



OFSDP

Orissa Forestry Sector Development Project

NEWSLETTER



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PD's Desk



I am making my maiden communication for the present issue of OFSDP NEWSLETTER as your Project Director. At the first instance, I would like to place on record for the appreciative contributions of my predecessor, Shri Arun Kumar Bansal, IFS to the project over almost five years since its inception. The project has progressed a long distance in fulfilling twin objectives of restoration of degraded forests and livelihood promotion of forest dependent communities for

sustainable management. I on behalf of all the participants of OFSDP project would wish him success in his present assignment of Additional Director General of Forests under the Government of India. I would also wish to put all endeavors with support of all present and prospective project personnel, newsletter readers and VSS for further dynamic developments and expansion of project from 2011.

The project during months of October – December 2010 had flurry of activities on income generation activities, livelihood improvement, eco-tourism destination development, coastal plantations, capacity building, monitoring including visit of JICA Mission, as well as on initiation of activities for Mid Term Evaluation in the middle of year 2011. There were exposure visits of 18 forest officers from Gujarat JICA project to Rayagada and Koraput Divisions as well as of 25 forest officers from Uttar Pradesh JICA project to Angul and Satkosia (WL) Divisions.

Capacity building is an important component of skill development. The encouraging results of demonstrative 'Crab Culture' in mangrove areas for a few farmers enabled project to organize a training on 'Crab Rearing and Fattening' in Bhadrak (WL) Division. A number of farmers have come forward to undertake 'Crab Culture' with facilitation of OFSDP in 2011. Trainings on IGAs for members of SHGs, VSSs, and Project Staff as well as Orientation Workshops for cluster processes of cluster mapping, business plan development and finance mobilization etc have been conducted. One innovative development towards focused IGAs has been the introduction of specialized agency as Income Generation Support Agency (IGASA) at each DMU for hand holding, capacity building, cluster formation, value addition and market linkage on area based IGA. MIS trainings were organized at Angul, Rourkela, Bonai and other DMUs. The project also brought input on Biodiversity, Eco-tourism and wildlife by organizing an "Overseas Study Tour to Brazil to learn innovative eco-tourism and wildlife management" for 6 senior officers as well as an workshop on "

Effective Prevention and Prosecution of Wildlife Crimes" with a publication titled 'Wild Watch'. The project has also facilitated on an Eco-tourism Policy of the State, on formulation and planning for conservation reserve of elephant corridor of 'Kuldiha-Hadgarh-Similipal'. Forest Officers were also deputed for training on "Result Based Management for Forestry Sector" at the Administrative Staff College of India, Hyderabad.

Further, introduction of innovative approaches on bio-diversity management during the quarter have been on planning for sacred groves in each DMU, on establishing 'Nakshatra Vana' in each DMU, formulation of proposal for notification of biodiversity heritage site of Mandargiri in Angul District and for Bichitrapur mangrove eco-tourism destination in Balasore District. Recent project activities of cluster development for income generating activities as well as biodiversity based eco-tourism destination development would significantly contribute to economic progress of VSS & their SHGs. This would also open a new level of co-operation and co-ordination capacity building in rural areas and more so in forest dependent villages.

The project has so far associated 2,050 VSS & EDC, undertaken forest restoration over 1,70,000 ha and coastal plantation of 2,098 ha of mangroves/ casuarinas, as well as over 2000 SHGs for linking 2,798 loans from the revolving fund generated in addition to large shelf of activities for capacity building. I am sure that the participating VSS, SHG as well as adjacent communities would have started or would shortly start realizing return on their investment and project investment for community development.

The utilization of VSS building as multipurpose centre for the village is appreciable. The VSS members have greater role in accessing the benefit of project activities and for convergence of all other government development programmes through convergence activities under this project. This learning and experience is required to be sustained by members of VSS. The field level staff and officers of Forest Divisions must continue their efforts with all line department concerned for water, sanitation, health, horticulture, fisheries, sericulture & handicrafts, agriculture, food pressing, rural infrastructure, education and other livelihood assets. The project must result in quest from villagers and from front line staff of forest department for institutionalizing convergence.

