

JICA
assisted
Forestry Projects
in
India



Orissa

Forestry Sector Development Project

Executing agency:
Forest and Environment Department,
Government of Orissa

Loan:
Amount: JPY 13,937 million
Agreement signed: 2006



The project aims to restore degraded forests and improve the income level of the villagers by promoting sustainable forest management including plantations through Joint Forest Management (JFM) and community/tribal development. The project is to be implemented in 14 forest and wildlife divisions, namely Angul, Balliguda, Bonai, Deoagarh, Jeypore, Keonjhar, Koraput, Parakhemundi, Phulbani, Rayagada, Rourkela, Satkosai, Balasore, and Bhadrak. These divisions fall in 10 districts of the state.

The major activities are to be planned and implemented by the Van Samrakshan Samities (VSSs) through preparation of

comprehensive micro plans not only for the restoration of the degraded forests assigned to the communities, but also for the overall development of the village. One important sub-objective and approach of the project is to enhance capacity of the forest department staff, members of VSS, Self-Help Groups (SHGs) and the communities at large.

Under the project, 196,650 hectares of degraded forests shall be restored and 2,810 hectares of coastal plantations would be undertaken. A total of 2,275 VSSs and 4,500 SHGs would be formed under the project.

‘Karada is a small tribal village in Rayagada division and villagers depend mainly on forest produce. Karada and its surrounding villagers collect plenty of tamarind and other NTFPs, which they sell at nearest market (Ramnaguda which is 8 kms away). Sometimes, petty traders come to the village for purchasing these NTFPs. After the formation of VSS under OFSDP, the VSS committee purchased one 50 kg weighing machine under VSS’s EPA fund and provided loan of Rs. 40,000/- from VSS revolving fund.’

Malati Devi Mutika, VSS President, Karada village

Members of Chandimata SHG run a betel leaf plantation in Khadibil, Jaleswor district.



Best Practices

Autonomous Institution for Implementation

The Orissa Forestry Sector Development Society, which is the implementing agency of the project, is an autonomous organisation formed by the Government of Orissa under the Forest and Environment Department. The society has been registered under the Registration of Societies Act, 1860. The Chief Secretary and the Agriculture Production Commissioner, Orissa are respectively the President and Vice-President of the Society. The Project Director is the Ex-Officio CEO of the Society. The Society has a High Powered Committee headed by the Chief Secretary, and Governing Body headed by the Agriculture Production Commissioner-Additional Chief Secretary. The Project Management Unit (PMU) is headed by the Project Director. The Society has its own bye-laws and accounting procedures developed in concurrence with the Accountant General and approved by the Government of Orissa. The Annual Action Plan and the annual budget are approved by the High Powered Committee. Being a society helps in taking quick decisions and timely implementation of different activities. Financial powers have been delegated to the PMU head, and also to the Division level management unit chiefs to facilitate timely sanction of different works and for smooth implementation.



Members of Mahamangla SHG making small hand made crafts from bamboo in Bardasahi

Forest department staff working inside the hardening chamber at the Orissa Forest Rangers College hi-tech nursery in Angul

