



A Quarterly Newsletter of **Odisha Forestry Sector Development Project, Phase-II** APRIL-JUNE 2021, VOL-5, ISSUE-1



From Project Director's Desk

Odisha Forestry Sector Development Project, Phase-II (OFSDP-II), is a third generation JICA assisted project being implemented under OFSDS, Government of Odisha for the forest fringe dwellers. It is multi-sectoral and multidimensional in nature, hinges on convergence for its success. It is a programme which strengthens capacity of the community stakeholders, augments resource mobilization and optimizes fund utilization for Natural Resource Management and Income Generation Activities broadly through initiation of forest regeneration components and livelihood programmes respectively. As forests are managed for a multiplicity of purpose, the OFSDP-II components are designed and implemented maintaining compatibility to each other.

In order to integrate livelihood programmes in convergence with other flagship schemes of the Government, special thrust has been given by OFSDP-II for community mobilization and interlinking of beneficiaries from the VSS/SHGs with the field level officials. It is encouraging to witness that a large number of community members have benefitted through the sincere and consistent endeavour of OFSDP project personnel by their handholding support as per various project components. Some field experiences have been compiled in this issue of Banayana.

OFSDP-II is also an initiative for participatory community programmes and the project has sensitized the forest fringe community to take up group based livelihood activity for sustainable income. The project initiated special Cluster Based approach for the IGA programmes. Infrastructure support, skill enhancement and interlinkage of market support are necessary for the success of IGA activities. After the initial period of project preparation, OFSDP-II has now embarked upon the implementation of Livelihood Activities in its project areas consistently. It is also noteworthy that VSSs operational under OFSDP-II are observed by the monitoring authorities at all level for the scientific and meticulous approach on forest protection and rejuvenation. This issue of Banayana highlights some of the acknowledged activities of the VSS operational under OFSDP-II at District and State level for their coordinated activities.

"None of us, including me, ever do great things. But we can all do small things, with great dedication, and together we can do something wonderful." As quoted by Mother Teresa, different reports of successful accomplishments both small and meaningful, are highlighted in this issue which would certainly mobilize all our stakeholders to carry on the project mandate through small yet dedicated level of participations.

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

CONTENTS

Editorial	1
Cover Story	2
Special Story	6
Success Stories	8
Reports	10
News & Events	11
From Media Gallery	12

"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"



PROGRESS OF OFSDP ACTIVITIES IN LAST QUARTER (APRIL TO JUNE 2021)

Under the project component, namely- Sustainable Forest Management (SFM), plantation programmes have been taken up in all the 403 VSSs of Batch-III and Batch-IV. Plantations for ANR without gap plantation over 1758 ha., ANR with gap plantation over 15,972 ha. and AR plantation over 2873 ha. has already been completed. Total 86.02 lakh numbers of seedlings have been raised in the Hi-Tech and other nurseries to meet the plantation programme.

Farm Forestry has been taken up in 2285 Ha. private land of 4649 beneficiaries. Total 16.76 lakh numbers of seedlings have been raised to meet the requirement under Farm Forestry.

Among the 403 VSSs of Batch-III and Batch-IV, Drainage Line Treatment (DLT) of the micro catchment areas has been undertaken in both assigned areas under JFM Mode and adjacent areas under Non JFM Mode for improving the soil moisture regime of the area. In the last quarter, DLT in JFM mode has been taken up over 502.50 ha area and DLT in non-JFM mode taken up in 251.29 ha area. During the quarter,

Fire Line Creation has been completed in 572.84 RKM of Batch – III and Batch – IV VSSs along with maintenance of Fire line over 1109 RKM.

Under the Livelihood component of the project, establishment of 3 numbers of Sal leaf Product Clusters is almost complete in Baripada, Karanjia and Rairangpur Forest Divisions of Mayurbhanj District. Product Mapping, identification of beneficiaries, formulation of Business Plan for the Sal Leaf Product Clusters have also been completed. Cluster Buildings in all the three sites have been constructed and are made operational. Different machineries have been procured and placed in positions for training and utilization by the communities.

