



2006-07

Annual Report



Regional Centre for Development Cooperation
Bhubaneswar



Contents...

1. Introducing the Organization	:	4
2. Centre for Forestry & Governance	:	6
3. Centre for Water for Life	:	14
4. Centre for Community Development, Bolangir	:	27
5. Centre for Community Development, Nabarangur	:	35
6. Human Resources of the Organization	:	42
7. Financial Resources	:	43
8. Other Details	:	44

ABBREVIATIONS

RCDC	:	Regional Centre for Development Cooperation
CFG	:	Centre for Forestry and Governance
CWL	:	Centre for Water for Life
CCD	:	Centre for Community Development
NTFP	:	Non Timber Forest Produces
NGO	:	Non Government Organization
CBO	:	Community Based Organization
PRI	:	Panchayati Raj Institution
GP	:	Gram Panchayat
SHG	:	Self Help Group
CFM	:	Community Forest Management
JFM	:	Joint Forest Management
DFE	:	District Forest Federation
BFF	:	Block Forest Federation
FPC	:	Forest Protection Committee
VDC	:	Village Development Committee
VFPC	:	Village Forest Protection Committee
VSS	:	Vana Sanrakshyana Samiti
OJM	:	Odisha Jangla Mancha
NRM	:	Natural Resource Management
EC	:	Executive Committee
DFO	:	Divisional Forest Officer
PCCF	:	Principal Chief Conservator of Forest
CMD	:	Chief Managing Director

BDO	:	Block Development Officer
TDCC	:	Tribal Development Cooperative Corporation
ORMAS	:	Orissa Rural Development & Marketing Society
OFDC	:	Orissa Forest Development Corporation
WORLP	:	Western Orissa Rural Livelihood Programme
UNDP	:	United Nations Development Programme
DFID	:	Department for International Development
JBIC	:	Japan Bank for International Cooperation
IDE	:	Integrated Development Enterprises
MCH	:	Mother and Child Health
CHC	:	Community Health Centre
PESA	:	Prohibition of Encroachment to Scheduled Area
NREGA	:	National Rural Employment Guarantee Act
OREGS	:	Orissa Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme
RTI	:	Right to Information
ICDS	:	Integrated Child Development Scheme
MAP	:	Migrant Awareness Programme
IPM	:	Integrated Pest Management
INR	:	Indian Rupees

Introducing the Organization

1. Background:

Regional Centre for Development Cooperation (RCDC) started its journey 13 years ago with the mandate to carve a definite niche in the development sector with the agenda of empowering people for sustainable management of natural resources. RCDC works towards enabling the communities to manage their own natural resources properly for a better quality of life. Since its inception in 1993, RCDC has worked with the belief that proper management of natural resources can take care of most of the development problems and the local communities are the best managers of these as they have the highest stake and also the location specific and time tested knowledge to do it.

RCDC undertakes studies and research on best options of sustainable natural resource management, disseminates information through its newsletters, booklets and other forms of media, networks with different NGOs, People's organizations etc, builds the capacities of the communities for sustainable and equitable resource management, advocates for greater rights of the communities over the local natural resources, bring together various community groups, NGOs etc. for collective action and demonstrates models of resource management. All these years RCDC has worked towards establishing community based management as a more judicious option for forest management. RCDC works towards centrality of non-timber forest products sustainable forest management and has advocated for pro-poor policies for its management. While forest management has been one of the core areas of intervention all these years, other major areas of intervention for RCDC has been in drought proofing land and water management, food and livelihood security, development and implementation of people's plans, capacity building of Panchayati Raj representatives, sustainable agriculture and water management. We believe that information is a critical input for any kind of change. RCDC works as a clearinghouse of information on natural resources management.

2. Mission:

Enabling local community to improve their quality of lives by managing their own natural resources.

3. The goals of the organization are:

- To develop understanding and capacity to sensitize various development stakeholders including NGOs, PRIs, the bureaucracy and the government on the intricacies of development issues and policies.
- To assess devolution of power and strengthen PRIs at various levels in the state and to help others do the same in other districts for decentralized governance.
- To strengthen management of natural resources by communities in Orissa for poverty reduction.

4. Objectives of the organization are:

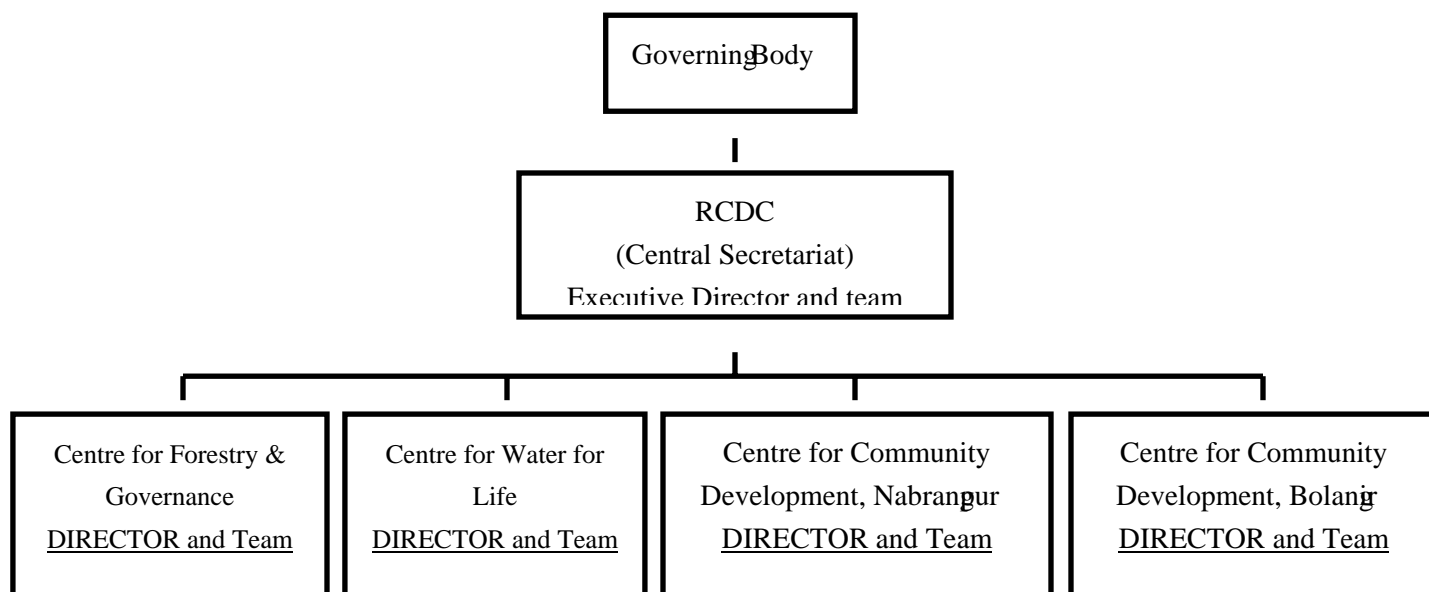
- To play a watchdog role in the development process of Orissa.
- To function as an applied resource centre on natural resource management and environment with special attention to bio-diversity conservation.

- To facilitate greater democratic decentralization of resource management and development, and devolution of power and responsibility to communities/PRI with adequate emphasis to gender and equity issues
- To promote the concept of forest as a development resource and community forestry initiatives.
- To work towards self-sufficiency in food production in the drought prone areas of Western Orissa.

5. The strategies of the organization are:

- Collaboration with various government departments and agencies, NGOs, media and individuals in an effort to work out a common development agenda.
- Work with institutions and experts in the field to analyze policy as part of its role as watchdog
- Initiation of debate on various development issues and evolving an effective mechanism for prompt response to them.
- Work with mass organizations – both local and international – towards information dissemination, awareness generation, advocacy and lobbying to influence policy in the interest of the poor.
- Build up strategic alliance with bureaucrats.
- Promote and strengthen citizens’ action groups.
- Organize public forums and hearing.
- Mainstream gender as an organizational strategy in all developmental interventions.

6. Organizational Structure:



RCDC Centre for Forestry and Governance

1. Introduction:

RCDC Centre for Forestry and Governance, a thematic centre of Regional Centre for Development Cooperation (RCDC), constituted for focussed interventions in forest governance, has been working with communities for restoration of their traditional rights over forest resources and empowering them for advocating decentralized forest governance. The objectives of the centre are

- to create more legal space for the forest protecting and managing communities to exercise their rights over forest i.e. to decide over the use of forest produces; to use the resources raised from forestry for meeting their own development needs; to settle conflicts emerging out of forest conservation and management; and to establish their own forest conservation and management model.
- to create more legal and operative space for Gram panchayats to function as units of self-governance especially in the areas of a) deciding their needs and priorities; b) raising resources to meet their needs and priorities; c) exercising control over local natural resources, physical infrastructure, local institutions etc and d) resolving conflicts at their own level.

Perspective

Improving the quality of lives of the local community through restoration of their traditional rights over their local forest resources.

The planning and execution of various interventions of the Centre is in close association with community institutions, community based organisations, NGOs, extension/frontline officials of the government, research institutions, academicians etc. It emphasizes on the collaborative and cooperative approaches to address different challenges and issues. The Centre tries to develop district CFM models and lobby with the government for its wider emulation and also develop different market models for management and trade of NTFP and lobby with the government, civil society organisations and market promotion agencies to adopt it. The activities of the Centre are carried out through research and documentation, advocacy, publication, and institution building

2. Activities and outputs:

2.1 Research, documentation and database

Research on different aspects of forestry governance has been one of the key focus areas of the centre since its inception. Collection of information on forestry sector development in Orissa and neighboring states and updating the database is one of its ongoing activities. During the year 2006-07, along with some previously undertaken research like models for sustainable management of forest resources, co management in protected area etc, some new research initiatives had been undertaken. Study on ecological health on forest, drivers of change in participatory forest management in the state are some of the new research areas. The key activities and distinct achievements are discussed below.

A new research has been initiated to examine the drivers of change in Participatory Forest Management (PFM) including NTFP policies in the state. The perceptions of donors, NGOs, academicians, researchers, community leaders, traders etc were documented to put different contexts in the whole process of study. The framework of analysis, developed by ODI, was followed while identifying the drivers of change of PFM in Orissa. Political factor, role of network, influence of external aided projects, role of research are the four

major factors based on which the analysis was done. The research helps in developing an idea on how the forest policies have been framed over a period of time and its impact on the forest dwellers. A time line as well as the process of development of different Policies and Rules on PFM in Orissa has been examined.

An assessment of cumulative regulatory impact of participatory forestry on the forest and forest-fringe dwellers has been undertaken to examine the poverty status of forest dwellers in the state. This is part of the above study, which was undertaken in selected policy plots of Koraput district.

Another research has been initiated on ecological health of forest. During the earlier interventions in NTFP sector, it was emphasized on economical aspects of NTFP management. During 2006-07 the focus has been shifted from economical to both economical and ecological. Efforts have been made to inventorying the NTFP and medicinal species in two clusters of Koraput and Rayagada districts. There has been regular dialogue with State Forest Research Institute, Jabalpur, Forest Research Institute, Dehradun, Kerala Forest Research Institute, Keystone Foundation etc to carry forward the process. A detailed plan of action was developed with the help of the technical persons of Keystone Foundation who also helped in conducting the activities in the selected villages. Resource mapping measuring the extent of dependency of the forest dwellers on forest etc are some of the methods followed at the study sites with the help of the community members. The idea behind the exercise is to develop simple methodologies for the communities so that they could assess the forest health. Similarly efforts have been made to collaborate with technical research institutions to develop methodologies for developing sustainable harvesting protocols for selected NTFP.

Another study, undertaken during the year was to examine the anomalies in state NTFP policies, which directly hamper the trade at state and national level. It was undertaken in states of Maharashtra, Chhattisgarh, Orissa, Andhra Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, Karnataka and Kerala. The study was one of the components of the project undertaken by the partners of NTFP Exchange Programme India. The idea of the study was to broaden the collective intervention strategy in NTFP management, which has been initiated by RCDC couple of years before, by bringing more states into the process.

