

2008-2009

Annual Report



AGRAGAMEE

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ANNUAL REPORT 2008-2009

AGRAGAMEE

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Directors Note

The National Policy on Voluntary Sector of Government of India 2007 indicates the following:

This Policy recognizes three instruments of partnership, viz., (i) consultation, through a formal process of interaction at the Centre, State and District level; (ii) strategic collaboration to tackle complex interventions where sustained social mobilization is critical over the long term; and (iii) project funding through standard schemes.

Keeping this in view and also various policies and Country Strategy Papers of various International Donor Agencies, Agramee has tried to understand the micro and macro level processes that would be in conformity with its next level of interventions in the areas where mass poverty and deprivation are widely seen. Agramee has been functioning primarily as a) An Activist Organisation empowering the communities, b) a Professional Development Organisation helping the poor and marginalized to ensure their livelihoods and c) an Organisation to work on the Policy Advocacy and Action Research. Combining all three has been very difficult at times as the Scale of Collaborative framework with the Government Organisations has been generally weakened. On the other hand, demonstration of activism is not appreciated by the Power that be. It is also noticed that the Professionals with right kind of attitude and aptitude are not coming to the NGO Sector to work hand in hand with the poor.

Many friends suggested that Agramee should go through an Organisational Development (OD) exercise to prepare a Road Map for next 10 years. Any Donor would ask Agramee whether it has a stated Gender Policy, a HR (Human Resource) Policy and Accounting Manual. While working among the Tribals, Dalits and other poorer Section of the Society we have never thought anything other than working as volunteers in a Mission Mode. But now in some cases they (International Donors) want to see these Policies and Practices in Black and White without which a Partnership couldn't be established.

Agramee has hired Experts and Specialists in this field to undertake the task of organizing an OD and designing policies and best practices. No doubt, this exercise has been very expensive and time consuming but has been successfully completed with the support of our friends and some donors. Some of the Recommendations have been pragmatic while many are not. Does it mean that Agramee has come under the fold of corporatisation of the processes it has initiated? Does it mean that the structural changes within Agramee have been suggested to keep it dynamic in a situation where the processes are in a flux? Does it mean that Agramee has to satisfy the specific demands of the donors?

Agramee has always believed that in remote tribal area where the issues of poverty and hunger are extremely complex, what is needed is a collaborative framework and an alliance of all stakeholders. The Organisational policies and strategies are only tools to make this collaborative framework more effective. In 1980s, when Agramee was starting to work, that collaborative framework was not designed as a matter of policy but it is now part of a stated National Policy of the Government of India. It is a real opportunity for us and the people. In the year 2007-08, it had envisaged the Collaborative framework to take up issues related to Water. This year it has been the Field Bases Advocacy.

2008-09 was the year of vigorous action in the field of Natural Resource Management and Livelihood Securities. It was also momentous year to address the Advocacy issues related to various Public Policies. The year has seen the closure of several important programmes but also the beginning of a new phase. The fund flow has been less but the spirit of the organization has not been weakened.

Achyut Das
Director

2nd Oct, 2009

Introduction

Aragamee during its long years of activities in the remote tribal areas with the some of the poorest communities has always raised various issues of insecurities that poor people face – Food and Nutrition, Life and Livelihood, Water and Shelter, Health and Education, Energy and Environment . Despite multi-dimensional efforts by the Government, the Panchayats and the NGOs, the situation has not changed as per the expectation. Various entitlements have not been made available to people and so are the basic services. The so called Peace and Good Governance is hardly visible. A time has come that people – poor people – become more assertive and take control of their resources and use their traditional knowledge systems to change the existing situation.

The challenges are coming in three ways as follows:

1. Can the poorest of the poor have access to resources particularly to Land and develop FAMILY FARMS in rain-fed conditions so that the food and livelihood securities are ensured round the year?
2. Can the village be an Eco-village?
3. Can the People mobilised themselves for Field Based Advocacy?

To develop Family Farms demands a range of interventions and mobilisations. Those who have got land will pose no problems but those who are landless will get the land from the Village Commons and apply for Land Entitlements. Thus, one acre of the land will be made available to develop such Family Farms where there will be proper fencing - green or stone. Each family will have fruit bearing trees, cereals, pulses, vegetables, tubers and some cash crops. If irrigation can be made available, then the production will go up. Families will first look at their food security and then for marketable surplus. The entire development processes will revolve around these Family Farms with the best utilisation of available resources.

The villages will launch a movement to become eco-villages where the management of the natural resources will be on the ecological basis. Organic Farming will replace Chemical and commercial agriculture. There will be complete recycling of agricultural waste for compost, vermi-compost to improve soil fertility. Indigenous seeds will be used. For energy security, renewable energy sources like solar, wind, biomass will be extensively used. This will check the intrusion of all kinds of market-driven inputs in our villages. Eco-villages will have total practice of sustainable agriculture. The village ecology will be reaffirmed once again.

As the articulation of the poor people especially women will be strong, there will be assertion to have access and to have control of the productive resources. The country has passed some progressive legislations like RTI, NREGA and also several policies like National Tribal Policy etc. The process of Public Hearing and Social Audit will also be required along with the formulation of Micro-plans. Resource Literacy will lead to political literacy which will accelerate the process of developing people-centred institutions. Such institutions are the future of the democracy in our country and are the centre of development and change.

There has been several programmes and projects implemented during the year out of which the most remarkable one is the EU funded project called Geographically-based Programme in India (GBPI) through the German INGO German Agro Action. This programme gave Aragamee to consolidate its efforts in the field of Organic Farming. AID, a volunteer-based organisation has supported for construction of 500 vermicompost tanks. It has been envisaged that each of 2000 organic farmers will have a vermin-compost tank. Field-based Policy Advocacy was supported by the Concern Worldwide. Other notable programmes were education for the tribal girls and strengthening of women's federations. In all the villages, there has been an emphasis that landless people apply for land under FRA and for employment under NREGS. Public Awareness was built up along with campaigns and rallies, Padayatras and Cycle Yatras, Dharnas and Public Hearings. The interface with the Panchayats has been strengthened across all the action areas. In Schedule V areas, PESA is the strongest legislation but its implementation has been very weak. Aragamee has build up networks to strengthen PESA. It has played also a very proactive role in Orissa Water Forum, Sustanet and joined various state and national level campaigns and networks. It has also undertaken Study and Action Research Projects such as Bio-diversity Conservation and Piblic Report on Health.

Aragamee has joined hands with many Civil Society Organisations, Media and Legislatures to draw the attention in the Public Domain and it has succeeded to some extent. In fact, tangible and intangible achievements of Aragamee during the year 2008-09 are comparable in all respects.

Contents:

1. Primary Education
2. Empowerment and sustainable Livelihood through grassroots Action and Training
3. NRM & Watershed Development- towards Sustainable livelihood.
4. Organic Farming, Food, Nutrition & Ecological Security
5. Combating Energy poverty and social Economic Deprivation by effective use of Renewable Energy Resources.
6. Empowering women through Institutional Building
7. Bio-Diversity Conservation for Generation of Sustainable livelihood
8. Advocacy, Governance and Research Generating Impact on Livelihood issues.
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1. Primary Education

A: Progressive Education in Remote Tribal Blocks: An Effort towards Education for All

A.1: Introduction

The basic Objective of the programme is to

- To provide tribal children, and specially tribal girls the opportunity for primary education;
- To initiate a process of scientific analysis and thinking on the prevalent socio-economic problems, and help the need for a concerted effort for alternatives
- To develop a demonstrable model of primary education for tribal areas, that will meet the modern day needs, as also equip the community to meet its own development priorities;
- To help the tribal community in the articulation of the demand for quality and efficient delivery of primary education at the village level;

A.2: Mukta Gyana Kutira

Set upped in November 2004 the SDTT funded schools in Kashipur and Padepader have been engaged in providing a crucially important service to the local adivasi and marginalized communities (see chart 1 below) through imparting primary education to their girl children, who otherwise would not have had the opportunity to acquire quality education for several social, economic, political and geographical reasons.

Serial Number	Name of school	Number of children	Number of villages where children are attending from	Block and District
1	Mukta Gyana Kutir, Kashipur	142	6 villages	1 block (Kashipore) of Rayagada district
2	Mukta Gyana Kutir, Padepader	70	9 villages	2 blocks (Tuamula Rampur - 5 villages and Tentulikhunti - 4 villages) of Kalahandi district.
3	Mukta Vidyalaya, Adri	52	5 villages	1 block (Thuamula Rampur)

These schools have been catering primary education facilities along with a Mid-day Meal, and other extra-curricular services to 212 (as per present school register) children from 15 villages of the respective areas.

A.3 Education Committee

3 nos of 13 member education committees called *Siksha Committee* formed with the parents with an equal representation of fathers and mothers to look in to various aspects of the school. In a participatory way both men and women members of the committee are taking the responsibility of day to day activities of the schools. Some of the aspects the committee is looking are

1. The attendance of the girl students and the teachers.
2. Regular village visits of the school teachers;
3. performance of children, beginning with attendance and going on to problems that children face,
4. Evaluation and school reports;
5. And discuss other problems of the school or centers are prominent.

The committees are also monitoring the collection process of school.

A.4 Teachers Meeting

A.5 Parents and Teachers Interaction Meeting

The strong bindings between the teachers and parents have resulted in ensuring a higher degree of participation from the community in the functioning of the programme. The higher rate of attendance of the parents in the meetings, despite their very busy and toiling days, give ample evidence of their keenness to take part in the process of the programme. almost all the parents promised to volunteer labour – the only substantial possession they have, and some material donations. Also, their inclination towards sustaining the schools is evidenced by their monetary contribution to the programme, which they are doing with utmost difficulty.

A.7 Mid day meal Programme

The Noon Meal programme has helped to address caste issues as well. On Saturdays, children prepare the meal, taking turns in batches. This encourages children to accept differences of caste, breaking with traditional taboos of their villages. In several instances, children have continued with their convictions, despite objections from their parents. In some cases, however, upper caste parents have withdrawn their children.

A variety of cereals produced locally form part of the diet to enrich the food value. The parent teachers' meetings have provided a platform to discuss these issues. By and large, the community has seen that it is a greater advantage to educate their girls than to deny them on the grounds of casteism. The arrangement is to provide rice, dal, and eggs twice in a week and bananas thrice in a month. Every Saturday the students prepare the meal, with supplements including vegetables, cereals, etc. contributed by the students. such as vegetables, ragi etc. are voluntarily brought by the students. It helps children to have no class and caste division. It bridge-up the gaps of disparity and students encouraged to learn new subject.

A.8 Health Check ups

A.9 Teachers Training

The teachers are provided teachers training for developing their excellence. The trainings are mainly based on two aspects, one is learning and another is participation. How children will be taught in primary level it is a part of the training. The medium of the teaching and the procedure of the training, the preparation of the learning materials and to create interest among the students for learning are included in the syllabus of the training. Ascertaining the level

of standard of student's mathematics, science, social science, language, students psychology, songs, story, game etc. All the subjects are presented through song, dance and story.

Traditional teaching does not create any progress among the students. Two years of their school life spent in only learning alphabets and counting numbers. The most important period of the mental development of the students is spend in all these traditional studies. So what is to be taught to the children which will help them to their mental development was content of the discussion.

