



A Quarterly Newsletter of **Odisha Forestry Sector Development Project, Phase-II** OCT - DEC 2022, VOL-6, ISSUE-3



From Project Director's Desk

The income generation activities taken up under Odisha Forestry Sector Development Project Phase-II may not be the main source of income for the family members of the marginalized-forest fringe dwelling communities but these certainly help them in day-to-day augmentation of household income. Taking this initiative to the next level, OFSDP Phase-II has provisioned to release a one-time grant called Revolving Fund to the target VSS in the forest fringe communities. Revolving Fund under the project is mandated to be used by the VSS, to provide loans to the Borrowing Entities (viz. SHGs, CIGs and Poorest of the Poor) for undertaking Income Generating Activities so as to supplement the family income. The core objective of Revolving Fund under OFSDP Phase-II is primarily to provide livelihood support to the forest fringe dwelling community stakeholders by improving access to finance required by the Borrowing Entities for investment towards Income Generating Activities Apart from these objectives, RF is expected to empower the community beyond project period for adopting a sustainable mechanism for fund management by the community for IGAs.

Under Odisha Forestry Sector Development Project Phase-II, Revolving Fund (RF) is identified as one of the major mechanisms of social inclusion by promoting SHGs, CIGs and the poor forest dependent community based organizations on the trajectory of socio-economic growth. It is heartening to see that the training on disbursement of loans from RF assistance and its utilization has gained momentum over the last few months and sizable number of beneficiaries have been covered through the RF under OFSDP, Phase-II to enable them to augment their income generating activities (IGA).

In this issue of Banayana, many success stories of IGA based programmes and RF induced activities are narrated to highlight the strategic implementation of the project under the livelihood augmentation initiative.

Apart from this, in this issue of Banayana, a special feature on participation of OFSDS in TRIFED Adi Bazar Mela – 2022 is covered. In the State level Adi Bazar Mela held for the first time in Bhubaneswar, SHG members of OFSDS participated largely to showcase their produces and products directly to the consumers. This platform was offered to the tribal dominated VSS members and SHG groups of AJY and OFSDP-II to augment their capacity of production by harnessing the skills on income generation activities.

The experience of interacting with this community based organizations shows that apart from the SHGs, there are other entities like the Common Interest Groups (CIGs) and the Poorest of Poor (PoPs) who do not have access to technical and financial support. The initiatives of OFSDS have thus diversified the financial inclusion to this community based organizations as well.

There are also various reports on convergence programmes and special success stories from DMUs which are highlighted in this issue of Banayana to bring out the importance of coordination with other line departments to benefit the forest fringe dwelling communities, who are the core stakeholders of the OFSDP, Phase-II.

These are small interventions making a big difference.

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

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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"



INCOME GENERATION ACTIVITIES: SUCCESS STORIES

BARIPADA DMU:

Revolving Fund of the VSS gives an income generating opportunity to the Poorest of the Poor (PoP) in Nafri VSS of Baripada Forest Division:

Revolving Fund management has been introduced from April 2022 onwards to augment the Income Generating Activities (IGA) being taken up by SHGs, CIGs and PoPs under the Bangiriposi FMU in Baripada Forest Division. Under the

initiative, an amount of up to Rs. 20,000/- (Rupees Twenty Thousand) has been provisioned for the PoP members and up to Rs. 50,000/- (Rupees Fifty Thousand) to the SHG and CIGs for carrying out different income generation activities.



Activities undertaken by beneficiary in Nafri VSS under RF

Accordingly, an amount of Rs. 20,000/- (Rupees Twenty Thousand) only has been disbursed as loan in the month of May 2022 to one of the PoP member named Sri Sanjay Kumar Naik of Nafri VSS of Bangiriposi FMU for Vegetable Cultivation in his own land of one acre. Sri Naik took a loan from VSS @6% of interest per annum. With this loan amount, he has cultivated different vegetables like Beans, Cabbage and Green Peas. As per the records available, during winter

season he has sold around 8 quintals of Cabbage @ Rs. 2,000/- per quintal, 3 quintals of Beans @ Rs. 3,000/- per quintal and 1 quintal of Green Pea @ Rs. 2,000/- per quintal. In total he sold all the vegetables for an amount of Rs. 27,000/- at the end of the season. On an average he has earned a profit of around Rs. 7,000/- during the cultivation period. He was also able to payback his loan of Rs. 20,000/-. He is deeply obliged to the Nafri VSS for this opportunity.

