

## Forwarding Note:

Institute for Women's Development popularly known as IWD has been working in Gajapati district of Odisha over for the last 15 years . The working area of IWD at present covers 35 Panchayats in 3 Blocks in the district. The interventions related to improving micro level Governance system , food security of poor and vulnerable families and mainstreaming gender are being supported in six Panchayats of Gosani and Rayagada Block covering about 10000 people. Among the people that IWDs works under this intervention are Adibasi and they constitute about 80% of the total population.. The rest of the people are from Dalit and other social and economically deprived and disadvantage community. The Adibasis living in the project villages are known as Saura and they in fact are identified one of the primitive Tribe Group in Odisha. The saura tribe who generally practice Podu cultivation(slush and burn) as their main source of livelihood , live on hill slopes where communication and reaching of developments goods poses a big challenge. However in recent years it is seen that many such villages are relocating themselves at new places where they could have better access to communication ,health care education etc..

On the strength of 50% reservation of seats for women in Panchayatraj Institutions large number of women have come to different positions in Panchayat Governance . But many of these women members are new entrants into Panchayat Governance and they do not have much experience . . So enhancing leadership capacity of these elected Panchayat women representatives so that they emerge as effective PRI representatives is another intervention that IWD is supporting in R.Udayagir and Rayagada Block of Gajapati District. Beside capacity building intervention the EWRs in these two blocks are also mobilized to federate themselves at Block and cluster level under the name of Alibha Mahasangha and built their collective strength to oppose any adversaries that hinders their work as PRI member and affects their respect and dignity.

In this year IWD has initiated another intervention called "Organic and Fair Trade Cashew Value Chain, Odisha" This initiative aims at helping 1000 small and marginal cashew nut producing farmers in Begunipada Block of Ganjam district to improve their cashew cultivation practice by following organic method and make their production organic. Since the demand for organic cashew is increasing both in national and international markets . it is expected that the farmers would increase their income by producing organic cashew nuts .

Apart from these above interventions IWD also extends issue base support being part of advocacy campaign against social issues such as violence against women , female feticide , implementation of Forest Right Act etc in collaboration with other organizations in the district as well in the State.

It is also a fact that without the good will support from our support agencies it would not been possible for IWD to continue to its work for the cause poor and more specifically for women . So I must take this opportunity to thank all our well-wishers and support agencies for their support and trust on us.

As secretary of Institute for Women's Development(IWD) I also take immense pleasure to put forward this annual activity report of the IWD for the year 2012-13. This report has described all the interventions that have carried out in the project area and achievements as result of these interventions during the year.

Thanks

Minati Padhi

Secretary, IWD

## Effort to improve Governance System :

After the 73<sup>rd</sup> Amendment the role of Panchayat has become significantly important. The Panchayat has the mandate to plan and implement programmes that are necessary for people to bring improvement in their lives and surroundings. Therefore only proper and effective functioning of Panchayat is significant to fulfill this mandate. For mobilizing people and the Panchayat members such as ward members, Sarpancha and CBO members to get actively involved in Panchayat functioning and making Panchayat to function as people's institution IWD during the has supported number of interventions. These interventions are ;

- Organised two trainings for the members of six Panchayat to understand the mandate of Panchayat in line with 73<sup>rd</sup> Amendment and the role and responsibility of members thereof.
- Regularly discussed the important role of Gram Sabha, and Pollisabha in all the village and area level meetings and motivating them to participate in those events as their right and raise their concern and need to be included in the village development planning.
- Three Interactive workshops between Govt. Officers and members of CBO and Panchayat members has been organised These workshops has essentially given opportunity to PRI and CBO members to raise their problems before the concern officers and get information about various Govt. programmes.
- Mobilized people o attend Social Audit events organized by Govt. and raised their problems.



## Change Experienced :

- Out of six Panchayat the monthly Panchayat meetings in five Panchayat has become regular. In all the meetings about 80 % members are attending Panchayat meetings and participating in the discussion .
- By the effort of PRI members and CBO members 80% eligible persons have been enrolled in various food and social security programmes and availing benefits.

Old age pension male	Old age pension female	Widow pension	Pension for physically challenged person	Application submitted
151	157	209	46	206

- The Orgnisation of Polisabha which was hold only in records has been changed significantly . In 90 % cases actual PoliSabha has been conducted and an average attendance is 60%.