A.10 Library

In order to expand the sphere of knowledge of the students library facilities are made available to the students. A reading room especially for the children is hugely enjoyed by the senior students, as they steal time away from the noisy younger ones. Most sought after by the students are the mythologies that detail the adventures of the different deities that rule over our fates. In addition, several children also have developed a liking for adventure stories. The more popular books are quickly circulated amongst the students, and form a point for discussion after classes.

A.11 Vocational Education

Along with classroom education vocational training are provided to the students which will help them to adopt there source of livelihood. Various handicrafts such as terracotta, doll making, book binding etc. are learning here.

Gardening: Divided into three groups i.e. Indrabati, Nagabali and Bansadhara children have small plots for vegetable cultivation. They are taught the principles of organic cultivation, and the vegetables thus grown supplement the mid-day meal. The Agramee, Kashipur Children produced vegetables worth Rs.1500/ worth of vegetables all of which was consumed by the children in the mid-day meal. The children of Agramee Padepadar produced Rs.800 worth of vegetables for their mid-day meal.

Handicrafts: Patchwork seats using unused plastic sacking, and colorful wool material for embroidery enable students to liven up their classrooms. The local potters were involved to help children learn to make clay toys. Children learnt to collect and clean the clay on their own, and also make a range of toys including various animals, fruits, and vehicles have been made by the children.

Notebook binding training: 20 selected students were trained in note-book binding in two phases. These note-books and registers are used for official purposes, as also in the school. A total of 200 note-books were produced by the children.

Sewing: Sewing also proved an absorbing activity for the children. They learnt embroidery, as also stitching buttons and hooks, and hemming their clothes.

Vermiculture: Trainings of vermiculture have been imparted to the children with the aim of enabling them acquiring livelihood skills. Since agriculture is pivotal to the sustenance of the communities this training has been helping improve the agricultural production.

A.12 Bal Sansad/ Children's Parliament

To make children a perfect citizen in future "balsansad" program are included in these syllabus by Agramee. Which helps students aware of democratic election and their rights and responsibilities.

A.14 Sustainability

B: "Comprehensive Development of Backward Tribal communities in Pairaju and Luising Gram Panchayats in Kandhamal District."

B.1: Introduction & Objectives

Goal of the Project:

Comprehensive development of the tribal communities attained in 47 villages of Luising and Pairaju Gram Panchayat in Kandhamal District of Orissa.

B.2: Achievements

B.2.1: Running of Education Centers.

AGRAMEE is running 15 nos of education centers in these two GPs under this Project. These centers are functioning in both day and evening time with the need of community. These centers are not only meant for the children within the age group of 6-14, but also functioning as a learning and information center for the community.

B.2.2 Teachers Training:

The joint teachers' training was organized in third week of May, 2008 at Derakumpa project office, where the teachers of all centers participated. From **16.05.08 to 20.05.2008** detail teaching methods and other curriculum activities trained to the teachers. Preparation of learning materials and Bio-diversity activity technology also trained to teachers. In each month a refresh training programme conducted at Derakumpa Project office or field centers during the first week of the month. In that context the teachers submitted their progress report and shared their problems and innovative ideas used in their centers.

B.2.3 ECO Camp:

The children are keen to their nature. They know a lot about their forests and jungles. This nature is supporting their livelihood. They have the knowledge about their nature, but due to lack of education they could not use it properly. For this context Agramee organized Eco-Camps at Luising field office as on date **13.07.08 to 14.07.2008** and at Pahiraju field office as on date **15.07.08 to 16.07.08**

A One and half day programme conducted where 90 children from 8 education centers attained at Luising and 71 children from 7 education centers attained at Pahiraju.

The following subjects are discussed.

- Self introduction by the children.
- Importance of ecology in day to day life.
- Observing the sky, stars by using the telescope

- Nature study(Field Visit)
- Use of various elements of nature in our day to life.
- A simple experiment by using soil, seeds, leaves etc.
- To know the different ways of soil erosion, water pollution and forest degradation.
- To sensitize the children to protect and save their environment and nature. The children visited the forest and collected the samples of different species and discussed on various aspects of these species in the camp.

B.2.4 Horticultural Development:

The people of this area are not so aware about the vegetable cultivation and horticultural activity. In this year we had raised a nursery at Rukpadar and planted drumstick, papaya, bamboo plants. Out of that we also seedling nurseries in all education centers. After raised of plants we distributed to all villagers. More than 350 beneficiaries got plants from these nurseries. We also oriented them about plantation and use of organic fertilizer. Bamboo plants use for both logs and green fencing. In maximum villages the new variety papaya (bandana) produced. In two villages (petupidia and senisuga) we have introduced some variety of tuber crops and it has good production also.

B.2.5 Crop Demonstration:

Agriculture is the main source of livelihood for these people. To aware the farmers and increase the productive capacity of the land we provided seeds like Black gram, Groundnut, cowpea, beans, green gram, mandia, chilly, brigon, tomato, Lady finger, cucumber etc, to 19 villages (452 beneficiary) and they cultivated these seeds in their land. We introduced off-season vegetable cultivation for which the farmers can get more profit. In maximum villages like katimaska, Petupidia, Senisuga, Kilukumpa and Taladanganam, the farmers harvested more groundnuts from their river source lands. In more villages farmers produced more vegetables and got more profit. In Rabi season we provided Horse Nuts, Mustards and black grams and green grams. People cultivated properly and now proceed for harvesting. Some farmers got more than Rs.10000/- from their vegetable cultivation.

B.2.6 Quarterly Newsletter:

To aware the local people and children for different local issues and different policies related to the topics of education, health, PESA, water, sanitation, NRM activities quarterly News letter published. Different case studies of different issues and some stories written by the students, teachers and animators also published. **More than 100 copies published in July-08 and 100 copies also published in Oct-08** which were distributed to students and different personnel.

B.2.7 Support for establishment of community centers:

The community constructs the education centers. The roofs of these centers are made out of the leaves or straws and the floor made by soil, which are temporary. To make the roof and the centers permanent a little support has borne from this project. This year we provided tile for four centers like Gumaldani, Kalampada, Sambhukusa and barhala.

B.2.8 Training of federation members:

A training-cum –workshop of women federation members was organized as on date **29.05.2008** at Luising field center. More than 157 participants attained from 35 villages of four GPs. Mainly the members of women SHGs, the PRI members and some ICDS Personnel participated the training programme. The main objectives of the training were creating awareness on NREGA Act and its implementation. Different Govt. Programmes & schemes, their guide lines, Grain Bank linkages with bank, Micro enterprise with NTFP. Mainly discussed on forestland rights and aply of forestland. Then we interacted to women with other persons through VRC.

B.2.9 Panchayat Level Children's Federation and Annual meet:

Aragamee at Luising has organized a two days children's Annual meet from **06.09.2008 to 07.09.2008** where 213 children had participated from the government primary schools and Aragamee running centers. In the first day, children had gone to the field taking their flags. Then they participated in song, storytelling GK tests, essay competition, debate etc. The cultural activities also performed by the children in the evening. Second day the children participated in different athletic & sports events. Then formed the federation and nominated the federation members including president and secretary etc. These events organized to explore the inherent qualities of the children. It creates a scope for the children to assemble in one place where they can shared their cultures and their thoughts with each other. The villagers and teachers accompanied and encouraged the children and enjoyed the programme. Due to communal riots and urban election no senior officer or representatives attained. The sarpanch of Luising distributed the prizes and encouraged to the children, advised to the children to labors hard for their success.

B.2.10 Special campaign on plantation of Grafted Lemon:

To increase the production of Limon and create more space for marketing now people plant more grafted lemon in their dry land. These areas are rich climate for producing more lemon. For that purpose about 4000 nos of grafted seedlings were preserved and distributed to the villagers (more than 40 villages) for plantaing. By that context Aragamee organized a two days training on lemon grafting and special campaign as on date **20.07.08 to 21.07.08** at lusing field center. More than 56 Participants attained the training programme and gained a practical knowledge about lemon grafting and planting. Grafted lemons distributed to the villagers and they were planted in their lands. Then as on date **05.08.08 to 06.08.2008** a two days training programme organized at Luising about Limon grafting. More than 62 participants attained the training programme. In that training programme Aragamee provided Moss and siketure to the participants and the participants were grafted more than 7000 plants Grafted and preserved in several places. Now in our three field centers we have preserved more than 1800 grafted lemons and in other education centers more than 5000 plants also preserved. The last year which plants distributed also maturated by the beneficiaries and some time guided by the teachers and Aragamee volunteers.

B.2.11 Organic farming and Soil Management Training:

To understanding and learn the techniques of managing their resources like organic farming and soil management system we organized two training programmes .As on date **27.07.08 to 28.07.2008** a two days training programme on soil management conducted at Pahiraju field center. More than 83 participants from different villages were attained the training programme. The Junior Agriculture Officer Phulbani Block, Mr. P.K. Mohanty Participated as a resource person for this training programme. Then as on date **21.12.08 to 22.12.2008** a two days training programme

on organic farming was conducted at Luising field center. More than 76 participants from different villages were attained. Mr.K.S.Patnaik, the JAO.Phiringia Block attained the training programme as a resource person. Now in so many households constructed vermin compost in their house land and use organic fertilizers in their land.Some farmers sell vermin composts at markets and got more profits. Mainly in Petupidia and senisuga villages more than 30 vermin compost pits constructed and farmers used these composts for cultivation.

B.2.12 District Level workshop on PESA :

To empower the PRI members, create awareness for them and to pressurize the Govt. for smooth implementation of various programmes conducted by the panchayatiraj system. We were organized a district level workshop on PESA as on date **25.06.2008** at Gandhismruti bhawan Phulbani.

The workshop was started at around 10am in the Gandhi Smruti Bhawan of the Kandhamal Dist Head quarter. Karendra Majhi. MLA Baliguda legislative assembly and Sakuntala Mallick, President Kandhamal Zilla Parishad were lighting the candle in the inaugural session on the programme. Sri Paul Pradhan, Convenor, Kandhamal District Association of Volunteer Organization chaired as the President in this workshop.

The Workshop on PESA participated by above 250 participants from different stakeholder of district. The great successful thing of this workshop is that participants from different level in the three tiers Panchayat Raj System are represented in huge number to make this workshop most successful. 6 Block Chairmans, 13 Zilla Parishad Member, 38 Sarpanch 37 Member of Panchayat Samiti, and above 30 Ward Members of the district gathered their and share their valuable views in the context of the workshop. Most eminent social activists, people from the field of media and social work, reputed social thinker and planner, members of different village level organization and NGO's and finally the common man of this district took part in this workshop.

Among them, Karendra Majhi, MLA, Baliguda, Sakuntala Mallick, President Kandhamal Zilla Parishad, Netraman Seth, Vice President Kandhamal Zilla Parishad, Jambeswar Pradhan, President, Kandhamal Dist Sarpanch Association, A. Sethi, District Planning Officer, Kandhamal, A. U. Mahesh, ORMAS, Kandhamal, N.C.Mohanty, DFO, Kandhamal, Dr Mishra, ADMO, Kandhamal, T. Mohanty, District Agricultural Officer and Paul Pradhan, Convenor, Kandhamal District Association of Volunteer Organization were the key participant of this workshop.

