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ANNUAL REPORT



2016-17



Director's Message

Dear Friends,

Greetings from VIEWS-India!

Voluntary Integration for Education and Welfare of Society (VIEWS) is a growing grass-root organization working to improve livelihoods security among marginal and empowering youth in Odisha.



It is our immense pleasure to share in brief the Annual Report 2016-2017 of VIEWS. Our attempt is to help reduce the food and nutrition issues faced by tribals, dalits and the socially deprived by helping them revive organic and multi-cropping practices. In addition, we strive to improve the quality of life among the marginalized youth, women, adolescent girls and children in remote villages and urban slums of the state through focused interventions.

Operating from the poorest pockets of Odisha- home to some of the poorest communities in the India, living beyond the national poverty line and particularly vulnerable for food insecurity, VIEWS has been working with different national, international agencies and the Government on various projects for the last 10 years .

We thank to National Foundation for India, The Hans Foundation, Australian High Commission, 1% fund for Development, Nourish International, ICCO Cooperation, Students of Univerisity of Wisconsin, and Virginal Tech University and all for their support to bring about the above changes in the lives of the people of marginalized groups. Our future initiatives will continue to create an enabling environment of well-being for the poor with a focus on self -sustaining community led initiatives through knowledge, innovation and transformative action

Sincerely yours,

Priya Abraham

Director-VIEWS

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1. About VIEWS

Voluntary Integration for Education and Welfare of Society (VIEWS) is a growing grass-root organization working to improve food and livelihoods security among marginal and landless farmers in Odisha. Our attempt is to help reduce the food and nutrition issues faced by Tribal, Dalit and the socially deprived by helping them revive organic and multi-cropping practices.

Vision: Empowering marginalized communities to improve their quality of life.

Mission: Bringing holistic development through innovative solutions for a better society.

Operating from the eastern part of India- home to some of the poorest communities in the world and particularly vulnerable for food insecurity, VIEWS has been working with different national, international agencies and the Government on various high impact projects for the last 10 years enhancing the well being of communities in two broad areas.

- Improving the livelihood and social security of rural farmers by adopting the 'Farm-Farmer-Family' approach; starting with transformation of the farms and complementing seasonal agricultural incomes through opportunities arising in the non-farm sector.
- Enhancing the income of small producers (farm, forest, fish, livestock), and covering other related themes such as Water, Financial Inclusion, Climatic Resilience and Energy.



This diversification has helped the community reduce vulnerability by spreading income risk. Household-based activities in the non-farm sector have been particularly rewarding for the rural women improving their economic well-being and helping them able to spend more on healthcare, education, food, nutrition, etc. for their families.

Genesis: VIEWS was founded in 2002 by a group of youth in Odisha who initially worked for relief and rehabilitation work after the 1999 super cyclone in the state with Lutheran World Service (India). The experience and exposure made them realize the need for a committed local organization to continue working for the critical social issues plaguing the community.



Our Focus Areas

- Food Security and Livelihoods Promotion
- Sustainable Agriculture & Organic farming
- Revival of Millets for Nutritional Security
- Climate Change and Environment Protection
- Quality Education and Women Empowerment
- Youth Empowerment & Social Entrepreneurship
- Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH)
- Clean Energy & Development Research

Legal Status

- Registered under Societies Registration Act XXI of 1860 vide number GJM No: 7781 of 2008-2009 on 4th April 2008.
- Registered under Foreign Contribution Regulation Act FCRA 1976 vide Registration Number , 104910201, dated : 22/03/2012
- Registered u/s 12AA of the Income Tax Act 1961 vide no: 38/2012-2013, dated: 10.08.2012.

- Registered u/s 80G (2) & (5) of the Income Tax Act, 1961, vide no: 206/11-12/2012-2013, dated: 10.08.2012.
- Permanent Account Number (PAN) AABTV0563A.
- Tax Deduction Account Number (TAN) BBNV00240C

Projects undertaken during the year

- ❖ Project-“Improving Livelihoods through Sustainable Agriculture and Allied activities for Social Excluded Communities with the support from National Foundation for India and The Hans Foundation, New Delhi
- ❖ Project-“Sustainable Livelihoods Initiative in Odisha” for securing sustainable livelihoods in Ganjam district (Odisha) with the support of ICCO-Cooperation, Netherlands Project-“Establishment of Social Enterprise for promotion of menstrual hygiene through affordable sanitary napkin unit” with the support from 1% Fund for Development
- ❖ Project-Cheysta for Empowering Adolescent Girls through Resource Centre in Urban Slums of Bhubaneswar, Odisha with the support of Australian High Commission, New Delhi
- ❖ Project SMILE-Youth for Development with the support from Nourish International, a chapters of Virginia Tech and Wisconsin University, USA
- ❖ Project-LIFE- Livelihoods Initiative for Fisherwomen Empowerment with the support from Nourish International, a chapters of University of Texas, Austin



Key Achievements so far

- ✦ 3000 +farmers introduced to modified paddy cultivation method called the “SRI (systematic rice intensification)”,
- ✦ 2500 +organic farms created to replenish micro nutrients and restore soil health of their agricultural landscapes
- ✦ 3000+ marginal families provided with alternative livelihood in fishery, livestock, agribusiness and microenterprise development for ultra-poor.
- ✦ 3000 nutrition gardens created to help women ensuring access to healthy diet with adequate macro and micronutrients at their backyards.
- ✦ 1500+ Youth empowered through training to enhance their employability and job opportunities
- ✦ 1000+ adolescent girls trained in menstrual hygiene solutions, reproductive and sexual health.
- ✦ 2500+ Women empowered and enabled via Self Help Groups as a new breed of community actors



2. Project Undertaken

2.1 Project: Securing Sustainable Livelihoods

The Improve Smallholder's Livelihoods through Agriculture and Allied Intervention had being implemented by VIEWS through community based approach with the financial aid from The Hans Foundation (THF) and National Foundation for India- New Delhi and timely technical and hand hold support from NFI livelihoods team. A community based participatory approach was adopted where the multi stakeholders including CBOs, Government and Civil society played significant role as facilitators from household planning, project executing, community monitoring and evaluating the program as per agreed project indicators.

