



# ବନାୟନ BANAYANA

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

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## EDITORIAL



**Dr. Sudarsan Panda, IFS**

Principal Chief Conservator of Forests  
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### From Project Director's Desk

The short term periodic monitoring of the project components at different level offers an insight of the progress of the project components in implementation. Simultaneously, evaluation of the project reveals the outcome of the project such as changes in forest regeneration, changes in income level, benefits accrued out of IGAs and convergence, benefits of resource distribution etc. Keeping these major factors as the project indicators, Odisha Forestry Sector Development Project, Phase-II (OFSDP-II) has made its sincere endeavour to initiate periodic monitoring at VSS level, FMU level, DMU level and PMU level to keep track of the progress of project components.

In this issue of the quarterly newsletter of Banayana, there is a special feature on field level monitoring by joining hands with different institutional stakeholders at district level. As all the divisional units completed their DMU level Sameekshya, a mandate carried by OFSDP, this created a synergy of institutions to carry the convergence work in full throttle in the ground. OFSDP has created the platform to optimally use the resources available with the public institutions for the benefit of the forest fringe community.

There are also various reports of convergence programmes and special success stories from DMUs which are highlighted in this issue to underscore the importance of coordination with other line departments to achieve success of activities of OFSDP (Phase-II).

**Dr. Sudarsan Panda, IFS**

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## Governing Body Meeting of OFSDS:

30<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Governing Body of OFSDS held on 4<sup>th</sup> January 2020. It was Chaired by Dr Mona Sharma, IAS, Additional Chief Secretary to Govt of Odisha, Forest & Environment Department and Chairperson of the OFSDS. The meeting was held in the conference hall of Forest & Environment Department, Kharvela Bhawan.

The meeting was attended by PCCF & HoFF, PCCF – Wildlife, Special Secretary to Forest & Environment Department, Additional Project Directors of OFSDP along with representative of NRLM and Partner NGOs.

PCCF & PD, OFSDP who is the Member Secretary of OFSDS made a detail presentation as per the agenda.

After the confirmation of the proceedings of the 29<sup>th</sup> GB Meeting, discussions held on as per the agenda. Following issues were discussed broadly along with the observations.

- Comprehensive proposal for setting up of a permanent Research Station at Dhamra.
- Comprehensive proposal under NREGA for undertaking different activities including plantations.
- Monitoring of water table in VSS areas.
- Supply of LPG cylinders in the project areas at subsidized price.

- Progress of implementation of AJY.
- Progress of implementation of OFSDP-II project components viz. Preparatory works, Sustainable Forest Management, Eco-system based Conservation Management of Bhitarkanika Area, Satoyama initiative in Bamra Wildlife Division, Livelihood improvement, Capacity Building and Convergence initiatives under OFSDP-II.

On implementation of livelihood component, Chairperson of Governing Body asked that efforts shall be made to tie up with NRLM for taking up livelihood interventions in the project villages. She also urged the PMU authorities to ensure that the VSS buildings-cum-IGA centres constructed under the project should be optimally used for the benefit of the community. Chairperson of GB also suggested that the VSSs/SHGs should be encouraged to raise nurseries as a sustainable livelihood model for the communities. Necessary capacity building programmes on this should also be taken up for the VSS members for raising nurseries.

The Annual Work Plan and Budget of 2020-21 was presented in the meeting and it was approved by the Governing Body.



## PRIMARY TAKEAWAYS OF DMU LEVEL SAMEEKSHYA:

OFSDP has a distinctive mechanism to monitor the progress of the mandated activities. Monitoring activities through MIS tools to measure the real needs, inputs, evaluations and outcomes through participatory interactions with project stakeholders at the grass root level are major tools. The Sameekshya has been established as a platform to deliberate upon the project implementation issues and to engage all concerned to thrive for achieving the objectives of the Project.

For the year 2019-20, Sameekshya Meetings were organised at the Divisional level to mobilize the scope of convergence with other line Departments and to help the community in augmenting the benefit of the flagship programme in collaboration with the local administration. The Sameekshya meetings are organized at the Divisional level of OFSDP-II to disseminate the project objectives and sensitize the

local administration and other institutional stakeholders at large to leverage benefit from the integrated planning. All the synergy of institutions channelized to positively impact the livelihood of the forest fringe communities by undertaking and provisioning community programmes under convergence. PMU, OFSDP has ensured that all the convergence programmes are to planned and proposed at the community level through the Micro Plan preparation stage. The line departments also get an opportunity annually to get reviewed their engagement with a large chunk of their stakeholders and partners of their development programme i.e forest fringe communities. Some selective successful programmes of integration were also discussed at different divisional management units to enable cross learning and emulating as far as possible.

