




OFSDP

Orissa Forestry Sector Development Project

NEWSLETTER



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Pd's Desk

Assisted or Aided Natural Regeneration is an important intervention for rejuvenating degraded forests adopted under the National Afforestation Programme, and Externally Aided Projects under implementation in the country. In Orissa, ANR is being practiced under different ongoing programmes covering 75,000 ha. every year. It forms the backbone of Orissa Forestry Sector Development Project (having four block plantation sub components, namely NTFP, Bamboo, Fuel & fodder, and Economic species, in addition to gap planting of indigenous spp. @ 300 per ha. of ANR treatment area) along with Community Development initiatives.

Built on principles of secondary succession it is a flexible approach to reforestation, which "assists" the natural regeneration to establish faster, apart from augmenting natural regeneration through planting of additional trees - 200-300 per ha. in gaps wherever needed. Therefore, the priorities are more towards silvicultural (tending) operations, soil conservation measures and seeding with planting resorted to as per need. Also the process draws heavily upon participation of local community and integration of local ecological knowledge.

OFSDP focuses on "promotion of livelihoods of forest dependent communities and provisions of GIS-based planning along with participatory micro planning" through ANR. With a view to improve the effectiveness of the ANR practices. Project has evolved a refined approach to ANR along with an-user friendly strategy for field-implementation through a process of stakeholder consultations. This approach envisages comprehensive diagnosis of the forest area to be treated through use of grid-based GIS map and multi-stakeholder grid transects with focus on appreciation of local ecological knowledge. Prioritization of species, species-site matching and grid-based prescriptions for species augmentation (through retention, planting and seeding), tending operations and soil moisture conservation measures are decided with entire participation of community. This approach combines restrain (not to fell) and enrichment (planting/seeding) to conserve biodiversity and enhance livelihoods potential. This step-by-step approach is designed to appreciate local ecological knowledge, species-associations and the traditional knowledge systems about the use and management of forest resources. The areas already treated are to be revisited to refine the forest interventions, and to prepare treatment plans for the new site, to be taken up in the third batch following the above refine ANR approach.

Arun K. Bansal

GROUNDING IGA

Improving the livelihoods of the forest-dependent poor and tribal through innovative yet practical approach is a major objective of our Project. Appraisal of SHGs in project villages, experience of pilot IGA, and outcomes of Livelihood Opportunity Analysis (LOA) have provided critical and useful insights for evolving a robust IGA strategy. Now project has adopted a three-pronged strategy for IGA promotion. While pilot IGA with small loans of short gestation periods to selected target SHGs for bulk/local marketing will continue, cluster-IGAs through groups of SHGs will be promoted around specific commodities for scaling up and higher market access through collective marketing and/or value addition. Village specific IGAs with small loan through CIG (Common Interest Group) will also be explored.



Based on the finding of LOA conducted by MART, a series of DMU level workshops were organised during August and September, 2009 for grounding of cluster-IGAs. Besides screening 20 commodities in 14 DMUs and presenting their Value Chain Analysis (VCA), LOA report has outlined their business plans and suggested institutional arrangements for cluster-based IGA promotion. DMU-wise implications of the 'LOA report' and

contd... p-2

'IGA Grounding Guidelines' issued by the project were discussed in these workshops attended by DMU, FMU and VSS level project stakeholders. With facilitation by DPD (LLI) and GC Expert (LLI), participants evolved preliminary lists of commodity-wise clusters in each FMU. They also finalized timelines for grounding cluster IGA following step-by-step approach in their DMUs. The processes including field validation and mapping of clusters, discussion with institutional and infrastructural partners, capacity building of SHG, developing specific business plans, sourcing of additional finance (if required) and procurement of materials etc. are expected to be finalized by December, 2009 for launching cluster-IGA. Project is proposing to promote any potential IGAs other than the 20 identified during LOA, through pilot IGAs to be undertaken by SHGs or GICs.