The study has been able to generate updated information on state NTFP policies, rules, Acts etc. A database has been developed on policies and programmes of NTFP in both eastern and Western Ghats. There has been more dialogue with forest department, state forest research institutions, NGOs working on forestry etc and the issues in NTFP management and trade have been discussed. The findings of the study were shared in a workshop organized in Hyderabad where the partners of NTFP Exchange Programme, senior forest department officials of the study states, marketing institutions etc were present. A detailed plan of action was developed and some suggestions were made to carry in-depth research on important issues like taxation, transit etc which hampers the movement of NTFP during interstate trade.

The draft CFM manual which was developed in the previous year has been experimented in different sites during 2006-07. The experimentation process was carried out in 8 villages (undertaken by the study) in Bolangir, Koraput, Mayurbhanj and Dhenkanal districts and also in selected villages of the District Forestry Forum of Boudh, Nayagarh and Deogarh. Village animators, leaders and the leaders of DFF were trained on different aspects of the manual at a regular basis. The experimentation process was closely monitored and documented. Regular meetings were organized at the village to involve the local community in the experimentation process.

Sociologists, technical experts, foresters etc were consulted regularly to refine the institutional, social and management aspects of the manual. During March a state level workshop was organized to share the experiences found during experimentation of the manual. It was felt to continue the process of experimentation in the study sites and have another workshop to finalise the manual.

In the Protected Area Guideline (previously undertaken research), series of meeting were organised at cluster and district level to discuss the issues with forest department, activists, NGOs, media etc. The frontal organisations constituted earlier, were strengthened to bring the issues to different level. To explore alternate livelihood options, it was planned for initiating home gardens in PA. An agriculturist was hired to help in developing a demonstration plot. A draft PA guideline was developed based on the issues and discussions made at different level.

RCDC, a member of Forest Governance Learning Group (FGLG) India had undertaken a study on Mohua, Tamarind, Kendu leaf, Bamboo and Sal seed in Orissa. The objective of the study is to address governance issues relating to forest based enterprises of the above NTFP. The gaps in information and knowledge for the development of sustainable use/ active management systems for NTFP, uses and management systems to address changing market demand, external governance issues that influence NTFP enterprise, kinds of institutional arrangements work at enterprise level, policies and legislation governing NTFP collection and marketing are some of the issues that had analyzed in detail.

Efforts were made to examine the status of ceiling surplus land in Koraput district. A detailed survey was done in 12 villages and several rounds of village and panchayat level meeting were conducted to know the ground situation. A district level workshop was organized to share the finding of the study where the district administrations along with advocates, NGOs, community members were present. Many issues like poor quality of land, soil erosion etc were emerged during the survey. The study has provided an opportunity to initiate land development followed by a demonstration plot in a sample village and also undertake similar studies in other areas of state.

Apart from the above activities, information (case studies, articles, books, journals etc) relating to forestry sector development has been generated from Orissa and other states also. Innovative practices of community, GPs, Forest Protection Committees in managing forest and NTFP have also been documented. Bibliography on a regular basis has been developed and major information has been put in the website. Some new areas for research have been explored based on the discussion and information collected from different sources. The website has been restructured and some new information especially on NTFP policies has been put in the site. Articles, proceeding of the workshop, executive summary of reports have also been incorporated. Market price of NTFP in different markets has been updated on a regular basis.

2.2 Advocacy and Networking:

Advocacy and networking in forestry and governance intended to achieve greater community control over forest and forest products and utilization of these resources in a sustainable manner to ensure livelihood security of the poor tribal and other forest dependent population. Specific changes in policies, operations and practices were pursued regularly in context of NTFP management and trade in order to an early benefit flow to the primary collectors. The distinct activities and outputs are discussed below.

Bamboo being a viable livelihood option in future needs to be managed in a proper manner. In order to establish this, an interface with different research institutions, academicians, State Forest Departments, State Forest Development Corporations, Paper Industries, Bamboo Cooperatives and Entrepreneurs, NABARD, and forestry support NGOs from all over India was organized through RCDC. This helped in greater mobilization of public and creating opinion for devising a future management strategy for bamboo. These efforts have been instrumental in establishing a resource management institution i.e. the State Bamboo Mission in Orissa.

RCDC is emerging as a crucial market promotion agency in Sal seed trading in Orissa after its denationalization in April 2006. Efforts have been made in facilitating sustainable trade of Sal seed in changing scenario and creating a viable platform for good trade relationship between the buyers and sellers.

The process has helped in identifying mechanisms to ensure more meaningful link between the primary collectors, their support organizations with trading community and develop a viable linkage with the market. It has organized a small network on forestry support NGOs that interested to provide market support to sal seed collectors through linking them to traders outside the state. This is going to be a continuous process with facilitator and trader interface deciding on the rate.

RCDC played a vital role as a resource agency in initiating a continuous dialogue process with different stakeholders in the Central Indian States. Regular sensitization of media has been organized on their role in promoting and propagating forest-based livelihoods and issues related to NTFPs. This has resulted in highlighting the topics in different English and Oriya newspapers. This has also helped in wider circulation of information to various stakeholders. Regular interaction with the Forest Department at different levels and extensive support through the database of RCDC on forestry and NTFP issues have made the thing easier for the Forest Department in seeking inputs from RCDC for preparing the plan documents. The process has helped in creating a pro-poor approach in the plan documents of the Forest Department.

Information collected from different sources on NTFPs and disseminated among various stakeholders has created a scope for updating the knowledge base and keep track with the changing policies at government level. The Stakeholders at grass root level are capacitated to change their roles and responsibilities according to the changes made in the policy.

The campaign for passage and effective implementation of Forest Rights Act was coordinated by National Campaign for Survival and Dignity (NCSD). RCDC CFG was an active partner in the same. It organized, participated, supported this common agenda through different state level meeting, workshops, campaigns and other advocacy activities. Discussions were also held with eminent members of Act at the national level in the rule making on Forest Rights. The centre has a substantial contribution in the rule making process of the Orissa chapter on Forest Rights Act. RCDC has been instrumental in preparing IEC material for the commons like translating the Act in Oriya, developing posters and leaflets on the act and disseminating the same among different stakeholders. The ownership of MFP has been transferred to the traditional Forest dwellers and Schedule Tribes in the Act. The nationalized NTFPs like Kendu leaves and Sal seed in the state will no more managed by the Forest Department or State Trading Corporations as per the Act. The centre is in the process of developing an alternative framework for the management and trade of these nationalized items.

Anthropological Survey of India (ASI) organized consultation on tribal livelihoods and forest rights involving academicians, Govt. authorities, NGOs and other stakeholders in which RCDC played a key role as a resource agency in the whole process. RCDC has been selected as a resource organization on tribal livelihoods and protected areas by ASI.

Continuous support is being provided to the District Forest Federations for strengthening their base through upgrading their skills on the different issues and concerns. Regular information support is provided to the regional, zonal and district level community forest management bodies in order to build their capacity on different issues related to community forestry. Initiatives for framing an apex level body of CFM groups at state level is also supported and necessary inputs provided through RCDC CFG to corroborate the process.

2.3 Publication:

Publication is one of the most powerful medium for information, communication and education of common mass on specific issues. RCDC CFG has tried to reach different stakeholders through its varied range of publications on forest related themes. The publications cover the issues related to forest resource management, changes in the policy and implementation and its impact on conservation as well as livelihood, best practices in management etc.

The publications are in two languages i.e. English and Oriya. Some of the publications are published at regular intervals in the form of newsletter, journals and news updates, while others are published once in form of books/booklets, leaflets. The publications in local language are mainly meant for the primary stakeholders and grassroot level organizations and the target group for the English publication are the population involved in implementation and policy matters.

Periodicals/Magazines /Newsletters

Community Forestry

'Community Forestry' the quarterly English journal published by RCDC aims at creating a platform for widening the horizon of ideas for those who value forests as an important source of livelihoods. The journal also provides enormous scope to broaden the debate and deliberation on forest management. Two issues of "Community Forestry" covering topics pertaining to sustainable livelihood for JFM, environmental impact of mining industries, impact of imposition of forest development tax, KL trade, globalization of local rights, tiger conservation authority, conservation approach in protected area, space for CFM in FR Bill, issues related to Sal seed published and distributed among different stakeholders.

Ama Jangal Amara

The publication designed to spearhead peoples' voice pertaining to their rights deals on policy analysis, news and views on forestry development programmes, provides a forum for discussion on various issues in the forestry sector, gives a pulse of grassroots initiatives, raises concerns about forest governance related issues. "Ama Jangal Amara", a quarterly newsletter in Oriya on forest related issues was published and disseminated to different stakeholders. Three issues of the newsletter were published covering topics like man-elephant conflict, community conservation initiatives, issues involved in shifting cultivation, issues and concerns in CFM, protected area and livelihood, Green felling etc.

Jangal Khabar

Jangal Khabar is the forestry update in Oriya of Govt. policies, laws, rules, orders, etc. Three issues of "Jangal Khabar" was published in which translated version of one order issued by government on working of Bamboo and Timber in VSS area was placed and circulated among the grass root level organizations. A notification on KL price fixation is also translated in local language and distributed among the KL growers and their organizations. The ST and other traditional forest dwellers (Recognition of Forest rights) Act, 2006 is published in local language and distributed among PRIs, local NGOs/CBOs, block level officials, forest dwelling communities.

Jhar Darab

Two issues of the Oriya NTFP newsletter "Jhar Darab" was published and distributed among 1500 stakeholders. The topics like problems, prospectus and institutional arrangements in cultivation of medicinal plants, news and views related to NTFP, successful case studies on NTFP management, analysis of NTFP related policies; facts and figures on NTFP were placed in the newsletter.

CFM Book

A book on CFM (in English) is on the anvil with the objective to strengthen the CFM campaign outside the state. This process involves compilation of existing information, collection, further field survey, interviews, etc.

2.4 NTFP Market Access

One of the major focuses of the centre is interventions in NTFP sector. The centre has been working with primary collectors and their organisations like SHGs, FPCs etc in selected clusters of Koraput, Rayagda, Kalahandi and Nuapada districts of Orissa for sustainable management of NTFP. Institution building process like federating the primary collector organisations, capacity building of the institutions on sustainable management plan on NTFP, market access, NTFP enterprises, product development/value addition etc are the major components of the interventions. The institution building process presently operated in 18 clusters out of 28 in 4 districts. Efforts are being made to sensitise district administration, PRIs, civil society organisations for collective interventions in NTFP management and trade.

Institutional building

One of the most important activities of the centre is to build the capacity of the primary collector and their institutions for collective interventions in NTFP procurement and trade. Federating the SHGs/ FPCs to cooperatives is one of the ongoing activities of institutional building in the current year 8 new cooperatives have been created. Now there are a total of 18 cooperatives involved in NTFP management and trade in the target clusters. Series of training programmes have been organised among the members of the cooperatives on trade negotiation skill, leadership skill and monitoring of NTFP procurement in their territory. As a result the groups have been independently negotiating with traders and motivated a good no of primary collectors in collective trading in their surrounding areas. Apart from number of meetings, workshops and consultations have been organized with NGOs, CBOs, government agencies, Gram Panchayats and forest protection groups on issues involved in NTFP procurement, processing and marketing

In order to sensitize the community and the targeted group in sustainable management of forest, the groups have been trained on different ecological aspects of forest management. They have been involved in the process of inventorying and mapping of NTFP and medicinal species in their own area. The idea is to make an assessment of forest health through a participatory process. The process has been initiated in Bandhugon and Dangsorada blocks of Koraput and Rayagda districts respectively. Efforts are being made to develop sustainable harvesting protocols of certain NTFP in the area and also develop a forest management plan.