The project was implemented in various phases. The 1st year of the project focused on area selection,



community mobilization, household survey, conducting base line study, SHGs promotion, capacity building of farmers on livelihoods skill, establishing linkages with multi stakeholders, execution of livelihoods practices in paddy cultivation, ragi promotion, organic vegetable cultivation, demonstration of packages of practices with special focus on natural resource management and livelihoods entitlements.

In the 2nd year, the focus was on the strengthening of community based institutions, capacity building of marginal farmers on improved agriculture practices, promotion of community cadres on organic farming, designing of packages of practices/ leaflets, promotion of line transplanting in paddy, ragi, vegetable cultivation, oil seeds, pulses support for low cost irrigation, convergence with resource agencies and government departments for disadvantaged communities and replicating the existing sustainable

Community Mobilization

Team-VIEWS mobilized the community to form women SHGs. Women Self Help Groups have been playing a vital role in implementation of this livelihoods project since its inception. VIEWS promoted and strengthened 45 SHGs including the defunct ones. The project organized series of capacity building initiatives on SHG Management, leadership development, fund management, book keeping and collective micro enterprise development for smooth functioning of the groups in active collaboration with block level Odisha Livelihoods Mission.

VIEWS has remained a facilitator in forming these women self-help groups in villages thus helping the locals to come together and solve their individual problems collectively. We also facilitated the groups to link with local Banks and OLM in order to access financial inclusion services. After two years of project intervention, now the women have gained complete awareness about SHG rules and regulations, internal lending and networking with financial and government line departments. They now have the confidence to interact with government officials and resolve their problems at community level. *“A member from the SHG from Hinjili village said, “The regular meetings have helped us to discuss the internal issues, resolves problems and carry out the business in a collective manner. It has made us more confident and this time we moved outside the village boundaries for marketing of our spice packets,” said Pushpa Sahoo*

Strengthening Community based organization

Promoting groups and Women Self Help Groups in villages have helped the locals come together and solve their individual problems collectively. Group formation has also brought. Savings in their name give them self respect and increased confidence. VIEWS promoted 45 New and old SHGs in project operational area. All the trainings were conducted by using various participatory training methodologies for better understanding on community based institutions and its management at village level.



Crop Planning

Crop planning has helped the farmers in a major way to plan various crops as well as in crop intensification, introduction of new technology, plant protection and improved agricultural practices in paddy, ragi and vegetable cultivation based on season, availability of water and demand in the market.

NFI provided a series of orientation and technical support on crop planning to the project staff and designed a standard

format as per the Odisha context in local language. Following this, VIEWS provided an orientation to the community resource persons along with the required handholding support. The community resource persons were actively involved in preparation of the household level crop planning for Kharif and Rabi season. Finally, the project covered 800 households under crop planning.

The outcome of this crop planning was that the farmers were able to plan their crops based on market demand. This also helped to reduce insect attacks in the field. They were also asked not to go for same family crops as it would lead to spreading of plant diseases. The farmers were also motivated to adopt new technologies for different crops, while preserving their local indigenous seeds. The crop planning significantly contributed to enhance the production, productivity and helped the farmers earn better revenue for their agriculture produce in the market as compared to previous years. The farmers also shared their learning's with their fellow farmers.

Enhancing Paddy Production:

In Chikiti and Patrapur, the marginal farmers mainly depend upon paddy production as staple crop. Until now, the farmers in these areas had remained fully dependent on rainfall for paddy cultivation.

VIEWS introduced System of Rice Intensification/System of Root Intensification and other packages of practices in 657 households of the project target area within two years project period. The project field staff and CRPs were trained by NFI with the technical support from OUAT, IRRI, KABIL and other agriculture



experts. VIEWS conducted community trainings in 26 project villages for more than 800 farmers with technical support from external experts.

This was followed by interface meetings with district and block level agriculture and other line departments. Exposure visits



on demonstration on SRI and use of better variety seeds was also organized. The project team developed and designed a leaflet on SRI and organic manure. This was distributed among 800 households in 26 villages.

The project also supported the farmers with various agricultural implements like weeder, delivery pipe, water pump, rope and other agriculture implements, which were purchased from the government and local markets. More than 10% community contribution was pooled in for the procurement of the above assets.

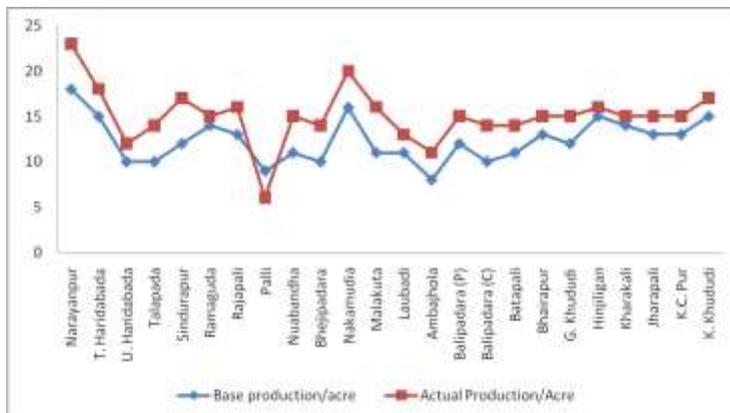
The team has been motivating and educating the marginal farmers with the help of video shows to adopt new technologies and enhance their household income. Live demonstration of various packages of practices on agriculture have been carried out in the field on seed selection, seed treatment, germination test, nursery preparation, land preparation, transplanting in line method and



mechanical weed management in 26 villages for practical understanding among the marginal farmers.