The main aim lies at Mass Awareness in between various stakeholders of the district and an effort to unite the people from ground level and enlighten them with lots of information and showing them the way of success. During the period of communal riots more PRI members from different GPs demanded for one day refresh orientation programme and peace strategy also. The district collector also advised for one more workshops on peace and forest land rights. In our project are people demanded for proper palli sabha for forest land right Act. Without the knowledge of villagers Govt. officials formed committee and then people protect and again they formed committee properly.

B.2.13 Leadership Training

The people of these areas are not so aware about their rights and about the government schemes, for which it is necessary to organize the people and aware them about their rights and different govt. programmes. The main objectives of the training programme to bring the people to one forum and sharing their problems openly. To build up their capacities & encourage them for demanding their rights. To create leadership among the youths of more than 7 panchayats. In that context Agramee organized one Leadership training at Luising as on date **18.08.2008**. More than 87 participants attended the training programme. In that training the resource person Mr. Prasant Pradhan detailed explained about build up leadership and then discussed about NREGA work problems and demands of the people. Then after lunch the main discussion was about the forest land rights and distribute the form for apply of forest land enclosement. Then at 5pm close the training programme.

B.2.14 Meeting of women SHG members

The economical condition of the people is very poor. After the intervention of Agramee it has been given priority to people saving and strengthens the SHG to create grain banks for which they can use the grain at the lean period and not exploited by the Sahukars or moneylenders. The women coordinator organized the women and aware them for saving and other vocational facilities for which they can earn more and strengthen their livelihood. All teachers also mobilized and facilitate to the women SHGs for more saving and bank linkages. Four Women SHGs implemented the MDM programme supported by the DSWO Kandhamal. Now five SSGs took loans from bank for business (Local harvest seeds) and got financial help from ITDA, Phulbani. Some SSGs like in Rukpadar and Kilukumpa took fishery activity in their village ponds.

B.2.15 Peace Meeting:

During the end of August a critical Communal riots happen in kandhamal District due to the murder of five hindu santhas. During 2nd week to 3rd week of September 2008 the violence spread in all project areas of Agramee. People burnt several houses and police stations and murder police also. After some days Agramee organized two peace meetings at pahiraju panchayat and at Balandapada Panchayat. Awaered the people to stop the riots and live with peace. Cooperate district administration to conduct peace rally and meetings in all over District.

2. Empowerment and sustainable Livelihood through grassroots Action and Training

2.1 Introduction.

Most of the tribal in India live in a poor economic state; socio economically deprived poor political representation and poor infrastructural facilities. All such situations put them behind in the development scenario. Their low literacy rate & poverty always makes them vulnerable for exploitation, Food insecurity, in accessibility to schemes available in the mainstream sources, poor health & sanitation situation. The losses of land, restriction on access to forest produce and lack of livelihood options for survival have caused hardships to tribal people. Although there are several constitutional safeguards and various programs of govt. departments & agencies, put a very little impact on the tribal people due to poor quality implementation of programs. Majority of the tribal are living in the jungles. Inaccessibility & remote location further add to the situation. It is quite evident that their isolations and living in such remote locations shall never be electrified by mainstream sources even in a decade of time. Failure of PDS systems forced the tribal people to purchase oil for lighting from the black market, which always have a negative impact on the environment and upon their health situation.

2.2 Problems Addressed

Problems Perceived:

The problems perceived that would be addressed under the present project can be outlined as follows:

- ◆ Food insecurity: Tribal communities in Orissa face a major food crisis for atleast 4 months in a year. It is a complex problem that leads to their indebtedness, and perpetuates the cycle of poverty, migration and exploitation;
- ◆ Environmental Degradation: A degraded natural resource base as a result of loss of tribal entitlement, commercial exploitation, and the highly sloping topography has lead to further impoverishment of tribal communities. The situation is further compounded as landslides also destroy low land crops. This problem has been increasing in the last four years.
- ◆ Poor Agricultural Productivity: With the traditional resource base much depleted, the production systems of the tribal people has also been destroyed. Shifting cultivation only compounds the soil loss, leading to a cycle of diminishing returns and distress conditions.
- ◆ Poor Understanding of Anti-poverty Policies & Programmes: In this scenario, government development intervention has little impact, as there is little understanding and information about the government programmes, policies, and provisions within the local communities. Problems of delivery are further compounded by mystification of processes, and reluctance of functionaries, as also elected representatives to bring about true people's participation.
- ◆ Exclusion & Inequity: The poor in the tribal regions have been excluded from benefits as also from political processes, finding it difficult to voice their needs and aspirations, and draw attention to the issues of concern to them.

2.3 Goal

Over All Objective: To enhance livelihood options of tribal communities with policy advocacy on critical issues and village level efforts for integrated natural resource development and management to build up sustainable livelihood systems in tribal villages.

2.4 Objectives

Specific Objectives:

1. To develop capacities and skills of local communities with a special emphasis on local women for sustainable management of natural resources, and address issues of accountability governance and delivery.
2. To develop a network of voluntary organisations, concerned individuals and donors and funder groups to address problems of basic rights in the tribal regions.
3. To mainstream issues of rights, entitlements and sustainable livelihood of tribal and other marginalised communities through appropriate advocacy strategies.

2.5 Activities

2.5.1 Strengthening women's Association

As a first step towards engendering better natural resource use and management, women's groups have been involved for improved land use and management, by building up community consent. The process has involved the following steps:

- ◆ Using micro-plan maps and reports for the identification of waste lands for development and use by the Mahila Mandal;
- ◆ Planning improved land use by Mahila Mandals, identifying priorities, feasibilities, needs, responsibilities, and time-plans,
- ◆ Ensuring Village and Pali Sabha resolutions for institutionalizing land use and management by the Mahila Mandal

This series of interventions has resulted in freeing up unproductive wastes, occupied by large land owners and dominant groups within the village for productive use and control by the Mahila Mandal and the community in general. Effort taken up has included fencing, plantations, tuber crop cultivation, and afforestation efforts. The tangible acceptance and enthusiasm for the effort is demonstrated by the community response, which has resulted in more than 100 acres of land being demarcated for such efforts, while the dialogue initiated was only for 5 acres.

Encouragement from the Community:

The work is a huge challenge, as the waste-lands are hilly, and rocky, demanding huge physical effort and organized management for reclamation. Yet, the readiness of the community has been a source of much encouragement for Agragamee.

Encouraging initiative for future action;

The efforts have also proved to be a demonstration and an inspiration for the entire community to develop other waste-lands on similar lines, for sustainable and productive use. In several villages, dialogue has already been initiated for taking up similar efforts on other Dongars (hilly uplands).

In tangible terms, 336.5 acres of waste lands have been taken up for reclamation and development by 16

women's groups. They have been supported for income generation and mixed plantations, and fencing around the wastelands, as an experiment and a demonstration for the development and reclamation of further wastes by village communities. The process of legal access to these lands have also been initiated through the involvement of the Gram Sabha.

The dialogue to extend this process to other villages has also been initiated, and will be followed up in the coming year.

2.5.2 NRM Association Meetings

2.5.3 Mahila Mandals

2.5.4 Collective development of commons

2.5.5 Networking with other groups and organizations:

Aragamee, and the women federations, it has been working are networking with different organisations on the various issues taken up. Both national and state level networks have linked up with our groups to strengthen the advocacy efforts, and pressurise governments to deliver.

On the employment guarantee Act, linkages have been established with e-groups like OREGS Watch, Right to food, the Commission on the Right to Food, as well as 50 NGOs, and the Ventral Employment Guarantee Council to take the process forward. Ama Sangathan has also been in dialogue with the state government, who assured that they would provide a 'Kiosk' for uploading field level data and information on the actual situation of NREGA on the ground.

Several petitions, applications, and articles have been written on the issue of NREGA, and publications have been brought out. However, the issue have been a real challenge to address.

On the NRM, organic farming, and sustainable agriculture, Aragamee has established linkages with national level networks like OFAI (Organic farmers' Association, India) Sustainet, as well as with other NGOs and farmers to promote organic farming, and sustainable NRM use and management. It has also organised several workshops, as well sent farmers for exposure visits, which have helped increase people's understanding of organic processes greatly.

2.5.6 Family Farms

The Purpose of Family Farm is to :

- ❖ Develop a Model of sustainable and yearly land use in rain-fed areas;
- ❖ Increased income from limited areas for poor and marginal sections;
- ❖ Alternative to shifting cultivation, towards permanent, productive cultivation;
- ❖ Establish advantage of mixed cropping with annual, perennial and seasonal crops that can buffer losses due to poor rainfall and other climatic conditions;
- ❖ Free up land through more intensive land use for mixed livelihood and income generating plantations and other sustainable land use.

Combining agriculture and natural resource development family farms seek to improve output under rainfed farming ares. The effort seeks to address several problems of tribal farmers :

- Low yields,
- Degradation because of shifting cultivation;
- Land slides and soil erosion, causing extensive damage of low lands as well,
- Problem of landlessness, leading tribal families to debt and migration

Shifting cultivation often leads to depleting cycle of soil loss that lays open hill slopes to erosion, and even land slides. The destruction of forest cover, followed by persistent shifting cultivation has resulted in increasing land slides over the last few years in these regions, leading to double loss of crops on the hill-slopes, as well as destruction of crop, and fertile low lands at the foothills.

Family farms seek to reverse this by encouraging tribal farmers to switch to methods of permanent or settled cultivation, whereby increased productivity also frees up adjacent lands which can be used for perennial tree crops that can help the eco-system to rejuvenate.

The programme has been slow to take off, because, there is very little research on actually developing barren wastes to productive levels of use for subsistence of local communities.

However, with intense planning with farmers and farming communities, viable models have been developed, which have caught the imagination of the people. Gradually, more and better land is being identified for family farms, and communities are also discussing on issue of helping landless families under this programme, so that they would not be forced into shifting cultivation on the government waste lands. Along with inputs for land, and crop development, a process of institutional arrangements has also been started.

This has resulted in land being identified for the families, and then being backed by Gram Sabha resolutions which provides a legal sanction for legal occupation of these lands by the landless.

In many villages, an occasional farmer has taken up the initiative with no support from Agramee. These people are identified as the resource persons for training programmes on land use.

In tangible terms, 395 scheduled tribe farmers, 17 scheduled caste farmers and 67 backward caste farmers have been supported for developing family farms, over 500 acres in 16 village, in 4 districts, including Rayagada, Kalahandi, Koraput and Kandhmal. Out of them, 253 farmers belong to the poor category, as identified by the community. In the coming year, along with helping to develop these 479 farms, Agramee will start work very specifically with landless tribal and scheduled tribal families on family farms. Helping them develop identified government lands, and initiating processes of legal ownership with the involvement of the Panchayats, and the revenue offices.

2.5.7 NRM training, On site training and demonstrations:

On sight training and demonstration efforts have helped build up enthusiasm amongst neighboring villages to take up similar initiatives. The training taken up direct on Mahila Mandal plots has involved instructions, discussions, demonstrations of land development techniques, and dialogue on the concept of eco-village, and how to take it forward with different village communities on a common platform, along with elected representatives. The ideas are gradually taking root, and the collective concern about the destruction of the environmental resource base is turning into ideas on how to reverse the destruction.

2.5.8 Training on Rights & Entitlements

This has been a major challenge that Agramee seeks to address at different levels. At the village level dialogue has been initiated to ensure an inclusive process in the efforts for eco-village development, whereby families without land, would also be brought into the fold of family farms through community and Pali Sabha and Gram Sabha sanctions.

