



OFSDP

Orissa Forestry Sector Development Project

NEWSLETTER




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PD's Desk

Capacity Building of the community is one of the major components which has a strong bearing on sustainability of interventions / initiatives under the project. Training modules are being evolved keeping pace with the execution of project with a view to capacitate the participating communities to be able to continue to manage the assets and Income Generation Activities after the completion of the Project period. Key facilitators-FMU Chiefs, Sr. Forest Extension Officers and related Foresters-VSS Member Secretaries have been trained under direct supervision of the Project Management Unit. During this quarter, training programmes in "Communication & Presentation Skill" and "Modern Management Techniques" were organized at prestigious Xavier Institute of Management, Bhubaneswar. In connection with Income Generation Activities 2 day workshop for Sr. Forest Extension Officers (IGA), NGO Team Leaders and Field Level Experts on "micro-Finance & micro-Enterprise" was organized. Selected DFO-cum-DMU Chiefs and FMU Chiefs were sent for one week training in "Natural Resource Management and Conflict Resolution" at The Administrative Staff College of India, Hyderabad. Field Officers associated with Mangrove Plantation were sent on an Exposure-cum-Training visit to Gujrat. The trained forest officials are not only working as resource person in training programmes for VSS/SHG members, but they are also enhancing the capacity of VSS/SHG leaders through numerous interventions during planning & implementation of various activities under the project.

It is also proposed to conduct an in-house assessment of impact of the CB initiatives and utilization status of the trained personnel in enhancing community's capacity on the way to self reliance, and to decide future course of action.


Arun K. Bansal, IFS
 Pr. CCF & Project Director

Mahua instills confidence in Women SHG members

Mahua is well associated name in tribal life in Orissa. Tribal ear mark trees to different families for collection of Mahua flower and they never cut this tree. Collection of Mahua flower and selling in market is an important activity for almost six months in a year in tribal life. OFSDP helped SHGs practice this business in more organized manner. These are few success stories in Mahua trading.

Utkal Deepika a woman self help group of Talkudar VSS of Rajgangpur FMU- Rourkela Forest Division was formed in the year 2003. Since then they continued with the idea that SHG means savings and taking loan from bank only for household expenses. After frequent visits of OFSDP partner NGO they decided to start a business. After preparation of business plan, for an amount of Rs 26,000/- for trading in Mahua, they contributed Rs. 6,000/- from their own saving fund and applied to VSS for loan of Rs.20, 000/-. After receiving the loan they purchased 18.63 qntls. of Mahua flower @ the prevalent rate Rs.11/-per K.G. They processed that in a time span of three months, to 17.62 qntls. They sold the Mahua flower @ Rs. 18/- per K.G. They returned the loan with 1% interest to VSS and earned a profit of Rs. 11, 223/-. The intervention has resulted in manifold increase in the self confidence of the SHG members. Now they are interested for Mushroom cultivation (Paddy Straw Mushroom)) in spring season and for preparing "Badi".



Dholkana is a tribal village in Raiboga G.P. of Birmitrapur FMU under Rourkela Forest Division. In this village VSS has been formed under OFSDP in the year 2007 with total 27 households. The villagers mostly depend on agriculture and non timber forest product collection. Shanti SHG with 10 women members was formed by ICDS in 2006. Most of the SHG members are illiterate. Each member saves Rs 10 per month. The SHG members were not involved in any income generation activity due to lack of awareness and self-confidence. With the encouragement from partner NGO they prepared a business plan on Mahua flowers and applied for a loan of Rs. 10, 000/- to VSS. With this amount they purchased 833kg of Mahua flowers @ Rs.12 per kg. After processing it came down to 800 Kg and they sold @ Rs. 20 per Kg. They got a profit of Rs. 5500/-. And these activities have increased self confidence among the members of Shanti SHG. They believe that pisciculture can be another major livelihood activity and

propose to avail facilities provided by the VSS under OFSDP for Pisciculture. They have taken the lease of Panchayat Pond and invested Rs. 4000 for pisciculture.



Two SHGs from Boriguma village of Tikiri FMU under Rayagada DMU have also started Mahua flower trade. Swain Rani SHG & Bangai Rani SHG were formed long back, but the only activity was saving. OFSDP partner NGO team motivated them to start business in participatory mode. After regular meetings and follow up, the groups decided to start Mahua flower trading. Both the SHGs got Rs.10, 000/- each as loan from VSS revolving fund. Within two months, the two SHGs earned profit of Rs. 7000/-. More than that, they have got initiated into productive activity for enhancing their incomes. They now plan to take up trading in other local products including NTFPs.



Report from
M.Santosh Prasad
NGO Team Leader, Tikiri FMU
Rayagada DMU

CONVERGENCE WITH HORTICULTURE DEPARTMENT

OFSDP is making concerted efforts for seeking convergence with other development schemes/ programmes for creating additional livelihood assets for VSS members. 5 VSSs namely Malbhimdol, Kantasaru, Chatua, Modeiguda and Bodong of Balda FMU under Koraput DMU have gone for convergence with Horticulture Department. OFSDP partner NGO team had regular discussions with the VSS members. Finally 75 beneficiaries got convinced and agreed for raising mango and cashew plantations.