Livelihood from Puffed Rice Business

A success story of Chengua-mangal VSS of Baripada Forest Division.

Maa Gadachandi VSS, Chengua-mangalpur is an ideal Vana Surakshya Samiti. It is situated around 50 km away from the foot hill of Simlipal Biosphere Reserve. Kanak Pradhan is a Poorest of the Poor (PoP) widow who resides in this village Chengua-Mangalpur. After consulting with the Loan Appraisal Committee (LAC) members she availed a loan amounting to Rs. 10,000/- from Revolving Fund of the VSS. Generally, people prefer to consume domestic puffed rice. Keeping this in mind, she started puffed rice production business. She bought 2 quintals of Rice @ Rs.40/kg which costs around Rs. 8000/- in total. With the balance money of Rs. 2000/-, she bought necessary utensils & carry bag etc

and started the production at her home. This small IGA has improved her income. Now her monthly income from this business is around Rs. 4,000/-. She is truly thankful to the VSS as well as Forest Department & OFSDP-II for this support. She has already repaid the loan amount of 1st cycle and has applied for 2nd cycle loan of Rs. 20,000/- to increase her business. She is now encouraging all the PoPs of that village to take loan through Revolving Fund to augment their livelihood through IGA instead of depending on the forest.

The success story of Kanaka Pradhan of Maa Gadachandi VSS has set an example for other members of the VSS and fellow villagers to augment their livelihood through diverse income generation activities.



Beneficiary making her life from Puffed Rice business

KARANJIA DMU

Sal Leaf Cluster at Kendumundi – VSS in Thakurmunda FMU, Karanjia Forest Division

After the Multi Product Cluster Unit Building at Kendumundi under Thakurmunda FMU of Karanjia DMU came into existence, Maa Tarini SHG has taken up the operational management responsibility of the Cluster from Rengalbeda VSS which is the nearest one among all the VSS under Thakurmunda FMU. The OFSDP-II had organized a Sal Leaf sewing and stitching training for selected members from the 19 SHGs & VSSs consisting of 77 members in four batches with 20 members in each batch for 10 days. After getting the sewing stitching training for ten days, Maa Tarini SHG and Nuashakti SHG of Rengalbeda VSS wholeheartedly got involved in the cluster operation and management activities. At the VSS level, members decided that Maa Tarini SHG will be responsible for the Sal leaf collection, pressing and marketing of the Sal leaf products and Nuashakti SHG shall exclusively look after the stitching of the Sal Leaf. So all the members in their respective groups were fully involved in collection, production and marketing of the Sal leaf items. The cluster



has opened a joint Cluster Account on the initiative of concerned Member Secretary and Treasurer of the VSS at Odisha Gramya Bank, Kendumundi. After opening the bank account, they deposited Rs. 11,380/- excluding the payment to SHG members for pressing, machine maintenance and procurement of sal leaves. They sold the sal leaf products through local contacts. All the leading VSS members including the Animator are fully involved in the process to

make the cluster operation a successful and sustainable one. They are positive about the successful output from the cluster. The community members are highly appreciative of such initiative of OFSDP, Phase-II for establishment of Multi-Purpose Cluster Unit Building at Kendumundi which offers avenues of additional source of income to them.

Tribal Women from Karanjia DMU participated in Adi Bazar Mela

The Maa Tarini SHG members from Rengalbeda VSS under Thakurmunda FMU of Karanjia DMU participated in the Adi Bazar Mela 2022 on behalf of OFSDP, Phase-II, which was held from 15th November to 21st November 2022, at Ekamra Haat, Exhibition Ground, Bhubaneswar, organised by the Tribal Cooperative Marketing Development Federation of India (TRIFED). The VSS is tribal dominated, and two tribal women from Maa Tarini SHG, namely Smt Rangalata Naik and Smt Chandrakanti Naik, participated in the six-days mela at Bhubaneswar. The FMU coordinator also facilitated participation in the mela along with the SHG members. The members displayed the local products available at their VSS along with Sal Leaf products. As the Maa Tarini SHG members were looking after the Multi Product Cluster Unit at Kendumundi, they showcased Sal Leaf items in Adi Bazar for selling. The items like Sal Leaf Plates, cups, and trays, jhuna, honey, arrowroot powder, Neem Oil, Kusuma Oil, Triphala Churna, etc. were brought by the SHG members to the mela for selling the products. The SHG consists of tribal women and this was their first exposure to a state-level trade fair.