With best wishes to all promoters of sustainable development, livelihood generators along with developers of degraded forests.

(Vinod Kumar, IFS)
Addl. Pr. CCF & Project Director

Forest officials from UP & Gujrat visited OFSDP



A team of 19 Forest personnel from Gujarat Forestry Development Project visited Orissa Forestry Sector Development Project headed by Dr. A.P Singh, IFS, CF, from 24th to 28th November 2010. On their arrival at Bhubaneswar the team was briefed about the innovative interventions by the Project Director Sri Arun K. Bansal, IFS and Jt. Project Directors Sri Debidatta Biswal, IFS and Sri. Rajiv Kumar, IFS. After having an overall idea about the project the team proceeded to Rayagada & Koraput Divisions. There they visited different components of the project in five VSSs. On their return from the field visit, the team had a debriefing session at the PMU. The team leader Dr. Singh appreciated community involvement, their awareness, transparency measures and convergence efforts in the project. He observed that "the visiting team was educated on many innovative interventions and would try to replicate the same in their project." Similarly, a Team of U.P Forest Officers working under participatory Forest Management & Poverty alleviation Project consisting of Twenty four members i.e- Chief Project Director, Project Director (Wild Life), Project Director (M & E), Four nos of DMU Chiefs, One MIS officer, One Accounts Officer & Fifteen Assistant DMU Chiefs visited different plantation sites, EPA, and other Income generating and livelihood activities as well as eco-tourism sites in Angul & Satkosia (WL) Division from 10.12.2010 to 12.12.2010 & interacted with the villagers.

On their arrival to Angul, a Power Point presentation was made on Information regarding various Project activities of DMU Angul & concerned VSSs. The Assistant DMU Chief, the concerned FMU Chiefs & the FEOs participated during the discussion & field visit.



Study Tour to BRAZIL

A team of senior officers from the state went for overseas study tour to Brazil. The basic objective of the study tour was to learn the development and construction of environment friendly tourism facilities/destinations and innovative Eco-tourism activities as well as to examine, different mechanism for wildlife management and forest protection. Six senior government officers namely Dr Aurobindo Behera, IAS, Principal Secretary, F&E Dept., Sri A.K. Bansal, IFS, Project Director OFSDP, Sri R. Raghu Prasad, IFS, DFO Satkosia (WL), Sri M. Yogayananda, IFS, D.F.O. Phulbani, Sri Kedar Kumar Swain, OFS, D.F.O. Balasore (WL) and Sri Jitasatru Mohanty, OFS, D.F.O. Paralakhemundi Division participated in the study tour from 21st October to 1st November 2010.

The team visited different national parks and eco-tourism destinations in Brazil, and also lion park at Johannesburg. The team also visited Indian Embassy and JICA Brazil at Brasilia. A presentation highlighting the main learning was made at the DFOs' conference held at Bhubaneswar on 19th November 2010 in which adaptation of some of the learning in the state was also discussed.



Cluster approach made SHGs more confident

'Chandi Thakurani' and 'Hundi Thakurani' SHGs of Aminaguda VSS under Koraput DMU have set up good example in IGA works. Both the SHGs were formed by Sarbodaya Samiti during the year 2000 and 2007. Except individual savings, the SHGs had no other activity. After project intervention, VSS building was constructed which was used as store room for interim period. Big and small weighing machines were supplied under EPA. Partner NGO team visited the village regularly and revived these SHGs. Individual saving became regularized. Motivated SHG members actively participated in VSS work and decided to start small business. They applied a loan from VSS and after getting the money, started Tamarind business and made profit of Rs 5000 within 3months. They repaid the loan with interest. Subsequently, along with other 19 SHGs; both the SHGs were also included under tamarind cluster business. For the second time they availed loan of Rs. 25000. Apart from other seasonal business, both the SHGs invested Rs. 8600 in Tamarind business and got profit of Rs. 2872 within one month. In six months by investing Rs. 50000, both the SHG got profit of Rs 12400. For the first time they were exposed to cluster concept. As a result SHGs are now revolving their own fund. Recently they invested Rupees one lakh from their own savings for seasonal business purpose and preparing themselves to take up tamarind cluster work in a bigger way.

