



AJY MIRROR

A Quarterly Newsletter of Ama Jangala Yojana



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From the Desk of Project Director



The second issue of AJY Mirror has been prepared taking into account various good practices, processes, success stories and innovative models of planning and implementation of the scheme. The basic purpose of publishing this quarterly Newsletter is sharing of knowledge and experience for replication of successful models in project area vis-à-vis other areas by different stakeholders.

This edition of AJY Newsletter broadly covers aspects touching important activities embracing community mobilization and sensitization, community development, participatory approach in survey and demarcation etc. The contribution made by different Divisions deserve commendations. I hope the newsletter will serve its purpose.

Lalit Kumar Tewari, IFS
Addl. PCCF(Projects) & Project Director,
Ama Jangala Yojana, OFSDS

What we are doing to the forests of the world is but a mirror reflection of what we are doing to ourselves and to one another. – Mahatma Gandhi

WORLD ENVIRONMENT DAY 2017

World Environment Day was celebrated this year at the Jhadeswar Temple premises at Anandpur on 5th June 2017 in which members and office bearers of more than 100 VSS in Keonjhar(WL) Division participated. These VSS members organized the function as their own initiative to express solidarity with the global mandate of ecology and environment protection and conservation. To mark the occasion a rally was organized in which the VSS members shouted slogans holding placard on Ghasipura road on the relevance of the world Environment Day and the role of community to protect ecology and environment.

In order to show their commitment towards the environment the VSS members organized a cleanliness drive inside the Sub-Divisional Hospital Campus. They also distributed fruits, biscuits and milk to the in-door patients.

After the day-long activities a grand meeting was organized inside Jhadeswar Temple ground at Anandpur in the evening graced by Sri Badri Narayan Patra, Hon'ble Minister, Rural Development as chief guest, Swami Udayanand Parbat of Brahma Sevashram, Deogaon as Chief Speaker along with other dignitaries. Hon'ble Minister, Sri Patro in his speech highlighted about the current situation of the global environment and said that if the people in the blue planet do not take action instantly, the days are not far when it would be difficult for the human civilization to survive. Over 1000 VSS members of more than 100 VSS in the district attended the function. Forest Officials in the district viz. Divisional Forest Officer, Keonjhar(WL) Division, ACF, Anandpur, Range Officer, Foresters, Forest Guards and AJY Team at DMU level made the event a grand success.

Celebration of 68th Vanamahotsav in Anandpur (WL) Division

The 68th Vanamahotsav was celebrated in Anandpur WL Division on 3rd July'17 in the Campus of Sub-Divisional Veterinary Office. The main objectives of the week-long program was to sensitize the community about significance of forest and environment in human life, the role of community protecting the existing forest resource and creating new areas of forest cover to enrich the ecology and environment in the context of current population explosion and growing pressure on the forest resources in India. Hence in order to inculcate community participation and ownership in the forest and environment conservation, the members of Gohira & Sailong VSS in Anandpur WL Division organized a function. Mr. Mayadhar Jena, Hon'ble MLA, Anandpur was the Chief Guest while Dr. Tirumala Nayak, IAS, Collector, Keonjhar, Sri Ajit Satpathy, Divisional Forest Officer, Anandpur, Sri Suranjan Sahu, BDO, Ghosipura, Sri Umakant Parida, Tahasildar Anandpur, Dr. Nakal Chandra Naik, BVO Anandpur along with members of electronic media and press are the other key persons attended the event.

The week-long celebrations were observed in various parts of the Anandpur Wild Life Range on 7th July'17 inside Baranga Reserve Forest under Ramchandrapur Section. In this function VSS members of Nandabar, Baranga, Nunlapatna and Patilo actively participated. Sri Nrusingh Charan Dhir, Ex-Honorary Wild Life Warden, Sri Ajit Kumar Satpathy, DFO, Keonjhar(WL) Division, Anandpur and students of Balaram Dhir High School attended the programme.

AJY IS OUR STRENGTH : Soldega VSS

Soldega is an Interior VSS of Tamra FMU under Bonal Forest Division. Most of the villagers depend on Agriculture and livestock. Every year they loss animal resources due to unknown diseases. The people generally worship the village Goddess instead of going to the dispensary due to blind belief. During baseline study of AJY, this issue emerged before the survey team. The villagers also raised the issue from their side before the team.