They had a unique experience in selling their own products directly to consumers. Though they brought limited items to the exhibition but the feedback and exposure they received in selling them and customer interactions were encouraging. They were initially apprehensive of the good sale of their products which have limited buyers in urban areas. But they were happy to receive positive responses from various sets of buyers. The SHG products were in high demand in the Adi Bazar Mela as they were natural, and well packaged. All the products sold like hot cakes within no time. They sold all the items and got a profit of Rs. 13,700 in total.

After the completion of Mela, the SHG members shared their experience with other members of the VSS. They were very happy with their new experience. They had a good stay and nice business activities due to all the support from PMU and OFSDP-II. The SHG and its members are now excited to participate in any mela or exhibition in the coming days.



Tribal women selling their products in Adi Bazar

GHUMUSUR-SOUTH DMU

Support through Revolving fund helps to get sustainable income for the SHG members of Khariguda VSS in Ghumusur South DMU

Inclusion of women in developmental agenda has been gaining overall significance with an aim to empower women in various spheres of socio-economic life. Self-Help Group (SHG) approach is a proven format for holistic growth of a group of village women to work together as group in achieving a common goal. Income Generation Activities (IGAs) undertaken by the SHG helps them to earn economic return and generate savings and profits to the group. Diversified income generation activities identified by OFSDP-II are undertaken by women self-help groups as per the guidelines of the project.

As per the project guidelines, Ghumusur South Forest Division has facilitated one such initiative for Income Generation Activity by the SHGs through the support of Revolving Fund. Members of Maa Biraja and Maa Ghungi SHGs of Khariguda VSS under Badagada FMU of Ghumusur South Division

have been assigned to operate two roadside kiosks. Two SHGs are successfully running two different kiosks i.e. one products outlet centre and a tiffin (tea, coffee) centre near Khariguda VSS. All support for establishment of the Kiosks at Khariguda were provided by the DMU Chief and team members of Ghumusur South DMU and Badagada FMU. The unused quarters of the Dept. was repaired and renovated with electrification for establishment of the Kiosks by the SHGs. The SHG members are at present preparing and selling packets of pulses (dal) of Green gram, Black gram and Horse gram etc. The tiffin center along with tea, coffee and other processed food products are being sold in another kiosk. SHGs are not only selling the products in the outlet but also they are sending the products to different exhibitions. Nearly 5 to 6 Members from the two SHGs are regularly working in the outlet and tiffin center every day. The loan amount of

Rs.100,000/- (@Rs. 50,000/ to each SHG) was sanctioned by the VSS for the above IGA. Earning from both the outlets from the products and tiffin selling is estimated to be approximately Rs. 2500 to Rs. 3000/-per day with an approximate profit of about Rs. 1000-1200/- per day. Out of the profit both the SHGs are repaying the loan amount regularly to the VSS. Based on the current business response, it is expected that this Centre would be the prominent and primary pulses cluster point of Ghumsur South Division in future.



SHGs making business out of Revolving Fund in Ghumsur (South) Division

The successful running of business kiosks through IGA by the SHG members of Khariguda VSS is considered to be a model for replication at other potential VSSs who want to establish roadside eatery or start a fresh product centre with limited capital. Various line departments are also taking note of this successful endeavor of local SHGs and they are encouraging other groups to adopt similar income based activities where they can ensure financial assistance through Banks.



SUBARNAPUR DMU

Dairy Farming: An Alternative Livelihood initiative in Khajuriapli VSS of Subarnapur Forest Division

The objective of OFSDP-II is to provide sustainable livelihood and augment the income generation capabilities in the project villages with a special focus on Poorest of Poor (PoP) households. In the rural and forest ecosystem, livestock management is an important economic activity and this is considered only next to crop farming. Under OFSDP-II, Subarnapur DMU has initiated many Income Generation Activities through convergence. In this regard, the case of Smt. Kuni Gadua of Khajuriapali village of Ullunda Forest Range is worth mentioning. She belongs to the economically weak family. As part of OFSDP-II initiatives and being part of the VSS, Kuni got to know about the financial assistance offered as loan from the Revolving Fund of VSS to the Poorest of the Poor families. Then she started dairy farming with

