



OFSDP

Orissa Forestry Sector Development Project

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Uniqueness of Micro Planning under Orissa Forestry Sector Development Project

Arun K. Bansal
Project Director

"Micro Plans" are generally understood as plans for management of forest areas allotted to community in Joint Forest Management (JFM) mode, and are developed through Participatory Rural Appraisal (PRA) keeping in view the availability of resources in the Scheme under which they are to be implemented. Micro Plans are understood both by the communities as well as the front line staff from this perspective.

However the Project focuses on development of Comprehensive Micro Plans for over all development of the participating villages through community development programmes along with treatment of the related forest area managed in JFM mode. Micro Plan is thus a comprehensive document to guide the Vana Samrakshana Samiti (VSS) in management of the assigned forest area, community development and institutional development. Micro Planning is the pivotal activity on which effectiveness, success and sustainability of the Project depends. No project activity is to be permitted in the concerned VSS unless the Micro Plan is approved.

Detailed guidelines have been provided for preparation of Micro Plans in the "VSS Management Manual", which also prescribes a standard Micro Plan Format. Some unique features of Micro Planning under the project are:

1. Preparation of Micro Plan by the concerned VSS with the assistance of the contracted NGOs and the Field Management Unit (FMU).



2. Micro Plan for each VSS is to be prepared through adequate RRA/ PRA methods over a period of 3 - 5 months through several interactions with VSS members on different occasions so as to invite maximum participation of members in order to incorporate their ideas and aspirations.

3. Micro Plan is not only to focus on forestry activities but is to be comprehensive so as to include, among other things, developmental activities that may be supported by other government departments and agencies.

4. Community Development Works (also called Entry Point Activities) are to be identified and prioritized in the course of Micro Planning. Forest and/or water conservation related activities as well as non forest activities can be selected based on the needs of each VSS. The concept of user's fee is to be introduced for the assets created under the project which is to be kept as Village Forest Development Fund (VFDF) for the future maintenance purposes.

5. Income Generation Activities (IGA) are also to be identified at the Micro Planning stage. However, FMUNGOs shall provide inputs with regard to the product demand and marketing aspect. IGAs are to be implemented through selected SHG from revolving fund provided by the Project to the VSS.

6. Micro Plans are to be revisited periodically and changes, if any at the request of VSS members, are to be considered appropriately.

7. Micro Plans are to be shared with other government departments and agencies for dovetailing their activities in the project villages thus facilitating inter-sectoral linkages.

8. Micro Plans are to have provision for recording the progress made in each financial year for greater transparency and also to serve as a good monitoring tool.

9. The Facilitating staff shall be necessarily trained before taking up Micro Planning.

10. For VSS leaders and members focus is on learning by doing and experience sharing. The project will facilitate regular exchange visits for selected VSS members to exemplary works of other VSS in the State to promote mutual learning.

11. VFDF is to be flexibly used according to the needs of the VSS, with at least 50 percent of the amount used for maintenance of the forest area after the Project completion.

Convergence Strategy

The meeting for development of a strategy for convergence with other government departments and agencies was held on 16th June 2007. Among others, Project Director Policy Analysis and Strategic Planning Unit (PAPSU), Joint Director Horticulture, Programme Director Orissa Tribal Empowerment and Livelihood Programme, and representatives of Director Fishery, Animal Husbandry and Veterinary Services, Director Horticulture, ORMAS attended the meeting. The purpose of the meeting was coordination for convergence of various development programmes at the village level.



Development Activities

Governing Body Meetings

The Second Governing Body meeting was held on 11th May, 2007 under the Chairmanship of Sri. S.P. Nanda, Agricultural Production Commissioner. The Annual Action Plan for 2007-08 was finalized and budget for 2007-08 at Rs.704.31 million was decided. A special Governing Body meeting was held on 6th August, 2007 and the activities under coastal



plantation were pre scheduled in pursuance of decisions of 2nd Governing Body. The 3rd Governing Body meeting was held on 1st October, 2007 in which V.S.S. Management Manual was approved

Employment of General Consultants.

