

Annual Report

2010-11



Regional Centre for Development Cooperation



ANNUAL REPORT 2010-11



Regional Centre for Development Cooperation

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Contents

A message from the Executive Director

Acronyms

About RCDC

Who we are	1
How we work	2
Where we work	3
	7

Thematic Areas

• Natural Resource Management	8
- Forests & Land	
- Water	
• Livelihoods & Governance	14
- NTFP-based Livelihoods	
- Sustainable Agriculture	
- Mobilisation of Govt. Schemes & Programmes	
- Watershed Development	
- Bioresource Governance	
• Climate Change & DRR	24
• Policy, Advocacy & Networking	27
- Research	
- Advocacy & Campaigns	
- Media	
- Networking	

Consulting Services 33

Publications 34

Financial Report 2010-11 37

Acknowledgments 40

Looking Ahead 41





A message from the Executive Director

The year in review is the seventeenth in our existence and has been an important year for RCDC. As a think tank, RCDC is striving to address social problems; making critical difference to people's lives in different poverty stricken tracts of Orissa and India, focusing on results and effectiveness.

During the year, RCDC has extended its horizon, covering 1015 villages, spanning across 37 C.D Blocks in 15 districts of Orissa and some pockets in central and south Indian states. The organization has been able to generate significant and praise-worthy achievements in its thematic domains like forest, water and land, through synchronizing efforts in terms of policy research, advocacy and campaigns, field based interventions, consulting and communications. The details of ongoing programme activities, strategies, bearings and major accomplishments can be overviewed from this small report.

This has been a smooth year, in spite of many odds and turbulence, owing to the work and commitment of RCDC's staff. I am proud of the way that the team continues to excel and to their credit; our donors have shown their determination to continue our journey in a meaningful manner.

In fact we have made some real progress against our vision this year. I look forward to the challenges and opportunities the next year brings.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Kailash Chandra Dash'.

Kailash Chandra Dash

Executive Director
Regional Centre for Development Cooperation
Bhubaneswar



Acronyms



CBO	Community Based Organisation
CFM	Community Forest Management
CFR	Community Forest Rights
CSO	Civil Society Organisation
DFF	District Forest Federation
DFO	Divisional Forest Officer
DLC	District Level Committee
DRR	Disaster Risk Reduction
EC	Executive Committee
ED	Executive Director
FAFC	Flood Affected Family Committee
FECOFUN	Federation of Community Forest Users, Nepal
FPC	Forest Protection Committee
FRA	Forest Rights Act
FSC	Food Security Committee
FSD	Forestry Sector Development
GACF	Global Alliance of Community Forestry
GP	Gram Panchayat
JFM	Joint Forest Management
IASU	Oxfam India Agriculture Scale Up
IAY	Indira Awaas Yojana
IEC	Information Education Communication
ICDS	Integrated Child Development Schemes
IIFM	Indian Institute of Forest Management
IINRG	Indian Institute of Natural Resins and Gum
IWRM	Integrated Water Resource Management
IUFRO	International Union of Forest Research Organisations
M&E	Monitoring and Evaluation
MBPY	Madhu Babu Pension Yojana
MDM	Mid-Day Meal
MFP	Minor Forest Products
MGNREGS	Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Schemes
MGNREGA	Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act
MJMD	Mo Jami Mo Diha
NFBS	National Family Benefit Scheme
NGO	Non-Governmental Organisation
NIRD	National Institute for Rural Development
NRHM	National Rural Health Mission
NRM	Natural Resource Management
NTFP	Non-Timber Forest Produce



Acronyms

OFSDP	Orissa Forest Sector Development Project
OJM	Orissa Jungle Mancha
OMFED	Orissa State Cooperative Milk Producers' Federation Limited
OTELP	Orissa Tribal Empowerment & Livelihood Programme
PACS	Poorest Areas Civil Society
PDC	Panchayat Development Committee
PDS	Public Distribution System
PESA	Panchayat Extension to Scheduled Area
PRI	Panchayati Raj Institution
RCDC	Regional Centre for Development Cooperation
RTI	Right to Information
RWSS	Rural Water Supply and Sanitation
SANJOG	A toll-free helpline number
SC	Scheduled Caste
SDLC	Sub-Division Level Committee
SEM	Self-Employed Mechanic
SGSY	Swarnajayanta Gram Swarozgar Yojana
SHG	Self Help Group
SMT	Senior Management Team
SMPU	Samuhik Marudi Pratikar Udayam
SRI	Systems of Rice Intensification
ST	Scheduled Tribe
VDC	Village Development Committee
WHS	Water Harvesting Structure
WORLP	Western Orissa Rural Livelihood Project





RCDC was created in 1993 with the mandate to play a definitive role in the development sector, to empower people to sustainably manage natural resources in order to bring about their own socio-economic development and environmental security. The organisation believes that local communities are the best managers of local natural resources as they have the highest stake in these resources, as well location specific and time-tested knowledge to do so, and that successfully doing this will address many of the development problems facing these communities. RCDC's work has enabled vulnerable and marginalised communities to assert their rights and develop their understanding of development issues in relation to natural resources.

VISION	
Rights Recognised - Resources Owned - Poverty is Past.	
MISSION	
	To play a facilitative role in the struggle for rights of the poor and marginalised over resources, opportunities, institutions and processes.

Over the years, RCDC's core focus has been research and studies on natural resource management; developing models of best practice and disseminating gathered information to actors such as civil society, media and government. The organisation has built and developed networks to enable collective action and advocate for appropriate policy changes.

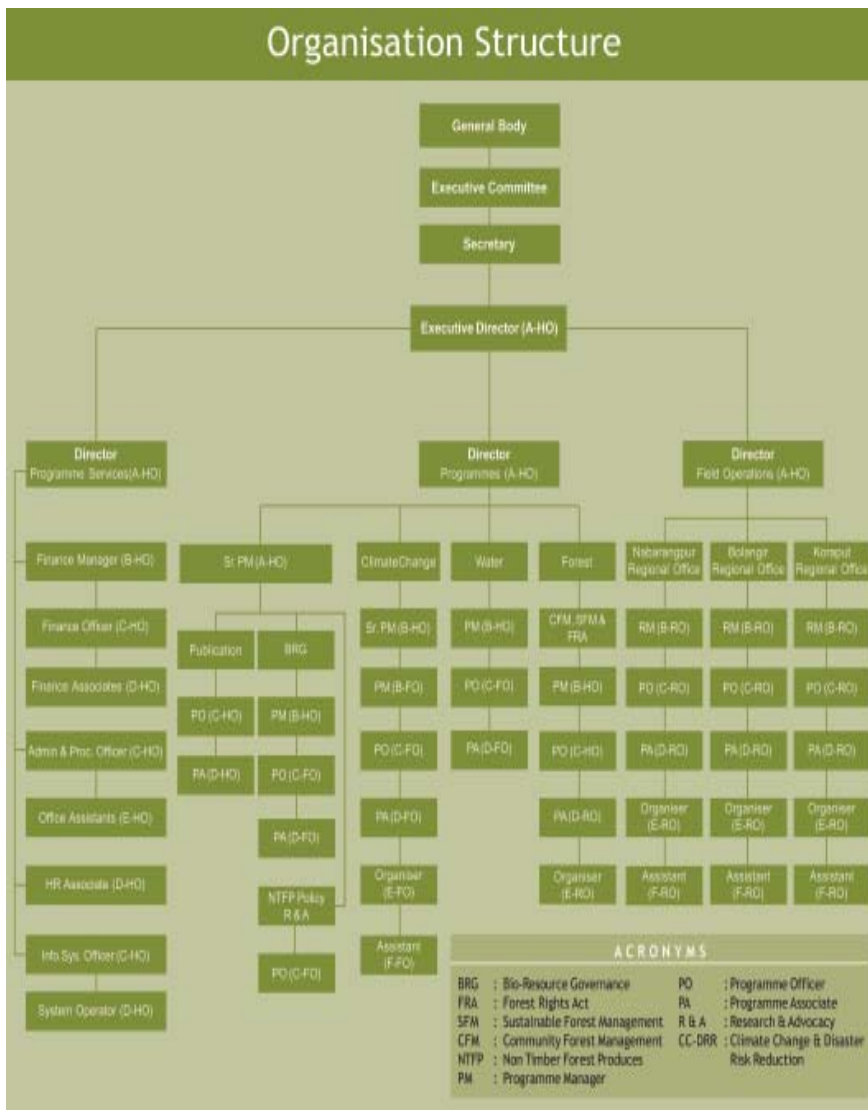
In recent years, RCDC has expanded in size and diversified its programmatic areas, in order to reflect the complexity of developmental challenges we face in Orissa, and beyond, today. RCDC is aware of the need to address increasingly worrying problems, particularly climate change. However, the organisation's vision and mission remain the same and we strive to achieve our vision in every element of our work.



