



Govt. of Odisha



# Jibika Sambad

Quarterly Newsletter of OFSDS-OMBADC Livelihood Promotion Project



**OMBADC**  
ODISHA MINERAL BEARING AREAS DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION

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## PROJECT DIRECTOR'S COLUMN

Odisha Forestry Sector Development Society (OFSDS)–Odisha Mineral Bearing Area Development Corporation (OMBADC) Livelihood Promotion Project is being implemented in 5 Mineral Bearing Forest/Wildlife Divisions of the state with the Financial assistance of OMBADC from 2021-22 for a period of 5 years.

This project has been launched with a vision for augmenting livelihood of the forest fringe dwelling communities of Rourkela, Bonai, Deogarh, Keonjhar and Keonjhar(WL) Divisions so as to augment the livelihoods of the Poorest of the Poor (PoP), Socially Vulnerable People, ST & SC Community. It is absolutely necessary to enhance and strengthen their livelihoods by providing them with a range of alternative livelihood options through project support as well as through convergence. Moreover, it is the need of the hour to improve their skills and competencies and to connect them with various developmental programmes so as to bring visible changes in their lives.

The project interventions are located in the far flung areas located beyond the last mile, which makes it even more challenging for the project functionaries. With baby steps towards the envisioned target, the project is now making big difference in these areas.

**Dr. Meeta Biswal, IFS**

PCCF (Projects) & Project Director, OFSDS

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## COVER STORY

### About OFSDS-OMBADC Livelihood Promotion Project

People living in and around forests are highly dependent on forest resources for their livelihood. Largely, Scheduled Tribe (ST) and Scheduled Caste (SC) population, who are living in forest fringes, depend on forest resources for their livelihood and subsistence. In order to reduce their dependence on forests to enable conservation of forest resources, it is necessary to augment the livelihoods of these communities by providing them with a range of alternative livelihood options, improving their vocational skills and connecting them with various developmental programs of the Government.

The project, named OFSDS-OMBADC Livelihood Promotion Project, is being implemented in 4 Forest and 1 wildlife Divisions with a view to mitigate the adversities faced by the forest fringe dwelling communities by providing them livelihood promotion opportunities. The objectives of the Project are:

- To provide alternative livelihood opportunities of the forest dependent and forest fringe dwelling communities so as to reduce their dependence on forests and provide additional/ alternative source of income.

- To enhance the skill (technical, managerial and decision making) of the forest dependent communities including ST & SC population on various Income Generation Activities.

The project period is for five years, i.e. from 2021-22 to 2025-26 and is presently being implemented in 900 Vana Surakshya Samities/ Eco-Development Committees belonging to 25 Forest Ranges under five Forest Divisions, namely Rourkela, Bonai, Keonjhar, Keonjhar (WL) and Deogarh.

The project has two major components,

1. Institution Building and Capacity Building
2. Livelihood Promotion through
  - i) Convergence with line Departments
  - ii) Promotion of Income Generating Activities
  - iii) Development of Multi- product Clusters
  - iv) Business Development Service

During the 1st year, the primary preparatory activities like identification of VSS, community mobilization, institutional building & strengthening, capacity building of the project personnel and product mapping has been carried out.

## BRIEF ACCOUNT OF THE PROGRESS OF ACTIVITIES UNDER THE PROJECT

### 1. INSTITUTION BUILDING AND CAPACITY BUILDING

#### A. Community Mobilization and Institution Building

Community Mobilization at VSS level is a significant intervention in OFSDS-OMBADC Livelihood Promotion Project to enable community participation in project planning, implementation and monitoring. The Project personnel including the members of partner NGOs assist in Community Mobilization and Institution Building initiatives. Such initiatives contribute significantly to sensitize the VSS members about the project objectives, activities, implementation modalities and roles and responsibilities of each stakeholder in smooth implementation of the project for overall development.



