

# Annual Report

2011-12



Regional Centre for Development Cooperation

"Nurturing Resources, Empowering People"





# Annual Report

2011-12





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## *A message from the Executive Director*

Climate change is a reality today. The state of Odisha and the South Asian Countries on Bay of Bengal coast are considered to be extremely vulnerable. The habitations along the coast are experiencing significant developments like cyclone, flood, water-logging, high tide and saline inundations that puts livelihood under serious threat and leads to distress migration.

After successful initiation of project PARIBARTAN (on Climate Change Adaptation and Disaster Risk Reduction), a multicountry initiative between India and Bangladesh with the support of Concern Worldwide and European Union in the coast of Bay of Bengal, RCDC, partnering with SWAD and with support of UNDP and Aus-AID, lunched the project PRAYAS "Developing models and strategies for Climate Change Adaptation and reducing vulnerabilities of communities to climate change and disaster risk reduction through integrated water management" in disaster prone Puri district of Odisha.

The communities of Madhuban and Sukal Panchayats in Sakhigopal block of Puri district, in midst of the southern Mahanadi basin, face challenges with rising mercury level, erratic rainfall, frequent flood and drought, a lengthy water-logging period, constant lower agricultural yield, and inadequate/non-availability of drinking water supply system which is a compelling factor for the youth to migrate, leaving the women and elderly behind.

The project aims to build rain water harvesting structures and intake wells to address the drinking water supply, installing drainage system to address water logging and water facilities for agriculture during the summer, setting up of pisciculture centered horticulture interventions, kitchen gardens and introduction of low carbon agricultural interventions appropriate to the local conditions, that are both flood and drought tolerant to augment livelihood options.

From the beginning attempt has been made for Community Based Adaptation models in close collaboration with government administration and line departments that can be replicated by the communities, the government and other civil society organizations and help the government to go in for people centred Climate Change Action Plan.

I look forward to the success and replicability of the models with the robust work of my colleagues who are turning challenges into opportunities.

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

Kailash Chandra Dash  
**Executive Director**



## RCDC-Gearing up to Challenges

RCDC, when it came into existence in the year 1993, was faced with a situation when the rural poor in the state of Odisha, particularly the tribals, were mired in acute poverty, dispossessed of their land, the forests faced degradation, and their plight was worsened by state policies that did little to restore their rights over natural resources and provide them with sustainable livelihood options. RCDC deemed it proper to focus on the rights of people over natural resources, particularly forests, land and water and capacitate communities on matters of governance, sustainable use of resources, and provide the poor with livelihood options that they were accustomed to in the past but had lost them due to unsustainable use and encroachment into their territory by outsiders who exploited them to the hilt.

The work was not easy, however persistent advocacy and networking with organisations working on similar issues, bolstered by the enthusiasm shown by the communities themselves, gradually led to people friendly policies and the growing recognition that it was the people who should decide on the future course of action. While making the communities aware about government policies and schemes, RCDC helped the communities take full advantage of them. On the other hand the network wrestled with the governments at the state and centre to implement existing policies that would empower the people to take their own decisions and manage their own resources, encouraged by examples from communities that had delivered by such actions. Gradually policies were framed that reflected what the young people at the helm of the organisation had dreamt of while they set up the organisation.

Today the target area of RCDC's actions boasts increasingly empowered people and communities who are gradually taking it upon themselves to form local organisations and manage them in the manner shown by the dedicated management and staff of the organisation. Resources are now beginning to be managed in a sustainable fashion as they should be, livelihoods are being generated, value addition is the new mantra as the communities gear up to meet new challenges posed by a changing world, and advocacy work has been taken up more and more by the people themselves who are today more educated, more confident, and they are learning to take the lead role in fully exploiting government policies and schemes to shape their local environment based upon local realities. Success stories are being replicated and the policy makers now look towards the achievements of RCDC to better the condition of the people of the state.

Over the years RCDC has taken up new challenges by foraying into areas of climate change and disaster risk reduction prodded by the experiences of this vulnerable coastal state in recent years. It is being helped in this effort by committed donors and specialised international organisations of repute that are today employing the resources and skills of RCDC to give shape to their own goals and mission, larger goals that would have a say on national and international arenas. The challenges before RCDC are huge as it has to stand up and be counted among the large developmental organisations that are rightly alarmed by the fast changing scenario shaped by international forces where skewed development is pitting the very poor against the rich powerful lobbies and as a result the poor are getting poorer and being pushed into the background despite progress made on several fronts.

### OUR VISION

Rights recognized-  
Resources owned -  
Poverty is past.

### MISSION

To play a facilitative role  
in the struggle for rights  
of the poor and  
marginalized over  
resources, opportunities,  
institutions and processes



## The Core Values of RCDC

The core values of RCDC are transparency, inclusive decision making, financial integrity and accountability, people centredness and gender equity that are interwoven in all its programmes and interventions.

## Communities we serve

- ◆ Forest protecting communities.
- ◆ Poor, socially and geographically excluded.
- ◆ Forest dwellers and forest dependent communities.
- ◆ Marginal and small farmers.
- ◆ Women and children especially at risk.
- ◆ District and sub-district level networks of forest protecting communities.
- ◆ Coastal communities vulnerable to climate change associated natural hazards along the coast of Bay of Bengal in Odisha.
- ◆ Networks of CBOs and NGOs.
- ◆ Local self-government.
- ◆ Different government agencies associated with natural resource governance.

## Our Intervention Areas

RCDC is today known for its commendable work in the districts of Balangir, Nabarangpur, Deogarh, Kalahandi and Koraput where it has worked in the areas of natural resource management, particularly forest and land, given viable livelihood options to communities in the shape of NTFP based livelihoods and sustainable agriculture, mobilised government schemes and programmes to benefit the target populations, and also guided people on matters of self governance, natural resource management and village development plans, bio-resource governance (in Rayagada, Kalahandi, Gajapati, Koraput and Nuapada) and in evaluating REDD+ options at Saintala block in Balangir District. It has also helped communities affected by floods by providing them relief and rehabilitation.

RCDC has taken up on a pilot basis an initiative for ecosystem conservation and livelihood development under the international programme of Ecosystem Alliance. The programme intends for ecosystem conservation and livelihood development in five GPs of Rayagada, Gajapati, Balangir, Nabarangpur, and Mayurbhanj.

In the districts of Balasore, Nayagarh, and Balangir RCDC is going ahead with its water programme to provide access to and awareness about drinking water that is safe and free from salinity, fluoride poisoning and also working on sanitation facilities. It is taking steps to restore depleting ground water levels, and provide water for agriculture activities, keeping in view the flood prone and drought prone nature of the intervention areas. The focus has also been on building the capacity of the people, improving governance and replicating successful models. In the district of Puri RCDC has teamed with a partner NGO to implement a programme named Prayas that capacitates the community to face water availability and salinity problems in this coastal area that is prone to floods and saline water ingress and also build community resilience against natural disasters.

In the coastal districts of Jagatsinghpur and Kendrapara across the Bay of Bengal RCDC is implementing a multi-country initiative on climate change named Paribartan. The objective is to contribute towards poverty alleviation amongst poor communities in coastal areas of the Bay of Bengal, through reducing their risk to, and



building resilience of the communities as well as the authorities of adapting to the impacts of hazards and climate change that the region is increasingly prone to.

Overall the field demonstration projects are located in 13 districts of the state of Odisha covering around 1035 villages. For research, documentation, advocacy and networking RCDC is also operating in the Central Indian states.

### How we work - Our major strategies

The strategies of RCDC are aligned to its vision and core values and are applied in all operational areas with necessary adaptations to suit local circumstances.

- ◆ Most of RCDC's interventions are located in poorest districts of Odisha with focus on geographically and socio-economically excluded communities. While this approach will be further strengthened in the southern and western Odisha, RCDC will work with communities in the coastal belt that are at the receiving end of the vagaries of climate change.
- ◆ Our 'rights based approach' seeks to promote the rights of people and build their capacities for asserting the same. This approach stems from concerns regarding the (re)distributive aspects of conventional (economic) development impacts. We recognise that politically neutral strategies contribute to the depoliticisation of poverty, and continuing with the basic needs and welfare approach results in the perpetuation of impoverishment. We believe that the needs of the poor cannot be addressed without addressing their rights, where rights are not only legal rights but also entitlements and claims that stem from moral and ethical aspects.
- ◆ Our focus is on building and strengthening people's institutions/ community-based organisations with a focus on the marginalised and/or vulnerable sections to enable them to fight their own battles, with RCDC providing facilitative support. Capacity building is particularly focused on helping the poor become aware of the relevant policies and practices, analyse the causes of their deprivation, identify and prioritise issues, and acquiring necessary skills for planning, implementation, monitoring, review and evaluation of planned activities, among others.
- ◆ Working in partnership with CSOs, Networks, PRI institutions, Government Institutions, Academic and Research Institutions, and when needed with institutions in the market for our market access interventions.
- ◆ RCDC is committed to research and evidence based position and advocacy. Our position on issues concerning resource management and policies pertaining to people's development is based on research and evidence. We are aware that solutions to resource management issues are location specific and what has worked elsewhere may not be appropriate in the context of Odisha. RCDC is committed to finding location specific solutions and with that in mind it has been working to improve some of the government programmes and make those more community centric.
- ◆ Communication for information and education is one of the most critical and effective approaches that we follow and over the years we have developed a body of literature on issues pertaining to rights and resources. Our newsletters on community forestry and water, on account of their quality and content, have created a niche as well as demand among development practitioners, policy makers and bureaucrats alike. Many of our other publications have also been rated highly by the readers. We are dedicated to principle centered knowledge leadership.





### Our Executive Board

Sl No	Name	Age	Gender	Occupation	Position in the Board	Amount paid in 2011-12
1.	Dr. S K Pattnaik	59	Male	Development professional	President	Nil
2.	Mr. Biranchi Upadhyaya	49	Male	Development professional	Secretary	Nil
3.	Mr. Sanjoy Patnaik	48	Male	Development professional	Treasurer	Nil
4.	Dr. Manoj Pattnaik	48	Male	Development professional	Member	Nil
5.	Mr. Tapan Padhi	50	Male	Development professional	Member	Nil
6.	Ms. Priya Panda	42	Female	Development professional	Member	Nil
7.	Ms. Kalpana Mishra	52	Female	Development professional	Member	Nil
8.	Ms. Monalisha Mohanty	47	Female	Development professional	Member	Nil
9.	Dr. Alok Rath	47	Male	Development professional	Member	Nil

It is to be noted that the Executive Board members render purely voluntary service and do not receive any honorarium from the organisation. In the year 2011-12 no amount was paid to the Board members as honorarium.



## NRM Continues as the Focus Area

The livelihood of the most of the rural population of Odisha depends upon natural resources like land, forest and water. Thus the access to and control over these resources in the hands of people is vital. While the Government has been implementing food and social security schemes for the common man, the full impacts are yet to reach them, resulting in little improvement in the condition of the poor.

RCDC believes in the sustainable management of these natural resources by the communities for achieving food, nutritional, environmental and livelihood security for communities in its intervention areas. Natural Resource Management has been the strong point of RCDC since its inception in 1993. Having worked for a long time with expertise in this field, today it is considered to be a leader in the eastern region. During 2011-12 RCDC has worked in the areas of;

- ◆ Forest and Land
- ◆ Water

RCDC has been instrumental in setting up NRM plans in a number of villages thus ensuring forest, land and water sustainability and management.

### Target Groups:

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

RCDC has also engaged the local, State and Union Governments, civil society organisations and networks, and the media.

## Forest and Land

The forest resources of Odisha are dwindling very fast due to increasing biotic pressure, diversion of forest for non-forestry purposes and thus decreasing space for community's rights in public law making process. Such processes, on one hand, have fastened the momentum of forest depletion and on the other hand, squeezed the traditional local rights that forest dwellers, especially tribals, enjoyed since time immemorial. Odisha has the unique distinction of offering rich diversity in forest protection and management practices. Large sections of forest dwelling and adjacent populations mostly forming into informal groups have been protecting their local forests as a response to forest loss and economic gains. These groups known as Community Forest Management (CFM) groups have subsequently clubbed themselves at different levels to form federations that could demonstrate a collective force for initiating a rights bargaining process.



## Joint Forest Management

Unfortunately, in Odisha and also in most parts of India where such informal initiatives have existed, public law making process has refused to officially recognise them as viable resource management institutions. The reason for law not recognising these diverse management practices, first of all, is the unidirectional and homogenising tendencies of modern law making process. Secondly, since forest management is fast becoming a programme driven initiative, it is convenient for the state to recognise and push for one single model of participatory forest management, i.e. Joint Forest Management and now the concept of Forest Development Agency has been introduced to counter the non-monetary philosophy behind forest protection and management propagated by the CFM groups.

## Forest Development Agency (FDA)

FDA, like many other programmes, is not merely an accident that is intended for forest development, it is, on the contrary, a well thought out design for enhancing state control over forests, which is gradually going out of the hands of the state/forest department. Similarly, there is a drive for increasing the protected area network in the name of wildlife conservation, which is further to squeeze community's rights over local forests and increase state control. Therefore, the greatest challenge that the forestry sector is facing today is the constant and consistent aggrandisement of the State into community's domain leading to issues like non-recognition and inadequate space of informal resource management models in public law.

## Working towards Decentralisation

On the other hand, there is a visible growth of a vertical social capital that has been experienced as a result of networking of forest protecting villages at the cluster, district and state level. These collective forces have provided a platform for negotiation and interface with policy makers at different levels for changes in policies and practices. To the advantage of the forestry support groups advocating for greater rights to the communities,





overseas funding conditions to the State/FD have been a) the implementation of Forest Rights Act 2006 for creation of greater space for the tribals and OTFDs and their federations, b) Promotion of Sustainable forest management plans making the policy formulation process largely consultative and c) making decentralised forest governance structures hub of local area development. International research and knowledge management groups are now working on a mandate to strengthen the basis of the argument upon which the above conditions the have placed.

### The Forest Rights Act 2006

The implementation of Schedule tribes and Other Traditional Forest Dwellers Forest Rights Recognition Act 2006 recognises, records and vests rights in the forest dwelling communities to protect manage and conserve the forests. The law recognises and vests forest rights on scheduled tribes and other traditional forest dwellers, thereby undoing the 'historical injustice' done to them. Besides, the Act provides for 'Community Rights' and rights over 'Community Forest Resources', thereby ensuring rights and ownership of tribal and traditional forest dwelling communities over 'Common Property Natural Resources'. On the other hand, the present Government at national level through Forest and Environment Department is advocating in favour of decentralised forest governance and has given due importance to Gramsabha to act as a major institution in forest protection and management. In another development the State Panchayatiraj Department is now going to introduce PESA Rule after collecting feedback from the respective line departments. So, looking into the entire forestry scenario, it can be inferred that the communities have to play a vital role as far as forest governance is concerned at the local level.



### Sustainable Forest Management

In view of the above RCDC has been consistently driving people and communities for managing the forest they use by encouraging them to reduce pressure over forest, enumerating plant species available in the forest, thinning, cleaning and planning for future (artificial natural regeneration). RCDC has been a pioneer in protection of forest and its management in Odisha through Sustainable Forest Management. Managing forest through people's action for protection (thengapali, or stick rotation), conservation and use has been the major thrust area and challenge for RCDC to maintain a balance between society and increasing demand for forest products as well as preserving forest health and diversity. Forest plan has been developed and incorporated in the micro plans of village with consultation of villagers/community keeping in view community needs through Forest Protection Committees at village level.







