

Aragamee

Annual Report
2018-19





AGRAGAMEE

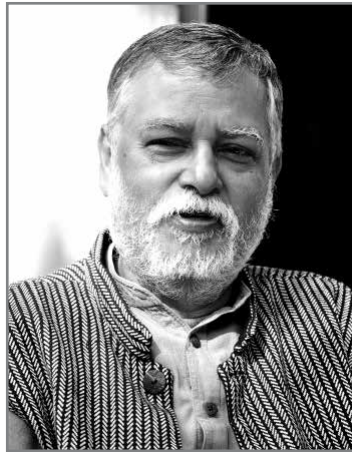
Kashipur-765015, District : Rayagada,
Odisha, India
Phone : 06865-285009, 06865-285174
Fax : 06865-285174
Email : info@agrgamee.org
Website : www.agrgamee.org

AGRAGAMEE

ND-8, VIP Area, IRC Village, Nayapalli
Bhubaneswar-751015, Odisha, India
Phone : 0674-2551123, Fax : 0674-2551130
Email : info@agrgamee.org
Website : www.agrgamee.org

CONTENTS

1. Mukta Gyana Kutir, Agragamee School
2. Creative Language Development Efforts
3. Smart Alternatives in Rural Teaching
4. Paramparagata Krishi Vikash Yojana and Participatory Guarantee System
5. Special Program for Promotion of Millet in Tribal Areas
6. Eco Village Development
7. Addressing Nutrition and Income Insecurity of Underprivileged Communities by Improving Access to Information on Relevant Government Schemes
8. Strengthening Alternative Methods of Agriculture
9. Ecological Agriculture
10. Transparency Form
11. Financial Summary
12. Agragamee's Publication



Director's Note...

The Year 2018-19 has been a year of intensive activities for Agramee. Government supported Programmes like PKVY and Odisha Millet Mission have made deep impact on our Farmers generating much enthusiasm, and increasing their Food and Nutrition Securities. We have also tried to grapple with the issues related to Agrarian Crisis and have tried to find out if Doubling Farmers Income is possible or not. We see a great prospect for Ecological Farming adopting various Organic Methods. Our Farmer friends have also understood the importance of such efforts and have responded by giving up chemical agriculture in many villages. The soil tests have confirmed the outcome.

Mukta Gyan Kutir which is Agramee School has been able to show case significant success in enhancing the Reading and Writing abilities of our students. The Annual Report has been written and designed by the students themselves. This Annual Report by our School Children is a Milestone in the field of Primary Education. Our efforts in different Government Schools in the districts of Nabrangpur, Koraput and Rayagada has also been studied and found to have significant impact on children's learning levels by independent agencies as also our own assessments.

The Access to Information on Government Schemes programme which is being implemented in 10 districts with support from European Union, has been able to reach more than 1000 villages, and create tangible impact. Armed with various information on Government Programmes and Policies such as ICDS, Right to Education, MGNREGS, National Rural Health Mission and many other Welfare Schemes, people have demanded their entitlements and have improved the delivery of Services. Women's Participation in the Panchayats has gone up many fold. After 4 years of implementation, the programme will be consolidated in this the 5th and Final Year.

Aragamee has faced many challenges during the year and have overcome them also. In the process, Aragamee's Staff, Governing Body members, many well-wishers and also Donors (Individuals and Institutions) have extended their support and solidarity. I express my gratitude to all of them on behalf of Aragamee for making it possible to reach the poor and vulnerable groups in many villages.

15th August 2019

*Achyut Das
Kashipur*

1

Mukta Gyana Kutir, Agragamee School

1.1 Introduction

Girls from underprivileged communities are doubly disadvantaged, oppressed by caste, class as well as patriarchal biases. This burden of exclusion relegates them to a life of unskilled labour with little or no options for employment or pursuing career opportunities. Agragamee School focuses on First Generation School Girls seeking to help them fight these prejudices and have a fair chance in life. There are many challenges in helping first generation school children build up academic skills, and these are being increasingly recognised now. However, learning levels are still dismal across the country. A large proportion of children almost 50% are not able to read even at the end of elementary school! Others in that stage have only very rudimentary reading abilities. It must be noted that most of school learning begins only after one becomes a fairly fluent reader.

The focus in Agragamee School has been on addressing the complex set of problems affecting school learning for FGS children. This evolving pedagogy goes beyond the traditional approach and method, encouraging teachers to look for solutions, while also seeking to help them with the paradigm shift required to understand and practice radical new approaches. We have adopted the 'Whole Language' approach, which helps a learner to construct her own knowledge, on the foundation of the language she already knows. This approach we find leads to increased interest and engagement in the classroom, and so better learning.

Teachers have undergone intensive training and hand holding which has helps them understand the concept, and teach children through the activities and exercises in workbook primers that are fun and meaningful at the same time. In addition, library reading is encouraged from Class I upwards. As is described by Muskan of Class III, in the chapter Amo School Library, "children of Class I cannot read, but, they also have a library period, when stories are read out to them by their teachers or by seniors."

These first generation school children, who have almost no experience of the printed world, become eager readers and just as eager writers in Agragamee School. This chapter of the Annual report is written and illustrated by the students of Agragamee School,

Agragamee School thus has helped and continues to help First Generation School children in a remote tribal region break all the biases and prejudices affecting school learning of girls from underprivileged communities. It has helped girls from some of the poorest communities in the country pursue higher education, build their aspirations, and ensure a more informed and aware community in their village. And so we move steadily forward towards our goal of creating a generation of literates in remote tribal villages. We take this opportunity to thank all who have made this possible, including Dr. M. Chandrasekaran, Smt. Mahalakshmi Jayaram, Dr. Purna Chandra

Patnaik, Dr. Gopa Patnaik, Dr. Anjalika Patnaik, Sri. Chandrahas Choudhury, Dr. Sita Kantha Das, and many other wonderful people, who are not mentioned just for lack of space.

1.2 Report of Activities

Our School Annual Report

Turkanti Majhi, Class IV

The name of our school is Mukta Gyana Kutir Agragamee Vidyalaya, Kahsipur. Our school is in Rayagada District. 200 children study in our school. We have seven Dadies and four Sirs. They teach us all the subjects and help us in every way. We get mid-day meal in our school, as well as notebooks, pens, pencils, sharpners, rubbers, uniforms, sweaters, soap, oil geometric box, etc. We feel very happy when we get these things.

We had a picnic in our school. All of us got together and cooked the food, and it was great fun. Ranjit Sir, Shalini Didi, Gopa Didi, Purna Sir, Lopa Mudra Guruma, Sadhana Guruma, visited our school at different times during the year. We had very good discussions with each one of them.

We celebrate Ganesh Puja, Saraswati Puja, Independence Day, Republic Day, Children's Day, Teachers' Day and Gandhi Jayanti in our school. We have lot of fun decorating our school colourfully for each occasion, and enjoy a lot. We all went to visit Chingrajkut, Sas-Bahu Mali, and the Block Office. We enjoyed ourselves very much, and learnt many things there.

Our School Assembly

Halita Kumbhar, Class V

First we sweep and clean our school, the bell rings, and we begin the Assembly. All of us, from Class I to Class V stand in a circle. Every day, a different class leads the Assembly. As they sing, the rest of us follow and sing after them. After the prayer, we exchange general knowledge questions and answers. This is followed by newspaper reading. Our teachers explain to us the content of the newspaper. The one who reads the newspaper also talks about what she has understood from the news item. Then one group enacts a play they have learnt earlier.

After this, we count ourselves, then call out Jai Hind together, and go to our classes.

Our Library

Muskan Nayak, Class III

Our school is Agragamee Vidyalaya, Kashipur. Our School has two libraries, they are called Small Library and Big Library. In the Small Library, all of us from Classes I to V read books. The names of these books are Tip Top Tip, Dangara Katha (Tales from The Hills), Pilanko Gapa Bohi (Children's Story Book), Gol Gol Golu (Round and Round), Patro Hi Patro, (Leaves and Leaves). These are the books we read.

Children of Class I do not know how to read. Therefore, they sit with our senior sisters of Class V to listen to the stories. Every Saturday, we read story books, and during the meeting, we tell the stories we have read in front of all our teachers, and students. Then we all talk about the stories we like amongst ourselves and go home.

About Language Learning In Our School

Rebati Kumbhar, Class V

The first period is language. We read four to five paragraphs silently. Guruma teaches us through the sense group method. Then Guruma asks us questions from the paragraph. If we are not able to answer the questions, Guruma asks us to read the paragraphs again, so we can find answers ourselves. When we have answered all of Guruma's questions, we write the answers in our notebooks, and show it to Guruma.

While reading language, we learn new words, make sentences out of these, and do questions and answers. In our language book, there are 17 stories and poems. Out of these there are 12 stories and 5 poems. Even though Guruma has taught us all the lessons, we like 'The National Flag is flying high', 'Madam Curie', 'Flowers', 'The Story of Nilamani', 'Wear Proper Dress When You Come' very much. We discuss them amongst ourselves.

Guruma asks us to explain the lessons we have read. We stand up and speak about what we have understood in the lessons. Whether it is a poem or a lesson, we read it once, and then tell the story. I understand all the lessons very well. That is why my friends and I like language period very much.

Mathematics Lessons In Our School

Dalimba Kumbhar, Class V

We have two Maths books in Class V. One book is 'Ganita Dhara' or Mathematical problems, and the other books is 'Asho Ganito Seekhiba' or Come Let us Learn Mathematics. First our teacher comes, and makes us by memorise the multiplication tables.

Then Guruma teaches us decimals, fractions, prime numbers, etc. and asks us to solve decimal sums that are given in our text book. When we do place value problems on the blackboard, there are many children who are unable to understand. Guruma explains the problems to them, and helps them understand. Guruma, always ensures that everybody understands the problems very well.

When we study maths, we also learn about Kilogram, Gram, Centimetre. Once we have understood, we write on our notebooks, and get it corrected by our teacher. Some days, we also read about how to tell the time from a clock. We learn about the minute, second, and hour hands, and then we can tell the time.

Science Lessons

Rebati Kumbhar, Class V.

In the 4th period, we have Environmental Science. First we read social science, where we learn about the Rajya Sabha, Lok Sabha, and our society. Then we have environmental science. Ranu Didi teaches about society, and science on alternated days. We read one paragraph, then Ranu Didi asks questions. Those who know raise their hands. Who ever is pointed out by Ranu Didi, gets up and gives the answer. Then we also ask each other questions on the topic.

When this is over, we read environmental science. We read about birds, animals, plants and trees, and about safety. We also learn about carnivores, which are flesh eating animals, and herbivores which are grass and leaves eating animals. Ranu Didi us about diseases and what causes them like the anopheles causes malaria, Aedes mosquito causes dengue and chikungunya and the bite of rats causes plague. We also learnt to draw the food chain and which animal depends on which other animal. I like science a lot, as we learn a lot about animals, birds, plants, and other creatures in our environment

Lopamudra Mohanty's School Visit

Hanita Kumbhar, Class V

On 6th October 2018 Lopamudra Mohanty came to our school. She was accompanied by Purna Sir, Chandan Kumar Singh Sir and Basanti Mohanty. Achyut Sir was also present there. On that day a Parents' Meeting was organised. In this meeting parents of the students, school teachers and students from first to fifth class were present. The meeting started and Lopamudra Mohanty asked us our names, and then also talked to the parents.

Lopamudra Mohanty asked Senapati Sir to introduce himself. Senapati Sir said his name was Senapati Kumbhar and that two of his daughters Chandrika and Sangita were studying in Agragamee School. He also sad said his eldest daughter had also studied in this school, and was doing very well in her studies after finishing Agragamee School.

Lopamudra Mohanty aksed Senapati why he wanted his duaghters to study in Agragamee School. Senapati Sir replied that he liked Agragamee School as quality of teaching was very good there. Then she asked Surendri Ma to stand up and asked her name. She said her name was Surendri Kumbhar, and that she wanted her daughters to study in this school, as they do not learn much in Government School. She said she wanted Agragamee School to expand to higher classes. Lopamudra Mohanty suggested that the parents should pay a monthly fee of hundred rupees and also send some of their surplus vegetables with their children for mid-day-meal. The parents happily agreed to this suggestion. The Parents' Meeting ended there.

Ranjit Sahu's School Visit

Mani Kumbhar, Class V

On 10.10.2018 Ranjit Sahu Sir visited our school. We asked his name and where he had come from. He said that his name was Ranjit Sahu and that he had come all the way from America. He was very happy to visit our school. We all sat in the Main Hall for an interactive meeting. We asked several questions to know what he was doing there and how things were in America. He also asked us questions about what we did in school, and about our performance. Then he asked us to tell a story. Tapaswini and Chandini raised their hands. Tapaswini told a story about a parrot and sparrow, Chandini told the story of a Mother and Son. We all listened to their stories and clapped our hands when they finished. Ranjit Sir also clapped his hands with happiness on hearing these stories.

Thereafter, Ranjit Sir told that he would show us American birds, and trees and plants. He asked how many of us were interested to see the birds, animals and trees and plants of America. We all raised our hands. Ranjit Sir then showed us many interesting birds, animals, trees and plants of America from his computer.

Those were blue jay, eagle, swan living in water, cat bird, Dimiri tree, black bird, plants with flowers, honey bee sitting on a flower, flock of birds flying across in the sky, singing sparrow, wandering sparrow and other birds. Thereafter, Ranjit Sir gave us American chocolate. We had the chocolate, and found it very tasty. After that Ranjit Sir left for America.

Shalini Didi's Odishi Dance

Jayanti Nayak, Class V

On 11.10. 2018, Shalini Didi, and her parents came to our school. We said Namaskar to them. Then Achyut Sir introduce Shalini Didi, and said she dances Odishi very nicely, and she will teach you to dance also. Then Didi spoke to our teachers, and Achyut Sir.

Shalini Didi asked us, whether we knew what is the dance of Odisha. We said we do not know. Then Shalini Didi told us it was Odishi. After this, she told she would teach children of Class IV and V how to dance. She played an Odishi Song, and we stood up, and copied her steps and action. Guruma Didi, and other Sirs also danced. Then, when the dance was over Lipi, Chandini and Sridevi from Class III said they also wanted to learn Odishi. Guruma called all those who wanted to learn dance to come forward.

Then Shalini Didi taught the whole school to dance once again. Then Bada Guruma said it is getting late, and that they had to leave. We all did Namaskar. Then Shalini Didi and her parents left for their hometown of California. We liked the dancing very much.

Annual Function

Tapaswini Nayak, Class V

On 30.11. 2018, we had the Annual Function of our school. Big Guruma, and Big Sir, had decided about the Annual Function much earlier with our Guruma, and Dadies and Sirs. After discussion, they decided to have the Annual Function on 30.11.2018. Then, they told us that we should practice all the songs and dances that we wanted to perform for the Annual Function. On 24.11.2018, Dharani Sir came to our school to teach us plays and dance for the function.

We learnt the welcome song, and the children from junior classes learnt action songs. Ranu Didi and Lakshmi Didi taught us the song, 'Mothe Kohideo hei, Patho Padhi Kisso Koribi' (Tell me, O what will I do after I finish studies!). Soma Didi taught the song Banua Hathi (Jungle Elephant) to the children of Class II. Dharani Sir taught us a play 'Bhagya Kheluchi Chaka Bhaunri' (Fate plays with us) which he had written by himself. The characters in the play were just as interesting as the title of the play. The songs for the play were sung by Swati Nani, Haranti and me.

The play had Gopi Sahukaro, Meena, Reena, Sita, Geeta, Reeta, the wife of the Sahukar, Raghunath, King, Minister, Sutradhar (story teller) and Duta (messenger). Gopi was enacted by Jayanti, Sahukar by Binodini, Meena by Daita, Reena by Halita, Seeta by Chandini, Geeta by Dalimba, Rita by Muni, Raghunath by Tapaswini, King by Chandrika,

Minister by Nixa, Messenger by Jagyasini, and Story tellers were Lipi and Sri Devi. Our teachers xeroxed Dharani Sir's play, and gave us all copies. We sat and read these.

We all practised very seriously for five days. All of us, of class IV and V stayed back in the school, so we could learn everything well. To see our play, Chandrahas Choudhury came from Delhi. He was very involved in the whole preparations. We used to have a lot of fun with him.

On 30.11.2018, the Annual Function began. We all dressed according to our roles. Our parents, brothers and sisters, and many other people from the villages came to see our play. On that day, we were all very excited and happy. Our parents were very happy to see us perform. The stage was decorated. Our seniors from Katali, helped the little ones dress up, and make-up.

Director, Agragamee welcomed everybody. The Annual Report was read out By Kanaka Guruma and Ishri Jhodia of Class V. Then Atul Sir distributed the prizes. Prizes were given for three reasons. The first one was for regular attendance, the second was for getting good marks in the exams, and the third was for the most active student in school. After the prize distribution, Atul Sir announced that the children's performance would begin.

Then all children from Class I to Class V showed how the Assembly is done in the school, they read out the newspaper, and exchanged General Knowledge. The students of Class I and Class II danced 'Banua Hati' (Jungle elephant). Five children danced to a Kui song. 'Patho Padhi Sari Kisso Koribi' was performed by students of Classes IV and V. The children who sang the welcome song danced to the 'Deshia Geeto'(Tribal song).

We began the play with much excitement. The play went very well. Our parents were given snacks. They all then went back. The children from the school also went back. I liked the role of Gopi very much, as he went to another land to earn a livelihood and bring up his children. He suffered a lot for the sake of his children. That evening, we stayed with our seniors from Ratapada.

A Visit to Chingrajkhut Field Area

Chandni Nayak, Class IV

On 6.2.19, we decided to go to a nearby field. When we reached, we met Gurubaru Gouda Sir there. He told us that above his field, there is a spring which provides for all his needs. The water comes out from the land and is the source of the Haldasil river he said. he explained that he divided the water from this spring into two parts, to irrigate different parts of his field. So he got very good yield he said. He showed us the spring. We went closer, and saw water gurgling out of the ground at the base of a tree. Fish were swimming in the water. We also saw that 'Khandagiri' paddy had been planted on the field. We were all very excited to see the water gurgling out from the ground. He told us that the hill above his field was called Chingrajkhut, to the is the Danga Danga Parbata, and to the west, the Gouda Goda Dangar. There were several varieties of plants and shrubs in the orchard. They had planted lemon, peas, garlic, eggplant, etc. Guruma asked the lady what she used to fertilize the eggplant crop. She said we use local manure and cow urine on the field she replied. That is why we get such a good yield. Then we returned back. On our way back, we saw a gooseberry tree full of fruits. We climbed the tree, and plucked the fruits and ate them. Then Guruma hurried us all back to school. We reached Haldasil river Shailesh Sir took pictures of me, Tapaswini, Jayanti, Lipi and Priya jumping over the stones. Then we all reached school, had lunch, and went home.

January 26th

Champila Jhodia, Class IV

The name of our school is Agragamee Vidyalaya. On 26th January, all of us took flowers, and went to school. Kanaka Guruma said, 'children, all of us will go to Kumbharsila'. We all felt very happy, and we all went to Kumbharsila. The village has three hamlets. First we went to Kumbharsahi, then to Majhi Sahi, and finally, we went to Harijan Sahi. We shouted slogans as we went. Then we returned to school

After returning, we hoisted the flag, and sang our National Anthem, Jana Gana Mana. Kanaka Guruma gave a speech. Then we all went to the big hall and sat. They gave us boondi and bananas. We all had it and went home.

Child Development Programme, Kashipur

Sujita Majhi, Class IV

On 15.02.19, all of us from Classes III, IV and V, Kanaka Guruma, Lima Sir, Shailesh Sir, Jayanti Didi and Geeta Didi, went to the Child Development Programme Office. We saw the Child Development Programme Office board as we entered and noted the name in our notebooks. Jayanti Das Guruma met us and introduced herself as Supervisor of Maikanch Panchayat. She asked why we had come, and we replied that we had come from Agragamee School to see the Child Development Office, and asked her to please tell us about it. We shall write all this, and it will be published in a book we explained to her.

She explained that all villages have Anganwadi Centres, where children below six years of age study, play and dance. We ensure that they are provided with uniforms, supplementary food, egg. Under the Mamata Scheme, women are given medicines. We also provide monetary support to pregnant women under the Mamata Scheme.

After this the CDPO Madam Nalini Bairagi came. She told us that we should always be clean and neat. She showed us the five steps for washing our hands. She explained that she would have told us many more things, but had very little time. She also showed us the playthings that were used in the Anganwadi centres, and gave us all biscuits. Then She called her driver, and told him to drop us in Agragamee School. We all returned to our school in two vehicles.

A Visit To Sasu Bahu Mali

Chandrika Kumbhar, Class IV

On 16.2.2019, we went on a long winding road, up the hill to Sasu Bahu Mali. I enjoyed the journey to the top of the mountain very much. On the way, many interesting things, including a marriage procession. The name of the village is Kanjakona. There were several types of houses in the village. We sang 'Ama Gaon Kashipur' (Our village Kashipur) in the village.

Then we all went to the school. There was only one classroom in the school. In the classroom, 10 children from classes I to V were present on that day. The name of the teacher in the school was Susanta Nayak. After talking with the students we came back for a meeting in Kanjakona village. We all sat on the mat they had spread for us, and the oldest men told us about the village and its history.

Sasu Bahu Mali has two lakes. Their waters never mixed. One lake was called Sasu (Mother-in-law) and the other is called Bahu (Daughter-in-law). People would take buckets to go and have bath in the lake. If people wore slippers into the lake, they would die. People will die if they washed clothes or vessels there. Even if there are heavy rains, the waters of the two lakes do not run together. People worship the lakes like Gods. The Kashipur king used to come here to hunt. At that time, he had a white horse, which died. Kumuti Majhi, Manikray Majhi and Bela Majhi told us all the stories of the village. The Village Chief is Manikray Majhi.

Then, we went to see the cave below the Sasu Bahu Mali. There were many bushes near the cave. Manikray Sir told us that the river (that flows through Kashipur) starts from this cave. We use this water for all our needs. Then all of us took pictures, and then got into the vehicle and returned back. I enjoyed the outing very much.

