

Narrative Annual Report (NAR):2021-22 (Revised Mar'22)

1. Project Information:

Partner Organization:	ARASMIN
Project Name:	Climate Resilient Agriculture for Food Security.
Project Number:	LPE21/IN-000.136914
Report Period:	April' 2022 to March' 2023

2. Target Group & Situation:

(Name of the target group community/ region etc, describe situation in terms of dependency, vulnerability & survival issue)

All the people belonging to poor Adivasi Community in the Districts of Kandhamal, Kalahandi and Bolangir in Odisha State of India are taken as our target group.

Latest Changes in EXTERNAL Situation & Consequences:

(Describe SOCIO-ECONOMIC, DEVELOPMENT, WELFARE Policy changes in recent time -if any, describing positive or negative impact on target groups' situation and your work)

The negative impacts of CORONA Virus pandemic situation is prevailing in our area of operation. Still, we were expecting to continue without any barrier, the unprecedented Govt. Order created some problems of financial crisis. But, without taking it seriously we are continuing our activities to the best of our skill and experience. Moreover due to COVID-19 epidemic situation, though the financial backbone of our people has gone down, Still they have not faced the **Hunger or Starvation** due to active management of our Koth Fund and Grain Bank. Apart from the said situation, more or less, the people have experienced some other problems as mentioned below:

The people have not yet completely availed their Social Rights and Political Rights for which they are not allowed to enter the Forest area diligently. The exploitation caused by Sundhis and Sahukars, Micro-Finance, Companies and other Financing Institutes and Contractors have been stopped to a maximum extent. Still, the people are forced to use Hybrid seeds and to have hybrid cultivation, Health Care services are very poor and inadequate, Lack of employment opportunity and less payment of labour Charges, Migration and Displacements are prevailing till today. Communal tensions due to political interference are seen frequently, and the Maoists have become more active in Mohangiri.

3. Objective of the project:

(Outline the objective of the project)

- To strengthen the socio-economic condition of the poor Adivasi people and creation of opportunities for providing **Food Security, Health Security and Financial security** to save their lives.
- To activate the **Subsistence Agricultural Farming** which has become a strong Pillar to provides lots of benefits to the poor people.
- To preserve the **Rights** of the people on their **Land** and **Forest** which are the baseline elements of their lives and to create a **New Confidence** and **Excitement** among them.
- To keep them far away from **Loans** and **Exploitations** which are the most detrimental elements of Adivasi life.
- To reduce their **Cultural dependency** and to improve their **Spiritual** connection in order to create their self-confidence for facing the hazardous situations of life.
- Creation of some transformational community Leaders and improving their leadership quality in

order to raise their voice against Social injustice and challenge the anti-social elements.

- To activate the Gender Equity so as to strengthen the skill of the Adivasi Women to face all hazardous situations and contribute a lot for their family as a lion-share contributor.
- Over all, to strengthen the lively-hood of the poor Adivasi people in order to merge them in the mainstream of the present society and lead a peaceful life.

4. Intervention Methodology:

(Describe the method of empowerment process)

- Strengthening the Educative Community Organizations like Village Development Sanghas (VDS) and Women Sanghas (MS) and strengthening the Regional Networks.
- Providing Intensive and transformational Leadership training to the village Activists and promoting their Leadership quality.
- Strengthening their Village Koth Funds, Death Funds and Grain Banks in order to stay far away from loans and Exploitations.
- Initiating the Community to promote their **Culture, Spiritualism** and **Cultural traditions** to have a peaceful life.
- To develop the practice of **Subsistence Agricultural Cultivation** to strengthening the livelihoods of the poor people and to increase the socio-economic status of the Adivasi people.
- Organizing the **Gender-Parity Networks** to empower the poor Adivasi women to acquire their Rights in the Society.
- Over all, Making Community involvement **Contact and Cooperation** for acquiring their RoR and other facilities.

