

KORAPUT DISTRICT: A Sustainable Livelihood Prototype

...

“Shifting from individual-focused sectoral thinking to livelihood-basket thinking” proves very successful in Lamtaput block, Koraput district, resulting in enhanced farmers’ income, establishing women’s identities as farmers and integrating ecological aspects so as to generate sustainable livelihoods

Introduction

—

MOST DEVELOPMENT POLICIES AND interventions talk about strengthening livelihoods for dignified living and economic prosperity. Although there may be many debates around whether strengthening livelihoods is enough to reduce various forms of inequalities, such as those based on gender, caste and class, in the end, most of these arguments locate the failure to reduce inequalities on the approach taken.

As Datta et al. (2014) note, “Most development programs till recently have focused on individual beneficiaries and most of these programs also have been sectoral. Shifting from this individual focused sectoral thinking to livelihood-basket thinking has often not happened.” The argument, then, is that improving livelihoods has tremendous

A thorough situational analysis was carried out, over a period of almost a year, to identify locally grown crops, the various agricultural practices followed, the perceived challenges, and the possible rationale for the existing gaps

potential to address the different facets of inequalities, provided that the approach for executing it is planned appropriately.

PRADAN's experience in Lamtaput Block, Koraput District, Odisha

—

Lamtaput is located 60 km from the district headquarters in Koraput. Koraput is part of the Kalahandi Balangir Korapur region, known for its abject poverty. Low literacy has been a root cause of the vulnerability, discrimination and injustice; Koraput ranks 631 out of the 640 surveyed districts, in its rate of literacy (TOI survey). Agriculture is the primary source of livelihood for almost 60–70 per cent of the households of Lamtaput. Many depend on only rain-fed agriculture, due to the very poor irrigation facilities available. Paddy and millet are the two major food crops.

Until 2010–11, the majority of the farmers used to grow vegetables, solely for domestic consumption. PRADAN started working in Lamtaput block in 2012. In the last six years of engagement with the community of Lamtaput block, PRADAN has developed an area-based comprehensive

livelihood prototype, which has helped the community take ownership, has led to the participation of a majority of households in the programme, has ensured a significant return on investment for 60 per cent of the participating households and has also helped in addressing the issue of gender gap.

How did this evolve?

—

To start with, social mobilization was given utmost importance. Becoming associated with the existing women's SHGs and assisting in the formation of new SHGs were adopted as means of social mobilization. PRADAN helped facilitate periodic meetings of these SHGs, to discuss village issues, find solutions and take action accordingly.

In its engagement with different SHGs, PRADAN discovered that there was a need to help these groups come up with a comprehensive village plan. Therefore, the PRADAN team asked the SHGs in all the 60 revenue villages to prepare a comprehensive village development plan. It carried out perspective-building of SHG members, helped them develop

planning modules, choose appropriate planning tools and prepare the village plan. The process brought out the people's inclination to agriculture as a means of livelihood.

Subsequently, a thorough situational analysis was carried out, over a period of almost a year, to identify locally grown crops, the various agricultural practices followed, the perceived challenges, and the possible rationale for the existing gaps.

Certain options were then zeroed down upon. Each option was piloted and, subsequently, scaled up. Gradually, the combinations of options being piloted and scaled up took the shape of a prototype. The entire process took almost three to four years. The basket of options comprised:

1. Adoption of improved agricultural practices for finger-millet cultivation
 2. Adoption of improved methods for paddy cultivation during summer
 3. Inter-cropping in pipla plot for its optimal utilization
 4. Promoting local seed-preservation of the preferred crops, as identified by the community
-

The average yield in the traditional method (broadcasting) used to be 4–5 quintals per acre. With the improved method, the average yield of finger millet has come up to 12–14 quintals per acre

5. Introduction of organic remedies for crop protection
6. Taking measures to address the gender gap

1. Adoption of improved agriculture practices for finger-millet cultivation

Finger millet is an important cereal crop in Koraput district because most of the rural populace consumes it as one of the staple foods. The adoption of improved practices in finger-millet cultivation primarily includes knowledge-building of women farmers around seed selection, seed treatment, nursery raising, line transplantation, inter-cultural operations and the application of organic remedies.