1.3 Other Activities

- Monthly teachers' review and planning meeting
- English Language Workshop for teachers: 3rd to 12th May 2019
- Village Meeting: Total of 45 village meetings have been conducted for motivation and awareness in the villages of Katali, Kumbharsila, Parajashla, Ratapada, Kashipur - Goudasahi, Podabandh

1.4 Agragamee School in Figures

Students' Role Strength:

Class	ST	SC	OBC	GC	Total
I	15	2	7	Nil	24
II	11	Nil	10	Nil	21
III	8	5	12	Nil	25
IV	17	4	10	Nil	31
V	2	3	12	Nil	17
Total	53	14	51	Nil	118

Teaching learning Material In Agragamee School:

Subject	TLM	Description
Language	Kau Dake Ka	Supplementary workbook for Grades I and II – provided to every student
Language	Story Chart	Picture story wall hanging, for print rich class rooms, and encouraging children to read for Classes III and IV
Language	Look and Say Cards	Picture cards with separated lables for students to match in Class I
Language	Conversation Chart	For engaging students and encouraging imagination for Classes I and II
Mathematics	Rangometry	For children to learn shapes and colours in Classes I and II
Mathematics	Number chain	Helping children to learn counting, place value, addition and subtraction for classes I and II
Mathematics	Abacus	Helping children to learn place value, multiplications for classes III and IV
Mathematics	Dice	Children learn counting and mental addition through games for all classes
Environmental Science	Charts	Charts for solar system, plant and animal kingdom, seeds germination, water cycle, life cycle of insects and plants, soil conservation for all classes.
Environmental Science	Globe	Helps children to understand the concept of the earth, and the places of the different continents
Environmental Science	Microscope	Helps children see the parts of plants, insects, etc in detail for classes IV and V
Environmental Science	Model of human Skeleton	Helps children to understand the skeletal system fo human beings.

Co-curricular Activities:

Activity	Date	Number of Students
Exposure visit to Block and Panchayat Samiti Office	15.2.2019	101
Exposure visit to ICDS Office	15.2. 2019	101
Exposure visit to BEO Office	14.2.2019	118
Exposure visit to Post office	14.2.2019	118
Exposure visit to Bank	14.2.2019	102
Educational Visit to Sasu Bahu Mali	16.1.2019	114
Educational Visit to farmers' field	6.2.2019	102
January 26 th Rally to Block	26.1.2019	98
Theatre Workshop	24 th to 30 th Nov. 2018	118

Parent Teachers' Meetings:

Date	Number of Parents	Villages represented
10.6.2018	63	Katali, Kumbharsila, Parajashla, Ratapada, Kashipur - Goudasahi, Podabandh
12.8.2018	85	Katali, Kumbharsila, Parajashla, Ratapada, Kashipur - Goudasahi, Podabandh,
4.9.2018	43	Katali, Kumbharsila, Parajashla, Kashipur - Goudasahi,
8.10.2018	110	Katali, Kumbharsila, Parajashla, Ratapada, Kashipur - Goudasahi, Podabandh
7.1.2019	74	Katali, Kumbharsila, Parajashla, Ratapada, Kashipur - Goudasahi, Podabandh
5.2.2019	80	Katali, Kumbharsila, Parajashla, Ratapada, Kashipur - Goudasahi, Podabandh
31.3.2019	38	Katali, Kumbharsila, Ratapada, Kashipur - Goudasahi,
21.4.2019	85	Katali, Kumbharsila, Parajashla, Ratapada, Kashipur - Goudasahi, Podabandh, Naringjodi, G Routhghati, Patamund, Kuturujhiri

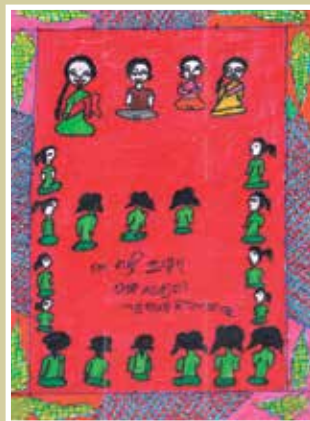
Our Library



ଆମ କଳାକର୍ମ

ଆମ ସ୍କୁଲର ମନ ସାଥୀରେ ବିଦ୍ୟାଳୟ ଜିଣାକୁର ।
 ଆମ ସ୍କୁଲରେ ପୁସ୍ତକ ସାହାଯ୍ୟରେ ଆମେ ବିଭିନ୍ନ
 ମାନ ସମାଜ ସହିତ ଆଲୋଚନା କି ବିଦ୍ୟାଳୟରେ
 କ୍ଷେତ୍ର ଆଲୋଚନାରେ ଆମେ ପ୍ରଥମରେ ପଢ଼ିବା
 ଶ୍ରେଣୀରେ ଚାଲିଥିବା ସମ୍ପର୍କ କି ଏମିତି ପୁସ୍ତକରେ
 ବିଷୟ ଚର୍ଚ୍ଚା କରାଯାଇ ଚାଲିଛି । ବିଭିନ୍ନ ପ୍ରକାରର
 କୋର ବୋକ୍ସ, ଖରାପ ଓ ଠିକ୍ ଠିକ୍ ପଢ଼ାଯାଉଛି ।
 ପଢ଼ି ପଢ଼ାଯାଉଛି । ବିଭିନ୍ନ ପ୍ରକାରର ପଢ଼ାଯାଉଛି ।
 କେତେ କେତେ କେତେକ ମାନ ମାନରେ ପଢ଼ାଯାଉଛି ।
 ଶ୍ରୀ ଶ୍ରୀ ଶ୍ରୀ - ଆମେ ପଢ଼ାଯାଉଛି ।
 ପଢ଼ି କି ନିଜର ପଢ଼ାରେ କେତେକ ପଢ଼ି ପଢ଼ି
 ଚାଲିଛି । ପଢ଼ି ପଢ଼ି ପଢ଼ି ପଢ଼ି ।
 ଆମେ ପଢ଼ି ପଢ଼ି ପଢ଼ି ପଢ଼ି ।

ମୋର ନାମ- ସୁସମି ମାଧବୀ
 ଶ୍ରେଣୀ- ସ୍ତ୍ରୀମାନଙ୍କ
 ଆଲୋଚନା ବିଭାଗରେ କାର୍ଯ୍ୟକାରୀ



Illustrations by Children of Aragamee School



Mukta Gyana Kutir, Agragamee School



Mamali talking about the school activities during the Annual Function



Creativity Unbound! Playtime brings out the hidden talent in children



Student's Publication: 2 volumes of their Newsletter Dangar Katha and the Student's Annual Report



Eager readers enjoy colourful books gifted by Pratham during the library period



Students listen eagerly to Komti Majhi's legends of the Sasu Bahu Mali

Creative Language Development Efforts



ADEO Rayagada talks to the participants during District Sharing workshop in Agramee Campus



Demonstration of Story Reading by Ms. Sumati during Teacher Refresher Training under CLDE Programme



Dialogue with DPC Team Koraput



Prof. D.P. Patnaik makes a presentation during the 2nd State Level Workshop



Having fun with children during a CLDE review of Jhiriguma School



HM Agramee School takes a rhyme class for children of Uparjhiri



Panelists on Teacher development during the 2nd State Level Workshop on Reading and Language



Talking with Children of Rasijhiri School during CLDE School Review

2

Creative Language Development Efforts

2.1 Introduction

The Creative Language Development Efforts project facilitates reading, writing and learning for children in tribal districts of Odisha, who have faced multiple exclusions for generations. It is located in underdeveloped tribal districts of Odisha, and is designed for children of economically deprived sections of the population, who are first generation school goers.

This report reflects the concluding quarter of the Creative Language Development Program. Taken up over a brief period, of two years, the program has shown outstanding results, significantly beyond the targets, and beyond our expectations. It has been instrumental in demonstrating an effective model of language and reading development in early grades for First Generation School Children in some of the more underdeveloped pockets in the poverty stricken tribal districts of Koraput, Nabrangpur and Rayagada, developing effective teacher training methods that helped teachers make a paradigm shift to the constructivist whole language approach from an alphabet centric method which relied heavily on forced memorisation, and involving the Government and administration at different stages in ways so that they not only completely supported the program, but also asked that such programs be taken up and continued in the Government schools.

Objective of the Program is to develop reading and literacy skills in first generation school going children of Grades I and II in Government schools in Tribal areas through innovative and stress free approach

2.2 Key Program Accomplishments

Sharing workshop with Government and SMC Members In Nabarangpur District

The Sharing Workshop with Government and SMC Members In Nabarangpur District was organised in the Sadashiv Conference Hall, in the Office of the District Education Office, in Nabarangpur, on 25th April 2018. It had participants from the village communities, representatives of the School Management Committees, Academicians including College Principals and Lecturers, Block Education officers, Additional Block Educational Officers, Media representatives, members from local non-governmental organisations, and Shiksha Sathies. A total of 97 participants participated in the workshop which was taken up with the objective of sharing the concept and work under the CLDE program, and facilitated lively and engaged discussion on the method and approach for reading and language development in the early grade. The Workshop was inaugurated by the District Education officer, Shri Chandrasekhar Panigrahi, the Key note addresses were given by Dr. Abhiram Biswal, Lecturer and Dr. Bijay Mishra Principal, Nabrangpur College. Shri Achyut Das gave the welcome address.

Conclusions

The presentation by the panellists was followed by a lively discussion on the several reasons for poor learner levels, and the need for improved teacher support. It was opined that teachers were often under too much stress due to poor salaries, and over burden of other works apart from teaching, over crowded and multi-grade classrooms, and poor guidance. This hampered the teachers' work. Dr. Abhiram Biswal pointed out that in our country teachers were given the least respect, whereas in other developed countries like Japan, teachers were most respected in social terms as well as economic remuneration. This helped the whole country, and now they are amongst the most developed countries in the world. Everybody agreed that the system should improve by providing better all round support to teachers. Agragamee's experience in working extensively for primary education, and with teachers in the tribal regions was shared, and people agreed that it was indeed true that teachers were the key in education, and lot of attention should be given for their proper development.

Recommendations

- ◆ Agragamee should make more copies of the book Kau Dake Ka for distribution in Government Schools
- ◆ Agragamee should organize more training programs for teachers that can help to promote the CLDE concept
- ◆ Agragamee should detail out models for addressing language issues, and give training to teachers
- ◆ Primary School Teachers should visit Agragamee Schools to learn first hand about the model school

Workshop on Reading and Language Development in Tribal Areas

The 2nd State Level Workshop on Reading and Language Development in Tribal Areas had 120 participants from 10 districts of Odisha, and included bureaucrats and retired Government Servants, researchers and academics for national universities, as well as representation for the local community, and civil society organisations as well as representation from USAID. It was organized on 12th and 13 May, 2018, as a follow up to the State Level Workshop on Reading and Language Development in Tribal Areas, held in June 2017. The first workshop, showcased Agragamee's innovative and fun concept for taking first generation school children in the tribal districts of Odisha into the world of reading and print. Beginning with a discussion on the 'whole language' approach, which reverses the letter centric teaching to a child and language centred approach, the workshop lead to a lively sharing of experiences, as well as in-depth discussions on education in the bi-lingual context of the tribal regions while also touching on teacher development, and TLM

The program had lively and interactive dialogue with academics and bureaucrats, and subject matter experts, as well as teachers being deeply involved, and providing keen insights from their experiences and practice. In his welcome speech, Shri Achyut Das emphasised that it was the role of civil society to revive education in the state, as the Government had exhibited hardly any initiative over the past several years. Education is thus becoming a monopoly of business and private sector.

Dr. Aurobindo Behera presided over the Inaugural session, and pointed out that contrary to the common perception that residential schools were essential for education in the tribal regions, children could do very well in village day schools, and those should be developed to provide good education, whereby children could pursue further education and bright careers after these.

Prof. Debiprasanna Patnaik pointed out that the quality of education is going down every day, and that it was important to bring back focus on mother tongue based education, specially in the tribal regions, so as to enable tribal children catch up.

These were followed by interesting presentations by Mr. Rangalal Jamuda State Food Commissioner Odisha, Professor Manmath Kundu, Linguist and educationist, Professor Indira Vijay Simha from Azim Premji Universtiy, Dr. Vimala Ramachandran of Education Resource Unit, Ms. Balaka Dey from USAID, and others.

The Agragamee group presented a model of the classroom teaching, and how the children responded with active interest, and keenness to read and write. The Annual Report by the students was a standing example of how

children developed if appropriate method and approach were used.

The workshop concluded with emphasising that there should be a working group who discussed critical issues concerning education of First Generation School Children to inform state policy.

Way forward meeting with Teachers: 17th to 19th May, 2018

The Training commenced at 10 Am. Agragamee teachers, Shiksha Sathies, Project coordinator and CLDE staff was present. Professor Indira Vijaysimha was resource person. The objective of the training was to re-look the achievements and lessons learnt under the CLDE program in general, and work out the broad framework for a way forward. After the objectives of the program were explained, all participants shared their general feelings about the CLDE program. Prof. Indira Vijaysimha spoke about her involvement in the teacher training, and pointed out that she was really impressed that so many young people who had just passed their 10 plus 2 exams, or graduated had been able to understand, and put in practice the entire CLDE concept so effectively.

This training was a key discussion on the major take aways from the CLDE program, and a dialogue on the continuity of the work in education of each person involved.

First Session: this was a discussion on the changes and impact of the CLDE program. The question were:

1. Identify the changes made by CLDE and Shiksha Sathies?
2. Identify the most significant change amongst?
3. Why this change happened?
4. How this change happened?

Groups from different districts discussed amongst themselves, and made their presentations. Key point that emerged were that children were able to overcome fear, and find interest in learning, the attendance and regularity of the teachers improved, and that many drop outs had joined back. Parents had also begun taking interest in the school, and were attending SMC meetings regularly.

Thus the program had been impactful at the village level, and the school ambience had markedly improved. The major reasons were that the Shiksha Sathies (Teacher Friends) were using child centred methods.

The training concluded with a discussion on the post project follow up. All Shiksha sathies said they would continued teaching for atleast 6 more months even with reduced salaries, and that they would motivate the community for active interest in the school, so that they could ask questions of the teachers and insist on accountability.

2.3 End-line Reading Fluency Survey

The end-line reading fluency test was taken up from 4th to 9th June 2018. It covered the students currently in Class III. The objective was to assess the impact of the Creative Language development Efforts project taken up in 18 school across three tribal districts of Nabrangpur, Koraput and Rayagada in Odisha State in India.

End-line Method

The end-line reading fluency test took up the same method as that of the base-line, so as to have comparable results, which could indicate the success or otherwise of the CLDE approach. Reading cards, each containing 4 different levels of text – alphabet level, word level, sentence level and paragraph level were given to the children. Each child under the CLDE program, who has completed Class II was asked to read the card in turn, and the reading level of the child is recorded on a scale of 1 to 4. 1 being alphabet level, and 4 being paragraph level. This was the same method as applied during the base-line. Only the children of Class II were surveyed. As the base-line was taken up in August after the children would have moved freshly into new classes, this base-line was taken up with children who had just entered Class III. These were children who had completed two years under the CLDE program, from the period they began schooling.

The result assessment was done by comparing children's reading fluency, at two different points in time, across the same Class and age-group. Also, only the base-line of in-school children is being taken, and the data of children who had been drop outs at the time of the base-line is excluded from this analysis.

Interactive dialogue with Government Officials

An interactive dialogue with Government Officials, was organized in the DRDA (District Rural Development Agency) Conference Hall on the 25th June, 2018. The program had the active support and cooperation of the Government, including the DPC SSA (District Project Coordinator, Sarba Shiksha Abhiyan), the DEO, and the District Administration. The event brought together 87 participants, to discuss the future of primary education in Rayagada District. There was lively and engaged discussion on the quality of teaching, and the problems of multi-lingual education in tribal villages. Block Education officers, Block Resource coordinators, Cluster resource coordinators, and teachers from 8 Blocks participated in the event, in addition to the officials mentioned above.

The program was inaugurated by DEO Purna Chandra Bariha. He emphasized the role of teachers in development of the children. Mrs. Vidhya Das shared about the Agragamee's intervention in education for the development of reading habit in 18 Government schools in remote pocket of Rayagada, Koraput and Nabarangpur.

The educationists called for a holistic approach between teachers and children for better development of education in tribal areas. DPC Binadini Panda said there is a need to change attitude among the teachers for the betterment of education and society. He also spoke that the teachers need to use various methods to create learning environment among the children.

Shailesh Gupta, India Fellow spoke about the improvement in the students he had interviewed, and the markedly better and sharper responses from the CLDE students as compared to residential school students who had come home for their holidays. Presenting a study by the independent group ACER (Australian Counsel for Educational Research) he said that the study had found that the improvement in reading levels in Grade II was 58% from the time of the base-line. And that there was clear indication that the method had made a tangible impact on children's learning levels in a short period of time.

Among others, Dr Dusmant Mohanty, ADEO Anesthesia Kerketa, India Fellow, Sailesh Gupta, Dr Chandan Kumar Singh, Nilachal Mishra, Dr Udaya Chandra Panda, Dr Narendra Mishra, Ms. Sasmita Mishra analysed the findings, and pointed out that the improvement in learning levels was quite remarkable over a short two year period of time, and underscored the need for further continuing and up-scaling the programme.

Study Area

The 18 schools in the districts of Nabrangpur, Koraput and Rayagada are listed below:

Sl.	District	Block	Village
1	Rayagada	Rayagada	Jumuka
2	Rayagada	Rayagada	Beheraguda
3	Rayagada	Rayagada	Titijhola
4	Rayagada	Rayagada	Punjapai
5	Rayagada	Rayagada	Mandhara
6	Rayagada	Kashipur	Mandibishi
7	Rayagada	Kashipur	Chiliguda
8	Rayagada	Kashipur	Jhirigumma
9	Rayagada	Kashipur	Upparjhiri

10	Rayagada	Kashipur	Rashijhiri
11	Koraput	Dasamantpur	Chikamba
12	Koraput	Dasamantpur	Uppargadala
13	Koraput	Dasamantpur	Banasil
14	Koraput	Dasamantpur	Phatikijam
15	Nabarangpur	Tentulikhunti	Uppargodigoan
16	Nabarangpur	Tentulikhunti	Lamataguda
17	Nabarangpur	Tentulikhunti	Kanheimunda
18	Nabarangpur	Tentulikhunti	Goudaguda

Overview of Findings

The End-line Reading Fluency test has been taken up for 224 children at the end of Grade II to test the efficacy and effectiveness of the CLDE Method, which was supported financially by USAID. The test included 100 girls and 124 boys. The findings of the end-line Reading fluency survey are quite significant, and even remarkable. They come at a time, when the Government of Odisha has expressed deep concern about the poor learning levels of children across the state in class VIII. It has been reported that, the Government of Odisha is reviving the program of 'Ujala' for helping children in Class VII and VIII read the alphabets. In this context, the survey findings are in fact remarkable, indicating as they clearly show that 37% of all children under the CLDE Program, at the end of Class II are able to read a paragraph fluently. Another 32% of the children at the end of Class II are able to read sentences with some hesitation, and self correction. Thus 69% of children under the CLDE program are able to read at the end of Class II.

Comparison across the gender divide reveals that 37% of the girls can read paragraphs, as against 35% of boys. In the Sentence category also, the percentage of girls is higher, with 38% girls able to read a sentence as against 27% boys. The

Comparisons of end-line with the base-line figures indicate that improvement in reading fluency is more for girls, with 25% points increase for girls at the end of Class II in the 'Paragraph' category, as compared to 16% points increase for boys. Like-wise in the 'Sentence' category, the increase for girls is 35% points, while for boys, it is 20% points. This indicates that along with improvement in learning levels, the gender gap has been closed and girls have surpassed boys by the end of two years of the program.

The inter-block comparison indicates that Dasmantpur Block in Koraput District has had the maximum improvement of 38% points over the base-line in the 'Sentence' category, and Kashipur Block in Rayagada District has the maximum improvement of 46% points over the base-line in the 'Paragraph' category. Rayagada Block, Rayagada District has shown the maximum improvement of a whopping 83% over the base-line for girls in overall reading levels.

Block-wise Reading Fluency Data from End-line and Base-line Surveys

Block - Year	Total			Letter			Word			Sentence			Paragraph		
	Total Girls	Ttl Boys	Ttl (G+B)	Girls	Boys	L (G+B)	Girls	Boys	W (G+B)	Girls	Boys	S (G+B)	Girls	Boys	P (G+B)
Kashipur - 2018	26	22	48	1	1	2	4	2	6	9	6	15	12	13	25
			0	4%	5%	4%	15%	9%	13%	35%	27%	31%	46%	59%	52%

Kashipur - 2016	30	48	78	13	14	27	11	26	37	4	5	9	2	3	5
				43%	29%	35%	37%	54%	47%	13%	10%	12%	7%	6%	6%
Tentulikhunti - 2018	33	39	72	6	7	14	5	11	16	6	2	8	16	18	34
				18%	18%	19%	15%	28%	22%	18%	5%	11%	48%	46%	47%
Tentulikhunti - 2016	42	51	93	17	23	40	10	4	14	0	0	0	15	24	39
				40%	45%	43%	24%	8%	15%	0%	0%	0%	36%	47%	42%
Rayagada - 2018	23	21	44	1	2	3	3	7	10	14	7	21	5	4	10
				4%	10%	7%	13%	33%	23%	61%	33%	48%	22%	19%	23%
Rayagada - 2016	41	35	76	26	23	49	15	8	23	0	3	3	0	1	1
				63%	66%	64%	37%	23%	30%	0%	9%	4%	0%	3%	1%
Dasmantpur - 2018	18	42	60	0	1	1	5	14	19	9	18	27	4	9	13
				0%	2%	2%	28%	33%	32%	50%	43%	45%	22%	21%	22%
Dasmantpur - 2016	33	39	72	27	15	42	5	14	19	1	4	5	0	6	6
				82%	38%	58%	15%	36%	26%	3%	10%	7%	0%	15%	8%
Total - 2018	100	124	224	8	11	20	17	34	51	38	33	71	37	44	82
				8%	9%	9%	17%	27%	23%	38%	27%	32%	37%	35%	37%
Total - 2016	146	173	319	83	75	158	41	52	93	5	12	17	17	34	51
				57%	43%	50%	28%	30%	29%	3%	7%	5%	12%	20%	16%

3

Smart Alternatives in Rural Teaching

3.1 Introduction

School Education plays a pivotal role in the development of our society. It helps community dwellers raise their voice against all kind of social evils, know about the government programs and policies, and understand the world beyond their villages and Panchayats better. It is very unfortunate that even after the decades of 21st century education is a far cry in the tribal villages. The KBK (Kalahandi-Balangir-Koraput) tract in Southern Odisha has some of worst literacy rates in the country, and is also far behind the state average. The high rates of illiteracy leads to extreme exploitation of the local tribal community, and provide little or no options for seeking better opportunities. Agragamee has taken several initiatives to address this critical problem. The SMART (Smart alternatives in Rural Teaching) is one such initiative, where there is an attempt to reach out to villages schools in the tribal regions with improved methods and approach for early grade teaching.

Goal

Team Building efforts for developing education quality and services Government Primary Schools in tribal villages in the districts of Rayagada, Koraput and Nabarangpur.

Objectives

- To work with teachers and other govt. functionaries at the village, block district levels for improving educational services and delivery in government schools.
- To link up with other institutions groups and organizations working in the area of primary education to further develop the method and approach for quality primary education.
- To initiate an awareness in the tribal villages community and specifically the Parent Teacher Association and the school management committee about the about government programme of education in tribal areas and help them monitor quality and delivery.