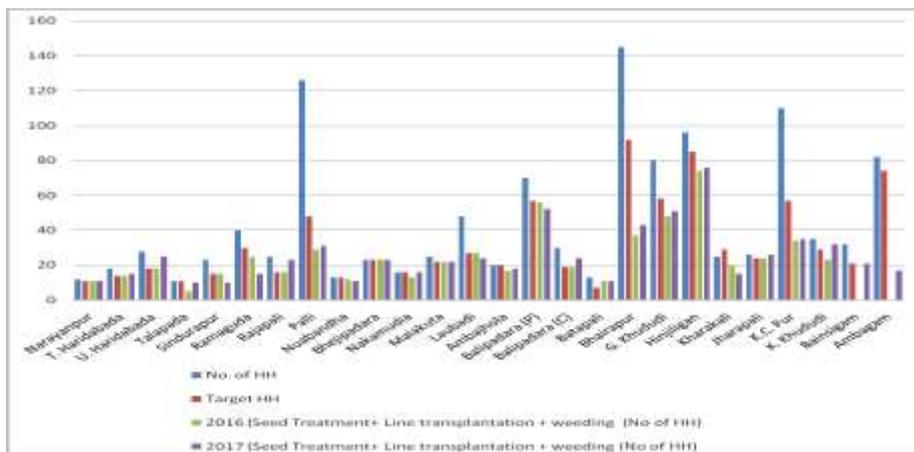
This year 657 farmers from our project area have implemented improved agricultural practices in paddy cultivation in 465.22 Acres of land. We have also supported marker, mandua weeder, and sprayer to the needy farmers for improved agriculture practices. These initiatives led to the enhancement of paddy production up to 15.04 quintal per acres. The project contributed 21.96% increased production as compared to previous years.

Graph 1: Comparative analysis of base production and actual produce in Paddy cultivation



The graphs show that, the base production in 2016 was 12.33 quintal per acre of land. The actual production after project intervention was 15.04 quintal per acre of land. The yield increased by 2.70 (21.96%) per acre during one year of our intervention.

Graph 2: Village wise analysis in paddy production



Story of Change: Lush green with line transplanting

Nakamudia is a small village in Ramachandrapur Gram Panchayat of Chikiti Block. There are 16 households in this village- all of them belonging to the Scheduled Tribe category. They largely depend on agriculture and forest produce

for their livelihood. These families used grow paddy, vegetable, millets, sweet potato and pulses in their land and depended on rain for agriculture.

After intervention of VIEWS, the villagers formed a Women Self Help Group and learnt to prepare organic manure. They were also informed of the different improved practices in agriculture. Following the intervention, this year, 14 out of the 16 households tried line transplanting in approximately 36 acres land. All the households followed some of the package of practices like seed priming, seed treatment, weed management etc. Initially the marginal farmers were apprehensive about the package of practices shared embers. The staff played a vital role in building their confidence and finally succeeded in convince them to adopt the best practices in paddy cultivation. The staff was present on the field and assisted the farmers in sowing of the crops so that they got it right.

The farmers are now, joyous on seeing their lush green fields that have 45 tillers for every two saplings. They are also spraying organic manures (Handi Khata) in their field. The villagers admitted that while earlier, the transplantation process took them about a month to complete, this time it was completed in five days. This has also reduced the labour cost. The village now appreciates the contribution of NFI/THF project for teaching them new techniques that reduce the cost of production and increased yield.



Enhancing Millet/Pulses/Oilseed

Millets Promotion: Millets are highly nutritious and have several health benefits. "People are taking up millet farming along with paddy. Green Gram, pigeon pea, Sunflower, ground nut, Til and Ragi (Finger Millets) are the major source of alternative source of food security for the rural poor in Ganjam district. Even then, the challenges in Ragi cultivation are huge owing to its multidimensional enormity like rain-fed agriculture, mono cropping, degraded,

climate change & biodiversity loss and untenable use of natural resource etc. The undulated topography, less farm mechanization and new technologies, use of indigenous seeds are the other concerns. Ragi is a relatively less focused crop due to the promotion of paddy, incentives in SRI cultivation and focus on cash crop cultivation by the government.

To revive the millets (Ragi) in 20 villages, VIEWS organized series of trainings on millets promotions, leaflets seeds support (Bharabi) and agriculture implements within two years. In the operational areas, the people were cultivated ragi by implementing improved agriculture practices. They adopted improved practices like seed treatment and line transplanting and weed management by using dryland weeder. In 2016 project supported Bhairabi ragi seed and dry land weeder and finger weeder for weed management and training on improved agriculture practices and insight training at the time of line transplanting and weed management. In 2017 project support dryland weeder for weed management and hand hold support in the field

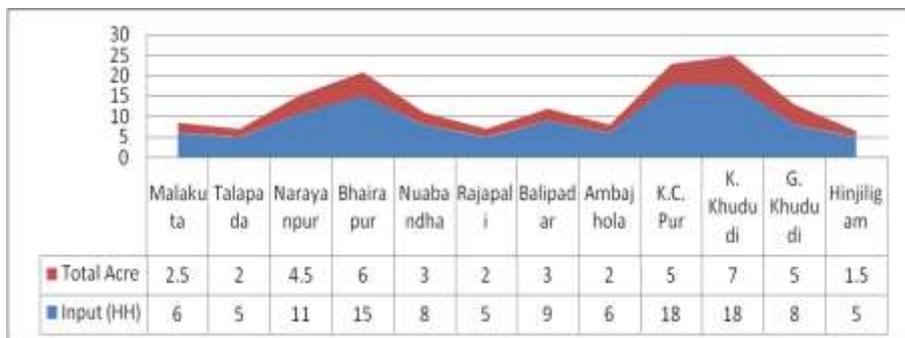


Promotion of Oil seed production: To promote oilseed, the project staffs selected 115 farmers in 11 villages for in our operational area in 43.5 acres of land. VIEWS provided supported orientation and 5 Kgs sunflower oil seeds to the poor beneficiaries in the operational area after proper selection of the beneficiaries in consultation with the community members. This activated impacted communities to earn extra income after meeting their household foods security in 11 villages. In our operational area people are cultivating ground nuts and til as oilseed. In groundnuts they are sowing in line. We are convergence with the OLM and provide seed of groundnut and til from OLM for the farmers of Chikiti and Patrapur block. We have supported seed treatment drum for seed

treatment, seeder and training on improved agriculture practices for adopting improve agriculture practices. In 2016 they were sowing in conventional method and in this year people are adopting line transplanting and seed treatment. And weed management by using dryland weeder.

Promotion of Pulses: To promote pulses, the project organized trainings in 17 villages and supported 1 quintal seeds to poor household for cultivation of pulses. In this year people are cultivating Pigeon pea, green gram in their field. We have shared the knowledge of improved agriculture practices and provide green gram seed to 109 farmers and also mobilize some seed from OLM for the farmers of Patrapur and Chikiti block. Now the farmers are cultivating pigeon pea in line with proper space.

