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EDITORIAL



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From Project Director's Desk

Joint Forest Management (JFM) is a concept of developing partnerships between fringe forest user-groups and the Forest Department on the basis of mutual trust and jointly-defined roles and responsibilities for forest protection and development. In Odisha Forestry Sector Development Project, Phase-II (OFSDP-II), Vana Surakhya Samitiies (VSSs) have been identified as the foundation of organizational pyramid. Decisions regarding Forest Management, livelihood opportunities, benefit sharing etc under OFSDP-II are central to VSS domain. Most of the Project interventions under OFSDP-II aim at restoration of degraded forests and improving the livelihood of the forest dependent villagers which are being carried out in Joint Forest Management mode (JFM) and are under implementation through Vana Surkshay Samities constituted in 1200 villages within 12 Forest Divisions under the project. OFSDP has formulated a strategy to select best performing VSSs to encourage the community members for their contribution in participatory forest management during the Annual Review of the project components named – Sameekshya.

A special feature on VSS assessment is carried out in this issue of Banayana. It also carries the success stories of VSSs for adopting different livelihood options for their sustainability and innovations in community management programmes.

In this unprecedented times of COVID-19 pandemic, forest management and governance have become dual challenges for us with restrictions in place for mobility and operation. But, it is very assuring to observe that we have been rising up to the occasion and the challenges posed by this pandemic. Under OFSDP-II, where offering livelihood support to the key forest stakeholders is the major objective, all the 12 Territorial Divisional Units of OFSDP-II have carried out special drive to augment IGA programmes and plantation activities strictly following COVID-19 guidelines.

So in this issue of Banayana, the activities of field highlighting VSS activities and various lessons learnt from their outreach experiences during pandemic situation are documented. There are other reports on progress on project components and convergence programmes which are highlighted in this publication.

Dr. Sudarsan Panda, IFS

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Recognition of Best Performing VSSs under OFSDP-II

Odisha Forestry Sector Development Project, Phase-II is being implemented in Joint Forest Management Mode, where communities are empowered not only to contribute for sustainable forest management but also for their comprehensive development. The members of the VSSs covered under the project take lead role in preparing the perspective development plan (Micro Plan) of their respective villages, based on their resources, skill and the need identified for comprehensive community development. Interventions relating to forestry management are being taken up with the funding of the project, whereas, other community development activities are being taken up through inter-sectoral convergence with other line departments.

As of 2019-20, 778 VSSs from 33 Field Management Units (FMUs) of 12 Territorial Forest Divisions have been taken up in to the fold of OFSDP-II. Survey & Demarcation, Pillar Posting, Community Mobilization, Soil & Moisture Conservation Activities, Fire line treatment, Consolidation of Forest Boundaries, Nursery raising, Plantation (ANR & AR), Construction of VSS cum IGA Building, Capacity Building Activities etc. have been taken up VSSs level. More over various community development activities such as construction / repair of village road, digging of pond, installation of tube well, village electrification, installation of solar lights, supply of LPG Connection etc. have been taken up through the inter-sectoral convergence with line departments. Similarly activities

such as Mushroom Cultivation, Ape Culture, Kitchen Garden, Poultry, Pisci-Culture, Vegetable Cultivation, Tailoring etc. have been taken up to facilitate household income at the community level.

Successful implementation of project interventions at community level largely depends upon the active involvement of the VSS members. Community leaders, Executive Committee Members, Animators of the VSS take lead role in planning, execution and monitoring of different interventions at respective village level. The issues/ challenges in selection of beneficiaries, implementation of different govt. schemes / programmes, protection and management of forest etc. are being resolved through VSS level consultative meetings.

Under OFSDP, there is a provision of recognizing best performing VSSs and to award them suitably every year. Such approach creates the competitive environment among the VSSs and contributes significantly to perform the best. Each Division have been asked to rate the functioning of the VSSs following the well defined scoring parameters such as Institutional Aspects, Financial Management Aspects, Progress of work etc. and to send the name of best performing two VSSs with details to PMU for final selection of best three VSSs for the State. A Committee under the Chairpersonship of Addl. Project Director (IME) at PMU level finalized the following VSSs as best performing VSSs for the year 2019-20 under OFSDP-II.

