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A Quarterly Newsletter of **Odisha Forestry Sector Development Project, Phase-II**

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EDITORIAL



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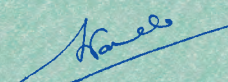
From Project Director's Desk

In the present context, implications and consequences of the COVID-19 pandemic for lives, livelihoods and the economy is far reaching. Due to Pandemic COVID-19, livelihoods of the poor and marginalized communities including the forest fringe communities and tribal people have been affected to a great extent. The peak season for harvesting and gathering of forest produces in many regions have been disturbed due to pandemic and businesses have suffered. However, we are on a road to recovery gradually. Odisha State Forest Department have proactively responded to the situation by addressing the issues with a set of immediate, medium term and long term initiatives, aimed at lending extra support to the forest fringe communities in this unprecedented times by integrating forestry programmes into labour intensive programmes.

Odisha Forestry Sector Development Project which has the mandate of ensuring livelihood of its community stakeholders, followed this initiative and ensured sustainable road map of restoring livelihoods of the stakeholders and maintaining the forest regeneration works in the entire period of lock down and shut down. OFSDP effectively addressed the issue of uncertainty of jobs in its 12 Forest Divisions by integrating its forestry management works and plantation programmes and ensured the synergies with other Line Departments in convergence mode facilitates the forest fringe communities. By this OFSDP also created a safety net for the communities and other stakeholders who in turn are benefitted from the labour intensive programmes of the project and other convergence initiatives.

All the DMUs and functionaries of OFSDP-II risen up to the occasion during the pandemic of COVID-19 and ensured the plantation and livelihood activities are implemented as part of the project objective which guarantees forest protection and livelihood generation. In the absence of other options for employment and income during COVID-19 restriction period, OFSDP-II divisions generated total 10.12 lakh man days and offered the direct livelihood support to the poorest and the most dependent communities on natural resources for their livelihoods. Till date 1,56,604 households covering 3,88,533 members have been benefitted in 777 VSSs of (batch-I and batch-II) and Rs. 9385.65 lakhs have been mobilised in 12 Divisions. During the FY-2020-2021 (from April till November 2020) Rs.3176.05 lakhs have been mobilised through convergence with different department viz. Agriculture, Horticulture, Panchayatiraj & Drinking water, W&CD, SC&ST Development, Fisheries & ARD, F&E etc. benefitting 12,198 households and 25,136 beneficiaries.

It's worth mention that Odisha Forestry Sector Development Project has adopted the middle ground of forest protection and community development which has been helping communities in the time of distress as well. OFSDP has focussed on circumstances in fulfilling socioeconomic and ecological goals. In this issue of Banayana, some of the livelihood activities initiated in various OFSDP Divisions have been highlighted. The success stories of communities benefitting from the collective efforts of our project functionaries and other Departments are testimonial of institutional synergies and ensuring well-being of the community.


Dr. Sudarsan Panda, IFS

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Livelihood Interventions in OFSDP-II

Under OFSDP-II, Sustainable Livelihood Programme has been envisaged to go beyond the conventional definitions and approaches of poverty eradication in forest fringe villages. Promotion of small Income Generating Activities (IGAs) by involving women Self Help Groups (SHGs) is proposed under OFSDP-II. A mission mode approach on livelihood promotion will be adopted through a dedicated Livelihood Resource Centre (LRC) which will, inter-alia, ensure continuous and long term hand holding support to SHGs and clusters for sustainability.

It is well understood that the income generation activities taken up under the project may not be the main source of income for the family of the members of women SHGs but these would certainly help them in day-to-day management of household situation. This is especially important for the households which are particularly economically vulnerable. The women SHGs are therefore intended to mitigate livelihood shocks through internal savings and lending. Its members are often vulnerable in

households that have limited capacity to take risks. Thus, visualizing all the women SHGs to become profit-oriented entity would not be so realistic. But for them, belonging to a women SHG would help them manage their day to day requirement in an easy way. OFSDP-II will keep options open for individual or household based income generation activities. Furthermore, to run a business, the proximity to the market, responsiveness to the market demand, risk taking capacity, management skills etc. are all important. All these situations are not readily available in the project areas. Yet, the potential for the cluster formation and business opportunities do exist, which could further help the village households to uplift their economic status. OFSDP-II will therefore, plan the cluster development strategically and select the women SHGs in consideration of all these aspects.