Graph4: Village wise Promotion of Pulses



Promotion of Commercial Vegetable Cultivation

To improve household food security and alleviate micronutrient deficiencies, the operational team from VIEWS motivated small scale and marginal farmers to start commercial vegetable cultivation in their piece of agriculture land by using various packages of practices. The data collected from the baseline and crop planning reflects that most of the farmers are cultivating vegetable cultivation in their traditional process for household consumption, which is not giving them the satisfactory margin of their investment and labor in vegetable farming. To address the above issues, the project team has mobilized the farmers to do vegetable cultivation in a commercial mode by adopting new technologies, which helps to reduce their cost of production, as well as increase their household



production; enhance their household income.

VIEWS found that people in different villages are not doing vegetable cultivation for commercial purpose as they were cultivating very few land for their consumption purpose. After intervention of VIEWS team and conducted planning and training with the farmers in village level as well as farmers level. The CRPs are also providing handhold support to the farmers in field to increase the production and reduce the cost of production. Now the farmers are realizing that by following improved agricultural practices in vegetable cultivation, they are able to reduce the cost of production on seed, fertilizers and labour. They are very happy and are motivated to follow the improved agricultural practices forever.

People are doing cultivation for consumption purpose in their field and very few people were cultivating for commercial purpose in their field. Now people are cultivation vegetable for commercial purpose. To enhance their yield now they are following improved agriculture practices in vegetable.

IEWS selected small and marginal farmers under vegetable cultivation in the project operational villages to cultivate vegetables and provided training and handhold support for organic manure preparation, germination test, seed treatment, spacing and staking. Vegetables seeds were treat in Bijamruta (organic pest & disease Management)to cultivate in semi organic way.The Community Resource



Person and the field staff provided awareness on benefits of the organic manure to the farmers in the target villages and provide training to the marginalized farmers to prepare and ensure to use of organic manure and pesticide like pot manure, magic tonic, fish tonic, Jivamruta, Bijamruta and handikhata.Now the farmers were prepared and practiced organic manure.

The farmers prepared raise bed nursery for tomato and eggplant in their vegetable field. Most of the farmers are maintaining spacing after intervention of project. The seeds include bitter guard, tomato, raddish, Cluster bean and Long beans were cultivated by the farmers and the farmers applied organic manure as an individual contribution to enhance the vegetable cultivation in project operational villages.

This intervention helped directly contributed to enhance their food security in several ways, most importantly through direct access the diversity of nutritionally-rich food.VIEWS provided serious of trainings and timely handhold support for organic manure preparation, germination test, seed treatment, and spacing and staking.

Story of Change: Tomato cultivation in semi organic method

Sitaram Pradhan aged about 68 is a habitant of Hinjaligam coming under Pitatali Gram panchayata is a progressive farmer. His prime income comes from Agriculture. He has two acre of land. His livelihood depends upon Agriculture viz. main crop paddy and secondary crop is vegetable. He happened to attained training conducted by VIEWS in village level include training and preparation of organic manure, crop planning, training on sustainable Agriculture provided by field staff and Livelihoods Coordinator with the help of CRP also. He showed interest to adopt organic farming. He cultivated using indigenous seeds of tomato with the applying of organic manure.

He used to apply organic manure such as Jivaamruta and chilly, garlic and kerosene assemble an organic pesticide which is used for pest control for crop. According to him he has cultivated tomato in 10 cent of land as a trail basic. Endeavour of CRP Mr. Shubrata Behera it has been fruitful. He used to provide handhold support and moral support to Sitaram. Now Sitaram is very happy to see its market demand and its hiked price. Instead of Rs 10 of other variety he is getting Rs. 20 per KG. He is selling his tomato in front of his house corridor. Community people are purchasing tomato from his house. So he is very happy and agreed to cultivate indigenous crop with applying of organic manure in fourth. It is a green symbol of sustainable agriculture.

Story of Change: Now growing vegetables twice a year

Jharapalli is a remote village under Govinda nagar panchayata of Chikiti block. More than 20 households belong to the scheduled tribe. The information on government schemes hardly reaches here because of the communication gap between villagers and government officials. The block headquarters is situated more than 25 km distance from this village. The people are not well educated and had absolutely no idea about organic farming and the improved agriculture practices like space maintenance, clipping, staking, use of organic manure etc before the intervention of VIEWS.

To begin with our staff, created awareness about vegetable cultivation in an organic way and provided water pump for enhancing their irrigation facility. Despite the apprehensions about the output, the villagers trusted us and during the Pre Rabi season this year, the initiative was practiced by the Self Help Group

members of the village, who cultivated vegetable in organic way in almost 1.2 acres of land.

The villagers however required hand holding support on the field as it was the first time they were doing it on their own. Our staffs were present there all the time helping them around with the processes until they got it right.



They adopted improved package of practices for tomato cultivation in 1.2 Acre of land using new practices like clipping, staking, mulching and organic manure and pesticide. This year they invested 5,000 INR each for plough, seeds, labor and few chemical fertilizers and have already earned 4,500 from the fields during the past 3 months.

Kamala Malik , an SHG member of the group said that previously they were cultivating vegetable once a year. After receiving the support from VIEWS and NFI, in the form of trainings and water pump for irrigation purpose, they were able to cultivate vegetable twice this year.

“Pani madaiba lagi bahuta kasta heuthila sethipain mu sabu barsa gote thara panipariba chasa karuthili.. E barsa VIEWS Sanstha tarapharu pani pump milibaru, mu ebe dui thara tomato chasa kariparili. Mu ebe handikhata, badideba sikhibaru mu e barsa kama kharchare adhika labha paichi”.

Promotion of Kitchen Garden

VIEWS facilitated to prepare nursery for Papaya and drumstick in clusters level under kitchen garden for nutritional security at household level. The project generated awareness through community meetings, wall paintings and supported partial seeds support to the farmers. We promoted centralized nursery for kitchen Garden promotion at household level. The community contribution includes preparation of land, applying of organic manure and maintenance of kitchen garden with more responsibility to ensure nutritional security for their family. It will add extra nutritional value to minimize malnutrition and decrease the daily cost incurred on consuming food on vegetables.