Under Community Development component of OFSDP-II, a multi-purpose community building “VSS cum IGA Building” is being constructed in each VSS. Till end of June, 2021, 910 numbers of buildings have been constructed out of sanctioned 1180 buildings. Construction of rest 270 numbers of buildings is in progress and expected to be completed shortly.

COVER STORY

CONVERGENCE ACTIVITIES AND SUCCESS STORIES:

‘Preservation Home’ established under convergence programme in Jharsuguda DMU:

As part of Convergence programmes for livelihood interventions, a ‘Preservation Home’ was facilitated by the project and established under Jharsuguda Forest Division. Sri Giridhari Budula, a member of Banki VSS under Bagdhi FMU of the Forest Division was selected as the beneficiary under the scheme and was recommended by OFSDP-II to Horticulture Department. The VSS members, who are primarily farmers and vegetable producers are linked to the “Preservation Home” Scheme as the primary end users.

‘Preservation Home’ is a facilitator centre, where farm produces are received and processed. This includes cleaning, grading, sorting, packing and storage of the produces prior to sale and distribution to the market. The transit location, primarily helps in maintaining quality and fetching reasonable price of the products.

In order, to implement this initiative for the benefit of the farmers, Department of Horticulture and FMU Bagdhi

jointly organised sensitization campaigns for the farmers on the objectives of establishment of Preservation Home and its utility. The establishment of such a mini storage yard is interlinked with a group of farmers around the cluster. The storage facility is also linked with Solar Dryer. After the joint sensitization programme, Range Officer, Bagdhi recommended the names of the beneficiary and group of farmers to the Horticulture Department. For establishment of Preservation Home and Solar Dryer, there is provision of 50% subsidy limited to maximum Rs.1 lakh to the beneficiary under National Horticulture Mission (NHM). As per the scheme, the preservation home should be of 20 feet in length and 15 feet width. In this convergence programme, the beneficiary Sri Budula availed the subsidy amounting Rs One lakh from Horticulture Department. He also received a Solar Dryer from Horticulture Department. Other VSS members are linked to the Preservation Home to keep their produces and store it until disposal in a better market price.



Solar Dryer placed in the newly constructed Preservation Home

Convergence with ITDA on Groundnut cultivation

In Bangiriposi Forest Range under Baripada Forest Division, there are 20 numbers of VSSs included in Batch-I under OFSDP, Phase-II. The VSSs were selected to implement the Sustainable Forest Management activities along with promotion of Income Generating Activities for the community. Most of the members of the VSSs belong to Scheduled Tribe category. Paddy cultivations in Kharif Season is their primary source of livelihood.

As part of convergence initiative under OFSDP-II, project staff of Bangiriposi FMU approached various line Departments viz. Agriculture, Horticulture, ITDA etc. to explore alternate livelihood support to the villagers. In consultation with ITDA, Baripada, the VSS members along with the Project Staff of Bangiriposi Range selected 200 beneficiaries for cultivation of Groundnuts in uplands during Kharif season. The beneficiary selection criteria were followed as scheduled by the ITDA. As

per the plan worked out, 60 quintals of certified Groundnut seeds was distributed among 200 beneficiaries selected from 4 numbers of VSSs i.e. Jhinkpahadi, Nafri, Tangiabasa and Khadikasole during June 2021. The distribution was made in presence of the officials of Bangiriposi FMU and ITDA.

As experienced by ITDA, one beneficiary can earn approximately fifty to sixty thousand rupees from one acre in a season from Groundnuts cultivation. This intervention of livelihood initiative is expected to benefit a large number of forest fringe dwellers as the up lands are productively utilized and there is no environmental risk factor in disposal of groundnut seeds/oil. The objective of sustainable livelihood support for groundnut cultivation is expected to bring better results in the coming months after the first harvest. This convergence initiative would be beneficial in enhancing and strengthening the livelihood of the tribal community and reduce their dependence on forest resources.