Market research

In the targeted clusters market access programme have been carried out on a regular basis in product assessment, market assessment, linkage services SHGs cooperative etc. The whole idea is to empower the institutions and the primary collectors to challenge the exploitative procurement and trade of NTFP. They have been empowered with the basic skills required for good harvesting proper drying processing and packaging of different NTFP required under market intervention plan to develop quality products. A study on difficulties in product movement has been carried out in 7 states (Orissa, Chhattisgarh, Maharashtra, Kerala, Karnataka, Tamil Nadu and Andhra Pradesh). Big business houses dealing with NTFP, trades, manufacturing units in major cities of Chennai, Hyderabad, Kerala, Nasik, Mumbai, Raipur etc were consulted to examine the movement of NTFP and the difficulties in interstate trade. A study on different aspects of gums and resins has been undertaken at national level. The findings of the study were disseminated in a workshop. Based on the recommendations more information is being generated from different parts of the country to finalise the report. Value chain of remunerative NTFP (10 numbers) has been done and based on the analysis a business plan has been developed. Regular market survey and assessment has been done in all 18 designated clusters. Haat bazaar study has been conducted (which is a regular activity of interventions) selected pockets of KBK region to estimate the real market trend/ future price trends of NTFP in the area.

Market Promotion

Because of the constant lobbying with the district administration three market promotion taskforces at Kalahandi, Nuapada and Rayagda have already been formed. The basic objective behind the creation of these bodies is to promote NTFP trade at the district level. Regular meeting of the market promotion are

conducted to discuss the issues in NTFP procurement, trade and enterprise. Discussions are being held to develop rules and regulations to run the board at district level. The task force also develops NTFP business plan for various districts each year before the NTFP season. A buyers sellers interface was organised in Kalahandi to facilitate the trade and explore other opportunity in NTFP business available in the market.

Product development/ Value addition of NTFP

The team has tried to explore value addition possibilities of important NTFP/ Medicinal species like *Andropogon paniculate*, *Chebulic myrabolan* and *Woodfordia fruticosa* at the village level to increase benefits to the tribal people. The idea is to prepare a range of products that can be produced from the above three NTFP using low cost technologies and explore possibilities to sell those value added products at the local level or supply to different industries. Discussions have been made with Ayurvedic doctors, traditional practitioners etc across the country on product development techniques on medicinal plants. The processes that have been followed are interaction with different stake holders within the state and beyond, document different low cost people friendly value addition technologies for the targeted products, conduct technical survey, experiment and product profiling market survey and develop future enterprise development plan.

The cooperatives have been mobilized to tap the maximum potentiality of NTFP and undertake procurement collectively in the area and hold the produce for some time for maximum margin. The team has negotiated with the local and outside traders to purchase the produce from the SHGs /cooperatives. The SHGs were also oriented to go for collective bargaining with the local traders. Training programmes have been organised to set up low cost and small processing units particularly in powder making. The organisation has established linkages with various institutions for developing value added products. Various value added products have been developed and marketed, prominent among them are tamarind cake, products from *bel* and *amla* like juice, candy, squash, jam and jelly, packaged honey, *kalmegh*, *harida*, *behada* powder etc in two clusters like Dangsorada and Biswanathpur. The products developed by the co-operatives were marketed in the district level and state level fairs, direct selling by the co-operative members and other interest groups. Two NTFP stores have been opened in Kalahandi and Koraput to sale co-operative NTFP products and two more shops will be opened in the next three months at Bhubaneswar and Rayagda respectively. All the products are marketed in the brand name “**Banaja**”. The products were prepared and packaged by different co-operatives in their area; however it sold in common places. A central level training cum demonstration centre on processing of different NTFPs is on the anvil. Processing of oil seeds using manual expellers has also been demonstrated in many areas. Two Common facility centres are created in Biswanathpur and Dangsorada to provide regular training and enterprise production of various NTFP value added products. These centres are exclusively managed by the cooperatives in the area. The team has been in constant touch with the cooperatives to facilitate the process.

3. Staff capacity building:

Efforts have been made by the centre to build the capacity of the staffs to make them cope up with the present issues in forestry sector. Many in house training programmes have been organised for the staffs on different aspects of forest management. The staffs who are dealing with technical aspects of forest management have attended an ecological monitoring workshop organised by NTFP Exchange Programme at Nilgiris, Tamil Nadu. The NTFP team has been trained on sustainable harvesting of honey at Keystone office, Nilgiris. One of the research staff has attended a South Asia Research Workshop at Delhi organised by OXFAM South Asia regional office. The cooperatives and the field staffs dealing with NTFP have been trained on institutional management, a training programme by Dhan Foundation, Coimbatore. Apart from the staffs dealing with NTFP, research etc have attended many small training programme on fair trade, market promotion etc at national level.

4. Future direction:

In the coming years the centre intends to focus more on the continued debate on decentralized governance in forestry sector. It would create scope for citizen's review of Orissa's forestry sector development efforts and also play a watchdog role in implementation of different projects, schemes etc in forestry sector. The centre proposes to increase its interventions in sensitizing and mobilizing communities for proper implementation of forest rights legislations. For livelihood security of forest dependent communities the centre would increase its investments in forest based livelihood and alternative market access for different forest products.

Centre for Water for Life (CWL)

1. Introduction:

Centre for Water for Life is another thematic centre of Regional Centre for Development Cooperation. The centre devotes exclusively to promote the cause of people's ownership and management of water with the going intentions of the state to privatize the water resources.

Perspective

Playing catalytic role in initiating collective action, so that it can be ensured that there is enough water for all life forms.

With a mandate to act as a catalyst and facilitator for community initiatives towards water resources management by the people, the Centre has charted out a well thought out road map for itself. A series of programmes have been planned over the next few years to bring water to the forefront of public debate. They are research, documentation, advocacy and networking with other civil society organisations on water-related issues.

Centre for Water for Life has four thematic programme areas as well as two thematic functional areas to fulfill the aim and objective of the centre. Those are:

Thematic Programme :

- Drinking Water & Sanitation
- River Basin
- Peoples Water Management
- Water and Livelihood

Functional Programmes :

- Water Education
- Documentation and Communication

2. Major Interventions:

- Preparation of a report on the "State of Drinking Water in Orissa" is going on, covering all the thirty districts of Orissa to have a clear understanding of the real drinking water situation in the state.
- To prepare the future generation for the judicious use of water, the School Water Education programme, named as "Investing in the Future" is being demonstrated in 30 schools spread in three districts, i.e. Bolangir, Nayagarh and Balasore.
- Three studies have been undertaken to understand the dynamics of Peoples' Water Management namely:
 - Role of Gram Panchayat in Water Management;
 - Pani Panchayat: Issues and Trends;
 - Water Harvesting and Traditional Water Management Structures.
- Preparation of a report on the "State of Water Resources Management in Orissa" is going on, covering all the thirty districts of Orissa to have a clear understanding of the real water situation in the state as well as various water related issues of the state.

- A study on River Basin has been undertaken in Patnagr block of Bolan district named 'Mayawati Initiative'.
- A process has been initiated for asserting the rights of the people of Orissa in drinking water sector.
- A model for water security has been developed for Heavy Water Plant, Ministry of Atomic Energy, Talcher has been developed.

3. Achievements:

- Report on State of Drinking Water in Orissa.
- Plan for Mayawati Basin Management.
- Finalization of Teachers' manual to prepare the future generation for the judicious use of water.
- Report on 'Role of Gram Panchayat in Water Management'
- Report on 'Pani Panchayat: Issues and Trends'
- Report on 'Water Harvesting and Traditional Water Management Structures'
- Report on 'State of Water Resources Management in Orissa'
- Drinking Water Manual.
- Water Security Plan for Heavy Water Plant, Talcher.
- Database on various issues related to water in Orissa.
- Documentation and Publications.

4. Area of operation and target groups:

Interventions	Area of operation	Target group
Action research and documentation, consultation, database creation, advocacy etc on drinking water.	Whole of Orissa	NGOs, CBOs, Government Institutions, Academic Institutions etc.
Developing Alternative Approaches to Community Based Management of Water	Bolan, Nayagr, and Balasore district. Whole of Orissa	School children, teachers, and parents, Government Line Agencies
Food and livelihood security through community based management of natural resources	KBK regions of Orissa	Tribal & other backward communities, NGOs, CBOs, PRIs etc.
Development of a proper basin plan through the involvement of local communities.	Patnagr block of Bolan district.	Communities, NGOs, CBOs, PRIs etc.

5. Activities undertaken during the year:

The major activity components implemented during the year under reporting were:

- Documentation, database creation and publication
- Research and Studies
- Status assessment of drinking water situation,
- River basin planning
- Status assessment of water resources management in Orissa,

- Preparing the future generation for the judicious use of water through School Water Education,
- Developing a Process for asserting the right to safe drinking water in Orissa,
- Capacity building and model development.
- Campaign on Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) – Katha Rakhibaa Sarakar (KRS) Campaign.

5.1 Documentation, Data Base Creation and Publication:

Information collection from different sources:

Information collection and dissemination being the primary mandate of RCDC, it is being collected and disseminated on a regular basis. Regular contact is being made with different wings of the government both at state, district and division level on different water related programmes. The centre is able to disseminate the information, when the centre has adequate resource and information base. So documentation is the most important programmatic unit of Center for Water for Life and it is recognized as resourceful one through its proper information collection. Many of the vital information were collected from different sources like; Water Resources Department, Rural Water Supply and Sanitation (Under Department of Rural Development), Panchayati Raj Department etc. and many renowned institutions. The Assembly debates on water have also been collected in proper time interval.

Even the Nodes are functioning more as correspondents who are collecting relevant information, following events and collecting cases of various water management practices from different parts of the State. They are keeping a close contact with the local media so that water related stories find proper space in the respective newspapers from the district. Apart from collection of information, their main responsibilities have been rapport building with local officials, NGOs working on relevant issues, networks and academia. The Nodes are based in Keonjhar, Kendrapada, Ganjam, Sambalpur, Bolangir and Bhubaneswar to cover all the 30 districts of the state.

Thematic database created:

Newspaper clippings database

A newspaper clipping database had been created by using the clipping available with RCDC documentation centre. This database covers clipping on all aspects of water resource. All the clipping have been scanned and converted into JPEG files and these files are also entered into the MS Access package. Proper indexing of newspaper clipping have been done as per the major sector, sub-sectors, etc. Newspapers clipping in the JPEG files can be accessed directly as per the date of publication, name of the newspapers, district and important areas, and sectors and sub-sectors. Clipping of six newspapers for the period January 1999 to 2005 December has been incorporated into the database. Presently eight newspapers are being clipped on a day to day basis to have updates on the developments on the water front. Since January-2005 a news paper clipping dossier *Panira Khabara* is being published by the Centre. Prior to that, the said paper clipping dossier was of an in-house publication for one year.

Address database

Updating the mailing address for *Jala Jeevana Sambad (JJS)* and *Panira Khabara (PK)* is done on a regular basis. A dataset is also maintained, which keeps the address of all the resourceful persons in water sector. Beside all these, a database of e-mail ids of several eminent persons, institutions and organizations has been made for Waterwise and a regular update of that database goes on.

Database on water quality

Water quality is emerging as a major problem area in the drinking water sector in the state. But, getting cohesive information on water quality has been a difficult task. Information is available in bits and pieces and from different sources. Only coherent source of information available on water quality is from the Central Ground Water Board. The water quality information from the National Hydrograph Stations in the

state (altogether 1008 in Orissa) has been entered into the database. This information is representative of the water quality of the state as the hydrograph centres have been developed as per the groundwater situation of the state. But, the limitation of this database is that it has information only of the chemical contamination on Arsenic, Chloride, Nitrate, Fluoride, Electrical conductivity etc. It does not have the bacteriological parameters or presence of pesticides. Same is the state of information on water quality available with other departments or wing which is very scattered. RWSS and PHED also do water quality testing. But, getting the water quality reports on a large scale has not been possible because of resistance from the concerned departments. Again information on bacteriological contamination is not available with the departments. Presently the effort is on to get the time series data on water quality or the 1008 hydrograph stations in the country. Presently we have all the water quality data for 3 years alongwith the RWSS water quality test report of four districts.

River basin database

A database for all the separate river basins in Orissa has been designed and out of which Brahmani and Mahanadi basin databases have been completed. The rest river basin databases are in the process of data incorporation.