The Livestock Inspector from Veterinary Department, a member of the team heard about the problem and suggested for vaccination of livestock. Accordingly a vaccination camp was organised in Soldega VSS on 27.01.2017 with the support

of P-NGO and Forest department. 70 no of cows and 50 no Bullocks, 200 Goats, 250 no of poultry resources were vaccinated in the camp. The Livestock Inspector also trained the villagers on various aspects regarding taking care of cattle and poultry resources. As a result no casualty of domestic animals was recorded this year after the vaccination camp. The mobile number of local Livestock Inspector and veterinary surgeon is made available with the VSS President and they are taking help from the Veterinary Department to save their livestock as and when required.

There is a talk in the village that AJY brought new rays of hope in the village. The villagers now stopped going to the village Goddess for cattle and poultry related issues.



Vaccination of domestic animals in Soldega VSS by L.I.

Entrepreneurship Development through VSS

A ROURKELA EXPERIENCE

Women SHGs are said to be building blocks of development in many aspects. They are considered basic units where inputs are put in to get aggregated group benefits and outputs.

This is about 4 (Four) such women SHGs of Jharbada village in Rajgangpur FMU under Rourkela DMU limits. The newly formed SHG members are part of the VSS in Jharbada(Kandhpada), a village under Jharbada Grampanchayat under Rajgangpur Block in Rourkela district where 53 tribal families live with a small population of 189 people.



For years together the villagers of Jharbada lived primarily on agriculture, waged labour, collecting NTFP, cutting firewood for self consumption and selling purposes. As VSS did not exist earlier in the area, the conditions of SHGs were not very good. It is observed that meetings and savings of these SHGs has been neither regular nor encouraging. So the SHGs though existed, but mostly not fully functional till AJY intervention. In 2015 with the implementation of AJY, the VSS was constituted. During the process of micro-planning, while analyzing the resources of the village, the SHGs viz. Preety SHG, Suman SHG, Laxmi SHG & Sahara SHGs were discovered. The Team leader and AJY Coordinator got ample opportunity to interact with these SHGs while assessing their condition and could get a fair picture of their standard of living, dependence on the forest area and their persistent poverty. Based on that, the team prepared a blue print of the future course of action for these SHGs coming under the Jharbada VSS. Sabita, the Team Leader and Anirudh, the Coordinator working under

Ama Jangala Yojana discussed with these SHGs on a regular basis and introduced them with the golden rules of SHG "Panchasutra" which suggests, a)Regular meeting, b)Regular Saving, c)Regular lending, d)Regular record keeping and e)Regular Repayment of loans. The continued hand holding support and patronage of the project team members supported these SHG members to come out of the stereotypes and transformed their vision from seeking government funds merely for consumption to a regular, active and enterprising SHG that aims for a sustainable development of their group and the village as a whole.

These SHGs, after continued motivation and mentoring by the P-NGO and the project team started up a small business with their own contribution. They prepared cakes out of puffed rice and Jaggery, cakes with til/sesame seeds and jaggery, grocery items such as toor/arhar dal, ragi etc., and planned to sell them in nearby market. The project team suggested them to try it in the Regional Herbal fair scheduled to be organized by the Forest Department. The SHG groups opened a shop in the fair with a small collective contribution of Rs.8200/- and could get a profit of Rs.3250/- over and above their investment. They put in all their effort to bring things from the weekly market, pack them and took all care to make it clean so that it would appeal the buyers. The outcome, though a small one made them overwhelmed as they could taste the bit of success which they never thought that they can achieved with their limited contribution. All these SHGs are now planning to take up entrepreneurship on a regular basis and in a bigger way by availing a loan. They are preparing their SHG to be eligible for that based on the prescribed yardsticks.



Maga Plantation Drive at Foothill of Gandahati Reserved Forest

The Government of Odisha has taken up a mammoth task of plantation and increasing green cover in the state. This challenging task is a part of broader commitment of the Government towards green movement.

During the event at foothill of Gandahati Reserved Forest of Mohendra Forest Range of Paralakhemundi Division the villagers of Munigabada, M.Pillam and Bidiola with the assistance of the Forest Department and NGO – LIPICA intervened planted 10,000 seedlings on 7th July 2017. The participants opined that it would not only increase green cover but also check the soil erosion and enhance the water table and water conservation.