Rank	Name of the VSS	Name of the DMU/Division	Name of the FMU/Range
First	JadupurVSS	Athamallik	Athamallik
Second	BhuptapadaVSS	Boudh	Boudh
Third	DumerbahalVSS	Karanjia	Dudhiani
	GumunduVSS	Subarnapur	Sonepur

Normally the Certificate along with a memento used to handed over to the President of the selected VSSs in the State level Annual Sameekshya Meeting held in Bhubaneswar. As the Sameekshya Meeting 2019-20 could not be organized due to the COVID-19 pandemic, PCCF &

Project Director, OFSDP announced the name of the VSSs in the State level online Review Meeting held on 9th June, 2020 and the Certificates were sent to respective Divisions for handing over the same to respective VSSs.



BIJU PATTNAIK AWARD TO KUTAPALI VSS UNDER SUBARNAPUR DMU



Kutapalli VSS of Ulunda FMU, Subarnapur Division, which has been covered under Odisha Forestry Sector Development Project, Phase-II has been awarded with Biju Pattnaik Award by Forest & Environment Department, Govt. of Odisha for its active participation in protecting the forest assigned to it.

Kutapalli VSS of S Patrapali Gram Panchayat consist of 56 households with 223 population. People from different caste namely SC, ST and OBC lives in this village. This VSS has been constituted for more than 10 years and were assigned with about 65 ha of forest land under Singhasan Reserve Forest under JFM for protection and management. However, the villagers were not so active for protection and management of the forest land assigned to them till they were adopted by OFSDP-II for progressive development.

It was during 2018-19, Kutapalli VSS were taken into the fold of OFSDP-II. After brief introduction about the project, the VSS members expressed their willingness to

implement OFSDP-II. The villagers took active role in formulating the micro plan for overall development of their village. The project staff of OFSDP facilitated them to formulate the comprehensive plan and linked with the extension officers of other line department to carry out development work through convergence.

Community members were shown active interest for conservation and management of forest assigned to them. Activities for soil moisture conservation, fire line treatment, nursery raising, plantation etc. were taken up by the villagers with the direct assistance of OFSDP.

Thengapalli system for protection of assigned forest to this VSS was adapted by the villagers. A monthly schedule to protect the assigned forest from theft, forest fire, protecting the village from any untoward incidences is in practice in this village for last two years. Two members team (from different families) for each day has been finalized, who takes the entire responsibility for protection and management of the forest. They take night round across the village with a THENGA (stick) and guard the forest. On completion of their duty for the day, they place the thenga at the entrance of the house of the family, who is scheduled in the thengapalli system for the next day. Due to active involvement of the villagers, the tree coverage in the forest assigned to this VSS has shown significant improvement without any theft, forest fire etc. for last couple of years. The crops available in the assigned forest include species like Sal, Teak, Mahul, Khaira, Amla etc.

For such good work on protection and management of assigned forest, the VSS was selected for the Biju Pattnaik Award by Forest & Environment Department, Govt. of Odisha along with cash prize of Rs 20,000/- during 2019-20.

ENTERPRISING SHG: A CASE STUDY OF KARANJIA DMU

Sarna, a ten members SHG of Jhagoda VSS formed during January, 2016. All the members of Sarna SHG belongs to ST communities. During the initial days, the activities of Sarna SHG were limited to only thrift and credit and group had a total savings of Rs. 65,435/- in its bank account.

The project staff found the members of Sarna SHGs had the enterprising aptitude and are willing to take up business in limited scale to add to their household income. During interaction with the project staff, the members of Sarna SHG expressed their desire to purchase agricultural implements and to take up a business of giving the

implements to the farmers on rent, to earn their livelihood. Accordingly, the project staff contacted the officials of Agriculture Department and ITDA to ascertain the possibility of augmenting financial support to materialize the dream of the members of Sarna VSS. Based on the feedback of the respective departments, the SHG with the support of project officials / staff prepared a detailed business plan and submitted the same to ITDA and Agriculture Department for kind support.

