



OFSDP

Orissa Forestry Sector Development Project

Newsletter

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PD'S DESK



With the completion of 2008 planting season, 610 VSS selected in the first batch have taken up forest restoration interventions covering ANR, soil & moisture conservation measures and Block Plantations as per the Micro Plans prepared by the respective VSSs. Other types of plantations raised are Mangroves - 320 ha., Casuarina 50 ha. and Teak in non JFM mode - 625 ha. Post planting operations and Soil & Moisture Conservation measures are in progress.

Preparation of Micro Plans by about 665 VSSs selected in the second batch, for which vegetation maps with DGPS survey of boundary have been prepared, are in progress.

Initiatives have been started for using the VSS office building in the first batch VSS as "Village Resource Centres". Other important activities in progress are the Livelihood Opportunity Analysis, preparation of strategic action plans for Eco-tourism and Bio-diversity Management in two Protected Areas- Satkosia and Kuldaha.

Briefs of important forthcoming activities is being provided in this newsletter for the sake of preparedness of the stakeholders which is the key for more concerted efforts and effective implementation of different activities. Encouraging results are coming from all over the project areas and confidence of community shown in hitherto implemented interventions will pave the path for more concerted efforts from other stakeholders in future.

- Arun K. Bansal

Sharing Success

Many SHGs have received assistance through VSS revolving funds for undertaking micro-enterprise activities under the project. Such SHGs are reaping good dividends from the existing support system under the project and encouraging other people for starting similar activities and taking benefits from the project. Lakshmi Parbati SHG from the village Goelmara in Barkote Range got benefited through the VSS revolving fund and its president wishes to share the experience through a letter addressed to unknown friend in other SHGs/VSS under the project for availing the benefits through project support. A concise script of the letter sent by the president of Lakshmi Parbati SHG to her friend is being given here-



a letter by SHG beneficiary

"Dear friend,

Take my affection and convey them to all. Friend last year you visited our village and stayed here for few days. You know, due to Rengali dam many of us lost the farming fields, only few acres of field is left for us and 85 families depend on it. We have formed six numbers of Self Help Groups in our village during last five years. I told you before that I and my 13 neighbors have formed 'Lakshmi Parbati SHG'.

This year OFSDP activities have been started and we participated in VSS activities for raising plantation in 63.5 hectares of adjoining forest land. Our SHG took a loan of Rs. 8000/- from the VSS revolving fund. This year we could not cultivate paddy due to delayed rains. To compensate that loss we cultivated T-9 Black gram in that field. You will be happy to know that we got return of Rs. 11200/- by selling 280 kgs of Black gram in three months. We have deposited the money in our passbook. We have decided to use the amount again for potato cultivation. We will use water from our village tank.

Do you know Dibyajyoti SHG also cultivated Black gram and made a profit of Rs. 3000/-. They had taken a loan of Rs. 5000/- from VSS revolving fund. They are now thinking to invest the money in potato cultivation. Maa Sarala and Maa Kamala SHGs of neighboring village Laxmipur are also raising Yam with such assistance from OFSDP. Due to OFSDP our income has grown up.

Do write me about your SHGs. If you don't have one, then form one immediately to reap the benefits from OFSDP. Nothing more to write.

Your's Reena



Capacity Development...

Training for baseline Survey



In continuation of the trainings conducted for the Surveyors and Survey Supervisors, NABCONS organized a training on Baseline Survey for 20 survey personnel on 12th Sept. 2008 at NABARD Regional Office, Bhubaneswar. The training was aimed to guide the survey personnel on the questionnaire and to provide them a common understanding for the survey.

Sri A. C. Dinakar, Dy.PD, OFSDP explained the broad objectives and the activities undertaken so far. He also explained the role of different project functionaries in implementation process and need of baseline survey for finding the pattern of livelihood in the project villages. Sri Shalabh Bhardwaj, consultant OFSDP suggested methods to overcome some of the hindrances commonly faced during field survey. He described the methodology & various points to be kept in mind while carrying out the survey and provided tips to handle various common problems faced in administering the questionnaire. Representatives from NABARD were present on the occasion and participated in the discussion through experience sharing. Sri D. P. Dash, AGM, NABARD delivered welcome address. Sri M. M. Behera, Manager, NABARD gave vote of thanks.