- In three Panchayats good number of people have attended the Social audit and submitted complains against the JE and EPO for on delay payment in NREGS work.
- The problem of delay payment has been solved to some extent in many cases. People who worked in MDNREGs have received payment within 15 days.

“In this year for the first time we got payment within 13 days” Says, Hiramani Sabar of S.Talasing village.

### **Challenges:**

However there have been difficulties in receiving payment in time and the problem has not been fully overcome. Earlier the passbook holders was only the head of the family who used to receive payment. Now the passbook is to be opened in the name of all the working members in the family and the payment will directly transfer to their account. This is certainly a welcome decision as women will have more control over their income and get included in Banking system. But number of Banks in rural area is limited. As a result Bank takes very long time to open the account causing delay in receiving payment.

Secondly each labourer is to provide his/her the account number while submitting demand for work, Since all the labours have not yet opened the account, the allocation of work has become less.

### **a. Registration of Labourer Under Labour Welfare Act (LWA):**

The Currently implemented Labour Welfare Act (LWA) provides as many as 12 types of benefits to labours working in unorganized sectors as construction workers. The benefit includes stipend for children education, insurance coverage, pension at the age of 60 years and many others. This in fact is the most important law for social security of people who largely depend on wage labour. To avail these benefits the labours who have completed 90 days of work in a year in MDNREGS or any other sectors are to register themselves with District Labour Officer. But the registration of labour has been very low because of the fact that the people are mostly unaware of Act and benefits available therein.

To popularize the Act and motivating people to get registered themselves with District Labour Office(DLO), IWD has started a campaign in its project villages of 5 Panchayats through a process of organising meetings, camps and disseminating information by printing and distributing leaflets. The specific activities that have been supported are in this aspect are

- This subject has been discussed in 5 Gram Panchayat meetings for information sharing and motivating Panchayat members to take initiative for registration of labouers who have completed 90 days of work under MDNREGS.
- One awareness camp was organized at Lingipur where 200 people from 24 villages attended. The Block development officer of Gosani Block attended as chief guest and appealed people to take advantage of the benefits available under LWA

- The Govt. Officers particularly the BDO Gosani and Rayagada have given assurance to support the effort and have instructed Panchayat Executive Officers to ensure registration of labours completing 90 days of work under MGNREGS in their respective Panchayat.

We never knew that so many benefits are given under Labour welfare Act to labours. Our people must know it so that we can organise the labours in our Panchayat and motivate them to get registered under LWA. Said by Ruben Patra of G.Talasing village

- An Interactive workshop was organized at Gosani between District Labour Officer and people of the area to understand the Schemes and benefits available under the Act and procedure of registration.

#### **Achievement :**

- ✓ Three hundred applications from 5 Panchayat has been submitted with necessary documents before DLO for registration.
- ✓ 65 number of labourers from 3 villages have submitted application through Panchayat Executive officer and they have got registered as labour with DLO .

## **Supporting poorest House holds to develop sustainable Livelihood Resource:**

Among the families that IWD works with 33% of them are found to struggling to earn adequate resource to meet their both end for the whole year. These families are mostly Adibasis , Dalits , deserted women and other marginalized families . Generally these families depend on natural resources like collection of minor forest produce, fuel wood selling , cultivating hill slop land etc to earn their livelihood. But over the years the climatic condition is gradually changing thus adversely affecting both slop land agriculture and availability of natural forest produced . If the trend continues it is feared that the people relying on natural resource will become extremely vulnerable in the future days to come.

Therefore developing appropriate and sustainable livelihood resource for these groups of people has become an important challenge for IWD . On basis of need assessment , different families had expressed different needs. The elaboration of this intervention is given bellow.

- The Strategies of land envelopment such as conservation of soil , water , terracing of slop , etc is found more successful particularly in the land that is getting degraded in hill slops . With the financial support the Adibasi beneficiaries have developed on an average one acre of land by taking up water and soil conservation measures using their own traditional skill and protecting the crop from cattle with stone fencing. After developing the land the beneficiaries have used the land for growing both food crops and growing various types of plant for the purpose of both cash income and own

consumption. But more importantly the entire process of work has been gender friendly as the women members in the families have got actively involved in every step of the work and thereafter..