In the mean time they participated at District level cultural function 'PARAB'. Both the SHGs displayed their products and sold 14 items. By investing Rs. 22195, they got profit of Rs. 8121 in 5days. They are now not going to local moneylenders and by this time this group has already taken 3 loan from VSS. Two times they have repaid the loan and they are doing business with the third loan. Now they are in a position to analyze loss and profit situation of their own business and are becoming self dependant, which is a good sign.

Deepak Kumar Mishra, FLE Koraput



Blood Donation Camp by Laxmanpur VSS

Laxmanpur Vana Samrskhyan Samiti under Angul DMU has been included in third phase of Orissa Forestry Sector Development Project. People of the village mainly depend upon agriculture and forest for their livelihood. After preparation of micro plan, VSS building was constructed in the donated land from Sri Dinabandhu Sahu. Construction area of the VSS building is 500 sq. feet and the total cost is Rs. 3, 00,000/- out of which project provided only Rs 1,20,000/-. The villagers donated money as well as labour so that this huge building could stand in the village. The building was inaugurated by Sri. S.S. Mishra DFO-cum-DMU Chief, Angul. On this occasion villagers organized a blood donation camp with the help of Red Cross Society and 78 bottles of blood was collected from the camp. Villagers attended the camp to donate blood spontaneously. Villagers are now very happy and they have now started exploring other facilities provided by the project.

RajKishor Amanta, Sr.FEO, Angul DMU

MANGROVES

Mangroves forest was savior of the coastal population from high tide, tsunami, cyclone and other calamities. In coastal areas of Orissa natural mangrove forest existed since long. In due course of time Forest & Environment department protected the existing forest and enriched the same through plantation. However, in Balasore and Bhadrakh area, such forests were damaged heavily by super cyclone in 1999 & tsunami in 2004 and it was also degraded due to collection of firewood, fodder, grazing by cattle, encroachment for prawn farming, unsustainable fishery resources collection etc. But gradually coastal people realized the impact of mangrove forest and with the help of Orissa Forestry Sector Development Project they started protecting and regenerating mangrove forests.



MANGROVES saved 800 acre paddy

It is known that Saline embankment with mangrove forest reduce the tidal intrusion. Government of Orissa constructed saline embankment all along the coast but it is intact where the mangroves forest exists. Mohanpur is one such area under Bhadrak DMU where mangroves forest and Saline embankment had vanished.

Mohanpur village was included in OFSDP in the year 2008-09. Eco Development Committee was formed. At the time of Micro Plan preparation, villagers emphasized on Mangrove plantation because they had realized the result from loss of mangrove forest. Saline embankment constructed along Mohanpur coast during 1985-86 & got repaired in 1990. Embankment damaged gradually due to low pressure, flood and cyclone but was damaged completely in the super cyclone. With active participation from the locals, Mohanpur EDC planted Mangroves in 220ha on sea side of non existence embankment.

Time elapsed. Last October Orissa coast experienced low pressure and the Mangroves plantation played crucial role in saving the 800

acres of mature paddy crops from saline water intrusion. President of EDC Sri. Dayanidhi Mallick says proudly, that the impact of 6 feet high tidal waves were reduced to normal waves due to this three year old Mangroves plantation. Last year they harvested paddy from their lands; fishermen are getting 4-5 kg crab from each channel, milk production of buffaloes increased day by day due to green grass (collected from the plantation area) feeding regularly. Mangroves forest is one, which brings all the positive revolution like blue, green, white and Bio-shield for the coastal communities' life & livelihood security.