Twenty commodities suggested by MART for Cluster IGA

Agriculture	Horticulture	NTFP	Off Farm
Maize	Onion	Mahua flower	Poultry
Kandula	Cashew nut	Mahua seed	Pisciculture
Niger	Jackfruit	Hill broom	Vermicompost
	Custard	Dhatuki	Tasar
	Apple	Siali Leaf	Honey
	Pine Apple	Tamarind	
	Mango		

Project Reviewed



Activities of the project were reviewed by Sri U.N Behera, IAS, Commissioner-cum-Secretary Forest & Environment Dept on 7th Aug 2009. The PCCF, Orissa, Special Secretary to Govt. F & E dept, Project Director, all CFs, DFO –cum- DMU Chiefs and all PMU officials were present. Progress of formation of VSSs, achievement under Assisted Natural Regeneration (ANR), Block Plantations in JFM Sites, Coastal Plantation, both casuarinas and mangrove, Artificial Regeneration – Teak were reviewed. The DFOs were asked to ensure formation of required number of VSSs as per the targets communicated by the PMU. They were also impressed to achieve project targets in respects of block plantation in JFM areas and Non-JFM teak plantation with sincere efforts and timely actions.

The project was also reviewed by ministry of Forest & Environment, Govt. of India at New Delhi on 10th September 2009 by the Addl. D.G. Forest. Project Director along with Joint PD Sri D. Biswal had made a presentation highlighting the present status. Expressing satisfaction over the progress of works MoEF official emphasised upon the need for representation of JICA India. IGF (EAP) Sri R.K. Goel were also present at the review.

BANANA CULTIVATION BY A SHG

The project facilitators are inducing the Self Help Groups (SHG) to think newer ways for the higher incomes of their groups. Maa Tarini SHG under Khamar Range of Deogarh DMU have started banana cultivation in 2008 May. They planted 450 trees on one acre land. In the month of September a herd of elephants caused damage in the orchard. Members of the group disappointed, but never lost hope and commitment. They contacted the VSS and got a loan of Rs. 15, 000/- from VSS revolving fund under Orissa Forestry Sector Development Project. With this assistance they rebuilt the fence line and planted 600 more banana plants. In May 2009 they harvested 400 banana bunches and sold those @ Rs. 50/60 per bunch and got an income of Rs. 20, 500/-. In September they have harvested another 37 bunches and in October another 30 bunches. Those bunches were sold @ Rs. 50/- per bunch. In the mean time they have repaid the loan amount to VSS with interest. The harvest of September and October are their profit. Now the SHG is planning to do this activity in a more organized manner through technical support of State Horticulture Mission.



Ashok Ku. Sahu, NGO T.L, Khamar Range, Deogarh DMU

Continuous Contour Trench for more effective Soil and Moisture Conservation

Some selected FMU Chiefs had been sent on an exposure-cum-training visit to Maharashtra in September 2008 on Agri-ecotourism & Soil Moisture Conservation. This exposure visit was followed by another demonstrative training at Koraput & Rayagada with the help of Orissa Professional Development Service Consultant. The following models are the outcome of the learnings of these programmes and continuous monitoring from the project.



CCTs have been constructed in the treatment area of Sarandamal VSS of Rourkela Division. It is excavated in the top portion of a hill in Jugsai RF after making counter lines on the ground. It is a third batch VSS with a total treatment area of 65.7 ha. The length of the CCT is 2000 ft. with a dimension of 3 ft width at base, 2.5 ft. width at top and 2.5ft in depth. The trenches helped to break the slope & reduce the velocity of surface run-off of rain water. It helps in percolation of rainfall and there by the area in the downward side of the CCT remains moisturized. The CCT was dug as a Model Demonstration in presence of all the member secretaries of OFSDP villages. The intervention enlightened the participants regarding the usefulness of the CCT in Soil Moisture Conservation. It is a people friendly intervention and can be done with simple know how about laying correct contour lines. After receiving training from Dept. of Agriculture & Soil Moisture Conservation, Maharashtra FMU Chief of Kuarmunda had designed and executed this demonstrative work.