Communication materials for different stakeholders:

- ***Jala Jeevana Sambad*** (Dialogue on Water & Life):
Jala Jeevana Sambad (JJS) is quarterly Oriya newsletter on the water front of Orissa. This publication intends to create a critical mass by better understanding of various issues pertaining in the water scenario of Orissa.
- ***Panira Khabara*** (Water News):
Panira Khabara is a newspaper clipping dossier in Oriya, which carries some of the important news related to water covering around eight daily newspapers of Orissa. This is a monthly publication.
- ***Waterwise***:
Waterwise is a bi-monthly electronic newsletter in English with the objective of creating a platform for dialogue and exchange of ideas for those who value water and have definite interest for judicious use of water.
- **Occasional Publication:**
This year, the centre has come out with the first English occasional publication named ‘*The Bhagirathas*’ – a booklet on water diviners of Orissa. Beside this, the centre has come out with a leaflet on rain water harvesting

5.2 Research and Studies:

The research and study, being an integral part of the activities of the centre, some studies have been undertaken during the year under reporting. Those studies are:

- **Study on “Role of Gram Panchayat in Water Management”:**
Gram Panchayat is the base institution of the governance system, which is legal and constitutional. In the process of delegation of authority and decentralization of power, many important functions have been given to the Gram Panchayats for the wider and faster welfare of the commons. So in course of time, some of the important functions related to the water sector have been transferred to the Gram Panchayat level. Centre has conducted a study to understand the issues and concerns as well as the field reality in the role of Gram Panchayat in water management. In this study, the Centre was looking for the facts like, whether the Gram Panchayats are well resourced and well oriented to take over the important functions, does the situation really permit the Gram Panchayats to take over the functions, what the people really want in this regard, what are the threats and challenges in this regard, how far the people are practically benefited out of the power shifting etc.

- **Study on “Role of Gram Panchayat in Drinking Water Management”:**
As said earlier that Gram Panchayat is base institution of governance system and recently a lot of functions have been transferred to Gram Panchayat in the field of drinkingwater management. Through this study, the centre was trying to understand various responsibilities handed over to Gram Panchayat in this regard and whether the Gram Panchayat had adequate base and resources along with the capacities to take over the new responsibility in the changing context. The present arrangement is that entire responsibility of drinkingwater operation and maintenance is with the Gram Panchayat.
- **Study on “Water Harvesting and Traditional Water Management”:**
Orissa has a huge base of traditional knowledge for better management of common resources. In case of water management and water harvesting also there are a lot of traditional practices existing till now. But in course of time, the contemporary knowledge base has been superseded the widely prevailing traditional knowledge base in this regard. Through the study of ‘Water Harvesting and Traditional Water Management’, Centre is in the process of documentation and restoration of those knowledge bases along with making those unique practices as model for others.
- **Study on “Pani Panchayat”:**
When we talk about the better management of natural resources like water, we always talk about the management by community and when any common things to be managed by community, there should be an institutional setup like Panchayat. In the case of irrigation, Orissa is quite advance for water management by community. There are a lot of ‘Pani Panchayats’ have been formed in the state in recent years for participatory irrigation management, where community has the real ownership and it is the responsibility of no one other than community to carry out the operation and maintenance of those ‘Pani Panchayats’. Through this study of ‘Pani Panchayat’, Centre is trying to prepare a status of all the formed Pani Panchayats. The Centre is trying to understand, what are the reasons behind the dis-functioning of some Pani Panchayats and what are the strong points behind proper functioning of some of the Pani Panchayats.
- **Water and Livelihood:**
The Center is documenting various water related livelihoods starting from fishing and pisciculture to salt worker and from boating to lotus trading. Through this process, the Centre wants to document all the possible livelihood options related to water.
- **Position Paper on Drinking Water and Sanitation:**
When we talk about the basic need of water, it intends to drinkingwater. Under the campaign for ensuring millennium development goals (MDGs) – *Katha Rakhibaa Sarakar (KRS)* the centre is in the process of developing a position paper on drinkingwater and sanitation, which meant for looking at the status in MDG point of view.
- **Smaller Studies:**
 - **Irrigation Efficiency in Orissa:** Issues associated with irrigation system, the efficiency of the system, various conflicts and contradictions associated with the system and are people really benefited out of the system?
 - **Fishermen suicide:** Fishing being primary water based livelihood, what are the threats and why such a vast and promising livelihood is shrinking in a result fishermen are committing suicide.
 - **Swajaldhara** (Ongoing drinkingwater scheme of government, which is a demand driven project, where the community is responsible for operation and maintenance of the sources): What was intended and what is happening in Orissa with case studies.
 - **Tank Irrigation in Orissa :** Tank irrigation is an irrigation practice, which is common in both traditional practices as well as modern practices. What is the status and how people are relating to the tank in this modern era.

- Sector Reforms in Sundergrh : Sundergrh, being one of the three districts, where sector reforms in drinking water and sanitation sector had been implemented, what is the status now? Is the system delivering? Are the institutions created for the purpose alive?
- Participation in Water Sector: All the current policies related to water are encouraging community participation in all phases, starting from the planning. But in reality what is happening?

5.3 Status Assessment of Drinking Water Situation:

Centre for Water for Life has prepared a report on the state of drinking water in Orissa, in which the issues and condition of drinking water of all the 30 districts of Orissa have been identified. With a proper design, the first draft of all the chapters had been developed. After that the process of incorporating issues went on as findings were coming after sharing those in regional consultations. At the same time, some of the changes in policy level at the state government level regarding drinking water provisioning and operation and maintenance of the existing as well as new sources was under process, has necessitated substantial changes in the in the Status report. Finally, after incorporating the above said things, the report was shared with some NGOs, academicians and institutions as well as with some government officials to get the feedback through a state level consultation. Then the final report came out.

5.4 River Basin Planning:

The project is being grounded in Mayawati basin, which is a third order tributary of river Mahanadi, situated in Patnagr block of Bolangir district in Orissa. The Centre is involved in the basin planning of the river, by developing a framework that accommodates people's concerns and water conservation. This program looks into the issues of river basins, dams and reservoirs, irrigation, drought, flood and water logging management, watershed management, water allocation to different sectors within the basin etc, in which the traditional knowledge base as well as the modern technologies like GIS/RS has same stake.

Monitoring water inflow and outflow:

The basin area is around 150 sq. kms and is within Patnagr block of Bolangir district. Five rain gauge stations and four river gauge stations had been established during the initiation of the project. The river cross section has been drawn and calculated and flow meters have been set-up during this period. Even the thermometer to measure the maximum and minimum temperature, barometer to measure the amount of rainfall and hydrometer has been installed during this period. The monitoring of inflow and outflow of the river, rainfall, maximum and minimum temperature, humidity and atmospheric pressure were going on a day-to-day basis and the data is recorded in the form of a database.

Data collection on water use, cropping pattern, productivity:

The base line data collection has been done on a regular basis in the basin area. As a result, Mayawati basin mapping had been done and all the villages in the basin area had been identified during first two months of the period. Even the rapport had been developed with local villagers, government officials of various departments like block, watershed, forest, agriculture, soil conservation and revenue etc, Panchayatiraj Institution (PRI) members, and other NGOs like WORLP and UNDP etc, who are active in the basin related to natural resource management. Villages transect, village context analysis, and development trend analysis had been done to identify various issues in the basin villages relevant for the project during this period. All the required secondary data have been collected from all the concerned departments like revenue, irrigation, DRDA, Panchayati Raj etc. to have a better understanding about the basin, to know exactly the problems of the basin and to prepare an authentic plan for the basin, which can really address the water related problem of the people living in the basin. Beside all these some of the important data had been collected on:

- Demography of the basin villages
- Occupation-wise household
- Geographical area of the basin villages

- Migration data in the basin villages List of existing water bodies in the village with a list of traditional water bodies
- Drainage pattern in the basin
- Salient feature of the MIPs
- Information on lift irrigation
- Cropping Pattern
- Land status of the basin villages (irrigation)
- Reserve forest data
- Rainfall data of last 25 years
- Data on pisciculture in the basin villages
- Data of industries in the basin are, those are consuming water
- Rural and urban drinking water supply data
- Data on livestock population
- Data on land use and land pattern

Even the village case studies have been done in many villages of the basin as per requirement and the village profile of all the villages have been developed during the period under reporting

Developing GIS maps:

In the initial period, i.e. beginning of the year, a base map of the basin area had been developed for guiding our activities in the basin and for easy understanding of the basin. The base map was of 1:5000 scales and the imagery procured for that was a super impose of LISS-III and PAN. The map shows the entire basin from the space with alleviation, which is extremely helpful for micro level planning of the basin. The map also covers the exact road network of the basin including the footpaths, the latest drainage line of the basin through which the entire water of the basin is draining out, the detail land use map of the basin with classifications like single crop land, double crop land, barren land, forest land, used and un-used land, residential area etc., the village boundaries located inside the basin area, the entire surface water bodies of the basin, all the important locations of the basin and the locations of all the monitoring stations in the basin. The final product, i.e. the GIS map of the basin is as per the requirement of the project and it is absolutely useful for the micro planning of the basin. The map mainly covers:

- Exact road network of the basin including the footpaths,
 - Latest drainage line of the basin through which the entire water of the basin is draining out,
 - Detailed land use map of the basin with classifications like single crop land, double crop land, barren land, forest land, used and un-used land, residential area etc.,
 - Village boundaries located inside the basin area, the
 - Surface water bodies of the basin,
- Important locations of the basin and the locations of all the monitoring stations in the basin. The final product, i.e. the GIS map of the basin is as per the requirement of the project and it is absolutely useful for the micro planning of the basin.

Basin Plan Development:

Why the intervention is in terms of basin management while there are other options available like watershed and the state already is into basin management approach? This is a natural question when we discuss about Mayawati Initiative. Watershed approach is no doubt a very intensive intervention in land and water management. But, this takes longer time to be implemented and the area covered is very small. It will take quite a long period to cover the whole of the basin and also substantial resources. Other than this whatever watersheds are being implemented rather than looking into water conservation, ends up being soil conservation measures because of the implementation modalities adopted presently. Hence Basin approach

of water conservation has certain advantages over the watershed. On the other hand there is no conflict between the watershed intervention and Mayawati Initiative. Interventions pertaining to Mayawati Initiative could be made after the watershed intervention or before. It will accentuate the benefits of the watershed. On the other hand the efforts by the state for River Basin planning is in a nascent state. It neither has the concerns of the people in the basin are reflected in it nor it has people at the center of planning. Hence Mayawati Intervention is taken up as a cost effective, faster and people inclusive intervention. With the reference of all the primary and secondary data along with the inputs from village level meeting, the basin management plan has been developed.

5.5 Status Assessment of Water Resources Management in Orissa:

The centre has undertaken a study on 'State of Water Resources Management in Orissa' during the period under reporting. This is basically an one year study, which will give direction towards developing a water vision for the state of Orissa. Water management in Orissa by the government has not created much space for the common people to participate either in planning or management of water. Rather the traditionally the dominant role that the people have been playing in water management has been systematically eroded by the centralized management of water by the State. Water has been considered as the exclusive domain of the government in general and that is the reason not many people have kept a vigil over the latest developments in the state. In the changed context the voices and concerns of common people regarding the water resources management may not be heard in the din created by the big players in this sector. So there is a need for demystification of government policies, laws, rules and practices in order to make people understand the implications of various initiatives taken by the government, initiate processes to understand and analyze the present problems and the fundamental reasons behind it, document the solutions that people propose for addressing them. This will lead to a water vision for the state of Orissa by the people and create a level ground for the people and CSOs to engage with the State for a change in water resources management. So for the said purpose, there should be a base paper on the state of water resources management of the state and this was the purpose of the study. The main components of the study were:

- **Study design and segments:**

The design of the study has been done during the inception of the project and as per the design, there are eleven segments in the study, which are:

- Water resource of the State.
- Water for drinking and domestic use.
- Water for Agriculture.
- Water for livelihoods.
- Water for Industries.
- Ecological functions of water.
- Water Related Calamities.
- Water Conservation.
- Water Management – Participatory Irrigation Management (PIM) / Traditional Land and Water Management (TLWM) / Gender Equity.
- Other forces in water management/ Interstate conflict. River linking initiative etc.
- People and Water Management.