VSS Meeting at Dandasingha VSS, Deogarh Division

Activities undertaken under Community Mobilization include constitution / reconstitution / strengthening of VSSs General Body and Executive Committee, sensitization on JFM mode of implementation, discussion on roles and responsibilities of all stakeholders, book keeping & record maintenance, participatory Micro Planning, implementation of project interventions in JFM Mode at VSS level and approaches of Community Development through Inter-sectoral Convergence.

Till now, re-constitution of 513 VSSs has been completed as per the JFM Resolution. The Executive



PRA (Resource Map) at Gouduniposh VSS, Rourkela Division





*Awareness Meeting in Raghubeda VSS, Ghatgaon Range of Keonjhar Division*



*PRA (Social Map) at Mishrapali VSS, Rourkela Division*

Committees of all 900 VSSs have been formally declared as Sub-Committee of Gram Sabha, which ensures FRA Compliance in executing the forestry interventions. In addition to this, Survey & Demarcation of Area assigned to the VSSs have been completed.

## **B. Capacity Building Initiatives**

The SHGs and VSS/EDC at village level are the primary building blocks of the OFSDS-OMBADC Livelihood Promotion Project institutional design. The Project has mandated to take the VSS/EDC as the delivery institution at the village level and build it to coordinate with all village level affinity institutions such as SHGs, Common Interest Groups (CIG) and Poorest of the Poor (PoPs). While organizing/reorganizing VSSs, adequate thrust has been given to involve women in the process of institution governance and delivery of project goods and services.

The Project provides support to the Divisions to strengthen the Product Clusters/Producer Collectives and

its capacity to build systems and mechanisms of good governance, planning and review, accounts, internal as well as statutory and social audit, for its sustainability. Additionally, there will be feeder clusters at the Range level to complement the multi product clusters promoted at the Division level. The feeders at the Range level and the Producer collectives at the village/VSS/EDC will be supporting the institutions having identity but will dovetail the mandate and activities of the product clusters.

Training and Capacity Building is envisaged as a major component in the project, as the people and the institutions have to be upgraded in knowledge, skill and awareness. Project approach aims at self-sustained development, helping people and institutions to be more participative and effective in the overall process of project implementation. As on September, 2022, total 547 numbers of Community level sensitization training at VSS level have been completed. Capacity Building Training on preparation of Livelihood Plan at SPMU level conducted and are in progress at grassroots level.



*One day Capacity Building Training at DMU conference Hall, Keonjhar Division*



*Range Level Capacity Building Training at Patna Range, Keonjhar Division*



*OFSDS-OMBADC Project Appraisal meeting at Mardang VSS, Deogarh Division*



*OFSDS-OMBADC Project Appraisal meeting at Asanlata VSS, Deogarh Division*



## 2. LIVELIHOOD PROMOTION

### A. Livelihood Plan

(i) Livelihood Plan is an essential tool to initiate a community based empowering process that prepares the road map for sustainable management of resources for augmenting livelihood.

(ii) This plan is village specific and commensurate with the resources available, aspiration of the people, market opportunities and the provisions of the support system available.

(iii) It is a comprehensive village document covering the

current status of livelihoods, issues and opportunities, probable solution of the issues and the support service eco-system.

By September, 2022 Product Mapping & Authentication along with enumeration of 3237 SHGs across 900 VSSs have been completed. Loan Appraisal Committee at the level of Project VSSs has also been constituted in all the above VSSs. In this context, guidelines for preparation of Livelihood Plan (both in Odia & English) has been prepared and circulated among the stakeholders. CBT on preparation of Livelihood Plan at SPMU level is complete and in grassroots level is going on.



*Livelihood Promotion Planning with VSS members, Badudighar VSS of Gayalamunda Section under Keonjhar (WL) Division*



*Livelihood Promotion Planning with SHGs members at Nuagaon VSS, Barkote FMU of Deogarh Division.*



*Livelihood Promotion planning at Haribeda VSS, Gayalamunda Section under Keonjhar (WL) Division*



*Livelihood Promotion planning at Arjunchuan VSS, Rourkela Division*



*Business Plan Preparation at Jareikela VSS, Deogarh Division*



*Business Plan Preparation at Gargadabahal VSS, Deogarh Division*

## B. Inter Sectoral Convergence

The Livelihood Plan at VSS level is a platform for optimizing Community Development activities in addition to direct support towards IGA promotion by the project. It has been emphasized to ensure optimum convergence with other Government Schemes and programs

## C. Multi Product Cluster Development:

The development of Multi-product clusters is envisaged

(i) To support the trajectory growth of the SHGs, CIGs

and POPs, multi product Clusters will be established and operationalized.