Nalini Kanta Behera

FMU Chief-cum-R.O, Kuarmunda

Arjunabilla VSS of Ghatgaon FMU under Keonjhar DMU was formed during the 2008. The density of the forest was below 40% and totally degraded. Most of the nearby land was underutilised due to lack of water for irrigation they used to raise only one crop (Paddy, Maize or grams). Even the drinking water was a major problem for the people. Annual rainfall of this area ranges between 900 mm to 1400 mm. In order to conserve soil and water during rains, VSS constructed 40 LBC, 160 vegetative measures, 1200 honeycombs, 4 Continuous Counter Trench (CCT) and 1 percolation tank in the treatment area with the help of OFSDP. CCT is one of the initiations under taken by the VSS. The CCT consist of four rows covering a total length of 3048 feet at a suitable interval. The CCT help infiltrates the rain water into the sub soil instead of flowing at surface (run off) causing soil erosion. It recharges downstream water sources and also improve the soil moisture regime in the area resulting in better plant growth in higher survival of plantation. This work has been possible due to active involvement of the FMU Chief and other members of the project facilitation team.

Trilochan Ray, FLE, Keonjhar



Heading for a Better Future



Therlibahal is a small tribal village of Kumjharia G.P under Birmitrapur Range. Many of the Female members of villages work in Crushers. A VSS was formed on March 2008 under OFSDP. There is a female SHG, named "Maa Shakti SHG" with 12 women members encouraged by continuous interaction with the project facilitators.

The SHG participated in panchayat auction and with a security money Rs.8,000, they were awarded collection of holding tax from merchants of weekly market for two years 2008 to 2009. This weekly Kumjharia Haata / Lassey Haata sits on every Friday. The President Sita Debi Singh & Secretary Sabitri Singh distributed different work for collection of tax among their members.

Average weekly tax collection is within Rs.350 to Rs.450. The SHG members have planned to collect Rs.15000/- in current year. Which is a profitable path lead by the SHG in consultation with the FMU team

In future, they have planned to take lease of panchayat pond in Threlibahal with the loan from VSS to take up pisciculture.

Tophan Ku. Naik, NGO T.L.,
Biramitrapur Range, Rourkela DMU

Protecting Environment through Fuel-efficient Chulla



Deogarh DMU has facilitated fabrication of 687 Fuel-efficient Chulla in the homes of VSS members in 13 villages under Deogarh range to reduce the firewood pressure from the forest. DMU has planned to continue this activity to the entire project VSS in the division. This chulla will also be installed in the schools having Eco Clubs.

This chulla consume less firewood to cook food with smoke going out through a small chimney. This chulla has been developed through Indigenous technology, and has been installed in Ambulapani, Bargadia, Valuguha, Bileighati, Gundeimara, Hadamunda, Jhaliamara, Jualibhanga, Kanteikoli, Pohalamara, Prabhasuni, Purunapani and Sahajbahal VSS of Deogarh range. This endeavor will help to reduce the pressure on forests for firewood and will ameliorate the environment.

Bhimasen Maharana
DFO-cum DMU Chief, Deogarh



BIO GAS MOBILISED FOR TEN BENEFICIARIES



Through convergence in Kataki Nala VSS of K.Singhpur FMU, Rayagada DMU six beneficiaries have benefited for making Bio-Gas plant through DRDA in OREDA Programme. Ten beneficiaries were applied for Bio-Gas. After due verification by both forest & OREDA officials it was decided that six beneficiaries will get this benefit. Now the work is already completed. After getting the benefit other VSS members are very much interested to implement this programme.

D. Dalapati, Sr. FEO



9th Governing Body Meeting

The ninth meeting of the Governing Body of OFSDP was held on 29th September 2009 at State Secretariat under the chairmanship of Sri S.P Nanda, IAS, ACS-cum-DC & APC- Chairperson of Governing Body. The draft Operational Manual was discussed and accepted for approval by the High Power Committee. The Governing Body also approved enhancement of the remuneration of personnel engaged in the project through Service provider.

GOING GREEN

The twin objectives of the project are restoration of degraded forest and improvement of income level of villagers living in and around forest. Project has a total target of restoration of 196, 650 ha. of degraded forest in 11 forest divisions comprising 138, 000 ha. of ANR, 39, 650 ha. of block plantation and 19, 000 ha. of AR Teak plantation. Target as per micro plan in 652 VSS and achievements are as below.

