

## Right to Information

- Pre-school services under ICDS Programme improved in 855 villages benefitting 10000 children
- Functioning of Schools improved, and school buildings completed in 923 villages
- 20 backward Blocks in 10 districts have more people centred planning due to improved community participation
- People's use of Right to Information Act improves government programmes in 1000 villages in 10 Districts of Odisha.

## Forging a Path To the Sustainable Development Goals



Aragamee has helped tribal communities of Odisha, who are recognised as some of the poorest communities in the country, make steady progress towards the sustainable development goals of reducing poverty (SDG1), increasing food security (SDG2), good health and well-bing (SDG3), accessing quality education (SDG4), gender equality (SDG5), Combating climate change (SDG13), conserving biodiversity (SDG15), good governance and justice (SDG16) and connect with indigenous communities across the globe (SDG17).

*Tribal communities have preserved some of the most pristine and exquisite habitats in our country. Their traditional knowledge systems, and low-carbon-footprint lifestyles show us a way out of the climate change muddle that threatens the whole of mankind. However, there is little recognition of this, and they are being driven to the margins of survival due to the pursuit of market lead development.*

**Your help and support can enable these communities survive; rebuild their habitats and regain their self-reliance.**



## At a Glance

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Registration No.:	KPT-289/6/1987-88
FCRA No.:	104960035
12A No.:	AAATA1775EE2021401
80G No.	AAATA1775EF20214
Website:	www.agragamee.org
Area of Work:	Districts of Rayagada, Koraput, Malkangiri, Nawrangpur, Kalahandi, Nuapada Balangir, Kandhamal, Mayurbhanj, Gajapati in Odisha.

**ଅଗ୍ରାଗାମୀ**  
**AGRAGAMEE**

## Vision

a world without hunger and injustice

## Mission

An integrated approach to help tribal communities mobilize for self-sustaining development initiatives

# agragamee

*Aragamee is a non-profit organisation working with the poorest communities in Odisha in India. It works in the ten most backward tribal districts of Odisha, with an integrated people centred approach combining economic development and social mobilization. It's models of development have universal application for addressing poverty. It draws strength and support from likeminded individuals and National and International Organisations.*



## Our Journey

# ଅଗ୍ରାଗାମୀ AGRAGAMEE

We began in 1981, seeking to understand the paradox of poverty and hunger in a land of abundance. The challenges were immense. There were few roads to reach the villages; hunger epidemics and exploitation seemed inherent to the yearly cycle. A series of discussions and dialogues with the community, helped us understand the multi-layered systems of oppression, and coercion. It also opened the doors of perception to local community members to concepts of justice, equality and human rights and empowered them for food and voice.

Aragamee has committed itself to siding with the tribal and other poor communities so that poverty and hunger are eliminated. It has consciously planned various measures to ensure inclusion, focusing on women headed households, children and girls and landless households and marginal farmers in its various interventions.

All this has been taken up with a strong collaboration with the State. Whether it is for more pro-poor policies, or for the implementation of people centred laws, Aragamee has always sought to play a constructive role to ensure that the most marginalised and vulnerable groups get their due.

## Our Work

**Primary education:** We seek to break the poverty– low literacy–exploitation–poverty cycle in the tribal areas through quality education. Our interventions include a demonstration school for tribal girls, teacher training, village learning centres, village libraries and development of methodology and learning material.



**Agricultural development:** Through training, demonstration plots for organic and sustainable agriculture and support for improved land use, Aragamee helps small and marginal tribal farmer adopt sustainable and organic cultivation practice and find food and income security.

**Climate Action:** Aragamee's eco-village development programme, helps tribal farmers rejuvenate eroded uplands and counter the impact of climate change. Its agroecological models based on minimum soil disturbance helps build up soil carbon and is being adopted

by farmers and bringing about large scale change.

**Women's Empowerment:** Tribal women are the poorest of the poor. Aragamee's sustained efforts to help and empower women include mobilisation and awareness camps, and entrepreneurship development. Women and girls' literacy and education programmes have also been taken up to develop leadership and bring about gender equality.



**Biodiversity Conservation:** The rich stock of genetic material preserved and propagated by the tribal communities is fast depleting affecting biodiversity as also climate resilience. Aragamee helps farmers build up their gene pool of agricultural seeds through introducing improved cultivation practices, farmer camps, farmer exchange programmes, and seed fairs.

**Youth Development:** Young people in the tribal areas are often in a bind. With a little education, and more discontent, they alternate between farming and seasonal migration, finding it difficult to make ends meet. Aragamee's programmes help youth to improve their farming and horticulture skills, as also emerge as change leaders providing leadership and direction to the village community,

**Networking and Advocacy:** An integral part of the work, networking has helped Aragamee reach out to like-minded organisations, institutions and academics, and advocate for pro-tribal laws and policies.



**Collaboration with the Government:** All of Aragamee's work has been taken up with convergence and collaboration with the government. This includes policy level dialogue, collaboration for implementation of tribal development and livelihood programmes, and grassroots advocacy to give a voice to the deprived and the vulnerable sections.

## Impact:

### Education

- 15000 children from 250 remote tribal villages pass primary school and pursue further education and careers.
- Students of classes IV and V write and illustrate the Annual Report of Aragamee School.
- Percentage of children reading jumps from 15% to 80% in 18 government primary schools in 3 tribal districts.



### Agriculture and Climate Change

- 35 Watersheds reaching 3000 farmers, and treatment of 15000 hectares of land
- 50000 farmers trained and practicing organic and climate friendly agriculture,



### Biodiversity Conservation

- Indigenous millets and rice varieties promoted in 4 tribal districts and 15000 farmers
- Indigenous breeds of poultry and goateries promoted amongst 500 farmers in 35 villages

### Women's Development

- Tribal women's federation Ama Sangathan successfully markets minor forest and agricultural produce in Indian cities
- Tribal women attend the World Food Summit to connect with other indigenous communities and small farmers across the globe.

