



OUR VOICE

Bi-Monthly Newsletter

Coronavirus Vaccination Drive: 'Vocal for Local' Movement



Trained community volunteers creating awareness on Covid-19 Vaccination in Malkanagiri district.

Innovation in Millet Cultivation helps 'Saheb Khila' to Win the Battle against Poverty

Ramesh Ch. Swain

In the tribal community belts of Koraput district, Odisha Millet Mission (OMM) has brought significant changes in the lives of the poor tribal farmers. A cup of cooked millet can provide 207 calories with carbs of 40g and protein content makes it a genuine food option in urban and rural areas. Millets help in preventing chronic diseases, lowering cholesterol level, increase in the fiber intake and provide other health benefits. With the focus of the local government on the processed products of millets and value addition, it seems attractive for the rural poor households to strengthen their economic status through better market linkages. The programme has started in South Odisha with the objectives of better production, consumption, marketing and value chain formation along with creation of seed banks. The intervention has been able to yield desired success in alleviating livelihood stress of the rural poor and marginal farmers. CYSD, being the facilitating agency, has been helping the poor tribal farmers to get involved in OMM's programme in convergence with ATMA and technical support of WASSN.

Saheb Khila, a 41 years old farmer of Kandha tribe from Kandapodapadar village having 8 family members, has experienced a landslide change in his lifestyle and livelihood after being a part of the Odisha Millet Mission programme. Saheb, who is mostly focusing on agriculture as his livelihood option, cultivates Millet, Paddy, Vegetables and Pulses for his family consumption as well as for marketing purposes. He has cultivated Ragi in 3 acres of land adopting the System of Millet Intensification (SMI) method, which is a climate resilient practice, now getting mileage in South Odisha. Saheb, who has



encompassed agriculture as his prime way of breadwinning, previously used to cultivate millets in a traditional way and hence was not getting the desired result and yield. Despite spending INR 15,000 – 16,000 per season, the yield was not satisfactory. In fact, the yield was so low that it was not even enough for his family consumption. The traditional method of sowing was not scientific and climate friendly too. Saheb and his family used to live a poor lifestyle previously, which has changed drastically after being involved in the OMM programme. Moreover, the rate of Ragi production was only 0.2 quintal per acre and the amount of damage/waste of the seeds were very high and the harvesting was too late.

During the year 2020, through OMM, he got an incentive amount of INR 8,000 for Ragi cultivation in his 3 acres land along with the support of a cycle weeder, organic fertilizer and pesticides, like Jivamruta through the SHGs, carpet and also a Thresher-cum-Pearler of worth INR 1,13,000. Meanwhile, he got his name registered under Sabujima Farmers' Producer Company with a valid number, which would be helpful to obtain other benefits, like getting market linkage in the local as well as in bigger forums.

“Through adoption of innovative practices, like SMI, line sowing and line transplantation in 3 acres of land I could produce 18 quintals of Ragi at the rate of 6 quintals per acre. With the same amount of investment i.e. INR 15,000 in Ragi cultivation, now after harvesting, I have earned a profit of INR 40,000 INR excluding the investment cost,” says overjoyed Saheb. “Out of 18 quintals of yielded Ragi, I have preserved 50 kg of Ragi for seed purposes in seed banks and stored one quintal for my family's consumption. Moreover, I have been able to sell the remaining Ragi in the local Mandi and other enterprises as well through the FPC with appropriate cost”, he added.

Now, Saheb is one of the leading farmers in the Kandapodapadar village and has been able to influence other 60 farmers from his own and nearby villages to adopt such practices of SMI, Line Sowing and Line Transplantation in Ragi cultivation for better return.

The intervention of Odisha Millet Mission with the facilitation of CYSD has changed the life of many tribal farmers like Saheb Khila in Koraput. This effort continues to influence many other famers of rural as well as urban areas to increase their economy and live a dignified life in the society.



Maize Farming through Cluster Approach brings better livelihoods for Tribal Farmers in Chitra GP

Rakesh Paul

Maize is the only multi-use cereal which can be used as human food, animal feed and a source of a large number of industrial products. Traditionally, maize has been a Kharif crop in Odisha, even though it can be cultivated in Rabi and Spring seasons under assured irrigation. Maize, “Queen of Cereals”, is rich in essential nutrients and is widely popularized in southern Odisha, with Koraput emerging as a new convenient location.

The success of maize crop from neighbor Nabarangpur district has attracted the farmers of Chitra GP in Kotpad Block of Koraput district for transiting to maize as their Kharif crop. But, the high input cost of maize was the main hindrance for the resource poor tribal farmers of Chitra GP. In the meantime, Integrated Tribal Development Agency (ITDA) came to rescue the people’s aspiration for cultivating maize as one of their primary Kharif Crops.