The first four segments have been completed during the period under reporting

- **Issues identification:**

Prosperity and economical development of a region is linked to water resource development of that region. Orissa has plenty of water resources (114 lakh ham), in the form of annual precipitation to the tune of 1500mm; major rivers like Mahanadi, Brahmani, Baitarani and Subarnarekha draining the state; 480 kms of coastline; the largest brackish water lake of Asia – Chilka and about 19,88,856 ham of utilisable ground water resources. Despite being resource rich, Orissa is ranked as the poorest of the states in India. Water rather than being a boon for the state has turned out to be a bane for it in the absence of proper management of it. While drought stalks the upper reaches of the rivers, the

flood plain i.e. the coastal region, has to face the fury of flood almost every year. Apart from these, there are myriad problems like poor potential realization for irrigation; regional disparity in coverage of irrigation, water logging over exploitation of ground water, saline ingress, shortage of drinking water ... and the list goes on. Centralized management of water by the State has not been able to address the major concerns of the state. During the period under reporting all the possible issues pertaining to water sector of the state – both at micro level and macro level have been identified.

- Regional consultations:

To have a look at the issues pertaining to water sector at the micro level a series of regional consultation with NGOs, CSOs, peoples' organizations, institutions, academicians, media houses and line department personals has been planned. Those consultations are:

Sl	Districts	Cluster
01	Sambalpur	<u>First Cluster</u> Sambalpur
02	Bargarh	
03	Jharugda	
04	Sundargarh	
05	Deogarh	<u>Second Cluster</u> Angul
06	Angul	
07	Dhenkanal	
08	Keonjhar	
09	Bolangir	<u>Third Cluster</u> Bolangir
10	Sonepur	
11	Nuapada	
12	Kalahandi	
13	Boudh	
14	Nawarangur	<u>Fourth Cluster</u> Koraput
15	Koraput	
16	Malkangiri	
17	Rayagda	
18	Phulbani	<u>Fifth Cluster</u> Berhampur
19	Ganjam	
20	Gajapati	
21	Nayagr	<u>Sixth Cluster</u> Bhubaneswar
22	Cuttack	
23	Puri	
24	Khurdha	
25	Jajpur	<u>Seventh Cluster</u> Jajpur
26	Kendrapada	
27	Jagtsingpur	
28	Balasore	<u>Eighth Cluster</u> Balasore
29	Bhadrak	
30	Mayurbhanj	

As per the design, two consultations have been conducted at Koraput and Berhampur. Koraput consultation was for two days covering Nabarangur, Koraput, Malkangiri and Rayagda districts, whereas Berhampur consultation was for one day covering Phulbani, Ganjam and Gajapati districts.

5.6 Preparing the future generation for the judicious use of water:

Centre for Water for Life had undertaken a programme to promote the water education in 30 schools of 3 districts (10 schools from each district) on a demonstration basis. The three districts are Nayagr, Bolang and Balasore, those represent three geographical areas as hilly terrain with quality problem, drought prone area and flood prone area respectively. Through this programme, the Centre is in the process of preparing the future generation for the judicious use of water and that is why the programme is widely known as 'Investing in the future'. This programme has two segments; Junior (Class-VI and Class-VII) and Senior (Class-VIII to Class-X). Under this programme, the package has been developed, which covers the curriculum, the content area and the Teacher's Manual with materials. The sole purpose of the programme is to make a value added educational programme with a lot of activities, by which the interest among the students for water education can be generated and it will have a longterm impact upon the students. The programme will carry the knowledge from students to family and from family to community. A plan for the implementation of the programme has also been developed during the period under reporting

5.7 Developing a Process for asserting the right to safe drinking water in Orissa:

During the period under reporting a process has been initiated for asserting the rights on safe drinking water in Orissa. The effort was to look at drinking water provisioning by the State with a rights approach and find out how the communities not having access to drinking water can assert their rights. For this we have looked into the constitutional provisions, laws, policies, and different declarations by the Government and also have identified major dimensions of right to drinking water. To begin with we had prepared a detailed manual on the provisions for supplying drinking water. This was shared with different resourceful persons like retired Engineer in Chief of RWSS and PHED, various academicians and institutions who are working both in the field of drinking water as well as in the field of people's right and entitlement through individual meeting.

5.8 Capacity Building and Model Development:

- **Water Security Plan for HWP:**
The Heavy Water Plant (HWP), Ministry of Atomic Energy, Government of India is located at Talcher, which is a dry patch in Orissa having huge water scarcity. There is no perennial source and the ground water is not present up to a depth of 200 meters due to the talcher slate. To meet the water requirement of HWP, there are two options left, i.e. rain water harvesting and tapping the sub-surface water. The centre has developed a water security plan for HWP to meet the water requirement, which is low cost as well as practically possible. Mainly a multi pronged approach to meet the water requirement is proposed. Firstly tapping the ground and sub-surface water, secondly ground water-recharging and rainwater harvesting for ensuring sustainability of the sources and also augmenting water availability. The third option is roof top rainwater harvesting
- **Collaboration with Government:**
This year the World Water Day – 22nd March' 07 was celebrated with various concerned departments of Government of Orissa as well as Government of India. The effort was made for the first time by Central Water Commission to have a common event for the occasion. The centre had conducted a painting competition on 18th March – 2007 in collaboration with Water Aid India in two segments i.e. junior and senior and the celebration of the day was common with other departments in Bhubaneswar. Honorable Chief Minister of Orissa Mr. Naveen Pattanaik was the Chief Guest and the winners of the painting competition got prizes and certificates from him.
- **Networking with NGOs in Sundergarh:**
The centre has initiated a network with NGOs of Sundergarh district for understanding and documenting various issues pertaining to water in the district. This is the first field level network of the centre and the first study conducted by the network was on Sector Reforms in the district.
- **Capacity Building of Staffs:**
The capacity building of the staffs of the centre is a regular phenomenon. But a formal session of the capacity building has been done for five days at the office. All the staffs posted in Bhubaneswar as

well as the staffs posted in field including the field informants had participated in the programme. Beside this, some staffs of the centre were also sent for out door training programmes and workshops, both within the state and out side.

5.9 Campaign on Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) – Katha Rakhibaa Sarakar

(KRS) Campaign:

‘Katha Rakhibaa Sarakar’ (KRS) Campaign is a process initiated by a group of NGOs and INGOs working in Orissa. It aspires to go for a broad based campaign on MDGs in general in Orissa and Poverty Alleviation, Drinking Water & Sanitation, Land Rights and HIV/AIDS related issues in particular. The KRS Campaign intends to facilitate the collectives of NGOs, CSOs, Students, and Peoples’ Organizations at the district level to take this campaign to the grassroots. The Campaign is coordinated through a state level Campaign Secretariat hosted by the centre, which is responsible for day-to-day activities of the campaign. Various activities undertaken through the campaign by the centre during the period under reporting are:

- **Network Initiation:**

In every month since Sept. 06, the 5 Core Group Member Organization i.e. Regional Centre for Development Cooperation (RCDC), Centre for Youth & Social Development (CYSD), Ekta Parishad – Orissa, Institute of Social Sciences (ISS), Concern Worldwide India representatives sat together to decide on the broad activity framework for the Campaign, which works like an Advisory Body. 5 District level Interaction Workshops conducted by the Campaign Secretariat with local organizing partners at Sundargarh (Rourkela on 8th December, 06), Nayagarh (on 16th December, 06), Gajapati (Paralakhemundi on 27th December, 06), Kalahandi (Bhawanipatna on 5th January, 07) and Keonjhar (Keonjhar on 12th January, 07). 5 District level Campaign Working Committee have been formed by the participants of the District level Interaction Workshops with one Convenor and one Co-convenor to lead Campaign at the district level consisting of representatives from NGOs, Alliances / Networks, Student Unions, Media Persons, Advocates / Teachers Groups / Women Groups / Individuals. Campaign Manager participated in the India Social Forum 2006 held at New Delhi from 9th to 13th Nov, 06 to give a national level visibility to the Campaign, also participated in the ‘9 is Mine’ Programme organized by WNTA on 13th November, 06 at YMCA Auditorium, New Delhi. Campaign Manager participated in the WNTA States Coordination Committee Meeting held at Bhubaneswar from 21st to 22nd December, 06 as an invitee and presented the KRS Campaign process in the Meeting Campaign Core Members participated in the Interaction between Orissa Group & WNTA on 21st Dec, 06 evening. An Interactive Meeting with WNTA Steering Group members along with States Coordination Group Members on 22nd December, 06 evening was also held at Bhubaneswar to get a future direction for the possible coordination & cooperation methodology between WNTA & KRS Campaign.

- **Important Day Observation:**

Campaign Core Members & others participated in the Stand Up event at BJB Colleg Ground, Bhubaneswar on 16th October, 06 with students, teachers, media persons, celebrities and representatives from various organizations (156 participants). Similar event also organized by the Campaign Secretariat at SCS Colleg, Puri campus with students and teachers (674 participants). A State level seminar on ‘Poverty Issues in Orissa’ have been organized on 17th October, 06 to observe the International Day for Eradication of Poverty at Bhubaneswar (34 participants) where Mr. Aurobinda Behera, IAS, Commissioner-cum-Secretary, Water Resource Department, Government of Orissa participated as the Chief Guest. Reports and photographs of both the Stand Up events organized by the Campaign have been displayed by the Official Website of UNMC & Stand Up.

- **Position Paper Preparation:**

A common Content Framework for developing the 4 Position Papers on Poverty Alleviation, Land Rights, Drinking Water and HIV / AIDS has been developed and agreed by the Core Group Members. According to the decision of the Core Group, 4 ToR for developing the Position Papers

with the agreed Content Framework have been signed between RCDC and CYSD (Poverty Alleviation), Ekta Parishad – Orissa (Land Rights), Ms. Madhusmita Baisakha, Consultant / Ref: RCDC CWL (Drinking Water) & Rajesh Kapoor, Consultant / Ref: Concern (HIV AIDS). Campaign Secretariat received the 1st Draft of Position Papers on Land Rights (from Ekta Parishad – Orissa) & HIV / AIDS (from Rajesh Kapoor, Consultant), which is under revision. A half day review meeting on the draft Position Paper on HIV / AIDS & Orissa, submitted by Mr. Rajesh Kapoor, Consultant was held at Concern Worldwide office, Bhubaneswar on 12th March 2007. Another half day review meeting on the draft Position Paper on Land Rights & Orissa, submitted by Ekta Parishad was held at CYSD, Bhubaneswar on 29th March 2007.

▪ State level District Working Committee Members Workshop :

A two-day State level Orientation cum Strategy Building Workshop on MDGs & Vision 2007 for KRS Campaign was held on 23rd & 24th February, 2007 at DPTC, Red Cross Bhavan, Bhubaneswar having 67 participants involving the 5 District Working Committee members from Sundargarh, Kalahandi, Nayagarh, Keonjhar and Gajapati.

▪ Broad basing of KRS Campaign:

A e-group named 'campaignkrs@googlegroups.com' has started with about 1100 E-mail IDs of Orissan NGOs/ alliances/ networks/ Govt. organizations/ individuals and information sharing on various issues are on. Apart from that, personal level interactions to introduce KRS Campaign have been done with the Orissa Chief Functionaries of CRS, Lepira, Action Aid during March 2007.

▪ Development of IEC Materials:

IEC Materials have been developed in English and Oriya on KRS Campaign, MDGs, NDGs, CMPs (Govt. of India & Govt. of Orissa) and distributed during 2-day State level Workshop on 23rd & 24th February 2007. Further development of IEC materials like KRS Campaign Brochure and Booklet on MDGs, NDGs, CMPs are on both in English and Oriya.

▪ Some Other Activities:

6 monthly Review of KRS Campaign: A half day 6-monthly Review meeting of KRS campaign was held on 2nd March 2007 at Concern Worldwide India office, Bhubaneswar having presence of all Core Group members. A meeting was also held with Mr. Minar Pimple, Deputy Director, Asia, UNMC on 13th February 2007 at Hotel Royal Mid Town, where he was briefed on KRS Campaign process and on possible action plan for 7/7/7 – Mid Way Mark of Ensuring Millennium Development Goals.