## GLIMPSES OF DMU LEVEL SAMEEKSHYA MEETING:



*Dhenkanal DMU*



*Sundergarh DMU*



*Sambalpur DMU*



*Athamallik DMU*



Boudh DMU



Baripada DMU



Ghumsur North DMU



Subarnapur DMU



Karanjia DMU



Rairangpur DMU



Ghumsur South DMU



Jharsuguda DMU



### Deliberations by PCCF and Project Director, OFSDP at Sameekshya Meeting:

Deliberations by PCCF and Project Director, OFSDP at Sameekshya Meetings

Principal Chief Conservator of Forests and Project Director, OFSDP graced the divisional level Sameekshya meetings at Athamallik, and Dhenkanal to set the stage of coordination and synergy at ground level. In his deliberations at these meeting PD, OFSDP said that forest play a crucial role in healthy living of the mankind. Thus the sector attracts the policy makers for successful implementation of JFM bringing in a holistic management of forest eco system and bio-diversity leading to community ownership on forest resources. Defining the role of community in forest conservation, he said that the conservation of degraded forest will be the major source of free oxygen and water in future. He

also briefed that in Odisha the forest land has increased in all districts except Malkanagiri district.

“OFSDP-II provides high priorities on restoration of degraded forests through JFM mode and assigned VSSs to augment the regeneration of forests with the help of Forest Department and project functionaries. OFSDP-II has also adopted different plantations models under ANR and AR which are planned to be undertaken in the project”, said PD, OFSDP in his deliberations. He also shared that from the previous experiences of the success of OFSDP-I, in this phase, livelihood development activities have been initiated for the forest fringe community which will help the forest dependent people for their livelihood which will reduce dependency on forest resources.

## OFSDS IN STATE LEVEL ADIVASI MELA 2020

The Odisha Forestry Sector Development Society (OFSDS) participated in the State Level Annual Adivasi Mela - 2020 organized by ST, SC Development, Minority and Backward Classes Welfare Department, Government of Odisha from 26<sup>th</sup> January to 9<sup>th</sup> February 2020. The exhibition-cum-sale counter in the Adivasi Mela was inaugurated by Dr. Sudarsan Panda, IFS, PCCF and Project Director, Odisha Forestry Sector Development Society. He interacted with the SHGs and VSS members and encouraged them to utilize this exhibition as a platform to augment their livelihood options by selling their produces and crafts that they produce under the patronage of OFSDP.

This was the second time in OFSDP, Phase-II project that community beneficiaries took part in the State level



PCCF & PD inaugurating OFSDS stall in Adivasi Mela 2020



Adivasi Mela. Earlier, in 2019 Mela, 48 SHGs under OFSDP-I, AJY and OFSDP-II took part in the State level Adivasi Mela. This time, major thrust was given to introduce the products of Self-Help Groups operationalized under OFSDP-II and AJY only. OFSDP has initiated a pilot project in Bamra Wildlife Division under its Satoyama Component. Under this project, efforts were made to harvest an indigenous rice species in that area called Bhajana Rice. The effort was

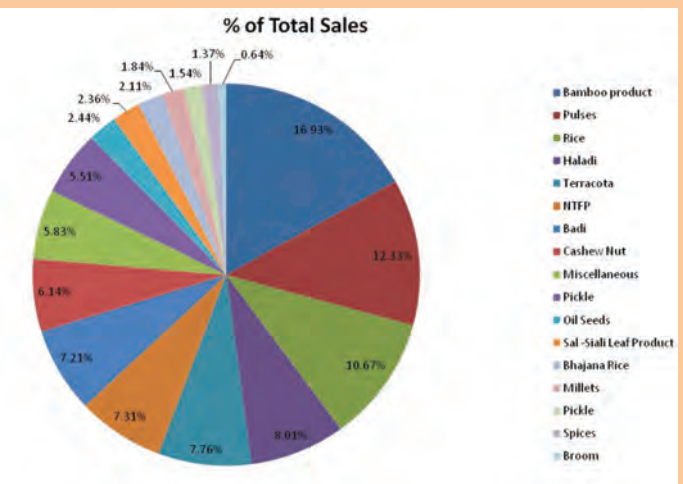
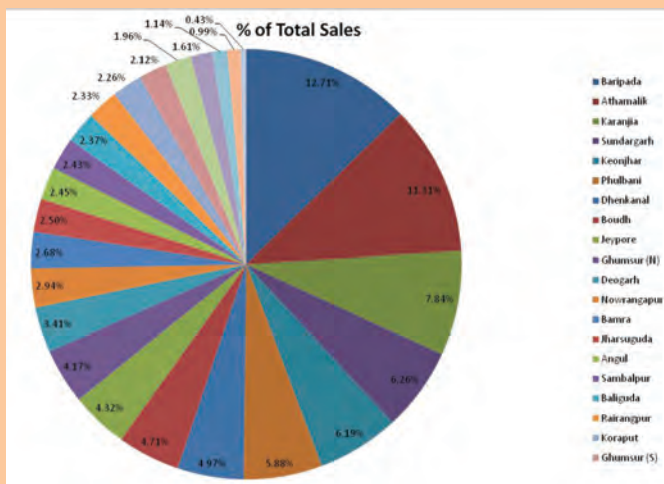