5. Project Activities:

(Describe the list of activities being conducted for empowerment process/ **mention highlight of activities(how many/ what types of activities) including those conducted for addressing the 'specific focus/objective' set in the last years' report**)

- Encouraging the community members personally for continuance of their periodical village meetings and help them to understand their own situation.
- Strengthening the Educative Community Organizations, Koth Funds and Grain Banks.
- Providing intensive education to the people on Land Rights and Human Rights in their Network meetings.
- Strengthening the Regional Networks through proper education to the people and meeting interventions.
- Conducting the basic trainings for capacity building on Land Rights, Debt bondage, Human Rights, Culture, Spiritualism and subsistence Agriculture.
- Identifying the persons having leadership quality and promoting them.
- Educating the People through deeper analysis of their situation in their periodical village meetings.
- Encouraging the people to have **Subsistence Agricultural farming** like Basumati Paddy, Black Rice Paddy, Suan Rice Paddy,, Koddoo, Maize, Jana, Ragi, Ladies Finger and Tila etc.
- Promoting the Culture through Mega cultural functions and celebrations and re-organising the traditional sacrifice.
- Helping the poorest persons to take their treatment against Tuberculosis and HIV/AIDs.
- Making contact and cooperation for obtaining the **RoR** of the Revenue land before the Revenue Inspector, Tahasildar, Sub-Collector and Collector and for the Community Forest lands before the Forest Ranger and Divisional Forest Officer (DFO).
- Taking appropriate actions through Contact and Cooperation for availing different welfare projects like BPL Cards, Ration Cards, Indira Awas Houses, Old-age pensions and Destitute pensions etc.

- The District Medical Officers and District TB Officers are being informed on TB affected people and HIV suspected cases regularly.

6. Impact of the project:

Extent of project coverage:

(Describe number of villages/families reached/ difficulties experienced/ deviation in plan –if any)

We are working in this field since last 10 (ten) years. By virtue of our long term experience, we have been able to activate the people and their Organizations as mentioned hereunder :

- i. No. of Villages: **120.**
- ii. No. of Men Organizations: **120**
- iii. No. of women Organizations: **120**
- iv. No. of families: **2686**
- v. No. of Grain Banks created: **120**
- vi. No. of Rice saving Groups created: **120**
- vii. Difficulties were experienced to unite the People at starting point and to face the Anti-social elements.

Deviation in plan: Till to-day, no such serious problems are faced for deviation of our plan.

Progress achieved: (with reference to numerical data, where possible from the table)

(Describe the highlights of achievements/ dynamics, including progress on specific focus/objective set in last year's report and problems faced UNDER EACH INDICATOR)

(1). Trainings and Capacity Building:

We have organized 02 Trainings for our community members on Subsistence Agriculture by the help of KVK, Kandhamal and the periodical Capacity Building Trainings have been conducted. Moreover, a number of 82 Men participated the KVK training and 112 women have attended the KVK training this year with active participation and 112 women have received the seeds.

(2). Community Organization and Grain Bank/Saving activity including networking process:

We have already strengthened our Rice Banks, Grain Banks and the Regional Networks in old 60 (sixty) Villages and trying to strengthen the Rice Banks, Grain Banks and the Regional Networks in new clusters.

(3). Debt-dependency (reduction) & Food Security:

With our continued support 176 persons have been freed from Debt and 124 bonded labourers have been released.

(4). Participation in democratic institutions (Panchayat):

As regards to the last Panchayat Raj Election the ward member position is Women-45, Men-66; Samiti Member (Sabhya) Women-12, Men-16 and the position of Sarapanch is Women-08 and Men-10.

(5). Access to Welfare provisions:

With our active intervention, 124 families have got their Ration Cards and 124 families have got their BPL Cards.