6. Future Course of Action:

The Centre intends to broad-base its database on water resources management in Orissa in days to come and prepare communication materials for the primary dependant and users groups and villagers to understand policies and programmes of the Government, issues involved in the process and strategies for addressing these issues. In addition to the ongoing efforts the organisation is intending to take up following interventions:

- The Centre is planning to open-up all the sectors mentioned in the perspective plan to cover more and more aspects of water and moving more close to the community. Especially in peoples' water management aspect, the Centre is planning to move further few steps.
- The Centre is also planning to develop a people centric water vision of the state by completing the base paper on the "State of Water Resources Management in Orissa".
- The centre also intends to implement the School Water Education programme in 20 schools of each district i.e. Nayagarh, Bolangir and Balasore for a longer period.

- As the water quality, especially fluoride is emerging as a major issue in the state, the centre is planning to work on fluoride through preparing a base paper on extent of fluoride contamination in Orissa and exploring various community viable low cost de-fluoridation technologies.

Above all, the capacity building of the staffs working in the Centre will be treated as the important aspect for carrying forward the thing and adequate effort will be given in this regard.

Centre for Community Development (CCD), Bolangir

1. Introduction:

Centre for Community Development is one of the two geographical centres of RCDC. The centre is operating in the district of Bolangir with a focus to organise the communities on their rights and entitlements over various natural and other resources and services provided by the state. Besides this rights based approach, ensuring food security in the medium term and enhancing livelihood security in the long term of the poor and vulnerable is central to the various interventions.

Perspective

Organising and strengthening communities to own, control and manage local natural and other livelihood resources for food and livelihood security.

With the decline in natural resource base and its productivity, and also the traditional knowledge and practices, the livelihood of millions of people has been threatened. In the districts like Bolangir poor management of natural resources has led to environmental degradation and subsequent disasters such as drought. Inadequate safety measures have made the poor more vulnerable to food insecurity and vicious cycles of poverty. One of the most important parameters of development is the improved livelihood status of the poor & marginalized. RCDC constantly endeavours to create opportunities for the women groups, poor farmers and wage earners to diversify their livelihood options and strengthen their coping mechanisms to face different challenges in development.

2. Strategy:

The natural resource management and community empowerment approach to development is a strategy to create a viable food security alternative as an employment-generating channel preferably managed by women groups and poor people. This strategy combines 3 key elements:

- Need-based livelihood development with a high impact on poverty alleviation, putting the accent on availability of resources locally and secured returns on investment:
- The promotion and up scaling of the production that will enhance the subsistence level of the rural poor and
- The creation of an empowered peoples' forum to the extent that it becomes capable to demand for services and shoulder the responsibility of social reconstruction and asset building

RCDC strives for peoples' effective access to state's food assistance and social security programs, increased production of subsistence crops through improved farming practices, promotion of traditional knowledge, effective functioning of community institutions at grassroots level and increased entrepreneurial capacity and activity. All the programs are directed towards empowering the community and the PRI representatives on different rural development policies enacted by the government and the management rights over the natural resources. The exclusive strategy is as under:

- Awareness raising and capacity building of community organization, PRIs and the target population about their rights and responsibilities
- Information generation and dissemination on specific development issues, policies, programmes, etc.
- Building and nurturing community institutions and community infrastructures to develop livelihood condition of the poor.
- Empowerment of women to make them equal partners in development process and decision making
- Policy advocacy for a more holistic approach to development where social, economic and political facets of development are taken care of
- Developing alliances with other organizations having similar objective.
- Model demonstrations for replication.

3. Area of operation and overview of projects:

Livelihood insecurity renders people vulnerable to economic instability. The combined effects of food insecurity and lack of awareness on natural resource management are to blame for the socio economic vulnerability of the marginalised households. RCDC has extended an exhaustive approach to reach out to the most vulnerable population in the project area.

During the year the entire district of Balangir was the operational area for RCDC-CCD. Presently our activities are concentrated in 31 Gram Panchayats spread over 3 CD Blocks namely Patnagr, Gudvella and Deogon. In our forestry network intervention 474 villages are involved spread over the entire district. Wage labourers, small and marginal farmers, forest dependent communities and women in the project villages are the target population with whom the center is working. Apart from the marginalised sections, PRI members and other NGOs are also interacted closely.

Projects in a nutshell

<i>Title of the project</i>	<i>Area of operation</i>	<i>Donor</i>	<i>Duration of the support</i>
Western Orissa Rural Livelihood Project	33 villages in 10 GPs of Gudvella block	OWDM	January 2004 to March 2010
Food and livelihood security through community based management of natural resources	87 villages in 12 GPs of Patnagr block	DCA	October 2004 to September 2007
Capacity Building of Panchayati Raj Institutions and Community Based Organizations for management and trading of NTFPs	25 villages in 5 GPs of Deogon block	KZE	April 2001 to March 2007
Community based resource planning and management for livelihood security	40 villages in 4 GPs of Gudvella block	OXFAM GB	May 2003 to June 2007

4. Activities undertaken during the year:

4.1 Community Mobilisation

When all people especially the rural poor are informed and empowered to engage in the democratic processes, a substantial change in the quality of life of a community can be achieved through their active participation to strengthen and sustain democratic practices and institutions. However, the structures often disempowered certain categories of rural people, by preventing them access to basic rights, entitlements, information, and participation in public policy discussions and decision-making

Access to food for the poor and excluded people with sustainable livelihood, guided by community control and management of natural resources is established through participation and community ownership. Our primary thrust is to ensure social justice by supporting processes that amplify the voices, power and influence of the poor and excluded people. While our response to addressing structural causes of poverty of the most vulnerable people continues, we have engaged ourselves with vulnerable and excluded poor people for the assertion of their rights and entitlements, to enable formation of an empowered community that challenges unequal and unjust power relations through a process of socio economic development and information sharing

Organising the community

Presently we have 12 watersheds covering 38 villages in the Gudvela block. This year we facilitated formation of watershed associations and watershed committees in 4 watersheds supported by WORLP. To ensure community participation in creation of community assets and in the decision-making process in the village, the people were oriented on the watershed concept. Steps were taken so that most vulnerable people especially women can have proper representation in these community based organizations. All these newly formed watershed associations and committees have been legally registered under the Societies Registration Act 1860. The people have been motivated for creation of Watershed Development Fund in every watershed village with their contribution equivalent to about 30% of the wage generated by the project. This fund will be used for maintenance of the assets created by the watershed project after the completion of the project period. As entry point activities the people have renovated village ponds, constructed village roads, made wall writing etc which demonstrated community participation.

We continued to direct our focus on organizing the community in different forms so that they can assert their rights and entitlements collectively. The existing institutions were also strengthened and restructured to ensure involvement of the most vulnerable poorest of the poor people especially the women. The existing Food Security Committees, Watershed Committees, SHGs, Village Development Action Committees, Forest Protection Committees in this process were revitalized, restructured and also federated at GP and cluster level. New SHGs, Forest Protection Committees, Watershed Association and Committees were also formed in the villages that did not have such organizations.

Sensitising the community

The people were informed and oriented on the various social security schemes of the government. In our project area the community organizations chalked out strategy to ensure access of the vulnerable people to the food entitlements provided by the government under Antyodaya Anna Yojana, Annapurna Yojana, Mid Day Meal, BPL rice and the support by the Anganwadis on a regular basis. Apart from these, we continued to generate awareness of the people on various pensions and provisions under National Rural Health Mission. The functioning of schools and Anganwadis were also regularly monitored.

Targeted public distribution system plays a vital role in providing poor people food entitlements at a subsidized and affordable price on a monthly basis. But in practice, a majority of our target families do not get these entitlements regularly. The people were sensitized on PDS through different means. The village level community organizations were capacitated to take up the issues revolving around the PDS. Posters containing vital information on the appropriate quantity and price of the items supplied under PDS were distributed in the villages. The people were also motivated to lodge written complaints to the appropriate authorities. The community based organizations have been supported by the projects to provide credit to the most needy people to avail of food entitlements (PDS) in time.

During this period RCDC has introduced yet another innovative concept of fair price distribution system for the poor families in the project villages. It is observed that the PDS system only addresses a partial food grain requirement of the families whereas a large portion of the food intake supply is purchased from the local shops and markets. A survey by us indicates that most of the families are exploited up to an additional 40 percent of the local market price through cheating in weight and quality of the product. Through wholesale purchase and distribution, the consumers can save this 40 percent of exploitation, which ranges between Rs150 to Rs300 every month for the family. With this concept, an informal consumers' cooperative body is created in the project area having members from vulnerable families (at least 10 members from each village). The members were to deposit a share capital amount of Rs.200 supported with a matching grant of Rs.400 from the project. The members are supposed to intimate their monthly requirement of grocery items from a selected list of 14 essential commodities, which would be supplied to them. They are also required to make the payment instantly and their benefits are manifold in terms of quality and quantity. At the end of the year the cooperative body will distribute dividends to the members from the profit earned during the year. Initially the staff of RCDC would look after this body and gradually the cooperative will be registered and capacitated to take over the management of the system.

4.2 Voter Awareness

In our mission to empower the community, we encouraged them to participate in political, social and economic processes and institutions to decide for their self-betterment. Intensive campaign on voters education was initiated in Patnagrh for electing a good representative who can resolve their issues and to make the PRI election more transparent and free of violence and corruption. The village level community organizations organized "Why I stand" meeting to clarify the queries of the people and know the future plan of development activities as thought of by the potential candidates. Posters on "Fair election and elements of a good candidate" were provided to the operational villages in the district. As a result, in Patnagrh, the people have not been lured by personal gains and have returned the money they have received from some of the candidates. Most of the elected representative are young educated and have shown their genuine interest to work for the poor people.

4.3 Campaigns on NREGA

The government of Orissa launched National Rural Employment Guarantee Act in February 2006 with a legal assurance to provide 100 days employment to the rural jobseekers. In the absence of adequate work opportunities, the people had to migrate to other places in search of livelihood. At this stage RCDC felt the need of the hour to launch a massive campaign among the rural labourers for proper implementation of the Act.

A two day consultative workshop was organized in December 2006 with representatives from civil society organizations like NGOs, media etc from 8 districts of the KBK (Kalahandi, Balangir and Koraput districts) region. A detail plan of action was chalked out by the participants. As a follow up measure, survey formats were provided to each participant to ensure proper monitoring of works under NREGA.

4.4 Interventions in Right to Information

Right to Information Act though enacted in 2005, could become operational with the formation of state information commission in March 2006. But the people in the villages did not have any information on Right to Information Act till November 2006. The information on RTI was limited to some government officials and some educated elites who did not pass on the same to the general people.

A booklet named "Soochana Adhikar Ain – 2005" was published in Oriya and distributed in all the villages of our operational area. The booklet was discussed in the village meeting. In many villages, volunteers were also created to help the people in using their right extensively. The Director of RCDC – CCD, Balangir has been nominated by the district administration as a Master Trainer for RTI. After being trained by the State Information Commission, he has provided training on RTI to various government and non-government institutions.

4.5 LSIP (Large Scale Interactive Process)

The main aim of LSIP was to bring about a mindset change and a shift from an approach of patronage to partnership with vulnerable families based on mutual respect. Progress in rural livelihoods should be measured by the growth rate in the net earning of vulnerable families, if the human dimension is to be added to program initiatives. The time is therefore opportune for revitalizing our rural development progress.

Mr. Paul Siromani, a human resource development expert from Kolkata was contacted to conduct the process in April 2007. Before that a field visit was organized to take stock of the situation and a design team was formed. The design team sat in a workshop and planned out the entire thing to be conducted in the LSIP in April 2007.

4.6 Natural resource management

Community forest management and networking

We continued our effort to organize Forest Protection Committees into networks and become active in lobbying for their rights. In the process, 455 Forest Protection Committees in the district have been clubbed into 26 cluster level federations. 12 of those federations have been sitting regularly in every month. The district authorities of the forest department have begun responding to the demands of the District Forestry Forum. In many occasions the collaborative effort of both DFF and the district forest department have yielded good results.

The District Forestry Forum has celebrated "Bana Mahotsav" this year to encourage the people for forest protection and plantation. In collaboration with the Forest Department and the District Environment Society, the DFF has celebrated "World Environment Day" this year in the district. On this occasion, some individuals and forest protection committees have been rewarded by DFF for their outstanding work on forest protection. As a result of continuous advocacy, the pluckers in our operational area have got their pluckers card free of cost.

