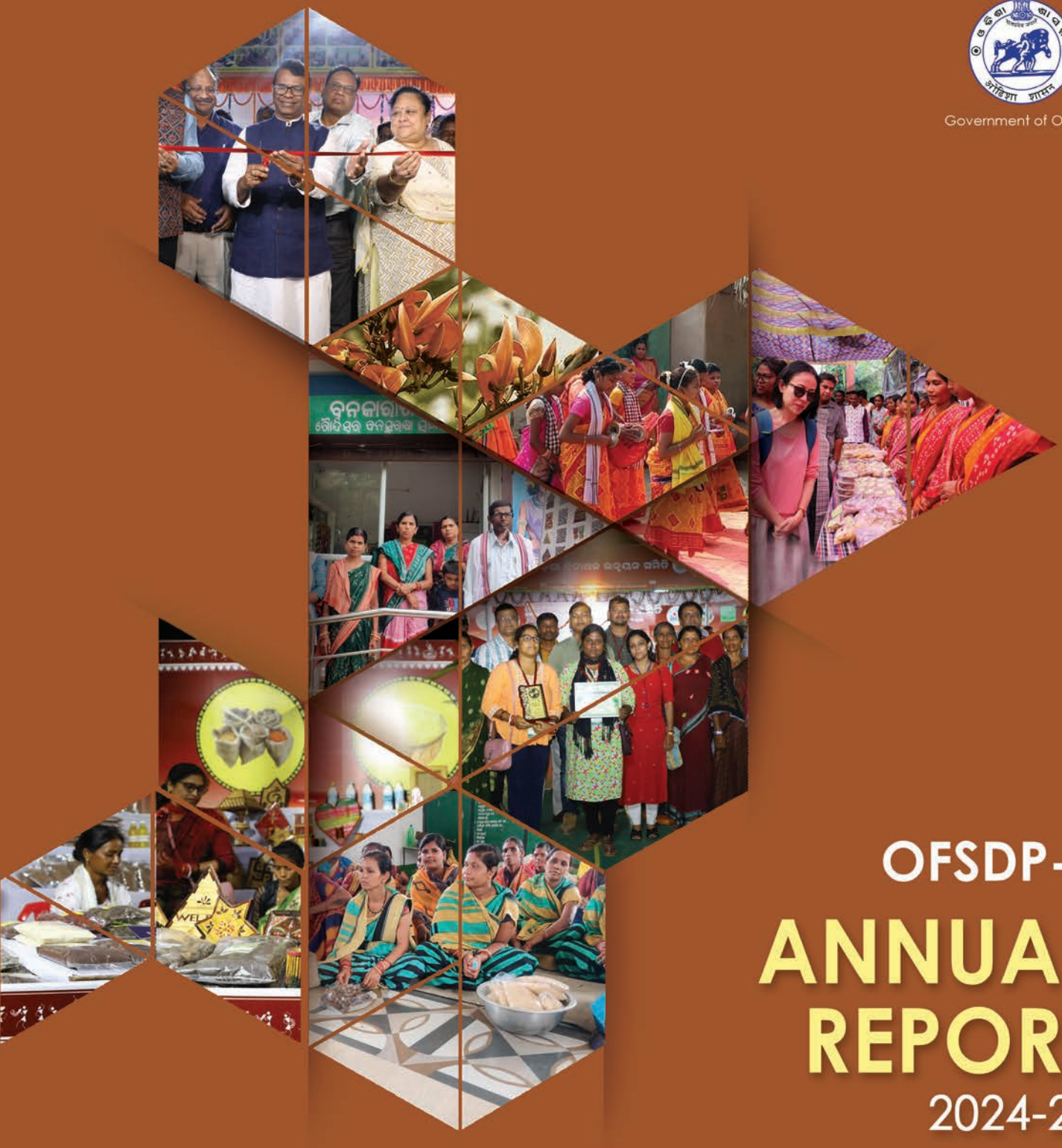
Government of Odisha



OFSDP-II
ANNUAL REPORT
2024-25

Odisha Forestry Sector Development Project Phase–II

Odisha Forestry Sector Development Society

Forest, Environment & Climate Change Department, Government of Odisha

OFSDP-II

Annual Report

2024-25

Odisha Forestry Sector Development Project - II

Odisha Forestry Sector Development Society
Forest, Environment and Climate Change Deprtment,
Government of Odisha

Published by:
Odisha Forestry Sector Development Project (Phase-II)
SFTRI Campus, Ghatikia, Bubaneswar 751 002
Forest, Environment & Climate Change Department
Government of Odisha
June 2025

Design and Print
Ketaki Enterprises Pvt. Ltd.
Unit-Third Eye Communications
Bhubaneswar
thireyecoindia@gmail.com
www.thirdeyeco.in

FOREWORD

The Odisha Forestry Sector Development Project Phase II (OFSDP-II) is a major community based participatory forest management initiative being undertaken by the Odisha Forestry Sector Development Society (OFSDS)since 2017–18. The project which spans over ten-year period from 2017–18 to 2026–27 is getting implemented with the loan assistance from the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA).OFSDP-II, operating through the Joint Forest Management (JFM) approach, aims to ensure the sustainable use and conservation of forest resources while enhancing the long-term livelihood security of economically marginalized households in forest fringe villages. Geographically, the project is being implemented in 12 Territorial Forest Divisions across 10 Revenue Districts and 2 Wildlife Divisions (Bamra and Rajnagar), encompassing 47 Forest Ranges. Grassroots implementation is led by 1,211 Vana Suraksha Samitis (VSSs) in Territorial Divisions and 10 Eco-Development Committees (EDCs) in the Bamra Wildlife Division.

The seventh and eighth years of implementation (2023–24 & 2024-25) marked the acceleration in phase of implementation of project activities after the slow rate of progress during pandemic period. The project particularly focused on some challenging initiatives such as community-based assessment of carbon credit in the farm forestry areas of the project, cluster-based value addition and marketing of various products produced by SHGs through Income Generating Activities with the help of identified Social Enablers and providing sustainable livelihood security to the local communities by promoting Multi-Product Clusters (MPCs) in project divisions.The Livelihood Resource Centre (LRC) in collaboration with the Marketing and Management Support Agency (MMSA) has facilitated the efficient functioning of MPCs and enabled them to effectively provide the market access to the subsistence farmers and Poorest of the Poor (PoP) households resulting in their economic stability.This market-oriented initiative under OFSDP-II has become a real boon to the subsistence farmers and PoP families in the target area. The project personnel at all project management levels, community members, associated line Departments and other collaborating partners, the Project Management Unit (PMU) certainly deserve credit for their highly professional approach towards project implementation and in meeting the set-targets during the year under the report.

In the endeavor of seeking a balance between ecological sustainability and economic development, ensuring a symbiotic relationship between local communities and their natural environment, OFSDP-II stives to build the community resilience through targeted livelihood interventions. One notable initiative under this framework is the Satoyama Initiative, implemented in 10 EDCs of the Badarma Wildlife Sanctuary, which promotes integrated landscape management for sustainable biodiversity and livelihood outcomes. Another key collaboration is with the National Centre for Sustainable Coastal Management (NCSCM), Chennai, for the long-term Monitoring Plan for Ecosystem-based Conservation of the Bhitarkanika Conservation Area (BCA). Since January 2018, three Ecosystem Health Report Cards have been published, further reinforcing OFSDP-II's commitment to ecological monitoring.

A landmark achievement of the project was the revisit of micro plans by all the VSSs of OFSDP-II. This re-visit exercise is regarded as a unique exercise was earnestly taken up in the four batches of VSSs by OFSDP-II. This unique exercise sets as an example for all JICA supported Natural Resource Management (NRM) projects across the country.During theyear 2024-25, the Re-visit of Micro Plan wascarried out in 434 VSSs of Batch-III & IVwith active community participation. Capacity building of project field staff and community leaders have already been initiated under Satoyama Initiative for taking up the micro plan revision exercise in the ten EDCs of Badrama Wildlife Sanctuary in the coming year.

The significant activity undertaken during the year under report under the Capacity Building component of the project was the 'Overseas Exposure Visit' of the senior as well as mid-level officers of Odisha Forest Department who are associated with OFSDP-II. The Exposure visit to Japan was organized in two batches of officers by PMU with active cooperation and facilitation from the PMC with the support of Padeco, India Ltd. The first batch visited Japan from 10th to 18th May 2024, and the second batch visited Japan from 1st to 14th June 2024.The exposure visits provided a holistic learning experience to the participating officers pertaining to strategic policy frameworks on sustainable forestry, application of advanced technologies and digital tools in forest monitoring and so on.These valuable learnings are expected to contribute in improved planning, implementation, and monitoring of activities under OFSDP-II and at the same time aligning the project with global accepted sustainability goals.

Yet another significant event that happened during the year was the visit of the High-level Review Mission from the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) to the Badrama Wildlife Sanctuary (WLS) of Bamra Wildlife Division where the Satoyama Initiative is being implemented as well as to the VSSs of Sambalpur Forest Divisions from 4th to 5th February 2025 and to the PMU office at Bhubaneswar on 6th February as part of JICA's Mid-term review of OFSDP-II activities. After the field visits, the mission acknowledged the critical role of local communities in forest conservation and appreciated the efforts made under the Satoyama Initiative to link ecological sustainability with improved livelihoods.The JICA Mission, during the interaction meeting with the project officers and PMC experts at PMU office, visit reaffirmed JICA's continued support to the convergence-oriented community-driven approaches adopted by OFSDP-II towards achieving holistic development, incorporated with sustainable forest & biodiversity management goals along with the viable provisions for long term livelihood security to the local communities.

During 2024-25,the project has made significant progress in pursuing Inter Sectoral Convergence Programmes by mobilizing funds to the tune of Rs.127.89Crores, benefiting3.41lakh beneficiaries.With the active support from different line departments of Govt. of Odisha and other agencies, numerous community

development activities were implemented in OFSDP-II areas under Inter-Sectoral Convergence. In addition, the Revolving Fund (RF) provided by the project has been largely instrumental in starting small business enterprises as an Income Generation Activity (IGA) by Women SHGs /CIGs / PoPs in the project areas.The details related to the quantum of RF distributed for different IGAs and number of beneficiaries reached during 2024-25 are furnished in Chapter No. 6 titled "Livelihood Initiative under OFSDP-II" of this report.

The Community based Monitoring, Reporting and Verification (CMRV) is a cross cutting innovative component undertaken by the project with active community participation.Based on the VSS level information generated through CMRV, during the year 2024-25, OFSDP-II, in collaboration with M/s Kosher Climate India Pvt Ltd has initiated the scientific assessment of the sequestered Carbon in farm forestry areas by adopting the standard protocol in order to explorethe trading possibilities of accrued Carbon in the international market.

The Annual Activity Report of OFSDP-II for the year 2024-25 is a record of annual activities of the project pertaining to forest management, biodiversity conservation, livelihood promotionand community development domains carried out in all 14 Forest and Wildlife Divisions with community involvement. The report also reflects the modus operandi by which the project ensured the community's participation in project activities and the equitable distribution of benefits across all categories of its members. It is sincerely anticipated that the Annual Progress Report of OFSDP-II for the year 2024-25 will be able to comprehensively educate our key-stakeholders on management strategies being adopted by the project as well as the progress achieved so far in pursuit of its objectives. The constructive suggestions from the stakeholders are always expected so as to keep enhancing the project performance.

Dr. Meeta Biswal, IFS
PCCF (Projects) & Project Director OFSDS,
Bhubaneswar

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

The Odisha Forestry Sector Development Project, Phase-II (OFSDP-II) stands out as a commendable model of participatory and sustainable forest management. Implemented by the Odisha Forestry Sector Development Society (OFSDS) under the Department of Forests, Environment and Climate Change, Government of Odisha since 2017, the project during the eight years has made substantial progress in key areas such as community involvement in forest management, biodiversity conservation, capacity building, livelihood enhancement, convergence with line departments and so on. The success of the project in 14 Forest Divisions has gained recognition from both the Government of Odisha and the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA), marking it as a benchmark for replication in other regions. Thanks to its integrated, inclusive approach and tangible outcomes, OFSDP-II is now considered a "Successful and Replicable Model" in the realm of participatory sustainable forest management and community-led development.

The successful implementation of OFSDP-II has been a result of exceptional leadership, collaborative spirit, and the collective efforts of numerous stakeholders. While the dedicated contributions of countless field staff, volunteers, and community members have been invaluable, special recognition must be given to the critical contributions of the following top-level officers, managers, professionals, and community leaders, whose unwavering support and guidance have shaped the direction and success of the project. The project heartfully acknowledges and thanks them for their consistent advice and guidance in advancing and successfully implementing its community-based conservation and development agenda in the target area.

First and foremost, profound gratitude is extended to the Chief Secretary to the Government of Odisha and the Chairperson of the Odisha Forestry Sector Development Society(OFSDS) for his unwavering guidance and support throughout the implementation of the Odisha Forestry Sector Development Project, Phase-II (OFSDP-II). His visionary leadership, along with the strategic oversight provided by the esteemed members of the High-Power Committee (HPC) and the Governing Body of OFSDS, has been instrumental in ensuring the successful execution and effective management of the project across all levels.

The Additional Chief Secretary, Department of Forest, Environment and Climate Change, Government of Odisha who has consistently provided visionary leadership, encouraged and appreciatedthe innovative interventions that have strengthened the field-level impact deserve to be profusely tahnked.

The Principal Chief Conservator of Forests and Head of Forest Force (PCCF &HoFF), Odisha offered unwavering support and guidance throughout the project's implementation. He was instrumental for the active involvement of the entire Department of Forests, Environment and Climate Change in ensuring smooth coordination and providing prompt administrative backing which are key to the project's success.

All the Management Units of the project, including the Project Management Unit (PMU), Divisional Management Units (DMUs), Field Management Units (FMUs), and Partner NGOs (P-NGOs), are appreciated for their full dedication, sincere efforts, and hard work in executing the project activities.

Community Institutions, including VSSs, SHGs, and other community-based groups such as Common Interest Groups (CIGs) and PoPsresiding in forest fringe villages deserve full appreciation for their enthusiastic participation in preparation of the initial micro plan as well as its Re-visit exercise and in the management and implementation of project interventions.

The Animators and community leaders, particularly the VSS Presidents highly deserve praise for their vital role in guiding and facilitating community members in planning and executing development activities.

The officials and staff of various line departments who have shown sincere commitment in converging and extending the benefits of community welfare schemes and programmes to the project villages.

The Project Management Consultants (PMC), without their consistent professional support and guidance in implementing various technical and social components of the project, capacity building, and documentation, the PMU and other management units might have found it very hard to implement the project activities seamlessly. The efforts of PMC needs to be well acknowledged.

Various collaborative partner agencies, including the National Centre for Sustainable Coastal Management (NCSCM) and Kosher Climate India Pvt. Ltd., also need to be thanked for their specialized services like the Long-term Monitoring Plan for Ecosystem-based Conservation of BCA and carbon estimation and trading in OFSDS areas.

The senior officers in the Project Management Unit (PMU), including the Joint Project Director (JPD) and the Deputy Project Director (DPD), who have exhibitedhigh quality leadership as well as technical and administrative acumen in steering the project, need high appreciation.

The State Project Managers (SPMs) whose consistent guidance to the project teams at the DMU, FMU, and VSS levels in smooth implementation of project activities across all divisions deserve special mention and acknowledgement.

Above all, the Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (PCCF) (Projects) and Project Director, OFSDS, deserve special recognition for leading and inspiring the entire project team to function on a mission mode, ensuring the timely implementation of project interventions and seamless access to the benefits even by the poorest of poor among the forest fringe communities. The Project Director's skilful managerial efforts with professional approachand encouraging leadership have immensely stirred the performance level of the project team which has led to recognize OFSDP-II as its flagship project by the Govt. of Odisha.

The Annual Progress Report of OFSDP-II, which is the complete document of project activities carried out during the year 2024-25, is also the reflection of collective and laudable efforts of all key-stakeholders in enabling the successful implementation of the project.

Swayam Mallick
Joint Project Director, OFSDS

CONTENTS

About Odisha Forestry Sector Development Project, Phase-II

CHAPTER 1

1.1 Introduction

Over the past few decades, rapid and often indiscriminate developmental activities in Odisha have led to large-scale deforestation and significant depletion of forest resources. One of the major contributing factors is the extensive and uncontrolled exploitation of forests by communities living in and around forest areas, many of whom are below the poverty line (BPL). With very limited livelihood alternatives, these forest-dependent communities are often compelled to rely heavily on forest resources for their daily sustenance and income, which in turn places severe biotic pressure on the ecosystem and fosters unsustainable use of resources. In addition to community-driven pressures, other critical factors exacerbating forest degradation include frequent forest fires, both accidental and deliberate, illegal logging and smuggling of timber by organized mafias, inadequate participation of forest fringe dwellers in forest protection and management efforts and so on. These issues collectively undermine conservation efforts and pose significant challenges to the sustainable management of forest resources in the state.

In response to the growing challenges of forest degradation and in alignment with the objectives outlined in the Forestry Vision 2020, the Government of Odisha launched the Odisha Forestry Sector Development Project, Phase-II (OFSDP-II). Building on the achievements and lessons learned from Phase-I (OFSDP-I), the second phase aims to promote sustainable forest management and community development through active community participation, in accordance with Joint Forest Management (JFM) guidelines. OFSDP-II is a flagship initiative implemented by the Odisha Forestry Sector Development Society (OFSDS) under the aegis of the Department of Forest, Environment, and Climate Change, Government of Odisha. The project is being supported through loan assistance from the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA). The project covers the period from 2017-18 to 2026-27 and is currently being implemented across 1,211 Vana Suraksha Samitis (VSSs) in 50 forest ranges, spread over 12 Territorial Forest Divisions and two Wildlife Divisions in the state. OFSDP-II represents a significant step toward integrating forest conservation with livelihood enhancement, ensuring the sustainable use and protection of forest resources in Odisha through inclusive, community-led approaches.

1.1.1 The focal areas of the project are

i. **Sustainable Forest Management**: OFSDP-II seeks to curb deforestation and forest resource depletion, which have been exacerbated by indiscriminate developmental activities and the extensive use of forest resources by dependent communities. The project emphasizes sustainable practices and aims to reduce biotic pressure on forests.

ii. **Community Development**: Many forest fringe dwellers in Odisha live below the poverty line and rely heavily on forests for fuel wood and livelihood. OFSDP-II aims to provide alternative livelihood options to reduce this dependency. The project promotes active community participation in forest protection and management, aligning with Joint Forest Management guidelines.

OFSDP-II is being implemented across 1211 Vana Suraksha Samitis (VSSs) in 50 ranges within 12 territorial forest divisions and 2 wildlife divisions. The project tenure is ten years from 2017-18 to 2026-27. In fact,

OFSDP-II represents a comprehensive effort to address the dual challenges of forest conservation and community livelihood in Odisha. By leveraging the successes and lessons of OFSDP-I and integrating sustainable practices, the project aims to create a balanced approach to forest management and community development.

1.2 Objectives

The Odisha Forestry Sector Development Project, Phase II aims at enhancing forest ecosystem along with sustainable livelihood of local people by improving sustainable forest management, sustainable biodiversity conservation and simultaneous community development, thereby contributing to harmonization between environmental conservation and socio-economic development in the project area in the State. The major themes of the project are:

- Sustainable Forest Management (SFM) through community participation
- Livelihood promotion through Inter-sectoral convergence
- Experiments in Biodiversity Conservation & management, which include
  - Satoyama Initiatives in Badarama Wildlife Sanctuary &
  - Scientific Monitoring of Bhittarkanika Conservation Area in Mangrove Wildlife Division, Rajnagar.

OFSDP-II is being implemented following Joint Forest Management Mode, wherein, communities are facilitated by the project to initiate planning and execution of interventions with the assistance of project personnel. Funds for the implementation of the planned work is largely managed through the community institutions, namely- Vana Surakshya Samiti (VSS).

In order to achieve the overall goal, the basic approaches followed are:

- Protection and management of forest by active participation of community through Joint Forest Management.
- Forest Restoration component like plantation of indigenous forest species in the degraded forest land assigned to the VSSs, soil and moisture conservation measures and forest fire control and management.
- Augmenting alternate livelihood options for the forest fringe dwellers for the reduction of dependence and biotic pressure on forest.
- Conducting experiments on conservation and scientific management of the biodiversity in protected areas.
- Comprehensive community development through inter-sectoral convergence.
- Promotion of Income Generating Activities (IGAs) by the Self-Help Groups (SHGs), Common Interest Groups (CIGs) and Poorest of Poor (PoP) with the additional assistance of Revolving Fund (RF) at VSS level.
- Strengthening the backward and forward market linkages trough establishing & operationalizing the multi-product clusters under the project.
- Sustainable forest management and people's empowerment in decision making through enhanced capacity of community members.

1.3 Project Design

OFSDP-II has been formulated to be implemented in ten years commencing from 2017-18 to 2026-27 and the implementation modality has been divided in to three phases, as below:

- Preparatory Phase (First Year of the Project- 2017-18)
- Implementation Phase (2nd to 8th year of the Project- 2018-19 to 2024-25)
- Consolidation / Phase Out Phase (Last two years of the project- 2025-26 and 2026- 27)

1.3.1 Preparatory Phase

The first year of the project, designated as the Preparatory Phase, involved several foundational activities to ensure effective implementation and management. The key activities undertaken during this phase include:

- Establishment of the Project Management Unit (PMU) at the state level.
- Creation of Divisional Management Units (DMUs) at the Forest Division level.
- Formation of Field Management Units (FMUs) at the Forest Range level.
- Hiring and deployment of necessary contractual staff across PMU, DMU, and FMU levels.
- Engagement of Partner Non-Governmental Organizations (P-NGOs).
- Procurement of a Project Management Consultant (PMC) at the PMU level.
- Preparation of various operational guidelines including Operation Manual, VSS (Vana Suraksha Samiti) Management Manual and Other essential guidelines for project execution.
- Formulation of a Training Needs Assessment (TNA).
- Preparation of guidelines for the development of Micro Plan documents at the VSS level.
- Selection and mobilization of VSS.
- Orientation for officials and staff of OFSDP-II (Odisha Forestry Sector Development Project-II).

These activities collectively laid a robust foundation for the project's subsequent phases, ensuring that the necessary structures, personnel, and guidelines were in place to facilitate smooth and effective project execution.

1.3.2 Implementation Phase

Implementation of the project activities in 1211 VSSs/EDCs were planned to be taken up in four batches by covering 300 VSSs in Batch-1, 400 VSSs in Batch-II, 350 VSSs in Batch-III & 150 VSSs in Batch-IV. In addition, the project is also implemented with the objective of sustainable biodiversity conservation in 10 EDCs of Badarama Wildlife Santuary in Bamra Wildlife Division. The P-NGO Teams were deployed in each FMU to ensure and assist VSSs to take up project activities in respective batches. Engagement of Animators at VSS level has been provisioned to facilitate the Executive Committee of the VSS and the Self-Help Groups (SHGs) for implementation of project activities.:

The implementation phase of the project involves a structured plan to cover 1211 VSSs and EDCs (Eco-Development Committees) in multiple batches, along with specific objectives for sustainable biodiversity

conservation in selected wildlife sanctuaries. The plan and interventions for this phase include phased deployment of VSSs/EDCs as given below:

- Batch-1: 300 VSSs
- Batch-2: 400 VSSs
- Batch-3: 350 VSSs
- Batch-4: 150 VSSs

The project aims for sustainable biodiversity conservation in 10 EDCs within the Badarama Wildlife Sanctuary, located in the Bamra Wildlife Division. The deployment of support staff includes

- P-NGO Teams: Partner-NGO teams are deployed in each FMU to ensure and assist VSSs in their respective batches.
- Animators: Engagement of Animators at the VSS level is provisioned to facilitate the Executive Committees of the VSS and the Self-Help Groups (SHGs) for effective implementation of project activities.

The broad categories of project interventions included

- Community Mobilization and Capacity Building: Training and capacity-building activities for VSS members, SHGs, and community stakeholders to enhance their participation and skills.
- Forest Management Activities: Initiatives such as afforestation, reforestation, and sustainable forest management practices.
- Biodiversity Conservation Measures: Activities aimed at protecting and enhancing biodiversity within the project areas, particularly in the designated wildlife sanctuary.
- Livelihood Development Programs: Support for SHGs and community members to develop sustainable livelihood options that align with conservation goals.
- Monitoring and Evaluation: Regular monitoring and evaluation of project activities to ensure progress and adapt strategies as needed for better outcomes.

These structured interventions and phased implementation plans are designed to systematically address the project's goals, ensuring sustainable development and conservation efforts are effectively integrated and executed. The specific interventions scheduled under each broad category which are taken up in the Implementation phase included as detailed below.

i. Sustainable Forest Management:
In JFM Mode

- Silvicultural Operations including Plantation
- ANR without gap plantation
- ANR with gap plantation of 200 / 400 / 800 seedlings/ha
- Block plantation v.i.z Fuel and Fodder, NTFP and other Block plantations
- Soil and Moisture Conservation (SMC) measures,
- Drainage Line Treatment (DLT)
- Fire prevention and protection measures

In Non-JFM Mode

- Consolidation and demarcation of forest boundaries
- Construction and improvement of permanent nursery in the form of Hi-Tech Nursery
- Soil and Moisture Conservation Measures
- Non-JFM Drainage Line Treatment
- Farm Forestry

ii. Experiments in Sustainable Biodiversity Management

- Formulation of scientific Health Report Card for concurrent monitoring of conservation and management parameters of Bhitakanika Conservation Area (BCA).
- Implementation of Satoyama Initiative model in Badarma Wildlife Sanctuary under Bamra Wildlife Division for Sustainable Biodiversity Management.

iii. Livelihood Initiatives

- Comprehensive community development through inter-sectoral convergence with the schemes and programme of line Departments
- Coordination with line Departments for convergence through District Advisory Committee (DAC) at District level and Block Level Advisory Committee (BLAC) at Block level.
- Augmenting alternate livelihood options through Vana Surakshya Samitees (VSS)/ Self Help Groups (SHGs)/ Common Interest Groups (CIGs)/ Poorest of Poor (PoPs).
- Establishment of Product Clusters for promotion of income generating activities in the project area.
- Establishing Livelihood Resource Cell (LRC) at PMU level to facilitate promotion of cluster based income generating activities.

iv. Capacity Building

- Capacity building trainings and orientations for all stakeholders
- Consultation and seminars
- Exposure visits

v. Knowledge Management and Documentation

- Documentation of lessons learnt during implementation of project.
- Publication of success stories, newsletters, theme-based documentary films, quarterly reports, annual reports etc.
- Publication of training materials and guidelines.

vi. Cross-cutting Issues

- Gender Mainstreaming (GM)
- Community Based Monitoring, Reporting and Verification (CMRV)
- Environmental and Social Management System Framework (ESMSF)

vii. Monitoring and Evaluation System in OFSDP-II

The key elements of Monitoring and Evaluation System of OFSDP-II are mainly grouped into

a) Monitoring,

b) Impact Assessment and

c) Audit.

The elements of the M&E arrangement are as follows:

a. Monitoring:

- Concurrent monitoring and periodic Reviews,
- Inter-sectoral coordination meetings for convergence,
- Community self-monitoring
- Computerized MIS & GIS,
- Computerized Accounting System,
- Technology based monitoring-GIS and MIS applications, and
- Annual strategy planning and review workshops.

b. Impact Assessment:

- Annual outcome assessments,
- Baseline and impact surveys, and
- Thematic and short studies.

c. Audits:

- Social audits,
- Statutory financial audits,
- Concurrent audits,
- Grievance redressal, RTI and public disclosure,
- Operation and effect indicators

1.3.3 Consolidation / Phase-Out phase

The consolidation phase is the Phase-out period of OFSDP-II which will start during the 9th year of the project i.e. during 2025-26. Accordingly, it has been planned to complete all project interventions by the end of 8th year for all batches (i.e. by 2024- 25). Phase-out is the time for consolidation of project achievements and to start the process to handover the project to the actual owners (Forest Department / Community Institutions). It is also mandated to review the capacity of the VSSs and SHGs and ensure sustainability of such institutions by way of linking them with appropriate institutions / support organizations for continued operations. The interventions proposed during the consolidation phase include:

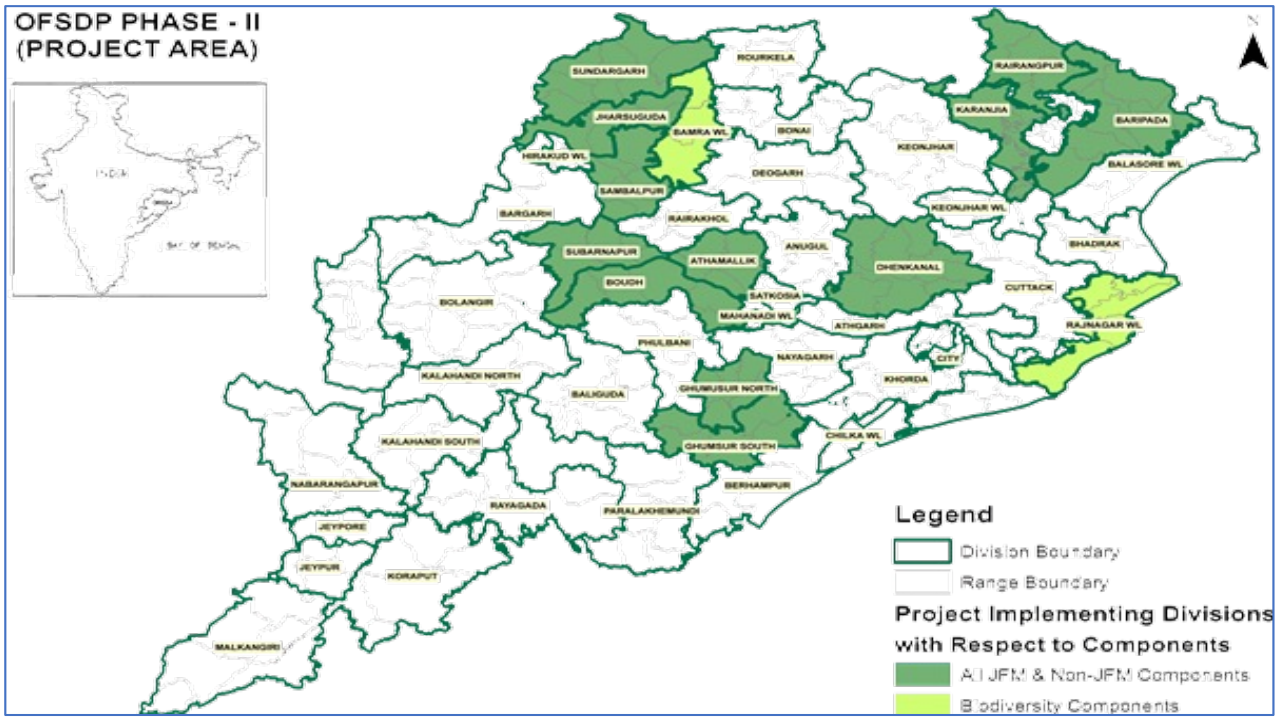
- Asset inventory
- Revisiting of Micro Plans
- Phase-out trainings
- Strengthening the clusters/ federations of VSS at FMU level
- Linkage with the Livelihood Resource Centre
- End term evaluation
- Dissemination of knowledge / lessons learnt and its management etc.

1.4 Project Area

The project was planned to be implemented in 1200 VSSs from 50 Forest Ranges in 12 Territorial Forest Divisions and 10 numbers of EDCs in Badarma Wildlife Sanctuary of Bamra Wildlife Divisions and Experiment in Mangrove Wildlife Division, Rajnagar falling under 10 numbers of administrative Districts and 7 numbers of Forest Circles in the state of Odisha. The VSSs coverage under the project is given below:

Circle	District	Division	No of FMUs	No of VSSs
Angul	Angul	Athamallik	3	75
	Dhenkanal	Dhenkanal	6	150
Baripada	Mayurbhanj	Baripada	6	135
		Rairangpur	5	107
		Karanjia	4	80
Berhampur	Boudh	Boudh	3	71
	Ganjam	Ghumsur (N)	4	100
		Ghumsur (S)	3	65
Bhawanipatna	Sonepur	Subarnapur	3	84
Rourkela	Sundergarh	Sundergarh	5	156
Sambalpur	Jharsuguda	Jharsuguda	3	88
	Sambalpur	Sambalpur	4	100
		Bamra (WL)	0	10 EDCs
Bhubaneswar	Kendrapada	Rajnagar Mangrove (WL)	0	
7 Circles	10 Districts	12 Divisions	49 FMUs	1211 VSSs +10 EDCs

Note: Kendumundi and Thakurmunda FMUs of Karanjia Forest Division have been merged to form Thakurmunda FMU. Thus at present the number of FMUs in the Project area is 49.



1.5 Institutional Arrangements

1.5.1 Odisha Forestry Sector Development Society (OFSDS)

Odisha Forestry Sector Development Project, Phase-II (OFSD-II) is being implemented by Odisha Forestry Sector Development Society (OFSDS), which is an autonomous registered Society under the administrative control of Forest, Environment and Climate Change Department, Govt. of Odisha. The office bearers of the Society are as below:

- President is the Chief Secretary, Government of Odisha
- Vice President is the Additional Chief Secretary Department of Forest, Environment and Climate Change, Government of Odisha
- Chief Executive Officer is the PCCF (Projects) and Project Director, OFSDS

1.5.2 High Power Committee

The High-Power Committee (HPC) is the highest decision-making body for the OFSDP-II at State Government level. HPC is responsible for the following

- Approval of the Operation Manual (including Financial Rules / Procedures) for the Project,
- Approval of Budget and Annual Plan of Operation of the Project,
- Review the project performance every six months and framing of operational procedures for the project for smooth and effective implementation.

The Committee meets at least once in every six months or more frequently as per necessity. The HPC also facilitates coordination amongst various line Departments of the state and other agencies to achieve the project goals.

1.5.3 Governing Body

The Governing Body (GB) of the Odisha Forestry Sector Development Society (OFSDS) serves as the highest decision-making authority for the Odisha Forestry Sector Development Project-II (OFSDP-II) under the Society Registration Act of 1860. Chaired by the Additional Chief Secretary to the Government, Department of Forest, Environment & Climate Change, Government of Odisha, the GB is tasked with several critical responsibilities:

- The GB grants authority to the Project Management Unit (PMU) for day-to-day operations, ensuring smooth and efficient project management.
- It supports the PMU by approving the Budget and Annual Plan of Operation (APO) along with other necessary proposals throughout the year.
- The GB rigorously reviews project progress against the annual plans at least quarterly. This includes both financial and physical progress monitoring to ensure the project stays on track.
- It provides strategic guidance to the PMU in preparing the Operational Manual, ensuring that the project activities are well-documented and standardized.
- The GB prepares proposals for the High-Powered Committee (HPC) when necessary, facilitating the smooth implementation of project activities.

These responsibilities underscore the GB's pivotal role in ensuring that OFSDP-II meets its objectives effectively and efficiently.

1.5.4 Project Management Unit

The Project Management Unit (PMU) of the Odisha Forestry Sector Development Project-II (OFSDP-II) is established at the State level with the primary responsibility of managing, coordinating, implementing, and monitoring the project's activities. The major mandate of PMU is to execute the proposed project activities in accordance with the project implementation schedule, Annual Plan of Operations (APO), and prescribed processes.

Key aspects of the Project Management Unit (PMU)'s structure and functions include:

The PMU is led by the Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (Projects) & Project Director of OFSDS. The Project Director provides strategic direction and oversight for the project's execution.

The Project Director is supported by a dedicated team of officers to ensure the smooth implementation of the project interventions. The support team includes:

- Additional Project Director / Joint Project Director: Assists in high-level project management and coordination.
- Deputy Project Directors (DPDs): Responsible for specific aspects of the project, ensuring detailed attention and management.
- State Project Managers: Facilitate various project interventions, ensuring that activities are carried out as planned.

The PMU is mandated to implement the project's activities, adhering strictly to the detailed project implementation schedule and the Annual Plan of Operations. This ensures that all processes and activities are in line with the project's objectives and timelines. The PMU coordinates with various stakeholders and monitors the progress of project activities to ensure alignment with the project's goals.

This involves regular reporting, assessment, and adjustment of strategies as needed to maintain the project's momentum and effectiveness. The PMU's structured and focused approach is critical for the successful implementation and monitoring of OFSDP-II, ensuring that the project achieves its intended outcomes efficiently and effectively.

1.5.5 Regional CCF Offices (RCCFs)

Circle Offices of the Forest Department having the jurisdiction of the Project Divisions, supervise the project interventions and co- ordinate between the project and regular Departmental activities. The RCCFs also review the project works vis-à-vis financial and physical progress of the Divisions under their jurisdiction.

1.5.6 Project Management Consultants (PMC)

In the design and institutional arrangements of the Odisha Forestry Sector Development Project-II (OFSDP-II), a team of Project Management Consultants (PMC) has been deployed at the state level. The role of the PMC is crucial for the effective management and implementation of the project. The PMC team works closely with the Project Management Unit (PMU) to assist in managing the project. This collaboration ensures that the PMU receives the necessary support to handle the complex aspects of project management effectively. The PMC provides essential technical guidance for various project interventions. Their expertise helps in planning, executing, and monitoring the technical aspects of the project activities, ensuring that they are carried out efficiently and according to best practices.

Throughout the implementation years, the PMC supports the PMU by offering specialized knowledge and skills that may not be available within the PMU. This includes assistance in areas such as project planning, resource management, capacity building, and performance evaluation. By extending their technical expertise and management support, the PMC plays a significant role in enhancing the overall outcomes of the project. Their involvement helps in overcoming technical challenges, optimizing resource utilization, and ensuring that the project objectives are met in a timely and effective manner. The deployment of the PMC as part of the project design and institutional arrangements ensures that OFSDP-II benefits from professional management and technical expertise, which is vital for the successful implementation and sustainability of the project activities.

1.5.7 Divisional Management Unit

As part of the Odisha Forestry Sector Development Project-II (OFSDP-II), a structured approach has been adopted for implementing project interventions at the field level. This approach includes the creation of 14 Divisional Management Units (DMUs) within the existing Forest Territorial and Wildlife Divisions. Each DMU is designed to facilitate effective project implementation through localized management and coordination. Here are the key components of the DMU structure and their roles:

Each DMU is headed by the Divisional Forest Officer (DFO) of the concerned division, who is designated as the DMU Chief. The DMU Chief is responsible for overseeing all project activities within their respective DMU, ensuring that interventions are carried out efficiently and effectively.

The DMU Chief is assisted by a team of professionals to support the diverse needs of the project. This team includes:

Assistant Conservator of Forest (ACF): Provides administrative and operational support to the DMU Chief.

Subject Matter Specialists: Livelihood, Rural Financing, and Marketing Specialist: He focuses on improving

livelihood options, facilitating rural financing, and enhancing market access for project beneficiaries. Monitoring & Evaluation (M&E), GIS/MIS, REDD+ Specialist: He is responsible for monitoring and evaluating project progress, managing Geographic Information System (GIS) and Management Information System (MIS) data, and supporting REDD+ (Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation) initiatives.

Project Accountant: Engaged on a contractual basis, this role involves managing financial transactions, maintaining accounts, and ensuring compliance with financial regulations.

1.5.8 Field Management Units

The implementation of the Odisha Forestry Sector Development Project-II (OFSDP-II) at the field level is organized through Field Management Units (FMUs). Initially, 50 FMUs were established, but currently, there are 49 units. These FMUs are created within the existing Forest Ranges across 12 Territorial Forest Divisions. FMUs are responsible for implementing project activities at the field level, particularly at the Vana Suraksha Samiti (VSS) level. These FMUs are critical for the direct execution of project interventions within local communities. Here are the details of the FMU structure and their roles:

Leadership: Each FMU is headed by an FMU Chief, who is tasked with overseeing all project interventions within their jurisdiction. The FMU Chief is supported by a Forester designated as the Assistant FMU Chief, providing additional management and operational support.

Support Team: The FMU Chief is further assisted by a team of professionals to ensure effective implementation of project activities. This team includes: Assistant FMU Chief: A Forester who assists the FMU Chief in managing daily operations and field activities. FMU Coordinators: Two specialists focusing on different aspects of the project (a) Micro Planning & Livelihood Support Coordinator: This role involves planning and supporting livelihood initiatives to enhance the economic well-being of the local communities and (b) Training & Process Documentation Coordinator: He is responsible for organizing training sessions and documenting processes to ensure transparency and knowledge dissemination. Project Accountant: Manages financial transactions, maintains accounts, and ensures that financial operations comply with regulatory requirements.

Role and Responsibilities of FMU:

- Micro Planning: Developing detailed micro plans in collaboration with the local communities to ensure that interventions are tailored to meet local needs.
- Livelihood Support: Implementing programs that support sustainable livelihoods, such as skill development, income generation activities, and market linkages.
- Training: Organizing training programs to build the capacity of VSS members and other stakeholders.
- Process Documentation: Ensuring that all processes and activities are well-documented, promoting transparency and accountability.
- Financial Management: Handling the financial aspects of project implementation, ensuring proper use of funds and maintaining accurate financial records.

This structure ensures that the FMUs are well-equipped to manage and execute project interventions effectively at the grassroots level. By leveraging the expertise of the FMU Chiefs and their support teams, the project aims to achieve sustainable forestry management and enhance the livelihoods of local communities.

1.5.9 Van Surakshya Samiti (VSS) / Eco Development Committees (EDC)

Under the Odisha Forestry Sector Development Project-II (OFSDP-II), a robust mechanism has been established for engaging and empowering local institutions like Vana Suraksha Samitis (VSSs) and Eco-Development Committees (EDCs) to participate in project interventions through the Joint Forest Management (JFM) mode. Here are the key details and processes involved:

Identification and Engagement: Against the target of 1200 VSSs and 1 EDC, 1211 VSSs and 10 EDCs have been identified based on prescribed selection criteria. The willingness of these institutions was sought before involving them in the project interventions.

Joint Forest Management (JFM) Mode: Following the JFM Resolution, 2011 and its Amendment of 2015, a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) has been signed between each VSS and the respective Divisional Management Unit (DMU). The MoU specifies the extent of the assigned area with geo-coordinates, detailed roles and responsibilities of both parties, and the facilities and usufructs sharing arrangements.

Recognition by Gram Sabha: The Executive Committee of each VSS is recognized by the Gram Sabha to function as a Sub-Committee of the Gram Sabha. This sub-committee is responsible for the protection and management of the forest assigned to the VSS.

Fund Transfer and Utilization: VSSs and EDCs receive funds directly from the DMU as per the Annual Plan of Operation (APO) during the respective financial year, in one or more instalments. This direct fund transfer mechanism promotes efficiency and timely implementation of project interventions as planned.

Roles and Responsibilities:

VSS/EDC: Responsible for planning, implementation, monitoring, and reporting of activities at the grassroots level as per the MoU agreements.

Project Implementation: The VSSs and EDCs implement project activities on the ground, ensuring alignment with the APO and MoU guidelines. Regular monitoring and reporting are conducted to ensure transparency and accountability in the utilization of funds and the execution of project interventions.

This structured approach ensures that local communities are actively involved in the management and protection of forest resources, promoting sustainable forestry practices and enhancing the livelihoods of the community members. The collaboration between DMUs, FMUs, VSSs, and EDCs fosters a participatory management model, critical for the success and sustainability of OFSDP-II.

1.5.10 Partner NGOs

Partner NGOs (P-NGOs) play a crucial role in the Odisha Forestry Sector Development Project-II (OFSDP-II) by supporting and mobilizing various community-based organizations at the field level. Here are the key aspects of their engagement and responsibilities:

Engagement and Supervision: P-NGOs have been engaged at the Field Management Unit (FMU) level to assist in the implementation of project activities. The teams from P-NGOs stationed at the FMU level are directly supervised by the FMU Chief, ensuring adherence to the Terms of Reference (ToR) and alignment with project goals.

Primary Responsibilities:

Community Mobilization: P-NGOs are responsible for mobilizing and engaging communities, including Vana Suraksha Samitis (VSSs), Eco-Development Committees (EDCs), Self-Help Groups (SHGs), Common Interest Groups (CIGs), and Poorest of the Poor (POPs).

Institution Building: They assist in building and strengthening community institutions, ensuring they are well-organized and capable of managing project activities.

Participatory Rural Appraisal (PRA) and Micro Planning: Facilitating PRA exercises and developing micro plans in collaboration with the communities to ensure that interventions are tailored to local needs and priorities.

Implementation of Interventions: Supporting VSSs and EDCs in implementing project activities as per the Annual Plan of Operations (APO).

Coordination for Convergence: Collaborating with extension officers from different line departments to achieve inter-sectoral convergence in community development initiatives.

Income Generating Activities (IGAs): Helping community institutions like VSSs and SHGs to identify, plan, and execute sustainable income-generating activities.

Role in Project Activities:

- P-NGOs play a pivotal role in ensuring that the community-based organizations are actively involved in the project, fostering a sense of ownership and participation.
- They provide technical and logistical support, capacity building, and continuous guidance to the community institutions.
- Their involvement ensures that the project interventions are culturally appropriate, economically viable, and environmentally sustainable.

Coordination and Facilitation:

- P-NGOs work closely with FMUs to ensure seamless coordination and implementation of project activities.
- They facilitate communication between the community institutions and the project management structures, ensuring that feedback and progress are regularly monitored and addressed.

By engaging P-NGOs, OFSDP-II leverages local expertise and builds strong community partnerships, which are essential for the successful and sustainable implementation of the project. This approach not only enhances the effectiveness of project interventions but also empowers local communities to take an active role in forest management and sustainable development.

1.5.11 Animator

In the Odisha Forestry Sector Development Project-II (OFSDP-II), the engagement of Animators at the Vana Suraksha Samiti (VSS) level is a critical component to ensure the smooth functioning and effective documentation of project activities. Here are the key details regarding their engagement and responsibilities:

Engagement and Honorarium: Each VSS engages two Animators, one male and one female animator who are compensated with an honorarium by the respective VSSs, following the prescribed guidelines of the project. This arrangement is in place for the initial two years of the project.