## What RCDC achieved during 2011-12

### 1. Enhanced access of Forest Managing Communities and Implementation of FRA 2006

- ◆ Out of 20 programme villages, eight Community Forest Rights claims with area demarcation, sketch map preparation of the traditionally accessed area has been done by SDLC after joint verification and submitted to DLC. Within this quarter 27 more CFRs have been deposited and out of that 14 CFRs were from Balangir and 13 were from Deogarh. In total 138 Community Forest Rights (CFRs) have been submitted. In case of IFRs, 337 individual claims were submitted out of which 111 claimants have got their titles.
- ◆ Networking with out-state NGOs and networks have been given importance within the quarter. Networking with Civil Society Net has been established to remove the operational blocks in actualizing the CFR.
- ◆ Forty six participants (22 female and 24 male) availed training on CFM practices and FRA claim process in Kalahandi. Zonal Meetings of DFF with DLC and SDLC on FRA was organised in Balangir where 56 participants were assembled and shared their issues and a plan of action was prepared to expedite the FRA process.
- ◆ The DFFs in Deogarh, Kalahandi, Balangir and Nayagarh have been strengthened after zone meetings. The general body meeting in Deogarh has established the democratic process within the organisation and the community faith over democracy.
- ◆ Support agency IGSSS has asked RCDC to conduct a training on FRA acts and Rules for its partners in three states (UP, Jharkhand and Odisha). RCDC has conducted it to the satisfaction of the agency.

### 2. Promotion of Sustainable Forest Management in 20 Villages

- ◆ Barring 10 continuing villages of Deogarh and Kalahandi, five villages in Balangir have expressed their willingness to prepare community based SFM plans and conserve their forest in accordance with the plan. In case of Nayagarh, the Nayagarh Jungle Surakshya Mahasangha has taken the responsibility of implementation of the SFM plan. Forest development activities were undertaken and the villager's forest income in the older 10 villages from SFM areas has increased by 25% in comparison to the last year.
- ◆ In 20 villages, Community Biodiversity Registers have been maintained by the community members and the community awareness level on Biodiversity Act 2002, FRA 2006 has been increased.
- ◆ Soil arresting methodologies, pest control mechanisms and water retention methods have been adopted in the SFM areas. It helps in crop enhancement and stream flow in the area.
- ◆ Village Development plan (VDP) for Siarimalia has been approved at NABARD level. Farmers club and VDC has been constituted and capacitated to operationalise the VDP.
- ◆ So far as convergence is concerned, five ponds have been excavated for five FRA titleholders of Siarimalia and others are in process. In Golamunda, 61 FRA title holders have been linked with MGNREGS for different activities, predominantly for land leveling activities.
- ◆ Five schedule caste households have been linked with pisciculture department to get cycle, weighing material and buckets. Other 10 households shall get nets and boats.

### 3. Policies and Practices for Forest Resource Management

- ◆ Organised / conducted jointly Odisha State Livelihoods Workshop in Hotel Suryansh to highlight the major livelihood issues and put forth the demand before the Government authorities, legislatures for specific changes.
- ◆ In Delhi, RCDC has suggested to the Minister of Tribal Affairs to dismantle the operational blocks to facilitate the CFR implementation and to vest the forest rights in favour of the FDSTs and OTFDs.
- ◆ Participated and presented the opinions on MMDR Bill 2011 and is undertaking a study on "Health issues in mining areas of Odisha".
- ◆ The state alliance on FRA has developed a model CFR process implementation plan and is going to experiment the same in 50 villages of Odisha. RCDC is concentrating on 10 villages of Rayagada.
- ◆ Documentation activities of traditional knowledge and skill on CFM have been completed.

#### Village Development Plan for Siarimalia

RCDC has been facilitating the process of community based Sustainable Forest Management models in the light of FRA (section 5) in 15 villages of Reamal, Golamunda and Saintala. This initiative on the one hand promotes decentralised forest governance and strengthens the rights regime of the communities on natural resources on the other. Since, the dependency on forest for livelihood is correlated with agriculture based livelihood and both of them in a way or the other support the life and livelihoods, the communities believe that agricultural development reduces the pressure from the forest to a great extent. Forest protection, conservation and management by the communities is affected to a great extent by the resource base i.e., resource scarce and resourceful areas and the techniques of forest management. A Village Development Plan (VDP) was developed for the village Siarimalia in Reamal, and was submitted to NABARD which was accepted. The objectives of the VDP were as follows:

- ◆ Constitution of Farmers club, Village Development Committee and strengthening of women's SHGs, youth organisations.
- ◆ 100% financial inclusion of the institutions as well as the individual households.
- ◆ Infrastructural development in the village for easy access to the government line departments.
- ◆ 100% implementation of livelihood schemes and social security schemes for all eligible individuals and households.
- ◆ Sustainable use of water resources for irrigation purposes through construction of check-dam, diversion canals and renovation of traditional water bodies.
- ◆ Construction of communication facilities like pucca roads and other developmental facilities.
- ◆ Capacity building of women and youths to take up micro entrepreneurship activities with regard to MFP and other trades.

#### Sustainable Land Management

RCDC has been sensitising and promoting the community initiatives for sustainable land management practices for meeting rising food demand, sustaining ecosystem services and livelihoods. The CBOs have consistently pressurised the administration to take up initiatives for land development in the project areas through convergence with various departments.



At Balangir, during this period about 35 HH title holders entitled through FRA have been linked with various land development activities to avoid land degradation and increase production. Under MGNREGS, 86 nos of water conservation and 63 water harvesting structures have been mobilised based on our micro plans. Similarly 48 farmers have been linked with Horticulture Department for mango plantation in 30 hectares.

In total 138 Community Forest Rights (CFRs) have been submitted. In case of Individual Forest Rights (IFR), 337 individual claims were submitted out of which 111 claimants have got their titles.

## Water

RCDC is one of the leading organisations of the country with significant focus on water as a resource for community and environment development. This focus is drawn from three important function of water - to sustain life; maintain basic dignity; and further development. The new Perspective Plan, under development, gives further emphases on 'Water' as a central and/or integral theme to all its activities both at the grassroots and advocacy levels. The year 2011-12 was a testament of this statement. RCDC enhanced its interventions on water at various levels that encompassed livelihoods, dignity, health, ecology and standard of living aspects. RCDC has a thematic team on water. The team has three distinctly identifiable but supplementary functions: (a) the team independently implements pilot projects where water is central to the interventions; (b) it provides resource support to other programmes being implemented by RCDC's other thematic teams and regional offices; and (c) take along the civil society together to pursue community and environment focussed policy advocacy, researches and dissemination on water.





While other facets of water management are being dovetailed into various other programmes on forest and land, the water programme is giving specific focus on two very important aspects of water caused insecurity through direct pilot implementation in 295 revenue villages of 32 Gram Panchayats in four districts of Odisha. The projects focus on trying out community and local resource based mechanisms to deal with two very important problems that beset the rural people (a) drinking water and sanitation insecurity in rural areas; and (b) water caused life and livelihood insecurity. One project, initiated in the reporting year with support from UNDP India and AusAid, adopts Integrated Water Management as the tool for disaster risk reduction and livelihoods enhancement in a vulnerable area which has become waterlogged due to climate change and anthropogenic interventions. This pilot is being implemented in two Gram Panchayats of Puri district. The other project, supported by Netherland headquartered SIMAVI, tries to address issues of drinking water and sanitation insecurity through a mix of community centric rights based approach, community action, and mainstreaming of government schemes to further water and sanitation security. These pilot projects aims to establish a model of rural water supply, sanitation and hygiene for different socio-geographic region of the state.

### Grassroots coverage of the pilot programmes

The pilot initiative to establish replicable models of drinking water and sanitation covers 38,580 households of 284 villages in 30 Gram Panchayats and 100 schools of Baleswar, Nayagarh and Balangir districts.

The pilot on IWRM based life and livelihood security in a disaster prone coastal area covers 15,200 Households of 11 villages in two Gram Panchayats of Puri district.

### Working with partner NGOs

One distinguishing feature of RCDC's intervention on water at the grassroots is that it works with partners and prefers to provide resource support to organisations and bodies which are doing wonderful work at the grassroots. The two programmes directly implemented by the thematic team on water are implemented at the grassroots through local partner NGOs.

For the pilot on drinking water and sanitation we are partnering with PRAVA and LIFE in Baleswar district, CART in Nayagarh district and ASA in Balangir district. For the pilot of IWRM based life and livelihood security we are partnering with SWAD in Puri district.

### Some key achievements

- ◆ Community members of 37 villages taking pledge to make their village clean and have initiated their own efforts in that regard.
- ◆ Two Gram Panchayats receiving 'Nirmal Gram Puraskar'.
- ◆ Project of a student from our intervened school got recognition at the national level.
- ◆ Community members organising a number of demonstrations, rallies and submitted a lot of memorandums to assert their rights.
- ◆ Lobbying with the government to revise MGNREGS, TSC and NRDWP increased.
- ◆ Formation and strengthening of Jalabandhu forums at various levels.
- ◆ Preparation of micro-plans for 30 villages and start of action.
- ◆ Detailed vulnerability assessment in two Gram Panchayats.
- ◆ Renovation of a 11 km long canal which facilitates drainage during flood times and acts as irrigation channel during summer season.





### Improving WASH scenario through 'Jalabandhu'

At a time when the community is unaware about the benchmark standards on water, sanitation and hygiene; and government schemes largely remain exclusionary in nature and at the same time the community involvement remains poor; a coordinated approach is required to improve the shoddy drinking water, sanitation and hygiene situation in rural areas. The pilot project on WASH is trying to unite the community with various other stakeholders through a forum which we have named as 'Jalabandhu'. This is a binding body that networks the community, Panchayat and representatives of five key government departments. Jalabandhu forums are being facilitated at four levels; i.e., Village, Panchayat, Block and District levels.

Till the end of the year the project had facilitated formation and strengthening of 219 'Gram Jalabandhu' committees. We have three broad based 'Zilla Jalabandhu' networks at all three districts. The 'Jalabandhu' groups and committees are having bearing at three levels: i.e., (a) increasing community's own level of participation in maintaining and improving the water and sanitation sources/infrastructures and hygiene; (b) joining hands to assert their rights to achieve drinking water and sanitation security; and (c) facilitating a communication channel between the community and other stake-groups.



Besides these two pilot programmes, which are being directly implemented by the thematic team on water, various other programmes implemented by the organisations having focus on food security, disaster risk reduction, climate change mitigation, agriculture and other livelihoods interventions also have significant focus on water as part of their intervention packages. Such interventions by respective thematic divisions or regional offices have been reported at other places in this report.

RCDC believes in root based activities. It draws its advocacy strength from the learning from actions at the grassroots; research, studies and publication; and networking with different stakeholders. In the reporting



year RCDC was involved in policy advocacy at the government levels, to pressure for 'water security plan' at the micro level; to pursue evaluation and modification of Total Sanitation Campaign (TSC); to improve government's draft Groundwater Bill; to improve state government's Climate Change Action Plan; and to modify MGNREGA guidelines. RCDC pursued with its advocacy effort by collaborating with or/and leading civil society efforts at the state, regional and national levels. In the reporting period RCDC closely worked with the civil society associations like Odisha Water Forum, SOPPECOM, NCAS, Wada Na Todo Abhiyan, Capnet, End Water Poverty, Fresh Water Action Network, Odisha Jala Mancha, and Odisha Coalition on Panchayatiraj (OCPR) to generate unified civil society opinion on key policy level issues like 12th Five Year Plan period, Odisha Climate Change Action Plan (OCAP), National Water Mission (NWM) and Agriculture policy. Some of the challenges that RCDC's programmes try to address are quite new or have recently emerged. Thus RCDC also collaborated with leading technical and educational organisations like IIT, Bhubaneswar; CRRI, Cuttack; CIFA, Bhubaneswar; Gramalaya, Coimbatore; Geography and Economics departments of Utkal University; KIIMs, Bhubaneswar; and CGWB, Bhubaneswar to find out and fine tune strategies.

In the coming year RCDC has plans to digitise available information in GIS and web platforms to facilitate better analysis and disseminations of information. Networking of Jalabandhu at the state level and further collaboration with the civil society bodies will be given emphases to pursue the vision of water security with learning from the pilot programmes and also RCDC's other programmes where water interventions have been mainstreamed.

#### CASE STUDY-1

### Beginning from the tube well: Community taking ownership

The tube well was the life line for at least 48 households of Bayaudar village. Yet the residents were hardly bothered about its maintenance and consequently were suffering a lot. The tube well was malfunctioning often and the surrounding was dirty and unhygienic. The things have changed now with self motivated actions initiated by the village Jalabandhu committee. The residents have not only cleaned the surrounding, they have also formulated rules for use. They have not stopped there as the villagers have also constructed a raised platform around the tube well and proper drainage. Now all are happy - villagers and also the concerned department. This was a small initiative. Now residents of 37 villages are taking up community efforts in regularly cleaning their water sources and roads.

#### CASE STUDY-2

### Ideas for change: Idea marts facilitating sharing and generation of ideas

It is an irony that common people are quite oblivious about drinking water, sanitation and hygiene standards. The idea marts were used to change that and generate community member's ideas to improve rural water supply and sanitation. One such idea mart was organised at Nayagarh during 'Zilla Mahotsav' in April 2011. The mart at the five day long congregation drew huge crowd. Besides getting exposed to other ideas on drinking water and sanitation through various demonstrations in the stall the visitors also participated in the events like quiz and idea slips.

## Helping Communities with Livelihoods & Governance

RCDC has, apart from encouraging NRM, also helped the target population increase their basket of livelihood opportunities at their place of habitation. This has not only engaged people, but also increased income and checked migration besides enabling the communities to realise the importance of natural resources and their conservation. This has been done in a sustainable manner without putting undue strain on the existing resources or adversely affecting the ecology of the region. The various livelihood options facilitated by RCDC are;

- ◆ NTFP-based Livelihoods
- ◆ Sustainable Agriculture
- ◆ Mobilisation of Govt Schemes & Programmes
- ◆ Bioresource Governance
- ◆ Save Eastern Ghats - Odisha Ecosystem

### NTFP-based Livelihoods

Apart from agriculture and wage labour, collection and sale of NTFP is a very significant livelihood activity for the rural poor who are dependant on forests for a variety of products. The lives and livelihoods of people living in and around forests are critically and intricately linked with forests. A major portion of earnings of the rural men and women comes from the NTFP collected for the purpose of consumption as well as sales. Rural poor, especially the landless, depend on the forestland for collecting products during the lean summer season for consumption as well as sale purpose. Working in rainfed areas as well as in districts where agriculture is worst affected due to recurring drought pushing farmers to poverty, the forest produce seems to bring a way out for the rural poor to cope with and substitute earnings to live. RCDC helps the communities to protect forests through community forest management and facilitates to undertake different activities like manufacturing leaf plates, hill brooms and the like. Tol and Mahul, Char, Kendu are being sold as sustainable livelihood options. Taking to a step further RCDC has been trying to entitle people with their rights over the land through Forest Rights Act so that they develop an ownership over it.





