



OFSDP

Orissa Forestry Sector Development Project

Newsletter

Vol. 1 Issue No.1

July, 2007

Message



RAMESHWAR THAKUR
Governor of Orissa

I am glad to know that Orissa Forestry Sector Development Project is bringing out the first issue of the Newsletter relating to its activities on quarterly basis.

This maiden initiative will surely help various stakeholders in understanding the progress of activities under the Project. I believe, the publication will help dissemination of knowledge on Forestry Sector and will result in better understanding of the sector, which in turn will help in conservation of forest and environment.

I wish the publication all success in its mission.

(Rameshwar Thakur)

Message



NAVEEN PATNAIK
Chief Minister Orissa

Orissa Forestry Sector Development Project is a noble initiative for attaining the goals of healthy forests and prosperous community. Over exploitation of the forests for various reasons in past, has resulted in their degradation, which has created livelihood problems for forest dwellers. This project rightly aims at conserving the forests and alleviating the socio-economic status of people in forest fringe villages. Participation of rural communities in management of the forests will benefit both the forests and people in the short as well long term.

The project components are basically community oriented and their success is very much dependent on active participation of the people. Their livelihood issues can be addressed to a greater extent through the interventions that are to be planned as well implemented by the communities and facilitated by the Forest Department.

I hope that the people in forest fringe villages will recognize the urgency for such conservation needs and will come forward in the process for the well being of the community and forests as a whole.

(Naveen Patnaik)



Message



AJIT KUMAR TRIPATHY
Chief Secretary, Orissa &
President, OFSDS

Orissa's degraded forests need immediate attention for their conservation and for sustainable development of forest dependent communities. The strategy under the Japanese Bank for International Cooperation (JBIC) assisted Orissa Forestry Sector Development Project aims at addressing both these concerns simultaneously and concurrently. Successful implementation of the interventions needs concerted efforts of project officials and functionaries at grass root level. Effective communication and understanding with the forest community is the key for undertaking different activities. Information about the different interventions, strategies, implementation procedure and benefits to the forest communities with stress on conservation will be helpful in clearing misconceptions with simultaneous insight about the project.

Publication of this newsletter will be helpful in this direction and provide periodic information about the activities of the project.

(A. K. Tripathy)

Project Strategy for Restoration of Degraded Forests through People's Participation

- Project Director

Forests are the lifeline for the forest dwellers and peripheral community establishments. Its continuous dependency for livelihood requirements without concern for its conservation resulted in large-scale destruction of the forests.

Forest degradation has not only created socio-economic problems but is also contributing to environmental problems. Consequently it is the duty of all the stakeholders to work for sustainable development/management of forests for achieving long term goal of healthy forests and healthy communities.

The Government of Orissa have launched the Orissa Forestry Sector Development Project (OFSDP) with the assistance from Japan Bank for International Cooperation (JBIC). Orissa Forestry Sector Development Society (registered under Societies Act bearing Registration no. 22321/49/2006-07) was constituted by the Government for smooth implementation of the Project.

The Project aims at restoration of degraded forests and improvement of income level of villagers living in the forest fringe areas by promoting sustainable forest management under JFM mode and community/tribal development, with improvement of the environment and poverty alleviation as the overall goal. This seven year Project will be implemented at an estimated cost of Rs. 6598 million.

The single most important intervention under the project is for restoration

of degraded forests along with enhancement of income of the participating communities living close to such forests. With a view to create assets through people's involvement, and manage them sustainably village specific and local need based approach will be adopted and interventions would be formulated by and implemented through the Van Samrakshan Samities. The project plans to involve 2275 such VSSs for restoration of about 1.96 lakh hectares of degraded forests. Maximum effort for restoration of forest will be for promoting and facilitating indigenous species through assisted natural regeneration coupled with appropriate soil and water conservation measures. Plantation of fuel/fodder and non timber forest produce species in prominent blanks will play supplemental role. To plan and implement all these works comprehensive micro plans will be prepared by the concerned VSSs which will be facilitated by the Forest Department staff and local NGOs who will be selected to work with the forest department at forest range level. In addition to planning for treatment of degraded forest assigned to the VSS, micro plan will also include income generation activities based on locally available natural resources and human skills, prioritized interventions for meeting the felt basic needs of the villagers. The micro plans prepared by the VSS will be approved by the concerned DFOs and project funds for its implementation will be released to the VSS in installments based on requirement and progress of works. The project envisages convergence and synergy with other line departments of the Government for over all development of the project villages. To facilitate this, the government has notified District Advisory Committees headed by the District Collectors.