3.2 Activities

Regular visit to 30 schools for demonstration, guidance, observation and monitoring

Regular school Visits were conducted by Agragamee project team in each month under the intervention of project SMART Alternative for Rural Teaching. The visits included observation, as well as discussion with the teachers,

and interactions in the classrooms. Over the last one year period, the team has visited 30 govt. schools from Kashipur and Rayagada Blocks of Rayagada districts, Dasamantpur Block of Koraput District and Tentulikhunti Block of Nabarangpur district.

Observation of attendance, teaching methods, active response of students to teachers and periphery of schools

Attendance

The project team checked the attendance rate of student in each of the visited schools with the presence and support of Head Master, Head Mistress and other assistance teachers. In this checking it came to know that in comparison to retention and drop out the rate of irregularity among students are very high which is serious matter to discuss.

Teaching Method of Teachers

The teaching methods of teachers are very unique for different classes. The methods are quite child friendly. While some teachers use encourage activity based learning, others seemed to be comfortable in a lecture method. Though the irregularity is higher but the performances among regular students are increasing day by day. The students are getting books, notebooks, chalk, pencil, erasers etc. with their uniforms for both boys and girls.

Active response of students to teachers

The team in its observation has noticed that the students having response to their teachers. They are well capable to read and write the text as detected by teachers by own self. The students are well capable to answer all most all questions both orally and written asked by teachers from completed lessons. The students are good enough to solve the mathematical problems very easily with few seconds. The present scenario shows their capacity of securing good result in exam.

Observation of School And Periphery

In its observation team observed the School infrastructures (class room, lavatory, library, Science Labs, kitchen room, portable drinking water taps and tube wells, sports rooms with indoor and outdoor games kits), Mid Day Meal, precautions for safety and security of students (safe and reliable boundary wall, First Aid Kit, proper maintenance of their play grounds for students, prohibition of students entering into risk zones in schools with supervision by teachers and other school staffs, proper hand wash by students before food and after using toilet in school periphery).

Discussion on existing school infrastructures and fruitfulness of educational system in school

The monitoring team had a discussion with the head master, head mistress, assistance teachers, SMC members, PTA members, students in a joint meeting. The meeting was organized by teachers with prior notice given by our monitoring team. In this meeting 350 participants with the ratio 5:3 female and male participated with eager response. In this meeting discussions were held on following topic as given below:-

- Low rate of retention of students in classrooms.
- The increasing rate of irregularity of students.
- Low rate of response from students to teachers answering questions to teachers, following instructions as detected by teachers.
- Conditions and improvement of School infrastructures (class room, lavatory, library, Science Labs, kitchen room, portable drinking water taps and tube wells, sports rooms with indoor and outdoor games kits), Mid Day Meal, precautions for safety and security of students (safe and reliable boundary wall, First Aid Kit,

proper maintenance of their play grounds for students, prohibition of students entering into risk zones in schools with supervision by teachers and other school staffs, proper hand wash by students before food and after using toilet in school periphery

- Future planning for improving students' capability in education, developing school infrastructures, ensuring the safety and security of students in school campus. Besides these teachers requested organization team members support the school in having child friendly TLM for improving the educational capability of students.

Mid Day Meal

The students are regularly having proper qualitative nutritional food as detected by WCD Dept. and ICDS Dept of India. The responsibility of preparing of food in MDM has taken by SHGs members and monitored by SMC members as per RTE Act 2009. Some schools have developed their own kitchen garden for good organic vegetables for children in MDMs.

Precautions for safety and security of students

The school staffs are very careful and conscious for safety and security of children. They are having close look on boundary wall, first aid kit, disaster preparedness kit and restriction of children to enter in risk zone areas in school campus. The teachers and cooking staffs are guiding the children for proper hand wash before food and after using toilet. The school team is preparing child protection policy for ensuring safety and security of child in school campus. The details of students were being interacted by Agramee team are given below:-

3.3 Strengthening SMC

School Management Committees is for formed by education department of state govt. in order to promote and monitoring the school activities for better growth of children. It acts as a watching team by govt. on especially qualitative education for children, nutritional qualitative food and recreation of students. In SMC there are 19 members includes head master/head mistress, students, assistant teachers, ANM, Anganwadi worker, PRI members, and parents of students. In our team visit the following were discussed by SMC Members are following

Improving education level of children

SMC members were advised to regularly visit the classes and the school and ensure good student and teacher attendance. It was found that in some instances, educated members of the SMC also take classes in the school.

Increasing the attendance of children

In order to increase the attendance rate SMC members are consulting the students, parents, teachers to find out the root cause of irregularity of student in class room. It tries to motivate parents and teachers to promote for child friendly environment for children in school and in family to increase the retention rate children.

Availability of teachers in school

SMC members are submitting application for new teachers and special teachers to address all the children including CWSN in class room before BEO, DEO, Social welfare department In district collector office Rayagada district.

Regularity of teachers in classroom

SMC members are close monitoring the presence of teachers in classes. In case of continuous irregularity the members are reporting to BEO to search for another alternative. The members may even takes the alternative classes in absence of teachers.

Enrollment of school non going and drop out children

SMC members are visiting the houses of school non going tribal children and motivate the parents to educate their

children for their better future. The SMC members are conducting campaign for education in special occasion of Children's Day, Teacher's day, Independence day and Republic day. In this campaign the PRI Members, anganwadi workers, teachers and parents of students are participate with enthusiastic spirit.

Develop the strategies of promoting and developing bridge course for mainstreaming enrolled and drop out students

With the strong discussion with teachers and SMC members are trying search for better process for providing bridge course to non going and drop out children. This new initiative is taken by SMCs tribal pockets of Odisha. The members are submitting memorandum to BEO, DEO, Social welfare department in district collector office Rayagada district.

Promote child friendly atmosphere in school

SMC members are promoting child friendly atmosphere in school campus. In this perspective the members are observing the attitude of teachers, teaching methods, availability of child friendly TLMs, learning games for children in class room. The members sometimes try to motivate the children for peer group support to the slow learners in class room.

MDM

The stock register, condition of glossary items, cooking process, freshness of food, following the nutrition chart by cook in preparation of lunch are monitored by SMC members. The members are checking the practice of hand wash before food by each student properly.

3.4 Formation of Mothers-Teachers Association

Aragamee has taken initiatives for promotion of girl child education. has formed Mother Teacher Association in every school. The group deals with the issues and problems of girls' child education and seeks to improve attendance, retention, performance and decrease drop out of girls in the tribal villages. The discussions with the MTA in the villages included the following:

Enrollment of Girls Child in school

Retention and regular attendance, Helping girls learn better – need for support at home, like lighting, freedom from household chores, etc., Re-enrollment of drop out girls, Role of women members of the SMC, Gender sensitive atmosphere at home and in school.

Parents Teachers Association

In order to promote the education rate among children belongs to deprived sections of society Govt. has formed a parent teacher association in every school. The teachers and parents of students are members of this group. Very often it was found, parents had no idea of the PTA. Aragamee in its project under SMART Alternative for rural teaching took up regular meetings with the PTA to bring about a better understanding of their roles and responsibilities. The following were the main points of discussion:

Role and responsibilities of the PTA; Formation of SMC out of the PTA, The Panchayat level Standing Committee, Improving performance of slow learners, Monitoring child's learning levels – indicators, and methods for parents who have no schooling, Engaging with the school teachers and the SMC, Checking supply of textbooks, notebooks etc. Monitoring the school development fund.

3.5 Capacity Building

Training for team building

The two Trainings for team building in math and MLE were conducted by Aragamee at its Training hall at

Kashipur. The core objectives of this training were motivation and capacity development of team to provide quality education on maths and MLE. In this training participants were trained to use the TLM for improved calculation power of children and making the education child friendly. In this training Mrs. Indira Vijay Shimha was the resource person shared her valuable tricks for making mathematics interesting one for children. There were 17 participants with ratio of 9:8 male and female participated in this training.

Outcome

- 15 staffs got a good clarity on model school for qualitative education for tribal children.
- 17 staffs are trying to develop the concept more child friendly.
- Staffs are now trying developing easy mathematics for tribal girls in order to success the project.

Overall Outcome

- The 2% of enrollment rate is increasing among school non going children and dropout rate in each year in comparison to total strength.
- The retention rate has increasing the day by day up to 15% in this year.
- 10% students from total strength are now scoring good marks in exam.
- The concerned education dept. is taking interest for appointment of Teachers in school.
- 15% students can able to read and write the text clearly in this year.
- There is better hygiene in the cooking of MDM.
- 14% Parents are sending their children to school and making follow up the teaching process in school.
- 15% Parents are monitoring the studies of their children in their houses.
- The enrollment of girls has increased up to 25% from the total strength of 125 in comparison to boys in our project govt. school.
- 107 Men are now taking lead role in promotion of girl education in their villages.
- The retention of girl student is growing 6% each year from total strength of 125.
- 49 drop out girls has been enrolled by MTA members in schools.

Schools Monitored and Mentored

Sl. No.	School	Student		TOTAL	Teacher		TOTAL
		Boys	Girls		Male	Female	
Rayagada District							
1	Mandibisi	25	15	40	5	6	11
2	Titijhola	24	17	31	4	8	12
3	Pendeli	12	14	26	7	8	15
4	Kerikhala	26	13	39	6	9	15
5	Beheraguda	26	17	43	8	6	14
6	Tentulikhhunti	12	14	26	8	5	13
7	Jhumuka	30	24	54	9	3	12
8	Gujarabadi	9	8	17	4	5	9

9	Badamandhara	35	42	77	8	5	13
10	Punjapai	30	25	55	7	9	16
Koraput District							
11	Fatikjam	18	14	32	5	4	9
12	Chikamba	25	16	41	9	5	14
13	Banasil	27	30	57	8	7	15
14	Uppergadla	20	17	37	6	4	10
15	Tikarpada	12	9	21	8	2	10
16	Kanyajhola	8	9	17	7	9	16
Nabrangpur District							
18	Uppergodi Gaon	20	24	44	6	7	13
19	Targa Pali	16	15	31	7	5	12
20	Lamta Guda	28	12	40	9	4	13
21	Panas Duka	25	16	41	4	3	7
22	Kanheimunda	50	31	81	8	6	14
23	Loki guda	16	25	41	6	7	13
24		494	407	891	149	127	276

Smart Alternatives in Rural Teaching



Capacity building workshop with teachers



Discussion with SMC members and teachers in Pendeli School



Discussions with SMC members in Tikarpada School



Interaction with Children and teacher in Kanheimunda School



Review of teaching in Gujarbadi School



Teacher training program

Paramparagata Krishi Vikash Yojana and Participatory Guarantee System



Certificate Distribution by CDAO, Rayagada to the successful Farmers on completion of PKVY training



Cluster members monthly meeting at Kutuli village



Director Agramee's PKVY field visit of Talagadala



Paddy line transplanting under PKVY project



Sankar Nayak of Gulimusa village demonstrates outstanding success of Green gram crop under traditional cultivation methods



Turmeric Cultivation of Dalaj Miniyaka of Kutuli village under PKVY Project

4

Paramparagata Krishi Vikash Yojana and Participatory Guarantee System

4.1 Introduction

The Paramparagat Krishi Vikas Yojana (PKVY), launched in 2015 by Government of India, is an extended component of Soil Health Management (SHM) under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme (CSS), National Mission on Sustainable Agriculture (NMSA) and implemented by State Governments. PKVY aims at supporting organic farming. The scheme promotes Participatory Guarantee System (PGS) for India (PGS-India) form of organic certification that is built on mutual trust and local identity and mandates the involvement of producers and consumers in the process of certification. PGS-India operates outside the framework of expensive “Third Party Organic Certification”.

Aragamee has taken up Paramparagat Krishi Vikas Yojna (PKVY) in Kashipur, in 5 villages in Kashipur Block of Rayagada District, and in 6 villages in Dasantpur Block of Koraput District. The project is divided into clusters, with each cluster covering 50 acres of land and having a membership of about 30 farmers. Under each cluster a Seed User Group (SUG) has been formed for conservation of traditional seeds and its marketing, each SUG will be supported with an amount of Rs.150000/- for the purpose of revolving funds within the clusters.

Approach

PKVY is implemented in a time frame of three years in line with the PGS-India’s prescribed conversion period of 36 months from conventional farm to organic. Accordingly, PKVY promotes organic farming through a Cluster approach to adopt PGS Certification. PGS Certification facilitates farmers to certify their organic produce, label and market their products domestically. The Cluster chosen for Organic Farming is for 20 hectares or 50 acres of land in extent and in as contiguous a form as possible.

By passing of time entire village is expected to be converted to organic, thus area under each cluster shall exceed 50 acres with financial provision for 50 acres only.

The PKVY Programme envisages

- Promotion of commercial organic production through certified organic farming.
- The produce will be pesticide residue free and will contribute to improved consumer health.
- It will raise farmer’s income and create potential market for traders.
- It will motivate the farmers for natural resource mobilization for input production.

Aims and Objectives of the Project

- Realizing yield potentials in rainfed /hilly areas
- Improving and sustaining soil health
- Reducing cost of cultivation
- Cluster based approach - cluster of 50 acres each.
- Decentralized and participatory approach
- Supporting farmers in improving crop production sustainably through integrated approach following good agricultural practices, thereby increasing their social and economic conditions.

Maximum importance is given to sustain soil health under PKVY. As all our food comes from soil, the health of soil, plant, animal and man is one and indivisible'. Healthy soils provide food, feed, fuel and even fiber for clothes. Healthy soils store and regulate water flow and mitigate climate change. Declining soil health spells trouble for everyone. Agragamee;s Annual Action plan is prepared keeping in mind the above objectives, and emphasis.

4.2 Initiative by Government of Odisha

AGRAGAMEE is also the authorized Resource Organization for implementation of PKVY in the State of Odisha for three years in a cluster approach project mode during the period **2017-18 to 2019-20**.

State Government through its Department of Agriculture and Farmer's Welfare selected Agragamee as the resource organisation for implementation of the PKVY project in Rayagada & Koraput an area of 3500 acre (70 clusters of 50 acre each) as indicated in table -1 below.

Details on the Operational Area of PKVY by Agragamee:

S.N.	Name of the Block	Name of the District	Nos. of Clusters	Nos. of Farmers	Nos. of Villages	Nos. of G.P.
1	Rayagada	Rayagada	20	510	14	3
2	Kashipur	Rayagada	30	324	26	6
3	Dasmantpur	Koraput	20	612	16	6
	Total		70	2046	56	15

After becoming operational in April, 2017 for the period from 2017-18 to 2019-20 with XM<XC<MC clusters in XM<XC<MC Agragamee was asked to extend its work to 30 more cluster in 2018 for the period from 2018-19 to 2021-22. For 2017-18 each cluster a financial support of Rs. 14.95 lakhs (INR. 14, 95, 000/-) and in 2018-19 each cluster a financial support of Rs. 10 lakhs (INR. 10,00,000/-) provided by the Government of India through Odisha State Government over 3 years for the assistance on farmer's mobilization, adoption of organic farming, training, field exposure, on-farm inputs production, exhibition/fair, certification, value addition, labeling, branding and marketing of the agricultural produces. Under this programme there are many opportunities for the programme participants, various stakeholders and the Organisation.

But at the same time there are also challenges like formation of Farmers Producer Organisation (FPO), PGS-Certification, and marketing, less human resources through provision of inadequate admin cost.

4.3 Key Components and Major Activities

- Model Organic Cluster Demonstration
- Model Organic Farm

Process of Implementation

There was a series of interaction by the project team from time to time on the following areas by dint which a better understanding on the implementation process of PKVY programme was obtained by the staff, LRP and the programme participants.

- Selection process Cluster members and LRP
- Registration procedures of Cluster members with LG
- Annual Action Plan for each cluster under PKVY
- Orientation and benefits of the LRP training
- Capacity building and Methodologies of training for the Cluster members
- DBT Registration of PKVY Farmers
- Technical know-how on the soil collection and analysis
- Submission of Application to RCOF for registration of RO as RC
- Dhanicha Seeds Collection and Distribution
- Guiding the PKVY sathee, LRP and Key Members of LG in implementation of the programme.
- Formation of Peer Appraisal Group for PGS certification
- Preparation of Farmers Diary and its maintenance
- Regular Interaction with PKVY Cell and ATMA Office.
- Inspection of Clusters Fields by PCs, PKVY sathee, LRPs
- Formation of Seed Users Group and organic seed production.
- Process Documentation of Organic Adaptation etc.

Accomplishment of legal Procedure

The registration of PKVY farmers with the Local Group in form '5' '6' and '7' format, soil testing was done for each cluster level farmers. After online registration of farmers, DBT (Direct Benefits Transfer) was done by agriculture officials for adoption of organic farming. We have authorised KASAM as our Resource Council to provide our PKVY farmers the Organic Certificates under PGS.

Institutional Development

Each Local Group is an institution consisting of 20 to 35 farmers for working together with a common understanding for organic farming practices in particular patch in a village. With this bonding, all the organic farmers were united and extended their cooperation for organic farming practices. The Seed User Group (SUG) consists of 5 to 10 members of each cluster and the Lead Resource Person (LRP) look over the activities of the group. There is provision of Rs. 1.50 lakh for each SUG for supporting production, processing, procurement and distribution of organic seeds as revolving fund. Bank account has been opened in favor of the SUG. The SUGs have also been responsible for the management of Custom Hiring Centre (CHC) for arranging common agricultural implement for hiring by farmers on the basis requirement. For each CHC an amount Rs. 30,000/- has been provided.

Status of PKVY

AGRAGAMEE has been assigned by the State Government, Department of Agriculture & Farmer's Empowerment to execute the PKVY programme in the following areas of the Odisha State.

Sl No.	District	Block	No of clusters of 50acres each	Area in acre
1	Rayagada	Rayagada	10 (First phase)	500 acres
2	Rayagada	Kashipur	10 (First phase)	500 acres
3	Rayagada	Rayagada	10 (Second phase)	500 acres
4	Rayagada	Kashipur	20(Second phase)	1000 acres
5	Koraput	Dasmantpur	20 (First phase)	1000 acres
	TOTAL		70 clusters X 50 acres	3500 acres

AGRAGAMEE initiated the facilitation process on different activities of PKVY as per the guidelines of PKVY Cell, Bhubaneswar which include signing MoU with competent authority, purchase of BD and deposit with competent authority, selection of area of operation, awareness campaign among farmers about PKVY and PGS Certification, selection of Clusters- farmers-LRPs, soil sampling etc. etc. Thirty LRP and Farmers selection of Clusters-farmers-LRPs for the second phase allotment of 500 acres in Koraput district is under progress. Likewise training of LRPs is going on at CETAR, Mallijharan, 25 K. M. away from AGRAGAMEE, Kashipur, District Rayagada.

Input Arrangement

- Farmers have arranged inputs for crop production like seeds (suitable for the locality), compost etc.
- As Dhaincha seeds have already been arranged by agriculture department, the also been supplied to the prelisted farmers through Agragamee and the cost shall be realized while making payment to farmers through DBT.
- Agragamee/ PD, ATMA have also assisted farmers in the line of supplying Dhaincha seeds, in making available of approved liquid biofertilisers/ bio-pesticides in required quantity.
- Agragamee has made a list of such bio-fertilisers/ bio-pesticides – azotobactor, azospirillum, PSB, Rhizobium culture, Trichoderma viride, Pseudomonas etc- as per need of farmers with support of PD ATMA.
- Each farmer has prepared one compost pit in pit @ 6' X 5' size per acre of cropping and goes for preparation of liquid manure/ pesticides using cow dung, cow urine, leaves of different locally available plants and other formulations like beejamrit/ jeevamrit/ panchagavya/ organic urea from cow urine etc as per need and capability.

Vermicomposting

It is understood that not a single farmer can make vermicomposting in large scale for his use with the amount of Rs. 2000/- per acre provided under the scheme. Use of cement rings in huge quantity may not be also possible. Out of 2046 farmers 1282 numbers of Vermi compost pits have been constructed and all are functional.

Organic Seed production

Organic seeds production work done through the SUG groups. It has been started during the first year of conversion along with crop planting itself. Seed production, procurement and storage also have been taken care of by the Seed User Group of the LG. For successful function of the SUG group govt. has provided a support of Rs. 1,50,000/- to the SUG account. Unfortunately due to some technical issues this fund has not been utilized.

DBT Transfer to the Farmers Bank Account:

Passing on of farmers share to their account through DBT in the second and third year of conversion shall be affected looking to the preparation and procurement of bio inputs for crop production followed by survival of plants (minimum 60%) planted on bunds.

Implements to be used by Farmers through hiring basis

As there is no possibility of getting implements on hire by the farmers in the locality and to arrange them from distant places will impose more cost, it has been supplied by Orissa Agri Industries. Following implements are utilizing through the allotted amount of Rs. 30,000/- per year in phased manners for LG to be used by all the farmers in three years.

Top pan balance, Rose can, Sprayer, Paddy and millets thresher/ processor / Cono weeder etc.

4.4 Crop Planning for Clusters Under PKVY

We have guided farmers accordingly to reduce dependency on external sources and utilizing land resources effectively, with little damage to the environment and without eroding the resource base of future generations. This helps the agrarian communities strengthen their food and livelihood security.

Following facts are considered for crop planning: Best adapted to the locality.

- Indigenous varieties of good yield and resistance to insect-pest diseases.
- People's food habit and crops rich in healthy nutrients.
- Market demand for organic produce and organic seeds.
- Availability of seeds.
- Availability of soil moisture/ irrigation water for second third crop.

Basic themes in cropping:

Sl. No.	Kharif	Rabi
1	Arhar + Ragi/ Moong/ Biri/ Groundnut/ other Millets.	A vegetable crop inside Arhar crop after harvest of Ragi/ Moong/ Biri with available moisture.
2	Maize + Cowpea	Followed by Niger in September.
3	Maize + Cowpea	Vegetables/ Mustard.
4	Groundnut + Moong	
5	Arhar + Upland Rice	
6	Ginger/Turmeric with green manuring seeds (Dhaincha/ Sesbania) to be sown in between rows for use as green mulch in time.	Ginger/Turmeric

Medium Land (Rain fed)

- Medium Rice (Line sown/TP)-Mustard
- Transplanted Ragi-Pulse. [Bund planting with Arhar/Biri. Glaricidia planting on field bunds at a distance of 20 ft be done as biological Nitrogen harvesting plants. Green manuring can be taken up and mixed in field in process of using cono-weeder in between rows. Tender glaricidia from plants on field bund can be spread over in rice field in between rows of rice plants. Some Dhaincha plants have been planted on field bunds for seed purpose.

Medium Land (Irrigation facility)

A number of rice based crop combination can be thought off under such situation. Care must be taken to include one pulse crop in the cropping programs.

- Green manure-Rice-mustard/Groundnut/Rabi Moong/Biri- Potato/vegetables/ summer pulse.
- Dolichos/Arhar on field bunds. Apply Azolla in Rice field.
- Rice seed production can be considered.

