




OFSDP

Orissa Forestry Sector Development Project

NEWSLETTER



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FD's Desk



The months of January- March 2011 have kept all OFSDP protagonists busy with activities of monitoring actions of 2010, executing leftover planned actions for 2010-11 financial year as well as planning for 2011-12. The project stakeholders have met for Sameekshya 2010 and shared number of developments, good practices and experiences. There had been feedback on JFM from studies on “JFM Implementation Models in Orissa” with final report and on “Impact of ANR practices on biodiversity”, besides thorough discussions with project mid-term evaluators M/S Sambodhi Research and Communication (Pvt) Ltd as well as auditors from the office of Accountant General. These feedback and sharing of experiences have been contributing to revisit of micro-plan and implementations by VSS of first three phases for improvements. This has also contributed for the knowledge of certain shortcomings and steps to be taken for remedial measures. Simultaneously, micro-planning of IV batch VSS have progressed. Strengthening as Model VSS and harmonizing of local initiatives of forest & biodiversity conservation with those of laws for forest,

wildlife, biodiversity, forest rights and Gram Panchayats have been the area in which, project have dwelt during these months for effective actions in next two years.

The capacity building programmes for various levels by PMUs and DMUs along with training programmes under IGSA need to progress faster and for more project implementers & SHG members. Convergence of government programmes of all sector recently upscaled by the State Government for rural and tribal community also need to be sincerely taken up by the VSS for development and livelihood of village households. Therefore, it is important for project units of DMU and FMU to make the VSS executive body capable of benefitting from all such programmes being implemented by District Level Officers of all Departments/ Projects/ Missions and for facilitating coordination for trainings and deliveries.

The next quarter is important for preventing and controlling forest fire and grazing in forest area undertaken for restoration from 2007 under the project and for nursery raising of proper seedlings for planting on rains. 238 VSS in IV batch further are being supported under the project. Planting targets calculated from plans and mapping are 22,529 ha in JFM mode, 2715 ha in non-JFM mode, 525 ha of mangroves and 25 ha of casuarinas. Eco-tourism destination developments in Balasore WL Division and Parlakhemundi Division are to be undertaken. Strengthening of identified sacred groves with documentation is also to be taken up.

I would therefore wish very rewarding experiences to the readers of this newsletter and would be glad to receive their comments on project activities and developments. I would also call upon our project workers from the level of PMU, DMU, FMU, VSS and SHG to contribute their whole hearted functions for forest restoration and livelihood programmes from the project and from other government programmes targeting VSS from I to IV batches under OFSDP during 2011-12.


(Vinod Kumar)
 Project Director



Study on “JFM Implementation models in Orissa”

A study on “Joint Forest Management Implementation Models in Orissa” has been carried out by M/S Amity School of Natural Resources and Sustainable Development under Amity University, Noida in four Orissa Forestry Sector Development Project Divisions namely Angul, Deogarh, Koraput & Rayagada in 2010. JFM models/ schemes supporting Vana Samrakshyan Samiti (VSS) in managing their activities of forest restoration of degraded forest and livelihood options studied are RLTAP, NAP through FDA, UJFM and OFSDP. The basic objectives of the study were:

i. To analyze and compare the provisions and institutional arrangements under different joint forest management practices/ implementation models in Orissa,

ii. To compare and contrast the elements of forest governance under these models/ practices, with focus on stakeholder participation,

iii. To analyze the impact of such projects/schemes on the local ecological, economical, social and livelihoods,

iv. To document best practices, delineate determinants of success and list out key challenges and road blocks, and

v. To suggest policy and implementation strategies for enhancing efficiency of JFM in terms of participatory forest governance, sustainable forest management and equitable community gains.

The study after analysis of overall impact of JFM models/ schemes implementation

parameters and determinants of social, economical, user groups, livelihood and ecological has observed that the OFSDP Model achieving active cooperation of the villagers and facilitation from different NGOs is a better model in comparison to other schemes. While finding OFSDP model advanced and improved model among others in Orissa, study further believes that capacity building/ skill up-gradation programmes (and motivations) for the stake holders and dissemination of information on duties, responsibilities, broad provisions in the JFM, accountability etc to the user groups are strengthening their forestry activities to sustain forest management for a better sustainable livelihood.