Who we are



We are immensely grateful to our patrons and partners for recognising our organisation as truly democratically, transparently and efficiently governed, and the more than 100-strong staff base as focused, committed and professional.



Who we are





How we work



Guiding principles

- o Participatory and rights-based approach
- o Executing projects with a pro-poor mandate
- o Achieving excellence through professionalism and competency
- o Earning trust and confidence of all stakeholders
- o Creating a culture of sharing information
- o Maintaining neutrality from any religious and political affiliation
- o Scaling up of the scope and horizon of success through self-reflection
- o Honesty, accountability and transparency at all levels
- o Honour and mutual respect to the traditional knowledge system

Objectives

- o Building the capacities of stakeholders on natural resource governance through facilitating people's access to information
- o Developing a solid database in the domain of land, water, forest and bio diversity through research, studies and publications
- o Building sustainable models of development based upon natural resources
- o Addressing natural resource management issues through devising appropriate policies, laws, rules and other operative frameworks in close collaboration with the community
- o Promoting organizational growth, through developing capacities of people, staff and institutions for enhancing socio-legal and technical skills

Organisational strategy

- o Investing in marginalised sections of the society
- o Promoting concerted efforts through forging partnership and collaborations
- o Adopting best practices and perusing new opportunities
- o Integrating the interest of the poor and market economy
- o Providing capacity building services for creating multiple pathways for community empowerment
- o Focusing on generation and distribution of appropriate research and development approaches regarding policy change



- o Encouraging production of grassroots documentation
- o Building public forums and citizen action groups for unleashing collective pressure
- o Mainstreaming gender as an organizational strategy in all developmental intervention

Target populations

- o Poor tribal and scheduled caste communities
- o Marginal and small farmers
- o PRI functionaries
- o Women and children belonging to poor families
- o Forest protection communities
- o District and sub-district level networks of FPCs
- o Networks of NGOs and CBOs



Management compass

The governing board, comprising members from diversified disciplines, provides strategic navigation for RCDC in management affairs. The management structure consists of two wings; the policy making domain, executed by the Executive Committee (EC) and operational domain, executed by the Senior Management Team (SMT).

- o **Policy Making Wing:** At present, the organisation has 10 members in the executive committee to assess and overview activities and performances, adhering to the mission and vision of the organisation. The policy making body is headed by secretary, having a four year tenure, nominated by members of Executive Committee.
- o **Operational Wing:** This wing is spearheaded by the Executive Director, who looks after the entire gamut of organisational affairs, being supported by other members of SMT, directors of various programmes, senior programme managers and programme managers.

Thematic areas

With a consistent focus on natural resource management and allied areas, RCDC continues to strengthen its work, which can be clubbed in four broad thematic segments. Due to the multi-faceted nature of most of these themes, there is generally a substantial amount of cross-over and interlinking between the thematic areas and programmes. In order to gain focus, RCDC's work has been clarified as:

- o Natural Resource Management
- o Livelihoods and Governance
- o Climate Change and DRR
- o Policy, Advocacy and Networking





Cross-cutting issues

Besides the core focus areas, there are some issues of significance that have been mainstreamed into all our activities. These include:

- **Human rights** - The major premise of RCDC's interventions is based on protection of rights and entitlements of socio-economically disadvantaged people. RCDC consistently builds the capacity of its target population, staff and CBOs to understand the human rights regime and how to respond to violations of human rights. As a matter of principle, RCDC always stands for the people whose legitimate voices are rarely heard.
- **Gender** - RCDC focuses on reducing the gender gap in all areas of its work. We understand the importance of involving women across all dimensions of development; without women, many initiatives would fail and gender disparities would remain ingrained. RCDC aims to empower women in its grassroots initiatives and consider gender in the design of all its research, policy and advocacy activities. This year added another definite momentum to the cause as the organisation adopted a comprehensive gender policy.
- **HIV and AIDS** - All of RCDC's programmes have HIV and AIDS incorporated into its plans. The issue is frequently raised at community meetings in order to generate awareness.
- **Migration** - Some of the areas where we work are acutely prone to distress migration; it has become an integral part of our work in order to address the issue. We were immensely happy to have initiated action to release 75 migrant labourers, including 46 women and children, under pitiable bondage conditions from far away Karnataka state.



Through dedicated and focussed commitments, RCDC has carved a definite niche in the development sector as a quality resource organisation, which is now recognised at the national level. It operates at several levels - with the primary target group, poor rural communities at the lowest grassroots level, and at the middle and top level to influence policies and government. For the themes we work on, RCDC is the most well known state level organisation. At the grassroots level, RCDC mostly works in Orissa - a provincial state in the eastern part of the India. Activities are now spread over 15 districts and cover 1035 villages - the operational districts are identified in the map below.

To facilitate grassroots operations, we have decentralised field-level management by giving an amount of autonomy to three Regional Offices in Bolangir, Nabarangpur and Koraput, and to all our field offices.

In the domain of consultancy services, policy analysis and advocacy, RCDC has been engaged in states across central and southern India.

Where we work





The Natural Resource Management (NRM) thematic area includes some of our most extensive and longest running activities. RCDC has been working on NRM since its inception and is considered a regional expert in this vast and complex field. During 2010-11 our key areas of work involved:

- Forest and Land
- Water

NRM plans have been established in a number of villages, ensuring a holistic approach to forest, land and water sustainability, management and protection.

Target groups:

- Marginalised communities
- CBOs, FPCs and other local institutions at various functional tiers
- STs, SCs and very poor families

We also engage with the following actors:

- Local, State and Union Governments
- Civil society organisations and networks
- The media





HIGHLIGHTS FROM 2010-11

- SFM models were built in 10 villages of Kalahandi and Deogarh districts using indigenous community knowledge
- A block-level women's convention was held in March 2011 at Dhansara village of Junapani GP - around 200 women from four GPs participated, developing solidarity amongst women and giving them a forum to share experiences and achievements
- Bio-resource committees were formed in all the operational villages. Nearly 1800 hectares of forest has been protected, conserved and managed under Nilavadi GP
- The felling of selected trees by the Forest Department in the Royal Ghati forest area was stopped, under OFSDP
- Homestead patta (gharabari patta) was granted to 597 households in Nilavadi GP

Helping secure forest and land rights:

"The training helped the participants to internalise how existing laws and policies can be used for the conservation of resources within their area."

Forest and Land

Orissa's forests are rich in biodiversity and house some of the most vulnerable populations in the state, including scheduled castes and tribal groups. RCDC is passionate that people's rights to their traditional lands should be respected and protected, and this continued to be reflected in our work this year. Certain groups are particularly vulnerable to land grabbing, deforestation and privatisation of resources. It is an increasingly worrying problem in Orissa as it continues along its path of rapid industrialisation, at the expense of extracting natural resources from ancient lands traditionally and ancestrally belonging to such marginalised groups. This year, RCDC has continued its work across Orissa to unite the marginalised forest-dependent communities to manage their forest effectively, use the law to ensure their land remains theirs and to resist threats from forest mafia or corporate interests.

Through our research activities, we also captured invaluable data and information on forests in Orissa, which is used to reinforce our grassroots activities and give weight to our campaigns and advocacy work relating to forests and land.