an investment of Rs. 20,000/- out of which she mobilized Rs.15,000/ through loan assistance from Revolving Fund of VSS and Rs. 5,000/-her own investment. Presently, she sells 5 litres of milk daily @ Rs. 35/- per litre and added Rs. 5250/- to the monthly income of her family. Now she has already repaid two instalments of Rs. 5,600/- of her loan and plans to expand the business by purchasing additional 2 to 3 numbers of cows. Assessing her future plan, project staff of OFSDP-II have suggested her to start vermin-compost preparation using the available cow-dung, which can be another source of income through value addition. Now Kuni is very happy and expressed her gratitude to OFSDP-II project for this financial assistance through Revolving Fund and is planning to set up a Vermi Compost unit on her own.



Dairy farming by beneficiary in Subarnapur Division with RF assistance

Livelihood Through Grocery Shop in Kutapalli VSS of Subarnapur DMU

Smt. Bishnupriya Karmi, aged 53 years, a PoP member of Kutpalli VSS of Ullunda FMU under Subarnapur Forest Division used to work as a daily wage labourer to earn her living. After the outbreak of COVID pandemic in 2020 followed by the lockdowns, there was severe crisis of employment opportunities in local labour markets. Getting work even for two days in a week was extremely difficult. Under such conditions, Bishnupriya, knowing about the Revolving Fundscheme in the VSS, applied and availed loan assistance of Rs. 20,000 from the VSS and started a grocery shop in the village with that amount. Now, she

earns more than Rs. 200 per day from her grocery shop. Her family members also assist her in the business. The running business gives her enough confidence and now she plans to expand her business in future.

Smt. Bishnupriya Karmi, who was struggling to provide two square meals a day to her family during pandemic situation, is presently running the shop with an assured and sustainable source of income. This is only possible through proper execution of the planned scheme i.e. provision of Revolving Fund under OFSDP -II in the grass-root level.



Livelihood through grocery shop by female VSS member with RF assistance

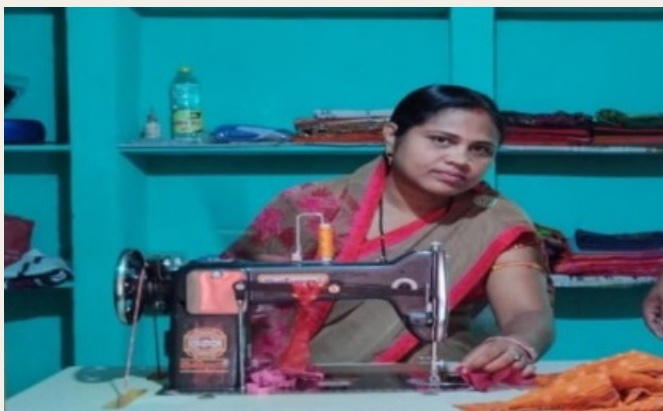
Empowering livelihood through Tailoring Activity in Ghatopali VSS of Subannapur DMU:

In post COVID scenario, a series of challenges were faced by fellow villagers to ensure their income and livelihood. The hardships and financial crisis were also acute in the case of Smt. Raibari Bhue, a 34 years old lady residing in Ghatopali VSS of Binka FMU under Subarnapur Forest Division. Smt Raibari knew tailoring but was unable to purchase a sewing machine due to her poor financial conditions.

Knowing about the loan assistance scheme under Revolving Funds, she approached the VSS and got a loan assistance of Rs. 10,000. She purchased a sewing machine with that

amount and utilized her tailoring skills and previous experience, to support her family financially.

As per the information available now Smt. Bhue is successfully running the tailoring unit in her village and earning Rs. 2500 to Rs. 3000 per month supplementing her family income. She is paying back the loan regularly as per the terms of loan. She is so confident now that, she is planning to open a tailoring workshop in the village where she can train other poor and needy women of the neighborhood, accomplishing the vision of "ATMA NIRBHAR BHARAT".



Livelihood through tailoring with RF assistance

Grocery Shop – A Means of Livelihood support in Khagasakana VSS of Subarnapur DMU

With a vision to assist the forest dependent community and promote sustainable livelihood generation activities among the forest dwellers, OFSDP-II has provisioned financial assistance to the VSS through Revolving Funds. Sri Partha Danga of Khagasakana VSS, Narayanpur section, Sonapur FMU is one such beneficiary, who has availed a financial assistance of Rs. 20,000 from the VSS Revolving Fund to start a grocery shop. He had started the grocery shop with initial investment of Rs.10,000/- and was running the shop on low key.