Interactive Evaluation of NGO Support

As part of periodic evaluation & support, project organizes meets with different project functionaries from time to time. One such interactive meeting was organized with NGO Chief Functionaries working in the project at PMU Conference Hall on 16th July, 2008. Project Director Sri A.K Bansal highlighted the overall performance with achievements and shortcomings of the NGO's. He elaborated on different activities to be carried out in future and specifically emphasized upon the role of NGOs in coordinating with DAC for collaborative convergence building with other govt. programmes/schemes.

He also urged to develop 2 model agro-forestry farms by each NGO and 2 such models by farmers in each FMU. Mr. M.G Gogate

(Team Leader, GC) sought NGOs' wholehearted support to FMUs and DMUs for effective & timely completion of different project activities. JPD (I&ME) gave suggestions to improve the functioning of NGOs. He advised the Chief Functionaries to have proper contract agreement with the personnel deputed by them for project activities at the time of appointment to avoid frequent changes.



IGA Strategies of OFSDP

- Towards Wealthier Communities and Healthier Forests

- Mr. M.G. Gogate (Team Leader, GC)

One of the major objectives of the OFSDP is improving livelihoods of the forest dependent communities/tribal, through supporting viable micro-enterprises. There are provisions to sustainably augment income level of over four thousand self help groups. Learning from past experiences, this project doesn't consider IGA as a stand alone activity or a 'target' or 'supply' driven project intervention, imposed on SHGs. Right from the assessment and selection of target SHG to handhold the market-linkage process, this project has got elaborate provisions and space to make it a comprehensive approach.

The selection of right SHG is a foundation stone to be laid by the VSS by using different criteria viz. eligibility, capability, suitability (including willingness) and past experiences & NGO teams have to facilitate the process. There are provisions of adequate capacity building and

exposures to graduate these SHGs to microfinance level; here too, there is scope for critical doorstep inputs from NGO team members. Project engaged recently a competent external market research agency (MART) to list out area-based IGA options through screening process involving value chain analysis and multi-stakeholder consultations. The options that are expected to emerge, will be developed into viable and implementable business plans; prescriptions for appropriate vertical and horizontal institutional arrangements vis-à-vis project structure are also expected. Existence of institutions/channels for marketing/processing/training and/or scope of resource/knowledge will be taken note of. Based on this information, convergence with other livelihoods programs/schemes/ institutions within project divisions will be tapped.

As is known pilot schemes of small revolving

fund support to 146 SHGs in 9 DMUs have been launched; these are being analysed and learning from the same will be incorporated while mainstreaming IGA for 4000 odd SHGs in future. Project stakeholders are also integrating the learning from SHG experiences of other flagship programs including SGSY and counting on convergence support from ongoing and upcoming SHG promotion programs of Central and State Govts.

With all these critical knowledge and resource inputs added to the project's financial and human resources, it is expected that OFSDP, will bring in desirable transformations in the livelihoods in its project divisions along with their landscapes. Having forestry activities in place, this IGA impetus will gear up the project towards fast realization of its vision of 'wealthier communities and healthier forests'.

Bandhakaranja VSS A model to follow ...



Bandhakaranja VSS of K.Singpur FMU of Rayagada DMU, (comprising of 45 tribal households) has achieved a success by starting different activities towards project laid goals. The villagers have achieved some landmark from the VSS platform through convergence :

- Renovation of village pond through Gram Panchayat which led them for successful IGA in Pisciculture (Panikirani SHG).
- Construction of bathing ghat in the village pond through watershed mission.
- Construction of guard wall to protect the village from water seepage through K.Singpur Block funds.

Multi-purpose use of VSS Building -

- Fortnightly meeting place for both the SHG and VSS (5th and 22nd of every month)

- Crèches Center running by VSS.
- Distribution Center for medicines as prescribed by Doctors of K.Singpur P.H.C. with user fee concept.

Active Participation for forestry activities -

- Peripheral fencing by their own to save the plantation from biotic interference.
- Thenga Pall by each VSS member in rotation (household wise) for protection of the forest.
- Shramadan for weeding and soil work and manuring to the grafted mango plants every fortnightly. Also they planned to take proper care to the grafted mango plants i.e. mulching during Feb-March, Watering during summer by drip water system to the root through bamboo pole and by spraying also.