Roles and Responsibilities:

- The Animators support the office bearers of the Executive Committee in their routine functions, ensuring efficient management and operation of the VSS.

- They assist VSS/EDC members in various activities, helping to enhance their participation and effectiveness in project interventions.
- Animators play a key role in maintaining accurate records and documentation of the VSS activities, which is crucial for monitoring and reporting purposes.

Transition to one Animator: From the third year onwards, the engagement strategy transitions to retaining one Animator per VSS, with a preference for selecting a female Animator. This Animator continues to work for the subsequent three years, providing ongoing support and ensuring continuity in the VSS operations.

Importance of female representation: The preference for a female Animator in the later years of the project highlights the emphasis on gender inclusion and empowerment. Female Animators can play a significant role in mobilizing women in the community, ensuring that their voices and contributions are recognized and integrated into the project activities.

Community empowerment: By engaging Animators, the project aims to build local capacity and ensure that VSS members are well-supported in their roles. Animators facilitate the effective implementation of project interventions, contributing to the overall success and sustainability of the project.

This strategy of engaging Animators not only enhances the operational efficiency of the VSSs but also fosters greater community involvement and ownership of the project. Their role is pivotal in bridging the gap between the project management and the community, ensuring that project goals are met through active and sustained participation of all stakeholders.

1.5.12 District Advisory Committee (DAC)

The establishment of the District Advisory Committee (DAC) is a significant step in ensuring the smooth implementation of the Odisha Forestry Sector Development Project-II (OFSDP-II) across ten project districts in the state. Here are the key details and functions of the DAC:

Constitution and Purpose: The DAC was constituted by the Government through Notification No 8118 / F&E, dated April 21, 2017. It functions as a multi-sectoral coordination body to ensure optimal and effective inter-sectoral convergence of various ongoing government programs and schemes within the districts where OFSDP-II is implemented.

The DAC is established in the following ten project districts: Mayurbhanj, Ganjam, Boudh, Sonepur, Sambalpur, Angul, Sundergarh, Jharsuguda, Dhenkanal, and Kendrapada.

Committee Composition:

Chairperson: The District Collector heads the DAC, providing overall leadership and ensuring district-level coordination.

Member Convenor: The Divisional Forest Officer (DFO) of the District Headquarters serves as the Member Convenor, facilitating communication and coordination among committee members.

Members: Senior officials from various line departments are members of the committee, ensuring representation from all relevant sectors.

Meeting Frequency: The DAC members meet at least once every two months. These regular meetings are crucial for discussing progress, addressing challenges, and planning coordinated actions for effective project implementation.

Roles and Responsibilities:

- The DAC ensures effective coordination among different government departments and agencies, promoting synergies and avoiding overlaps in activities.
- It works towards the convergence of various government programs and schemes, aligning them with the objectives of OFSDP-II to maximize impact.
- The committee provides support and guidance for the implementation of project activities, addressing any administrative or logistic issues that arise.
- It monitors the progress of the project, evaluates the outcomes of interventions, and ensures that the project stays on track to meet its goals.

The DAC plays a critical role in facilitating the integration of OFSDP-II with other development initiatives in the district It helps in leveraging additional resources, expertise, and support from various sectors, thereby enhancing the effectiveness and sustainability of project interventions. By fostering a collaborative approach among different sectors and ensuring regular oversight, the District Advisory Committee significantly contributes to the successful implementation of OFSDP-II, ultimately benefiting the forest management efforts and the livelihoods of the local communities.

1.5.13 Block Level Advisory Committee (BLAC)

The Government of Odisha has constituted Block Level Advisory Committees to further support the effective implementation of the Odisha Forestry Sector Development Project-II (OFSDP-II) at the block level. These committees play a vital role in ensuring coordinated efforts and convergence of various government programs and schemes within the respective blocks. Here are the key aspects of the committee:

Constitution and Purpose: The Block Level Advisory Committees were established through Notification No 4F (S)-03/2017 (Pt.) / 26724 / F&E, dated December 23rd, 2017. These committees are formed in 63 Blocks to cover areas within the 50 Field Management Units (FMUs) or Ranges of OFSDP-II. Their primary purpose is to facilitate smooth project implementation and act as multi-sectoral coordination bodies to ensure effective inter-sectoral convergence of ongoing government programs and schemes in the respective Community Development (CD) Blocks where OFSDP-II is implemented.

Committee Composition:

Chairperson: The Block Development Officer (BDO) of the respective Revenue Block chairs the committee meetings, providing leadership and ensuring coordination at the block level.

Member Convenor: The Headquarter Range Officer serves as the Member Convenor, facilitating communication and coordination among committee members and with the project management units.

Members: All block-level officials from various welfare departments are members of the committee, ensuring comprehensive representation from all relevant sectors involved in community and rural development.

Meeting Frequency: The Block Level Advisory Committee meets once every month. These regular meetings are essential for discussing progress, addressing challenges, and planning coordinated actions based on the needs identified by villagers during the micro-planning process.

Roles and Responsibilities:

Multi-Sectoral Coordination: The committee ensures effective coordination among different government departments and agencies operating at the block level, promoting synergies and avoiding overlaps in activities.

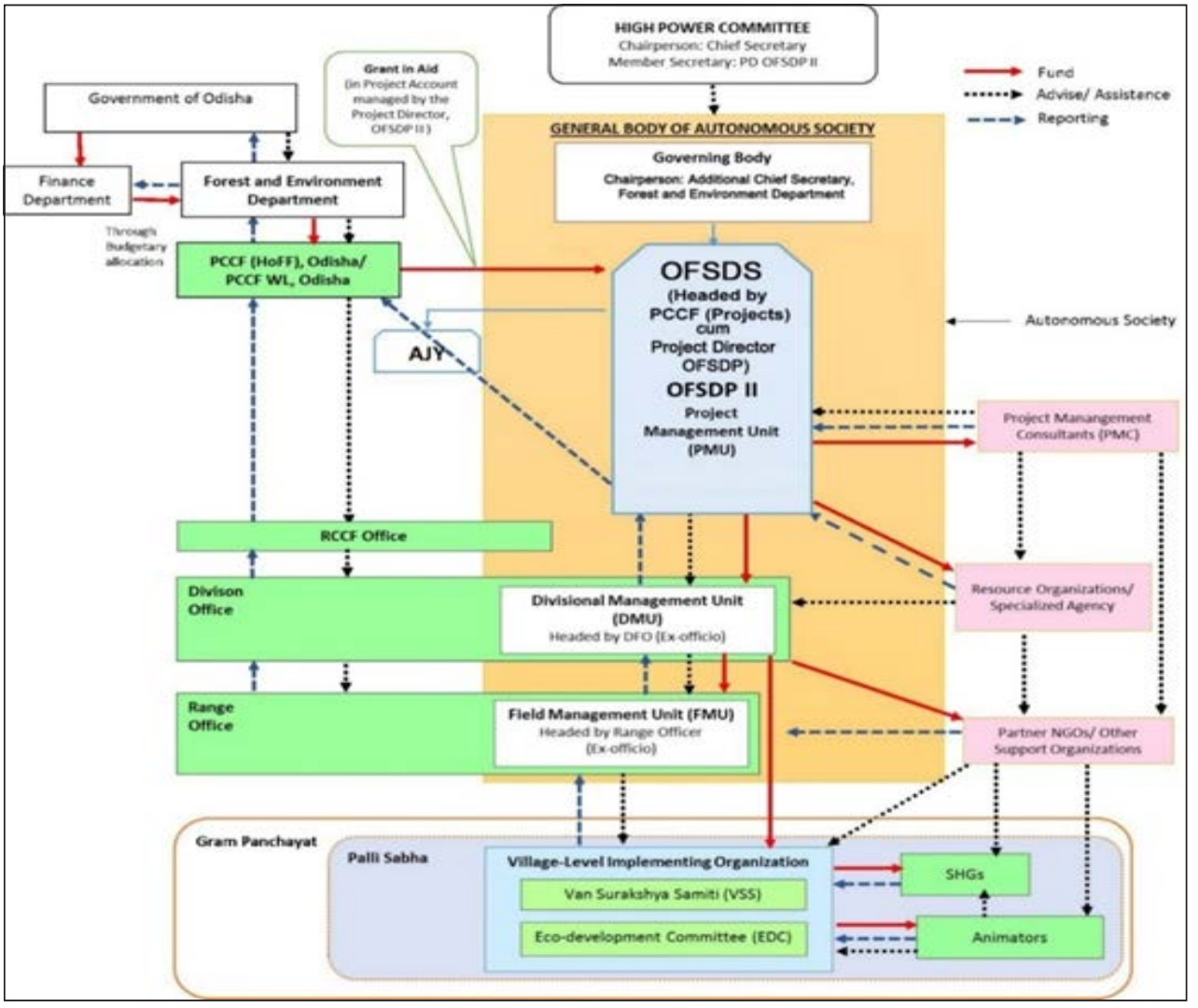
Convergence of Programs: It works towards the convergence of various government programs and schemes, aligning them with the objectives of OFSDP-II to maximize impact and resource utilization.

Support for Implementation: The committee provides support and guidance for the implementation of project activities, ensuring that interventions are in line with the needs identified by the community during micro-planning.

Facilitation of Government Schemes: It facilitates the implementation of government schemes and programs in project villages, addressing specific needs identified by the villagers.

The Block Level Advisory Committees play a critical role in integrating OFSDP-II activities with other development initiatives at the block level. By fostering a collaborative approach among different sectors, the committees enhance the effectiveness and sustainability of project interventions, ultimately benefiting forest management efforts and the livelihoods of local communities. The establishment of Block Level Advisory Committees ensures that the OFSDP-II can leverage additional resources and expertise from various sectors, promoting a holistic and integrated approach to rural development and forest conservation. Their regular oversight and support are crucial for addressing local needs and achieving the project's objectives.

1.5.14 The Organogram for implementation of OFSDP-II is as below:



1.5.15 Roles and responsibilities of different Institutions:

Institution	Roles and Responsibility
High Power Committee (HPC)	▪ Highest decision-making Authority of the Project ▪ Approval of budget and Annual Plan of Operations of the Project; and review the project performance every six-months especially in the Preparatory Phase ▪ Approval of the Operation Manual (including Financial Rules/ procedures) for the Project; ▪ Framing operational procedures for the Project for smooth and effective implementation; ▪ Facilitating inter-Departmental coordination for required synergy and convergence and also to supervise the minimizing duplication of efforts; ▪ Taking up initiatives to resolve issues with GOI and JICA, if required.
Governing Body (GB)	▪ Highest decision-making body of the autonomous society ▪ Providing authority to the PMU for day-to-day functioning; ▪ Supporting the PMU in approval of Budget and Annual Plan of Operation, and other proposals of the project; ▪ Rigorously review the project progress vis-à-vis Annual Plans at least once every quarter; monitor financial and physical progress ▪ Facilitate sanction of budgets & release and monitor the fund disbursement status ▪ Guide the PMU in the preparation of Operation Manual; ▪ Prepare proposals for the HPC whenever necessary for the smooth implementation of the Project
Project Management Unit (PMU)	▪ Final decision maker with regards to day-to-day Project activities, and would utilize autonomy to ensure smooth and timely implementation of the project ▪ PMU manages the budgets and releases and monitors the project activities ▪ Keeps track of the project implementation, and responsible to guide, issue instructions, prepare guidelines, execute capacity development plan, establish and operate M&E system, ▪ Undertake field visits and provide-hand holding support in field in almost all respect for ensuring efficient implementation of the project ▪ Collate and consolidate the expenditure statements from DMU and FMU offices and prepare Statement of Expenditures for getting Reimbursement of Claims ▪ Organize annual planning and review workshop at state level, and conduct AGM ▪ Undertake statutory and internal/ concurrent audits
Project Management Consultants (PMC)	▪ Provides technical and managerial support to PMU ▪ Supports PMU by a team of experts to augment various skills required for the project implementation
Circle Offices	▪ Are responsible for the regular overseeing of DMU offices ▪ Cross-checking project works vis-à-vis financial and physical progress reporting ▪ Conduct monthly meetings / hearings for Grievance Redressal ▪ Chair and participate in Annual Planning and Review Workshop and other events organized at Division level

Divisional Management Unit (DMU)	▪ Assist the PMU in planning, fund management, work progress monitoring and documentation at the field level ▪ Supervise, monitor, review and guide field functionaries and activities; and conduct monthly review meetings ▪ Prepare physical and financial reports, and timely submit SOEs and utilization certificates ▪ Maintain separate bank account and records for project funds, and facilitate audits ▪ Organize annual planning and review workshop at Divisional level, and execute capacity building plan ▪ Provide budgets to VSSs, EDCs, prepared as per approved micro-plans / Annual plans of Implementation
Field Management Unit (FMU)	▪ Assist the DMU in planning, fund management, work progress monitoring and documentation at the field level ▪ Facilitate micro-planning process, and support its implementation ▪ FMU will provide technical assistance directly to implementing institutions (VSSs, EDCs, SHGs) and Partner NGOs ▪ Maintain separate bank account and records for project funds, and facilitate audits ▪ Prepare physical and financial reports, and timely provide utilization certificates for all annual releases to FMU and VSSs/ EDCs
District Advisory Committee(DAC)	▪ For smooth implementation and to function as a multi-sector coordination body for ensuring optimum inter sectoral convergence of various ongoing government programmes / schemes in the District in which, Odisha Forestry Sector Development Project, Phase-II is being implemented.
Block level Advisory Committee(BLAC)	▪ To function as a multi-sector coordination body for ensuring optimum inter sectoral convergence of various ongoing government programmes / schemes in the CD Block in which, Odisha Forestry Sector Development Project, Phase-II is being implemented

Target and Achievements upto 2024-25 (Consolidated)

CHAPTER 2

2.1 Introduction

In the Financial Year 2024–25, the Odisha Forestry Sector Development Project, Phase-II (OFSDP-II), marks the completion of seven years and enters its eighth year of implementation. The project continues to demonstrate substantial progress through its well-coordinated interventions and steadfast commitment to sustainable forestry practices. As of the reporting year, OFSDP-II has successfully covered 1,211 Vana Suraksha Samitis (VSSs) across 49 Forest Management Units (FMUs), encompassing 12 Forest Divisions throughout the state. All planned interventions are actively being implemented across these VSSs, reflecting the project's dedication to inclusive and community-centric forest management. The project adopts a holistic approach by promoting socio-ecological production landscapes, notably through initiatives like Satoyama, which aim to harmonize biodiversity conservation with livelihood improvement. This integrated model underscores the project's broader vision of achieving ecological resilience while supporting local communities.

In line with its commitment to ecosystem conservation, OFSDP-II has partnered with the National Center for Sustainable Coastal Management (NCSCM), Chennai, to collect baseline and monitoring data for the Bhitarkanika Conservation Area. This collaborative effort supports the long-term ecological monitoring of coastal ecosystems. A key outcome of this initiative is the publication of the Ecological Health Report Card-3 (2023), which provides valuable insights into the region's ecological health and facilitates informed decision-making for better management practices. Together, these efforts illustrate OFSDP-II's comprehensive strategy in fostering sustainable forestry, enhancing ecological stewardship, and strengthening community engagement in Odisha. The project stands as a model of collaborative and forward-looking planning for long-term environmental and socio-economic benefits.

2.2 Target & Achievement up-to2024-25 (Consolidated)

The consolidated Target and Achievement up-to 2023-24 are narrated in the table given below:

Sl. No.	Component	Activities	Target Details	Cumulative Achievements
1	Preparatory Works	Constitution of PMU, DMU, FMU and Deployment of Staff	1 PMU, 14 DMU, 51 FMU	1 PMU, 14 DMU, 51 FMU
		Deployment of P-NGO	51 Nos	34 Nos
		Engagement of PMC	1 Team.	1 Team.
		Orientation for PMU/DMU/FMU	1 PMU, 12 DMU, 50 FMU	1 PMU, 12 DMU, 50 FMUs
		Identification and constitution of VSSs /EDCs	1200 Nos.	1220 Nos
		Survey, demarcation and mapping of area assigned to VSSs.	1200 Nos.	1220 Nos; Assigned Area = 1,25,703 ha. Treatment Area = 57,292 ha.
		Review and revision of project Manuals / Guidelines	11 Nos	20 Nos
		Engagement of VSS/EDC Animators	2400 Numbers	2430 Numbers
		Micro Planning	1200 Nos	1220 Nos
		Annual Planning	1200 Nos	1220 Nos
		Revisit of Micro Plan (Fourth Year)	1200 Nos	1179 Nos in Batch-I,II, III & IV VSSs
		Social and Environmental Consideration	1 PMU, 12 DMU, 50 FMU	1 PMU, 12 DMU, 50 FMU
2	Sustainable Forest Management – JFM Mode	Assisted Natural Regeneration.	51000 ha.	51006 ha
		Artificial Regeneration.	6000 ha.	6286 ha
		Fire Protection.	1710 km.	1710.39 Km
		Drainage line treatment and Maintenance JFM.	1500 ha.	1504.5 ha
	Sustainable Forest Management – Non JFM Mode	Drainage line treatment and maintenance non JFM.	750 ha.	756.29 ha
		Consolidation and demarcation of forest boundaries.	1898 km.	1898 Km
		Setting up of Hi-Tech Nursery	6 Numbers	6 Nos
		Farm Forestry	10000 ha.	8650.69 ha
3.	Sustainable Biodiversity Management	Sustainable biodiversity management incorporating concept of SATOYAMA model.	1 Sanctuary	1 Sanctuary: 10 EDCs
		Establishment of scientific monitoring system at Bhitarakanika	1 Sanctuary	1 Sanctuary: Health Report Card for 3 years published
4.	Livelihood Improvement	Community Development	1200 VSS 1 EDC	1210 VSSs 10 EDCs
		Promotion of IGA	3600 WSHG	4624 SHGs are being strengthened
5.	Capacity Development	Executing Agency	1 PMU,12 DMUs, 50 FMUs	Capacity Building Training of All Stakeholders as per target completed. Till March, 2025: 5048 Nos of CBTs on 33 themes conducted covering 2,06,607 participants.
		Community Institutions	1200 VSS	
		Training of P-NGOs	50 Teams	
		Training of Animators	2400 Numbers	
		Promotion of product cluster at DMU	12 Numbers	
		Training of expansion of Farm Forestry	1200 VSS	
6.	Supporting Activities	Institutional and project management support	1 PMU, 14 DMUs, 51 FMUs & 7 Circle Offices.	1 PMU, 14 DMU, 50 FMU & 7 Circle Offices
		Monitoring and evaluation		
		Community based MRV system		

CHAPTER 3

Revisit of Micro Plan

3.1 Introduction

"MICRO PLAN" in the context of Odisha Forestry Sector Development Project Phase II has been perceived to be a guiding document for both management of forest areas assigned to the community under Joint Forest Management (JFM) mode as well as to plan for livelihood initiatives including income generating activities at the community level. It is a "Village Development Plan" which encompasses the expectations of the villagers, particularly the forest-dependent communities, Poorest of the Poor House Holds and other socially vulnerable sections and prospective plan for development activities of the village.

Village Micro Plan is a document which is used to plan out the needs and priorities of a community. It has been used to enable the forest fringe dwellers to effectively identify their needs and find means to fulfil them in a time bound manner. Micro Plan is a dynamic document and should address the requirements of changing times registering the achievements, the gaps and the prospects of addressing new domains within the available and restricted resources.

In this scenario, the Revisit of Micro Plan has been envisaged in the Project Document after 4 years of initial Micro Plan formulation to address the progress made so far, identify the gaps and explore the new possibilities. It should help in readjusting the project prescriptions from sustainable forest management to augment issues on Gender Mainstreaming, Community Based Monitoring Verification and Reporting and registering Environmental and Social Concerns in the form of Frameworks which can be monitored at the grass-root level by the community itself.

3.2 Rationale behind Revisit of Micro Plan

The rationale for reviewing the micro plan is summarized as given below:

- To understand and review the status of implementation of work items proposed in the micro plan document.
- To capture changing needs of the community and try to address the same.
- To include components those were not reflected in the previous micro plan.
- To re-evaluate the relevance of the works which are in the plan but not taken up /addressed under the present-day scenario and to readjust the same.

3.3 Rationale behind Revisit of Micro Plan

The objectives of the revisit of Micro Plan are:

- To ensure the community participation in assessing the progress made through the implementation of the Micro Plan by themselves.
- To examine each intervention in terms of the targets, achievements and progress.

- To incorporate and register the changing needs of the community.
- To realign the interventions with the changing needs of the community.
- To address the new concepts like Gender Mainstreaming, CMRV, and Social and Environmental considerations at community level.

3.4 Process of Revisit of Micro Plan

In order to review and revisit the micro plan, a comprehensive procedure has been adopted to ensure that all the parameters that need to be reviewed have been captured and analysed properly. For better understanding of the process and to follow a uniform format for all VSSs, a "Hand Book for Micro Plan Revision" was prepared by the PMU / PMC Experts in both English and Odia and was circulated to all DMU and FMUs both in hard and soft copies. The review of the micro plan requires a multifaceted approach which includes the following:

- Review of implementation status of the activities as per the existing micro plan document through Participatory Assessment,
- Analyze, review and list out the works proposed in the micro plan, and assess their relevance under present-day scenario.
- Integrating the principles of Gender mainstreaming in both Planning and Implementation involving women members as envisaged in Gender Acton Plan (GAP),
- Educating the community about the system of self-monitoring and adopting simple participatory tools for generating performance reports based on actual achievements at VSS level
- Ensuring the needs and priorities of vulnerable groups of the village to be managed through Social and Environmental Safeguards Frameworks during project implementation.
- Parallel community consultation through Focus Group Discussions (FGD) to capture and understand ever changing present-day priorities.
- Livelihood Initiatives planning through convergence, financial support through provision of Revolving Fund, and establishment of feeder and product clusters.

3.5 Progress of Re-visit of Micro Plans

As per the Project Guidelines of OFSDP Phase-II, the Micro Plans prepared at the VSS level needs to be reviewed after four years on completion of activities implemented as per the Micro Plan prescriptions. Accordingly, the Micro Plans prepared for the VSSs of Batch-I were revisited during 2022-23, Micro Plans of Batch-II VSSs were revisited during 2023-24 and Micro Plans of Batch-III & IV VSSs were revisited during 2024-25.

The DMU / Division wise no of Micro Plans revisited till the end of 2024-25 financial year is as follows batch wise and year wise:

Name of DMU / Division	Revision of Micro Plans carried out Till March 2025			
	Batch – I VSSs during 2022-23	Batch – II VSSs during 2023-24	Batch-III and IV VSSs during 2024-25	Total
Baripada	45	70	19	134
Rairangpur	40	60	07	107
Karanjia	20	20	40	80
Dhenkanal	25	27	98	150
Athamallik	20	25	29	74
Sundargarh	30	60	60	150
Jharsuguda	29	51	05	85
Sambalpur	55	20	25	100
Subarnapur	25	25	25	75
Boudh	20	20	23	63
Gh. North	25	24	51	100
Gh. South	20	20	20	60
Total	**354**	**422**	**402**	**1178**

Under this initiative, the initial Micro Plan Documents prepared for the VSSs were analysed and appropriately revised in a participatory approach (PRA Exercise) involving the VSS members and the officials and field functionaries of DMU, FMU, P-NGO Team etc. Capacity Building and Trainings for Master trainers at DMU level were organized for Revisit of Micro Plans by the PMU-PMC expert team followed by Orientation cum Capacity Building Training at FMU level for all the Batches. The capacity building training and for orientation of all field functionaries were organized at all FMU level by the Master Trainers of the DMU for revisit of Micro Plans of all Batch-II, Batch-III and Batch –IV VSSs before start of the process of revisit of Micro Plans.

The VSS / community members were actively involved in the process of revisiting the Micro Plans. The officials from PMU, PMC, DMU & FMU facilitated the processes at different level to make the revisit of micro plan effective and relevance to the community need and priorities.

During the year 2024-25, Micro Plans of 402 VSSs of Batch-III and Batch IV, covering all 12 FMUs, were revisited through PRA exercise and active involvement of VSS members.

Glimpses of PRA Exercise, FGD and Review meetings for Revisit of Micro Plans

3.6 Review and Feedback on Revised Micro Plans

Sample copies of the draft Revised Micro Plans were received from all DMUs and scrutinised at the PMU level by the CFM and Micro Plan Expert of the PMC and the feedbacks with need for modifications were intimated to the concerned Divisions through PMU. This step is taken to refine the Revised Miro Plans through review at PMU level by the PMC Experts. This was followed by a Division- wise review / discussion on the observations / feedbacks for the sample Revised Micro Plans received from the Division with the DMU Officials like the DMU Chief, Asst. DMU Chief, SMSs and the FMU level functionaries like the FMU Chief, Asst. FMU Chief, FMU Coordinators, PNGO staff, Member Secretaries and Animators of the VSSs. The observations / feedbacks on different chapters are discussed at length and subsequently rectified / modified / incorporated in the Micro Plan before it is finalised and presented before the Gram Sabha for approval. The number of Micro Plans reviewed at PMU level batch wise is as follows:

Batch of VSS	Total no of Micro Plans Revised	Total no. of Micro Plans scrutinized at PMU level
Batch-I	354	53
Batch-II	422	52
Batch-III & IV	402	59

Review of Revisit of Micro Plans Photo at DMU level.

Review of Revisit of Micro Plans at DMU level.

Interaction of PMC Team with VSS Members.

Initiatives on Sustainable Forest Management

CHAPTER 4

4.1 Site Specific Plan & Monitoring (JFM Mode)

Sustainable Forest Management interventions under OFSDP-II have been implemented in a phased manner across 1,210 Vana Suraksha Samitis (VSSs) through the Joint Forest Management (JFM) mode. These interventions have been continuously monitored by community representatives, reinforcing participatory governance at the grassroots level. During the monitoring process, issues and challenges encountered were systematically documented through VSS-level resolutions. In response to these community inputs, appropriate measures—such as maintenance of Drainage Line Treatment (DLT) structures, upkeep of fire lines, restocking of plantations, post-planting operations, and targeted silvicultural interventions—were strategically planned and implemented. This responsive and inclusive approach has strengthened community stewardship and ownership of the assets created under the project. By integrating local insights into the decision-making process, OFSDP-II has enhanced the sustainability and effectiveness of its forest management efforts.

4.2 Drainage Line Treatment under JFM & Non JFM Mode (Ex-situ SMC Work)

Under the ridge-to-valley approach adopted by OFSDP-II, comprehensive Soil and Moisture Conservation (SMC) measures were implemented both within and beyond the designated areas of the 1,211 Vana Suraksha Samitis (VSSs). This holistic strategy aimed to address watershed management from the upper ridges to the downstream valley areas, thereby ensuring effective conservation outcomes. Within the VSS-assigned areas, Drainage Line Treatment (DLT) interventions were carried out with active participation of community members through the Joint Forest Management (JFM) mode. In contrast, DLT interventions beyond the VSS jurisdiction were executed under the Non-JFM mode to cover broader catchment areas. Key SMC interventions under DLT included gully plugging, construction of staggered trenches, excavation of percolation pits, and the building of check dams, among others. These measures significantly contributed to enhancing soil moisture retention and improving the groundwater table across the VSS landscapes. All planned DLT structures—both within and outside the VSS-assigned areas—were successfully completed by the end of FY 2021–22. The phased implementation, aligned with the project's batch-wise planning, ensured efficient resource utilization and maximum ecological impact.

SMC in Sundergarh DMU

The batch-wise details of DLT structures established under OFSDP-II are provided below:

Establishment of DLT Structures under OFSDP-II (All Batches)

Batch	No of Ranges (FMUs)	No of VSSs	Year of execution	DLT on JFM Mode (In ha)	DLT on Non JFM Mode (In ha)	Total DLT (In ha)
Batch-I	15	355	2018-19	446	222	668
Batch-II	18	422	2019-20	530	270	800
Batch-III &IV	16	403	2020-21	502	251	753
Batch-IV (31 VSSs)	-	31	2021-22	26	13	39
Total	49	1211		1504	756	2260

4.3 Maintenance of Drainage Line Treatment (DLT) (under JFM & Non JFM Mode)

The project has the provision to maintain the established DLT structures in the subsequent years so as to ensure effective functioning of the structures established at VSS level under JFM & Non JFM mode. Under the project, fund has been provisioned to maintain the established DLT structures such as Loose Boulder Check dam, Gully Plugs, Concrete Check Dams, Water Harvesting Structures, Staggered Trench, Counter Trenches etc. after first year & third year of their establishment. The details of DLT Structures established during the year 2024-25 were as below:

SMC in Rairangpur DMU

After 3rd year (2nd Maintenance) of DLT Structures in Batch-III and Batch-IV (402 VSSs)

Division (DMUs)	Ranges (FMUs)	DLT on JFM Mode (In ha)	DLT on Non JFM Mode (In ha)	Total DLT (In ha)
Athamallik	Bamur	37.5	18.75	56.25
Baripada	Betonati	23.75	11.88	35.63
Boudh	Manamunda	28.75	14.38	43.13
Dhenkanal	K.Nagar (East)	32.5	16.25	48.75
	K.Nagar (West)	32.5	16.25	48.75
	Kapilash	22.50	11.25	33.75
	Sadangi	35	17.50	52.5
Ghumsur North	Central	31.25	15.63	46.88
	Tarasinghi/Mujagarh	31.25	15.63	46.88

Ghumsur South	Badagada	25	12.5	37.5
Jharsuguda	Bagdihi/Kolabira	6.25	3.13	9.38
Karanjia	Karanjia	25	12.25	37.25
	Thakurmunda	25	12.25	37.25
Rairangpur	Bahalda/ Rairangpur	8.75	4.38	13.13
Sambalpur	Rengali	31.25	15.63	46.88
Subarnapur	Binka/Sonepur	31.25	15.63	46.88
Sundargarh	Sundargarh	37.5	18.75	56.25
	Ujjalpur/Badgaon	37.5	18.75	56.25
Total		**502.50**	**251.29**	**753.79**

The interventions proposed to be executed at VSS level are being finalised by each VSS and the same are recorded in the Resolution Register of the respective VSSs. Different silvicultural operations like singling of coppice shoots, removal of high stumps and climbers, fire line tracing, etc., are being executed by the villagers with the overall guidance of forestry officials under ANR without gap model. Similarly plantations under ANR with 200 seedlings, 400 seedlings, 800 seedlings per hectare along with Artificial Regeneration (AR) under Fuel Fodder, NTFP & Other Block models have been taken up under OFSDP-II in the degraded sites identified jointly by the Forest Department and the members of VSSs. Especially, indigenous species are selected by the VSS members for the plantation in the assigned area as indicated in the Micro Plan document.

4.4 Plantations through Assisted Natural Regeneration & Artificial Regeneration

The plantations under the Assisted Natural Regeneration (ANR) & Artificial Regeneration (AR) have been taken up in the project villages of OFSDP-II through Joint Forest Management Mode. The consolidated figure of plantations taken up under the project is given below:

Division	Year	ANR Without Gap (In Ha)	ANR with Gap (in Ha)	AR (In Ha)	Total (in Ha)	Total Seedlings planted (Nos.)
Athmallik	2019-20	391	465	92	948	295800
	2020-21	443	637	113	1193	339600
	2021-22	131	1194	209	1534	541400
	Total	**965**	**2296**	**414**	**3675**	**1176800**
Baripada	2019-20	550	355	0	905	95000
	2020-21	929	120	126	1175	177000
	2021-22	48	110	181	339	392600
	Total	**1527**	**585**	**307**	**2419**	**664600**
Boudh	2019-20	1614	448	28	2090	200000
	2020-21	364	530	61	955	299200
	2021-22	107	899	163	1169	603600
	2022-23	21	194	56	271	151100
	Total	**2106**	**2071**	**308**	**4485**	**1253900**

Dhenkanal	2019-20	319	745	95	1159	299200
	2020-21	370	732	155	1257	377800
	2021-22	126	3899	679	4704	1737500
	Total	**1115**	**5376**	**929**	**7420**	**2414500**
Ghumsur (N)	2019-20	319	536	45	900	304000
	2020-21	771	390	17	1178	108800
	2021-22	222	2041	349	2612	968700
	Total	**1312**	**2967**	**411**	**4690**	**1381500**
Ghumsur (S)	2019-20	255	595	100	950	471100
	2020-21	443	414	100	957	203400
	2021-22	87	803	133	1023	536400
	2022-23	13	213	12	238	82000
	Total	**798**	**2025**	**354**	**3177**	**1292900**
Jharsuguda	2019-20	348	863	145	1356	604000
	2020-21	988	991	198	2177	517000
	2021-22	35	140	85	260	167000
	2022-23	9	80	20	109	50300
	Total	**1380**	**2074**	**448**	**3902**	**1338300**
Karanjia	2019-20	765	396	17	1178	185900
	2020-21	255	807	32	1094	254600
	2021-22	174	2270	295	2739	1082600
	Total	**1194**	**3473**	**344**	**5011**	**1523100**
Rairangpur	2019-20	585	1115	112	1812	350000
	2020-21	954	2672	88	3714	676100
	2021-22	48	238	17	303	54400
	Total	**1587**	**4025**	**217**	**5829**	**1080500**
Sambalpur	2019-20	755	1332	671	2758	1804600
	2020-21	255	595	105	955	378300
	2021-22	109	995	173	1277	482000
	Total	**1119**	**2922**	**949**	**4990**	**2664900**
Subarnapur	2019-20	319	743	225	1287	747700
	2020-21	319	744	130	1193	473300
	2021-22	109	995	173	1277	698900
	2022-23	24	145	205	374	128000
	Total	**771**	**2627**	**733**	**4131**	**2047900**
Sundergarh	2019-20	382	893	148	1423	701700
	2020-21	766	1784	317	2867	1017100
	2021-22	262	2388	416	3066	1337200
	2022-23	16	200	0	216	40000
	Total	**1426**	**5265**	**881**	**7572**	**3096000**
Grand Total		**15300**	**35706**	**6286**	**57292**	**19934900**

4.6 Maintenance of Previous Year's Plantations

Plantations taken up in the previous years in VSSs under the fold of OFSDP-II in different batches were maintained during 2024-25 as detailed below:

4th year Maintenance of ANR & AR taken up in Batch-III & Batch-IV VSSs during 2024-25									
Division	**No of FMUs**	**No of VSSs**	**ANR without gap in Ha**	**ANR with 200 Seedlings in Ha**	**ANR with 400 Seedlings in Ha**	**ANR with 800 Seedlings in Ha**	**AR – Fuel Fodder @ 2500 Seedlings in Ha**	**AR – NTFP @ 400 Seedlings in Ha**	**AR – Other Block @ 1600 Seedlings in Ha**
Baripada	01	19	48	110	0	0	142	39	0
Rairangpur	02	07	48	238	0	0	0	17	0
Karanjia	02	40	174	1649	621	0	184	111	0
Dhenkanal	04	98	316	3648	231	78	299	380	0
Sundargarh	03	60	262	1933	430	25	282	134	0
Jharsuguda	02	05	35	140	0	0	50	35	0
Sambalpur	01	25	109	735	160	100	58	115	0
Subarnapur	02	25	109	468	328	199	117	56	0
Boudh	01	23	107	419	311	169	90	68	05
Athamalik	01	29	131	990	204	0	62	107	40
Ghumsur(N)	03	51	222	1791	147	103	157	192	0
Ghumsur(S)	01	20	87	398	263	142	88	45	0
Total	**23**	**402**	**1648**	**12519**	**2695**	**816**	**1529**	**1299**	**45**

3rd year Maintenance of ANR & AR taken up in 31 VSSs during 2024-25									
Division	**No of FMUs**	**No of VSSs**	**ANR without gap in Ha**	**ANR with 200 Seedlings in Ha**	**ANR with 400 Seedlings in Ha**	**ANR with 800 Seedlings in Ha**	**AR – Fuel Fodder @ 2500 Seedlings in Ha**	**AR – NTFP @ 400 Seedlings in Ha**	**AR – Other Block @ 1600 Seedlings in Ha**
Boudh	01	8	21	129	31	34	17	16	23
Ghumsur (S)	01	5	13	138	50	25	0	4	8
Jharsuguda	01	3	9	40	40	0	7	10	3
Subarnapur	01	9	24	60	85	0	0	205	0
Sundergarh	01	6	16	200	0	0	0	0	0
Total	**05**	**31**	**83**	**567**	**206**	**59**	**24**	**235**	**34**

4.7 Maintenance of Hi-Tech Nursery

The establishment of six Hi-Tech Nurseries, one in each Circle, under OFSDP-II during the period 2018-19 aimed to enhance the production capacity of quality planting material of indigenous species, including Non-Timber Forest Products (NTFP) and Agro Forestry species. Each nursery was equipped to raise 4.40 lakh seedlings, with 2.20 lakh seedlings cultivated in Poly-pots and the remaining 2.20 lakh in hyco-pots. Specifically, the facilities allowed for the cultivation of 1.1 lakh hyco-pot seedlings in 300 CC pots and another 1.1 lakh seedlings in 150 CC pots. During the reporting year, 18-month-old seedlings from these nurseries were utilized for casualty replacement in the plantation sites of VSSs under OFSDP-II. Additionally, the seedlings raised in these nurseries were deployed for departmental plantations in respective Forest Divisions and nearby areas as needed, contributing to meeting the plantation targets of the Project Divisions.

The revolving fund released to the DMUs for rising of seedlings is available in the separate book of account under the head of "Revolving Fund- Hi-tech Nursery". The locations of the Hi-Tech Nurseries and the capacity of raising seedlings in poly-pots and hyco-pots are given below:

Division	Locations	Poly Pot Seedlings	Hyco-Pot Seedlings (with 150 CC pot)	Hyco-Pot Seedlings (with 300 CC pot)	Total Seedlings
		(Capacity In nos. lakh)			
Athamallik	Badarohila, Bamur FMU, Athmallik	2.20 Lakh Seedlings in each Hi-Tech Nursery	1.10 Lakh Seedlings in each Hi-Tech Nursery	1.10 Lakh Seedlings in each Hi-Tech Nursery	4.40 Lakh Seedlings in each Hi-Tech Nursery
Baripada	Sankhabhanga FMU, Baripada				
Sambalpur	Larasara FMU, Sambalpur				
Subarnapur	Chhanchhandunguri FMU, Subarnapur				
Ghumsur (N)	Lalsingh FMU				
Sundergarh	Ujjwalpur, FMU, Sundergarh				

Hi-Tech Nursery established under OFSDP-II

4.8 Fire Line (FL) Creation and Maintenance

Wildfires have always been a major threat to forest conservation, and it destroys the forest resources that have taken many decades of growth and development in matter of days or hours. Like many other tropical states in the country, forests in Odisha also subjected to the fury of major wildfires, particularly in summer months, loosing major junk of forest wealth every year. However, the experience gained through the community-based interventions being adopted under OFSDP-II prove that with some advance planning, which includes adopting participatory fire prevention strategies, implementing early detection systems, and conducting community awareness programs, all can contribute to reducing the frequency and severity of forest fires. Additionally, promoting sustainable land management practices and maintaining firebreaks can help create barriers to halt the spread of fires.

Fire line in Dhenkanal DMU

For protection of forest from fire incidences, 4-meter-wide forest lines have been established to the extent of 1710 Kms across the project VSSs and the same is being maintained for subsequent three years. The entire works has been done through Joint Forest Management Mode of interventions. Further, series of awareness campaign have been conducted to sensitize the villagers on protection and management of forest for fire incidences.

The fire lines of 28 Kms constructed in Batch- IV additional 31 VSSs 31 VSSs during the FY 2022-23 were maintained though the respective VSSs as stated below:

Maintenance of Fire Lines during 2024-25		
Division (DMUs)	**No. of VSSs**	**Total Fire line Maintained (In Kms)**
Boudh	08	07
Ghumsur (S)	05	05
Subarnapur	09	08
Jharsuguda	03	03
Sundargarh	06	5.5
Total	31	28.5

The project experience demonstrates that continued vigilance and cooperation among stakeholders, particularly from the local community are vital to sustainably manage forest ecosystems by minimizing the impact of forest fires on biodiversity, ecosystems, and bio-resources. By working together and remaining proactive, forests can be well protected and continue to derive benefits from the valuable resources they provide.

4.9 Consolidation and Demarcation of Forest oundaries

Consolidating and demarcating the boundaries of Reserved Forest (RF), Protected Reserve Forest (PRF), and Demarcated Protected Forests (DPF) within the project villages of OFSDP-II play a crucial role in effective forest management and protection. By clearly identifying and delineating these boundaries, it becomes easier to understand the extent of different forest areas and their respective management zones. Clear demarcation helps in controlling encroachment of forest area by establishing legal boundaries. Moreover, consolidating and demarcating forest boundaries aids in effective planning and management of forest resources. It allows the project personnel and the VSSs to implement targeted forest management interventions and conservation measures within specific areas and thus contributing to sustainable forest management practices.

During Consolidation and Demarcation process, the damaged / dilapidated pillars are repaired / replaced around the RFs, PRFs, & DPFs under Project Activities. All pillars were appropriately maintained, coloured and geo-referenced. Consolidation and Demarcation of forest boundaries to the extent of 1898 Kms covering 229 numbers of Forest Blocks across 1210 VSSs from all batches covered under OFSDP-II which were completed during the FY 2021-22. Further, the Consolidation and Demarcation of forest boundaries over 669 Kms across the 422 Batch-II VSSs and 636 Kms across the 403 Batch-III & IV VSSs and additional 31 VSSs of batch-V were maintained through JFM Mode during 2024-25. The cumulative progress of Consolidation and Demarcation of forest boundaries taken up under OFSDP-II over the years are as below:

Fire line in Dhenkanal DMU

Cumulative progress in Consolidation and Demarcation of Forest Boundaries under OFSDP-II

Batch	No of DMUs	No of FMUs	No of VSSs	Area Covered	Forest Block Covered
Batch-I	12 DMUs	15 FMUs	355 VSSs	561 Kms	58 Nos
Batch-II	12 DMUs	18 FMUs	422 VSSs	669 Kms	62 Nos
Batch-III	12 DMUs	11 FMUs	280 VSSs	445 Kms	64 Nos
Batch-IV	4 DMUs	5 FMUs	122 VSSs	191 Kms	45 Nos
Batch-IV	5 DMUs	-	31 VSSs	32 Kms	
Total	**12 DMUs**	**49 FMUs**	**1210 VSSs**	**1898 KMs**	**229 Nos.**

Division wise cumulative details on Consolidation and Demarcation of Forest Boundaries under OFSDP-II

Division (DMUs)	Ranges (FMUs)	No of VSSs Covered (In Nos.)	Consolidation of Forest Boundaries (In Kms)	No of Forest Blocks Covered	Forest Boundaries Maintained till 2024-25
Athmallik	03	74	118.99	13	86.99
Baripada	06	135	213.76	21	140.76
Boudh	03	71	108.01	07	76.01
Dhenkanal	06	150	236.71	32	197.71
Ghumsur North	04	100	157.58	13	118.58
Ghumsur South	03	65	100.26	06	68.26
Jharsuguda	03	88	137.57	18	91.57
Karanjia	04	80	126.89	51	94.89
Rairangpur	05	107	169.96	20	105.96
Sambalpur	04	100	157.17	09	71.17
Subarnapur	03	84	128.08	07	89.08
Sundergarh	05	156	242.80	32	195.8
Total	**49**	**1210**	**1897.78**	**229**	**1336.78**

4.10 Farm Forestry Operations

A comprehensive approach has been taken to develop guidelines for the Farm Forestry Component of the project. In consultation with local farmers coupled with the technical guidance from institutes and stakeholders, including the ICAR's Central Horticulture Experiment Station, Central Institute for Women in Agriculture (CIWA), OUAT, J K Paper Mill, Avanthi Agri-tech Pulp wood Industries, and the Directorate of Horticulture, suitable agroforestry models and specific tree species for plantation were selected for each VSS area under the project. The involvement of villagers in providing feedback on species and plantation models is also crucial for ensuring the suitability and sustainability of the interventions. By considering local knowledge and preferences, the project is able to align with the needs and priorities of the communities it aims to benefit.

Based on the above consultation, the following models were considered and implemented in each DMUs.

Farm Forestry Models under OFSDP- II

Up to 2024-25, a total of 7886.81 ha area covered under Farm Forestry Plantation Component covering 17027 numbers of beneficiaries from 1210 VSSs of Batch-I, II, III & IV FMUs of OFSDP-II and a total of 60,63,424 numbers of seedlings were planted outside the forest. Further, 1712 numbers of beneficiaries from the project villages were identified during 2024-25 farm forestry plantation over 763.88 Ha of patta land have been completed during 2024-25.

Farm Forestry Plantation during 2024-25															
Division	Agri Hort- Silvi @ 658 Plants		Timber @ 1000 Plants		Pulpwood @ 1000 Plants		Hort-NTFP @ 400 Plants		Field Bond Dyke @ 100 Plants		Horti-culture @ 400 Plants		Total		Seedlings planted
	Area in Ha.	Benefi-ciries	Area in Ha.	Benefi-ciries	Area in Ha.	Benefi-ciries	Area in Ha.	Benefi-ciries	Area in Ha.	Benefi-ciries	Area in Ha.	Benefi-ciries	Area in Ha.	Benefi-ciries	
Athmallik	0	0	0	0	5	10	0	0	0	0	0	0	5	10	5000
Boudh	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	62.1	66	0	0	62.1	66	6210
Dhenkanal	0	0	0	0	0	0	17.8	25	0	0	0	0	17.8	25	7120
Ghumsur South	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	109.7	200	109.7	200	43880
Jharsuguda	0	0	13.51	47	24.04	56	0	0	0	0	81.32	294	118.87	397	70078
Karanjia	0	0	2.55	2	42.09	78	10.35	28	0	0	19.19	50	74.18	158	56456
Rairangpur	0	0	21.16	44	61.84	129	17	66	0	0			100	239	89800
Sambalpur	34.7	86	12.6	22	0	0	0	0	23.85	69	115.07	312	186.22	489	83845.6
Subarnapur	0	0	11.5	21	18.5	16	60	91	0	0	0	0	90	128	54000
Total	34.7	86	61.32	136	151.5	289	105.2	210	85.95	135	325.28	856	763.87	1712	416390

4.11 Farm Forestry Incentives

Farm Forestry Incentives for raising good plantation under the Farm Forestry Component has been provisioned under OFSDP-II. Farmers having more than 90% of survival status of plants would be eligible for award of incentives. Incentives per seedlings on 3rd year and 4th year of plantations have been finalised by the project.