Distribution of Ground nut seeds to 200 beneficiaries shortlisted in Bangoriposhi Forest Rage under OFSDP-II

MGNREGA based Farm Pond approach and promotion of Integrated Farming

The average annual rainfall in the geographical area under the Athmallik Forest Division is 1300 mm. Though such quantities of rainfall is quite adequate for cultivation purposes during Kharif season, but due to erratic and uneven distribution of rain, there are occurrences of drought and flood. Scarcity of Water during critical stages of crop growth very often hampers crop production and affects the farmers' incomes adversely. This issue has been raised many times in DAC meetings of Angul District. In order to overcome the water stress during critical period of crop growth, the committee under the Chairmanship of Collector & District Magistrate, Angul emphasised on implementation of farm pond scheme with convergence support from MGNREGS. Line departments like Soil Conservation & Watershed, Agriculture, Horticulture and Panchyatiraj & Drinking Water are also providing stakeholder support to implement the farm pond scheme.

Project staff of OFSDP, Phase-II in various VSS level meetings shared the following objectives and schematic details of farm pond scheme and assisted the VSS in identifying the VSS level beneficiaries/target groups having land for at least a standard size farm Pond of 20 mtr x 20 mtr x 3 mtr within an estimated cost of Rs.1,99,300/-.

Objectives of Farm Pond scheme include:

- Creating water storage facility during rainy season with minimum investment and promoting irrigation,
- Undertaking Integrated Farming System (IFS) for sustainable agriculture with additional income generation to families and making them self reliant,
- Employment creation & income generation for unskilled labourers as per the mandate of MGNREGA
- Create a mechanism for underground water recharge.

With these objectives, 50 proposals were sent to Soil Conservation Department and after discussion in the 10th DAC meeting out of 50 proposals, 25 proposals were sanctioned and till date 15 Projects (11 in Athmallik FMU + 4 in Madhapur FMU) have been completed. Besides Paddy cultivation, beneficiaries have adopted integrated farming like Banana cultivation, vegetable cultivation as field bund plantation and pisciculture in a small scale. The total amount of convergence till date under farm pond scheme during last quarter has been reported as Rs. 29,89,500/-. In the event when there are good showers of rain, these farm ponds will

be certainly helpful in providing water for irrigation and dual crop growing. It will also boost-up integrated farming. This convergence initiated under OFSDP Phase-II has built-up the confidence of VSS members on Forest Department because of the support rendered by the Department at the time of their distress.



Farm Pond excavated in Kendupati Dalaki VSS in Athamallik Forest Division



Integrated farming system with convergence in Kendupati-Dalaki VSS in Athamallik Forest Division

Livelihood support activities in convergence mode initiated in Dhenkanal Forest Division

Livelihood initiatives through inter-sectoral convergence with various line Departments is one of the objective of OFSDP-II. Dhenkanal Forest Division undertook some major livelihood support activities in convergence with Schemes and Programmes of various Line Departments. It covered 57 programmes in 27 VSSs and mobilized utilization of Rs. 1.50 crore through inter-sectoral convergence. The activities included:

- Renovation of Bore wells and augmentation of Drinking water facilities
- Construction of Farm ponds
- Implementation of “Mo Upakari Bagicha Programme”
- Ajola pits
- Organization of Veterinary and Human Health Camps
- IGAs for individual members and Bank linkage
- Vegetable cultivation & crates distribution
- Construction of trench, Cross Bunds and Check Dams etc. in Forest areas.

Vegetable cultivation emerged as one of the leading activities in Hindol Range in convergence with Horticulture Department. Supply of vegetable seeds and distribution of crates among almost all SHG members in the villages inspired them to go ahead with vegetable cultivation. This programme has spread to 17 VSSs in Hindol Forest Range (FMU) due to the sincere efforts made by the Project Coordinators and P-NGO.



Distribution of Crates and Vegetable seeds in VSSs in Dhenkanal Forest Division

“MO POKHARI” addresses water scarcity needs of farmers: initiative under convergence mode in Ghumusur (North) Forest Division

Due to various factors like effects of climate change, it is observed that the ground water level is sinking. At the same time, increased water consumption and over use of aquifers results in slow groundwater recharge, which hampers agricultural production and affects the food security system in present scenario. Keeping in view the impact of such facts and factors, it is essential to mobilize human resource to initiate activities related to water storage in agrarian arena, especially in non-irrigated zones inhabited by forest fringe dwellers.

