this network that her path intersected with officials from the Odisha Forestry Sector Development Project Phase II (OFSDP-II). During their discussions, Manini revealed her expertise in tailoring, a skill she had honed over the years through domestic stitching to support her family’s livelihood.

Recognizing her leadership potential and entrepreneurial spirit, OFSDP-II decided to support her aspirations. With careful planning, they facilitated her connection with the District Industries Centre in Angul to explore opportunities under the **Prime Minister’s Employment Generation Programme (PMEGP)**. Driven by her passion and determination, Manini successfully navigated the complexities of the application process and secured a loan of ₹ 3.00 lakhs, along with a 33% subsidy.

With her vision taking shape, Manini established her own tailoring unit, equipping it with four sewing machines. She

hired three skilled women to increase production capacity and diversified her business by sourcing ready-made garments from Delhi’s bustling markets to complement her tailoring enterprise.

Determined to succeed, Manini embarked on her entrepreneurial journey with a focus on customer satisfaction. She actively marketed her products, traveling to local fairs, bus stops, and nearby areas, showcasing her finely crafted garments with a modest 5% profit margin. Her warm demeanor and dedication to quality earned her the trust and loyalty of her customers, fostering relationships that went beyond mere transactions.

As her reputation for impeccable craftsmanship spread, Manini’s retail unit transformed into a thriving commercial hub. Month after month, her earnings grew, surpassing operational costs and resulting in an impressive annual net profit of ₹ 2.80 lakhs. Yet, her greatest reward lay not in financial success but in the pride reflected in her children’s eyes and the unwavering support of her community.

Amid the serene surroundings of Athmallik-Aida, beneath the whispering trees and the gentle rustle of the forest, Manini Tripathy emerged as a symbol of hope and inspiration. She stood as a testament to perseverance and triumph against adversity. Her story resonated far beyond the borders of her village, igniting dreams in the hearts of countless individuals. In the fabric of her life, resilience was the thread that wove a radiant tapestry of success, casting light on the boundless potential of determination and hard work.



MAHUA FLOWERS TRAINING FOR VALUE ADDITION

In the heart of the forested landscapes, where the enchanting scent of mahua flowers fills the air, a tale of transformation unfolds. This is the inspiring journey of Sanjukta Bhainsa, a determined individual from Jaduloisingh VSS under the Sadar Range, who, with the guidance of the Project Staff from OFSDP-II (Odisha Forestry Sector Development Project Phase-II), has achieved remarkable success through value-added Mahua flowers training.

From Traditional Harvesting to Value Addition:

Sanjukta Bhainsa's story begins as a gatherer of Mahua flowers, a traditional practice in her community. However, the earnings from this labour-intensive work were modest, and the potential for economic growth was limited. Recognizing this, Sanjukta decided to explore the possibilities of adding value to the abundant Mahua flowers.

Guidance from OFSDP-II:

Sanjukta's journey towards success took a significant turn when she joined the Mahua flowers training program value addition facilitated by the Project Staff of OFSDP-II. This program aimed to equip local communities with the skills and knowledge needed to enhance the value of forest produce and improve their livelihoods.

Skill Development and Empowerment:

Through the guidance and mentorship of Project Staff, Sanjukta learned various techniques related to post-harvest handling, processing, and value addition of mahua flowers. She gained proficiency in making variety of food item products like Mahua, Moringa and Mango (i.e. Cake, Cookies, Jam, Jelly, Murku, Ice-cream, Chatni, RTS, Chhiki, Achar, Laddu, Floor Cleaner, Hand Sanitizer, Pachak goli, Candy, Gulab Jamun) from Mahua extract which will fulfil the nutrition value of food of their family as well as for sale to school children.

Entrepreneurial Spirit:

With new found skills and a dose of entrepreneurial spirit, Sanjukta set up a small-shop for value-added Mahua

products in her village. She began to produce high-quality food items that not only retained the natural essence of Mahua flowers but also had a longer shelf life, attracting a broader market.

Community Impact:

Sanjukta's success had a ripple effect in her community. She provided employment opportunities to local women, empowering them to contribute to their family's income. The increased income in the village had positive spill-over effects, including improved access to healthcare and education.

Market Recognition:

Sanjukta's products gained recognition beyond the local market. They were appreciated for their quality and authenticity. This recognition led to orders from urban markets and even participation in regional and national trade fairs. The present valuation of the Mahua flower is about 15-20 rupees per kg and after the value addition it is predicted that the VSS members would get about 200 rupees profit as per the assessment.

Economic Transformation:

Sanjukta's journey from a Mahua flower gatherer to a successful entrepreneur not only improved her economic situation but also transformed the outlook of her entire community. Her story serves as an inspiration to others in her village and neighboring areas.

