

# jeebika

WESTERN ORISSA RURAL LIVELIHOODS PROJECT

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It is with sadness that we say goodbye to Mr Pradeep Jena, IAS. As Director of the Orissa Watershed Development Mission (OWDM) he set high standards for the Western Orissa Rural Livelihoods Project (WORLP) which progressed rapidly under his guidance. We congratulate Mr Jena on his promotion and wish him success as he takes over as the Commissioner of Commercial Taxes and Transport, Government of Orissa.

We welcome Mr G Bhaskar Reddy, IFS, as the new Director of the OWDM. Mr Reddy has served in development projects throughout Orissa. As the Project Director-cum-Coordinator of the World Food Programme (WFP) project in Orissa he has worked extensively on food security, micro-finance and tribal development issues. Mr Reddy brings with him an understanding of livelihoods and the concerns facing the poorest, marginalised and vulnerable populations. WORLP looks forward to Mr Reddy's leadership in its effort to become an effective organisation that does not hesitate to innovate, develop and implement pro-poor policies and strategies that benefit the people of the project districts.

*'Faces from the field'*  
Photographs by  
Bishnu Das Pradhan

## IDEI introduces Participatory Technology Development for Micro-Irrigation

International Development Enterprises - India (IDE-I) is working with WORLP in some selected villages on action research for micro-irrigation.

IDE-I's first step was a needs assessment of the target group through a study of features such as irrigation, water depth, water source and type, land type and topography, type of soil, distance of water source, maintenance cost of irrigation devices, difficulty faced in maintenance and constraints and opportunities. The identified needs were related to water lifting, storage, distribution and application. Technologies such as Surface Treadle Pump (STP), Pressure Pump (PP), Rope and Washer Pump (R&WP), KB Drip Irrigation Systems (Bucket Kit, Drum Kit and Customised drip) and Water Storage Bag were identified as possible solutions.

Working through the PIA and the Watershed Committee members in selected nucleus villages,



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*The treadle pump*

IDE-I identified potential 'early adopters' for trials and demonstration in Nuapada and Komna blocks of Nuapada district and Agalpur, Khaprakhol and Tureikela blocks of Bolangir district. The products were installed. The trials are regularly monitored and modifications are made based on feedback from the farmers.

The following technologies have been installed:

Number of plots	Product	Product features
20	Surface Treadle Pump (STP)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- A foot operated device, capable of lifting water from a depth of 7 metres from any water source like a river, open well, canal, <i>nala</i>, etc.</li> <li>- Does not require electricity or diesel and is portable.</li> <li>- Capable of discharging water up to 4000 litres/hr and can irrigate up to one acre.</li> <li>- Easy to install, operate and maintain without the help of a <i>mistry</i>.</li> </ul>
3	Pressure Pump (PP)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Designed for small-scale irrigation in the plains and upland and for conveying water to long horizontal distances.</li> <li>- Water Discharge Capacity of 3000 to 3500 litres/hr.</li> <li>- Has a suction depth of 3-4 meters, with a capacity to lift water up to a height of 7 metres (25 ft) and horizontal distance of 300 ft.</li> <li>- Can also be used for filling water in Drum Kits of drip systems.</li> </ul>
3	Rope and Washer (R & W) Pump	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- It is a human powered, hand operated pump for lifting water from a depth of 15 metres.</li> <li>- An ideal device for lifting water from sources like dug well, river and perennial water pockets.</li> <li>- Prevents water wastage in conveyance and is useful for the irrigation of uplands.</li> </ul>
Bucket Kit - 10 Drum Kit - 10	Drip Irrigation Kits	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Ideal for cultivation of 50 to 100 vegetable plants through Bucket Kits and 300 to 500 vegetable plants through Drum Kits.</li> <li>- Works on low gravity pressure (1-3 metre head).</li> <li>- Saves irrigation water up to 50%; saves labour costs.</li> <li>- Results in uniform distribution of water and nutrients.</li> <li>- Results in improved yield and reduced cultivation cost.</li> </ul>

The technologies will be modified to the satisfaction of the farmers, and IDE-I along with the PIAs and WORLP staff will then develop strategies to promote them on a wider scale through the project. Farmers and PIAs will be trained on the technologies and a training module for PIAs will be developed.