Binjagiri VSS under Rangpur G.P. of Bellaguntha Block in Ghumusur North Forest Division has been included as Batch-II VSS under OFSDP, Phase-II. As per the convergence component of OFSDP-II, project personnel initiated regular community mobilization activities to assess the urgent basic needs of the local community. It was assessed from the community interaction and micro plan initiatives that community members can augment their livelihood and other capacities through linkage of services and facilities offered by various line Departments, which is often a missing link due to lack of proper coordination. Two farmers of the village brought the problem of water scarcity faced by them for growing crops to the notice of the project personnel. Most of the farmers also faced the same challenge as the crops in that area were largely affected due to water scarcity and lack of storage facilities of rain water. The project staff discussed the issue with Panchayati Raj and Drinking Water Department in Block Level Advisory Committee meetings to support shortlisted farmers.

An awareness program was conducted by OFSDP-II at Binjagiri VSS in presence of PR & DW Department and discussion was made on improvement of productivity in the agriculture land. During this programme, some experienced farmers namely: Sri Rantakar Swain and Sri Braja Kishore Swain expressed their views on the causes of low productivity, where water scarcity and lack of irrigation facility are the main factors.

The PR & DW Department officials offered the benefits of ‘Mo Pokhari’ scheme to the shortlisted beneficiaries, Sri Rantakar Swain and Sri Braja Kishore Swain. For excavation of each pond Rs. 2.3 lakh was allocated. The beneficiaries were explained the opportunities and benefits of small water bodies under ‘Mo Pokhari’ scheme. After this intervention,

approximately 10 hectares of agricultural land can be benefitted at the time of water scarcity.

The works were completed before the monsoon and both the small water bodies are now capable of water storage and distribution. After this intervention, water scarcity issues are

expected to be addressed for Kharif and Rabi crop in these farming lands. The convergence initiative, taken up by the project personnel of OFSDP-II resulted in improvement of agriculture production, livelihood, health and eco environment of the locality.



Mo Pokhari work under convergence mode in Binjagiri VSS in Ghumusur – North Forest Division

SPECIAL STORY

Protection of Forest Resources and Wildlife under OFSDP community mobilization initiative

Aswakuti VSS is a revenue village of Labanyadeipur GP in Kaptipada C.D. Block of Kaptipada Range in Baripada Forest Division. There are 146 households in this village, which belong to tribal (ST) community. The total population of the village is 787 numbers. The VSS included under OFSDP-II has been assigned with the forest area of 70.47 Ha of Notto Reserve Forest. As seen during the Micro Plan exercise, the financial condition of 141 households is very bad and that of five households is moderate. The primary occupations of the villagers are paddy cultivation, daily wage labour, small businesses and collection of NTFP for their livelihood.

The members of the VSS participate in watch and ward of the adjoining forests and in foot patrolling with the Range staff. During the period of patrolling, the VSS members appraised that some habitual hunters are camping in the forest for poaching wild animals with country made guns. Community members have realised that Wild Animals and forests both are to be protected and the co-existence of animals and humans need to be maintained. VSS members came forward voluntarily to assist Forest Department to prevent poaching in the Forest area and jointly started search operation in the dense forest to chase the offenders.

The combined search yielded results and the local poachers left the forest area, leaving behind their arms, as they were continuously chased. The VSS team collected country made guns left by the hunters in the forest. It was an unprecedented achievement, where 13 Nos. of country made guns could be seized by Forest Department due to dedicated efforts of the VSS members.