Sustainable Forest Management (SFM)

This year, RCDC continued to promote SFM across the state. Activities involved:

- encouraging communities to use traditional skills to manage the forest
- promoting silvicultural practices to maintain forest health
- encouraging lifestyles and livelihoods that reduce pressure on the forests
- boundary demarcation
- tree and plant species enumeration
- thinning, cleaning and planning for future plantation
- using indigenous knowledge to develop SFM models that can be applied further afield

Community Forest Management (CFM)

RCDC worked to ensure that communities are managing their forests democratically, reducing chances of conflict over natural resources and

ensuring adequate protection of the fragile forests. In 2010-11 we focused on:

- capacity building for CBOs and PRIs and federating the CBOs
- strengthening Forest Protection Committees from village to apex level
- reorganising inadequately capacitated forest-protection efforts
- educating forest-protecting groups on policies and laws, and their responsibilities
- encouraging the involvement of women in CFM, engaging with women's groups, SHGs and youth clubs

Enabling people to assert rights

By making people aware of their rights and enabling them to assert them, their traditional lifestyles and livelihoods can be protected by the law.

This year RCDC activities involved:

- running awareness programmes for forest-dwelling communities on, and helping submit claims, under the Forest Rights Act, the Biodiversity Act, MGNREG Act, OFSDP and PESA
- strengthening the Forestry Federation and mobilising CFR claims
- engaging with the DLC/SDLC to reduce bottlenecks
- leveraging government resources for the benefit of these groups
- resisting privatisation and commercialisation of forests, forest products and biodiversity
- preventing the felling of trees by the Forest Department in areas of special ecological or spiritual importance



- For the effective implementation of FRA, a mass rally was organised at Chandrapur followed by the submission of memorandums to the Tahasildar
- A documentary film on the FRA has been produced
- Hundreds of claims under the FRA have been submitted in the operational GPs and nearly 100 have received legal recognition
- A two day national level consultation on the FRA was held in collaboration with ECONET and was hosted by the Kovel Foundation, Vishakhapatnam, in order to take stock of the implementation of the FRA
- 30 master trainers, 150 volunteers from the community capacitated for immediate help in Bolangir
- 56 community claims and 339 eligible individual claims submitted in Gandhamardan area for 61572.1 acres
- A strong network of DLC, SDLC, PRI, NGOs, POs formed both at Block and District level

Working on the gender gap:

"Both men and women of the village were divided into teams and visited plots and decided on the activities to be undertaken at village level meetings."



HIGHLIGHTS FROM 2010-11

- The materials and kit developed for RCDC's School Water Education Programme have been shared with the Government of Orissa, who has said it is willing to circulate these in all schools in Orissa when it has the budget to do so
- RWSS Nayagarh has taken testing of drinking water sources as a priority action area
- RWSS Balasore has considered RCDC's GP-level initiative in Gopimohanpur on self-sustained operation and maintenance systems as a model for replication
- The Orissa State Secondary Teachers' Association has shown interest in carrying forward the School Water Education Programme
- Students in schools where the education programme has been in place are

Working together

"User group representatives and PRIs are regularly attending the GP level monthly meetings and the corpus fund is regularly contributed to by the villagers. The SEMs share their requirements and operational problems in the meetings. Any dispute arising out of distribution of water is addressed in the forum."

Water

This year, RCDC continued its important and progressive work on water and sanitation. In many areas of Orissa people still do not have access to safe water and sanitation facilities - a basic human right that still eludes. With floods and increased precipitation in some areas, a preconception exists that there is an abundance of water, when the reality is that of acute scarcity in critical periods and quality access at other times.

There is a gap in the knowledge of communities on water and sanitation, due to poor education, and people do not always know how to access government schemes which are available to them. RCDC aims to fill the gap in knowledge and understanding through education activities and promoting effective water resource management. We work across 30 diverse GPs at the grassroots level on activities that synchronise with our forests, land and climate change activities.

With increasing grassroots operations and strong research and documentation network, the organisation has emerged as the leading NGO in Orissa's water and sanitation sector. The quarterly newsletter 'Jala Jeevana Sambad', an exclusive journal on water and the only of its kind in the state, has further increased its stature as reference material for professionals, practitioners, students and community members. The journal is playing a pivot role in information exchange on water issues and catalysing community and environment-centric actions.

Education

RCDC understands that in order to effect long term change, education has the greatest impact. During the year, RCDC has really pushed its schools and education activities, which include:

- implementing schools' water education programmes
- holding competitions relating to water and sanitation for school children
- holding awareness campaigns and workshops
- distributing education materials on topics such as rain water harvesting
- disseminating awareness-raising posters and leaflets
- building, strengthening and educating district-level networks



Creating models

RCDC understands that it should learn from its interventions and share experiences and best practice elsewhere, so that more people can benefit from our expertise. During the year, we have focused on developing Gram Panchayat models for water and sanitation intervention activities that can be replicated widely. We have also begun advocating our models, particularly at the government level, to encourage their replication.

Community mobilisation and technology

Water quality has emerged as a big issue in Orissa. Fluoride, a hazardous compound, is being detected in large quantities. RCDC tested water sources and, where they were needed, installed de-fluoridation technology and encouraged behavioural changes among village communities to ensure healthy drinking water for all. Use and efficacy of the newly installed technology is being monitored. Schools have been provided with testing kits in case they see symptoms of fluorosis in students. We also bring the fluoride contaminated patches to the government's attention through community mobilisation.

showing tangible increased understanding and interest in issues such as water quality, hygiene, climate change and rain water harvesting

- Hygiene practices have not only improved in the students, but they are communicating the message to their families, neighbours and relatives
- A student from Nayagarh was selected in the District Level Children's Congress with a model on rain water harvesting, derived from an RCDC booklet
- A high school in Bolangir staged a play on climate change based on an RCDC booklet, and secured first position in the circle
- RWSS Balasore has asked RCDC to be involved in its water security planning activities
- The District Water and Sanitation Mission has extended its support for RCDC's sanitation and hygiene awareness building activities in Nayagarh and Balasore
- RCDC has successfully established a niche for itself on issues of water and sanitation both at local and state level



CASE STUDY

World Water Day

"On 22nd March 2011 (World Water Day), a mass awareness rally was organised in Gopimohan Pur GP of Balasore district covering 740 women from six GPs to sensitise people on drinking water, sanitation and hygiene. This was the largest ever rally in the locality, which drew the attention of community, media and line department of Balasore district in general and Jaleswar block in particular. The size of the rally was 740 in the beginning, but as the rally went on, bystanders joined the rally and the figure crossed the one thousand mark within a few minutes. It was a grand success."

Integration with the state government's programmes has been a key and never compromised area. RCDC has enabled communities to get government (RWSS) help where it is needed; through supplying water in tankers where village technology is poor and by installing pipe water supply systems. RCDC has helped villagers file memorandums in order to get the RWSS to provide raiser pipes.

RCDC helps build groups and forums which enables communities to relieve disputes, present a united front to government and to act together to improve their water sustainability - thus carrying out their own initiatives such as renovating the village pump house.

Influencing policy

While intensive focus been on to ensure safe drinking water and hygienic environment, ensuring 'water rights' and 'water security' is the core objective. Thus RCDC is playing a leading role to make changes to the existing 'State Water Policy' and 'State Water Plan'. As part of this, RCDC has played a very pro-active role in engaging with government and law makers to prepare the 'Climate Change Action Plan' and an 'Integrated Water Resource Management Plan'.





Livelihoods & Governance

This year our work on livelihoods and building effective local governance built on RCDC's past successes, aiming to provide a comprehensive programme that tackles a broad spectrum of issues with thorough and sustainable solutions.

- NTFP-BASED LIVELIHOODS
- SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE
- MOBILISATION OF GOVT. SCHEMES & PROGRAMMES
- WATERSHED DEVELOPMENT
- BIORESOURCE GOVERNANCE

Livelihoods

RCDC understands that in order to make any developmental initiative work - be it forest protection, school education or installing a clean water pump - people need to be able to look after themselves and continue to reap the benefits of these interventions, without the presence of an NGO. In order to lift themselves out of poverty, having a sustainable income is the first step. We work to ensure people can increase their incomes for the long term, in a way that does not harm other people or the environment. This year, we worked on several activities that aimed





to achieve this. For example, we enabled some of poorest members of communities to get the 100 days work they are entitled to under MGNREGS.

Governance

Many of our activities aim to build the capacity and effectiveness of local governance. Some activities work specifically to do this from the grassroots level upwards. By getting people to work together, they are more likely to achieve mutually beneficial goals and avoid conflict.

