



NEWSLETTER

Odisha Forestry Sector Development Project

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messages



I am glad to know that large number of Self Help Groups (SHG) have been facilitated for income generating activities in the fold of 2,300 VSS. They are generating varieties of products from their villages and JFM managed forests for market and in turn earning income for them. It is further heartening to see that eco-tourism groups (ETG) are also getting formed for community based services to tourists in selected locations and for generating incomes. Good number of practices for livelihood are reported for these groups. I have been of the view that economic development of people dependent on forest through alternative sustainable livelihood would lead to better protection of forests. Further, for good developmental work, financial and technical support has not been a limitation these days.

I would therefore urge for improving skills for productivity and packaging in ensuring standard and quality. Specialised agency should be also hired for linkages in marketing. ETGs should always take care of hygiene, neatness, cleanliness of their operations as well as of courtesy, humbleness in their services. Odisha Forestry Sector Development Project is there for facilitating and complementing these efforts. VSS, SHG, and Government Officials have to work with full confidence of each other in improving village economy with sustainable income generating activities for promotion and conservation of natural resources around them.


I convey my best wishes.


B. K. Patnaik, IAS
 Chief Secretary &
 President, OFSDS

It has been heartening to know that increasing number of Self Help Groups in last two years have got into income generating activities in the villages under guidance of the VSS. It is a happy situation that SHGs are formed in clusters for enhancing their skills and income generation with facilitations of OFSDP. The project activities directed towards livelihood improvement of forest dwelling communities to augment forest restoration in JFM mode is focusing on new activities for forestry personnel. The SHGs besides trading and marketing their products locally as well as at fairs in Odisha, have also reportedly shared their good learning, practices and experiences with other participants during National Forestry Congress in New Delhi as well as during Odisha Environment Congress in Bhubaneswar.

I would like to emphasise for all VSS and SHGs to pay attention to standardization for quality and for visible good packaging of their marketable products to ensure satisfaction of customer and to gain market opportunities. The officials engaged in the project should make sustained efforts for securing livelihoods of poor and vulnerable sections at village level.

I convey my best wishes to them.


Dr. R.N. Senapati
 APC-Cum-ACS &
 Vice President, OFSDS

Capacity Building

Two training programmes on "Conservation of Sacred Groves" were held at Rourkela on 12-13 October, 2011 and at Rayagada on 14-15 October, 2011. Total 56 participants consisting of FMU Chiefs, FES and Foresters from Angul, Balliguda, Balasore(WL), Bhadrak (WL), Bonai, Deogarh, Jeypore, Keonjhar, Koraput, Paralakhemundi, Phulbani,



Rayagada & Rourkela DMU participated in the above training. Two key resource persons from BVIEER, Pune provided all necessary trainings to the participants. The participants visited different Sacred Groves in Rourkela and Rayagada Divisions to get practical knowledge regarding their importance and conservation management for linkages to overall forest conservation. The Project

Director OFSDP, Team Leader GC, Dy PD(MP&ME), Dy PD(FT&T), DMU Chiefs of Rayagada & Rourkela also interacted with them during the programme.

One training programme was organized on subject of "Nature Guides and Interpreters" in Satkosia (WL) Division from 19th to 21st October, 2011 with an objective to bring knowledge of importance of nature and natural resources of the ecotourism sites and develop the local youths on nature interpretation and to operate as nature guide. 33

participants consisting of EDC Members and FES from Lakhari, Kuldiha and Satkosia (WL) Sanctuaries and of Mandasaru in Phulbani participated for training. Important Resource Persons for this training were Prof. S. K. Dutta, Eminent Herpetologist, Mr. Gaher Abadein, Ornithologist, Mr. Prasad Kumar Das, Botanist, Mr. Pratyush Prasad Mohapatra, Wild Life Biologist, Mr. M. G. Gogate, Community Development Specialist and Mr. Manoj Mishra, Biodiversity Specialist.



A follow up 'Demonstration cum Skill Imparting Training for Bhalia Processing' was organized from 29th October to 2nd November, 2011 to the VSS members of Paralakhemundi and Balliguda Divisions for the skill up-gradation on oil extraction method and to provide forward and backward linkages of Bhalia so as to develop a cluster livelihood enhancement strategy around the product. A four member team from SEVAVARDHINI, Pune visited VSSs and imparted necessary training / demonstration for oil extraction method and elaborated on the potentiality and market linkages for Bhalia cluster.