Low Land

- Green manure-Rice + Azolla/BGA, (field bunds with Arhar crop).
- A pulse crop like pea, lathyrus, gram or Biri taken up as paired crop for short duration. Arhar crop in rice fallow.
- Rice farming with medicinal herb like Bhrahmi also has been taken up. Dry Bhrahmi has a potentiality of market as decoction tea or Bhrahmi-Amla oil.
- In some of the villages have good irrigation facilities by which we have taken a Rabi/ summer crop like pulse/ vegetables, Ragietc.
- Rabi Rice

Strategy for Marketing

The surplus product after meeting nutritional food security of the farm families of the community is to be marketed for financial security as family income and livelihoods.

The yield increase was satisfactory in some crops and other crops it was negligible. All the farmers are being motivated to increase their agricultural products through a proper crop planning and sustainable integrated farming system, so that, surplus product could be sold in the local or outside markets but without a premium price. Hence the necessary arrangements are to be made to keep the surplus produce at Cluster level till the rise in market price.

The LGs are encouraged to participate in State Level / District level “Krusha Mela/Chaiti/Parab”. They have participated in Bhubaneswar, Rayagada, Koraput in farmers convention and District/State level “Krusha Mela/Chaiti/Parab” besides attending organic world congress at New Delhi. We are planning to participate in state/ National level Agriculture Fairs.

Follow up Monitoring

- The LRPs, lead farmer of the group, inspects the individual farmers, monitors the agricultural land ensures the promotion of organic farming, focus is on organic manure and maintenance of Farmers’ diary and other records of Local Groups (LG)
- Each member of the cluster assists the LRP in soil health management, organic status maintenance through group meetings, peer appraisal.
- PKVY Sathee has the role of coordination and liaisoning with the farmers, LRP, Project Coordinators and provide updated information or data to the DEO.
- Project Coordinators supervise the work of PKVY Sathees and LRPs.
- DEO is responsible for compilation of data, maintains documents and report to higher authorities as and when required.
- The Advisors/ Consultants of AGRAGAMEE visit the field and provide technical and managerial support to the LRPs, PKVY Sathees, PKVY PCs and others.
- The Officers from the Department of Agriculture and Farmer’s Empowerment, like DDA, Scheme Officer, AAOs and Nodal Officer and others also visit programme villages and project offices and supervise various relevant documents, files and records and etc. and provide necessary guidelines and advise for the strengthening of project activities.

4.5 Process Documentation

Community mobilization, formation of Local Group, review meetings/workshops, exhibition, sharing the outcomes and impacts of the PKVY program, the Farmer’s diary maintenance, LRP filed visits and inspection, PKVY Sathee’s supervision and PKVY PC’s monitoring and the Consultant’s field visit, guidance, support, monitoring and recommendations for the improvement of the PKVY programme and Director’s periodical review are major parts of the **process documentation**. The case studies and short video clips are also made from time to time to know the progress of the programme and shared among the stakeholders of the project.

Crop Coverage

S.N.	Name of Block	Nos. of LRP	Nos. of PKVY Sathee	Land Coverage in acre	Crops Coverage	Organic Input used
1	Rayagada	10	1	1500	Ragi, vegetables, paddy	Dhanicha, Handi Khoto, Pancha Gabya, Jebamruta, Compost Pit
2	Kashipur	10	2	1000	Paddy, maize, ragi & vegetables.	Dhanicha, Handi Khoto, Pancha Gabya, Jebamruta, Compost Pit
3	Dasmantpur	20	1	1000	Paddy, maize, ragi & vegetables.	Dhanicha, Handi Khoto, Pancha Gabya, Jebamruta, Compost Pit
Total	3 Blocks	20	3	3500		

Training of Cluster Farmers

We have regularly arranged the training programs for the farmers at CETAR of Mallijharan, Rayagada district. The trained farmers from different places of Dasmantapur, Rayagada & Kashipur block have been aware about the organic farming. Among the 2046 trained farmers all farmers are implementing the organic methods (Jeevamruta, Handi khoto, Panchagavya and compost) in farming and even enhance their harvest more than before with very less investment and less labour. Earlier the farmers were fully dependant on markets for use of chemicals and pesticides for agriculture but after several meetings in targeted areas the farmers became aware on Paramparagat Krishi Vikas Yojna and its benefit. The farmers have adopted the methods, formed a clusters in each targeted areas consist of 50 acres of lands and in each clusters they have formed Bihana Byabharika dal. And at present they are implementing the Paramparagat Krishi in their respective lands.

Exposure Trip of PKVY Farmers

The objective of the concerned exposure visit is – “to acquaint cluster members with other organic farmers and get first hand practical experience on organic farming arrangement is made for exposure visit. “Seeing is believing” is the objective”. The farmers were taken to different places of Th. Rampur, Dasmantpur and Kashipur Blocks for exposure visit to generate awareness on organic farming practice and development of model farm. Total 2046 farmers are following the organic methods (Jeevamruta, Handi khata, Panchagavya and compost) and applying it in their own farm to enhance their production with very less investment and external inputs.

Khariff Crop

Sl. No	Name of the Block	Name of the District	Cropwise Achieve in Acre						Total Area in Acre
			Paddy	Pulses	Milletts	Maize	Veg.	Others	
1	Rayagada	Rayagada	372	132	278	56	30	132	1000
2	Kashipur	Rayagada	428.5	224.5	320.5	181	188.5	157	1500
33	Dasmantpur	Koraput	239	130	174.5	143	144	169.5	1000
Total			1039.5	486.5	773	380	362.5	458.5	3500

4.6 SUCCESS STORY

Pati Mandangi

Age: 35

Wife: Julume Mandangi

3 sons and 1 daughter

Village: Sanamanadhar, G.P: Kutuli, Block: Rayagada

Total Area: 7Acr

Area under PKVY: 2.5 Acr (Spices: 1 Acr. Paddy: 1 Acr, Millet: 0.5Acr)

Even before PKVY getting implemented in this area, I used only organic farming methods in my field. But my crops were badly affected by diseases and the yield was not up to the expected mark. This can be attributed to lack of proper knowledge in the preparation of compost pit and preparation of other organic inputs to the field. Organic manure was not properly and evenly distributed in my field and this affected the quality of soil as well as its moisture and nutritious content. When Agragamee started implementing PKVY program in our village, first they arranged a meeting in our village. The main objectives of the program were explained to us and a cluster consisting of 22 farmers was also prepared. Through the meeting and training programs, the staff made us aware of the side effects on both soil and humans that could arise by the use of chemical fertilizers and pesticides. I received training in the preparation of organic inputs such as Handikhoto, Jebamruth, and Panchagavya etc. I used these items on my field as per the instructions given to me and a gradual and good improvement in crop yield could be observed. Currently, with the support of Agragamee and Agricultural department, I am implementing

this program on an area of 2.5 acre (paddy:1acre,Maze:0.5acre,Ragi:0.5acre,vegetables:0.5acre).Before this program, my crop output was: Paddy- 400Kg(8*50), Mandika–350Kg (7*50) and now its improved to: Paddy 500Kg(10*50),Mandika 450Kg (9*50). Now, due to the training I received, I am able to prepare and use compost, *handikhoto*, jebamruth etc. in proper way and this has enriched my farmland and an increase in crop yield could be observed. I can now effectively prevent insect attack and other diseases using handikhoto. I intend to take this method forward in to the future and create a role model for other to follow in the area of organic farming.

Bidu Bidika

Age: 59

Wife: Premika Bidika

3 sons and 2 daughters

Village and GP: Kutuli

Total area: 1.7 acre

Area under pkvy: 1 acre

I was in to using chemical fertilizers and insecticides like urea, potash in my field. Even though the output was high, my crops were affected by many diseases one after the other and the soil was gradually losing its quality. Then I attended the meetings conducted by Agragamee, and I recognized its importance of organic farming, and enrolled in Maa Mangala Jaibik Kurshak sangha. I learnt of organic pesticides like handikhoto, neem oil and Jeebamrutha, which could prevent pests and also improve crop output. Now I sell organic products such as brinjal, bitterguard, ladysfinger in the market and it has helped me fetch good price of Rs 400 per day as it is of high quality. I will continue to use organic methods and will spread the word about its practices and usefulness.

Malati Mandangi

Cluster: Kusumbandha Jaibik Krushak Sangha

Age: 48

Wife: Sindho Mandangi

2 sons and 1 daughter

Before this program I didn't know anything about handikhoto, jebamrutha etc. My crops were affected by many kinds of diseases. I did not have the money to buy pesticides either. This reduced my farm yield. I didn't know about intercropping, or organic inputs like Jeevamruth, Handikhatha, etc. After attending the meetings and training programmes of Agragamee, I now grow Arhar with maize which has improved the soil quality. I use herbal remedies for pests and diseases. This has also helped improve. Through organic farming, I now grow brinjal worth Rs. 24,000 (Rs200/- for 10days a month) all through the year, by just investing Rs. 5,000. Under this program I am able to generate high income with minimal investment. Now my crop output has increased from 800kg (16*50kg) to 1000Kg (20*50kg). All this was possible due to organic farming methods that I adopted.

Chaitan Majhi

Village Durkhal, Kashipur

Chaitan Majhi is illiterate. He has a total of 1.5 acres of land from which 0.75 acres is medium land and the rest 0.75 acres is low land. He and his family survived mainly on paddy cultivation, which amounted to Rs.5000/- per annum. Finding it very difficult, he planned to go for vegetable cultivation in his rest 0.75 acres of medium land. Initially all the produce was consumed within the family, and eventually the yields began to fall. He began to use chemical fertilizers, however, after the initial boost, the yields declined again

When the PKVY program was launched, Chaitan was eager to take up the different practices. He attended the meetings and training programs, and popularized the practices. He realized that with almost zero investment, the methods increased his yield significantly. When he used Handi Khata, he found there were no insects, no disease, and no problem to the plants and saw his field became green and beautiful without damage. Yield became also good from both the paddy cultivation and vegetable cultivation. He starts Chilli, Tomato, Brinjal, Beans and Sunflower production using Handi khata, Jivamruta and the Vermi Compost as the fertilizers to save and raise produced with investment of Rs 1500/-only (the construction cost of the pit). Now he is earning Rs20000/-per annum only from Vegetable cultivation. He is happy and felt no problem to maintain his family; he is living a smooth life.

5

Special Program for Promotion of Millet in Tribal Areas

5.1 Introduction

The Odisha Millet Mission is one of the flagship projects of Govt. of Odisha. Millets are small grained highly nutritious cereal food crops grown under rainfed conditions. They can be cultivated in marginal/low fertile soils requiring little or no external inputs such as fertilizers and pesticides. Most of millet crops are native to India and are popularly known as Nutri-cereals as they provide most of the nutrients required for normal functioning of human body. The major millets include sorghum (jowar) and pearl millet (bajra). The finger millet (ragi/mandua), foxtail millet (kangni/Italian millet), little millet (kutki), kodo millet, barnyard millet (sawan/jhangora), proso millet (cheena/common millet), and brown top millet (korale) are categorized under minor millets. Millets were the first crops thought to be domesticated by mankind in Asia and Africa.

Millets require much less water as compared to rice and wheat and are often referred to as famine crops since they are the only crops that assure yields in famine situations. These crops are majorly grown in regions receiving less than 450 mm rainfall (compared to about 700 mm minimum for maize).

Odisha Govt. has engaged WASSAN to monitor this project. WASSAN was involved with the mission from programmer design, coordination, implementation with partner NGOs and management of the mission. Dr. Saurabh Garg IAS, Principal secretary, Agriculture & Farmers Empowerment spoke about the Odisha Millet Mission, an initiative of the Government of Odisha in reviving millets. He said it is a unique programme that emerged from consultations with civil society. The programme was designed based on successful grassroots experiences. Agragamee played an important role to implement this project in Phiringia Block of Kandhamal District as well as Kashipur Block of Rayagada District. In these blocks the Millet Mission project is working in 18 G.P of 172 villages in 2018-19 year, where more than 15 hundred farmers cultivated Ragi transplantation in SMI method.

Objectives of the Project

- Increase consumption of millets in rural and urban areas.
- Setup decentralized processing units.
- Improving productivity
- Better marketing for better price realization.

- Inclusion of millets in ICDS, MDM and PDS.
- Organising promotional rallies, food festivals, and competitions to change the mindset of people around millets.

5.2 Activities & Achievements

Field level demonstration of SMI (System of Millet Intensification)/LT (Line Transplant)/LS (Line Sowing):

Under the Millet mission, Agragamee introduced SMI (System of Millet Intensification)/LT (Line Transplant)/LS (Line Sowing) for Ragi and other millets. Under SMI method farmer has to follow certain steps, which include preparation of a 3 X 5 ft size bed, mixing in dry cow dung, and sowing 150gms of finger millet. Within 15 to 21 days he has to shift the seedling to the field using a spacing of 10" x 12" between seedlings and rows. During 2018-2019 more than 1500 beneficiaries from 172 villages of 18 GPs have changed their cultivation procedure Traditional to scientific method like SMI (System of Millet intensification). In that method Farmers are getting double income from their land.

In addition to the demonstrations, Millet Mission of Odisha supports the farmers by providing cycle weeders which helps in weeding and hoeing in the plantation site.

Training Programs for Restoring and improving Household consumption:

- Two days Residential training within district for 10 member's women campaign
- Campaign in village to increase awareness on household consumption of millet
- Two days campaign workshop and food festivals for promotion of millets in rural markets.
- Restoring and improving household level consumption through seed centre at cluster level with a backup facility.

Capacity Building Training for CRPs and Progressive farmers

- Two days residential training of entrepreneur farmers, CRP on millet processing, value addition & linkage with banks.
- Block level training and orientation of the CBO, community seed centre management.

Advances in eco-friendly pest management strategies in millets

Aragamee sponsored short course training on "Advances in eco-friendly pest management strategies in millets" was organized by Project Coordinators & CRPs. Near about 220 farmers and 10 CRPs participated on this programme where the Co-ordinator highlighted about the various pest management technologies in millets. The training programme mostly focused on recent methods of pest management. It includes developments in host plant selection process, plant defence traits, systematic of millet insect pests, biological, entomb pathogenic nematodes and semi-chemical methods. It also covered the applications of advances made in the fields of molecular mechanisms of host plant interactions, marker-assisted selection, effect of climate change on insect pests, assessment of crop damage due to pests and diseases using remote sensing, pest forecasting models, transgenic and bio safety issues in pest management research. The trainees were exposed to hands-on training in various laboratory and field screening techniques.

5.3 Success Stories

Mrs. Sumani Jhodia

Mrs. Sumani Jhodia, a resident of village Siriguda, GP-Khurigaan, Block-Kashipur of Dist-Rayagada has proved the success of the various scientific techniques. Farming is the only source of income for her family. They were mainly farming paddy and vegetables. Millet was just a marginal part of her cultivation. When millet mission

started work in Kashipur with a meeting on 25th June, 2018, Odisha Sumani became an eager student of the new methods and techniques, which promised a significant increase in yield with no chemical inputs. The demonstrations by the trainers was very convincing, and Sumani was determined to try out these practices for finger millets on her land.

As she started to take up the various practices, curious farmers came to see and learn from her. She demonstrated and explained with eagerness ensuring a more successful farmer to farmer sharing than any trainer. Sumani Jhodia cultivated Ragi in 1.5 acres and the yield of 12 quintals shocked every body. Never in their wildest dreams did Sumani, or the other farmers imagine that there could be such a quantum leap in production, with just a few changes in practice. Sumani received accolades from the officials, and was selected for incentives from Millet Mission, and also nominated for the Krushi Mela award. When she sold only 5 quintals rest for fooding, she earned Rs 14,485 just in 4 months with least use of water, maintenance, physical labour and nil fertilisers.

Now Sumani and her family feel a great sense of satisfaction, and look forward to not depending on anybody, and having a better quality of life with sustainable production. Needless to underscore, she has become an outstanding promoter of the SMI method of finger millet cultivation, and has motivated several farmers to follow in her footsteps.

Mr. Budaru Majhi

Mr. Budaru Majhi is a small farmer resident of Pipalpadar village, Mandibisi Gram Panchayat in Kashipur Block, with 2.9 acres of cultivable land. He was doing Ragi in 1.5 acre using the traditional method, with a yield of about 4 quintals per year that is in 2016-17. He was happy with that but in truth, it was gross under utilization of his land. 33 farmers were selected in Mandibisi Panchayat under the Millet Mission. 7 of them opted for SMI practice. While 6 of them, got good yields, Budharu, took up the process with complete seriousness. His yield jumped to almost triple of what he was getting under the traditional method to and unbelievable 11 quintals.

Budaru's happiness knows no bounds, and like Sumani hhe has become an ardent supporter and promoter of SMI Methods of millet cultivation. "Thanks to Agragamee, I am now rich! he says with a big smile.

Mrs. Runima Kanhar

Mrs. Runima kanhar is a small farmer resident of village-Jake , GP-Taladandikia , Block- Phiringia of District Kandhamal having only 2 acres of cultivating land .He was doing Ragi in 1.5 acre and the yield was only 4 quintal per year that is in 2017-18 . She was doing Ragi cultivation in traditional broadcasting method only in kharif season. Agragamee is the first implementer of the Millet Mission Project of Odisha in the area of Phiringia with a new vision. It introduced latest methods SMI (System of Millet Intensification)/LT (Line Transplant)/LS (Line Showing) of cultivation of Ragi and other varities of Millet. Agragamee created awareness about SMI/LT/LS methods and their profit among the people who are doing Millet cultivation. Taladandikia is one of the gram panchayats of Phiringia where there are 12 farmers who were doing millet cultivation in traditional methods. Runima Kanhar followed the SMI method seriously to yield 3 times more and justified it too. She always follows the techniques which Agragamee provides through various training programs. She also got a support of cycle weeder which helps in weeding in the plantation site. The result was Runima Kanhar has got 6 quintal of Ragi in year 2018-19 from her 1.5 acre. In this way she has secured her family on food and nutrition. She is now motivating every farmer to go for Millet cultivation.



Narendra Mallick, at Brusing GP, Balandapada, Phiringia



Nilakantha Paraja, Badabagri



Purna Chandra Kanhar At Lambakhata GP, Balandapada, Phiringia, Ragi cultivation of Kharif Season



Rama Paraja, Bagri



Talagadala Ragi field



Ugresen kanhar at Brudiguda GP, Gochhapada, Rabi crop Ragi field

Special Program for Promotion of Millet in Tribal Areas



Decentralized Nursery Bed of Ragi Cultivation



Field Day & Crop Cutting of Millet Project, Kashipur Block



Food festival at gochapada, Phiringia Project, Kandhamal



Food festival in Phulbani on Governors Program



Residential Training to CBO Members on Millet campaign



State Level Women Millet Farmers Convention, Koraput

Eco Village Development



Community mobilisation by documentary video show at Kandaguda Village, Pujariguda G.P.



Convergence meeting with District Collector and other Govt. Officials of Nabarangpur (10.08.18)



Dhanapati Dhangda Majhi has grown vegetable as inter cropping in his family farm



Dhanu Patra has grown Millet under SMI in his family farm at Upper Godigaon village



Dhanu Patra in his family farm at Upper Godigaon village



Fruiting of grafted Mango in the Family Farm at Maligaon village

6

Eco Village Development

6.1 Introduction

The project titled, “Ensuring Food, Nutritional and Livelihood Securities for Marginalized Communities Affected by Displacement, Distress Migration and Chronic Poverty”, seeks to address the problems of tribal families for livelihood, food and nutrition security in 25 villages of Tentulikhunti, Kashipur and Thuamul Rampur blocks of Nabarangpur, Rayagada and Kalahandi districts respectively.

Aragamee’s involvement with people, and specially women was supplemented by a base-line survey to fine tune the project for an integrated approach to ensure food and livelihood security of the tribal community. The project, funded by **Karl Kübel Stiftung (KKS), Germany** has been taken up with the objective of developing a cluster of Eco-Villages in one of the most neglected tribal regions of the country. Establishment of Farm Families, Development of Commons, Training and Capacity Building for the tribals, diversified agriculture production, promotion and protection of the environment through agro-ecological practices and supply of climate smart house hold amenities, and provision of income generation sources to sustain the livelihood to alienate poverty are the major interventions of the project. Convergence of different development schemes and approaches of Govt have been taken up simultaneously to strengthen the effort of project.

The project targets a total population of 6959 with 3515 women, and 3444 men, constituting 1871 households in 25 villages in Tentulikhunti, Kashipur and Thuamul Rampur blocks of Nabarangpur, Rayagada and Kalahandi districts of Odisha respectively. Out of 1871 households Scheduled Tribe HHs are 1528, Scheduled Caste HHs are 169 and Other Backward Caste HHs are 174. Among the total households of the project 645 are marginal (34.5%), 464 are small farmers (24.8%), 122 are big farmers (6.5%) and 640 belong to landless category (34.2%). The total literacy of the population is 28.7%, with male literacy of 37.5% and female literacy is 20.6%.

Development Objective

Increased self-reliance of poor tribal communities in Rayagada, Kalahandi and Nabarangpur Districts of Odisha.

Project objective

- 700 farmers from 25 villages will improve their livelihoods and capacity to cope with the impact of climate change with special focus on increased and sustainable agricultural production and value addition, income and development of Community Based Organisation.
- Through the project 700 farmers from 25 villages will benefit from improved agriculture and market linkages and improve their capacity to cope with changing climatic conditions.

6.2 Activities and Achievements

Family Farm Development:

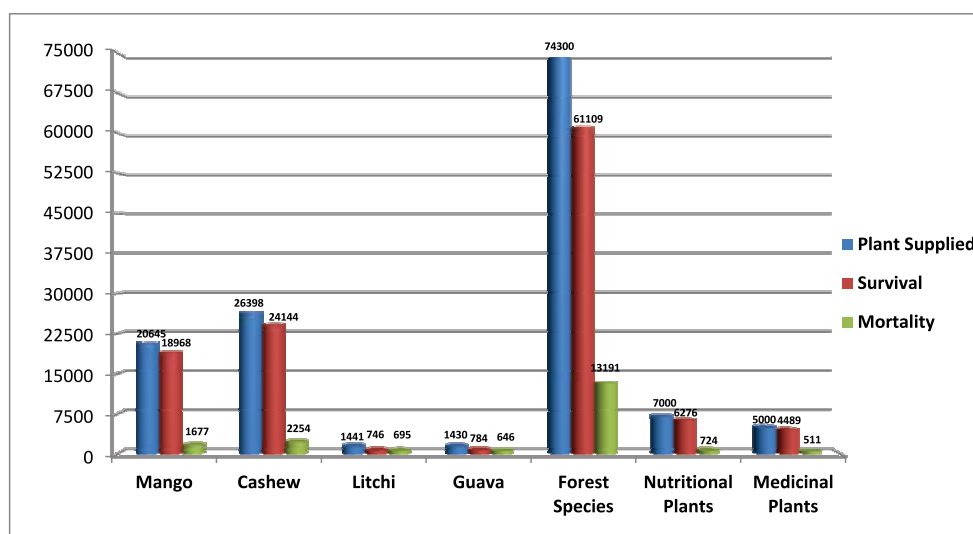
Total Area Covered: 700 acres,

Total Beneficiary: 700 nos.