The survival status of seedlings planted and its growth are being monitored by the Cluster Plantation Team (CPT) of each FMU during 2nd year / 4th year of plantations. The observations of the CPT on the survival status are further being cross checked by the FMU Chief to prepare final list of eligible farmers to qualify for award on Incentives. During 2024-25, a total of 1712 farmers from Batch-I VSSs and 468 farmers from Batch-II VSSs were awarded with Farm Forestry Incentives.

Sustainable Biodiversity Management

CHAPTER 5

5.1 SATOYAMA initiative in Badrama WL sanctuary of Bamra WL Division

5.1.1 SATOYAMA – A pilot approach on Bio-diversity conservation

SATOYAMA Initiatives (a Japanese term for Socio – Ecological Landscapes) in Badrama Wildlife sanctuary under Bamra WL Division in Sambalpur District, is an example of Socio – Ecological Production Landscapes where livelihood of local communities is ensured with biodiversity conservation leading to "Society living in harmony with nature". SATOYAMA initiative is based on the principle that such landscapes, when properly managed, can benefit the biodiversity and human livelihood, rather than biodiversity and human livelihoods being in a state of opposition.

The Pilot study of Biodiversity Conservation in Badrama Wildlife sanctuary of Bamra WL Division in Sambalpur district was taken up under OFSDP-II in the year 2018-19 with the objective of promoting socio-ecological land scape with sustainable management of biodiversity. SATOYAMA models are thus designed to develop a common awareness on the value of nature and to create models for sustainable rural society living in harmony with nature.

5.1.2 Rationale of SATOYAMA Initiative under OFSDP II

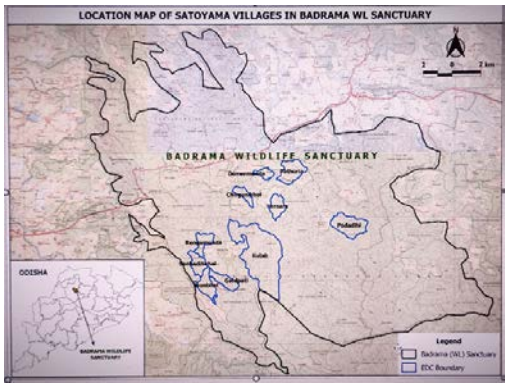
One of the key mandates of the OFSDP-II project is conservation and scientific management of the biodiversity with inputs on development of livelihood initiatives. In this context, the landscape management has been introduced for revitalization and sustainable management adopting SATOYAMA framework i.e. socio-ecological production landscape with the capacity development, the community members are encouraged to map and reflect the indicators of landscape as well as live in harmony with nature. The local communities require a complete understanding of the status and changes in conditions in their landscapes in order to strengthen resilience. Changes are captured in the sphere of ecological, agricultural, cultural and socio-economic aspects. The concept of SATOYAMA is thus piloted in two micro watersheds in Badrama Wildlife sanctuary where the communities can increase their capacity to respond to social, economic and environmental changes in their surroundings and to improve their environmental and economic conditions.

5.1.3 SATOYAMA initiative in Badrama WL sanctuary of Bamra WL Division

SATOYAMA model, which was initially implemented on pilot basis in one village i.e. Nunvet during 2018-19, is now being implemented in 10 villages / EDCs of Badarma Wildlife Sanctuary of Bamra Wildlife Division, for conservation of biodiversity and improvement of livelihood of the rural people living in the protected area. It also aims at addressing the issues of man- animal interface faced by the communities in the protected area as well as to preserve the local traditional culture with ultimate socio-economic development of the communities living in the landscape. The initiative started in one village i.e. Nunvet in the year 2018-19 on pilot basis got overwhelming response from the adjoining villages which was then extended to 9 other adjoining villages (EDCs) within the protected area in the year 2019-20.

5.1.3.1 Target Area under SATOYAMA

Badrama WL Sanctuary in Bamra Wildlife Division is spread over 348.17 Sq Km in Sambalpur district. The forest type in the area is Dry Deciduous and rich in biodiversity i.e. both flora and fauna composition. The area is part of Sambalpur Elephant Reserve. Local inhabitants are mostly tribal and live in the available valleys within the sanctuary and mostly depend on agriculture for their living. The EDCs / villages covered under the project are adjoining to each other and located within a radius of 20 Kms from the Range Headquarters located at Badrama.



Fire line in Dhenkanal DMU

As per the JFM Resolution of Govt. of Odisha, local communities living in and around the sanctuary are involved in protection of forest and wildlife and accordingly Eco-Development Committees (EDCs) have been constituted with active participation of local communities for protection of forests. Each EDC has been assigned with specific forest areas for conservation and sustainable management. The forest areas assigned to the EDCs covered under SATOYAMA initiative is as follows:

Sl no	Name of EDC	Assigned forest area in ha	Name of Forest block
1	Rengumunda	142.91	Ushakothi Reserve Forest (Badrama Wl sanctuary)
2	Kutab	168.44	
3	Sana badibahal	152.37	
4	Tansara	144.42	
5	Podadihi	324.76	
6	Pathuria	250.68	
7	Gadapati	150.87	
8	Dumermunda	78.66	
9	Chirguikhol	95.73	
10	Nunvet	195.52	
	Total	**1704.36**	

5.1.3.2 Demographic Profile of villages under SATOYAMA Initiative

The target EDCs are generally small villages, with the household size ranging from 23 in case of Sana Badibahal to 77 in case of Nunvet and Kutab. Majority population belong to Schedule Tribes (78.36%). The literacy level is low, while 117 families out of 485 families are literate and only 11 individuals have passed higher secondary. The major occupation of the community members is agriculture. In addition to agriculture, people largely depend on daily wages for their income. The average land holding at community level is around 2 acres and around 8% of the households are landless i.e. 39 PoPs within the project area. The EDC wise demographic profile is as follows:

Sl. No	Name of the EDC	Number of House holds	Population				PoPs
			SC	ST	OBC	Total	
1	Rengumunda	28	0	107	42	149	2
2	Kutab	77	0	201	176	377	12
3	Sanbadhibahal	23	0	74	38	112	2
4	Tansara	67	0	286	18	304	7
5	Podadihi	51	0	187	25	212	2
6	Pathuria	68	0	180	69	249	4
7	Gardpati	28	0	140	0	140	3
8	Dumermunda	26	0	132	0	132	2
9	Chirgenkhol	40	0	226	24	250	3
10	Nunvet	77	0	216	91	307	2
	Total	**485**	**0**	**1749**	**483**	**2232**	**39**

5.1.4 Initiatives under Satoyama

The broad categories of interventions taken up in the project villages include: Community Mobilization, Micro Plan formulation, Natural Resource and Biodiversity Management, Habitat improvement, Man-animal conflicts resolution, Environmental Conservation, Livelihood Improvement, Retaining and Improving Socio-cultural fabric and Institution and Capacity Building etc.

5.1.4.1 Community Mobilization and Preparation of Village Development Plan

EDC meetings were held in all 10 Villages / EDCs at regular intervals ensuring participation of villagers in planning process as well as during implementation of the project activities. Micro Plans for each individual EDC was prepared through PRA exercise involving stakeholders such as EDC members, PRI members, local line department representatives and have been approved by the respective Palli / Gram Sabhas making it FRA compliant. The Micro Plans indicate the aspirations of villagers and overall plan for village development.

PRA exercise and Micro Planning in villages

5.1.4.2 Construction of Multipurpose EDC Buildings

Multi-purpose EDC Buildings have been constructed in all 10 EDCs / villages for holding EDC meetings, training programmes as well as showcasing the activities taken up in the village. These buildings can also serve as the resource centres for the village for organizing common festivals / cultural activities, celebrations etc. All EDC buildings have been completed in all respects and handed over to the EDCs and are fully utilized by the villagers.

EDC buildings constructed under OFSDP-II

5.1.4.3 Natural Resource and Biodiversity Management

The following activities were taken up in the project villages during 2024-25 towards natural resource and biodiversity management.

a) Forest Fire Management

Under SATOYAMA Initiative, extensive awareness campaign to prevent forest fire in the assigned forest area were taken up in all 10 EDCs (Project villages) during the year. Repeated meetings were conducted in each and every EDC highlighting the adverse effects of forest fire. Fire line over a length of 20 Km per EDC has been created and about 20 Km of existing fire lines in each EDC (except Tansara EDC) has been maintained to prevent any occurrence and spread of forest fire during the year 2024-25. The EDC wise details of fire line creation and maintenance is as follows:

Fire line creation/Maintenance during 2024-25:

SL NO	Name of the EDC	Fire line creation in RKM	Fire line maintenance in RKM
1	NUNVET	20	20
2	GARDAPATI	20	20
3	SANABADIBAHAL	20	20
4	RENGOMUNDA	20	20
5	KUTAB	20	20
6	CHIRGENKHOL	20	20
7	DUMERMUNDA	20	20
8	PATHURIA	20	20
9	PODADIHI	20	20
10	Tansara	-	-
	Total	**180**	**180**

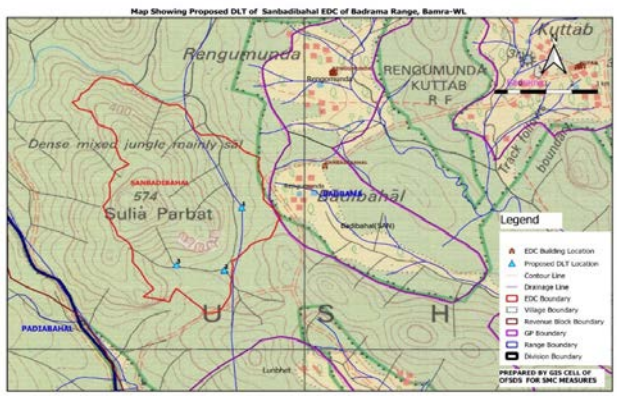
Due to the sincere efforts of villagers, no fire incidence was noticed in any of the assigned area within the project.

Awareness meeting on Forest fire at EDCs

Fire line in forest areas at EDCs of Satoyama Initiative

b) SMC and DLT Activities

Soil and Moisture Conservation measures and drainage line treatment was taken up in Sanbadibahl EDCs during 2024-25 to conserve the soil in the slopes and to improve moisture regime in the area. 34 nos of Check dams (Lose Boulder Check Dam - LBCD) across 6 nos of existing Nallahs were constructed under the project initiative. This activity is being continued in all target villages in a phased manner with planning for SMC and DLT structures as per the field requirement based on the treatment map prepared for each EDC.



Treatment map of Sanbadibahl EDC

Check dams

5.1.4.4 Habitat Improvement

During summer months most of the water sources in the sanctuary gets dried and the animals (wildlife) face a lot of problem. To address the issue, one water body of size 40m x 30m x 4m in Ushakothi RF was created during 2022-23 within the assigned area of Podadihi EDC and during 2024-25 another water body of the same size (40m x 30m x 4m) has been created within the assigned area of Nunvet EDC for use by the wildlife.

Water body in Podadihi

Water body creation in Nunvet

5.1.4.5 Mitigation of Man – Animal conflict

Badrama WL sanctuary is part of Sambalpur Elephant Reserve and all the 10 target villages (EDCs) under Satoyama Initiative are located within the limits of Badrama Wildlife sanctuary. Animals stray into the village limits quite often and damage of crop and damage of houses due to elephant depredation is very common in the landscape. To address the problem and to provide some relief, solar street lights have been provided under the project initiative or through convergence in all the villages. Solar fence around the village in Nunvet EDC, over a length of 2.0 km, was provided during 2020-21 to prevent entry of elephants. 10 nos of High Beam Torch lights have been supplied through the project to the EDCs to use during elephant depredation.

Solar street light in villages

High Beam Torch lights supplied to EDCs

5.1.4.6 Environmental Conservation

The overall objective of the Project is to bring improvement in the environmental conditions with active involvement of local people so that it can become their way of life. Accordingly, it was intended to keep the rural environment free from plastic pollution and the villagers of the project villages were motivated about the adverse effects of plastic use. The EDC members willingly accepted the idea and decided to keep their villages free from plastic.

The EDCs selected two Eco-volunteers for each Pada (hamlet) from their village who would carry forward the campaign and educate people to segregate the plastic waste and to dispose at designated sites. At present 80 Eco-Volunteers covering 10 EDCs are working towards making their villages plastic free.

Two cotton bags (Eco-bags) per family per year are distributed from the project funds for use as an alternative to plastic bags. The cotton bags, specially designed and prepared by the project, have been distributed among the household covering all 10 EDCs.

Dust bins (made of bamboo) were put up at places in the villages for use by the villagers and Garbage Pits were dug in the villages.

Awareness campaign against use of Plastic are conducted at regular intervals (every three months) in all the EDCs involving the community, school teachers and students, PRI members, SGS members etc. to keep the moto alive.

Plastic free campaign

Eco bags / Eco volunteers

Garbage pits

Bamboo dust bins

5.1.4.7 Livelihood Promotion

a) Preparation and use of Bio-fertilizer and pesticide

With an objective of reducing the use of chemical fertilizer and pesticides and promoting use of organic manure, farmers in the project villages were motivated and trained through resource persons to prepare the organic bio-fertilizer and pesticides using cow dung / urine for their own use. Preparation and use of bio-fertilizer and pesticide for agriculture as well as kitchen garden (Mo Bagicha) is gaining popularity in the locality and more and more people / farmers are coming forward to accept and practise the concept. 232 farmers covering all 10 EDCs, have been trained to produce bio-fertilizer and pesticide on their own using Cow dung / urine and locally available other materials like Neem leaves etc. which are called as Ghana Jibamruta, (Organic Fertilizer), Andalembu Tonic (Hormone) and Agneyastra (organic pesticide). The farmers are using such bio-fertilizers and pesticides in their paddy field and kitchen gardens for better production. The details of EDC wise no of farmers involved in preparation of bio-fertilizer and pesticide is given below:

SL NO	Name of EDC	No of farmers
1	Nunvet	57
2	Gadapati	16
3	Sanbadibahl	22
4	Rengumunda	16
5	Kutab	36
6	Dumermunda	7
7	Tansara	5
8	Chirgenkhol	4
9	Podadihi	41
10	Pathuria	28
	Total	232

Preparation of Bio-fertilizer / pesticides by villagers

b) Organic cultivation of indigenous paddy and aromatic rice during the year 2024-25

With the project initiative cultivation of paddy in the villages without use of chemical fertilizer and pesticide was promoted and the villagers / EDC members were trained to locally produce their own bio-fertilizers and pesticides. The practice was started in the project villages since 2019-20 with the broad objective to convert the entire landscape into organic cultivation and to teach the local villagers the benefits of organic farming. Meetings were conducted in all the 10 EDCs and interested farmers were identified for taking up organic farming of traditional varieties of paddy as well as organic cultivation of aromatic rice varieties. Organic cultivation of aromatic rice was supported by MMSA and the social enabler M/s Kanak Bio-Sciences in the project villages. During 2024-25, total 110 farmers from 9 EDCs have taken up organic farming of paddy (traditional varieties and aromatic varieties) over an area of 67.5 Acres. The details of EDC wise organic cultivation of paddy during 2024-25 is given below:

Sl no	Name of EDC	Organic cultivation of traditional varieties of paddy			Organic Cultivation of aromatic rice		
		No of farmers	Area in Acre	Total production in qntl	No of farmers	Area in Acre	Total production in qntl
1	Rengumunda	11	6.5	50.15	01	01	00
2	Kutab	20	10	83.21	03	1.5	03
3	Gardpati	07	4.5	35.00	02	02	03
4	Sanabadibahal	08	4.0	31.80	00	00	00
5	Podadihi	21	14	115.6	01	0.5	0.3
6	Pathuria	07	4.5	35.00	06	04	10
7	Dumermunda	09	5.8	44.30	03	1.5	00
8	Chirgenkhol	07	4.7	36.90	01	01	00
9	Tansara	02	01	9.0	01	01	00
	Total	**92**	**55**	**440.96**	**18**	**12.5**	**16.3**

The social Enabler M/s Kanak Biosciences conducted training programmes at the EDC level for the intending farmers on sustainable cultivation practices of indigenous and aromatic paddy by organic method during Aug / Sept. 2024 followed by training on post-harvest management of organically cultivated indigenous paddy during December 2024. The details of training programmes conducted by M/S Kanak Biosciences during 2024-25 is as follows:

Date / Period	Place / EDC	Theme of training	No of Participants
24-09-2024 to 25-09-2024	Gardpati and Pathuria	Sustainable cultivation practices of Indigenous paddy by organic method	21
03-12-24 to 04-12-224	Podadihi Pathuria Dumermunda Gardpati Kutab Rengumunda	Post harvest management of organically cultivated indigenous paddy	63

The aromatic paddy produced by the farmers was collected / purchased from the villages i.e. door step of the farmers by M/s Kanak Bio-sciences at the MSP @ Rs.31.00 / Kg.

Organic aromatic paddy cultivation during 2024-25

c) Promoting Horticulture and Custard Apple plantation

The landscape covered under SATOYAMA initiative is within the wildlife sanctuary and moreover a habitat for elephants. Hence horticultural crop, which are not liked by elephants like Pine apple, Yam, Lemon etc. are promoted in the area to minimise the depredation. Custard Apple is locally available in all the villages and is not liked by the elephants. With an objective of promoting plantation of custard apple, 5000 seedlings were raised by the villagers in Podadihi and planted in Podadihi and Pathuria EDC areas. The custard apple plantation has been taken up by the villagers in their own back yard and fallow land.

Custard apple plantation in Podadihi and Pathuria

d) Promoting Spine gourd cultivation

Spine gourd (locally called as Kankada) is locally available in the wild and this wild variety of spine gourd has high demand in the local market during rainy season. People use to collect the fruits from wild in the rainy season and sell in the market. Taking the advantage of market potential of this gourd, a few households had planted the rhizomes in the back yard and got good sale value. Hence cultivation of this plant in the back yard, through collection of rhizomes from the nearby forest areas was promoted under the project involving more households and the farmers got good return during the fruiting season. The total no of farmers taken up spine gourd cultivation and the village / EDC wise production of spine gourd in the project area during 2024-25 is given below:

SL NO	Name of the EDC	Nos of Farmer	Nos of Rhizome	Production in qntl
1	NUNVET	43	2450	4.75
2	GARDAPATI	9	111	0.3
3	SANABADIBAHAL	10	344	0.25
4	RENGOMUNDA	12	178	0.2
5	KUTAB	29	455	3.8
6	DUMERMUNDA	7	85	0.6
7	TANSARA	24	288	2.05
8	CHIRGENKHOL	17	246	2.85
9	PODADIHI	18	350	1.0
10	PATHURIA	15	176	0.3
	TOTAL	**184**	**4683**	**16.1**

Olericulture by farmers in villages

e) Apiculture

Collection of Honey from the nearby forest is a regular practice in the locality. Taking the feedback from the elderly people in the villages, rearing of Honey bee was promoted. Honey Boxes were provided under the project to the interested beneficiaries selected by the EDCs with training on rearing of honey bee and maintenance and harvesting etc. through the experts. During 2024-25, 11 beneficiaries from 4 EDCs were provided with 18 Bee Boxes for rearing. The EDC wise no of beneficiaries and Bee boxes provided is given below:

SL NO	Name of EDC	No of beneficiaries	No of Honey Boxes installed
1	Gardpati	2	4
2	Rengumunda	3	6
3	Sanabadibahal	2	4
4	Dumermunda	2	4
	Total	**11**	**18**

It is expected that the activity would provide alternate livelihood income to the beneficiaries in near future and based on the success of the activity more numbers of Bee Boxes can be provided to more beneficiaries.

Honey bee rearing and Training

f) Pisciculture

Pisciculture in five available village ponds were taken up by the EDCs like Kutab, Rengumunda, Tansara and Podadihi since 2022-23 with release of 26000 fingerlings (IMC variety) in consultation with the Fisheries Department. The villagers have taken the ponds on long term lease from the Gram Panchayat for pisci-culture and continuing the activity on their own. As per the practice, part of the harvest is consumed by the villagers and the surplus is sold in the local market. The EDC wise fingerlings released and fish harvested from 2022-23 till 2024-25 is given below:

Sl no	Name of EDC	No of ponds	2022-23		2023-24		2024-25	
			Fingerlings released	Harvest in Kg	Fingerlings released	Harvest in Kg	Fingerlings released	Harvest in Kg
1	Kutab	1	8000	72	4000	86	4000	80
2	Tansara	1	6000	85	--	100	2500	100
3	Podadihi	2	8000	125	4000	0	1500	42
4	Rengumunda	1	4000	36	--	0	1300	35

Pisciculture during 2024-25

g) Promotion of Nutri-Garden

All the households in all the 10 EDCs covered under the project were insisted on raising nutri-garden "Mo Baramasi Bagicha" in their backyard with an objective to supplement nutritious food in general and vegetables in particular to the family. In total 322 households were provided with 10 types of seasonal vegetable seeds for raising in their back yard for their consumption. The EDC wise list of Beneficiaries who have raised "Mo Baramasi Bagicha" and list of vegetable raised is given as follows:

"Mo Baramasi bagicha"(Kitchen garden) – 2024-25 (Beneficiaries)

SL NO	Name of the EDC	Nos of beneficiaries	Vegetable Seeds distributed
1	NUNVET	58	Cucumber, Brinjal, Chili, Bitter gourd, Ridge gourd, Tomato, Pumpkin, Cowpeas, Lady finger and Bhaji leaves.
2	GARDAPATI	17	
3	SANABADIBAHAL	23	
4	RENGOMUNDA	22	

5	KUTAB	40	
6	CHIRGENKHOL	20	
7	TANSARA	22	
8	DUMERMUNDA	20	
9	PATHURIA	62	
10	PODADIHI	38	
	TOTAL	**322**	

Nutri Garden at the Satoyama village

With the initial support from the project for last 2/3 years, the practice of raising kitchen garden (Mo Bagicha) is very common now in the project villages and they have taken up the activity on their own with collection of seeds and re-using in the next season. In addition to raising kitchen garden with seasonal vegetable, families were persuaded to plant Papaya, Drum stick, Lemon, Guava, pomegranate etc. to meet their daily requirements. Out of total 485 households in all the EDCs, 482 families were supplied with 5 nos of Papaya, 3 nos of Lemon, 2 nos of Guava, 2 nos of Drum stick and 2 nos of Pomegranate seedlings each. Villagers have planted the seedlings and taking care.

h) Millet cultivation in convergence with Agriculture Department

During 2024-25, cultivation of Millets in the project villages was organized in convergence with Agriculture Department under Millet Mission of Govt. of Odisha. 89 farmers covering 6 EDCs cultivated Millet during 2024-25 over 67.5 Acres of land and produced about 121 qntl. of millets. As per the programme the farmers are benefited with Rs.544500/- in addition to the free seeds and input subsidy received from the department. The details of EDC wise farmers taken up millet cultivation is given below:

Sl No	Name Of EDC	No of Beneficiaries	Area in Acres	Production in qntl.	MSP @ Rs 4500/qntl
1	Nunvet	10	12	22	99000
2	Kutab	16	10	18	81000
3	Dumermunda	15	10.5	19	85500
4	Chirgenkhol	06	03	5	22500
5	Pathuria	15	13.5	26	117000
6	Podadihi	27	18.5	31	139500
	Total	**89**	**67.5**	**121**	**544500**

Millet cultivation on Satoyama villages

i) Supply of Sewing Machines to village women

3 nos of sewing machines have been supplied from the Project to 3 nos of EDCs i.e. Podadihi, Gardpati and Tansara (one sewing machine to each EDC) where trained women entrepreneurs were available. The matter was duly discussed in the EDC and the sewing machines have been provided to the EDCs with the objective of imparting sewing / tailoring training to more interested women members from the EDC for income generation.

Supply of Sewing machines to EDCs

5.1.4.8 Institution and Capacity Building

a) Different Capacity Building activities are taken up at Range Level and EDC level at regular intervals involving the EDC and SHG members from the project villages. Members of EDCs and SHGs are also taken to other Divisions for direct exposure and interaction with successful entrepreneurs.

b) Exposure visit of EDC / SHG members: 18 EDC members (10 male and 8 female) covering all 10 EDCs were taken on one day exposure visit to KVK Chipilima, Sambalpur to educate them how to increase the income from agriculture during summer season.

No of persons went of exposure visit EDCs wise is as follows

Sl no	Name of EDC	Total no of members participated in Exposure visit		
		Male	Female	Total
1	Nunvet	1	1	2
2	Gardpati	1	1	2
3	Sanabadibahal	1		1
4	Rengumunda		2	2
5	Kutab	1	1	2
6	Dumermunda	2		2
7	Chirgenkhol	1		1
8	Pathuria		2	2
9	Podadihi	1	1	2
10	Tansara	2		2
Total		**10**	**8**	**18**

The list of training programmes / exposure visits undertaken during 2024-25 for the EDC members is given below:

Date / period	Theme of Training	Place / Venue	Target group	No of participants	Remarks
24-02-2025	Restocking of Medicinal plants and its Uses. (Baidya Sammilani)	Podadihi	EDC members from 9 EDCs , and local Baidyas	118	Expert Trainers from Odisha Rajya Banaushadhi Mahasangha
10-03-2025	Exposer visit of EDC members on organic farming	KVK Chipilima	EDC members	19	Organic Farming, Farm bond Development, summer Farming etc
24-09-2024 to 25-09-2024	Sustainable cultivation practices of Indigenous paddy by organic method	Gardpati and Pathuria	EDC members from Gardpati and Pathuria	21	By social enabler M/s Kanak Bio-sciences and MMSA
03-12-24 to 04-12-224	Post harvest management of organically cultivated indigenous paddy	Podadihi and Kutab	EDC members from Podadihi Pathuria Dumermunda Gardpati Kutab Rengumunda	63	

Training / sensitization of EDC members / SHG members

Exposure Visit to KVK Chipilima, Sambalpur

5.1.4.9 Retaining and Improving Socio-Cultural fabric

a) Animal Health / Vaccination camp

People living in project villages are mostly depend on agriculture and almost all households have some domestic cattle, either to help in agriculture, or to get milk or even for the purpose of CDM only. Regular/ periodical vaccination of these cattle population which is essential to prevent any spread of communicable diseases to wildlife in the sanctuary is being carried out. In association with the Animal Husbandry Department, Govt of Odisha, Health cum Vaccination camps for the domestic cattle were organized in all the 10 EDCs during 2024-25 and the details of Animal Health camps organized are as follows:

Sl No	Location of Animal Health Camp	Date	No of animals Vaccinated / checked		
			Cows	Goat	Total
1	Nunvet	15-2-2025	165	290	455
2	Gardpati	10-1-2025	33	63	96
3	Tansara	17-1-2025	32	70	102
4	Podadihi	7-01-2025	55	163	118
5	Pathuria	18-2-2025	47	72	119
6	Rengumunda	10-1-2025	46	63	109
7	Dumermunda	17-1-2025	36	52	88
8	Chirgenkhol	18-2-2025	42	50	92
9	Sanabadibahal	10-1-2025	24	43	67
10	Kutab	21-2-2025	58	89	147
	Total		**538**	**955**	**1493**

Animal Vaccination / Health Camp

b) Human Health Camps

The targeted project villages are interior and about 20 Kms away from the Primary Health Centre at Jamankira. People are neither health conscious nor the facilities are readily available. Under the circumstances, Health Camps are organised in consultation with the Health & Family Welfare Department for health check up of the villagers for early detection of possible diseases and to avoid future complications.

Human Health Camp

c) Promoting Cultural groups / programmes

With an objective of preserving and promoting the local social culture and cultural activities, the cultural groups available in the project villages were supported with articles like musical instruments, mattresses and utensils for the EDCs for community use. One local cultural troupe of Tansara EDC under the leadership of Guru Radhesyam Krushna was supported and trained for organizing "Pala" (a traditional cultural programme) for creating awareness programmes on forest fire, forest and wild life protection, plastic free campaign etc. The troupe have performed at least 10 nos of awareness progrmmes through " Pala" within the project area during 2024-25 and they are getting call to perform from other villages too

Cultural programme by the troupe

d) Visit of JICA Review Mission to Satoyama project villages

On 4th February 2025, the JICA Team (Review Mission) visited project sites under SATOYAMA Initiatives in Badram WL sanctuary under Bamra WL Division. At Badrama FRH, DFO Bamra WL Division gave a detailed presentation about the activities carried out under Satoyama Intiatives under OFSDP-II. The Team visited Podadihi , Pathuria and Nunvet EDCs, inspected the activities in the field, interacted with the EDC members, SHG members about the project initiatives.


Review meeting of JICA Team


JICA Team to EDCs of Satoyama villages

Brief Annual Progress Report on Long term Monitoring Plan for Ecosystem-based Conservation Management of BCA – Phase III (2024-2025)

The National Centre for Sustainable Coastal Management (NCSCM) is undertaking Phase III of the study for the Bhitarkanika Conservation Area (BCA). This phase is designed as an extended scientific assessment with a focus on advanced ecosystem dynamics and long-term sustainability under changing climatic conditions. The following activities are being undertaken

Activity 1:	Environmental and Ecological Monitoring
Activity 2:	Assessment of eco-flows
Activity 3:	Biodiversity Assessment
Activity 4:	Ecosystem Goods and Services
Activity 5:	Nature Tourism in BCA
Activity 6:	Significance of BCA mangroves in climate mitigation
Activity 7:	Ecosystem Health Report Card 2024 for BCA
Activity 8:	Capacity Building on operation of scientific equipment – eddy covariance, data buoys and science-based management of protected areas to- (i) Forest Department Staff (ii) Line Departments and (iii) Communities around BCA

Odisha experiences three distinct seasons – summer (March–June), Monsoon (July–September), and winter (October–February) – sampling has been aligned accordingly. NCSCM sampling was undertaken for 40 stations divided within 5 major river sectors in Jan – Feb, 2025 and Apr – May, 20.25 namely-

1. Bhitarkanika River – Stations 1–9
2. Maipura River – Stations 10–19
3. Dhamra River – Stations 20–28
4. Brahmani River – Stations 29–33
5. Mahanadi River – Stations 34–40

Samples collected from various environmental matrices described above are being analysed for the following parameters

Matrix	Parameters	
Water	Dissolved nutrients	NO3-, NO2-, NH4+, PO43-, DSi
	Major Ions	Na, K, Ca, Mg, SO42-
	Plankton	Phytoplankton and Zooplankton
GHG	Water, Air	CO2, Methane (CH4)
	Sediment-Air	CO2, Methane (CH4)
Sediment	Grain size	Under analysis for quantification and diversity
	Organic Carbon	
	Benthos	

The assessment of goods and services in the BCA has been carried out using an ecosystem services framework. To estimate the ecosystem goods, services, and their economic values, the benefits provided by the Bhitarkanika ecosystem have been categorized into three main types: Provisioning Services, Regulating Services, and Cultural Services.

The conservation of crocodiles in the Bhitarkanika ecosystem is evaluated not only through their tourism and recreational appeal but also by estimating their tangible economic benefits. Recognizing the contribution of crocodiles enhancing public and managerial awareness, promoting habitat protection and participatory conservation involving local communities. By underscoring both the ecological and economic importance of crocodiles, conservation initiatives can be better aligned with sustainable human-wildlife coexistence.

For the first time in this region, real-time monitoring of environmental parameters is being proposed through the deployment of a data buoy. The initial deployment is planned near Dangmal Jetty, a location exhibiting dynamic water quality changes and easily accessible for routine maintenance. Based on the results and evolving environmental conditions, additional buoys may be deployed in the future.

To ensure continued ecosystem health and inform evidence-based planning

i. Year I (2019), Year II (2020), and Year III (2021–2022) were focused on comprehensive ecosystem monitoring.

ii. The Year IV (2025) ecosystem report card will be based on primary data collected in 2025.

This ongoing effort will provide policymakers, local authorities, and natural resource managers with valuable insights for better management of this Ramsar wetland

Livelihood Initiatives under OFSDP-II

CHAPTER 6

6.1 Introduction

Improving the livelihoods of forest fringe dwellers in a holistic manner is one of the objectives of the Odisha Forestry Sector Development Project, Phase II (OFSDP-II). The project aims to promote sustainable livelihoods that encompass economic, ecological, and social dimensions. Cluster approach is the strategy to enhance livelihood opportunities for forest fringe dwellers to earn a living sustainably. By augmenting the produces, collective marketing and value addition, the diverse needs and challenges faced by these communities can be addressed more effectively. The convergence approach recognizes that sustainable development requires coordinated efforts across different domains. The involvement of various line departments through convergence and the utilization of project funds indicates the project's collaborative and multi-sectoral approach to livelihood improvement. Community mobilization and skill upgradation are essential components for successful livelihood initiatives. Communities at the grassroots level are being empowered in the project areas that fosters ownership and participation ensuring long-term impact. Different Guidelines had been prepared and training and capacity building were being undertaken as important tools for implementing and monitoring livelihood initiatives

6.2 Strategies

The strategies delineated for livelihood interventions under the project highlight the comprehensive approach to address the multifaceted challenges faced by forest fringe dwellers. The strategies are stated below;

i. **Micro plan as a tool for community development:** Preparation of Micro plan and revisit of Micro plan after 4th year of the project depict a bottom-up approach where communities actively participate in the planning process to identify their needs, resources, and priorities. Microplanning at the VSS/EDC level ensures that interventions are designed to the specific context and requirements of each community.

ii. **Common Facility Centre:** VSS building-cum-IGA facilitation centre has been set up in each VSS/EDC as a common facility centre. This is being used as a hub for various income-generating activities (IGAs) and community meetings. Resources, knowledge, and support services can be accessed by community members in this centre.

iii. **Community development through Inter-Sectoral Convergence:** Convergence in terms of collaboration and coordination among different development sectors, represented by line departments ensures a holistic approach to community development in the project area. By leveraging resources and expertise from various line departments, the project is being able to address multiple dimensions of livelihood improvement effectively.

iv. **Provisioning of Revolving Fund to VSSs:** Provisioning of Revolving Funds to VSSs/EDCs enables them to initiate and sustain income-generating activities through the SHGs/CIGs/PoP members. These funds is kept for seed capital in order to start any small enterprises, equipment purchase, or other business investments, with returns for rotation of funds among the community.

v. **Livelihood Resource Centre for strategic planning:** Livelihood Resource Centre set up under OFSDP-II serves as a knowledge hub for providing handholding support, information, training, and technical assistance to the field functionaries in the project, and to the VSSs/EDCs/SHG members for strategic planning and implementation of livelihood activities.

vi. **Establishment of Multi Product Clusters:** Cluster approach is the focus for collective marketing, and value addition of forest and non forest based products for enhancing their economic viability. Multi Product Clusters (MPCs) are set up with an objective to promote entrepreneurship and viable market linkages while adding value to the local potential produces.

vii. **Engagement of Marketing and Management Support Agency (MMSA):** Collaborating with MMSA helps the project in promoting and scaling up livelihood initiatives. MMSA provides expertise in market analysis, branding, facilitating better market linkages for forest fringe products.

viii. **Participation of VSSs and SHGs in State Level Tribal and Herbal Fairs:** Participation of VSS /SHG members of various forest divisions in the State-level fairs provides exposure to wide range of marketing opportunities for the local products. Participation in these fairs enhances visibility, networking, and market access for community-produced goods.

6.3 Livelihood Resource Centre (LRC)

The Livelihood Resource Centre (LRC) is an integral unit established within the Project Management Unit of the Odisha Forestry Sector Development Society (OFSDS). Its primary objective is to provide technical and managerial support to the product clusters by promoting Income Generating Activities (IGAs). The LRC plays a crucial role in offering daily handholding support to various grassroots entities, including VSSs, SHGs, Common Interest Groups (CIGs), Poorest of Poor (POP) families etc. This support is aims at enabling the community level groups to undertake sustainable livelihood interventions. Furthermore, the LRC extends its livelihood promotion support to other projects under OFSDS, such as Ama Jangala Yojana (AJY) and Odisha Mineral Bearing Areas Development Corporation (OMBADC)-OFSDS projects.

The LRC focuses on ensuring alternative livelihood opportunities for forest-dependent communities through strategies like Inter-Sectoral Convergence and the disbursement of Revolving Funds to the Borrowing Entities. To achieve optimal synergy and coordination between various line departments and project authorities, different committees have been constituted from the state level down to the grassroots level. These committees work together to implement government schemes and programs effectively at the community level, ensuring the well-being and economic upliftment of the forest-dependent populations.

6.4 Engagement of Marketing and Management Support Agency (MMSA)

To enhance technical, managerial, and implementation support for establishing and operationalizing Multi-Product Clusters aimed at sustainable livelihood initiatives and promoting Income Generating Activities (IGAs) through Self-Help Groups (SHGs), Common Interest Groups (CIGs), and the Poorest of Poor Households (PoPs), the project has been collaborating with several key organizations. These include the Consortium of Kalinga Institute of Industrial Technology and Technology Business Incubator (KIIT-TBI), the Bhubaneswar City Knowledge Innovation Cluster (BCKIC) in Bhubaneswar, and the Indian Institute of Entrepreneurship (IIE) in Guwahati. The Management and Marketing Support Agency (MMSA)

is to ensure the successful operationalization of the Multi-Product Clusters in the project area under the overall guidance and support by Livelihood Resource Centre at PMU.

6.4.1 The key objectives of engaging MMSA

The objectives, responsibilities and scope of work of the MMSA (Multi-Product Cluster Support Agency) are outlined as follows:

1. Establish and Operate Multi-Product Clusters: Provide strategic support for setting up and running Multi-Product Clusters, including community and CBO (Community-Based Organization) mobilization, comprehensive business planning, and relevant skill development.
2. Enhance Product Marketability: Facilitate the aggregation, value addition, packaging, and marketing of products, as well as develop supply chain infrastructure to ensure products reach profitable markets.
3. Strengthen Market Connections: Support the establishment of financial linkages, implement technological solutions, conduct quality checks, and enhance branding and market positioning of products to increase their competitive edge.
4. Promote Skill Development and Sustainability: Provide training for skill enhancement and capacity building to stakeholders, beneficiaries, and change agents. Focus on fostering a sustainable business culture and enterprise operations that prioritize the conservation of ecological assets.

Scope of Work for MMSA:

- Ensure Financial and Environmental Viability: Work with clusters to develop financially sustainable models that comply with the environmental guidelines set by the Government of Odisha, aiming to transform these clusters into profitable entities.
- Strategic Planning and Management: Build strategies and plans for effective supply chain management, maximizing value chains, and fostering market development.
- Marketing and R&D Support: Offer ongoing support for marketing and research and development to enhance cluster viability.

The MMSA under LRC, OFSDS is assisting in collaboration with social enablers who are capable of linking the value-added products to the market. MMSA is also preparing standard operating protocols for different products and rolling out the capacity building programs and membership drive of primary producers for setting up value chains

Consolidated Business Transaction Status by MMSA during 2024-2025

Sl No	Product	Social Enabler/Local Trader	Coverage (in Nos)		Quantity Traded (In kgs/pieces/ bundles)	Amount (in INR)
			Project Divisions	No of VSSs/EDCs		
1	Watermelon	Local trader	1	1	3228 kgs	32,280
2	Indigenous Aromatic Paddy	Social Enabler	1	12	6088 kgs	1,88,701
3	Handpounded Rice	Local trader	2	2	221 kgs	10,470
4	Millet & Millet Products	Local trader and Exhibition	4	6	1496.5 kgs	1,75,320
			2	2	540 pieces	20,200

5	Sorghum	Adivasi Mela	1	1	20 kgs	1,200
6	Mushroom	Local Trader	1	1	35 kgs	3,500
7	Mango	Local Trader	3	3	9600 kgs	5,03,000
8	Vegetables	Social Enabler	5	8	1321.5 kgs	39,990
			2	2	3270 pieces	4,757
		Local Trader	9	41	39362 kgs	8,19,850
			3	3	7517 pieces	11,600
			1	1	5 bunches	1,000
		ITDA Deogarh	1	1	21000 pieces	84,000
9	Spices	Adivasi Mela	1	1	92 kgs	18,400
		BCKIC	1	1	15 kgs	5,050
10	Oil seeds	Adivasi Mela	1	1	40 kgs	4,800
11	Groundnut	Local Trader	2	3	24503 kgs	15,53,207
12	Sal Leaf Plate & Bowl	Local Trader	2	7	2142 bundles	97,920
			1	1	500 packets	10,400
			3	4	554519 pieces	5,94,652
13	Hillbroom	Local Trader	4	11	4646 pieces	1,72,060
14	Bahada	Subarna Mahotsav	1	1	7.2 kgs	720
15	Chironji Seed	Local Trader	2	3	87 kgs	19,000
16	Dhatki Flower	Local Trader	1	3	76 kgs	2,660
17	Harida	Subarna Mahotsav	1	1	19.9 kgs	1,592
18	Honey	Local Trader & Melas	4	4	122.1 kgs	81,650
			2	2	25 litres	16,500
19	Medicinal Items	Adivasi Mela	1	1	28 kgs	11,200
20	Phenyl	Subarna Mahotsav	1	1	6 litres	480
21	Jhuna	Subarna Mahotsav	1	1	2.5 kgs	750
22	Vermicompost	Local Trader & Adivasi Mela	2	4	6266 kgs	67,920
23	Turmeric Powder	Adivasi Mela	1	1	60 kgs	12,000
24	Wood Apple & Elephant Apple	Social Enabler	1	1	600 pieces	8,600
25	Processed Cashew	Local Trader	2	2	1357.64 kgs	9,43,535
26	Raw Cashew	Local Trader	1	2	3318 kgs	5,13,660
27	Cashew Shell	Local Trader	1	1	2065.6 kgs	39,086
28	Rejected & Oil Mixed Processed Cashew	Local Trader	1	1	25 kgs	450
29	Pulses	Local Trader & Adivasi Mela	3	16	2973 kgs	2,81,015
30	Others	Local Trader & Adivasi Mela	4	6	5957 kgs	5,84,640
			5	7	30612 pieces	2,57,369
			3	3	112 litres	6,370
Total						**72,01,553**

6.5 Community Development through Micro Planning

Micro plan is a crucial document prepared at the VSS level that serves as a blueprint for initiating different activities. This plan is crafted with substantial community involvement and revisit of Micro plan for modifications as per requirement after four years of project implementation.

The process of creating and revisiting Micro Plans is described in detail as stated below:

1. Preparation of Micro plan:

- Community Engagement: The preparation of the initial micro plan involves active participation from community members. Partner NGOs and project personnel facilitate this process using Participatory Rural Appraisal (PRA) tools.
- Drafting and Feedback: Once the micro plan is drafted, it is presented to the General Body of the respective VSSs for feedback and approval.
- Formal Approval: After the General Body approves the micro plan, it is submitted to the Gram Sabha for final endorsement.
- Incorporation in Panchayat Plans: Approved micro plans are then discussed in the Panchayat Samiti planning meetings to be integrated into the broader perspective plans of the Panchayats.

2. Revisiting and Updating:

- Periodic Review: after completion of four year in the project, existing micro plans of each VSSs/EDCs are revisited to reflect the current needs and priorities of the community.
- Continued Community Involvement: The revision process, like the initial preparation, heavily involves community participation, ensuring the plan remains relevant and effective.

3. Current Status:

- Micro Plans Formulated: To date, 1211 micro plans have been developed and approved by the Gram Sabhas across 1,211 VSSs and 10 Eco-Development Committees (EDCs).
- Revised Plans: Out of these, 1179 micro plans 1179 VSSs have been revisited and updated to align with current conditions and requirements.

This structured approach ensures that the micro plans are not only community-driven but also remains dynamic and responsive to changing circumstances.

6.6 Developing Common Facility Centre; VSS Building-cum-IGA Facilitation Centre

The VSS Building cum IGA Facilitation Centre has been constructed based on the identified need for a Common Facility Centre during the preparation of village development plans or micro plans. These centres serve as valuable assets to the villagers, providing spaces for conducting meetings, cultural programs, health camps, storing of Non-Timber Forest Products (NTFP), drying yards, animal health camps, training sessions, and many more. Under OFSDP-II, a VSS Building cum IGA Facilitation Centre has been constructed in each of the VSSs and EDCs. As of March 2025, a total of 1220 such centres have been completed and in use.

6.7 Inter-Sectoral Convergence

To ensure effective coordination with line departments and achieve inter-sectoral convergence under the Odisha Forestry Sector Development Project-II (OFSDP-II), a comprehensive institutional framework has been established at various levels.

Key Institutional Structures:

1. Apex Entities:

- High-Powered Committee (HPC): This is the top-level body responsible for overseeing the project.
- Governing Body of the Odisha Forestry Sector Development Society (OFSDS): This body collaborates closely with the HPC to issue directives to relevant line departments, ensuring seamless integration and synergy with the OFSDP-II initiatives.

2. District and Block Level Advisory Committees:

- District Level Advisory Committees (DAC): Chaired by the District Collector, these committees include senior officials from various line departments at the district level. The DAC convenes quarterly to discuss and coordinate project activities.
- Block Level Advisory Committees (BLAC): Led by the Block Development Officers, these committees comprise senior officials from line departments at the block level. The BLAC holds monthly meetings to ensure regular and focused implementation.