Target groups

- Marginalised communities
- CBOs, PRIs and other local institutions
- STs, SCs and very poor families

We also engage with the following actors:

- Local, State and Union government
- Civil society organisations and networks
- The media

Integrated community development

We aim to make our community development initiatives completely integrated - bringing a range of challenges and activities under one umbrella. As community development is multi-faceted, so must our interventions be flexible and dynamic enough to reflect this - including work on livelihoods, governance and environmental protection. This year we continued to develop our expertise and carry out successful integrated grassroots activities.

Two of our regional offices (Bolangir and Nabarangpur) oversee our integrated community development activities, which include:

- community mobilisation and empowerment
- institutional capacity building
- leveraging government resources
- livelihoods promotion, including encouraging entrepreneurship and implementing MGNREGS
- facilitating the creation of Annual Development Plans and NRM plans
- encouraging sustainable agricultural activities



NTFP-based Livelihoods

By developing production of Non-Timber Forest Produce (NTFP) as a livelihood resource, pressure on forest timber as a source of income is reduced - communities are able to have a more sustainable and forest-friendly livelihoods base. RCDC has become a leading organisation in Orissa on NTFP, with years of experience implementing NTFP-based programmes and promoting it as a development initiative from the grassroots to the international arena. Our current NTFP field operations are based in Kalahandi, Nuapada, Koraput, Malkangi and Rayagada districts of Orissa.

Market access & trading

The objective is for primary collectors and their federated body to be able to control and manage NTFP and agriculture produce available in their area and ensure their sustained livelihood. The key strategy is to reduce the number of intermediaries in the procurement and trade of NTFP. RCDC helps the cooperatives to get involved in both raw material trading and also sale of value added products from NTFP.

RCDC aims to:

- develop sustainable alternative marketing frameworks for NTFP
- create and strengthen primary collectors and producers

Knowledge sharing & capacity building

RCDC aims to enable communities, cooperatives and other stakeholders to take part in active policy analysis and debates, put pressure on government to change policy in relation to the promotion of NTFP as an enterprise. It also supports capacity building activities, and facilitates enhancing the qualitative and quantitative production capacity through value addition techniques.

Case Study

Contribution to a national process

RCDC has been involved in the process of developing a mechanism for offering the minimum support price (MSP) of MFP by the Government of India. In this context, RCDC was invited by the Ministry of Panchayati Raj as an expert, and submitted a comprehensive set of recommendations to look into the aspects of MSP, value addition and marketing of MFP in scheduled fifth areas.

HIGHLIGHTS FROM 2010-11

- Building on the previous years' successes, one programme has now established: 12 cluster-based NTFP micro-enterprises; 8 networks of 67 FPCs overseeing 10645 hectares of forest land; 8 women's self help cooperatives of 1845 members in 125 villages in 4 districts
- A total number of 21 cooperatives have developed their own comprehensive business plans, incorporating the ground reality in terms of deficit finance management and marketing strategies. Rs.21 Lakhs was mobilized by 4 co-operatives so they are able to share the business plans
- Until now, trade transactions worth Rs.1, 43,93,716 on NTFP / SAP have been undertaken by communities as well as revolving funds for trade have been mobilized by 12 co-operatives
- The average annual income of community members in one intervention area has risen from Rs.9000 to Rs.11500 as part of a market access project
- People belonging to about 7000 households from nearly 120 villages in 4 districts are going to be the direct beneficiaries of one of RCDC's on-

"The whole idea of the intervention is to provide sustained income to the forest-dependent communities through small scale community-based enterprise"



going NTFP activities, as a result of community based management and trade of NTFP through their co-operatives

- RCDC has been incorporating traditional community knowledge into the modern systems of NTFP and forest management
- Cooperatives have been assigned with responsibilities of handling institutional affairs and other market promotion activities on their own. Monthly meetings, records, business plans etc., have been properly handled by each co-operative, being facilitated by RCDC - enhancing the confidence of beneficiaries, which adds positively to the sustainability of the intervention
- RCDC organised an exclusive workshop on promotion of lac-based livelihood in the state, which brought together experts, policy makers, primary collectors, and artisans to discuss the problems and prospects in the lac sector
- A research report 'NTFP Policy Regime after FRA: A Study in Select States of India' was published.
- The Right to Food campaign included in its resolution for the first time the rights to forest produce in a process supported by RCDC
- A two-day training-cum-workshop on the management, operation and trade of Kendu leaf was held at Brahminijore, Bolangir
- A detailed study on Kendu leaf management, operation and trade in the context of FRA 2006 has been undertaken in the central Indian states

Institutional development

We work on strengthening the self-help cooperatives engaged in the production and sale of NTFPs, and help them build linkages with marketing and financial institutions. RCDC took the distinguished initiative of forming the state-level association of the primary collectors, cultivators, and artisans of lac.

Sustainable management

RCDC understands the need to make NTFP income sources environmentally and economically sustainable. Through NTFP we aim to improve the ecological health of the forest and make communities understand the need for a sustainable approach. Our activities include training cooperatives and creating protocols on sustainable harvesting. We also work with communities to inventorise and document forest species.

Banajata

The website www.banajata.org aims to present all possible information on NTFP management and trade mostly relating to Orissa and its neighbouring states. The website not only emphasizes market related information but also scientific management of different NTFPs. The site also includes a list of NTFP booklets in Oriya which give detailed information on the phenology, cultivation, sustainable harvesting, processing, storage, commercial propagation, marketing, policies etc., related to different NTFPs.





Sustainable Agriculture

RCDC believes in agriculture as a force in the development process. Practicing sustainable agriculture also improves food security. With increasing climatic changes impacting agriculture and the influence of modern techniques, many farmers are now in debt and communities face food shortages. The programme has so far been implemented in Bolangir, with plans to extend this to Nabarangpur in the near future. The drought situation in Bolangir has been creating hindrances in the development process of small and marginal farmers making them indebted. Initiatives are taken to make the farmers self sustained and minimise the cost of agriculture by reducing use of chemical fertilisers and pesticides. This year we got farmers back on their feet and ensured many vulnerable adults and children had enough nutritious food to eat.

Capacity building and income generation

RCDC also enables people to generate income through agriculture. Vulnerable families have been supplied with poultry and pig stocks, for example. They are guided in the practices and their progress is monitored. RCDC also facilitates the formation of, and strengthens, Farmers' Committees, village FSCs and SHGs, with whom it runs training programmes and encourages entrepreneurial activities.

Traditional methods

RCDC understands that traditional agricultural wisdom and practices are most friendly to people (in terms of health and cost) and to the environment. We promote and capacitate farmers in:

- organic agriculture
- vermi-compost (process of composting utilising various species of worms) and liquid manure
- SRI methods
- small-scale self-sustaining farming
- crop diversification
- low-cost technology
- quality seed replacement

HIGHLIGHTS FROM 2010-11

- 480 families have developed kitchen gardens after procuring subsidised seeds from the Horticulture Department with the help of RCDC. Kitchen gardens help them not only increase their vegetable intake but also leads to extra income for the family
- 7 farmers and 3 SHGs have been given an incentive support of Rs 2,500 each for preparation of vermi-compost
- Training programmes exclusively on agriculture for the farmers in Bolangir project area, where 426 male and 157 female farmers participated, aimed at mobilising opinion for vermi-compost other local manures, SRI and reverting to local resource based farming
- SRI methods were demonstrated in 337 acres of land comprising 22 villages in the field of 476 farmers. Farmers were linked with government schemes to follow SRI methods
- RCDC facilitated the formation of 40 seed banks and trained the farmers in their management
- 125 new vermi-culture pits were supplied through direct support from the project and linkages with RKVY
- 32 farmers are now selling their 178kg of vermi and 20 quintals of compost to other farmers and the Horticulture Department



- Toll free help line numbers used by CBOs for lodging complaints and comments on PDS, ICDS and SANJOG
- 119 farmers are practicing agriculture by applying manures and pesticides prepared by them, 98 farmers have started gradual substitution of chemical fertiliser and toxic pesticides, 154 farmers are using mix cropping process, and 250 farmers are cultivating the miner millet in 132 acres of land.