Conclusion:

The success story of Sanjukta Bhainsa after Mahua flowers training, under the guidance of Project Staff from OFSDP-II, is a testament to the potential for positive change when communities are empowered with knowledge and skills. Sanjukta's determination, combined with the support of the project, has not only improved her own life but has also created economic opportunities and uplifted the spirit of the community. She is not only a good animator but also a good motivation trainer and entrepreneur. Mahua extract will fulfil the nutrition value of food to her family.





EMPOWERING RURAL WOMEN THROUGH VEGETABLE CULTIVATION: THE SUCCESS OF B.N. AND JAY MAA DURGA SHGS

In Khejuripada Village, under the Badampahar Forest Management Unit (FMU) of Rairangpur Forest Division, 20 women from the B.N. Self-Help Group (SHG) and Jay Maa Durga SHG took a significant step toward self-reliance. After participating in a skill development training program organized by the FMU with technical and continuous support from Tata Trust, they decided to take up vegetable cultivation as a livelihood activity.

A Well-Planned Initiative

The SHG presidents and secretaries led their respective groups in this endeavour. With financial support from the Revolving Fund (RF) of the Vana Suraksha Samiti (VSS), the groups prepared a detailed Business Development Plan (BDP). Guided by coordinators, the plan outlined requirements such as planting materials, land preparation, fertilizers, pesticides, and other inputs.

The SHGs applied for loans from the VSS's Revolving Fund, which approved and released ₹ 2,00,000. Each group received ₹ 1,00,000 to start their cultivation activities.

Cultivation and Harvest

The SHG members opted to cultivate vegetables on their individual plots of land. B.N. SHG utilized 2.9 acres, while Jay Maa Durga SHG cultivated 2.5 acres. Supported by Tata Trust, they planted hybrid bitter melon, tomato, brinjal, chili, cauliflower, and other vegetables. The support included

subsidized planting materials, water facilities, solar-powered irrigation, drip systems, and mechanization.

The cultivation began during the winter season, and harvesting started in a month towards end of the November. Both groups sold their produce at local markets (Haat) at competitive prices.

Impact and Outcomes

Each SHG earned over ₹ 3,00,000 from their vegetable sales within four months, with a net income of approximately ₹ 2,00,000 per group. Their success has not only improved their livelihoods but has also transformed Khejuripada VSS into a recognized vegetable hub in the region.

Support:

This achievement was made possible through continuous handholding support and monitoring by coordinators, subject matter specialists (SMSs), along with assistance from the Tata Trust organization. The financial and technical assistance provided by OFSDP-II and Tata Trust played a vital role in enhancing the skills, income, and confidence of these rural women.

The initiative stands as a testament to the power of skill development, collective effort, and effective support systems in empowering women and fostering economic growth in rural communities.



MUSHROOM CULTIVATION IN SIMILINALI UNDER RAIRANGPUR DMU

Empowering Women Through Mushroom Farming: Women SHG's Success Story

In Similinali Village, under the Rairangpur Forest Management Unit (FMU), the Baba Jogeswar Self-Help Group (SHG), consisting of 10 women, has made remarkable strides in mushroom farming. After attending a skill development training program organized by the FMU with technical and practical support from the Horticulture Department, the group decided to take up mushroom cultivation as a sustainable livelihood activity.

Initiative:

Led by SHG President Pratima Mohanta and Secretary Smt. Pallabini Mohanta, the group prepared a Business Development Plan (BDP) to establish a mushroom farming shed and cover input costs. With financial assistance from the Revolving Fund (RF) of the Vana Suraksha Samiti (VSS), the group secured a loan of ₹ 50,000.

The funds, combined with material contributions from SHG members, were used to construct a shed with a capacity of 100 mushroom beds. Upon completion, the SHG began mushroom cultivation under the guidance of OFSDP-II project staffs of the DMU and Assistant Horticulture Officer (AHO).

Implementation and Harvesting

The group adopted a systematic approach, creating five new mushroom beds daily to ensure consistent production until the end of the summer season. Just 15 days after starting, they began harvesting straw mushrooms, which they sold at the Rairangpur market. Depending on market demand, the mushrooms were sold at prices ranging from ₹ 250 to ₹ 300 per kilogram.

In four months, the SHG produced and sold 395 kilograms of mushrooms, earning ₹ 98,600 in total sales. After covering expenses, the group achieved a net profit of ₹ 40,000.