Munigabada, M.Pillam, Bidiola AJY VSS.

Rakshya Bandhana with Trees

A unique Tradition



Rakshya Bandhana is a Hindu festival in which the sisters tie a sacred thread 'Rakhi' on the brother's hand to remind the brothers their duty and responsibility to protect the sisters as their guardian. The VSS members of Keonjhar District extended this rich cultural heritage to environmental conservation and conceived the idea to celebrate Rakshya Bandhana with the trees to symbolize celebrating Rakshya Bandhana with the environment as a whole.

The VSS members in Anandpur WL Division who initiated this activity are of the opinion that if the environment exists, the human civilization shall also flourish and vice versa, hence they believe that the



environment has the supreme power to protect the whole human civilization. Also as the VSS members live very closely with the nature, they feel the same closeness with the forest and environment and consider the flora and fauna as their family members. One of the villager who participated in the event said that "we are always indebted to the trees as they give us fruit while we are hungry and shade

when we are tried in a hot day in summer, we have been worshiping some specific trees as tradition and now we would tie Rakhi to these trees as symbol of gratitude".

The VSS members decided themselves to start this unique symbolic culture of celebrating Rakshya Bandhana with trees by tying Rakhi to the trees and this really intrigued the forest department working in the district as they felt a job done well as the community seem to have realized the importance of environment conservation after being sensitized under various programmes of AJY. The Rakshya Bandhana itself reflected the mood of the VSS led



community about the seriousness that could be generated on environment aspects.

Rakshya Bandhana, a unique tradition of tying Rakhi to the trees was celebrated on 7th Aug'17 on the auspicious Rakshya Bandhana day in which similar functions of tying Rakhi to the trees in a village function organized in different parts of the district. Reports of Rakshya Bandhana being celebrated in a unique way were received from VSSs of Khajuribari, Kantala, Mandapada, Kaspada, Dhabari, Srilang, Sardaria, Nandabar, Barangpur, Patilo, Patharapada and Jugal kishorepur. It is reported that men, women and children of the respective villages participated in the Rakshya Bandhana festival and celebrated with joy and happiness. Encouraged by the gestures of the people in the district, all officials attended these functions at their respective level while DFO himself attended many of these functions in the district.

VSS Building at Binjiriguda

A light house for the little learners



Binjiriguda VSS is coming under Kashinagar FMU Siali beat in Paralakhemundi Forest Division of Kashinagar Block of Gajapati district. There are 36 households in Binjiriguda Village with a total population of 153 including 49 male, 47 female, 21 boys and 31 girls.

The VSS building is built under Ama Jangala Yojana in Binjiriguda recently in which many functions have taken place ranging from meetings of VSS, meeting of SHGs, festival gatherings, collection and processing of NTFPs, community feasts etc. Apart from this, recently a noble initiative has been started by the VSS members for which they feel very happy.

Miss. Jaina Sabar a young college going girl of the area offered to teach the children in the village voluntarily and the VSS members enthusiastically organized these classes. Today around 15-20 children in the village are attending classes in the VSS building from morning 7Am to 9AM and from 7PM to 8PM in the evening. Even the Animator Miss. Anuka Sabar of Binjiriguda too is attending these classes regularly to support Jaina in the village.

This has added a new dimension to the VSS who could



feel that the VSS building can be used for many more productive purposes through which the village, the VSS and the SHGs working under the VSS can be benefitted.

The VSS President and other members collectively thanked Ama Jangala Yojana for its priceless support to the village in terms of a permanent structure called VSS building which has so much of potential to explore out of it that can shape up their future.



TOGETHER WE CAN & WE WILL : Keshboga VSS

Keshboga VSS is a tribal village under Tamra FMU of Bonai Forest Division. This VSS was formed in the year 2016 as per the guideline of AJY and then a sub-group was formed at GB Meeting for survey and demarcation of AJY forest boundary. During the survey work the team found encroachment in the forest by one villager Ilias Munda. The team discussed with Ilias Munda and persuaded him to leave the forest area. He did not respond to the team. Law and order situation also arose in the VSS. After a number of informal

meetings a General Body meeting was organised by Forester-cum-Member Secretary with the support of the Partner NGO. The VSS decided not to share the usufructary benefit to Sri Munda. Finally Ilias Munda realised his mistakes and agreed to evict the Forest area. He maintained harmony with the VSS members and the patch of forest land was included in the treatment area of the VSS.

