

INITIAL INCEPTION REPORT ON

**STRENGTHENING ADIVASI FARM WOMEN SELF HELP COOPERATIVES TO
ENABLE THEM PURSUE SUSTAINABLE LIVELIHOODS IN MALKANGIRI &
KANDHAMAL DISTRICTS OF ODISHA**

UNDER MAHILA KISHAN SASHAKTIKARAN PARIYOJNA (MKSP)



(A SUB-COMPONENT OF NRLM)

PROJECT IMPLEMENTING AGENCY



**ORGANISATION FOR RURAL RECONSTRUCTION & INTEGRATED SOCIAL
SERVICE ACTIVITIES (ORRISSA)**

www.orrissa.co.in

INITIAL INCEPTION REPORT

A. Organization (PIA) detail

A culmination of the questions, aspiration and philanthropic spirit led a group of committed young Social Worker's to establish the 'Organization for Rural Reconstruction & Integrated Social Service Activities' or in short 'ORRISSA' in the year 1987. Having identified an area along the border of the Ganjam, Phulbani (now Kondhamala) and Nayagarh district the team had its first independent step in the mission of doing some concrete work out of the hard-earned resources. Besides the shortcomings, during the last twenty six years the organization has created many milestones on its own right. The team endeavor has always been armed with the strength of the community support and their possessed resources. Now ORRISSA primarily works with Tribal & Dalit communities in Malkangiri and Kandhamal districts. The core area of engagement for initial few years had been around health and community mobilization and micro-finance. Later, the organisation broadened its development task to include work on livelihoods, rights and entitlements and access to basic services. Over these years, ORRISSA team has been successful in various interventions. The broad categories of our intervention are:

- Formation and strengthening of community based organizations
- Low input based sustainable agriculture
- Forest based livelihood
- Integrated Natural Resource management involving improvement of land and water resources in the hands of poor, plantation in waste land and creating sustainable agricultural assets.
- Community health

ORRISSA promotes the Community Based Organisations (CBOs) and facilitating them to help themselves for improving the quality of life. This will be achieved through participatory development interventions such as; promotion of village committees, women SHG, Community Health & RCH, farmer's group, forest protection, land and water management, improved agricultural practices and use of appropriate technologies. Effective use of local resources, up gradation of skills through training and networking on various aspects are the key tools used by the organisation.

Community based intervention is the prime strategy of the ORRISSA team. Participation of all its stakeholders is the principle that endures within the team structure. This understanding enables the group to operate in a decentralized structure. Issue based field teams operate independently to the local needs. Participatory need assessment, planning, monitoring and evaluation tools are in place to maintain a transparent system and keep up the group spirit of perservance. Convergence and localized mobilization of resources are few other features of this process.

The project "Strengthening Adivasi Farm women Self Help Cooperatives to enable them pursue sustainable livelihoods" has been envisaged in Malkangiri block of Malkangiri district and

Chakapad block of Kandhamal districts of Odisha. Both the districts are tribal dominated districts and agriculture is the primary source of livelihood. More than 70 per cent families of the district earn their livelihood from it. In Malkangiri, out of the total geographical area of 6.12 lakh hectares, 1.82 lakh hectares are cultivable. Land under agricultural use mainly for Kharif crops is 1, 41,560 hectares and under non-agricultural use it is 19,911 hectares. Paddy is the single major crop of the district. Around 85,000 hectares of land are generally covered for paddy cultivation with a total production of 299.9 kg. per hectare. Apart from this, other crops cultivated are cereals, pulses, millets, oilseeds, fibers, vegetables, spices and condiments.

B. Executive summary of the project/ Brief description of the project

1. Vision of Success

The adivasi households of Malkangiri and Kandhamal should become food and income secure by pursuing sustainable livelihoods and live in an enabling environment where their basic needs are met in time and opportunities of dignified human living galore.