No. of Plant Supplied: Mango – 20645, Cashew – 26398, Litchi – 1441 and Guava – 1430, Forest Species – 74300, Nutritional Plants – 7000, Medicinal Plants – 5000

No. of Plant Survived: Mango – 18968 (91.9%), Cashew – 24144 (91.5%), Litchi – 746 (51.8%) and Guava – 784 (54.8%), Forest Species – 61109 (82.8%), Nutritional Plants – 6276 (89.7%), Medicinal Plants – 4489 (89.8%)

Mortality of Plant: Mango – 1677 (8.1%), Cashew – 2254 (8.5%), Litchi – 695 (48.2%) and Guava – 646 (45.2%), Forest Species – 13191 (17.8%), Nutritional Plants – 724 (10.3%), Medicinal Plants – 511 (10.2%)



Nursery Establishment:

During the reporting period total 7 nos. of community nursery have established in 7 new villages of 2 Gram Panchayats (Pujariguda and Lamtaguda) of KKS operational area. The following plants have been raised in the said nursery to fulfil the demand of orchard development in Family Farm of 10 new villages.

Fruit Plant	Cashew, Custard Apple
Nutritional Plant	Drumstick, Papaya
Oil Seed Plant	Simarouba Glauca, Pongamia Pinnata
Forest Species	Chakunda, River Tamarind, Gum Arabic
Medicinal Plant	Amla, Harida, Bahada, Karanja

The concept behind the establishment of community nursery is to empower the youth and women group of the targeted villages. As per the project guideline the youth and women group raise the aforesaid plants with proper care which will be procured by Agragamee for orchard development in family farm with following the procurement procedure of BMZ. The agreement between Agragamee and the youth entrepreneur from the community has done. According to the agreement they will charge Rs. 3/- for each saplings like Chakunda, River Tamarind, Gum Arabic, Simarouba Glauca, Pongamia Pinnata, Papaya and Drumstick etc. and Rs. 5/- for each fruit plant like cashew and custard apple. These groups have enhanced their skills on nursery management through various trainings and meetings provided by Agragamee.

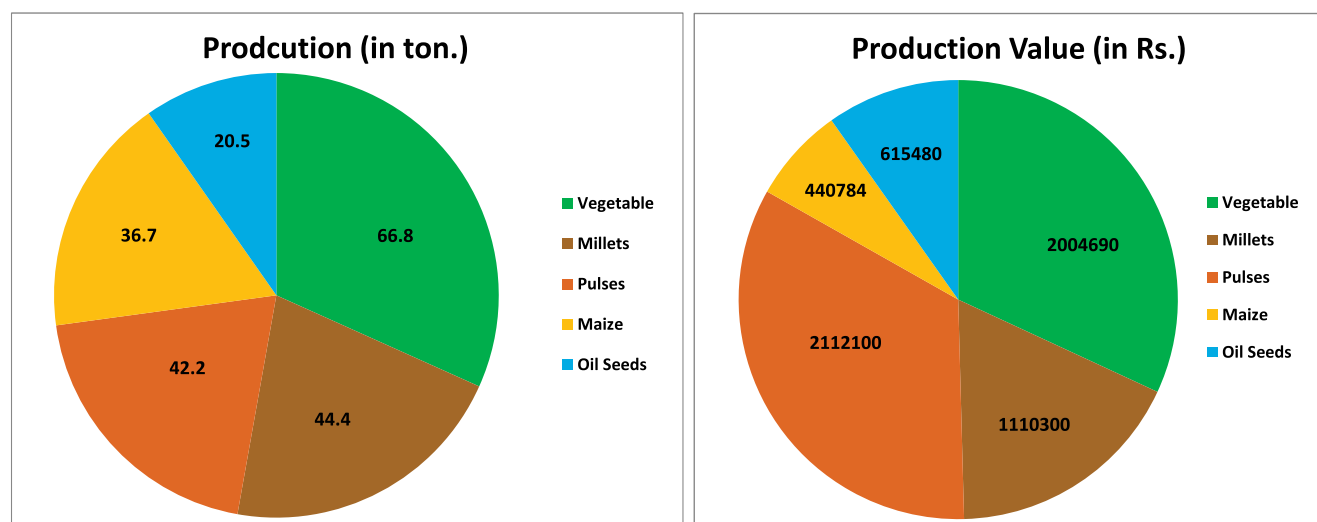
The distribution of plants from 7 Nurseries in 7 villages has taken place for plantation in 300 acres of family farm in 10 new villages of Tentulikhunti Block in Nabarangpur District. The youth and women group of 7 villages had taken all responsibilities of distribution of nursery plants to family farm beneficiaries. They have sold the nursery plants to 300 beneficiaries of family farm in 10 villages and the payment against the plants has transferred to their respective bank account which would help to sustain the nurseries and strengthen the income generation activities conducted by them. These groups will again raise seedlings of fruit, forest species and medicinal plants in the respective nurseries for the next plantation season.

Intercropping:

To increase the productivity of the soil and ultimately production of the crop, sowing of different crops especially vegetables like tomato, brinjal, chilli, cowpea, runner beans, radish, bottle gourd, ladies finger and pumpkin etc. have taken by 624 nos. of beneficiaries as intercropping in Family Farm during the reporting period. Total 168 farmers from 15 old villages and 72 farmers from 10 new villages had cultivated millets under SMI (system of millet intensification). It has been decided by 300 family farmers of 10 new villages that maize cultivation will be replaced by millets and vegetables in the next rainy (Kharif) season. They have cultivated the above vegetable crops in organic method. They have been applied organic fertilizer and manures like cow dung compost, vermin compost, azotobacter, trichoderma viride and liquid manures like neem oil, cow urine etc. This kind of act not only helped in increasing productivity and production, but also gave the farmers a return during the gestation period.

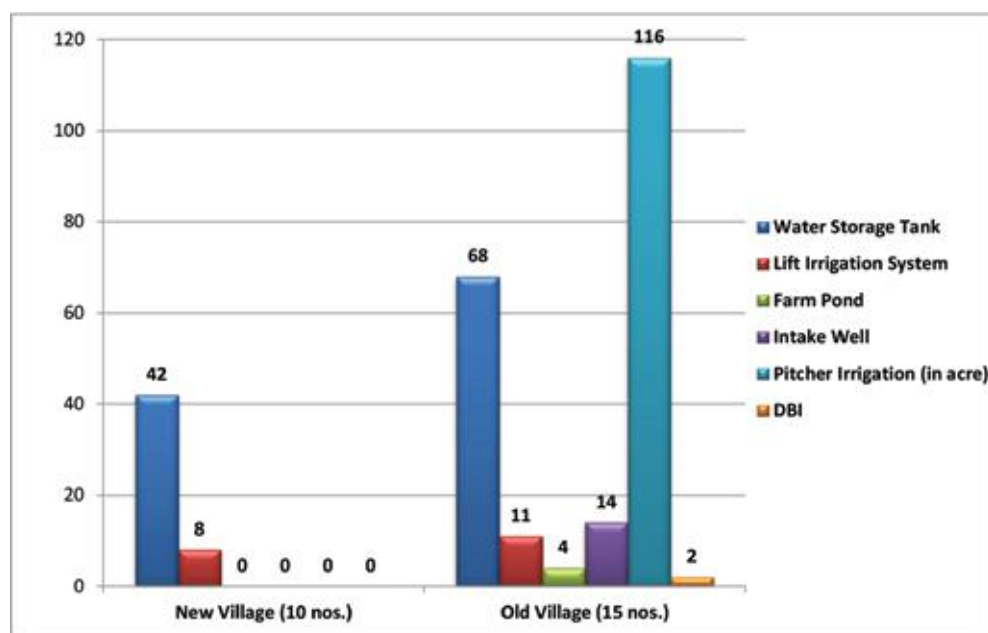
Apart from that total 624 farmers have cultivated paddy, maize, millet and cajanus cajan (kandul) in 0.25 acres of each family farm of 25 villages as annual crop. Each farmer of family farm got average 675-800 kg. millet, 225-250 kg. cajanus cajan, 200-250 kg. paddy and 150-175 kg. maize. These commodities have been consumed as well as stored by the farmers which added value to their nutritional and livelihood security. The aforesaid activities of progressive farmer in 15 KKS villages have been maintained in Krushak Pustika.

The production details of intercropping and annual cropping in 25 villages have mentioned in the pie chart given below;



Irrigation Development

During the year 2018-2019, 40 nos. water storage tank and 8 lift irrigation system have been establish in 10 new villages. Each water tank is used by 2-3 farmers to irrigate 2-3 acres of land and it helped them to conduct intercropping in summer season. The detail irrigation development activities of 25 villages has mentioned below;



Sustainable Management and Benefits from Development of Commons in 15 old Villages:

- Till the reporting period out of 13000 cashew plants 12192 cashew plants have been survived. The survival nos. of plants have been occurred after gap filling of 1166 cashew plants. The overall survival rate of the above plants is 93.8%.
- During the reporting period the member of Mahila Mandal in 14 villages have cultivated finger millets, little millets and cajanus cajan (Kandul) as intercropping in 200 acres.
- During the reporting period it has been observed that out of 37000 pineapple plants 28408 plants have been survived and the survival percentage is 76.78%. These plants had taken up under the linkage with National Horticulture Mission programme of Kalahandi district. These plants have been growing well in 5 villages (Pondpus, Podapadar, Lepespadar, Upper Chobri & Tala Chobri) of Mahulpatna G.P.
- Till the reporting period the average growth of hill broom and bamboo was 5'2" and 4'7" respectively which have been planted in 3 villages (Durkhal, Kabatsil and Pondpus). The aforesaid saplings have been growing well after plantation. After following the success of this activity it will be taken up in 10 new villages in 2019 onwards.

6.3 Training and Capacity Building

Training & Exposure Visit of Progressive Farmers

The progressive farmers were learnt the basic practice of intercropping, mixed cropping, methods of sustainable traditional agriculture and seed processing (Brinjal, chilli, tomato and onion) and family farm development.

At the same time the preparation of liquid manure (Handi Khata) was demonstrated before the farmers by using the following ingredients i.e.

Cow urine, Cow dung, Neem leaf, Karanja leaf, Arakha leaf, Jaggery

The farmers were also learnt about different aspects related to sustainable agriculture and how they can practice it in field. They were explained in complete details about organic fertilizers, tools and implements used in farming activities and how to derive more output from the farming by minimum efforts.

As a result, in post training cum exposure visit the farmers have increased their participation and involvement in family farm development activities. They have been realized the concept of family farm development and sustainable traditional agriculture practices and its role in food, nutritional and livelihood securities.

Formation and Strengthening of CBOs and Women Groups:

During the reporting 24 nos. active women groups in 10 villages have identified for income generation activities. Apart from that more than 6 SHGs are under process of formation. Instead of focusing in one big woman group in each village we have been zoomed in into the small women groups of 15 to 20 members each. The intensive income generation work can be done effectively with these small women groups. Another major point is that the Govt. support is only applicable for these groups which were informed in the convergence meeting with the district administration of Nabarangpur. These groups will be engaged in inter lending and income generation and vocational activities to strengthen their livelihood to become economically sustainable. Apart from that it will play major role in the activities related to women and child development of the operational village.

The following activities of women groups have been completed in 10 new villages i.e.

- i) Identification of 24 actively functioning women groups in 10 villages.
- ii) Updating of monthly meeting register of 24 women groups in 10 villages.
- iii) Updating of bank accounts 24 women groups for smooth transaction and bank loans for IGP.
- iv) Formation of 6 new women groups in 10 villages to be linked up with women federation for IGP.
- v) Monthly collection of membership fee has been regularised of the respective women groups in 10 villages.

Apart from that one training and capacity building program of women groups under Indravati Women Federation held from dt. 15.10.2018 to 16.10.2018 at Goudguda, Tentulikhunti organized by Agramee supported by BZM/KKS. The training program was attended by 60 nos. of participants.

Formation of Farmer Producer Company and Access to Markets:

During the reporting period income certificate, PAN card along with other major documents of members of Board of Directors has been updated for the registration of Farmers Producer Company (formerly known as Farmers Producer Organisation). The market of the family farm and community produce will be established once the production comes out to the ground. The selective member of Board of Directors along with Agramee staff will visit the successful FPC to have basic knowledge of management and execution process of FPC.

Lok Sangathan (village committee)

10 nos. Lok Sangathan (community watch group/village committee) has formed in 10 villages. Different development activities and action plan of the project and field level issues were taken place in the village meetings during the reporting period. Lok Sangathan has been monitoring the agro-activities of the community and reviews the performances of beneficiaries transparently. It has been acted as a community watch group to monitor all agro-activities like family farm, intercropping, orchard development and also review the performances of farmers towards the sustainability of the implementation of the project.

Apex committee

The Apex Committee has been undertaking the following activities during the reporting period mentioned below;

- It has been also reviewed the performance of farmers as well as encouraged them for further improvement.
- It has been encouraging the community leaders and mobilizers in 25 villages.
- Monitoring the implementing process of project activities and its progress as per the action plan in 25 villages.
- It has been assessing the activities conducted by the women committee, grain cum seed bank committee and village committee (Lok Sangathan) in 25 villages.
- It has been making counter planning based on participatory approach for the obstacles created during the implementation of the project activities in 25 villages.

Grain Bank Committees

10 nos. of Grain Bank committees has formed in 10 villages. There are 5 members in each committee and out 5

members 3 and 2 members are male and female respectively. 5 nos. of progressive farmers of each village are being selected as members of the respective Grain Bank Committee who have basic knowledge on conservation of indigenous seeds and its usage methodology. Each committee has president and secretary and both the post consist of one male and one female.

Apart from that introducing the concept of grain bank committee formation has been augmenting the awareness level on importance of saving among the villagers of the operational areas. The establishment of the concerned grain banks will be achieved by the collective contribution of the targeted families. It has also decided by the grain bank committee that the community grain bank would provide advance loans to people only during the period of 4 months that is from the month of July to October in which food insecurity is highly noticed with households of KKS operational areas. During harvesting time, the loaner must repay the loan with interest. The operation of community grain bank will be solved the problem of food shortage faced by the people to significant extent. Along with that the restoration of indigenous seeds will help the farmers towards the conservation and promotion of bio-diversity.

6.4 Seed and Grain Bank

The construction work of 10 nos. of seed cum grain bank house has started in 10 new villages. The site selection for these houses has done and passed in the village resolution that the place and grain bank house will be used only for community purpose and no individual claim over the land and house will be entertained after completion of the project.

During the reporting period 7150 kg. paddy, 20450 kg. ragi, 2275 kg. rice, 7.5 kg. pumpkin, 6 kg. beans, 4.2 kg. tomato, 3.4 kg. bottle gourd, 7 kg. cow pea and 1254 kg. arhar have been stored in the Seed cum Grain Bank of 15 old villages. At the same time 4110 kg. paddy, 7550 kg. ragi, 575 kg. rice and 550 kg. arhar have been distributed among the people of 15 old villages. Due to the Seed cum Grain Bank the villagers could able to fulfil their need in the time of marriage party, festive and ritual occasions, agriculture and farming purposes etc. The grain bank committee of 15 old villages has been maintaining the collection and distribution registers to track the status of Seed cum Grain Banks smoothly. These committees have been conducting monthly meeting once in every month to discuss the core issues, achievements and next action plan for active functioning of the aforesaid banks.

6.5 Support for Women Headed HHs for IGP

The selection of 50 nos. of beneficiary in 10 villages under support for women headed HHs for income generation activities has completed in 10 villages. Total 45 nos. of women beneficiaries belong to women headed households from 9 villages were provided support as Goatery of Rs. 35,000/- during the reporting period. Out of Rs. 35,000/- the foreign and local contribution is Rs. 28,000/- and Rs. 7,000/- respectively. Each beneficiary will procure 6-7 does and 1 buck out of this amount along with construction of goat house. The insurance of goats will be done after the physical inspection report of the Veterinary Asst. Surgeon of the respective blocks. The vaccination of all goats will also be done to keep them healthy and their further growth.

Cooperation/collaboration with other actors/stakeholders

In cumulative 2 nos. of convergence meeting with the district Collector and dignitaries of various Govt. Departments of Nabarangpur district on Intensive Development Programme under Eco-Village Development project were held on dated 10th Aug. 2018 and 21st Dec. 2018 at Ashok Mehta Conference Hall organized by Agramee. In the 1st phase interface meeting with the relevant Govt. Dept. of the concerned district the introduction and presentation on Eco-Village Development project done by Agramee for convergence with Govt. programs to raise Local Contribution for KKS project. In response the district collector had instructed Agramee to produce a gap analysis report of 10 operational villages of KKS which was shared with them in the 2nd phase convergence meeting. In the 2nd phase meeting the collector of Nabarangpur district had instructed the relevant govt. dignitaries to visit the KKS operational visit to overlook the gaps and to include them in their action plan agenda for the year 2019. As a result some Govt. officials from minor irrigation department had visited Kandraguda village to inspect the water resources for irrigation development.

Aragamee has tried its best for raising LC amount. The project team has intimated the project concept and budget line with the District Administration for all possible convergence with relevant Govt. projects and schemes in the KKS operational villages to achieve LC. Apart for that we are also looking for matching contribution for the same.

Aragamee has been built up rapport and established collaboration with District Rural Development Agency (DRDA), Integrated Child Development Schemes (ICDS), Dept. of Agriculture and Dept. of Horticulture in Nabarangpur district. It would help to promote the activities and strengthened the process of implementation of KKS project.

Gram Sabhas (Panchayat Meeting) were organized in 2 Panchayats (Pujariguda & Lamtaguda) of KKS project on dt. 15.08.2018. In that meeting the following key issues related to children of the respective villages were addressed by the villagers i.e.

- Effective implementation of Govt. schemes applicable for children like Mid Day Meal (MDM), Immunization program, running of Anganwadi centre (child centre) etc.
- Regularize of teachers in primary education centers.
- Importance of child education & preventive measures and actions against malnutrition

Apart from that total 21 nos. widow pensions, 16 nos. of old age pension and 18 nos. of Pradhan Mantri Awas have been sanctioned to the beneficiaries of 10 new villages of KKS. Total 55 beneficiaries were sanctioned Rs. 27,18,500.00.

6.6 Monitoring

The ongoing activities of family farm in 25 villages have been monitored through the Krushak Pustika (Farmers' Book of Family Farm) which has been updated in weekly basis to assess the progress and sustainability of family farm. This book is containing the information of support receiving by KKS, training details and visitors review etc. The above activities and status of family farm have been monitored for effective implementation of the project. Apart from that the monitoring matrix has been followed properly. It has been helping the KKS/Aragamee officials to track every activities of the project and develop action plan to achieve the same timely.

6.7 Success Story

A Change Maker of Grey to Green Mission:

Mr. Dhanapati Dhangda Majhi belongs to Maligaon Village, Chandragiri G.P. of Kashipur block of Rayagada District. He is a small farmer with a piece of land consisting of 1 acre. It has no source of irrigation. He has taken up only millet cultivation under rain fed conditions which remain fallow during other seasons. From only one crop of millet in rainy season, he was getting paddy work Rs. 6000/- per year. With this meager amount he was not happy to manage his family properly. Therefore every year he was migrating to other places like Kerala, Bangalore and Chennai etc. for wage earning.

According to Dhanapati Dhangda Majhi, "Initially village meetings were organised by Aragamee funded by KKS (Karl Kubel Stiftung), Germany where it was explained the importance of Family Farm through raising fruit orchard development, intercropping of vegetables. After realizing the usefulness of the project, the pre-establishment works of the family farm like land development, fencing and pit digging etc. in 1 acre land has been started." He was keenly sharing these deliberations. However, in the beginning of the activities under the Eco-Village Development project Mr. Dhanapati Dhangda Majhi was convinced to establish family farm. He was provided with 65 fruit plants (35 cashew, 30 grafted mango plants) for fruit orchard development in 0.75 acres and 150 forest species (chakunda, simarua, karanja, subabul, jackfruit and tamarind etc.) for border plantation to fulfill the need of fuel, fodder timber and other requirements. Apart from that in 0.25 acres he cultivated millet, pulses, maize and paddy as annual cropping for food security. During kharif season (rainy season) he was cultivated different vegetables like tomato, brinjal, cauliflower, cabbage, radish, chilli, cowpea, beans, onion and pumpkin as intercropping, this not only supplemented his family income by selling the surplus vegetables

in the nearby market, but also provided a rich source of nutrition for his children. However his wife helped him in every step of family farm development works like land development, plantation, fencing, weeding, howening and harvesting etc.

Apart from that he was provided training conducted by Agragamee to understand the significance of family farm development and its impact on livelihood, food and nutritional securities. A manual on sustainable agriculture (regional language) has also provided to him to enhance his skill and knowledge. It helped him to augment his skill on organic farming, millet cultivation, intercropping and soil, water and forest conservation etc. Apart from that he was taken on an exposure visit to nearest organic millet cultivation area where he learnt about the steps of millet growing, treatment, harvest, storage and marketing, rain fed farming and sustainable agriculture etc. by interacting with the progressive farmers. .

After returning to his village, he took up all the following measures to increase the productivity of his land.

- Bundling of land across the slope to conserve soil and moisture and converted into small plots
- Added sufficient organic manures in all the plots and mixed with soil
- Prepared vermin compost and added in the soil
- Took up green manuring in the plots

With all these above activities, he increased the productivity of land. He took up all his crops under Organic Farming system. This kind of act has been augmented his confidence on family farm and it has become the ultimate source of income for his family. He could realize the benefits of this type of farming system and sharing the practice with other farmer of neighbouring villages.

The above activities have been encouraged him to make his family farm as a model in the locality. It has been strengthening his livelihood and he has become an ideal farmer for others. His continued effort in promotion of millet cultivation will sustain the culture of traditional agriculture as supportive act in a well managed manner and inspire other farmers in the locality.

Moreover, Family Farm has been securing sustainable livelihoods and improved standard of living of the tribal farmers. It has direct impact on health, social life and poverty reduction. Natural resources like land, water and forest have been managed to sustain the main livelihood resources of the target population.

Farmer Dhanu Patra Stays Home:

Village: Godigaon

Panchayat: Lamtaguda

Block: Tentulikhunti

District: Nabarangpur

Dhanu used to migrate every year to far off places in search of work and income to supplement the meagre earnings from his land. His wife Sailendri Patra was always upset, as managing the household singlehandedly was a big challenge.