While attempting all these activities aiming at establishing sustainable assets, the project also lays specific emphasis on capacity building of the participating communities through thematic trainings, exposure visits, and various institution building programmes. Alternative Income Generating Activities will be implemented by Self Help Groups through Rotational Saving and Credit Activities. Funds will be provided to the VSSs who will loan funds to the SHGs after due analysis of feasibility of the proposed activities. Rate of interest on such loans will be decided by the concerned VSSs and will add to the total funds available with the VSSs for promoting other similar IGAs resulting in sustainable increase in the income of the people.

Project also provides for supplemental funds for meeting the basic needs, including reproductive and child health, prevention of water borne disease, non-formal education, and fuel efficient devices, for improving the general living conditions in the project villages.

The Project will be implemented in 10 districts through in 14 Forest/Wild Life Divisions namely Angul, Baliguda, Bonai, Deogarh, Jeypore, Keonjhar, Koraput, Paralakhemundi, Phulbani, Rayagada, Rourkela, BalasoreWL, BhadrakWL and Satkosia WL.

Development Activities

Constitution of Executing Body

State Government vide resolution no. 9893-4F(S)-20/2005-F&E dated 14th June 2006 constituted "Orissa Forestry Sector Development Society" as an autonomous organization under the Forest and Environment Department to implement Orissa Forestry Sector Development Project. The society is registered with the Registrar of Societies, Cuttack, under the Registration of societies Act (Act XXI) of 1860 bearing registration No. 22321/49 of 2006-07. The Chief Secretary and the Agriculture Production Commissioner Orissa are respectively the President and Vice President of the Society. Project Director OFSDP is the Ex-officio CEO and Member Secretary of the Society, which has a High Power Committee (HPC) headed by the Chief Secretary, and a Governing Body (GB) headed by the Agricultural Production Commissioner cum Additional Chief Secretary and a Project Management Unit (PMU) headed by the Project Director OFSDP.

The PMU started functioning on 27th June, 2006 with the joining of Project Director and the State Government notified the constitution of the HPC (30th June, 2006) and Governing Body (1st July, 2006).

State Government approved an Accounting Procedure for the OFSDS with due concurrence of the Finance Department and the Accountant General Orissa.

Dr R. N. Bohidar, APC-CUM-ACS chaired the first meeting of the Governing Body held on 25th July, 2006 wherein Accounting Procedure was approved and action plan with requirement of funds for 2006-07 was agreed to. A budget of Rs. 15 Crores for the year 2006-07 was approved by the HPC in its first meeting on 10th January 2007 which was chaired by Sri Ajit Kumar Tripathy, Chief Secretary and President of OFSDS

Second meeting of the GB, held on 17th May 2007, was chaired by Shri S. P. Nanda, Agriculture Production Commissioner and Vice President OFSDS. The GB reviewed the progress made during the first year and approved the action plan for the year 2007-08. It was decided to pre-schedule the Income Generating Activities to the current year. Similarly, it was also decided to initiate activities relating to the project components "Coastal Plantation" and "Bio-diversity Conservation".

VSS Management Manual and Operational Manual

The OFSDP envisages preparation of a standard VSS management manual to enable the VSS to manage their respective forest management areas. Similarly the need for an operational manual for the

society is underlined for sound administrative and financial management of its affairs. Two Consultants for preparation of VSS Management manual and Operational Manual have been awarded following the JBIC Procedure for Employment of Consultants as envisaged in the Project Memorandum. The process of preparation includes study of similar manuals adopted in other projects in the State and similar project in other states, and consultation with various stakeholders. The Consultant for VSS Management manual has submitted final draft manual which is under scrutiny before its approval. The Consultant for preparation Operational Manual has completed the consultations and final draft report is under preparation.