successful in a limited time and to test the market and understand the consumers' response, a special counter to promote and sell organic BHAJANA rice was organized. The feedback and response from the consumers were very encouraging from day one in the Adivasi Mela 2020 and OFSDS could promote the organic produce of BHAJANA rice and other rice varieties from Angul, Balangir, Sundergarh, Koraput etc. Other items like Kandhamal turmeric, honey from Mayurbhanj, Deogarh, Urad Dal from Ghumusur, Bamboo Crafts from Baripada, pressed Sal Plates & cup, pickles from wood apple were highly appreciated and sold in large quantities by the SHGs.

The OFSDS ensured display of project details, activities and achievements through audio visual aid and attracted major footfalls during the exhibition. As many as 41 SHGs operationalised under Ama Jangala Yojana, OFSDP-II, participated in the event. Total 80 SHG members representing the Vana Surakhya Samitis of 12 OFSDP-II Divisions and 23 AJY Divisions under OFSDS took part in the Mela in three batches during the 15 days exhibition.

Public cutting across all strata visited the OFSDS stall

and appreciated various products sold by OFSDS SHGs in different categories like Agri Products, Grocery Products, Natural and Forest Products, Handicrafts, etc. The forest fringe community groups sold record number of products this Mela and the overall sale was very encouraging for the participants and all stakeholders.



Division wise sales analysis of Adivasi Mela 2020



# Glimpses of Adivasi Mela 2020





## Scientific Honey Bee Keeping by SHG Members under Dhenkanal DMU

An initiative for scientific "Bee Keeping" has been taken up by the FMU, Dhenkanal under Odisha Forestry Sector Development Project-II in the targeted village Majhisahi Banasahi VSS in the convergence mode.

Having seen the availability of ample of flora and fauna in the forest areas of Dhenkanal Forest Division during the process of conducting Participatory Rural Appraisal and micro planning in the project villages, as discussed with the villagers, villagers were found to be interested for Bee keeping as collection of honey from forests was practised by them earlier. This boost the project staff to promote the Honey Bee Keeping in the Division. The matter was discussed with district Horticulture Authorities, KVK, Khadi Board officials. Khadi Village Industries Corporation (KVIC), India came forward to support the project. A convergence effort was built up among Horticulture, KVK, KVIC, India with OFSDP-II to run a programme on scientific bee keeping by the tribal dominated villages. People will get an adequate source of income as well as less their dependency on forest refrain from igniting fire while collecting honey from forest bee hives. Elephant depredation is prominent in the Division, which hoped to be controlled substantially, due to more availability of honey bees in the locality due to launching of this programme. the scientific bee keeping will supplement income

generation for livelihood. Besides honey, other bee hive products viz. pollen, propolis, royal jelly and bee venom planned to be collected. It will be also helpful in improving nearby crop productivity through pollination.

With the cooperation of KVIC, BBSR, Hort. Dept., KVK, ORMAS the 50 tribal women from 4 SHGs from two VSSs were identified. A training was imparted in two batches to these beneficiaries for a period of 5 days at a stage. After the training is over, 230 honey bee boxes with bee colonies, bee hives, identity cards, equipments with kits provided to the 23 beneficiaries of two SHG in Majhisahi VSS. The total cost including the training come around Rs 8,30,000/- as supported by KVIC "HONEY MISSION" assisted under 'Prime Minister Employment Generation Programme'

KVIC in future will support for promoting such initiative to a Honey producing cluster in cooperation with OFSDP-II.

After this convergence programme, Dhenkanal DMU plans to initiate similar orientation-cum-training programmes in other VSSs to offer livelihood opportunities to the community members. This will help the division to achieve the target of livelihood programmes envisaged for the SHGs of project VSSs.