## Ensuring livelihoods through NTFP marketing at Balangir

It can be cited that almost 5077 HH from Deogaon, Khaparakhol and Patnagarh block collect NTFP and earn livelihood to ensure food security for about four months on an average from about 57 villages.

Sl.	Village name	GP name	Nos of HH	NTFP business	Employment provided ( Month)
1.	Antarala	Dhandamal	84	Hill broom, Char, Mahua, Kendu Leaf	4
2.	Sialjore	Brahmanijore	82	Siali leaf ,Sal leaf, Kendu leaf and hill broom	4
3.	Budabahal	Bandhpada	70	Mahul, Tol, Kendu leaf	4
4.	Bilaspur	Dhandamal	80	Mahul, Tol and leaf plates	3
5.	Dumerjor	Landapathar	230	Lac, Mahul and Tol	3
6.	Rugudipali	Sarasmal	70	Siali leaf ,Sal leaf and Mahul	3
7.	Dabmal	Gerda	50	Mahul, Tol, Kusum, Char, Kendu leaf and hill broom	2
8.	Barahamunda	Gerda	91	Mahul, Tol, Kusum, Char, Kendu leaf and hill broom	3
9.	Rengali	Gerda	210	Mahua, Tol, Kusum, Char, Kendu leaf and hill broom	3
10.	Laxmimunda	Gerda	70	Mahul, Tol, Kusum, Char, Kendu leaf and hill broom	3
11.	Goilpeta	Gerda	100	Mahua, Kendu leaf and Char	2
12.	Ghasian	Ghasian	100	Mahua and Kendu leaf	1
13.	Chelkhai	Ghasian	75	Mahua and Kendu leaf	1
14.	Bagbahali	Ghasian	30	Mahua and Kendu leaf	1
15.	Burdabahal	Larambha	85	Mahul, Char and Kendu leaf	2
16.	Khuripani	Larambha	82	Mahul, Tol, Char, Kendu leaf and Hill broom	3
17.	Chandanjuri	Larambha	118	Hill Broom, Mahul, Tol, Char, Kendu leaf	4
18.	Indpur	Larambha	120	Mahul, Char, Sal leaf, Siali leaf and Kendu leaf	3
19.	Brahmanipali	Larambha	81	Hill broom, Mahul, Tol and Kendu leaf	3
20.	Chualiudar	Dangbahal	135	Mahul, Kendu leaf, Hill broom, Char, Tol and Sal leaf	4
21.	Gabhara	Dangbahal	101	Mahul, Kendu leaf and Hill broom	3
22.	Maral	Khuntasamalai	105	Mahua, Kendu leaf and Char	1
23.	Daitarimuda	Khuntasamalai	125	Mahua, Kendu leaf and Char	2
24.	Gandamel	Khuntasamalai	50	Mahua and Kendu leaf	1
25.	Dhodmahul	Khuntasamalai	64	Mahua and Kendu leaf	1
26.	Gadagadchhapar	Khuntasamalai	55	Mahua and Kendu leaf	1
27.	Gadiajore	Dangbahal	75	Kendu leaf, Mahul, Tol, Char, Hill broom, Bhui neem	4
28.	Pandripani	Dangbahal	107	Mahul, Tol, Siali leaf	4



29.	Gunchadihi	Dangbahal	72	Mahul, Kendu leaf, Harada, hill broom, Amla	4
30.	Siddhimunda	Phatamunda	60	Mahul Tol, Char, Hill broom, Kendu leaf, Lac	3
31.	Ladangabhata	Phatamunda	82	Mahul, Tol, Char, Hill Broom, Kendu leaf	3
32.	Thekochhapar	Phatamunda	87	Mahul, Tol, Char, Hill Broom, Kendu leaf	3
33.	Laherjori	Phatamunda	23	Mahul, Tol and Char	2
34.	Baraghaga	Phatamunda	41	Mahul, Tol and Char	1
35.	Guniabahal	Phatamunda	65	Mahul, Tol, Char, Hill broom, Kendu leaf	1
36.	Bagbahali	Tamian	110	Mahul, Tol, Char, Hill Broom, Kendu leaf, Sal leaf, Tamarind	3
37.	Dabkani	Tamian	119	Mahul, Tol, Char, Hill Broom, Kendu leaf, Sal leaf, Tamarind	3
38.	Ainlatunga	Tamian	321	Mahul, Tol, Char, Hill Broom, Kendu leaf, Sal leaf, Tamarind	4
39.	Jalpali	Tamian	69	Mahul, Tol, Char, Hill Broom, Kendu leaf, Tamarind	2
40.	Gahirpali	Tamian	62	Mahul, Tol, Char, Hill Broom, Kendu leaf, Tamarind	1
41.	Salepali	Salepali	65	Mahul, Char, Kendu leaf, Hill Broom, Tol, Neem, Tamarind	2
42.	Karlamal	Salepali	140	Mahul, Tol, Char, Kendu leaf, Neem seed, Hill Broom, Tamarind	3
43.	Rahenmal	Salepali	95	Mahul, Tol, Char, Kendu leaf, Neem seed, Hill Broom, Tamarind	2
44.	Niljibahal	Salepali	82	Mahul, Tol, Char, Kendu leaf, Neem Seed, Hill Broom, Tamarind	3
45.	Turlamal	Salepali	91	Mahul, Tol, Char, Kendu leaf, Neem seed, Hill Broom, Tamarind	3
46.	Badbabejuri	Salepali	120	Mahul, Tol, Char, Kendu leaf, Neem, Hill Broom, Tamarind	2
47.	Dhatuk	Jogimunda	42	Mahul, Tol, Kendu leaf	2
48.	Jambahal	Jogimunda	38	Mahul, Tol, Kendu leaf, Char	1
49.	Mallikmunda	Jogimunda	60	Mahul, Tol, Kendu leaf	2
50.	Nandupalla	Nandupala	295	Mahula, Tol, Kendu leaf, Mango, Bela, Amla, Bahada, Harida, Nimba	4
51.	Nuapalli	Nandupala	27	"	4
52.	Kandrabhata	Nandupala	51	"	4
53.	Dudumdarah	Nandupala	63	"	4
54.	Mahulapalli	Nandupala	23	"	4
55.	Kuthurla	Nandupala	40	"	4
56.	Tambipadar	Nandupala	62	"	4
57.	Chanhabahali	Nandupala	27	"	4



## Ensuring livelihoods through NTFP management and trade at Koraput

RCDC stresses in its rural development policy and upcoming perspective plan the importance of sustainable management and preservation of natural resources, as a means to rural livelihood equally as a source of income and environmental goods and services which is relevant in MDGs 1, 3 and 7. It has carried out its intervention, community based forest enterprises and forest governance, on "Strengthening community based Non Timber Forest Produce (NTFP) management and trade for livelihood enhancement and ecological security". Within a period of six years RCDC has created 21 vibrant self help cooperatives and two federations, and one producer company (cooperatives of about 6845 primary producers) in five districts in the state which have been working for NTFP based gainful self-employment and skilled wage employment.

### Our learning at Koraput

- ◆ Sustainable forest and NTFP management and livelihood security can be ensured through efficient and effective management of small-scale community enterprises and improved forest governance.
- ◆ Capacity building efforts related to promotion of institutions will be more effective through 'learning by doing and hand holding' mode.
- ◆ Promotion of 'sustainable forest based livelihoods' would be more successful, where community has been mobilised and are able to access forest resources through village level Forest Protection Committees (VFPCs).
- ◆ Value addition efforts are critical in enhancing income of the forest dwellers and tribal families associated with collection of NTFPs.
- ◆ It is relevant for the cooperative to develop linkage with the local market, rather than trying to explore distant or export market.





### Key achievements of Koraput, 2011-12

- ◆ Enhanced capacity of primary producers and their institutions for management and trade of NTFP and agriculture produces to maximise sustainable livelihood benefits through improved processing and marketing.
- ◆ Enhance the income level of poor communities through skills training, capacity building, and enterprise development approaches
- ◆ Improved technical capacities of forest dwelling communities and their institutions to manage forest resources sustainably to increase forests regeneration/cover and protection through community action ( e.g. pro-poor silviculture practices, community based natural resources conservation strategies etc)
- ◆ Significantly improved engagement of forest dwelling communities in the policy debates for their ownership, control and management over NTFP as per Forest Rights Act and PESA

### Highlights of the Year 2011-12 at Koraput

- ◆ About 6000 most vulnerable tribal families were engaged round the year in entrepreneurship activities to increase household incomes from Rs 12000 per annum.
- ◆ The disease burden and health care expenses of per family reduced to Rs 2000 per annum with use of forest based processed food item and herbal medicine
- ◆ Trade business of around Rupees three crores
- ◆ Forty common job work centres and 12 Common Facility Centres functioning as centre of skilled wage employment
- ◆ Two retail outlets in Koraput and Bhawanipatna are trading and showcasing NTFP value added products
- ◆ Brand image established through participation in state and national exhibition at Bhubaneswar and New Delhi
- ◆ Thirty two women community resources persons with average monthly income of Rs 1500 are in the driving seat of institution management and are up scaling the programme intervention
- ◆ Thirty one Chief Executive Officers are boosting trade of herbal and nutritional products being developed by the community enterprises
- ◆ Fifteen NTFP management protocols and product profiling developed and practiced
- ◆ Three hundred tribal women farmers in Rayagada are exclusively on roll for Pigeon Pea cultivation

### Gender sensitiveness built into the programme

The NTFP based livelihoods programme has focused on gender sensitive adaptation and planning of marginalised ST and SC women, community, who are disadvantaged by their geographical location, their ethnicity, and their social status. The programme has been exclusively for SC, ST and women and the planning, implementation, and monitoring, has been fundamentally participatory in nature. The programme has put into place processes and systems that include the interests of excluded groups. It has economically empowered women through producer cooperatives which also support women in addressing gender issues. Four primitive tribal groups have been in exclusive focus. Besides, an important outcome of the project has been improved income and enhanced livelihood for women and tribal groups. The programme has provided targeted support on capacity building and





training on adaptation of relevant intervention like kitchen garden fuel wood/fodder plantation seed and grain banks and other such women managed activities that render them less vulnerable to climate change and variability.

### Sustainable Agriculture

Many of the villages where RCDC works fall under the rainfed area where agriculture is worst affected due to recurring droughts which pushes the rural people to poverty. Agriculture being the mainstay of livelihood people's expectation from it increases and so also dependency. The agriculture extension systems of the government and institutions focus mainly in improving the crop production and productivity through technology dissemination and input supply rather than overall improvement of income of the farmers and their livelihoods.

RCDC visualises farm based livelihood on a sustainable basis to improve efficiency in farm production, raise farm income and satisfy basic needs using indigenous technology and even involves land use diversification with alternate crops. Further, the communities are sensitised to substitute food crops in the place of cash crops like cotton. Various initiatives of linking with the Department of Horticulture and the Department of Agriculture & Food Processing have been successful as the farmers of our project area are undertaking various horticultural activities and have developed orchards of mango and banana. Similarly farmers are being trained to adopt practices like SRI, use of liquid manure and vermi compost for high yields and for controlling pests during cultivation and thus minimising expenditure.

### Agricultural Activities at Balangir

Activities	Number of farmers benefited	Area covered (in acres)/Unit
SRI	92	214
Line sowing	41	100
Organic farming	33	48
Vermi compost	53	53
Pulses(minor millets)	37	28
Onion store	8	8
Mango plantation	27	73
Kitchen garden	557	32
Diesel pump	22	22
Deep well	17	





## Case Study

### Individual Effort Rejuvenates Traditional Processes at Bagbahali

Bagbahali, a village in Patnagarh Block of Balangir district, is in the limelight for its ground water recharge and has been awarded the Bhumijal Sambardhana Puraskar by Ministry of Water Resource, Government of India in 2011, primarily driven by the efforts of Shankar Bhue, the President of the Farmers Committee in the village, and other villagers.

This farmers committee was formed with the facilitation of RCDC for taking up united efforts for SMC measures, incorporating traditional knowledge in agriculture and enhancing productivity. Participating in different trainings organised by RCDC and watershed increased the confidence of Shankar Bhue who also read extensively on the subject and put his knowledge into practice.

Bhue proposed to make earthen check dam instead of loose bolder check dam right from the ridge point of the forest. Further he also opposed the watershed committee which was supplying rings for ring well as it would block the water flow from percolating to the well. Instead he proposed making the well with stone embankments without any use of cement except for three feet from the top. These small initiatives assisted in recharging the ground water of the region thus becoming eligible for the National Award.

## Case Study

### Food sovereignty can be achieved through committed efforts and use of traditional skills and practices

A small and marginal farmer with his committed effort has now achieved food security for his family members and the man who used to struggle for his bread and butter has now the responsibility of the poorest of the poor of 50 villages. He is now a role model of farmers of his area and leading organic agriculture which has inspired many other farmers to emulate him and stabilise their agriculture, income as well as food security.

Jhasketan Sahu, a resident of Rengali village in Patnagarh block, was quite poor. With about 1½ acres of agricultural land holding and a six member family to feed and manage, he was struggling to meet both ends. That 1½ acres of land has been his only source of livelihood since 30 years. Over these years he has toiled hard on his land but always remained hand to mouth.

The intervention of RCDC changed his life and it turned to be a boon for such poor, small and marginal farmers who were committed to excel through Food Security Committee formation, identification of issues of the poorest of poor and planned for different trainings, exposure, linkages for such farmers. Regular meetings, trainings and exposure prompted him to opt for supplementary income apart from agriculture which was the formula or key to his success. The return from his agriculture field has doubled and he is now harvesting mounds of vermi compost. The income from all these activities paved the path for purchasing a cow for milk and manure purpose. In the process he has not only improved his net income from agriculture, he has also succeeded in creating a supplementary source of livelihood.





Last year, Jhasketan earned Rs 18,000 by selling vermi compost and worms. It increased his annual income by nearly 230 percent. And he did not sell all his compost harvest. He used a bulk of the compost in his own fields. For many it is a fairytale kind of success but not for Jhasketan. "It is the fruit of labour and attention," he says and gives part of the credit to the Food Security Committee of the village. "The Food Security Committee has motivated me through out, trained me and helped me enlarge my vision" he says.

Future plan of Jhasketan in his own words, "As I am assigned with the responsibility, as a President I will focus on organic agricultural practices, enhancement of traditional millets and paddy cultivation, to conserve traditional food practices of villagers through Alternative Public Distribution System in the lean seasons."







## Case Study

### A Seed Initiative for Lasting Impact

Dhablu Santa (45) is a resident of Sagjaba, a hamlet under Chaklapadar GP in Jharigam block. The hamlet is habited by 31 Kondh families having small holdings which barely feed the families throughout the year. For immediate cash needs the communities rely on NTFP and maize cultivation on slopelands, which requires high inputs that they can really afford. Thus there is a vicious circle of poverty and every year the farmer gets disillusioned by money lenders and outsiders.