In 2016, Dhanu Patra developed a mixed fruit orchard over one acre of his land. He was also able to ensure year long irrigation through farm ponds and lift pumps. All this jumped the production on his one acre plot from Rs.1550 to Rs. 35000.00 a year. The change was dramatic. Dhanu's children began to go to school regularly, he stopped his annual journeys to Bengaluru construction sites, and began to plan for repairing his dilapidated hut. The smile on his wife Sailendri's face sums it all as she says, *Now we can give our children the food they need, and my hearth is never cold!!*

7

Addressing Nutrition and Income Insecurity of Underprivileged Communities by Improving Access to Information on Relevant Government Schemes

7.1 Introduction

The remote districts in Odisha inhabited by the local indigenous people are amongst the poorest and most excluded in India. A critical determinant has been the lack of quality public service. Poor governance, lack of awareness, access, and inadequate people's participation are key reasons. The elected local leaders are often ignorant about the provisions, procedures, and allocations. The people particularly the women lack strong community mechanisms of their own. To overcome these issues this European Union funded five year Project planned. The Project is being implemented in 10 Tribal dominated districts of the State of Odisha, in India since last five years and 2018 was the last year of the project. The project provided a premium on the rights of children, women from SC and ST communities, landless and marginal farmers, migrant workers, and displaced communities. It targeted Integrated Child Development Service (ICDS), Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGS), National Rural Health Mission (NRHM), Mission Shakti, Tribal Sub Plan (TSP) and other public schemes relevant to these backward local regions.

An overarching focus was to operationalise Panchyats (Extension to Scheduled Areas)—PESA in the true spirit, as the provisions intended to empower the local communities with strong constitutional backup. The project intervened in 20 blocks across 10 most underdeveloped districts in Odisha, covering 1,000 villages under 100 Gram Panchayats from these blocks and districts:

Sl. No.	District	Block
1	Bolangir	Belpada, Bangomunda
2	Gajapati	Rayagada, R. Udayagiri
3	Kalahandi	Th. Rampur, M. Rampur
4	Kandhamal	Phiringia, Tikabali
5	Koraput	Dasmantapur, Iaxmipur
6	Malkangiri	Mathili, Korkunda

7	Mayurbhanj	Thakurmunda, Kaptipada
8	Nabarangapur	Tentulikhunti, Dabugaon
9	Nuapada	Boden, Nuapada
10	Rayagada	Kashipur, Rayagada

Target group of the Project:

- 10000 children benefit from improved delivery of ICDS services
- 10000 school going children have better access to primary education;
- 20 backward Blocks in 10 districts have better people centred planning
- 10000 women in 20 blocks benefit from women centred Gram Sabha decisions
- Overall improvement in 20 backward blocks in 10 districts lead by change agents

Key Strategies:

- Organizing training and capacity building of youth focusing on active and responsible citizenship, volunteering, community engagement, youth participation and leadership.
- Young women and men with leadership abilities were identified and trained as Sachetaks (Change Agents) to monitor responses to petitions submitted by community members and represent critical cases to the authorities.
- Disseminated of information, education and communication (ICE) materials through posters, pictorial booklets, periodic handouts, newsletters, and audio visual formats, street theatres and other traditional media by the Sachetaks.
- Organizing interface workshops with government organizations and members of Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRIs) to share and discuss issues related to exclusion, leakages, and irregularity identified in community monitoring. Several state and district level consultations were organized for seeking cooperation from the stakeholders, and showcasing best practices.
- The Right to Education (rte) rallies were organized to raise awareness about the Act, its use, and benefits.

The main objective in the last year was to consolidate the major outputs and outcomes. Within the project period the output & achievements are as below:

- 3,542 wall paintings in 917 villages provided information to people on the government schemes.
- 1,987 weekly Haat programs were organized to spread information.
- 32,198 women, 41,763 men became aware of the government schemes through weekly Haat programs.
- 13,460 women, 17,390 men attended 126 RTE rallies.
- 3,936 women attended sessions on International Women's Day.
- 2,167 women and 3,421 men attended 42 district level media meets.
- 6,800 women from across 10 districts attended 50 district level and five state level women's conventions.
- 65,000 people were organized in 450 official interface meetings.

Major outcomes

- Cooked food was regularized in 1,343 Anganwadi centers.
- Village Health and Nutrition Day (VHNDs) were held in 740 villages
- 815 VHNDs were regularized.
- More than 15,000 pre-school children got better access to improved health and nutrition infrastructure and services.
- After regularization of teachers and mid-day meal, a better environment was created for 16,000 children reducing dropout cases.

- More than 2,410 Mahatma Gandhi Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGS) related grievances were lodged.
- 6,389 ration cards were issued to the poor families.
- 5,229 beneficiaries got 100 days of work and a total of Rs. 67.23 Crores of wages was generated.
- In 1,150 villages, people received payments which were withheld for 6-12 months.
- More than 100,000 people became aware of the schemes intended for them.
- About 100,000 people participated in 1,200 Gram Sabhas of whom 48,114 were women.

7.2 Brief Overview

In the 5th year the project activities were effectively accomplished to fill up the gaps if any of the last four years and priority for Quality Programme Implementation. People's requirement in the project area under five sectors of intervention were closely observed and identified. The programme activities were then successfully organised and focused to help the people's ends meet. Bigger platforms like State Level Programmes were organised for greater access to direct Official Interface Meeting with the Stakeholders, community and women leaders for redressal of stakeholder's long-standing issues on **Primary Education, Nutrition and Food Security** under **ICDS, Health, Employment Generation** under **MGNREGA** and **Palli Sabha & Gram Sabha**.

Organising interface workshops was necessary for raising awareness and influencing decisions and action. Interface workshops with government organisations and Panchayati Raj institutions were organised at the Gram Panchayat and block levels, to facilitate sharing of information, and to share and discuss issues related to exclusion, leakages, and irregularity of government functionaries identified by the community through monitoring of availability and access to services. Approximately 450 official interface meetings were organised involving about 65,000 people.

Several state and district-level consultations were organised. Besides sharing of information, and seeking cooperation from the stakeholders during the consultations, these events were a great opportunity to showcase the best practices. These consultations facilitated interactions between people, Panchayat-elected representatives including Zilla Parishad chairpersons, government officials, legislators, subject matter specialists, and NGOs. Participation of women was given special attention in these events. With women as a focus group, there were women-specific events too. The district and state-level women's conventions brought together more than 6,800 women from 10 districts, majority of them from local indigenous communities. Like the previous year the Chairman, Odisha Food Commission, provided an outstanding support in this year also. He urged the people and the district administration to identify the eligible excluded families under the Act, and bring them to his notice. A **State Level MGNREGS Labour Group Training-cum-Convention Interface Meeting** was organised at Agramee, Kashipur of Rayagada district where a total of 200 participants across the 10 backward districts under EU Project area had participated and learned how to get maximum benefit from MGNREGS using Labour Group provisions.

The **Weekly Market Programme** continued till the end of 2018 as it attracted a large crowd before its stall in all weekly Haat. Similarly, the **women participation in Gram Sabha** was more than the previous year. Women raised their voice openly for transparency and quality implementation of all govt. schemes proving good women empowerment in the in 100 GPs of 20 blocks under 10 backward districts of Odisha.

On **Education sector**, BIC's efforts produced some quality outcomes repeating the track of previous year achievement in strengthening **SMC members to monitor quality and quantity of MDM, petition for new teacher, demand regular and timely teacher attendance to school and quality education**. This was achieved with no capacity building training in the final year.

The project has thus enabled significant progress towards the 'Sustainable Development Goals' in some of the most underdeveloped districts of Odisha, including SDG1: End poverty in all its forms everywhere, SDG3: Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all ages, SDG 4: Ensure inclusive and quality education for all and promote lifelong learning, SDG 5: Ensure gender equality and empower all women and girls, and SDG 8:

Promote inclusive and sustainable economic growth, employment and decent work for all.

7.3 Activities & Outputs

Pre- School, Health and Nutrition

- 1,219 immunization camps were organized
- 4,800 children benefitted from the health camps
- 1,199 Anganwadi centers regularized breakfast
- 1,082 Anganwadi centers were supplied with water

As a result of the action, 1,240 Anganwadi centers were regularized. While cooked food was regularized in 1,343 Anganwadi centers, dry food distribution was regularized in 1,291 Anganwadi centers. Besides, a lot of Anganwadi centers started offering breakfast regularly. Water supply was ensured in the Anganwadi centers. In 356 villages, Anganwadi buildings were either constructed or repaired. The Anganwadi workers also started regularly coming to the centers, taking proper care of the infrastructure, and providing better care, health and nutrition services to the children.

The results were achieved primarily because of the active intervention of the members from the Matru Committee (MC) and Janch Committee (JC), as their complaints were raised in front of the CDPOs for follow-up actions. They worked in the same way with the CDMOs, who came forward to facilitate implementation of the health-related schemes. As a result, 236 centers were improved with better infrastructure and services for child immunization. Village Health and Nutrition Days (VHNDs) were held in 740 villages. This contributed to the attendance and benefit of all eligible mothers in the localities. While the VHNDs were not conducted regularly, the project led to regularization of 815 VHND, which were attended by the officials. Overall, it enabled more than 15,000 children to benefit from better access to the improved health and nutrition infrastructure and services.

Primary Education

- 552 new teachers were appointed
- 1,017 school teachers were regularized
- MDMs were regularized in 454 schools
- MDM being provided regularly in total of 1004 schools

Continuous efforts led to several changes in the schools, especially in terms of infrastructure, human resources, and the mid-day meal (MDM). Because of the regular meetings of the School Management Committee (SMC) and their complaints, vacant teacher posts were filled up. The students used to get only one-half of an egg for three days. The persistent and assertive presence by the JC and SMC ensured each child getting six eggs per week. As a result of the engagement with government institutions and officials, especially the DEOs, there were positive changes, in terms of recruitment of new teachers, and construction of new school buildings. New school buildings were constructed in 430 villages, new teachers were appointed in 369 schools and the jobs of serving teachers were regularized. MDMs were regularized with active involvement of the SMCs. After regularization of teachers and MDM, a better teaching and learning environment has been created benefitting more than 16,000 school going children, which led to a massive reduction in dropout cases.

MGNREGS

About 312 labours from 13 villages did not receive payments for works done under the MGNREGA for more than eight months. After awareness drives under the project, they submitted a complaint on the grievance day to the District Collector. Within a month of submitting the complaint, all 312 labourers received full payment. A total of Rs.5.85-million labour payments were made.

On MGNREGS also the job demand and higher nos. of beneficiaries completing the 100 days of work were witnessed across the 20 blocks of 10 backward districts of Odisha under EU project area. The **State Level MGNREGS Labour Groups Training-cum-Convention**, with 200 participants at Kashipur, dist. Rayagada, indeed produced

excellent opportunity for strengthening their voice and empowering them with their rights for more job-demand and greater scope for income generation, transparency in scheme implementation and other benefits.

The efforts resulted in formation of labour groups and their increased demands for works in the Gram Panchayats under MGNREGS. These people and groups were able to submit their grievances. More than 2,410 grievances were lodged as the project helped the deprived people to raise their problems in front of the government officials for better solutions. The project helped the poor and deprived get their work, with benefits reaching to the people and villages as needed and demanded by them. A total of 5,229 beneficiaries got 100 days of work under MGNREGS. Nearly Rs. 11.65 crore of wages were generated through the labour groups. A total of Rs. 67.23 crore of MGNREGS wages were generated. The action regularised the labour payments, which reduced out-migration. They did individual land development, construction of village road, Community Tank in their own village and in the nearby revenue villages. They have also worked in the Avenue plantation as well as WADI plantation work.

Women participating in local governance

The project helped the community, particularly women, to become aware of their rights. Awareness, capacity building and facilitation activities led to a lot of changes at the level of information, interest, and action. People took ownership and initiatives; they came forward to question the development decisions and action. They showed readiness to discuss their issues and needs of their areas, and participate in village-level planning, decision making, and Gram Sabhas. More than 1,200 Gram Sabhas were held during the period of five years. Approximately 100,000 people, of which 48,114 were women, participated in these Gram Sabhas. Women showed tremendous interest on village development planning. They massively participated in different meetings in their respective Gram Panchayats. With regards to governance matters beyond the Gram Sabha, the tribal women did not lag behind and took up leadership roles. They came to the forefront and openly raised their

The women leaders organized other women in the villages for their rights, and demanded that their views and needs to be considered. They offered solutions as a part of the planning, and took actions against injustice, exploitation, and violence. Processing of country liquor was mostly closed due to active role played by the women groups. There were 2,914 anti-liquor movements organized during the project period. Tribal women started taking interest in politics. They also formed a state level federation, Mati Ma Ro Santano (Children of Mother Earth), to address their issues in a collective manner.

In qualitative terms, the program has been able to bring together civil society organisations, bureaucrats, media and academicians as also village community members on a platform to discuss the RTI Act, and the use and implications of Section 4. State Level Women's Convention was held in the district head quarter of Koraput. 400 above women participants were participated in this convention across 10 districts, to outline and underline the women's agenda for development. The Chairman, Odisha Food Commission has provided an outstanding support in this Convention. He urged every participant to identify the excluded under the Act, and bring them to his notice. As a result, maximum numbers of problems related to NFSA Ration Card solved. District Collector of Koraput, was addressed in the Women's convention on women empowerment, Child education & MGNREGS.

The project helped a large number of people in getting access to other different schemes. The Sachetaks and BICs particularly were instrumental in providing these benefits. The Sachetaks played a key role in collecting necessary information from the BICs and sharing at appropriate levels. They also provided the grass root level information to the BICs and helped in engaging with the government institutions, and bringing changes as well as creating beneficiaries.

After getting information on the various schemes and policies, a lot of individuals came forward to demand better implementation of the government programs. Their strong voices have achieved many tangible results. With their efforts and results, the entire community has benefitted, at least in terms of a visible immediate evidence and confidence.

Number of People accessed various Government Schemes

Schemes and Programs	Beneficiary		Total
	Male	Female	
Old Age Pension	3,145	3,287	6,432
FRA Land	2,768	2,798	5,566
100 Days of Work under MGNREGS	3,075	2,154	5,229
Youth Skill Development Training Programs	3,256	1,534	4,790
Widow Pension	-	4,398	4,398
Handicap Pension	193	232	425
PAY/IAY/BPG	3,490	3,176	6,666
Jan Dhan Yojana	1,870	1,564	3,434
Biju Swasthya Kalyan Yojana	1,120	987	2,107
Biju Krusak Kalyan Yojana	2,329	2,167	4,496
Total	21,246	22,297	43,543

Addressing Nutrition and Income Insecurity of Underprivileged Community by Improving Access to Information on Relevant Government Schemes



Director Agragamee addressing participants in New Delhi at the National Partners' Meet organized by European Union



Food Commissioner explaining the NFA during the State Level Women's Convention in Koraput



An overview of the State Level Women's Convention in Koraput



Former Information Commissioner, Prof. Radhamohan addressing the gathering at the State Level RTI Forum



NREGA Awareness Campaign in Thakurmunda Block



Ration Cards received in Boden Block

Strengthening Alternative Methods of Agriculture



Discussing with villagers of Routhghati village during the research on Tribal Ecosystems



Discussion during the First Round Table of Agrarian Issues in Bhubaneswar



Chiru and Pagu Majhi, talking about the traditional ways of farming and production in their village



A View of cropping systems in Sarapai village



Discussion during the Round Table on Income Security and Food Sovereignty in Agramee Campu



Kurunji Majhi in her field of indigenous millets



Ms. Sabarmatee makes a presentation during the Round Table on Food Sovereignty



RoundTable Meeting



Shri Rangalal Jamuda responding to the presentation of the study report on Tribal Production Systems

8

Strengthening Alternative Methods of Agriculture

8.1 Introduction

The Project, Strengthening Alternative Methods of Agriculture is a cooperation project jointly taken up by Rosa Luxemburg Stiftung and Agragamee for developing a dialogue on alternative methods of Agriculture. The purpose of the project is mainstreaming issues of Food, Nutrition and Livelihood Securities of Tribal and small and marginal farmers with focus on Ecosystem Development in the underdeveloped districts in Odisha. with the specific objectives being identified as follows:

- Mainstreaming problems of small and marginal farmers, and agrarian communities,
- Participatory research on ecology of farming systems
- State level Round table on Farming and agriculture

8.2 Activities Training on Ecological farming

A four-days Training Programme on Ecological Farming, Phase - I was organized by Agragamee under the RLS Project from 18th – 22th April 2018 at CETAR, Mallijharan, Kashipur block of Rayagada district. A total of 35 farmer participants attended the programme from different villages of Kashipur block. Mr. Sudarsan Biswal, Training Assistant, spoke on the aims and objectives of the programme. Mrs. Vidhya Das, Training Coordinator, presided over the session. The workshop began with an interactive session with questions like who were involved in agricultural work; more qualified among themselves; having more knowledge on agriculture; what was need of the training & why should we take training; what would happen, if we would not implement the practice in agriculture sector; what was their understanding on agriculture & what would be the impact of the training in the village; was there any problem to work in agriculture field after completion of the training; what about the production in agriculture field & was it increased or same as past?

The participants were encouraged to alsodiscuss among themselves on different issues like how to detect the quality of land & soil, quantity of soil erosion, types of crop cultivation in different varieties of land, whether they uses the land properly or not, how to increase the use of land, process of cultivation whether in organic method or through chemical fertilizer, number of domestic animals and birds they have.

The farmers were also given practical hands on lessons on Jeevamruta, Panchagavya, and Mulching. They were thoroughly made aware of the unique importance of organic farming, value addition how organic farming ensures our traditional farming, conservation of seeds & poison-free food security, nutrition and maintaining the soil health. In the end, the participants were asked to give their feedback on what they learnt on what topics and

what remain not cleared.

They became very pleased and shared openly their opinion about the issues and confusions confronted by them in the present outside market forces, the allurements of hybrid crop cultivation with chemical fertilizers and pesticides which they stay away from at all cost.

Conclusion

The Convention concluded with all participants pledging to carry forward their commitment to farm in sustainable way. They all confirmed their alliance to organic farming, family farm and preparation of organic manure and to take forward the message to save soil forward. The vote of thanks was given by Mr. Sudarshan Biswal, of Agragamee.

Women Farmers' Convention from 5th to 6th September, 2018

To underscore the important role of women in agriculture, Agragamee used the opportunity of District level farmers' convention to bring together women farmers from the tribal districts of Southern and Western Odisha. The women farmers' convention brought together 275 women from 13 tribal districts, and provided an opportunity for lively sharing and interaction between them, exchange and exhibition of seeds, and also interaction with various Government officials and NABARD officials, leading to much sharing and learning. The workshop was significant in articulating some of most critical problems faced in the underdeveloped tribal districts, as also in bringing together women and Government officials for problem analysis and discussion. The dignitaries among others included Shri Rangalal Jamuda, State Food Commissioner for Odisha, Smt. Latika Pradhan, Chairperson State Social Welfare Board, Dr. Rina Routhray, President, Women's Rights Campaign, Smt. Sumani Jhodia, President, Ama Sangathan Women's Federation, Shri Gadhahar Parida, Director Tribal Museum, Dr. Basanti Mahanty, Dr. Rudrani Mahanti, Dr. Markat Kesahri Ray, DEO, Koraput, Dr. Preeti Dharasamal, Shri Murali Mishra Regional Manager, NABARD, Koraput, Shri Subhash Mangaraj, Regional Manager, NABARD, Malkangiri, Smt. Sulochana Behera, Chairperson, Social Welfare Board, Odisha etc.

It was inaugurated by Shri Rangalal Jamuda, State Food Commissioner for Odisha and chaired by Shri Gadhahar Parida, Director Tribal Museum. Topics like role of women in farming, Seed preservation, organic and sustainable agriculture brought forth animated interaction and response, and led to much shared learning amongst all participants. The session had vibrant presentation by the keynote speakers, wherein the different Government Programs were detailed. Dr. Rina Routhray explained the various Acts and Policies that protected women's rights in the workplace, as also as wage labourers, and emphasized that women should use these Acts for empowerment. She pointed out that it was important for women to attend the Gram Sabha in the Panchayat, and actively participate in the decision making. Without this, they will not have any say in any development work that is going on in their area. Ms. Latika Pradhan spoke about the importance of exercising one's franchise.

Shri Rangalal Jamuda spoke about the Forest Rights Act, and the methods of appeal, and explained about the State provisions for proactive implementation of the Act, including appeals, and the linking up of other schemes like the MGNREGA and Indira Awas with the Act. Smt. Sumani Jhodia spoke about the Right to Information Act, and explained how many officers were apprehensive of the Act, and as a matter of fact requested people not to submit applications for right to information.

On Government Schemes for Women Smt. Pushpanjali Satapathy, Smt. Lochani Majhi and Smt. Sulochana Behera gave an in-depth situation analysis of the tribal villages, the problems that people face and the status of Government Programmes, about the importance of group formation, and working together, the Consumer Protection Act, and the rights of citizens under this Act. Smt. Deepai Majhi pointed out the contradictions wherein tribal farmers were landless or marginal farmers, but multi-national corporations were allowed to grab huge chunks of land. She said that despite there being a school in every village, the children were not learning as the schools were not running properly, and children were going to Bhubaneswar residential schools. She emphasised it was important that tribal children stayed in the tribal villages, and had their education with the parents. Smt. Sarda Majhi from Uraldani, Kalahandi district, pointed out that despite several welfare schemes and programs

of the Government, there are several villages where people do not even get basic amenities and facilities like drinking water, road connectivity, etc.

On Literacy and Empowerment the session was chaired by Dr.Chandan Singh, Director State Resource Centre for Adult Education, and had Dr. Basanti Mahanty, Dr.Rudrani Mahanty, Dr.Markat Kesahri Ray and Dr.Preeti Dharasamal as speakers. The discussion had sharp and incisive inputs from the different speakers, and also active participant interaction. Pointing out the contradictions like lower sex ratio in districts which had higher female literacy and overall literacy rates, Dr. Basanti Mahanty, also spoke about the abuse of children in residential schools in the tribal regions.

Women In Agriculture session was chaired by Mrs. Vidhya Das Joint Director Agragamee, and Shri Murali Mishra, Regional Manager, NABARD, Koraput, Smt. Sumani Jhodia President Ama Sangathan, and Shri Subhash Mangaraj, Regional Manager, NABARD, Malkangiri. The session began with questions about how women are doing organic and improved farming on their land. Women reported several methods of improved farming they were using. Shri Mishra encouraged women to form producer organizations, and take up collective marketing. ShriSubhash Mangaraj explained to women about various NABARD schemes, and said that farmers could get loans for their lands if they formed groups of at least 10 farmers.

Discussion on Seeds Preservation was led by Mr.Atul Nayak, Smt. Bari Majhi, Shri Tapas Kumar Roy, Smt. Dipadisari and Smt. Raimani Gheuria. Shri Roy presented a detailed power point explaining about preservation of seeds through various methods and pointed out that unless farmers and specially women preserved their seeds, they will have no self-reliance. Smt. Majhi spoke about the way she had built up her seeds store by carefully preserving and cultivating small quantities of seeds, and building up the stock from year to year. She had preserved several varieties of finger millets, upland and low land paddy, and various vegetable seeds. Smt. Gheuria explained the various methods she used to preserve seeds. She had inspired by her aunt, Kamal Pujari who had preserved 130 varieties of rice she said. This knowledge had been furthered improved by her association with Swaminathan Foundation she said.