Vermin Compost-Organic Farming

In our operational area of Ganjam district, the current farming practices are dominant with inorganic practices. The farmers mostly use chemical fertilizer to extract more and more production by applying chemical fertilizers and pesticide, despite of knowing the fact that this degrades the soil quality and its fertility. In order to bring back to traditional farming practices and focused on organic methods of farming, the project organized insight trainings in the field and small material support like plastic bucket thereafter to few farmers to take up preparation and use of organic manure and pesticides in both the program.

Under this several trainings were conducted on organic farming and demonstration in Chikiti and Patrapur blocks. Under the project implementation, project supported plastic empty buckets to the farmers of operational area. They are preparing organic manure and using it in their vegetable ragi field. Several farmers applied the same in their field and found it very useful. VIEWS also conducted serious of organic farming training in village level.



Alternative livelihoods promotion

To create alternative livelihoods among landless farmers and poor women, the project supported micro enterprise development activities in the project area through group approach and individual approach. In this activity, VIEWS follows the following process

- Identification of beneficiaries based on need assessment
- Door visit of beneficiaries for physical verification
- Motivation and confidence building of beneficiaries to start micro enterprise
- Develop a business plan with the help of beneficiaries
- Procurement of assets/ items as per requirement of business establishment
- Handhold support and trainings
- Registers maintenance

The few examples mentioned below:

VIEWS promote a Self Help Group with taking 10 women from this village and linkage with banks and Odisha Livelihood Mission. There are 10 women in Ganesh Jyoti SHG of Hinjiligam village. Under hybrid activity VIEWS provide support to Ganesh Jyoti SHG to start microenterprises in their village. Then VIEWS conducted a capacity building training on microenterprise development

and confidence build training. After this training VIEWS follow Asset Based Community Development model by providing milling machine to start a business of milling of spices, wheat, ragi etc. Now they are milling wheat, turmeric by using the milling machine. Every day the group members assemble in a place and milling the raw wheat, turmeric and spices. The President of Ganesh Jyoti SHG is sharing that they are 2 to 3 hours daily for milling of wheat and turmeric. They are charging 5 INR to mill wheat and 15 INR for milling of turmeric. In this way they are earning average 500 INR per day. Now they are very happy and eager to expand their business by collecting the raw materials and mill the spices by using the milling machine and sell it nearest market by packing the spices.

VIEWS also supported 4 SHG to do inland fishing in their village. VIEWS provided fish fry in their pond and the SHG member were contributed to feed for the fish and clean the pond. They took care of the fish of their pond. Now Maa Santoshi SHG, Talapada village earn 9000 INR by selling 105 Kg of fish. They had kept their money in their bank account and they will continue this business, which is giving them an alternative income to enhance their economic status of their family.

Mr. Bijay Behera aged 40, a villager of Hinjilgam of Pitatali Gram Panchayat of Chikiti Block. He lives with his wife and his one daughter and one son in his village. He belongs to a poor family. He has 1 acre land. There are two third of land is upland and one third is medium land. The income from this land is not sufficient to run his family. He was migrated to Hyderabad to earn. Last year he started a tiffin cart, where he had sold snacks like piaji, chap, wada and guguni. Every day he sells it in his village and nearest village. He was preparing the above snacks in his home and selling it by moving in nearest village. Every day he was investing 400 INR to preparing the snacks and selling it by cycle in nearest village. From there he was earning 100 INR profit from this business. These items were not sufficient to visit other nearest village and earning very low by spending one day. He wants to spread the business but due to lack of financial condition he was not

Story of Change: Idle pond helps women earn an alternative livelihood

Talapada is a small village in Badapur Grampanchayat of Patrapur Block. The village has a Self Help Group Named “ **Maa Santoshi Self Help Group**” with 12 members. Until now, the group had been only been carrying out regular savings and internal lending among the group members at the time of their need with no major income generation activity.

Team-VIEWS selected this village as the operational area under the project of “Improved smallholder’s Livelihood through agriculture and allied interventions.



Our staff assessed the resources available in the village and found out that it had a pond that was lying unused throughout the year. We convinced the women members to start inland fishing in the pond as an income generation collective activity. The women readily agreed and we provided support in form of training and fish seedlings. The SHG members together cleaned up the pond and practiced the inland fishing as per the given training.

However there were a few problems in between after the locals started fishing from the pond for their individual consumption. The issue was raised at the village level meetings following which a resolution was passed that there will be no trespassers and the ownership of the fishes lay only with the SHG members. The challenge was thus amicably resolved. The second major challenge faced was the drying up of the pond during summers. This forced the members to sell of the fishes before they reached their full growth. Despite the impediments, the SHG members were very happy with the new activity and managed to sell 40 KGs of fish twice from the pond. It provided them with an additional income which they used for their SHG activities and saved some for the fish seedlings that will be used for the inland fishing next time.

Livestock promotion

In the baseline it was found that there are some Household, those don't have land for agriculture and they are depending on daily wage labor and forest for non-timber forest product in there locality. So VIEWS targeted the landless, widows and single mother to support goat rearing as an



alternative livelihood support. To implementing this activity VIEWS selected the poorest of the poor in the village meeting and appraisal by the livelihood coordinator in the field and support them to purchase two goats per HH under goat rearing activity.

VIEWS provided serious of trainings to the selected farmers to prepare goat shed and ensure the goat shed of the beneficiary under goat rearing activities. In this process VIEWS supported 35 HHs in 13 villages of Chikiti and Patrapur block. VIEWS team interacted with Veterinary Surgeon for insurance and organized vaccinationcamps atvillage level with the collaboration with veterinary department.

Scanning of local market:

Their field staff of VIEWS collected data for market study which was share by NFI. The market studies were conducted within 2 years of time. We have collected data from four markets i.e. Patrapur, Chikiti and Randha in Ganjam district for the better understanding of the local market. A separate report was prepared and shared to NFI on markets and its opportunities in our project area.