In this newsletter some of the major Income Generation Activities undertaken by DMUs in their respective FMUs have been documented.

ATHAMALLIK

SHG based Pisciculture – A sustainable IGA under OFSDP Phase-II

Offering alternative livelihood being one of the basic objective of OFSDP-II, a small initiative was taken-up by OFSDP Phase-II after graduation of Batch-I SHGs to raise income level of some SHGs on pilot basis with convergence support of ATMA revolving funds from Agriculture Department. Initially 5 selected SHGs from different VSS were sponsored by FMU, Athamallik under Athamallik Forest Division for such revolving fund assistance amounting to Rs. 10,000/- each. Out of 5 sponsored SHGs, "Trinath Thakur SHG" of Kamalpur VSS was one of them which took up Pisciculture. It is to be noted that Kamalpur is one of the 20th VSSs functioning under OFSDP, Phase-II in Athamallik Field Management Unit since 2017-18. It is one of the interior villages located 10 kms. away from the block headquarters and inhabited by 74 families out of which 47 are tribal. All of them depend on daily wages and forest work. Trinath Thakur SHG of the village was assisted under Mission Shakti Scheme for Pisciculture in their village community pond with a financial assistance of Rs.10,000/- from above revolving fund of ATMA.

The SHG started fish farming during July and August, 2019 rainy season in Nagaon pond close to the village, taking lease from the Gram Panchayat for a period of five years @ Rs.8,500 per year. Initially Rs.12,000 was spent by the group towards the cost of lease and pond

clearance. Subsequently 20,000 fish fingerlings namely Rohi, Bhakur, Grass Crop, Silver Crops were collected from Chiplima Government farm and reared in the same pond. Meanwhile the SHG also applied for subsidy based Pisciculture from Fishery Department meant for SHG members amounting to Rs.1,50,000/- per Ha. Cost related to fingerlings, food, iron net, lime, fertilizer and transportation worth Rs.25,060/- was borne by Fishery Department. The fish collection/ harvesting cost was Rs.10,000/-. Hence the total cost Rs.47,060/- has been spent for Pisciculture during the year. Finally, the sale proceed of fish was worth Rs.60,000/- (4 qntls @Rs.15,000/- per qntl). Hence the net profit for the year was Rs.13,000/-.



SHG members after fish harvesting



Community members engaged in pisciculture activity

It is a united effort of a group of tribal women. Apart from their regular monthly savings this profit will help growing their group fund. In future they will be able to plan from their own sustainability by increasing the productivity. All the members have now started vegetable cultivation like brinjal and ladies finger in a common land of one acre and earned profit of Rs.5,500/- investing

Rs.3,300/-. They have also participated in the Adivasi Mela-2020 at Bhubaneswar with their produces like handmade *badi* and *papad* investing Rs.3,130/- and earned a profit of Rs.2,020/-. Above all, the group has established linkages with Fishery Department, Mission Shakti (OLM), OFSDP/ Forest Department, Gram Panchayats, Markets, etc., and helped building confidence in working as a group.

DHENKANAL

Skill Development of Community Members for Livelihood Augmentation

Bee keeping programme is being implemented in two OFSDP-II Villages viz., Majhisahi Banasahi and Kusupada in Dhenkanal Forest Division with cooperation of Khadi and Village Industrial Corporation (KVIC), Horticulture Department and ORMAS under convergence. After the Micro plan preparation, VSS members were consulted for adopting in-situ Income Generation Activities (IGA) in the village. The availability of adequate flora in the surroundings motivated the community members to choose Bee keeping and honey extraction as one of the major vocation for a sustainable livelihood work. The project functionaries and the FMU, P-NGO staffs initiated the skill development of communities in collaboration with Khadi Village Industries

Commission(KVIC), Bhubaneswar. They provided training to two SHGs on Bee Keeping. 310 honey bee boxes with bee colonies, bee hives, & equipment were distributed by KVIC, Bhubaneswar. 50 Tribal Women from 4 SHGs such as Adisakti SHG and Mahima SHG of Kusupada village and Maa Eilichbudhi Narasingh SHG and Saktiman Banadurga SHG of Majhisahi Banasahi village were provided with honey bee boxes, beehives Kits, honey extractors with a cost outlay of Rs.11,26,000/- in convergence mode. 23 members of Majhisahi Bandasahi and 7 members of Kusupada got these honey bee boxes. Each box has yielded 4 kg of honey in an average during the flowering season. It is estimated that 30 households have been benefitted with an approximate income of Rs.20,000/- per



Distribution of honey bee boxes to the community in January 2020 and production in April 2020



household in the first season. The second season is expected to be more productive for these SHG groups.