Two training programmes on "Theory and Practices in Bio-fertilizer for Nursery and Plantation Improvement" were held at Rourkela on 8-9 November, 2011 and at Rayagada on 11-12 November, 2011. Total 59 participants consisting of Range Officers, FES and Foresters of Angul, Bonai, Deogarh, Keonjhar, Rourkela Balliguda, Paralakhemundi, Phulbani, Rayagada, Koraput, Jeypore, Balasore (WL) and Bhadrak (WL) Divisions attended the training. The training imparted knowledge on maintenance of culture of Bio- fertilizers and their multiplication, field



application protocol of different bio-fertilizers and its uses in forestry species of Odisha.

Two workshops on "Positive Attitudinal Changes amongst Forest Officials" were organized at Rayagada from 14th to 16th November, 2011 and at G.Udayagiri from 18th to 20th November, 2011. Total 61 participants consisting of ACF, Range Officer, FES, Forester and Forest Guard from Phulbani, Paralakhemundi, Balliguda, Rayagada, Koraput, Jeypore, Nawarangpur Bhadrak (WL) and Cuttack Divisions attended the workshop. Resource Persons from M/S Haselfre Foundation, Chennai imparted training. The program created awareness among the participants of the immense inner potential that exists in all of them and were able to learn to utilize this inner potential to application level.



An interaction Training cum Exposure visit on 'Eco-Tourism-Concept, Principles & Business Modules Development' was organized in Kerala from 15th to 20th November, 2011 where 13 Senior Forest Officers from the rank of Jt. Project Director, Conservator of Forests, DFOs, ACFs and Range Officers participated. The team visited Periyar Tiger Reserve, Eravikulam National Park, Gavi Eco-tourism centre managed by Kerala Forest Development Corporation & Kumarakom-the back water tourism area of Vembanadu Lake and got practical knowledge on Eco-tourism potential and management of the same. The Field Director & Deputy Director, Periyar Tiger Reserve, other officers of Periyar Foundation & members of different EDCs interacted with the participants.

Celebrating International Year of Forests 2011



Forest and Environment, Government of Odisha at Jayadev Bhavan. Dr. P.J. Dilip Kumar, IFS, Director General of Forests, Government of India delivered the key note address. Sri R. K. Sharma, IAS, Commissioner cum Secretary, Forest and Environment Department, Sri P. N. Padhi, IFS, PCCF Odisha, Sri Vinod Kumar, IFS, PD OFSDP also spoke on the occasion.

Technical sessions of the Congress were organized at the Regional Museum of Natural History auditorium. There were arrays of displays of posters, photographs, and paintings on forests and biodiversity. Learned persons from various sectors presented their papers on different topics related to Forest and Environment. Prior to OEC, Painting and debate competitions among school students were organized in all district headquarters and the winners were rewarded in the valedictory function. Young scientists and Prize winners of

Celebration of International year of forest was organized by Forest and Environment Department in collaboration of Human Development Foundation (HDF), Bhubaneswar, National Museum of Natural History and Centre for Environment and Development (CED) for Odisha Environment Congress 2011, which was also facilitated by Odisha Forestry Sector Development Project.

Four Regional Workshops presided by the Vice Chancellors and Regional Chief Conservator of Forests, each of one day duration on theme 'Forests for People' were organized at Sambalpur University, Berhampur University, North Orissa University and Central University Korput, where persons representing Forest Protection Committees and forest dependent communities attended for local matters & recommendations.

Three day Odisha Environment Congress 2011 with the theme of 'Forest Resources of Odisha : Issues, Challenges and Potentials' from 22nd to 24th at Bhubaneswar was inaugurated by Sri Debi Prasad Mishra, Hon'ble Minister,



'Banani' program were also awarded in the valedictory function. Delegates from Government Departments, NGOs, VSS members and other Environmentalists across the state attended these programmes and deliberations.