Land and Water management

Keeping in mind the soil type, topography of the area and the availability of water, a strategy was formed to check soil erosion and increase the level of ground water in the operational area. With a watershed approach, treatment of land was done in a ridge to valley manner. A total of 5000 mtrs of upland have been developed to retain maximum moisture to facilitate agriculture operation with an objective to raise production. 16 farm ponds have been excavated with the support of the watershed project in Gudvela. In Gudvela, more than 300 small farm reservoirs have been excavated by poor people with support from the government. 348 loose

boulder structures and 12 brushwood check dams have been constructed to check glacial erosion. 2 big water harvesting structures, 5 sunken ponds and 3 open wells have been constructed to provide protective irrigation to the farmers.

In 4 acres of common land, plantation has been done for collective use. Mango and other horticultural plants have been provided to 130 households as well as 20 groups. 4 horticultural farms have been done in 4 villages in Gudvela.

4.7 Livelihood promotion

Self Help Groups and linkages for livelihood enterprises

Strengthening of Self Help Groups as a foundation for sustainable development also remained as a major focus area. A majority of programs are intervened through 392 SHGs both men and women in the project area. The SHGs have constituted to become a viable task force in the rural economy by adapting themselves to a variety of regenerated livelihoods. The federation of SHGs at both cluster level and GP level have been restructured. The restructuring has helped the SHGs and their federations to operate independently. Most of the SHGs have adopted SMACS (Simplified Micro credit Accounting System) instead of traditional set of books.

During this period, the SHGs and their federations have successfully revolved their internal funds as well as the grants provided to them in yester years. Linkages with banks have gained momentum. In collaboration with the banks in our operational area, we have developed a strategy to provide credit to the most needy and vulnerable people. To check duplicacy of credit, the information regarding the credit provided to the SHGs have regularly been shared by the banks and our organization. Apart from their own saving of Rs 2.6 million, the SHGs have availed of credit amounting to Rs. 3.5 million from bank and other institutions. The SHGs have initiated new income generating activities like fisheries, poultry, dairy, nursery etc.

Livelihood Support

Credit support was provided to the most needy and vulnerable households for their livelihood. During this period Rs 2,15,600 have been provided to 69 beneficiaries in 25 villages. The major portfolios were vegetable vending fishery, grocery shop, fancy shop, bamboo art etc. The support was given as interest free credit which was to be returned within a maximum of 3 years.

4.8 Agriculture

Hunger is mostly a problem of missing access to productive resources. As the statistics suggest, eighty percent of all hungry live in rural areas and seventy percent of the hungry children are living in areas, which have agricultural surpluses. Our agriculture intervention focuses on small holders.

Most of the farmers were practicing mono cropping and mostly one paddy. The yield from cultivation for a small holding farmer was continually on the decline due to reduction in variety and quality of seed. The small farmers also faced problems in adopting modern farming techniques without sufficient know how, after relinquishing their traditional practices. Without proper orientation also many farmers resorted to cash crops and suffered losses due to water scarcity, erratic monsoon, and above all the debt burden.

Under seed exchange programme, 685 households were provided with quality seeds which have resulted in increasing the agricultural production. The agriculture department was contacted and quality seeds were provided to the farmers. Besides that 11 more seed banks have been formed during this period to provide seed to the needy farmers.

During this period, the use of Surface Trickle pump was popularized and with credit provided by the project, 160 pumps have been given to the target families. The use of vermi wash and vermi compost also worked well. Adoption of SRI method of agriculture was also initiated in some villages. One farmer named Bipindhar Bhoi of Ghuna got best farmer award from the agriculture department by adopting SRI method and use of vermi compost.

Cropping plan was developed in 30 villages for both the Rabi and Kharif seasons. As per the plan, the small farmers had cultivated sunflower in 27 acres, maize in 52 acres and green gram in 52 acres of land in the last rabi season on demonstration basis. The demonstration has a very good impact on the farmers of the area. The farmers of the other areas have also shown keen interest to follow this in their fields.

4.9 Health and Nutrition Programme

With the launch of National Rural Health Mission, we delved deep into the health and nutrition programme in our operational area. The nutritional volunteers are now working in Patnagarh and monitoring the health and nutrition activities in the villages. The people are provided with seeds and encouraged to set up kitchen garden in their backyard. The kitchen garden this year has yielded good results in Patnagarh. As a result of our awareness generation activities, in 55 villages 315 mothers have availed of benefit under Janani Suraksha Yojana. 14 tube wells also have been repaired immediately to provide safe drinking water in 9 villages. We continued to organize health camps in the villages in collaboration with the government in our operational area. The nutritional volunteers also helped the ICDS workers in reaching out to the needy families in the villages in time.

4.10 Information Dissemination

Dissemination of information to all the Panchayats, SHGs, VFPCs, VSSs, CBOs and other NGOs in the district is continued. The various publications of RCDC were distributed to different stakeholders in our operational area. In Balangir, we published Lokhit Sookhna (public benefiting information) and a bimonthly dossier Najar (keep an eye) relating to various aspects of the vulnerable groups of KBK districts. Apart from that a quarterly compilation of DFF activities named Jangl Jiban was also published and distributed. A number of booklets and posters were also published and distributed during the period.

4.11 Staff Capacity building – Training, Orientation and Exposure

If training is really to be a means of reducing social inequities and redressing the skewed course of development followed in the rural context, it shall have to be reckoned as a site of struggle for acquiring knowledge, power. The community shall have to relocate the power to critique and change to decide what shall count as legitimate content for curricula, to choose enabling pedagogies, negotiated when, where and ultimately for what purposes. The empowering discourse would need to consciously give voice to the silenced majority and redefine its objectives by valuing their lives on their terms. Training strategies that are more knowledge oriented than process oriented encourage memorization and obedience rather problem solving and creativity. Quality can be measured in terms by which the objectives of the training program are fulfilled. Attempt was made to address the emotional aspect of development. Yet change in attitude or the internalization of different attitudes is one of the key elements in training especially under difficult circumstances of poverty and survival that generate apathy, lack of interest and lack of motivation on the part of the workers.

The centre strongly believed that the process of renewing the capacities of the staff stimulates the vivacity in the work culture. It assists in achieving a possible change through action – reflection – action that helps in revitalizing the organization as a whole but owing to a limited structural compatibility to enforce them this

process leads to be the consolidation of commitments. During the period several in house trainings were conducted and also staffs were sent to outside institutions for training and exposure.

Details of staff development programme organised

Sl. No.	Issue	Date	No of participants
1	Organisational Development – Phase II	27 – 30 .10.06	24
2	OD training for Animators	23 – 26.08.06	15
3	SHG Facilitation skill development	14 – 18.10.06	16
4	Sustainable Agriculture	27 – 30.12. 06	24
5	Orientation on data collection on local economy	26 – 27.10.06	13
6	Effective communication and presentation skill	12 – 16.02.07	28
7	Fair price distribution system	29 –30.06.06	15
8	Training of Trainers, Deed Trust	15 days in 3 phases	2
9	Personal effectiveness in leadership	4 –8.09.06	1

Training programmes were organised for the stakeholders on different issues like community mobilization, leadership development, planning process, group management, food security, Panchayati raj system, NREGA, Right to Information, upland farming techniques, backyard farming/aquaculture, organic farming health and nutrition, govt schemes etc. The stakeholders include target families, farmers, volunteers, SHG members, leaders of various organizations, Pusti Sa this, PRI members, women etc in different occasions.

5. Future course of action

The centre intends to scale up its interventions in food and livelihood security in other areas of Bolangir district. More interventions are planned for the proper implementation and monitoring of NREGS, Right to Information, food and livelihood security programmes of the government.

Centre for Community Development (CCD), Nabarangapur

1. Introduction:

Centre for Community Development is another geographical centre operating in the district of Nabarangapur. RCDC is the pioneer in expanding the horizon of community based natural resource management and community empowerment in the district of Nabarangapur. The organizational growth and the rapidly changing external context of community development through a multi-sectoral approach encouraged the organisation to engage in strategic programming. Priority issues in the context of natural resource management identified and the organization emphasized the need for community empowerment through active participation and convergence. Active participation is essentially the assertion process experienced by the vulnerable people who have been denied of rights and for whom the development structure prevents space for maneuvers. The organization realized that the fight for assertion of rights and food security could be sustained only by strengthening the people's forums to fully access and enjoy human rights and entitlements.

Perspective

Playing the role of a catalyst to augment rural economy and to ensure the poor and excluded people must work together irrespective of gender, caste, class and ethnicity so that they are able to question, claim rights, make decisions and hold public institutions accountable. To expand the alliance building process, platforms are needed where poor and disadvantaged people use participatory methodologies for their empowerment, institution building and leadership development.

In order to sustain the development process initiated with the communities, we have successfully instituted cluster level community managed rural banking and micro finance operations in our development area. We also incorporated PRI intervention as a strategy that provided us the platform to support grass-roots action for people's empowerment.

2. Organizational Objectives:

The program strategy that we set out to carry forward has several perceptions for the smooth working of our organisation. It demands continuing efforts to develop and strengthen systems and procedures that reflect our mandate of community participation, transparency and accountability with the process of community empowerment. It is a matter of fact that faulty management of natural resources is the root cause of most of our development problems. We do believe that the existing practices of managing our natural resources must change towards a wider spectrum of community participation. A set of three objectives guides the organization's effectiveness:

- Assist local people to assert their right over local natural resources.
- Assist local people to utilize traditional knowledge and techniques to manage and develop all local natural resources

- Assist local people to form their organization by enhancing their capabilities for protection, management and sustainable utilization of local natural resources

3. Organizational Strategies:

- Creating awareness among masses of the people about their social, economic and political rights and associated responsibilities.
- Documenting, collating and disseminating information and analysis on specific development issues, policies and programs.
- Building and nurturing CBOs to undertake various issues of substantial community interest
- Motivating, nurturing and educating traditional village/ community institutions for social, cultural and economic transformation of the society they live in.
- Social and economic empowerment of women to make them equal partners in development process and decision-making
- Educating, empowering and motivating the community organizations, traditional institutions and people at large to ensure qualitative, human and honest governance at the grass root level.
- Campaigning, motivating and educating the PRI to ensure improved governance at grass root level.
- Capacity building of PRIs on natural resource management
- Promotion of intellectual constituencies for alternate, pro-people and sustainable development models
- Experiment and exhibition of alternate development models in NRM and its implications
- Promoting objective material basis to develop People's Capital by thrift and credit, micro credit and finance and DTH finance management at grass root level.
- Undertake study and research, policy analysis and associated advocacy in formation of People's Capital.
- Promoting objective material basis to develop a pro-people market where masses of the people will enter as both buyer and seller with equal rights and responsibilities.
- Promotion of community infrastructures to improve livelihood conditions of poor and vulnerable section of the community.
- Promotions of network of NGOs to undertake various activities in association with them in the district

4. Area of operation:

The centre operates in the whole district of Nabarangpur with respect to PRI intervention and forestry activities. For other interventions we have presence in 6 blocks namely, Jharigam, Dabugam, Kosagmuda, Papadahandi, Raigar and Tentulikhunti covering 192 villages in 32 gram panchayats. Many of the villages are located in inaccessible areas. The erstwhile resource rich area is deplorable in the infrastructure facilities

such as roads, electricity, health care, safe drinking water, primary & higher education, employment opportunities etc. Many of the villages are located in the Reserve Forest area.

Local economy is largely dependent on agriculture, forest produce and wage labour. About half of the cropland is dangar land/ high land. The local tribes cultivate on the dangars. The average holding of land among them is 2-3 acre per family (this does not necessarily mean that people have legal holding). In many cases these dangar lands are encroached forestland and not yet transferred to the cultivators legally. The rate of land alienation is high because of higher indebtedness among the poor in the area.

While agriculture and forest are the main sources of sustenance, enhancement of income from these sources is in conflict with each other. More than half of the land is un-bundled upland (dangar). Most of the dangar and portions of the medium and low land are encroached forestland. As the villagers are not in the practice of bunding the slope land, it erodes very fast. Although people depend on dangars they don't develop the land as there is no legal entitlement over the land, which ultimately contributes to land degradation and low productivity. So people have to continue their farming on the same dangar land and the production of crops is less than what is expected.