Addressing food insecurity and health

In some places where RCDC works, there is an immediate need to address the lack of availability of food for the people that live there. Some of our activities include:

- setting up kitchen gardens and nutrition education (usually in schools)
- linking eligible households to horticultural schemes, where they can claim subsidies, training and operational help
- promoting herbal gardens
- promoting vermi-compost
- promoting SRI cultivation methods
- encouraging seed banks and grain banks
- engaging with SHGs to enable the above activities

Mobilisation of Govt. Schemes & Programmes

RCDC works extensively to enable CBOs and their apex bodies at Block and Panchayat level to mobilise government schemes and programmes, particularly relating to food, livelihood and social security. RCDC plays a supportive and catalytic role, facilitating dialogue between government department officials and the community, to ensure eligible persons get what they are legally entitled to.

Village micro-plans, which incorporate the list of eligible beneficiaries under different food and social security schemes (namely MGNREGS, FRA, Vasundhara, Mo Jami Mo Diha, Indira Awas Yojna, Mo Kudia, etc.), are annually updated which helps in assessing the initiatives taken by such village institutions. Based upon the village micro-plan, an annual plan is developed and activities chalked out on the basis of their priorities and levels - who will do what, when and how. The activities are then distributed among the various CBOs (FSCs, SHGs, VDCs, Mahila Mandals) and larger issues or issues involving two or more villages fall in the share of PDCs. Thus, it helps the concerned CBOs plan their activities accordingly, and monthly reviews and action plans are developed on the basis of their annual plans. The plans allow them to articulate their problems and issues more easily and present their plans in Palli and Gram Sabhas.

The following projects, schemes and programmes were mobilised by the institutions of RCDC's intervention villages during 2010 – 11:

SN	Scheme/programme/Act	Number	Remarks
1	MGNREGS and IAY	71 village roads and 47 new WHS 202450 98 310	118 projects approved in Palli and Gram Sabha, and projects mobilised in the current year Man days created beneficiaries incorporated under Mo Kudia Yojna/IAY (approved by Palli Sabha and sent to block office) farm ponds/Mo Pokhari schemes mobilised
2	Food and Social Security Schemes	97 11 17 39 58 34 07 116 18 33	beneficiaries received APL/ration cards Antodaya card Arnapurna card GR card old age pensions mobilised widow pensions mobilised disabled pensions mobilised MBPY mobilised emergency feeding mobilised families received NFBS
3	FRA	551 individual claim 56 community claim	551 individual claims having 2067.6 acres and 56 community claims having 61572.1 acres approved by Gram Sabha and sent to SDLC.
4	Vasundhara and MJMD	145	applications made, 90 families received titles
5	Livelihood Security	149 15 64 12	farmers mobilised seeds from agriculture dept @ 5 Kg kits SHGs tagged with SGSY SHG mobilised bank loans SHG linkages with MDM
6	NRHM	143	pregnant women and lactating mothers who were linked with <i>Janani Suraksha Yojna</i> (JSY)
7	National Horticulture Mission	65	farmers linked with the National Horticulture Mission to start mango, banana and other fruits and vegetable cultivation.
8	Drinking water	3	3 villages were linked with RWSS department for drinking water supply



HIGHLIGHTS FROM 2010 - 11

- One of the best examples of linkage is relationship building of a group with OMFED, through WORLP. The dairy farmers of the watershed area united in the name of Sri Ram Mahila Dugdha Samabaya Samiti and started dairy farming. They were linked with OMFED to sell their milk and milk products for reasonable rates. Now they are growing by keeping more cows for milk production. The profit sharing mechanism was also developed and is being successfully managed
- The Horticulture Department has begun working with watershed committees to enable the benefits of different schemes under the Horticulture Mission
- Exposure trips were organised to inspire Bolangir community members to follow sustainable agriculture
- Formation of a watershed development federation in Bolangir (Palli Vikash Jalachhaya Mahasangha)
- Developing an RTI template for wider use across the watersheds
- Under OTELP, out of 9 VDC, 7 VDCs are now able to handle the programme as well as documentation of all records and registers - funds are now channeled directly through these VDCs
- Support to publication of "Nutan Diganta" a quarterly newsletter of District Watershed Mission, Bolangir
- Successfully implementing an Exit Protocol for WORLP in coordination with the watershed committees

Watershed Development

Watershed development' refers to the integrated, holistic development of a geographical area, with a focus on community governance. One of our long-running programmes has been 'Western Orissa Rural Livelihood Programme' (WORLP) - the development of a watershed area in Bolangir district, implemented between January 2004 and March 2011, for which one village won an award. This year, RCDC focused on withdrawing WORLP, successfully using an Exit Protocol, so that the watershed communities were self-sufficient and able to continue the activities of the programme on their own. Another programme, based in Nabarangpur, is a multi-pronged long-term project named 'Orissa Tribal Empowerment and Livelihood Programme' (OTELP), which is due to run in the area until 2016. This year, OTELP focused on land, water, livestock, aquaculture, rural finance services and community infrastructure funds.

Watershed committees

RCDC has facilitated the creation of, and helped build the capacities of, watershed committees. The committees are responsible for making consensus decisions on livelihood initiatives and asset creation. This year RCDC focused on:

- empowering committees to be self sufficient in record keeping, accounting, communication and documentation
- linking the committees with other agencies, institutions and corporations, enabling them to link entrepreneurs to market their products
- linking the committees with relevant government departments
- steps were taken to bring the watershed committees under one umbrella and initiate joint efforts for development. The creation of a federation of committees is underway
- creating a platform to share success stories

Case Study

Facilitating self-sufficiency

"The watershed committee members are now able to prepare their status report, accounting, asset registers and manage the decision making process, including the resolution. They don't have to request anybody's help, as they are self-sustained in this aspect. They are documenting success stories and inspiring others to practice the same for success."



Bioresource Governance

RCDC has been pursuing a bioresource governance programme in Rayagada, Koraput, Kalahandi and Gajapati districts of Orissa. Bioresource governance operates on four golden principles: ownership (of local bioresources); self-confidence (that these resources can aid socio-economic development); sustainable management; and social justice (sharing benefits). The programme links with our work on non-biological resources such as water and land, as these form the habitats for bioresources. By strengthening governance systems, it enables communities to avail the benefits entitled to them under different government schemes and programmes. Linkages with local GPs and various government agencies have been established to create a conducive environment for realising the potential of communities to sustainably manage bioresources and assert their rights.

Training and capacity building

RCDC puts a great deal of energy and expertise into running workshops and consultations with grassroots organisations on biodiversity and bioresource governance. This year, RCDC worked on:

- running orientation and training, including two awareness camps, for PRIs, FSCs, Education Committees, SHGs and other CBOs
- training RCDC volunteers and staff in community mobilisation and methods to exercise their rights in relation to government schemes
- linking STs, SCs and very poor families for developing their farm land through MGNREGS
- exposure trips made, increasing the understanding of PRI members in governance systems and best practices in the Panchayati Raj system

Creating models

This year progress has been made towards creating a model GP in bioresource governance. It is an ongoing activity in the form of regular GP level meetings.

Monitoring implementation of laws

While the core mandate of the programme is to facilitate better local governance of natural resources with special focus on bioresources, it has also resulted in a wider awareness and debate at the state-level on how exactly the Biological Diversity Act is being implemented in the states,

HIGHLIGHTS FROM 2010-11

- RCDC organized two district level workshops on bioresource governance at Bhawanipatna, and Rayagada during the first week of December 2010
- RCDC also hosted two district level capacity building and training for CFM groups and PRI representatives, in order to strengthen federations in bioresource management and governance
- 50 village level Food Security Committees (FSC) were strengthened and empowered to analyse the dimensions and raise concerns along with initiating action. The food security committees were again united and formed federations at GP level and regional level to address the issues emerging at that level, acting as pressure groups to push for better implementation of government schemes
- 110 women's SHGs were formed in Bolangir, which have now been federated at the Panchayat and apex levels
- SHGs have facilitated linkages of 143 pregnant women under Janani Suraksha Yojna (JSY) and all the SHGs are now monitoring quality of mid-day meals being provided in the schools and also food supplied by the Anganwadi centres under ICDS



- Janani Anchalik Mahasanga (JAM), the SHG federation, organized a mega rally to make people, especially the women aware and assertive on issues of Kendu leaf price and incentives to pluckers, liquor prohibition and increased participation in the Pallisabha meetings
- After an exposure visit, a good rapport with the PRIs was established, and linkages could be made for smooth implementation of plans and programmes of government
- An exposure visit to Kerala was organised for programme staff

where the Forest Rights Act suffers setbacks, and where the proposed Wildlife Protection Amendment Bill 2010 need modifications so as to conform to wider realities and requirements.