At the practical level, special efforts are being made to develop effective packages that would ensure effective and assured regeneration, for the lands that are being provided to the landless are wastes, which need huge effort for reclamation;

At the institutional level, applications have been submitted for granting pattas to the landless. The revenue processes are very slow, and backed by a system that is reluctant to recognise any rights of local people. Thus,

the initiative from the village and Panchayats have to be strengthened for the rights of the landless to be recognised.

The dialogue has been taken up at a larger level, and several other villages have also taken up the issue, and have raised concerns about entitlements to the landless and the poor within their respective communities.

2.5.9 Training on FRA, NREGA, Organic Farming practices:

A series of training programmes have helped increase the sphere of influence of the programme to Panchayats outside the ones taken up. Thus, an unprecedented response on the FRA from 15 Panchayats in Kashipur has indicated people's eagerness for land. The government has been slow to respond, and it is still a moot point, whether they will in reality keep the promises of the Act. However, in the tribal regions, available land can still be provided to the needy, and the positive response of the people is an encouraging sign for this.

Training programmes on the different topics as mentioned above, have helped take the programmes forward, and been instrumental in ensuring that animators and extension workers under the programme have a good understanding to take the process forward in the villages. There is growing confidence amongst young people subsequent to the trainings, which helps them pose the questions, and demand answers of the government functionaries at different levels.

Rallies and demonstrations at the Panchayat and Block level have helped village communities to demonstrate their assertions, and generate awareness of the denial of rights amongst a larger public. Taking up the issue of NREGA, land rights, and illegal liquor licensing, on 22nd December, 2008, 18 gram Panchayats in 4 Blocks took up rallies and demonstrations in front of their respective Block offices demanding that the Government address their very genuine problems.

In Kashipur Block, Rayagada District, the demonstrators, headed by Ama Sangathan, the tribal women's federation in Kashipur, faced a barricade from the Police, who granted permission for only a handful of demonstrators from the gathering of 4000 strong outside the gates to meet the BDO. The demonstrators demanded that the officials should themselves come to the gate, and listen to the people, if the crowd were to disperse. The BDO stepped out, and accepted people's applications, and assured them that their demands would be addressed.

In Dasmantpur Block, the demonstrators took to the streets under the banner of Dasmantpur Anchalika Mahila Mahasangh. There was better response to the 1000 strong crowd, as the BDO met the demonstrators outside the office, and listened to the complaints, and accepted their applications,

In Tentulikhunit Block, Nawrangpur Block, the leadership was provided by members of Khandiaguda village, and Indravati Mahila Mahasangh, who had successfully demanded unemployment allowance and taken a major step to check irregularities in NREGA work implementation in the Panchayat and Block. Here too, people faced a barricade, and demonstrated and shouted slogans outside the Block gates till a delegation was permitted to go inside to place their demands.

In Thuamalrampur Block, Kalahandi District, the Ma Baphla Mali Mahasangh provided the leadership to people from both sides of the Indravati Reservoir as they got together, and made their long winding way to their Block headquarters (more than 60kms for some villages) to demand justice. The BDO never appeared. The JE was kind enough to accept their applications. People had to be satisfied with that.

2.5.10 Some Outstanding Case Studies:

Karla Dei & Puni Majhi are a tribal couple in the village of Rasijhiri. They have no land, but have encroached a hilly upland of about 2.8 acres on a rocky mountain slope. Out of this land, they have fenced in about 80 cents with rock and stone. Inside this fence they lead a tenuous existence trying to build up a perennial subsistence income. The task has not been easy. Balancing wage labour work with this effort, it has taken them more than two years to fence this area. In addition, there has also been very little cooperation from other people in the village.

Inside their stone fence, they have developed a mixed perennial plantation of bamboo, sisal, silver oak, jackfruit, cashew, guava, etc. During the monsoons, he raises a mixed seasonal crop of vegetables, maize and lentils. The crop has been very good, and Karla and Punei look forward to another good harvest this monsoon as well.

Not having any land, for Karla and Puni this is a labour of love, in which they invest all their time and attention. Till now, they have not received any family farm support from Agramee. But, Punei's effort has inspired other landless farmers in the village, and they are eager to develop waste lands to have some food security in the long term. The dialogue has been initiated with the village for this, and the planning is in process. Punei wants to increase the number of cashew plants, as well as grow tuber crops, which would give more income than the cereals. He is also eager to bring more of his land under such cropping systems.

Laki Majhi of Gumudisupel is landless, and has gone all out to protect his family farm, and make the best of the opportunity provided by Agramee. He has fenced in a small plot of about 70 cents, and planted it with cashew trees. With day and night vigilance, he has ensured more than 80% survival of his plants, when others in the village have done much worse.

The village community has identified him along with others for allocation of land, and the resolution has been passed in the Gram Sabha. Thus, Laki is the leader in family farm development, who is showing the way not only to other landless families, but also those with land, who have been farming all these years, but with little care and less knowledge.

The coming season, he wants to capitalise with tuber crops, so that he can supplement the cereal cultivation. He is also keen to strengthen his fence by planting income generating crops like sisal (which provides one of the strongest fibres for rope and has a good market value), and other border and firewood trees.

3. Sustainable Development through Integrated Watershed Management

3.1 Introduction

3.2 Activities Under taken

3.2.1 Natural Resource Management

3.2.1.1 Base line studies

Base line surveys were conducted in all the 6 watershed projects and one organic vegetable cultivation project. All the watershed managers and the vegetable cultivation manager were supplied with the individual household level survey formats to carry out household survey. The entire survey work was completed in all the project villages. The compilation and analysis work has been completed and the final report had been published in form of a booklet.

3.2.1.2 PRA

PRA (participatory Rural Appraisal) was conducted in all the 7 projects with the participation of villagers. In the PRA exercise the important tools like-Social & Resource mapping, vulnerability analysis, stake holders analysis, Poverty analysis, CPR ranking etc have been used in a participatory way. Both male and female beneficiaries of villages had participated. The compilation report has been over and published in form of a booklet.

3.2.1.3 Technical Planning

Technical planning for the reporting period was completed with the support of POEs (Panel of Experts) for different watersheds and the organic vegetable cultivation projects in consultation with the stakeholders, watershed users society, watershed managers and local experts. POEs are visiting the projects to guide the civil construction works, master masons and technical labours. All the technical planning follow the Plan and Estimates, Site selection, Design, Techno-feasibility reports, Cost Benefit Analysis, and lay out for the proposed treatments. Till end of Dec.'2007, 12 numbers of POEs have been engaged for different activities. During this reporting period, services of 6 Nos. of POEs have been utilized for preparation of plan, estimates, design, site layout, documentation and technical guidance etc.

3.2.1.4 Bunding

Two Types of Bundings namely contour stone bunding and contour earth bunding have been done in all the six watersheds covering total area of 87.5 ha till end of December 2008 against the total target of 105 ha. All these bundings were taken up in the un-bundled, sloppy, uplands to make it suitable for cultivation. The main purpose of the bundings was to conserve the soil and moisture especially upper layer of the topsoil from the sloppy lands. The bunded fields have been covered with field crops like maize, high land paddy, ragi, millets, pigeon pea and other oil seed & pulse crops during the Kharif season. The bunding activity is in progress. No. of direct beneficiaries for the work was 154.

3.2.1.5 Gully plugs

Till the end of December 2007, a total of 153 numbers of Gully pluggings have been completed against the total target of 150 Gully pluges. All these activities have been done within the budgetary provisions. These gully control structures have been done with the participation of users group utilizing local mason, Local materials (stones) with the loose boulder technique to plug the gully and check the erosion. From the field monitoring, it is seen that, the gully plugs completed in the previous years have been partially filled in with silt loads. It is expected that by the end of the project period, all the gullies will be stabilized and used for productive purposes. Total no. of beneficiaries directly benefited was 60.

3.2.1.6 Check dam

2 nos. of check dam have been constructed against the target of 3 check dams. It is observed that during the reporting period (i.e. from Jan. to December 2008), 67 beneficiaries covering 17 ha of agricultural land have been benefited by protecting their kharif paddy crop during moisture stress period.

3.2.1.7 Percolation tanks (new/renovated) & (A33) Field ponds (MPT)

6 numbers of Percolation tanks (WHS) and 7 numbers of Field ponds (i.e. multipurpose tanks) have been constructed against the total target of 6 percolation tanks & 7 field ponds till the end of Dec. 2008. The completed structures are benefiting 131 farming families covering 99 ha. of agricultural land.

3.2.1.8 Wells (new/renovated)

19 numbers of Dug wells have been constructed against the total target of 22 numbers. All together 19 farmers are benefited covering 10 ha of agricultural land for cultivation of vegetable and remunerative crops.

3.2.1.9 Irrigation (canal) Ha / no & A362 Irrigation No.

Till now, 6 Irrigation Canals have been constructed against the total target of 8. POEs have prepared the plan and estimates. The irrigation canals benefited 69 farming families covering 63s ha of agricultural land.

3.2.1.10 Afforestation

During the reporting period 54 ha. Of land have been covered under MMTP plantation against the total target of 54 ha. In this afforestation program, Miscellaneous Multi Tire Plantation (MMTP) technique has been adopted. Fencing & tree guarding completed during this period to protect the plants from the wild and domestic animals. Provisions of watering have been made to protect the plants during summer months. However, up to the end of December 2007, the survival percentage of plants is around 80. Total no. of 62,200 grafts/seedlings planted. Plantations were done in the community lands and Government lands which is now a common property for all the users of the watershed. Species like Cashew nut, mango, and custard apple, bamboo, teak, sishu have been taken up under this programe. 216 no. of families are being bene

3.2.1.11 Improved dry land crops (Demo)

60 ha of Dry land farming has been completed against the physical target of 60 ha.. 600 numbers of beneficiaries have been benefited by this dry land crop technology.

3.2.1.12 Horticulture Trees planted (Ha) -and- (A452) Horticulture Trees planted/survived

Under this activity, fruit orchards covering 60 ha. of land with the species of Mango, Lime, cashew, jackfruit, litchi etc. were taken up in the village community lands in all the watersheds against the total target of 60ha. The pitcher pot irrigation and tree guarding have been completed. However the pitcher pot irrigation / watering and watch & ward is going on to protect the fruit plants from moisture stress during winter and summer. Totally 10400 plants have been planted. The survival is nearly 80% till the end of December 2008. The orchards were taken up in the community land and beneficiaries land. Landless people have been given the right for community land. 100 nos. of beneficiaries have been covered under this programme.

3.2.1.13 Gardening (BIG)

The back yard plantation covering of 100 households against the total target of 100 households has been completed at individual household level by end of December 2008. 1000 numbers of plants of different varieties namely papaya, banana, drumstick, lemon, etc. have been planted. The concerned beneficiaries are taking care for maintenance of plants. The survival is now around 90%.

3.2.1.14 Nurseries

21 numbers of nurseries for all projects (six numbers of nurseries in watershed projects and 15 number of nurseries in vegetable cultivation project) have been taken up. All these are meant for raising seedlings and supplying to the beneficiaries for different plantation and vegetable cultivation programmes. In the Nurseries both the forest, horticulture species and vegetable seedlings were raised to meet the need of the beneficiaries in the project area. The nurseries in the vegetable cultivation area are seasonal, which supplied rainy and winter vegetables seedlings to the beneficiaries.