Over 105 acres land, 7480 grafted mango and cashew seedlings were planted, which were supplied by horticulture department at a subsidized rate of Rs.6/- per seedling. Horticulture Dept. assessed survival as per Govt. norm and all the 75 beneficiaries received incentive of Rs. 1940/acre for mango plantation and Rs.790/acre for cashew plantation. They will get five more installments of financial assistance from Horticulture Dept. in next three years. FMU is planning to extend this scheme to more project VSSs and plans for exposure visits for prospective beneficiaries.



Report from
Deepak Ku. Mishra
FLE-Koraput

ENHANCING CAPACITIES FOR IMPROVING PROJECT EXECUTION



Improving Community Mobilisation Skills of Front Line Officials

A three day training programme on "Community Mobilisation & Institution Building," was held, from 7th-9th December 2009 at Xavier Institute of Management, Bhubaneswar. FEO and Foresters from 11 forest divisions were trained.

Training on "Communication & Presentation Skill" was organized from 21st-23rd December 2009 at Xavier Institute of Management, Bhubaneswar. FEO and Foresters from 11 forest divisions were trained.

Training on "Modern Management Techniques" was organized from 26 to 29 October 2009 at Xavier Institute of Management, Bhubaneswar. Sri U. N. Behera, IAS, Principal Secretary, Forest & Environment Dept., Govt. of Orissa inaugurated the training programme.

Natural Resource Management

- One week training Programme on Natural Resource Management and Conflict Resolution was organized at Administrative Staff College of India, Hyderabad from October 12-16, 2009. 11 Range Officers, 3 ACFs, 1 DCF and 1 DyP.D of PMU participated.
- Training-cum-Study visit on Mangrove Management to Jamnagar area, Gujrat was organised from 19 to 22 Dec. 2009. 2 Range officers along with 6 Foresters from Bhadrak and Balasore Wild Life Divisions participated. They visited Narara Island and other areas and learnt mangrove plantation techniques & practices in Gujrat. They also visited Khijadia bird Sanctuary.

FACILITATING MICRO-FINANCE & MICRO-ENTERPRISE DEVELOPMENT

In view of the various IGA activities to be undertaken in the OFSDP VSSs, and as a follow up action of the Livelihood Opportunity Assessment report on grounding of Income Generating Activities (IGA), a 2-day Orientation-cum-review Workshop on micro-Finance & micro-Enterprise was organized for the FEO (IGA), NGO Team Leaders, and Field Experts. The orientation cum review was aimed at enriching the participants' understanding on the concepts of micro-Finance, micro-Enterprise and the potential of the SHGs to take forward the IGA initiatives under the project.

The specific objectives of the orientation were:

- To Take Stock of the Status of SHGs and IGAs
- To expedite microfinance and micro-enterprise processes in VSS
- To strategise facilitation of pilot IGAs, Cluster IGAs / CIGs

After the two-days of orientation cum review the Project Director, himself facilitated the Feedback session with the participants and guided the evolution of course of action for coming months. As immediate follow up it was decided to organise DMU and FMU level orientations for other project implementers (FEOs, Foresters, Team Leaders and Development Officers). Participants of this 2-days orientation shall act as resource persons for these DMU & FMU level programmes.



Japanese ODA Evaluation Team visits the project

JICA is funding several projects in various states, JICA has constituted an evaluation team to visit the projects in different sectors to prepare priority for Japanese ODA for next five years. Orissa Forestry Sector Development Project is the only Forestry project which was selected by the team to visit among 14 forestry projects being funded by JICA.

The Team under the leadership of Dr. Tatsufumi Yamagata, Inter-Disciplinary Studies Centre, Institute of Developing Economics, Japan and, comprising Prof. Oshikawa Fumiko, Dr. Poh Soon LIM, Mr. Mihoko Saito, Ms. Akiko Hayashida, Mr. Mitsunori Saito, Representative, JICA India, Mr. Deepak Raj, visited OFSDP. The team had an interaction with Project Director, Shri Arun K. Bansal, and other Project Officers at Angul on 26th October, 2009, Sri S.S. Mishra, DFO Angul apprised the team on current status of project activities. The team interacted with leaders, & women SHG Members at SUDASHAI VSS in Angul Division. They visited forestry intervention site, water harvesting structure created under the project, which is now being used for Pisciculture. The team also visited vegetable cultivation fields worked by the women self help groups supported by the project under IGA. At the wrap up meeting the team expressed satisfaction about the implementation of the project.



Date - 25 October 2009

The activities of Sudasahi VSS are excellent and greatly impressive. I wish if I could come back some time soon.

ইয়োমাগাতা
Tatsufumi YAMAGATA
Institute of Developing Economics
Japan External Trade Organisation

PUBLICATIONS



1. Exploring IGA & Convergence Potential.
2. Conceptual Framework for Eco-Development including Community Based Eco-Tourism & its application in Satsisai George Sanctuary
3. "Livelihood Awakenings" Proceedings of National Cross Learning Workshop of JICA assisted Forestry Projects in India, Organised by OFSDP (Feb 2008)

Appointment / Transfer

On transfer from the post of conservator of forests, Sambalpur Sri Rajiv Kumar, IFS joined at OFSDP, PMU as Joint Project Director. He will look after the HRD & Research activities.



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:
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