The sincere efforts of the tribal community in protecting the wild animals as well as the forests through active surveillance were highly appreciated by all in various forums. The civil society and the nature lovers lauded the efforts of the VSS members and guidance of the staff of the Forest Department. Sustainable Forest Management activities taken up in the VSS under OFSDP-II facilitated various opportunities to counsel and motivate the forest fringe dwellers in owning up the forest protection activities. Community mobilization and regular interventions through Capacity Building helped the community to play a strong role in forest protection. A meeting was organized to felicitate the community members. Local PRI members, Sarpanch of Labanyadeipur G.P and Range Officer, Kaptipada joined the meeting and appreciated efforts of the VSS team in protecting both the forest and its silent inmates through active involvement and surveillance activities.



Community members of the Aswakuti VSS in the felicitation programme after the seizure of local guns from the hunters under Baripada Forest Division

FOREST PROTECTION IS THE RESULT OF STRONG COMMUNITY MOBILIZATION

Pahadpur is one of the leading VSS under Dudhiani Forest Range under Karanjia Forest Division with 45 numbers of households in the village. The VSS comprises members from both general and ST categories. It is one of the oldest VSSs in the Range but was dormant before intervention of OFSDP, Phase-II. In the year 2018-19, after intervention of OFSDP-II project, the VSS was reconstituted following the JFM guidelines. This was possible only after effective community mobilization initiated by Project personnel. Special focus was given on inter-departmental convergence. Several convergences linked works were undertaken viz. construction of connecting road to the village, all weather road within the village, regular SHG meetings, implementation of various schemes for the poor people, construction of drying yard by Block etc in the VSS. Apart from this, under OFSDP-II, major community development works like construction of VSS Building cum IGA Facilitation Centre was taken up as a part of the project intervention. Other interventions on Sustainable Forest Management viz. plantation, staggered trench, regular forest protection etc. were implemented. These works helped the project to achieve its objectives as well as to gain confidence of the community members.

After thorough interaction and community mobilization, members of the VSS realized their roles and responsibilities.

Since then the Executive Committee members of the VSS are conducting regular VSS meetings, General Body meetings. EC members keep all the VSS Registers up to date and monitor all the VSS level works. Pahadpur VSS members in the last quarter decided to create a massive awareness programme at Block level on Forest Fire to protect Budipahad DPF. The VSS has been assigned with 156.96 Ha. forest area for protection and management. A meeting was organized at Pahadpur VSS and DFO cum DMU Chief joined the meeting as Chief Guest. PA-ITDA, block level officials, local community building organisations participated in the sensitization campaign. In order to sensitize each one on forest fire and community's role in forest protection and forest fire management, a cycle rally was organized before the meeting to sensitize the stakeholders of the villages surrounding Budipahat DPF. The Cycle Rally started from Ramasahi VSS, covered nearly 10 Kms. and reached Pahadpur village, the destination. Forest officials, District level officials and Civil Society stakeholders appreciated the outreach programme of the VSS on Forest Fire. It was also opined by all the participants that periodic interactions among the VSS members through such sort of activities are immensely helpful for mass involvement in Forest protection.



Community rally in Karanjia for Forest fire protection

SUCCESS STORIES

Livelihood Initiatives through community participation in Jharsuguda Forest Division:

Under the challenging situations of COVID-19, there is strong pressure on households to sustain their regular income. When people were unable to find ways to earn their livelihood due to limitations of the economic activities during Covid restrictions, it is heartening to witness some women community members initiated a common business model to increase their level of income.

Under OFSDP, Phase-II, in Jharsuguda Forest Division, Dhengujore VSS, included as Batch-II VSS has three active Women self-help groups (WSHGs). The VSS was constituted in the year 2018-19 under Kolabira Range. It comprises of 52 numbers of House Holds, with total population of 194 persons. As per the scheduled operations of the project for community mobilization and Capacity Building, the FMU staff regularly visited the village and frequently organized VSS, EC and SHG meetings. Forest protection and promotion of Income Generating Activities were primarily discussed among the community members. As per the initiatives of OFSDP-II, an Entrepreneurship Awareness Programme was organized on 3rd June 2021 in coordination with RSETI, Belpahar at Dhengurjore. The programme was found to be effective and the SHG members were motivated to receive