Nari Shakti Tamarind Cluster wants to do business again

A successful tamarind cluster named Nari Shakti is in business in Mohana FMU of Paralakhemundi DMU. The Livelihood Opportunity Analysis of OFSDP had recommended that there was scope for tamarind business in this area. Following the recommendation, IGASA team identified 16 SHGs under eight VSSs to form a cluster named Nari Shakti. Business plans were prepared and loan amount of ₹1,50,000 were sanctioned from different VSSs for tamarind business. SHGs from their own fund added ₹1,22,300 more to the loan fund. With this amount 134.72 quintals of tamarind was purchased and stored in respective VSS buildings. In the meantime, local traders of tamarind came to know about the cluster business and foreseeing the loss to their business they created all types of hurdles to cause failure of cluster activity. However, with handholding support of IGASA team of OFSDP and local forest officers, they could not succeed. Finally traders of different markets could be pooled for purchase of tamarind from the cluster. On business, Nari Shakti cluster earned a gross profit of ₹1,79,600. They have repaid loans taken from VSS and are now very happy to earn a good profit. They have planned to repeat business again.



Broom as Alternative Livelihood

Hill Broom Plantation with convergence for IGA Arun Behera, FLE, Balliguda



implementation, it was decided to give importance on convergence with other line department for livelihood improvements.

Watershed Development Programme is being carried out in the VSS area covering 2 villages, Kukermaha and Dandarmunda under the Daringbadi PIA. VSS President, FLE and Animator discussed with the WDT of Kukermaha Watershed and then Watershed Committee members who are also members of VSS, approached Project

Kukermaha VSS of Balliguda Forest Division is implementing OFSDP activities through Simanbadi Range cum FMU in 4th batch from 2010-11. There is no perennial water source for second crop. People depend only on rain fed paddy cultivation for their livelihood. They do not have sufficient land for turmeric cultivation. Even forest produce like Siali leaves & hill brooms are not sufficiently available for sustainable income generating activity (IGA). The income level of local people has remained low. Therefore, with OFSDP

Implementing Authority (PIA) for supply of hill broom seedlings. During the month of July, 4500 clumps were collected through PIA Daringbadi and supplied to nine beneficiaries for hill broom cultivation in their own land. Due to proper care and manuring, the cultivation has luxuriant growth. All of them have decided to look after their plantation and have restricted open grazing, main threat to the plantation. The beneficiaries will start getting good returns from 2012.

SHG earns profit through broom making

Bikash Samantray, FLE, Angul



Kasturaba SHG of Palasabania VSS coming under Durgapur Range of Angul DMU has showcased an exemplary work in doing a micro-enterprise of broom making after taking revolving fund support under OFSDP. They decided to take up broom making as IGA. A business plan was prepared and accordingly VSS sanctioned loan amounting to ₹10,000. They divided themselves in three small groups. First group collected hill broom from nearby jungle, second group prepared the broom and the third group sold the product in the market. The brooms were sold to the local traders at Angul at a rate of ₹15/- to get gross

revenue of ₹12360 after selling 824 pieces of broom. In this transaction the group earned a profit of ₹2010 after paying ₹10350 as loan and interest to the VSS. In the second business cycle the group has taken a loan amount of ₹20,000/- from VSS and earned a profit of ₹2064 and ₹1620/- has been returned to VSS as part repayment of the loan amount. This SHG is successful in selling on an average of 700 to 800 pieces of broom in one business cycle in a month. Now, these members have built up rapport with local traders at Boinda & Angul market for regular sale and are determined to upscale business for longer terms.

Livelihood for Rural Community

Cluster on Hill Broom

Digambar Dashbabu, ULCM, K. Singhpur



As per the Livelihood Opportunity Analysis undertaken initially by OFSDP, recommendation was made for hill broom cluster at Mandibisi area of Kashipur FMU under Rayagada DMU. Earlier people of this area were used to do the business of hill broom in unorganized way. They collected broom and immediately sold it in raw stage to a particular local trader, because the trader lend money in advance during the lean period. Very often they get cheated by the trader on weight and rate. IGASA team of OFSDP formed a cluster with 14 SHGs from 8 VSSs. Though all the SHGs took loan from respective VSSs for the purpose, only 5 SHGs namely MahaLaxmi & Khandual of Haliasahi VSS, Laxmibai of Baharpada Majhi VSS, Maa Thakurani of Ushabali VSS and Khandual SHG of Kuttigaon VSS took part in the activity.