Study in Podiguda VSS, Koraput DMU



Study in Kadamguda VSS, Koraput



Study in Janiguda VSS, Koraput

Conservation of Sacred Groves-Study visit to Pune

Two Deputy Project Directors of PMU, one ACF from Rourkela DMU, 3 Range Officers from Laxmipur FMU (Koraput Division), Raikia FMU (Phulbani Division) and Muniguda FMU (Rayagada Division) attended training at BVIEER (Bharati Vidyapitha Institute of Environment Education and Research) under Bharathi Vidyapitha University in Pune from 26.02.2011 to 27.02.2011. They had visit to Sacred Groves at Walne, Wagsai & Adarwadi in Western Ghats, where they are conserved and managed by the local communities. The 'taboo' of the community mostly helps conservation. The ecological and biodiversity assessment, documentation, awareness, institutional support to local bodies & alternate resource use in areas outside the groves are some of the ways for success of conservation of sacred groves there.



Sacred Grove at Walne with Revered Deity



Sacred Grove at Adarwadi



Sacred Grove at Adarwadi

Saptaranga Band Party: A successful EPA



Sraliguda is a remote village in Tumudibandha FMU of Balliguda DMU. After the intervention of OFSDP, villagers prioritized the list of wishes.

People of the locality are used to celebrate ceremonies and functions throughout the year. But there was no modern musical instrument in that area. So youth of Sraliguda discussed among themselves to capture this opportunity for livelihood. They started practicing like a band party with the locally available instruments. After a week of rigorous exercise, they decided to go ahead with the idea of forming a musical band party. They formed a committee within a month to organize and manage the band party. After all these preparations, they approached the VSS for ₹ 25,000. At the time of preparation of Micro Plan, they allotted fund for creation of a musical band party. They purchased required instruments with the loan money and on the 2nd October, 2009 Saptaranga band party was formally launched. All the 20 youth members of the Saptaranga band party are from Kondh community.

Sudarsan Saringmajhi has taken responsibility for business and publicity of the band party. Since launching, they attended 10 calls upto March 2010 and earned ₹ 30000 @ ₹ 3000 per call. They spent about ₹ 700 towards travel and food. They practice new songs on every evening near the school boundary. After one year, they have purchased some more instruments so that they can attend two calls in a day. Their earning and business has been growing. Saptaranga band party is a well known name in the locality. They have planned to contribute 20% of their income for development of the VSS funds for future sustainability.

Arun Ku. Behera, FLE, Balliguda



'Banaraj' Chicks:

A profitable business for SHGs

Nuatoli is a small tribal village with 79 households under Panposh FMU of Rourkela DMU. The village is situated adjacent to North Chirabeda RF and there is no permanent road to the village. OFSDP intervention started in the village with formation of VSS in the year 2007.

Income generation activities (IGA) started in the year 2009 and four SHGs were selected. Business plan was prepared for 'Banaraj' chicks. 25 SHG members and 15 VSS members attended a training for rearing Banaraj chicks at the VSS level and 16 SHG members attended the training at FMU level. Champa, one among the SHGs started the business after receiving the loan money. They built a permanent shed spending ₹ 30,000. The shed has a longevity of at least for next six years and will accommodate 300 chicks at a time. They purchased 200 chicks and after 5 months rearing, they sold those for ₹ 42,000. This business earned them a profit of ₹ 22,000. They repaid loan of ₹ 15,000 to VSS with agreed interest along with user fees of ₹ 5000 towards the shed. Other SHGs of the village are also making profit from the Banaraj chicks business. Though it is a small intervention, but is of very high motivation for alternative livelihood to forest dependent user groups of village.

Aditya Ku. Mishra, FLE, Rourkela

IRRIGATION TO 70 ACRES LAND

Sipijodi is a village of 54 households coming within Talajhiri Gram Panchayat of Kashipur Block in the jurisdiction of Kashipur FMU. Most of villagers depend on rains for their cultivation but suffer during the summer season. The intervention of OFSDP has made the people well organized and settled their problem of water through construction of masonry canal up to 34m over a 'Jholla' with the support of concrete pillar to connect the water way source to reach crop field. This EPA has created a hope among the local farmers to get summer crop the incoming water through masonry canal constructed and has ultimately helped them to cover 60 to 70 acre of cultivated land of 30 households to grow summer crop.