Unity and togetherness of villagers could solve a great issue. The Keshboga VSS members now say together we can & we will.



Villagers involvement in VSS Assigned area demarcation with Forest & P-NGO Staff



GB Meeting for resolve problem regarding VSS area demarcation



Pillar posting in Keshboga VSS Assigned area

PARTICIPATORY APPROACH IN SURVEY & DEMARCATION

A case study of Banki FMU

Forest survey & Demarcation is an essential and technical work in JFM system. It helps to know the area of that particular VSS on which VSS will responsible for its protection, plantation, silvicultural operation etc.



Like other activities under JFM, Survey and demarcation was undertaken in Sarasposh Kumbhar Sahi VSS under Ama Jangal Yojana. This VSS is newly formed by the P-NGO team with the help of concerned Forester and Forest Guard. After Formation of VSS, survey and demarcation activity was planned to complete during December of 2016. Accordingly the whole team members of P. NGO, Member Secretary Mr. H.C Jena and AJY Coordinator Mr. Anirudha Shatapathy visited regularly to this VSS and met with villagers and discussed on advantages of participatory process of survey and demarcation. The Villagers are now motivated to do this.

As per plan a meeting was organized on 10th Dec'2016 at this VSS and decided to schedule survey and demarcation on 12th Dec'2016 at 9 am. A team was formed including EC members of VSS, ward member, farmer, village leader, NTFP collectors, villagers from neighbouring villages, forester, forest guard, P. NGO team, AJY coordinator for taking up survey and demarcation activities. The spontaneous enthusiasm of

villagers to do this work made the FMU chief and other staffs very much happy. Respecting their feeling and willingness, the forest department always responded proactively in every situation of their village.

On 12th Dec'2016, the P-NGO team reached at the village and found a large number of villagers gathered with a joyful mood. The team leader interacted with one of the villagers Mr. Sanjay Kumar Tanti. He said happily that, they are very happy to locate their forest area and every villager is feeling happy and proud about it.

Finally, on 12th Dec'2016 forest survey & demarcation work started with the leadership of Forester Sri Harish Chandra Jena, K. Bolang Section, Mr. Anirudha Shatapathy, AJY Coordinator and assisted by Forest Guard of Patasahi Beat Kumari Sunita Behera along with Team Leader Sri Prasanna Kumar Dash, Banki FMU and other members. The team put the first point in the South Eastern corner of the forest as per AJY



guideline and started walking from there on at 9.00 AM and continued till 1.30 PM. By that time they covered 4.4 KMs with an area of 62.6 hectares. A total of 40 spots were identified with GPS Co-ordinates for AJY pillar posting. In the afternoon, a G.B. meeting was organized and all information were recorded in the resolution.

Lastly, the president of Sarasposh Kumbhar Sahi VSS said that till date it has been like everybody's responsibility and ultimately no one's responsibility to protect the demarcated forest area. All nearby villagers use to get into our forest and do whatever they like but today after getting the assigned area of the VSS it is exclusively the responsibility of the VSS members to protect 62.5 ha. of assigned forest. Each and every member of the VSS shall treat the piece of forest as their own and properly treat and manage the piece of forest to enrich the village environment.

*Prasanna Das,
Team Leader, Banki*



RAIKAKACHAR VSS : A STORY OF SUCCESS



Raikakachar (Fatakkona) is a tribal village in Raikakachar G.P. under Rajgangpur FMU of Rourkela DMU. It is a hilly and forest covered village that comes under Sunakhan section and Kutunia beat of forest department. A kachha road is the only means of commutation to this village. The total population of village is 269 with 47 households out of which 42 are SC and 05 general households. Most of the households are of BPL category as per 2011 census. The villagers mostly depend upon agriculture and daily wages for their livelihood and only 6-7 households are cultivating vegetable. There is no irrigation facility for cultivation. Hence, the villagers depend on rain and mostly do single cropping. In terms of education, 78% of people in the village are illiterate which means most of the people discontinued their study at primary level.

Agriculture have been the main livelihood of the village. All the farmers are engaged cultivating their land in traditional way using chemical fertilizers and pesticides. They did not have sufficient knowledge of organic manure, SRI method of agriculture.

