

## Fifth State Steering Committee meeting

Rajeev Sharma reports that WORLP held its fifth Steering Committee meeting on 5<sup>th</sup> October 2006. The meeting was chaired by APC cum ACS. The committee revised the WORLP operational guidelines and capacity building cost norms.

## Web based M & E software – TRACK

TRACK, a web-enabled application has been developed through WORLP and will be installed in all districts with watershed projects. Rajeev Sharma says that this will allow quick and ongoing monitoring of different watershed development programmes in the state. The system is designed to provide information quickly to project managers at various levels on financial status, Watershed Development Fund (WDF), Status of User Groups, Self Help Groups and other organizations, Training programmes, Works etc in individual Micro watersheds. OWDM will pilot test the software in Koraput and Angul in March 2007.

## Writer's course on Policy Brief

Overseas development Institute, UK organized a week long course on writing effective policy briefs at MANAGE, Hyderabad from November 26 to December 1 2006. Dr. Paul Mundy, a well known communication specialist facilitated the course. John Farrington from ODI coordinated it. The course introduced the concept of Policy briefs to the participants and took them through the various stages of writing a Policy brief. The participants selected a topic of their choice and worked on developing policy briefs in the course of the workshop. The resource persons provided continuous and individual help to each of the participants. The course also provided several useful and interesting tips on effective writing. Raghu Prasad, Rajeev Sharma and Sudin attended the course.

## New Technical cooperation arrangement

In a new phase of technical cooperation arrangement, Management Consultants (MC) has started operating from October 2006 onwards. The management Consultant team is fielded by a

consortium of NRIL, CENDERET, NRI and NRMIC. The MC works out of the OWDM campus.

## New members join MC team

The MC team has added three new members to its team. Mr. Ravindra Gowda has joined Central Facilitation Unit of the proposed Livelihood Resource Centre network. Mr. Pravash Sahu has joined as Project Manager (Small Project Fund). Whereas Mr. Prahlad Shirsath is expected to join the team on March 17, 2007 as Capacity Building Expert.

## Investing in Livestock

Nuapada district has been putting emphasis on Livestock development in the watershed areas. In the six months from April to September 2006, they organized 49 Immunization and 18 De-worming Camps for livestock, reports Patitapaban Khandagiri. These were organized in collaboration with local veterinary department, who sent doctors to the camps. In these camps, 10,232 large ruminants (cows & buffaloes) & 959 small ruminants (goats and poultry birds) were vaccinated. Besides, these camps, the district watershed office also identified and facilitated training for 31 community link workers (CLWs), who will provide doorstep services to livestock owners.

The project also distributed 4,959 poultry birds, 158 goats, 157 sheep, 99 ducks and 46 cows to various poor families in the Watershed area. These were distributed through self help groups (SHGs) to the poorest sections as per the Well Being Ranking. The PIAs purchased poultry birds from Cuttack Hatchery. They first kept the chicks in protected shed for around 20 days, vaccinated them before distributing to SHG @ Rs. 20 to 25/- per chick. While the goats, duck, sheep and cows were purchased from the local *haat*.

## On track with Building Capacities in Nuapada

Capacity Building, be it of the community or of the project teams, is considered very important in the project. Nuapada team informs that they are on course with the capacity building activities as planned in the Annual Action Plan '06-'07. The Capacity Building Team and the WDTs and LSTs have facilitated a series of trainings on several

subjects as per the need of the community members. Between April and September 2006, a total of 6403 people including 3539 men and 2864 women, received some training. During the same period the PIAs organized around 328 days of training for SHG members on topics including Onion Cultivation, Compost making and Government Schemes. The facilitators were mainly from government departments like health, horticulture, animal husbandry, signifying a good degree of collaboration between project and the departments. Community Link Workers have also been trained through specialized technical Agencies like STREAM with whom WORLP had collaboration in aquaculture.