(6). Cultural & Spiritual Reconnection:

All the people of our 60 old villages have been reconnected to their lost Culture and Spiritualism and the people of 36 new villages have been reconnected to their lost Culture and Spiritualism. Now, we are trying our level best to reconnect the people of 24 new villages to their lost Culture and Spiritualism.

(7). Contact & Cooperation/ mega festivity:

We are in regular contact with the local Administrative Officers, the MLAs and MPs and discussing about the problems of our area. But, till today, we have not faced any critical problem. They are also being invited to attend our Mega Festivals. During this year we have organized 02 mega events with the participation of our community members.

(8). Access to land and natural resources:

During the year under report, 242 families are accessed to Land and 484.00 Acres of land was accessed. So, a total of 958 families are accessed to Land and 1916.00 Acres of land is accessed.

(9). Subsistence Agriculture adaptation and collaboration:

During the year under report 2248 families adopted the Subsistence agriculture and the total area under cultivation was 1124 Acres. The total production was 1545 Qtls.

(10). Sustainable Livelihood creation & Migration:

This year 176 families left the Migration and returned back to their homes. O, in total a number of 452 persons stopped the migration. Now, they are provided with the Job Cards and engaged in welfare activities.

(11). Women empowerment -different dynamics:

We have conducted 02 numbers of Seminars on "Gender Equalisation" and more than 248 women have attended each program.

(12). Health & Education:

Herbal Medicine practice have been revived in 112 villages, Access to State Health Care-95 Villages and HIV/AIDs Awareness programs and Networking have been conducted in 108 villages.

(13). Pandemic implications/ intervention, if any:

Subsistence Agriculture is the best remedy for the Adivasi people to face and manage the pandemic situation. In this juncture, we are working with the Community members, The Adivasi Priests and the traditional Healers and encouraging our people to have more cultivation and produce more yields.

7. Numerical data of Results achieved:

(Transfer indicated key-data from the Data Collection and Monitoring Grid (DCMG))

Key Indicators:	Results:
1.Number of villages covered: (DCMG 2.f)	120
2.Number of families covered: (DCMG 3.c)	2686
3.Total Number of family members covered: (DCMG 3.d)	14160
4.Number of Men involved: (DCMG 3.b)	2656
5.Number of Women involved: (DCMG 3.a)	2664
6.Number of Woman Coordinator added in the Year, if any (DCMG 1.b.iv):	NIL
7.Number of Woman Animator added in the Year, if any (DCMG 1.c.iv):	05
8.Number of Men saving group/ Grain Bank: (DCMG 4.a.i/ii)	120
9.Number of Women saving group/ Rice Bank: (DCMG 4.b.i/ii)	120
10.Number of total internal credits taken: (DCMG 4.c.vi)	1642
11.Number of Indebted Laborers freed: (DCMG 5.a.ii)	176
12.Number of Families securing access to land resource: (DCMG 5.b.i)	242
13.Number of Acres of land secured: (DCMG 5.b.ii)	484
14.Number of Families practicing subsistence agriculture: (12.a) (#5.b.i)	2248
15.Number of Families stopped migration: (DCMG 5.c.ii)	452
16.Number of Ration/ BPL cards: (DCMG 6.a)	124
17.Number of Voter ID Cards by Men Members: (DCMG 6.c)	162
18.Number of Voter ID Cards received by Women Members: (DCMG 6.d)	168
19.Number of girls going to school: (DCMG 7.a)	1456
20.Number of boys going to school: (DCMG 7.b)	1692
21.Number of Men Members elected in Panchayat elections: (DCMG 9.a)	92
22.Number of Women Members elected in Panchayat elections: (DCMG 9.b)	65
23.Number of members participated in Contact & Cooperation events: (DCMG 10.b+c)	652
24.Number of villages reconnected to lost culture and spirituality: (DCMG 11.a)	96
25.Number of “training program” conducted with KVK centres ((13.a)	02
26.Number of farmers participated in the KVK training programs (13.b)	194
27.Number of farmers received seeds from KVK for field trials (13.c)	112
8. Future Action Plan:	
Plan for area coverage: (Describe number of villages planned/ justification for consolidation/ expansion or phase out –if planned)	

We have already phased out 60 Villages from the beginning of this year. So, from the coming year we are planning to strengthening and organizing the Organizational saving process for pursuing the **Land Right objectives and** promoting more critical and deeper Cultural-Spiritual Reconnection.