Infrastructure Facilities

Project Memorandum Unit has started functioning in Seminar Block building of SFTRI, Ghatikia and renovation work of the building is under progress.

Construction of extension buildings at DMU and FMU offices is in progress for which plans and estimates



Hon'ble Minister, Steel & Mines and Planning and Co-ordination, Orissa, inaugurating one extension building in Phulbari Division.

prepared by the DMUs were got scrutinized through a team of engineering consultants engaged by the Project. On the suggestion of the Engineering Consultants a Quality Plan was prescribed along with sanction of plans and estimates for proper documentation and quality control. Construction works are nearing completion. In addition, as provided in the project, vehicles have been provided to the DMUs for improving the mobility of the officers and staff of DMUs and FMUs. Computers have been installed in all DMUs and FMUs and funds placed with the DMUs for procurement of furniture and other equipments.



Employment of General Consultants

The project envisages engagement of General Consultants (Project Management Consultants) to provide technical and managerial support to the executing body. The selection process is under progress following the JBIC Guidelines for Employment of Consultants and is likely to be completed soon.

Production of Quality Planting Material

For production of quality planting material project aims at improving and establishing the permanent nurseries. One hi-tech nursery will be established in each project division.



Sensitization workshop for DMU Chiefs, DMU Assistant Chiefs and some FMU Chief was held along with exposure visit on 'Production of Quality Planting Material' at J.K. Paper Mills, Rayagada on 16-17 October, 2006.

In consultation with respective DMU Chiefs, initial funds have already been released for improvement of Nurseries in 10 divisions.



Capacity Building

Training Need Analysis (TNA)

Efficient implementation of project interventions require large number of adequately trained personnel at the grassroots level, including front line forest functionaries – range officers, forest extension officers, village forest workers, foresters, forest guards, and VSS leaders. More than 1000 front line staff need training to take up the added responsibilities with proper understanding of

the project strategy and planned interventions. As a first step for achieving this gigantic task, Xavier Institute of Management, Bhubaneswar, a premier institution for providing management training in the country, was assigned the task for conducting the Training Need Analysis (TNA) to identify the training needs for various categories of officers, staff, and VSS representatives and development of Training

Modules for various stakeholders who will be involved in the implementation of the Project. XIMB organized three circle level multi-stakeholder workshops at Rourkela, Koraput and Berhampur, as a part of the TNA and have submitted their final report. The Training modules for various stakeholders will be refined by the General Consultants.

Sensitization Workshops



Under the action plan for capacity building sensitization workshops were conducted for DFOs-cum-DMU Chiefs during July-August, 06. Sensitization meeting for DFOs-cum-DMU Chiefs and DMU Assistant Chiefs was held at Bhubaneswar on 6-7 December 2006.

At Divisional level, DMU chiefs organized sensitization meetings for OFD Staff in DMUs/ FMUs.

Training for Trainer (TOT) Programme



One of the significant finding of the TNA, was the necessity of Master Trainers' to work as facilitators for capacity building of participating communities and the frontline staff of the forest department. XIMB was engaged for conducting "training for trainer" (TOT) programme for the Master Trainers aiming at enhancing the communication and presentation skills of the trainers. TOT was conducted in three batches of residential training programmes - 1st Batch - 12-16 March 2007, 2nd Batch - 05-09 June 2007, 3rd Batch - 11-15 June 2007. In all, 19 Forest Range Officers and 62 Forest Extension Officers have been trained as Master Trainers under this programme. They will in turn prepare second level trainers to provide training to the grassroots functionaries.

These officers were selected according to their capacity and past experience in forestry related intervention. Training focused on training skills - and soft component skills like communication and presentation skills, project strategies, and introduction to project activities such as micro-planning, entry point activities, income generation activities.

Training methods were used keeping in mind the background of trainers. For effective and easy practical learning "Do-it-yourself" was the fundamental tenet adopted by the facilitators. Practice sessions were conducted for enhancement of training skills to enable the participants to easily pass on the learnt skills to next level of trainers. Simultaneously principles of adult learning and training were widely explained considering the characteristics of the down stream trainers & trainees.

Skill based contents like, formulating training objectives, deciding contents, planning sessions, feedback from the trainees and evaluation of the training impact were explained in details.

