Agragamee 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-being (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).

Vision

a world without hunger and injustice

Mission

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

Agragamee is a non-profit organization working with the poorest communities in Odisha in India. It works in the ten most backward tribal districts of Odisha, with an explicit aim to end poverty across the area. It brings together people, corporate resources and government policy to address the needs that exist in the area. It works towards reducing poverty and injustice, as well as empowering the people it works with.

At a Glance

Address: Agragamee, AsPh, Kashipur, Dist. Rayagada, Odisha, India, PIN-765015
Email: info@agraamee.org
Registration No.: 4110/1987-88
FCRA No.: 104650236
12A No.: AAITA1773EE0002401
13A No.: AAITA1773EE002016
Website: www.agragamee.org

Area of Work: Districts of Rayagada, Koraput, Malkangiri, Narbargarh, Kalahandi, Nabarangapur Bakarg, Kandhamal, Mayurbhanj, Gajapati in Odisha.
**Our Journey**

We began in 1995, 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.

Agragamee 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, focussing on women-headed households, children and gilrs 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, Aagramee 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-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, Agragamee helps small and marginal tribal farmers adopt sustainable and organic cultivation practice and find food and income security.

**Climate Action:** Agragamee’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 being adopted by farmers and bringing about large scale change.

**Women’s Empowerment:** Tribal women are the poorest of the poor. Agragamee’s sustained efforts to help and empower women include mobilisation and awareness camps, and entrepreneurship development. Women and girl 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 is preserved and propagated by the tribal communities is fast depleting affecting biodiversity as also climate resilience. Agragamee 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, Agragamee’s programme helps them 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 Agragamee reach out to like-minded organisations, institutions and academics, and advocate for pro-tribal laws and policies.

**Collaboration with the Government:** All of Agragamee’s work has been taken up with convergence and collaboration with the government. The Eco-policy 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 in primary school and pursue further education and careers.
- Students of classes IV and V write and illustrate the Annual Report of Agragamee School.
- 8500 children reading jumps from 15% to 90% in 18 government primary schools in 10 tribal blocks.

**Agriculture and Climate Change:**
- 5000 farmers trained and practicing organic and climate friendly agriculture.

**Biodiversity Conservation:**
- Indigenous millets and rice varieties promoted in 10 tribal blocks and 5000 farmers.
- Indigenous breeds of poultry and paddy 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.