(ii) A product mapping tool was developed by OFSDS-OMBADC to identify various potential products in each target VSS.

(iii) The project will initiate the multi product cluster promotion with its own resources and will leverage upon available resources through proper business plan and its implementation.

## 3. IGA PROMOTION THROUGH REVOLVING FUND (RF) SUPPORT

(i) OFSDS-OMBADC Livelihood Promotion Project has the provision of Revolving Fund (RF).

(ii) RF is a one-time grant to the project VSSs for providing loans to the Borrowing Entities for viable Income Generating Activities (IGAs)

(iii) The Revolving Fund (RF) is one of the major mechanisms of social inclusion and promoting SHGs, CIGs and Poorest of the Poor (POP) forest dependants on the trajectory of economic growth..

(iv) The RF aims to improve access to finance required towards initial investment for Income Generating Activities and to cater to the financial needs for availing loan by the

Borrowing Entities for alternate livelihood Activities.

(v) The OFSDS-OMBADC envisages to both traditional and innovative IGAs across farm, off-farm, non-farm and NTFP sectors to strengthen the livelihood and income of the poor households in the target areas.

As on September, 2022, formulation of Guideline on Revolving Fund to undertake IGA Activities through the SHGs/CIGs and PoPs and orientation on the same to the field functionaries have been completed. In addition to this, preparation of Business Plans by the borrowing entities is in progress.



Loan Appraisal Committee formation at Kaliakhamar VSS, Deogarh Division



Loan Appraisal Committee formation at Bahia EDC, Hadagarh FMU of Keonjhar (WL) Division



Loan Appraisal Committee formation at Tainsar VSS, Deogarh Division



Loan Appraisal Committee formation meeting at Sangam VSS, Hadagarh FMU of Keonjhar (WL) Division



## NEWS IN BRIEF

A One Day Capacity Building Training on 'Preparation of Livelihood Plan' was held on 8th August, 2022 at the Conference Hall of OFSDS in physical mode under the Chairmanship of Dr. Meeta Biswal, IFS, PCCF (Projects) & Project Director, OFSDS. All the five Forest

Divisions under OFSDS-OMBADC Livelihood Projects along with the lead members of Project Management Unit have participated in the orientation programme. The guideline for preparation of Livelihood Plan under the Project was circulated among all OFSDS-OMBADC Divisions on this occasion.



One Day Capacity Building Training on 'Preparation of Livelihood Plan' on 8th August, 2022 at the Conference Hall of OFSDS

## FACT SHEET

### Story-1

*A number of successful cases have emerged under OFSDS OMBADC Livelihood Initiatives. Most of them are related to Livelihood Augmentation and Community Development which showcase the achievements under convergence efforts. Some of them have been placed here.*

### Jareikela VSS: Trail blazing steps towards excellent livelihood transformation - A success story from Deogarh Division.

Jareikela village of Tainsar G.P. of Tileibani Block under Deogarh District is situated nearly 15 kms. away from Deogarh town. The village is located adjoining Pradhanpat Reserve Forest area.

All the villagers belong to SC & OBC Category. The major occupation of the villagers is wage labor through inter district migration. Total number of households in the village is about 110 and population of 485. There are seven women SHGs in the village. 80% families are Below Poverty Line. Most of the male members of the family are migrating to other destinations for wage earning.

Jareikela VSS was taken up under OFSDS-OMBADC project during January 2022. It was unanimously decided by the villagers to actively participate in the Livelihood Promotion Project for the wellbeing of the community. According to the OMBADC guideline, a Range level training programme was held at Deogarh FMU for Livelihood plan preparation. Then a working group was constituted for Livelihood plan preparation. After working group formation, Village transect, Household survey and PRA Exercise were done for Livelihood plan preparation. During

the period the Project Staff arranged a skill development training programme on mushroom cultivation. Business plan was prepared accordingly. The existing SHGs arranged funds from their own savings and have taken up mushroom cultivation.