PRADAN is currently working in all the 15 *panchayats* in Lamtaput block, where approximately 8,112 farmers cultivate finger millet, following improved methodology in an area of 4,811 acres. The average yield in the traditional method (broadcasting) used to be 4–5 quintals per acre. With the improved method, the average yield of finger millet has increased to 12–14 quintals per acre. This level of productivity not only ensures the availability of stock for round-the-year consumption

for a family but also the selling of a minimum of 10 quintals of finger millet in a year, that is, an additional income of Rs 15,000–20,000.

The improved method added value in a number of ways. The seed rate was low, thereby keeping the input costs low. The time for weeding was reduced, thereby reducing the drudgery for women farmers significantly. Being less labour intensive, it also helped to address the issue of labour crisis during the peak agriculture season. Additionally, it led to a significant increase in production, that is, three to four times more than the earlier yield.

The new method was standardized in the region through demonstrations. In the financial year 2012–13, PRADAN started the intervention in a few of the villages of Jalahanjar *panchayat*. To start with, only a few farmers from five adjacent villages came forward to adopt the practice. The result was remarkable, and in the next year itself, approximately, 500 farmers from the adjacent *panchayat* took it up.

The experience of 500 farmers helped in reaching out to 2000

farmers the next year and, today, over 8,100 farmers have adopted the new method. The very sound demonstration of the improved method has played a key role in such wide replication. Several trainings were conducted on seed selection, seed treatment, nursery raising, line transplantation and the preparation of organic products at various levels.

The new method was further established through convergence with a government programme. In the pilot phase, the method was launched through the joint efforts of the Assistant Agriculture Officer, Lamtaput, and PRADAN, and the seeds were distributed to the farmers under the Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana, RKVY. Later on, the farmers received support from the Orissa Tribal Empowerment and Livelihood Programme Plus project, in the form of implements and a millet processing unit. Recently, the entire initiative has been recognized by the Odisha state government's special millet programme. It's a five-year long programme and is committed to up-scaling millet cultivation, end to end, across the state.

The first year's experience in Mojhaput not only led to the replication of the method for every piece of millet-growing land in Mojhaput, but also in many nearby villages

Mojhaput Village Shows the Way

The initiative around millet development started in Mojhaput village, Jalahanjar *gram panchayat*. Thirty-three families dwell in Mojhaput, of which eight families belong to the Scheduled Tribes (STs) and the rest are 'potters', belonging to Other Backward Castes (OBCs). Although pot-making is the traditional occupation of 25 potter families, they have been primarily dependent on agriculture for their livelihood, mainly due to very insignificant returns from the pot-making activity. Two to three households are landless. The average landholding, per household, is around two to three acres.

Finger millet and paddy have been the two major food crops grown here. Vegetables such as potato, onion, cucumber, chilly, bitter gourd, beans, tomato, etc., used to be cultivated during the *kharif* season only. Agriculture used to be pursued for fulfilling people's consumption needs. The village has 40 acres of land, of which 15–20 acres was utilized earlier for growing finger millet (using the broadcasting methodology), in order to meet round-the-year consumption needs. A thorough analysis of the gaps of the existing practice revealed the need for applying some principles of the System of Root Intensification (SRI) for the cultivation of finger millet. Because some of the principles of SRI were followed, it was called an improved method.

The planning was facilitated at the village organization level. Twenty-seven families agreed to try out the new method, with each farmer agreeing to experiment only on a very small piece of land because they were not sure of the results. Several trainings around nursery raising, transplantation and intercultural operations were conducted to build knowledge of the women farmers on the new technology.

Rita Kumbhar got the highest yield in the village, that is, almost four times the earlier yield. For Rita, however, the most fascinating experience was the use of the weeder because it led to a substantial amount of reduction in her drudgery.

The first year's experience in Mojhaput not only led to the replication of the method for every piece of millet-growing land in Mojhaput, but also in many nearby villages. Farmers from distant villages were invited for exposure visits to Mojhaput and, today, 8,112 families of Lamtaput block have adopted this technique for growing millet on 4,811 acres of land.