Continuous Support and Monitoring

The success of this initiative was made possible through consistent handholding support and monitoring by FMU Coordinator and SMS (LLI) of the Rairangpur DMU, along with oversight by the Horticulture Department's Assistant Director of Horticulture (ADH). Regular assessments of bed productivity and sustainability ensured optimal yields and profitability.

A Sustainable and Profitable Venture

Mushroom farming has proven to be a lucrative activity for Baba Jogeswar SHG. The availability of raw materials, combined with strong market demand, allows the group to generate income every two weeks.

Gratitude and Impact

The women of Similinali VSS express their gratitude to



OFSDP-II for its invaluable contributions to skill development, financial assistance, and technical support. This initiative has not only enhanced their income levels but has also demonstrated the potential of mushroom farming as a sustainable livelihood for rural women.

This initiative underscores the power of focused support and collective effort in transforming rural livelihoods.



Tackling Malnutrition Through Nutri-Gardens: A Success Story from Gudiamba Village

Malnutrition is a pressing issue in rural and hilly regions, where agricultural productivity is low due to small, fragmented landholdings, poor soil fertility, and reliance on rainfed farming. Traditional subsistence farming, dominated by cereal crops, sustains families for only three to four months annually, leading to widespread food insecurity. The migration of men to urban areas in search of work has left rural communities with a disproportionately high female population, creating a demographic imbalance. Women, who shoulder a significant workload, require nutrient-rich diets to meet their energy demands, yet access to quality nutrition remains limited.

One solution to combat malnutrition is the principle of “local needs met locally.” The hilly regions’ climatic conditions are ideal for cultivating seasonal and off-seasonal vegetables and fruits, which are rich in essential micronutrients. Given the small size of landholdings, nutri-gardens present a practical and effective way to address malnutrition while improving livelihoods.

This success story comes from Gudiamba Village under Jilundi Gram Panchayat (G.P.) in Bhanjanagar Block, within the jurisdiction of the Central Range of the Ghumsur North Forest Division. Nutri-garden practices, introduced as part of the Odisha Forestry Sector Development Project-II (OFSDP-II), were implemented with support from the Agriculture, Horticulture, and Panchayati Raj & Drinking Water Departments of the Government of Odisha.

What is a Nutri-Garden?

A nutri-garden is an advanced version of a kitchen garden where vegetables are grown scientifically, serving as both a food source and a potential source of income. For small and marginal farmers, nutri-gardens not only improve family diets but also provide economic benefits, particularly for women. Unlike income from field-based commercial crops, which is often not used for purchasing nutritious food, nutri-gardens directly enhance dietary diversity and quality.

The geography and climate of Gudiamba Village are well-suited for producing vegetables, cereals, and oilseeds. By integrating micronutrient-rich vegetables into daily meals, households can overcome nutrient deficiencies. Nutrition-focused agricultural interventions under OFSDP-II have proven effective in increasing food production and diversifying diets. In Gudiamba, 12 nutri-gardens were successfully established with active participation from women farmers.

The Story of Smt. Panchami Pradhan

One notable success is the story of Smt. Panchami Pradhan, a woman farmer from Gudiamba. Mobilized by the OFSDP-II and the Horticulture and Panchayati Raj & Drinking Water Departments during community awareness programs organized through the Vana Suraksha Samiti (VSS), Panchami was inspired to establish a nutrition garden under the MGNREGA scheme.

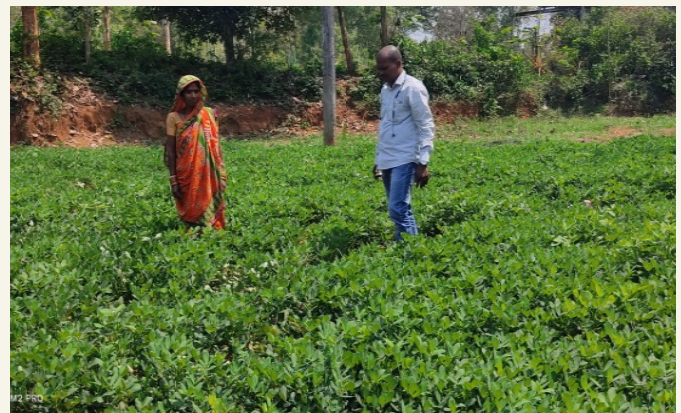
Using a small plot of land in her backyard, she cultivated a variety of vegetables, including spinach, mustard, cucumber, brinjal, tomato, papaya, moringa, and oilseeds. The vegetables not only enhanced her family's daily diet but also provided a surplus for sale in nearby villages and markets. Over the past year, she earned ₹ 2,500 from selling surplus produce, which contributed to her family's financial stability.