The role of women

RCDC has been giving due importance to the women in the governance development process. SHGs are formed and work in a self sustained way. They are trained to maintain their own records, promoted through bank linkages and initiating entrepreneurial activities. SHGs are also linked with the FSCs to participate in village development and advocacy actions. They are oriented on updates of different schemes and programmes of government.



CASE STUDY

An extraordinary resolution

On the basis of RCDC's awareness building, on the 2nd October 2010, the Gram sabha of Bhutigarh passed an extraordinary resolution that stressed the following points:

1. The local DFO should clarify to what extent the recommendations, in the letter dated 21st May 2010 of the Secretary, Ministry of Panchayatiraj, Government of India, that the state should bring its MFP regime in conformity with FRA, 2006; and the Forest Department would assist the Gram Sabha/GP to prepare a management scheme on MFP, have been complied with.
2. No plantation/afforestation activity in the area under the jurisdiction of the Gram Sabha can be carried out without its approval. Details of existing plantations should be furnished to the Gram Sabha.
3. No contract farming or farming of non-food crops can be taken up without the approval of Gram Sabha. Details of such existing farming are to be provided to the Gram Sabha.
4. The Gram Sabha is interested to form a Biodiversity Management Committee as per the provision of the Biological Diversity Act, 2002; and the State Biodiversity Board is requested to provide necessary support for this purpose.



2010 saw the beginning of a new era in RCDC's work, as we face the challenge of increasingly erratic weather and the ensuing natural disasters that threaten lives and livelihoods. Orissa has 480 kilometers of coastline stretching over six districts of Balasore, Bhadrak, Kendrapara, Jagatsingpur, Puri and Ganjam. On average, every five years a major cyclone and several cyclones of minor intensity strike the coast - accompanied by high winds, tidal waves and floods almost every year. RCDC understands that, as the biggest threat facing humanity, we must now act fast to help vulnerable populations adapt to and prepare for the effects of climate change. This year RCDC began work in:

- CLIMATE CHANGE ADAPTATION & DISASTER RISK REDUCTION
- DISASTER RELIEF

New initiatives 2010 - 11

We began by responding to the unprecedented August 2010 floods of Nabarangpur. From March 2011, our partnership with Concern Worldwide will continue on a long-term programme, PARIBARTAN - a climate change initiative which will run for 5 years. It aims to increase resilience, and thereby help reduce the risk of, coastal communities to climate change and natural hazards in the Bay of Bengal. The programme is operational in 8 GPs of Kendrapara and Jagatsingpur.

Climate Change & DRR





HIGHLIGHTS FROM 2010-11

This year our key successes were in Nabarangpur where we intervened after the floods of August 2010:

- We organised the distribution of relief supplies and mobilised the medical team in order to prevent the spread of disease.
- RCDC provided shelter support to 59 resource poor families
- Country boats were provided in Ghatguda village to act as a community asset
- Agricultural support was provided to 280 families - seed support led to substantial income for farmers
- 80% of the rebuilt (more flood-resilient) houses are ready for occupation in all the three villages
- Village committees were mobilized to demand their rights and RCDC enabled the villagers to get government compensation
- 40 youths were trained by an expert on warning, preparedness and mitigation of floods in Osadumda block

Target groups:

- Vulnerable communities
- STs and SCs
- Women and children
- Other marginalised groups

We also engage with the following actors:

- Local government
- Disaster management authorities
- NGOs and civil society organizations involved in DRR activities
- The media



Climate Change Adaptation & DRR

PARIBARTAN has only just been launched, but we are already excited about the activities and expected results for the coming 5 years.

The programme aims to achieve:

- Increased capacity of state and non-state actors
- Increased capacity of target population to withstand, respond and recover from disasters
- Pilot projects to demonstrate a practical way for climate change adaptation
- Lessons learnt will be promoted and shared at larger forums amongst practitioners

Disaster Relief - Long term solutions

RCDC understands that communities are the first respondents in any cases of natural disaster and so there is a need to empower the coastal communities in order to reduce their vulnerability to such calamities. We also understand that in the wake of a natural disaster, people need to be helped to get back on their feet, so we enable affected populations to re-establish their sources of income and livelihood support networks.

In our first immediate post-disaster intervention in Nabarangpur, RCDC helped with the immediate recovery, but focused on the long-term solutions that would enable affected villages to regain control of their livelihoods and build resilience to any future natural disasters. Our main activities included:

- undertaking a spot survey and assessing the damage
- helping form village committees and FAFCs to enable better co-ordinating and accountability with decision making
- forming programme implementation committees and purchase committees
- building capacity of local institutions
- disseminating information and recording meetings
- converging with government programmes
- providing shelter support
- providing livelihoods support through seed provision and boat making
- training on community-based disaster planning





Policy, Advocacy & Networking



RCDC aims to complement its grassroots interventions with integrated policy, advocacy and networking activities. We understand that in order to get to the root of the problems we are trying to address, we need to campaign and spread awareness in order to influence decision makers and bring the issues to a wider audience through the media. Our research is used to reinforce our advocacy, campaigns and publications. We build and use existing networks to share knowledge and forge alliances that enable us to exert greater influence by acting as a united front. We publish details of our research and grassroots activities for a range audiences, from educational materials in Oriya to English periodicals for those working in the sector. This year, our activities in this area included:

- RESEARCH
- ADVOCACY & CAMPAIGNS
- MEDIA
- NETWORKING





Research

During 2010 - 11, we are proud to say we have continued to conduct and produce leading research across the variety of areas we work in. Our research allows us gain a greater understanding of a broad range of issues and is used to refine our activities, reinforce our campaigns, inform our publications and help us strategise for the future.

- Participatory action research was used to analyze different governance issues with natural resources, focusing on bio-resource, forestry sector development, land lease status, forest possession/ diversion, and more
- A study on Kendu leaf management, operation and trade was undertaken in central Indian states, with findings shared in workshops and published in Community Forestry. A study on Lac has been undertaken in selected pockets of Orissa
- Studies on indigenous knowledge to strengthen grassroots coping strategies for climate change adaptation
- In order to know the prospects and constraints of contract farming in Orissa, a study was undertaken in selected pockets of 7 districts, covering 505 households
- A study on the functioning of PESA has been initiated in two GPs each in three operational districts
- Policy research and advocacy was undertaken focusing on the linkage between PESA and FRA, the magnitude of household dependency on NTFP, sustainable harvesting and product-specific trade policies
- Primary and secondary information was collected on issues such as climate change, ground water depletion, drinking water coverage and conflicts in distribution of water, and community initiatives
- Case studies were collected on sea erosion at Satbhaya, sea erosion at Pentha, interstate conflict of Polavaram, fluoride contamination in Nayagarh (3 case studies), livelihoods depending on boat making, livelihoods depending on net weaving, water pollution by industries (2 case studies), good practices of management of drinking water sources (2 case studies), and achievements of school water education in Nayagarh



Highlights from 2010 - 11

- A second analytical study on the status of the implementation of the Biodiversity Act 2002, to further substantiate the findings of an earlier study on the implementation at ground level in 4 states (Orissa, Jharkhand, Madhya Pradesh and Andhra Pradesh). The findings of the study were shared at a regional consultation in Dec 2010
- A study on the alienation of productive and/or ecologically sensitive land for unconventional cash crops, and the impact thereof on the livelihood of the original landholder
- A research study on climate change and its impact on: a) natural resource management; b) the MGNREG Act

Advocacy & Campaigns

Advocacy and campaigns work is carried out to ensure our vision is promoted, the deprived masses can have a voice, an organised front is presented and so we can exert legitimate pressure on the government. Our advocacy and campaigns have this year, as in others, been based on the information and experience gained from the implementation of our grassroots activities.