Gopal Mohapatra, FLE, Bhadrak



Bichitrapur Villagers are keen to grow mangroves

The damage caused by super cyclone in 1999 & Tsunami in 2004 made the coastal communities aware of coastal plantation and they could realize values of mangrove forests for their life and livelihood security. Bichitrapur P.R.F of Balasore W.L division having an area of 564 ha earlier had covers of both Casuarina & mangroves. The mangroves forest was under heavy pressure due to collection of firewood & fodder and was open for uncontrolled grazing by cattle & buffaloes of surrounding 4-5 villages, encroachment for prawn farming, unsustainable fishery resources collection etc. The illegal felling of plus trees was the main hindrance for natural regeneration of mangroves. Due to heavy biotic interference & sedimentation the area was degraded.

The project approached & involved community during the year 2008-09 in the process of social awareness, mass meeting, EDC formation, Participatory Rural Appraisal, micro planning for restoration & management of mangroves forest. Initially a demonstration plot of 50ha was taken in the degraded high land with Fishbone channel

intervention at khadibil under Bichitrapur P.R.F. The nursery activities started with aim to restore the degraded area and retain the mangroves diversity. 1,50,000 nos. of mangroves seedlings of 12 species were raised. People have already felt the importance of mangroves, so they spontaneously took the responsibility of protection and management. Uncontrolled grazing changed to controlled grazing and collection of grass; fishbone channel helps in promoting the livelihood of fishery resources (crab & fish) of the dependant villagers; plantation activities generated man days throughout the year for the poorer section of the villagers especially the women got benefitted. EDC members are now visioning for mangrove based eco-tourism development to promote their livelihood.

DMU Chief cum DFO, Balasore (WL)



SHG confident enough to take bigger business

Rambheigada is a tribal village in Kandarkela G.P. of Birmitrapur FMU under Rourkela DMU. There are 66 households in the village and they depend on agriculture and collection of non timber forest product for their livelihood.

This village was included in OFSDP in 2007 and two SHGs namely 'Rohini' and 'Mayuri' were formed in 2008. Partner NGO team with forest officials visited the village and motivated the 26 SHG members for IGA. Business plan prepared for Mahua flowers and ground nut cultivation was approved by VSS. Which sanctioned Rs. 15, 000 to each SHG from VFDF. Both the SHGs invested Rs10,000/- for Mahua flower business and Rs5,000/- for groundnut cultivation. They purchased 1666 k.g. of mahua flower @ of Rs 6.00 per 900g. After processing, the quantity of Mahua flower reduced to 1557kg. They sold the Mahua flower @ of Rs 10.00 per 900gm and got a profit of Rs 5200/-. They repaid the loan to VFDF. Likewise both the SHGs invested Rs 5000/- for the cultivation of groundnut. With technical assistance from agriculture department along with certified seeds, fertilizer and pesticides, they earned a good profit. Members of Rohini and Mayuri SHG are now confident enough to take other cash crop cultivation and business for better livelihood.

Prasanna Ku. Panda, Sr. Gr. FEO



Mulagudari SHG earned good profit from NTFP

Mulagudari Mega Nursery was established under the special package of Hon'ble Chief Minister, Orissa for Kandhamal District. Mulagudari VSS was included under OFSDP in 2007-08. The VSS has raised this Mega Nursery and members are getting wage employment from this nursery. Hill broom plantation has been taken up along the terrace bunds as plantation of NTFP species inside nursery campus.

SHG under the VSS prepared a business plan for NTFP trading and applied for a loan of Rs 30,000 from VFDF of VSS. After receiving the loan, SHG members purchased the broom sticks worth Rs. 25,000 from the VSS nursery and fiber handle worth Rs 5,000 from the market. After few days of labour with the purchased materials they prepared good hill broom and sold them in the nearby market for Rs. 40, 000. The process continued for a period of about one month during which the SHG members worked at leisure time and finally made this profit of Rs 10,000. Now they are capable enough to take up business activities like this in future. They have become an example of successful business entrepreneur of NTFP plans as well as a model for such groups to go for Hill broom cultivation and trading.