The extension officials of ITDA & Agriculture Department interacted with the members of Sarna SHG and assessed the potential of use of agriculture



equipment in the village. Further, they verified all document, bank book etc., of the SHG, before they sanction to supply one Power Tiller and one Paddy Haller to the SHG. Finally above equipment was delivered to Serna SHG on 13th May, 2020. Total cost of Power Tiller and Paddy Haller was 2,25,000/-, out of which, Agriculture Department contributed to the tune of Rs.1,10,000/-, ITDA contributed to the tune of Rs. 1,00,000/- and rest Rs. 15,000/- was contributed by Serna VSS from their savings.

As the majority of households of Jhagada VSS largely depend on Agriculture as main source of livelihood, the power tiller of Serna VSS was used optimally by the farmers for cultivation. Serna SHG could able to earn about Rs. 53,000/- within couple of months by giving the power tiller on rent to the progressive farmers of the VSS.

The members have the future plan to use the Paddy Haller optimally for processing of paddy after harvest.

Members of Serna SHG of Jhagoda VSS are extremely happy with their group activity and thanked to members of Jhagoda VSS and OFSDP-II for timely support and assistance in realizing their dreams in to reality.



OPPORTUNITY TO RAISE HOUSEHOLD INCOME BY ESTABLISHING NURSERIES AT VSS LEVEL:

Success story of Ghumsur (South) DMU

Plantation in the assigned forest and outside the forest following the Joint Forest Management mode is a key component under OFSDP-II. About 67,000 ha area has been scheduled to be planted under different plantation models of Assisted Natural Regeneration (ANR), Artificial Regeneration (AR) and Farm Forestry across the 1200 VSSs covered under OFSDP-II. ANR & AR Plantation to the tune of 15088 ha and 1678 ha respectively have been completed in 355 Batch-I VSSs during 2019-20 and 17273 ha of ANR and 1442 ha plantation has been planned to be taken up across the 423 Batch-II VSSs during 2020-21.

Raising of quality seedlings for plantation is highly essential for survival of plants and for its effective growth. Normally, the seedlings for plantation are being mobilized from the Permanent / Central Nurseries of Forest Department. However, the Ghumsur (South) Division of OFSDP had different idea to raise the seedlings at VSS level following the JFM Mode.

To materialize the innovative idea into reality, the VSS members were oriented on the modus operandi in establishing the temporary nurseries. Important aspects such as seed collection, preparation of nursery beds, use of insecticides, dibbling of seed, watering, nursery management etc., were shared to the VSS members in advance. Required handholding support and guidance for raising of seedlings were provided by the Foresters / Forest Guards.

As emerged during the micro planning processes in batch-II VSSs of Ghumsur South, about 444 ha of forest land was identified for ANR & AR Plantation during 2020. Accordingly, based on feasibility of locations, willingness of the VSS members, five temporary nurseries were



established at VSS level to meet the entire seedlings requirement for planting operations to be taken up in 18 VSSs under Suroda FMU during 2020-21.

Selection of species to be planted in the assigned areas of respective VSS was finalized by the villagers in consultation with the forestry officials during the preparation of Micro Plan. Species of seedlings raised in the temporary nurseries include Amla, Simaruba, Sahaja, Rakta Chandan, Pahadi Sishu, Arjun, Jamun, Nim, Khaira, Bali Sishu, Kaka Poi, Dhala Sirisa, Kanchanna, Kala Sirisa, Kusuma, Bamboo, Karanja, Gambhari, Bela, Bana Bhalia, Phana Phania, Tentuli etc.