10 days skill based training on making of Phenyl and Agarbatis. The 10 days training programme was organized for 28 SHG members from three SHGs. Sensing the high demand of Phenyl in the markets due to prevailing Covid-19 pandemic situation, the SHG members were mobilized to be involved in Phenyl making. They were trained on Phenyl and Agarbati making. Initially three SHG members from Kalijai SHG purchased the raw material and started production of Phenyl. Project personnel supported the SHG activities by linking their productions for sale in the local market at Samasingha and also linked for regular supply of the products to other remunerative markets. The SHG members also directly sold their products in the local weekly market. In the last quarter, the average income of the group is reported around Rs.3000/- per month. Other SHGs are also inspired to take up the activity in large scale and started phenyl productions during this quarter.

The bulk production and synergies of SHGs are expected to bring financial sustainability in coming days as the demand for the phenyl is constantly rising. The proverb "Coming together is beginning and working together is success" has been proved in this case.



Empowerment of SHG members through capacity building in Dhengujore VSS under Jharsuguda Forest Division

Recognition of VSS operationalised under OFSDP, Phase-II at State Level:

The Vana Surakshya Samiti, Baghapali is one of the prominent VSSs which has been included under OFSDP, Phase-II. The assigned area is 49.53 Ha of Badali Reserve Forest under Ullunda Forest Range in Subarnapur Forest Division. This forest area was assigned to the VSS for effective protection and management. All 47 families of Baghapali

VSS agreed to protect 49.53 ha assigned area of Badali RF under Joint Forest Management (JFM) mode and proactively participated in forest protection and management activities with direct involvement of Forest personnel. They were subsequently mobilized for forest protection and forest rejuvenation and took the oath of conserving their forest

at all costs. Surveillance activity by the community through “Thengapali” for both male and female groups proved to be effective for the protection of the assigned area. Regular community mobilizations by Project personnel and regular interactions of community members with frontline staff of Forest Department adequately sensitized the community members on the importance of forests in human life and roles and responsibilities of the VSS members in protecting the forest resources.

Under JFM mode, VSS members took up Block Plantation (Artificial Regeneration) in 26 ha forest land, (20 ha fuel fodder and 6 ha of NTFP) during 2020-21. Total 52400 nos. (FF-50000 & NTFP-2400) of pitting in both sites have been done by VSS members. 780 numbers of staggered trenches have been excavated to improve the Soil Moisture regime of the forest area. 2 Rkm fire line has been created to prevent forest fire incidents.

Collective effort of members of VSS Baghapali in forest surveillance, patrolling works, forest regeneration activities, wildlife protection are found to be very effective over the period. Their participatory approach for forest protection and wildlife protection resulted in remarkable achievements as zero casualties of wildlife, zero cases of forest offence and non-occurrence of forest fire since last two years in the areas assigned to them which count to their sincerity, loyalty and devotion in forest protection.

Their involvement in plantation and SMC works are exemplary as people in Ullunda Block noticed the remarkable growth of the planted species within a year. The efforts of the VSS are beyond comparison in all the parameters of the JFM and Non-JFM activities taken up in the area. The VSS was selected for the District Level Biju Pattnaik Award for their exemplary work in forest protection and has been awarded the State Level recognition.

Biju Patnaik Award to Hajapalli VSS of Ghumusur (North) Division



Felicitation of Baghapali VSS in Biju Pattnaik Award by Forest, Environment & Climate Change Dept.

Hajapalli VSS of Jagannathprasad FMU under Ghumsur North Division is situated about 20 KMs away from the Forest Range Office and 50 KMs away from Ghumsur North Forest Division Office. The VSS is having 21 numbers of households with a population of 77 members.

The VSS has received the Biju Pattnaik award from Forest, Environment & Climate Change Department, Government of Odisha during the year 2021 as recognition of its exemplary work on community mobilization to safeguard the natural forests assigned to the VSS. The VSS was formed in the year 1995 and reconstituted during 2015-16 as per the JFM Resolution, 2011 read with the resolution 2015. The VSS has been included under OFSDP-II during 2018-19. An area of 142.98 Hectare of Jagannath Prasad Reserve Forest has been assigned to this VSS.