Drinking water facility for BALIJHARAN

Balijharan village under Purunagada FMU of Angul DMU is included in third phase of the project. This is a very small village with 36 families. People of the village were protecting the nearby village forest and Khesra forest. After the formation of VSS they have been assigned 80 ha. of forest for protection. At the time of preparation of Micro Plan, villagers urged for drinking water facility. Plan was prepared accordingly. There are two tube wells in village but are in defunct condition. All the efforts to repair those tube wells were made but could not be repaired. Therefore, it was decided to go for new tube wells. Two new tube wells were dug in the village and were connected with motor pumps. An amount of Rs. 109, 000/- has been spent from the EPA fund. Electricity expenses are being met from users' fee of Rs 15/- per month. People are very happy to get drinking water throughout the year. Being encouraged by this activity villagers are now planning to get water at their doorstep. They have collected Rs 500 per family to install pipes to every household. People are very happy with the effort made by OFSDP. The enthusiast villagers are now ready to do the plantation and other activities for the development of the village through convergence program of the project.

Kailash Chandra Pradhan,
Forester, Purunagada, FMU

OFSDP SHGs participated in Balijatra Mela

Two SHGs namely 'Pragati' and 'Manschi' of Majhiguda VSS from Jeypore DMU participated in the Orissa's famous Balijatra from 21st to 28th November, 2010. APITCO is one of the Income Generating Activity Support Agencies (IGASA) under OFSDP who is facilitating in promotion and strengthening of the sustainable IGAs through SHGs by means of awareness generation, SHG movement, VSS strengthening and involving groups in profitable trade/value addition for the local produce. A stall was arranged at Balijatra in consultation with DSMS. With the proper business plan VSS sanctioned Rs. 25, 000 from the VFDF to Pragati and Manschi SHGs. Both the SHGs added Rs. 5000/- each from their savings. They purchased Ragi Powder, Honey, Dangar Rani, Jhuna, Jhuanagrhati & Bamboo products worth Rs. 40,730 and properly processed & packaged products in various sizes. Animator and ULCM provided all necessary help to the SHGs. Out of the total sale of Rs. 70,930, they got a profit of Rs.20,600. They repaid the loan to VSS with agreed interest of Rs. 500 within a span of 15 days and thus the two SHGs earned a net profit of Rs. 20,100. By this exposure visit their confidence level has increased and they are ready to participate in other such upcoming programmes. The members are now aware about the market demand of their products and the benefit of working together. They have decided to install Ragi processing unit at their village because raw Ragi costs Rs. 15 per Kg. whereas Ragi powder costing Rs 60 per Kg.



Ramakanta Mohanty, FLE-Jeypore

Support Agencies for strengthening focused IGA Activities



Income Generation Activities is one of the important sub-components of the Orissa Forestry Sector Development Project, considering that poverty alleviation is one of its objectives. For this, the project provides a 'Revolving Fund' of Rs.1 lakh to each Vanasthansiyana Samiti (VSS). The SHG Groups take loans from this 'Revolving Fund' from the VSS on a mutually agreeable rate of interest. The basic approach of the Project is inclusive in nature, as it focuses on forest dependent poor and weak SHGs. The Project also promotes demand driven activities instead of supply driven. At the beginning, the project had NGO Partners working at the FMU level and one of their jobs was to facilitate the IGA activities, through a detailed process of SHG grading, selection / prioritization by VSS, strengthening and hand-holding by NGO and VSS Animators. At the beginning, a detailed Market Research was also carried out by a specialized agency for suggesting area based IGA based on a comprehensive 'Livelihood Opportunity Analysis (LAO)' and 'Value Chain Analysis (VCA)'. Pending focused and planned IGA, Pilot IGA (small and short cycle loans) were carried out which provided much desired match practice to the SHG groups. After three years of engagement, the partnership with the NGO Partners came to an end in September, 2010 and with the experience of Pilot IGAs, the SHGs were better prepared. Thus, the need was felt to engage specialized support agencies for focused, preferably cluster based IGA Activities.