Now the members of the SHG have adopted the process of extracting honey in a scientific way. The Bee Keepers in Majhisahi Banasahi are confident to increase

their livelihood through this small input in their backyard around the year. They are poised to ensure greenery around their village and maintain the flora and fauna to supplement their regular income.

GHUMSUR SOUTH

Mushroom Cultivation is one of the Key IGA for SHGs

Ghumsur South Division has also taken the successful initiatives for women's empowerment through mushroom production by giving them the opportunity to gain farming skills, financial independence and self-respect. The mushroom cultivation has initiated by Maa Tarini and Maa Kuraisuni, women SHG groups of Tikarpalli VSS under FMU Buguda of Gumsur South Division on pilot basis in the resource support of Krishi Vigyan Kendra (KVK), Bhanjanagar.

A training programme was organized on process of Mushroom cultivation (*Pala Chhatu*) with the support of KVK. The objective of the programme is to develop skill and knowledge of SHGs members on Mushroom farming.

After the training programme, the SHG members started farming in 100 square feet area with 40 numbers bed. For 40 numbers of mushroom sperm bottle and polythene was purchased by the SHGs members from KVK. They invested Rs.2500/- for material and contributed labor for the mushroom cultivation. The SHG group have harvested 40 kg. of mushroom after 21 days of constant monitoring. They sold their products in local market @ Rs.200/- per Kg .and got total amount of Rs.8000/- from the farming. It is estimated that they have got profit of Rs.5500/- with low investment and utilization of available local resources.

Now the group members are happy to be engaged in mushroom production and planned to continue the activity in additional areas with the support of OFSDP-II. This program empowers the SHG group members and ensures financial stability.



SHG members engaged in mushroom selling

SAMBALPUR

Mushroom Cultivation – A means of Sustainable Livelihood in Sambalpur District under Odisha Forestry Sector Development Project through Convergence

Adhapada VSS under Chhamunda Section of Padiabahal Range (Jujomura Block) is a promising VSS and is actively associated in protection and management of forest assigned to them. The primary occupation of the VSS members is agriculture and daily wage. Almost 75% households belong to poor and very poor category and 78% households belong to ST category. During initial interaction, the women members of Adhapada VSS expressed that they were in SHG fold for more than a decade but without any perceptible benefit. They were only confined to thrift and credit and have no opportunity

to take up any enterprising activity to augment economic support to their families. They also expressed their willingness to take up mushroom cultivation, which is not only a delicious food item, but also has very good market potential. Visualizing the need and interest of the communities, the project officials coordinated with the KVK and SBRSETI, Burla to support the women members for mushroom cultivation. Accordingly, trainings were organized, other support in term of greenhouse net, sprayers, Straw Cutters etc. provided through convergence by Horticulture Department and KVK,



Community members undergone training and further implemented it in sheds

Sambalpur. The trained women members started mushroom cultivation and each family has prepared 25 to 50 beds and now harvesting 2 kgs of mushroom from each bed in every alternate day. They sale the mushroom in Sambalpur market @ Rs. 200/- per Kg with the help of their husbands, who used to be wage labour earlier. Now, relatively putting less effort, these households earn about Rs.600/- per day. Such initiative has enhanced their household income and built self confidence as well for taking up similar interventions.



SUNDERGARH

Small Steps to Big Changes – A livelihood initiative in Sundergarh Forest Division under Odisha Forestry Sector Development Project



Mushroom cultivation by community members of Phuldhudi VSS in Sundergarh DMU



Phuldhudi is a VSS under Ujalpur Forest Range of Sundargarh Forest Division. There are 87 Households in the village and most of the VSS members coming under the BPL category. Daily wage labour work and NTFP remains a prime and perennial source of livelihood for them. During July-2018, the SHG members proposed to take up mushroom cultivation and the same were discussed in their executive committee meeting. Then, Shibani SHG members took lead and started mushroom farming with their own seed capital. In the first phase, they invested Rs.16,200/- out of which they spent around 70% of total budget for purchase of straws, which are long in

size. As the villagers have adapted the farming practise with small straw species, they forced to buy the straws from other villagers at higher cost. Accordingly, they motivated the villagers to change the species of paddy to harvest with large size straw.

