



Kolhan and North Odisha Development Cluster (KNODC)

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Kolhan and North Odisha Development Cluster covers five districts in two states - West Singhbhum, East Singhbhum, and Saraikella-Kharsawan (in Jharkhand) and Mayurbhanj and Keonjhar (in Odisha). Around 45 percent population in this region is tribal. The major tribes are Ho, Santhal, Bathudi, Gond, Oraon, Munda, Kolha, Kharia, Mahali, Bhumij and Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups (PVTGs) – Hill Kharia, Makidia, Juang and Lodha. Ho tribe is unique to this region.

The DC has 40 percent forest cover. Two forest reserves – Saranda and Simlipal - have ecological and political significance for the DC. The DC is rich in mineral resources. Chiria mine in Saranda is the largest deposit of iron ore in Asia. Around 50 percent of India's high-grade iron ore reserves are in the four districts of the DC (Keonjhar, Mayurbhanj, Sundargarh and Singhbhum).

OVERVIEW OF PRADAN'S OPERATIONS IN KNODC

Particulars	DC Total	PRADAN Outreach
Districts	5	3
Population	6 million	407,675
Percent of Rural Population	84	100
Percent of ST and SC Population	57	74
Households	1.62 million	81,535

Particulars	Scale
Number of SHGs	6,443
Number of VOs	590
Households covered under Livelihoods	55,627
PRADAN teams	5

Themes	Community Collectives
Health and Nutrition	351 SHGs
Education	5 VOs
Water Sanitation & Hygiene (WASH)	1,010 Households
Gender and Governance	1,863 SHGs

PRADAN's engagement in this area began in the year 1992. Over the years our interventions have evolved and currently our major focus areas are:

- Mobilizing women into strong collectives of SHGs and associated tiers
- Enhancing livelihoods to facilitate women's sense of ownership, food security and control over income and expenditure
- Collective approach to mobilize resources for the development of infrastructure and livelihoods
- Collective approach to initiate discourse around gender-caste-class justice and equality within family, village and larger society

- Women's rights as an agenda for equal distribution of power and to trigger change in the norms on land rights

Providing Livestock Healthcare

Communities residing in the remote hilly terrains of this region have remained intrinsically linked with animal husbandry since times immemorial. However, the region lacked access to livestock healthcare. Frequent disease outbreaks led to loss of animal wealth. This had been a matter of concern as livestock not only provides nutrition for the family but is often traded to raise money for financial exigencies. PRADAN thus facilitated the communities to take up vaccination and preventive health-care program for animals through Integrated Livestock Rearing (ILR) activity.

Women farmers are trained in scientific methods in livestock rearing. Our efforts have led to capacity building of more than 125 Community Animal Health Workers (CAHWs) for the last mile service delivery system. The DC has benefitted significantly in the last

two years through the services of women CAHWs. Some of the key interventions during the year were:

- Identification of villages and selection of potential candidates for CAHW training
- Modules and materials designing for community awareness programs
- Selection of Master Trainers for handholding CAHWs and conducting village level training as well as vaccination camps
- Vaccine supply chain establishment in each block
- Baseline data collection of goat and back yard poultry stock
- End to end support in goat and poultry activity
- Linkage with veterinary department for handholding CAHWs

KNODC Livelihood Families vis-à-vis Livestock Families

Particulars	Total Livelihood Families	Total Livestock Families	Percentage
As on March'17	35,463	6,915	19.5
As on Sept'17	55,627	16,793	30.2
As on March'18	55,627	22,051	39.7

Goat for Greater Good



Amidst a bout of incessant coughing, as she loaded the iron-ore in the mine, a frail Tulashi kept reflecting on the SHG discussion on livestock. Can goat-rearing be a reality for someone so poor like her? As she unloaded, she had decided. These tribal women would change the fate of an entire village.

Photo: Dibakara Mahapatra

As the PRADAN professional shared the potential of goat rearing in this interior village, the women of the SHGs were skeptical. Many of them had no experience of goat rearing. A few families had tried this activity some years back. However, outbreak of diseases due to poor management practices had led to high mortality. Was it worth the risk?

Jamudiha in the Keonjhar district of Odisha is archetypical representation of deprived villages in this area: rocky landscape, little cultivable land, rain-fed agriculture, high distress migration and desperate labor work at the mines. Thirty-five year old Tulashi from the Bhuyan tribe had resigned to this fate of sustenance survival until that meeting on the potential of goat rearing. She wanted to have a better life for herself, her husband and her adopted child.