The IGA Support Agencies (IGASAs) were contracted in June, 2011 for a period of one year for Hand-Holding, Capacity Building, Cluster Formation, Value Addition and for Market Linkage. Three IGASAs, namely: Mart and CYS Consortium, APITCO and BISWA were engaged in different project DMUs. These IGASAs have been contracted for a period of one year. During this one year, they will focus on the following:

1. SHG intensification and up-streaming of IGA for the SHGs already involved in small IGA.
2. Ensuring year round activities for small IGA (2 to 3 loans per year).
3. Practicing of cluster IGA by the SHGs who are capable and enterprising.
4. Targeting new SHGs to take up small IGA loans (at least one loan).

Capacity Building of the SHG, VSS/EDC members and concerned project staff is also a major focus area of the IGASA. Three types of Training Programmes are being carried out, i.e Foundation Trainings, Micro Enterprise Management, Skill Training and Exposure Visit. The IGASAs are also identifying different clusters, and developing the list of Potential Collaborative Institutions (PCI), Business Development Service (BDS) Providers to provide sustainable market linkage support. The infrastructure support (Storage buildings and equipments for processing) such as Drying Yards, processing machines etc. required for carrying out particular IGA in and around the cluster are being listed and mapped.

Up to February, 2011 about 3500 loans have been linked to the SHGs, CIGs and individuals from the VSS 'Revolving Fund'. 329 days of Foundation Trainings, 476 days for Micro Enterprises Trainings, and 29 days of Skill Trainings and 38 Exposure Visit Days have been organized, 70 Clusters have been formed (One cluster consisting of about 14 SHGs in 7 to 8 VSSs). Cluster Mapping has been completed in 65 clusters. Business Development Plan (BDP) has been prepared for 34 clusters and in 23 clusters; the IGA activities have been initiated. It is planned to engage the IGASAs for a period of 3 years, so that focused cluster based IGAs can be undertaken in the targeted 4550 SHGs spread over 2275 VSSs/EDCs.



MESSAGE

It is a matter of great satisfaction for me to be associated with the shaping up the execution of OFSDP, with the active support of all officers and staff at the PMU, and in the Project Implementing Circles/Divisions. In all assessments, JICA, with whose assistance the Project is being implemented, has expressed their satisfaction, So much so that the project is considered as the second generation flagship forestry project. I share the feeling of pride with all my colleagues in the forest department and the participating communities (VSS).

I take this opportunity to thank the Chief Secretary and President of the Orissa Forestry Sector Development Society, the Agriculture Production Commissioner and the Vice-President of Orissa Forestry Sector Development Society, the Principal Secretary, Forest & Environment Department, Government of Orissa, PCCF, Orissa and PCCF (WL) for creating enabling environment for, and extending required support in exemplary implementation of the Project.

We have been able to bring in a lot of qualitative improvements, through several innovative interventions, which have been well documented now. The benefits to the targeted communities have been maximized through planned convergence efforts. The project has also introduced a lot of transparency measures for eliciting community support and greater accountability. In my present assignment, I am overlooking all the projects in forestry sector, including JICA assisted projects and my joy knows no bounds when on various occasions, OFSDP initiatives are appreciated.

I am sure all the stakeholders will continue to work together and take the projects to greater heights. I wish OFSDP all the success, and hope that the project sets the bench mark for all other projects being implemented in the forestry sector in the country.

(Arun K. Bansal, IFS)
Additional Director General of Forests,
Ministry of Environment & Forests,
Government of India

Transfer Posting



Shri R.N. Sahoo, IFS, worked in the PMU for almost 4 years i.e. from 10th November, 2006 till his date of retirement i.e. 31st October, 2010. During this period, he discharged duties in various capacities as DPD (Trg.), DPD (A&F), JPD (HRD&R) and JPD (A&F). He was a very sincere and hard-working officer, and will be fondly remembered as a strict finance man. His services rendered to the Project has highly been appreciated and definitely the project will miss him.



This quarterly newsletter of the JICA assisted Orissa Forestry Sector Development Project provides timely information relating to different project activities for the knowledge of various stakeholders.

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