- Some of the families for livelihood earning engage themselves as agriculture workers and cultivate their small land holding. But many of them also take land from near by big land owners on share cropping basis . These group of beneficiaries have preferred to use the assistance for buying bullocks of their own so that they could cultivate land on share cropping system beside cultivating their own land.
- Similarly some families used the support to engage themselves in doing small trade of the local product which the outside traders have been doing.

The details of the families and resource creation are given in the below table..

Sl	Village Name	Number of beneficiaries	Use of support
1	4	30	Hill slop land Development
2	10	25	Purchase of Bullocks
3	3	4	Land development
4	4	7	Goat rearing
5	3	4	Small business

Some the impact experienced as result of the livelihood support is given bellow.

- The beneficiaries have developed degraded land that they were using for slush and born cultivation (Podu). They have allowed regeneration of valuable plants, planted fruit bearing plants and doing ginger and turmeric and vegetable as inter-crop. All the activates are women friendly and women are involved more in this type of intervention



Dalibandhu Sabara was supported with Rs.10000/- to have integrated horticulture in his hill slop land. He used the money to have stone fencing around the land so that crop could be protected from cattle. This was the first year and he is expected to earn at least Rs.6000/- from sale of pineapple .Beside he has also other crops like yam, banana cashew etc to sale .

- b. The beneficiaries are using the bullocks to cultivate their own land and the land that they take on lease basis. On an average each of them have got 7 bags of paddy which is increasing their food security period from 3 to 5 months.

**Saramani Sabara** of Tamatara village had cultivated 1.5 acre of land ( her own 0.5 acre and 1 acre on share cropping) She after sharing with land owner got 30 bags of paddy which in money value would be 25000/ She kept 25 bags of the paddy for her family consumption for the whole year and the rest she sold for Rs.4000/- which she used for repaying loan and medical expenditure of her sick son

- c. Four beneficiaries used the money to develop uneven land for paddy cultivation. They developed about 75 cent of land . In the first year of cultivation they got 8-12 bags of paddy. But most importantly these families who were fully landless have now become land owning families . They have also submitted application before Tahasildar to get title of the land.
- d. The beneficiaries , those have used the support money to put up shops and doing seasonal business have earned Rs.1200 to Rs.1500 per month. This amount is quite substantial for their livelihood security.

### **The intervention for increasing agriculture production for achieving food security:**

Agriculture is the backbone of people to sustain themselves in Project villages. The effort has been to support the farming families to increase the agriculture production by providing new knowledge and new and improved methods cultivation , introducing new crop and creating water facilities..The activity and achievement experienced during the year as follows.



- ✓ Organisation of 3 farmers training in which 37mlale and 42 women farmers had participated . The training has helped to them to know new and improved method of cultivation like SRI, Line showing , summer ploughing, need of soil testing ,preparation of green manure etc.
- ✓ Support was provided 14 farmers in two villages to do summer paddy cultivation for the first time using the stream water . Altogether 7 acres of paddy was cultivated and each farmer harvested 3 quintals each.
- ✓ 122 farmers in 22 villages got support to cultivate pulses and an average each of them harvested 45 Kg each

- ✓ 65 families in 7 villages were supported to take up vegetable cultivation such as tomato, brinjal, beans and ladies finger. Many of them did the vegetable cultivation for the first time.
- ✓ Operation of an lift irrigation point at Lingipur village was delayed. This year it started operating. The farmers of Lingipur village used the water for cultivating vegetables and groundnuts. The crop was good and each of the farmer, besides their home consumption, earned about Rs. 8000/- each from sale of crop.

One farmer **Sri. Purusatama Bhuyan** of Lingipur village had cultivated vegetables, millet, and groundnut in about 1.2 acres of land. His total income from vegetables is Rs.26450/- and from millet and from groundnut Rs.20000/-. This was a big income for a marginal farmer like Purusatama. Some part of the income he spent on his son's education who is studying in class 8<sup>th</sup>. and medical expenditure of his unwell wife.

- ✓ In three villages namely S. Uruda, Maringi and Adagan, minor water bodies have been excavated. The water in these bodies had helped 46 farmers to use the water for cultivating about 43 acres of land. The water in these tanks, more importantly, helped farmers to save their crop from drought when rain stopped from the month of October.