Highlights from 2010 - 11

- A two day national level consultation on the FRA was held in collaboration with ECONET and was hosted by the Kovel Foundation, Vishakhapatnam, in order to take stock of the implementation of FRA
- Training programmes and workshops were held to create awareness of the FRA - as a result 586 individual and 6 community claims were submitted, 35 people from scheduled tribe communities have had lands entitled and forest protection committees were formed from village to apex level
- For effective implementation of the FRA, a mass rally was organised at Chandrapur followed by submission of memorandums to the Tahasildar
- RCDC attended a workshop by IIFM on the JFM resolution in New Delhi and contributed substantially towards a pro-people policy resolution



- The Orissa Forest Sector Development Project invited RCDC to the workshop on "Harmonizing JFM, CFM, FRA and PESA". RCDC influenced the policy decision and it was admired by the bureaucrats
- Advocacy workshops on various topics have been organized at different levels with active participation of CBOs, PRI members, NGO representatives, media personnel and government officials
- A one-day regional level consultation on biodiversity conservation and bioresource governance was organised on 28th December 2010 at Bhubaneswar. Two state level consultations were organized at Bhubaneswar on Mining and Industrial issues. A one-day civil society consultation on the Wildlife (Protection) Amendment Bill 2010 was held at Bhubaneswar
- Three district-level workshops were organised in Rayagada, Koraput and Gajapati during November and December 2010 to discuss the specific law/policies, practices, rights, entitlements and governance issues in the management of natural resources in Orissa
- An apex federation in the Bolangir programme area - Maa Dashamati Anchalik Mahasangha - is now taking a leading role in awareness creation and campaigning
- The Government of Orissa has established a policy for Integrated Water Resources Management (IWRM) in Orissa and sought the suggestions of Orissa Water Forum (RCDC is a member of it). RCDC contributed to a consultation on draft IWRM policy, though a technical presentation on disasters in Orissa such as floods and droughts
- RCDC was selected to represent civil society in a consultation on "The impact of drought and flood in the water sector Orissa" convened by India's Central Water Commission in Bhubaneswar
- Recently the state government has asked RCDC to give its opinion on the draft Climate Change Action Plan. RCDC gave its feedback in a consultation arranged by Focus Orissa Forum, of which RCDC is a member
- RCDC has been continuing its effort to create a friendly atmosphere where the government administration feels comfortable in working with NGOs and involves community members in decision making



Media

This year we are proud of how we have pushed the profile of RCDC in the media, which allows us to promote our activities and development issues to a broad audience. We recognise the power of the media as an educational tool and as a means of exerting pressure on decision makers. Our programmes, conferences, workshops, expert comments and opinion have appeared consistently in online, print and broadcast media this year. A key highlight from the year was a documentary film we made on the Forest Rights Act.



Networking

By joining and building up networks, RCDC is able to gain and share knowledge and work together with others in the sector to achieve goals. RCDC has a wealth of resources, including research data and field expertise, on a broad spectrum of topics that we share with others to spread awareness and understanding. We use our networks to make stakeholders aware of provisions, issues and challenges of legislation, such as the Forest Rights Act, so as to facilitate their proper implementation.

Highlights from 2010 - 11

- RCDC is a member of the NTFP Exchange Programme of South Asia, helping us to have greater involvement in the advocacy circle of network partners, acting as a united pressure group
- As a member of national and international networks like IUFRO, we have tried to address both legal and operational issues in regards to the FRA and other matters related to forest governance at national level
- A strong network of NGOs, CBOs, POs and different movements has been constituted for successful implementation of FRA

- RCDC networked on SFM with global organisations such as FECOFUN and GACF
- RCDC was nominated as a steering committee member for CAMPA
- RCDC worked with civil society organisations, particularly the Right to Food Campaign, participating in the fourth national convention on the right to food.
- Formation of a federation of existing watershed committees was suggested and the creation process has started. A network has been built up with the DFF, SMPUB, Adiwasi Mahasangha, Food Security Committee, Education Watch and others
- An interface workshop in Bolangir was held, where the district administration, civil society, CBO representatives and media discussed issues of food insecurity in Bolangir and the ways ahead
- A strong network of DLC, SDLC, PRI, NGOs, POs formed both at Block and District level in Bolangir

Besides a number of informal networks and partnerships, this year RCDC acted as a member of several formal and prestigious networks, such as: NTFP Exchange Programme South Asia, IUFRO, FECOFUN, GACF and PACS.





Consulting Services



RCDC has been rendering consulting services to Oxfam for the last three years. During 2010-11, consulting activities involved:

- M&E learning systems in four development projects implemented by Oxfam partner NGOs operating in Orissa, MP, Rajasthan and Gujarat under the IASU programme
- A baseline study on women fishers' access to markets under the Marine Fishery Project implemented by UAA, Ganjam, Orissa
- Income tracking of 200 fishery households on periodic intervals to study the project impact and quality of lives of beneficiaries
- The identification of milk routes, supply chain analysis and process documentation of a PRADAN-implemented dairy project in Rajasthan
- Regular collection and analysis of information on different M&E indicators related to the Inland Fishery Project implemented by VIKALAP, Madhya Pradesh. Also, the promotion of a feedback system for further improvement of the project
- An impact Assessment of IASU Initiatives undertaken by Oxfam in Kutch, Gujarat
- Capturing best practices promoted at community level through application of ICTechnology by VRTI, Nalia. Capacity building of field investigators and volunteers in periodic intervals for data collection.



RCDC has a strong history of producing quality publications and continued to develop and refine these this year - in the form of periodic journals, newsletters, books, select articles, reports and ad hoc manuals, modules, leaflets and posters. Our publications are created in order to disseminate our learning, build awareness and advocate the issues we work on. Most of the publications are in the local language, the target group being primarily confined to Orissa, but reports and event proceedings, etc., are usually available in English. Our publications serve not only as an information base, but also as guides and a medium of inspiration for the target groups.

Journals and Newsletters

Jala Jivan Sambad

During the reporting period, 3 issues of Jala Jivan Sambad were published and disseminated covering broad issues, such as the impact of climate change on water resources of Orissa, intrastate water conflicts in Orissa and the impact of ground water depletion on both quality and quantity of drinking water in Orissa.

Community Forestry

One issue of this English journal was printed, focusing on climate change, and circulated to a broad audience locally and internationally.

Publications





Ama Jangal Amara

Four issues of these were printed, with 4000 copies of each, circulated among community groups involved in forest protection, civil society, local forest officials and the media.

Jangal Khabar (Forestry News)

Six issues of this Oriya newsletter were published, focusing on forest rights and tendu leaf prices, and distributed to selected NGOs, RCDC's field areas and OJM members.

Jibika Khabara

Two of these Oriya newsletters were published, relating to food and livelihood security, and distributed in the Nabarangpur field area.

Jhardarab

Five issues of this Oriya publication, with 1500 copies each time, were distributed to RCDC's field areas, NGOs, government departments, local institutions. The newsletter focuses on issues related to NTFPs and SHCs and is circulated among primary members of cooperatives, PRIs and others involved in NTFPs.

Sambhavana

This informal newsletter promoting communication and collaboration between actors engaged in small farming, fishing, pastoralism and hunter-gathers in India and S/SE Asia was produced and distributed to partner organisations.

A livelihoods programme newsletter was also produced and distributed, highlighting government schemes, MGNREGS and Forest Rights Act 2006, RCDC's intervention and development challenges.

Leaflets & Posters

- Booklets and posters related to local governance, MGNREGS, forest conservation and protection were prepared and distributed to stakeholders including the administration, district level officials, journalists and community members of Bolangir District.
- Pictorial materials were developed for 20 government schemes to use in village and Panchayat level meetings and trainings.



Women & Forest

Relation with Forest:

Tribal Women and Men share their own exclusive relationship with the forest. Forest plays multifunctional role into their daily activities. Women are the one who have a greater frequency of interface with the forest than their male counterparts.

Why Women will be more affected than men from deforestation:

Tribal Women in Orissa played a major role in the economy, working on average three hours a day longer than men, a workload that significantly increased with deforestation. Tribal women have been traditionally involved in collecting water, fodder, fuel and other non timber forest products, while the men have done most of the cultivating and hunting. With deforestation, women's work of fetching and carrying becomes more difficult, since they have to go farther and farther from their villages to reach the receding tree line.

Women are excellent resource manager due to their inherent understanding of nature and its overall sustainability

They know the exact mechanism how to manage the household related activities in coherence with their forest. They know the overall value (tangible and intangible) associated with forest and forest based activities than their male counterparts. Women are emotionally related with their forest and they can relate to the actual heart beat of their forest because they always have nurturing and constructive mindset for their family and for their forest.

A typical (average) tribal woman in the state Orissa (India) spends 3-4 hours in forest every day. If the forest protection related activities taken into account than the count can go up to 6 hours altogether.