2. Goals:

The 3000 adivasi women (2200 from Malkangiri and 800 from Kandhamal) farm dependant families increase their food production capacity as well as pursue sustainable agricultural and post harvest marketing livelihoods and increase the family income

3. Objective

The proposed project by ORRISSA “Strengthening Adivasi Farm Women Self Help Cooperatives to Enable Them to Pursue Sustainable Livelihoods” in Malkangiri and Kandhamal districts of Odisha seeks to work with 3000 women farmers. There will be clusters of the project based on the operational convenience which would plan and monitor the progress at the cluster level and few clusters would form the Intervention Nodes. The project envisages three focal themes: institution building; sustainable agriculture; and food security. Towards achieving these major objectives, capacity building would be provided to women farmers and community resource persons on various aspects like organizational management to equip them to effectively manage their institutions (groups, federations), on different dimensions of sustainable agriculture, and on household food and nutrition security. The project shall build and nurture grass root institutions of women farmers and these shall be the pivot through which the project shall get implemented. The proposed project would add value to the low external input centered sustainable agriculture initiatives led by the tribal communities by filling gap in the intervention or adding value to the existing initiatives. The project is for a period of 3 years, November 2013 to October 2016. The specific objectives of the project are as follows:

Objective 1: To engage 2500 adivasi farm women households in ORRISSA’s Farmer-Led Project area to maximize their food sustainable production capabilities as well as increase family income by Rs. 25,000 per year from 3rd year onwards in Malkangiri & Kandhamal districts of Odisha by the end of 3rd year.

Objective 2: To engage 500 adivasi farm women households in ORRISSA’s WADI Plus Project area to maximize their food sustainable production capabilities as well as increase family income by Rs. 30,000 per year from 3rd year onwards in Malkangiri districts of Odisha by the end of 3rd year.

Over the last couple of years ORRISSA has been promoting traditional wisdom and resource based agriculture to appropriate the present challenges in the household level food production systems. This is being done with an understanding that the small farm holders are not exposed to the modern agriculture systems and when they try their hands with the attraction of the colourful packages of high cost input chemical fertilizer, pesticide and high breed seeds the integration doesn't happen. The end market sale of the agriculture markets are not farmer centered so the adivasi farmers in the places like Malkangiri and Kandhamal districts of Odisha could hardly benefit from these. In contrast the effects of these chemical centered agriculture practices as well as its high cost intensive exposes the local environment in to destruction as well as makes these seasoned farm families ignorant of their own systems of food productions through hard earned traditional wisdom. Our efforts on enabling these adivasi farm families in the interior tribal pockets to understand the current challenges in agriculture have engaged us in exploring the efficacy of the traditional wisdom driven agriculture and make it appropriate to produce more food for the household consumption as well as for markets.

This project would scale up the existing interventions/experiences already made with the support from other funding partners with 3000 farm families in both the districts. The women members would be central in all the interventions. The skills of the Community Resource Persons (CRPs) and Para-Professionals at the community level would get further strengthened and their handholding support to the process would get streamlined. The value of the low external input centered sustainable agriculture would become a reality in these adivasi villages and the value of the assets thus created would supplement these CPRs to continue holding the process beyond the project cycle. The women self help cooperatives groomed under this process with the skills of trading the local agriculture & forest produces (non-timber) would be further strengthened to consolidate their role as Producer Companies. These Producer Companies would strengthened through integration of alternative livelihoods linked to the local produces with ground support from the women self help groups. Their experience of trading at the exhibitions would be explored to the level of reaching out consumers through direct marketing processes and building bonds with the consumers.

4. Tasks

Sl no	Tasks	Plan	Present status
1	Deployment of staff	Staff deployment is mandatory for implementation of the project.	Staffs are deployed
2	Team Concept clarity workshop on MKSP	The team would be oriented on MKSP project, its objective, outputs and outcomes, indicators etc.	Completed
3	Finalisation of villages	For better implementation of the project, the villages should be finalized from beginning of the project intervention.	We have prepared a provisional village list. The final list of villages will be furnished in the

			DPR.		
4	Data collection for Mahila Kishan profiling	This would help to know the present status as well as monitoring of the growth of Mahila Kishan.	1175		
5	Baseline survey	A baseline of participating households on crop practices and farmers knowledge shall be done.	Initiated		
6	Project inception workshop	District and block level events to be organized by involving district line department, PRI members and other stake holders to create awareness about the project objectives, outcomes, implementation structure etc	Would be done once the baseline is complied to get a direction		
7	Initial discussion in the Villages	For building a clarity among the participating households, initial meetings would be organized in all selected villages	Completed		
8	Identification of SHGs	This process will go on simultaneously during village selection and primary data collection.	Process initiated		
9	Formation of Producers Group and account opening	The women farmers would be mobilized to farm their own producer group at the village level	Process initiated		
10	Formation of Producer Company	Later on, the producer groups would be federated at the cluster level as Producer Company for better access to market	The staff trained on Producer Company process		
11	Village planning	In few of the identified villages, detailed household level planning would be organized. This process has been initiated in few villages and would be completed before April 2014.	Would start from with the Baseline compilation		
12	Monthly, quarterly and annual work schedule of the Producer group	All the producer groups would prepare their annual as well as monthly work schedule as per priority basis	The Executive body of the producer groups would be trained		
13	Identification of community resource persons and para professionals	The sustainable agriculture practicing farmers would be identified as community resource persons and para professional who would directly help other participating farmers in the project	Process initiated		
14	Orientation to the CRPS and para professionals	The identified CRPs and para-professionals would be oriented on various thematic areas of sustainable agriculture	Planned		
15	Orientation to the	The executive body members of the	After formation,		

