

Project Update: May 2012

The 2nd Quarterly Progress report for the period March to May 2012.

A) Formation of Village Mangrove Council:

The Village Mangrove Councils (VMC) has been formed in new six coastal villages. A VMC is made up of representatives of all sections of the community and chaired by a ranking chief from members and the villagers select the Treasurer and Secretary. Each VMC has been involved in conservation, restoration and sustainable management of mangroves in their respective villages. The project team has been working hand in hand with VMCs.

B) Training of project team members and VMC:

Under this project capacity building training has been organised for the project team members and Village Mangrove Council key persons. Twenty-five members participated in the programme.

C) Meeting with Stakeholder Committee members:

A stakeholder committee meeting has been conducted at Penthia. The quarterly progress report was presented and reviewed by the Committee. The meeting was attended by 42 men and women, which included forest Range officer and forester of Mangrove Forest(wild life) Division, Rajnagar, Scientists and Livelihood Expert, Krushi Vigyan Kendra, Odisha University of Agriculture and Technology, block coordinator, TRIPTI (Targeted Rural Initiatives for Poverty Termination & Infrastructure), representatives of various VMCs, Women SHG, local NGO, school teachers etc.

D) Awareness Programme:

The project team conducted awareness programmes in three schools and two villages on the importance of conservation of mangrove resources to school students and villagers in the coastal villages.

E) Mangrove Seed Collection:

A total of 3000 propagules of *Rhizophora* were collected from nearby mangrove forest through community volunteers and VMC members. The propagules were planted in our existing nursery and will be planted in creeks during the rainy season.