The VSS in the village was formed in the year 2015 under Ama Jangle Yojana. The P-NGO team interacted with the villagers during regular meetings with the VSS members. The villagers are proactive and always willing to attend meetings. Most of women members actively participated in the meetings. A total of 61 ha forest assigned to the VSS for forest management. The VSS members have been actively participating in forest patrolling, forest fire, theft etc. In order to improve their livelihoods, the Partner-NGO team interacted with them in a series of meetings. During these interactions, VSS members always pointed towards irrigation facility to support their cultivation so that they can do double cropping apart from seasonal rain fed crops. Also road communication facility was demanded for better marketing of their agro produces. But it was not so easy to fulfill all their need within a short period. During a VSS meeting, P-NGO team and AJY coordinator Mr. Anirudha shatapathy, provided some useful short term income generation proposal such as NTFP collection, small scale business through SHG, marketing, poultry, preparation of vermicompost etc. A vivid discussion was held with the VSS members in all aspects such as fund requirement, marketing, capacity building, follow up etc. After rigorous discussion, VSS members decided to take preparation of vermicompost activity on a pilot basis.

After that, the P-NGO team and AJY coordinator prepared a plan to support VSS members to accomplish this activity smoothly. AJY Coordinator appraised all the issues with the DFO, Rourkela, Dr. Sanjeet Kumar, IFS, and after thorough discussion with the DFO, Rourkeal, and FMU chief cum Range

Officer, Rajgangpur, the Dalmia Bharat Foundation was invited, who earlier proposed for financial support. The Dalmia Bharat Foundation, after discussion with the DFO and the team, extended financial assistance and capacity building support to VSS members to execute the vermicompost activity in the VSS from the CSR fund of company.

After all official communication and documentation, training programme on preparation of vermicompost was organized at their village on 6th March 2017. P. NGO team organized a VSS meeting after training and found 12 nos of beneficiaries interested to start this activity. They decided to construct vermicompost pits of size 7'X3.5'X3' which would cost them Rs.4000.00 per unit. For this, Dalmia Bharat Foundation, Rajgangpur supported Rs.2000.00 for each unit



and the beneficiaries contributed Rs.2000.00 each as their own contribution. After regular monitoring by the P-NGO team, vermicompost pits were prepared in 90 days. Each of the beneficiaries got about 3-4 qntrs of vermicompost whose market value ranged between Rs.4500/- to Rs.6000/-. Now the beneficiaries are very happy with the outcome. They are interested to use this vermicompost in their own field for paddy cultivation to test its benefits and shall sale a portion of it.

Seeing the benefits out of the activity done other members of the village and other VSS are also interested to do it after the P-NGO team shared the success story with other VSS. Now the Singpada and Jahrabed VSS are thinking of doing this activity. The success story has started its chain reaction and hopefully the same shall be repeated in other VSS in the days to come.

Anirudha Shatapathy, AJY Coordinator, & Sabita Swain, TL, Rajgangpur

Awards of excellence for Ambapal & Tippo VSS

(Biju Pattanaik Forest Protection award for Angul and Talcher Sub-Division in the year 2017)

They could make this happen with their willpower and persistent endeavor and set a new benchmark for the others who are doing it in other parts of the state. They got inspiration from the other achievers and did something remarkable which itself became a source of inspiration for others. The chain reaction of acquiring the power of inspiration and becoming a light house of inspiration for others goes on with the noble initiative called Vana Suraksha Samiti under the premier flagship scheme Ama Jangala Yojana in Odisha.

The inspiring story goes like this. The villagers of two Van Suraksha Samitis (VSSs) of Angul district namely Ambapal Van Suraksha Samiti and Tippo Van Suraksha Samiti have bagged best awards from Forest Department of Odisha for their outstanding contribution towards forest protection and management. While Ambapal VSS belongs to Angul Subdivision, Tippo VSS comes under the jurisdiction of Talcher Subdivision. The awards were conferred on the VSSs jointly by Angul District Collector and Regional Chief Conservator of Forest (RCCF), Angul on the occasion of 68th Vanmohtsav-2017 at a district level function. These Van Suraksha Samitis received **Biju Pattanaik forest Protection awards** of Rs.20000/- and a citation each.