Dhablu received seed support for kitchen garden from RCDC that helped him bring monetary benefits to his family. "Since many farmers were given seed packets, I also eagerly received the pouch, with a hope that the plants over the newly built farm pond bund might deter soil erosion." That is how Dhablu started sowing for kitchen garden. "We tribals are forest dwellers and live a nomadic life throughout," he says. Permanent agriculture and kitchen garden concepts are something foreign to the communities, for their staple food constituted rice, dal and other tubers, fibres and green leaves collected from forest. But as forest covers are being squeezed up leaving little room for additional food supplements in their daily diets, the communities have started settled agriculture, but that remained limited to paddy, grams and minor millets.

In 2009, Dhablu was tagged with MGNREGS for farm pond and the work completed in 2010. "I used to get five quintals of paddy earlier without applying any chemical fertilisers, but now I have learnt to prepare organic compost and manure and the same field yields 10 quintals," he proudly states. Agriculture system is quite natural as far as paddy is concerned, once sown the fields are never weeded or fertilised. But the context has undergone change in the recent past, especially in the wake of commercial maize introduction in the district.

Considering the adverse consequences of commercial maize cultivation, RCDC focussed its intervention on food security through capacitating and educating the communities on production of region specific food crops including vegetables, which would supplement their nutritional requirement at household level, with an impact that was never conceived of. "Last year I earned Rs 2500 from selling brinjal and lady finger that were grown on these bunds and this year so far I have sold vegetables worth Rs 2200, apart from feeding my children," informs a happy Dhablu. The standing chilly and beans crop on the bund still indicate another harvest to the tune of Rs 2500 in this season.

Dhablu has become an example in his village and around. The family, whose annual income barely crossed Rs 5000 few years back, is now able to secure the food requirement till eight months a year and meet the cash requirements. This is not all, this year he has gone for pisciculture in his 20'X20' farm pond, "if everything goes alright, I will expect Rs 10,000 from these Rs 1000 fingerlings," says an optimistic Dhablu.



## Case Study

### Cash Crop to Food Crop

A group of farmers in rural Balangir district, Odisha, are indulging in a brave experiment. They are turning away from cash-crop cultivation and are back to traditional methods of organic, sustainable agriculture. About a decade or so ago, swathes of farmers across India began farming crops that were apparently an attractive, easy income option. Big multi-national companies, such as Monsanto, offered seeds, pesticides and chemical fertilisers, drawing thousands of indebted farmers into their cultivation methods. In Balangir district, fields that were once covered in a rich range of plants, mostly for local food production, are now full of clones of the same crops. Stretching into the hazy, humid horizon is a sea of Genetically Modified cotton.

Yet, over time, local communities have witnessed the productivity of the land reducing, soil erosion, pesticide-related health issues and food shortages. Because less rice is being produced locally, farmers are forced to buy it where they had earlier produced enough to feed themselves year-round. Food security has been further exacerbated because the farmers are vulnerable to the fluctuations of the open market for the sale of their cotton, making their incomes insecure. Adding to this strain are the noticeable changes in climate over the past few decades, with increasingly erratic rains, decreasing water levels and changes in crop and animal diseases.

RCDC has been working in Maral since 1996 on land and water management. Prior to RCDC's partnership with the village, the farmers were not aware of the government schemes they are entitled to. RCDC linked them with the Horticulture Department, who provided each farmer with three years' support, which they have used to convert to organic mixed-cropping. The Horticulture Mission has also supported them with training, and its representatives have attended village meetings, on top of the financial support. A Food Security Committee was set up (2001-2002) in the village, with RCDC's help, to prioritise and provide linkages to the government. The farmers who received the grants have purchased mango trees, seeds, boundaries and other essential items to help them convert successfully. Out of 30 farmers in the village who were cultivating cash crops, 19 have now converted to mixed cropping. They are growing various pulses and mangoes.

In order to improve the productivity of their rice paddies, many of these farmers have adopted a method introduced to them by RCDC. Systematic Rice Intensification (SRI) is a simple and cost-free way of increasing the output of rice production. It has been working in Maral village with great results, according to the farmers. Using mixed-cropping and organic fertilisers, the land is better nourished and productivity will remain steady. This method also promises to make these farmers better equipped to cope with the gradual effects of climate change. When asked if they are pleased with the change, these farmers smile and nod excitedly. For a one-time investment they are confident their futures are more secure than their peers who are stuck in cotton farming. They now have food to eat, rather than cotton to sell, and they can make some profit from any surplus they take to market.

Although the change is slow, more and more farmers are hearing of the work RCDC has done in this area and are interested in learning more about mixed-cropping and its successes. In the area around 42 acre, the fields no longer look like a sea of monoculture cotton - it is now interspersed by patchwork squares of fields full of vibrant organic pulses and trees.



## Mobilisation of Govt Schemes & Programmes

The infringement of rights, whether due to livelihood strategy, age, social, or economic, is at the core of all of RCDC's initiatives, both at Balangir and Nabarangpur. All of RCDC's programmes address the denial of rights in one form or another, whether due to the denial of opportunity such as income, employment, or credit or the denial of resources such as land and water. In every case, the programmes have aimed at assisting people to develop coping mechanisms or more structured community based strategies to manage the denial of these rights. Many of the programmes go even a step further, working with people to understand and challenge the complex social, political and economic factors that determine their situation.

In Balangir this has meant accompanying the landless groups in the process of advocating for changes in the allocation of land through Forest Rights Act. In Patnagarh block of Odisha this has meant supporting communities to develop the skills and confidence they need to participate in the political arena. Supporting their efforts to achieve sustainable livelihoods through both material and non-material interventions have always been the core of RCDC's work. As an adopter of participatory planning and implementation for interventions, increasing focus on food security mirrors our experience in the remote and marginalised areas in which we work.

Central to the evolution of RCDC's interventions, particularly as many are relatively long term, are the connections we make between the alleviation of food insecurity, building the capacities of community based organisations such as Food Security Committee, initiating and strengthening dialogue with other development partners, such as local government agencies responsible for the delivery of local services. Our long term presence in many marginalised and drought affected areas has enabled strong relationship of trust to be established in almost 15 Panchayat of Patnagarh block and Deogaon Block of Balangir district as a result of which people demand their rights and entitlements through interface with different stake holders and government officials. Various social security schemes and MGNREGS were framed and launched by government to contribute to food security through monetary support for augmenting livelihood base for the food vulnerable households. RCDC's aim has been to enable community avail benefits and entitlements under different schemes and programmes through good governance.







## Mobilisation for Government Programmes at Balangir

The following projects, schemes and programmes were mobilized by the FSC & SHG for the benefit of villagers

SL. No	Scheme/ Programme/Act	Total	Remark
1	MGNREGA	10376	Job card issues
		3124	Employment demanded
		4224	Employment offered
		2851	Employment provided
		31	100 days work
		108	Rural connectivity
		86	Water conservation and water harvesting
		40	Renovation of traditional water bodies
		23	Drought proofing
		4	Land development
2	Food and Social Security Schemes	30	Antodaya card
		55	Annapurna card
		587	Old age pension
		215	Widow pension mobilized
		70	Disabled pension mobilized
		158	Emergency feeding mobilized
		46	Families received NFBS
3	Forest Rights Act	646 Individual Claim 42 Community Claim	646 individual claims having 1205 acres and 42 community claims having 29061 acres approved by Gram Sabha and sent to SDLC
4	Livelihood Security	375	Farmers mobilized seeds form agriculture dept (SRI demonstration)
		16	SHGs tagged with SJSY
		28	SHG linkages with MDM
5	National Rural Health Mission	620	Pregnant women and lactating mothers who were linked with Janani Surakshya Yojana
6	National Horticulture Mission	48	Farmers linked with the National Horticulture Mission to start mango, banana and other fruits and vegetable cultivation.
7	Drinking water	9	3 villages were linked with RWSS department to drinking water supply


## Highlights of work at Balangir for the Year 2011-12

The initiatives resulted in significant success in empowering the target communities and through that leading to streamlining of PDS and other food entitlement programmes, linking deserving people to appropriate schemes, enhancing community participation in FRA and forest conservation, further streamlining of NTFP harvesting and trade, creating ecological assets, creating income generating activities and enhancing agricultural productivity.



### Major achievements this year include:

- ◆ Streamlining of PDS: People are getting benefit of PDS is appropriate quantity, quality and in time. Food and nutritional supplements provided through the ICDS improved after close monitoring by the CBOs, particularly the SHGs. The FSC and SHG federation successfully lunched demonstration, padayatra, and interface to protest illegalities.
- ◆ NRM plan: Ten numbers of micro plans have been approved in the Gram Sabha out of thirty four micro plans prepared.
- ◆ Convergence: Six hundred forty six individual claims of 1205 acres and 42 community claims of 29061 acres approved by Gram Sabha and sent to SDLC out of which 14 claimants were entitled with land and further land development activities has been carried out leveraging Rs. 50,000 each.
- ◆ Cash crop to food crop: One hundred and two cotton farmers and 34 sugarcane farmers have been reverted back to paddy and mixed crop.
- ◆ Women of Pandripani, Siddhimunda, Bagbahali and Thelkochhapar are carrying out forest protection activity in their respective villages.
- ◆ Savings increased to Rs. 69, 97,879 among 1622 women of 135 Self Help Groups having federated at GP and Block level who are addressing their issues to administrations.
- ◆ Different forms, applications, information on government programmes, village plan, toposheets and cadastral maps are stocked in 12 resource centers for use of villagers.
- ◆ During the period 791 numbers of farmers were linked with Rastriya Kissan Vikas Yojana for cultivation of sunflower in 590 hectares, green gram in 75 hectares and mustard in 40 hectares.
- ◆ An exposure trip was made to Keonjhar, Rayagada and Mayurbhanj to understand struggle of indigenous community on land rights, consequences of mining and devastation, resistance to mining lease, resistance to commercial plantation, initiative to protect seed diversity, traditional farming and ecology as well as sharing ideas regarding biodiversity related issues e.g. policies, programmes and threats to the biodiversity areas in tribal areas and coping mechanism, e.g. organic farming and bio-manures. The farmers representing RCDC participated with almost 36 varieties of traditional seeds and exchanged 15 types of seeds from the Indigenous Peoples Exchange Programme at Keonjhar. Major seeds demonstrated and displayed in the seed fair were Chingudi, Nausathia, Luhasara, Malkhana, Maljani, Karanji, Nadiapani, Baunsakarmi, Champa, Kalachampa, Sankar chini, and other seeds like Guruji, Mandia, Chana, Arhar, Karanja, Maize, Gua etc which were of traditional species were exchanged among the farmers.
- ◆ Training and Capacity Building of Farmers: Various training and orientation programme were organised with an objective to introduce organic compost and liquid. Follow ups were also made through regular visit to agriculture field.
- ◆ Empowering Peoples' Organisation Members: Regular meetings of Lok Sangathan (Peoples' Organisation) were organised at village, Gram Panchayat, Regional and District level. Participatory reflection with Lok Sangathan leaders were continuously held to empower them and take the lead after the exit of the programme. Linkages of lok sangathan were made with other networks like Samuhik Marudi Pratikar Udyam, Padampur, NAWO etc.
- ◆ A strong network of NGOs, Community Based Organisations (CBOs), Peoples' Organisations (POs) and different movements has been constituted for successful implementation of food and social security schemes and programmes. The second district level interface resulted in formation of a coordination



committee which is now steering the overall implementation of the programme. This steering committee includes NGOs; DFF representatives; member from Gandhamardan Suraksha Action Committee; Jalabandhu Manch, Palli Vikash Jalachhaya Mahasangh, members from Zilla Adivasi Kalyana Sangha; member from Pataneshwari Khadya Suraksha Mancha, Patnagarh; member from the SMPU-Balangir, of the project area.

- ◆ Linkages with other Agencies/Institutions/Corporations: RCDC initiated the process of linking the watershed committee with other agencies, institutions and corporations for larger benefit of the community. The Watershed Committee is now in a position to discuss and link the entrepreneurs and innovators developed to market their products and ensure better livelihood. As a result, better livelihood opportunities could be generated and maintained along with inspiration to others to adopt the better practices.
- ◆ Initiatives beyond Project Work: Besides the project work of livelihood generation and asset creation, RCDC has been involved with the community in getting their rights and entitlements under Forest Rights Act (FRA), Right to Information (RTI), and National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (NREGA) etc. along with direct help to the community members, RCDC also provided training on the aforesaid Acts. Volunteers were built up and are contributing to the community. The watershed committees were sensitised to promote the said acts and help community get their entitlements. Moreover, trainings were imparted on other issues like water and sanitation. NTFPs and its market linkages etc. Exposure trips were organised to inspire the community members to follow sustainable agriculture.

### Steps of Interventions

- ◆ Educating and sensitising community on various food, social security and government schemes.
- ◆ Identifying vulnerable groups and target groups.
- ◆ Facilitating communities to develop micro plans, NRM plans and DRR plans.
- ◆ Identifying issues and strategy planning through appropriate plan of action.
- ◆ Institution building at grass root level and further federating those institutions at Gram Panchayat level as well as Block level and capacitating them.
- ◆ Assuring and ensuring rights and entitlements through advocacy measures.
- ◆ Convergence with different government departments for enhancing food productivity and employment opportunities.
- ◆ Analysing various issues and finding gaps through reflect processes and planning for further course of action.
- ◆ Networking with likeminded institutions for larger advocacy for proper implementation of food and social security schemes.

### Our work in Nabarangpur

Nabarangpur district is located in South-Western Orissa. The district has a geographical area of 5294 sq km and houses nearly 1 million populations in 880 villages and 4 towns. The scheduled tribes and the caste constitute 55 and 15 percent of total population respectively. The majority of the rest belongs to backward communities. The literacy rate of the district is 34 percent and it is worst among the women and tribal which is around 20 percent. This district stands lowest at 1.5% tribal women literacy rate i.e. lowest in the country. More than 70 percent of the families are below the poverty line. This district is part of the KBK (Kalahandi-Bolangir-Koraput) region, which is well known globally for its natural resources, poverty and hunger, tribal culture and identity, drought/





flood/other disaster, labour migration and sale of children because of poverty. Despite rich natural resources of the area a majority of the people continue to suffer for their basic survival. Mismanagement of resources, poor implementation of different development programmes, inadequate awareness, education and organisation among the inhabitants of the area have aggravated the food security situation for worse.

Agriculture is the primary source of livelihood for the majority of the population. The farming in the forests and on hills has been a traditional practice and easier though the production was less, the area under cultivation was more comparing to the population. Now population has increased substantially; restriction to farm in forest has become stringent; land under shifting cultivation and dongar cultivation has become denuded and the production and productivity have been severely affected. Further, lack of irrigation facilities makes the entire agriculture practise unsustainable and unpredictable. Only 20% of the total lands under cultivation are irrigated.

Agriculture alone is no more viable to ensure food security for the forest dwelling communities. Similarly a variety of forest products including food was available earlier in these areas and because of deforestation the production and collection of forest produces have substantially reduced. People used to eat a variety of roots, tubers and leaves and now this has been reduced to a great extent. The food basket has changed because of the changes in the resource management pattern and the intervention by the government.

Our work at Nabarangpur involves the three Blocks of Jharigam, Kosagumuda and Dabugam.