Successful IGA Support -

Aswarani SHG - consisting of 12 members, functioning from 2003 but in a dormant condition, revamped by OFSDP during 2007-08. During the pilot IGA phase, VSS released Rs 3000/- to them. With a margin money of Rs 400/- from their own saving they purchased tamarind of 580 Kg. Before selling they processed the tamarind by drying and deseeding. They sold the processed tamarind @ Rs 14/- per kg and after paying the processing cost, they got net profit of Rs 1174/- which they deposited in their account.

This successful trading increased their confidence for large scale trading in the coming season.

Input By:

Sri Arubinda Mohanty, FMU Chief
Ganga Dhar Mishra, VSS Member Secretary
NGO Team, SHAKTI
Rayagada DMU

SAHAYOGA SAPHALATARA MULA MANTRA

Awakening in Hanumanpur



Hanumanpur village is situated in Kaniha C D Block of Angul District. The Village having 114 nos. of families, depend on adjacent Kijhar Reserve Forest for firewood, agricultural equipments & building material needs.

During 2007 Hanumanpur VSS was formed and included under OFSDP. Initially villagers were reluctant to take up the project work due to some apprehensions but with due efforts from project officials and local NGO, villagers understood the benefits and project activities were started after micro-planning.

Under ANR activities as per the micro-plan cleaning was done over an area of 60 ha. In total 18000 nos of forest species were planted in the gap area. Further over 2ha fuel and fodder species were planted to meet requirement of the villagers. Soil moisture observation measures like half-moon trench, gully plugging, boulder packing have been completed to stop soil erosion.

Under Entry Point Activity one cement bench & round concert wall with flooring to a Baula tree in the middle of the Village was constructed. The

villagers spent their leisure time and discuss on different activities. There is also proposal to open a library, where books on forest management, Agriculture Horticulture, Micro plan, Vermi Compost etc. would be kept for reference of the villagers.

The Conservator of Forests, Angul circle and the JBIC Mission Authorities visited the VSS during May, 08 and were highly impressed by interacting with the VSS members on various development activities carried out in the village.

Villagers are now more enthusiastic in taking up different project activities and understand the associated benefits of co-operation and concerted efforts for welfare of their village.

Inputs by -
Biranchi Narayan Pradhan Sr. FEO, DMU Angul



People in Patna range of Keonjhar DMU face extensive crop damage by elephants all through the year. People of Dhobapitana, Jamunapasi, padmapur and Godipokhari get massive loss due to the devastation by elephants. Special squad of Forest department does the duty to keep away the elephants, but that is not successful every time. Other solution was to use costly spot light, which villagers can not afford.

In the meantime OFSDP activities were started in these villages. OFSDP organized the people and fulfilled their demand by providing spot light from EPA Fund.

"Now we can reap the crop from our field without any fear," says Lxmidhar Mahakuda president Gopapur VSS. "Due to elephant we face the loss from our crop field. Forest personnel pay the loss but those are insufficient. But this year we never faced that situation" says president of Dhobapitana VSS Baljayanti Dalei.

This spot light will provide the required succor to the villagers from the menacing elephants and also help in reducing the man-animal conflict in the long run.

Madhusudan Patra, Range Officer, Patna
Sant Kumar Tripathy, Team leader, LAMP
Keonjhar DMU

Tailoring Support to Girls of Badadandasahi



Badadandasahi village under Purunagada Forest Range of Angul division was dependent on the nearby forest for its timber needs. Few years back they realized the effect of the cutting of trees and started protecting it. In 2006-07 OFSDP included this village under the project and the villagers formed one self help group. Two sewing machines were provided from the VSS fund. One sewing teacher was engaged for providing training to the girls of the village. Till now 24 girls have been trained and started earning from this activity. They are paying the remuneration of teacher from the gained profit. From this they are repaying the money taken from their VSS. With this new coming success other villagers are also showing their keen interest in project activities and other livelihood options for reducing their dependence on the forests.

Inputs by
Sudhansu Sekhar Sis, JMU, Angul

Benefits to 146 SHGs from IGA support



The project envisages supporting focused IGA interventions to be identified through a 'Market Research', "Livelihood Opportunity Analysis", which is in progress. In the meantime, it was decided to support IGAs to avoid distress sale of NTFPs and other activities that the VSS recognizes to be beneficial to the SHGs.

146 SHGs were provided Rs. 18.61 lakhs from the VSS revolving fund of their respective areas. Members of these groups utilized their money in pre-decided activities, mainly in six sectors namely NTFP, cultivation of agriculture crops, small business, live stocks, fisheries, vegetable cultivation.