IGASA team prepared group wise Business Development Plan and assessed the quantity of hill broom to be procured. According to the Business

Development Plan, the SHGs obtained loan from VFDF of respective VSS- MahaLaxmi SHG received ₹50,000, Khandual SHG ₹20,000, Laxmibai SHG ₹25,000, Maa Thakurani SHG ₹60,000 and Khandual SHG received ₹25,000. With this money, SHGs procured raw material of 65.5 quintals worth ₹1.80 lakh. This cluster produced 10,316 no of brooms. In the meantime team explored scope of selling these products at appropriate market with high price. They contacted various traders from Odisha, Andhra Pradesh and Tamil Nadu. Finally Chennai based trader Mr. Debraj purchased all the brooms in three phases @ ₹22, 23 & 25/ broom. The whole product was sold for ₹2,29,797/-. After repayment of loan to VSSs with interest, MahaLaxmi SHG got profit of ₹13,837/-, Khandual ₹3,730/-, Laxmibai ₹6,192/-, Maa Thakurani ₹12,950 and Khandual SHG ₹9,350. Now they are very much enthusiastic for regular business of hill broom.

Hill Broom: Regular business for Dhanalaxmi SHG

Laxmidhar Nayak, FLE, Rayagada

Badigaon is 3rd batch VSS of Gudari FMU under Rayagada DMU. Three sides of this village are covered by Durughati forests. 35 households out of total 39 belong to ST. Most of them make their livelihood from forest, cultivation and wage labour. All households have small farm land under the hills.

SHG named Dhanalaxmi formed few years back was in defunct condition. IGASA team of OFSDP revived the interests of SHG through regular meetings, training, book keeping & handholding on IGA. Based on SHG members' interest and availability of raw material, SHG decided to undertake hill broom making for income. A business plan was prepared and VSS approved a loan of ₹20,000 from revolving fund of VFDF. SHG members contributed ₹6,400 more from their own fund. They purchased six quintals of hill brooms @ ₹35/kg. and plastic band for binding the brooms for ₹900.



Labour charges for 10 members for one and half days work accounted @ ₹100/ day/ member. Two local traders from Gumuda & Gudari purchased their products @ ₹50 per piece and within a month they earned a profit of ₹3,600/-. Now they are very happy and continuing this business on a regular basis.

Participation in Indian Forest Congress

OFSDP participated in 1st Indian Forest Congress held in National Academy of Agriculture Sciences complex, New Delhi from 22nd to 25th November 2011. Project Director Sri Vinod Kumar, IFS, Joint Project Director Sri Rajiv Kumar, IFS & Deputy Project Directors Sri. Devasis Biswal and Amiya R. Parida, participated in the Congress. A group of selected VSS and SHG members of the project area also participated along with SHG products which were showcased in the congress and well appreciated. Besides, showcasing their products, the SHGs sold products at the congress. Other officers from the state who participated in the Congress were Sri P.N Padhi, IFS, PCCF Odisha, Dr. Ajay K. Mohapatra, IFS, Chief Executive, RPRC and Sri G. Rajesh, IFS, DFO Khordha. In the inaugural function a book named 'Voices from the Field' was released by the Union Minister of Environment & Forest, Smt. Jayanti Natrajan. Two success stories from Odisha were published in this book out of which one was based on the Project implementation. In the JFM conclave Sri Suresh Chandra Dehuri, member from Poktunga Dehursahi VSS spoke on the implementation of project activities. A documentary film on successful interventions of the project in Mulasankar- Rajsankar VSS was shown to the participants of various states, which was very much appreciated.



New Ecotourism Initiative Launched in Satkosia

A community managed nature camp has been launched in Satkosia in Chhotkei village. This ecotourism destination has been developed under the Odisha Forestry Sector Development Project (OFSDP). The camp aims to spread conservation awareness and will provide intense nature camping experience to visitors. The nature camp was inaugurated on 7th December 2011, by Sri Sanjeeb Kumar Sahoo, Hon'ble Minister of Commerce and Transport in presence of Sri Vinod kumar, IFS, Project Director, OFSDP. The camp is designed on ecologically sound architecture which merges with the local village surroundings. The camp is constructed as far as possible, on low carbon footprint using environmentally friendly materials like compressed earth bricks, bamboo, bamboo corrugated sheets, paddy straw thatching etc. The construction was done by the villagers of Chhotkei with local artisans and masons. The camp is located within the Chotkei village area on a non-forest land.