A ToT Manual containing theories, session plans, supporting material and guidelines for conducting training programme was prepared by XIMB, which will be used in other training purposes.

Through out the training OFSDP continued to follow up with officials personally to clarify the apprehensions and problems in understanding the essential ingredients of the project interventions.

"A teacher can never truly teach unless he is still learning himself. A lamp can never light another lamp unless it continues to burn its own flame. The teacher who has come to the end of his subject, who has no living traffic with his knowledge but merely repeats his lessons to his students, can only load their minds; he cannot quicken them. Truth not only must inform but must inspire. If the inspiration dies out and information only accumulates, then truth loses its infinity and the teacher loses his effectiveness".

- Gurudev Rabindranath Tagore

Survey & Mapping of JFM Areas



As envisaged in the Project, Survey and Mapping of selected JFM sites has been initiated. These 1:5000 scale maps shall be the reference for preparation of comprehensive micro-plans for their restoration through soil and water conservation measures, assisted natural regeneration, block plantation with NTFP, fuel and fodder species in blanks. About 640 sites have been identified for the first of the three batches and micro plans are to be prepared and implementation started during the current year 2007-08. For the survey and mapping, the project area has been grouped in three clusters namely Northern cluster comprising Angul, Rourkela, Bonal, Deogarh and Keonjhar forest divisions, Central cluster comprising Phulbani, Baliguda & Parlakhemundi forest divisions, and Southern cluster comprising Rayagada, Koraput & Jeyapore forest divisions.

Base Maps of the JFM areas are to be prepared in 1:5000 scale with adequate control network established through DGPS survey. High resolution satellite imagery (2.5m resolution Cartosat b/w data and 6.5m resolution LISS IV multi-spectral data) are being used for extraction of ground features including vegetation status. Boundary

survey of JFM sites are being conducted deploying differential GPS survey devices. The maps are to be on a GIS database (with geo-referenced satellite images, JFM boundaries, details of vegetation within the JFM area and other features in the neighborhoods) and shall be used for future monitoring.

The contracted firms have started work and have procured satellite imageries of respective divisions from National Remote Sensing Agency (Dept. of Space, Govt. of India) and undertaken initial field works. An Interactive Meet was organized on April 26, 2007 where the Mapping Consultants interacted with the project officials and explained the methodology and the role of the field officials.

The firms have established field centers in respective divisions and have sensitized the DMU staff on the approach to Survey and Mapping of JFM areas. Field visits were made by their representatives along with the DMU staff for delineation of Area of Interest for mapping.

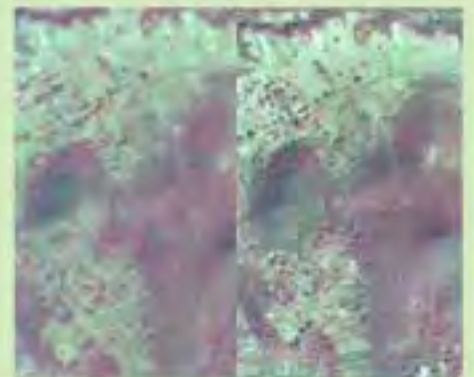
The boundary surveys of the sites have also started using DGPS devices and work is in progress.



Depiction of JFM Areas on Land use Map prepared by ORSAC



Sample Cartosat 2.5m b/w data



Sample Resourcesat Liss IV Multispectral data

Sample Merged data



Preparations for Grassroots level Planning



Information Dissemination



Success of any project is very much dependent on the IEC strategy of the related activities. Proper understanding about the project goals, strategies, proposed interventions and implementation process among various stakeholders in the initial stages is of paramount importance for grounding the project. Hence Project summary and Project brochures, both in English and Oriya, have been printed and made available to the CFs, Divisions,

Ranges for distribution to create awareness about the project.

Project website <http://www.ofsdp.org> has been launched and progressive interventions and activities are being updated.

Public Information Officer and Appellate Authority under Right To Information Act have been notified.



"The planting of a tree shows faith in the future"



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 -

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Published by:

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Printed at : Nabagouranga Press,
B/4B, Chandaka Industrial Estate, Bhubaneswar-24,
Tel. 0674-2725600, 9437005258(M)