The team has also collected subject specific modules from different Government Department and NGOs. They have also developed series of training materials. This is done with an aim to develop a standard delivery mechanism among WORLP & non WORLP PIAs across the district. Some of the modules pertain to PRIs ; M&E ; Leadership Development ; Organizational Development ; Record keeping ; Human rights & Para legal; Grain Bank Mgt.; RCH; HIV/AIDS; TBA; Pisciculture; Entrepreneurship Development; Animal Husbandry; Improved Agri

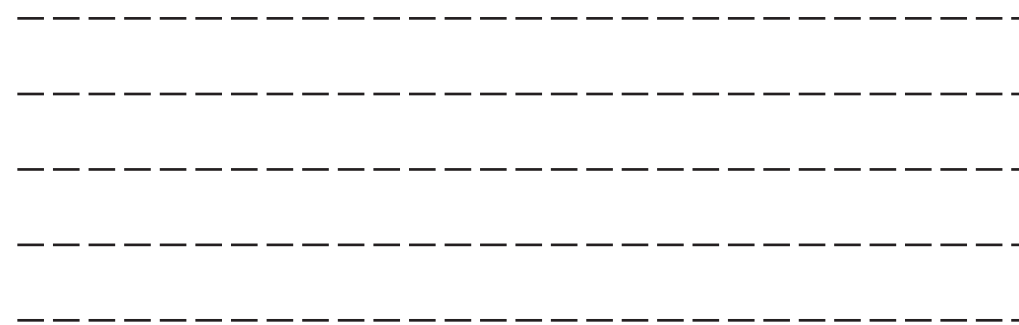
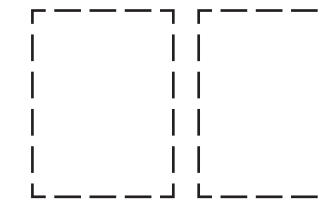
Practices (Rabi& Kharif); NRM; W/S Mgt. whereas the handouts are on different agricultural practices, i.e. cropping system, PTD, paddy cultivation, vegetable cultivation; SHG development ; Best practices on pisciculture; NREGS; RTI; different Govt. Schemes ; Health Care ; Watershed concept & Management practices; Roles and responsibilities of different stakeholders.

## Spread of Root and Tuber crops in Nuapada

SHGs in Nuapada have planted 128 quintals of yam (Orissa Elite) in 16.8 acres for demonstration purpose. Yam is one of the important crops suitable for drought prone areas, providing food and nutritional security. The SHGs are in the process of extending the area under this crop.

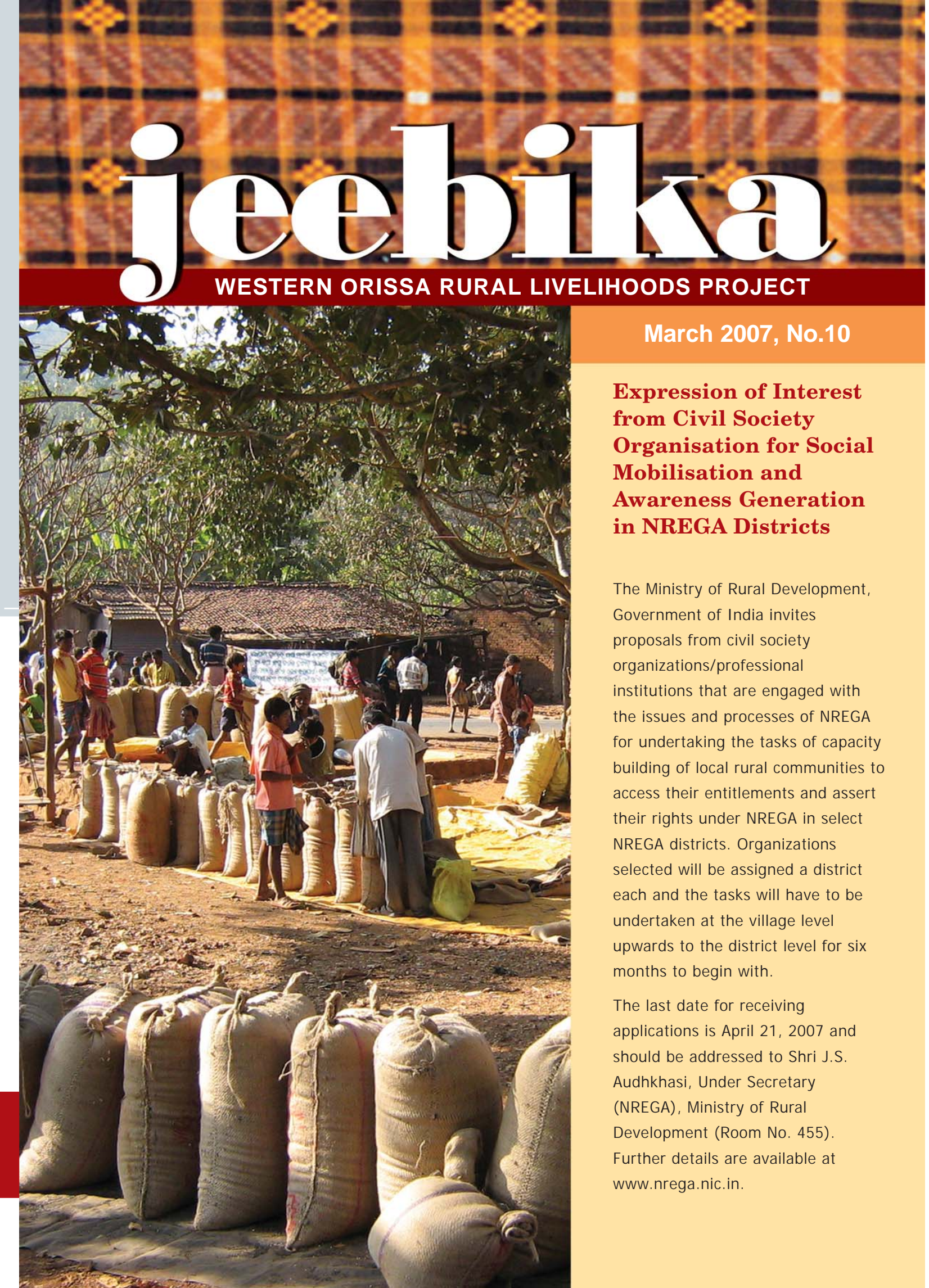
Similarly OFSP (Orange Fleshed Sweet Potato) is gaining in popularity among the small farmers of the district. It was introduced in Nuapada district in 2004-05 in collaboration with CIP, Bhubaneswar. During 06-07 this crop is extended to Dahanapali and Jambahali villages of Boden and Sinapalli block respectively. Patitapaban Khandagiri tells us that with this, the crop has now reached five watershed villages.