In June of 2020, despite the Covid pandemic situation and movement restriction, CYSD team along with ITDA officials intervened in tribal dominated Chitra GP. The farmers of Jhaliaguda village from the GP could show their interest in cultivating maize as a commercial crop. In the first phase of interactive meeting with the community, 56 households with 88 acres of land were taken into consideration for the Kharif crop. Accordingly, the farmers were introduced to village level agriculture product cluster concept, its benefits and sustainable methods of practice, etc.

With support from ITDA under Mission Jeevika initiative, farmers got support of improved variety (CP333) maize seed @ 8 Kg per acre. They underwent orientations on



the scientific package of practices (PoP) of maize where management of water, nutrient and plant protection were the important facets. Further, they were oriented on land utilization, excess water management and drainage, etc. as critical aspects of maize retarded growth. The farmers could learn on nutrient application check after flowering for better fruit initiation and advancement of maize cobs. Emphasis was given on promotion of biological nutrient management in maize clusters, hence, bio-fertilizers (Samrudhi Gold) @ 10 Kg per acre provided to farmers for biological nitrogen enrichment in the soil. As soil was showing chronic Zinc deficiency, ZNSO₄ nutrient was provided @ 5 Kg per acre to get rid of leaf rib withering.

The dedicated efforts of farmers resulted in healthy crop growth and realized yield of average 18 quintals per acre. Total yield in the cluster accumulated to 1258 quintals which was unexpected by the farmers. As Maize provides them a more marketable surplus, farmers got a chance to convert their land potential into cash this time. The facilitating team connected the farmers to local traders who lifted maize after de-shelling in the common yard. The farmers got Rs. 1500 per quintal, which compensated well their cost of investment as major cost of production in terms of input cost handled under Mission Jeevika initiative.

Mr. Sukru Jani, one of the Maize farmers from Chitra GP, cultivated maize in 2 acres of rain fed land. Instead of cultivating traditional paddy crops, this time Sukru opted for Maize with the recommendation of a facilitating team. "I used to cultivate paddy which relatively requires more water consumption. Many times I face difficulties due lack of irrigation in the seedling stage which causes damage to panicles and reduction in yield. The harvested paddy hardly meets my family's consumption needs, but I used to keep some seeds for next season. But, this time maize altered my livelihoods cycle. I have earned a substantial amount of Rs 60000/- after selling my harvested maize to trader", he said cheerfully. Sukru is planning to buy some maize seeds by his own for next Kharif onwards and he will keep some amount for Rabi vegetable sowing.



Invariably, a small strategic change in crop selection and changing in cropping pattern can lead to realization of cropping intensity of more than 200%, which is a great achievement for Sukru and his maize cluster farmers.

Kamakala Enjoys Innovation in Farm Field & Livestock Rearing

Saroj Rout

Introduction of Agriculture Production Cluster Approach (APC) by ITDA under Jiveeka Mission of Odisha Government in the rural areas of Koraput has been one of the important interventions. The support and Horticulture & Agriculture Departments and ITDA has brought changes in the livelihoods of 20 women farmers' families in Kupuliguda village like Kamala Bhumia.

Kamakala, a 45-year-old woman farmer of Bhumia tribe from Kupuliguda village of Kollar GP in Boipariguda Block of the district has radically changed following APC approach in her farm field and livestock rearing.

Kamakala has embraced agriculture as her primary occupation with possession of three acres of land, but she rears poultry to supplement her income.

Earlier, she used to go outside for wage labor as she was struggling to get a good profit out of her own cultivation and from poultry rearing, due to poor skill and knowledge on organic farming and livestock maintenance. Kamakala was so poor that she could not even feed her family members properly and live a dignified life in her community. In livestock, she was able to rear just 10-15 birds for her own family consumption, but was not enough for selling to get any profit out of it.

Luckily, ITDA of Jaypore and CYSD jointly selected Kamakala to extend support of 10,000 INR for poultry rearing in terms of shed construction and 100 chicks supply along with others from Kupuliguda village. Necessary vaccination and deworming of the poultry was ensured in convergence with the Veterinary Department of Koraput.



In the meantime, Kamakala was involved as a member of the Pragati Producer Group, having 140 members from three villages including Kupuliguda, which has already adopted APC approach in agriculture and livestock rearing. Kamakala also got required skill training from the CRPs of her village on how to rear poultries and prepare organic manures for field application. Apart, she received technical handholding support from APC Project team on preparation of Jivamruta, Nimastra, etc. Seed support was also provided to her by ITDA, Jeypore for vegetable farming along with 40 mango saplings for plantation. Kamakal says, "In previous year, I sold around 50 poultry grown up birds out of 100 and was able to earn a profit of 15,000 INR". She spent some amount of profit for better living and rest expended in seed procurement, organic fertilizer preparation and payment of labor cost in her farm field. Kamakala, who used to go outside in search of a daily wage job to maintain her family, is now hardly gets time to go outside, rather she is giving employment opportunities to others in her farm land.