IDE-I is also experimenting in WORLP areas with other selected activities, such as:

#### **Low Cost Water Storage Bag**

**The first of its kind, has been installed at Telenpalli in Bolangir District. It can store 10,000 litres of run-off rainwater which can be used for irrigation during water-stress periods.**

#### **Customised Low Cost Drip System integrated with Pressure Pump**

**A Pressure Pump is used to lift water from the *nala* to fill up the drum for Drip Irrigation. To judge its efficacy, a check-plot and demo-plot have been established adjacent to each other.**

#### **Drum Kit integrated with Rope and Washer Pump**

**In this innovative trial in Ghunesh village in Bolangir district, a R&W pump has been installed to lift water which fills the drum for Drip Irrigation.**



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#### **Vermi-Wash**

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**Farmers have been trained to practice vermi-wash on the demo plots. The vermi-wash is easy to prepare, is economical and is a good source of organic nutrients. It is reported to help maintain the soil pH and biomass and helps in decomposition of compost.**

#### **Nursery Raising**

**Farmers in 10 villages have been trained to use germination trays for nurseries, along with organic mixtures for the preparation of vegetable seedlings. Farmers show great interest in this technology.**

## **Samazik Samikhya**

Samazik Samikhya, or social review is a democratic process which ensures public accountability through a systematic demand from the community for information on the development work being implemented in their area. The aim is to measure performance through an appraisal of the work done against the micro-plan, to promote transparency and enable planning for the future. It allows an assessment of the level of participation of the people, thereby seeking to harness social capital by empowering the voiceless.

A workshop was organised on 24 March 2004 in Asurmunda village in Agalpur block for the members of the Watershed Association (WA), Watershed Development Committee (WDC), the Livelihood Support Team (LST), the Project Implementing Agency (PIA) and Watershed Development Team (WDT). It was facilitated by Mr Biren Naik of Actionaid India.

Mr Naik asked some questions to find out how much the villagers knew about the activities undertaken by WORLP. He asked them how they would be able to judge if the activities were being managed well, if there was good participation and how equity was being ensured. The participants said that the community

had to be united and organised, make their own decisions, maintain transparent accounts and ensure the participation of the poor and the support of the rich members of the community.

Mr Naik explained the need for transparency in implementing the work and for the community to take on ownership of these activities. Only then would the benefits reach the most vulnerable and needy, instead of being cornered by the more powerful.

The participants were divided into groups to discuss what information the community needed and what the implementers felt they had to give the community to ensure transparency. Following discussions it was decided that a neutral Samikhya Committee should be drawn from the community with adequate representation from the more disadvantaged sections. They would be responsible for collecting and disseminating relevant information to the community.

The Samikhya Committee meets once a month, on *Jalachhaya Diwas* (Watershed Day), when the work list and expenditure is presented to the community. This helps to promote transparency and accountability in the project.

## Livestock management at the community level

To help improve rural livelihoods, WORLP is looking at ways to improve the effective management of livestock with economic importance for the rural community, particularly the poor.

At present, the Government of Orissa, through the Animal Husbandry Department (AHD), operates LACs (Livestock Assistance Centres), from where veterinary and para-veterinary staff are solely responsible for all livestock service delivery and extension activities on an outreach basis. All services are provided with a user fee.

The Animal Husbandry Department has recognised that the quality of services rendered in remote rural areas is generally inadequate. In the past, services often could not be provided in time, especially during an emergency. The costs of service provision were too high for the landless, small and marginal farmers and those with a limited number of livestock. The local livestock inspector (LI) could not cover the large area under his jurisdiction, and the point of delivery ended with the LI.

In order to overcome these difficulties livestock policy has been revised so that now, with the help of NGOs and agencies such as WORLP, communities are being prepared to take over the delivery of basic livestock health services and community-based community link workers (CLW), are being trained. The AHD will support the CLWs and continue to operate the Veterinary Centres, offering services like training, medicine, dispensary and complicated services, like surgery, on demand.