This positive experience of increased production of finger millet increased the confidence of the women. The culture of regular discussions in the village organization, comprising three SHGs, remained alive. Over a period of time, and owing to this culture of regular discussions and collective action, the village organization of Mojhaput could address and solve other issues as well, such



Finger Millet Mojhaput

Through joint consultation with the community, PRADAN facilitated the women's collectives to cultivate paddy in summer through the adoption of an improved method, which is basically a method where selective components of SRI are followed. The results are encouraging

as the lack of a school in the village, the absence of an accessible road and the lack of drinking water. In short, in the process of evolving an integrated area-based prototype, Mojhaput pioneered the up-scaling of millet production through the adoption of an improved method of millet cultivation

Improved practices in Machhakunda

Most of the paddy lands in Lamtaput are located in the line of drainage, resulting in heavy water-logging during *kharif* cultivation. The productivity of the monsoon paddy is far below the standard. Through joint consultation with the community, PRADAN facilitated the women's collectives to cultivate paddy in summer through the adoption of an improved method, which is basically a method where selective components of SRI are followed. The results are encouraging.

PRADAN started by piloting the methodology in one particular patch called the Machhakunda, comprising three adjacent *gram panchayats*. Machhakunda is one of the interior-most pockets of Lamtaput and its villages are 20–45 km from the block headquarters. The area is topographically a little different from the rest of the patches of the block. The average rainfall in Machhakunda is higher than that of the rest of the patches of Lamtaput and it has only three types of land, that is, high-land, homestead land and low-land, which is basically the drainage line. Summer paddy intervention was aimed at optimal utilization of the lowlands of the area.

As reported by the farmers, prior to the adoption of the improved method, the average yield per acre was 14 quintals, which has gone up to 25 quintals after the intervention. Almost 50 per cent of the farmers could sell 10 quintals of paddy in a year, after storing grain for the current year and the upcoming year's household consumption.



Summer Paddy Machhakunda

After successful demonstration at the Machhakunda patch, several exposure visits were conducted for farmers from other *panchayats*. Currently, a large number of families have adopted summer paddy cultivation, using the improved method.

Also, some farmers of the Machhakunda area have been identified as resource persons for the cultivation of summer paddy by the nearby Malkangiri district. These resource persons provide training to the farmers of Malkangiri and, thus, the model is no more confined to only the Machhakunda area, but has spread to the adjacent district of Malkangiri.

In this way, the experience in Machhakunda played a pioneering role for wider replication of the improved method of summer paddy cultivation.

In the last three years, PRADAN has conducted a concrete experimentation on kharif vegetable cultivation in the Pipla plot, without affecting the productivity of Pipla

2. Improved practices in summer paddy cultivation

Eighty per cent of the paddy land of Lamtaput is basically the drainage line, and it remains water-logged during the *kharif* season. Paddy cultivation using the improved method in summer, therefore, emerged as an important option for Lamtaput. The following case substantiates how it became standardized.

3. Inter-cropping in pipla plot for its optimal utilization

Pipla (*piper longum*) is a medicinal plant that grows only in limited areas across the globe and Lamtaput is one

among those naturally blessed areas. The lands, where pipla is grown, is mostly stone-fenced and is entirely protected from the use of chemical fertilizers and pesticides. Farmers used to apply heavy amounts of farm yard manure to grow only pipla. During 2011–12, only 5–10 per cent of the families of a village used to grow pipla and, currently, it has increased up to 50–60 per cent. In the last three years, PRADAN has conducted a concrete experimentation on *kharif* vegetable cultivation in the pipla plot, without affecting the productivity of pipla. The major value addition was in helping the farmers in timely cultivation, selection of crops, adoption of

practices such as seed selection, seed treatment, the use of organic remedies and in marketing.

A 25-decimal pipla plot, inter-cropped with chilly and ginger, can easily ensure Rs 25,000–30,000 of net income for a farmer, excluding the income from pipla itself. A farmer can also grow some other crops such as pumpkin and cucumber as a boarder crop in the pipla plot. However, the price of pipla is declining significantly each year and that has attracted PRADAN's attention. As a first step, PRADAN conducted a value chain study, and subsequently, engaged in the designing of an intervention.

Story of Ballel village: A live example of a pipla plot model

PRADAN started its work at Ballel in 2012 and currently there are 14 SHGs in the village. Of the 150 households in Ballel, 110 of them have a pipla plot. During the initial days, pipla was a high-valued crop, ranging in price from Rs 600–1000 per kg, depending upon the quality. Because the return was good, more households started growing pipla and those already growing pipla started increasing the area for pipla cultivation. However, because of the absence of a perfect market, the price of pipla declined sharply in the last four years (price ranging from Rs 80–100 per kg, depending upon the quality). Therefore, the farmers were in strong need of an alternative.