Negotiations were concluded on 25th September,



2007 with the first ranked firms-consortium comprising Nippon Koki Consultancy Ltd. Japan, Natural Resource International Ltd. UK and Sutra Consulting Pvt. Ltd. for providing General technical and managerial consultancy under the Project. The consultant will be in place after signing of contract and its concurrence by JBIC.

VSS Management Manual and Operational Manual

VSS Management Manual, prepared by the consultant has been approved by the Governing Body. The consultant for preparation of Operational Manual has submitted the final draft manual which is under scrutiny.

Capacity Building

Training in Micro Planning



The project lays specific importance on the preparation of comprehensive Micro Plans for the areas selected for restoration under the project along with overall sustainable development of village with available natural and human resources. The Micro Plans are to be prepared by the VSS and the process of micro planning is to be facilitated by the officers and staff of the Forest Department and the contracted NGOs. Treatment planned for the restoration of the forest may include soil and water conservation works, singling out shoots/removal of high stumps, silvicultural operation aiming at assisting natural regeneration, block plantations of suitable indigenous species including NTFPs, bamboo, fuel/fodder species depending upon the vegetation status, soil and topography of the area. The Income Generation Activities aim at enhancing sustainable income of the villagers utilizing available/enhanced/potential natural and human resources and shall be implemented through selected SHGs.

Capacity Building of the VSS is very important and project provides for several HRD components for this. The project has selected Master Trainers (FROs and FEOs) who have been trained in "Training

Methodology", to prepare second level Trainers (Foresters and VFWs) for imparting training to VSS leaders and members

Orissa Forest Rangers College Angul, a premier training institute of the State Forest Department was assigned the task of conducting training to the selected ROs, FEOs from each DMU and NGO Team Leaders in Micro Planning. One residential training programme (20th -24th July, 2007) for departmental officers and 2 residential training programme for the NGO Team leaders (29th August - 1st September & 4th - 9th September, 2007) were organized. In all 29 Master Trainers (22 FEOs and 7 ROs) and 52 NGO Team Leaders participated in the training.

Sri Pravakar Behera, IFS, Principal, Orissa Forest Rangers College Angul made special efforts to make the training highly informative. He invited prominent experts in various fields from within the state as well as from out side the state. They included, Dr. D. K. Giri, Sumacher Centre, New Delhi, Mr. S. N. Sahu, Director, PM's Office, New Delhi, Mr. Amarjyoti Nayak, Action Aid, Chennai, Prof. P.K.Biswas, Indian Institute of Forest Management, Bhopal, Prof.

Sabita Mohanty and Prof. Niraj Kumar, Xavier Institute of Management, Bhubaneswar, Mr. Minal Chatterjee, Indian Institute of Mass Communication, Dhenkanal, Mr. Sudarsan Das, Director Kalinga Centre for Social Development, Bhubaneswar, Mr. Biswajit Mishra, Director, Jana Sikhya Sanstha, Angul and Mr. Subrat Singh Deo, Madhyam Foundation, Bhubaneswar.

The participants got training on various aspects of forestry micro planning including Income Generation Activities and Micro Finance. One day field visit to a successful JFM site was also organized for each



training batch for practical demonstration-cum-field exercise on PRA. The Micro Plan Format prepared by the project consultant was also field tested during the training and field visit which was facilitated by Sri B.K. Swain, Dy. Project Director.

The FROs/FEOs trained on Micro Planning at OFRC, Angul have organized the same programme for Foresters, VFWs and Forest Guards (selected) at DMU level with the assistance of local resource persons.

WORKSHOP ON IMPROVED NURSERY TECHNIQUES

Quality of planting materials used for raising plantations plays very important role in overall survival percentage, growth and vigour of the plantations. Apart from the genetic makeup and physiological and morphological characteristics of seeds, quality of seedlings largely depends upon the methods used



for raising them and their care in the nursery. Adoption of modern technology at nursery level will facilitate mass production of quality planting material. Lots of innovations and new approaches are being evolved by the organizations engaged in forestry research in the country. There is need to translate these technologies in the field.