Such initiative not only reduced the chances of mortality due transportation of seedlings from far of places also raised the confidence of the people in establishing nursery as an income generating activity at village level. Moreover, about 8350 mandays of worth Rs.25.00 lakhs (approx.) generated at the community level as an incremental income to rural households. The efforts of Ghumsur (South) Division in establishing nurseries at VSS level have been appreciated by the authorities.



PROGRESS OF ACTIVITIES UNDER SFM

Different interventions are being taken up under Odisha Forestry Sector Development Project, Phase-II for sustainable forest management through community participation under JFM Framework. Such interventions have been envisaged to facilitate the protection and management of forest with the direct involvement of the people live in and around the forest. Interventions taken in 355 VSSs from 15 FMUs of 12 Divisions during 2019-20

were as below:

1. Drainage-line treatment (DLT) with JFM Mode
2. Fire line Construction
3. Consolidation of Forest Boundaries
4. DLT in Non JFM Mode etc.

Details of activities taken up in 355 VSSs of Batch-I FMUs under OFSDP, Phase-II during 2019-20 are as below:

Division	Range	No of VSS	DLT (in Ha.) JFM Mode		Fire line Construction and Maintenance (in Kms)		Consolidation and demarcation of Forest Boundaries (in Kms)		DLT (in Ha.) Non-JFM Mode	
			Target	Achievement	Target	Achievement	Target	Achievement	Target	Achievement
Athamallik	Athmallik	20	25	25	29	29	32	2	12	12
Baripada	Dukura	22	28	28	31	31	35	35	4	14
	Kaptipada	24	30	30	34	34	38	38	15	15
Boudh	Boudh	20	25	25	28	28	32	32	12	12
Dhenkanal	Dhenkanal	25	32	32	36	36	39	39	16	16
Ghumsur-N	Mujagada	25	31	31	36	36	39	39	16	16
Ghumsur-S	Buguda	20	25	25	29	29	32	32	13	13
Jharsuguda	Belpahar	29	36	36	41	41	46	46	18	18
Karanja	Dudhiani	20	25	25	28	28	32	32	12	12
Rairangapur	Badampahar	20	25	25	28	28	32	32	12	12
	Bahalda	20	25	25	28	28	32	32	12	12
Sambalpur	Padiabahal	25	31	31	36	36	39	39	16	16
	Sadar	30	38	38	43	43	47	47	19	19
Subarnapur	Sonepur	25	32	32	36	36	39	39	16	16
Sundergarh	Ujalpur	30	38	38	43	43	47	47	19	19
Target of 1st Batch		355	446	446	506	506	561	561	222	222



ANR & AR block plantations in Ghumsur South Division



ANR cleaning in Subarnapur Division



Activities

NURSERY ACTIVITY OF DIFFERENT DIVISION



Sundargarh Division



Sambalpur Division



Boudh Division



Ghumsur South Division



Subarnapur Division



LBCD works undertaken in Subarnapur Division



Fire line creation in Sonepur FMU



Fire line creation in Ullunda FMU



Fire line creation under Karanjia Division



VSS building-cum-IGA centres built and operationalized under OFSDP-II during last quarter

Activities



POPULARISATION OF SWEET CORN CULTIVATION FOR SUSTAINABLE LIVELIHOOD.

Success Story

Sri Satyaban Pradhan is a progressive farmer of Kotibaradi Vana Sukarkhya Samiti of Mujagad FMU of Ghumusur North DMU, Bhanjanagar. He has past experience of more than two decades on cultivation of paddy, vegetable etc. Of late, he also took up of season variety of vegetable cultivation with great success.

Sri Pradhan posses more than 2 ha of land with irrigation facility. Realizing his past experience and expertise in cultivation, the project staff proposed him to consider sweet corn cultivation in small scale, which yields better than other crops.

After couple of interaction with the project staff, Sri Pradhan agreed to take up sweet corn cultivation on pilot basis in 2 acres of land during last Kharrif. Project Staff along with Sri Pradhan visited to District Agriculture Officer, Ganjam to understand on details of sweet corn cultivation practices. As per requirement, 8 Kgs of sweet corn seeds were arranged for him for cultivation in 2 acre from Agriculture Department on subsidy.