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# jeebika

Orissa Watershed Development Mission  
Watershed Mission Complex, Siripur, Bhubaneswar - 751 003  
Tel: 0674 - 2394179 / 2394181 Fax: 0674 - 2538008 / 2390988  
Email: general@worlp.com Website: worlp.com



# jeebika

## WESTERN ORISSA RURAL LIVELIHOODS PROJECT

March 2007, No.10

## Expression of Interest from Civil Society Organisation for Social Mobilisation and Awareness Generation in NREGA Districts

The Ministry of Rural Development, Government of India invites proposals from civil society organizations/professional institutions that are engaged with the issues and processes of NREGA for undertaking the tasks of capacity building of local rural communities to access their entitlements and assert their rights under NREGA in select NREGA districts. Organizations selected will be assigned a district each and the tasks will have to be undertaken at the village level upwards to the district level for six months to begin with.

The last date for receiving applications is April 21, 2007 and should be addressed to Shri J.S. Audhkhasi, Under Secretary (NREGA), Ministry of Rural Development (Room No. 455). Further details are available at [www.nrega.nic.in](http://www.nrega.nic.in).

# DEVELOPMENTS

## New Beginnings in Cotton Cultivation by Common Interest Groups

The members of Jai Maa Laxmi and Budharaja Common Interest were overjoyed when they made their first cotton sale. This was their first ever harvest and they had sold the 100 quintals for Rs 2, 00,000. They made a profit of Rs 1,65,000. Of the total investment of Rs 35,000, the group took a loan of Rs 12,500 from Watershed Development Committee, Suklimundi. They expect the second and third plucking to yield another 80 to 100 quintals each.



Photo: Subrat Rath

The members had seen cotton being cultivated by small farmers like them in Bolangir during an exposure visit organized by WORLP.

They learnt from Bolangir farmers that this crop, if cultivated using Integrated Pest management techniques can give good returns in a short period of 3-4 months. Back in Nuapada they decided to put their learning to practice. They started cultivating cotton in 50 acres of wasteland, which they took on lease. The PIA, Susanta Kumar Mallick, ASCO Nuapada and Gagan Bihari Panda, WDT encouraged and support them with information and linkages. The Plant Protection Officer, Agricultural Department trained the members in techniques of Integrated Pest Management. They used several IPM measures including pheromone traps, which were supplied by Agriculture Department. The CIGs have now repaid the loan to WDC.