Training on Bee Keeping under OFSDP-II in Dhenkanal DMU





### LIVELIHOOD SUCCESS STORIES OF HINDOL FMU

The Patalu VOSS in Hindol FMU under Dhenkanal Division actively participated in implementing convergence activities and mobilizing fund from other sources. Through OFSDP-II and in support of Agriculture Dept 13 nos of sprayer machines were distributed among the VSS members. During Rabi season, Green gram, Back Gram, Sunflower seeds, Grounds nuts were distributed for cultivation over 22 acers land and fund of Rs61,000/- mobilized for the purpose. Convergence activities are having its positive impact and it shows the effective way of creating a mile stone of development process.



Orientation of community members for livelihood programme



Anita Behera is a member of MaaLaxmi SHG of Madhapur VSS of Hindol FMU says “the function of SHGs depends upon the business activities and financial support. Previously my group was only involved in internal lending and women representation was invisible in meeting and other activities. After launching of OFSDP in our village, the project staff helped us taking part in the process of decision making

and during Microplan process. Our group got bank loan worth Rs 2 lac from AUCCI Bank and started Pampad, Bhujia, Seo and Haldi production and sale in local Market and also participated in different festivals and exhibition.



### EMPOWERING SHGs: IGA ACTIVITIES UNDER BOUDH FMU

Jagadala village is one of the underprivileged village adjoining to forest area for which VanaSurakhyaSamiti was constituted under OFSDP in 2017-18 of Baghiapada GP under Khajuripada Section of FMU Boudh. None of the VSS members have good source of income except Kharif cultivation. The OFSDP support staff facilitated the SHG members for taking up

different income generation activities throughout the year. The MaaThakurani SHG of the VSS was persuaded for vegetable cultivation and for the purpose, training programme was organised at National Horticulture Research & Development Foundation (NHRDF) at Paljhar in collaboration with District Horticulture Office, Boudh, where all SHG members of MaaThakurani SHG of Jagadala VSS attended and learnt the process of cultivation process of Bit, Carrot & Capsicum, etc.



The SHG utilised Rs.1500/- from its saving fund and cultivated Bit, Carrot & Capsicum in a single plot of a member’s land. After harvesting, the SHG sold 270 Kg. Bit & Carrot @ Rs.30.00 per Kg. in phase wise at nearby



markets and in Boudh Town. Finally, the SHG members benefitted Rs. 6600/- from vegetable cultivation and happy to share their profit among themselves. The SHG is now willing to take many areas for cultivation of different vegetable in coming rainy season.

Similarly, All the members of MaaNarghanta SHG, Brundaban VSS under Boudh FMU decided in its regular monthly meeting of Mar, 2020 that the SHG will sell vegetables on road point twice in a week, Accordingly, the different vegetable items are being procuring and

selling twice in a week for one and half months at Verandas of the VSS-Cum- IGA Facilitation Centre of Brundaban VSS. Initially, the SHG invested Rs. 8000 and got benefitted of Rs. 6000/- after selling vegetable for one and half month. Most of the households of the VSS and nearby village people were happy to get fresh vegetable items in their doorstep and praised to SHG for the noble step. The SHG members are also happy to invest their SHG saving in such an easy income generation activity.

## EMPLOYMENT GENERATION: CASE STUDY OF GHUMSUR(SOUTH) DIVISION

The DDU – GKY programme inspiring the unemployed youths develop the professional skill with earning abilities. It is proactively giving a new ray of hope to the unemployed and unskilled youths. Under OFSDP-II, Block Level Action Committee provided a great platform for convergence programme at the FMU and VSS level. Under this Scheme a Nijuktimella which was held in coordination with the OLM of Buguda Block. 112 nos of youth including 45 male and 67 female members from 12 nos of VSS were attended the Nijuktimella. The Mela was organized by Block but a separate stall was opened for OFSDP-II project for counseling the youth from the VSSs. The youth members who are attended



had registered their names in different trades according to the choice and suitability. The team had taken all effort and mobilized the participants for self-learning and self-sufficient.

After Nijukti Mella five numbers of female youth from Samalai VSS and 2 nos of female youth from tikarpali VSS of FMU Buguda are enrolled in tailoring trade at Khorda for 3 months. Total Seven number of girls started new life with new environment. The selected candidates undergone tailoring training at Khurda under DDU-GKY. Out of seven candidates five are of

Samale VSS and they got employment in Tamilnadu with monthly remuneration of Rs 9000/-. They have returned from that place due to some issues at home. During a visit of the DMU chief to this VSS these skilled female persons requested him to provide some support for tailoring machine so that they can beself-employed by engaging in the VSS or nearby Block head quarter. So after due diligence, five number of sewing machine provided to these candidates from the OFSDP funds available with the DFO, Ghumsur (South). The machines were distributed to the candidates by Smt. P.Z Mekro, Additional Project Director (A&F). After that it becomes an additional source of income generation for the women candidates and they are happy with the support by the intervention of OFSDP-II project.