As per the guidance of the agriculture extension officer, Sri Pradhan prepared the land for sweet corn cultivation. He invested approximately Rs 40,000/- for seed, field preparation, manuring and labour cost etc. After providing seeds Project staff followed up regularly and advised to take proper care, use of organic manure, weeding and watering etc.



Finally, Satyaban harvested about 45 qtls. of sweet corn. The officials of project helped him to sell the harvested maize to a local entrepreneur at a remunerative price. According to Satyaban, the maize cultivation has earned substantial profit to the tune of about Rs. 30,000/- excluding all expenditure. He is now confident of cultivating sweet corn and says, he will add more land for sweet corn cultivation in next year. Other farmers of the village also excited to see the bumper crop and shown their interest to take up Sweet Corn Cultivation in coming years. This expected to encourage other community members to take up similar agriculture activities for their sustainable livelihood.





Activities undertaken by DMUs during COVID-19

Awareness Generation on COVID-19 at 1st Batch VSSs.

BOUDH

For raising awareness on Pandemic Covid 19 management and the precautionary measures for safety of common mass, Boudh DMU in close association with health department organized Awareness programme in 20 Batch-IVSSs covered under OFSDP-II during April, 2020. The project staff of OFSDP facilitated in convening the awareness programme for the key members of VSSs and the leaders of SHGs to sensitize them on basic measures to

keep themselves safe from Corona virus, where the health workers and Anganwadi workers and ASHAs used the platform to brief in details about the precautions to be adopted, so as to not getting infected with pandemic Corona 19.

The VSS / SHG members in turn sensitized their group members in their informal meetings / gatherings on the measures such as Social Distancing, Cleaning of Hand, Use of mask, not to go outside, unless it is essential etc.



Creating Awareness by SHGs members on COVID 19 at Samakupa VSS



SHG members are sensitising on use of masks at VSS level

Success Story on COVID – 19 of Karanjia DMU

KARANJIA

Sensitization programme on safety measures against pandemic Covid 19 was taken up during VSS level meetings. The project staff / officials of Forest Department sensitized the communities on social distancing, compulsory use of mask while going out, regular washing of hand etc. during the VSS level monthly meeting conducted.

Further, DMU Karanjia took up various labour intensive works for forest management in the project villages through convergence with MGNREGS during the pandemic Covid 19 situation. Such initiatives contributed significantly for generating employment for the rural poor at most difficult time.

Further, the project staff of Dudhiani FMU coordinated with Bapuji Yubak Sangha of Jharbada for

distribution of 1200nos. of face masks and hand washing soaps to 850 poorest of poor families from 20VSSs covered under OFSDP-II at free of cost. Expenses for this initiative were mobilized by the Bapuji Yubak Sangha.

295 households comprising about 1683 members from 9VSSs under Thakurmuda FMU were covered for free distribution of free ration through convergence with PRADAN, a national level NGO operating in the locality. The beneficiaries to be supplied with the free rations were identified by the a Panchayat level committee, consist of Ward Members, Sarpanch etc. A packet of free ration had edible oil (1liter), Dal (1 Kg.), Salt (1 Kg.), Washing Powder (400 gram), Biscuits (5 packets), Sugar (1/2 Kg), Flake Rice (1Kg), Soya Bean Badi (250 gram) and Sanitary Kit (Soap, Dettol, Mask) @ Rs.800/- per packet.

Sensitization and awareness on Covid 19 Measures:

SAMBALPUR

Forest Department, Sambalpur conducted awareness campaigns in local language to sensitize the key members of the communities (VSS Office bearers, Animators, key members) on the measures to protect from for Covid 19. The measures such as social distancing, personal hygiene, cleaning of hands, restricted movement to outside etc. were explained in detail with a request to

sensitize the entire community on the measures for the overall safety of the village at large.