The commendable work of villagers of Ambapal for preservation and regeneration of forest came to limelight when they converted a degraded forest of nearly 70 hectare under Nisha Reserve Forest into lush green forest cover with different species through thengapali, a unique style of community led forest protection with bludgeons. Thengapali is a traditional method of providing protection to forest resources in which villagers stand guard to the forest all through the day and night holding bludgeons according to their turn. They have been protecting the forest since 1982. The VSS came into being in 2002 under Joint Forest Management Rule.



Ambapal VSS receiving Biju Pattanaik Award



Tippo VSS receiving Biju Pattanaik Award

Forest Transact walks of Ambapal VSS

The Ambapal VSS has a total membership of 561 of which 280 are women. Schedule Castes (SC) and other backward castes have been duly represented in the VSS. The number of SC men are 265. The unique feature of this VSS is that the villagers have gradually developed it into an institution for the sole purpose of preserving biodiversity. The Ambapal VSS has an executive committee which meets once in a month. The general body meeting is being convened thrice annually. Transparency has always been the catchword of Ambapal VSS as minute details of each meeting is recorded properly.



Forest Transact walks of Ambapal VSS 1



Forest Transact walks of Tippol VSS 1



Ambapal VSS Meeting for forest protection

Disputes arising out of forest protection and management have been resolved amicably. The VSS has put two mobile phone numbers on display at different places to enable people for providing information on timber smuggling, poaching and forest fire in the protected reserve forest. This endeavour has become beneficial for the protected forest reserve as smuggling of timber and poaching has become the things of the past. Forest fire is now alien to the villagers.

Continuous effort by the villagers for regenerating and preserving the forest has shown remarkable results. The canopy cover of mixed forest and rare species has increased manifold. There has been remarkable increase in the number of herbal plants and shrubs in the protected forest. Rare species of Sal, Kusum, other valuable timber and minor forest resources are found in the protected forest region. Both men and women of Ambapal are fully aware of the fact that too much dependence on the protected forest will exert more pressure on the existing resources which will be suicidal for the environment. Therefore, villagers have made good use of open



Ambapal VSS Activity

spaces along their paddy fields by planting trees which has been helpful for meeting their requirement of fuel and fodder. The VSS believes in the principle of equitable and sustainable distribution of forest resources according to NTFP rule.

The Tippo VSS of Talcher subdivision has a total member of 417, of which SCs and STs are 34 and 54 respectively. There are 329 members who belong to other community. Tippo village has 114 households with a population of 588. They have been protecting Kanhei Jena RF and Tippo Khesra Jungle of 96 hectares since 1997 although VSS was formed during 2000-2001. The protected forest region is now covered with Sal, Kendu, Asan, Dhaura and other valuable species. The villagers have consistently tried their best to provide protection to valuable forest resources in the vulnerable mining region where forest cover has been on the decline for years. Tippo VSS has demonstrated that sincere efforts of villagers can do wonders to the environment and ecology in the mining belt where excavation of coal result in widespread felling of trees and loss of valuable forest resources.

Bijaya Kumar Jena, Team Leader, Angul & Bantala FMU and Mohan Hembram, Team Leader, Talcher & Kaniha FMU

Observation of Vanamahotsav by Katada VSS

An Approach to ensure public participation in forest conservation

With the inventiveness and optimistic motivation of the people of the Katada VSS under Jarapada FMU observed the Vanamahotsav to regenerate forest for future generation. Of course the support and encouragement of the NGO has given them the interest to do so. On the day of observation, all the people got together and did the mass plantation in Katada RF as a symbol of restoring the environment and upkeep of the forest to better level. The continued participation of the people has at least indicated better performance of the VSS in the times to come. The Vanamahotsav is organized with symbolic events of mass plantation and awareness meetings with VSS members, School Students, PRI members and other potential leaders to enhance their sense of responsibilities towards environment. During this event, the Range Officer, Jarapada, FES, Angul Division, Sarpanch, Katada, J.D Sahi, team leader AJY, local reporters participated. The programme was highly educative in terms of sensitizing the community on forest conservation and protection.



The VSS has made a plan to protect the plants with people's participation on rotational basis. They are committed to protect the plants from forest fire and the smugglers. The observation of Vanamahotsav shall impact creating grass root leadership for protection and conservation of environment.