This year, Kamakala along with other co-farmers had undertaken vegetable cultivation like, cauliflower, brinjal, beans, etc. by using the organic manure. This time she earned 50,000 INR as profit, which has made her self-sufficient and offered a clean path to live a dignified life in her community.

"I have proved myself as an innovator in organic manures and helped other women farmers of my village to learn how to prepare and apply organic manure in farm land towards improving their economic status," shares delighted Kamakala.

Now, Kamakala has a good monetary security, which offers her immense confidence that she can earn much more by staying with her own community and giving mentoring support to other women farmers to get involved in APC approach and avail the support of Horticulture, Agriculture and ITDA to improve their livelihood.



Vegetable Cultivation brings back Confidence on Tribal Farmers

Ramesh Ch. Swain

The impact of the COVID-19 Pandemic had pushed the tribal farmers to acute misery and severe distress. While the tribal livelihood system already maintained at the subsistence level, without much aspiration, the unprecedented biological pandemic brought to surface new complications difficult to reconcile and to cope with.

Amidst the stress and uncertainty caused due to the lockdown, concerted initiatives by the government, efforts from civil society organizations paved way for some tribal farmers to adopt a new market-led agriculture approach, which offered new sense of motivation to the community at large to adopting integrated agriculture practices, thereby shifting the approach of subsistence to substantial farming.

Bijaya Bhatra, a tribal farmer from Nuaguda Village of Kaliagaon GP in Jeypore block, has 50 cent (0.5 acres) of undulated land. Bijaya keeps himself engaged in Kharif cultivation adopting traditional crops like paddy or millets. Higher cost involvement had been restricting him from initiating high yield vegetable crop cultivation. Despite the availability of water sources nearby, Bijaya was unable to harness its potential and to take risk thereof. It was a day-dream for him to realize the potential of his land and get promising cultivation during the summer season till the joint intervention of ITDA and CYSD in his farmland.

After initial land verification in Ghatabaghra and Nuaguda Villages, 100 Tribal HHs were selected to initiate summer 'Okra' cultivation adopting a cluster approach in 50 acres of



land. The community was new to large-scale Okra cultivation and had no understanding of the cluster approach, greatly benefited from the technical handhold provided by the CYSD team.

To this effect, the potential beneficiaries were identified followed by intensive mobilization for collectivizing farmers to adopt the production cluster approach. The farmers understood the benefits of this kind of farm approach. The ITDA, Jeypore, came forward with support in the form of an improved variety of Okra seeds. The entire chain comprising processes starting from land preparation, maintenance of spacing, seed treatment, seed sowing, growth period management, irrigation management, and intercultural operations to harvesting of Okra (crop POPS) was monitored by the CYSD team. Further, the CYSD team built the capacity of the farmers in the cluster approach and oriented them about the benefits of natural farming, usage of sustainable nutrients, pest management and the use of bio-fertilizers for integrated nutrient management. The concentrated efforts resulted in production of 1200 quintals of Okra amid lock-down. This boosted the morale and self-confidence of farmers.

Instead of selling the products individually, farmers came together as collectives and were linked to buyers who supported the farmers in bulk procurement from farm fields and the subsequent lifting by traders from the Jeypore town. As many as 100 farmers realized a business turnover of Rs. 20,00,000 in the lockdown situation which enhanced the confidence and pride of each household involved in the cluster approach.

“I was unaware that my field can produce crops other than rice and millet. I cultivated Okra on 50 cent of land. I have already sold 12 quintals of Okra and earned Rs. 24000 in addition to my Kharif crop which is a substantial support for me in managing my family”, said cheerful Bijaya Bhatra. I am planning for better yield in the next crop, he added.



Awareness and Sustained Practice leads to Safer Delivery & Healthier Lifestyle

Nabanita Das

Sumitra Mohanta, aged 30 years belongs to a marginal farmer's family of Khadikapada village under Saharapada Block of Keonjhar district. In 2015, she got married to Ganesh Mohanta and became the mother of a baby boy in the following year. During her first pregnancy, she had no idea about the safe pregnancy practices and continued with the family tradition. Though she consumed IFA tablets occasionally, she could not give attention to nutrition supplements in her diet. She had irregular health check-ups, but missed attending VHNDs quite often. With less diet, she became weak and anaemic that led to a complicated delivery. However, she had to stay in the hospital for some time before both the mother and the child got discharged.