To organize the **Krushak Mazdur Sanghs** (peasants associations) and conducting **Krishi Sammilani (agricultural conference)** in our area of operation in conjunction with the **KVK Scientists** with Banners and posters.

Embarking on adaptation of **Subsistence Agriculture** in more sympathetic way through possible collaboration with **KVK and mobilizing the Scientists of KVK (Agricultural Research Centres)** and conducting seminars at different places inviting all political persons, Govt. Officers and area leaders.

To promote the Subsistence Agriculture for the **Food Security** and to protect the **Climate** and to have frequent field visits with **the KVK Scientists** and assess the progress of work.

Providing integral capacity-building training to the field staff on various levels of interventions/issues.

Promoting the Traditional Healers (Adivasi Priests) for the safety and security of the people.

To promote our **existing Grain Banks** and **preserve more variety of Seeds** and obtaining different indigenous seeds like millets from the Government stores.

Arranging to have the demonstration plots with the involvement of the Scientists and **putting the Sign Boards** and instruction Boards in demonstration Fields.

To fight with the Seed Companies and Seed Producers on legal aspect of Subsistence Agriculture and to fight with the Sundhis and Sahukars selling the Fertilizers and pesticides.

Specific Focus:

(Describe the specific objectives/ tasks to be focussed, **in view of the problems being faced**)

To strengthen the **Rice Bank. Grain Bank** and the **Regional Networks.**

Promoting the **Subsistence Agriculture** in conjunction with **KVK Collaboration.**

To emphasise on the **Cultural aspects** of the people and **Spiritualism.**

To promote the traditional Healers (**Jhankars**) in all villages.

To promote the Ayurvedic medicines through the Jhankars.

To emphasise on **Land Rights** and obtain the **Record of Rights.**

Prioritising on **Food security** which is an acute problem in our area.

Special attention shall be given on **Climate Change** and **eco-environment.**

To provide intensive **Capacity building Trainings** to the Animators.

To organise **Mega Festivals** and **Health Camps** at different villages.

Specific Activities:

(Describe specific activities to be conducted to address the specific objectives/ tasks)

Strengthening the Community Organizations, Koth Funds and Regional Networks for generating more power of the People.

Providing **Land Right Education** to the People of all Villages and to keep the **Forest** and **Forest Lands** under their personal Rights.

Prioritising on **Subsistence Agricultural Farming** and to strengthen the Subsistence Agricultural farming for a healthy life.

To organize and strengthen the **Community Seed Banks**.

Promoting the traditional knowledge of the people on **Subsistence agriculture**.

To make the people know the importance of the **Rights on their Forest land**.

To activate the Culture of the people and importance on Reconnection to **Spiritualism**.

Promoting the Traditional Healers (**JAKERAS**) through conventions and workshops.

Providing intensive capacity building training to the Animators on Land Rights, Debt, Bondage, Human Rights and Culture.

Providing Leadership and Capacity Building training to all village Activists.

To make **Contact and Cooperation** for different welfare projects.

To organise Health camps at Panchayat Headquarters.

To protest against the interference on their **Land Rights** and **Forest Rights**.

Demands to the Revenue Authorities for the **ROR** of encroached lands.

To stay far away from loans and try to sale their **Forest products** in genuine rate and not to leave their **Landed Property** on **mortgage** or **Lease**.

To take care of the **Forest** that saves the Lives of the Adivasi People.

Strengthening the Community Organizations, Koth Funds and Regional Networks for generating more power of the People.