PRADAN worked with the women to find a way out of the situation. The farmers used to cultivate many vegetables such as chillies, beans, tomato, ginger, pigeon-pea and pumpkin, in the pipla land, in a very sporadic manner, just to meet their own consumption needs. For the last three years, the farmers have focussed on growing vegetables on a commercial scale in this land. The major areas of interventions by PRADAN have been around identifying, farmer-wise, two major crops as cash crops, seed treatment, nursery raising (using a raised-bed), inter-cropping, single nursery transplantation and

After witnessing the experience of Ballel, many villages have started planning other crops in their pipla plots in the same way. Currently, this model has been replicated in approximately 50 villages of 7 gram panchayats of Lamtaput block

the use of organic remedies. Through these interventions, PRADAN helped the farmers utilize the pipla plot optimally and enhance their income.

The farmers faced the following problems: Having and caring for individual nurseries, individual planning and management of crops, variations among families in terms of scale and productivity, and not being able to find a proper market or a reasonable price for their product.

Women farmers of Ballel started exploring the way to mitigate this marketing issue. All the members of the 14 SHGs have now formed a Village Organization and meet regularly (last Wednesday of every month) to discuss these issues. Finally, in the *kharif* season of 2017, they planned the cultivation in their pipla plot, using the production-cluster approach, meaning that every farmer will raise a nursery at the same time, transplant during the same period and market the produce collectively. This ensured that all the farmers received an equal price and got a fair deal through collective bargaining. Through the process, the women directly interfaced with the market and took all market-related decisions.



A Pipla plot in Ballel village

At the end of all these trials, the major crops (as decided in the consultations with the farmers), have been ginger and chilly, with pumpkin and papaya as additional crops. A 25 decimal of pipla plot can ensure a profit of Rs 25,000–30,000, excluding the income from the pipla.

After witnessing the experience of Ballel, many villages have started planning other crops in their pipla plots in the same way. Currently, this model has been replicated in approximately 50 villages of 7 *gram panchayats* of Lamtaput block. In the evolving of the integrated area-based prototype, therefore, Ballel's experience has played a pioneering role.

4. Promoting local seed-preservation of preferred crops

In most of the interventions, the return on local varieties has been more lucrative for farmers. Building on this, enhancing the

knowledge of women's collectives on seed preservation evolved. This also includes research on a number of varieties of seeds available in the area, the experience of cultivation with each variety, sample collection and the preservation of those

sample seeds. For example, approximately 16 varieties of chilly seeds are available at Lamtaput, and some villages have started preserving such local varieties. Similarly, seeds are preserved for crops such as millet, ginger and other vegetable crops.

There is ample scope for further improvement of production and productivity of ginger for raising the income level of the farmers. Yield-loss under real farming conditions can be attributed to several biotic and abiotic factors

Dabuguda and Chopa production cluster

Ginger is predominantly cultivated in the Patangi-Similiguda-Nandapur blocks of Koraput district in different cropping systems, usually as a sole crop. New cultivation practices were introduced and adopted by a large section of ginger growers. At a later stage, however, many farmers gave up ginger cultivation whereas some others are still struggling to survive because, over the last 15–20 years, diseases have severely affected the crop, resulting in a decline in the yield ratio from one ‘seed’ rhizome to 8–10 harvested rhizomes to only one to two or three. There is ample scope for further improvement of production and productivity of ginger for raising the income level of the farmers. Yield-loss under real farming conditions can be attributed to several biotic and abiotic factors. Important among them are improper mother rhizome selection as seed material, lack of seed treatment, poor drainage, lack of knowledge on crop rotation, faulty cultural practices and lack of timely plant protection measures.

The cultivation of ginger on a commercial scale is a new phenomenon for the farmers of Dabuguda and Chopa villages of Lamtaput block. This started to meet the demands generated by SHGs for less labour-intensive income generation and high-value crops with low volume.

PRADAN as a facilitator

PRADAN started working in these villages in 2011–12 and organized the women, forming SHGs to initiate savings and credit activities, along with building a perspective of sustainable livelihood from agriculture. Gradually, these SHGs were federated into village-level Clusters (Village Organizations, VOs), to discuss various village-level affairs. They also became a part of the Dabuguda *gram panchayat* level federation. GPLF.

Several perspective-building trainings and exposures were organized by PRADAN for SHG leaders on various themes.

