

Project Update: December 2010

A. Mangrove Plantation and Fencing

The mangrove plantations have also been conducted in this quarter in the new areas i.e., Naranpur and Khirakot villages and are being conserved by the communities. The plantation site was encircled with bamboo fences to prevent further cattle grazing. The village mangrove councils carry out fencing activities. The entire plantation area is also under social fencing with the village mangrove councils ensuring that no animals destroy the newly planted saplings and no extraction happens till the forests reach a self –sustaining level of maturity.

B. Monthly Environmental Educational Class

The project team started to explain about the importance of conservation of mangrove resources and endangered species, to school students in the project villages. A series of regular mangrove educational programme has been conducted at Kundupur M.E. School, Badkot U.P. School, Bhabagrahi Vidyapitha, Lanjuda-Kaitala, Balya Vikash U.P. School, Kaltunga.

C. Promotion of Alternative Livelihood to Mangrove Dependent Communities:

The major component of the project focuses on empowering vulnerable and mangrove dependent communities with the skills on alternative livelihood without destroying environment. It is rooted in a participatory of women, youths and other marginalized community in the village– to identify targeted strategies based on their specific needs and priorities.

1. Training Programme on Mushroom Cultivation for self employment:

The training programme on 'Mushroom cultivation' was organized on 28th September 2010 at Badkot Cyclone Shelter, Badkot village. All together 45 mangrove dependant people from six project villages participated in the training programmes. In the training, Dr. Prasanna Kumar Samanta, subject matter specialist (soil science) Krishi Vigyan Kendra of Department of Agriculture, Government of Orissa; Dr. Manoj Kumar, subject matter specialist (plant protection) Orissa University of Agriculture and Technology, Government of Orissa, took part as resource persons and imparted training on various aspects of mushroom cultivation. In the training programme, practical demonstration on mushroom cultivation was also imparted. The project team has been distributed mushroom spawn and provides mentoring the same along with mentoring support to the trainees who are starting ventures at their own homes in small thatched sheds.

2. Supply of Vegetable seeds for Kitchen Gardening

Kitchen gardening is one of the activities promoted in all the six project villages. The practice of kitchen gardening is widespread in the targeted communities. Production of vegetables from kitchen gardens is mainly used for household consumption and a source of income. Of the total of 630 households practicing kitchen gardening, by passing on the gift, the project has been providing to the community with training and vegetable seed supports. Kitchen garden initiative has been contribute to the nutrition of people and increase the income of mangrove dependant families. The project has also foster youth and women involvement looks innovative. We are distributing kits containing hybrid seeds, so as to help the people establish a garden, however small, in backyards of their houses and in homesteads.

This has enabled a majority of our poor small-scale farmers and mangrove forest dependent communities, to improve their situation through the development kitchen garden initiative and reduce the dependency on mangrove forest.