FARM-FORESTRY Nursery - Lucrative Prospects

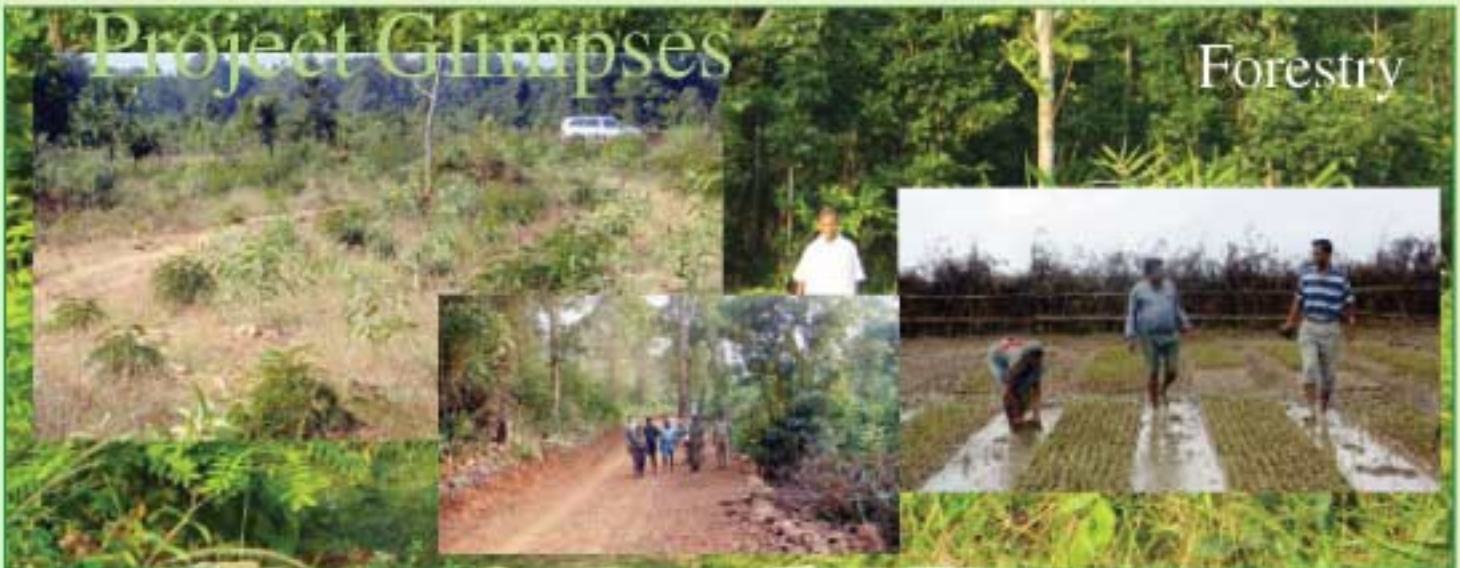
The farm forestry nursery at Satabhauni under DMU Bhadrak shows the path. The nursery work was started in the month of January 2008, with an aim to raise 20000 seedlings of both forest and horticulture species to sell to farmers of the locality. The forestry species are Teak, Acacia, Sisoo, Amla Piasal, Pistabadam, Harida and the horticulture species are Drumstick, Lemon, Coconut, Betel nut and Papaya. Sale of seedlings was started in July and continued upto September. Total of 665 nos. of farmers from 60 villages purchased 8311 nos. of seedlings; and 250 nos. of eco-clubs purchased 11,689 nos. of seedlings. Total 20,000 seedlings sold out from the nursery. Total investment was Rs 74,490/- to raise the nursery and total cost of the seedlings sold out was Rs 1,17,808/- The net profit was Rs 43,317/- which came within nine months.

From experience it is observed that the farm forestry has an up-growing tendency in the area. The farmers are growing tree and horticultural species in their backyard and barren lands; which will reduce dependency of the farmer on the forest and at the same time will get financial returns from the plantation.



Nursery raising for farm forestry can be started by a group or an individual as an income generation activity. So, Invest in Green, which will give double of the investment within two years against 6.5 years by banks and companies.