Use of straw of their own paddy field for Mushroom cultivation not only reduced the input cost but also had reduced the fire incidences occurred in the paddy fields. The mushroom cultivation of the Shibani SHG had profit to the tune of Rs.25800/- during the span of 3 months. Initially, the SHG started mushroom farming in their backyard, but the profit they earned in initial attempt



motivated them to develop a shade-net by their own fund for mushroom farming and expanded their business both individually and on group basis. This initiative has added additional income to the tune of Rs. 4000/- to Rs. 5000/- to each household associated in mushroom farming. Officials of Department of Horticulture has assured to augment required support to expand their business in coming years under subsidy scheme. Based on success, the members of other SHGs of their own village and nearby villages started Mushroom Farming. As there is

huge demand of mushroom, all SHGs contributes each other for inclusive growth.

Only 3-4 mushroom spawn production laboratories are operational in Sundergarh, which is not enough to meet the demand of mushroom growers in the district. Hence the district administration suggested to establish a spawn production unit by the SHGs / VSSs under OFSDP, wherein all required admissible support will be rendered from district authorities. This will help to meet the growing needs of mushroom spawn for mushroom farming in the district.

SUBARNAPUR

Water Harvesting Boosts Agriculture Harvest in Kandhapali VSS of Subarnapur DMU under Odisha Forestry Sector Development Project

Village Kandhapali is a border village of Subarnapur Forest Division, around 50 KM away west wards from the District Head quarters Subarnapur. This is a forest fringe village, having 35 households. Almost all the villagers are depending on agriculture for their livelihood. After inclusion under Odisha Forestry Sector Development Project –II (OFSDP-II) in 2017, several developmental interventions have been made by the project staff in both Joint Forest Management (JFM) and Non JFM heads in order to enhance their farm-based livelihood as well as to rehabilitate their assigned degraded forest. During the course of interaction, villagers revealed that farming largely depended on rainwater, and they were unable to

get benefit of water flow in the streams from the nearby Barapahad hillock during rainy seasons due to heavy runoff in the absence of any water harvesting or checking structure. Most of the rain water, which was the only source of irrigation flowed wastefully. The felt need of a check dam was loudly expressed during the Gram Sabha and the VSS meetings and this led the construction of a major check dam by the OFSDP under Non-Joint Forest Management (Non-JFM) funds. In the following rainy season, the rain water stagnated in the check dam to a length of 200 mts. It was observed that the check dam could control water flow and prevent wastage due to runoff. Moreover, water level of the wells also had



Community activity undertaken under OFSDP in Subarnapur DMU



increased up to 4 to 5 feet during the last rainy season. During this year in July the farmers were able to transplant their paddy crop by using stored water of the check dam, despite the poor rain fall. Subarnapur DMU took up similar SMC works in forest fringe villages through MGNREGS,

which contributed not only better forest management but also proved to be a good livelihood support as the source of wage earning to the poor during this pandemic situation.

KARANJIA

A Journey of Self Economic Reliance – Tribal Women Show the Way in Karanjia under OFSDP-II through Convergence



Convergence activity with ITDA, Karanjia in Karnajia DMU

Members of Sarna SHG, Jhagoda VSS of Karanjia Forest Division expressed their willingness to procure Power tiller and other agriculture implement to rent on hire as a business model. To materialize the dream of the SHG members, the project officials persuaded ITDA and Agriculture Department and organized a meeting with

the extension officers of both the department with the SHG members. After discussion, the agencies agreed to supply power tillers and Paddy Haller on grant. On 13th May, 2020, one Power Tiller and one Paddy Haller were delivered to the SHG and the cost of the implements were borne jointly by Agriculture Department & ITDA, Karanjia.