Debasis Mohapatra, Team Leader, AJY, Angul Forest Division

LIMAPADAR VSS

AN INSPIRING STORY OF COMMUNITY FORESTRY



Limarpadar is a small tribal village situated 9 k.m away from Balliguda Forest Division and 5 k.m from K.Nuagaon Range. Twenty two tribal families live in this village surrounded by a number of big revenue villages. Since generations villagers from all surrounding villages used to collect fire wood & NTFP unmindfully from the nearby forests.

successful plantation. Besides, a plantation of an area of 59 ha was taken under 'Ama Jangala Yojana' & treatment was done in the entire assigned area of the VSS.

Due to the works like Survey and Demarcation & Pillar posting of entire treatment area under AJY scheme, the forcible entry of outsiders to this area could be checked. The village committees itself has become more vigilant as they are regularly moving inside the forest through 'Thengabadi Pali' system and protecting the forests against fire and illicit felling. As there was no meeting hall for the VSS and SHG members, a VSS building with estimated value of Rs.3,35,000/- was proposed and constructed under Ama Jangala Yojana after due approval. The building is completed recently and was inaugurated by Shri L.K Tewari ,IFS, Additional Principal CCF(Projects)-cum-Project Director, OFSDS in presence of Shri K.S Pradeep, IFS, DFO-cum-DMU Chief, Balliguda Forest Division on dated 03.11.2017. The VSS building which has been their long standing demand fulfilled under AJY Scheme. The villagers since then have been



Fire Fighting by Villagers



AR Teak Plantation Raised During 2008-09



Treatment Area of Domeri RF

Physical and financial achievement of Limarpadar AJY VSS

Sl No	Particulars of Work	Area covered in ha.	Expenditure in Rs.	Period of work
1	Survey demarcation & Pillar posting	59	24,750/-	01.03.2016 to 31.03.2016
2	ANR cleaning high stump cutting	59	59,000/-	01.03.2017 to 25.04.2017
3	ANR Staggered trench(708 Nos)	59	47,200/-	01.02.2017 to 08.03.2017
4	Const. of VSS Building	1 no.	3,35,000/-	01.05.2017 to 31.07.2017
5	Animator remuneration	1 no.	9,000/-	01.07.2016 to 31.03.2017

But after the intervention of Ama Jangala Yojana, with constant efforts of the village community a patch of 59 ha from total area of 748.98 ha of Domeri RF could be protected successfully for a considerable period of time. When they came to know about 'Ama Jangala Yojana', they came forward and applied at the nearest Range Office, to include K.Nuagaon in the AJY scheme. As per the VSS resolution 2011 and amendment in 2015, a VSS committee was constituted and registered after due approval in the Palisabha and Gramsabha. Majority of village household in the VSS who has been dependent on the forest resources agreed after continuous motivation to participate in restoration of degraded forests in their area. Earlier the village was taken under FDA AR teak plantation with an area of 10 ha during the year 2008-09, which was well protected by the community. The said plantation today is having 95% of survived plants and has attained an height of 20 to 25 ft, and is considered to be a

actively participating in ANR cleaning, high stump cutting and staggered trench inside the treatment area allotted to the VSS by which the condition of the forest growth and ground water recharge has improved.

After seeing the activities of AJY VSS, other nearby villagers are now interested to get themselves involved in the AJY scheme. If this trend goes on in the area this can be predicted that every year more and more forest areas can be protected and managed by existing and new VSS on JFM Mode.



Staggered trench inside the treatment area



Cleaning & high stump cutting inside the treatment area.

CELEBRATION OF EARTH DAY AT ANDHARIGUMA VSS : A tribute to mother earth



AJY (Ama Jangala Yojana) VSS Andhariguma is situated in the foothill of Narayanapur RF of Mohendra FMU of Paralakhemundi Forest Division. On 22-04-2017 the villagers, members of VSS with NGO LIPICA intervention organized Earth Day in the remote hilly village, Andhariguma. The Earth Day celebration has become a Global event which is filled with political action, civic Participation, people's march, planting tree & cleanliness drives. Earth Day network launch campaign shall surely bring better climate and Environmental literacy to the world.