*“Mu jemiti gariba hei jibana kateili, mu chahunahi mo pua,
Sarata, semiti gariba hei Jibana katu.”*

“My son Sarat should not grow up amidst the poverty I grew up.” And as she was unloading the iron-ore in the mine, the evening after the village meeting, she made up her mind.

Vegetation and shrubs in the rocky landscape provided an ideal space for goats. The only issue was the high mortality rate of goats due to outbreak of diseases. After discussions with the SHG a full-fledged model for goat-rearing was developed and orientation workshops on de-worming, vaccination and other management services were organized. The transition from idea to implementation was seamless. Tulashi went out of the district for the very first time in her life for an exposure to experience advanced goat-rearing practices to Balliguda. Later, a trip to Gumla district of Jharkhand where PRADAN promoted goat-rearing was at a matured stage sparked her desire to scale up. And while she was away her husband Sitei took good care of her herd.

Hard work paid off. She now has a steady source of earning after a couple of gestation years.

Year	Income from goat sale
2013	INR 16,000 (US\$ 246)
2014	INR 24,000 (US\$ 369)
2015	INR 36,000 (US\$ 553)
2016	INR 45,000 (US\$ 691)
2017	INR 60,000 (US\$ 922)

Tulashi now has a stock of 40 goats. The total asset value of the herd is INR 0.2 million (US\$ 3,073), a significant sum in these parts. Thirty-three other families in this village are also intensively engaged in goat-rearing. The initial investment of INR 14,000 (US\$ 215) was from Agricultural Technology Management Agency (ATMA). Distress migration from this village to cities like Bangalore to work at construction sites has dramatically reduced.

Tulashi is today an inspiration for thousands of marginalized women in Keonjhar who come to her seeking guidance. She also welcomes a myriad of visitors – including state-level Secretaries and the District Collector. Her journey from penury to prosperity amazes all her guests.

LIVESTOCK AS A DEPENDABLE SOURCE OF LIVELIHOOD ACROSS PRADAN LOCATIONS

Like KNODC, many DCs this year intensified their livestock work concentrating on backyard poultry and small ruminants such as goat and sheep. The CAHW model has evolved into entrepreneurship, with CAHWs establishing cold chains for vaccines in remote areas and providing doorstep services

for preventive measures like vaccination and curative measures such as medication. On the whole, 29 teams intensively engaged in livestock rearing program. The activity witnessed a growth of 128 percent in this year, with the participation of about 81,500 families.



Photo: Dibakara Mahapatra

Ensuring Nutritional Diet

PRADAN has been working with the farming communities for the past three decades for better productivity and food security. While our approach has brought about food security, focus on carbohydrate-rich crops did not lead to desired nutritional gains for the primary producers. Therefore, we have now prioritized integration of nutritional component to address concerns of the high level of anemia and low Body Mass Index among women. In KNODC this intervention includes home visits, counseling, and training and orientation on nutrition. This year we designed a framework on nutrition constituting the following six themes: Adequate Nutritious Food Production, Diet Diversity, Infant and Young Child Feeding and Mother's Care, Sanitation and

Hygiene, Rights- Entitlements, and Women Empowerment. In Sonua block of Chakradharpur, Jharkhand, we are working on nutrition in 32 villages across eight Gram Panchayats. Communities were involved in organizing specific one-day events on nutrition called "Poshan Mela" (Nutrition Fair). In these fairs, women from different Panchayats came together to share their knowledge about the contributing factors in malnutrition and ways to fight them.

Nutrition and children's immunization are now regularly discussed in the community meetings. Community is now aware of the importance of diversified diet intake for pregnant and lactating women, delivery at hospitals, and need for regular interaction with ASHA and Anganwadi workers.



Photo: Kishori Soren

In her own words, Arati Diggi, an SHG member of Chakradharpur, thus articulated the change scenario

"Aajkal bachhe sab ek sabji se khana khate hi nahin. Aur school se aakar bina sabon se hath dhokar khana khane wala aadat to chhoot hi gaya. Isliye bimari kam ho gaya."

"Nowadays our children refuse to have rice with one curry. They have also stopped having food without washing their hands with soap after school. This has controlled outbreak of diseases." Arati's words echo observations made in other households.

BEYOND FOOD SECURITY – ENSURING NUTRITION – ACROSS PRADAN LOCATIONS

PRADAN's nutrition program has covered 3,750 SHGs across its areas of operation. Eleven pilot teams have till date trained and deployed 1,402 change vectors along with 65 mentors. These community resource persons form the backbone of community facilitated action towards better

nutrition outcomes. Their efforts have resulted in discernible health and nutrition benefits. The concept of kitchen garden and nutrition sensitive agriculture was well received by all stakeholders and 19,106 women have initiated kitchen gardens with the guidance of our professionals.