Providing **Land Right Education** to the People of all Villages and to keep the **Forest** and **Forest Lands** under their personal Rights.

Prioritising on **Subsistence Agricultural Farming** and to strengthen the Subsistence Agricultural farming for a healthy life.

To organize and strengthen the **Community Seed Banks**.

Promoting the traditional knowledge of the people on **Subsistence agriculture**.

To make the people know the importance of the **Rights on their Forest land**.

To activate the Culture of the people and importance on Reconnection to **Spiritualism**.

Promoting the Traditional Healers (**JAKERAS**) through conventions and workshops.

Providing intensive capacity building training to the Animators on Land Rights, Debt, Bondage, Human Rights and Culture.

Providing Leadership and Capacity Building training to all village Activists.

To make **Contact and Cooperation** for different welfare projects.

To organise Health camps at Panchayat Headquarters.

To protest against the interference on their **Land Rights** and **Forest Rights**.

Demands to the Revenue Authorities for the **ROR** of encroached lands.

To stay far away from loans and try to sale their **Forest products** in genuine rate and not to leave their **Landed Property** on **mortgage** or **Lease**.

To take care of the **Forest** that saves the Lives of the Adivasi People.

9. Case Study:

(Describe one success story during the year (within main objective) with one or two photos)

MIGHTER THAN THE RIFLES

The powers of the Culture are recognized as mightier than the Rifles which has been proved in the village "Tentulipada" under Mohangiri Unit of M. Rampur Block in our Kalahandi District of Odisha State where we are working since last 11 years. It is a big village having 42 Adivasi families and about 300 populations surrounded by some other small villages.

This village is situated on a Hilly area called "Dangar area" having 37 villages in dense forest and the livelihood situation of the Adivasi people of this area was very precarious as if the Adivasi people were staying far away from the main stream of life. They were depending upon the Natural resources for their livelihood management. They did not know what their rights are in the Society and they do not go to market place for their essential commodities for their language problem. We started our work in this belt during the year 2012. During the year' 2018 a group of Maoists entered this area and started their operation. Initially, they maintained a good relation with the people so long they are fully established. The Dangar area is a living paradise for them and just after being established they started exploiting the people in different manner and depended upon the scanty income of the poor people. Even, they looted the Rice Banks of the people which is the only means of their existence and providing Food Security to the poor Adivasi People. So, there was a cold war and a conflict between the people and the Maoists.

Gradually the situation aggravated and continued for one and half years and we could not get a solution to solve the matter.

Finally, we took the advantage of meeting our **Country Coordinator Mr. Ajoy Kumar** at the **Partners' Workshop, Ranchi** and took his advice in this regard. He advised that the traditional Culture and the Mega Cultural programmes of the Adivasi People are the best solution for your problem. Accordingly, we contacted the Village leaders of 20-25 villages and organized 03 Mega Festivals at a gap of one and half months and invited the local Govt. Officers along with the Maoist group. All the programmes were very attractive and very heart-touching. We got our answer from the Echo created on the valleys of Hills by the sound of Drums and the Musical Instruments. The people attending this programme felt it to be Earth quakes. After attending the same programmes the Maoist people were depressed and demoralized and felt the importance of Adivasi Culture and feared for the Adivasi People. It was the right time to teach them a good lesson and our Coordinator Mr. Sili Majhi took the leading to stop their essential commodities by influencing the local Shop-keepers, local people and vendors which had a positive impact on the Maoists and they stopped their despotism with immediate effect and maintained a good relation with our people. Still, we are very much careful for them and dealing them in a very strategic manner because their area Commanders are being changed from time to time. Now, the people have been able to save themselves from the severe exploitations and sheer deceits of the exterminatory groups like Sunsdhis and Sahukars and from the Maoists by virtue of our intervention and they are providing enormous support for our accomplishment.





Bikash Ranjan Rautray
Secretary, ARASMIN