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# INSTITUTE FOR WOMEN'S DEVELOPMENT (IWD)

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## Forwarding Note:

As secretary of Institute for Women's Development(IWD) it is an immense pleasure for me to publish the annual activity report of the IWD for the year 2010-11. The report has described all the interventions that have been carried out in the project villages and achievements as result of these interventions during the year. It also highlights all the challenges and learning which has been experienced at different level of actions in the process of implementing the planned activities.

While preparing this report it reminds me that the organisation has completed a journey of almost one and half decades. During the these years number of significant achievements have been accomplished which has inflicted critical changes in lives of poor ,women and deprived . But the journey we feel is yet to be completed as there are still more to be done for realization of what the IWD has set for . Having a very modest beginning in the year 1996 the organisation with its relentless effort and enduring commitment for the cause poor and vulnerable people in our society it has established itself a small but well known credible organisation in the locality.

Considering number of factors and events the year 2010-11 has been a very challenging and significant year for IWD in relation to promoting appropriate and sustainable livelihood security for poor which in the context of climate change , globalization, privatization etc. is emerging the most critical in present context. To achieve the objective number of new , innovative and people driven approached are put in the practice. At present number of food and social security benefit schemes are being implemented for the poor by Govt. . So enabling poor to access those benefits has become big challenge for the organization

We belief women are the backbone of our society. Therefore no development could be achieved without promoting gender equality and gender justice. Hence every step is judiciously carried out that ensures participation both women and men in the community. Considering the prevailing gender inequality practices emphasis is given for capacity building of women at all level of decision making process and benefit sharing. The SHG that was promoted as thrift and credit has extended its work to fight against gender discretionary systems and practices. The formation of Women Farmer Association that started with an objective of enabling women to be recognized as farmers is slowly gaining momentum .

Our work with Elected Women Panchayat Representatives has gone beyond our expectation . The capacity building and accompaniment support has enabled number of women PRI members to excel in their work in terms of implementation of MDNREGS, water supply, and enrolling eligible persons in food and social security schemes , The good work that they did has enabled them to emerge as most able and respectable leaders in their Panchayat and Blocks . Names like Sachala Karjee, Sarapanch Ramagiri, Premalata Raita, Sarapanch R.Udayagir, Sudharani Sabar, Sarapanch S.Karadasing, Purnabasi Nayak , Sarapanch ,Dambala etc. have become popular names in their respective areas .It would be not surprised if these persons occupy higher political position in future.

While sharing the activity report I would also like to thank all our support agencies for their continuous support to carry on our mission and others who have generously shared their experience, valuable inputs and guide to add new dimension to our work .

Over and all I feel the 2010-11 has been a year of challenging ,but satisfactory year for us in IWD.

Thanks

Minati Padhi

Secretary, IWD

## **Working area if IWD:**

The intervention of IWD is broadly categories in two major categories as Enhancing Leadership Development and Food security of Adibasi , Dalit and women which covers 8 Panchayats in Gosani and Rayagada Block of Gajapati district The other area of intervention is relating to building capacity of Elected Women Panchayat members in self governance . This effort covers two blocks namely R Udayagiri and Rayagada Block .

Apart from these two interventions IWD also extends issue base support in terms of awareness building, training and information sharing to other Blocks in Gajapati and nabouring Ganjam districts of Odisha.

## **Promotion of Livelihood security:**

Among the communities that IWD works , 33% of families are found to struggling to earn adequate resource to meet their livelihood need for the whole year. These families are Adibasis , Dalits , deserted women and other marginalized families . Generally these families earn their livelihood engaging themselves as agriculture and casual labour, cultivating small plot of land , selling of fuel wood etc. But over the years in changing scenario these sources are shrinking and posing difficulties for the poor to earn adequate livelihood. Therefore developing appropriate and sustainable livelihood opportunity for these group of people has become an important challenge for IWD . Among various strategies tried out by the organisation ,natural resource management such as water , land , trees etc is found to more successful. On the other hand the natural resource management has become increasingly important due to uncertain weather condition as result of climate change . Considering these factors the organisation has promoted the following activities among its targeted families .