Climate literacy is now recognized universally as the flag bearer for driving individual behavioral change that supports

for green economy and green technology. Andhariguma village which is at a distance of 40 K.M. away from the Paralakhemundi town of Gajapati district celebrated Earth Day with the involvement of local Sarapancha, villagers and staff of the Forest department in presence of Dr. Umesh Kumar Sahu, retired Principal SKCG College, Paralakhemendi, Gajapati as Chief Guest. Dr. Sahu emphasized that awareness creation for better forest protection among the villagers need to be taken up on a regular basis. The villagers participated in the cleanliness drive to support the cause of Swachata Abhiyan with the Slogan "Healthy Climate-Healthy Living".

NTPF is our strength: Ghosuriposh VSS

Ghosuriposh VSS, consisting of 75 tribal households comes under Tamra FMU of Bonai Forest Division. The villagers depend mostly on agriculture, daily labour and forest produce. During the Micro Plan process the P-NGO and Team identified the potential of Char seeds in the nearby Forest. But the villagers said that they are not getting good return due to unsystematic collection and lack of good market linkage. During last season they sold char seeds @Rs.60/- per kg in the local market and sustained loss due to distress sale.

The partner NGO intervened and coordinated with TDCC, Lahunipara. A meeting was organized at Ghosuriposh and the primary collectors directly discussed with the TDCC officials for better marketing. Manager TDCC Lahunipara focused on proper collection, and value addition through processing and grading of char seeds and assured to purchase

at higher price. The primary collectors decided to sell the seeds to TDCC through Adidharma SHG/PPA Nuniapali. During the current year villagers collected about 70 Ql. of Char seeds and followed proper method of collecting & processing. TDCC checked the quality of Char seeds and offered Rs. 100/- per kg and paid Rs.70,000/-in their Bank Account. The SHG got a net profit of Rs.28,000/-.

Hence the primary collectors learned proper methods of collection and processing which can earn them better price of the NTFP. This would also motivated them to protect their forest from biotic interference particularly forest fire to increase and sustain char seed production and ultimately improve their livelihood & standard of living.

The VSS has proved that AJY is the best support and NTFP is the strength that would transform their lives.



The VSS EC Members with Char Seeds collected following proper procedure



The VSS Members discussing with TDCC officials for selling of Char seeds



The VSS Members storing Char seeds in community house

THE VSS BUILDING OF MUNDAMALASAH

An Example of People Centered Developmental Initiative.



The Ngo staffs, Forest Dept officials and VSS taking stock of the work in progress

Necessity is the mother of inventions. This is rightly proved by Mundamalasahi VSS in Chhendipada FMU.

They could feel the importance of the place where they can sit together, discussed and shapeup the future of their village. They understood that the building can be a permanent asset for them and they can use it for variety of productive purposes. So they consulted with the P-NGO team, proposed for the VSS building in their approved Micro-Plan under Ama

Jangala Yojana. Of course, they got the support of Rs. 3.35 lakhs whereas rest of the expenditure is borne by the people themselves as their own contribution. During the process of construction, every person took personal interest and contributed their time and energy.

Today as the VSS building is fully constructed everybody is so happy to see this happened in their village. It seems like a dream came true for them. The VSS building seems to be a mini parliament for the villagers.

The building is not only used as the VSS office and conference, but the villagers and the VSS members have decided to utilize the building for various other purposes such as, functioning of Anganwadi Centre, Village meeting, Cultural programs, community feast, local festivals, place where the NTFP produces can be processed and to conduct other meetings related to the Govt. programs. The VSS building has taken a central place in the lives of the villagers where the community sit together and spend time with each other, plan and execute a brighter tomorrow for their entire village.

*Debasis Mohapatra, Team Leader,
AJY, Angul Forest Division*



The Development Officer of NGO and the Animator looking at the newly built VSS building

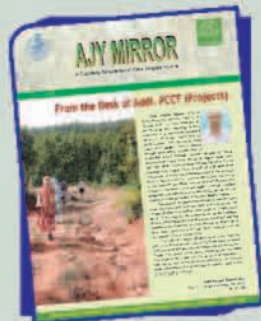


Construction work of the VSS Building



The team leader appraising the progress of VSS building

Publications



AJY MIRROR

The quarterly newsletter of Ama Jangala Yojana provides timely information on different project activities, achievements, best practices, documented processes and future plans to showcase the existing knowledge base of AJY which can be replicated in other areas of need.

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