3.2.1.15 Agr. & hort. Demonstration plots

Under this activity 468.8 hectares of vegetable crop demonstration has been taken up cumulatively by support from project and 2264 ha. by farmers initiatives, covering 960 numbers of plots till the end of winter 2008. During this reporting period 252 ha of different vegetable crops have been covered. The crops are Onion, Chilli, Capsicum,

Carrot, Cluster Bean, Runner bean, Tamato, Brijnal, Radish, field pea etc. This activity is covering 15 villages in 3 GPs of Rayagada District of Orissa.

3.2.1.16 Storages (Grain + Onion) & (A722) Storages

Till the end of Dec. 2007, four numbers of Grain and seed Banks have been constructed. One grain bank was constructed in the Daleiput village of Pakanajhola watershed and other at Temariguda village of Satigudanala watershed. The seed bank has been constructed at Keskari village. The proposal for construction of grain banks attached to Vikash Kutir has been revised for construction of temporary training infrastructures. Four training infrastructures were completed by Dec.08. Eight temporary Onion storage structures and one processing shed have been completed.

3.2.1.17 Collection centers

One collection center at Dhobasil village in the vegetable cultivation project area has been constructed during the reporting period. The collection center is used for collection, sorting and storage of semi perishable vegetables. From this activity nearly 400 beneficiaries from 15 villages covering 3 gram panchayats are benefited.

3.2.1.18 Soil Enrichment (Ha.)

To improve the soil fertility and restore its productivity, the soil enrichment activity was taken in all the watersheds. In this activity, mainly Composting, Vermi composting, green manuring and use of bio fertilizers were taken up which will enrich the soil and supply organic manure to the crops. The beneficiaries have taken up this program in their field. In this activity, total 247.5 hectares of land have been covered by the end of December 2008 against the total target of 300 ha. It is observed that the crop production is increasing in the treated lands.

3.2.1.19 Diversion Weir (Nos.)

3 numbers of diversion weirs have been constructed against the total target of 4 numbers. 75 beneficiaries have been benefited by this irrigation and grown crops in an area of 25 Ha.

3.2.1.20 Training on Crop Production Tech

So far, 18 numbers of Trainings on crop production technology have been completed with the participation of 242 male participants at field level to orient the farmers for optimum crop production, dry land farming technology, new technology introduction, Organic farming etc. In these trainings various improved methods of Crop Production were shared with the farmers in an interactive way by the agriculture experts. These training programs also emphasised on seed production & storage and compost making technology for sustainable agriculture.

3.2.1.21 Construction of permanent pendal (Nos.)

Till the end of Dec. 2008, fifteen numbers of permanent pendals have been constructed in 15 villages (one pendal per village) of vegetable cultivation project area. These pendals constructed with concrete pillars and galvanized iron weir nets. These are used for creeper vegetable crops like ridge gourds, snake gourds, bitter gourds etc.

3.2.1.22 Collection and conservation of local elite germ plasm

Till date 4800 numbers of local germ plasms has been collected in all the watersheds from the farmers' field and preserved scientifically in the glass/fiber bowls. All are traditional elite varieties covering the crops are Pulses, Oilseeds, Vegetables, Rice, & Millets. For documenting the said activity a special register has been maintained at watershed level by the watershed manager describing the name of the varieties, date of collection, place of collection, special characters of the varieties, habit and habitat etc.

3.2.1.23 Knowledge sharing & up gradation of the watershed manager

By the end of Dec. 2008, 14 numbers of training programs have been conducted for knowledge up gradation of watershed managers with participation of all watershed and vegetable project managers. One such training has been conducted in this reporting period. In these trainings, the watershed managers were trained with up to date technologies of watershed management, monitoring the field level activities and on accounts, record keeping etc at watershed level. During this reporting period, one training on Knowledge sharing & up gradation of the watershed

managers has been completed with special reference to preparation of design, estimates of water harvesting structures and other water bodies of the projects.

3.2.1.24 Training for Watershed users

Cumulatively, 56 numbers of trainings in different watershed projects have been completed for watershed users at local level by the end of Dec.' 2008 against the total target of 56 trainings. In these trainings, 2228 male and 818 female users have participated actively. The watershed users have been trained on watershed project management, transparency on project activities, maintenance of the common properties created by the watershed projects during post withdrawal period. In this reporting period 8 such trainings have been completed.

3.2.1.25 Training on Women's Participation in watersheds

49 numbers of trainings on women's' participation in watersheds have been conducted with the participation of 1630 women in all the watersheds and vegetable cultivation project. In these trainings different issues like capacity building, equity issues, formation of SHGs, active participation in the watershed activities and other related issues of women.

3.2.1.26 Household supported for IGA (Medicinal Plant + Goatery)

Till the end of Dec.' 2008, 80 numbers of Goatery units and support for medicinal plants have been provided to Pakanajholanala, Talabedanala, Satigudanala and Raisingjodinala watersheds against the total target of 90. Out of this, 42 households with goatery. During this reporting period (i.e. Jan.-Dec 2008) 18 households have been benefited from this activity. All the said beneficiaries are land less agricultural labourers and selected by the watershed users. The beneficiaries now getting goat calves which are sold after one year in the market.

3.2.1.27 Household supported for IGA (NTFP + Agriculture + Pisciculture +Kitchen Garden)

In these IGA activities no support has been given to the beneficiaries on NTFP enterprise development and Agriculture enterprise development. However initiatives have been taken at Satigudanala watershed and Pakanajholanala watershed on kitchen garden. During Jan.-Dec. 2008 5 SHG groups have been supported for Pisciculture.

3.3 Outputs/results

Increase Soil and moisture conservation. The soil moisture retention capacity of the 87.5 ha of bunded lands have been increased and put under cultivation of Maize, Ragi, High land paddy and other millets. Soil Erosion has been decreased 87.5 ha. Of lands developed under contour earth and stone bunding. Improved regeneration / vegetative cover. Vegetative cover increased by 287 ha. 100 HH developed the BYP for additional nutrition. Increased income. 62 numbers of BPL households have taken up goatery as IGA and increased their family income by Rs. 2000/- each year. Another 68 households were supported with kitchen garden programme, from which they could save up to Rs. 2500/- per annum

3.4 Institution Building

Till Dec. ending six numbers of Village level trainings /meetings have been conducted in all watershed projects at village level under entry point programme with the participation of 161 male and 101 female participants. This programme is for once in the entire project period. During this reporting period, no entry point training programme has been conducted. However in each watershed every month watershed users society monthly meetings are held on with the participation of watershed users.

3.5 Leadership and multiplier training

By the end of Dec. 2008, A leadership multiplier training has been conducted against the total target of 4 trainings, by wsco at Malijharan with the participation of 132 male and 52 female stakeholders from all the watersheds and offseason organic vegetable cultivation projects. The main theme of the training was to develop leadership among the early adopters and to replicate it at village level. In this reporting period no such training has been conducted.

3.6 Community capacity training (m/f)

Till the end of Dec. 2008, 42 numbers of trainings/ workshops (workshop on capacity building of watershed users society and committee formation) at watershed and vegetable cultivation (project) level have been conducted with the participation of 510 male and 419 female members. Till now five WSUS Paknajhola, Talabedanala, Raisingjodinala, Rauljodinala, Satigudanala and Badajorenala have been registered. One Kashipur organic farmers Producers Company has been formed which is awaiting registration.

3.7 Federation capacity building

Thirty seven SHG groups have been formed in different watersheds. Out of which 17 are linked with local public sector banks for a total finance of Rs. 21,15,210/- for small-scale enterprises.

3.8 Local governance functionaries' trainings & Exposure

During this reporting period, 4 trainings were conducted by WSCO at the campus of Agro Service Center (Malijharan) on capacity building of primary stakeholders. In this training program 121 male and 24 female participants participated. They were trained on different techniques and managerial practices of watershed management.

3.9 Exposure visit for knowledge exchange

To batches of participants have been sent for exposure visit to south India and inside Orissa. In the first batch 10 organic farmers have been taken to Bangalore, Tirichinapalli, Madurai to attend an all India Organic Farmers Convention at Tirichinapalli and visit of organic farms at different places. In the second batch, 30 participants were taken to different parts of Orissa to visit different institutions like OUAT, CTCRI, CHES and other farmers field in the district of Ganjam, Gajapati, Puri, Khurda, Koraput, Rayagada, Kalahandi and Nuapada.

3.10 Training capacity building Gender Issues,

During this reporting period 3 trainings on capacity building Gender Issues, Empowerment, & Participation have been conducted different watersheds in which 138 male participants and 138 female participants have attended.

3.11 Establish Linkages

Eight numbers of line departments like Horticulture, Agriculture, Animal Husbandry, DRDA, Block Administration, soil conservation, forest department; CDPO have been linked so far to provide agriculture services. The Horticulture Department; Regional center for Organic Farming, Krishna Bio-tech., Seed dealers, Bio Sourcing, Agro Industries Corporation etc has been contacted and services have been availed. Five numbers of non agriculture service providers like Marketing agencies, support service and capacity building organizations have been linked with the projects.

3.12 Outputs/result

Increased mobilization of local resources. Six Watershed users societies and 15 vegetable cultivation societies have been constituted which are functioning well. 37 numbers of SHGs have been formed. Involvement of all SHGs with bank linkage to a tune of Rs. 21,15,210. Each SHG has a working capital of Rs. 57168/- on an average. 17 have started small-scale enterprise and internal lending. At least Rs 1,15,210/- Rupees have been mobilized from external sources for SHGs including. In all the watersheds there is a convergence activities from Govt. developmental works, which indicate the people's empowerment. The registration of all WSUS have are completed. The Maintenance fund so far accumulated to a tune of Rs. 2,54,310/-. Stakeholders linked with Govt. programs like SJGSY, NREGA and other schemes. Two SHG groups of Talabedanala watershed have been awarded prize @ 10,000/- each by the Chief Minister Orissa for their best performance of managing the SHG groups. AKHRA, a documentary film production unit of Ranchi has already prepared a film of all the watershed

4 Organic Farming, Food, Nutrition & Ecological Security

Organic Agriculture is a holistic approach that offers equivalent gains in sustainability, increased food grains in the long run, based upon a set of process resulting in sustainable, eco- system, safe food, good nutrition, animal welfare and social justice. Organic agriculture to begin with has been the outcome of concerns related to decreasing land fertility, increasing contamination of food and its consequent negative effect on human health. Subsequently, more recently contamination of pesticides and chemical fertilizers has been noticed even in the ground water used for human consumption has given rise to further restrictions on the use of pesticides and chemical fertilizers.

Organic Agriculture aims to minimize the use of external inputs to reduce the overall cost of production. It is also a very simple practice to implement.

Aragamee had initially launched a project on Organic vegetable cultivation during 2004 in 3 G.P.s involving 300 farmers in 300 ha of 15 villages of Kashipur block. It was concentrated only on vegetable cultivation . Now the area has been extended to all the 64 villages of these 3 G.P.s involving 2148 farmers in 2726 hectares. At present the Organic farming is not only confined to Vegetables but included all crops like cereals, pulses, oil seeds, spices, fruit crops etc.