In view of this, a workshop was organized at Berhampur on 28th-29th July, 2007 to upgrade the knowledge of field functionaries engaged in raising



seedlings, 8 Forest Rangers, 15 Village Forest Workers and 5 Forest Extension Officers from different project divisions participated in the workshop. A team of field experts headed by Dr. Manoranjan Bhanja, IFS, Conservator of Forests, Andhra Pradesh, was specially invited by the project for the workshop. The Programme was coordinated by Sri V. Raja Reddy, Conservator of Forests, Berhampur Circle. The PMU was represented by Sri B.K. Swain, Deputy Project Director.

There were two class room sessions in which Dr. Bhanja emphasized on the various aspects of modern nursery techniques including lay out of model nursery, seed collection, preparation of seed beds, root trainer technology, production of clonal planting stock, grafting techniques and preparation of potting medium. This was followed by demonstration of field techniques on clonal propagation, installation of the poly globule, grafting and budding technology by Sibaram Prasad, RO, Research.

The participants were also exposed to procedure of raising seedlings using root trainers, preparation of potting medium for root trainer seedlings. All the participants had hands-on exercises.

GRAMSAT

An interactive programme under the Gramsat Pilot Project on "Orissa Forestry Sector Development Project" was organized on 26th July, 2007 from 10.30 hours to 13.30 hours. The panel of resource person comprised Shri A.K. Bansal, PD, Dr. A.K. Mohapatra, Joint PD, Shri B.K. Swain, Deputy PD, Dr. P.R. Karat, DFO, Keonjhar, Shri N.C. Mohanty, DFO, Phulbani, and Shri B. Pati, ACF Rourkela. The Project Director set the tone of the programme through presentation on the out line of the project, project components, and implementation strategy. Project Director emphasized the twin objectives of the project "restoration of degraded forest" and "improvement of income level and empowerment of the participating community". Focused presentations on capacity building of staff and VSS members, Roles and Responsibilities of stake holders in implementing OFSDP, Development and Implementing Micro Plan -Role of VSS, VFW, and FMU were made by the Resource Persons in two sessions. The field officers and staff, VSS leaders and members present at the Gramsat centers Angul, Keonjhar, Rourkela, Bhadrakh, Jeypur, Koraput, Raygada and Phulbani asked several questions, which were responded by the resource persons.



Survey and Mapping of the 640 degraded sites in the first batch by three mapping firms selected for the purpose has been taken up to prepare 1:5000 scale maps for preparation of micro-plans. Survey is carried out using DGPS / Total station equipment. High resolution satellite imageries (2.5m resolution Cartosat bi/w data and 6.5m resolution Liss IV multi-spectral data) are being used as reference data.

Control Survey is carried using Differential GPS / Total Station in all the divisions for achieving desired planimetric accuracy. The imageries are rectified based on control point co-ordinates obtained during the Control Work.

After completion of the control work, ground survey was carried out in the field to record Boundary Pillar coordinates of the sites demarcated by the respective divisions and information relating to Topography,

Survey & Mapping of JFM Sites under OFSDP

Land Use, Slope and Vegetation details of the proposed treatment areas. Peripheral information on access roads, habitations, important structures, streams, rivers, land use etc. are also collected from the field for mapping.

The Project Monitoring Unit has engaged a team of experts under the leadership of Brigadier B.K. Singh for quality control of the Survey and Mapping work. This team visited different DMUs to evaluate and guide the field survey work including the control work in monitoring the progress of work from time to time and gave valuable instructions to maintain consistency of work across divisions and generation of uniform/ standard output by all the mapping agencies. A standard geo-database has also been designed by the QC team to organize map based information. The map compositions (mock up) for hard copy prints have also been finalized in consultation with OFSDP and the mapping firms.

The survey data as collected in the field are processed in the laboratory for preparation of Geo-database of treatment areas and generation of Treatment Area Maps. Thematic Maps are to be composed with different layer combinations. These maps are:

1. Base Map depicting boundary pillar coordinates, treatment area boundary, VSS village, roads, drainages, forest areas, quarries, schools, health facility, forest establishments, etc.
2. Land Use Map depicting basic topographic features with detailed land use of treatment area and indicative land use of peripheral area
3. Forest Map depicting basic topographic features with forest class, forest types, species, regeneration status, crop density, slope etc.