After availing the loan from Revolving Fund of the VSS, he added many new items in the shop and presently he earns his living out of the profit from the shop. His wife supports him in his business and manages the shop in his absence. After repaying the loan instalments on time, he manages to make some savings from the profit amount. A small financial help from the RF has helped Sri Danga to establish his own business and now he is confident of expanding his business in future. He owes his financial progress to OFSDP-II for its innovative and timely help.



Grocery shop activity with RF assistance

CASE STUDY

The forest has brought a new perspective of life: A case study on Udarama VSS under Sundargarh Division

“The key to development is cooperation and partnership”, and this statement has been confirmed by the residents of Udarma Vana Surkhsya Samiti in Bargaon FMU under Sundargarh DMU. It is the constant effort of villagers in the field of forest and environment protection that has made Udarma VSS an exemplary VSS today. Udarma village is a remote village of Pamra Gram Panchayat under Bargaon Block of Bargaon Forest Range. The village is consisting of 66 households with a population of 331 and all the households in the village are poor and come under BPL category.

Agriculture is the major livelihood option for the Villagers of Udarama Village. NTFP collection like collection of sal seeds, mahua and Kendu leaf are other sources of income for the villagers. Apart from this, most of the households depend on daily wages for their survival. The village is located adjacent to Udarama RF and the villagers are fully depended on the forest in their day to day life.

Since 1980, i.e. before the JFM Resolution came into existence by Govt. of Odisha, the villagers are protecting 208 Ha. area of Udarama Reserve Forest from fire and illegal cutting of trees. Mr. Marianus Tette, Mr. Pascal Tette, Mr. Nicolas Tette and Mr. Christopher Kullu are the leading members

of the VSS and their role is very crucial in protection of the forest. The villagers, are very united in forest protection and strictly following Thengapali with involvement of all villagers for forest protection. They organize meetings and create awareness among the nearby villagers through awareness camps for forest protection. The VSS members have effectively created fire line along the Forest area and because of the continuous efforts of the VSS, no forest fire has been detected in the VSS area during last 8 years. There has been an increase in the forest growth which is clearly evident.



General Body Meeting

In the year 2019, this village (VSS) was covered under Odisha Forestry Sector Development Project-II, and different project components were implemented in the village. After due consultations with the VSS members the Micro Plan for village development was prepared and approved by the Gram Sabha. Interventions like NTFP plantation over 5 ha,

ANR with gap plantation over 45 ha. along with SMC / DLT works, fire line creation etc. have been implemented in the VSS area for sustainable forest management. Now every day a group of 2-3 person patrols the forest on a rotational basis to guard the forest against forest fires, illegal thefts. Hence, the forest area protected by Udarama VSS is adequately regenerating.



Capacity building training for Goatary and piggery farming



VSS members in plantation work



Piggery farming by Shanti SHG



Goatery farming by Shanti SHG

Under the project initiatives, participation of women members and vulnerable groups in different income generating activities has been ensured and enhanced. Various capacity building programmes were conducted at VSS, FMU and DMU level under OFSDP-II where the VSS members as well as the SHG members from the village have participated. With support from the Revolving Fund, income Generation Activities like goatary and piggery farming have been taken up by two SHGs from the village. 20 kgs of mustard seeds was distributed to 20 nos of beneficiaries, vaccination camp for small and large ruminants was organized, distribution of battery powered sprayer for agricultural purposes, distribution of vegetable minikits etc. were provided through convergence to enhance the livelihoods of the VSS members.



Udarama VSS receiving Prakruti Mitra Award

With the implementation of OFSDP-II, the VSS members are engaging themselves actively in the forest protection works. They are also helping and coordinating with forest officials, OFSDP-II staffs and Forest Department in every phase of the project work. Due to their remarkable achievement in forest protection and community coordination, the VSS

has been awarded with Prakruti Mitra Award in the year 2022. Sri. Marianus Tete, the president of the VSS was also awarded with Prakruti Bandhu Samman. The success story of Udarama VSS has become an example for other VSS of Bargaon FMU and neighboring villagers are getting inspired and are in consultations with the project staff to cover their villages under the OFSDP-II project.