Our efforts at improving the lot of the population in these blocks include;

- ◆ Grassroots institution building
- ◆ Capacity building of the community level institutions
- ◆ Beneficiary selection & monitoring of Government livelihood and social security schemes
- ◆ Land entitlement through FRA & CFR
- ◆ Engagement in MGNREGS
- ◆ Assets building on entitled land through MGNREGS convergence
- ◆ IGP training to SHGs
- ◆ Promotion of micro enterprise
- ◆ SHGs linkages
- ◆ Seed money support to the groups
- ◆ Promotion of organic farming
- ◆ Collective production, procurement and marketing through cooperatives
- ◆ Conservation, use and management of natural resources for secured livelihood

### **Target Groups:**

We target marginalised communities, CBOs and other local institution at different level with particular emphasis on ST, SC and vulnerable families. We also engage the local and state government, civil society organisations and the media



### Target Areas:

We work in three blocks of Nabarangpur district namely Kosagumuda, Dabugaon and Jharigaon covering almost 100 villages.

### Thematic Area:

The key areas of work involved in on Natural Resource Management and Livelihood & Governance.


RCDC, Nabarangpur contributes to the marginalised forest dependent communities to manage their forest effectively and use the law to ensure their entitlement over their property and provide them with sustainable livelihood and food security measures.

### Mobilisation of Government Schemes

Sl.No	Govt. Schemes	No. of Beneficiaries
1	Old Age pension (OAP)	642
2	Indira Awas Yojana (IAY)	562
3	Farm Pond (FP)	189
4	AntodayaYojana (AY)	38
5	Community Centre	3
6	Plantation	1
7	Check dam	7
8	Land Development	164
9	Water Harvesting Structure (WHS)	8
10	Mo Kudia (MK)	225
11	SHG Linkage	34
12	Village Road	38
13	Concrete Cement Road	35
14	Odisha Disable Pension (ODP)	30
15	Madhu Babu Pension Yojana (MBPY)	79
16	Indira Awas Yojana (IAY) on FRA Land	337
17	FRA	267
18	Vasundhara	183
19	Horticulture Department (backyard plantation)	2500
20	Mamata	12

### Highlights of our work at Nabarangpur for the Year 2011-12

- ◆ As a part of institutional building process RCDC has taken care of building institutions at different levels. So at village the VDC are developed and as process the VDCs are federated the into PDC (Panchayt Development Committee) at Panchayat Level and Area Development Committee (ADC) at the operational area level as a result at Nabarangpur we have developed 6 PDCs and one ADC.

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- ◆ In its operational area in Nabarangpur RCDC is grooming almost 350 SHGs to empower women both socially and economically and provided seed money support to 42 SHGs for taking up income generation activities.
  - ◆ All 83 village micro plans developed by the community were passed by the Pallisabha and approved by the Gramsabha.
  - ◆ To receive the land entitlement is a right of the forest dwellers. We at RCDC facilitate the community as well as the individual to receive the land entitlement under FRA and in this year we have facilitated near about 700 individual claims and 12 community claims out of which 367 individuals received titles and community claims are under process.
  - ◆ Under FRA convergence the beneficiaries who receives the FRA are linked under different schemes like IAY, schemes of horticulture and agriculture, Mo Kudia, land development and farm pond under MGNREGS and in this year we have linked
    - ◆ 170 beneficiaries under Indira Awas Yojana & Mo Kudia scheme.
    - ◆ 3650 beneficiaries under Plantation Scheme of Forest Department.
    - ◆ 50 beneficiaries with agricultural schemes of Agriculture Department.
    - ◆ 2300 beneficiaries linked with backyard kitchen garden of Horticulture Department under NHM.
  - ◆ MGNREGS plays an important role in providing employment opportunity to its beneficiaries so it is necessary that all eligible job seekers be registered and demand for job as a process. We at RCDC identified 112 eligible households who applied for Job Card under MGNREGA from three villages that is Soraguda, Dorgulla and Sandhidongri villages and all 112 families received their Job Cards.
  - ◆ Rural infrastructures like connectivity through CC Roads provides employment opportunity to the community and this year 5 CC roads has been mobilized through MGNREGS for an amount of Rs.30 lacs.
  - ◆ Besides the project work, RCDC has been involved with the community in getting their rights on different social security schemes, and as a result:
    - ◆ 321 eligible beneficiaries were included in BPL list with recommendation of Pallisabha.
    - ◆ 354 eligible beneficiaries received Old Age Pension.
    - ◆ 110 eligible beneficiaries received Widow Pension.
  - ◆ Commercial cropping of maize in Nabarangpur region has created a disaster in the sense of maximum use of chemical fertilizers and pesticides, therefore we at RCDC promote and facilitate the communities in preparation and use of organic manure and pesticides (IMO and Magic tonic). In six villages namely Majhiguga, Chelibeda, Charpadriyaguda, Phulbhata, Dorgula and Motigam the villagers have taken up it as an enterprise and are marketing different IMO and Magic tonics.
  - ◆ In two villages, that is Motigam and Chelibeda, the villagers took initiative for SRI and line sowing method of cultivation, which was promoted by RCDC and the Agriculture Department and the results encouraged farmers of the other villages, who are now planning to go for the same in the next agricultural season.
  - ◆ Promotion of millet farming to maintain the indigenous food habits and agricultural practices. As a result in Jamjholia village 5 acres of different millets are cultivated by farmers.
  - ◆ The idea of sustainable agriculture (ginger and turmeric) in place of maize was discussed with the villagers of Ekamba and they agreed.



- ◆ In Karlasoda and Pardiguda villages, the VDC is taking initiatives for regenerating forest in 200 acres.
- ◆ Ecosystem registers are prepared for 11 villages.
- ◆ The Mundaguda VDC has applied to BDO regarding renovation of school pond and the work has been completed.
- ◆ In ten villages the VMM has undertaken village cleanliness work (Soraguda, Durkadongri, Dorgula, Sandhidongri, Kocheiguda, Nityaguda, Motigam, Jhaliaguda, Charpadriaguda and Mendra )
- ◆ The Soraguda, Jhaliaguda and Kenduguda VDC has organized health camp utilizing the village level GKS (Gaon Kalyana Samitee ) funds where 150 patient with different diseases have undergone treatment and provided medicine by NRHM.
- ◆ Grain bank established by Menjhor VMM.
- ◆ 34 eligible beneficiaries are identified and benefited under MAMATA scheme from three villages and another 7 under Janani Surakhya Yojana (JSY )
- ◆ In four village the VMM has organized health checkup camp for 29 ANC and 7 PNC (Soraguda , Dongriguda, Pariabeda and Dorgula )
- ◆ Ten numbers of new tube wells were installed in the block after a discussion with BDO
- ◆ Community Center building has been constructed by the Majhiguda VDC with own contribution.
- ◆ The Soraguda VDC has taken decision on the ownership of the sand on Beleri river bed and applied for the same.
- ◆ In regular interface workshop at Block, the Block Administration, civil societies, CBO representatives and media discuss issues of the areas and the way ahead.

### Steps of Interventions

- ◆ Institutional building at the grass root level such as VDC, VMM and SHGs and further federating those institutions at Gram Panchayat level as well as Block level and capacitating them.
- ◆ Awareness generation and sensitizing community on different livelihood and social security schemes
- ◆ Identifying vulnerable groups and target groups.
- ◆ Facilitating communities to develop village development/micro plans.
- ◆ Identifying issues and strategy planning through appropriate plan of action
- ◆ Assuring and ensuring rights and entitlements through advocacy measures.
- ◆ Convergence with different government departments for enhancing livelihood options and employment opportunities
- ◆ Analyzing various issues and finding gaps through reflect processes and planning for further course of action.
- ◆ Networking with institutions at different level for larger advocacy for proper implementation of livelihood and social security schemes.



## Bio-Resource Governance

The bio-resource governance programme is being implemented in select-forested pockets of Koraput, Rayagada, Kalahandi, Gajapati, and Nuapada districts. Forest dependent communities are the direct target groups. This programme is taking initiatives to empower the forest dwelling communities to better control, influence, manage the forest resources effectively. As a result of the programme the forest dwellers will have increased awareness of their rights, and increased ability to make their voices heard by government and other policy makers. The forest protecting communities would have the opportunities to directly monitor the forestry sector development schemes and programmes in order to conserve forest and enhance forest based livelihood options. Local self-government bodies especially Gram Panchayats (village councils) would be motivated to promote model of bio resource governance in their territory. The programme is working with the government institutions, and local non-governmental organisations to ensure the rights of tribals and other forest dwellers over their land are recognised as per Forest Rights Act, 2006.

The specific areas of operation of this programme are;

- ◆ Turiguda and Dangasorada GP of Rayagada district,
- ◆ Bhurtigarh GP of Kalahandi district,
- ◆ Tarangada GP of Gajapati district,
- ◆ Nilavadi and Kumbhariput GP of Koraput district, and
- ◆ Sunabeda sanctuary area of Nuapada district.

### The programme seeks to achieve the following;

- ◆ Increased capacity of institutions to manage the local resources, to deal with issues and complexities in decentralised resource governance, implements policies, and laws relating to local resources.
- ◆ Model terms of reference for guiding local natural resources in 3 GPs prepared referring laws and circulars on PESA, land, agriculture and its governance, Forest Rights Act, and Bio-diversity Act.
- ◆ Increased debate at district and state level for decentralised forest governance and amendments for necessary changes in policies and practices.
- ◆ Increased access of local community and their institutions to information relating to Forest Rights Act, bio resource governance, Bio-Diversity Act.
- ◆ Increased role of forest protecting communities in monitoring the implementation of forestry sector development programmes especially the overseas programmes.
- ◆ Large volume of information gathered on forestry schemes and programmes, forest related conflicts, land diversion and grabbing, contract farming, and mining.

### Highlights of the year 2011-12

- ◆ Four numbers of villages (Karlakana, Madu, Bangarada and Tinapadar) in Turiguda GP have submitted claims to SDLC for community forest rights under Forest Rights Act 2006.
- ◆ Under OGLS 349 beneficiaries have received land records in Turiguda GP (Madhapadar-24, Karlakana-39, Tinapadar-20, Turiguda-34, Lundurubadi-50, Banagarada-54, Madu-32, Dhelapada-42, Hemburu-23, and Huruguda-31).

- ◆ During this period DLC, Rayagada approved six numbers. of community claims. (Hemburu, Panchubadi, Lundurubadi, Turiguda, Huruguda and Madhapadar).
- ◆ Thirty six numbers of claimants received legal recognitions for individual forest occupation under Forest Rights Act 2006 in Turiguda GP. (Dhelapada-14, Madu-3, Lundurubadi-1 Madhapadar-2, and Panchubadi-16)
- ◆ Seventy three numbers of forest land holders, who were entitled under FRA 2006, submitted their applications at GP office for Indira Awas Yojana (IAY). This is a conversion programme of the Odisha government. (Dhelapada-14, Madu-3, Lundurubadi-1 Madhapadar-2, Panchubadi-16, Ramanapada-21, and Karlakana-16,)
- ◆ Four numbers of village level micro level plan prepared in the village (Madhapadar, Hemburu, Dhelapada, and Panchubadi) and as a result three numbers of beneficiaries linked by Arnapura Yojana. (Hemburu-1, Dhelapada-1, and Panchubadi-1)
- ◆ After a strong state level advocacy 13 numbers of beneficiaries at Ramanapada received wages under MGNREGA which was pending for last two years.
- ◆ Twelve numbers of bio-resource registers have been prepared in 12 villages in Turiguda GP and 15 numbers of bio-resource registers have been prepared in 15 villages of Bhurtigarh GP
- ◆ Village level impact assessment survey has been completed for 727 households in 14 villages (including two hamlets) in Turiguda GP and for 349 households in 12 villages in Bhurtigarh GP
- ◆ Mega campaigns for preventing forest fire have been organised in both Turiguda and Bhurtigarh GP.
- ◆ Fifteen numbers of Forest Protection Committees have been formed under section 4,(5) and 3,(I) of FRA 2006 in Bhurtigarh GP.
- ◆ GP level Bio-Resource Management Committee has been formed in Bhurtigarh GP and both the committees in village level and GP level have been trained on their role and responsibilities for protection and conservation of forest.
- ◆ The BDO, Lanjigarh has made a visit to Kapelpadar, and as a result of this visit water harvesting structure plan has been recommended for this village in the action plan. In addition to this he declared 10 emergency cards (PDS) for vulnerable communities of the village Kapelpadar.
- ◆ Two ponds of Mundabahal and Kadomaska have been renovated.
- ◆ Organised special Pallisabha in village Kapelpadar on the community rights on Bamboo under FRA 2006. The resolution of this Pallisabha has been circulated to Sarapanch, Bhurtigarh, SDLC, DLC, SLMC and Forest Secretary, Government of Odisha.
- ◆ The primary collectors got good price by selling marketable products and for the first time Harada has been procured and sold, which has fetched a good price.
- ◆ Linkages have been established with local market for marketing of certain NTFPs in Bhurtigarh GP.





## Case Study-1

### Local Governance Strengthened in Kapelpadar, Kalahandi

Kapelpadar is a remote village in Bhurtigarh GP of Lanjigarh block in Kalahandi district having 17 schedule tribe households. These tribes are the primitive tribal group called Kutia Kondh community. Government programmes and schemes were out of reach of the villagers of this village. After intervention of RCDC, the villagers knew about their traditional rights over their forest and were able to make claim in SDLC on the forest rights over their forest under Forest Rights Act 2006. Bamboo is the significant forest produce in their forest. They cannot collect and get direct benefit from bamboo. Forest Department is selling bamboo from their forest to J.K. Paper Mill. After intervention of RCDC, the villagers came to know that Forest Rights Act 2006 has given the rights over bamboo. Then the villagers wrote letter to Gram Panchayat, Chairman of SDLC, DLC and SLMC that they have made claim over their forest and until the claim has not been decided no programme can be undertaken in their claimed forest according to the section 3 (i) of the Act. The impact of this initiative has been effected in the neighbouring villages and those villagers also began to write letters in the same manner.

## Case Study-2

### Awaiting a Better Yield Through SRI

From the ancient period man has been practicing cultivation for his livelihood. Time to time he has developed various method to improve the agriculture practices. In this present era the developed technology in agriculture are being adopted by the farmers. This type of modern method in agriculture is SRI method of paddy cultivation by which a farmer can get better yield than other methods.

In Nilavadi GP of Bandhugaon block under Koraput district, the farmers have started to SRI method of cultivation after intervention of RCDC. As an initial step the staffs of RCDC highlighted SRI in several fields in the Gram Panchayat. The village Chekapadu is one of those fields. In a village meeting at Chekapadu, a discussion on SRI method took place. The farmers in that village were confused about this new approach of the SRI method. But bravely a 65 years old man Dasana Pidika agreed to practice SRI. That decision led him a bright way to get better result from paddy cultivation.

Dasana started SRI method very soon and followed all the processes. Due to unavailability of marker Dasana transplanted with the help of a plastic rope. After 10 days of transplantation Dasana arranged a Mandwa weeder and used in his field for weeding. Then he applied "Handikhat" a type of purely organic manure in his field.

After two months of transplantation, now we see a smile on the face of Dasana. Now the number of tillers in a paddy bush are 35 to 40 whereas generally 15 to 20 tillers are seen in traditionally cultivated field. Dasana is very happy to see his green and fertile field. He says his labour and patience has given him good result. He expects at least 30 quintals of paddy from his 1 acre of land which was giving 18 quintals earlier.