The camp will be managed by the local households of Chotkei village. Around 14 households have been identified, trained and exposed on hospitality management, catering, housekeeping, reception services at the Hotel Management and Catering Institute, Bhubaneswar. The benefits from the camp will be shared among the households and the village Eco-development committee towards livelihoods improvement. The visitors can avail accommodation, Mahanadi river cruise and guided nature treks in the Nature camp. The Reservations for the nature camp can be made online through website www.satkosia.org.



VSS Building

UTILIZED AS VILLAGE RESOURCE CENTRE



VSS Building used as an interim storing place

Newspapers, Magazines, Forms are available in VSS Building



VSS Building used for imparting Training for the SHG members



Mosquito Net (LLIN) distribution by NRHM/ Health deptt. in the VSS Building



VSS Building used as Non Formal Education Centre



VSS Building used for Immunization

VSS Building used for Health Promotion



OFSDP participated in JICA Workshop



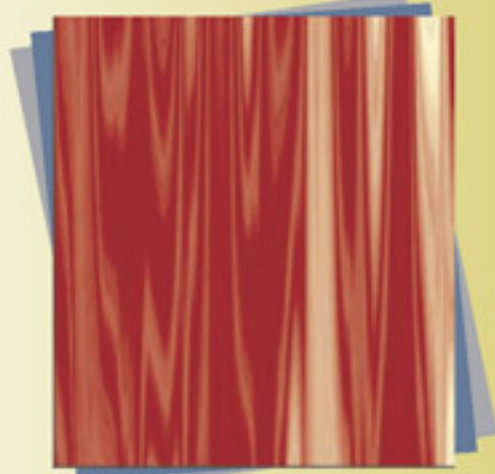
Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA), in collaboration with the Ministry of Environment & Forests, Govt. of India, organized a one day workshop on 2nd December, 2011 at Delhi to share and analyze the impacts of the JICA assisted forestry projects in India and to discuss future challenges pertaining to the projects and the forestry sector, in general. Some of the major topics discussed at the workshop were:

- Enhancing sustainability of project mechanisms and impacts
- Capacity development of stake holders, and
- Effective implementation mechanism

From OFSDP Sri. Vinod Kumar, Project Director and two Joint Project Directors namely Sri. Rajiv Kumar & Sri Debidutta Biswal attended the workshop. Mr. Schinichi Yamanaka, Chief Representative, JICA, Delhi opened the workshop by

welcoming the delegates and opening remarks were made by Sri. A.K.Bansal, Addl. Director General of Forests, MoEF, Govt. of India. In session- 1 presentations by representatives of different states on the topic 'JICA Assisted Forestry Projects: Impacts and Outcomes' were made. Sri. Debidutta Biswal, Joint Project Director, OFSDP made a presentation on Odisha Forestry Sector Development Project, the achievements of which were highly appreciated. In session-2, group discussion (making three groups) was made on 'Challenges of JICA assisted forestry projects'. The group-III discussion on 'Effective Implementation Mechanism' was chaired by, Sri. A.K.Bansal and co- chaired by Sri. Vinod Kumar. The closing remarks were made by Mr. R.K.Goyal, Inspector General of Forests, MoEF, Govt. of India.

PUBLICATION



UP Forest Team visited OFSDP

22 senior Forest Officers of Uttar Pradesh Participatory Forest Management and Poverty Alleviation Project visited Odisha on study tour for cross learning from different activities under OFSDP from 06.12.2011 to 11.12.2011. After briefing at PMU, the team proceeded for Angul where they visited different VSS and had experience of different activities under OFSDP as well as they interacted with VSS members. Thereafter, they visited Satkosia (WL) Division, where they visited different EDCs and Eco-tourism sites and studied different activities like - Biodiversity Management, Eco-tourism and other alternate livelihood Improvement programmes, Mitigation of man-animal conflict etc under OFSDP. On their return arrival at Bhubaneswar, a debriefing session was organized at PMU and thereafter, the team visited Nanadan Kanan Biological Park. The team had a wonderful learning experience and expressed that many positive learnings of OFSDP will be replicated in their Project to ensure success of the Programme. This was repeat tour of project officials after 2010 visit.



The quarterly newsletter of the JICA assisted Odisha Forestry Sector Development Project provides timely information relating to different project activities for the knowledge of various stakeholders.

For any comments/Suggestions, please write to:
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