As the majority household of this village depend upon agriculture as main source of livelihood, the Power Tiller allotted to Sarna SHG is being optimally used by the farmers for cultivation. Now Serna SHG could be able to earn about Rs. 53,000.00 within the couple of months. After harvest, Serna SHG has a plan to use the Paddy Haller for processing of paddy to have another source of income. This is just the beginning of a journey towards self-economic reliance and SHG is optimistic to maximize the income in the months and years to come. One can witness the smile and satisfaction on the face of the women beneficiaries during the interaction.

RAIRANGPUR

Sweetcorn Farming Adopted by Gidighati VSS for Livelihood

As all the households of Gidighati VSS of Rairangpur FMU are Scheduled Tribes and they stays in the village itself their main source of livelihood is agriculture and they are farming oriented. Apart from this they are absolutely dependent on the forest for forest produces and growing their cattle.

Under OFSDP-II, Gidighati VSS has adopted sweet corn farming in convergence with ITDA, Rairangpur. Total 28 beneficiaries of two SHGs under this VSS namely Maa Tarini and Maa Lakxmi SHG were selected for cropping of sweet corn. Total 9 acre of land identified by groups for the farming under convergence. The SHGs were allotted 5 acre and 4 acre respectively. ITDA distributed the corn seeds to the beneficiaries and the harvesting of the crop was reported very inspiring. Sweet corns of 3.5 lakhs rupees yielded in the harvesting and it could be a vital support for their livelihood in addition to their regular farming and cultivation work. Additionally, 10 other farmers of the same VSS have also adopted the corn farming in their 6 acres in support of the ITDA.



Convergence activity with ITDA, Rairangpur in Rairangpur DMU



Vigilance Awareness Week Celebrated in OFSDS



Vigilance Awareness Week - 2020 was observed from 27th October 2020 at the Project Management Unit Office, Bhubaneswar. The theme of this year's awareness week is "Vigilant India, Prosperous India". The Project Director of OFSDS presided the meeting and addressed the employees of OFSDP and AJY Projects under OFSDS. He urged the employees of OFSDS on this occasion to practice integrity and self-discipline at work.

Review meeting organized through Video Conference

A meeting to review the progress of work in the OFSDP, Phase-II project divisions was convened on 18th December 2020 at NIC, Bhubaneswar through video conferencing. Project Director, OFSDP reviewed the physical and financial progress of implementation of various project components in the field. He urged all the DFO-cum-DMU Chiefs for optimal utilization of the resources of the project for the timely implementation of project activities.

The meeting was attended by DFO-cum DMU Chiefs of all the 12 project divisions of OFSDP namely, Athamallik, Baripada, Boudh, Dhenkanal, Ghumusur (North), Ghumusur (South), Jharsuguda, Karanja, Rairangpur, Sambalpur, Subarnapur, Sundergarh, Bamra (Wildlife). The RCCFs of Angul, Sambalpur, Berhampur, Rourkela also gave their valuable inputs during the review meeting. Additional Project Director (A&F), DPD (A&F), SPM (C&ID), SPM (LLI & Convergence) from PMU participated in the review meeting.

OFSDP Conducted Online Orientation Training for Field Functionaries through Video Conference

Orientation training for new staffs of OFSDP-II Divisions was organised at PMU, OFSDS from 14th December 2020 to 16th December 2020. This was organised to give an overview of the project and impart orientation training to newly joined FMU staffs of OFSDP-II Project Divisions.

Training of Field Staff on Long Term Monitoring Plan for Ecosystem-based Conservation Management of Bhitarkanika Conservation Area under OFSDP organised



PCCF & PD with the NCSCM Scientists and field functionaries at Dangamal

The National Centre for Sustainable Coastal Management (NCSCM), Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change facilitated the 2-day training of field staff on long term monitoring plan for ecosystem-based conservation management of Bhitarkanika under OFSDP on 10th and 11th December 2020 at Dangamal, Bhitarkanika.

The two day training programme was inaugurated by Director, NCSCM virtually the two days training programme on Thursday, 10th December 2020 in the presence of the DFO, Rajnagar. This was followed by the

inaugural address by Director NCSCM on the need of long-term monitoring for BCA followed by various technical sessions on the capacity building of field staff to monitor BCA by resource persons of NCSCM.

The field staff (15 nos.) were imparted hands-on training to handle the equipments for the monitoring purpose. The PCCF & PD, OFSDP addressed the participants during the valedictory session of the training programme on 11th December 2020.



Please send your comments and inputs to:

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