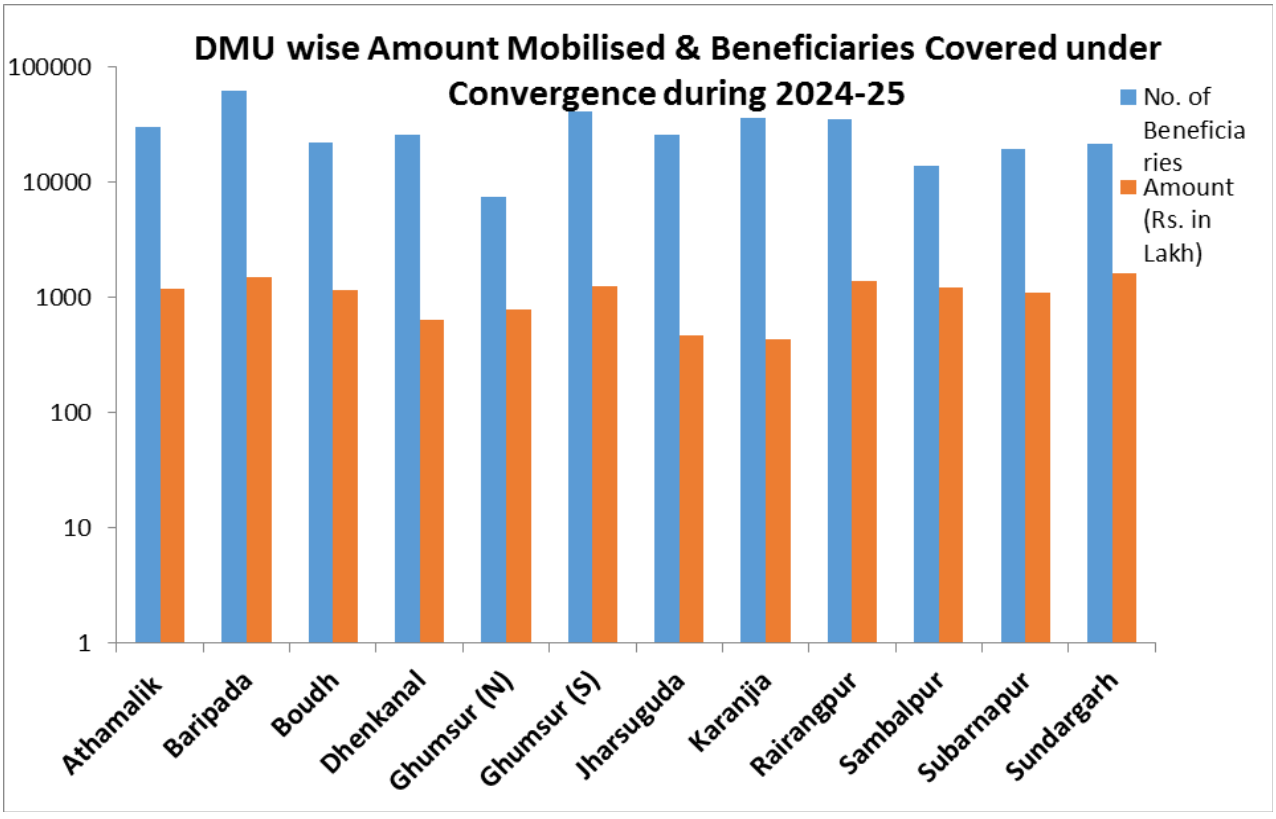
Roles and Activities:

- Facilitation of Inter-Sectoral Convergence: The DACs and BLACs play a crucial role in facilitating the smooth implementation of the inter-sectoral convergence program under OFSDP-II. They help integrate various government schemes and ensure their execution in the project villages.
    - Implementation of Livelihood Development Plan: These committees are instrumental in implementing the Livelihood Development Plan by leveraging resources and support from different sectors.
    - Community Development through Convergence: At the VSS level, various community development activities, known as Entry Point Activities (EPAs), are carried out through convergence. These include among others:
        - Repair and maintenance of approach roads and tube wells.
        - Cleaning of drains.
        - Installation of streetlights.
        - Organization of animal and human health camps, and other initiatives.

The structured approach at multiple levels ensures that the project achieves optimal synergy and inter-sectoral convergence, facilitating the successful implementation of development activities in the OFSDP-II project areas.

DMU wise Convergence During 2024-2025

Name of DMU	No. of VSSs Covered	No. of H.H Covered	No. of Beneficiaries	Amount of Convergence (Rs. in Lakhs)
Athmallik	74	13660	30048	1205.89
Baripada	135	17059	62169	1521.86
Boudh	71	9590	22344	1156.46
Dhenkanal	150	11615	26224	632.07
Ghumsur (N)	100	7390	7390	786.95
Ghumsur (S)	65	12510	41016	1250.58
Jharsuguda	88	15154	25616	472.63
Karanjia	80	10136	36228	435.59
Rairangpur	107	10508	35565	1373.09
Sambalpur	100	7836	13781	1227.12
Subarnapur	84	19449	19449	1088.08
Sundargarh	156	21870	21870	1639.46
Grand Total	**1210**	**1,56,777**	**341700**	**12789.79**

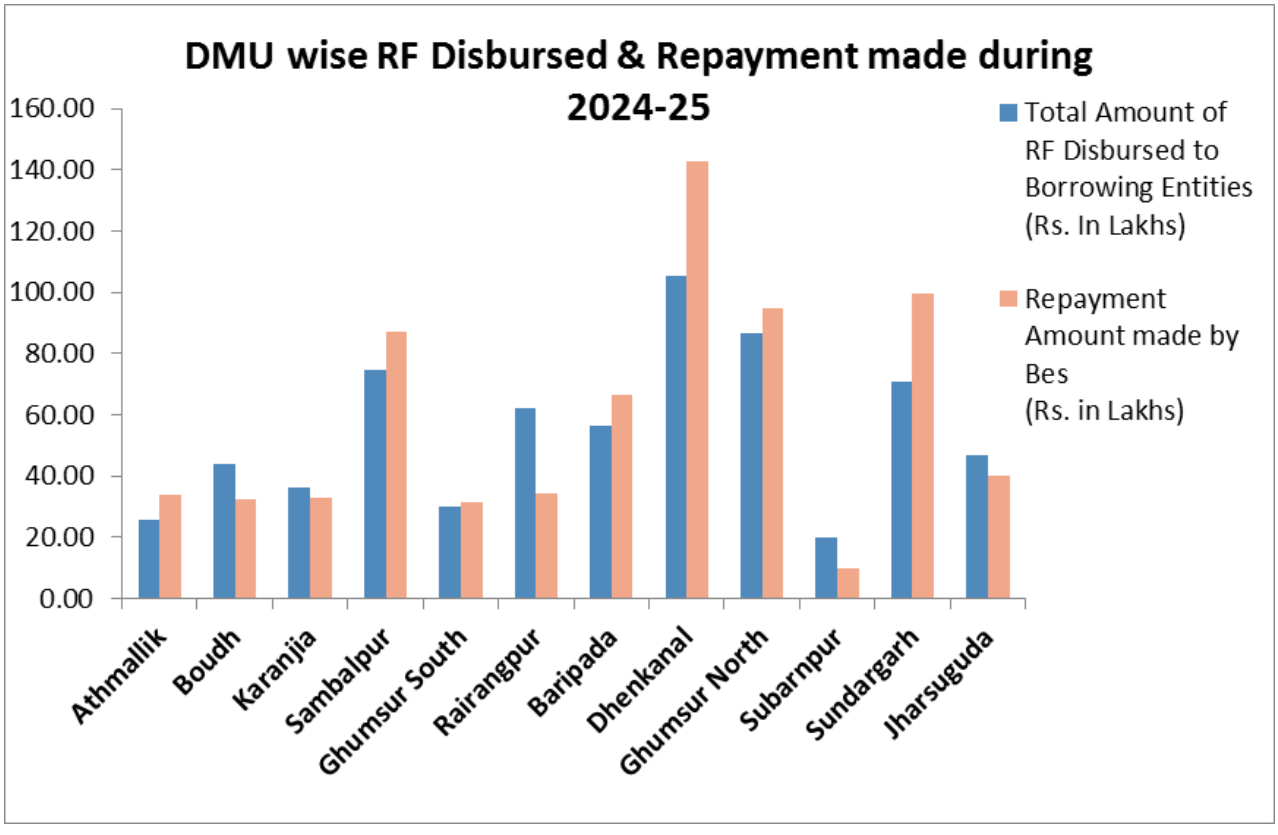


During the Financial Year 2024-25 a sum of Rs.12789.79 lakhs have been mobilized covering 3.41 lakhs beneficiaries belonging to 1.56 lakh households. Different type of works of line departments have been executed by the VSSs/EDCs for IGA promotion. Details of the convergence activity is given in the following table. So far, 1210 VSSs and 10 EDCs have been covered under convergence during the reporting period. Departments like Panchayti Raj & Drinking Water, Soil Conservation, SC & ST Dev., Women and Child Development, Horticulture, Fisheries & ARD, Health & Family Welfare, Irrigation, PWD etc. have made significant contribution to the OFSDP-II project area through inter-sectoral convergence.

Department Wise Convergence During 2024-2025 Under OFSDP-II		
Department	**Total Beneficiaries (In Nos.)**	**Amount of Convergence (Rupees in Lakh)**
Agriculture & Farmers' Empowerment	12225	369.854
Corporate & Bank	2603	622.706
Department of Water Resource	4423	522.812
Dept. of Mission Shakti	2729	323.215
Dept. of Energy & OREDA	232	23.000
Dept. of Industry	165	16.260
District Mineral Foundation	90	0.840
Fisheries and ARD Department	10000	370.026
Forest, Environment & Climate Change	5885	123.115
Health & FW Dept.	9617	56.906
Horticulture Dept.	8558	308.782
Irrigation	4962	618.663
Labour Dept.	15	3.750
Ministry of Communication	514	292.000
MP/MLA LAD	2247	53.100
NGO	2574	46.792
Others (Municipality, CSR, etc.)	345	2.148
Panchaytiraj & Drinking Water	243479	6845.362
PWD	1012	43.000
Revenue & Disaster Management	11	0.308
Rural Development	7463	1120.258
SC & ST Dev. Dept.	12704	281.201
School & Mass Education	2670	7.500
Skiil Development & Technical Education	799	74.306
Soil Conservation Dept.	4014	466.903
Urban Devt.	526	95.380
Women and Child Development	1382	73.800
Planning & Convergence	456	27.800
Grand Total (Convergence)	**3,41,700**	**12,789.79**

6.8 Utilisation of Revolving Funds by VSSs/EDCs

Revolving Fund is one time grant to each VSSs/EDCs that has been provisioned under the project to provide loan to the SHGs, CIGs and PoPs for undertaking IGAs to augment the family income. This fund will help to improve access to small scale finance required for investment towards IGAs. A detailed RF Guideline has been prepared for effective use of this fund. Training and capacity building programme have been conducted for the project personnel in order to manage the fund effectively at each VSS. A Loan Appraisal Committee has been created in each project VSS to thoroughly verify the Business Plan and approve the loan. Borrowing Entities like; SHGs, CIGs and Poorest of Poor need to prepare the Business plan to avail the loan from Revolving Fund through VSS



Status of Utilisation of RF During (2024-25)

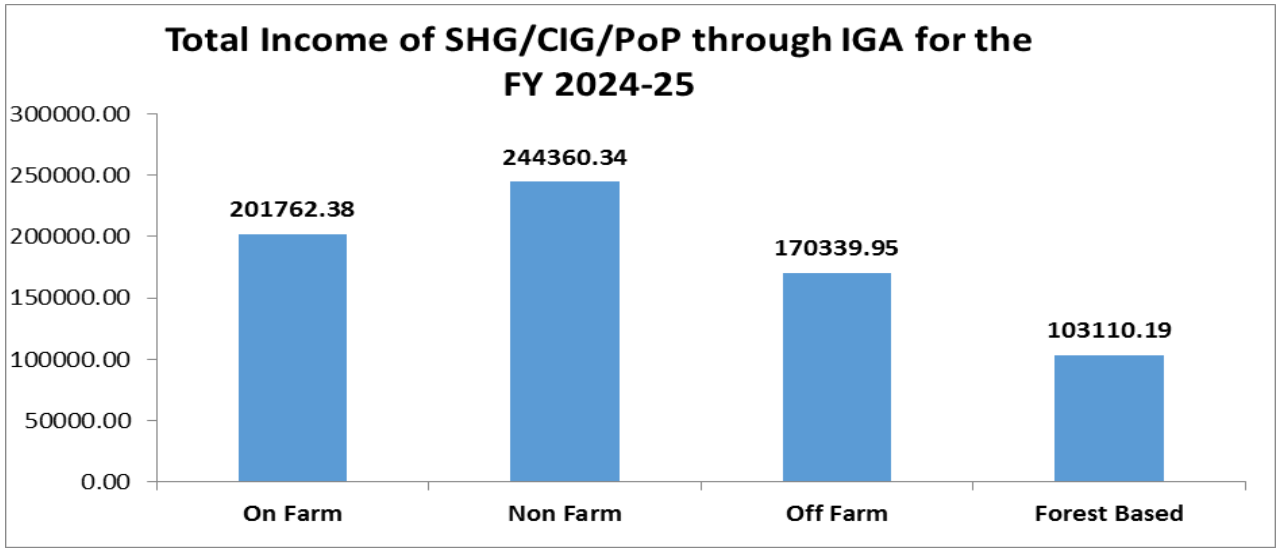
Total no. of DMUs	12
No. of FMUs	48
No. of VSS Released RF	44
Total Amount Disbursed to Borrowing Entities (SHG/CIG/PoP) Rs. in Lakh	658.4 Lakhs
Total Amount repaid by BEs (Rs. in Lakh)	704.68
No. of SHGs received Loan	574
No. of CIGs received Loan	111
No. of PoPs received Loan	2835
Total number of beneficiaries benefitted	**8171**

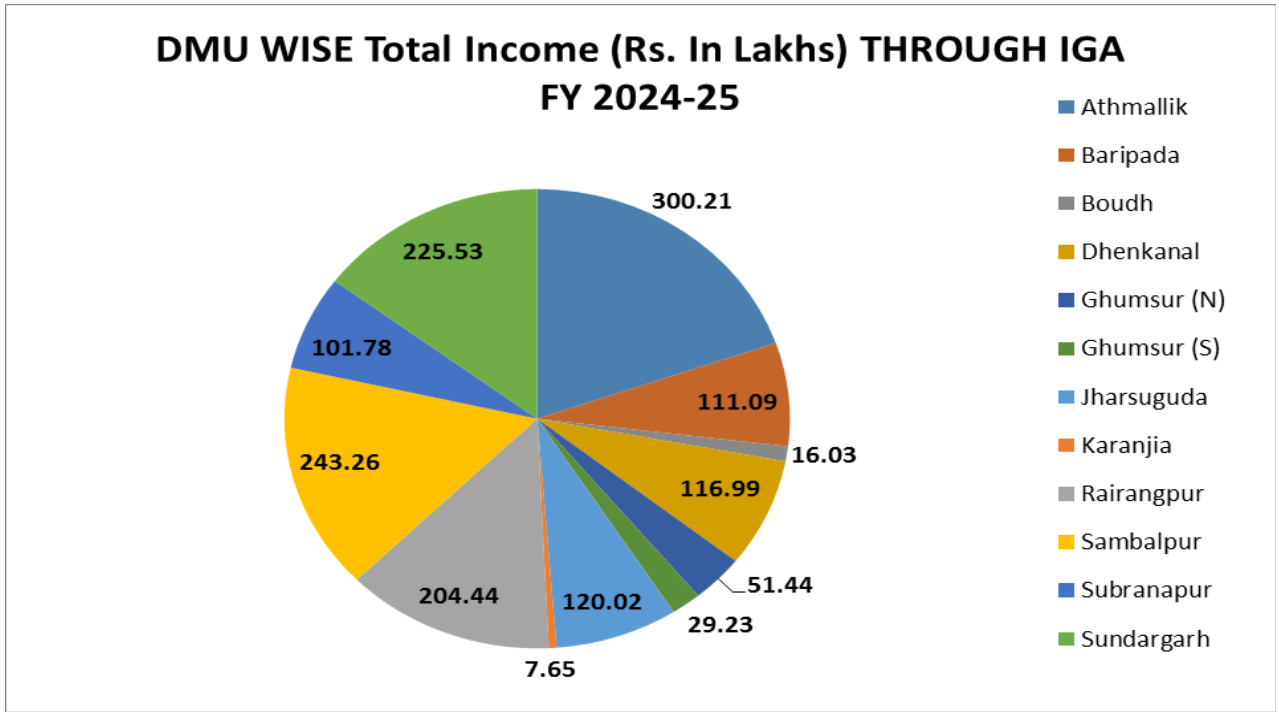
Till March 2025, Rs. 26.14 Crore has been disbursed to the SHGs, CIGs, & PoP members out of which Rs. 17.26 Crore has been refunded by the Borrowing Entities. Total beneficiaries; SHG= 2728, CIG=435, PoP =11,135.

During 2024-25 total amount disbursed to the Borrowing Entities is Rs. 6.58 Crore and refund made by the Borrowing entities is Rs.7.04 crore.

6.9 Income Generated through IGAs and Market Support

Enhancement of Income Generation Activities among the forest dwellers has been one of the major target of OFSDP-II. During FY 2024-25 small IGAs have been promoted in 968 SHGs, 129 CIGs and among 3901 PoP members through the support of Revolving Fund and through convergence with different line departments. Highest income has been generated through on farm activities like agriculture, horticulture and allied activities.





6.10 Value addition through Establishment of Product Cluster

Sustainable Income opportunities and lucrative market for the forest fringe dwellers forest-dependent communities is a key component in achieving the overall goals of the OFSDP-II. This initiative aims to improve the income of forest fringe dwellers, thereby promoting sustained livelihoods and significantly reducing biotic pressure on forests. Establishment of Multi-Product Clusters (MPCs) in the project divisions is one of the project mandate of OFSDP-II. Cluster approach is an effective strategy for creating long-term economic opportunities. The clusters enable the primary producers or collectors to sell their products at remunerative prices, ensuring sustainable income for the community members. It specifically targets the SHGs, CIGs, and the PoP members within the VSS areas.

Establishment of Multi Product Clusters not only fosters economic growth but also strengthens the collective bargaining power of the community, enhances market access, and improves overall quality of the products. Through this approach, the project aims to create a sustainable and resilient economic model that benefits the forest-dependent communities in the long term.

Multi Product Cluster Progress Status till March 2025, OFSDP-II

Sl No.	Name of the Division	Cluster Location	Product	Unit of Product	Selling Status			Number of persons benefitted
					Total Qnt. Sold		Total Sales	
					Pressed Khali/ Plates	Pressed Bowl	Amount in Rupees	
1	Baripada	Bartana	Sal Leaf	No	210667	4760	503802	365
2	Rairangpur	Bisoi		No	215055	681109	936256	1630
3	Karanjia	Kendumundi		No	62603	32675	175967	506
4	Dhenkanal	Lambodarpur	Cashew	Kg	1938.9	1635732	112	
			Honey	Kg	56.25	56200	41	
			Cashew shell	Kg	1959	21100	0	
5	Jharsuguda	Kolabira	Lemon Grass Oil	Kg	182.96	211383	47	
		Badimal			12	14400	2	
Total Amount (In Rs.)							**35,54,840**	**2526**

Bulk processing, marketing and retailing of the products need a cluster mode of operation. Therefore, Multi Product Clusters for aggregation and value addition of the product is promoted so as to ensure a greater remunerative marketing and improved income for the forest fringe dwellers.

List of Products identified for Proposed Multi Product Clusters

Division	Range	Name of the Proposed Cluster Location	Name of the Major Product	Name of the other Products for Multi cluster
Athamallik	Athamallik	Tangianisha	Ground-nut	Mango, Bahada, Harida, Amla & Char
Baripada	Betonoti	Baidpur, Bartana	Sal Leaf	Honey, Harida, Bahada, Mahua seed (Tola), Bamboo
Dhenkanal	Dhenkanal	Hi-tech Nursery,	Cashew	Mango, Sal Leaf, Black Gram, Jack Fruit & Honey
Subarnapur	Ullunda	Matupali	Hill Broom	Sal leaf
Karanjia	Thakurmunda	Kendumundi	Sal Leaf	Myrobalans, Pongamia seed, Lemon, Tamarind,
Rairangpur	Bisoi	Bartana	Sal Leaf	Pongamia seed, Honey, Harida, Bahada, Charaand others
Boudh	Boudh	Bamanda Central Nursery	NTFP & Pulses	Chara, Pongamia seed, Pulses, Tamarind
Sambalpur	Padiabaha, Dhama	Chamunda/ Badmal/ Bhimkhoj	Sal Leaf	Tamarind, Bahada, Harida, Mahua flower
Ghumsur (N)	Mujagada	Bhanja Nagar (Bana Vihar)	Sal Leaf	Cashew, Tamarind, Amla, Bahada, Harida
Ghumsur (S)	Buguda	Matajhari	Pulses	Cashew, Mango, Tamarind, Amla Bahada, Harida
Sundargarh	Ujjalpur, Hemgiri	Hi tech Nursery, Ujjalpur	Non-Farm	Mango, Char, Harida Bahada
Jharsuguda	Kolabira, Bagdihi	Borpain/ Ganjudihi/ Kukerama/ Bhimjore	Lemongrass	Mango, Chilli, Harida, Bahada & Amla

6.11 Participation of VSSs/SHGs in the State Level Herbal Fair and Adivasi Mela at Bhubaneswar

The Odisha Forestry Sector Development Society (OFSDS) participated in the 17th State Level Kalinga Herbal Fair- 2024 organized by State Medicinal Plant Board, Government of Odisha from 6th November to 12th November 2024. The exhibition-cum-sale counter in the 17th Kalinga Herbal Fair – 2024 had witnessed participation of seventeen Territorial Forest Divisions of OFSDP-II and AJY being implemented under Odisha Forestry Sector Development Society. The OFSDS stalls were visited by Honourable Minister, Department of Forest, Environment and Climate Change, Government of Odisha, Shri Ganeshram Singh Khuntia and Sri Debidutta Biswal, IFS, Principal Chief Conservator of Forests, HoFF, Govt of Odisha, and Dr. Meeta Biswal, IFS, PCCF (Projects) and Project Director, Odisha Forestry Sector Development Project participated in the inauguration of the Herbal Fair.

Major thrust of this fair was on herbal products, organic products and wellness activities, VSSs were chosen from the identified Herbal Cluster of OFSDS. Priority was given to introduce the products of Self-Help Groups operationalized under OFSDP-II and AJY herbal clusters. Total sale of products in the fair was Rs..49 Lakhs

The OFSDS ensured display of project activities and achievements at the exhibition. As many as 21 SHGs strengthened under Ama Jangala Yojana & OFSDP-II had participated in the event. Total 42 members of 21 Self Help Groups representing the Vana Surakhya Samitis of OFSDP-II and AJY Divisions participated in the seven-day exhibition.

The Odisha Forestry Sector Development Society (OFSDS) also participated in the Adivasi Mela 2024-25 from 5th January to 16th January 2024. The exhibition-cum-sale counter had witnessed participation of seventeen Territorial Forest Divisions of OFSDP-II and AJY being implemented under Odisha Forestry Sector Development Society. In total 32 SHGs with 110 members had participated in the exhibition and sale of Rs. 81.94 Lakhs was generated for the participants. Such exhibition at State level is quite encouraging for the SHG and CIG members. This year witnessed the highest sale in the Adibasi Mela.

Innovations under OFSDP-II

CHAPTER 7

7.1 Introduction

In a rapidly globalized world, fostering innovation is imperative for competitiveness which has also been instrumental to transform the forest sector which has been labelled as conservative and often resistant to change despite its potential benefits, due to its long operational cycles. Government policies play a crucial role in encouraging innovation within the forest sector. Transformative innovations, involving various stakeholders beyond the sector's current domains are already emerging. Governments, particularly those leveraging the forest sector for rural development, have a vested interest in fostering such innovations. Effective partnerships among government, industry, academia, and NGOs are essential, alongside addressing cross-cutting issues and interventions. OFSDS, through its flagship project OFSDP-II, has spearheaded several transformative innovations, detailed in this chapter.

The conceptualization and implementation of transformative innovations began with countering the challenge of strategizing innovative approaches. Few more hurdles that have to be overcome in this process are unrealistic expectation from innovations, lack of sufficient empowerment of teams enforcing innovations, deficient cultural traits that support innovativeness and social change, lack of proper managerial support, difficulty in finding appropriate collaborators and viable process of collaboration, uncertainties during transition phases of growth and development and ineffective and proven tools of implementing innovations. In order to overcome these challenges, along with clear conceptualization of innovative ideas, evolving Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) for each set of activities, meticulous planning, effective capacity building, strict schedule of implementation, rigorous concurrent monitoring & evaluation, continuity in progression from one milestone to another and regular documentation are the underscored project norms for the success in attaining the set objectives.

7.2 Revisiting Micro plans

The village-level micro plan serves as a blueprint for a long-term (ten years) comprehensive village development plan, tailored to local needs and resources, with a focus on enhancing forest ecosystems and sustainable livelihoods. These micro plans, crafted under OFSDP-II with active involvement of VSSs are aligned with the Joint Forest Management (JFM) Resolution of the Government of Odisha. Micro plans were prepared for all 1211 VSSs covered under OFSDP-II, focussing on community involvement in addressing the local challenges in rural development for meeting the local needs. Under the project guidelines, the revision of micro plans for villages / VSS was to be taken up in the fifth year, i.e., after four years of implementation of first micro plan as discussed in Chapter 3.

7.2.1 Implementation Process

OFSDP-II commenced preparatory work in 2017-18 and started implementation of project activities in Batch-I VSSs in 2018-19. As per the project mandate, the revisit of micro plans for 355 VSSs of Batch-I, Batch-II and Batch-III under all 12 Forest Divisions were was taken up in 2022-23, 2023-24 and 2024-25 respectiuvely. It was a rigorous process, comprised of following stages:

- A 'Handbook on Micro Plan Revisit' containing detailed formats, in English and Odia was developed and distributed to all Divisions.

- A two-day Orientation training for all DMU Chiefs and SMSs was conducted at Bhubaneswar in collaboration with XIM University, Bhubaneswar.
- Subsequently, "Two-day training programs" were conducted at all DMU headquarters by PMU and PMC experts, to orient FMU and PNGO staff.
- The Re-visit of Micro Plan exercise was conducted with full community participation. It incorporated existing activities, changes occurred in the village since initial days of the project implementation and when the first Micro plan was drawn, challenges to be addressed, newly introduced 'Cross cutting components like Gender mainstreaming, Environmental & Social Management Framework and CMRV, future plan of action and annual plan & progress formats etc.
- Review and scrutiny of draft revised Micro Plans prepared by DMUs by the PMU and PMC experts and providing the feedback for incorporation in the final version of revised micro plan. This was followed by review meetings at each DMU to address discrepancies in the draft.
- After rigorously following these steps, the revised Micro Plans were approved in the VSS General Body meetings and subsequently in Palli Sabha/Gram Sabha meetings, ensuring FRA compliance.

7.2.2 Special Features of Micro Plan Revisit under OFSDP-II

The revised micro plan, as in case of first micro plan, was fully participatory, involving the VSS members in the entire exercise with the emphasis on the bottom-up planning approach. It integrates the cross-cutting project components like Gender Mainstreaming, Environmental & Social Management Safeguard Framework, and Community-based Monitoring, Reporting, and Verification. Lot of focus has been given in the revised micro plan on convergence activities with line departments, with particular effort to provide access to the government welfare schemes for the benefit of marginal and poorest of poot families.

Further, the micro plan re-visit process helps in empowering and building the capacity of community members, including women to make self-assessment, monitoring the progress and carry out mid-way corrections if needed. The exercise, while encouraging collective planning at grassroot level, also aims at strengthening the community institutions. Overall, it was an inclusive process ensuring community ownership.

7.2.3 Lessons Learnt/Benefits derived from Micro Plan Re-visit

While micro plan revisit facilitates prompt addressing of evolving local issues, sustainability and self-reliance in the community-based planning process is ensured. It enables the villagers to access the benefits of the various government's welfare schemes through convergence program. Ultimately, the local community is empowered through the micro planning and its execution for the integrated development of the village. Revisiting Micro Plans in all 1211 VSSs covered under OFSDP-II is mandated, ensuring community involvement in developmental schemes and fulfilling rural aspirations.

7.3 Gender Mainstreaming

7.3.1 Concept of Gender Mainstreaming (GM)

The concept of Gender Mainstreaming (GM) has become an important social- engineering tool for achieving gender equality and equity in the field of socio-economic and community development, particularly in developing countries. All development projects, including those in the forestry sector have

started adopting gender mainstreaming strategies to encourage constructive gender participation and equitable access to benefits by both men and women stakeholder. The key aspects of Gender Mainstreaming are as under.

i. Recognition of Gender as Key Stakeholders:

- Gender Mainstreaming (GM) envisages both men and women as essential stakeholders in natural resource management and development sectors.
- It aims to achieve equality and equity in gender participation, contribution, resource accessibility, and benefit sharing.

ii. Inclusive Development Process:

- GM approach ensures equal participation of men and women in the development management process.
- It mandates the consideration of differing needs and priorities of men and women during planning, implementation, and monitoring of community development interventions.

iii. Social and economic empowerment:

- Both, social and economic empowerment of women leads to the successful implementation of GM agenda in development projects.
- Empowering women involves building their capacity to manage livelihood support activities, ensuring their equal status along with men in all aspects of rural life.

iv. Sensitization and mutual support:

- GM approach promotes the sensitization of both men and women towards their equal social responsibilities.
- It encourages mutually supportive roles for community betterment.

Gender mainstreaming in natural resource management and community development projects ensures that both men and women are equally involved and benefitted, leading to more sustainable and inclusive development. The Joint Forest Management (JFM) Programme in Odisha serves as a model, demonstrating the positive impact of gender mainstreaming through active community engagement and empowerment initiatives. Gender mainstreaming remains one of the key domains of JFM which has been rigorously implemented since the early 1990s. The success achieved in gender mainstreaming in JFM Programme is largely attributed to the highly responsive community-based organizations such as Vana Suraksha Samitis (VSSs), Self-Help Groups (SHGs), Common Interest Groups (CIGs), and Palli Sabhas. These organizations have always encouraged active participation of women in most village development activities. Under the Odisha Forestry Sector Development Project-II (OFSDP-II), there has been a significant focus on gender mainstreaming. This includes ensuring women's participation in decision-making processes and equitable access to project benefits.

7.3.2 Gender Mainstreaming in OFSDP-II

The Odisha Forestry Sector Development Project (OFSDP-II) primarily aims to achieve sustainable forest management through active community participation and to provide diversified livelihood opportunities for the economic betterment of forest-dependent communities. A key aspect of this developmental initiative is the emphasis on gender mainstreaming in order to achieve equitable sharing of project

benefits among stakeholders without gender discrimination. Gender mainstreaming is a cross-cutting component, applicable to all major project components of OFSDP-II and at all levels of project management and implementation, right from VSS at grassroot level to Forest Management Units (FMU), Divisional Management Units (DMU), and the Project Management Unit (PMU) at state level.

7.3.2.1 Roles of Project Management Units in Gender Mainstreaming

- Vana Suraksha Samiti (VSS): The village-level organizations are central to implementing gender mainstreaming strategies with support from FMUs. Each VSS develops a Gender Action Plan (GAP) during the microplanning process, which is incorporated into the village-level micro plan.
- Forest Management Unit (FMU): Provide technical support and facilitate the implementation of gender strategies at the village level.
- Divisional Management Unit (DMU) & Project Management Unit (PMU): Develop and oversee the implementation of gender action plans at higher administrative levels. PMU, in consultation with DMUs and FMUs, formulates GAPs for the project management levels.

7.3.2.2 Components of Gender Mainstreaming

The following are the major components of GM which are crucial for its implementation at different units of project management, particularly at VSS level with community participation.

- Gender Analysis: Conducting studies to understand gender-specific issues, needs, and priorities.
- Gender-Segregated Data: Collecting and utilizing data to design interventions that address specific needs of men and women.
- Equal Participation: Ensuring that both men and women participate equally in planning, implementation, monitoring, and evaluation processes.
- Gender Empowerment: Capacity building for both men and women to maximize the benefits from project interventions and improve their living standards.

In this respect, OFSDP-II's published guidelines explains how to integrate gender-specific actions across all project components. The Gender Action Plan aims to

- enhance participation of both genders in decision-making processes.
- reduce gender gaps in access to information, funds, services, and control over natural resources and
- ensure equitable distribution of project benefits.

The gender mainstreaming strategies under OFSDP-II are designed within the framework of the Joint Forest Management (JFM) Resolution 2011 by the Government of Odisha. Such strategies focus on community and gender participation in forest protection, sustainable management, livelihood promotion, and community development activities. The ultimate goal is to empower communities, particularly women, ensuring they access to the necessary skills and opportunities to benefit from the project proportionate to their contribution to sustainable forest management. By implementing these gender-oriented actions, OFSDP-II strives to achieve not only environmental sustainability but also social equity, thereby improving the overall well-being of forest-dependent communities.

7.3.3 Addressing Issues of Transgenders in Odisha

The OFSDP-II (Odisha Forestry Sector Development Project-II), under its cross-cutting component of Gender mainstreaming, recognizes the necessity of addressing issues beyond the traditional scope of gender equality and equity. It also tries to address the unique challenges faced by the transgender

community, such as discrimination, social stigma, limited educational facilities, unemployment, lack of shelter and supportive medical services, and issues related to marriage, property, and livelihood insecurity. In order to meet these challenges effectively, a collaborative effort with VSSs is planned by gathering reliable and relevant data on various aspects of the transgender community's livelihood, including their demographic, socio-psychological, educational, economic, and livelihood status.

The project management recognized the importance of increasing the participation of the transgender community in special welfare schemes introduced by the Government of Odisha. The goal was to achieve economic and social empowerment for transgender individuals, enabling them to lead dignified lives with sustained income. However, the lack of comprehensive data and information about the transgender community inhibits the progress of such initiatives. As and when the data and policies are in place, targeted interventions can be designed and implemented to address the specific needs of the transgender community, ensuring their inclusion and support in the project's activities.

7.3.4 Progress made in Gender Mainstreaming under OFSDP-II

Gender mainstreaming is a critical focus of the OFSDP-II, and it is integrated into every level of the project's structure. This includes the Project Management Unit (PMU), Division Management Unit (DMU), Field Management Unit (FMU), Partner Non-Governmental Organizations (PNGO), Vana Suraksha Samiti (VSS), and Self Help Group (SHG). The objective of gender mainstreaming is to attain gender equity and equality within community development initiatives, making sure that these goals are not treated as standalone components but as part of the comprehensive project framework. The strategy for gender mainstreaming in OFSDP-II is outlined in the document titled "Gender Mainstreaming Strategy under OFSDP, Phase-II (2019)." This strategy guides the implementation of the Gender Action Plan (GAP), which addresses various project components and management levels. Since the project's inception, the GAP has been actively implemented, reinforcing the project's commitment to gender equity and equality as fundamental aspects of sustainable community development.

Key components of the GAP include:

i. **Capacity Building**: Conducting training and workshops in regular intervals to enhance the knowledge and capabilities of all project stakeholders with respect to gender issues and their importance in forestry and community development.
ii. **Participation and Representation**: Ensuring that women are adequately and equally represented in decision-making bodies and processes at all levels, from local VSS and SHG groups to higher management units.
iii. **Economic Empowerment**: Supporting women's self-help groups with resources and opportunities so as to engage them successfully in income-generating activities, thereby boosting their economic independence and status within the community.
iv. **Monitoring and Evaluation**: Establishing mechanisms to monitor the implementation of gender mainstreaming activities and evaluate their impact, ensuring continuous improvement and accountability.

The integration of gender mainstreaming into the OFSDP-II underscores the project's inclusive approach to sustainable forestry development, recognizing that gender participation is crucial for the success and sustainability of community development initiatives.

Specifically, the progress made with respect to gender mainstreaming under the project during the year 2024-25 has been detailed below:

7.3.4.1 Gender Mainstreaming at VSS Level through Micro Plan Revisit

The micro plans prepared by the VSSs under OFSDP-II are playing a crucial role in ensuring gender balance and equity in development interventions within the community. The contribution of the Women Working Group (WWG) has played a key role in capturing gender concerns and incorporating them into the Gender Action Plan (GAP) which is an important component of the micro plan document. By focusing on reducing work-drudgery and increasing women's participation in community institutions and governance, the GAP appears to address the specific needs of women effectively.

The re-visit process undertaken in the 403 VSSs of Batch-III is an effort on the part of the project to keep improving and refining the micro plans with a gender perspective. Reviewing the plans with a focus on gender analysis, needs, priorities, and potential impacts on both women and men reflects the project's commitment in ensuring inclusivity. The approval of the revised micro plans by the General Body of VSSs of Batch-III and subsequently by the respective Gram Sabha / Palli Sabha underscores the democratic and participatory nature of the process, ensuring community's ownership and commitment of the gender-responsive interventions outlined in the plans. Overall, it appears that the micro plan is serving as an effective tool for promoting gender equality and equity within the community development framework.

7.3.4.2 Incorporation of Gender Related Formats in the Handbook for Micro Plan Revision

A comprehensive 'Framework for VSS level assessment of micro plan with reference to Gender Mainstreaming and Development under OFSDP-II was developed and incorporated in the Micro plan revision document meant to be used in the Batch-III VSSs. This apart, few other gender related formats were also prepared by the Project Management Unit (PMU) in collaboration with Project Management Consultants (PMC) and the same in English and Odia versions were included in the Handbook for Micro Plan Revision. These formats were meant to elicit exhaustive gender-segregated data and to formulate and incorporate gender action plan in the revised micro plan of each VSS. The following gender related formats were included in the Handbook for Micro Plan Revision which was used in the Batch-II VSSs:

i. Gender involvement in daily routine works

ii. Gender based participation in planning process, access and control over resources.

iii. Gender Resource Map

iv. Format for compilation of gender related responses at VSS level

v. Assessment of budget allocation and expenditure in micro plan as per Gender Action Plan

These gender-related formats incorporated into the handbook for micro plan revision facilitates a more nuanced understanding of how gender dynamics intersect with community development initiatives. This approach has the potential to lead to more effective and sustainable outcomes by addressing the specific challenges and opportunities faced by women and men within the community.

7.3.4.3 Capacity Building in Gender Mainstreaming

During the year under report, series of Orientation training programmes on the process of conducting Micro plan re-visit and the proper way of using the different formats (inclusive of gender related formats) incorporated in the Handbook of Micro Plan Re-visit were conducted for the FMU staff and the community members at VSS of Batch-III. These training programmes were conducted by the trained staff of DMU/FMU/PNGO.

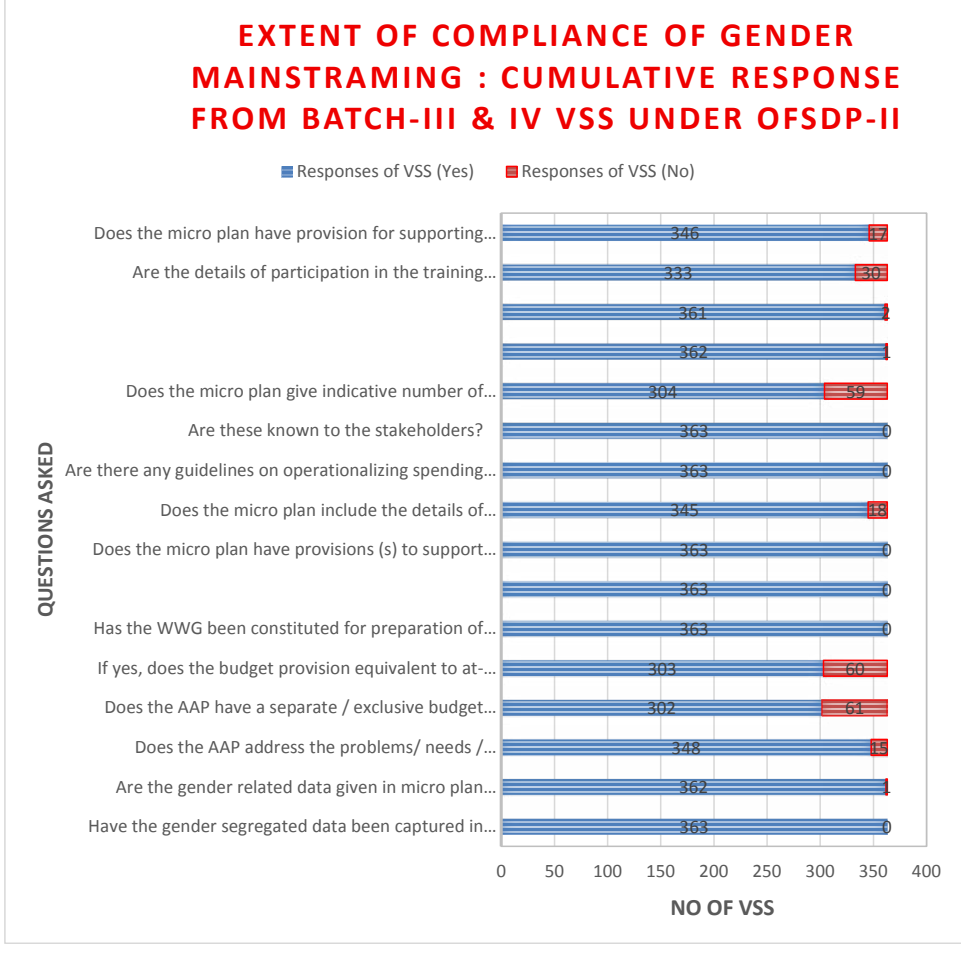
7.3.4.4 Review of Revised Micro Plans Prepared by DMUs

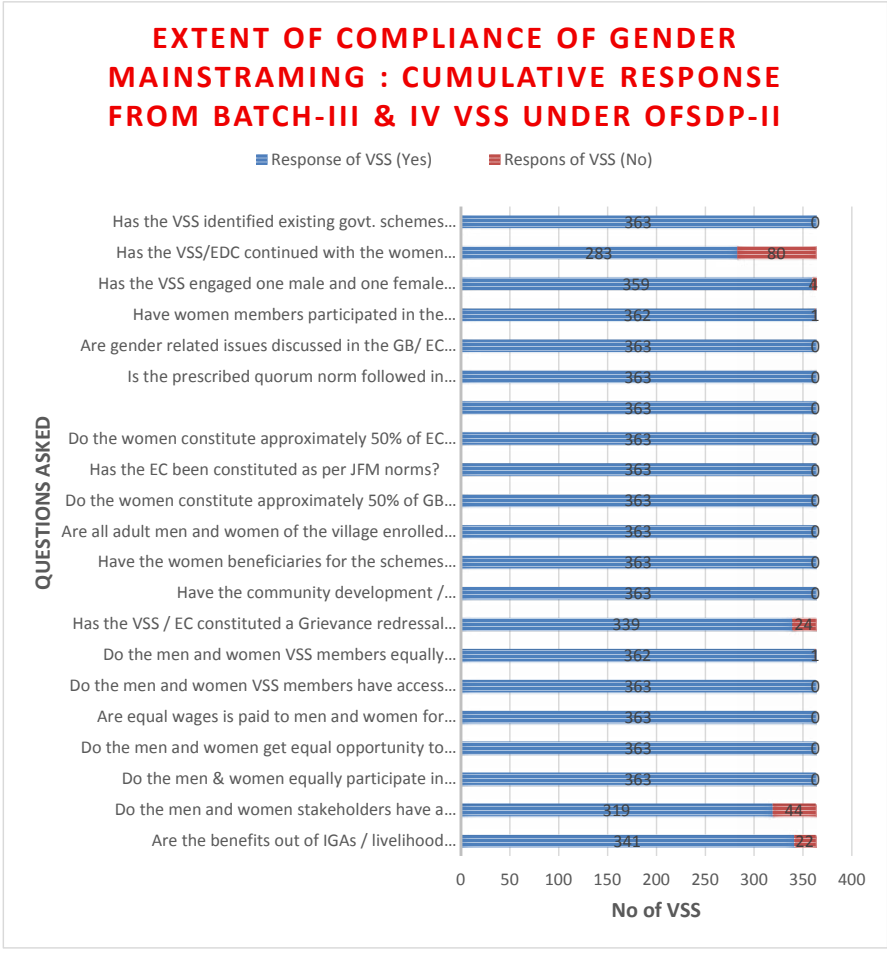
Five to six samples of revised micro plans prepared by the Batch-III VSSs were sent by the DMUs for review and feedback by the PMC experts. The feedback reports were prepared by the experts with respect to all sections of revised micro plan, including the Gender mainstreaming and shared with respective DMUs for carrying out the corrections / modification suggested in the Revised micro plans. Apart from sharing written feedback, the PMC experts also conducted review meetings in DMU headquarters with the presence of DMU Chiefs, SMSs, Batch-III FMU Coordinators, PNGO staff and VSS secretaries. These review meetings helped to clarify all doubts /misunderstandings raised by DMU and field staff with respect to different chapters of revised micro plans, particularly those related to cross cutting components like gender mainstreaming and properly carry out the corrections in the drafts of revised micro plans.

7.3.4.5 Analysis of Gender Related Data Captured through Revised Micro Plans of Batch-II VSSs

The data /information related to the status of gender mainstreaming at VSS (Batch-III) level were captured through the Format for Compilation of Gender related responses at VSS level included in the Handbook of Micro Plan Revision. The format contained 11 broad categories of gender mainstreaming actions envisaged at VSS level. Each of these gender related actions were subjected to several criteria which were measured through 37 specific questions related to gender responses expected to be complied at VSS level.

The data pertaining to the existing status of gender mainstreaming (in terms of Yes /No responses to the 37 questions) in 363 VSSs which reported out of total 434 VSSs of Batch-III & IV in 12 Forest Divisions are presented below in graphical form.