MOVING BEYOND FORESTS FOR LIVELIHOOD DEVELOPMENT

A Case of Forest Conservation in Deobhubanpur VSS

General Information: Deobhubanpur is a remote village in the Balisankara Block of Odisha's Sundargarh District. The Village is well-known for its significant contribution to forest protection within the village limits. The village is popular as "No forest fire village" in the Kinjirkela Forest Section area of Ujalpur Range/FMU.

Social Structure and Livelihood: The village Deobhubanpur is surrounded by Kinjirkela in the east, Sikajore in the west, Dangaramunda in the North, and Tangarjore in the South. The village is inhabited by 184 households (HHs) belonging to two types of Schedule Tribes named Khadia, Oram who are the dominating communities. Besides, this Luhura (Hammersmith) communities are also residing in the village.

Agriculture is the mainstay of the local economy and livelihoods in Deobhubanpur Village. Most of the villagers work as daily laborers. Non-Timber Forest Products (NTFPs) play a vital role in the social and economic life of the locals, who collect Mahua, Char seeds, etc. from the forest. The collection of Kendu leaves is a good income source for the villagers. Villagers survive on the production and sale of paddy, and the collection and sale of NTFPs for at least eight months in a year. Many of the villagers also depend on daily labor for their survival.

Evolution of FPC and VSS:

Deobhubanpur Forest Protection Committee joined its hand with the Forest Department in the year 1996 with the formal formation of VSS in the village. However, informal protection of nearby forests was continuing by the villagers since last 11 years prior formation of VSS.



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The VSS and Management:

In the year 2017, Deobhubanpur VSS was included in the OFSDP-II project which is aimed to revive the degraded forest, and to improve the local livelihood of the village. The activities of the VSS were revived. Every day, a small group of 2-3 individuals patrols the forest on a rotational basis to guard the forest against forest fires, and illegal thefts, even during the rainy season.

A VSS Building-cum-IGA Facilitation Centre has been constructed in the central part of the village. The building is being used for different purposes i.e. VSS meetings, village meetings, cultural programs of the village, SHG members' meetings etc. The VSS members have prepared the village Micro Plan with the active involvement of villagers. As a result of awareness and forest protection activities, there is no forest fire incident in the VSS area since the year 2016. Significant natural regeneration of seedlings, growth of plantation, and soil moisture conservation works can be seen in the assigned forest area. No members from outside villages dares to enter this local forest from the year 2016.

Alternate Livelihood and Capacity Building to reduce pressure on Forest:

Before the implementation of the project, village women were usually not participating in village meetings. However, after several interactions, household visits, and motivation by project staff, there is change in attitude of village women who are now speaking about their issues, needs, and requirements in public meetings flawlessly. They are actively participating in the Palli Sabha and Gram Sabhas as well as Block meetings. Different kinds of both technical and practical capacity-building programs have been organized at VSS, FMU and DMU level in which VSS members have participated.

The VSS is provided with input materials and schemes for socio-economic, agricultural, and horticultural development through convergence with other line departments. 31 LPG connections were provided under the PMUY scheme in the village who were directly dependent on forest for fire wood. Grafted mango, lemon, and pomegranate saplings



for 161 HHs, potato seeds for 35 HHs, distribution of green gram, battery powered sprayer for agricultural purposes, cultivation of different millets under the Millet Mission, vegetable mini kits, organic manure, fertilizer, etc. were provided through convergence. A 4-kilometer long Cattle Proof Trench was dug in the periphery of the assigned forest area to prevent cattle grazing inside the forest. Out of the Revolving Fund (Rs. 2,00,000/-) provided to the VSS, Rs1,50,000 /- has been sanctioned to the SHG groups who have taken up Vermi compost, Poultry farming, and Fishery etc. as income generating activities.

Voice of VSS: The villagers feel / concede that they have a deep connection with the forest through generations and "Forest" is like their beloved mother. In offering tribute to the generations of nature lovers, the VSS members attribute the existence of the forest to their ancestors and their hard work in safe guarding it with all odds.

Conclusion: As a result of awareness and community mobilization through implementation of OFSDP-II, collection of fuel wood from the locality for selling purposes is significantly reduced. LPG connections provided to households has reduced the collection and use of fire wood. Capacity-building training to the VSS members through convergence with line Departments of Balisankara Block and supply of seeds, fertilizers etc. have added to the income and growth of the families in the village. The VSS members / villagers also got income from the works implemented for forest management under OFSDP-II. This has significantly improved the job opportunities in the village reducing migration of local people in search of job. The pressure on the forest has been reduced significantly improving the status of flora and fauna. Significant improvement in the vegetation cover in the forest has attracted wildlife and wildlife like barking deer, jackal, hyenas and wild boars, and wild elephants from Chhatisgarh. The villagers are very happy and hope for a better future.