Laxmidhar Nayak, FLE-Rayagada





SMOKELESS CHULLAH PLAYING IMPORTANT ROLE IN FOREST PROTECTION

Khairbandh is a tribal village in Kuarmunda Gram Panchayat of Kuarmunda FMU in Rourkela DMU. The village consists of 138 households and population size is 676. Most of the villagers are daily wage earners and are mostly dependant on NTFP. OFSDP intervention started with the formation of Khairbandh VSS in the year 2007-08. VSS members used to collect fuel wood from nearby Rutukpedi reserved forest. After their involvement towards forest protection, they tried to minimize their fuel wood collection. It was very difficult to manage for them. But due to intervention of livelihood programme under OFSDP, they installed smokeless chullahs in their house for cooking.

After installation of smokeless chullah (SK-III model), they find that they are saving more than 40% of fire wood. Ladies mostly express their happiness for this chullah as it saves their cooking time and keeps health discomfords out. It also helps them for lesser exploitation but protection of forest. Sri Mahesh Nag, Animator of Khairbandh VSS made a study in five households for effective saving of fire wood. He found that families having 5 members are saving 50kg of fire wood in a month. He also opines that VSS now saves about 50 quintal of fire wood in a month and has been able to minimize removal of such amount of fuel wood through fresh cuttings from their assigned forest area. After seeing this VSS achievements, people from outside of this VSS are keen to install this chullah.



World Wetland Day CELEBRATION



When your body temperature increases you go to a doctor for relief, but when Earth's temperature will increase whom shall we approach for relief? The only solution is the conservation of environment. Sri K.K. Swain, DFO cum DMU Chief, Balasore (WL) Division, expressed these views on the occasion of World Wetland Day celebration at Balasore. Celebration was inaugurated by RCCF Baripada



Sri. A.Bharthuar,IFS. Dr. Ashoka Panigrahi, Retd. Professor Department of Zoology and Mr. Dhananjaya Patra, Chairperson, Panchayat Samiti Bhogarai were the other guests of the meeting. Eco-Development Committee (EDC) members from Khadibil, Krishana Nagar, Badapahi, N. M. Padia along with PRI members, students and media personnel attended the meeting.

A cycle rally covering 10 villages with slogans for conservation of Subarnarekha Mangroves by High school students was organized on this occasion.

Gopal Ch. Mohapatra, FLE-Balasore

Irrigation Facility for 120 ha of land at Saradhapur

Saradhapur village under Purunagada FMU of Angul DMU has been included in the first phase of the Orissa Forestry Sector Development Project. After intervention of project, VSS was formed and 200 ha of forest from Kalapat RF Compartment-1 has been assigned to the VSS. Weaker section of the village depend upon forest for livelihood,



and others on agriculture & vegetable cultivation. A member of the VSS has donated land for the building of VSS for day to day functions. VSS has planted bamboo, teak and other species in the forest restoration area.

At the time of micro plan preparation, villagers urged for irrigation facility. After due verification, plan was prepared to build check dams against three springs coming out of the nearby hill with the budget of ` 1 lakh. A dam was built in the spring named Mantu and channels were built for irrigation. 20 ha of land got irrigated due to this dam. After this success, check dams were built in the other two springs named Panisura & Pitabali. Irrigation was made available to 50 ha in 2009 and 120 ha in 2010. People are very happy now. They are growing vegetables in their land. OFSDP inputs have changed their lives by providing required support. They have now planned to collect users' fee for the maintenance of the channels.

Santosh Ku. Dhar, Sr. FEO, Angul DMU

JHINKINALI VSS

a step forward toward successful Forest Protection

Jhinkinali VSS was formed in the year 2008-09 under OFSDP. The village consists of 72 households in three sub-hamlets for adjacent Lunga RF. The VSS has been assigned to protect a total area of 114 ha, of which treatment area is 91 ha. The villagers mainly depend on agriculture and forest products. In the event of scanty rainfall year, the villagers depend on the forest. This situation has been leading to forest damages due to forest fire, illicit felling etc. After the formation of VSS with constant motivation, the villagers realized the value of forest and agreed to protect it. Thus, the village patrolling system 'thengapali' started. After one year, the villagers found stiff resistance from nearby village Mahuldiha and from own VSS members involved in illicit felling prior to formation of VSS. Then a series of meetings were conducted,



which resulted in uniting the VSS members of Jhinkinali and reduced the resistance from Villagers of Mahuldiha. In the month of October, 2010 a joint meeting was organized between VSS members of Jhinkinali and Mahuldiha and a joint forest protection committee was formed by taking 11 members from two villages with a ratio of 6:5 respectively. The committee decided to continue the 'thengapali' system on daily basis having 11 members. This has shown significant achievements so far with no fire last year and complete stoppage of illicit felling and controlled use on fuel-wood.