		Achievement 2009-10 (As on 30.09.09)	Total up to 2009-10
(A)	ANR	43135	78346
(B)	Block Plantation:		
	1. Economic	1371.5	2305
	2. Fuel & Fodder	1778.5	2521
	3. Bamboo & Cane	431	880
	4. NTFP	1804	4451
(C)	Coastal Plantation		
	1. Mangrove	550	870
	2. Casuarina	11	61
(D)	A.R. (Teak)	2535	3160



BACKWARD POULTRY



OFSDP aims to promote Sustainable Management of Forests with livelihood security to tribal and forest dependent communities.

Considering the rapid growth of poultry market, feasible and proven technique, rural community behavior, experience and practices on rearing birds (poultry), consulted with available manpower resources of SHGs and backyard land, Poultry is a good option for enhancing overall incomes. Banraj chicks have been supplied in many VSSs of the project.

As a pilot IGA 3 SHGs of 1st Batch VSS in Jeypore DMU were supported from the VSS Revolving fund. Initially 630 birds were supplied to Kurupadar and Goelkund VSSs of Gupteswar range. The pilot poultry unit was started with the objective of livelihood generation prospect for the community. After getting a good market now the SHG members are happy with the business. They are determined to continue this business throughout the year.

Kishor Kumar Sahu, NGO TL,
Gupteswar FMU, Jeypore DMU.

SHG becomes the middleman for NTFP business

Maa Dangardei Budharaja VSS, Janiguda was formed in 2007 under Borigumma FMU of Jeypore DMU, with the intervention of OFSDP. The village consists of 94 Households with a population of 365. Almost all households are tribal and daily wage earners. Budhithakurani, a woman Self Help Group of this VSS was formed in the year of 2001 with 10 members. Except saving practice the group was unaware of concepts of internal lending, microenterprise, Income Generating Activity.

OFSDP-Partner NGO ARYAN sensitized the SHG members about IGA activities like vegetable cultivation, paddy business, NTFP business. Charkoli and other NTFP that are available in plenty in the local forest. Due to ongoing practice of distress sales of NTFP, and for middleman SHG members were initially not interested in doing business. After several meetings with the NGO team, the SHG agreed to start Charkoli trade.

With a support of Rs. 20000/- from VSS, SHG purchased 14 qntls



of CharKoli @ Rs. 14.50 per Kg. After due processing the refined CharKoli weighed 13.7 qntls and sold to a trader in Borigumma @ Rs.20/-per kg. and earned profit of Rs.7180/-. SHG repaid the principal amount of Rs.20000/-with interest of 400/- to VSS. SHG is now planning to purchase more quantities in coming years, and also venture into other similar produces.

NGO Team leader

Boriguma FMU, Jeypore DMU

A linkage with Home Care Charitable Trust



One of the objectives of the Project is entrepreneurship and skill development of the targeted groups for encouraging them to lead a quality life on sustainable basis. Providing people right skills to successfully run an enterprise is a pre-requisite and a key element to achieve the objective. Recently Home Care Charitable Trust, based at Rajgangpur, Sundergarh came up with various packages of skill development like pickles, sauces, mushroom, piggery, goats, poultry, tailoring, embroidery, phenol, soap, agarbati, detergent powder, nili, candle, etc.

They have demonstrated techniques to prepare some of the above products at Sarandamal VSS and elaborated their economics to earn profit. Now they have devised modules to impart training on each of three items to group of at least 10 members per VSS. These products are required daily by common people for which there is a growing market demand.

The Trust also takes the guarantee to market those product incase of its non disposal. The training is widely acclaimed and accepted by the participants who came from seven project villages. Also having good potential for enhancing incomes of rural women, it is an opportunity facilitated by OFSDP. People are sure to reap good harvest in near future.

FMU Chief-cum-R.O., Kuarmunda

OVERSEAS STUDY TOURS

3 Overseas study tours and a National level training have been organized.

The international training to Japan was organized in two batches. In 1st batch five officers visited Japan from 18th to 25th August 2009 on deliccation in 2nd batch eight officers visited Japan from 28th August to 2nd September.