Vegetable on Wheel:

During the COVID-19 pandemic and the subsequent lockdown across the country, the safety and livelihood of forest dependant communities were at stake. At this crisis moment, the VSS and SHGs operational in OFSDP project



villages took lead in ensuring supply of vegetable to urban households in close association with District Administration and Mission Shakti.

The VSS / SHG members of project villages procured the vegetable from the farmers in and around to their village at market price and the same were supplied to Urban SHGs to maintain the vegetable supply chain across the Sambalpur district. Such initiatives helped the village

farmers to sale their produces during most difficult time at remunerative price and also contributed the VSS / SHG members to have an employment opportunity for their livelihood. However, the members of VSSs, who were associated in supply of vegetable were thoroughly sensitized on the measures for protecting them from Covid 19.



JHARSUGUDA

The officials of OFSDP at DMU & FMU coordinated with Forest Department for free distribution of face mask, sanitizer and soap in the project villages under Jharsuguda DMU. About 15,961 face masks and soaps were distributed to the poorest of poor households, who were identified by the respective VSS.

Small farmers from Deopali & Sukhadihi VSS have started retailing of their vegetable produces to Mission Shakti, Jhasuguda. Necessary support and assistance were rendered to the farmers from project staff. This helped the framers to have a continued source of income during the difficult time.

To ensure the villagers have the continued source of income, various labour intensive activities on forest management such as Fire line construction, nursery work, SMC work etc. were generated by Forest Department in convergence with MGNREGS. Such employment

generating interventions helped profusely to the villagers to have source of income in the distress phase of lock down across the district.





GHUMUSUR- NORTH

VSSs who are primarily associated for protection and management of forest, also contributed significantly to protect the communities from the endanger of pandemic COVID-19. Series of meetings / consultation with the key members of the VSSs of OFSDP were organized for sensitizing them on the measures and precautions to restrict the spread of Covid-19. IEC materials like banner, leaflet were prepared by DMU, Ghumsur North for sensitizing the communities on the medium of transmission of CORONA virus to human body and its effect. The project staff, during their visit to VSSs sensitized the VSS members on use of masks, regular hand wash practice and stay safe at home to avoid the spread of infection.

Activities done during Covid crisis

- Prepared IEC Materials like Banner, leaflets & fix it in different places of VSSs.
- Door to Door campaign through leaflets & banner for awareness regarding COVID-19.
- Conduct awareness meeting & campaign regarding COVID-19 at all 49 VSSs.
- Identify & support to SHG for preparing hand wash and selling at local market.
- Provided Swing Machines to 5 SHG for preparation of face Masks.
- Demonstration on hand wash, maintain social distance, use of mask etc.
- More than 4000 masks prepared by SHG members

and were sold in the project villages at affordable price.

- Distributed Hand wash & Masks to all VSSs Animators to use during community meetings
- Provided handholding support for getting pass for selling Vegetables in local market (individual Farmer cum Animator Babuna Pradhan)
- Facilitated for getting Pass from ICDS for 3 Nos. of SHGs to selling Grocery and vegetables at door step.
- Maa Andharbauti SHG, Kapilapalli VSS cultivated Mushroom and 8 KG of Mushroom sold at local market @200/Kg.
- Animators took lead role to educate the VSS Members on the measures to protect from CORONA and advised the migrated persons for registration at respective Gram Panchayat.
- 100 Farmers were extend required support for raising green leaf bed for kitchen garden.

**Adaptive Approach by Gadia VSS under Subarnapur DMU**

The inclusive development approach adapted by the Gadia VSSs under Sonapur FMU of Subarnapur DMU reported to be highly praise worthy. They took active role to integrate with other line department to address various development issues identified during the microplanning process.

Gadia VSS consist of 194 households with 736 population were assigned about 200 ha of forest land for protection and management. The members of Gadia VSSs observed to be highly enthusiastic for protection and

management of forest assigned to them. They took up the Thengapalli practice to protect forest resources assigned to the village. 4 members team were constituted (one member from each family) for each day to protect the forest round the month. They also identified the denuded barren land for planting of trees in the forest. The species planted in the forest include Sal, Asan, Arjun, Khaira & Amla etc.