## Aquaculture extends to Bargarh with success

Members of Maa Samaleswari Self Help Group (SHG) are on the lookout for more ponds that they can lease for growing fish. They are on an expansion mode with supreme confidence. The reason; they have recently been able to lease two *katas* in the village and earned a profit of

Rs.13,299/- within one and half month by nursing 50,000 fries to fingerlings. The group from Ainlapali in Bargarh has 15 members, all of them from the fishing community. All except one are land less.

Members of Capacity Building team, Basudev Munda and Sanjib Sadangi, tell us that the situation now is very different from the time, a few months ago when this SHG had to turn back disappointed from an auction as they could not compete well in the bidding process. This time however they had the support of the Project Revolving fund.

The group is delighted. The president of the group, Sri Durgaprasad Nayak is thankful to Agriculture Finance Corporation, which is the PIA and the project team for helping them with revolving fund and getting good quality fries from the government nursery at Bargarh. The group reinvested their profits to nurse another round of fries in the same ponds. This time they themselves went to the private hatchery at Patnagarh, Bolangir and purchased 70,000 fries. Their profit from the second round was almost double at Rs 24920. Presently the group has also started 'on-growing fish in one of the *katas*. Besides, financial gain, the group is experiencing an improvement in their social standing.

## Nuapada Children selected in Rural Maths Talent Search

Three students have been selected in Rural Maths Talent Search 2006. Sangram Singh Pradhan is one of them. He and his parents were thrilled. But they also had a reason to be sad. Sangram's sister Supriya Pradhan, now studying in class-VII had also qualified RMTS in 2005 was invited to attend Maths camp at SIRD, Bhubaneswar. But she did not make it as they could not find a teacher willing to accompany her and Rs 1500 for meeting



Photo: Basudev Munda

## About RMTS

RMTS is conducted every year by Institute of Mathematics and Applications (IMA) is a premier Organization that has conceived this path breaking attempt to bring in the rural kids to the fore before they wither away. This has been appreciated by Government of India (GoI), who are trying to replicate it in other states. IMA was established in year 1999, by Government of Orissa (GoO). For details visit [www.rmtsorissa.org](http://www.rmtsorissa.org). IMA is headed by Dr. Swadhinananda Pattnayak. Many of his students have earned National acclaim for their work and are now in various Universities of Orissa and outside.



Sangram Singh Pradhan



Golak Sagarika



Labanya Kumar Nayak



Supriya Pradhan

Photo: Patitapaban Khandagiri

miscellaneous expenses of two people. Her father Nabakrushna Pradhan, a local post master could not get any leave to accompany his daughter. He gave up.

When Patitapaban Khandagiri, APD, Nuapada who had informed Sangram of his selection, came to know about this, he got in touch with RMTS organizers. As a result Supriya will be attending the camp in April 2007 along with the three selected children from 2006 round. He had earlier co-opted the local government and NGOs to motivate more schools to participate in RMTS. The cooperation of the district education officer and others who supported the initiative is worth mentioning.

# COMMUNITY CHRONICLE

## Rearing Sheep-earning quick returns

Maa Santoshi, a women's Self Help Group from Kantapalli Village of Komna Block has just seen their flock of sheep double from 50 to 101. They are thinking of selling all the lambs before monsoon when they are likely to be prone to diseases. The members expect to get Rs 50000 from the sale. There are 12 members in the group, of whom three each are from Very poor and Poor category of families respectively.

CPSW, the PIA advised and guided the group to take up rearing of sheep. They considered this activity to have prospects of earning a good income in a reasonably short time. The Babupalli-Kantapalli Watershed Development Committee gave Rs 15,000 from the revolving fund to the SHG while they borrowed Rs 55,000 from bank. The group purchased 50 adult sheep and kept them in a large shed. According to Patitapaban Khandagiri, the group followed the good practice of stall feeding during monsoons to avoid exposure to diseases. The PIA helped them to get the sheep immunized against diseases and arranged for regular health checks and de-worming. The local veterinary surgeon provided timely attention and advice.