Exposure to Market and Best Practices:

IEWS conducted exposure visit and market visit for staff and CRPs in the local market and visited some of the best fields to enhance understanding of the staff and CRPs. The staff from IEWS visited a Farmers Mela at Chandipur organized by SACAL organization on 22nd March, 2017. They observed different agri implements, nursery using tray and learnt to mobilize the community

Capacity building of field staffs and CRPs:

NFI conducted annual planning meeting in Gopalpur for the field partner to make common understanding among the staffs of all field staff about the project. IEWS also conducted two days training on capacity building of CRPs and field staffs of IEWS. Mr. Sabhapati Khadenga and Mr. Bijay Ram Senapati facilitate the training. In this training the trainers' assessed the CRPs and field staffs on organic farming and vegetable cultivation. The objective of the program is To assess the existing knowledge and communication skills of staff and CRPs and suggest measures for capacity building of staff and CRPs working with the grass roots institutions and individuals and their role as change agents in context of livelihoods enhancement program.



On 2nd day there was a visit to the nearby farmers field at village Narayanpur under Patrapur block. Here we conducted a field test for the CRPs on communication skills, technical knowhow and reporting ability. We also conducted a practice session on identification and segregation of humus from soil, preparation of Amrit Jal, Hadari, dry leaf mulching, identification of pest and diseases in vegetable and paddy crop. In the class room session, a comprehensive practice session was conducted for preparation of Jivamrit, Bijamrit, Amrit jal, collection and segregation of true seed materials, seed priming and organic seed treatment etc. A presentation on plant protection was also conducted within a short time. A brief idea on yield assessment exercise was given to the participant for paddy crop. A comparative figure for use of chemical versus organic formulations was discussed in brief. In the last session, discussion was held on soil health and the soil organisms, their role in different soil conditions.

According to the assessment they provide two days training on organic farming and vegetable cultivation. This training was very helpful for project staff to implement the projects professional way at field level. They also demonstrated in field with the presence of CRPs and farmers for the effective knowledge.

Block level consultation: A one day block level consultation on Government Schemes and opportunities for the farmers in Chikiti Block was held at Training Hall of agriculture office in Chikiti Block, Chikiti, Ganjam. The objective of the consultation is to create a platform where all the stakeholders can come together and figure out the most pertinent issues and challenges plaguing the farmers and chalking out possible solutions to address the challenges. Mr.

Mr. Sunil Kumar Ghadei, Program Manager, VIEWS, Odisha welcomed the chief guest and the chairman of the inaugural session Mr. V. Nagraju, Deputy Director Agriculture, Ganjam and the guest of Honor Mr. Santosh Ray, District



Agriculture Officer with a brief introduction about the contribution in changing lives of the poor communities in Chikiti Block. He welcomed to Mr. Sasanka Lenka, Scientist of Krisi Vikash Kendra (KVK) and other guest Mr. Ranjan Kumar Behera, AAO.

The chief guest and the chairman of the inaugural session Mr. V. Nagraju , Deputy Director Agriculture, Ganjam District and the guest of Honor Mr. Santosh Ray, District Agriculture Officer, Mr. Sasanka Lenka, Scientist of KVK, Mr. Ranjan Kumar Behera, AAO, inaugurated the consultation by lightening the lamp, and delivered the inaugural address. Mr. V. Nagraju in his address emphasized the need to include the farmers. He outlined that agriculture is the backbone of the country. He also delivered that agriculture is an engine of the Indian economy. He invites the farmers to attend this types of meeting to gain knowledge and aware about different agricultural schemes, rights and facilities in our area. He also emphasized that every farmer can get loan from the society and avail all the benefits or subside through their bank account. He encourages the farmers to do crop insurance, so that the farmers can claim insurance, if their crop will be affect by any natural calamity. He also encourages the villagers to come with issues. He allotted the entire line department to serve the farmer's development to meet the mainstream process. This consultation helped to connect the marginal farmers with various line departments and aware various schemes available at government level.

Story of Change: Making a difference through line plantation in ragi cultivation

Fifty year old Kora Dalei of Narayanpur village has 1.5 Acrs of land. Of this, 50 decimal lands are upland and he depends on monsoon for cultivation. He was harvesting about 5 quintals of paddy in kharif season from 1.5 Acre land and 30 KG ragi in Rabi season of 50 Decimal of land. However it was hard to meet the requirements of his six member's family round the year. VIEWS with the support of NFI/THF, started its intervention in organic farming for improved agriculture practices in this village. Several training programs (preparation of organic manure) video shows and campaigns were organized to create awareness on the improved line plantation of Ragi and paddy. Kora Dalei also attended the training program with other farmers and learnt the new methods that included the use of organic manure, seed treatment and line transplantation of ragi.

Many farmers were in apprehension to adopt the method but the tribal farmer Kora Dalei was convinced to try out line plantation of Ragi in Rabi season. He used the seeds supplied by VIEWS and used organic manure like Handi Khata, Hadari Khata etc. and spacing for transplanting of seedling with the handholding handhold support from VIEWS staff. He used only Pot Manure (Handikhata) instead of chemical fertilizer in his Ragi field. It did not take too long before Dalei

could realize differences between the traditional transplantation and line transplantation of Ragi. He could not believe that he harvested 1.60 Quintal of Ragi from the same field. Now Kora Dalei is motivated to do line transplantation of any crop.

He realized the impact of maintaining spacing in Ragi field. He has now decided to adopt this method in his all land for all season. ***“Mu sabu chasa ebe dhadi dhadi kari karibi, Mu biswasa kari paruni je e barsa mora 5 guna ru adhika mandia amal hela”*** said Kora. Looking his production, farmers of the village and nearby villages are now motivated to adopt this method in large scale in kharif. On being asked to Kora what he would do with the increase yield he told that he would purchase a mobile for himself. He is also spreading the message of improved method line plantation.

Story of Change : New agri practices helped increase the yield

Narayanpur is a small village in Badapur Gram Panchayat of Patrapur Block. There are 12 households in this village- all of them belonging to the Scheduled Tribe category. They largely depend on agriculture and forest produce for their livelihood. These families used to grow paddy, finger millets, vegetables, and pulses in their land and depended on rain for agriculture.

After intervention of VIEWS, the villagers realized the advantages of SHGs. They formed the Maa Mangala Self Help Group and learnt how to manage it. They focused on group activities in their village and received the training sessions on preparation of organic manure. However not all the farmers were convinced about the benefits of the organic farming practices. Questions were raised on what would happen if they suffered losses. While a section of farmers decided to try the organic way, there were others who wanted to experiment with both the processes and calculate the output.