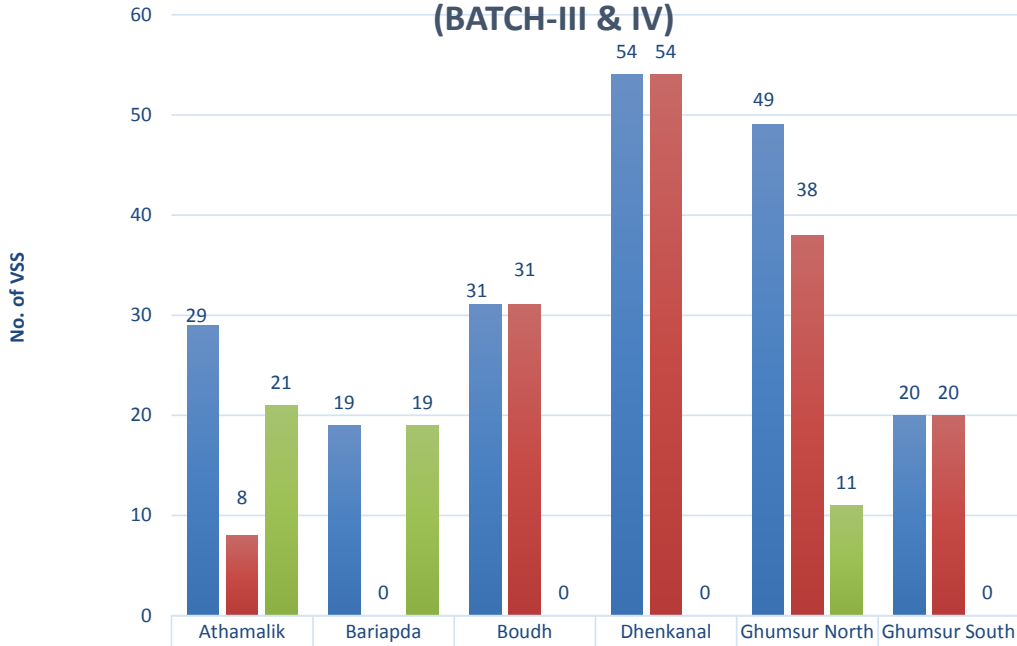




Summary of Responses from Batch-III & IV VSSs on GM Compliance / Actions towards GM Related actions

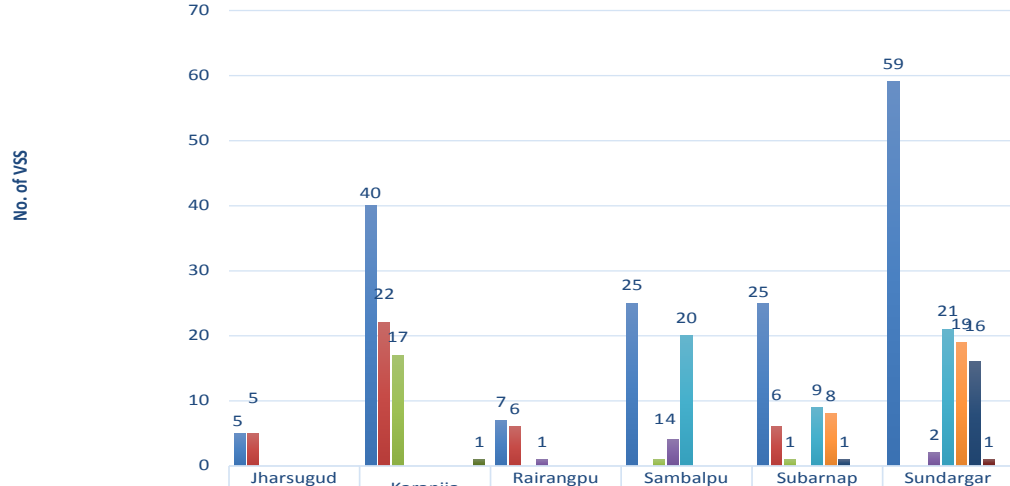
Number of VSSs given positive (yes) response to GM questions / actions (Extent of compliance of prescribed GM parameters)							
100% i.e 'Yes' response to all 37 questions	97.30% i.e 'Yes' to 36 questions & 'No' to one question	94.59% i.e 'Yes' to 35 questions & 'No' to 02 questions	91.89% i.e 'Yes' to 34 questions & 'No' to 03 questions	89.19% i.e 'Yes' to 33 questions & 'No' to 04 questions	86.49% i.e 'Yes' to 32 questions & 'No' to 05 questions	83.78% i.e 'Yes' to to 31 questions, & 'No' to 06 questions	81.08% i.e 'Yes' to to 30 questions, & 'No' to 07 questions
190	70	7	50	27	17	1	1
52.34%	19.28%	1.93%	13.77%	7.44%	4.68%	0.28%	0.28%

EXTENT OF COMPLIANCE OF GENDER MAINSTREAMING: DMU WISE RESPONSE FROM VSS (BATCH-III & IV)



	Athamalik	Bariapda	Boudh	Dhenkanal	Ghumsur North	Ghumsur South
Total No. of VSS	29	19	31	54	49	20
100%	8	0	31	54	38	20
97.30%	21	19	0	0	11	0

EXTENT OF COMPLIANCE OF GENDER MAINSTREAMING: DMU WISE RESPONSE FROM VSS (BATCH-III & IV)



	Jharsuguda	Karanjia	Rairangpur	Sambalpur	Subarnapur	Sundargarh
Total No. of VSS Name	5	40	7	25	25	59
100%	5	22	6		6	
97.30%		17		1	1	
94.59%			1	4		2
91.89%				20	9	21
89.19%					8	19
86.49%					1	16
83.78%						1
81.08%		1				

Inference derived from the analysis of data on GM compliance at Batch-III & IV VSS level

The analysis / interpretation of above-mentioned gender related data represented in graphical and tabular forms indicate the following trend with respect to gender mainstreaming at Batch-III & IV VSS level under the project:

i. All the 363 VSSs reported among the total 434 VSSs of Batch-II & IV are 80% to 100% 'Gender Responsive', as they comply with most of the gender mainstreaming actions envisaged at VSS level.

ii. Just more than half (52.34%) of total Batch-II VSSs have fully complied with the GM related actions, reflected through the positive responses to all 37 GM related questions in the format.

iii. Rest of Batch-III & IV VSSs (47.65 %) have complied between 80% and 97% of GM related actions, reflecting positive responses to the GM related questions.

iv. Following table reveals the GM specific actions (questions) which have not been complied (negatively responded) by nearly 48% of VSSs of Batch-III & IV VSSs.

Summary of Non-Compliance of Gender responses by Batch-II VSSs (FMU/DMU wise Response)

GM related question No (as per the format)	GM related question to which 'Negative' (No) response given by VSS
I-Q(i)	Q (i): Have the gender segregated data been captured in the Micro plan?
II-Q(i)	Q (i): Does the GAP address the problems/ needs / priorities of men & women separately?
II-ii (Q-i)	Q (i): Does the AAP have a separate / exclusive budget allotted for implementing the gender action plans?
II-ii (Q-ii)	Q (ii): Is the gender budget provision equivalent to at-least 5% of micro plan budget?
III- ii (Q-i)	Q (i): Do the members of Women Working Group (WWG) monitor the implementation GAP
V-i(Q-i)	Q (i): Does the micro plan give indicative number of gender awareness trainings to be organized for VSS members (men & women)?
VI-ii-(Q-i)	Q (i): Are the benefits out of IGAs / livelihood interventions equitably shared among men and women involved?
	Q (i): Do the men and women stakeholders have a defined role in various activities related to product Clusters?
VII-ii-(Q-i)	Q (i): Are equal wages is paid to men and women for sustainable forest management works (JFM & Non-JFM modes) and other similar works?
VIII-i-(Q-i)	Q (i): Do the men and women VSS members have access to community / common resources / facilities?
VIII-i-(Q-ii)	Q (ii): Do the men and women VSS members equally derive benefits from the use of community resources?
VIII-ii-(Q-i)	Q (i): Has the VSS / EC constituted a Grievance redressal mechanism to address and redress the grievances of VSS members on use of community resources?
X-ii-(Q-ii)	Q (ii) Has the VSS/EDC continued with the women Animators after two years based on satisfactory performance

v. DMU wise GM analysis reveals the following trend in complying with GM actions by VSSs under different DMUs

- Out of 12 DMUs, the Batch-III & IV VSSs four DMUs viz. Boudh, Ghumsur-South, Dhenkanal and Jharsuguda have fully complied the GM related actions.
- In rest of eight DMUs, the VSSs of Batch-III & IV have complied between 80% and 97% GM related actions.
- In Baripada and Sambalpur divisions no VSS of Batch-III & IV has complied with 100% GM actions. However, their level of GM compliance is at 97% and 91% respectively which also can be rated high and almost at par with the rest of the divisions.

In overall assessment, all the 363 VSSs (reported) out of 434 VSSs of Batch-III & IV of all 12 DMUs show a very high-level positive response towards fulfilling actions related to gender mainstreaming and thus providing a positive trend of equal as well as equitable gender participation in community developmental and forest management activities as envisaged in their respective micro plans. It is expected that the Revised micro plans prepared under the project would further strengthen this positive trend in gender mainstreaming at community level.

7.4 Community based Monitoring, Reporting & verification (CMRV) and REDD + readiness

7.4.1 The Monitoring Reporting and Verification Process in climate change mitigation is an essential tool. In REDD + (Reducing Emission from Deforestation and Forest Degradation) Now with the voluntary process of Climate change the MRV and the Emission reduction are the integrated process in climate change mitigation. In OFSDP-II the community based MRV is stipulated in the project document as a new step forward for climate change mitigation. Forests play a **critical role in the climate change mechanism** through multiple interconnected processes.

Under the Odisha Forestry Sector Development Programme – Phase II (OFSDP-II), climate change mitigation is strategically embedded within the framework of **Community-Based Monitoring, Reporting, and Verification (CMRV)**. This approach aligns with the broader objectives of the **REDD+ (Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation Plus) mechanism**, a globally recognized climate financing framework. REDD+ incentivizes sustainable forest management and conservation by assigning value to the carbon sequestration services provided by forests, particularly through the active involvement of local communities and stakeholders.

7.4.2 **REDD+ (Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation Plus)** is a global climate change mitigation mechanism aimed at reducing greenhouse gas emissions by addressing deforestation and forest degradation, while simultaneously promoting forest conservation, sustainable management, and the enhancement of forest carbon stocks through activities such as reforestation and afforestation. Key drivers of deforestation include agricultural expansion, logging, infrastructure development, mining, industrialization, and forest fires. REDD+ is financed through a mix of mechanisms including results-based payments, market-based approaches like carbon credit trading, and non-market-based support such

REDD+ (Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation) is a mechanism under United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) aiming for combating climate change by incentivizing the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions from deforestation and forest degradation in developing countries

as grants and public financing. Its implementation occurs in three phases: the readiness phase, where countries develop strategies and build capacity; the implementation phase, where policies and actions are executed; and the results-based phase, where verified emission reductions are rewarded financially. The benefits of REDD+ are multifaceted, contributing significantly to climate change mitigation, biodiversity conservation, and carbon sequestration, while also supporting community development through improved livelihoods, employment opportunities, and capacity building. Collectively, REDD+ plays a pivotal role in global climate action, particularly in forest-rich developing countries.

As part of this mechanism, OFSDP-II aims to establish robust systems for measuring and monitoring carbon sequestration achieved through sustainable forest management (SFM) activities. By doing so, it not only contributes to global climate change mitigation efforts but also creates avenues for **performance-based evaluation** for community stakeholders such as Vana Suraksha Samitis (VSS), Self-Help Groups (SHGs), and forest-dependent households who play a pivotal role in protecting and managing forest resources.

7.4.3 **The various ways of climate change mechanisms I. Emission Reduction**: The primary **objective** is to **minimize greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions** generated by deforestation and forest degradation.

i. **Forest Conservation**: REDD+ emphasizes the conservation of existing forest carbon stocks, aiming to preserve critical carbon sinks.

ii. **Sustainable Forest Management**: The initiative supports the adoption of sustainable forest management practices to ensure long-term ecological and economic viability.

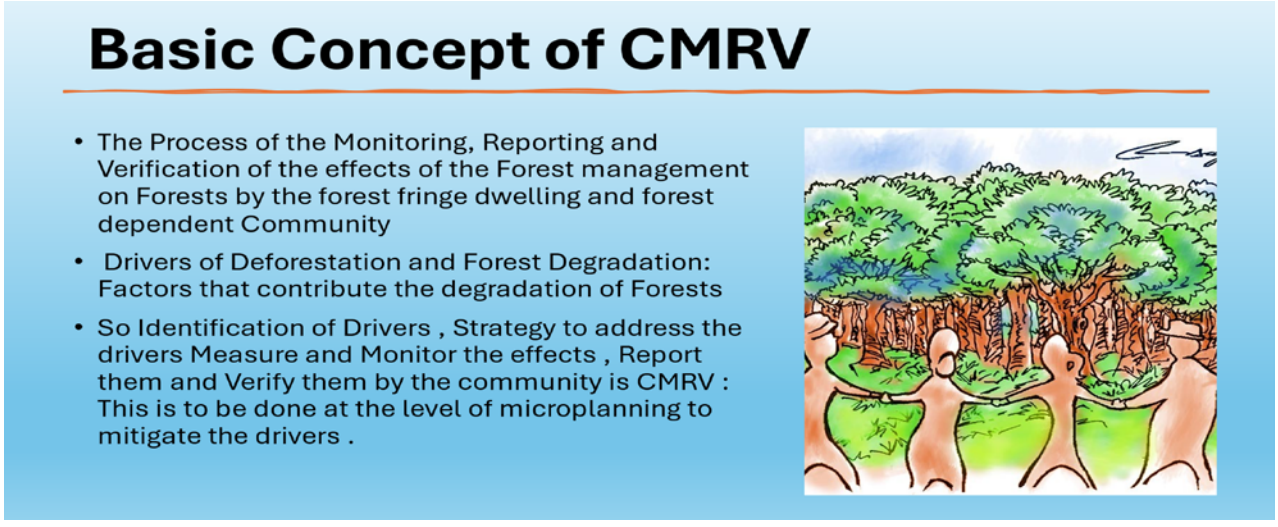
iii. **Carbon Stock Enhancement**: REDD+ promotes activities such as reforestation and afforestation to increase forest carbon stocks and enhance ecosystem resilience.

7.4.4 **MRV: Monitoring / Measurement, Reporting, and Verification** is a crucial process in carbon mitigation within forestry, ensuring the accuracy and reliability of carbon credits and the effectiveness of climate change mitigation efforts. This process verifies the actual reduction of greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions resulting from forestry activities. In OFSDP-II the MRV processes have been introduced as CMRV, (Community Based Monitoring Reporting and Verification system for all VSS where the community monitor the drivers of degradation on annual basis and rank their own VSS in terms of the marks scored for various drivers of degradation. The ranking would lead to the special colour coding for particular VSS.

7.4.5 **Community-Based MRV** refers to a participatory system where **community Members are trained and empowered** to collect, manage, and report data on carbon stocks, forest cover changes, and other relevant indicators in **carbon mitigation projects** (e.g., REDD+, afforestation, agroforestry and voluntary mechanism of Carbon mitigation like VERRA, Gold Standard, Plan VIVO etc.).

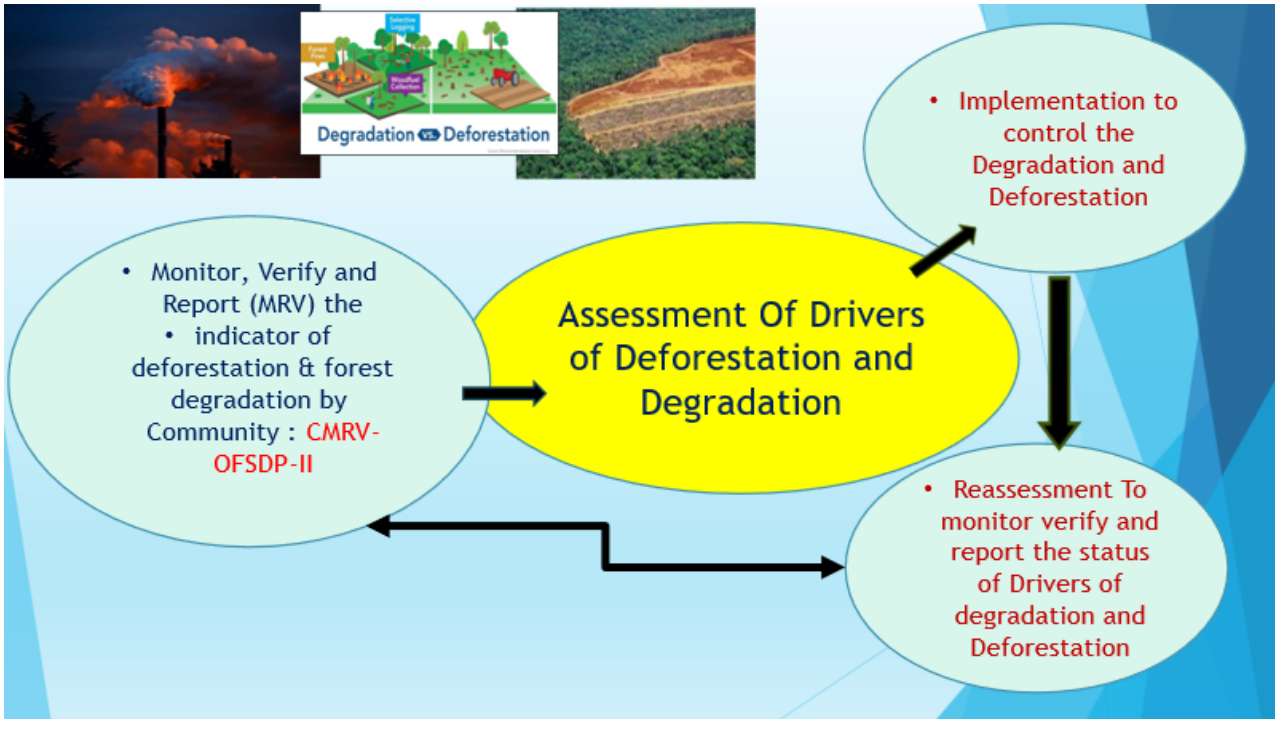
i. **Key Objectives:**

- Enhance accuracy, transparency and legitimacy of carbon data.
- Promote community ownership and Engagement and accountability.
- Reduce monitoring costs while improving coverage and frequency.
- Strengthen local capacity and means of livelihood for long-term climate action.



ii. **Applications**: Commonly used in REDD+, Voluntary Carbon Mechanisms (VCMs) agroforestry, and community forest management projects.

- Supported by organizations like FAO, CIFOR, and national forest monitoring systems.



iii. Core Components:

1. Monitoring and Measurement

- Local people collect/assist data on drivers of degradation, tree growth, forest area, biomass, land use, etc.

2. Reporting

- Data is compiled and submitted using standard formats.
- Integrated into DMU/ State level databases of OFSDP-II.

3. Verification

- Data is cross-checked and validated Project Authorities

The Community-Based MRV is a vital tool that not only improves the effectiveness of carbon mitigation efforts but also ensures that local communities are partners in climate action, not just beneficiaries

7.4.6 Under the **Odisha Forestry Sector Development Project-II (OFSDP-II)**, the Community-Based Monitoring and Reporting and Verification (CMRV) approach is implemented in 1,211 Vana Suraksha Samitis (VSSs). These committees, comprising forest-dependent community members, play a vital role in:

i. **Sustainable Forest Management (SFM)**: Carrying out activities that ensure responsible use and long-term conservation of forest resources.

ii. **Livelihood Enhancement**: Promoting alternative income-generating activities for forest fringe communities to reduce reliance on forest ecosystems.

iii. **Capacity Building**: Equipping stakeholders, including community members, with the skills and knowledge needed to actively engage in and manage CMRV processes.

7.4.7 VSS based CMRV

Steps for Implementing Community-Based Monitoring, Reporting, and Verification (CMRV):

1. Identification of Drivers of Deforestation and Forest Degradation
2. Prioritization of Identified Drivers
3. Development of Participatory Mitigation Strategies

- Strategies are designed in consultation with local communities to address key drivers, thereby advancing the objectives of Sustainable Forest Management (SFM).

4. Annual Monitoring of Mitigation Outcomes

- Continuous assessment of the impact of SFM interventions on the identified drivers of degradation is conducted on an annual basis.

Through a strong emphasis on community participation and targeted capacity-building initiatives, OFSDP-II empowers forest-dependent communities to sustainably manage forest resources. This inclusive approach not only aligns with REDD+ objectives for generating carbon credits but also enhances the socio-economic well-being and resilience of local communities.

The core processes of identifying drivers, developing mitigation strategies, measuring and monitoring impacts, and enabling community-led reporting and verification form the foundation of the **Community-Based Monitoring, Reporting, and Verification (CMRV)** framework. This framework has been integrated into the revised Micro Plans to effectively address and mitigate key drivers.

The potential drivers identified under OFSDP-II are as follows:

1	Illicit removal / smuggling of timber and fuel wood
2	Uncontrolled Grazing
3	Uncontrolled Exploitation of wood
4	Encroachments
5	Forest Fire
6	Soil Erosion
7	Fodder Collection and Sale
8	NTFP Collection
9	Natural Causes- like Cyclone, Diseases and Pests etc.
10	Poverty alleviation Issues
11	Any Other

The drivers of deforestation and forest degradation were identified by forest fringe-dwelling communities through participatory processes. These drivers were subsequently ranked, and corresponding mitigation measures were proposed. Monitoring mechanisms to assess the effectiveness of these interventions were also developed as integral steps within the Community-Based Monitoring, Reporting, and Verification (CMRV) framework.

To facilitate effective implementation, intensive training programs were organized at the PMU, DMU, and FMU levels. Key participants included DMU Chiefs, Subject Matter Specialists (SMSs), and Partner Non-Governmental Organizations (PNGOs), who were designated as master trainers responsible for cascading the training to community members at the Vana Suraksha Samiti (VSS) level.

A dedicated chapter on CMRV was incorporated into the Handbook for Micro Plan Revisit, accompanied by a detailed guideline issued to field-level functionaries. These documents underscore the following critical aspects of CMRV implementation under OFSDP-II with active community engagement. The highlights are:

- **Micro Planning as a Foundational Tool**: Micro planning serves as the primary platform for identifying and addressing Drivers of Deforestation and Forest Degradation (DDFD).
- **Community-led Identification and Prioritization**: During the micro planning process, the VSS communities, supported by PNGOs, SMSs, and project staff, conducted exercises to identify and rank the DDFDs.
- **Formulation of Mitigation Measures**: Appropriate mitigation strategies were designed to address the prioritized drivers.
- **Implementation of Mitigation Measures**: These strategies were then put into action within the VSS-assigned areas.
- **Monitoring, Reporting, and Verification**: The impacts of mitigation measures are regularly measured, reported across various levels, and verified at the implementation site.

- **Community Orientation on CMRV and REDD+**: Project personnel provided orientation to the VSS General Body members, explaining the concept and significance of REDD+ in simple, accessible terms.
- **Establishment of Sustainable Forest Management Monitoring Groups (SFMMGs)**: Each VSS/EDC Executive Committee constituted a community-based SFMMG to monitor and support sustainable forest management activities.
- **Capacity Building of Executive Committee Members**: Members of the Executive Committee were oriented to effectively function as part of the SFMMG, focusing on key aspects of CMRV.

7.4.8 Roles and Responsibilities of VSS Executive Committee in CMRV

The Sustainable Forest Management Monitoring Group (SFMMG), along with the VSS Executive Committee, plays a vital role in facilitating Community-Based Monitoring, Reporting, and Verification (CMRV) at the village level. Their key responsibilities include:

- **Identification and Ranking of Drivers**: Identifying the primary drivers of deforestation and forest degradation specific to the VSS area, followed by ranking these drivers based on severity using a rating scale—High (3), Moderate (2), and Low (1).
- **Assessment of Impact**: Evaluating the magnitude and influence of these drivers to understand their impact on forest health and sustainability.
- **Monitoring Frequency**: Conducting systematic monitoring on an annual basis to track progress and changes in forest conditions.
- **Preparation of Report Cards**: Developing Annual Performance Report Cards for each VSS/EDC using a color-coded rating system—Green (High performance), Yellow (Moderate performance), and Red (Low performance)—based on the effectiveness in addressing the identified drivers.
- **Use of Standardized Formats**: Employing structured formats introduced during the Micro Plan revisit (Chapter 9) to assess VSS performance across multiple dimensions of driver management.
- **Scoring System**: Quantifying the impact of interventions using a numerical scoring system, with a maximum score of 50. Based on the scores obtained, VSSs are categorized and ranked using the color-coded performance scale.

Through these responsibilities, the VSS Executive Committees contribute to a transparent, accountable, and performance-based approach to sustainable forest management, enabling better targeting of interventions and eligibility for climate finance under mechanisms like REDD+.

	High: (marks obtained = 45 and above) use green color code. The VSS is performing well to address the drivers of degradation can be an example for other VSS
	Moderate: (marks obtained between 40 to 44) Use Yellow Color code. The VSS is not performing satisfactorily. There is scope for improving the rating. Analysis is to be made for the cause of average performance and coarse correction is to be made
	Low: (Marks Obtained less than less than 40 Marks) Use Red Color code. The VSS is not performing well. Poor Performance. Needs immediate attention, Situation analysis is to be made, and immediate course correction is to be taken up. Call GB / EC to rectify the management and fact finding and corrections.

Based on the above ranking at VSS level the data of the all VSS were shared by the VSS to Field Management Units.

7.4.9 Self Help Group (SHG) Based CMRV

To reduce the dependence on forest and augment the income of fringe forest communities, the Self-Help Groups (SHGs) are mobilized at VSS level. This is an important component for improving the SFM by reducing the dependence on Forests in forest fringe villages.

The rating in terms of CMRV performance is done at each SHG level through Focused Group Discussions (FGDs) with the following parameters:

- Regular meetings of SHGs
- Membership Status of SHGs (BPL)
- Regular record Keeping (Minutes register, Pass Book etc.as per the prescribed list)
- Internal savings have started, and the contributions are made to SHG fund
- Involvement of Members in IGAs
- Training on Sustainable Practices for IGA
- Loan Availability from Revolving Fund
- Repayment of loan taken from Revolving Fund
- Default in Repayment of Loan taken from other Sources
- Any Other Item with the approval of SHG for scoring. (This will strengthen the Capacity of SHG for self-evaluation)
- The above criteria are numerically rated and scored based on the scoring the SHGs would be rated with color coding as following

	Score: Total: Maximum Marks 21 High = (marks obtained = 16 and above) use green color (performed better in IGA try to score more, can be used as an example for other SHGs)
	Moderate = (marks Obtained 12 to 16 Use Yellow Color): Efforts to improve the rating in next monitoring be analyzing and resolving the problem)
	Low = (Marks Obtained less than 12 Marks use color code red) Poor Performance Needs in depth analysis to study the main cause of poor performance

7.4.10 The ratings of VSS using CMRV tools in 2024-25 are given below

Batch-I, 1st Cycle						
Divisions	**Total VSS**	**Green**	**Red**	**Yellow**	**VSS Reported**	**B1 VSS**
Athamalik	75	19		1	20	20
Baripada	135	32	1	13	46	46
Boudh	71	17		3	20	20
Dhenkanal	150	11	1	13	25	25
Ghumsur North	100	1	1	23	25	25
Gh. South	65	16		4	20	20
Jharsuguda	88	9	2	18	29	29
Karanjia	80			20	20	20
Rairangpur	107	9		31	40	40
Sambalpur	100	29		26	55	55
Subarnapur	84	25			25	25
Sundargarh	156	20		10	30	30
Grand Total	**1211**	**188**	**5**	**162**	**355**	**355**

Batch I, 2nd Cycle						
Divisions	**Total VSS**	**Green**	**Red**	**Yellow**	**VSS Reported**	**B1 VSS**
Athamalik	75	17		3	20	20
Baripada	135	36	1	9	46	46
Boudh	71	20			20	20
Dhenkanal	150	8	1	16	25	25
Ghumsur North	100	17		8	25	25
Gh. South	65	19		1	20	20
Jharsuguda	88	2	7	20	29	29
Karanjia	80	5		15	20	20
Rairangpur	107	24		16	40	40
Sambalpur	100	25	13	17	55	55
Subarnapur	84	6		19	25	25
Sundargarh	156	12	1	17	30	30
Grand Total	**1211**	**191**	**23**	**141**	**355**	**355**

Batch II, 1st Cycle						
Divisions	Total VSS	Green	Red	Yellow	VSS Reported	B2 VSS
Athamalik	75	17	1	7	25	25
Baripada	135	43	5	22	70	70
Boudh	71	20			20	20
Dhenkanal	150	23		4	27	27
Ghumsur North	100	24			24	24
Gh. South	65	1	1	18	20	20
Jharsuguda	88	42		9	51	51
Karanjia	80	11		9	20	20
Rairangpur	107	23		37	60	60
Sambalpur	100		1	19	20	20
Subarnapur	84	24			24	25
Sundargarh	156	58		2	60	60
Grand Total	**1211**	**286**	**8**	**127**	**421**	**422**

Batch II, 2nd Cycle						
Divisions	Total VSS	Green	Red	Yellow	VSS Reported	B2 VSS
Athamalik	75	1	14	10	25	25
Baripada	135	60		10	70	70
Boudh	71	11		9	20	20
Dhenkanal	150	1	13	13	27	27
Ghumsur North	100	24			24	24
Gh. South	65	1	2	17	20	20
Jharsuguda	88	27	1	23	51	51
Karanjia	80	15		5	20	20
Rairangpur	107	28		32	60	60
Sambalpur	100	1		19	20	20
Subarnapur	84	8	1	15	24	25
Sundargarh	156	59		1	60	60
Grand Total	**1211**	**236**	**31**	**154**	**421**	**422**

Batch III, 1st Cycle						
Divisions	Total VSS	Green	Red	Yellow	VSS Reported	B3 VSS
Athamalik	75	5	1	23	29	30
Baripada	135	17		2	19	19
Boudh	71	23			23	23
Dhenkanal	150	49		3	52	52
Ghumsur North	100	25			25	25
Gh. South	65	10		10	20	20
Jharsuguda	88	3		2	5	5
Karanjia	80	20			20	20
Rairangpur	107	6		1	7	7
Sambalpur	100	6		19	25	25
Subarnapur	84	8	1	16	25	25
Sundargarh	156	29			29	30
Grand Total	**1211**	**201**	**2**	**76**	**279**	**281**

Batch III, 2nd Cycle						
Divisions	Total VSS	Green	Red	Yellow	VSS Reported	B3 VSS
Athamalik	75					30
Baripada	135	19			19	19
Boudh	71	10		13	23	23
Dhenkanal	150	48		4	52	52
Ghumsur North	100	20			20	25
Gh. South	65					20
Jharsuguda	88	2		1	3	5
Karanjia	80	2		18	20	20
Rairangpur	107	7			7	7
Sambalpur	100					25
Subarnapur	84					25
Sundargarh	156					30
Grand Total	**1211**	**108**	**0**	**36**	**144**	**281**

Batch IV, 1st Cycle						
Divisions	Total VSS	Green	Red	Yellow	VSS Reported	B4 VSS
Athamalik	75					
Baripada	135					
Boudh	71	8			8	8
Dhenkanal	150	23	14	9	46	46
Ghumsur North	100	26			26	26
Gh. South	65					5
Jharsuguda	88					3
Karanjia	80	17		3	20	20
Rairangpur	107					
Sambalpur	100					
Subarnapur	84	9			9	9
Sundargarh	156	22	1	8	31	36
Grand Total	**1211**	**105**	**15**	**20**	**140**	**153**

Batch IV, 2nd Cycle						
Divisions	Total VSS	Green	Red	Yellow	VSS Reported	B4 VSS
Athamalik	75					
Baripada	135					
Boudh	71	8			8	8
Dhenkanal	150	25		20	45	46
Ghumsur North	100					26
Gh. South	65					5
Jharsuguda	88					3
Karanjia	80	16		4	20	20
Rairangpur	107					
Sambalpur	100					
Subarnapur	84					9
Sundargarh	156					36
Grand Total	**1211**	**49**	**0**	**24**	**73**	**153**

7.4.11 SHG Rating using CMRV Processes

Batch I					
Division	**Green**	**Yellow**	**Red**	**Total SHG reported**	**Total SHG**
Athamalik		19	96	115	114
Baripada	69	13	7	89	358
Boudh	30	13	49	92	92
Dhenkanal	42	71	28	141	176
Ghumsur North	12	103		115	150
Ghumsur South	6	90	1	97	99
Jharsuguda	19	96	52	167	169
Karanjia	20	102	60	182	182
Rairangpur	40	167	32	239	244
Sambalpur	22	93	186	301	302
Subarnapur	160			160	160
Sundargarh	81	163	89	333	371
Total	**501**	**930**	**600**	**2031**	**2417**

Batch II					
Division	**Green**	**Yellow**	**Red**	**Total SHG reported**	**Total SHG**
Athamalik	15	63	56	134	134
Baripada	8		511	519	520
Boudh	9	12	39	60	65
Dhenkanal		181	6	187	187
Ghumsur North	6	69	22	97	97
Ghumsur South	21	63		84	86
Jharsuguda	18	365	457	840	830
Karanjia	37	28	107	172	172
Rairangpur	126	72	103	301	303
Sambalpur	49	14	37	100	112
Subarnapur	9	134	2	145	144
Sundargarh	211	206	35	452	537
Total	**509**	**1207**	**####**	**3091**	**3187**

Batch III					
Division	**Green**	**Yellow**	**Red**	**Total SHG reported**	**Total SHG**
Athamalik	42	78	94	214	216
Baripada	7		168	175	175
Boudh		53	18	71	71
Dhenkanal					301
Ghumsur North	101			101	101
Ghumsur South	13	35	16	64	64
Jharsuguda		15	4	19	26
Karanjia	6	1		7	188
Rairangpur		2	39	41	41
Sambalpur					243
Subarnapur	6	217	25	248	269
Sundargarh	1			1	248
Total	**176**	**401**	**364**	**941**	**1943**

Batch IV					
Division	**Green**	**Yellow**	**Red**	**Total SHG reported**	**Total SHG**
Athamalik					
Baripada					
Boudh		4	20	24	38
Dhenkanal					287
Ghumsur North	63	4	2	69	75
Ghumsur South					19
Jharsuguda		16		16	27
Karanjia					90
Rairangpur					
Sambalpur					
Subarnapur					24
Sundargarh	84	84	13	181	249
Total	**147**	**108**	**35**	**290**	**809**

7.4.12 A Step further After REDD + Initiative in OFSDP II: Study Basedon Voluntary Carbon Mechanism:

To facilitate this, OFSDP-II has taken proactive steps toward engaging in Voluntary Carbon Markets (VCMs), thereby exploring voluntary carbon financing mechanisms. This study seeks to institutionalize a transparent and inclusive CMRV system that ensures the active participation of forest communities in carbon accounting. By quantifying their contributions to forest conservation and enhancement, stakeholders become eligible for carbon-based incentives, which in turn reinforce their commitment to sustainable practices.

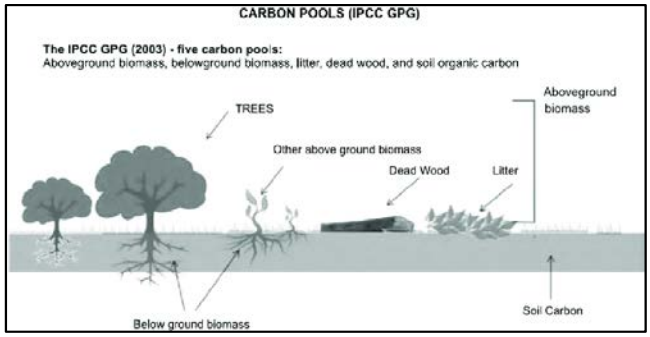
Through these efforts, OFSDP-II not only strengthens local capacities in climate governance but also establishes a scalable model for integrating community-led forest management with international climate finance mechanisms, thereby contributing to both livelihood enhancement and climate resilience.

1. Carbon Sequestration

- Forests absorb carbon dioxide (CO2) from the atmosphere during photosynthesis.
- They act as **carbon sinks**, storing carbon in tree trunks, roots, leaves, and soil.
- This reduces the overall concentration of GHGs in the atmosphere, helping mitigate global warming.

2. Emission Prevention through Conservation

- Protecting forests prevents the **release of stored carbon**.
- Deforestation and forest degradation release large amounts of CO2, contributing to climate change.
- Avoiding deforestation is one of the most cost-effective ways to curb emissions.



3. Climate Regulation

- Forests influence **local and global climates** by regulating temperature, humidity, and rainfall patterns through evapotranspiration.
- They help maintain the **hydrological cycle**, stabilizing weather systems.

4. Feedback Mechanisms

- Healthy forests absorb CO2, slowing climate change.
- However, rising temperatures can cause forest dieback, fires, and increased pest outbreaks, which **release more carbon**, creating **positive feedback loops**.

5. Buffer Against Extreme Weather

- Forests reduce the impact of climate-related disasters such as floods, droughts, and landslides.
- Their **canopy** and **root systems** stabilize soil and help regulate water flow.

6. Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services

- Forests support rich biodiversity, which contributes to **ecosystem resilience**.
- A diverse ecosystem is better able to adapt to changing climate conditions.

7. Role in Climate Mitigation Strategies

- Forest-based solutions like **reforestation, afforestation, and sustainable forest management** are key components of global climate action plans (e.g., REDD+). These approaches can **reduce emissions** and **enhance carbon storage**.
- **Five pools of Carbon**: The five pools of carbon in forests refer to the major components where carbon is stored within a forest ecosystem. These are essential in understanding carbon accounting and forest-based climate mitigation strategies:

1. Aboveground Biomass (AGB)

- Includes all living vegetation above the soil, such as **trees, shrubs, leaves, and branches**.
- This is the most visible and often the **largest carbon pool** in forests.

2. Belowground Biomass (BGB)

- Refers to all **living roots** of trees and other plants.
- Although not visible, it represents a significant portion of the forest's carbon stock.

3. Dead Wood

- Consists of **standing dead trees and fallen logs**.
- Stores carbon temporarily and slowly release it as the wood decomposes.

4. Litter

- Includes **fallen leaves, twigs, bark, and small branches** lying on the forest floor.
- Acts as a transitional pool, as this material eventually decomposes and contributes to soil carbon.

5. Soil Organic Carbon (SOC)

- Found in the **soil layer**, derived from decayed plant and animal matter. This is a **long-term carbon pool** and critical for overall forest carbon storage.

These five carbon pools are vital for forest carbon assessments, particularly under climate change mitigation frameworks like REDD+ and national greenhouse gas inventories.

Carbon financing through Sustainable Forest Management is a way to fund low-carbon projects by assigning a financial value to carbon emissions. This approach allows entities to offset their own emissions by purchasing carbon credits generated from sustainably managed forests. Each credit signifies a verified reduction in greenhouse gas emissions. By buying these credits, companies can support emission reduction efforts and promote sustainable forestry, all while continuing their regular operations.

Carbon credits are permits or certificates that represent the **reduction or removal of one metric ton of carbon dioxide (CO_2)** or its equivalent in other greenhouse gases (GHGs) from the atmosphere.

Purpose and Function:

- Designed as a market-based mechanism to incentivize emission reductions.
- Organizations or countries can **purchase carbon credits to offset their own emissions**, allowing them to meet regulatory or voluntary climate goals.

Types of Carbon Credits:

1. Compliance Carbon Credits:

- Used by entities under mandatory emission reduction schemes

2. Voluntary Carbon Credits:

- Purchased by companies or individuals aiming to voluntarily offset their emissions or enhance sustainability profiles.

Key Steps in Carbon Credit Project

Carbon credits are generated through verified projects that **reduce or remove emissions**, such as:

- Afforestation and Reforestation
- Renewable Energy Projects (solar, wind, hydro)
- Methane Capture (landfills, agriculture)
- Improved Forest Management
- Soil Carbon Enhancement and Agroforestry

7.4.13 OFSDS endeavored in exploring the carbon credits for the community as beneficiary coupled with CMRV for the incentivizing the stakeholders through SFM in VSS assigned area and farm forestry was undertaken by Ms. Kosher Climate India Pvt. Ltd, Bengaluru. This study was aimed at providing financial incentive to the communities of the VSS with a participatory Tool of CMRV. The feasibility report for the area is eligible for the accrual and trading of carbon credits. The feasibility studies based on the following Criteria:

i. **Additionality**: The project activities result in real, measurable, and additional reductions in emissions that would not have occurred under a "business as usual" scenario. It ensures the project goes beyond what would naturally happen without intervention.

ii. **Sustainable Forest Management (SFM) with Community Participation**: Local communities in forest management. This participatory approach helps in the sustainable management of forest resources, ensuring that the forests are conserved and utilized in ways that meet the needs of present and future generations.

iii. **Environmental and Social Safeguards**: These safeguards ensure that the projects do not cause harm to the environment or the communities. They include measures to protect biodiversity, prevent deforestation, and respect the rights of indigenous and local communities.

iv. **Equity**: Ensuring fair distribution of benefits derived from the project is crucial. Equity means that all stakeholders, particularly local communities, share the benefits equitably.

In Voluntary Carbon Mechanism the registry for the feasibility study was chosen through VERRA: The **Voluntary Carbon Mechanism (VCM)** under **Verra**, primarily through its **Verified Carbon Standard (VCS)** program, provides a framework for generating and trading carbon credits from forestry and land use projects. Projects that aim to reduce emissions or enhance carbon sequestration in the forestry sector must meet specific criteria to be eligible under Verra. Here are the key **criteria for forestry projects under the Voluntary Carbon Mechanism in Verra**:

1. Project Eligibility

- **Project Types**: Forestry-related projects must fall within approved categories such as:
  - **Avoided Deforestation (REDD)**: Preventing planned or unplanned deforestation.
  - **Afforestation, Reforestation, and Revegetation (ARR)**: Planting trees on non-forested land.
  - **Improved Forest Management (IFM)**: Enhancing carbon stocks in existing forests through better practices.
  - **Agroforestry and Silvo-pastoral Systems**.
  - **Wetlands Restoration and Conservation (WRC)**, including mangroves and peatlands.

2. Use of Approved Methodologies

- Projects must use **Verra-approved methodologies** that specify how emissions reductions or carbon removals will be quantified. Methodologies cover:

- Baseline establishment.
- Monitoring procedures.
- Carbon stock assessment.
- Leakage calculation and permanence risk.

3. Additionality

- The project must demonstrate **additionality**, i.e., the carbon benefits (emissions avoided or carbon sequestered) would not have occurred under a "business-as-usual" scenario without the project.

4. Baseline and Leakage Assessment

- Projects must define a scientifically justified **baseline scenario** of what would happen in the absence of the project.
- **Leakage** (emissions shifted to another location) must be assessed and mitigated, and any leakage must be subtracted from total credits.

5. Permanence

- Forestry projects must manage **non-permanence risks**, such as fire, pests, or illegal logging, that could reverse carbon gains.
- Verra uses a **buffer** pool approach, where a portion of credits is set aside to insure against these risks.

6. Monitoring and Reporting

- Projects must implement a robust **Monitoring, Reporting, and Verification (MRV)** system.
- Monitoring should be conducted regularly (typically annually or every 5 years) to assess changes in carbon stocks and project activities.

7. Validation and Verification

- All projects must undergo third-party **validation**

7.4.14 Based on the feasibility study the area selected for study and found feasible are as under

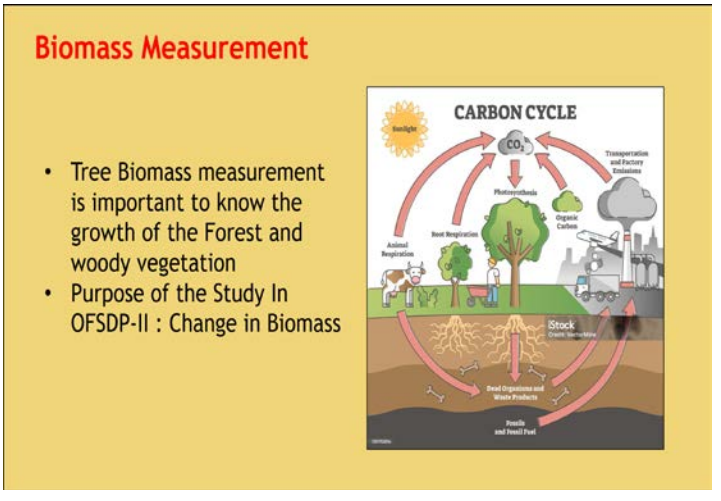
Divisions	Total Area	Eligible Area	Ineligible Area
Batch-III			
Athamalik	2520.66	1610.58	910.08
Baripada	2287.17	2186.49	100.68
Boudh	2603.29	1782.11	821.18
Dhenkanal	7254.59	6897.19	357.40
Ghumsur North	4126.84	3731.09	395.76
Ghumsur South	2380.06	1822.55	557.51
Jharsuguda	437.44	260.90	176.54
Karanjia	2192.80	1951.54	241.26
Rairangpur	572.15	505.33	66.82

Sambalpur	2779.30	2582.79	196.51
Subarnapur	2527.03	1733.03	794.00
Sundergarh	2116.37	1759.42	356.95
Total	**31797.72**	**26823.03**	**4974.69**
Batch-IV (I)			
Dhenkanal	5251.80	5089.10	162.71
Ghumsur North	3900.49	3287.26	613.23
Karanjia	2331.56	2147.80	183.76
Sundergarh	2304.35	2058.36	245.98
Total	13788.20	12582.52	1205.68
Batch-IV (II)			
Boudh	664.00	495.39	168.61
Ghumsur South	454.43	336.37	118.06
Jharsuguda	216.36	68.49	147.87
Subarnapur	763.95	727.83	36.13
Sundergarh	559.34	516.12	43.21
Total	**2658.08**	**2144.20**	**513.88**
Grand Total	**48244.00**	**41549.75**	**6694.25**

The Farm Forestry area for the emission reduction exercise in the selected sample plots the measurements with the state holders were taken.

7.4.15 The capacity building and CBT was Undertaken. In total 22 sample plots were measured, and the emission reduction was calculated using the volume equation and criteria for then elimination of noneligible plots. This was coupled with Remote sensing and GIS based studies. The calculation is done only for above ground biomass.