Objective of the initiative:

- To help tribal framers adopt improved techniques for cultivation of different crops.
- To demonstrate environment friendly & ecologically sound techniques for all crops.
- To improve land use in holistic & sustainable manner.
- To help communities have better income & nutritional levels
- To facilitate linkages with the market.
- To introduce organic certification in the whole area for better price guarantee in outside market.
- To improve the food & nutritional security system.

Training & capacity building:

- Interactive & participatory training was introduced.
- Specific efforts were made to ensure women's participation at least by 50%.
- Cropping pattern suggested was simple, keeping in view the needs of the locality. Agro climatic conditions, economically acceptance & viability.
- Topics related to promotion of farmers' organization, development of their leadership quality are introduced.

Renovation of Local Technologies:

- Emphasis was given on using local available bio-waste for conversion in to useful compost. Vermin compost & othe organic inputs

- Innovative methods of farmers in improving soil fertility through mulching, soil covers, local irrigation & soil protection techniques have been identified & introduced broad based.

Formation of Producers Company:

An Organic Farmers Producers Company has been formed with its headquarter at Dhobasil to make the farmers self reliance on training & capacity building. Transfer of technology, certification, post harvest technology and marketing of organic products.

Promotional Support for Organic Farming:

To avoid the use of chemical fertilizer & pesticides the following organic inputs were supplied to the farmers till now.

- Organic Seeds: 3010 Kg
- Neem Based Products, Bio Fertilizers, Bio pesticides: 10630 Kg & 680 Ltr.
- Organic cuttings & planting material: 15000 Nos

Vermicompost:

To promote Organic Agriculture in all the 3 G.P.s, 916 no of vermicompost tanks have been constructed, vermin culture to the required extent have been supplied to make the organic farmers self sufficient for use of more vermin compost in their field & sale the excess vermiculture to others.

Agramee as a service provider:

Govt. Of India had appointed Agramee as a service provider for promotion of organic Agriculture in the zone.

- **Activities so far Taken:** the organic zone comprising of 64 villages, 2148 farmers, 2726 ha in 3 G.P.s of Kashipur Block of Rayagada District have larger number of small & marginal farmers , unable to afford international certification that would grant their organic produces a remunerative price in National & state level markets. Therefore an Internal control system (ICS) has been introduced to bring the farmers together in a group with NPOP (National Programme on Organic production standards) to initiate the group certification process.
- **Farmers group:** Each G.P. has been declared as a group & farmers from each group will share their certification fees together.
- **Registration of farmers & record keeping:** Data base of all participating organic farmers has been prepared with their land specifications, registrations etc. Photo Identity cards have been issued to all the organic farmers.
- **Training on I.C.S & I.G.S. :** Regular trainings are being conducted at quarterly interval in all the 3 zones.
- **Regular visits to the farmers:** Regular visit of the Internal quality inspectors (IQS) are ensured to reach all the organic villages at an interval of 3 months. They provide technical guidance to organic farmers and help them in production of quality crops to meet the NPOP standards.
- **Organic Certification:** During 2006-2007 SKAL International has issued organic Certificate as per NPOP standard to 1518 organic farmers, Now SGS, India Organic Programme is appointed for organic certification for 2148 famers & for 2726 hectors.

5. Combating Energy Poverty and Social Economic Deprivation by effective use of renewable Energy Resources

5.1 Introduction

Energy plays an important role in the productive development of society & human as well. Human activities and most sustainability issues are closely linked to energy use. Till 80s the fossil fuel is fulfilling the energy demand of the world, these resources are limited, but these resources couldn't able to fulfill the demand of current electricity due to increase in urbanization & industrialization. To meet the stress, search shifts for finding of alternative renewable resources like wind, solar & water.

Advocating for a pollution free environment & continued to work for the upliftment of the tribal, Agragamee along with KKS, Germany implemented two renewable energy projects in Keshkeri & Ushabal village of Kashipur Block. A 15 KW small micro hydel is installed in Keshkeri & a 1KW solar Photo voltaic power plant is installed in Usabali village. Both the villages are dominated fully by the tribal and their location indicates that within next 20 years grid electricity couldn't be reached. With this, inaccessibility to different govt. schemes, education, poor health & sanitation worsening the situation.

5.2 Objective

- To generate renewable energy/power for lighting, cooking, lifting of water, processing industries.
- To be less dependent on electric grid and fossil fuels which are very costly and beyond the reach of the tribal population.
- To enhance livelihood, increase agro-horticulture production, to reduce distress migration.
- To use natural resources such as land for plantation, water for water-harvesting, solar energy for lighting etc.
- To reduce drudgery and enhance efficient use of biomass.
- To reduce pollution and ensure good environment.
- To ensure community mobilisation and show the examples of best practices in managing renewable energy sources.

5.3 Installation of a 1 KW SPV Power Plant at Ushabali

5.3.1 : Introduction:

Since installation the SPV power plant at Ushabali is catering electricity among the villagers of Ushabali. Previously the power distribution time was kept from 6.00 PM to 9.00 PM, for three hours. Looking in to the need & the demand among the people for electricity, the distribution hour is extended and made in the morning for a hour starting from 5.00 AM to 6.00 AM. All the equipments of the unit are working in a good condition. Once the inverter of the SPV power plant was got damaged by the lightning. First the inverter was repaired out of the project fund later a lightning protection system installed in the SPV power plant at Ushabali. To meet the burden of repairing due to the natural calamities the whole SPV unit was insured under the National Insurance Company Ltd. The insured items include

the power house, SPV plant equipments & distribution line. In a major finding the midterm evaluation by DHARA suggests to add another two panels to provide electricity to the kitchens in order to reduce the drudgery among the women. The provision for the same is incorporated in 2009's action plan. The impact of illumination in this remote is coming up slowly as the village women are adding some more to the livelihood options by stitching leafs & the village children's are getting education during the evening time. To keep the track of the electricity distribution hours, village people are recording the distribution times.

5.3.2 : Highlights of the project

5.3.3 : Maintenance Fund

The village contribution fund of the village has been raised to Rs.48, 052.00 in respect of Rs.30, 700/- of previous year. Out of this Rs. 30,000.00 has been kept in shape of fixed deposits in order to avail the maximum interest. To left the burden on the people for raising money for the maintenance fund, the people of the village are developing some community resources like common orchard & Common plantation.

5.3.4 : IGP Programmes

The village possess abundant source of Siali trees. Along with ORMAS, A state govt. owned agency committed for promoting rural Marketing, Agramee has raised 10 leaf let making machines and a pressing machine for setting up of a rural leaf stitching unit for the village. ORMAS will provide & facilitate the training of leaf stitching to the Ushabali village women through its Trainer & the training programme will start in January 2009, after the completion of the training programme at Keshkeri village. With this through Village SHGs the village women's have raised Rs.18000/- amount of loan from the bank for IGP programmes.

5.3.5 : Convergence

People' of Ushabali raised Rs. 6 Lakhs for concretisation of the Road through NREGS. Along with this they have raised money for installation of the drinking water supply system in the village

5.4 : Installation of 15 KW Micro Hydrel at Keshkeri

5.4.1 : Introduction

After a long equation the microhydrel got tested on 4th of April 2008 & since 6th April 2008 the micro hydrel is catering power among the villagers of Keshkeri. Every house hold in the village got 3 light points and one pluck point. Initially in the testing period the power generation of the unit was kept at 8 KW & it was for a month. in later periods the power generation has been raised to 15 KW. 15 street light points were given throughout the village streets. Right now the village is getting 8 hours of electricity in every evening & morning. The distribution hour are from 6 PM- 11 PM in the evening and 3 AM- 6 AM in the morning. Out of 15 kw the village is consuming 4 KW. The rest will be used for the rice & dal processing unit. A shed for the dal & rice processing unit is already constructed in the village.

5.4.2 Highlights of the project

5.4.3 : Maintenance Fund

Every house hold of Keshkeri is contributing Rs.100/- per month towards the maintenance fund opened for the maintenance of the project specificaly. Till now the maintenance fund has been raised to Rs.81,782./-, which is deposited in an account, opened & operated by the village energy committee. A money receipt duly signed by the

president & cashier of the committee has been issued to the contributors for their contribution. To avail the higher interest rate Rs.50,000/- has been kept in shape of fixed deposits.

5.4.4 : IGP Programmes

Linking with the line departments, Agragamee along with the villagers of Keshkeri raised 10 leaf let machines and 2 pressing machine & a Leaf cutter machine for a leaf let making unit. After three months training by the ORMAS trainer the village women are now professionally stitching the leafs & pressing to the finished product, Leaf Plate. At the Moment the village women are selling these leaf lets locally adding some more to their livelihoods. Initiation for establishing a rice & dal processing unit through ITDA has been made. For this purpose three SHGs were formed who will avail the loans in a subsidized rate.

5.4.5 : Convergence

Through the Forest department of Govt. Of Orissa, the village people have taken steps for conserving the catchment area of the stream“Mandijhola“. In this initiative village people are contributing labour for plantation. With this a village school is being constructed through the DPEP Programme.

5.5 Looking Ahead

6 Empowering women through Institutional Building

6.1 :Introduction

- Ama Sangathan (1197 members in 93 Mahila Mandals with 10 registered ones in 17 panchayats of Kashipur Block) total savings lies with them is Rs.5,56,420.87
- Indravati Mahila Mandal: (980 Members in 45 Mahila Mandals with 7 registered ones). Total savings with them is Rs.182928.00
- Phiringia Anchalika Mahila Manda (674 Members in 48 Mahila Mandals with 7 registered ones). Total savings with them is Rs.30000/-
- Dasmantpur Mahila Mandal (1078 Members in 93 village level Mahila Mandals)
- Ama Shakti Sangathana Mahila Mandal (348 members in 10 Village level Mahila Mandals)

6.2 : Micro Enterprising effort

- Broom Purchases (AS, IM)
- Kandula Dal Purchases (AS, IM)
- Tamarinda Purchase (AS, IM)
- Cloth Purchase (AS, IM)
- Iron Material Purchase (AS, IM)
- Leaf Plate making(phiringia) (Phiringia)

6.3 : Social Mobilisation around natural resource management

- Anti liquor campaign meeting on (10.05.2008 & 26.12.2008) in Mandi Bisi Panchayat & in 5 villages of Tentulikhunti Block, 40 in Gochhapada Panchayat & Luisingh Panchayat
- Health awareness camp in Kalagaon & Patesh Village & Dasmantpur Block on 25th July 2008
- NREGA Rally in Kashipur & Dasmantpur Block on 22.12.2008, Phiringia Anchalika Mahila Mahasangha on 14th & 15th June 2008.
- Forest Protection in 45 villages of Mandibisi panchayat, 10 villages in Tentulikhunti block, in 25 villages of Dasmantpur Block.
- Grain Bank formation in 30 villages of Kashipur, 8 villages in Tentulikhunti, 16 villages in Phiringia,
- Organic Vegetable cultivation in
- Cashew Plantation in 30 villages of Dasmantpur Block
- Formation of Labour union Meeting at Tentulikhunti block on 20.05.2008
- Formation of G.P. Level Prakrutika Surakhya Samiti in Dasmantpur Block

6.4 : Tuber crops Demonstration

Rayagada District (5 Villages of Mandibisi Panchayat, Halia Sahi, Dhobamunda, Pipalpadar, Gadelijhola, Dimiribhatta)

Kalahandi District (Gujumali Pada, Adri colony, Adri, Rajamunda, Phatki Mahula, Kannerpass & Muskuta)

6.5 Sustainability

7 Community Approach for sustainable livelihood through Biodiversity Conservation in tribal areas of southern Orissa

7.1 Introduction

Goal of the Project:

To help improve tribal livelihood systems and initiate a reconstruction and rebuilding of degraded tribal ecosystems by helping tribal communities and specially tribal women preserve their crop bio-diversity, and strengthening traditional practices for conservation, and agriculture.