	Producer Group members	producer group would be trained on group formation, management	the orientations would be planned		
16	Monthly Review and Planning	The executive body of the producer group would meet on monthly basis to monitor its work and plan for next month.	Scheduled		

5. **Expected Outcome**

The key outcomes from the project would be as follows:

- 100% participating farmers practicing low input based sustainable agriculture practices
- 70% farmers increased their land under sustainable agriculture
- Increase pulses and upland paddy production
- Increase in the farm land in millet and other cereal based mixed cultivation increased
- Increased access of women in agriculture to productive land, inputs, credit, technology and information through their cooperatives
- Drudgery reduction for women in agriculture through use of gender friendly tools / technologies introduced by the cooperatives
- These would lead to additional income of approximately Rs 18,000 to 25,000 for 70 % of participant women farmers.

C. **Activities undertaken so far**

Mahila Kisan Profiling is in the process
Baseline data collection initiated
Initial village level meetings are done

1. Approval Date: 28thFeb, 2013
2. MoU Date: 19th March 2013
3. Sanction Date: 12.06.2013
4. Fund release Date: 25th October 2013

cooperatives												
Drudgery reduction: Improved Oil Extraction machines												
Operational/Revolving fund for the producer cooperative												
5. Knowledge Management												
Identification of best practices												
Documentation of best practices												
Dissemination of best practices												
Yearly Data management of producer group and federation												
Dev and Management of Project Website												
Village and Project Display Board												
6. Monitoring & Evaluation												
Baseline survey												
Monthly/Quarterly/Half yearly/Annual monitoring of programmes												
Half yearly meeting of District level Project Monitoring committee												
Gram Sava												

At the end of year 1, based on the experiences the schedule of activities for subsequent years shall be prepared.

D.1 Description of each activity (1-2 sentences)

a) Documentation

Mahila Kishan Profiling: During first two months of the project, primary data on land, and livelihood aspects of mahila kishan would be collected and entered in the soft format. The inputs and growth indicators of mahila kishan would be monitored from this.

Baseline survey: In the first six months, baseline information of mahila kishan in the

proposed villages would be collected and analysed. Detailed data on status of existing SHGs, women cooperatives would also be captured in the survey. Every year the baseline would be updated to monitor the progress of the intervention.

b) Strengthening Community institutions

SHG: The existing SHGs and new SHGs (formed during the project) would be strengthened on management, record keeping, participatory decision making and income generation activities. They would also be oriented on group lending, credit linkages from bank and other agencies and management.

Producer Group: All the participating women farmers would be federated at village level and form the producer group for their mutual benefit to access common facilities like infrastructure, capacity building and other inputs. The producer group would consist of 35 to 45 members. This group would be focused for livelihood interventions at village level.

Producer Group Federation/Company: The members of these producer groups would be form Producer group federation or company at Panchayat level for accessing the market and marketing of agricultural producers. Here, the focus of the intervention would be capacity building of its executive body members/directors on strategic development and better access to services.

c) Capacity Building- Capacity building is the key component of this project. For sustainability of these process and community institutions, the capacity of these CRPs and para professionals would be strengthened. These capacity building initiatives also include perspective development on different activity components, planning process etc. Various types of training and exposures planned for this phase are:

- Training to CRPs on natural farming where they would be trained on conservation principles with improved low cost techniques enriching soil nutrients, beneficial pests, water conservation and crop combination with NPM on dry land locations.
- Training to women farmers on Package of Practices of NPM in millet farming, vegetable nursery & mix crop etc
- Training to women farmers on Integrated Pest Management and Non-Pest Management practices
- Training to SHG: The SHG members would be oriented on record keeping, management and group activities
- Training to Producer group: The producer group members would be trained on producer group formation, management and record keeping.
- Training to Producer group federation: The producer group federation would facilitate the marketing of agricultural produces and some NTFPs. For that these members should be capacitated on Group production, collection, storage, quality control of agriculture produces, packaging, labeling, marketing linkage, data management, programme management (planning/monitoring etc) in various phases.
- The PRI members would be sensitized on various government schemes/programmes

including MKSP.