Project Glimpses



Forestry

Chiddi ...chanting the project tune

Chiddi is a remote revenue village in Chandiposh Panchayat, Gurundia Block in Rourkela Forest Division. It is 10 kms away from Panchayat Office and connected by metal and morum road. North East of village is surrounded by Reserve Forest & North West of the village is surrounded by the river Brahmini. This village consists of 91 households with 363 people. Their cultivation purely depends on monsoon. The total cultivated land of the village is 267.74 Acre. Out of 87 farmers, 50 are marginal, 31 small & 6 are medium farmers.

As the villagers were depending on Agriculture & River Brahmini is flowing by the side of this village, a lift irrigation (LI) point was established by the lift irrigation division in the year-1976. But lift irrigation point became defunct after 3-yrs and irrigation facilities deteriorated with the time in the absence of resource for maintenance of the canal system and LI point.

In the year-2007, OFSDP activities started in the village and a VSS was formed. To create awareness among the people, several meetings & trainings were conducted from time to time & Micro Plan developed with the participation of the villagers. During the process of Micro planning the villagers decided to repair the LI canals and this was done from Project's EPA fund. Now they have started cultivating cash crops like Sunflower, Chili, Ladies finger, Tomato, Pumpkin, Cucumber, Bitter Gourd & Greens over 20 acres. An



amount of Rs. 65,650 has been spent for the above works. Now 37 farmers can cultivate 50 acres of land. This has developed faith among the villagers on the project and willing to work with the project staffs. Lifeline of this village again started carrying water to thirsty fields in order to bring prosperity to these poor villagers.

Dinesh Kumar Malua,
NGO Team Leader, Banki FMU, Rourkela DMU

Successful Propagation of HENTAL (*Phoenix paludosa*) in Balasore Wildlife Division

Hental forests are considered as one of the effective medium in stopping the tidal waves entering in the land area. Considering its effectiveness, project has taken specific care in raising its nurseries for upcoming plantation in the coastal region. In absence of standardized methods of reproduction, nursery raising was an uphill task. As far knowledge goes, this has not been successfully propagated in any parts of Orissa, particularly in any Mangrove areas of the State.

But with the concerted efforts of Bichitrapur Nursery, Jaleswar FMU under the guidance of Sr Amitav Brahma, DFO-cum-DMU Chief, Balasore Division, successful germination was achieved and these germinated seedlings have been shifted to poly pots.

Attempts were made through trial & error method to propagate the same.

Initial attempt by planting the bulbils of hental in the sunken motherbed in mud flat failed.

Second attempt was made by sowing the seeds of Hental. For this purpose 7-8 numbers of Hental plants were located and ripen seeds were collected on 17th June, 08. These seeds were dibbled in three mother beds in two separate

conditions. One bed was prepared flush to the ground, mixed with sand and fresh water was sprinkled, where as two other raised mud flats were prepared. Tidal water was sprinkled in both the beds, 5000 seeds were dibbled on 20th June, 08 in the first bed, out of which about 3000 seeds started germinating on 21st August, 08. 3000 seeds each were dibbled in the beds raised in the mud flat, out of which altogether about 2,500 seeds started germinating within 10 days of germination in the first bed.

After one week of germination, the seedlings were transplanted into the poly pots filled with sand, mud and CDM in 1:1:1 for the upcoming planting purpose in the coastal regions under the project.





Exposure Experience

from Maharashtra



Project sent its 17 officers (ACFs and Range Officers from the 14 forest/wildlife divisions) to Maharashtra to study different successful interventions and their consequent replication in the project areas. The officers visited Saguna Baug, Sanjay Gandhi National Park, Rashmi Gardens and Hivare Bazar from 20th-29th September'08. Visiting team shared their views & learnings on Agri-Ecotourism and Soil Moisture Conservation measures in the meeting chaired by the Project Director.

and its management particularly picnic places, waterfalls etc. were some of the replicable ideas in the project areas. Besides this participants visited Rashmi Gardens and saw High Tech Horticulture, Poly house, Poly tunnels for nursery raising. The different Soil and Moisture Conservation measures seen at places including on the way to Hivare Bazar can be of immense help in implementing these techniques in OFSDP. Project Director suggested for tapping the learning of the visits and providing the entrepreneurial insight & different techniques down to the VSS level and advised the participants to come up with the idea to develop a detailed model based on the experiences gained. He stressed for the development of community based tourism, measures to improve existing Eco-clubs and using local resources and materials for the low cost infrastructure for this purpose.