After the measurement the calculation of the biomass for farm Forestry plots were undertaken and Interim Emission reduction from the eligible plots are:



Emission removal / reductions (model-wise) Carbon Credits or CER from the eligible area									
S. No.	**Year**	**Horti**	**Horti-NTFP**	**AHSM**	**Field bund**	**Timber**	**Pulpwood**	**Total**	**After Deduction of buffer & uncertainty @40%**
1	2021	0.00	29.31	920.58	15.24	0.00	0.00	**965**	579.079
2	2022	0.00	305.72	2448.77	32.08	3763.76	5697.38	**12248**	7348.62
3	2023	99.55	678.68	3979.65	47.32	4451.15	7465.16	**16722**	10032.90
4	2024	170.94	1100.07	5501.60	62.56	4465.03	7465.16	**18765**	11259.21
5	2025	308.90	1700.13	7483.71	78.01	4477.05	7835.82	**21884**	13130.17
6	2026	532.07	2441.26	12036.40	157.89	14193.47	11695.14	**41056**	24633.74
7	2027	755.32	3293.76	19357.59	239.10	21656.76	24563.66	**69866**	41919.71
8	2028	1011.71	4642.52	26920.87	320.31	25083.45	31139.75	**89119**	53471.16
9	2029	1299.69	6069.54	33871.00	400.93	25092.87	30694.92	**97429**	58457.37
10	2030	1617.81	7577.25	40642.39	481.86	24851.09	29606.50	**104777**	62866.13
11	2031	1965.84	9394.80	51189.44	667.86	41262.09	32457.01	**136937**	82162.23
12	2032	2343.41	11321.04	65002.75	853.20	54096.04	43987.05	**177603**	106562.09
13	2033	2748.23	14013.08	78849.55	1038.55	38934.75	2002.54	**137587**	82552.01
14	2034	3180.46	16758.15	92700.89	1223.90	0.00	0.00	**113863**	68318.04
15	2035	3639.55	19567.63	106557.07	1409.25	0.00	0.00	**131174**	78704.10292
16	2036	4124.98	15568.19	119855.41	1598.65	0.00	0.00	**141147**	84688.33
17	2037	118.34	13466.15	133999.18	1788.96	0.00	0.00	**149373**	89623.57
18	2038	0.24	15120.22	148161.17	1979.29	0.00	0.00	**165261**	99156.55
19	2039	0.24	16864.86	162323.78	2169.61	0.00	0.00	**181358**	108815.09
20	2040	0.24	18609.51	176486.40	2359.94	0.00	0.00	**197456**	118473.65
		23917.52	**178521.89**	**1288288.21**	**16924.50**	**262327.53**	**234610.11**	**20,04,589.75**	**1202753.84**
Deduction @40%		14350.5092	107113.13	772972.93	10154.7	157396.52	140766.064	Credits/ha/ year	**46.51**
Area (ha)		29.91	150.53	136.44	10.67	163.67	801	Total eligible Area	**1292.22**
Credits/ ha/yr		24.56	35.34	283.26	48.08	48.08	8.78	Average CER/Yr	74.68

The documents studied from OFSDP-II for developing the VERRA PDD
OFSDS Detailed Project Reports (DPRs)
Project Area Polygons for RS-GIs study
Plantation database
VCS Program Guide v4.4
VCS Standard v4.5
VCS Program definitions v4.4
VM0045 Methodology for Improved Forest Management Using Dynamic Matched Baselines from National Forest Inventories, v1.0
VM0047 Afforestation, Reforestation, and Revegetation, v1.0

Based on the study, the Farm Forestry area for the activities taken in and after 2021 were eligible and Project design Document was prepared and listed in VERRA. The study is under Progress for other area.

7.4.16 Change detection in Forest Density for Community Led Sustainable Forest Management under OFSDP Phase II.

OFSDP-II adopts the **Joint Forest Management (JFM)** approach, empowering local communities to actively participate in forest governance. Under this model, communities are organized into **Vana Surakshya Samitis (VSS)** grassroots level institutions responsible for planning and executing forest conservation and livelihood development activities. Project personnel provide technical support and facilitate participatory planning to ensure community ownership and sustainability of interventions. The **Community Based Monitoring Reporting and Verification** in OFSDP analyses the Drivers of degradation and the changes in the forest density annually. This is supported by the change of forest density analysis in the assigned are supported by Remotes Sensing and GIS studies.

To assess the impact of interventions, OFSDP-II employs **satellite-based change detection** methods for monitoring forest health, particularly forest density. While the **Forest Survey of India (FSI)** traditionally uses a 1:50,000 scale imagery with four density classes, OFSDP-II adopts a more detailed analysis using **1:5,000 scale** imagery, allowing finer observation of small, community-assigned areas.

- Technical Methodology
  - **Imagery Used (Baseline – Pre-Intervention):** The project utilized **Cartosat-2S** (2.5 m resolution) pan sharpened/merged with **LISS IV MX** (5.8 m resolution), achieving an effective resolution suitable for 1:5,000 scale mapping. Image interpretation was conducted using **ArcMap and ERDAS imagine**, supplemented with ground truthing and validated through:
  - Forest Survey of India (FSI) map layers
  - ORSAC Land Use and Land Cover (LULC) datasets
  - Google Earth overlays

7.4.17 Forest Density Classification: Unlike the Forest Survey of India's (FSI) standard approach, which classifies forest areas into four broad forest density categories (Very Dense Forest, Moderately Dense Forest, Open Forest, and Scrub), the Odisha Forestry Sector Development Project, Phase II (OFSDP-II) adopted a more detailed classification system. The project delineated forest areas into eight distinct forest density classes, in addition to incorporating three Land Use and Land Cover (LULC) categories.

Density Classes used by Forest Survey of India	
Scrub	Density less than 10 % and Scrub areas
Open Forest	Forest Density between 10-40%
Moderately Dense Forest	Forest Density between 40-70%
Very Dense Forest	Forest Density above than 70 %

Density classes use in OFSDP-II	
Scrub	Forest area with less than 10 % Forest Density
Open I	Forest area between 10-20 % Forest Density
Open II	Forest area with between 20-30 % Forest Density
Open III	Forest area between 30-40 % Forest Density
MDF I	Forest area between 40-50 % Forest Density
MDF II	Forest area between 50-60 % Forest Density
MDF III	Forest area between 60-70 Forest Density
VDF	Forest area more than 70 % Forest Density
Water Body	Water body occurring in assigned area
Cultivation	Any Cultivation/agriculture in the assigned area
Settlement	Settlement /Built up in VSS assigned area

This expanded classification system was designed to facilitate **finer, micro-level analysis** of ecological changes within the relatively small and specific areas assigned to **Vana Surakshya Samitis (VSS)** under the Joint Forest Management model. The traditional FSI method, which is suitable for large-scale national or state-level assessments using 1:50,000 scale imagery, often fails to capture the subtle variations in forest cover and degradation or regeneration trends that are critical at the community level small, assigned area. In contrast, the use of high-resolution imagery at a 1:5,000 scale and a more detailed classification system under OFSDP-II enabled the following:

Improved sensitivity to detect incremental changes in forest canopy density.

- **Better tracking of ecological improvements** resulting from community-led interventions.
- **More accurate mapping** for planning and monitoring forest management and livelihood activities.

The inclusion of three LULC classes alongside the density classification allowed the project to distinguish between **forested land, waterbody, Settlement/built-up and cultivation**, Offering a comprehensive view of how land use is evolving over time within VSS-assigned areas. This holistic approach significantly enhanced the project's capacity for **evidence-based decision-making and adaptive management**.

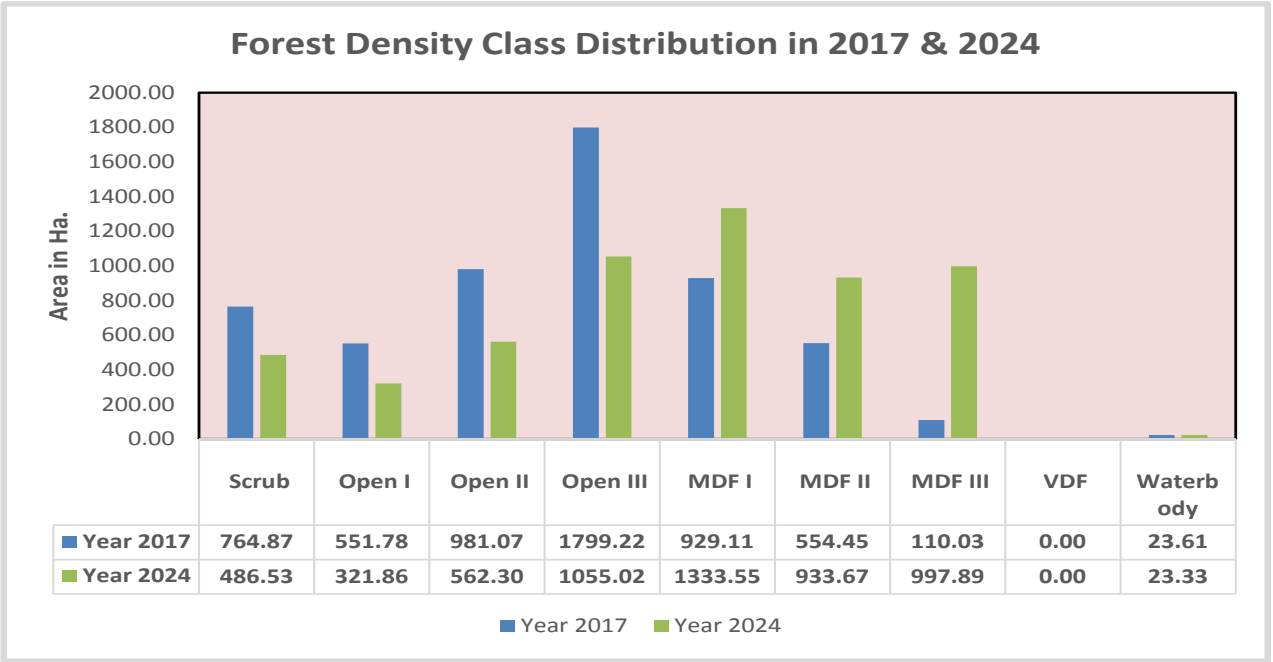
7.4.18 **Digitization and Mapping:** Forest areas assigned to VSS were digitized for the **2017–18 baseline period.** These digitized maps included overlays of SFM model activities within each VSS. Based on this, **base maps** and **pre-intervention forest density maps** were developed.

- **Post-Intervention Assessment:** After the time of five years after intervention same exercise were undertaken after procurement of high-resolution imagery from **Cartosat-3MX (1.12 m)** and **Cartosat-2S MX (1.6 m)** from Space India Limited. The same methodology, as used for the baseline period was applied for comparison.
- **Data Integration:** Post-intervention images were analysed using intervention activity layers, Google Earth data, and FSI overlays to ensure consistency in assessment. The comparison of pre- and post-intervention forest density maps showed measurable changes across the 8 density classes, providing a reliable assessment of forest health improvements. Statistical comparisons were carried out at the Forest Management Unit (FMU) or Division Management Unit (DMU) level.

S.No	DMU	FMU	Total number of VSS studied for Change detection	Total assigned Area in Ha.
1	Athmallick	Athmallik	11	697.02
2	Rairangpur	Bahalda and		
Badampahar	7	835.11		
3	Ghumsur . North	Mujagada	19	2394.73
4	Sambalpur			
	Belpahar,Sadar,			
Padiabahal	25	1787.30		
		Total VSS and area:	62	5714.16

The total area assessed in 62 VSS of four DMU viz. Athmallick, Rairangpur, Ghumsur North and Sambalpur

Density Class and LULC	Year 2017	Year 2024
Scrub	764.87	486.53
Open I	551.78	321.86
Open II	981.07	562.30
Open III	1799.22	1055.02
MDF I	929.11	1333.55
MDF II	554.45	933.67
MDF III	110.03	997.89
VDF	0.00	0.00
Waterbody	23.61	23.33
Total	5714.15	5714.16



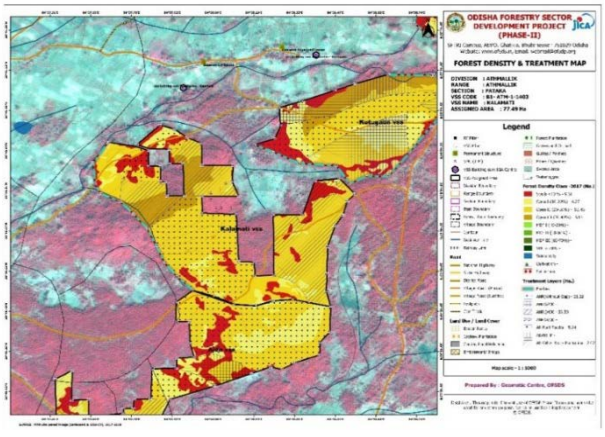
	Scrub	Open I	Open II	Open III	MDF I	MDF II	MDF III	VDF	Waterbody
Year 2017	764.87	551.78	981.07	1799.22	929.11	554.45	110.03	0.00	23.61
Year 2024	486.53	321.86	562.30	1055.02	1333.55	933.67	997.89	0.00	23.33

7.4.19 **Outcomes:** Based on the data and image interpretation the density change is summarised as under

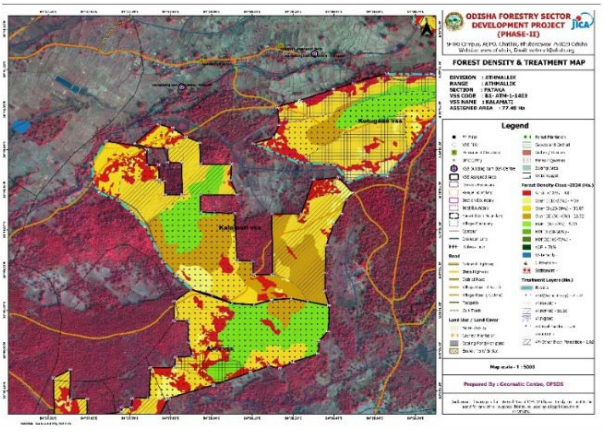
- The Scrub area has been reduced
- The Density of the Open Forest has gone up to Moderately dense forest
- In Open Forest Category the Density has change from lower level of Open I forest to Open II and Open III forest

The implementation of community-led Sustainable Forest Management (SFM) activities in the Vana Samrakshana Samithi (VSS) area has resulted in a measurable increase in forest density. This positive change is further validated by evidence obtained through the Community-based Monitoring, Reporting, and Verification (CMRV) system, indicating both the effectiveness of the intervention and the reliability of community-based forest monitoring mechanisms.

However, due to limited availability of high-resolution imagery so far, for the post-intervention period, the comparative analysis could be performed only for a subset of the total VSS areas. The procurement of all Satellite Images based on availability with Space India Limited India is in progress.



Pre-Intervention Density and Treatment map of Kalamati VSS, Athmallik DMU (2017)



Post-Intervention Density and Treatment map of Kalamati VSS, Athmallik DMU (2024)

7.5 Environmental and Social Management Safeguard Framework (ESMSF) and Scheduled Tribe and Forest Dependent Planning Framework (STFDPF)

7.5.1 Concept and Rationale of ESMSF & STFDPF

The Environmental and Social Management Safeguards (ESMS) is a comprehensive framework designed to manage environmental and social risks associated with project interventions. It consists of policies, procedures, tools, and internal capacities that enable stakeholders, including local communities, organizations, and individual beneficiaries, to effectively identify and manage these risks. The ESMS framework facilitates the screening of project components, categorization based on potential environmental and social risks, application of relevant mitigation measures, and monitoring of the project's environmental and social performance. The Key Components of ESMS include

- Policies and Procedures to establish guidelines for identifying and managing risks.
- Tools: Provide methodologies for screening, assessment, and mitigation.
- Internal Capacity: Ensure that stakeholders have the necessary skills and resources.

According to the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) Guidelines (2010), internalization and an institutional framework are prerequisites for managing the environmental and social impacts of developmental projects, especially in developing nations. The Odisha Forestry Sector Development Project (OFSDP II) is categorized as a "Financial Intermediary (FI)" under these guidelines, indicating that it is not expected to have significant negative impacts on environmental and social dimensions. However, the project mandates a broad Environmental and Social Management System Framework (ESMSF) and a specific Scheduled Tribe and Forest Dependents Plan Framework (STFDPF). The Environmental and Social Management System Framework (ESMSF) is a comprehensive framework to manage the project's environmental and social risks. The Scheduled Tribe and Forest Dependents Plan Framework (STFDPF) is a specific framework to safeguard the interests of Scheduled Tribes and other forest-dependent communities. Any development project executed in indigenous habitats with multinational financial assistance must adhere to the "Indigenous Peoples' Planning Framework" as per the World Bank's Operational Policy 4.10. This policy, also followed under the JICA Guidelines, aims to protect the rights and interests of indigenous peoples, defined as Scheduled Tribes by the Indian Constitution. Under OFSDP II, the STFDPF is developed to ensure that the development, livelihood, and social interests of Scheduled Tribes and other forest dependents are safeguarded. Ultimately, the ESMSF, guided by JICA and World Bank policies, ensures that developmental projects like OFSDP II do not adversely affect the environment and local communities. By incorporating frameworks such as the ESMSF and STFDPF, the project proactively addresses and mitigates potential risks, promoting sustainable development and the welfare of indigenous and forest-dependent populations.

7.5.2 ESMSF and STFDPF under OFSDP-II

The Odisha Forestry Sector Development Project II (OFSDP-II), in line with other participatory forest management initiatives across India, is primarily aimed at enhancing biodiversity conservation, sustainable forest management, wildlife protection, and soil and moisture conservation. These objectives reflect a comprehensive approach to forest and environmental stewardship. In addition to ecological goals, the

project emphasizes community development through the construction of Village Forest Committee (VSS) buildings, local infrastructure, and roads within forested and village areas. It also includes support for income-generating activities via the provision of small-scale machinery and equipment. While these interventions aim to improve the quality of life and livelihoods of forest-dependent communities, they may also pose minor environmental and social risks. To manage these potential risks and ensure responsible implementation, two key frameworks are employed:

i. Environmental and Social Management System Framework (ESMSF) This framework provides structured guidance for:

- Identifying and assessing potential environmental and social impacts;
- Adopting appropriate mitigation measures;
- Ensuring environmentally sound practices throughout project execution.

ii. Scheduled Tribe and Forest Dependents Plan Framework (STFDP) Specifically tailored to safeguard vulnerable populations, the STFDP ensures:

- Full consideration of the rights, needs, and aspirations of Scheduled Tribes (STs) and Forest Dependent (FD) communities;
- Equitable benefits from project activities;
- Inclusive decision-making processes and sustained community engagement.

Together, the ESMSF and STFDP frameworks uphold the project's commitment to sustainable, inclusive, and participatory forest management, ensuring that developmental interventions are both environmentally responsible and socially equitable.

In this regard, the micro-plan serves as a participatory planning tool at the grassroots level and it helps to visualize the project implementation and develop indicators to assess potential impacts. The key features of this approach include:

- community involvement in planning and decision-making processes;
- using micro-plans to forecast and evaluate environmental and social impacts and
- incorporating broad checklists in revised micro-formats to monitor the effectiveness of safeguard measures.

The key benefits of the frameworks are

- comprehensive Safeguards in the form of comprehensive and detailed checklists with procedures for assessing and monitoring nvironmental and social management measures;
- providing special focus on vulnerable communities by giving attention to the developmental and social concerns of ST and FD communities, ensuring their interests are safeguarded and
- achieving more sustainable and inclusive project outcomes by adhering to these frameworks.

While OFSDP-II promotes forest conservation and sustainable management, it also recognizes the potential environmental and social risks associated with infrastructure development. The ESMSF and STFDP frameworks provide essential guidance to mitigate these risks, ensuring that project interventions are both environmentally sound and socially acceptable. Participatory micro-planning further enhances the project's effectiveness by involving communities in the planning process and establishing robust mechanisms for impact assessment and monitoring.

7.5.3 Key objectives of ESMSF under OFSDP-II

The key objectives of ESMSF are:

- To provide practical guidance for identification, planning and implementing the environmental and social management measures across different components of the project and
- To enhance the project's positive environmental and social impacts and avoid or otherwise mitigate associated negative impacts.

7.5.4 Key objectives of STFDPF under OFSDP-II

The key objectives of STFDPF are:

- To ascertain that the project does not inadvertently induce disempowerment, or increase disparities between the tribal and other communities, and
- To propose ways for minimizing and mitigating adverse impacts on tribal households and their livelihoods

7.5.5 Progress made in Implementation of ESMSF & STFDPF under OFADP-II

The Environmental and Social Management Safeguard Framework (ESMSF) and the Scheduled Tribe and Forest Dweller Participation Framework (STFDPF) are integral cross-cutting components of the OFSDP II project. These frameworks are embedded throughout the project cycle to ensure compliance with environmental and social regulations and alignment with the policies of the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA).

The application and continuous implementation of these frameworks are monitored rigorously through:

- Regular Progress Reporting: Framework implementation is tracked through systematic and periodic progress reports.
- Structured Monitoring Tools: Dedicated tools are used to ensure thorough and standardized monitoring.
- Management Information System (MIS) Integration: Monitoring results are incorporated into the OFSDP II MIS, enabling informed decision-making and efficient project oversight.
- Micro Plan Revisitations: Periodic revisits to micro plans facilitate ongoing assessment of environmental and social impacts and the effectiveness of mitigation measures.

During the fiscal year 2024–25, notable progress has been made in implementing both frameworks:

- Compliance with Environmental and Social Regulations: All project activities adhered to applicable legal and regulatory requirements and were aligned with JICA's environmental and social policies.
- Structured Monitoring Tools: Standardized tools were effectively utilized to monitor the implementation of ESMSF and STFDPF.
- MIS Integration: Monitoring outcomes were successfully integrated into the project MIS, improving data-driven management and oversight.
- Periodic Reviews and Revisions: Revisions of micro plans were conducted based on emerging environmental and social dynamics, ensuring adaptive and responsive planning.
- Progress Reporting: Comprehensive progress reports were prepared and submitted, outlining key achievements and identifying areas for improvement in the implementation of both frameworks.

This robust monitoring and reporting framework promotes transparency, accountability, and safeguard compliance throughout project implementation.

7.5.5.1 Incorporation of ESMSF & STFDPF Related Formats in the Handbook for Micro Plan Revision

Both in English and Odia versions of ESMSF & STFDPF related formats were prepared and included in the Handbook for Micro Plan Revision in the Batch-III VSSs in order to elicit exhaustive information needed for monitoring the implementation of environmental and social (with particular respect to ST&FD communities) related safeguards at VSS level and accordingly to formulate the mitigation measures in collaboration with the VSSs.

i. Framework for Environmental Safeguards at VSS / EDC Level

ii. Framework for Social Safeguards at VSS / EDC Level

iii. Applicability of ESMSF and STFDPF

iv. STFDPF: Monitoring items, Indicators, means and Frequency of Verification & Responsibility Framework

v. Format for Assessment of STFDPF Safeguards at VSS Level

Relevant data on ESMSF and STFDPF were collected from Batch-III VSS level through these formats during the process of micro plan revisit and the same are captured through MIS portal at PMU level for meaningful analysis and initiate appropriate remedial actions.

7.5.5.2 Capacity Building in Implementation / Monitoring of ESMS and STFDP Safeguard Frameworks at VSS Level

Following the orientation training programs for the DMU staff, series of capacity building training programs on the field level use of revised / new formats (inclusive of ESMSF & STFDPF related formats) included in the Handbook for micro plan revision for the FMU & PNGO staff and for VSS and SHG members were conducted by the SMSs of DMU as the Master Trainers.

7.5.5.3 Review of Revised Micro Plans Prepared by DMUs

The process of revising and refining the micro plans for Batch-III VSSs involved a comprehensive review and feedback mechanism. This approach ensured that the micro plans were aligned with the ESMSF and STFDPF. The experts from the Project Management Consultant (PMC) conducted a thorough review of the samples of the revised micro plans of Batch-III VSSs submitted by the DMUs. The experts prepared a detailed feedback report addressing all sections of the revised micro plans, including the ESMSF and STFDPF components and shared with the respective DMUs, providing clear guidelines for necessary corrections and modifications.

In addition, the PMC experts organized review meetings at the headquarters of each DMU. These meetings were attended by DMU Chiefs, Subject Matter Specialists (SMSs) along with the FMU Coordinators, Partner Non-Governmental Organization (PNGO) staff, and VSS secretaries of Batch-III VSSs. During these meetings, any doubts or misunderstandings raised by the DMU and field staff regarding the revised micro plans, especially the cross-cutting components like ESMSF and STFDPF, were addressed. The meetings provided an opportunity for detailed discussions, helping the staff to understand the required corrections and properly implement them in the revised micro plans. Some of the benefits derived from these review meetings at DMU level listed below:

- The combination of written feedback and interactive review meetings ensured that all stakeholders clearly understood the required changes.
- The collaborative approach improved the quality and compliance of the revised micro plans with the ESMSF and STFDPF requirements.

- These activities also contributed to capacity building among DMU and field staff, enhancing their ability to prepare and implement effective micro plans in the future.
- Through such structured review and feedback mechanism, the project ensured that the revised micro plans were not only compliant with the relevant frameworks but also tailored to effectively address the environmental and social aspects of the project.

7.5.6 Analysis of ESMSF & STFDPF Related Data Captured through Revised Micro Plans of Batch-III VSSs

The data /information related to the status of implementation of ESMS & STFDP frameworks at VSS (Batch-III) level were captured through the following formats which were included in the Handbook of Micro Plan Revision for capturing ESMSF & STFDPF related responses at Batch-II VSS level:

i. Framework for Environmental Safeguards at VSS / EDC Level

ii. Framework for Social Safeguards at VSS / EDC Level

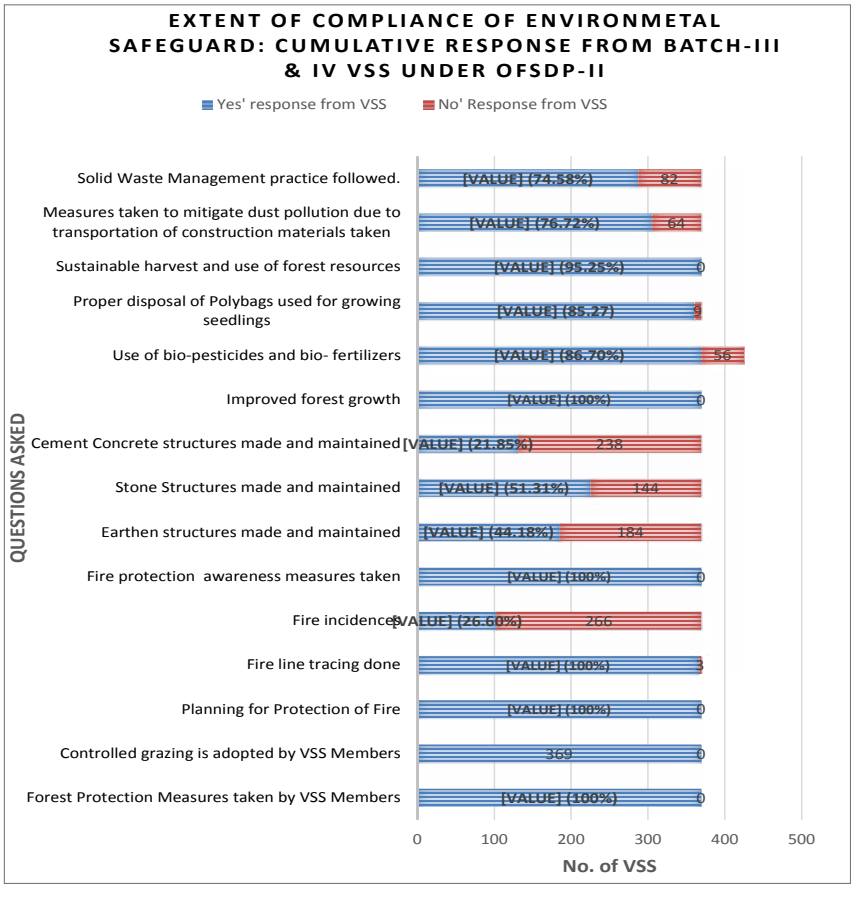
iii. Applicability of ESMSF and STFDPF

iv. STFDPF: Monitoring items, Indicators, means and Frequency of Verification & Responsibility Framework

v. Format for Assessment of STFDPF Safeguards at VSS Level

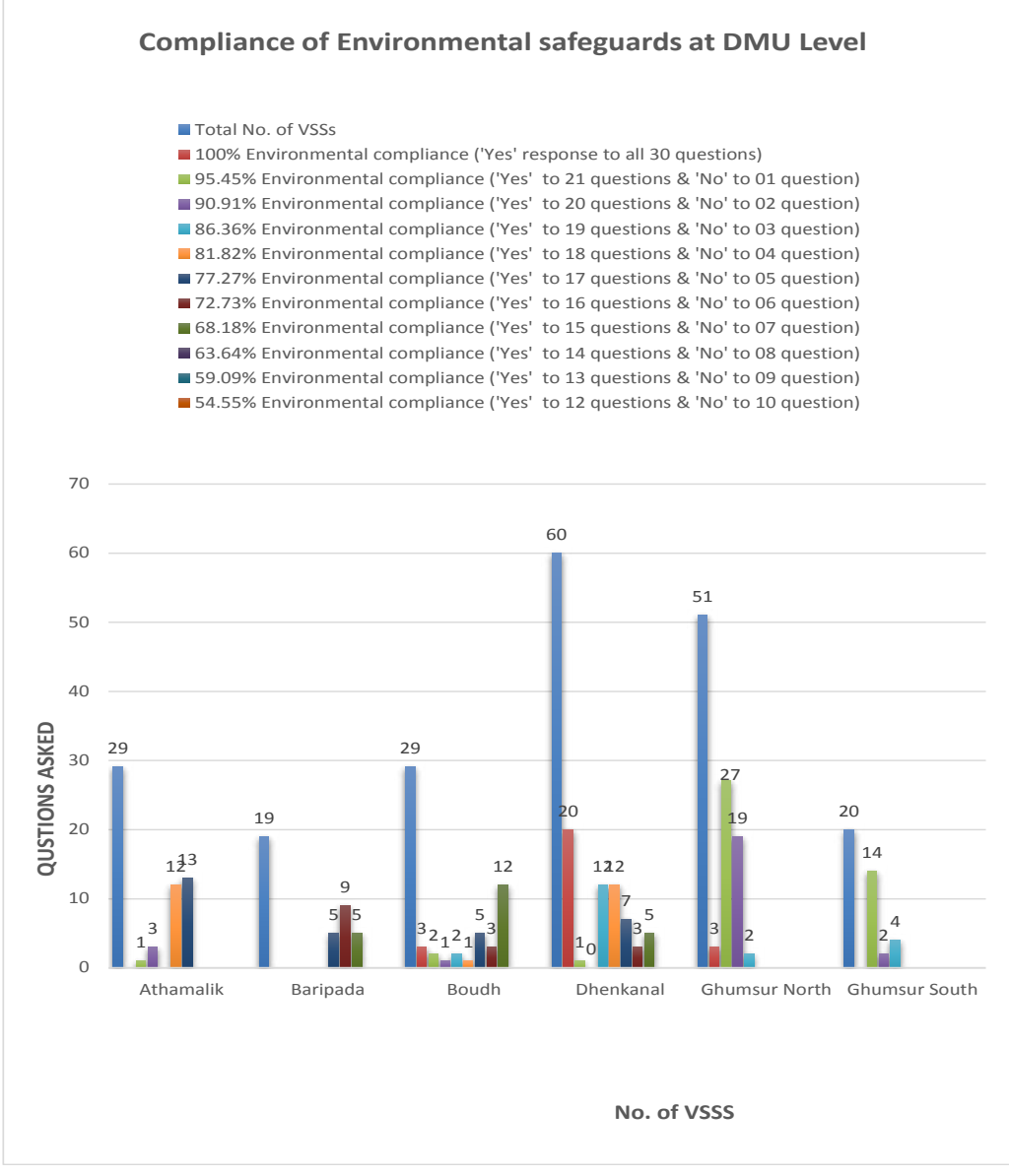
The data pertaining to the existing status of implementation of ESMSF & STFDPF reflected through the responses to the questions included in the formats from the members of 403 VSSs of Batch-III of 12 Forest Divisions are presented below in graphical form.

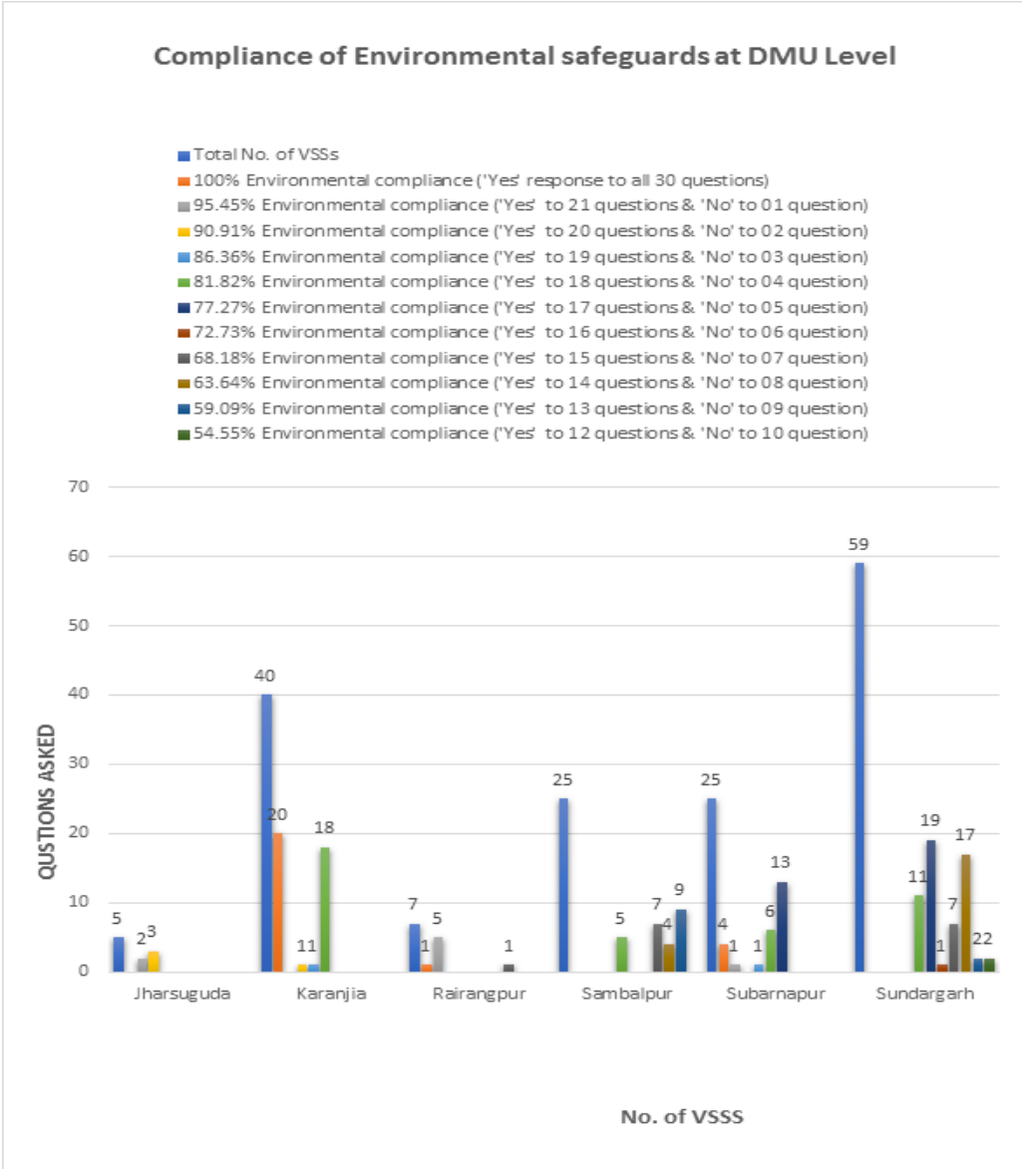
7.5.6.1 Analysis of Environmental Safeguard Related Data Captured through Revised Micro Plans of Batch-II VSSs



Summary of Responses from Batch-III & IV VSSs on Compliance of Prescribed Environmental Safeguards

Number of VSSs given positive (yes) response to questions / actions (compliance) related to environmental safeguards						
Extent of compliance	100% positive i.e 'Yes' response to all 22 questions	91.00 to 96.00 % positive i.e 'Yes' to 20-21 questions & 'No' to 01-02 question	81.00 to 86.00% positive i.e 'Yes' to 18-19 questions & 'No' to 03 – 04 questions	73.00 to 77.00 % positive i.e 'Yes' to 16-17 questions & 'No' to 05-06 questions	64.00 to 68.00 % positive i.e 'Yes' to 14-15 questions & 'No' to 07 -08 questions	55.00 to 60.00 % positive i.e 'Yes' to 12-13 questions & 'No' to 09-10 questions
No. of VSSs	51	83	86	78	58	13
% of VSS	13.82%	22.49%	23.31%	21.14%	15.72%	3.52%





Inference derived from the analysis of data on compliance of Environmental Safeguards at Batch-III & IV VSS level:

The analysis / interpretation of above-mentioned data related to compliance of environmental safeguards represented in graphical and tabular forms indicate the following trend with respect to compliance of environmental safeguards at Batch-III & IV VSS level under the project:

i. The extent of compliance of the prescribed safeguards in STFDPF among the VSSs of Batch-III & IV was fairly high, ranging from 53.00 to 100%.

ii. Among the above, 42% of VSSs of Batch-III & IV have fulfilled all the safeguard requirements i.e. all 30 prescribed safeguards amounting to 100% compliance; 11% VSSs have complied 90 to 97% prescribed safeguards, while 7% VSSs fell within the range of 80 to 87% of compliance; 19% VSSs have fulfilled 70-77% compliance and 13.5 % VSSs reflect 60-67% compliance. Put together, almost 92% VSSs showed the compliance range of 60 to 100% with respect to the prescribed safeguards in STFDPF.

iii. Only a few VSSs of Batch-III & IV (about 8%) have shown relatively low range i.e. less than 60% compliance as far as the prescribed safeguards in STFDPF.

iv. The observed trend of compliance of different safeguards among the total number of 30 prescribed in STFDPF by the VSSs of Batch-III & IV is as follows:

- Most of the STFDPF safeguards found to be compiled by high number (75 to 99%) of VSSs of Batch-III & IV. Those safeguards are listed below:
  - Participatory assessment on the implementation of prescribed STFDPF safeguards across different project components by the VSS,
  - Equitable distribution of project / micro plan benefits among SC/ST/FD communities and
  - Micro plan interventions providing livelihood opportunities to SC/ ST/FD communities.
  - Implementation of micro plan benefitted the ST and Forest Dependent communities
  - The SC/ST/ forest dweller members of VSS regularly participating in consultations on formulating ST & FD planning
  - The women & elder ST/SC/ FD groups of VSS regularly participating in the consultations
  - All the scheduled consultation meetings informed the members in advance
  - The SC / ST/ FD members of VSS attend the consultation meetings voluntarily / freely without compulsion
  - The SC / ST/ FD members freely express their opinion / ideas in the consolation meetings
  - The SC/ST / FD communities well aware and convinced about the impacts of micro plan interventions
  - The SC/ST / FD communities actively participate in planning & implementation of micro plan and convergence activities
  - The women ST/SC/ FD members of VSS regularly participate in capacity building / training programs / review meetings
  - The STFDPF target & PoP households actively involved in the micro plan preparation exercise / process
  - The STFDPF target & PoP households actively participate / contribute in the micro plan implementation.
  - Micro plan interventions having an impact on the socio- economic condition of the ST& FD communities
  - Results of STFDPF safeguards assessment at VSS level been documented and shared among all stakeholders
  - The report containing the results of the assessment of STFDPF safeguards written in simple local language
  - The document contains adequate and appropriate visuals for easy comprehension
  - The VSS members (especially EC / informed members) were involved in planning & implementation of STFDPF safeguard measures.
  - The capacity building / training programs / review meetings on STDDPF conducted at regular intervals and at relevant stages of project implementation

- The SC/ST/ FD members of VSS regularly participating in capacity building / training programs / review meetings conducted at different stages of project implementation
- The Grievance Redressal Committee with prescribed members been constituted at DMU level for the redressal of grievances received from the STFDPF target group
- The Grievance Redressal Committee redress the grievances received from STFDPF target group

- The five STFDPF safeguards that were compiled at medium level (50 to 69%) by the VSSs of Batch-III & IV were
  - The project / micro plan benefits acquired by SC/ST/FD communities disturb or alter their cultural practices
  - Even if those benefits alter the cultural practices of SC/ST/FD communities, they are acceptable.
  - The VSS constituted a sub-group to assess /monitor STFDPDF safeguards with respect to different project components
  - The VSS sub-group assess / monitor the implementation of STFDPF safeguards with respect to its assigned project component as per prescribed schedule
  - The VSS sub-groups document the results of assessment / monitoring and reports to VSS as per schedule
  - The randomly selected participants recall most of the STFDPF topics covered in the trainings / review meetings.
  - All the important topics of STFDPF covered in the training modules / agenda of review meetings

v. DMU wise STFDPF safeguards analysis reveals the following trend in complying prescribed social safeguards by the VSSs of Batch-III & IV under different DMUs

- In six out of 12 DMUs viz. Karanjia, Subarnapur, Boudh, Ghumsur-South, Rairangpur and Jarsuguda DMUs, the VSSs of Batch-III & IV have almost fully (97 to 100%) complied the STFDPF safeguards measures.
- In DMUs like Athmallik, Sambalpur and Sundargarh, the VSSs of Batch-III & IV have exhibited mixed range of compliance varying from 53 to 75% as far as STFDPF safeguards concerned.
- Interestingly in Sundargarh DMU, all the 59 VSSs of Batch-III & IV have shown lower medium range of STFDPF safeguards compliance, ranging from 53 to 66%; where as in case of Baripada DMU, all 19 VSSs of Batch-III & IV have uniformly shown 86% compliance of STFDOF safeguards.

In overall assessment, almost all the VSSs of Batch-III & IV in all 12 DMUs have shown a reasonable compliance range (53 to 100%) with respect to STFDPF safeguards. However, measures to be initiated by the project personnel to sensitize and educate the VSSs of Batch -III & IV, particularly those falling within the compliance range of 53 to 70% on the importance and necessity of fulfilling the safeguards in STFDPF as per the prescribed norms of JICA during the implementation process of project components related to sustainable forest management, biodiversity conservation, livelihood promotion, other convergence activities and so on.

Capacity Building Initiatives

CHAPTER 8

8.1 Introduction

Capacity building refers to deliberate efforts aimed at empowering individuals, groups, and communities by enhancing their knowledge, skills, and attitudes. This process enables them to act effectively and efficiently in achieving specific development goals. It involves building confidence and providing clarity to undertake tasks such as gathering information, planning, implementing, and monitoring projects. Capacity building occurs at multiple levels—individual, group/community, and institutional (state/national)—and is essential for improving functional performance and achieving desired outcomes. In the context of development, capacity building plays a vital role by enabling local communities to address their own issues. This community-based approach recognizes that sustainable change is most effective when it originates from within, rather than being imposed externally. Strengthening the skills, resources, and institutional frameworks within communities creates a foundation for long-term and self-sustained development.

Under OFSDP-II, capacity building goes beyond conventional training. It adopts a holistic approach that includes individual skill development as well as the strengthening of organizational and institutional capacities. This comprehensive strategy ensures that communities are equipped not only to understand their challenges but also to identify, plan, and implement appropriate solutions. A key focus is placed on enhancing social and human capital, recognizing the importance of local assets and knowledge systems. Development efforts become more responsive and sustainable when they build upon existing community strengths. For example, the formulation of micro-plans by Vana Suraksha Samitis (VSSs) at the beginning of the project—and their subsequent revision after four years—illustrates a successful outcome of capacity-building efforts at the community level. In essence, capacity building empowers communities to take ownership of their development processes. By reducing dependence on external actors and promoting local leadership, it fosters resilience, self-reliance, and sustainable development outcomes driven by the communities themselves.

8.2 Progress of Capacity Building

While the Odisha Forestry Sector Development Project, Phase-II has already achieved significant progress across various components, its current focus is on promoting Income Generating Activities (IGAs) through Community-Based Organisations (CBOs). This shift reflects the project's strategic commitment to sustainable development and grassroots empowerment. By strengthening institutions such as Self-Help Groups (SHGs) and Common Interest Groups (CIGs)—and extending targeted support to the most vulnerable households—the project aims to foster inclusive economic growth within forest-dependent communities.

As a strategic intervention, Multi-Product Clusters are being established and operationalized to enhance marketing opportunities for local produce, thereby improving the economic viability of forestry-linked livelihoods. Complementing this, capacity-building initiatives focused on entrepreneurship and business development are equipping community members with the knowledge and skills necessary to engage effectively in local value chains. This underscores the project's holistic approach, integrating livelihood enhancement with conservation efforts.

The emphasis on livelihood promotion and market facilitation reveals a nuanced understanding of the socio-economic realities of forest-based communities. By aligning development interventions with these dynamics, OFSDP-II is not only contributing to forest conservation but also nurturing sustainable livelihoods and community resilience.

During the reporting year, the project's capacity-building initiatives demonstrated a comprehensive approach to sustainable forest management and community empowerment. Trainings related to Sustainable Forest Protection and Management, Fire protection and management and Community based Monitoring Reporting & Verification for REDD+ Readiness were organized at the DMU (Division Management Unit), FMU (Field Management Unit), and VSS (Vana Suraksha Samiti) levels. These trainings reflect the project's commitment to environmental conservation, climate change mitigation, and participatory forest governance.