Capacity Building Training of Farmers: 17th to 21st September, 2018

The training was taken up to make farmer's aware about integrated farming techniques, for sustainable and ecological agriculture, keeping in mind soil health. They learnt how to integrate perennial and seasonal crops, and improve the fertility of the soil through the effective use of home-made manures, including Handi Khatha(A herbal home preparation in an earthen pot, Panchagavya (A highly effective herbal preparation to enhance plant growth) and Jeevamruth (A herbal preparation to enhance soil fertility, and organic matter).

All the participants visited Pandkapadar village of Dongasil GP to have interaction with the progressive farmers.

Then they visited Mallijharan campus demonstration farm taught them all about eco-logical & zero tillage cultivation.

Round-Table Meet On Doubling Farmers' Income

A Round-Table Meet on agrarian issues in the context of doubling farmers' income was organized by Agragamee on 26th - 27th September 2018 at Hotel Presidency, Bhubaneswar. A total 65 participants attended the programme including agriculture scientists, policy makers, Government officials, agriculture experts, educationists, MS Swaminathan Foundation, NCDS, DDS, Hyderabad and mediapersons participated and discussed on current agrarian issues.

In the inaugural day, former Member, Board of Revenue, Dr. Aurobindo Behera and former Vice- Chancellor, OUAT Prof. DP Ray led the open discussion explaining the participants about the goal and objectives of the Round-Table Meet. Agriculture and Farmer's Empowerment Principal Secretary Sourav Garg said the Government has taken several measures for the development of farmers and also for enhancing oil seeds, and other vegetable crops and has taken special provisions for development organic farming policy and Millets Mission in the State. Water Resources Principal Secretary Pradeep K Jena shared that the farmers need to change crop pattern as per the

present demand of marketability.

Eminent environmentalist Prof Radhamohan cited Japanese farmer and philosopher Masanobu Fukuoka's natural farming and opined that the model can be replicated in Odisha. State Food Commission Chairman Sri Rangalal Jamuda shared that there is a need to focus on both food security and nutrition value among the farmers and the tribal communities. Former Horticulture Director Dr Surya Narayan Behera and Dr Nagendra Mallick also spoke on the scope of doubling farmers' income through Horticulture schemes. Joint Director, Agragamee, Vidya Das spoke on the issues of tribals and tribals children and their distressed situation.

During the two- day brainstorming meeting, discussion centered on ecological agriculture versus chemical agriculture, agrarian crisis on account of unsustainable use of land, water, forests and livestock and enhancing farmers' income.

Round Table on Challenges Affecting Small Farmers

The Round table on Food Sovereignty and Income Security Challenges Affecting Small Farmer held from 28th to 29th March 2019, had 87 participants, and brought together women and men farmers, NGO representatives, and Govt. officials for an involved and intense discussion on the topic. The Issue was introduced by the Director, Agragamee who explained the topic, and invited everybody to participate on an equal footing. He pointed out that a round table does not have a panel of experts to talk on various subjects, as the views of each and every person was respected, and everybody who was presented was expected to contribute. The farmers' responses provided many insights into the reality for farmers' lives, as also highlighted the success many of them had with organic farming.

The topics of discussion broadly focused on Food Sovereignty, Agrarian Distress and Farmers' Problems and Income Security of Farmers. Under Food Sovereignty Agragamee Director Mr. Achyut Das, Former Koraput Collector Mr. Gadadhar Parida and eminent women leader Smt. Sumani Jhodia facilitated the open discussion on the following questions: What is food sovereignty? Do farmers have food sovereignty? What is the connection between food sovereignty and seed sovereignty? Are farmers losing their food and seed sovereignty, and why are they losing it? Is it necessary to have food sovereignty - why?

Similarly, under Agrarian Distress and Farmers' Problems the topics of discussion participants' response on questions like what are the problems faced by farmers? What are the reasons for the problems? What is the support they are getting from the Government? Is this support adequate? What kind of support is required to address the various problems faced by farmers? What can farmers do to address the problems? The Problems of farmers identified by the participants were: non-availability of seeds and other inputs on time, credit, high labour cost, erratic rainfall; Ghasen: in our village we share labour from house to house and we never hire labour. Chitta: 25% of the people are landless and are sharecropping; the educated do not return to agriculture; young are becoming alcoholics; Youth are playing cricket; as exorbitant costs.

Under the topic; How can we have Income Security - the discussion centred around questions like: What is the relationship between Income security and food sovereignty? Which will ensure better food security and why: a. Organic or chemical agriculture? b. Machine agriculture, or manual agriculture? c. Own seeds or Market seeds? d. Small land holdings or large landholdings?

The open discussion and responses of the participants were very enlightening and relevant ground-realities were raised. In this sense, Agragamee Director's note is sounds very important: "There is a feeling amongst the tribal people that millets are a lower form of food. They feel that the non-tribals eat rice, and they ask us to eat millets. Because of this, people have almost forgotten millets. But in reality, the Government spent crores for improving paddy cultivation, now, however the nutritious qualities of millets are being discovered, and the elite are going back to millets. So for the first time, the Government is promoting millets."

"Agriculture is a business. The core is that we need to think of our food first. Then the surplus can be sold to the market. If finger millets fetching better price, will we sell it all, if tomorrow the cost is doubled, then what will we do? if we do start processing, no doubt cost will go up, but first we have to think of our food security.

We should ask, are we cultivating for food, or to sell? How much we eat, how much we sell? If we produce only to sell, then we shall not have food security.”

Niranjan, MSSRF: Last year, near Rayagada, in Nathma village. A farmer did System of Millet Intensification, and cotton with lot of chemical fertilizers above. When it rained, the millet field that caught the runoff from the cotton field gave very poor yield, the rest of the millet did very well. This was a lesson to the farmer about the harmful chemicals used for the cultivation of cotton.

G. Bag: I am from Pondicherry, MSSRF. I used to be Kendrapara coordinator for 10 years, and learned Odiya there. When I was a child for 10 years of age, I used to drink mandya. Others would not eat, they only had rice. Now we do not have mandya in our village. We have different method of cultivation. The land has been urbanised. Now finger millets cause cancer in our area, because they have so much of pesticide use. If you go to hospitals, you cannot believe the kinds of disease that people have. But people in Koraput eat Finger millet, and get no disease. There are many youth from here in our area, and they have chowmein, biryani, and all kinds of fast-food things that are eaten only for taste and style. But they will get diseased.

Salmai Miniaka: Kutuli: We don't use chemicals. We cultivate mandya, sua, etc. sometimes we grow tomatoes, and dry the tomatoes. I have not seen urea or gromore, and we do not buy anything. We do dangedhan (highland paddy). We mix the paddy seed with gobar (cow dung), and keep it for 2-3 days, and then dry it up and then store it. It does not get any insects. Similarly for kandul (Arhar) we mix with gobarpani (cow dung mixed with water), dry it, and then store it.

Conclusion: The responses and inputs from the participants were amazing and incredible. The two-days Round-Table discussion was so enlightening that some farmers participants demanded a leaflet covering all information about the pro and cons of organic and inorganic farming, the propaganda by the agricultural experts and experiences of tribals on the issue of ecological farming.

Meeting on Participatory Study of Farm Ecosystems

A one-day programme on RLS project was organised by Agragamee at Hotel Presidency on “Meeting for a Participatory Study on Farm Eco-system” on 25th March 2019. The meeting included some organic farmer participants from several districts having rich experience in the Agricultural Sector in Orissa and some Agricultural experts from OUAT, Bhubaneswar, like Dr. Prabhu Lenka, Dr. Bidyadhara Maharana, Dr. Prativamayee Jena etc. and Mr. Rangalal Jamuda, Food Commissioner, Odisha, Mr. Aurobindo Behera, IAS retd., had also attended among other dignitaries. Agragamee Director Achyut Das gave the welcome address and explained the importance of Farm Eco-system, its objective, sustainability and the scope of the Study as incorporated in the project activity. The main focus point in this meeting was to understand what exactly Farm Eco-system was and to understand its different aspects. He pointed out the serious crisis in the quality and quantity of agricultural production in view of the fast declining of traditional/organic farming in tribal areas of Orissa and in other states. This has raised several questions on the topic of Agriculture currently in practice. The farmers in rural tribal areas are now in a dilemma as to what kind of cultivation they will take up, what agricultural production will be done to sustain the Farm Eco-system. More important scenario is the Corporate Sector is trying to control the market and economy. As a result, the tribals are unable to sustain their age-old farming practice because of the outside market force.

The millet production is rapidly declining. Whatever research is being done by scientist and expert groups that have no relationship with the farmers. So, it is imperative to make Indian Agriculture people's friendly if we at all want to see any future of this sector. The important point is the poor farmer cannot fund for its own need to scientist so who will listen to his issues and problems while the corporate-funded projects yield timely impacts as per its mandate. Thus, there is urgent need to save and sustain organic farming and to understand the importance of farm Eco-system for our future, health and sustainability to solve all agricultural issues.

Dr. Prabhucharan Lenka pointed out that farmers must earn profit to sustain themselves and this is pushing in for hybrid seeds and crop system over indigenous crops and Farm Eco-system is rapidly declining. He emphasised that modern agricultural practice will not help sustain tribal agriculture but again we have to find out what inputs will be worked out to save tribal agricultural system which is more sustainable.

Smt. Vidhya Das explained the current Eco-system Farming Scenerio in tribal areas where there is no case of farmer's suicide. The tribals do multi-cropping and integrated farming in their fields. But, now, the same tribals are resorting to Eucalyptus plantation in place of their traditional farming and as a result, most of the age-old indigenous seeds and crops are extinct now. The stress on farmers is increasing day-by-day. We need to discuss its impact on our future in this study. Similarly, if the organic product's price is not payable then how can the farmers and the Eco-system will survive – a big issue not yet taken up by the government while chemical fertilizers and pesticides are being easily allowed to be used for our consumption causing severe and long term health hazards.

Advanced Organic Farmers Training Programme

On 18th to 20th December 2018 Agragamee organized the “Advanced Organic Farmers Training” programme at VRC Hall, Kashipur, Rayagada district. More than 107 farmers participants from Rayagada, Nabarangpur and Koraput. Agragamee Director Achyut Das explained the aim and objectives of the meeting on Organic Farming. The open discussion focused on how organic farming is vital to our livelihood, health and for income security. He said when we farming through chemical method it destroy the valuable merit of soil which does not happen with organic farming. Handikhata, jibamrutyam, panchagabya and vermin compost is better than chemical products for agriculture farming.

Achyut Das explained that those who have learned the organic farming training and have been using it in their farm properly would be awarded by Agragamee. He pointed out that Ragi is a nutritional food and it's basic food of tribal area but the present generation does not like it. Now the people the big cities very much like to eat Ragi(Millet). Then discussion was continued with the farmers how can we make a better farm without applying any chemical products using only use the organic method. For sensitization and better understanding about the importance of organic farming a Group Discussion was conducted on issues like: What was the advantage and disadvantage of cultivating through organic method and chemical method in these two years of farmers in farm? If we do agriculture/farming by both organic and chemical then how will the condition of that soil after 5 years, who will be in good condition and why? How to control pests and disease through applying organic pesticides?

Discussions was followed on Day-I and Day-II. The farmers' responses were very much enlightening. They clearly understand the importance and value of organic farming and health hazards, hardening of soil, soil fertility erosion, poisoning of soil and extra recurring expenditure every year etc. through chemical fertilizers and pesticides.

Advanced Organic farmer's Felicitated

Mr. Achyut Das, Director, Agragamee, Mrs. Vidhya Das, Joint Director, Agragamee, Mrs. Ghasen Jhodia and Mr. Abhiram Jhodia felicitated the successful organic farmers with certificates & shawl.

These farmers were :

Mr. Saba Pradhani, Gulimusha, Lula Panchayat, Dasmantpur, Mr. Krushna muduli, Pedicil, Dasmantpur, Mr. LingarajKahanr, Budipada, Pakari GP, Phiringia, Kandhamal, Mrs. Mangai Jani, Kandaraguda, Pujariguda, Tentulikhunti Block, Nabarangpur, Mr. Rishi Miniaka, Kutuli, Rayagada Block, Rayagada, Mr. Chaitanya Majhi, Durkhal, Kashipur Block, Rayagada, Mrs. Ullash Jhodia, Rtapada, Kashipur Block, Rayagada, Mrs. JemadeiKahanr, Derakumpa, Phiringia Block, Kandhamal.

In the second day there was Group Discussion followed by Group Presentation was the question included: Why do farmers show more interest to chemical fertilizers instead of organic fertilizers? Which farming is easy and which one is difficult between chemical farming and organic farming systems and why? Which process of cultivation is yielding better between chemical farming and organic farming and why? Will it profitable if we adopt organic farming and leave chemical farming?

Conclusion: More than 100 participants from 10 districts decided on certain points i.e., to adopt organic farming, to save the knowledge of traditional processes of farming, not only practice but also train to other villagers to adopt organic farming process, to promote cow and other domestic animal farming and to give importance to all the elements which are needed for ecological farming.

Dissemination Workshop on Study of Tribal Eco-Systems - A Research Study in South Odisha

A 'Dissemination Workshop on Study of Tribal Eco-System – A Research Study in South Odisha' was organised by Agragamee on dated 13th -14th December 2018 at Hotel Suryansh, Bhubaneswar. A total of participants had attended the workshop and shared their invaluable life story for everybody to learn from. Agragamee Director delivered the welcome address and aim & objectives of this workshop. He clarified that this is a conventional study. This is not a story. People have spoken about their own life story. We have tried to get a close study on them. After this the participant started sharing their experience and age-old practices one by one. Under the impact of socio-economic and deforestation in tribal areas their livelihood pattern and agricultural practices have undergone lot of changes part of which they are unable to accommodate with and suffer in between the old and new realities.

Mr. A. B. Otta's observation in this regard is very interesting: This study is different than other study report. Their indigenous knowledge, practices like multi cropping are described here. You have described about 67 fountains. You have to channelize these properly. Proper documentation is needed for medicinal plants which should keep criteria wise. There is inaccessibility of basic facilities. There are 5 Panchayats within the valley. What are the sectorial gaps? Please develop an action plan by taking views of local people. That must be a micro study as well as micro implementation. Give information and option to the people of that valley. Tribal development is underprivileged due to lack of proper planning system. Please give us a plan. We would work on this.

Mr. Basa: I go to many places. If I were not come to this workshop then I would miss an important subject.

- The points are theoretical based.
- This is a different kind of field work based on post-colonial prospect.
- The study was dynamic. They think that govt. has the duty to make them modern and civilised. Ethnography is a study of others. It was a post-colonial research and auto ethnographic study to challenge the colonial methods. **The naked Naga**- when someone is seeing to a Naga sage, he thinks him wrong. What is civilisation? New agriculture society is coming. They are the originals. The affluent society, the original affluent. Happiness index is searched, the economic parameter of happiness. What is the quality of life? "Why are you coming here" tribal use to ask. Students are study about them and appear examination. Now question is here, what will the consequences after their examination? Oral tradition is also a component. The tribal ecology you are saying is actually ethno-ecology. What are the community prospective towards ecology?

1. What is their classification- category, Plant, Animal etc and also Division.
2. A farmer is cultivating by use of plough. There were different types of plough used for hilly lands and plane lands. What is the traditional knowledge? What is the traditional mechanism? What are their land marks?

Dr. Aurobindo Behera: There are a lot of thing to know. Some years back, a Russian author had written an award winning book, about "How the tribal perspective is changing". We have to take this study to that level. We can create a story. One story verses many stories. We should seriously think about the values of customs, the value of literature. **We have to go ahead with new and close achievements.** Problems are everywhere for tribal people or for local people. Foreign cultures were dominating and controlling then which they are unable to understand till now.

Exposure visit of Indigenous Youth to learn about Food Sovereignty

A two-days 'Exposure Visit of Indigenous youth to Learn on Food Sovereignty' was organised by Agragamee on dated 10th – 11th October 2018. Mr. Ekadasi Nandi was the guide of this Exposure Visit. The visitors' team reached at Centre of Excellence for Horticulture, Deras with the guidance of Mr. Ekadasi Nandi and saw the practical fields of this centre. Here they have raised crops with organic way in the polly houses like capsicum, tamato, brinjal, flower plants, pine-apple, chilly etc.

Then the team visited to CHES, Aiginia. That day the farmers were exposed on organic way of cultivation, protected cultivation of capsicum, brinjal, chilli, tomato, flowers like gerbera, chrysanthemums, rose, tube rose, pine apple, fertigaion and drip irrigation system for judicious use of inputs, mulching and its importance in soil

moisture conservation and weed control and grafting of mango, cultivation of marigold, potal etc. within the period. Due to unfavourable weather condition, they could not visit more places on that day. They were guided by Mr Chandan Kumar Patra, Horticulture Overseer and Training Superintendent.

On the Second Day the exposure team visited to SAMARPAN integrated organic farm, Mainshiagotha, Jajpur. It is a farm developed by some of the agriculture experts. Here Mr. Dushasan Raut, Manager of the farm guided us. The farmers learned on how to do Vermi Compost Pit, Bee cultivation, preparation of Handi Khata and its use. Need of planting different crops in different rows. How they are taking care of all the creatures/insects of the soil in organic farming. They don't kill any insect in the soil by spraying poison. There was a big snake moving on the agriculture field. Mr. Dusasan babu said, number snake are there but in the organic farming system we don't kill them. They helps us to balancing the nature.

Next, the team visited to "Central Tuber Crops Research Institute Regional Centre"-CTCRI, Bhubaneswar. Here the participants were guided by Dr. Susanta Kumar Jata, Farm Superintendent. The participants seen different types of tuber crops planted in this campus. Dr. Susanta Kumar said, why we need to do tuber crops because its production is high. It gives a production of 10 to 15 tonnes in a hectare of land. There is no fear of insects in the crops. We can also produce the same in the forest because it can grow in the shady area too. Nowadays, the scientists say, in future the tuber crops will be only the alternative of food. We can also harvest the same before its proper time based on the market demand. The Starchy root and tuber crops are second only in importance to cereals as global sources of carbohydrates.

Conclusion

The farmers' team had had a very enlightening exposure on a variety of organic farming techniques, including organic manure and organic way of crop management. The participants felt the exposure visit very enriching and they learned a lot so far as organic farming is concerned.

9

Ecological Agriculture

9.1 Introduction

Aragamee believes that the only way to wellness and wellbeing is by worshiping the soil. On the terrestrial world, the soil is life. Very simply put, all life comes from the soil. If we want to live with happiness and health, we have to begin by treating the soil with utmost respect. This is normal common sense. And yet, human kind does just the opposite. We destroy plants and trees that protect the soil, rip it open with ploughs, tractors, tillers and other heavy machinery, douse it with corrosive chemicals, spray it with poisonous pesticides, kill all life form on it in every way possible, and seek to grow food.

This 'knowledge system' that has grown over the recent years is a counter intuitive and counter productive knowledge system, that can only cause progressive harm.

In Aragamee, over the past nearly a decade, we have been seeking to reverse this process, and use more gentle, earth friendly and eco-logically sound methods for cultivation.

This has necessitated a steep learning curve, as we only had the brilliant book of Masanobu San to go by, which has been written under very different settings. We made many mistakes, went back and forth, in our efforts and progressed slowly but surely.

9.2 Rainfed Millet and Other Indigenous Crops Cultivation

Over the last one year, we have continued in our efforts, and also reached out to farmers in different ways. The Millet Mission and Praramparik Krishi Vikas Yojana were inspirations, and we intensified our cultivation of local millets, and other local indigenous crops, which included local pigeon pea and rice bean (which we have found only in the tribal areas of South Odisha). We succeeded in cultivating 5 different species of millets under zero till conditions, using the line transplanting method. These included finger millet, sorghum, pear millet, little millet, and foxtail millet. We did not do our seedlings preparation properly for little millet, and borrowed seedling from farmers' fields. They were only too happy to share their seedlings with us, as they had sowed too densely using the broadcasting method. It was really gratifying to see that the zero till method produced more robust plants compared to the farmers' field.

Traditinal pulses cultivation, also helped us learn something new. The pigeon peas crop was early on grazed by cattle. However, the re-growth was vigorous, and we got a decent output.

9.3 World Soil Day

Aragamee celebrated World Soil Day on December 5th in 4 districts, sharing with farmers, agriculture officers,

and local community leaders. In Kashipur, a meeting was organised with the farmers in Harirajpur village and a discussion initiated on the ecological importance of soil, and the need for protecting it. The Agriculture Officer, Kashipur, attended the meeting, and gave several inputs. The methods of zero-tillage cultivation followed in Agragamee campus were also explained. This was followed few questions, and much silence as farmers wondered how plants could grow without tillage. A few days later, 4 farmers from Harirajpur came to verify in person whether zero tillage was really being practised in Agragamee. They returned convinced and committed to take up the practice on their land as well.

9.4 Irrigated Conditions

Under irrigated conditions, we grew several varieties of vegetables, including cauliflowers, brinjal, radish, sweet peas, and chillies. Brinjals proved the strength in zero till cultivation, as they were able to withstand nearly a month of water stress, as our water pump broke down, and had to be repaired. Cabbage and chillies also did exceptionally well. All this helped us realise the importance of mulch in the dry season, to ensure appropriate moisture levels.

The practices of Agragamee in the Kashipur campus are not unique, and certainly not new. It has been practiced by nature since time immemorial. Humankind is also born of nature, but in the race for 'progress' seems to have forgotten the origins, with disastrous consequence including climate change. Ecological farming with zero tillage also immensely beneficial implications to address climate change. It has been found to sequester carbon in the soil, whereas traditional methods of agriculture based on ploughing and tilling do just the opposite by releasing thousands of tonnes of greenhouse gases into the atmosphere.

An increasing body of knowledge is now built up over more eco-friendly farming and cultivation practices, including Permaculture, beginning with the great Bill Molison, who has set into motion a global movement for more earth friendly practices, Regenerative agriculture, Agro-ecology, and similar other efforts. The European union promotes cultivation with minimum soil disturbance as a policy. In India, The late Raju Titus, and late Bhaskar Save (Known as the Gandhi of Natural Farming) broke new ground in this direction, they now have several farmers all over the country. Given the present day crisis in India, it is imperative that we do not treat ecological farming as just a whim to be practised by a indulgent elite, but as the only option for an undernourished and malnourished population and a farming community that is on the brink of vanishing.

Ecological Agriculture



Zero till intercropping of ragi with kandul in Agramee campus



Foxtail millets under zero till



Pakodi chillies



Discussion with AEO and other officials in Harirajpur village on World Soil Day



Rice bean or Kating or Dangar Rani bursting with vigour under zero till



Bumper crop of cucurbits including indigenous cucumbers



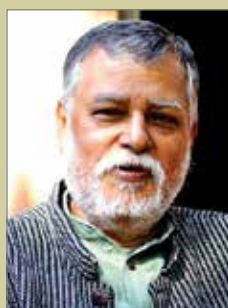
World Soil Day in Dasmantpur Block, Koraput District

GOVERNING BODY



Prof. Manmath Kundu
President

Eminent Educational Professor of English Literature, Former Director of English Language Teaching Institute, Former Director Academy of Tribal Languages, Author of several books on Education.