## Growing Bananas

Binapani Self Help Group has 12 members from Sunari Sikuan village in Gram Swaraj watershed in Nuapada. Their example has inspired Bhusan Baitharu of the same watershed to grow banana

in his 0.3 acre land. Similarly, Dukribudhi SHG from Bhaludingri watershed has also taken a loan of Rs 20000 from the watershed Development Committee and Rs 12000 from a bank for banana cultivation in 0.9 acres of land. They recently visited Binapani group to learn their experience of growing banana and earning a good profit.

Binapani SHG had met successful banana farmers during visits organized to other watersheds and districts by the project. They also learnt about its cultivation techniques. Feeling confident, they decided to grow bananas together. Where to grow was a problem initially as they did not possess much land. But one of the members, Manju Baitharu leased her one acre land to the group for Rs 2000. With this arrangement in place, the group applied for a loan of Rs 15000 from the WDC and Rs 30000 from

Photo: Sabita Singh



the local bank. They planted 1200 banana suckers of *cavendis* variety, bought from Bolangir. They also planted tomato as an intercrop to make better use of land.

The Water Harvesting Structure built under the project served to irrigate the plantation. The group invested a total of Rs 38635. They harvested the first crop in October 2006. They have so far made 12 trips to different nearby markets to sell the banana. Their income so far has been Rs 90750 with a net profit of Rs 51615 including Rs 15250 from the tomatoes.

## Will the wheels of fortune turn for better?

Badibahal village in Loisingha Block of Bolangir District is unique in having several traditional artisan communities of weavers, black smiths, potters etc residing in it. In the past, their products were an important part of rural life, thus ensuring their livelihoods. But in time low cost machine made polymer based synthetic articles have replaced the traditional items. This has resulted in sharp decline in the income of these artisans.

The potter community is one of the hardest hit. Decreasing natural resources, increasing demand for non-traditional products, high production costs and competition from synthetic articles are putting them out of their traditional work. Being largely landless, most of the potters are forced to look for manual work in other states. Majority of them find work in brick kilns, as it is somewhat related to their skill. But the working and living conditions in those places are difficult, hostile and exploitative with very little or no access to health & sanitation, education and other basic facilities.

The team at WORLP-Project Implementing Agency was looking for ways to help these potters improve their condition. Several questions demanded answers viz how pottery can once again be a viable option? How can distress migration be eased? How to help them increase their income?

After several discussions with the potters, options like making terracotta artifacts for urban markets, up-gradation in skill and blending modern and traditional technologies emerged. ORMAS and NGOs will market these new products. Dipti Ranjan Behera informs us that District Industries Centre, Bolangir has started a six-month training programme, where 24 potters including four women are being trained by master trainers.

The training includes selection of earth, preparing clay, making earthen models, drying, colouring and seasoning and processing of finished models.



women members undergoing training on terracotta artifacts exhibiting the models

With just two months into the training now, the trainees have already started to make some very attractive artifacts, in whose shapes hope looms in the horizon for these families.

## Face of WORLP

Mes bai and her family were ecstatic to see her photograph on the cover page of a publication from WORLP. They have display the copy a lot of pride. She has become the most recognized face of the project. She is 35 and has been born and brought up at Cherichuankhole village. She got married at the age of 15 to Arjun Mallik of the same village. Both she and her husband have learnt to write their names. She belongs to bhunjia tribe.

She has three boys and four girls. Two of the boys have dropped out of school after completing the primary education. The eldest son is now married and stays separately as per their tradition.

Mes Bai works as a wage labourer along with other adult members of her family for most of the year. Her husband and her youngest son have migrated to work in the brick kiln for the first time. This became necessary in order to repay the loans amounting up to Rs 3500 taken for the son's marriage. Arjun owns 2.5 acre of land of which 1.5 acre is upland. He grows a single crop of paddy and some *Gulgi* (minor millet) during the *Kharif* season. The production of nine quintals of paddy, which yields about six quintals of rice is sufficient only for six months for the family of ten. She collects and sells Mahua, Kendu and Harida for a month. She earns up to Rs 2500 from these sales which helps her to meet emergency needs. Recently the family has been helped through National Horticulture Mission to establish one acre of Mango Orchard.

WORLP organized Self Help Groups (SHG) in the village in 2004. Mes bai become a member in Maa Thutigudi SHG and is today the president of the group. The thirteen member group has received a revolving fund of Rs 11663 from the project.



Photo: Patitapaban Khandagiri