- The organisation during this year has supported the villagers of S.Sabara in Sabara Panchayat to development a water conservation system so that the conserved water is to be utilized for the irrigation of t 15 acres of villagers land and save the crop in times of drought,
- Secondly 11 small and marginal farmers of S Lakhmipur village were able to use the water from the previously constructed Water Harvesting Structure to save the crop from drought in 18 acres of land and take up additional crop in 10 acres in winter and summer season. They on an average have earned Rs.2000/- each from sale of vegetable beside their own consumption
- Agriculture input support such as seeds, fertilizer. etc has been provided to 65 farmers in three Panchayats with support from district Agriculture dept. This helped farmers to use improve and quality seeds and increase the area of cultivation.
- In collaboration with District Agriculture dept 4 trainings were organized for farmers on improve method of cultivation and sustainable agriculture . In these training 132 women and 74 participated .
- Vegetable seeds procured from Horticulture Dept. was distributed with subsidize price among the farmers to do as backyard crop. 150 families purchased seeds and did backyard vegetable crop. Among them many of them harvested good quantity of vegetable both for own consumption and sale.
- For promoting vegetable crop seedling such as brinjal and tomatoes were distributed among 94 farmers as winter crop . 43 of them have earned more thanRs.2000/- each by selling vegetable.

- For promoting dry land agriculture 37 families were supported with improved varieties of rice and pulses seeds. Among them 65 percent of them had good harvest which is crucial for their food security and nutrition intake

### **Gravity Base Irrigation System(GBIS):**

With support from AFPRO two villages namely Buluda and Biriada have established GBIs. The system has helped to channelize the runoff water in the stream to agriculture field. In Buluda 8 Adibasis farmers used the water to cultivate 10 acre of land in kharif. Among them for the first time 5 farmers did winter vegetable cultivation. Similarly In Biriada village 6 farmers used the water to cultivate about 12 acres of land and 4 of them also did winter vegetable cultivation. The two structures have essentially ensured that the farmers would harvest crop in spite of drought condition. The vegetable cultivation helped the families to increase vegetable consumption and earn additional income.

Dalibandhu Sabar of Buluda village did summer vegetable cultivation for the first time in about 10 cent of land by using the stream water. In the month of February he got seeds, supplied by agriculture Dept. He planted seeds such as tomatoes, brinjal, cowpea, and bitter melon in his 10 cent of land. The crop was good and he started harvesting vegetable in the middle of March. He had good harvest. Since he did the vegetable cultivation for first time he had to distribute among his friends, relatives and fellow villagers as per their traditional custom.

His wife Srimati Sabar says, "We never ate so much vegetable in summer time, During this period we only eat forest leaves and some wild roots. But for the first time we ate so much vegetable in our life."

### **Women farmer's Association.**

It is an established fact that women contribute more than 70 percent of work in agriculture. But due to the prevailing gender bias mind set, women are not recognized as farmers. As a consequence they are denied to be recognized as farmers and deprived of availing the proper and equal compensation for their hard work and opportunity to develop their skill and knowledge. IWD in a modest way has mobilized women in six Panchayat who are otherwise organized themselves into SHG to come together and form Women Farmers Association(WFA). Over the last few years the WFA has been functioning as credit cooperative to support its members by providing credit for productive purposes. Besides the WFA is also pledging its demand for women to be given farmers status before appropriate authority. The association does not limit its action only with agriculture or providing credit. But it also takes up many social issues that discredit women and perpetuate violence and discrimination.

- ❖ The membership of Association in the meantime has increased 112 and the total money available with association is 350450/-
- ❖ The members of the association have taken up the issue of discrimination in wage payment and have been successful in availing increased wage though not totally equal.
- ❖ The District agriculture Dept. has accepted the demand of the Association and have promised to provide all the support meant for the farmers to women.
- ❖ Radhamanai Sabara, a woman farmer of S. Talasing village was felicitated by Chief Minister of Odisha as the most progressive farmer in Gajapati district.
- ❖ The Agriculture department has supported 4 women farmers with agriculture implements such as spray machine and weeder.

- ❖ Women farmers numbering 36 have undergone training on improved method of cultivation such as SRI, line sowing etc supported by district agriculture dept.
- ❖ The women have protested against cheating in SHSY loan disbursement and made complaint to Project Director, DRDA using toll free number.

