

WHAT WE DO

➤ Sustainable Rural Livelihoods

Welfare and Social Security

Enhancing Access to Government Schemes and Programmes

There are a number of government schemes that are designed to improve livelihoods for the poor.

RCDC works extensively to enable CBOs and their apex bodies at the block and panchayat level to mobilise government schemes and programmes, particularly relating to food, livelihood and social security.

We play 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 AwasYojna, 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.

CASE STUDY: SripatiRai achieves financial security

When the only means for making money involves physical strength, people living with disabilities, such as SripatiRai, face an immediate disadvantage. Born and raised in the remote village of Bagbahali in the depths of Tamian Gram Panchayat of Bolangir district in Odisha, 45-year-old Sripati struggled for years to earn enough money to support his wife and 11-year-old son. Working in the fields as a farm labourer has been nearly impossible for him due to a disability affecting his legs, which he has had since childhood.

“I was trying to work in labour and farm collection activities, but it was difficult to earn enough money to live”, he explains, as he sits cross legged by a mud-built hut, out of the way of the searing, humid heat of the midday sun.

The local economy, typical for a village in this area of India, is based on agriculture and the majority of the 400 inhabitants of Bagbahali village rely on land cultivation and agricultural labour for their livelihoods. The work is physically challenging and its profitability is vulnerable to external factors, such as market fluctuations and climatic conditions – both of which can be extremely volatile. Indeed, floods and drought are a constant and increasing challenge for farmers in the region.

Sripati’s wife, SaraswatiRai, is also disabled and struggles to undertake farm labour work. The family were forced to mortgage the small area of land they owned in order to live. When Sripati’s father died, the funeral costs were an added burden and he had to borrow money from a money lender. The prospect of paying back the loan and the mortgage were formidable for the family.

Regional Centre for Development Cooperation (RCDC) started working in Bagbahali in 1996, focusing on natural resource management, capacity building of PRIs and food security. With RCDC’s help, a Food Security Committee (FSC) was established by the villagers. It initially went about identifying the most vulnerable people in the village. Sripati and his family were selected along with 16 others.

They were provided with a goat from which they could start a goatary. He now has three goats and has managed to pay off most of his loans through the sale of one, which is worth about Rs.3000.

RCDC also informed Sripati about certain government schemes that he is eligible for and helped him apply for them. He now receives a disabled person’s allowance, which he collects from the Gram Panchayat office. He now finally, after years of struggle, has some income security. RCDC has also linked him up with a government handicap grant for building, Indira AwasYojana, which he has applied for and eagerly awaits to receive.

“I would like to run a small grocery shop, selling rice and daily needs in the village”, he says. He has high hopes for his future, to live comfortably and support his family. “We would like our son to become a teacher” they say, cautiously. They know their only child faces difficulties ahead too, but they have confidence now that they have some financial stability and see brighter prospects ahead for the family.

IAY: Indira AwasYojana (IAY) was launched during 1985-86 as a sub-scheme of Rural Landless Employment Guarantee Programme (RLEGP) and continued as a sub-scheme of JawaharRozgarYojana (JRY) since its launching from April, 1989. It has been delinked from the JRY and has been made an independent scheme with effect from January 1, 1996.

FSC: Food Security Committee:is the village level institutions popularly known as KhadyaSurakhya Committees (Food Security Committee). The objective of the institution is to fight for the rights of the poor regarding their food and social security.

See our [Useful Links](#) page to get to the right government websites relevant to these schemes.