Mr. Achyut Das
Director

Development Activist and Founder Director of Agramee Ex Member State Planning Board in Odisha and Chairperson, State Resource Centre, Rayagada.



Smt. Shanti Devi
Vice-President

Freedom Fighter and Social order, Recipient of JUMINANAL BAJAJ AWARD, Founder member and organizer of SEVA SAMAJ, Runs projects on health, education, nutrition and women's welfare in tribal areas.



Mrs. Sundei Saunta
Member

Social Worker and community leaders, President of Dasmantapur, Mahila Mahasangha-Women Federation consisting of 1000 tribal women as its members.



Ms. Sushila Majhi
Member

Secretary of Ama Sangathan-a Tribal Women Federation consisting of 1200 Tribal women as its members.



Mrs. Jatani Kanhar
Member

Social workers and community leader in tribal areas.



Kanaka Mani Das
Member

Social worker, community leader and educator in tribal areas.

Transparency Form

- 6.1 Name:** AGRAGAMEE (Non Government Organization)
- 6.2 Registered Address :** Agragamee, At/Po Kashipur, District Rayagada, Pin 765015, State Odisha, Country India
- 6.3 Details of Branch Office :**
1. AL Derakumpa, Po Gochhapada 162002, District Kandhamal
 2. At/Po Thakurmunda, District Mayurbhanj
 3. At/po Goudaguda, Tentulikhunti, District Nabarangpur
 4. At/Po Dasmantpur 764028, District Koraput
 5. At/Po Laxmipur, District Koraput
 6. At/Po Nuapada, District Nuapada
 7. At /po Padepadar, Via Mukhiguda, Pin-766026, District Kalahandi
 8. At- Adni, Po Gopinathpur-762002, District Kalahandi
 9. At/Po Rayagada, District: Rayagada
 10. Coordination Office, ND 8, VIP Area, IRC Village, Bhubaneswar-751015
- 6.4 Telecommunications:** Phone : 0674-2551123
Fax: 0674 2551130
Email : info@agrgamee.org
Website <http://www.agrgamee.org>
- 6.5 Contact Person:** Mr. Achyut Das (Director)
- 6.6 Details of Registration :** KPT-289/6/1987-88
Date of Registration - 29 April 1987
Sub Registration of Society, Koraput, Odisha

- 7.1 FCRA Number:** 104960035
Date of Registration - 27 February 1991
- 7.2 Details of Staffs:** Professional:20
Support: 90
Total Member: 110
- 7.3 Financial Status:**
- Income and Expenditure (lakhs)
Income:
Expenditure
 - Assets as per last audited balance sheet (Lakhs)
Fixed Asset
 - Loan & Work Advance
 - Fixed Deposit at Bank:
- 7.4 Exemptions:**
- 80-6
 - Society Registration under 1860 Act
 - 12A
 - Income Tax Act (PAN No. AAAA1775E)
Commissioner of income Tax Bhubaneswar
 - Tax Deduction Account (TAN)-No. BBNA0018D
- 7.5 Administration Expenditure in % :**
- 7.6 Compensation:**
- Highest Cost Employee Rs. 35000/-Structure
 - Lowest Cost Employees Rs 6000/
 - Ratio: 7:3
- 7.7 Facilities Provided:** Fooding, Free Accommodation Medical Facilities, Health Insurance, Solar Light, Drinking Water, EPF and other allowances

8.1. Are any of the Board Members created to the Chief Functionary?

If so, kindly give details : No

8.2. Name of the Chief Functionary : Mr. Achyut Das

8.3. Does the Chief Functionary pay Income Tax : Yes

8.4. Kindly give details of the personal assets of the Chief Functionary : Nil

8.5. Activities

- Vocational Education and Training programme for tribal youth.
- Advocacy Learning and Social Activism through Capacity Building programme.
- Integrated watershed development and natural resource management.
- Training and capacity building for such comprehensive watershed development and natural resource management.
- Education including innovative, non formal, alternative and women literacy programmes.
- Environment including biodiversity conservation, natural resources management and ecologically balanced agriculture and livelihood creation.
- Women empowerment and childcare related programmes.
- Research, advocacy and networking in issues relevant to the tribal context.

8.6. Geographical Area of operation

India in particular, the Eastern State of Odisha

8.7. Operational Districts

Rayagada, Koraput, Nabarangpur, Malkangiri, Kalahandi, Nuapada, Kandhamal, Mayurbhanj, Gajapati, Balangir

8.8. Our Donors

Karl Kubel Stiftung (Germany), Indigenous People Assistance Facility (Rome), European Union, Welthungerhilfe (Germany), ROSE (Belgium), NABARD (India).

Financial Summary

A.K. LENKA & CO.
CHARTERED ACCOUNTANTS



Plot No. 687/2416, Ekamra Kanan Road
IRC Village, Bhubaneswar - 751 015
☎ : 0674-2551381 Cell : 09437018879
E-mail : aklenka.co@gmail.com

Independent Auditor's Report

To the Members of
AGRAGAMEE

Report on the Financial Statements

We have audited the accompanying (Standalone) financial statements of **AGRAGAMEE, At-Kashipur, Rayagada, Odisha-765015** a public Charitable Society Registered under society registration Act 1860 ("the Society") which comprise the Balance Sheet as at March 31, 2019, Income and Expenditure Account & Receipt & Payment Account for the year then ended, and a summary of significant accounting policies and other explanatory information.

Management's Responsibility for the (Standalone) Financial Statements

The Management of Agragamee is responsible the preparation of these Standalone financial statements that give a true and fair view of the financial position, financial performance and cash flows of the organization. This responsibility also includes maintenance of adequate accounting records in accordance with the provisions of the Act for safeguarding the assets of the society and for preventing and detecting frauds and other irregularities; selection and application of appropriate accounting policies; making judgments and estimates that are reasonable and prudent; and design, implementation and maintenance of adequate internal financial controls, that were operating effectively for ensuring the accuracy and completeness of the accounting records, relevant to the preparation and presentation of the financial statements that give a true and fair view and are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

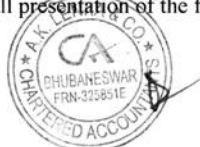
Auditor's Responsibility

Our responsibility is to express an opinion on these Standalone financial statements based on our audit.

We have taken into account the provisions of the Act, the accounting and auditing standards and matters which are required to be included in the audit report under the provisions of the Act and the Rules made there under.

We conducted our audit in accordance with the Standards on Auditing issued by Institute of Chartered Accountants of India (ICAI). Those Standards require that we comply with ethical requirements and plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements are free from material misstatement.

An audit involves performing procedures to obtain audit evidence about the amounts and the disclosures in the financial statements. The procedures selected depend on the auditor's judgment, including the assessment of the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error. In making those risk assessments, the auditor considers internal financial control relevant to the societies' preparation of the financial statements that give a true and fair view in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on whether the society has in place an adequate internal financial controls system over financial reporting and the operating effectiveness of such controls. An audit also includes evaluating the appropriateness of the accounting policies used and the reasonableness of the accounting estimates made by the society's management, as well as evaluating the overall presentation of the financial statements.



We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our audit opinion on the Standalone financial statements

Opinion

In our opinion and to the best of our information and according to the explanations given to us, the aforesaid Standalone financial statements give the information required by the Act in the manner so required and give a true and fair view in conformity with the accounting principles generally accepted in India, of the state of affairs of the organisation as at March 31, 2019, and its Income & Expenditure and its Receipt & Payment Account for the year ended on that date.

Report on Other Legal and Regulatory Requirements

- a. we have sought and obtained all the information and explanations which to the best of our knowledge and belief were necessary for the purpose of our audit;
- b. in our opinion proper books of account as required by law have been kept by the organisation so far as it appears from our examination of those books;
- c. the Balance Sheet, the Income & Expenditure Account and the Receipt & Payment Account dealt with by this Report are in agreement with the books of account
- d. in our opinion, the aforesaid Standalone financial statements comply with the Accounting Standards applicable to the organisation.
- e. In our opinion, the organisation has utilized the proceeds of the grants only for the purpose for which it was received and in accordance with the respective grant Agreement.

For and on behalf of
A K LENKA & CO.
Chartered Accountants
FRN NO:-325851E



CA A K LENKA, FCA, DISA (ICAI)

Partner

Meb No:061761





UDIN: 19061761AAAAFF2517

Place: Bhubaneswar

Date: 20.11.2019



Balance Sheet

AGRAGAMEE			
At/Po-KASHIPUR Dist-RAYAGADA ODISHA-765015			
BALANCE SHEET AS ON			
31st March, 2019			
PARTICULARS	SCH.	2018-19 (₹)	2017-18 (₹)
<u>SOURCES OF FUNDS :</u>			
Capital Fund	1	21,639,183	17,587,113
Un-utilised Grant	2	962,829.00	-
TOTAL		<u>22,602,012</u>	<u>17,587,113</u>
<u>APPLICATION OF FUNDS :</u>			
Fixed Assets:	3		
Gross Block		30,947,752	30,803,191
Less: Accumulated Depreciation		<u>20,532,960</u>	<u>19,665,343</u>
Net Block		10,414,792	11,137,848
Investments (At Cost)	4	8,536,637	4,308,500
Current Assets, Loans and Advances:			
Cash & Bank Balances	5	5,215,502	5,480,208
Grant Receivable	2	-	928,740
Loans & Advances	6	<u>381,567</u>	<u>936,669</u>
	(A)	5,597,069	7,345,617
Less: Current Liabilities and Provisions			
Current Liabilities	7	<u>1,946,486</u>	<u>5,204,852</u>
	(B)	1,946,486	5,204,852
Net Current Assets	(A-B)	3,650,583	2,140,765
TOTAL		<u>22,602,012</u>	<u>17,587,113</u>
Notes to Accounts	14		
The schedules referred to above form an integral part of the Balance Sheet As per our Separate Report of even Date			
For A.K LENKA & CO. Chartered Accountants FRN: 0325851E		For AGRAGAMEE	
			
CA A.K Lenka, FCA, DISA (ICAI) PARTNER M No. 061761			Achyut Das Director
Place: Bhubaneswar Date: 20th Nov 2019			

Income & Expenditure Account for the Year Ended

AGRAGAMEE

At/Po-KASHIPUR

Dist-RAYAGADA

ODISHA-765015

INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT FOR THE YEAR ENDED

31st March, 2019

PARTICULARS	SCH.	2018-19 (₹)	2017-18 (₹)
INCOME :			
Grant-in-Aid			
Restricted Grants (including Peoples' Contribution and Organisation's Contribution) for Projects	8	33,272,800	29,736,572
BANK INTEREST			
On Saving Bank		296,786	209,400
On STDR (Matured Deposit)		285,422	117,308
On STDR Intetest Accrued during the Year			306,006
OTHER RECEIPTS			
Donations		1,714,701	1,899,367
Other Revenue	9 (A)	43,097	429,876
TOTAL		35,612,806	32,698,529
EXPENDITURE :			
Utilisation of Restricted Grants (including People's and 'Organisation's Contribution) for Projects	10	29,238,880	29,069,732
Administrative and other input costs	11	1,442,890	2,123,159
TOTAL		30,681,770	31,192,891
SURPLUS/(DEFICIT) BEFORE DEPRECIATION		4,931,036	1,505,638
Less: Depreciation		878,966	932,518
SURPLUS/(DEFICIT)		4,052,070	573,120
Notes to Accounts	14		

The schedules referred to above form an integral part of the Income & Expenditure Account.
As per our Separate Report of even Date

For A.K LENKA & CO.

Chartered Accountants

FRN: 0325851E

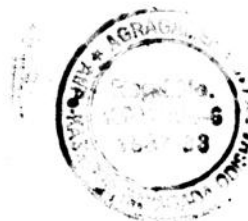
CA A.K Lenka, FCA, DISA (ICAI)

PARTNER

M No. 061761

Place: Bhubaneswar

Date: 20th Nov 2019



For AGRAGAMEE

Achyut Das
Achyut Das
Director

Receipt & Payment Account for the Year Ended

AGRAGAMEE

At/Po-KASHIPUR
Dist-RAYAGADA
ODISHA-765015

RECEIPT AND PAYMENT ACCOUNT FOR THE YEAR ENDED FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2019

PARTICULARS	SCH.	2018-19 (₹)	2017-18 (₹)
Opening Balance			
Cash in hand at Head Office and Site Offices		64,302	64,302
Work Advance at Head Office and Site Offices		310,908	642,302
STDR at Bank		3,169,273	2,169,273
Cash with Scheduled Bank		5,415,906	6,148,189
		8,960,389	9,024,066
RECEIPTS :			
Grant-in-Aid			
Restricted Grants (including People's and Organisation's Contribution) for Projects	12	33,212,462	27,022,062
Bank Interest			
On Saving Bank		296,786	209,400
On STDR (Matured Deposit)		285,422	117,308
On STDR (Accrued Int. received during the Year)		-	-
Loans & Advances		941,742	296,000
Donations		1,714,701	1,899,367
Other Revenue	9	43,097	429,876
TOTAL RECEIPTS		36,494,210	29,974,013
PAYMENTS :			
Payment out of Restricted Grants (including People's and Organisation's Contribution) for Projects	13	29,878,003	27,685,236
Administrative and other input costs	11	1,442,890	2,123,159
Bank Interest (NABARD) refunded to RO	11	-	-
Purchase of Fixed Assets		-	-
Grant Refunded to CAPART		-	57,895
Repayment of Loan		-	171,400
TOTAL PAYMENTS		31,320,893	30,037,690
CLOSING BALANCE			
Cash in hand at Head Office and Site Offices		64,302	64,302
Work-advance		381,567	310,908
STDR at Bank		8,536,637	3,169,273
Cash at Bank		5,151,200	5,415,906
		14,133,706	8,960,389

Notes to Accounts

14

The schedules referred to above form an integral part of the Receipt and Payment Account.
As per our report of even date.

For A.K LENKA & CO.
Chartered Accountants
FRN: 0325851E

CA A.K Lenka, FCA, DISA (ICAI)
PARTNER
M No. 061761

Place: Bhubaneswar
Date: 20th Nov 2019



For AGRAGAMEE

Achyut Das
Director

Aragamee's Publication

1. Ama Gaon, 1988
2. Naba Swajan Kan, 1990
3. Agragamee Eka SuphalRupayan (1 & 2) 1991
4. Gitare Gitare, 1992
5. Agragamee Parikshya and Paryalochana, 1993
6. Sachitra Sansar, 1993
7. Chatrutha Adivasi MahlaSambes, 1994
8. Adivasi Anchalare Samasthanka Pain Sikshya, 1995
9. Banabasi Sansar, 1996
10. Kaha Dhanakaha Adhikar, 1996
11. Sikshya Bitarka, 1996
12. Bhanisya Sansar, 1996
13. Jungal Chithi, 1997
14. Jami Adhigrahan Bill – 1998, 1998
15. Sikhyak Mahasamabesa, 1998
16. Ama Gaon Kashipur, 1998
17. Education for All in tribal areas, 1999
18. Agragamee, How Wrong, How Right?, 1999
19. Overview: Activities of Agragamee, 1999
20. The Illustrated World, 1999
21. MeghaGhumeriGhadaraGhumu, 2000
22. Grama Sasan Nua Sapan, 2002
23. Kutumba Panthi , 2002
24. Ama Gapa Bahi, 2002
25. Ama Gita Bahi, 2002
26. Kutumba Panthi O Khadya Nirapata, 2003
27. Amapanchayat Amayo Jana, 2004
28. Kapi Tu Kahun Aeilu, 2005
29. Jhaunli Napada Kehi, 2005
30. Chronicle of a Struggle, 2006
31. Governance in Tribal Areas: Myths and Realities, 2006
32. Jaibika Chasa Pranali, 2006
33. Water Right Water Wrong, 2006
34. Alternative State Water Policy, 2006
35. Samajika Samikshya, 2006
36. Community Grain Bank, 2006
37. Ama Chasabasa Ama Jungle, 2007
38. Jagati Karana O Sangramarata Mainsha, 2007
39. Jala Sampada O Sarajyabad, 2007
40. Stories From the Beyond, 2007
41. Ama Gaon Kashipur (New), 2007
42. Nua Patha Nua Bata, 2007
43. Arohan, 2007
44. MatiKaduara Manisha, 2008
45. Kashipur Diary, 2008
46. AtmaKaha: Jana Pathabhartna Paribrajakar, 2008
47. Food Rights Collectives, Odisha, 2010
48. Study of Pedagogy and Access to Education for Primary Age Group Children, 2005-06, 2010
49. Dongara Katha, 2011
50. HatiAau MusaGapa, 2013
51. Dui Chapalara Kahani, 2013
52. Kau Dake KaKa, 2014
53. Nasrari Pratishta O Parichalana Sambandhia Siksha Pranali, 2014
54. Nirantara Krushi Samndia Siksha Pranali, 2014
55. Haladi Chasa O Prakriyakarana Siksha Pranali, 2014
56. Reclaiming the Commons with Women's Power, 2014
57. Soura Shakti Chalita Lamp Ra Byabahara O Maramati Shiksha Pranali, 2014
58. Our Land Our Life
59. Soochana Varta- 6 Issues
60. Kau Dake Ka



A woman in Seed-Cum-Grain Bank at Dandabad Village



Women preserve many indigenous seeds varieties in the Seed cum Grain Bank



Family farm visit of Mr. Achyut Das, Director, Agragamee at Chalanmunda village, Pujariguda G.P.

OUR PROJECTS

AGRAGAMEE

At/P.O. : Kashipur-765015
Dist. : Rayagada
Phone : 06865-185140
E-mail : info@agrgamee.org

AGRAGAMEE

At/P.O. : Dasamantapur-765028
Dist. : Koraput

AGRAGAMEE

At/P.O. : Laxmipur-765013
Dist. : Koraput

AGRAGAMEE

At/P.O. : Rayagada-765001
Dist. : Rayagada

AGRAGAMEE

At/P.O. : Thakurmunda-757038
Dist. : Mayurbhanj

AGRAGAMEE

At/P.O. : Nuapada-766105
Dist. : Nuapada

AGRAGAMEE

At : Goudaguda
P.O. : Tentulikhunti-764070
Dist. : Nabarangapur

AGRAGAMEE

At : Derakumpa
P.O. : Gochhapada-762002
Dist. : Kandhamal

AGRAGAMEE

At : Adri
P.O. : Gopinathpur-766025
Dist. : Kalahandi

AGRAGAMEE

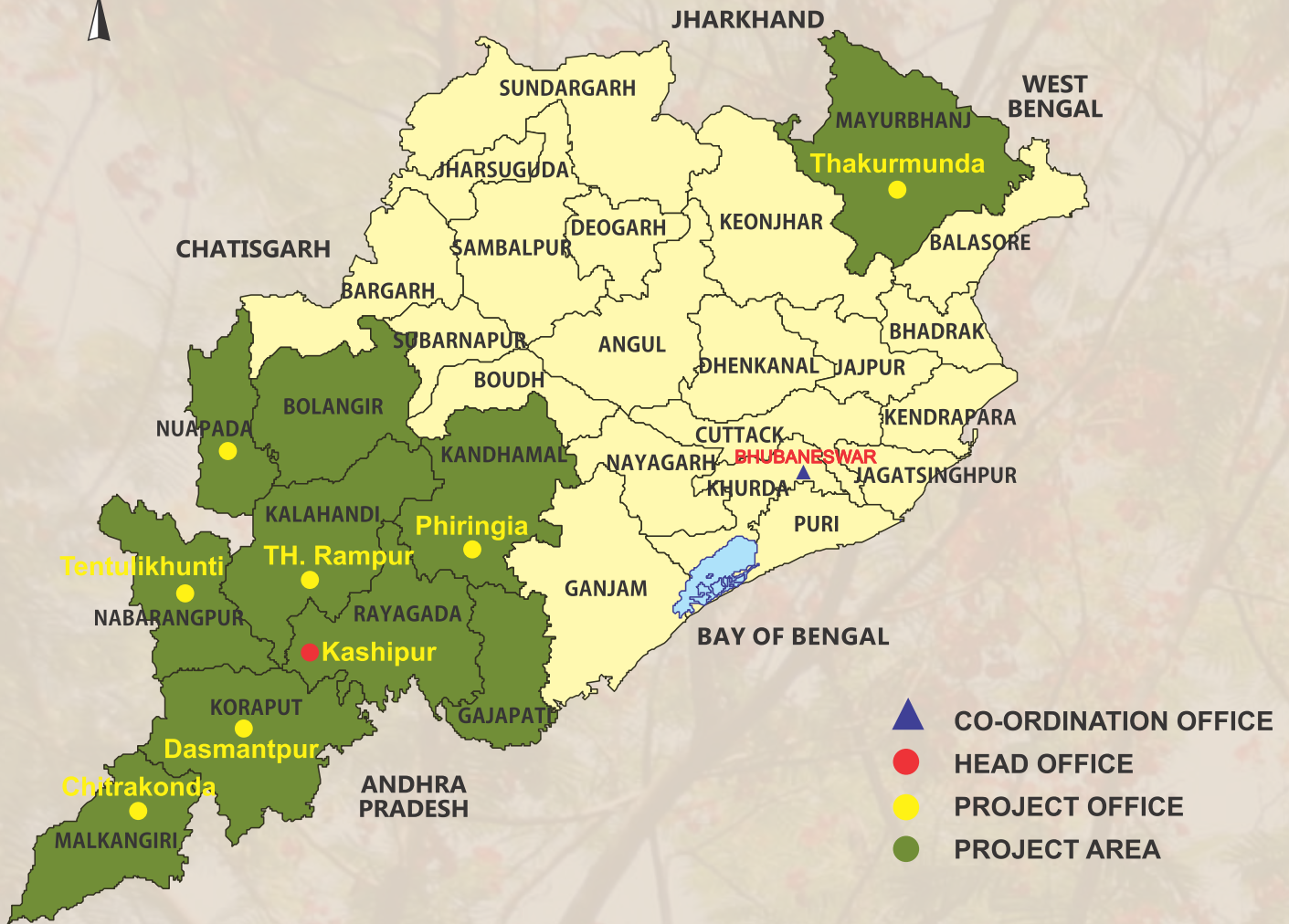
At/P.O. : Padepadar-766026
Via : Mukhiguda
Dist. : Kalahandi

AGRAGAMEE

Co-ordination Office
ND-8, VIP Area, IRC Village
Bhubaneswar-751015
Phone : 0674-2551123

www.agrgamee.org

ODISHA



AGRAGAMEE

Kashipur-765015, District : Rayagada, Odisha, India
info@agragee.org, www.agragee.org