During 2018, Sumitra came in contact with the local CSP who motivated her to watch the SAMVAD videos. She became curious to know more and shared the information with her husband. The couple also watched some of the videos together when those were shared through mobile phones. This knowledge helped the couple to plan for their second child and the pregnancy was registered during the later part of 2018. She started with Weekly Iron Folic Acid Supplementation (WIFS) from the beginning and consumed the Take Home Ration (THR) from the Anganwadi Centre along with some nutritious food in her daily diet. Ganesh even developed their kitchen garden into a nutri garden with a variety of vegetables for family consumption.

Sumitra attended all VHNDs and remained in regular touch with the CSP and ANM for advice on pregnancy care. In due time, she delivered a healthy boy child and fed him the colostrum with exclusive breast-feeding for six months. The child is now 2 years old with a normal growth chart.

The family has become advocates of SAMVAD videos; spares no opportunity to spread the awareness message among the community members; and motivates them to adapt to change in behaviour by embracing safe mother and childcare practices.



Photo Speaks



Covid-19 Vaccination Campaign undertaken in Rayagada district



PVTG community people taking Covid-19 Vaccination in Malkanagiri district



Cowpea vegetable cultivation through Trellis by Akhapalan Producer Group in Thakurmunda block.



Leamon Grass cultivation through cluster approach in Koraput district.



Potato harvesting by Dangararani Producer Company through cluster approach in Dasmantpur block of Koraput.



CYSD senior Management Team holding interactions with Producer Group members in Thakurmunda block.

Media Coverage

THE HINDU
Our code of editorial values

In Odisha, activists, front-line workers set up doorstep helpdesks for women

Satyasundar Barik

BHUBANESWAR, SEPTEMBER 24, 2021 06:00 IST
UPDATED: SEPTEMBER 24, 2021 06:51 IST

90 centres to help victims fight their case in tribal-dominated areas

Activists, self-help groups and frontline workers in Odisha have joined hands to set up helpdesks near the doorsteps of women facing violence. With this initiative, such women will be able to narrate their issues before redressal of their grievances at appropriate forums.

About 90 helpdesks have been created at Anganwadi centres in Koraput, Keonjhar and Mayurbhanj districts, where the awareness level pertaining to violence against women is low. The creation of the forums assumed significance in wake of the latest National Crime Record Bureau report stating a rise in crime against women, which rose in Odisha by 9.95% in 2020 in comparison to 2019.

25K cases of violence

A total of 25,489 cases of violence against women were recorded in the State in 2020, 23,183 in 2019 and 20,274 in 2018.

"While working with women in villages, we came across societal as well as familial pressures and ignorance among women about

Community aid call on crimes against women

Minati.Singha
@timesgroup.com

Bhubaneswar: The outbreak of Covid-19 has intensified incidents of violence against girls and women in Odisha. As the state ranks second in terms of crimes against women in India, experts suggest that community-level intervention could play a pivotal role to improve the overall scenario.

Situational analysis pointed out that during the pandemic, men couldn't engage themselves into any stable economic activity, which caused frustration to them. "They resorted to alcoholism and vented out their frustration on women by inflicting violence on them," said gender coordinator at Centre for Youth and Social Development

A sensitisation campaign being held in Mayurbhanj district

(CYSD), a voluntary organisation, Upaly Mohanty.

To address the issue, CYSD started working in 30 villages in each of Mayurbhanj, Keonjhar and Koraput districts. "We found absence of community support to the survivors and lack of awareness about necessary policies. Community-level cadres, village leaders, SHG leaders, ASHA and ANM workers were sensitised to

provide support to prevent incidents of violence against women and help the victims," Mohanty added.

As per the NCRB report 2020, the overall crime against women increased by 9.94 per cent, contributing 6.89 per cent to the total crime against women in India.

The state reported the highest number of cases -12,605 - of assault against women in the country.

"Community structure should be strengthened and the government mechanisms made accessible to the survivors. Panchayati raj institute members, frontline workers and SHGs should be educated on various support systems and legal provisions made available to address violence," said woman activist and social worker Rita Das.

state, Cuttack-754021. Editor: Keshav Pradhan, responsible for selection of news under PRB Act. RNI no: ODIENG/2014/58886. Tel no: (0674) 2725907. All rights reserved. Reproduction in whole or in part is prohibited.

Our sincere thanks to the Partners, Collaborators and Supporters for joining their hands with CYSD to fight COVID-19 Pandemic together.

Join your hands with CYSD to fight out second wave of COVID-19 pandemic together.

DONATE NOW



Centre for Youth and Social Development
E-1 Institutional Area, Gangadhar Meher Marg, P.O. RRL
Bhubaneswar 751 013, Odisha, India
Telephone: + 91-674-2300983 / 2301725, Fax: + 91-674-2301226
Email : info@cysd.org | cysd@cysd.org
www.cysd.org