## Pilot Project on Evaluating REDD +

RCDC is working on forestry and natural resources management with sustainable livelihood for the forest dwellers and community. Both REDD+ and SFM programmes are being conducted in Saintla block under Balangir District. The intention of the intervention is to create awareness among the village forest protection committees at village level, SHG and zonal level forest committees to protect the forest and for proper utilisation of natural resources.

The programme is spread over 33 villages in six GPs, Saintala, Karamtala, Deng, Kermeli, Kandhakelegaon and Jhikidungri, of Saintala Block in Balangir District.

### Target Communities:

- ◆ Scheduled Castes/Tribes
- ◆ Forest Dwellers/Communities

### Objectives of the Programme

- ◆ To build capacity of RCDC and the members of the Forestry Federations and their networks on understanding the REDD+ concept in detail, in dealing with REDD+ with various stakeholders and encountering and solving the possible challenges that may emerge during the discussions with various stakeholders.
- ◆ To assess the readiness of the Forest Protection Committee for REDD+ in selected 33 villages of the Saintala block in Balangir district.
- ◆ To facilitate preparation of a possible long-term action plan for promotion of REDD+ in selected 33 villages of the Saintala block in Balangir district.
- ◆ To develop the Project Identification Note (PIN) and a Project Design Document (PDD) on REDD+ as per the format.

### Highlights of the Year 2011-12

- ◆ Two hundred numbers of individual claim and 25 numbers of community claims were submitted to the SDLCL, Titlagarh under Balangir District.
- ◆ Out of 25 community claims, completed five numbers of joint verification and 140 individual claims under FRA completed the joint verification.
- ◆ Out of 140 numbers of individual claims, 26 beneficiaries have already received their titles.

### Save Eastern Ghats - Odisha Ecosystem

The 'Save Eastern Ghats-Odisha Ecosystem' (SEGOE) programme is a new, ambitious, and prestigious initiative for RCDC that started with effect from October 2011. This programme is among the select few major initiatives for ecosystem conservation and livelihood development in India under the international programme of Ecosystem Alliance. The SEGOE programme intends for ecosystem conservation and livelihood development on a pilot basis in five GPs of Rayagada, Gajapati, Balangir, Nabarangpur, and Mayurbhanj. During the year 2011-12, a baseline survey alongwith preparation of Ecosystem Register (introduced by RCDC for the first time in the world) has been started in these five GPs three of which belong to the famous eco-sensitive areas namely Shimilipal, Mahendragiri, and Gandhamardan.



The programme will make use of the community potential and initiatives for natural resource conservation and management, but with an ecosystem approach in which they will identify/recognise the symbiotic relationship between the biotic and abiotic elements.

### **Objectives of the Programme:**

The objective is to improve the scope of ensuring relevant and better ecological services for the local communities of the Eastern Ghat ecosystem of Odisha for an environmentally protected life and sustainable livelihood.

### **Nature of the intervention:**

- ◆ Community mobilisation and capacity building for ecosystem conservation
- ◆ Ensuring rights of the local communities over their resources, under PESA/FRA
- ◆ Sensitisation
- ◆ Policy advocacy
- ◆ Research
- ◆ Linkages with various government schemes

### **Area of Operation**

- ◆ Sorishpal GP(Mayurbhanj)
- ◆ Emaba GP(Nabarangpur)
- ◆ Kainpur GP(Gajapati)
- ◆ Sunakhandi GP(Rayagada)
- ◆ Nandupalla GP(Balangir)

### **Target communities:**

Local indigenous communities including Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups like the Hill Khadias, the Saoras, and the Dongria Kandhas.

### **Highlights of the year 2011-12:**

- ◆ First meet of the local partners organised
- ◆ The concept and format of Ecosystem Register developed and introduced.
- ◆ Collaboration in organising the first regional consultation on PVTG livelihood and NRLM, in Odisha
- ◆ Preparations for baseline survey and Ecosystem Register started.



## Climate Change & Disaster Risk Reduction

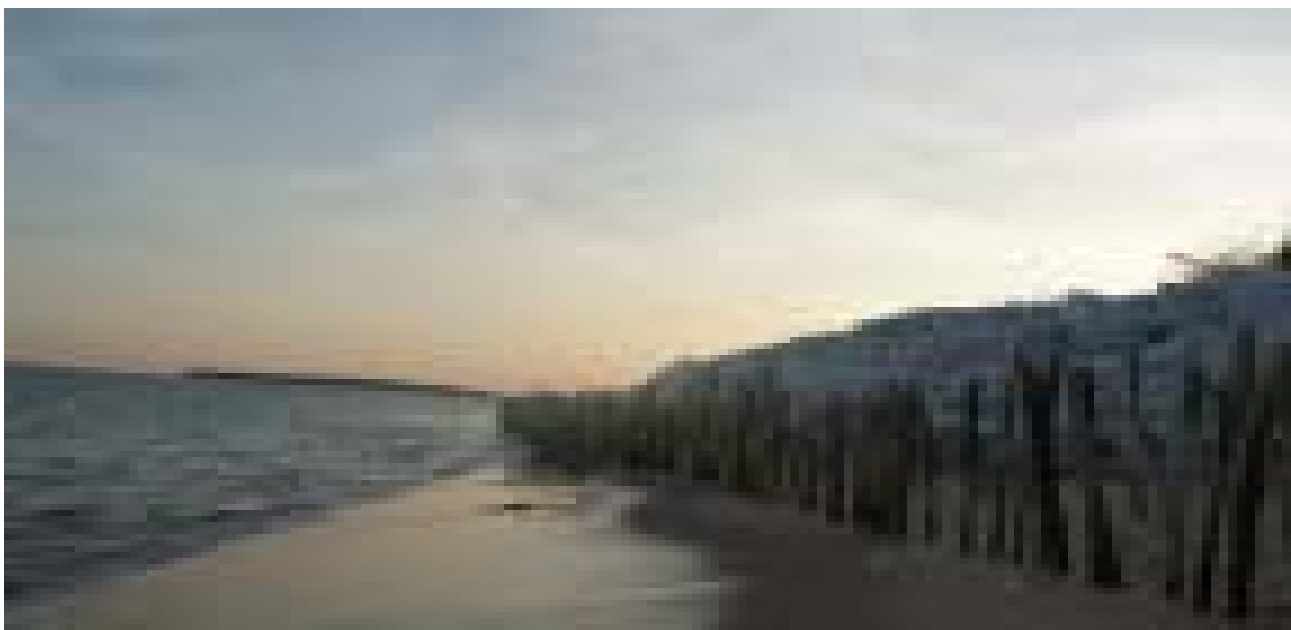
The impact of climate change, rising sea levels and the double intrusion of natural and man-made disasters on the lives and livelihoods of the poor communities of the coastal plains of the Bay of Bengal is manifold. This include persistent and chronic poverty due to continued exposure to stresses and shocks, depletion of fresh fish stocks due to higher temperatures and salinity intrusion, reduction of agricultural land availability and fertility due to erosion and salinity intrusion, threat of extinction of varied ecosystem and bio-diversity of mangroves, food insecurity due to extreme weather conditions and their negative impact on agricultural production and their resulting effect on health and nutrition, displacement and migration as land availability and livelihoods opportunities reduce, the possibility of conflict in host communities etc. The continual erosion of inhabitants' assets bases has been exacerbated by the lack of application of national climate change policies and a lack of capacity to develop or implement appropriate DRR/climate change strategies and action plans at local government level.

### Objective:

The overall objective is to contribute towards poverty alleviation amongst poor communities in coastal areas of the Bay of Bengal, through reducing their risk to the impacts of hazards and climate change. The specific objective is to build resilience of coastal communities along the Bay of Bengal by increasing their ability, along with that of authorities and organisations, to prepare for and adapt to the impacts of hazards and climate change.

### Area of Operation

The project is being implemented in two districts of Orissa, Jagatsinghpur and Kendrapara. It covers 84 villages across 8 Panchayats and targets 54,148 beneficiaries directly (27,581 male and 26,567 female) and 589,602 beneficiaries indirectly (296,224 male and 293,378 female).





## Target Communities

The target communities are the poor coastal communities vulnerable to the effects of climate change. Local government functionaries and civil society organisations who are actively involved in the development, planning, and implementation of disaster risk reduction activities are also targeted.

## Estimated Results

- ◆ Increased capacity of state and non-state actors leading to the integration of appropriate DRR and climate change adaptation activities into relevant multi-sectoral development plans.
- ◆ Increased capacity of target communities to withstand, respond to, and recover from the impact of hazards through a number of preparedness measures.
- ◆ Pilot projects implemented to demonstrate practical way for climate change adaptation.
- ◆ Lessons learnt are promoted and shared amongst practitioners and policy makers at state national, regional, and international levels.

## Highlights for the year 2011-12

- ◆ Launching Workshops at Kendrapara and Jagatsingpur district
- ◆ Setting up of district level offices
- ◆ Capacity building initiatives of program staff
- ◆ Baseline study done in 10% of the program villages (six villages in Kendrapara and two in Jagatsingpur district)
- ◆ Knowledge, Attitude and Practice study at the level of community and important stakeholders to get in depth understanding of the existing climate change issues and practices of the community members
- ◆ Formation of social structures at the village level
- ◆ Four day CRVA (Community risk and vulnerability assessment) training to the representatives of Gram Paribartan Committee members
- ◆ Preparation of CCP (Community Contingency Plan or lok yojana) at the village level by the members of the Gram Paribartan Committee (GPC)
- ◆ Visit of program staff and representative of the community to Sunderbans, program area of LWSI, West Bengal
- ◆ Annual review process done both at the level of program staff and important stakeholders of the program areas
- ◆ Joint review meeting - Two joint review meetings were held with the program staff of both the countries namely India and Bangladesh. The objective was not only to understand the progress being done at both the country level but also get an insight of the strategies adopted by the countries in specific keeping in mind the local dynamics. Furthermore, the meeting also helped to plan for the major upcoming events in the coming period. These meetings were followed by visits to program villages to get a clear understanding of the various initiatives being undertaken at the field level and get an insight into the perception of the community as well in this direction.
- ◆ Round table conference to share with the civil society organisations the outcome of baseline survey



- ◆ Field visits of important visitors - Though this was the initial year of the program yet the program area saw visits of important persons including technical coordinator for the program Mr. Saroj Dash, Ms Lucia, Regional Director -South -East countries, Ms Sabine, External consultant from Misereor, Mr. Dom Hunt, Global DRR-CC Consultant for Concern Worldwide and Country Director CWW India.
- ◆ Street play organised in 41 villages
- ◆ Early warning equipments provided to 42 villages
- ◆ PRI orientation program organised for the newly elected representatives of the people
- ◆ Celebration of World Environment Day, Women's Day, State Disaster Mitigation Day
- ◆ Completion of external audit for the year

## Case Studies

### Balijori: Preparedness against Natural Disaster

Balijori is a village in Jagatsinghpur district of Odisha which was ravaged by the Super Cyclone of 1999. After the cyclone 62 women of the village had come forward to reconstruct the entirely devastated area. The village is surrounded by river on all sides. So the community had to depend on ferry boat for communication with the outer world. Otherwise the villagers had to wait for the dry season to cross the river by walking across it.

However, the geography and thereby the socio-economic atmosphere of the village underwent a spectacular change with the effort of the community led by a lady named Bhanumati. With a vision to restructure the village she motivated the community to construct a bridge over the river. She encouraged both the male and female members of the community to sacrifice their effort, which they did by laying bricks and providing physical labour for the building of the bridge. Besides, she mobilized fund from private agencies for the purpose. Finally the bridge was successfully constructed. Now it serves a vital link between the community and the world outside.

Again, the women folk of the village made a determined effort in establishing a school in the village. It was a significant effort in view of the fact that there was no school in the vicinity and the parents had to send their wards to schools in other areas at the risk of letting them cross the river. Later a primary school was established by the government.

After being sensitized on the significance of forests in resisting the natural disaster, the women folk were determined to carry out plantation as an effort towards social forestry with the support of the Forest Department. Over time they have been keeping vigil on this forest to save it from the ire of the log mafia even at their life risk. Their concerted and collective effort has led to the growth of a casuarinas belt serving as a storm barrier and enriching the environment as well.

Despite these community efforts, various problems of the village, however, still remain to be solved.



## Case Studies

### Athagharia: Life on Stake for Potable Water

Village Athagharia in Kusupur block of Jagatsinghpur district is located near the Bay of Bengal coast. Availability of drinking water is the main problem of the community here. The villagers have to walk 4 to 5kms everyday to fetch drinking water. They have to cross river Kathagiri for the purpose. The river water is unsuitable for potable purpose due to its salinity.

Previously the women folk were crossing the river by ferry boats to fetch water. But it was perilous and there had been some accidents. So the community made an effort to build a bridge over the river. The inhabitants of about 10 to 12 villages were benefited after the construction of the bridge. However, the bridge is under precarious condition now and needs repair. The inhabitants have to cross this unsafe bridge.

The condition of the road to the village is also not good. Though a kuccha road was constructed following the Super Cyclone, it remains muddy during the rainy season. Only those who have the experience of collecting water walking along the road for 4 kms can contemplate the difficulty. So the inhabitants have to collect rain water for drinking purpose as an alternative.

It is an irony that even after 62 years of independence we have a village without access to potable water.

## Case Studies

### Significance of Coastal Forest Ribs

Jagatsinghpur and Kendrapara were the districts most devastated by the Super Cyclone of 1999. Natural disasters like this cannot be avoided, but their effects can be largely reduced. The inhabitants of the coastal areas of these districts had realized this fact.

Learning from the experience of the Super Cyclone, the community in village Balijori of Jagatsinghpur district became aware that dense forests can serve as a natural barrier against the onslaught of cyclone. So they commenced work for the plantation of a new forest. Today this forest rib is a source of delight to the villagers. Dekani is another village in the district. The village was detached from the rest of the region due to lack of communication after the Super Cyclone. However, a road was constructed by people's effort following the cyclone. The village is adjacent to the Bay of Bengal coast. So the community had been living in the fear of being hit by tidal waves. Now they have created a casuarinas forest in the region that would resist cyclonic storms. Fishing is the main occupation of the villagers. However, the river mouth at the coast being silted over the years, it poses a threat to fishing. The villagers maintain that they can solve the problem if they get a motor boat for fishing in the deep.

The inhabitants of Naupal, another village in the area, have also endured the calamity of the Super Cyclone. Following the cyclone the villagers have constructed a rehabilitation centre for the disaster hit people. After being aware of the significance of forests for resisting the cyclone and sustaining bio-diversity, the inhabitants have created a mangrove in the area with the help of some volunteers.



## Case Studies

### Fresh Water Pisciculture in Brackish Area

Fresh water pisciculture becomes practically impossible in coastal areas as brackish water often maps into the fields and ponds there. However, recently a few women of coastal areas of Jagatsinghpur and Kendrapara districts have made fresh water pisciculture also possible in such areas.

A woman named Tapat Giri of Kusupur GP in Jagatsinghpur district has successfully carried out fish cultivation in her three ponds by storing rain water there. Similarly Sujata Mandal of Rajarajeswari village under Gupti GP in Rajnagar block of Kendrapara district has also been successful in fresh water pisciculture. She catches fish from her own freshwater pond and markets them thereby earning a handsome income. She has, indeed, set an example for others in the area.