Similarly there was a mixed reaction among the farmers about the different improved practices of agriculture. Some of them subsequently adopted the new practices and this year, 12 households tried line transplanting in approximately 21 acres land. All the households tried out new practices like seed priming, germination test, seed treatment, weed management etc as per their convenience.

Now, the farmers are happy on seeing their lush green fields that now have 40 to 45 tillers for every two saplings. They are also started spraying organic manures (Handi Khata) in their field. The villagers admitted that while earlier, the transplantation process took them about a month to complete, this time it was completed in one week. This has also reduced the labour cost, seed cost and has saved a lot of time. The village now appreciates the contribution of VIEWS and NFI for teaching them new techniques that helped them to reduce the cost of production and increased yield. This year as on average the yield of paddy increase 3 quintals per acre.



2.2 Project Cheysta: Empowering Adolescent Girls

Bhubaneswar-the state capital of Odisha is a home to an ever increasing migrant workforce from the interior pockets of the state looking for employment opportunities. Majority of these men and women land up in the slums and join the unorganized sector ending up as construction workers, municipality sweepers, housemaids etc. The children are often left behind to fend for themselves. Although enrolled to nearby government schools, a majority of these children remain disinterested in studies. Many of them –especially the girl’s dropout and stay back at home to raise their younger siblings and cook for their parents.



These young women subsequently end up joining their parents in the unorganized sector and the vicious cycle is repeated. Several houses in the slums are replete with stories of early marriages, death due to early child birth, sexual violence and young mothers deserted by their husbands.

There is an immediate need of intervention to help these girls reach their full potential by providing them the right support, education and resources. These young women must be motivated to spend more time in school and complete their education. They must be sensitised that discontinuing their school to carry out domestic duties, such as caring for younger siblings, cooking and whiling away their time, undermines their opportunities for education and employment.

The overall project goal is to inspire and empower 100 disadvantaged adolescent girls to transform their lives through life skills education, employment and entrepreneurship.

The project objectives are

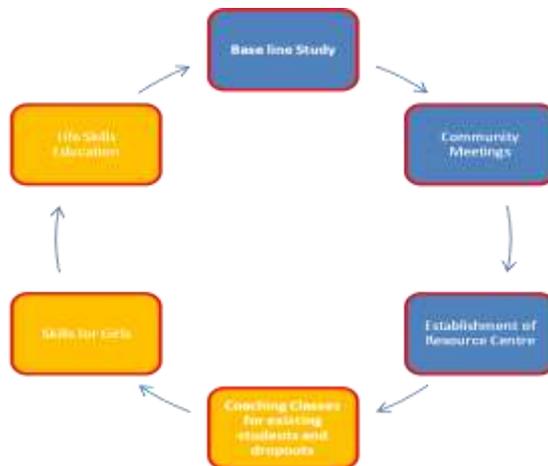
-Establish an adolescent resource centre with all information and IT equipments to familiarize the girls with technology, use of mails, search engine, internet and basic Microsoft that will come handy for employment.

-Provide right training and support for disadvantaged young women to identify and achieve their personal and professional goals by using inspiring stories and move into sustained employment and access further education or job-based training.



-Create change agents to put their ideas into action and encourage culture of social entrepreneurship among the girls through on ground experiments

Project Approach



IEWS has facilitated the return of 100 adolescent girls to mainstream education by providing them with learning opportunities, skills training, and the knowledge needed to become empowered members in their communities.

To reduce the prevalence of child labor and child marriage among adolescent girls, providing vulnerable girls with educational opportunities, skills training, and the knowledge needed to become empowered members in their communities.



Meeting educational deficit among girls in urban slums of Bhubaneswar.

“At Cheysta, I learnt to share my opinions”

While gender equality is close in primary education, the parity does not extend to secondary schooling and adolescent girls continue to be debarred from schools and consequently the workforce



:We at Project Cheysta handhold adolescent girls –both high schoolers and dropouts in the age group of 13 to 21 to complete their education by providing them the requisite support in terms of remedial classes , coaching , exposure visits, life skill lessons, career counselling and more.

Helping girls to go to school and stay in schools



WORK SO FAR

Resource Centre :The Resource Centre for adolescent girls established in the Shikharchandinagar slum of Bhubaneswar is a space for the girls to interact and learn.



“We will rise”: Breaking barriers that surround the education of girls.

Equipped with modern Information Technology facilities and a library with relevant resource materials, the centre can be easily accessed by the girls as and when required. The space aims at involving the young girls in different informative and educative training sessions and discussions with the help of rich audio video contents in order to renew their interest in higher education.

Skill training : The project imparts market aligned skill trainings like Tailoring, Beautician and Retailing with technical support from the certified trainers to enhance the employability of girls.

Computer classes are organized to help familiarize the girls with technology, use of mails, search engine, internet and social network etc. The centre provides career counselling, spoken English and personality development classes besides conducting special sessions on networking, business planning, financial literacy and creativity in order to boost the entrepreneurship skills among the girls.



“Every additional year of school can increase a girls earning power by 10 to 20 percent . However while boys are attending schools, girls are being left behind, marrying earlier and working in menial jobs”

Remedial Classes :Remedial classes are held for existing high schoolers as well as those who have dropped out of school on a daily basis. These girls are counselled to return to schools and complete their education. The centre holds remedial classes in English, Math and Science to help these students to prepare



before they re-enroll themselves. Admission assistance and all required support are extended to the students to ensure their retention in schools.

Life skills:A life skills education training model has been developed under the project and trainings are being imparted to the girls with technical support from

experts. The training sessions include topics such as self awareness, decision making , menstrual health, sex education, on avoiding early pregnancy and sexual transmitted diseases.

Creating Change Agents

We aspire to create change agents within the community and create “super girls” who can identify problems within the community by putting their own micro ideas into action for social change.

It is encouraging to see our girls lead their own micro projects , discover their inner qualities and strengthen themselves as leaders.

“Our schools might be far from perfect but we still have the responsibility to show up everyday and learn as much as we can.”