- Exposure visits of CRPs/para professionals to immersion sites: This would help the CRPs and para professionals to understand the concept and effective adoption of technology.
- Exposure visit of Community to immersion sites: The exposures have been planned to get exposed to effective suitable technologies which are in use in areas other districts and other states.

d) Natural farming/Sustainable agriculture initiatives:

Sustainable agriculture emphasizes the conserving of one's own resources. For a farm to be sustainable, it must produce adequate amounts of high quality foods, be environments safe and where appropriate, be profitable, sustainable farms minimizes their purchased inputs (fertilizers, energy and equipment) and rely, as much as possible on the renewable resources of the farms itself. For household level food and nutrition security, the farmers have to diversify their crops. These activities will take place in the cropping season – kharif and rabi. However, since the community in our proposed areas practices rain-fed agriculture, the major focus would be on kharif crops. The idea is to effectively grow the crops in intensified manner and to earn secure livelihood. The activities proposed under this are:

- Millet centered crop combination: Millet was the prime food of tribals. Influenced by the modern food habits taking rice as the staple food, adivasi farm families had started to believe that the millet based foods are no gentlemen food. When the government fair price shops only supply rice this belief gets more strengthened and young farmers don't want to grow these crops. The farmer organizations promoted by ORRISSA took up the issue and in about three year's time, this process has brought in 7 types of millet seeds which have reached more than 700 farmers from a mere 47 households in 2009. ORRISSA would scale up this experience in the proposed areas.
- Mixed crop: Traditionally, 'Shifting Cultivation' was followed wherein families cleared the forest, ploughed land once in a year and grew diverse crops including legumes, beans, pulses and millets, in combinations. Drawing inspiration from the methods of age old shifting cultivation practice, the elder farmers of the area realized the need of mixed cropping on the uplands. The farmer groups in the villages were encouraged to exchange seeds and initiate mixed cropping on their lands. Over last three years, more than 600 farmers have revived their mixed cultivation field with millets, pulses and vegetables. In this project, we want to upscale this experience to nearly 1200 households. Farmers would take up pulses like black gram, arhar, kidney bean and runner bean with cereals like corn, paddy and jana, millets like foxtail millet and finger millet with vegetables like bhendi, kidney beans etc.
- Conservation and cultivation of traditional paddy: Malkangiri is in the centre of globally recognized 'Jeypore Tract' where rice is being originated. However, the advent of improved seeds from the government department and hybrid seeds availability in the market had encouraged many farmers to depend on external supply of seeds. During discussion, the farmers realized that the traditional varieties of seeds had almost matching

characters compared to the external seeds. From this point the farmer groups, the village committees and their grampanchayat Farmer organizations proposed for institutionalizing the Seed Exchange Process through promotion of traditional model of food production. Over last 5 years time, farmers in both the districts have revived 47 rare varieties of paddy, millet and other traditional seeds. In this project, we would scale up 100% households for cultivating traditional seeds.

- IPM/NPM: For soil nutrition and crop management, all the participating households would follow the non-pest management practices and integrated pest management practices. The community resource persons and para professional would be trained and provided exposure to Andhra and other places within the state for understanding the best practices.

e)

Drudgery reduction:

To take the benefit of developed technologies it has been planned to work jointly with the farmers to identify appropriate techniques which can support in drudgery reduction. This happens only when the farmer will be able to use it for prolonged duration to understand their utility.

D.2 Reasoning for timing of activity (clarity needed)

Considering the Rainfed nature of the operational area the activities are positioned. The activities are timed with the approach that the actual fund disbursement happened in the last week of October 2013 when the main Khariff season is already gone.

E. How the individual activity will be undertaken & by whom (This how part should be explained clearly, this may also be converted as a Community Operational Manual (COM) / Training Manual (TM) for the staffs, community cadre & SHG members) HOWEVER, COM / TM will not be part of inception report.