## Policy, Advocacy & Networking

At RCDC every effort is made to improve the lot of the communities it serves. Advocacy and networking are its strong points, which it passes on to the community based organisations it builds, working in the participatory mode. The organisation's work has always drawn the notice of the media which reports on the issues it serves. The organisation has always been open to research which it does on its own and also for other organisations which call upon it to do so, on a consultancy basis. In the last year RCDC has earned some significant awards and has also done innovative work in various fields.

- ◆ Research
- ◆ Advocacy & Campaigns
- ◆ Outstanding Achievements & Awards
- ◆ Media
- ◆ Networking

### Research

During 2011-12 our research work has focussed on NTFP. Three research works have been undertaken.

#### 1. Study on Tendu Leaf Management in Central Indian States

A study on Tendu leaf management, operation and trade in the context of Forest Rights Act 2006 has been undertaken in Central Indian states (Odisha, Chhattisgarh, Madhya Pradesh, Andhra Pradesh and Maharashtra). During the reporting period we analysed the role of Forest Department and state owned institutions like Chhattisgarh Minor Forest Produce (CGMFP) Federation, Madhya Pradesh Minor Forest Produce (MPMFP) Federation, and Odisha Forest Development Corporation (OFDC) in management and operation of Tendu leaf in the state. Grassroots case studies from each study state were collected and incorporated in the report. Besides these, the trend of Bidi (country cigarette) consumption pattern in selected pockets of Odisha was also assessed. The study report is ready and also the finding of the study at different points of time has been published in the newsletters of RCDC, updates etc both in Odia and English.

#### 2. Study on Bamboo Management in Central Indian States

A study on Bamboo management, operation and trade in the context of Forest Rights Act 2006 has been undertaken in the central Indian states (Odisha, Chhattisgarh, Madhya Pradesh, Andhra Pradesh and Maharashtra). Study design, checklist and format for information collection have been finalised and information from the study states has been collected. But there is need to collect some grassroot case studies from each study state to find out the policies and practice gap. The collected information will be compiled to prepare a study report very soon.

#### 3. Study on Tree Borne Oil Seed

RCDC undertook a study on potentiality of tree-borne oilseeds in Koraput and Balangir districts of Odisha with support from NABARD with some additional expenditure support from NTFP EP India. The purpose of the study was to gather up-to-date data on production, trading and marketing of various tree-borne oilseeds that would





allow potential for the further development of the tree-borne oilseed sector. The study focused on six specific types of tree-borne oilseeds: Sal, Mahua, Neem, Karanj, Kusum and Castor. The specific objective of the study was to gather data on the following issues:

- ◆ Collection of tree-borne oilseeds in quintals over the period 2008-2011
- ◆ Seasonality of collection of tree-borne oilseeds in each month for the most recent season
- ◆ Selling prices, including price range and average price, over the period 2008-2011
- ◆ Data on the end users of the tree-borne oilseeds collected
- ◆ Potential for tree-borne oilseeds, including untapped potential i.e. oilseeds present in the district which were not being collected
- ◆ Assess the present status of tree-borne oilseed species
- ◆ A study on Mining and FRA has also been initiated in Keonjhar district in the context of MMDR Bill 2011 and also a study on "Health issues in mining areas of Odisha".

### Advocacy & Campaigns

- ◆ At Balangir, expecting migration due to emerging drought situation force the Food Security committee to organize a sub divisional level rally and interface meeting was carried out for discussion on proper implementation of FRA, selection of eligible and vulnerable households in BPL census survey and suggestions for food rights bills as a result many MGNREGS projects were initiated by the PRI members to check distress migration in the project areas. One of the remarkable and noticeable things was participation of above 50% of participation of women members in the rally where about 372 villages gathered and 72 participated in interface meeting.
- ◆ Drinking water problems of Jalpali, Pandripani, Bagbahali and Ghasian were presented before the administration during the summer season and as a result drinking water was supplied and Rs. 10,00,000 was sanctioned for linkage of pipe water supply for Bagbahali village.
- ◆ At Balangir, DFF and CBO's have been successful in pressurizing Forest Department to consider counting of small denomination of leaf after 100 bundles through the Munshi.
- ◆ At Balangir, Charter of Demand was presented to Ekta Parisad representative for sharing problems of villagers to the state and national level politicians and bureaucrats and further entitling with lands through land rights and forest rights.
- ◆ An interface workshop was organised in Balangir where district administration, civil societies, CBO representatives, and media discussed issues of food insecurity in Balangir and the ways ahead. The workshop yielded a joint declaration, named 'Balangir Declaration'. Four other workshops, aimed at advocacy, were organised in Patnagarh on various pertinent issues.
- ◆ At Balangir, an interface was held with district administration on land rights. One consultation was made at Patnagarh on land rights issues. Discussions were made with the Sub-Collector of Patnagarh and District Collector to speed up the process.
- ◆ At Balangir, a Campaign on NREGA was conducted by Peoples' Organisations. The Zilla Lok Sangathan along with the Cluster level Committee (CLC) has streamlined the campaign on effective implementation of MGNREGA. Demands were continuously made to maintain transparency, provide receipt on job demand, allot work and give payment in time.

- ◆ DFF, Deogarh, Balangir, has organised two rallies and media advocacy for implementation of CFR and FRA process and accordingly the DFFs and OJM were sensitised to carry forward the action plans. More than 500 Thengapalias assembled near Vidhansabha.
- ◆ At Kalahandi FRA advocacy was undertaken in association with NGOs, DFF leaders, and other activists.
- ◆ Organised / conducted jointly Odisha State Livelihoods Workshop in Hotel Suryansh to highlight the major livelihood issues and put forth the demand before the Government authorities, legislatures for specific changes.
- ◆ In Delhi, RCDC has suggested to the Minister of Tribal Affairs to dismantle the operational blocks to facilitate the CFR implementation and to vest the forest rights in favour of the FDSTs and OTFDs.

### Outstanding Achievements & Awards

- ◆ Jagabalia Watershed Association of Bagbahali and Ainlatunga village of Tamian GP in Patnagarha Block has received a "Bhumijal Sambardhana and National Water Award" along with Rs. 10,00,000 from the Hon'ble Union Minister, Water Resources and Minority Affairs at New Delhi in a special function with the presence of other dignitaries. This award has been given for an outstanding performance in the field of ground water management by adopting various measures of rain water harvesting and artificial re-charge to ground water, in promoting water use efficiency, re-cycling and reuse of waste water and awareness creation.
- ◆ The first Regional Consultation on PVTG Livelihood and NRLM, in Odisha was a great success providing the vulnerable tribal representatives, mostly women, opportunity to directly interact with the highest authorities of the government for NRLM.
- ◆ During the year 2011-12, a baseline survey alongwith preparation of Ecosystem Register (introduced by RCDC for the first time in the world) has been started in five GPs three of which belong to the famous eco-sensitive areas namely Shimilipal, Mahendragiri, and Gandhamardan.
- ◆ The District Forest Forum at Saintala was awarded as "Prakruti Mitra"award for 2011-12 by the Forest and Environment Department Government of Odisha.
- ◆ In 10 villages of Deogarh and Kalahandi districts, base map and GIS map was developed to facilitate CFR recording and Sustainable Forest Management.
- ◆ A Village Development Plan (VDP) was developed for the village Siarimalia in Reamal, and was submitted to NABARD which was accepted.

### Media

Fourteen numbers of video spots were prepared for the PARIBARTAN programme which were uploaded in youtube and other social networking sites. A documentary film on Satabhaya "Mahabatya pare ame jagrata" was also telecast on Doordarshan channel.

### Networking

#### Block & District Level Federation

- ◆ Jilla Jungle Surakshya O Parichalana Forum, Balangir (A network of forest protectors and forest-based livelihood advocates)

- ◆ Khadya Surakshya Mahasangha, Balangir (A district level federation of apex level Food Security Committee)
- ◆ Jalabandhu Manch, Balangir (A network initiative for Jala, Jeeban O Marjyada)
- ◆ Samuhika Marudi Pratikar Udyama (SMPU)
- ◆ Maa Pateneswari Khadya Surakshya Manch, Patnagarh (An apex body of village level Food Security Committee)
- ◆ Kandula Budha Anchalika Khadya Surakshya Mahasangha, Deogaon (An apex body of village level Food Security Committee)
- ◆ Maa Dasamati Anchalika Mahasangh, Patnagarh (An apex body of village level SHG)
- ◆ Janai Anchalika Mahasangh, Bandhapada (An apex body of village level SHG)
- ◆ Palli Vikash Jalachhaya Mahasangh, Gudvella (An apex body of 10 watershed committees)

### State Level Network

- ◆ Odisha Khadya Adhikar Aviyan (OKAA),
- ◆ State Advisor to Commissioners Supreme Court of India
- ◆ National Food Rights Campaign

### International Level Network

RCDC is a member of NTFP-EP, IUFRO, FECOFUN, GACF and PACS

### Save Eastern Ghats

The project is a part of the larger network under Ecosystem Alliance programme. The local partners are Gram Swaraj, SWWS, Gandhamardan Surakshya Action Committee, and OPDSC.

### Water Programme

In the reporting period RCDC closely worked with the civil society associations like Odisha Water Forum, SOPPECOM, NCAS, Wada Na Todo Abhiyan, Capnet, End Water Poverty, Fresh Water Action Network, Odisha Jala Mancha, and Odisha Coalition on Panchayatiraj (OCPR) to generate unified civil society opinion on key policy level issues like 12th Five Year Plan period, Odisha Climate Change Action Plan (OCAP), National Water Mission (NWM) and Agriculture policy. Some of the challenges that RCDC's programmes try to address are quite new or have recently emerged. Thus RCDC also collaborated with leading technical and educational organisations like IIT, Bhubaneswar; CRR, Cuttack; CIFA, Bhubaneswar; Gramalaya, Coimbatore; Geography and Economics departments of Utkal University; KIIMs, Bhubaneswar; and CGWB, Bhubaneswar to find out and fine tune strategies.

## How community members perceive our work

- ◆ RCDC has been a eye opener to the women of the community by capacitating them and providing hand holding support to develop entrepreneurial venture for securing self confidence and gaining monetary benefits." - Smt. Shantilata Behera, President of Janani Anchalik SHG Mahasanga, Balangir
- ◆ Regular support from RCDC boosted our moral and encouraged us to take up right based activities to contribute to the community. " - Madhusing Mina, President of Anchalik Khadya Surakhya Mahasangha, Balangir.
- ◆ We wish to express our gratitude to RCDC for enabling us to take up activities to ensure rights and entitlements of the vulnerable and we have also planned to register a cooperative in near future where we will market our village products as well as NTFP products. We are now self sufficient to develop our Panchayat plan." - Purna Chandra Bag, Secretary of Maa Patneswari Khadya Surkhya Manch, Balangir
- ◆ We have been involved in agriculture since last 15 years. We have one acre and 40 decimals of land. Before 10 years there was shortage of water even in fagun month (February). After that we had to sit at home or go for migration. But now we don't have to stop agricultural work even in summer season or go outside for migration. We have been earning more than Rs 30,000 from one acre due to mixed cropping and paddy cultivation in SRI method being trained by RCDC. We are also adopting organic practices and using vermi composts developed by our selves after getting training from RCDC and Soil Conservation Department. Not only me, there are 29 other farmers following SRI method of paddy cultivation. We could drive out migration from our village in summer season, thanks to RCDC." - Jayanta Bhoi.
- ◆ I am Madhabi from Bagbahali. We have been collecting Mahua since times past. In my childhood I was going to collect Mahua with my parents. But our situation was mired in poverty. Since we were poor we had to sell the Mahua collected to the local vender immediately after collection. But that time is over now. I am involved with a SHG and saving and taking loan regularly when needed. So now we don't feel the need to sell to the local vender urgently. We also demand appropriate rate for the collected Mahua. We wish to thank RCDC for building awareness and contributing to the better livelihood of poor like us." - Madhavi from Bagbahali, Balangir
- ◆ We, the villagers of Brahmani, are giving protection to the village forest as well as reserve forest since last 30 years. Due to some misunderstanding between the villagers in between we destroyed the forest but then again decided to protect it for the last 10 years. In between we lost a lot of precocious plants, trees and flora and these we came to know after the forest biomass mapping and intervention of RCDC in our areas." - Lalit Nag, President, Brahmani VSS
- ◆ Due to regular destruction of forest and cases of forest fire during the months of March to June every year, many kinds of plants, medicinal and non-medicinal, were lost and birds and other animals were decreasing day by day. We were not thinking about that until RCDC informed us. Again we were told that, every year the percentage of NTFP collection is reducing and the dependency on forest is increasing, now the percentage of forest is very less in our area, and this leads to less rain which is affecting our agriculture. We wish to thank RCDC for creating awareness." - Singha Majhi, Vice President Zonal Committee, Balangir
- ◆ Due to intervention of RCDC in this year all 33 villages of the five Gram Panchayats of Kumbhari, Kermeli, Karamtala, Saintala, Kandhakegaon, and Deng under Saintala Block come forward to give protection to the forest with their traditional guard process."- Kirtan Meher, President VSS Jaliadhara, Balangir



- ◆ After intervention of RCDC we are getting opportunity to organise the zonal forest committee meetings as well as village level forest protection meetings regularly. Thus we are able to reorganise the village level committee and the system of Thengapali (thenga=Stick; Pali=rotation) and Chulichanda (chuli=Wood born stove; chanda=contribution) process. We thank RCDC for also giving support for community claim and individual claim under FRA." - Biranchi Bhoi, Community Member, Saintala, Balangir.

## What external visitors say about RCDC

- ◆ It was a great learning experience to interact with team members of RCDC and to visit Bagbahali village to understand their work in general and SRI in particular. I am very encouraged." - Sabarmatee, Sambhab, Rohibanka, Nayagarh.
- ◆ The activities of RCDC on the NRM sector are very good. I wish them all success" - Dr. A. K. Sahoo, Botanical Survey of India, Kolkata-16.
- ◆ All the working staff are wonders of RCDC. Keep up the good work and all success in the future" - Sabine, Misereor.
- ◆ Thank you (A big thanks!) all staff for organising a two day power packed and informative field visit for the Misereor project evaluation. We had the opportunity to witness many innovative practices and some excellent results. With best wishes! " - Varsha Mehta, Consultant to Misereor.
- ◆ It was a long overdue to visit RCDC. The first coordination meeting of emerging district level network on food security is an encouraging experience. Hope with the leadership of RCDC this effort and network would go a long way to ensure food security in a poverty stricken district like Balangir. We commit all support as advisor in future to this endeavour."- Rajkishor Mishra, State Advisor to Commissioners, Supreme Court of India.
- ◆ We visited RCDC office and had a long discussion with the Regional Manager regarding different activities. I was impressed to listen to the achievements of different activities in Balangir district. Collaboration can be developed with RCDC regarding implementation of MGNREGS in Balangir district." - Mr A . C. Sahoo, District Team Leader , OMEGA project, Balangir.
- ◆ The Jan Satyagraha Yatra team visited the field and office of RCDC. We are highly inspired by the field visit and also happy to meet the people's federations and team of workers who are very committed to the work for marginalised people. Please keep up the spirit!" - P V Rajgopal, Member, National Council for Land Reform, New Delhi.
- ◆ Visited Balangir forest and interacted with the community with the support of RCDC. I interacted with the very committed young team. Much impressed!" - S Palit, IFS (Retd).