Institution Building	Agriculture	Governance
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Training on SHG principles • Training on SHG book-keeping and auditing • Training on leadership • Training on gender and discrimination 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Training on SRI with millet • Training of PoP of vegetable cultivation • Training on IPM • Training on livelihood planning • Training on WEAI & women as farmers 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Training on MGNREGA and grievance redressal • Training on different government schemes • Training on gram sabha and palli sabha • Training on the electoral process and panchayat governance

Gradually, seed production and preservation emerged as an important approach in the integrated prototype and, currently, there is deliberate focus on developing one or two villages of every *gram panchayat* as seed villages, to ensure the timely availability of quality seeds

Kansula Nani, an SHG member, initiated a discussion on the ginger cultivation programme. She talked about it in her SHG group and, subsequently, it was discussed by the VOs and in the other SHGs, to build consensus on commercial ginger cultivation. PRADAN guided them by making them understand the rationale and the Strength, Weakness, Opportunity, Threat (SWOT) around the activity. The concept of an Agricultural Production Cluster originated and, gradually, farmers understood the need for collectivization in agriculture.



A ginger plot in Dabuguda village

However, one of the major challenges faced by our Agriculture Production Cluster members, initially, was the availability of quality seeds. The seeds that were sourced from outside were not only costly but also insufficient, and did not even translate into the desired levels of production. To counter this impediment, PRADAN helped women SHG leaders to come up with an innovative solution. They decided to produce their own seeds by marking out certain zones for the production of quality seeds.

A few group members were unanimously elected and the others agreed to purchase the seeds from them on a cost basis. The selected members were further trained in seed preservation techniques. Thus far, 35 women have been engaged in the production of a variety of spice seeds and around seven hectares of land have been put under seed cultivation.

The significant aspect of this technology intervention was the introduction of a high yielding variety of seeds, crop rotation, soil treatment with trichoderma, the use of *handikhata* for disease control and *jeevamruta* for soil health improvement.

This led to the availability of quality seeds for a majority of the households of Dabuguda and Chopa. This was followed by almost all the households of these two villages venturing into ginger cultivation on a commercial scale, through the APC approach.

The experience of Dabuguda motivated farmers from other villages to preserve seeds for the major crops chosen by them. For example, Burudiput village demanded training on chilly seed production; in 2017–18, this village preserved approximately 50 kg of chilly seeds. Gradually, seed production and preservation emerged as an important approach in the integrated prototype and, currently, there is deliberate focus on developing one or two villages of every *gram panchayat* as seed villages, to ensure the timely availability of quality seeds.

Knowledge-building around various organic remedies, prepared from the locally available material, has proved to be interesting for farmers. This is primarily because of the positive results and because it involves very low investment of the farmers

5. Introduction of organic remedies for crop protection

Knowledge-building around various organic remedies, prepared from locally available material, has proved to be interesting for farmers. This is primarily because of the positive results and because it involves very low investment by farmers. Almost 60–70 per cent of the agricultural families, currently, have started using these remedies.

From the beginning of PRADAN's intervention in 2012–13, the team focussed on guiding farmers to grow crops using organic remedies. A thorough analysis of the farmers' usual practices of crop protection has helped the team to figure out how a farmer can, gradually, switch from inorganic practices to organic ones. In the beginning, only two remedies, that is, insecticides (*handikhata*) and fertilizers (*jeevamruta*) were introduced and, in subsequent years, the use of these became more extensive.

Currently, some entrepreneurs have been identified by the Village Organizations and they have been trained to run the

Non Pesticide Management shop in order to ensure timely availability of appropriate organic remedies for farmers; having understood the positive impact of such measures, farmers are willingly buying such organic products. Today, almost 60 per cent of the farmers take care of a majority of the problems in crop management through organic remedies.

6. Taking measures to address the gender gap

The institutional mechanism for rolling out everything was primarily women's SHGs and their larger collectives. The rationale for having such an institutional mechanism in place was not only the 'efficiency' aspect but also the 'equitable' aspect. Needless to say, women, in spite of sharing 80 per cent of farm responsibilities, live as 'farm labour' and the consequences of that on gender relations is huge. They don't have any decision-making power, no right over assets or any control over the income, none or an insignificant time for participating in any social forums and no leisure time for themselves. Rigorous trainings, on such aspects, helped

women in the collectives to become aware, triggering interest in taking action to change the situation.