Inspiring a community:

Panchami's success inspired 12 other families in her village to start their own nutri-gardens. These efforts have significantly

improved access to nutritious food for these households, addressing malnutrition while fostering a sense of self-reliance.

Through initiatives like nutri-gardens, rural and hilly communities are finding sustainable solutions to malnutrition and poverty. Gudiamba Village's story highlights the transformative power of local, community-driven approaches to food security, demonstrating how small-scale interventions can create lasting impacts.





Unity in Integrity: A Success Story from Jhagoda VSS Empowering Rural Communities through Collective Action

The Sarna Self-Help Group (SHG) of Jhagoda VSS has embarked on a transformative journey, leveraging the support of the Odisha Forest Sector Development Project-II (OFSDP-II) to uplift their community.

Before the intervention of OFSDP-II, the Sarna SHG was primarily focused on savings and credit. However, with the project's support, the group has expanded its horizons and ventured into income-generating activities. The 10-member SHG, comprising solely of Scheduled Tribe (ST) communities, has pooled its resources and collective strength to make a significant impact.

The OFSDP-II intervention has played a pivotal role in fostering unity and empowerment within the Jhagoda VSS. By facilitating access to essential agricultural implements, the project has enabled the Sarna SHG to capitalize on local opportunities and enhance their livelihoods.

A Successful Venture

With the acquisition of a power tiller and a paddy harvester, the Sarna SHG has been able to provide crucial services to the community. By leasing out these implements, the group has generated a substantial income of Rs. 53,000/- within a short span of time.

The success of the Sarna SHG serves as an inspiration to other SHGs in the region. It demonstrates the power of collective action and the transformative potential of government initiatives. As the group continues to grow and thrive, it is poised to become a beacon of hope for the entire community.

Learnings:

- **Unity and Empowerment:** The Sarna SHG exemplifies the power of unity and collective action.
- **Government Support:** The OFSDP-II intervention has played a crucial role in enabling the group's success.
- **Sustainable Livelihoods:** By engaging in income-generating activities, the SHG is securing a sustainable future for its members.
- **Community Development:** The group's efforts are contributing to the overall development of the Jhagoda VSS.

The Sarna SHG is eager to explore new opportunities and expand its operations. With continued support from OFSDP-II and other stakeholders, the group is well-positioned to achieve even greater heights and make a lasting impact on the lives of its members and the community as a whole.

A Mushrooming Success: Rural Women shining through Sustainable Agriculture model under the initiative of OFSDP-II

The rural landscape of Sundargarh District, predominantly characterized by limited economic opportunities, is witnessing a transformative shift. A group of determined women from various Self-Help Groups (SHGs) within the Baladmal, Ghantibud, Medinipur, Bejidihi, and Badalpada VSS units, under the Sundargarh FMU, have embraced oyster mushroom cultivation as a sustainable income-generating venture.

Inspired by the potential of mushroom farming, these women, with the support of the Horticulture department and the Forest Management Unit (FMU), embarked on this innovative journey. Despite initial setbacks, they persevered, honing their skills and optimizing their techniques.

The SHG members, including Jay Maa Durga SHG, Maa Santoshini SHG in Baladmal, Janani SHG, Tarini SHG in Badalpada VSS, Ghanteswari SHG in Ghantibud VSS, and Jiban Jyoti SHG in Bejidihi VSS, collectively invested Rs. 57,600 to cultivate oyster mushrooms in 2,700 beds. By leveraging

the abundant paddy straw from the region, they successfully cultivated and harvested a bountiful crop.

Analysis:

The harvested mushrooms were sold for a total of Rs. 1,98,000, resulting in a net profit of Rs. 1,40,400. This substantial income has not only empowered the women financially but has also instilled confidence in their abilities.

Sustainable Plan:

Encouraged by this remarkable success, the SHG members are now planning to expand their mushroom cultivation operations to ensure year-round production. This initiative not only promises sustainable income generation but also contributes to food security and environmental conservation.

Transformation of communities:

This inspiring story highlights the transformative power of women and the potential of sustainable agriculture to uplift rural communities. By embracing innovative practices and leveraging available resources, these women are creating a brighter future for themselves and their families.



From Seed to Success: Impact of a Convergence Program

The convergence program between OFSDP-II and the Horticulture Department has yielded remarkable results, particularly for Sri Laxmidhar Sethi, a member of the Bartana VSS under the Betnoti FMU.

Summary:

- **Skill Development:** Laxmidhar Sethi, along with other community members, underwent rigorous training in mushroom cultivation, enabling them to acquire the necessary skills and knowledge.
- **Initial Investment:** With an initial investment of Rs. 50,000, Sethi embarked on his mushroom cultivation journey.
- **Early Success:** The first harvest yielded significant returns, with mushrooms sold at a profitable rate of Rs. 200 per kg.
- **Scaling Up:** Encouraged by this success, Sethi expanded his operations to further increase his family's income.