## Our Publications





**REGIONAL CENTRE FOR  
DEVELOPMENT COOPERATION**

A/68, 1<sup>st</sup> Floor, Sahid Nagar  
Bhubaneswar - 751 007  
Orissa, India.

## BALANCE SHEET AS ON 31ST MARCH, 2012

<u>LIABILITIES</u>	<u>AMOUNT (Rs)</u>	<u>ASSETS</u>	<u>AMOUNT (Rs)</u>
<b>CAPITAL FUND</b>		<b>FIXED ASSETS</b>	
Opening Balance as per last B/S	3,792,380.08	(Schedule-IV)	2,820,932.65
Add: Excess of Income over Expenditure	164,726.27	<b>INVESTMENT</b>	NIL
	<u>3,957,106.35</u>	<b>GRATUITY FUND</b>	
<b>TEMPORARY RESTRICTED FUND</b>		(Schedule-III)	185,362.00
(Schedule-I)	13,317,975.05	<b>CURRENT ASSETS</b>	
<b>STAFF WELFARE FUND</b>	1,422,904.00	<b>LOANS AND ADVANCES</b>	
(Schedule-II)		Security Deposit	30,000.00
<b>CORPUS FUND</b>	139,286.00	TDS	86,927.00
<b>GREEN SHOULDER FUND</b>	32,200.00	<b>CASH &amp; BANK BALANCE</b>	
<b>INTEREST FREE HAND LOAN</b>		(Schedule-V)	<u>14,671,097.75</u>
As per last yr B/S	15,893.00	<b>LOANS AND ADVANCES</b>	
Less Paid during the Year	<u>15,893.00</u>	(Schedule-VI)	1,075,152.00
		<u>18,869,471.40</u>	<u>18,869,471.40</u>

The above Balance Sheet to the best of my /our belief contains a true account of the funds & liabilities and of the property & assets of the Organisation as on 31.03.2012.

As per separate report of

CA. S.K. Mohanty,  
Auditor



  
 Kailash Chandra Dash  
 Executive Director  
**Executive Director**  
**Regional Centre for**  
**Development Cooperation**

Registered Office:  
424, Sahid Nagar, Bhubaneswar-751 007

Tel: +91-674-2545250  
Fax: +91-674-2545252  
E-mail: [rcdcbbsr@bsnl.in](mailto:rcdcbbsr@bsnl.in), [rcdcbbsr@gmail.com](mailto:rcdcbbsr@gmail.com)



**REGIONAL CENTRE FOR  
DEVELOPMENT COOPERATION**

A/68, 1<sup>st</sup> Floor, Sahid Nagar  
Bhubaneswar - 751 007  
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**INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT FOR THE PERIOD FROM 01.04.2011 TO 31.03.2012**


<u>EXPENDITURE</u>	<u>AMOUNT(Rs)</u>	<u>INCOME</u>	<u>AMOUNT(Rs)</u>
TO ICCO MADHYAM FOUNDATION	134,612.00	BY GRANT-IN-AID (Schedule-I)	43,901,810.67
TO FORD FOUNDATION-NTFP - III	3,868,392.00		
TO KZE-CB-PRI-III	880,964.00	BY BANK INTEREST	462,246.00
TO KZE-RPP	2,364,740.89		
TO CFI-REDD+	162,294.00	BY DONATION AND CONTRIBUTION	4,950.00
TO DCA-FS- II	2,540,149.66		
TO CONCERN INNOVATION	4,315,463.00	BY LOCAL CONTRIBUTION	1,358,536.00
TO CONCERN-LIVELIHOOD	670,367.00		
TO PAULHAMLYN FOUNDATION	2,058,645.00	BY CONSULTANCY/ SERVICE CHARGES	63,194.00
TO OXFAM - AG SCALE	165,053.00		
TO SIMAVI-DRG-WTR	7,830,825.00	BY REIMBURSEMENT OF EXPENSES	12,543.00
TO OXFAM - S F M	2,495,527.50		
TO BD-IFG-II	2,657,287.00		
TO KEY-STONE FOUNDATION-III	768,219.00		
TO CONCERN-CCA-DRR	6,099,774.12		
TO ACTION AID	809,832.00		
TO EC-NTFP-II	72,736.48		
TO OXFAM BALANCE FUND	214,389.00		
TO ECO ALLIANCE / KEYSTONE	529,223.00		
TO KZE - BRIDGE	591,797.00		
TO VSO	-		
TO UNDP PRAYAS	432,682.50		
TO JTT LIVELIHOOD	2,125,156.00		
TO UNDP WORKSHOP	254,000.00		
TO OTELP	1,338,442.50		
TO RKVY-ATMA	31,324.00		
TO WORLP-W/S	86.00		
TO ACA -RLTP	33.00		
TO WORLP-LST	33.00		
TO NREGS	292.00		
TO GENERAL FUND	208,552.75		
TO SIMAVI (CONT'N-Ben)	1,215,596.00		
TO KZE-CB-PRI-III (CONT'N-org)	53,260.00		
TO J T T LIVELIHOOD(CONTN-Ben)	21,180.00		
TO BD-IFG (CONT'N-Ben)	7,000.00		
TO Bank charges	183.00		
TO STAFFS SALARY (F C INTEREST)	5,000.00		
TO Bad debt of Grant-in-aid receivable	12,000.00		
TO DEPRECIATION	703,442.00		
TO EXCESS OF INCOME OVER EXPENDITURE	164,726.27		
	<u>45,803,279.67</u>		<u>45,803,279.67</u>

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 01.04.2011 to 31.03.2012.

As per separate report of

CA. S.K. Mohanty,  
Auditor



  
Kailash Chandra Dash  
Executive Director  
**Executive Director**  
**Regional Centre for**  
**Development Cooperation**

Registered Office:  
424, Sahid Nagar, Bhubaneswar-751 007

Tel: +91-674-2545250  
Fax: +91-674-2545252  
E-mail: [rcdcbbsr@bani.in](mailto:rcdcbbsr@bani.in), [rcdcbbsr@gmail.com](mailto:rcdcbbsr@gmail.com)





**REGIONAL CENTRE FOR DEVELOPMENT COOPERATION**

A/68, 1<sup>st</sup> Floor, Sahid Nagar  
Bhubaneswar - 751 007  
Orissa, India.

**CONSOLIDATED RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS ACCOUNT FOR THE PERIOD FROM 01.04.2011 TO 31.03.2012**

RECEIPTS	AMOUNT (Rs)	PAYMENTS	SCH	AMOUNT (Rs)
<b>TO OPENING BALANCE</b>		<b>BY PROGRAMME EXPENSES</b>		
- Cash-in-hand	31,441.75	- ICCO MADHYAM FOUNDATION	VII	134,612.00
- Cash-at-bank	13,963,427.63	- FORD FOUNDATION-NTFP - III	VIII	3,935,024.00
		- KZE-CB-PRI-III	IX	889,277.00
<b>TO GRANT-IN-AID</b>		- KZE-RPP	X	2,442,520.89
- Foreign	40,603,775.37	- CFI-REDD+	XI	162,294.00
- Indigenous	4,763,580.00	- DCA-FS- II	XII	2,602,264.66
		- CONCERN INNOVATION	XIII	4,315,463.00
<b>TO BANK INTEREST</b>		- CONCERN-LIVELIHOOD	XIV	679,004.00
- Foreign	370,801.00	- PAULHAMLIN FOUNDATION	XV	2,076,064.00
- Indigenous	136,305.00	- OXFAM - AG SCALE	XVI	197,982.00
		- SIMAVI-DRG-WTR	XVII	7,899,385.00
<b>TO STAFF WEL FARE FUND</b>		- OXFAM - S F M	XVIII	2,495,527.50
- CONTRIBUTION FROM PROJECTS	929,112.00	- BD-IFG-II	XIX	2,695,587.00
- PROFESSIONALCHARGES( UNDP-)	50,000.00	- KEY-STONE FOUNDATION-III	XX	775,846.00
- LOAN RECOVERY FROM STAFF	236,500.00	- CONCERN-CCA-DRR	XXI	6,868,045.12
- STAFFS CONTRIBUTION (For Late .	58,000.00	- ACTION AID	XXII	902,671.00
- EMPLOYEE'S CONTRIBUTION	783,853.00	- EC-NTFP-II	XXIII	269,716.00
- BANK INTEREST	33,284.00	- OXFAM BALANCE FUND	XXIV	214,389.00
		- ECO ALLIANCE / KEYSTONE	XXV	529,223.00
<b>TO DONATION/CONTRIBUTION</b>		- KZE - BRIDGE	XXVI	597,497.00
- Community cont'n/ Local-cont'n	1,358,536.00	- VSO	XXVII	47,436.00
- JJS-contribution	4,950.00	- UNDP PRAYAS	XXVIII	479,597.50
		- JTT LIVELIHOOD	XXIX	2,137,790.00
<b>TO PROGRAMME ADVANCE</b>		- UNDP WORKSHOP	XXX	254,000.00
- PAULHAMLIN FOUNDATION	120,792.00	- OTELP	XXXI	1,338,442.50
- FORD FOUNDATION-NTFP III	26,548.00	- RKVY-ATMA	XXXII	31,324.00
- KZE-CB-PRI-III	1,661.00	- WORLP-W/S	XXXIII	86.00
- KZE-RPP	8,310.00	- ACA-RLTP	XXXIV	33.00
- DCA-FS- III	30,734.00	- WORLP-LST	XXXV	33.00
- SIMAVI-DRG-WTR	1,006,600.00	- NREGS	XXXVI	292.00
- CONCERN LIVELIHOOD	21,118.00	- STAFF WELFARE FUND	XXXVII	2,156,228.00
- OXFAM - AG SCALE	21,098.00	- GENERAL FUND	XXXVIII	290,499.75
- OXFAM - SFM	19,048.00	- SIMAVI (CONT'N-Ben)	XXXIX	1,215,596.00
- BD-IFG-II	16,255.00	- KZE-CB-PRI-III (CONT'N-org)	XL	53,260.00
- ACTION AID	13,613.00	- J T T LIVELIHOOD(CONTN-Ben)	XLI.	21,180.00
- KEYSTONE FOUNDATION III	40,692.00	- BD-IFG (CONTN-Ben)	XLI.II.	7,000.00
- OTELP	23,695.00			
- JTT LIVELIHOOD	3,264.00			
		<b>BY PROGRAMME ADVANCE</b>		
<b>TO SALARY ADVANCE</b>		- UNDP PRAYAS		347,173.00
- CONCERN LIVELIHOOD	10,000.00	- JTT LIVELIHOOD		11,964.00
		- OTELP		32,587.00
<b>TO HOUSE RENT ADV</b>				391,724.00
- FORD FOUNDATION-NTFP III	11,000.00	<b>BY REFUNDED P D WATERSHED</b>		
- KZE-RPP	5,000.00	- INTEREST REFUNDED- NREGA		6,189.00
- General fund	46,000.00	- ININTEREST REFUNDED -WORLP W/S		30,384.00
		- ININTEREST REFUNDED -ACA-RLTP		3,609.00
<b>TO CONTRIBUTION FOR CORPUS FUND</b>	35,000.00	- ININTEREST REFUNDED WORLP-LST		1,524.00
				41,706.00
<b>TO CONTRIBUTION FOR GREEN SHOULDER FUND</b>	32,200.00	<b>BY GRANT REFUNDED (Unutilised Balance)</b>		
		- REFUND TO OXFAM INDIA		57,414.08
<b>TO REIMBURSEMENT OF EXPENSES</b>		- Grant refunded to Action Aid		187,287.00
- Travel exp / CPF	12,543.00	- GRANT IN AID REFUNDED -NREGA		93,901.00
				338,602.08
<b>TO CONSULTANCY/ SERVICE CHARGES</b>	63,194.00	<b>BY STAFFS SALARY (F C INTEREST)</b>		5,000.00
		<b>BY Sundry Creditor-10-11 ( for UPS)</b>		50,000.00
<b>TO STAFF ADVANCE</b>		<b>BY BANK CHARGES</b>		183.00
GEN FUND	5,000.00			



Registered Office:  
424, Sahid Nagar, Bhubaneswar-751 007

Tel: +91-674-2545250  
Fax: +91-674-2545252  
E-mail: rcdbcbsr@bsnl.in, rcdbcbsr@gmail.com



**REGIONAL CENTRE FOR  
DEVELOPMENT COOPERATION**

A/68, 1<sup>st</sup> Floor, Sahid Nagar  
Bhubaneswar - 751 007  
Orissa, India.

**CONSOLIDATED RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS ACCOUNT FOR THE PERIOD FROM 01.04.2011 TO 31.03.2012**

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<b>BY ADVANCE/LOAN</b>			
- General House Rent	206,100.00		
- General fund -Staff	102,728.00		
- Staff Welfarefund-staff	374,600.00	<u>583,428.00</u>	
<b>BY CLOSING BALANCE</b>			
- Cash-in-hand	36,758.45		
- Cash-at-bank	14,634,339.30	<u>14,671,097.75</u>	
	<u>64,896,930.75</u>		<u>64,896,930.75</u>

The above Receipts and Payments Account, to the best of my/our belief contains a true account of the movement of cash of the organisation for the period from 01.04.2011 to 31.03.2012.

As per separate report of

CA.S.K.Mohanty,  
Auditor



Kailash Chandra Dash  
Executive Director  
**Executive Director**  
**Regional Centre for**  
**Development Cooperation**

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Fax: +91-674-2545252  
E-mail: [rcdcbbsr@bnl.in](mailto:rcdcbbsr@bnl.in), [rcdcbbsr@gmail.com](mailto:rcdcbbsr@gmail.com)



# 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

# Acronyms

MJMD	Mo Jami Mo Diha
NFBS	National Family Benefit Scheme
NGO	Non-Governmental Organisation
NIRD	National Institute of Rural Development
NRHM	National Rural Health Mission
NRM	Natural Resource Management
NTFP	Non-Timber Forest Produce
OFSDP	Odisha Forest Sector Development Project
OJM	Odisha Jungle Mancha
OMFED	Odisha State Cooperative Milk Producers' Federation Limited
OTELP	Odisha Tribal Empowerment & Livelihoods Programme
PACS	Poorest Areas Civil Society
PDC	Panchayat Development Committee
PDS	Public Distribution System
PESA	Provisions of Panchayat (Extension to Scheduled Areas) Act
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-Divisional 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	System of Rice Intensification
ST	Scheduled Tribe
VDC	Village Development Committee
WHS	Water Harvesting Structure
WORLP	Western Odisha Rural Livelihoods Project





## Regional Centre for Development Cooperation

A/68, 1st Floor, Sahid Nagar, Bhubaneswar-751007, Odisha, India

Ph.: +91 674 2545250, Fax: +91 674 2545252

E-mail: [rcdcbbsr@bsnl.in](mailto:rcdcbbsr@bsnl.in), Website: [www.rcdcindia.org](http://www.rcdcindia.org),

[www.banajata.org](http://www.banajata.org)

Regd. office: 424, Sahid Nagar, Bhubaneswar-751 007, Odisha