Special attention was also given to gender mainstreaming, highlighting the importance of women's participation in forest management and decision-making processes. The integration of the Environmental and Social Management System Framework (ESMSF) further ensures that all project activities are implemented in an environmentally and socially responsible manner. Additionally, the focus on the Schedule Tribe and Forest Dependent Plan Framework indicates a targeted and inclusive approach to addressing the specific challenges faced by indigenous and forest-dependent communities. Capacity-building efforts also continued for the revisit of micro-plans for Batch-III VSSs and SHGs, involving both field-level officials and community members. These initiatives are critical in equipping stakeholders with the skills and tools needed to ensure adaptive, participatory, and sustainable forest management.

The comprehensive capacity building and skill enhancement approach adopted by OFSDP-II is central to the successful implementation of its livelihood interventions, especially through Self-Help Groups (SHGs), Common Interest Groups (CIGs), and Producer Organizations (POs). This approach is designed to empower forest-dependent communities and ensure sustainability. These skill enhancement trainings not only provide diversified livelihood options but also empower communities to make informed choices about their economic activities. Collaboration with other government departments ensures a holistic approach to rural development, leveraging resources and expertise across different sectors. Some of the regular and much sought out subjects of trainings by the communities are as under:

i. Agriculture and Horticulture: Training on modern farming techniques, including soil management and harvesting methods have improved agricultural productivity. Similarly, horticultural trainings covered aspects like fruit and vegetable cultivation, greenhouse management, and post-harvest handling.

ii. Composting: Trainings on vermicompost production have largely provided farmers with an organic and sustainable method of soil enrichment, reducing the need for chemical fertilizers. Also provided a profitable livelihood option to many women SHG members in the project area.

iii. Livestock Rearing: Backyard poultry, dairy farming, goat rearing, and pisciculture (fish farming) are vital for both nutrition and income generation in the project area. Training contents in these areas have included animal husbandry practices, health management, and breeding techniques.

iv. Beekeeping: Beekeeping is not only beneficial for honey production and related livelihood but also for pollination and biodiversity conservation. Training given on beekeeping covered hive management, honey extraction, and its marketing.

v. Mushroom Cultivation: Training on mushroom production typically included cultivation techniques helping the farmers to obtain maximum output in terms of income with minimum investment.

vi. Bamboo Craft Making: Bamboo is a versatile material for crafts and construction. Trainings on bamboo craft, provided with professional help included bamboo treatment, weaving techniques, and product design.

vii. Pickle Making and Other Food Processing: Food processing adds value to agricultural produce and extends its shelf life. Training in pickle making and other food processing techniques help the project to empower women by providing them with opportunities for entrepreneurship.

8.2.1 Capacity Building Training Initiatives

Important trainings conducted under Odisha Forestry Sector Development Project, Phase-II during the year 2024-25 are given below:

8.2.1.1 Capacity Building on Satoyama Initiatives

The training and capacity building on indigenous paddy cultivation in organic method has been organised at the EDC level for the farmers by Kanak Bioscience Pvt. Ltd. which play significant role not only to support in promotion of income generating activities but also facilitate marketing of paddy at best remunerative price.

8.2.2 Capacity Building Training Initiatives at DMU / FMU level

8.2.2.1 Training on Revisit of Micro Plan at DMU level

During the year under report, Revisit of Micro Plan was undertaken in 403 VSSs of Batch-III across the 12 DMUs. The DMU level officials who got trained on the Micro plan re-visit process and formats at the state level Capacity Building Training conducted during FY 2023-24 were identified as Master trainers for training the FMU level staff and the community level members on the processes of Revisit of Micro Plan. The Animators, Member Secretaries of VSSs, and Women Working Group Members of all 403 VSSs were oriented on the objectives of re-visiting the Micro Plans and how to collect of information through different formats pertaining to each component of micro plan re-visit, particularly related to the new chapters/components v.i.z People Biodiversity Register, Gender Mainstreaming initiatives, ESMSF & STFDPF and Community Based Monitoring, Reporting & Verifications etc. which were included in the Revisit of Micro Plan. During the financial year 2024-25, a total of 18 trainings were conducted for 628 numbers of Animators and Members Secretaries.

8.2.2.2 Training on Cultivation of Indigenous Aromatic Paddy

About 132 farmers from 10 EDCs of Bamra WL Divisions and 145 farmers from 18 VSSs of Baripada Forest Division have taken up cultivation of Indigenous Aromatic Paddy in 76 Acre and 145 Acre farm land respectively during the year 2024-25. M/s Kanak Bio science & Research Pvt. Limited, Bhubaneswar provided required technical training and input and guidance for the said initiatives.

The framers associated in farming of Indigenous Aromatic Paddy were trained on the agronomic practices during pre cultivation phase, cultivation phase and post cultivation phase. The topes covered in each phase were as below:

Phase	Topic Covered
Pre Cultivation Phase	1. Selection of varieties and seeds 2. Field treatment 3. Seed treatment 4. Seed bed raising 5. Preparation & application of organic manure etc.
Cultivation Phase	6. Farmers field inspection 7. Different agronomic practices 8. Preparation & application of organic manure etc 9. Insect & paste management 10. Methods of organic certifications
Post Cultivation Phase	11. Post harvest management 12. Water management 13. Disease control management 14. Drying / Sorting / Grading etc. 15. Quality management

The professionals from M/s Kanak Bioscience & Research Private Limited conducted the above trainings along with the representatives from PMU & MMSA in attendance as Resource Persons.

8.2.2.3 Capacity Building Training on Forest Fire Management

Based on the learning from the past years, adequate preventive measures on prevention and management of forest fire were initiated across the VSSs under the project during the year 2024-25. Protection of Forest from fire has been one of the key tasks of the VSS members operating under OFSDP-II. They are being sensitized regularly to protect forest from forest fire.

During the year 2024-25, the DFO-cum-DMU Chiefs have identified the vulnerable sites which are prone to forest fire. Utilizing the funds provided by the PMU of OFSDS, the VSS members were equipped for control and management of forest fire. These funds were utilized for conducting sensitization trainings, theme based cultural programmes for creating awareness on forest fires among VSS members, rallies, street plays, for making wall paintings, posters for display etc., on forest fire control & management in all 1210 VSSs covered under OFSDP-II. Such initiatives have been successful in substantially reduced the forest fire incidences in the project villages of OFSDP-II during 2024-25.

8.2.2.4 Training on Vermi-Compost

Sundargarh, Boudh and Sambalpur Forest Division have taken initiatives in establishing vermi compost units in the project VSSs not only to have required inputs for organic farming but also a source of sustainable income for the forest fringe dwelling communities. The stubble left out in the forest and in the paddy land, which is often becomes the cause for forest fire during the summer season, is being used as raw material for preparation of vermi compost. During 2024-25, a total of 27 numbers of vermi compost units have been established in these three Divisions. Each unit has about 4-6 numbers of vermi compost chambers for

production of compost. Subsequent to the capacity building through training, the SHGs members have started preparing vermi compost in their respective VSSs. About 2800 quintals of vermi compost is being harvested by each SHGs across the VSSs during the reporting year. Accordingly, vermi compost, worth of Rs. 28.29 lakhs have been marketed by 2 DMUs during the reporting year.

8.2.2.5 Collaboration with Sambalpur University for training on Value Addition of Mahua Flower

The Sundargarh Forest Division collaborated with the Department of Food Science Technology & Nutrition Department with an objective to transfer the knowledge, skill and technologies required for value addition of mahua flower to the communities for establishing an alternate source of income. In total 155 potential members from 70 VSS, FMU Coordinators and P-NGO team members each Forest Range (FMU) under OFSDP-II were identified for this purpose and were trained on value addition of mahua flower. Particularly, the members were trained on preparation of mahua concentration from mahua flower and its application in preparation of different edible products like laddu, cookies, candy, cake etc. In total of 155 Master Trainers from different VSSs under the project were trained in Sambalpur University. Currently, these SHGs are preparing 16 varieties of value-added products of mahua flower which include cake, cookies, jam, jelly, murku, ice cream, chatni, chikki, laddu, achar, candy, gulapjamun etc.

The officials from FMU & DMU facilitated the VSS/SHG members for marketing of their produces in different markets in and around Sundargarh. As a result, the value-added produces on mahua flower prepared by the SHGs are being found in the display-shelves of different retailers. The members of the SHGs / VSSs are very much satisfied by these innovative initiatives of OFSDP-II in collaboration with Sambalpur University as they helped the women members of SHGs to earn substantial income to run their families with ease and dignity.

8.2.2.6 Trainings on IGA Related Skill Development through Convergence

Skill Trainings on different Income Generating Activities have been taken up by the Project Divisions during the year under report. Different skill trainings for the primary stakeholders of the VSSs on various Income Generating activities based on farm, off farm, non-farm and NTFP etc. were organised at Division level. Training on mushroom cultivation, bee keeping, pisciculture, vegetable cultivation etc. were organised for the primary stakeholders during the year under report. The abstract of trainings conducted during 2024-25 is as below:

Themes of training	Level of Training	Trainings (In Nos.)	Participants
Training of IFS Probationers allotted to Odisha	PMU level	03	15
Online Training on Biomass study in Farm forestry sample plots			161
Training of IFS Probationers allotted to Odisha			15
CBT on Revisit of Micro Plan	DMU Level	25	634
Training of IGA & Value Addition			
Training on IGA- Paddy Cultivation			
Environment Conservation & Management			
Training of Working Group & Women Working Group on Revisit of Micro Plan	FMU Level	322	12,366
Training on Forest Fire Control & Management			
Training on Farm Forestry Plantation			
Skill building on value addition of Mahua flower			
Training on Skill Programme on IGA (Vermi compost/Mushroom cultivation/Poultry/Food processing)			
Training on Cultivation of Aromatic Paddy			
Exposure Visits of Primary Stakeholders on Income Group Activities			
Total- 2024-25 (Up to Mar, 2025)		**349**	**13176**

8.2.3 Overseas Exposure Visits to Japan under the CBT Component (2024–2025)

As part of the Capacity Building and Training (CBT) component of the Odisha Forestry Sector Development Project-II (OFSDP-II), a series of overseas exposure visits to Japan were organized during 2024–2025. These visits were aimed at strengthening institutional capacities, enhancing technical knowledge, and enabling strategic policy planning through firsthand exposure to international best practices. The visits were planned in three groups, with two successfully completed and the third group visit was postponed due to administrative reasons. These Overseas Visits were scheduled from May to July 2024:

Group 1 (Policy Planning Level): Included senior officials and experts, including Additional Chief Secretary and the Additional Principal Chief Conservator of Forests. This visit took place from 10th to 18th May 2024, with four participants.

Group 2 and Group 3 (Implementation and Supervisory Level): Comprised field-level officers such as Deputy Conservators of Forests and Regional Chief Conservators. Group 2 visited from 1st to 14th June 2024, with 13 participants. Group 3, scheduled for 6th to 19th July 2024, was not conducted due to administrative reasons.

These visits were coordinated and facilitated by the Project Management Consultant (PMC) on behalf of the Project Management Unit (PMU), OFSDP-II. The overseas visits were planned in accordance with the approved Project Document and the Minutes of Discussion (MoD) with JICA, highlighting their importance in capacity development. The key objectives included:

- Exposure to sustainable forest management models
- Insights into community-based forest governance
- Learning from biodiversity conservation, livelihood enhancement, and institution building initiatives
- Adoption of innovative practices and technologies aligned with global standards

Participants engaged with international institutions and field models that offer practical insights into achieving the project's core objectives through participatory and sustainable means.

Key Themes and institutions visited:

- JICA Headquarters and Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries

Participants could get firsthand knowledge about afforestation initiatives covering 2.4 million hectares in Indian states and related livelihood interventions impacting over 700,000 people. Discussions also included the JICA DX Vision, the implementation of the Forest Stack PoC in Odisha, and strategies for mitigating man-animal conflict, especially elephant depredation in West Bengal. Japan's forest ownership structure—42% public (mostly national government-managed) and 58% private (primarily individuals)—offered comparative insights for OFSDP-II.

- United Nations University Institute for the Advanced Study of Sustainability (UNU-IAS)

The visit focused on the Satoyama Initiative, a global framework for socio-ecological production landscapes and seascapes (SEPLS), promoting harmony between people and nature. Participants examined how OFSDP-II could align with and potentially join the International Partnership for the Satoyama Initiative (IPSI).

Miyama Village (Kyoto)

Miyama, known for its traditional thatched-roof farmhouses, exemplifies integrated agri-forestry, use of mountain water for paddy cultivation, and sustainable community living. The visit highlighted cultural preservation and local innovation in forest resource use.

- Forestry and Forest Products Research Institute (FFPRI), Tsukuba

The institute's role in promoting SDG Goal 15 was emphasized, showcasing research on sustainable forest utilization and achieving net-zero carbon by 2050.

- National Agriculture and Food Research Organization (NARO), Tsukuba

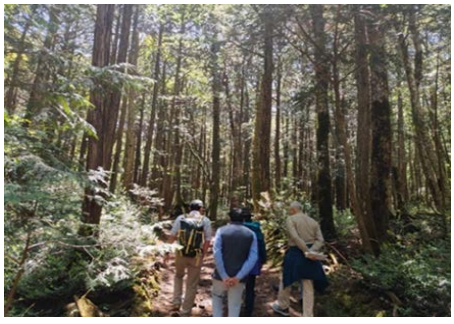
Participants were introduced to innovations that integrate agriculture and environmental conservation under Japan's Society 5.0 framework. Visits included interactive sessions with researchers and exhibits on sustainable agriculture and food security.

Ecotourism around Mount Fuji

Ecotourism practices in Mount Fuji region demonstrated how conservation can be balanced with tourism and community livelihood. Managed through public-private partnerships, the model illustrated seasonal regulations and local engagement in tourism.

Kitayama Cedar Forest Cooperative

This cooperative is a model for sustainable commercial forestry, producing Kitayama Maruta—a premium, knot-free cedar wood grown through traditional methods. The process represents high-value, low-impact forest product development aligned with cultural heritage.



- Research Institute for Humanity and Nature (RIHN), Kyoto

RIHN's interdisciplinary research promotes a sustainable society by rethinking the human-nature relationship at local and global levels.

Arashiyama Bamboo Grove (Kyoto)

This natural forest of mōsō bamboo illustrates traditional forest management and ecotourism. It also reinforced the importance of biodiversity in cultural landscapes.

- Cultural and Heritage Exposure

Visits to heritage sites such as Zojoji Temple, Tokyo Skytree, Sensoji Temple, Imperial Palace, Miraikan, Byodoin Temple, and others enriched the participants' understanding of Japanese cultural integration with environmental stewardship.

- Outcomes and Key Takeaways

The exposure visits provided a holistic learning experience across strategic, operational, and community engagement dimensions. The participants gained insights into:

- Strategic policy frameworks supporting sustainable forestry
- Community-based models integrating ecology, economy, and culture
- Application of advanced technologies and digital tools in forest monitoring
- Livelihood enhancement through sustainable forest product use
- International partnerships and platforms for collaborative knowledge exchange

These learnings will contribute to improved planning, implementation, and monitoring under OFSDP-II, aligning the project with international sustainability goals and participatory development approaches.

Glimpses of Forests of Japan

Coordination and Supporting Activities

CHAPTER 9

Periodical coordination and review of progress related to project activities, planning, coordination, collaborations, implementation etc., at different levels of project management were conducted during the year 2024-25 for better coordination, and to provide support to the entire team of OFSDP-II.

9.1 Meeting of High-Power Committee (HPC)

The High- Power Committee (HPC) of OFSDS is the highest decision-making body of the Society. It is chaired by the Chief Secretary with the Additional Chief Secretary, Forest and Environment Department as the Vice Chairman and plays a significant role in making policy level decisions in connection with the operational management and implementation of the project. HPC also facilitates coordination between different line departments and OFSDP-II for optimal and successful inter-sectoral convergence so as to ensure the benefits of various poverty alleviation schemes / programmes adequately reach the needy households in the remote forest fringe villages under the project. In view of this coordination role of HPC, Senior Officers at Principal Secretary/Commissioner-cum-Secretary levels from different govt. Departments such as Finance, Agriculture and Farmer's Empowerment, Revenue and Disaster Management, Panchayati Raj and Drinking Water, ST and SC Development, Rural Development, Women and Child Development, Mission Shakti, Health and Family Welfare, Principal Chief Conservator of Forests and HoFF and Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (Wildlife)-cum-Chief Wildlife Warden, Odisha etc. are the members of the Committee.

The HPC meetings under the chairmanship of the Chief Secretary, Odisha are being organized on six-monthly basis. While reviewing the progress of work, the HPC also discusses about the challenges and issues relating to project implementation, inter-sectoral convergence etc., during the meetings.

9.2 Governing Body Meeting of OFSDS

Governing Body of OFSDS is the planning and decision-making body of OFSDP-II as per the Society Registration Act, 1860. The Governing Body Meeting used to be organised by the PMU for various decision making, and supporting the PMU in tandem with the Budget approval, Annual Action plan, and other suggestions. GB Meeting helps to review the progress of the project on a regular basis and give approval if any required for betterment of the project.

9.3 PMU Level Review Meetings

Review Meetings with the Divisional Forest Officers are being regularly organized at PMU level to track physical and financial achievments vis-a-vis the plan for the corresponding quarter. During the year under report, component wise physical and financial progress made by each DMU was being reviewed under the Chairmanship of PCCF (Projects) & Project Director. Decisions taken in the meeting were recorded and the proceedings of the meetings were reularly communicated to all concerned Cricle RCCFs and DMU Chiefs for information and timely action at DMU and FMU levels.

9.4 DMU level Meetings

Monthly review cum P-NGO Coordination Committee Meeting was being held in every month at each Divisional Management Unit to monitor the progress of work vis-a-vis the plan. This meeting used to be conducted to review the plan of action of previous month and prepare the action plan for the next month for the project personnel and the P-NGO team.

9.5 FMU level Meetings

FMU level meetings and Block Advisory Committee Meetings are being regularly organised on a monthly basis with the project staff and the P-NGO team under the chairmanship of respective FMU Chiefs of OFSDP-II to track the progress and to take necessary decisions for timely execution of the project. This meeting serves as a good platform to meticulously plan and execute the activities at VSS level.

9.6 VSS/EDC level Meetings

Executive Committee meetings at the VSS level were being regularly conducted in each VSSs under OFSDP-II. Concurrent monitoring and supervision at the VSS level was taken up to ensure timely implementation of the project components. Required inputs is rendered by PMU to the DMUs and FMUs as and when required for smooth and timely implementation of project interventions at respective VSS level. For smooth implementation of project VSS level meetings are highly essential and therefore it was decided to conduct regular meetings without fail.

Number of Meetings conducted at different levels during 2024-25

Name of the Meeting	No of Meetings Conducted
High Power Committee Meeting	Nil
Governing Body Meeting	Nil
PMU Review Meetings	14 Nos.
DMU level Review Meeting	92 Nos.
FMU level Meetings	650 Nos.
VSS Meetings	25976 Nos.
Total Number of Meetings	**26,732**

9.7 Inter-Sectoral Coordination Committee Meetings

Inter-sectoral Coordination Committee meetings were organized at block level during every month under the chairmanship of Block Development Officer (BDO) of the respective Blocks. The FMU Chief is the Member- Convenor and block level officers of different Departments attend the meeting as members. This forum was established to review and plan the community development activities to implement inter-sectoral convergence activities with other line departments at VSS level.

9.8 District Advisory Committee Meeting

District Advisory Committee (DAC) meeting was being regularly organised for Inter-sectoral coordination. The meeting is chaired by the Collector and District Magistrate. Divisional Forest Officer of the concerned Division Head Quarter was the member-convenor of the meeting. Senior officials of other line Departments are the members of the DAC. These meetings were conducted on a monthly basis or once in every two months as per the availability of the Collector and other senior officials of line departments. This forum helps the project to ensure optimal coordination with other line departments for taking up the Convergence activities identified by the villagers during micro planning processes.

Number of BLAC & DAC meetings organized during the year 2024-25

Name of the meeting	No of Meetings conducted during 2023-24
District Advisory Committee Meeting	13
Block level Coordination Committee Meeting	265

This is an organised structure of the project for streamlining of the activities and for optimal use of the resources.

Visit of the JICA Mission to Badrama Wildlife Sanctuary and Sambalpur Forest Division:

A high-level review mission from the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) visited the Badrama Wildlife Sanctuary (WLS), located within the Bamra Wildlife and Sambalpur Forest Divisions on 4th February 2025 as part of their assessment under the Odisha Forestry Sector Development Project–Phase II (OFSDP-II). The mission was accompanied by senior officials from the Forest Department, representatives from the Project Management Unit (PMU), and the Project Management Consultant (PMC) team of OFSDP-II.

The visit was conducted as a part of JICA's broader monitoring and evaluation exercise focused on the implementation of the Satoyama Initiative. This initiative emphasizes the harmonious coexistence between human societies and nature, integrating biodiversity conservation with sustainable rural development.

The review mission began with a detailed pre-visit discussion with field-level officers to understand the local context, project interventions, and outcomes. Following this, the team undertook extensive field visits to key sites under the Satoyama Initiative, including the Eco-Development Committees (EDCs) of Podadihi, Pathuria, and Nunvet. These sites were selected to showcase various community-based conservation and livelihood initiatives supported under OFSDP-II.

During the visit, the mission also interacted with members of the Vana Suraksha Samitis (VSS) in the Sambalpur Forest Division on 5th February2025. The discussions with the VSS members cantered around their involvement in sustainable forest management, the livelihood activities undertaken with support from the project, and the tangible impacts of these interventions on their socio-economic well-being.

The field inspections and stakeholder interactions provided valuable insights into the strengths and challenges of project implementation. The mission acknowledged the critical role of local communities in forest conservation and appreciated the efforts made under the Satoyama framework to link ecological sustainability with improved livelihoods.

In a concluding session held with the PMU and OFSDP-II officials on 6th february2025, a comprehensive review of the project's progress was conducted. The discussions also explored the future roadmap for the project, including the potential for extending OFSDP-II to scale up successful interventions and deepen impact.

The JICA Mission's visit reaffirmed the importance of collaborative, community-driven approaches in conservation and highlighted the significance of integrating traditional knowledge with modern conservation practices to achieve long-term sustainability.

Communication & Knowledge Management

CHAPTER 10

10.1 Communication Strategy in OFSDP-II

A clearly articulated communication strategy is essential to bridge the gap between situation analysis and the successful execution of a Social and Behaviour Change Communication (SBCC) program. This adaptive and evolving framework delineates the role of SBCC in advancing the project's overarching vision, ensuring coherence with organizational priorities and the broader implementation approach. Grounded in established behavioural change models and principles of human communication, the strategy serves as a guide for designing and implementing outreach efforts aimed at fostering sustainable and constructive social and behavioural shifts.

Within the context of OFSDP-II, a multi-tiered and adaptive communication strategy has been adopted, deploying a variety of tools to ensure active stakeholder participation throughout the project lifecycle. This approach has effectively aligned project teams with developmental objectives through both strategic and operational communication, while simultaneously enhancing community mobilization and empowerment—critical to the success of field-level interventions.

The communication strategy, along with its detailed implementation plan, forms an integral part of the OFSDP-II Annual Plan. It is purposefully tailored to address the information and engagement needs of diverse target groups, including personnel across PMU, DMU, and FMU levels, as well as the VSS-based community structures. Activities under the strategy are carefully designed, contextualized, and delivered to maximize their relevance and impact across various operational tiers.

OFSDS employs a spectrum of communication channels—including institutional communication, documentation, and digital media—to ensure timely and accurate dissemination of information to all stakeholders. As outlined in the project framework, OFSDP-II emphasizes three fundamental communication forms that are central to effective project governance:

1. Information Management – Ensuring systematic collection, analysis, and dissemination of data and knowledge products.
2. Internal Communication – Facilitating coordination and information flow among project personnel at various levels.
3. External Communication – Engaging with external stakeholders, partners, and communities to build awareness and support for project initiatives.

10.2 Knowledge Management

The Project Management Unit (PMU) of OFSDP-II implements an approved process documentation strategy that leverages knowledge management techniques to systematically collect, organize, and disseminate information. This strategy establishes a structured information system designed to store, share, and analyse data critical for effective project management, guided by clearly defined methodologies.

Information dissemination is carried out through multiple channels, including the project website and a variety of publications such as booklets, guidelines, newsletters, and flyers. Additionally, short films and visual documentaries are employed to enhance outreach and stakeholder engagement. These efforts collectively

ensure a continuous and transparent flow of information to all relevant stakeholders. To support this framework, OFSDP-II has developed a detailed process documentation strategy guideline. This document specifies the communication channels, core concepts, and procedural steps involved in the documentation process. It further outlines the associated activities, expected deliverables, and responsibility centres, equipping project personnel with a comprehensive understanding of their roles and the overall documentation workflow.

10.3 Publications during 2024-25

Following publications were made during the year 2024-25

1. Annual Activity Report of OFSDP, Phase-II – 2023-24.
2. Banayana Vol-8, Issue-3, Oct-Dec 2024 Edition
3. Banayana Vol-8, Issue-2, July-Sept 2024 Edition
4. Banayana Vol-8, Issue-1, April-June 2024 Edition
5. Banayana Vol-7, Issue-4, Jan-Mar 2024 Edition

10.4 Documentaries produced during 2024-25

During this reporting period, the video documentation of the Satoyama Initiative being implemented in Badrama Wildlife Sanctuary under OFSDP-II was successfully completed. Multiple versions of the visual documentary have been developed to cater to diverse audiences, including policymakers and the general public. These versions comprehensively capture the key interventions and thematic components implemented in the Satoyama project area. The documentary was produced with the title of **"SATOYAMA INITIATIVE – A Novel Approach for Forest Communities to Live in Harmony with Nature"**.

The concept, scripting, and contextual framing of the documentary were designed and overseen by the Project Management Unit (PMU), in collaboration with an external professional production agency. The final output was presented to the visiting JICA Team during their field visit to Sambalpur and Badrama project sites.

In parallel, the PMU extended support to various Divisional Management Units (DMUs) in documenting best practices and significant project milestones. As a result, several DMUs have initiated the collation of project activities—including success stories, case studies, and unique implementation experiences—to produce tailored documentation formats. These efforts aim to enhance visibility, knowledge sharing, and stakeholder engagement across wider platforms.

10.5 Branding and positioning of OFSDP-II during 2024-25

10.5.1 Participation of SHGs in Adivasi Mela 2024–25: A Milestone in Community Engagement and Livelihood Promotion

The participation of Self-Help Groups (SHGs) under OFSDP-II and AJY in the Adivasi Mela 2024–25 marked a significant achievement in promoting community involvement and enhancing livelihoods. Within a limited timeframe, critical arrangements were successfully made, underscoring the efficiency and commitment of the implementing teams.

As part of the livelihood component of OFSDP-II, the involvement of SHGs in sales and promotional activities at the state level contributed visibly to the income enhancement of participating community groups. Coordination with the Adivasi Tribal Livelihoods Centre (ATLC), the event organizers, led to the prompt allocation of stalls and approval for maximum member participation. SHGs from various OFSDS divisions were mobilized effectively and on short notice.

ATLC provided Ten stalls after the persuasion of OFSDS, which enabled the Programme Management Unit (PMU) to represent 17 forest divisions from OFSDP-II and AJY. A total of 34 members from 19 SHGs across 17 Vana Suraksha Samitis (VSSs) took part in the exhibition and sale activities. OFSDS secured a centrally located space with full branding, drawing the highest visitor footfall among exhibitors.

During the 11-day event held from January 5 to January 16, 2025, the SHGs achieved a collective business turnover of approximately ₹81,92, 512 lakhs—an encouraging indicator of market potential and community enterprise capacity.

10.5.2 OFSDS participated in 17th State Level Kalinga Herbal Fair 2024-25 and adjudged as the Best Stall for the FIFTH time in row.

The Odisha Forestry Sector Development Society (OFSDS) participated in the 17th State Level Kalinga Herbal Fair 2024-25 organized by Odisha State Medicinal Plant Board for seven days from 6th November to 12th November 2024 at IDCO Exhibition Ground, Bhubaneswar. The exhibition-cum-sale counters in the Herbal Fair were put up by the seventeen Territorial Forest Divisions under OFSDP-II, AJY and OMBADC projects of Odisha Forestry Sector Development Society (OFSDS). The OFSDS stall was inaugurated by Shri Ganesh Ramsingh Khuntia, Hon'ble Minister, Forest, Environment & Climate Change Dept., Govt of Odisha in presence of Shri Satyabrata Sahu, IAS, Additional Chief Secretary, Shri Debidutta Biswal, PCCF & HoFF and Dr. Meeta Biswal, PCCF (Projects) & Project Director, OFSDS.

Along with the sale of herbal products, the OFSDS stalls ensured the display of project activities and achievements in the exhibition. As many as 22 Self Help Groups from 17 Forest Divisions functioning under OFSDP-II and Ama Jangala Yojana participated in the exhibition. Total 54 participants from the VSS and SHG members representing the Forest Divisions of OFSDP- II viz. Athamallik, Baripada, Boudh, Ghumusur – South, Ghumusur – North, Rairangpur, Jharsguda, Sundargarh and Dhenkanal and Forest Divisions of AJY viz. Keonjhar, Rourkela, Bonai, Khariar, Angul, Baliguda, Phulbani and rayagada under OFSDS took active part in the Herbal Fair during the seven days' exhibition.

Progress of Geomatics Centre, PMU, OFSDS

CHAPTER 11

11.1 Geomatics Centre: A Hub for Digital Forestry Solutions

The Geomatics Centre at the Odisha Forestry Sector Development Society (OFSDS), established in 2014, has emerged as a state-level Centre of Excellence. It's revolutionizing forestry development programs across Odisha by providing robust digital solutions. From its inception, the Centre has been indispensable in supporting decision-making, as well as monitoring and evaluation (M&E) for all projects. Its expertise in Remote Sensing(RS) and GIS has earned it national and international recognition, cementing its reputation as a leader in the field. By strategically leveraging cutting-edge technology and implementing cost-effective solutions, the Geomatics Centre consistently delivers optimal outcomes for the state's forestry sector Development.

Core Functions and Capabilities

The OFSDS-Geomatics Centre performs a wide array of crucial activities:

- Remote Sensing & Image Processing: This includes interpreting satellite imagery and calculating diverse vegetation indices.
- Spatial Data Management: The Centre handles the acquisition, management, and creation of maps from spatial data.
- Digital Solution Development: A critical function is designing and developing digital solutions for capturing and managing Geographic Information System (GIS) and Management Information System (MIS) data. The insights from these applications are vital for proactive decision-making, effective planning, and implementing project components like sustainable forest management and livelihood initiatives.

Geomatic Centre

A dedicated team having expertise in Remote Sensing, Image Processing, Spatial Analysis, GIS, and MIS systems development and management operates within the Centre. They are proficient in a range of tools including QGIS, ArcGIS, Erdas Imagine, MSOffice, Power BI and Google AI.

Advanced Infrastructure

The Geomatics Centre boasts an advanced GIS lab with robust infrastructure and open-source software for processing and analyzing high-resolution satellite imagery and geospatial data. It maintains its own data center for the in-house development, deployment, and maintenance of MIS and GIS-based digital solutions and mobile applications for OFSDP-II and other OFSDS projects.

The GIS lab is well-equipped with:

- Hardware: High-end workstations, a map printer, a color printer, a plotter, and a high-specification scanner.

- Field Equipment: Altimeters, Densiometers, DGPS, GPS, and Total Stations for accurate ground truthing and GIS studies.

Recently, we significantly enhanced the Software Development Lab and data center with 42U iDRAC and Rack Servers providing 14 TB of SAN storage. To ensure secure server and IT management, a firewall and switches with a dedicated 10 KVA Online UPS have also been installed.These servers primarily support application development, testing, deployment, and data backup.

GIS Lab

Connectivity and Software Environment

The Geomatics Centre features a robust network system designed to provide round-the-clock internet access throughout the office. A dedicated, high-speed 30Mbps data communication line leased from BSNL ensures continuous service for the server zone and the Geomatics Centre. Additionally, high-speed RF and broadband connections from STPI and BSNL serve as alternate high-bandwidth lines for the entire office and servers, guaranteeing uninterrupted connectivity.

iDRAC with Server systems in OFSDS

Embracing open-source solutions, the Geomatics Centre utilizes CentOS 7 / Linux OS, PHP, and Postgre SQL for server management and the design and development of GIS solutions. Licensed software, including ArcGIS (two licenses), Erdas Imagine, and MS Office, are also employed for processing high-resolution imagery.

Key Activities of Geomatics Centre:

The Geomatics Centre undertakes a comprehensive range of activities vital for informed decision-making and project implementation:

- Data Acquisition: Collecting spatial data through various methods, including satellite imagery and land surveys (using GPS/GNSS, total stations).
- Data Management: Ensuring data integrity, security, and availability; managing databases and data warehouses; and enforcing data security protocols.
- Data Processing and Analysis: Employing specialized software and techniques to process raw data, perform spatial analysis, model geographic phenomena, and extract meaningful information (e.g., image processing, photogrammetry, spatial statistics, network analysis).
- Geospatial Database Management: Creating and maintaining databases to store, organize, and manage large volumes of spatial data, ensuring integrity, accessibility, and security.
- Mapping and Cartography: Designing and producing various map types (topographic, thematic, cadastral, web maps) for visualizing spatial information and supporting decision-making.

Image Selection Process

- Remote Sensing Applications: Monitoring and assessing vegetation, managing disasters (primarily fire), and mapping Land Use/Land Cover and other geographical features using satellite imagery.
- Surveying: Conducting precise measurements for boundary demarcation and establishing demarcation points.
- Resource Management: Generating information from raster data to help communities and policymakers make informed decisions about resource use.
- Biodiversity Conservation: Mapping species distribution and maintaining ecosystem health.
- Community Mapping and Participation: Empowering forest-dwelling communities to map their traditional skills, resources, and land use practices, strengthening and promoting community-based resource management.
- Training and Capacity Building: Providing programs to enhance the skills of professionals and users in geomatics technologies and applications.
- Research and Development: Engaging in research to advance geomatics techniques, develop innovative solutions, and address emerging challenges in spatial data management and analysis.
- Decision-Making Support: Providing timely, accurate, and relevant information to managers and officers at all levels.
- Generating Reports: Producing various reports to monitor project performance, identify gaps, and provide insights for daily operational decisions and long-term strategic planning.
- Consultancy Services: Offering expert advice and technical support to other organizations on geomatics-related projects and initiatives.
- GIS Application Development: Creating customized GIS applications and tools for specific user needs in areas like planning, forest management, resource management, disaster management (fire), and infrastructure development.
- Data Centre Management: Providing technical support for server and network maintenance.
- Digital Transformation: Designing and developing digital solutions to replace manual systems.

In essence, the Geomatics Centre plays a crucial role in providing the spatial information and analytical capabilities essential for the project's informed decision-making system.

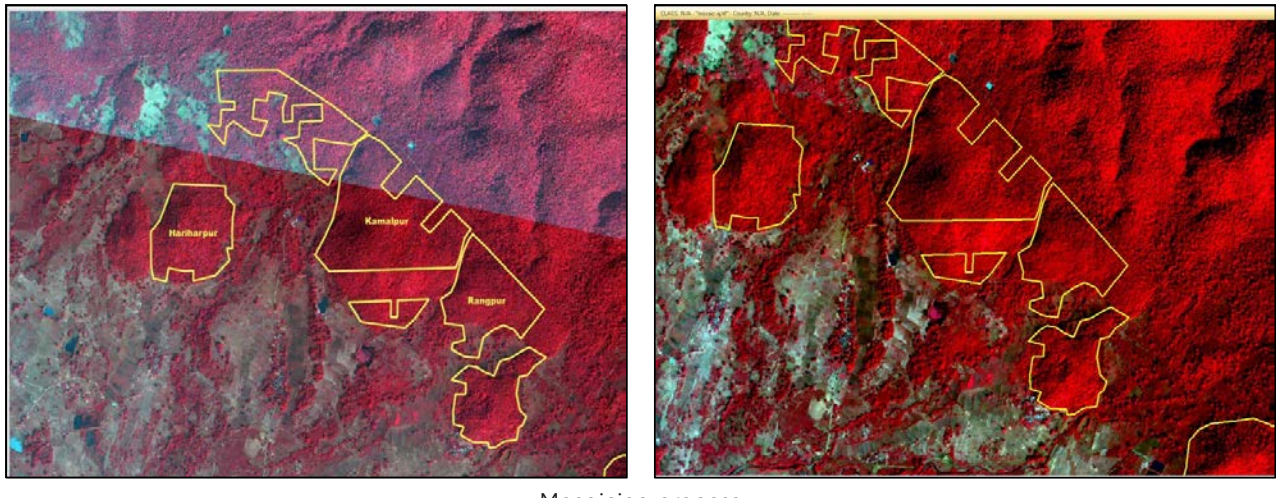
11.2 Remote Sensing & GIS Activities: Advanced Analysis for Sustainable Forestry Management

In the year 2024-25, the Remote Sensing (RS) and Geographic Information System (GIS) activities were pivotal in supporting sustainable forest management and REDD+ initiatives. We leveraged advanced geospatial technologies to analyze environmental processes, detect changes, and provide crucial insights into forest health and dynamics utilizing the Satellite Data and Cloud based Google Earth Engine Platform.

Vegetation Assessment and Forest Density Monitoring

Vegetation assessment and monitoring of forest density changes were key focuses. We utilized both medium and high-resolution satellite imagery from open sources for these analyses.

- Satellite Imagery Acquisition:
  - Resourcesat-2 LISS IV and Landsat-8 imagery were acquired from NRSC and USGS for broad-scale analysis.
  - For detailed monitoring of minor forest ranges and accurate change detection, high-resolution Cartosat 2 and Cartosat 3 imagery were obtained from NSIL/NRSC Hyderabad.
- Image Processing and Analysis:
  - Satellite images were appropriately processed for interpretation and analysis. Layer stacking (composite band creation) was performed using the SCP plugin in QGIS 3.40 to achieve FCC (False Color Composite) views and identify land features.
  - Mosaicking, using the Optimal Seamline Method of Erdas Imagine, was applied when study areas spanned multiple images. These processed images were then used in various analytical studies.
  - Land Use Land Cover Classification was conducted on LISS-IV Images using the supervised classification methodology in Erdas Imagine software



Mosaicing process

- Forest Cover Density Classification:
  - A key achievement was the manual digitization of Forest Cover Density into eight classes over merged imageries of Pan Chromatic Cartosat-I and Mx LISS-IV images.
  - These eight density classes were digitized for all 1211 VSS (Vana Surksha Samiti) across all batches

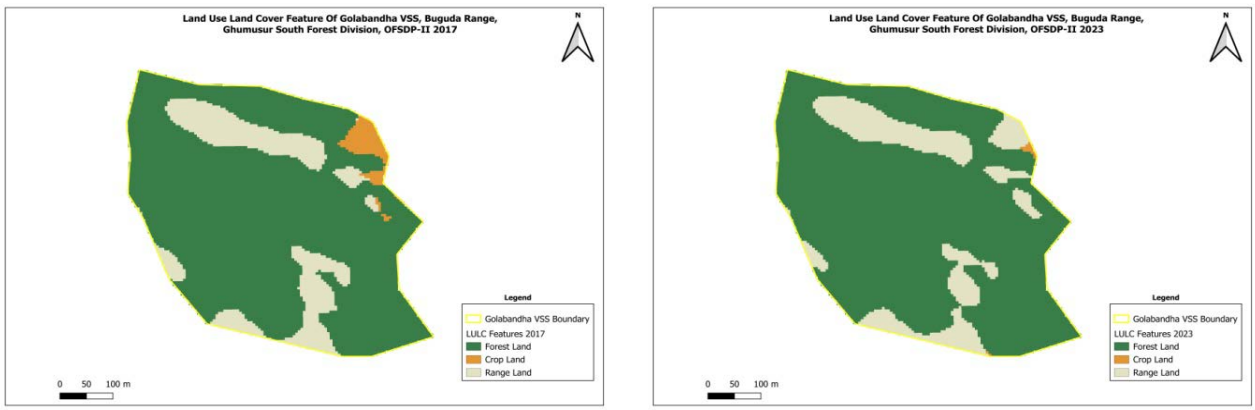
- Base Maps and Forest Cover Density with Treatment Maps, at a scale of 1:5000, were prepared for all 1211 assigned VSS areas.
- An Atlas comprising base maps and treatment maps has been prepared for each division, serving as a comprehensive reference record of forest cover density and all project interventions.

- **Mid-Progress Evaluation for OFSDP-II:**
  - The OFSDP-II project has completed five years post-plantations for Batch-1 VSS (355) undertaken in 2017-2018 and those in 2018-2019.
  - Mid-progress evaluation has been initiated in these 355 VSS to observe changes in vegetation and other features over five years. FSI data from 2017 and 2023 were used to calculate changes in forest densities.
  - Various spatial data analysis studies regarding forests and vegetation have been undertaken using advanced RS and GIS technology to prepare a model for project impact assessment in the end phase of the projects.

Land Use Land Cover (LULC) Change Detection

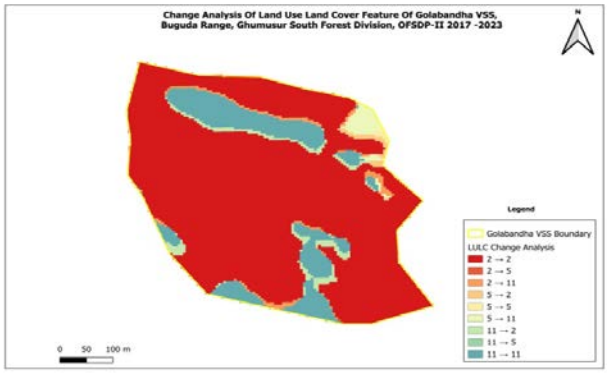
LULC monitoring is critical for sustainable forestry. Innovative initiatives were undertaken to monitor LULC changes within VSS assigned areas through change detection analysis. The approach involved:

- Data Acquisition: LULC datasets for 2017 and 2023 were downloaded from Living Atlas.
- Boundary Extraction and Validation: The administrative boundary of
- Buguda Range (Ghumsur South Forest Division, OFSDP-II) was extracted and validated.



LULC Map of Golabandha VSS

- Spatial Overlay and Extraction: The validated Buguda Range boundary was superimposed on the 2017 and 2023 LULC raster datasets, and LULC data specific to the Buguda Range area was extracted.
- Batch 1 VSS boundaries were then superimposed and visually interpreted.
- Area Calculation: The area covered by each LULC feature within the extracted datasets was calculated in square meters (Sq.m.) using QGIS.



LULC Change Map of Golabandha VSS

- Change Detection Analysis: The Molusce tool within QGIS 3.40 was utilized to compute and analyze land feature changes between the 2017 and 2023 LULC datasets.
- VSS boundaries were visually compared by superimposing them on LULC datasets of the two years.
- The r.report tool precisely determined the area of each LULC feature within these VSS boundaries.
- Finally, the Molusce tool quantified changes in land features within specific VSS areas, exemplified by calculations for Golabandha VSS, Buguda Range, Gh. South Division.

Change analysis of LULC of Golabandha VSS, Buguda Range, Ghumsur South Division, OFSDP-II

Class Name	Class Code	Class Color	2017	2023	Delta	2017%	2023%	Delta%
Range land/shrubs	11	#e3e2c3	0.79 sq. km.	0.81 sq. km.	0.02 sq. km.	81.489078	83.1094247	1.620347
Crops	5	#e49635	0.02 sq. km.	0.00 sq. km.	-0.02 sq. km.	2.53307353	0.19485181	-2.33822
Forest	2	#397d49	0.16 sq. km.	0.16 sq. km.	0.01 sq. km.	15.9778484	16.6957235	0.717875

LULC Change Data, Golabandha VSS

Advanced Vegetation Indices

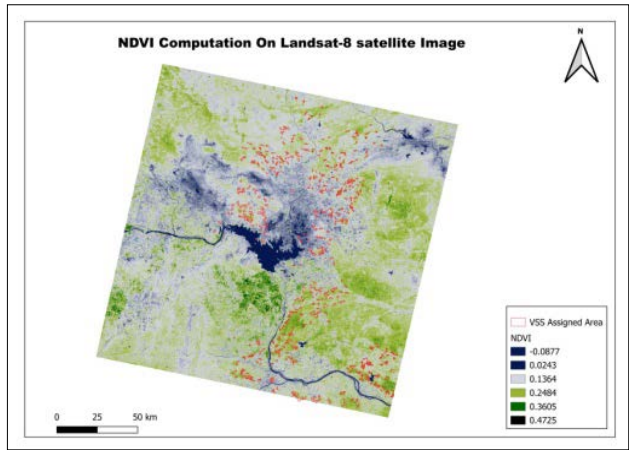
Several vegetation indices were computed to gain deeper insights into forest health and ecosystem dynamics:

Enhanced Vegetation Index (EVI): EVI, an advanced vegetation index that incorporates the blue spectral band (unlike NDVI), was computed using Landsat-8 data from 2018. EVI is particularly useful for assessing forest health, density, and structural changes, offering a more robust and accurate representation of vegetation. EVI was also computed for the year 2025 to observe current vegetation status.

- Formula used: EVI = 2.5 * ((Band 5 - Band 4) / (Band 5 + 6 * Band 4 - 7.5 * Band 2 + 1)) (for Landsat 8)

Normalized Difference Vegetation Index (NDVI): NDVI, a widely used remote sensing metric indicating vegetation greenness, was computed on LISS IV ad landsat8 satellite imageries to track changes in forest cover over the last five years.

- Formula used: NDVI = (NIR – Red) / (NIR + Red) (for Landsat 8: (Band 5 – Band 4) / (Band 5 + Band 4))
- Higher NDVI values (ranging from -1 to 1) indicated denser greenery.