Inter Cropping In Farm Forestry: A Successful Experience In Silapurua VSS Under Betnoti FMU:

Village Silapurua is located 12 km away from the Block Headquarter of Betnoti. Sanjay Kumar Pradhan a leading farmer of Silapurua VSS, had some fallow land and was interested for taking up Farm Forestry plantations with inter cropping of vegetables which can be harvested at a short rotation. Although Sanjay was interested about plantations, he did not possess sufficient skill or experience for such farm forestry. The issues of Sanjay Pradhan were discussed in the VSS meetings, when he was sharing his feeling to adopt plantation with intercropping of vegetable. Under the guidance of project staff (OFSDP-II) and field staff of Agriculture Dept, the Horti-NTFP model of Farm Forestry was executed by him over 0.15 ha of fallow land with planting of Mango and Amla saplings. He cultivated Brinjal as intercropping in the FF area, utilizing the presence of soil moisture and harvested 3 quintals Brinjal after 3 months which he sold at a total cost of Rs. 12000/- @ Rs. 4000/- per quintal. Sanjay Kumar Pradhan was happy to see that his fallow land has become productive for growing trees as

well as getting immediate return through intercropping of vegetable which was his dream. He appreciates the guidance and support offered by OFSDP-II project through its timely intervention in successfully converting the fallow waste land into a productive farm land and a good source of family income.



Health Insurance for Forest fringe villages under Sambalpur Forest Division

Health is wealth. However, in today's life, Health care is very crucial and becoming more and more expensive. The forest dwellers, who are economically very vulnerable, are facing a lot of health hazard due to poverty.

Biju Swasthya Kalyan Yojana (BSKY) is a flag ship scheme announced by Government of Odisha to provide cashless health care coverage to the beneficiaries of BKKY I & II, BPL, AAY and those who are in low-income group, with special emphasis on the health protection of vulnerable families and women. The villagers in the remote areas of Sambalpur Division were not aware of this scheme. In order to overcome this situation, the project staff under OFSDP-II have taken an initiative to mobilize the forest fringe villagers/Youths/farmers to include them in Biju Swasthya Kalyan Yojana (BSKY) scheme of Odisha Government.

Execution of Work

The project staff along with other VSS members organized different village level awareness meeting to sensitize about the BSKY scheme. Different awareness rallies were organized in convergence with other line departments (OLM & W&CD)

to sensitize the villagers about the flagship programme of Odisha Government in all four FMUs of the Division.

Door-to-door campaigning was conducted with the involvement of project staff, animators and volunteers of each and every VSS, the CRPs, Volunteer, Animators, ASHA, to convince / educate villagers. VSSs level meetings were conducted involving the SHGs with distribution of leaflets and other IEC materials to the local villagers.

Field Management Unit (FMU) of all four Ranges monitored and coordinated with the concerned Block level Officials to include the left-out beneficiaries under overall supervision of Sambalpur DMU.

As OFSDP-II has also been emphasizing inclusive sustainable development of forest fringe communities through convergence of various schemes of line department, the project staff of all four Ranges intensively sensitized the community members and enrolled 10176 house hold out of 10485 eligible house hold of VSSs and make the scheme success. The FMU wise HHs covered under the scheme is as follows:



BSKY enrolment of beneficiaries in Sambalpur Division



House Holds Covered Under BSKY in VSSs area of Sambalpur DMU				
SL No	Row Labels	No of total Eligible HHs of BSKY	No of HHs enrolled in BSKY Scheme	% HHs Covered
1	Dhama	1504	1443	95.94
2	Padiabahal	1833	1816	99.07
3	Rengali	3828	3826	99.95
4	Sadar	3320	3091	93.10
	Grand Total	10485	10176	95.94

The benefit of enrolling the poor villagers under BSKY was well understood at the time of medical emergency of Kumari Bishnu Priya Kisan, the 9 years old girl of Jugal Kishor Kishan of Khagasadera VSS of Rengali Range who was suffering from swelling over lower end of left thigh & knee joint since 30 days of the screening of beneficiaries in the village.