The VSS members not only confined themselves on forestry management but also started working to address the social issues by forming women SHGs, ensuring equitable distribution of benefits among the members. The villagers also took interest for availing irrigation facility for agriculture work through convergence. Many welfare activities on health, sanitation, social safety-net schemes, Swachha Bharat, distribution of LPG Connection etc. were taken up by the villagers through convergence with line departments for comprehensive development. Such integrated approach helped communities to bring a distinctive change in the village and stand out as a unique VSS for overall community development.





DFO Review organized through Video Conference:

A meeting to review the progress of work in the OFSDP, Phase-II project divisions was convened on 9th June 2020 at NIC, Bhubaneswar through video conferencing. The meeting was Chaired by PCCF & Project Director, OFSDP.

Project Director interacted with the Divisional Forest Officers to ascertain the progress made vis-à-vis the plan and urged the DFOs to be proactive for the timely implementation of project activities. The important decisions taken in the review meeting were as below:

- It was stated that Micro plan prepared in 423 VSSs has scope for improvement in many aspects. It was reiterated that each Micro plan of each VSS should



have Forest Map on topsheets / treatment map / base map along with the mention of names of the poorest of poor households and the families largely forest for livelihood.

- It was reiterated that plantation work in batch-II VSSs shall be taken up on priority and the senior officers from DMU & FMU shall visit to the plantation site for supervision during the time of plantation.
- It was reiterated that the species such as Eucalyptus, Acacia, Chakunda and Simaruba. are not acceptable for plantation inside the natural forest and DFOs were requested to ensure such species are excluded from planting in phase-II VSSs.
- VSS cum IGA Centres for batch-I VSSs are to be completed by July, 2020 without fail.
- Conduct of VSS level monthly meetings shall be ensured.

PMU saluted Corona warriors and recited Bande Utkal Janani:

Responding to the clarion call given by Chief Minister Naveen Pattnaik, staffs and members of Project Management Unit of OFSDS sung Bande Utkal Janani, the state song to express their gratitude to frontline COVID warriors on 30th May 2020. The recital programme was led



by PCCF & Project Director and joined by Additional Project Director, Deputy Project Director, State Programme Managers and all other staff members of AJY and OFSDP-II.

Community Development through Convergence:

Comprehensive development of project villages have been taken up in the project villages through inter-sectoral convergence. Comprehensive development include improvement in health, education, livelihood, sanitation, infrastructure, electricity, forest, bio-diversity, farming, small scale enterprises etc. Comprehensive development Plans of 778 VSSs have been formulated in a participatory manner at community level. Furtherance to formulation of Micro Plan / Perspective Plan, an extract of activities to be taken up through inter-sectoral convergence i.e. "**Convergence Plan**" has also been developed for each VSS covered under OFSDP-II.

The community development activities taken up in 767 VSSs of OFSDP through convergence during 2019-20 include supply of seeds for pulses, cereals, vegetables and agricultural implements, field demonstration, orientation etc. were supplied by Agriculture & Farmers Empowerment Department, promotion of kitchen garden, nutri-garden, supply of horticulture seedlings were facilitated through Horticulture Department, health camps were organised at VSS level in association with Health department. Fisheries and Animal Resources Development were supported for organising the Artificial Insemination camp, Vaccination camps in the project villages on a regular intervals.

Infrastructure development activities such as construction of road, check dam, IAY/Biju Pacca Ghar Buildings, Digging of Tube well, Pond, Bore well, repair of road, construction of Indian Household latrine etc. were taken up through PR Dept. & RD Dept. Distribution of Fuel efficient chullha, avenue plantation etc. taken up by Forest department. More than 8000 households in the project villages have been provided with LPG Connection through Ministry of Petroleum & Chemical, Govt. of India.

Please send your comments and inputs to:

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