## Mainstreaming gender and Women empowerment

IWD believes that without gender equality and empowerment of women, no society can claim to be developed. But many practices and systems that exist in society support and perpetuate discrimination against women and inflict violence on them. With this backdrop, IWD in its operational villages promotes and supports a number of interventions that could address the existing gender discrimination practices and empower women. The intervention and achievement supported under this programme are as follows.

**Formation of Women Farmers Association:** FAO reports suggest that women contribute 70% of work in the agriculture sector. In spite of such a huge contribution, unfortunately, they are never recognized as farmers. Women, not being recognized as farmers, are deprived of getting opportunities to enhance their skills and knowledge and benefits available for farmers. The Women Farmers Association (WFA) promoted by the project works towards raising a demand that women need to be recognized as farmers and get all the opportunities and benefits meant for farmers.

This year the Association has raised demand before Govt. to provide them an agriculture loan which is being given to farmers with a low interest rate. The demand is given to Bank Officer and District Officers, BDO and manager NABARD. The members of the association have raised this issue before the Officers during an interactive meeting held in the month of February..

Women are invariably paid less wage in agriculture work. The association has taken up this issue and raising a demand to pay equal wage in the local area.. The members of the association has also complained against the malpractice involved with sanction and disbursement of SGSY loan .

### **Formation of Women's Farmers Club:**

With the support of NANAD women in five villages have formed Women's Farmers club enrolling 60 women as its members . The farmers club has strengthened the demand of recognizing women as farmers . The formation of Women Farmers club is in fact fist of its type in Gajapati District. During this year four trainings were organized for the members of the club with financial support from NABARD. These trainings were organized on improve practice of vegetable cultivation , how to start agriculture base small entrepreneur activities and avail various information about Govt. schemes meant for women and farmer.

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

Women in the project villages are organized into self help groups with primarily objective of creating a credit unit at village.. Currently 46 groups are formed across the project villages and 736 women are included as members. The amount of savings to this year has increase to 943600/-. Similarly the members of have availed loan amounting to Rs. 563000/- for both production and consumption purpose.

Proper management is necessary for successful running of SHG . So IWD supports members of SHG to increase their managerial skill so that the programme runs well . In this period 4 SHG management training were organized in which 197 women members participated. The Training helped members to learn and strengthen their skill that they need to have for proper management of the SHG.

The SHG has helped successfully reduced the dependency on local money lenders for availing loan and paying exuberant of interest.

In this year seven SHGs had availed financial assistance through bank linkage schemes and members are engaged in earning additional income.

SHG is not just seen as thrift and credit unit but it is also promoted as a strategy for women empowerment. The members do not limit their involvement only in SHG . They are encouraged to get associated in various community development activities and stand against discrimination and violence. So the members in SHG meetings beside SHG related matters are also discussing other village matters such as water problem, running of ICDS centre primary school , availing PDC commodities etc.

- The SHG members are mobilized to participate in village level Governance system like Polisabbha. This year women's participation in Polisabha has been 60% . The members have 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 schools.
- The members of Talasing and Nuagan are regularly monitoring the functioning of ICDS centre , attendance of Anganwadi worker, food given to children in the centre.
- Pisciculture is considered to be the exclusive work of men . But the member of 5 SHG groups have applied for lease of village ponds for pisciculture This in fact a message that the women can also do the pisciculture.
- The SHG members have participated in district level training and workshops . During the last six months 45 women from 8 villages have participated In agriculture training , participated in the workshop on violence against women , declining sex ratio and female feticide .

### Participation in One Billion Raising Campaign;

One Billion Raising (OBR) campaign was launched from December 24<sup>th</sup> to Feb 14. The members of Women Farmers Association (WFA ) actively participated in the OBR campaign . The campaign began with a public meeting by the WFA to discuss the significant of the campaign in which 200 women had participated . After the meeting a 15 members team of WFA and Women Panchayat members visited 36 Panchayat in Gosani, Rayagada and R.Udayagiri Block with posters , slogan and leaflets conveying the message to stop all form of violence against women. This in fact was an exciting experience for women . They participated in it with lots of interest and enthusiasm. The campaign concluded at Ramagiri on 14<sup>th</sup> February with a public meeting where 600 women had gathered.