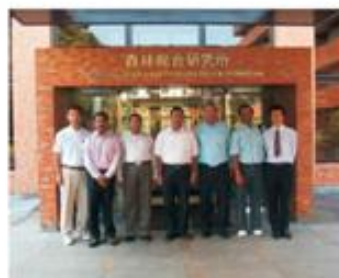
They visited Ministry of Agriculture, Forest & Fisheries (MAFF), Government of Japan and had a discussion with senior officers about the Forest Policy of Japan., JICA Head Quarters, Akita prefecture, Cedar private plantation site, Beech Forest at Shirakami- Sanchi, Coastal Plantation site at Kamaya Beech along Japan Sea in Mitani Town, Koishikawa Korakuen Botanical Garden in Tokyo, Yatsu Higata (Tidal Flat) Observation centre, Tokyo and Forestry and Forest Products Research Institute (FFPRI) at Tsukuba city, Akita Prefectural cooperative for wooden structures, Horikawa Forestry Company for mechanized tree harvesting in plantations, factory of Kadowaki Company , Nishiki Murkko Production Centre, Coastal



1st Batch officers at Nippon Koei Headquarters



1st batch officers at JICA Headquarters



1st batch officers in front of FFPRI, Tsucuba



Secretary F & E and PD interacting with a forest farmer



3rd batch officers inside the JICA Mangrove Information Centre



3rd batch officers near a Bamboo hut in a Bamboo Craft Village



3rd batch officers in front of JICA Mangrove Information centre



2nd batch officers visiting a forest area



2nd batch officers at Saw Mill



2nd batch officers at Tatsu Higata (Tidal Flat observation centre)

Plantation of Japanese black pine. 2nd batch also made a presentation JICA headquarters in Tokyo, highlighting the innovative features of OFSDP which were very much appreciated.

In third group seven senior forest officials visited Phillipines and Indonesia from 23rd to 30th September. They visited International Institute for Rural Reconstruction, DNRM (Forest Management Bureau) Marlo Man Douza at Quezon City, Manila, Mount Making Forest Reserve at University of Phillipines, Los Banos, Deptt. Of Social Forestry and Forest Governance , UPLB, Leguna, Mangrove Information Centre at Bali, Linda Garland Bamboo Centre , ubud, Indonesia, West Bali Park.

National Training on "Media Management & Documentation Skill" was organized at XIM, Bhubaneswar from 2nd to 4th September 09 at which 23 Range Officers and Deputy Project Director from PMU participated.



PD making a presentation on OFSDP at JICA Headquarters



PD presenting "OFSDP at a glance" to one JICA officer

President & Vice President of Society



On superannuation Sri Ajit Kumar Tripathy, IAS, Chief Secretary, Orissa and President of the Society retired from Govt. service on 31.08.2009 A.N. While acknowledging his valuable contribution and guidance, Society wishes him a very happy and healthy retired life.

Sri Tarunkanti Mishra, IAS, joined as Chief Secretary to Govt. of Orissa and President of the Society on 1.09.2009. Society welcomes the new President and expects to achieve new heights under his dynamic leadership.



Sri Satya Prakash Nanda, IAS, Agricultural Production Commissioner, Govt. of Orissa and Vice President of Society was transferred and relinquished charges on 03.09.2009 and joined as Development Commissioner, Orissa on 04.09.2009. Society is indebted to him for his deep involvement in the project activities and looks forward continued support.

Sri Rabi Narayan Senapati, IAS, joined as Agricultural Production Commissioner, Govt. of Orissa and Vice President of the society on 1.10.2009. Society welcomes the new Vice President and hopes to achieve the project goals under his guidance.



PUBLICATIONS



Appointment / Transfer

On promotion to the rank of Conservator of Forest Sri A.C. Dinakar, IFS transferred from PMU and was relieved on dt. 21.08.2009

Sri R.N. Sahoo, IFS promoted to the rank of Conservator of Forest, and continued at PMU as Joint Project Director on 10.09.2009

Dr. P.R. Karat, IFS DFO cum DMU Chief Keonjhar, on promotion to the rank of Conservator of Forest has been transferred and relieved on 12.08.2009. He joined the O/o PCCF, Orissa.



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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