To further motivate VSS members, the DMU chief has supported the VSS with cycle puncture repairing equipments for the passersby and thus spreading the message of better forest protection.

This is the beginning towards a big and challenging task of forest protection from fire and illicit felling. Now both VSS are planning to include another adjacent village VSS named Sulabdihi also for implementing OFSDP programmes for more protection of their JFM areas and in totality the Lunga RF.

Arun Ku. Mishra, DFO-cum-DMU Chief, Bonai



Maa Kalijai SHG of Ganighosa moving towards a successful enterprise

Ganighosa is a small village under Kuliposh FMU of Bonai DMU. Villagers depend on agriculture, forest products and daily wages for livelihood. Before formation of VSS in this village in the year 2009-10, there was one SHG Maa Kalijai. The SHG has 12 members and all are below poverty line. Before intervention of the project, SHG members were doing paddy and Mahua flower business for almost about six months in a year. After a series of discussion they decided to take up vegetable cultivation for the rest six months.



A business plan was prepared and VSS approved a loan of ` 30,000. SHG members started cabbage, cauliflower, 'chilli' and tomato cultivation. The connectivity to the area is not good, but due to their strong determination and will power, SHG themselves marketed products in weekly town market and local markets like- Barsuan, Lahunipara, Khutgaon and Ghatital. Within the last three months, the SHG members could be able to sell the vegetables to the tune of `63,500/-. All expenses including cost of seeds, labour, transportation, interest etc so far comes to about `11,265. Now the last phase of production is going on. Within three months, members of Maa Kalijai SHG have made a profit of `22,235. With this profit the SHG members and VSS members are a inspired lot and have planned to continue another IGA in the coming season.

Arun Ku. Mishra, DFO-cum-DMU Chief, Bonai

ADIVASI MELA



Orissa Forestry Sector Development Project (OFSDP), like the previous years, participated in State Level Annual Adivasi Mela -2011. Many other Government Departments, private and corporate bodies engaged in tribal Development participated in this Mela. SHG members supported by various projects/ schemes had participated. Different tribal communities (primitive and non primitive groups) participated in this Mela to showcase their rich culture through their dances, songs, tribal folk music, livelihood pattern, handicrafts, arts, cultural heritages.

The objective of this Mela is to make the urban people aware about the living style of the tribal people along with their arts & culture and also to provide a platform for the tribal to familiarize with urban market & to sell their products.

The Mela has evolved over the years. Initially, it was organized by the District Development Officers, School teachers & students of Ashram Schools etc. Then the Government Departments like Agriculture, Forest, AH & VS, Cottage Industries etc. also participated in the Mela. ITDAs of different districts are now having the main stake in organizing the mela. SHGs from different tribal areas are taking part in the mela.

Orissa Forestry Sector Development Project, this year, facilitated 54 SHGs & 108 members to participate in the annual Adivasi Mela from Vana Samrakshana Samities (VSSs) from Angul, Balliguda, Bonai, Jeypore, Keonjhar, Koraput, Parlakhemundi, Phulbani, Rayagada and Rourkela Divisional Management Units (DMUs). They made a business of Rs. 5.45 lakh over a period of 15 days by selling 55 types of NTFPs, farm and non farm based items. The profit was between 20% to 40%, depending upon the items. Huge demand for Hill brooms, honey, harida, bahada, aonla, turmeric powder, ragi powder, jhuna etc, was noticed.

At the entrance of the OFSDP stall, a model of a typical project village, depicting various project activities



undertaken by VSS was displayed. Visitors showed keen interest in the model. Sr FEOs from DMUs were engaged on rotation basis to explain developmental activities undertaken under the OFSDP in the forest fringe villages. The video documentary films on project activities were also played. The arrangements were well appreciated by the visitors.

The SHG / VSS members, who hail from very remote areas, had a wonderful and rich experience from visiting the capital city, selling their products at such a platform and interacting with other SHG members. They seemed a very happy lot and were thankful that the Project provided them such opportunity. The mela was very effective in providing an interface between the SHG members from remote tribal areas and the urban populace.