Environment friendly entrepreneurial skills being used in the Saguna Baug for managing tourist places and innovative integration of different income generating activities like Dairy farming, Tourist Cottages, pisciculture and gardens. Man-Animal conflict resolution in the densely populated peripheral areas of Sanjay Gandhi National Park; Development of Eco-guides and relevance of Bio-diversity



Thrasher procured by Kadapada VSS of Deogarh DMU from Project fund.



Project Director interacting with the community on different activities undertaken in a village of Sighitrapur FMU, Balasora Division.

Livelihood Support

November, 2008

1. Completion of pending EPA, SMC works in 1st batch of VSSs.
2. Making functional the VSS office-cum-meeting hall, and evolving it into Village Resource Center.
3. Finalization and Approval of Micro Plans of 2nd batch VSS.
4. Initiation of Entry Point Activities for 2nd batch VSS.
5. Identification of sites for construction of VSS Offices-Meeting Hall for 2nd batch VSSs, preparation of site wise Plan & Estimates.
6. Initiation for Decentralized & Temporary VSS Nurseries for 2nd batch VSS.
7. Initiating pre-planting and nursery works under JFM mode (2nd batch) & Non-JFM mode.

8. Initiating EPA works - 2nd batch of VSS
9. Selection of balance required JFM intervention sites - 3rd batch.

December, 2008

1. Completion of SMC & EPA works in 1st batch VSS.

2. Completion of non-JFM works - "forest boundaries", forest Roads & link Roads related to 1st batch sites, and selection of sites for similar works related to 2nd batch VSSs.
3. Preparation of Detailed Treatment Plans for Forestry interventions - 2nd batch JFM sites.

4. Preparation of site specific treatment plan for Soil & Moisture Works- 2nd batch VSSs.
5. Initiation for establishment of Root Trainer nurseries in Permanent Nurseries.
6. Finalizing selection of 3rd batch JFM sites/VSSs

- Plans and implementation - 1st year plantation and ANR areas.
5. Initiating Survey and Demarcation of 3rd batch JFM sites

February, 2009

1. Nursery work & completion of pitting under pre-planting operation under JFM mode & Non-JFM mode.
2. Fire Protection measures in the JFM and Non-JFM areas.
3. Completion of construction of VSS office-cum-meeting halls - 2nd batch VSSs.
4. Continue SMC works - 2nd batch JFM sites.
5. Completion of EPA works - 2nd batch VSSs.
6. Completion of demarcation of 3rd batch JFM sites.

Important Forthcoming Activities - November 2008 to February 2009

January, 2009

1. Starting - construction of VSS Meeting Hall for 2nd batch VSS.
2. Initiation of pitting work in the proposed intervention areas - 2nd batch JFM sites.
3. Continue SMC & EPA Works - 2nd batch VSSs
4. Preparation of Fire Protection

Publications of the Quarter

Operational Guideline for EPA (English & Oriya)

Entry Point Activity is an essential component for community mobilization through creation of community assets. Project prepared an Operational Guideline for project staff and VSS members for developing a clear understanding about different processes involved in deciding EPA and execution of different activities under this component. The operational guideline is published in english & oriya for clear understanding of different technical terms & techniques by the frontline functionaries and VSS leaders.

"Van Sanrakshan Samiti Gathan O Parichalana" (VSS Management Manual in Oriya)

This is an abridged Oriya version of "VSS Management Manual" for the convenience of VSS leaders and members. Project

expects, this publication will be helpful in wide dissemination of the fundamental VSS management procedures & importance of VSS & community participation for overall development of the village.

"Anu Yojana" (Revised) (Micro-Plan format in Oriya)

In the process of preparation of micro-plans in the first batch areas, several improvements were suggested. Incorporating these suggestions and to refine the formats, revised version of Micro Planning Formats in oriya have been brought out for use in 2nd batch VSSs.

Appointments / Retirement

1. Dr. J.P. Singh ^{IFS} has joined as Joint Project Director (HRD & R), OFSDP on 8th July, 2008.
2. Sri B.K. Swain ^{IMS} Joint Project Director (IME) has retired from Government service on super annuation on 30th September, 2008.
3. Sri P.K. Jena ^{ACF} has left PMU on 24th October, 2008 on transfer to silviculture division, Bhubaneswar.



This Quarterly Newsletter of the JICA assisted Orissa Forestry Sector Development Project will provide timely information relating to different project activities for the knowledge of various stakeholders.

For any comments/suggestions, please write to -

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