The result is amazing. The mushroom is now in active production stage. After home consumption, it is expected that the SHG members will get substantial benefit from this initiative by selling the surplus.



VSS General Body Meeting at Jareikela OFSDS-OMBADC VSS



*Mushroom cultivation by the SHG Members*



*PRA Exercise at Jareikela OFSDS- OMBADC VSS*

## Story-2

### *Boneless creature strengthened the backbone of rural economy: A Success Story of Baghianasa VSS under Keonjhar Division*

Baghianasa Village is a tribal village in Nahabeda G.P. under Champua Range of Keonjhar Forest Division. It is located in the foothills of Kankana Forest. One kaccha road is the only means of communication to this village. The total population of the village is 294 constituting 44 households out of which 18 are ST and 26 OBC. Most of the households come under BPL category. The villagers mostly depend upon agriculture and daily wages to meet their mundane needs and only 8-9 households cultivate vegetables. There is no irrigation facility for cultivation. Hence, the villagers depend on rain and mostly do single cropping. 30% of the total populations of the village are illiterate. Use of chemical fertilizers and pesticides for growing crops is a usual phenomenon adopted by the cultivators. They are ignorant of the utility and benefits of vermi-compost as well as SRI method of Agriculture.

The VSS in the village was formed during 2019-20 under Ama Jangla Yojana. The P-NGO Team interacted with the villagers during regular meetings with the VSS members. The villagers actively participated in the meetings. 50 ha. of forest area was assigned to the VSS for forest protection and management. The VSS members have been proactively participating in forest patrolling, forest fire prevention and forest protection. In order to improve their livelihoods, the Partner-NGO Team interacted with them in a series of meetings. During these interactions, VSS members always put forth their grievances for irrigation facility to facilitate double cropping. Communication facility was also demanded by them for smooth transportation of their agri produces. But it was not so easy to fulfill all their need within a short period. During the VSS meeting, P-NGO team and livelihood coordinator provided some useful short term income generation proposals such as NTFP collection, small scale business through SHG, poultry rearing, preparation of vermi-compost etc. A detailed discussion was held with the VSS members in all aspects such as fund requirement, marketing scope, skill development, value addition etc. VSS members showed their interest to take up preparation of vermi-compost on experiment basis.



After that, the P-NGO team and Livelihood Coordinator prepared a Business Plan for the VSS members for implementation of the proposal of the VSS members. The Livelihood Coordinator appraised all the developments in this context to the DFO, Keonjhar, S.J. H.D. Dhanaraj, IFS. The Divisional Forest Officer and the Range Officer took the initiative to contact with Gramin Product Marketing(GPM) for Vermi-compost units in the village to support the livelihood of the villagers.

After all official communication and documentation, training programme on preparation of vermi-compost was organized in the village on 26 April, 2022, P. NGO team organized a VSS meeting after training and found 12 nos of beneficiaries interested to start this activity. They decided to install vermi-compost units of size 6'X4'X2', with the cost Rs. 3500.00 per unit. The beneficiaries contributed Rs. 3500.00 each as their own contribution. After regular monitoring by the P-NGO team, vermi-compost pits were prepared in 90 days. Each of the beneficiaries got about 3-4 Qtl. of vermi-compost, whose market value is Rs. 6000/- to Rs. 8000/-. Now the beneficiaries are very happy with the outcome. They are interested to use this vermi-compost in their own paddy fields in place of chemical fertilizer and sell the surplus for others' use.

Seeing the benefits out of the activity, other members of the village and other VSSs are also interested to adopt the activity for their economic wellbeing as well as improved production.





*Vermi-compost production by Baghianasa VSS members*



*Training to VSS & SHG members on Vermi-compost production*



*Distribution of materials for Vermi-compost Production to the selected members*



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