The VSS members are mostly dependent on the forest products for livelihood support and to meet their daily needs. The forest was largely degraded due to illicit felling and forest fire. After implementation of the interventions of OFSDP-II, community sensitization activities were taken up through community mobilization, orientations and regular interactions with the VSS members so as to actively involve them in forest protection and management along with mobilizing livelihood support programmes. Regular meetings and sensitization programmes were conducted by the project personnel. Community participation in forest and wildlife protection improved significantly. VSS members adapted Thengapalli system for patrolling of forests with a monthly schedule to protect the assigned forest area from theft, poaching and fire incidences. Groups with four members participated to provide daily watch and wards in rotation as scheduled by the VSS. The VSS members are now actively protecting the forest resources. Consequent upon their sincere involvement, the forest vegetation in the assigned area of the VSS has come up with significant improvement both in density and height growth.

Due to such sort of responsive attitude of the VSS members, exemplary achievement in restoration of the natural forest assigned to them Hajapalli VSS has been awarded with the Biju Patnaik award by Forest, Environment & Climate Change Department, Government of Odisha for the year 2021



Felicitation of Hajapalli VSS with Biju Pattnaik Award by Forest, Environment & Climate Change Department

REPORTS

Establishment of Sal leaf based clusters:

As OFSDP-II emphasizes on implementation of livelihood initiatives through initiation of Income Generating Activities for forest fringe dwellers in specialized clusters, Sal Leaf Cluster was initiated as a pilot initiative under this programme. Sal Leaf Cluster initiative was initially planned in Baripada, Karanjia and Rairangpur Divisions of Mayurbhanj District to augment the production of Sal leaf based products and promote the income generation opportunities of the community members. The objective was to engage

community members of some project VSSs in Sal leaf collection, production of plate and cup and trading through a cluster based approach. Prior to this, OFSDP-II had initiated product based cluster mapping. These Forest Divisions prioritized on Sal leaf based production and trading. OFSDP-II ensured initial support of establishing a multi-product cluster and allocated Cluster Development Fund to these selected Forest Divisions for establishing infrastructures and procurement of equipments and accessories.

RAIRANGPUR:

Multi Product Cluster Unit at Bisoi under Bisoi Forest Range of Rairangpur Forest Division was virtually inaugurated by PCCF & Project Director, OFSDP-II in presence of DFO-cum-DMU Chief, Rairangpur and other field level officials on 21st May 2021. There are two automatic hydraulic leaf cup and plate making machines installed along with 20 sewing machines for stitching of Sal leaves in the production centre. As per proposal, 86 VSSs of Rairangpur Forest Division are operational under OFSDP-II are to be covered under this Sal leaf cluster.



Operationalization of Sal Leaf Cluster under Rairangpur Division

BARIPADA:

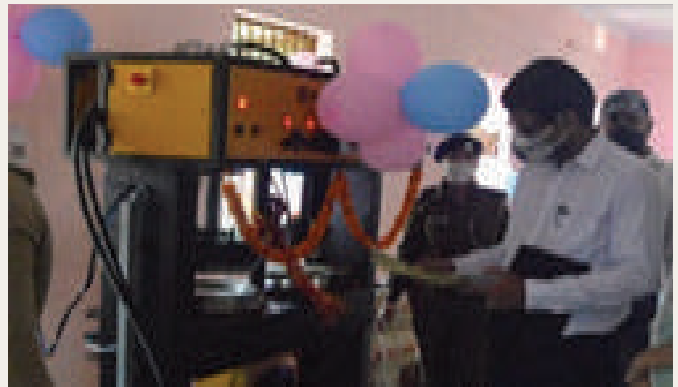
Multi Product Cluster Unit at Baidpur, under Betanati Forest Range of Baripada Forest Division was virtually inaugurated by PCCF & Project Director, OFSDP-II in presence of DFO-cum-DMU Chief, Baripada and other field level officials on 21st May 2021. There are two automatic hydraulic leaf cup and plate making machines installed in the centre for production. As per proposal, 67 VSSs of Baripada Forest Division operational under OFSDP-II are to be covered under this Sal leaf cluster.