The draft maps are verified by DMU staff and suggestions/ modifications of the DMUs are incorporated for finalization of these maps. The final maps and geo-database preparation for 1st batch of treatment areas are under process.



PMU Interaction with NGO Teams

PMU organized joint interaction meetings at circle and division levels with NGO team members and concerned OFD officials, who will facilitate preparation of micro plans.

Main purpose of these interactive meetings was to develop common understanding among the OFD staff and the NGO team members so that the Micro Planning exercises are taken up in the right perspective and in tune with the project goals.

Such interactive sessions were organised at Pallahara on 13th September, 2007 for Bonal and Deogarh divisions, at Keonjhar on 14th September, 2007 for Keonjhar division, at Phulbani on 20th September, 2007 for Phulbani, Baliguda & Paralakhemundi divisions, at Koraput on 30th September, 2007 for Koraput, Jeypore & Rayagada divisions and at Rourkela on 5th-6th October, 2007 for Rourkela division.

The doubts of participants were clarified and the major thrust areas to be specifically looked into were deliberated upon.

Workshop on "Innovative Practices in JBIC Assisted Forestry Projects"

Japan Bank for International Cooperation (JBIC) organized a Workshop on "Innovative Practices in JBIC Assisted Forestry Projects" on July 12, 2007 at The Park Hotel, New Delhi. The objective of this workshop was to provide a forum to the JBIC assisted states in the forestry sector and the other states as well to share their experiences of project implementation and innovative practices adopted by them.

The workshop was inaugurated by Mr. K. Nakagawa, Chief Representative, JBIC New Delhi Office followed by addresses by Mr. Ansar Ahmed, Inspector General, Ministry of Environment & Forests and Mr. M. Nagaraju, Director, Department of Economic Affairs, Ministry of Finance, Govt. of India. A presentation on "JBIC's Policy Approach for the Forestry Sector" was made by Mr. Vineet Sarin, Senior Regional Specialist, JBIC New Delhi Office. This was followed by presentations by project officials from JBIC assisted states.

Dr. A.K. Mohapatra, JPD, OFSDP made a presentation on the outline of Orissa project highlighting the project strategy.

The second session was devoted to Thematic Presentations i.e. Institutional Mechanism, Community Participation and Planning, Training & Management. States of Orissa, Karnataka, Haryana, Rajasthan and Tamil Nadu made presentations in this session. Shri A.K. Bansal, Project Director, OFSDP made a brief presentation highlighting the society mode implementation, since OFSDP is the first JBIC assisted project being implemented in the society mode and other innovative institutional arrangements.

The workshop saw a participation of about 60 officials from different states, Govt. of India, donor organizations and JBIC. The workshop was concluded by Ms. J. Tanikawa, Representative, JBIC New Delhi Office, who presented the vote of thanks.

Information Dissemination

Project launches the Newsletter

Continuing with its commitment for providing timely information to various stakeholders about the project, the OFSDS has started publication of a quarterly newsletter. The first newsletter was released by Shri Ajit Kumar Tripathy, Chief Secretary & President, OFSDS on 17th September 2007 at the Secretariat. On this occasion, Shri H.S. Chahar, Principal Secretary, Forest & Env., Shri Arun Kumar Bansal, Project Director and CEO, OFSDS, Shri P.N. Padhi, Spl Secretary, Forest & Env., and other officials of the Society were present.



Publications

PMU has also published following documents/IEC materials which have been distributed to all concerned.

1. Poster on "Role of VSS" in Oriya
2. Flip Chart on "VSS Micro Plans" in Oriya
3. "Leveraging Capacity" - A report on Training of Trainers Programme
4. "Micro Plan Preparation"-Hand Book for Facilitators

The publications were released by Chairperson and Members of Governing Body of the Society.



This Quarterly Newsletter of the JBIC 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 - R.N. Sahoo, JPS, Deputy Project Director, E-mail: rnsahoo60@yahoo.com

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