Implementation Plan

This project would consider the active participation of adivasi women SHGs and producer groups in the villages as its base intervention. There will be clusters of the project based on the operational convenience which would plan and monitor the progress at the cluster level and few clusters would form the Intervention Nodes. Like the WADI area would have one Intervention Node and Farmer-led area with 2200 participating adivasi women farmers would have five intervention nodes. The representatives of adivasi women leaders of the Cluster Committees would form the Intervention Node Groups. These groups of adivasi women would monitor the performance of the CPRs and PPs in their area. There will be Project Advisory Group where the adivasi women farmer leaders along with the project Staff few CRPs and Senior District Officials would advise and monitor the progress in regular intervals. ORRISSA would capacitate the members of SHGs, producer groups and their federation to promote different livelihood interventions. We would also capacitate the the community resource persons and para professional on different thematic areas who would provide their services to the community.

All the CRPs and Para Professionals working under the programme would be in direct control of the Producer Groups i.e here the Tribal Women Self-Help Cooperatives. The programme activities would be planned at this level and the work allotment to the CRPs/Para-Professionals would be done by these federations and similarly the monitoring of their performance would also be taken up by these women leaders. The participatory planning and monitoring tools would be in places along with growth indicators which will be jointly be developed by ORRISSA in consultation with the women farmer leaders and put to work at various levels of intervention.

Human Resource Planning

ORRISSA would work in two districts with 3000 women farmers from 7 Gram Panchayats. The regular book/record keeping, field level workshops and handholding support to women farmers will be provided by CRPs and para professionals. The producer group federation accompanier along with CRPs and para professionals would render their services like input supply to mahila kishan, establishing various linkages and convergence, training on PoPs and other technical services etc. however, the field coordinators and experts will provide training on institution building, record keeping, technology transfer, motivation, etc.

F. Expected Output

F.1 Expected Annual Output

- All 75 producer groups and 5 producer cooperative formed
- 60 CRPs and 20 para professionals will have trained and deployed to support the implementation.
- 60% households will be engaged in sustainable agricultural practices
- 40% households would taken up millet and pulses based mixed crop in an average of ½ acre land
- 60% villages would prepare their agricultural plan
- 600 women farmers will have compost pit in their backyards in convergence with MNREGA.
- 1000 women farmers would reduce their drudgery in agriculture by using gender friendly drudgery reduction tools.

F.2 Expected Convergence

- For land and water management, MNREGA scope would be explored.
- Convergence with agriculture, horticulture and other line departments for agriculture and allied sector activities.

F.3 Month-wise expenditure plan

Budget head	Month-wise break up of budget												
	Nov 13	Dec 13	Jan 14	Feb 14	Mar 14	Apr 14	May 14	June 14	July 14	Aug 14	Sept 14	October 14	Total
Programme Inception	170,000	100,000	100,000	30,000	30,000	20,000	-	25,000	25,000	25,000	25,000	-	550,000

MKSP-Agri Inception Report-ORRISSA

Institution Building	119,938	119,938	119,938	119,938	119,938	159,938	119,938	157,438	157,438	157,438	119,938	159,938	1,631,750
Capapacity Building	184,000	338,500	402,500	384,500	424,750	809,000	626,200	344,750	151,000	430,500	567,800	146,000	4,809,500
Community Investment support	-	-	-	-	-	415,000	105,000	-	-	-	1,665,000	-	2,185,000
Knowledge Management	15,000	54,140	41,920	15,000	20,000	20,000	100,000	85,000	75,000	50,000	50,000	20,000	546,060
Monitoring & Management	12,000	154,000	112,000	112,000	12,000	27,000	12,000	12,000	12,000	12,000	12,000	69,000	558,000
Administration	44,200	44,200	44,200	44,200	59,200	44,200	44,200	44,200	44,200	44,200	44,200	44,200	545,400
Total	545,138	810,778	820,558	705,638	665,888	1,495,138	1,007,338	668,388	464,638	719,138	2,483,938	439,138	10,825,710

District wise budget													
Budget head	Nov 13	Dec 13	Jan 14	Feb 14	Mar 14	Apr 14	May 14	June 14	July 14	Aug 14	Sept 14	October 14	Total
Malkangiri	222813	352733	354733	315813	358063	713563	483013	330813	185313	399813	1433813	236313	5386790
Kandhamal	101125	144345	92125	96125	164125	382875	148125	171375	123125	188125	918925	126625	2657020
Coordination Level	221200	313700	373700	293700	143700	398700	376200	166200	156200	131200	131200	76200	2781900
Total	545138	810778	820558	705638	665888	1495138	1007338	668388	464638	719138	2483938	439138	10825710