Objective (s) of the Project:

- To undertake research to understand and regenerate indigenous tribal systems and practices of conservation and cultivation, and their crop diversity;
- To enable and ensure tribal women's participation in the research and documentation, so as to develop and understanding of the relationship between tribal women and common property resources;
- To scale up the successful activities to other neighbouring villages for generation of livelihood of the tribals and protection of ecosystem and environment of the locality.
- To improve the local traditional practices and innovative ideas for ensuring sustainable livelihood of the tribals.
- Encourage tribal communities, and specially women take constructive and systematic steps to rebuild their ecosystems for a sustainable livelihood, by combining indigenous knowledge systems and traditional practices with contemporary information and technology, with special emphasis on effective management and conservation of common land resources; seed banks and grain banks.
- Help tribal communities learn from each other through a sharing and networking;
- Develop a knowledge base of current best practices, and traditional systems for sharing and replication on a wider basis;
- Involve the relevant line departments in the conservation and development processes and help to establish positive and constructive relationship between concerned functionaries and the village community to facilitate appropriate support and replication to other Panchayats, and regions.

7.2 Kind of activities:

7.2.1 **Biodiversity Research:** During survey, a number of cultivated local varieties were found from the area. The following list of different varieties identified will clearly indicate the rich diversities existing in the tribal area.

1. High land paddy: 17 Varieties
2. Medium land paddy: 23 Varieties

3. Lowland paddy: 32 Varieties.

Total Paddy Varieties: 72

4. Early varieties of Ragi:5

5. Medium Varieties of Ragi:10

6. Late Varieties of Ragi:1

Total Ragi Varieties:16

7. Maize Varieties:8

8. Other Millets:8

Indigenous tribal livelihood system is different from the other areas. Their methods of cultivation and conservation practices are also different. Tribal farmers take up shifting cultivation (slash and burn cultivation) on the hilltop and sow different seeds mixed together. Along with highland paddy seeds, they mix seeds of pulses like pigeon pea, black gram, many minor and major millets including Ragi. The system of cultivation is meant to harvest the crops at different intervals for food security.

7.2.2 Indigenous cultivation practices, method of seeds and grain preservation, Recording of different wild species

The high land in the tribal area is sloppy, undulating and suffers from soil and water erosion. The unbonded areas is sloppy terrain becomes unfit for any cultivation. In the bonded areas farmers usually grow highland paddy , pulses, oilseeds, millets, like maize and ragi, vegetables as a monocrop in khariff season. Under irrigated conditions, they grow at least two crops in a year.

7.2.3 Training/Workshop and Seminar :

Training is one of the important components in the Agro biodiversity conservation concept. Till now 12 Nos of training programmes have been successfully conducted in the 4 core areas. The details are given below.

Subject:-

- Introduction to Biodiversity conservation
- Importance of B.D.C
- B.D.C for sustainable livelihood
- Agro Biodiversity
- Identification and collection of Biodiversity data on biological resources and traditional knowledge
- Preparation of bio-diversity register
- Organic farming
- Integrated pest management

7.2.4 **Research:**

Different combination of the trial:

- Total no of villages taken under trial: 24
- Total no of Farmer involved in the field trial: 120
- In all the field trials organic farming system was introduced.
- 60 nos of vermicompost pits have been created.
- The harvest of different crops is over and analysis is under process.

Different combination of the trial:

- High land local paddy + Pulses
- Ragi + Pulses
- Maize + Pulses
- Vegetables mixed with leguminous vegetables.

All the varieties used in different trials have been collected from the locality which possesses high yield potential.

7.3 **Impact:**

A. Social:

- Awareness for preservation of different indigenous seeds which possessed high yield potential has been developed. After the field trial with local indigenous varieties, people could realize the importance of their own seed & preserved there for use in the next cropping season without depending on outside sources.
- Awareness for protection of forest wealth has been created among the people .In every village they have formed forest protection committees to protect their forest area. Penalty has been imposed on the persons felling the trees. With the protection of forest, green belt has been developed around the villages, ensured a pollution free environment & protected from health hazards.
- Formation of CBOs & SHGs in the project villages has created a fellow feeling among the villagers. Now they are capable of representing their demands in Pallasabha, Gram Sabha and Panchayat Meetings to full fill their requirements.
- Women have been empowered. Previously they did not come out of their houses – now they are attending all the meetings in groups, taking part in deliberation engage themselves in small business from the saving of SHG funds and share their views equally with men.
- Women groups combined together, advocate for prohibition of liquor, demand for provision under NREGA, opening of schools, construction of roads, provision for drinking water etc.
- After the project started, the village sanitation is kept neat & clean, drains are well maintained, houses are kept neat and clean. On the whole, the social awareness keeps the entire atmosphere and surrounding free from pollution.

B. Livelihood & Sustainability:

- Production has been increased through adoption of improved Agricultural techniques. Previously, the farmers were confined to only mono crop; in some places they kept the land fallow. Now they are accustomed to mixed cropping, intercropping and vegetable cultivation throughout the year. The improved Agriculture practices enhanced the yield; thereby they are earning more profit.
- Increased food security & livelihood generation. Previously a period of four months i.e. June, July, August & September are known as critical period for food shortage. During this period they were not able to get food to the extent of their requirement. Therefore they were either Starving & eating some non edible stocks like Mango kernel, Tamarind seeds, wild root and tubers, mushrooms and many other items and inviting different diseases. Now after adoption of improved agricultural technology, they are regularly getting food all the year round.

➤ **Adoption of organic farming practices:**

The beneficiaries under SGP have taken up to organic farming practices. They have constructed vermicompost tanks & produced vermicompost, taken up their own seed production & prepared different types of organic inputs such as liquid manures, plant growth hormones, botanical pesticides & other agricultural practices. Therefore now they don't depend on external sources for getting agricultural inputs. This not only added to their livelihood generation but also to sustainable agriculture.

➤ **Production & storage of their own seed material:**

The beneficiaries have already learnt the techniques for production of their own seed materials on different crops like vegetables, cereals, oil seeds, aromatic rice and at present they are producing the same for their own without depending on other sources. Even the excess production of seeds is shared among the other villagers who fall shortage. Similarly they have learnt the preservation and storage of seeds under most hygienic & improved techniques, so that they are not spoiled at the time of need.

- Preservation of excess production- Mango, Jackfruit, Amla & Tomato remain wide spread in most of the years. Now the SHG members are trained properly for preservation of these excess stocks in shape of pickle, dried products leathers etc.

Others:

- Training is one of the most important components in our scheme. During the periods of training they are learning forest protection, maintenance of biodiversity register, preservation of local elite seed material, improved farm techniques, rising of nursery, organic farming etc which later on is adopted by them.
- Soil & moisture conservation adds to their income. Due to undulating terrain conditions of their land the entire precipitation is drained below along with the top soil. This result in moisture stress in the later periods. With the washing of top soil, the land productivity is declined. The beneficiaries are being taught about the techniques of bunding across the slope with earth and stone to preserve moisture and soil. This has been adopted in most of the villages, thereby the production is increased.
- Apart from training, regular field visits of agragamee staff is very important. During their field visits and village meeting, the doubts of farmers are clarified proper techniques are demonstrated in the field.

8. Advocacy, Governance and Research Generating Impact on Livelihood issues.

9. Grameen Vikash Andolan

This programme is a central govt. Programme under ministry of Rural Development (MORD), sponsored by CAPART. It is basically to make awareness among the common mass including govt. officials, PRI members, women groups, rural youths and students, health workers & social leaders and sensitize them through meetings, trainings, campaigns, rallies & advocating for the conservation & management of water, water resources. Provoking the thoughts of the people that water is becoming scarce to scarcer with time and changing environment. And also advocating for the importance of proper sanitation as a prominent factor in rural areas.

The programme was to cover the whole block of Dasmantpur creating awareness campaigns in 16 G.P.s including essay & debate competition in schools and colleges to build pressure groups to implement different govt. programmes conserve water, best use of water, management of water bodies and forests and best practices of sanitation. The other aspect was to make the people conscious and knowledgeable about different programmes of central govt. like NREGS, PMGSY, SGSY, NFFWP, IWDP implemented by MORD. All these are meant to strengthen the vikas Andolan in rural India & bring them in to the mainstream of development

Achievements:

- 8 Nos of cluster level 2 days training programme on water conservation & sanitation.
- Observation of the sanitation day on 2nd October 2008
- 16 Nos of Vikas Yatras organized throughout the block
- 16 Nos of Bicycle rallies & padayatras organized,
- 16 Nos of Vikas Pathshalas formed
- Essays and debate competitions in 18 schools & colleges on water related topics.
- Publication of IEC materials, posters, magazine on water, Articles on news papers & wall paintings for greater impact has been done.
- 2 block Level networking meetings were organized with PRI Members & Govt. officials, civil society organizations, media persons and women groups.
- Initiation has been taken for greater convergence of GVA with other Govt. Programmes, Like NREGS, Total Sanitation Campaign and other livelihood programme.

Impact:

Villagers of Uppar Gadala, Tala Gadala, and Mujanga took initiatives to preserve the running water of the feeble streams to use for cultivation of vegetables, horticulture and for domestic use.

In some of the villages villagers have started to establish the nurseries and local variety of plants and cashews planted in their nearby hills and roadsides

10 Publications

Over the years, Agramee has brought out a number of publications with one single objective: to raise our voice on various issues affecting the tribal people and bring about change in the mindsets of individuals and institutions. We also produce and circulate illustrative booklets, in the form of pictorials, to the poor and marginalized, to raise their awareness on their rights and entitlements and share with them improved agricultural practices.

The following publications have been released by Agramee in the 2006-2007 reporting period:

STORES FROM THE BEYOND

Author: Mrs. Vidhya Das

Booklet. English. April 2007

This study was taken up at a time when tribal area conflict and the livelihood crisis were catching national and international headlines. Abuse of police, power had resulted in the killing of three tribal people in Rayagada district reports of starvation deaths were drawing much attention and endless accusation. This study tries to understand the complex reasons behind the food crisis of the tribal communities and their coping mechanisms, the role of different players and interests, while also trying to find out what could be the alternatives.

MATI KADUARA MANISHA

Author : Achyut Das

Book – Oriya, Feb.'2008

The book rightly justifies the name “Mati Kaduar Manish” who are always been ignored, suppressed and deprived to live the life of a citizen with dignity. The author feels the dissatisfaction and sorrows of the down trodden argues that they should be released from all the bondages and made free which are the real need of their development.

NATIONAL RURAL EMPLOYMENT GUARANTEE SCHEME (NREGS)

Author : Achyut Das

Book – Oriya, Dec.'2007

NREGS is one of the best acts of our country and a good opportunity for the livelihood development of the rural labourers. It is meant to check migration and provide work to the people to earn their livelihood in their own place. But the principles of the act are widely violated and the people have to struggle to get justice.