After detection of the disease, it was decided by the medical team that the patient needs to be operated. With the help of project staff (Odisha Forestry Sector Development Project-II) the girl was admitted in the Samaleswari Nursing Home, Sambalpur. The hospital was in the empaneled list of BSKY

hospitals and the operation was free of cost for the patient. Only due to the inclusion of the family under BSKY, they could save the estimated cost of Rs.20,000/-for operation of knee and the child was cured and discharged from the hospital with a smile in her face.

Conclusion

Only due to the sincere efforts of project staff (OFSDP-II), forest fringe villagers got the benefit of free of cost health services including free medicines, free diagnostics, easy health service through BSKY which is directly supporting the livelihood standard of the villagers.





Latitude: 21.395699
Longitude: 84.26931
Elevation: 199.44±103 m
Accuracy: 3.9 m
Azimuth: 307° (NW)
Pitch: -11.7°
Time: 06-11-2021 14:29



21.225849
83.903779
3400.0 m
11-2021 11:38
Location of BSKY

BSKY card distribution in Sambalpur Division

SPECIAL FEATURE

OFSDS PARTICIPATED IN AADI BAZAR FAIR 2022 ORGANISED BY TRIFED

Tribal communities encouraged for livelihood enhancement through trade activities

The Odisha Forestry Sector Development Society (OFSDS) participated in the first Aadi Bazar Fair 2022 organized by Tribes India from 15th November 2022 to 21st November 2022 at Bhubaneswar. The fair, exclusively dedicated for Tribal artisans and communities, was organized by Tribal Cooperative Marketing Development Federation of India (TRIFED), Govt of India at Ekamra Haat Annex, Bhubaneswar for seven days. The exhibition-cum-sale counter in the Aadi Bazar Fair 2022 had witnessed participation of five Territorial Forest Divisions of OFSDP-II and AJY projects of Odisha Forestry Sector Development Society. The Odisha Forestry Sector Development Society stall represented by OFSDP, Phase-II and Ama Jangala Yojana had arranged sale and display of various forest based produces and finished products among the NTFP category.

The OFSDS stalls were visited by Sri Biseswar Tudu, Minister of State for Tribal Affairs, Govt of India during the inauguration of the Aadi Bazar Fair.

The OFSDS ensured display of project activities and achievements in the exhibition. Sanjuali Sal Leaves Cluster of Keonjhar Forest Division under Ama Jangala Yojana (AJY) had participated in the fair with the uniquely designed Sal Leaf plates prepared by the forest communities of the cluster. As many as 4 Self Help Groups operationalized under OFSDP-II also participated in the event. In total 9 members of 5 Self Help Groups, representing the Vana Surakhya Samitis of OFSDP-II and AJY Divisions of Ghumsur (South), Boudh, Karanjia, Rairangpur and Keonjhar Divisions took part in the Aadi Bazar Fair during the seven days' exhibition.





Glimpses from the inaugural session of the OFSDS Stall at Aadi Bazar Fair by TRIFED 2022

This is the first time, VSS members of OFSDP, Phase-II and AJY took part in the Aadi Bazar Fair. The fair had special focus on promoting Tribal groups, SHGs and VSSs involved in trading of forest based natural products and handicrafts. Accordingly, wide range of Herbal products, organic produces and wellness activities were displayed

and the groups were chosen as per the TRIFED criteria from the identified multi-product clusters. OFSDS has ensured promotion of products of Self-Help Groups operationalized under OFSDP-II and AJY which has harnessed natural and organic products.



SNIPPETS & EVENTS:

Different VSSs of Sundargarh Forest Division had participated in the Regional Kalinga Herbal Fair 2022-23 held at Bhanjabhaban Exhibition Ground Rourkela. SHGs and VSSs participated with different products like; NTFP Products (Harida, Jhuna, Dhup), Herbal Products-Turmeric

and products produced by the community members at VSS level i.e. Vermi Compost, Terracotta, Brown Rice, Basumati Rice, different Ragi products etc. The stalls were highly appreciated and visited by people in the Mela.



Visit of PMU Team and MMSA Team with Social Enablers to different Divisions



Field visit of PMU and MMSA team for initiating additional IGA activities through Social and Business enablers in Sundergarh Division



Field visit of PMU and MMSA team for initiating additional IGA activities through Social and Business enablers in Ghumsur North Division

**Please send
your comments
and inputs to:**

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