Regional Centre for Development Cooperation
A-14, 1st Floor, Sakshi Nagar, Bhubaneswar-751 022
Orissa, India
Development: Ramakrishna Mahapatra
Contact: Nitendra Das, Dr. Subhasis Nayak

- Leaflets and posters on fluoride and de-fluoridation were developed and demonstrated in SWE rallies, children congress, other village events and GP level meetings.
- IEC materials on MGNREGS, PDS and FRA were published and distributed among target groups.
- A leaflet was produced for, and distributed at, a FD conference on 'combatting desertification' in June 2011
- A leaflet on gender issues was produced and distributed for International Women's Day, 8th March 2011.

Manuals & Modules

- A training module was developed on different forest and NTFP management options
- Teaching materials on water issues were distributed in schools



Financial Report 2010-11



RCDC is proud of its proven commitment to transparency and accountability. We strive to lead the way in getting value for money for our donors and condemning any form of corruption. Our finance department run a tight operation, ensuring RCDC's income and expenditure are processed in a thorough and ethical manner.

Income

RCDC obtained its money this year from a number of sources like international and national funding agencies, government and local contributions.

Expenditure

We are proud to say the majority of our expenditure goes directly into our charitable activities - grassroots interventions, research and advocacy.

The scanned copy of audited Balance Sheet and Income & Expenditure accounts as follows.



REGIONAL CENTRE FOR DEVELOPMENT COOPERATION
424, SAHID NAGAR, BHUBANESWAR - 751007
ODISHA, INDIA.
BALANCE SHEET AS ON 31ST MARCH, 2011

PARTICULARS	2010-11 AMOUNT (Rs.)		2009-10 AMOUNT (Rs.)	
SOURCES OF FUNDS				
CAPITAL FUND				
As per last Balance Sheet.	3,718,330.76		3,559,594.17	
Add: Surplus during the Year	74,049.32	3,792,380.08	158,736.59	3,718,330.76
TEMPORARY RESTRICTED FUND		12,191,032.43		13,086,127.23
INTEREST FREE HAND LOAN		15,893.00		15,893.00
STAFF WELFARE FUND		1,423,454.00		988,529.00
CORPUS FUND		101,132.00		1,111.00
TOTAL		17,523,891.51		17,811,690.99
APPLICATION OF FUNDS				
FIXED ASSETS		2,536,368.65		2,186,959.65
INVESTMENT		0.00		0.00
CURRENT ASSETS, LOANS AND ADVANCES				
Cash & Bank Balance	13,994,869.38		14,487,552.68	
Loans & Advances				
Tax deducted at sources	81,727.00		81,727.00	
Security Deposit	33,000.00		33,000.00	
Grant-in-aid receivable	12,000.00		-	
Programme Advance	1,353,428.00		1,091,954.62	
Other Advances	313,600.00		300,120.00	
	15,788,624.38		15,994,354.30	
LESS:				
CURRENT LIABILITIES AND PROVISIONS				
Audit Fees & Service Tax	133,483.00		196,540.00	
Programme Expenses Payable	686,538.52		170,762.96	
Revolving Credit Fund	-		-	
	820,021.52		369,302.96	
NET CURRENT ASSETS		14,968,522.85		15,625,051.34
TOTAL		17,523,891.51		17,811,690.99

The above Balance Sheet, to the best of my/our belief contains a true account of the funds and liabilities and assets and properties of the organisation for the year ended on 31.03.2011.

As per our separate report of even date.

CA Sanjeeb K. Mahanty
Proprietor.




Kalash Chandra Dash
Executive Director
Executive Director
Regional Centre for
Development Cooperation



Sanjeeb Kumar & Associates

REGIONAL CENTRE FOR DEVELOPMENT COOPERATION 434, SAHED NAGAR, BHUBANESWAR - 751007 ODISHA, INDIA.

INCOME & EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT FOR THE PERIOD FROM 01.04.2010 TO 31.03.2011		
PARTICULARS	CURRENT YEAR AMOUNT (Rs)	PREVIOUS YEAR AMOUNT (Rs)
I. INCOME :		
GRANT-IN-AID	44,105,049.95	39,457,024.50
BANK INTEREST	241,609.00	349,296.00
DONATION AND CONTRIBUTION	15,298.00	1,994,270.00
SERVICE CHARGES	-	97,566.00
CONSULTANCY/PROFESSIONAL FEES	30,500.00	-
REIMBURSEMENT OF EXP RECEIVED	69,359.00	-
LOCAL CONTRIBUTION	2,225,514.08	-
AWARD RECEIVED	5,000.00	-
TOTAL INCOME	46,693,530.04	39,896,156.50
II. EXPENDITURE :		
ACTION AID	933,919.50	923,591.50
ACTION AID FRA	124,469.00	-
AJWS - CFFM	665,662.00	947,960.00
BD-IFG-II	2,408,265.50	1,921,794.00
CONERN-CCA-DRR	66,713.00	-
CARE	-	199,543.00
CONCERN-INNOVATION	2,185,427.00	1,016,536.00
CONCERN-FLOOD RELIEF	1,173,376.00	-
CONCERN-LIVELIHOOD	4,249,702.00	2,996,136.00
CWS	-	220,416.00
DCA-FS- II	3,249,625.50	3,694,231.00
EC-NTFP	7,029,382.64	3,559,652.45
FORD FOUNDATION-NTFP - B & E/H	938,476.00	-
FORD FOUNDATION	3,052,666.00	3,571,228.00
IFM - FGLQ	-	56,585.00
KEY-STONE FOUNDATION	769,060.00	1,170,271.00
KZE-CS-PR	876,288.00	1,033,474.00
KZE-RPP	2,853,913.00	1,883,485.00
OXFAM - AG SCALE	1,504,482.00	1,081,433.00
OXFAM - S F M	3,357,711.00	3,881,740.00
OXFAM- HIV Work Shop	20,893.00	-
PAULHAWLYN FOUNDATION	1,253,640.00	887,584.00
RDI	-	478,563.00
SIMAVI-DRG-WTR	2,350,998.00	2,890,321.96
NREGS	853,380.00	990,000.00
OTELP	1,106,502.00	1,591,641.00
ACA-RLTAP-WATERSHED	1,533.00	8,178.00
NIRD	-	166,941.00
VSO	97,436.00	-
JTT FLOOD RELIEF	858,397.00	-
JTT LIVELIHOOD	392,309.00	-
WORLP-LST	201,045.00	225,916.00
WORLP-WATERSHED	1,168,582.00	652,578.50
GENERAL FUND	129,316.50	180,633.50
SALARY (From Interest)	-	12,226.00
CONTRIBUTION TO PROJECTS	2,240,812.08	1,957,630.00
TRAVELLING EXPENSES	14,010.00	-
BANK CHARGES	6.00	-
DEPRECIATION	550,242.00	522,719.00
PRIOR PERIOD ADJUSTMENT	-	78,181.00
AUDIT FEES & SERVICE TAX	133,483.00	188,540.00
TOTAL EXPENDITURE	46,619,486.72	38,739,419.91
SURPLUS TRANSFERRED TO BALANCE SHEET	74,049.32	156,736.59

The above Income and Expenditure Account, to the best of my/our belief contains a true account of all the Income and expenditure of the organisation for the period from 01.04.2010 to 31.03.2011.

CA. Sanjeeb K. Mohanty
Proprietor



Kailash Chandra Dash
Executive Director
Regional Centre for
Development Cooperation



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- SIMAVI
- Jamsedji Tata Trust (JTT)
- SIMAVI
- Government of Orissa and other donors





Looking Ahead



Prospective Plan 2011-2015

RCDC is finalising its plans for the coming few years. We are aware that the organisation has reached an age and size where it needs to reflect, consolidate and ensure it matures in a way that builds on the vast work it has already achieved whilst adapting to the changing development scenario.

We are preparing a new organisational framework, to go in line with new, more clearly defined thematic areas that will allow RCDC to secure its identity as a leading player in its field, regionally and nationally. We are comprehensively integrating communications and fundraising as key elements of the organisation, which will allow RCDC to grow and bring itself up to contemporary national standards. The plans are ambitious but, we believe, achievable. We are excited to take RCDC through this positive change, which will enable us to take a step closer to our vision.







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