The book consists of two parts: The first part is about the comprehensive report of the state level media sensitization workshop and the struggle of the people to get their rights is reflected in the second part. The book is a collection of facts and reports from the villages.

AMASTANKA PAIEN PANI

Edited : Achyut Das

Book – Oriya, Nov.2007

To make the people aware about the different issues of water Agragamee is publishing a bi-monthly newsletter. This book is a collection of selected articles written by different personalities working on water like Activists, Technicians, Environmentalist, Journalists, Teachers & Professionals on different issues and some case studies on water from different areas.

AMA JALA SAMPADA O PARIBESH

Author : Dr. Sisir Behera & Er. Srikant Panigrahi

Book – Oriya, Dec.'2007

A book about 12 articles on water difficulties pollution and its results and remedies. Both the authors explicitly describe on water crisis with due importance to Orissa. They also have expressed their anxiety about the fall of ground water table in Orissa which will grave the situation and lead water war in Orissa in near future.

AROHAN

Edited – Vidhya Das

Oriya, July 2007

A book that vividly depicts the stories of the Advasi and the Dalit women of Kashipur struggling for their socio, economic and political changes since last 25 years. Their struggle for livelihood has impacted and encouraged the Advasi women's of different parts of Orissa in a great extent. The values of leadership of the Advasi women of Kashipur has created a significant identity in Orissa. This book can fulfill the taste of the readers if they identify themselves with the struggle and promises of the Adivasi mothers.

AMA GAON KASHIPUR

Compiled & Edited – Prof. Chittranjan Das & Achyut Das

Oriya, June 2007

Kashipur a highlighted block of Orisaa for starvation and epidemic death. From 1980 to till date it has gone through many changes. The study says once upon a time the money lenders were the root of all sorts of problem but now a new set of intruders which are acting as new money lenders are trying to enter into this area in the name of mining and industrialisation. This book will help us to make clarity of the debate going on about Kashipur.

NUA PATHA NUA BATA

Edited – Achyut Das

Oriya, Sept.'2007

Agragamee had started some innovative education centers for the Adivasi children in the remote, non-reachable areas which had created remarkable examples. The innovative methods of teaching was widely accepted by the students. Some of the successive experiences of the teachers are compiled in this book which can draw the impression of the readers, teachers and educationists.

With all these books Agramee is also publishing many newsletters, booklets, posters, leaflets etc. on different issues, campaigns and right based activities. Last year newsletters like 6 issues of PANI SAMASTANKA PAleN, 4 issues of Panchayat Darshan and 4 issues of NREGA SAMACHAR are published and widely circulated mostly in the Adviasi areas of Orissa. Some case studies regarding different issues are also published in the newsletter. Besides, some books for the children like 'Kholi Ja Mor Kuhuk Pedi', 'Anabana Gapa' and 'Learn and Practice' are also published.

You can view our complete list of publications on our website: www.agramee.org
To order a book, see our contact details in the back cover on this Annual Report.

11. Organisation Structure

10.1 GOVERNING BODY

Prof. Chittaranjan Das (President)

83-A, Bapuji nagar, Bhubaneswar-9

Freedom fighter, sociologist, writer and educationist.

Recipient of Kendra Sahitya Academy Award.

Mrs. Shanti Devi (Vice-President)

SEVA SAMAJ, At/P.O-Gunupur, Dist.-Rayagada

Development worker, freedom fighter and social worker.

Recipient JAMANALAL BAJAJ AWARD in 1994.

Mr. Achyut Das (Director)

Chief Functionary

AGRAGAMEE

At/P.O-Kashipur, Dist.-Rayagada

Social worker with 30 years experience in the field of rural development.

Founder Member of Social Work and Research Centre Orissa and Agragamee.

Mrs. Sumoni Jhodia (Member)

At-Siriguda, P.O-Kashipur, Dist-Rayagada

Social Worker and community leader.

Advisor to Chief Minister Govt. of Orissa for Tribal Development.

Mr. Bairaj Bhoi (Member)

At-Sapiguda, P.O-Balndupada, Via-Phiringia, Dist.-Kandhamal

Social worker, community leader and educator in tribal areas.

Mrs. Jatni Kanhar (Member)

At-Kirlikumpa, P.O-Luising, Dist.-Kandhamal

Social worker and community leader.

Mrs. Laxmi Majhi (Member)

Vill.-Talagodigaon, Tentulikhunti, Dist.-Nabarangpur

Social worker and community leader.

11.2 REGISTRATION DETAILS

Status: NGO (Non-governmental organisation). Registration: KPT-289/6/1987-88.

FCRA Registration No.: 104960035

11.3 OUR STRENGTH

a. Staff: 20 professionals, 138 general Staff.

b. Infrastructure: Headquarter at Kashipur in Rayagada District, Training campus at Mallijharan in Rayagada District, Coordination Office at Bhubaneswar in Orissa, 10 Project Offices in various Districts, Offices in Watershed Development

11.4 OUR PARTNERS

Sanjojana (meaning “Coordination”). A consortium of 30 NGOs for implementation of watershed development, NRM, poverty alleviation and community empowerment projects.

SAMPADA, New Delhi, a national level network of NGOs in India.

Sikshasandhan (‘Search for Knowledge’). Consortium of 8 NGOs for education in tribal areas.

Ama Sangathan (meaning ‘Our organisation’). A sister CBO run directly by 1500 tribal women from 300 villages aimed at fostering women empowerment and community livelihoods.

11.5 OUR KEY DONORS

German Agro Action; Concern Worldwide India; Christian Aid; Karl Kuber Stiftung, BMZ, Terre des Hommes; UNDP (Small Grants Programme); UBS; ROSE;; SANFEC; TATA Trust; CAPART, Ministry of Human Resource Development (Govt. of India); District Rural Development Agency (Orissa); Population Foundation of India, National Foundation for India.

11.6 GEOGRAPHICAL AREA OF OPERATION:

Name of the Project	Block	District	No. of villages covered
Kashipur	Kashipur	Rayagada	412
Derakumpa	Phiringia	Kandhamal	100
Dasmantpur	Dasmantpur	Koraput	201
Thakurmunda	Thakurmunda	Mayurbhanj	42
Sukruli	Sukruli	Mayurbhanj	37
Padepadar	Thakumulrampur	Kalahandi	37
Goudaguda	Tentulikhunti	Nabarangpur	28
Mahaling	Golamunda	Kalahandi	11
Chhindpani	Nuapada	Nuapada	08
Sinapalli	Sinapalli	Nuapada	11

11.7 KEY PROGRAMME AREAS

- Integrated watershed development and natural resource management (NRM), including backward and forward linkages (socio-economic improvement, market development, natural resource conservation, etc.)
- Training and capacity building for such comprehensive watershed development and natural resource management in Orissa and outside
- Education including innovative, non-formal, alternative and women literacy programmes suited to the tribal context
- Environment, including biodiversity conservation, natural resource 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

12. Financial Summary

BALANCE SHEET FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2009

ASSETS	Amount in INR
Fixed Assets	
Fixed Assets	2,62,33,963.08
Grants Receivable from Funding Agencies	25,93,336.00
Current Assets, Loans & Advances	1,57,30,736.00
Total Assets	4,45,58,035.08
LIABILITIES	
Capital Fund	1,88,50,161.08
General Fund	1,12,00,318.35
Fixed Assets Capital Fund	14,60,500.00
Revolving fund	4,62,901.10
Loans & Payables	21,07,588.60
Grants to be Spent	10,476,565.95
Total	4,45,58,035.08

INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2009

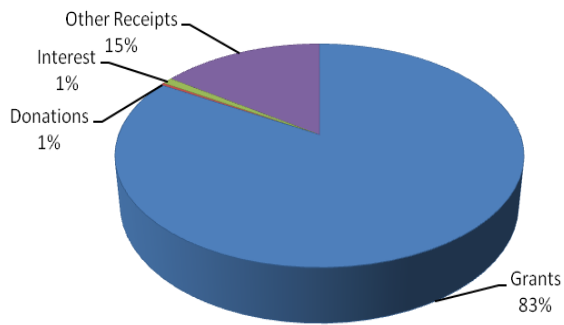
INCOME	Amount in INR
Grants	26827429.41
Donations	118840.00
Interest	297383.48
Other Receipts	4906509.40
Total	32150162.29
EXPENDITURE	
Programme Expenses	26827429.41
Administrative Expenses	3924856.15
Contribution to project works	329199.00
Excess of Income over expenditure	1068677.73
Total	

Statutory Auditor
M/s S.C. Bhadra, FCA
Bhubaneswar
Bhubaneswar

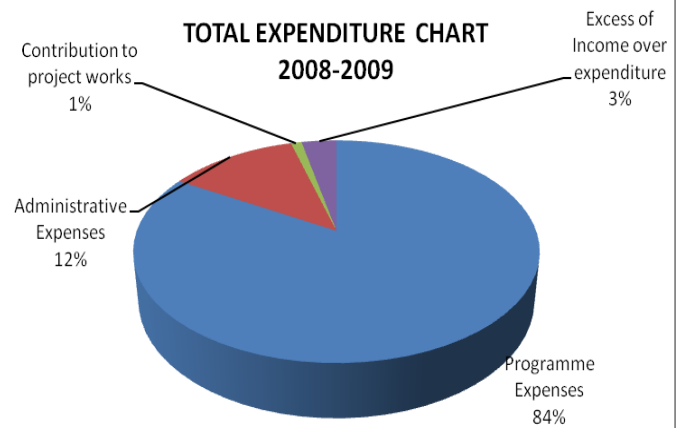
Internal Auditor
M/s A.K.Lenka & Co, FCA
Bhubaneswar

Bankers
SBI, Kashipur
SBT,

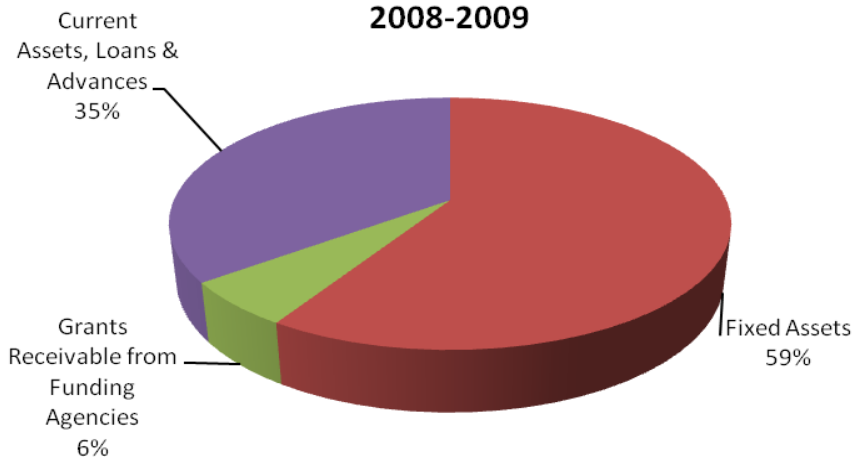
**TOTAL INCOME CHART
2008-2009**



**TOTAL EXPENDITURE CHART
2008-2009**



**ASSET CHART
2008-2009**



**LIABILITIES CHART
2008-2009**