### Organising Women's convention:

This year on occasion of International Women's Day a convention was held on March 6<sup>th</sup> 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 and social activists attended the convention and shared many information relating to 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 .



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

The 50% of seats reserved for women in Panchayat Governance created big opportunity for good numbers of women to come to Panchayat and occupied different positions. But many of these Elected Women Representatives (EWR) 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 build the capacity of these women PRI members. The capacity building 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. The training has effectively helped the PRI members to gain confidence as leaders, understanding the Panchayat governance system and their role and responsibility as member of Panchayat, implementation of various development programme by Govt. Beside the training the women PRI members are also helped to understand various issues that the women are suffering in their respective areas and protective laws related to violence against women, injustice, discrimination etc.

### Helping EWRs to Form Federation:

Elected Panchayat women members are helped to form a Block federation with an objective of a creating collective power of EWRs and collectively fight against issues that stands obstacles for them to carry out their responsibility and their dignity.



The issues that the federation has raised are;

1. Reverting two child norms in Panchayat election,
2. Grievance day for women exclusively for women in each Block
3. Panchayat Mahila Bhawan at Block and District HQs.
4. Increasing seating allowance for PRI members
5. To stop proxy participation in Panchayat meetings

### 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 .
- ❖ Many EWRs who were reluctant to come into Panchayat governance system earlier have now g active vocal members .
- ❖ 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

## Promoting Organic Cashew production:

In the northern part of Ganjam district in Odisha there has been large area of cashew plantation. Cashew also fetches a substantial cash income for the large numbers of small and marginal farmers . But in recent days there is a growing demand for organic cashew both in domestic and international market. Therefore there is a good opportunity for farmers to increase their income form sale of cashew nut if they practice organic methods of cultivation.



IWD with support and collaboration of ICSD Hyderabad has initiated a project in Beguniapada Block of Ganjam district of Odisha to motivate formers to go for organic cashes production so that they get enhanced income.

As first step efforts have been taken to orient and train farmers to understand the concept of organic cashew production and to learn the process of cultivation . During the year 5 orientation trainings and one training of trainers were organized for the farmers. The details of the training organized as follows;

SL#	Date	Place	Panchayat	Block	Total farmers attended the training
1	1.9.2012	Sandhamula , Panchayat Hall	Sandhamula	Beguniapada	57
2	9.92012	Talasar high school	Talasar	Beguniapada	80
3	21.9.2012	Damiabara bara G.P meeting Hall	Damiabarabara	Beguniapada	90
4	30.9.2012	Sighasini	Padripada,	Polasara	60
5	1.9.2012	Niladriprasad	Niladriprasad	Banapur	82
6	9 <sup>th</sup> and	Gopalpur	From 5	Beguniapada	32

	10 <sup>th</sup> February		Panchayats	and Banapur	
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- ✚ The training helped the farmers to understand the concept of organic farming .
- ✚ The need of growing /producing organic cashew ,
- ✚ They got Information about the increased demand for organic cashew both in national and international market.
- ✚ How farmers can take pre and post care of the plants , control pests and diseases by following organic method.

### Exposure programme for farmers :

The cashew growing farmers numbering 28 had gone on an exposure to see the organic method of agriculture promoted by a NGO called Sambhab in Nayagarda district. During the exposure , the farmers could see different types of crop such paddy, vegetable and horticulture plants are being grown organically and pest and diseases control by using inputs organically prepared. The most important learning that the farmers could gain was preparation organic manure by using their local ingredients

### Running of Child care Centre:

In cashew processing factories maximum workers are women. Some of the women who have small kid also come to work leaving their children at home . Often these children are left at home without any care . They even do not go to either school or Anganwadi centres . Considering these factors support is provided to run a child care centre at premises of MAA Cashew Processing Unit (MCPU).at Angargan village of Beguniapada Block The Centre is running on pilot basis and it is an unique initiative , first time in Odisha .



The children attending the centre are children of women who are basically working in MCPU. At present 24 children are enrolled in the centre .There is an understanding with MAA Cashew Processing Unit that after the pilot period is completed the MCPU will continue to run the centre with its own resource.

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