Project impact: The activities have ensured a visible improvement in the learning levels of the Underprivileged adolescent girls. The interventions have helped the girls gain self confidence, take decisions and speak out their opinions. The regular classes have led to an increased attendance in local schools. Many students have improved in maths and science as evident from the monthly tests. The girls have learnt self introduction in English and can confidently speak about things around them. The beautician and tailoring trainings have encouraged girls to plan their own units for income generation. Learning computers have made them surf for contents that interest them. Students have been showing interest in pursuing higher education, seeking assistance to gain admission into schools or

to know how they can access loans or financial assistance to start their own units. These changes have made us believe that the project is moving towards the intended goals.

2.3. Project SMILE- Student Social Responsibilities

Student exchange programmes may still be at its infancy in Universities in Odisha, but the wind of student social responsibility is fast gaining grounds. For the fourth consecutive year, international students from the Virginia Tech and University of Wisconsin came down to Odisha and involved with students of the Ganjam district and together carried out several developmental projects



in the area. The seven students who reached Odisha and worked here for over 40 days involved with the local students to implement projects on sanitation, personal hygiene, youth empowerment and signature campaigns.



For six weeks, they conducted spoken English classes, computer literacy classes, exposure to higher education through institution visits, and micro-projects- all of which were led and implemented by the local students.



" We began with English classes and computer literacy classes, and shifted gradually into a focus on micro-projects. We separated the students into a junior and senior class, practicing basic vocabulary and grammar with the juniors and practicing more advanced conversational English with the seniors. In the computer classes we began with typing skills and progressed through Microsoft word, PowerPoint, and excel. Once the micro-project planning became more concrete, the students used the Microsoft applications to further develop their ideas. It was a great exercise for both project development and computer literacy "said Elizabeth Bahret a student of Psychology and Sociology at Virginia Tech.

More than 60 students from different schools and colleges of Gopalpur were made to assess the needs in their communities, chose a focus and develop an action plan for each village. They were then guided on how to carry out the micro projects such as sanitation in Venkatraipur and Deegipur villages, Personal Hygiene in New Baxipali, and the Signature Campaign in Gopalpur

"After introducing the goals and expectations of the micro-projects, we divided the students based on village, assigned one or two Nourish interns to each group, and got to work. We hope that the project has inspired the



students to continue enacting positive change throughout their lives," said Elizabeth Dennis and Samanta Marie from University of Wisconsin. The other students in the project included Caed Cunningham, Jacqueline Spigai Samuel Gittelman, Elizabeth Dennis and Samanta Marie. The students were members of Nourish International - a student body that engages with students for community empowerment. This rural youth empowerment project was organised by the Voluntary Integration for Education & Welfare of Society (VIEWS) at Gopalpur on-sea.

S B Rao from VIEWS said, "Every youth must contribute for their own community. The whole idea of this students engagement is to promote Students Social Responsibility (SSR) for community empowerment. Susant - a student from Deegipur village said " It was a great opportunity for us to interact international students and learn more about communication skills and computer skills for our future development".



Menstrual Hygiene Solutions

Introduced 1000 women on menstrual hygiene solutions and improved their understanding of reproductive and sexual health including health rights. A low cost sanitary unit has been set up to help them gain easy access to the product at an affordable rate. The unit has been run by the village women themselves.



Research and publishing

VIEWS has been closely working with the farmers and agriculture dependent community in Odisha on various ground level programmes related to sustainable agriculture, re-orientation of organic practices, addressing malnutrition and the challenges of food security. During these years, we have had the opportunity to

collaborate with different Universities, experts and peer groups to come up with research work that can contribute to better the lives of these communities through information dissemination and various policy changes. We have in the past, developed materials on sustainable agriculture, organic practices, nutrition gardens, conservation of medicinal plants, besides menstrual hygiene practices among adolescent girls in rural India. Our research and findings are shared during different trainings and workshops with communities to help them in these processes.

The following are some of our notable publications:

- Study on Coastal Livelihoods Security of Marine Fishing Communities in Ganjam district of Odisha
- Value Chain Analysis of Marine Fish Products
- Packages of Practices on Organic Farming
- Sustainable Agriculture Practices on Vegetable Cultivation
- Study on Livelihoods Opportunities available for tribal and marginal communities in Ganjam district of Odisha
- Promoting Student Social Responsibilities through Active Citizenship and Volunteerism



Recognition & Awards

- Received Bharat Vikas Award in 2016 from Institute of Social Science, Bhubaneswar, Odisha for “Exemplary community development work”.

- Received “ Kalinga Yuva Pratiba Award” in 2017 from Vinobahabe Seva Paristhan, Bhubaneswar for “ Social Entrepership”
- Special recognition for “Youth empowerment through Student Social Responsibility (SSR) mode”l from Odisha CSR Forum 2017
- “Change Agent of Odisha” received by B.Gopamma for notable contribution in women empowerment and promoting menstrual hygiene among rural adolescent girls.



Future Plans

- ❖ To establish a full-fledged Livelihood Resource Centre delivering farm advisory and planning, enabling enterprise development and linkages for inputs, farm services and marketing, and strengthening producer organizations at various levels
- ❖ Use of renewable energy in pre and post-harvest farm level activities affordable for the small and marginal farmer population.
- ❖ Increasing the use of Bio-Inputs in form of bio-fertilizers to replace/ reduce chemical inputs and enhance soil and environmental quality.
- ❖ Increase access to quality seeds and introduce mechanization to raise productivity and limiting post-harvest losses.
- ❖ Using technologies like Global Positioning System, Geographic Information System, Remote Sensing ,Microwave sensing technology and appropriate softwares that allows precise mapping of the farms to inform the farmer about the status of his crop and which part of the farm requires inputs such as water fertilizers, pesticides etc. at the correct time to the crop for increasing its productivity and maximizing its yields



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- ICCO Cooperation, Netherlands
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- The Hans Foundation, New Delhi
- Australian High Commission, New Delhi
- 1% Fund for Development, Switzerland
- Ministry of Environment and Forest, Govt. of India
- Nehru Yuva Kendra (Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports, Govt. of India)
- University of Texas, Austin, USA
- Virginia Tech University, Virginia
- Wisconsin University, Madison
- Centurion University, Bhubaneswar





REACH US AT

We love hearing your feedback, suggestions and comments and will do our best to respond as soon as possible.

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