## Visit of JICA Review Mission

A four member JICA Review Mission visited Odisha Forestry Sector Development Project, Phase-II sites from 17<sup>th</sup> February 2020 to 20<sup>th</sup> February 2020. The team visited different project locations of OFSDP-II under Dhenkanal DMU, Athamallik DMU and Boudh DMU from 17<sup>th</sup> February 2020 to 19<sup>th</sup> February 2020 and interacted with the community members, P-NGO staffs, project stakeholders. They also observed the progress of the different project components all by themselves in these divisions. On 20<sup>th</sup> February 2020 they called on Additional Chief Secretary, Forest and Environment Department and Chief Secretary, Government of Odisha respectively.

The team was comprised of Mr. Uemachi Toru, Chief Representative, JICA, Sri Vineet Sarin, Chief Development Specialist, JICA, MS. Ochida Sayaka, Programme Specialist, JICA, Ms. Janice Masiah, NGO Desk Coordinator, JICA. The team had two interactive sessions with PCCF and Project Director, OFSDP along with the PMU officials.



## *Additional Chief Secretary, Forest & Environment Department reviewed NCSCM Work on long-term monitoring plan for Ecosystem-based conservation management for Bhitarkanika Conservation Area*

A meeting convened on 16<sup>th</sup> January 2020 at PMU to review the works of NCSCM, Chennai on the Bio-diversity Component of OFSDP-II on Long-term monitoring plan for Ecosystem-based conservation management of Bhitarkanika Area (BCA). Additional Chief Secretary of Forest & Environment Department Dr Mona Sharma, IAS, chaired the meeting and reviewed the progress. The review programme was attended by PCCF and HoFF, PCCF(Wildlife)-cum-Chief Wildlife Warden, Additional Project Director (A&F), OFSDP, Senior Scientists of NCSCM, officials of OSPCB, officials of PMU. In the beginning, PCCF and PD, OFSDP gave an overview of the assignment and elaborated the in details about the scope of work envisaged to be delivered by the NCSCM after three years of study.

Prof Ramesh Ramachandran, Director, NCSCM and DrPurvaja of NCSCM made a joint and elaborate presentation on the expected outcome of the consulting assignment. They also presented the quarterly progress report of the scientific study of Bhitarkanika Conservation Area.

ACS directed that the final survey report should include important aspects of the in-depth study along with quantifiable justification on ban on fishing activity, economic evaluation of different ecosystem services, tourism pressure of BCA, assessment of carrying capacity of tourists and boats, capacity building of field level staffs of Forest Dept apart from the statutory deliverables.

NCSCM was requested to present the details on Permanent Research Station in Dhamra Port.





## Baseline Survey on Socio-Economic Condition & Physical Situation in OFSDS Project Areas reviewed:

OFSDP has commissioned the baseline survey on socio-economic condition and physical situation in the project areas of OFSDS to M/S CTRAN Consulting Limited, Bhubaneswar. A meeting under the Chairmanship of Addl Chief Secretary to Government was convened on 13<sup>th</sup> January 2020 in the Conference Hall of Forest &



Environment Department, KharvelaBhawan to review the progress.

PCCF and PD, OFSDP gave an overview on the objective, scope of work and timeline for the baseline survey and highlighted the importance of baseline survey for understanding the impact of different interventions under OFSDP-II and AJY Divisions.

## DFO organized through video conference



A meeting to review the progress of work in the OFSDP, Phase-II project divisions was convened on 3<sup>rd</sup> January 2020 at NIC, Bhubaneswar through video conferencing. The meeting was Chaired by PCCF & PD, OFSDP.

PD, OFSDP urged all the DFO-cum-DMU Chiefs for optimal utilization of the resources of the project for the timely implementation of project activities. All OFSDP-II project components targets vis-à-vis achievement were discussed in detail with the DMU Chiefs.

During the review meeting, decision taken and instruction issued on wide range of topics.

- Fixation of ANR and AR plantation target of each DMUs were discussed based on the proposal of DMUs.
- Plantation target of Batch-II VSSs in 2020-21 was revisited and DMUs were instructed to start the nursery works immediately.
- Selection of VSSs for Batch-II and Batch-IV were reviewed.

- Farm Forestry in Batch-I VSS was reviewed based on the proposal of DMUs and they were instructed to revise the proposal vis-à-vis targets.
- Livelihood promotion activity was reviewed and DMUs were instructed to upload the SHG gradation at the earliest.
- Construction of VSS building and progress work monitored and it was instructed to complete the target by February 2020.

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