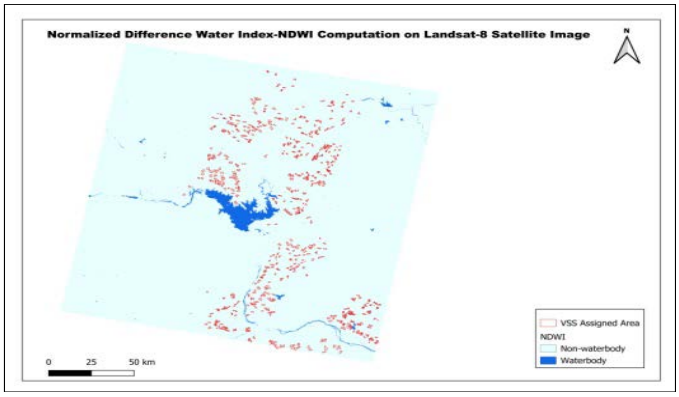


NDVI Process

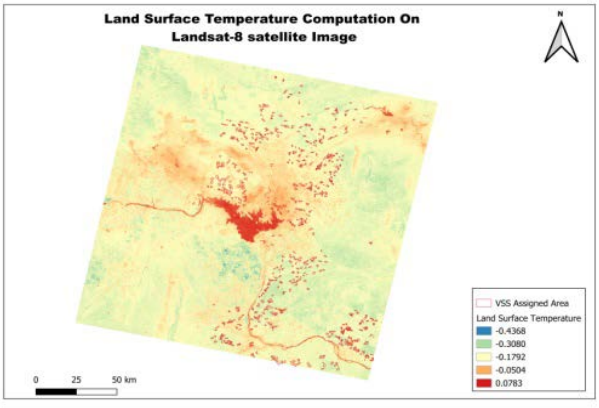
Normalized Difference Water Index (NDWI): NDWI uses Near-Infrared (NIR) and Shortwave Infrared (SWIR) bands to highlight liquid water in vegetation, indicating water content or wetness.

- Formula used: NDWI = (NIR – SWIR) / (NIR + SWIR) (for Landsat 8 Satellite Image: (Band 5 – Band 6) / (Band 5 + Band 6))
- While NDVI focuses on photosynthetic activity and NDWI on water content, they are intrinsically linked. Healthy vegetation requires sufficient water, so changes in one often correspond to changes in the other. Analyzing both indices provides a comprehensive understanding of the landscape, distinguishing healthy, well-watered vegetation from stressed or non-vegetated areas.

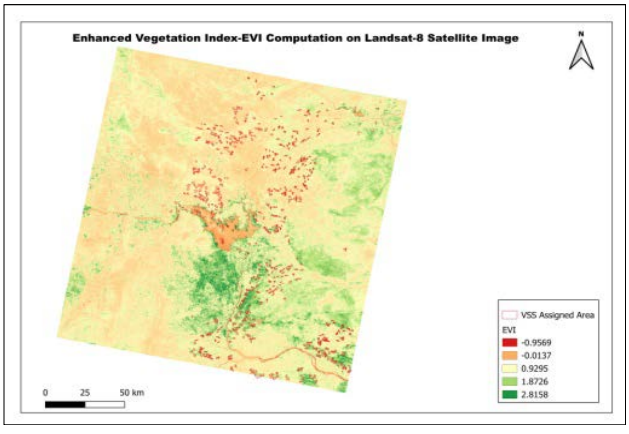
Land Surface Temperature (LST): LST, the Earth's surface temperature, is a key indicator of energy and water exchange. In forestry, LST data is valuable for understanding and managing forest ecosystems as it reflects thermal conditions impacting plant growth, fire risk, and overall forest health. It helps identify areas at high risk of wildfires. Integrating LST with other monitoring tools enables more effective forest management and informed decisions on land management and conservation.



LULC Change Map of Golabandha VSS



LST Process



EVI Process

By combining information from all these indices, we gained a comprehensive understanding of the complex interactions within the forest ecosystem.

Project Intervention Verification and Validation using GIS Tools

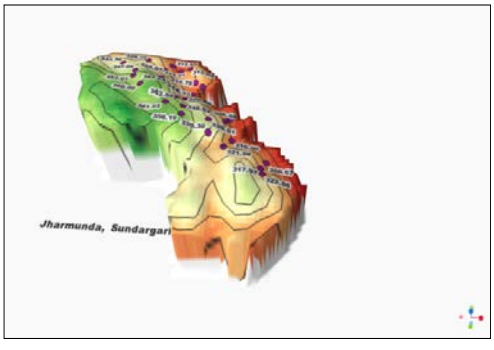
Throughout the reporting year, the GIS team completed the verification and validation of all spatial and MIS data related to OFSDP-II project interventions using advanced GIS tools.

Soil Moisture Conservation (SMC):

- SMC interventions were validated using elevation maps and 3D models. DEM raster datasets were generated from contours and projected over a 3D view.
- DLT (Drainage Line Treatment) structures were overlaid, and the slope was checked.
- This process was also performed for DEM datasets obtained from the Bhuvan portal.
- Our analysis confirmed that DLT structures were correctly built on slopes, aligning with both office contour data and Bhuvan portal DEM datasets.

Farm Forestry Plantations:

- Farm Forestry Plantations of six categories were undertaken outside the VSS assigned area in all 12 Divisions.

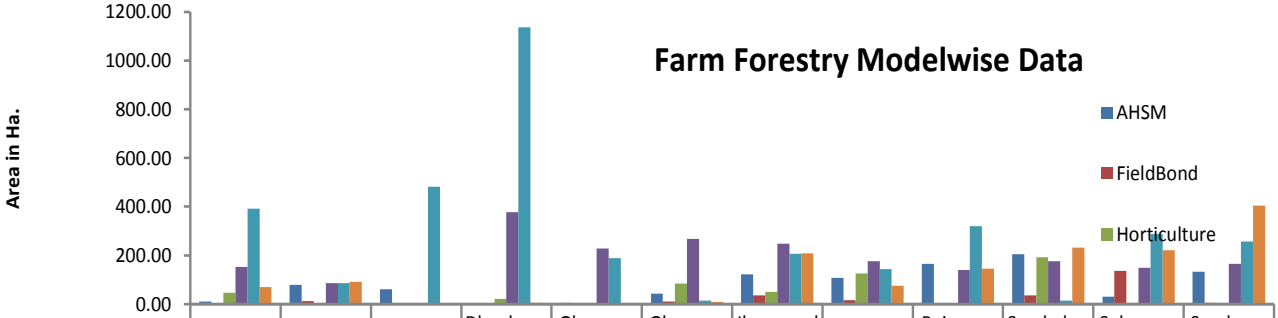


LULC Change Map of Golabandha VSS

- 18,863 Farm Forestry Polygons were generated from geo-coordinates entered into the IMS Portal. These polygons were verified and validated by referencing Google Earth and the Topology Checker tool of GIS.
- Approximately 8880.02 Ha of area were covered under six models, benefiting 17,123 farmers.
- Data on the type of species planted and their survival rate after one year were collected via the IMS Portal. This data was abstracted and shared with M/s Kosher Climate India Pvt. Ltd, Bengaluru, from the GIS Cell for validating eligible plots for Accrual & Trading of Carbon Projects of OFSDS.

Fireline Establishment:

- Firelines have been established in 1062 VSS, covering a total area of 1711 Ha.
- These firelines were checked for duplicity and validated using GIS tools.
- Fire incentive is released to VSS for having no fire incidences in the annual year. To determine eligibility for incentives, Firepoint data for 2019 to 2025 was downloaded from FSI and overlaid on the project area.

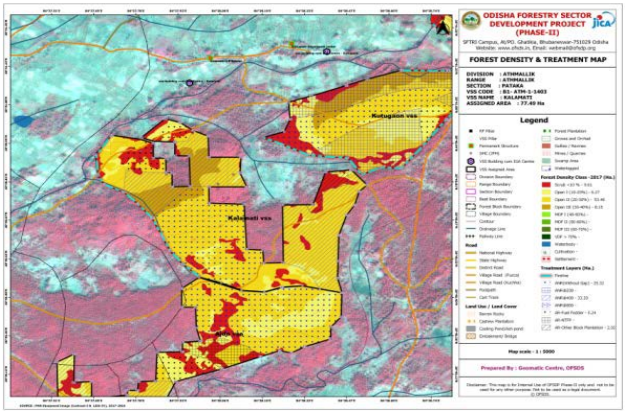


	Athamalik	Baripada	Boudh	Dhenkanal	Ghumsur North	Ghumsur South	Jharsuguda	Karanjia	Rairangpur	Sambalpur	Subarnapur	Sundargarh
AHSM	9.77	78.56	59.87	3.45	4.95	43.09	121.23	107.64	164.44	204.72	30.92	132.20
FieldBond		12.20	1.29	0.89		11.10	35.27	16.37		35.55	136.18	4.72
Horticulture	46.55			20.49		84.45	48.99	126.21		192.22		
Horti-NTFP	152.88	86.06		376.93	228.76	267.10	248.53	175.29	138.96	175.04	148.75	164.61
Pulpwood Model	391.84	85.11	481.10	1135.87	188.01	13.29	207.13	143.27	318.95	14.06	286.84	256.07
Timber	69.86	90.64		4.19	2.57	9.14	208.93	75.12	146.07	231.74	220.40	403.60

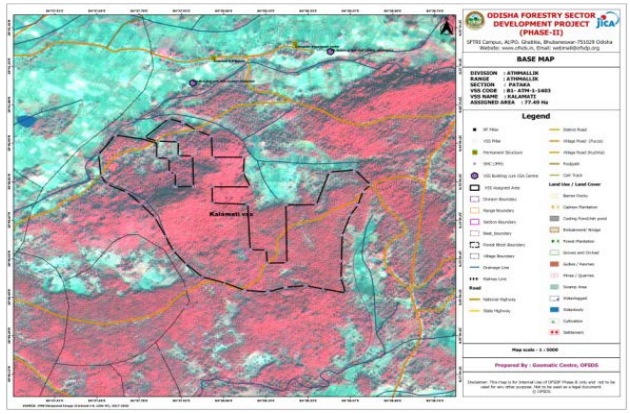
Farm Forestry Plantation Data

11.3 Geospatial Mapping: Supporting Project Activities

In the year 2024-25, a comprehensive suite of maps were developed to support planning for livelihood activities, new project proposals, and ongoing initiatives. These included maps identifying periphery villages of Simlipal Wildlife Divisions, potential divisions for the AJY-II project, and existing VSS locations overlaid with LULC and forest density data to pinpoint new VSS sites for OFSDP-II extension. We also created maps depicting EDCs superimposed on FSI 2021 data for Satoyama Initiatives, and project intervention maps for CMRV expert field verification. For broader analysis, a Forest Density Map-2023 was prepared to review vegetation status in project areas. Additionally, District and Division maps of OFSDP-II showcased best practices, and Forest Density and Forest Type maps supported biomass studies in farm forestry plots. To ensure smooth implementation of CMRV activities and REDD+ readiness, thematic Base Maps and Forest Density and Treatment Maps were prepared for all 1211 VSS, with atlases compiled for each division.



Forest Density & Treatment Map



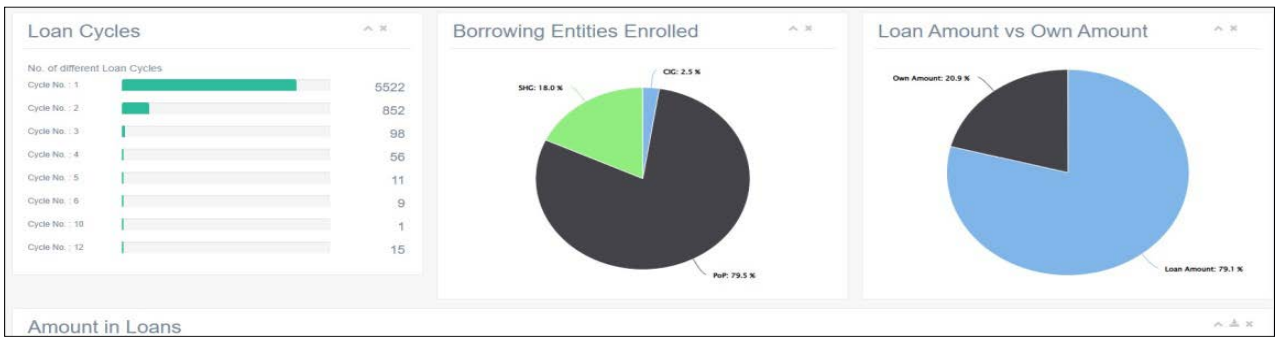
Base Map

11.4 Software Lab: Enhancing Digital Systems for OFSDS

In this reporting year, the Software Lab within the Geomatics Cell focused on managing and significantly enhancing OFSDS's core application systems. The IMS Portal, MIS/GIS System of AJY, and the OFSDS Website are all being robustly managed in-house on our recently upgraded server systems.

Key updates to the OFSDP-II IMS Portal includes:

- Revolving Fund Dashboard: A new dashboard for real-time monitoring of loan applications and disbursements was developed for improving financial oversight.
- Farm Forestry Module Enhancement: This module was updated with a new form to collect crucial data on species names and survival rates. A corresponding report was developed to generate year-wise information on species and their survival rates for the first, second, and third years.
- CMRV 2nd Cycle Data Collection: A new form and reporting functionality were developed and implemented to streamline the collection of CMRV 2nd Cycle data from VSS.
- Comprehensive Data Updates: The IMS Portal was meticulously updated with all relevant information on interventions undertaken during Financial Year 2024-25. This included critical corrections to both polygon data and static information across various modules.



Dashboard of Revolving Fund Module

The OFSDS website (www.ofsds.in) also received substantial updates:

- Content Refresh: The website had been regularly updated with the latest news and events, publications, and RTI (Right to Information) content.
- Dedicated Reports Section: A new section was developed to showcase all reports, including the newly published report on Capacity Building Programmes for IGA-related activities.

- Online Recruitment Module: A dedicated recruitment module was designed and implemented at http://ofsds.in/career.php, facilitating an efficient and paperless online application submission system.

These advancements underscore our commitment to leveraging technology for improved data management, operational efficiency, and transparency across all OFSDS initiatives.

11.5 MIS System: Ensuring Project Progress and Data Integrity

This past year, our Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) efforts were central to tracking project progress, ensuring data quality, and informing timely interventions across all project activities.

We regularly generated and discussed Monthly Progress Reports and customized reports with field officials to review overall progress. To maintain up-to-date information, the status of data entry into the IMS Portal was checked every Friday, followed by necessary follow-ups. Furthermore, regular validation of both online and offline data was consistently performed to ensure data consistency and accuracy.

Detailed reports were generated and analyzed for the following key components:

Plantation Management: Data entry into the IMS Portal for ANR, AR, and Farm Forestry Plantations was consistently maintained, ensuring updated information on their upkeep. Corresponding reports were generated and submitted to the relevant sections.

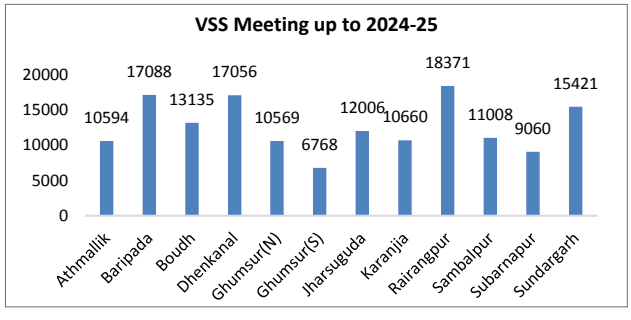
Convergence Activities: Reports on convergence activities were generated and regularly tracked to ensure timely updates and monitor their effectiveness.

CMRV, Gender Mainstreaming, and Environment Safeguards:

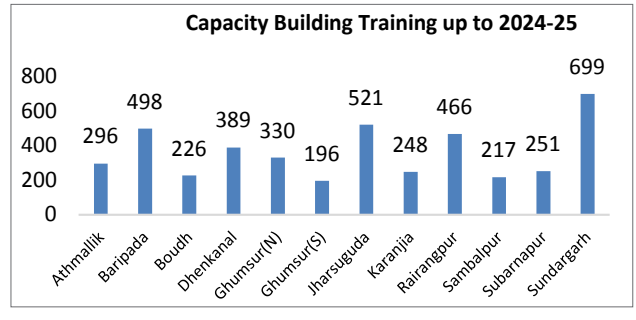
- We diligently followed up on data entry for CMRV Report Cards of Batch-III and Batch-IV VSS and SHGs, and these report cards were successfully generated. PMC experts are currently analyzing this data to identify strengths and weaknesses within the VSS and SHGs.
- Abstracted reports on CMRV Report Cards for Batch-I and II VSS (First and Second cycles) were generated, leading to appropriate follow-up actions.
- Similarly, CMRV Report Cards for Batch III and IV (First Cycle) were analyzed.
- Information on Gender Mainstreaming and Environment Safeguards for Batch-III and IV VSS was captured and is undergoing analysis by PMC and PMU experts.

Community Mobilization and Capacity Building:

- Community mobilization activities were closely monitored, including weekly checks of VSS meeting information in the IMS Portal.
- Reports on Capacity Building programs were regularly monitored, and appropriate follow-up actions were taken to ensure their impact and effectiveness.

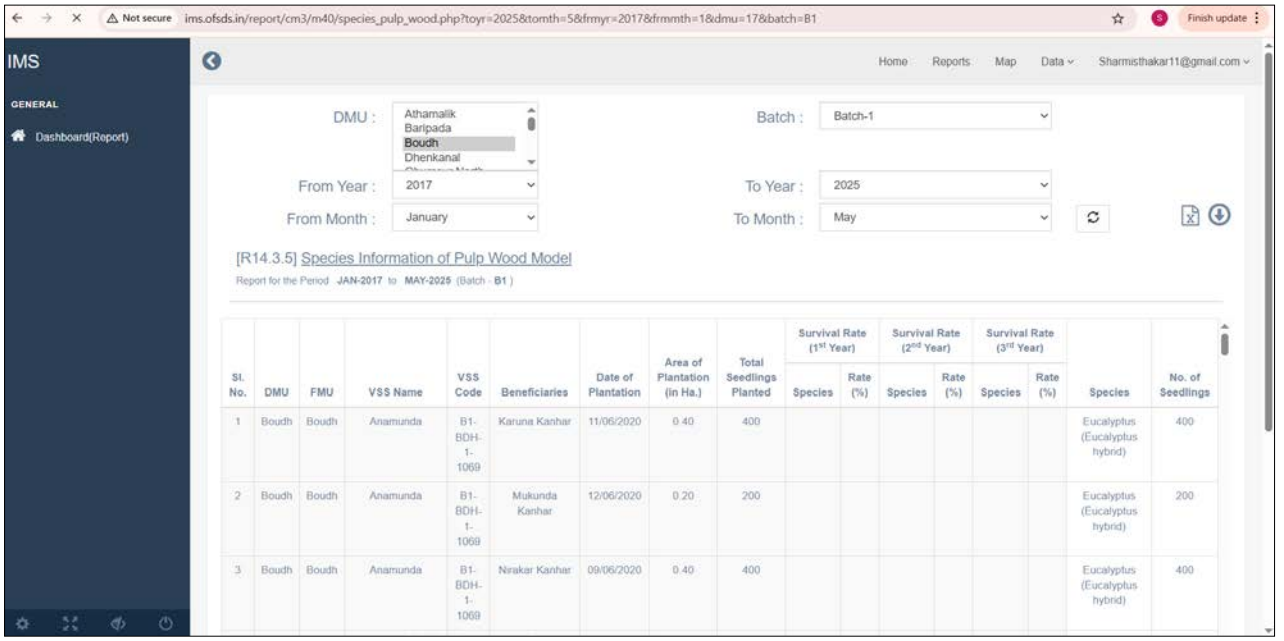


VSS Meeting Information



Capacity Building Information

These M&E activities provide crucial insights, enabling us to adapt strategies and ensure the project remains on track to achieve its objectives.



Farm Forestry Survival Status Report

11.6 Capacity Building & Recognition: Geomatics Team's Engagements

This year, the GIS team actively participated in various training programs, workshops, and conferences to stay abreast of the latest tools and technologies in the geospatial domain. These efforts are crucial for advancing our capabilities and ensuring the effective implementation of projects at OFSDS.

Key highlights include:

- Google's DECODE: A Premier AI Event: On August 8, 2024, our team attended "DECODE," a leading AI event by Google held at Swosti Premium, Bhubaneswar. This program introduced cutting-edge AI technologies, including Google Workspace (GWS) and Gemini AI, showcasing their potential to significantly enhance productivity and streamline work processes for more efficient outcomes. Additionally, several in-house training programs were attended periodically throughout the year.

Recognition and Demonstrations:

- A Senior Official from JICA India visited the Geomatics Centre and expressed appreciation for the team's dedicated efforts in developing the Geomatics system for OFSDP-II.
- The GIS Lab also demonstrated the monitoring of all project interventions through Remote Sensing (RS) and GIS to a group of IFS Probationers, highlighting our advanced capabilities.

The Geomatics Centre's active involvement has not only been instrumental in the effective implementation of OFSDS projects but has also garnered significant recognition at both state and national levels. This commitment to excellence was further acknowledged when OFSDS received the "**Certificate of Award**" for being selected among the **Best 11 photographs in the JICA Photo-Contest (FY2024-25)**, held on September 2, 2024, in New Delhi.

OFSDP-II Administration

CHAPTER 12

The JICA supported Odisha Forestry Sector Development Project, Phase-II (OFSDP-II) has been under implementation since 2017 as one of the key-projects being undertaken by the Odisha Forestry Sector Development Society (OFSDS) which is an autonomous body under the overall administrative control of the Department of Forest, Environment & Climate Change, Govt. of Odisha. The OFSDS is headed by the PCCF (Projects) cum Project Director who handles day-to-day administration of OFSDP-II along with other projects such as Ama Jungala Yojana (AJY) and OFSDS-OMBDAC.

The OFSDP-II is being implemented in 12 (twelve) Territorial Forest Divisions and 2 (two) Wildlife Divisions of the state with the overall guidance of the High-Power Committee under the Chairpersonship of the Chief Secretary, Govt. of Odisha and the Governing Body, headed by the Additional Chief Secretary, Department of Forest, Environment and Climate Change, Government of Odisha as its Chairperson. This Chapter, apart from elaborating the organization structure of the OFSDP-II, also highlights the sanctioned strength of staff of the project and present position at different levels of project management like Project Management Unit (PMU) at state level, Divisional Management Unit (DMU) at Forest Division level and Field Management Unit (FMU) at Forest Range level.

The Project Management Consultants (PMC) engaged in the project facilitates by providing technical support to the PMU and other management units in implementing the project interventions in the project area. Though the composition and number of the team of subject matter experts / consultants of PMC, including international consultants are prescribed in the project document, the actual number of consultants under mobilization at any given time varies, depending upon the requirement of the service of the concerned consultant(s) at that stage of project implementation. This chapter also provides the information regarding the status of mobilization of PMC consultants during the year 2024-25.

OFSDP-II Organization Chart-PMU

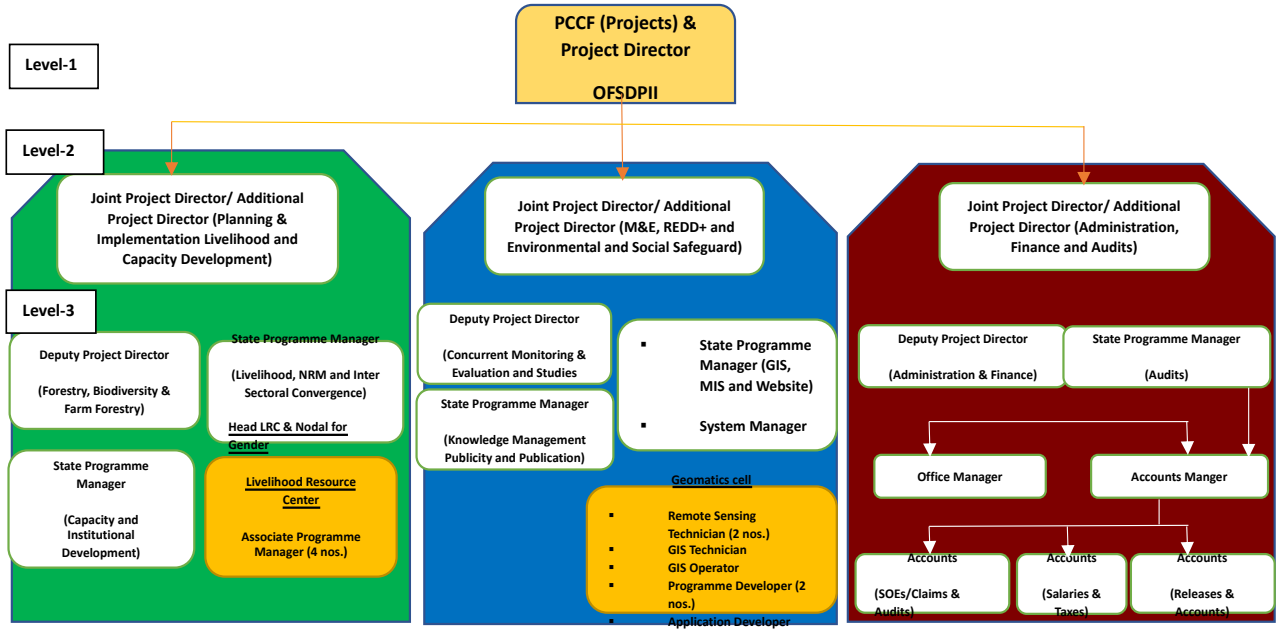


Table No.: Pmu Staffing (Project Management)

Level	Rank	Sanctioned Position	Sanctioned Number	Existing Number (As on 31-03-25)
Key Staff				
Level 1	PCCF/ APCCF	PCCF (Projects) and Project Director	01	01
Level 2	CF/CCF	Joint project Director / Additional Project Director	03	01
Level 3	DCF	Deputy Project Director	03	02
Level 3	DCF equivalent	State Programme Manager (C&ID), (GIS, MIS & Website), (LLI, NRM & ISC), (KM, P & P) and (Audit)	05	05
Level 4		System Manager	01	01
Level 5		Accounts Manager	01	01
Level 5		Office Manager	01	01
Level 6	Clerical Staff	Accountants	03	02
Total Key Staff			18	14
Supporting Staff				
Level 7	Clerical Staff	Personal Secretary	01	01
Level 8	Clerical Staff	Personal Assistant	04	03
Level 9		Stenographer	04	04
Level 10		Computer Operators	12	08
Level 10		Drivers	12	13
Level 11		Other supporting staff exclusively for the Project	27	24
Total Support Staff			60	53
Total PMU Staffing			78	67

Table No.: Pmu Staffing (Geomatic Cell)

Level	Sanctioned Position	Sanctioned Number	Existing Number (As on 31-03-25)
Key Staff			
	System Manager/ Administrator	1	1
	RS-cum-MIS Technician	1	1
	RS Technician	1	1
	GIS Technician	1	1
	Application Developer	1	1
	Programme Developer	2	1
	GIS Operator	1	1
Total Key Staff		8	7

Table No.: Pmu Staffing (Livelihood Resource Centre)

Level	Sanctioned Position	Sanctioned Number	Existing Number (As on 31-03-25)
Key Staff			
	Cluster Manager (Partnership, Business Planning & Quality Control)	1	1
	Cluster Manager (Financing and Credit Linkage)	1	1
	Cluster Manager (Value Chain & Marketing)	1	1
	Cluster Manager (CSR and Fund Raising)	1	1
	(Cluster Manager (R&D/ Product)	1	1
Total Key Staff		5	5

Administrative Structure at DMU Level

Level 1:
Level 2:
Level 3:

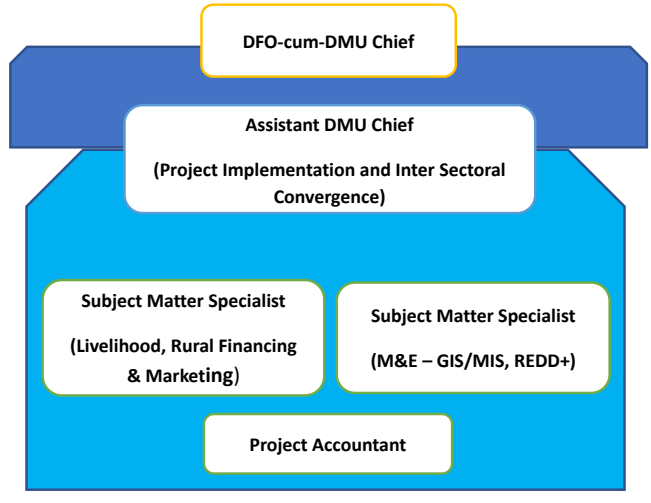


Table No.: DMU Staffing (inclusive All DMUs)

Level	Rank	Sanctioned Position	Sanctioned Number	Existing Number (As on 31-03-25)
Key Staff				
Level 1	DCF	DMU Chief	12	12
Level 2	ACF	Assistance DMU Chief	12	12
Level 3		Subject Matter Specialist	24	24
Level 4	Clerical Staff	Project Accountant	12	11
Total Key Staff			60	59
Supporting Staff				
Level 5		Stenographer	12	12
Level 6		Computer Operators	12	12
Level 6		Drivers	12	12
Level 7		Other supporting staff exclusively for the Project	24	12
Total Supporting Staff			60	48
Total DMU Staffing			120	107

Administrative Structure at FMU Level

Level 1:
Level 2:
Level 3:

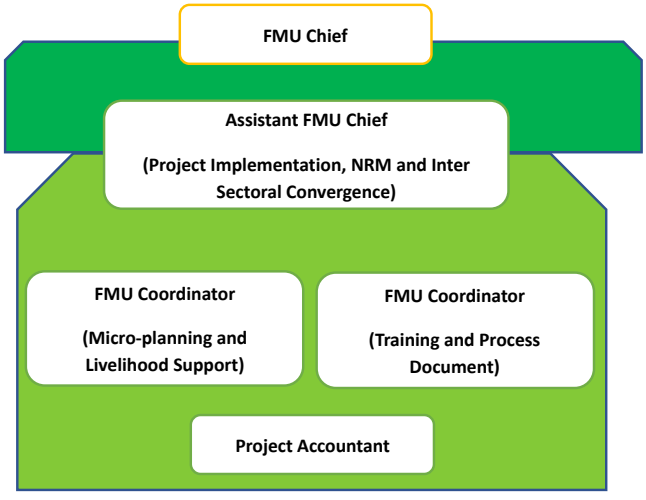


Table No.: FMU Staffing (Inclusive All FMUs)

Level	Rank	Sanctioned Position	Sanctioned Number	Existing Number (As on 31-03-25)
Key Staff				
Level 1	Range Officer	FMU Chief	47	47
Level 2	Forester	Assistance FMU Chief	47	47
Level 3		FMU Coordinator	100	100
Level 4		Project Accountant	50	50
Level 5		Computer Operators	50	50
Total Key Staff			294	294

Table No.: PMC Staffing

Consultant / Expert (Sanctioned)	Category	No. of Sanctioned Consultants	No. of Consultants Mobilized during 2024-25
CMRV	International	01	Nil
Team Leader	Consultant	01	01
CFM & Micro Plan	National Consultant	01	01
Advisor/Biodiversity cum Consortium Manager	National Consultant	01	01
Livelihood	National Consultant	01	Nil
CMRV	National Consultant	01	01
Social & Env. Consideration	National Consultant	01	Nil
Institutional Capacity Building	National Consultant	01	Nil
M&E / MIS	National Consultant	01	Nil
GIS/Remote Sensing	National Consultant	01	Nil
Total		10	04

Financial Management

CHAPTER 13

13.1 Budget and Expenditure F.Y 2024-25

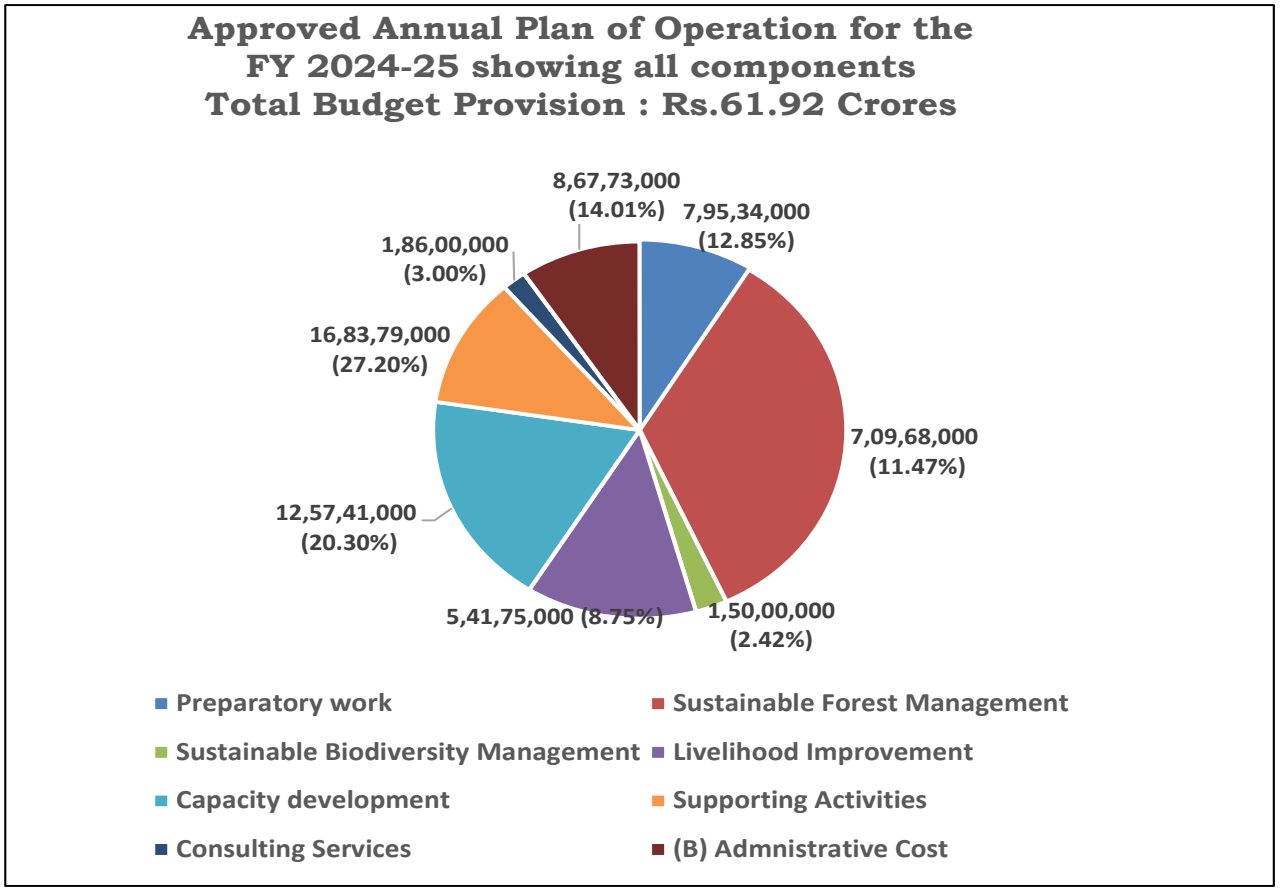
A budget of Rs. 61.92 Crores but Government of Odisha Finance Department was approved amounting of Rs. 61.92 Crore sanctioned as per Demand No- 22 in the approved an amount of Rs.49.53 Crores was received from Forest, Environment and Climate Change Department, Government of Odisha for the Financial Year 2024-25.

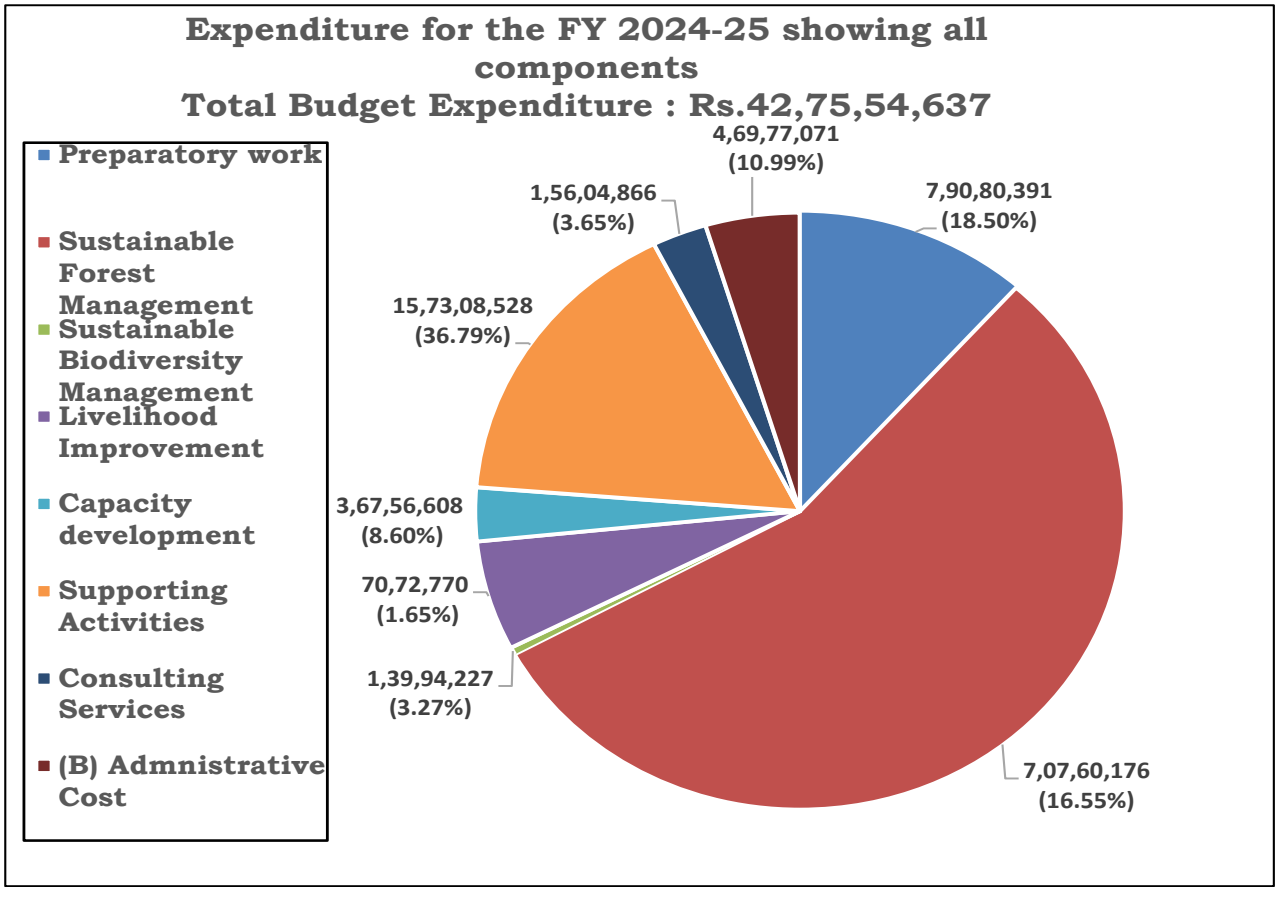
The total expenditure incurred during the year was Rs.42.76 Crores. Components wise Funds Proposed, Funds Received and Expenditure incurred during F.Y 2024-25 is given below:

Funds Proposed, Funds Received and Expenditure during the Financial Year 2024-25

Name of the Project: Odisha Forestry Sector Development Project Phase-II (ID-P257)

Item of Work		Budget Provision Rs. In Crore	Fund Received From FE&CC Dept., Govt. of Odisha	Total Expenditure Rs. In Crore
1	Preparatory Work	7,95,34,000	49.53 Crores	7,90,80,391
2	Sustainable Forest Management	7,09,68,000		7,07,60,176
3	Sustainable Biodiversity Management	1,50,00,000		1,39,94,227
4	Livelihood Improvement	5,41,75,000		70,72,770
5	Capacity Development	12,57,41,000		3,67,56,608
6	Supporting Activities	16,83,79,000		15,73,08,528
7	Consulting Services	1,86,00,000		1,56,04,866
Total (A) :		**53,23,97,000**		**38,05,77,566**
(B)	Administrative Cost (State Share)	8,67,73,000		4,69,77,071
Grand Total:		**61,91,70,000**	**49.53 Crore**	**42,75,54,637**

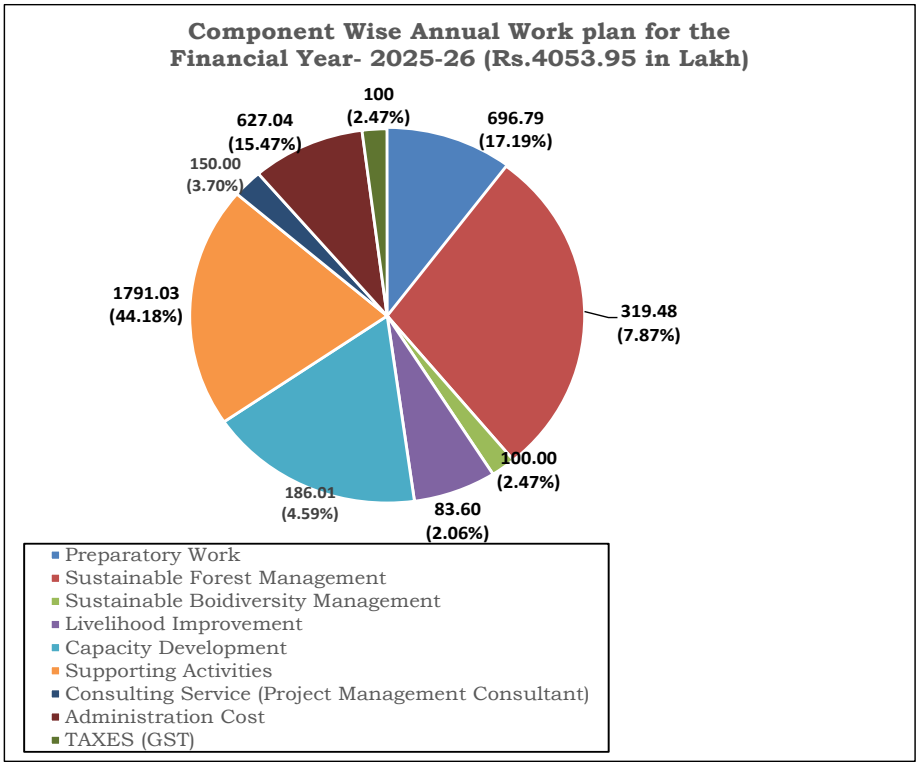

Approved Annual Plan of Operation for the FY 2024-25 showing all components
Total Budget Provision : Rs.61.92 Crores
8,67,73,000 (14.01%)
7,95,34,000 (12.85%)
1,86,00,000 (3.00%)
16,83,79,000 (27.20%)
7,09,68,000 (11.47%)
12,57,41,000 (20.30%)
5,41,75,000 (8.75%)
1,50,00,000 (2.42%)
Preparatory work
Sustainable Forest Management
Sustainable Biodiversity Management
Livelihood Improvement
Capacity development
Supporting Activities
Consulting Services
(B) Admnistrative Cost


Expenditure for the FY 2024-25 showing all components
Total Budget Expenditure : Rs.42,75,54,637
Preparatory work
Sustainable Forest Management
Sustainable Biodiversity Management
Livelihood Improvement
Capacity development
Supporting Activities
Consulting Services
(B) Admnistrative Cost
4,69,77,071 (10.99%)
1,56,04,866 (3.65%)
7,90,80,391 (18.50%)
15,73,08,528 (36.79%)
3,67,56,608 (8.60%)
70,72,770 (1.65%)
1,39,94,227 (3.27%)
7,07,60,176 (16.55%)

13.2 Annual Work Plan and Budget for 2025-26

The Annual Work Plan of the year 2025-26 was prepared keeping in mind the continuity of work in 1211 VSSs of Batch-I, II ,III & IV as per the project schedule. The Annual Work Plan and Budget for-2025-26 is placed below:

Annual Work Plan for the Financial Year-2025-26	
ODISHA FORESTRY SECTOR DEVELOPMENT PROJECT, PHASE-II	
Summary (INR in Lakhs)	
COMPONENT	Amount in Rs. Lakhs
(A) Programme Expenditure	
Preparatory Works	696.79
Sustainable Forest Management	319.48
Sustainable Biodiversity Management	100.00
Livelihood Improvement	83.60
Capacity Development	186.01
Supporting Activities	1791.03
Consulting Services (Project Management Consultant)	150.00
Total (A)	**3326.91**
(B) State Share	
Administration Cost	627.04
Taxes (Gst)	100.00
Total (B)	727.04
Grand Total Rs. in Lakhs (A+B)	4053.95
Grand Total Rs. in Crore	**40.54**



13.3 Summary of Budget Receipt and Expenditure

The overall budget received and expenditure incurred for the project during the financial year 2024-25 is given below:

Summary of Receipt and Expenditure during 2024-25		
Funds Received & Expenditure		**Amount (Rs. In Crore)**
A	Opening Balance as on 01.04.2024	78.00
B	Funds Received from Forest, Environment and Climate Change Deptt., Govt. of Odisha during 2024-25	49.53
C	Less, expenditure made during F.Y 2024-25	42.76
D	Closing balance as on 31.03.2025 (D=A+B-C)	84.77

13.4 Re-imbursement Claims

The Funds received as Re-imbursement Claims from JICA is summarized below:

Funds Received & Expenditure		Amount (Rs. In Crore)
A	Reimbursement Claim due as on 01.04.2024	2.33
B	Reimbursement Claim submitted for disbursement during the Financial Year 2024-25	39.23
C	Less, Reimbursement Claim received up to 31.03.2025	31.69
D	Reimbursement Claim due but not received up-to 31.03.2025 (D=A+B-C)	9.87

ODISHA FORESTRY SECTOR DEVELOPMENT PROJECT PHASE–II

Odisha Forestry Sector Development Society

Forest, Environment & Climate Change Department, Government of Odisha

SFTRI Campus, Ghatikia, Bhubaneswar-751 029

www.ofsds.in | webmail@ofsdp.org