### **Strengthening Self Help Group initiative:**

In the project villages women are organized into self help groups with a primary objective of addressing the credit need of their families. But these groups are also motivated to get involved in social and gender discrimination issues prevailing in the community, At present there are 46 groups and 736 women are enrolled as members. The total money available with these groups is 987800 which is being used as revolving fund. The impact of the SHG is seen in number of areas in the community. Some of the important impacts are;

- ✓ It has successfully reduced the influence of money lender who exploited people by advancing short term loans at the time of agriculture with high rate of interest..
- ✓ This year 6 SHGs had availed financial assistance through bank linkage schemes and earning additional income. The Bank linkage also enabled them to increase their confidence and outlooks by visiting Bank, Block Office and interacting people over there.
- ✓ The association of women in SHGs has created a favorable environment for women to participating in Panchayat and other decision making events in their respective villages.
- ✓ The women SHGs collectively started protesting against violence that are inflicted on women in their village and locality.
- Launch a campaign for education of girls and encourage parent to enroll the girls in the village school

### **Women convention:**

This year on occasion of International Women's Day a convention was held on March 6<sup>th</sup> and was titled as Women and Agriculture. More than 700 women from different Panchayats participated in the convention. It was a big occasion for women to come together in large number and discuss various social and economic issues. The Officers from District Agriculture Dept attended the convention and shared many information relating programme and benefit available for women in their departments. The District Agriculture Officer also accepted the demand of the WFA and promised to provide all the support meant for the farmers to women.

### **Strengthening CBO**

In all the project villages, the villagers are motivated to form village Development committees. Altogether 40 VDC are formed and both women and men have become members of these committees. The IWD helps the members of these committees to enhance their leadership capacity by organizing various events such as training, workshops, exposure visit and information sharing. The following efforts are taken to enhance capacity of VDCs.

- 4 nos training on leadership building have been organized in which 65 men and 70 women participated

- 2 nos of interactive workshop were organized where Govt. Officers like BDO , Assist. Project Director ,DRDA interacted with members of VDC on number of issues pertaining to implementation of social and food security schemes and other development programmes.
- Block level workshop were organized on implementation of FRA and Right to Information
- Quarterly Panchayat level meetings are organized in six Panchayats to review the impletion of MGNREGS and bring improvement in it .

### **Achievements;**

- 90% eligible person are getting benefit under social and food security schemes.
- The access of people to govt. officers has increased . Villagers are regularly visiting Block and Panchayat Office to present their problem
- The investment on development programme by Govt. has increased compare to previous years.
- On regular demand two villages namely S.Talasing and G.Talasing have got Water supply scheme sanctioned and work is continuing .
- Women members met Collector and MLA and presented their village water problem. They got verbal assurance to resolve the problem .
- Significant change is being experienced in impletion of GKS. Earlier nobody knew about GKS . Now in about 30 villages meeting are organized regularly and account of GKS is shared with villagers.
- Similarly the functioning of village Schools , mid-day meal and running of ICDS centre has improved remarkably .
- There has been improvement in MDNREGS work .The Average work days achieved is 65 days which highest so far.

### **Water and sanitation**

Improving sanitation scenario is one of the important National Agenda being considered across the country. Due to improper sanitation and hygienic practice number of people are suffering in various heath related hazards . The high child mortality rate , malnutrition etc are to be primarily caused by the unhealthy sanitation and hygienic system and practices. In order to bring improvement in sanitation scenario , IWD in partnership with IC- Hyderabad has taken up an innovative approach called WUMP in Sabara Panchayat. Through this approach emphasis was given to assess the water needs of people in a particular village , assess the present water availability , the future trend of availability and requirement and decide strategies for sustainability of the sources . Secondly through appropriate measures build capacity of PRI members so that they mobilize resource to address the identified issues in the villages.

The activities such training of PRI members. Workshop on various issues, exposure visit to see the best practices and information dissemination etch have been carried out towards achieving the goal.

As result of the these interventions number of positive changes have been experienced in relation to hygienic and sanitation behaviour of people. Some of the key changes are

- 🚽 Out of Total HH 129 families have started using toilet . Many other families are also joining them.