Operationalization of Sal Leaf Cluster under Baripada Division

KARANJIA:

Multi Product Cluster Unit at Kendumundi under Thakurmunda Forest Range of Karanja Forest Division was virtually inaugurated by PCCF & Project Director, OFSDP-II in presence of DFO-cum-DMU Chief, Karanja and other field level officials on 25th May 2021. There are two automatic hydraulic leaf cup and plate making machines installed along with 20 sewing machines for stitching of Sal leaves. Initially, six VSS are tagged for the cluster for capacity building and full scale productions. As per proposal, 68 VSSs operational under OFSDP-II are to be covered under this Sal leaf cluster.



Operationalization of Sal Leaf Cluster under Karanja Division

NEWS & EVENTS

OFSDP-II Project Review meeting organized through Video Conference:

A meeting to review the progress of work in the OFSDP, Phase-II project divisions was convened in the forenoon of 31st May 2021 at PMU, Bhubaneswar through video conferencing. All the DFO-cum-DMU Chiefs were urged for optimal utilization of the resources under the project for the timely implementation of project activities. The progress of various activities taken up so far till May 2021 was also reviewed. The DFOs were also advised to complete the works within the scheduled time frame.

The meeting was attended by DFO-cum DMU Chiefs of all the 12 project Divisions of OFSDP II - namely, Athamallik, Baripada, Boudh, Dhenkanal, Ghumusur (North), Ghumusur (South), Jharsuguda, Karanja, Rairangpur, Sambalpur, Subarnapur, Sundergarh and Bamra (Wildlife). The RCCFs of Angul, Sambalpur, Berhampur, Rourkela also gave their valuable inputs during the review meeting.

Dr. Sudarsan Panda, IFS felicitated by Project Officials on his superannuation

Dr. Sudarsan Panda, IFS PCCF and Project Director of OFSDS retired from service on 31st May 2021. During his 34 years of service career in Forest Department, his last tenure was as the PCCF and Project Director of OFSDP. Additional PCCF & Additional Project Director (IME), Additional PCCF & Additional Project Director (A&F), Deputy Project Director (A&F), all State Programme Managers, Subject Matter Specialists and all other staff of OFSDS, Consultants of PMC participated in the meeting to felicitate Dr. Sudarsan Panda on the day of his retirement and wished him good health and a peaceful post retirement life. Dr. Sudarshan Panda, IFS briefed his experiences gained during his service career, appreciated the dedicated efforts of the Project personnel and wished for the successful future of OFSDS.

Dr. Meeta Biswal, IFS (RR-1988) Additional Principal Chief Conservator of Forests Assumed Charge as The Project Director (In-Charge) of OFSDS

Dr. (Mrs) Meeta Biswal, IFS (RR-1988), Additional Principal Chief Conservator of Forests & APD (IME) joined as the In-charge Project Director of Odisha Forestry Sector Development Project on 31st May 2021 A. N. She took over the charge after the retirement of Dr. Sudarshan Panda, PCCF and Project Director of OFSDP. She was greeted and welcomed by all the staff of PMU, OFSDS after her joining as the Project Director (In-charge).

In her address to the PMU personnel, OFSDS, Dr. (Mrs) Meeta Biswal, Project Director urged them to be sincere in their work assignments and work diligently in the coming days so that the project could achieve its objective in time a time bound manner with exemplary achievements. She advised all the staff to work as a team and coordinate with the field units for effective implementation of the project mandates.

FROM MEDIA GALLERY



EDITORIAL BOARD

EDITOR-IN-CHIEF
Dr. (Mrs) Meeta Biswal, IFS
PCCF (Projects) Project Director, OFSDS

EDITOR
Mr. Biswajit Sahoo
State Programme Manager (KM, P&P), OFSDP-II

Please send your comments and inputs to:
Odisha Forestry Sector Development Society
SFTRI Campus, Bhubaneswar, Odisha, India,
Phone: 0674-2386084, 2386016
email: webmail@ofsdp.org
design and print: thirdeycoindia@gmail.com