WORLP has tied up with the Swiss-funded Natural Resource Management Project Orissa (NRMPO) to train CLWs in livestock management. The project is selecting volunteers from the community who would be willing to serve the community on a long-term basis after receiving the required training in livestock promotion and management. In accordance with the new policy, the CLWs will be responsible for providing emergency services, animal health monitoring and counselling services for livestock promotion, encouraging livestock rearing within the community, providing general health services for common diseases and reducing dependence on the Veterinary Department. This training will build human capital at the grassroots level which will benefit the community as well as the individual.



*The CLW training programme*

From 24th to 30th May 2004 WORLP, NRMPO and the Veterinary Department of the Government of Orissa conducted a training programme on Poultry and Veterinary First Aid for the CLWs from 26 watershed project areas in Bolangir and Nuapada districts.

31 participants attended the training programme. Of these there were 20 CLWs and 4 LIs from Bolangir, and 4 CLWs and 1 LI from Nuapada. Two Veterinary Assistant Surgeons from Bolangir also participated in order to understand the process and methodologies involved, so that they could organise similar training locally in the future.

The Officer-in-Charge of the Livestock Inspectors Training Centre, Bolangir inaugurated the programme. He encouraged the participants by telling them that the training would enable them to become self-employed and would give them a sense of pride and satisfaction because they would be serving the community.

The training programme was divided into two parts; three days were spent on Poultry Management and another three days on Veterinary First Aid. One day the trainees visited the district Veterinary Hospital to observe the treatment and vaccination of cattle.

This approach to capacity building requires a lot of follow-up to make it effective and many problems need to be overcome. CLWs are not paid by the project but are expected to work and earn an income from their fellow villagers as self-employed entrepreneurs; for some this is difficult and they would much prefer a paid job.

# CASE STUDIES



*Sushila and another member of her SHG making leaf plates*

## We have the power to change our future

Sushila Behera is a 35 year old widow who lives in Telenpalli village. Though she owns no land, she and her seventeen-year-old daughter live in their own house. It is many years now since she came here from Berhamunda where she was born. She and her husband used to sell mahul wine to the liquor shop in the village, making Rs.200 to Rs.300 per day. They sold kendu leaf, rice, millet, tamarind (taetil), black gram and other commodities in their grocery shop, from which they also earned about Rs.100 to Rs.500 per day. This took care of their daily needs plus the monthly pay-back to the money-lender. They were content, when tragedy struck.

Sushila's husband contracted jaundice. They did not recognise the symptoms, so neglected the disease till it was too late. They spent all their income trying to find a cure. They even sold their grocery shop to the money-lender to raise some money, but all these efforts were in vain, as her husband died.

Sushila felt isolated and desperate. She had no source of income and was contemplating moving back to her parents' home when she met the Assistant Soil Conservation Officer who was the Project Implementing Agent of the Western Orissa Rural Livelihoods Project. The PIA had encouraged the women of the village to get together and form self-help groups. Sushila joined the Tapti SHG in April 2004 with 13 other women who gave her moral support and encouraged her to reopen her business.

She took a loan of Rs.200 from the SHG to start making and selling parched rice. From the sale of 1 kg of parched rice she makes a profit of Rs.10.

She is able to pay back Rs.30 every month to the SHG, of which Rs.10 goes towards her compulsory saving and Rs.20 towards paying back her loan. From the loan she also bought a hen and two goats. Through the Panchayat BPL card she gets 35 kgs of rice per month. She also gets some help from her brothers.

Sushila and the other SHG members also run some businesses such as goat herding, making leaf plates and collecting tendu leaves as co-operative activities. Her confidence has grown. Today she can sign her name and transact business in the bank. She does not feel hopeless anymore. She knows that her life is ready to change.

Over the years, many members of the Tapti SHG had actually gained monetarily from dealing in liquor, but they had begun to realise that it was a disaster. Drinking became a favourite pastime and in many cases a total addiction. Drink was tearing apart the families and the community and the women bore the brunt both socially and economically.

The Tapti SHG, along with some local youths decided to start an anti-liquor campaign, or *neshaband abhiyan*. Initially it was difficult, but then the ASCO supported them by making the men aware of the dreadful effects of drinking. The consumption of liquor slowly came down. The Watershed Development Committee gave prizes to those who had quit the drinking habit. Drinking alcohol was totally banned, so the liquor shop closed down. Today the men are investing in different constructive businesses and saving their money, instead of squandering it on alcohol.