- ✚ Road side defecation has been stopped considerable . The Sarapanch Sri Balaram Behera says, “Before it was impossible to pass through K. Sabara village . The roadside defecation was awfully bad. But now there is big change .The roadside defecation has stopped”
- ✚ The villagers in Sabara Panchayat had hardly any knowledge about GKS. Through this intervention people have become aware about the GKS, Regular meeting are organized and available money is also used for village sanitation purpose.
- ✚ Village Sanitation such open defecation , or keeping the village environment clean was never an issue for discussion in village meetings , But it has become a regular agenda for discussion in village meetings as well as in Panchayat meeting.
- ✚ The resource mobilized for different activities in Sabara Panchayat is significantly high in compare to previous year’s particularly in water sector
- ✚ Two villages got sanctioned to have running water supply programme .
- ✚ Awareness among women about the cause of RTI due to improper hygienic practice has improved significantly. In many village women are taking lead in improving sanction scenario and behaviour change

### **Capacity building of Elected Panchayat Women Representatives(EWRs).**

The one third reservation of seats for women in Panchayat Governance created opportunity for good numbers of women to come to Panchayat and occupied different positions. But many of them were new entrants and did not have previous experience .As such they were finding difficulties to discharge their responsibility as effective and responsible members of Panchayat. To help these women members to become effective EWRs , IWD had launched a campaign to built the capacity of these women PRI members The capacity build intervention covers organizing workshops , meetings information dissemination and personal interaction.

During the year 8 nos of workshops were organized in two blocks namely R.Udayagiri and Rayagada and on an average 40 women attended . Beside EWRs , some of the SHG leaders also participated in these workshop. The issues dealt at the workshop are role and right of EWRs , Implementation of various development programme by Govt. and role of EWRs in these programmes implemented , I that protects women from violence , injustice, discrimination, etc.

To create support base for women PRI members at Panchayat and village women a new initiative was launched called Mahila Adhikar Samukhaya (MAS) . Efforts were taken to help the members of MAS to understand the need of supporting EWRs in the context of broader objective of women empowerment ,

### **Annual Convention of Federation.**

In both the Blocks EWRs have been helped to form Block level federation. The objective of the forming the federation is to bring all the EWRs together in a Block so that they could shared their experience with each other, and oppose any aversion that hinder their legitimate function and right. The **R.Udayagiri Block Panchayat** Mahila Mahasangha organized its annual Convention in the month of February where the local MP and M I A were invited to attended the convention . About 4000 women across all the Panchayat also had joined the convention. The convention was an occasion for the EWRS to raise some of the issues that stands obstacle for them to participate in governance effectively. These were

1. Reverting two child norms in Panchayat election ,

2. Grievance day for women exclusively in each Block
3. 50% reservation for women in Panchayat Governance .
4. Panchayat Mahila Bhawan at Block and District HQs.

### **Impacts:**

Many EWRs have gained knowledge , confidence and have emerged as empowered EWRs in their respective Panchayats and Blocks.

- ❖ Their good work such water supply, distribution of PDS commodities, enrolling deserving persons in social and food security schemes and improving functioning of primary Schools . ICDS centres etc has been recognized by the people and Govt. Officers .
- ❖ Premalata Raita, the Sarapanch of R. Udayagiri was declared as the best Sarapanch in R. Udayagiri Block for her record achievement in MDNREGS.
- ❖ Sachala Karjee , the Sarapanch Ramagiri fought with district administration and issued 54 cards to Anntodaya beneficiaries as Sarapanch who were otherwise deprived..
- ❖ Many EWRs who were reluctant to come into Panchayat governance system earlier have now got motivation and confident to partite in next Panchayat election .
- ❖ The formation of federation has been recognized by political and bureaucratic circle in Gajapati district and the demands of EWRs is given due importance.
- ❖ The EWRs beside the Panchayat work have taken up other women issues in case of fraud, sexual harassment etc
- ❖ The interactive workshop has helped to motivate media persons and the information relating to achievement and problems are being regularly published in News papers.

### **Rehabilitation of Adagaon Village**

Adagan is a hilltop village in Gandahati Panchayat of Rayagada Block of Gajapati District. The village is consists of four hamlets with total habitation of 108 families. All the families are Adibasis. Due to remoteness and inaccessibility the villagers of Adagan have been suffering from number of difficulties including ill health , education ,livelihood opportunity etc,

In order to keep away from suffering continuously the villagers decided to shift to their village to a plain and accessible place where they could overcome many of their problems including education of children , accessing health services and finding alternative source to earn livelihood.

Finding the decision of Adagaon village appropriate most reasonable , IWD has supported the villagers with financial assistance of Rs.5000.- to each house , The rest of expenditure is being met by the villagers themselves 45 families have already built their houses and started staying the new location. The construction of houses for the rest of the families is continuing. The process of getting homestead land patta is continuing. Meantime the project Director ITDA, Tahasildar , Block Development Officers have visited the villages and declared to provide all the necessary support and infrastructure to make it a model village

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