Area covered under different interventions

S.N	Project/Programs	Activities	Blocks	GPs
1	Capacity Building of PRIs to ensure quality governance at grass roots	Capacity building of PRIs Social Audit, Voter's Right Campaign, Cultural Campaign, IEC material dissemination	All blocks	169
2	Ensuring food and livelihood security through PRIs	Formation & Strengthening CBOs, Developing long term resource management and livelihood plan with active cooperation of line departments and panchayat administration. Initiating thrift & Credit programs, transparency of governance in the implementation of all social & food security programs	Jharigam Raigar Tentulikhunti Papadahandi Kosagmuda	20
3	Capacity building of PRIs and concentration on livelihood and food security programs	Social Audit, cultural campaign & other propaganda campaign on voter's rights, Development of long term resource management plan at GP & revenue village level and Community Based Natural Resource Management	Jharigam Raigar Papadahandi Kosagmuda Tentulikhunti	20

4	Micro Finance and Micro Credit Program	Formation of SHGs and support them with MCA and create a self managed, self owned and self controlled MFI which ultimately would become a key self-sustained institution of their own to provide necessary, suitable & additional economic avenues at the door steps of the vulnerable sections of the community	Jharigm Dabugm	16
5	Community Based Forest protection and management for ensuring sustainable livelihood security and protection of the environment	Formation and strengthening the Village, Block and District level Forest Protection Committees, Networking of FPCs/ communities Sustainable harvesting/procurement, processing value addition and trading of NTFP, Information dissemination Lobby and advocacy for favorable policy	Entire District	169
6	Community Based Natural Resource Management for Ensuring Food and Livelihood Security and Sustainable Development	Agriculture development & demonstration Formation and strengthening of CBOs MFI management Micro enterprise and entrepreneurship development in both individual and SHG level Mother and Child Health Care and Nutrition Monitoring and Management	Jharigm	Chach a GP
7	Food and Livelihood Security Programme	Food Rights Campaign Lobbying and Advocacy on food and livelihood related issues by the CBOs Agriculture development and protection of natural resources Micro enterprise and entrepreneurship development in both individual and SHG level Mother and Child Health Care and Nutrition Monitoring and Management	Jharigm	Chaka l- apadar & Bada Temer a GPs

5. Target group:

RCDC-CCD, Nabarangur recognizes that deprivation and discrimination are primarily responsible for social exclusion. A sizable number of social groups are more vulnerable to food insecurity and exploitation and, within them; landless peasants, forest dependent tribal people and persons from the lower castes are more marginalised. Add to the above, the unjust reinforcement of a patriarchal social distribution mechanism excludes women from being brought to the fore and assert for their rights. Therefore, RCDC-CCD, Nabarangur mandates strengthening the rights based approach and initiatives with community based social groups in the fight for the assertion of human rights to these vulnerable sections of the people. In particular, we have associated ourselves with four categories of people such as tribal people, dalits and other backward communities, unorganized labour and people affected by deprivation.

6. Activities undertaken by the centre:

Indian constitution gives all citizens, irrespective of class, caste and gender and ethnicity, equal access to human rights. However, in reality, poor and other deprived people are unable to access and enjoy all the human rights designed for them. Various social, economic and political processes, individually and collectively, work to deny poor people of their rights and prevent them from entitlements.

In this context, the role of RCDC is to enable empowerment and capacity building of individuals, groups and communities, who are denied access to rights, justice and control over resources through collective action and social practices. We have diversified into three broad spectrums for improvement in the quality of lives of the disadvantaged segments namely-

- a. Natural Resource Management
- b. Local Self Governance
- c. Access to Food and Livelihood
- d. Promotion of People's Capital

6.1 Natural resource management:

Forests and other natural resources in the district are the major sources of habitat for the forest dependent people, wildlife and other biological resources. A majority of the tribal people still depend on these natural resources for their livelihood, culture, entertainment etc. 'Living with forest' is a way of life or lifestyle pattern of the tribal and other forest dependent population.

The objectives of intervention has been

- To make available necessary information and resources in order to utilize, conserve, protect and develop natural resources leading to enhancement of income levels and improvement of living conditions of the poor, and women among them, especially households headed by women.
- To develop linkages with the resources agencies so that necessary and relevant technology, information and expertise could be made available, with particular emphasis on increasing access of the poor, particularly women, to information and technology that would reduce their drudgery, increase their income and social status in the family, and in the community.

- To identify, develop and integrate indigenous knowledge and practices with modern technology for optimizing benefits in favor of the poor.
- To facilitate the poor communities in becoming aware of their rights pertaining to natural resources, and encourage them to come together to defend, protect and manage resources owned by the community for the common good.

Thrust area of Intervention

- Sensitizing the community and Community Based Organisations on optimum utilization, protection and sustainable management of natural resources in their surrounding.
- Creating a common platform of CBOs for addressing common problems relating to natural resources.
- Networking of village level and panchayat level CBOs to address, advocate the issues and problems of natural resource management and factors of degradation of natural resources.
- Motivating the CBOs on effective management of natural resources and ensuring food and livelihood security and sustainable development of the area without degrading the environment.
- Developing natural resource management and development plan by the community and community based organization.
- Taking part in development and social security programmes implemented by the government agencies to prove credibility and capability in undertaking such programmes.
- There is, therefore, an urgent need for focused interventions in order to check the degradation of natural resources by direct and indirect participation at micro, meso and macro levels. This can only be achieved by taking up a proactive role in promoting sustainable development, with the focus being on the poor.

6.2 Local self-governance

Improvement in the quality of life for a community requires active participation to strengthen and sustain democratic practices and institutions. This is possible only when all people especially the rural poor are informed and empowered to engage in the democratic processes. However, the structures often disempower certain categories of rural people, by preventing them access to basic rights, entitlements, information and participation in public policy discussions and decision-making.

It is empowerment that enables people to participate in political, social and economic institutions. This is possible primarily through a policy of positive discrimination in favour of social categories in vulnerable situations. Even while recognizing the ultimate responsibility of the State in so far as the Panchayat Raj Institutions are concerned, our experience shows that people's access and enjoyment of their human rights are realized when the poor and the vulnerable people form their alliance to take forward their struggles.

In this context, we believe that just and democratic governance from the perspective of poor people provides the necessary framework for their realization.

6.3 Access to livelihood

In rural areas lack of access to land or other productive resources is a central cause of the high incidence of hunger and malnutrition. Most processes leading to the marginalization of people or groups begin with a lack

of access to productive resources. Denial of right to productive resources compromises people's ability to achieve other rights – rights to life, livelihood and employment. The root causes of hunger lies in the denial of right to food security – lack of access to, and control over natural resources such as land, water, forests and its produce, and the like. The organisation is committed to ensure women's access to and control over natural resources – land and agriculture, water, forest etc, and participation in the implementation of food related programmes of the state. This can be realized through campaign for enforcement of food entitlements, and recognizing people's right to information to implement and monitor social security schemes

Promotion of people's capital

Improvement in quality of life of any segment of the community is directly proportional to the entrepreneurship behaviour, management capabilities and market forces that determine the growth of finance capital. Formation, growth and management of finance capital are associated with management skills and command over external driving factors such as market forces, access to capital resources and value addition to products generated. The present state of Finance Capital Empire is the outcome of more than seven centuries of management skills and controlled market condition. After about 35 years of bank nationalization, large section of poor people in both rural and urban areas, those who do not have any economic or social collateral, are deprived of any access to institutional finance.

The people we are working with have all other resources except finance. Formation of finance capital mainly depends upon availability of money generated through standardized exchange of products. The mode of exchange in tribal community is not standardized. They exchange part of their produces in barter for commodities they do not produce. Market forces had always adversely influenced the sale of their produces. As the influencing factors of the market forces are hitherto alien/unknown to them, their understanding of market is shrouded with abysmal ignorance.

Human Resources of the Organisation

Our Team:

There are 86 full time members working with RCDC at different levels – from Executive Director to Field Organiser to fulfil the goals and objectives of the organisation. In addition there is a contingent of volunteers helping the staff to implement various activities of the organisation. This team is being supported by the Board of RCDC, a group of like minded NGOs, different resource management networks, communities of 200 villages of Bolangir district, Nabarangur district, and other organisations both in the civil society and the government. The following table presents the human resource position of the organisation. The staffs have rich experience in integrated community development. Some of them are experts in agriculture, panchayat raj, networking lobbying and advocacy, institution building research and documentation.

The organisation undertakes number of organised efforts to build the capacity of the team to manage the work of the organisations. Both formal and informal processes have been followed to inform, educate, train and expose the staff at different level to enhance their understanding on various issues and build up their confidence to design and implement different interventions to address these issues. The staffs represent the organisation in various meetings, workshops, seminars and different civil society forums.

Team members of RCDC

<i>Designation</i>	<i>No of staff</i>
Executive Director	1
Director	4
Sr. Programme Officer	3
Programme Officer	12
Programme Associate	22
Programme Assistant	31
Support Staff	13
Total	86

Financial Resources

The organisation raised its resources from a variety of sources to carry out its interventions and run the institution. The details of the resources raised from different institutions have been presented below.

Sl.	Name(s) and Address(es)	Amount (Rs)
A	<u>Foreign</u>	
1	CONCERN WORLD WIDE	4,615,909.00
2	DCA	3,648,539.63
3	FORD FOUNDATION	4,542,351.00
4	KZE, GERMANY	1,838,775.00
5	CWS	201,000.00
6	IGSSS	100,000.00
7	OXFAM (I) Trust	195,900.00
8	CPF	128,000.00
9	NTPF	266,647.00
10	SIMAVI	244,821.00
11	STROMME FOUNDATION	1,015,227.00
12	KSF	798,000.00
13	EMBACY OF Luxembourg	302,358.00
14	BRODERLIJK DELEN	912,310.00
15	IRMA	68,000.00
16	AJWS	213,871.40
17	EUROPEAN COMMISSION	41,98,778.00
	TOTAL	23,290,487.03
B	<u>Indian</u>	
1	NIRD	214,000.00
2	WORLP-WATERSHED	1,648,141.00
3	WORLP-LST	312,858.00
4	ACA-RLTAP-WATERSHED	154,213.00
5	WINROCK	89,250.00
6	IDEI	20,000.00
7	WORLP-WATERSHED	92,350.00
8	HWP-WSP	112,881.00
	TOTAL	2,643,693.00
	GRAND TOTAL	25,934,180.03

The organisation financial transactions are guided by a financial policy and detailed guidelines. An elaborated system is in place to monitoring the financial management and procedures.

Other Details

Organizational References:

- Registered under “Societies Registration Act, 1860” on 17th March, 1993/ No: BBSR/4920 – 844 of 92-93.
- FCRA Registration on 14th January, 2000/ No: 104830035.

Board Members:

1. Mr. S. K. Pattanayak
2. Mr. Ranjan Kumar Panda
3. Mr. Tapan Kumar Padhi
4. Mr. Sanjoy Patnaik
5. Mr. Manoj Pattanaik
6. Mr. Nirmalendu Jyotishi
7. Ms. Bishnupriya Panda
8. Ms. Monalisha Mohanty
9. Ms. Swetalina Kar
10. Ms. Kalpana Mishra

Auditors:

Sanjeeb Kumar & Associates, Bhubaneswar

Bankers:

- Andhra Bank, Bhubaneswar
- Syndicate Bank, Bhubaneswar
- ICICI Bank, Bhubaneswar
- Andhra Bank, Bolangir
- Andhra Bank, Nabarangur
- KCC Bank, Nabarangur

Other Offices:

- RCDC Centre for Forestry & Governance, Bhubaneswar
- RCDC Centre for Water for Life, Bhubaneswar
- RCDC Centre for Community Development, Bolangir
- RCDC Centre for Community Development, Nabarangpur
- RCDC Centre for Forestry & Governance in Koraput (district), Bhawanipatna (Kalahandi district), Bisamkatak (Rayagda district), and in Raipur (Chhatisgrh)

Contact us:

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