Amiya R.Parida, DPD(LLI)



Sameekshya-2010

The third State level Annual Review Meeting “Sameekshya 2010” of Orissa Forestry Sector Development Project was held on 28th & 29th January 2011. The objective of the Annual Review Meeting is to provide a forum for exchange of views amongst the staff members from PMU, DMU, FMU and key representatives of the Vana Samrakshana Samitis (VSS), and also to share the best practices for replication, identification of technical, social and managerial issues to be addressed for proper implementation of the Project and provide feedback on appropriate measures to address issues/problems and lessons learnt for adoption in Project management. The progress of the Project was also reviewed.

The first day of Sameekshya-2010 was attended by the Regional CCFs; DFO-cum-DMU Chiefs, Field level Expert (FLE), one Sr. FEO, two Range Officers-cum-FMU Chiefs, two VSS Member Secretaries, two VSS Presidents, two Animators from each Project Division; Officers from PMU; and the Experts of the General Consultants.

About 170 participants from field units participated in the Review Meeting. The first day of Sameekshya-2010 was organized at HHI, Bhubaneswar. Shri B. K. Patnaik, IAS, Chief Secretary, Government of Orissa and President, Orissa Forestry Sector Development Society was the chief guest. Shri R. N. Senapati, IAS, Agriculture Production Commissioner & Vice-President, Orissa Forestry Sector Development Society, Dr. Aurobindo Behera, IAS, Principal Secretary to Government of Orissa, Forest & Environment Department, Shri S. C. Mohanty, IFS, PCCF, Orissa, Shri P. N. Padhi, IFS, PCCF (WL) Orissa and Sri Vinod Kumar, IFS Project Director also addressed participants in the inaugural session. On this occasion a book titled, 'Institutional Strengthening and Performance assessment of 2nd batch VSS' was released. During technical sessions, two representatives from each DMU shared their best practices/ success stories. The interactions & discussions were rewarding and knowledgeable for all project protagonists.

Prizes for the best VSS of 2009-10 from each DMU based on the “evaluation of VSS performance” were handed over by the Chief Secretary, Orissa on this occasion. The list is provided below:

Sl.	DMU	Best Performing VSS (2009-10)	FMU
1	Angul	Gurujang	Talcher
2	Balliguda	Dagrimaha	K. Nuagaon
3	Bonai	Derola	Kuliposh
4	Deogarh	Hadamunda	Deogarh
5	Jeyapore	Lakhmaliaguda	Boipariguda
6	Keonjhar	Khajuri Juani	Ghatgaon
7	Koraput	Raulipadar	Laxmipur
8	Parlakhemundi	Lalusahi	Devagiri
9	Phulbani	Panganaju	Raikia
10	Rayagada	Sauraguda	Muniguda
11	Rourkela	Faguapada	Rajgangpur

On the 2nd day of the “Sameekshya 2010”, a detailed review of the physical and financial achievements under the project was made at PMU, which was attended by all the Regional Chief Conservator of Forests and DFO-cum-DMU Chiefs.



Republic Day 2011 Celebration



Officers & members of PMU & SHG members of various divisions attended the Republic Day celebration at PMU, OFSDP. These members had come to attend Adivasi Mela-2011.



Jeypore DMU level Sameekshya-2010

Jeypore DMU organized SAMEEKSHYA-2010 on 16th February 2011 at M.S Swaminathen Research Institute, Jeypore. DMU chief Mr. L.K Mishra inaugurated the occasion. Selective key personnel from FMU i.e. VSS President, animators, SHG members, M.S. were represented from forty eight VSSs Twelve VSSs and five SHGs were awarded. Component wise photograph display competition was organized.

Rama Kant Mohanty, FLE, Jeypore

OFSDP QUIZ

OFSDP Quiz-3 is being circulated with this issue. Forester, Forest Guard and Member Secretaries are requested to send the answers in English and VSS/SHG members are requested to send the answers in prescribed time

(DPD P&A)



Institutional Strengthening
Performance Assessment
of 2nd Batch VSSs



Annual Activity
Report 2009-10



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.

For any comments/Suggestions, please write to:
Deputy Project Director (P&A)
E-mail : dpd.pa@ofsdp.org

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Orissa Forestry Sector Development Project

SFTRI Campus, At/Po. Ghatikia, Bhubaneswar-751 003
Phone : 0674 2386016, Fax : 0674 2386085
E-mail : webmail@ofsdp.org
<http://www.ofsdp.org>

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