Initiative:

Recognizing the need for improved post-harvest management, the convergence program facilitated the establishment of a Preservation Unit. This unit, equipped with a solar dryer, enables the preservation of mushrooms, ensuring quality and extending their shelf life.

The Horticulture Department, in collaboration with the FMU Betnoti, played a crucial role in supporting this initiative. A substantial subsidy of Rs. 1 lakh was provided to Sethi under the National Horticulture Mission (NHM) to establish the Preservation Unit and Solar Dryer.

Community inspiration:

Laxmidhar Sethi's success story has inspired other farmers in his village to adopt mushroom cultivation. By sharing his knowledge and experiences, he is contributing to the overall development of the community.

This convergence program exemplifies the power of collaboration between government agencies and community organizations. By providing technical assistance, financial support, and market linkages, it has empowered rural communities and created sustainable livelihoods.



Latitude: 21.690652
Longitude: 86.947319



Latitude: 21.694525
Longitude: 86.945041
Elevation: 80.42±31 m



Latitude: 21.690641
Longitude: 86.947345
Elevation: 104.69±27 m

Bamboo Craft: Empowering Tribal Women

Bamboo craft has emerged as a powerful tool for empowering tribal women, providing them with a sustainable livelihood and fostering self-reliance. This traditional art form, deeply rooted in many tribal cultures, offers numerous benefits as well.

Gudiapali is a small hamlet located within the revenue jurisdiction of Rangabali village under the Nuagada Gram Panchayat (GP) in the Sorada Block of the Central FMU of Ghumsur North Division in Odisha. The village is home to households primarily belonging to the Scheduled Tribe (ST) community, and it is situated approximately 10 km from the Sorada Block headquarters.

In 2020, the Odisha Forestry Sector Development Project (OFSDP-II) was implemented in Gudiapali, with a focus on socio-economic development. One of the key outcomes of the project was the formation of a Women's Self-Help Group (SHG), aimed at improving the financial independence and livelihood opportunities of women in the village. The project staff, along with other departmental officials, regularly interacted with the women to discuss and identify livelihood strategies that utilized their existing resources and skills.

With support from the project, the SHG accessed a ₹ 50,000 loan from the Revolving Fund of the Rangabali VSS to kick-start their venture. The project also organized Bamboo Craft

Training, which helped the women develop their skills in creating traditional bamboo handicrafts and household items. Today, these women have successfully transformed their craft, incorporating modern designs into traditional bamboo products, and have become skilled bamboo craft artisans, a first for their village.

Women Leadership

Rina Mallick, the President of the Siridi Sai SHG, shared, "Through dedication, hard work, and perseverance, our team has gained recognition as artisans. The OFSDP-II project, under the Department of Forest, Environment, and Climate Change, has empowered us to become small entrepreneurs with the support of project staff and line departments. The revolving fund assistance and skill development programs have made this possible."

Rina also emphasized the resilience of the women, particularly during the pandemic, saying, "Many of the young women in our village were unemployed during the lockdown, but thanks to the support we received, we are now able to stand on our own feet and earn a living."

Impact on the Community

The women of Gudiapali village have benefited from the OFSDP-II program by creating and selling traditional bamboo

items such as temple baskets, pen stands, vegetable baskets, gabions, and flowerbeds, all with innovative designs and structures. These products have gained significant market demand, with prices ranging from ₹ 100 to ₹ 120 per gabion, and ₹ 150 for large vegetable baskets, depending on size and quality.

Each member of the SHG is now earning between ₹ 1,000 and ₹ 1,200 per week, which has helped them meet their family expenses. This income has not only contributed to their families' maintenance but has also empowered these women to become financially self-sufficient and independent.

Empowerment

The pandemic highlighted the urgent need for women to have work opportunities that could sustain them and their families. Many SHG members have continued crafting at home, with buyers visiting their doorsteps to purchase the

products at fair prices. The members have formed a strong network, not only within their own SHG but also with various marketing institutions and government departments, which has further boosted their confidence and income potential.

The project staff and the Mission Shakti Department continue to provide all necessary assistance, including additional training and government support, to ensure the sustainability of the bamboo craft industry in Gudiapali.

Self-Reliance

Today, the women of Gudiapali have not only gained financial independence but have also become a source of inspiration for other communities. Their journey from unemployment to self-sufficiency is a testament to the power of skill development, financial support, and collective effort in transforming rural livelihoods.



**Please send
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and inputs to:**

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