At every step of the intervention, various gender-based gaps were considered carefully and measures were also devised for addressing the same. For example, technical knowledge-building for women on various agriculture practices, helping them to get linked with various stakeholders for inputs, and frequent market exposures have encouraged women farmers to participate in the input decision-making process, follow up on crops appropriately, know market dynamics and, thus, be empowered to finalize the deal when selling their produce. This has given them some control over the income.

The use of women-friendly farm implements has contributed significantly in reducing occupational health hazards for women. Most of all, through periodic participation in SHG meetings and its larger collectives, women's participation in other public forums has increased manifold. As stated by most of the women, now-a-days they don't fear interacting

Each of the interventions can be replicated through a community-led mechanism after a sound demonstration and can reach a critical scale. Also, although one patch/village pioneered an activity, it also adopted the other activities that were demonstrated by the other village/patch

with outsiders, government functionaries or market players.

Key learnings

—
The experience from Lamtaput does suggest some qualifiers for any livelihood prototype to be considered as comprehensive.

- *Significant income/return:* In Lamtaput, it was significant. In terms of income, it is almost 'double' of what 60 per cent of the participating families were earning prior to the intervention.
- *Participation of the majority, including the poorest of the poor:* Almost 80 per cent of the total outreach households could participate.
- *Low external dependency, that is, intervention plans are based upon locally available resources:* Intervention plans (that is, the combination of millet intervention, summer paddy intervention, pipla plot model, local seed preservation and promotion of organic practices) were totally based on what people were already doing and the existing resources.

- *High predictability of returns through selection of appropriate activities:* For example, the combination of crops selected in Lamtaput assured high predictability.
- *Robust enough to accommodate variations that exist, at the family as well as area levels:* This has been taken care of through diversification of options.
- *Replicable, scalable and sustainable:* Each of the interventions can be replicated through a community-led mechanism after a sound demonstration and can reach a critical scale. Also, although one patch/village pioneered an activity, it also adopted the other activities that were demonstrated by the other village/patch. For example, although Mojhaput was a pioneer for millet intervention, it also adopted the summer paddy cultivation method, the pipla plot model, organic practices, etc., through learning from other villages.
- *Takes care of the existing gender-based inequalities:* This aspect was given utmost priority at each step. A few outcomes of the same are enhanced participation of women in

input decision-making, market exposure for women, reduced drudgery and, to some extent, enhanced control over income.

The entire experience also suggests some concrete steps to identify and ground potential livelihood prototypes for the majority, that is:

- Starting with institution-building, so that a forum for regular discussion on any issues affecting their life would be in place.
- Through continuous associations with these institutions, understanding people's preferred themes in terms of livelihoods.
- Mapping the existing practices, available resources, current gaps (including the gender gap) and the scope for intervention for people's preferred themes.
- Finalizing and mutually enforcing a basket of appropriate and sustainable livelihood activities that will ensure a good match of people's (all households, including the poorest) needs and aspirations and also optimal utilization of available resources.

PRADAN's experience of leading a successful farm-based livelihood intervention in Koraput shows that instead of focussing on a single approach, a context-specific mixed approach is likely to work best

- Finalizing institutional mechanisms for grounding planned interventions and ensuring that it is collective-led.
- Demonstrating each of the activities thoroughly and ensuring the percolation of the same across the board, so that in the end, the adoption of the entire basket is possible.
- Helping people adopt ecologically sustainable practices in each activity.
- Building awareness continuously in the institution on the gaps revealed in gender relations and, accordingly,

devising strategies to reduce the gap at each and every step.

Conclusion

—

PRADAN's experience of leading a successful farm-based livelihood intervention in Koraput shows that instead of focussing on a single approach, a context-specific mixed approach is likely to work best. In this case, it involved identifying millet and pipla as the crops to work on, carefully designing and implementing a process that ensured women's participation at every step, and adopting organic methods of agriculture. This comprehensive

approach not only increased the income of the participating families but also helped women establish their identity as farmers and integrated the ecological aspects so as to ensure that the livelihoods generated were sustainable.

—

Monisha Mukherjee works with PRADAN as Team Co-ordinator, Research and Advocacy, and is based in Delhi. She was earlier based in Koraput, Odisha

Sasanka Sekhar Sahoo works as Team Co-ordinator in PRADAN and is based in Lamptaput, Koraput.

Bhaskar Borah works as an Executive in PRADAN and is based in Lamptaput, Koraput.

Sandeep Patnaik works as Team Co-ordinator in PRADAN and is based in Churchu, Jharkhand. He was earlier based in Lamptaput, Koraput