

SHRISTI

Annual Report – 2012-13

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MESSAGE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

The year came to an end with many success and challenges within the organization and at the grassroots level to implement the projects. SHRISTI has deepened its work in four districts such as Keonjhar, Mayurbhanj, Dhenkanal and Bhadrak. The field level intervention was recognized by agricultural departments and other research based organizations. SHRISTI became the partners of various Agricultural and horticultural departments and research institutes to take up more intensive field intervention targeting marginalized farmers to increase food production.

As suggested by trustee members SHRISTI has been involved in building relationship with knowledge partners with long term commitment in the state. This has helped SHRISTI in increasing food production in some of the critical pockets of Odisha with long-term knowledge partnership.

This is the first time SHRISTI has developed partnership with Rio Tinto (an International Mining Company) as a pilot basis to initiate CSR activities among the tribal families who have potential risk of displacement when project will be launched.

SHRSITI has continued to celebrate it's success in working with various national donors such as Ratan Tata , CEE, and ICRISAT -Hyderabad where Organization utilized it's mid level Professionals to develop sustainable livelihood strategies.

May I take this occasion to seek your guidance and support for meeting expectation?

Ranjan Mahapatra

Overview:

SHRISTI is a nongovernmental developmental organization involved in natural resource management mostly in tribal and flood affected coastal areas in Odisha. SHRISTI was created by group of young professionals having work experience from government and non government organizations. Therefore SHRISTI has a multidisciplinary team with expertise in rural development particularly in Sustainable Agriculture, Watershed Development, and Micro Finance.

SHRISTI initiates women SHG and farmers clubs as a process to develop community based institutes as a foundation of development wherever project is implemented. Research and evaluation is a wing which tries to identify local resources to develop an appropriate technology. SHRISTI is also involved in increasing awareness on anti poverty programme and policy among tribal communities. SHRISTI has been always try to analyze the grassroots level problem and strengthen community based organizations and involved them in project implementation plan. SHRISTI walks along with people to create a path for development of marginalized communities.

Operational Areas:

SHRISTI has developed a statewide network with various development organizations involved in various thematic areas and established contacts with the district administration and departments working in various anti poverty programme. SHRISTI has been involved directly in implementation of project in Keonjhar, Bhadrak, Mayurbhanj, and Denkanal.

Programme Areas:

1. Sustainable management of natural resources to create livelihoods opportunities,
2. Develop community based organization and capacity building on various thematic issues,
3. Action Research on livelihood issues to create grassroots innovation.

Strategies Adopted:

Promotion of community based organization involving women and men farmers, women self help groups to generate assets at local level, formation of farmers club and Village development committee to protect, preserve and regenerate local natural resources and initiate people oriented advocacy on natural resource management.

Vision:

To improve the quality of life by introducing sustainable livelihoods of disadvantaged communities in Odisha.

Mission:

- Establish and provide support in the establishment of the associations, Institutes, Society and trust for the benefit of local communities.
- Promote ways and means to encourage local organization and enterprises to develop their capacities and skills for providing services in economic and social sector.

- Promote appropriate technologies related to development, popularize their application in the field of agriculture and allied field.
- Venture into new and innovative developmental projects financed by government and donor agencies.
- Assist development agencies to find appropriate professionals for their projects and to assist persons interested in making a professional contribution to development agencies, where they may work on short or long term basis.
- Do planning and formulation of development projects independently or in association with other agencies

1. Sustainable management of natural resources to create livelihoods opportunities,

SHRISTI has been working among the tribal communities and large a semi industrialized areas, where an option for livelihood is limited especially among landless and marginalized farmers. Target community largely dependent on daily wages as agricultural workers and some industrial low paid daily wage.

With a watershed approach SHRISTI has been focusing upon such communities and also other economically marginalized families to ensure food security of these communities. SHRISTI has been involved revitalizing the agricultural opportunity focusing marginalized and landless families utilized local natural resources such forest , forest product , degraded land , water logged areas, land with sand casting.

It has been trying to blend newly invented field tested agricultural technologies, diversification of food crop, multiple vegetable cropping, backyard plantation, cashew plantation, scientific cropping practices etc. Increasingly the farmers of these four districts have been learning about the techniques to improving soil quality for sustainable cropping using organic low cost manure such as vermin compost.

The process of intervention has been to sensitizing the local farmer's clubs/SHGS and provides appropriate technologies to emphasizing stability and sustainability with increased and efficient productivity among small-farm plot holders. Building up the capacities of individual men and women farmers and farmers' groups was the first priority. Beneficiaries were exposed to various new cultivation practices, increased usage of vermin manure, and using bio-pesticidal plants. They are also involved in value added technique of non timber forest produces such as sal leaf.

Income generation through mushroom, vemi compost, pickle making were promoted amongst the SHGs and farmer's groups and marketing of those were encouraged along with poultry and animal husbandry development. Farmers were given awareness on the importance of organic farming, moisture control - INSITU and sustainable use of soil and water, microbial inoculants. This year programmes for livelihood are largely based upon the local natural resources and their value. Women's participation was ensured to implement these activities through Self-Help Groups. Examples of various interventions are given below:

Plantation: SHRSITI has been involved in promotion of cashew plantation for last five years and this year farmers can realized the primary benefit of soil conservation. So farmers have also received benefit by marketing the cashew nut which hold a strong possibility of national and international market and good profit. This also generate employment in terms of processing the cashew nuts and it's karnels. Cashew cultivation is a viable plantation crop with net annual income of **Rs.11,750/- and Rs.33,325/- per ha.** SHRISTI has extended promotion of cashew plantation in all four project districts. There are around 300 families involved in 485 Ha plantation in Dhenkanal district.

Capacity building initiatives

Vermi compost where SHRISTI has been involved in promoting vermi compost among small farmers to initiate use of organic farming to utilized it for backyard plantation or kitchen garden. This process was



helpful improving soil with micro organism, enhanced soil quality and improves water holding capacity.

Two training orientations at each block were organised, altogether around 200 farmers including SHG members have participated in these trainings. Low cost vermin composting preparation was the major topic covered in those trainings. Vermen compost preparation using bamboo was demonstrated in Bhadrak District.

Orientation on vegetable cultivation in Jhunta villages was organized where around 45 farmers attended training on vertical replacement of vegetables.

Training on mushroom cultivation among women members from 3 SHG was trained and each group developed 5 beds under the guidance of KVK scientist. Each bed yield 700-750 gram mushroom. Moreover training was organized on SHG management and to established linkage with SJSY. Altogether 125 women participated to get orientation on book keeping and financial management. In the capacity building process SHRISTI made many barefoot technicians and volunteers to serve the community in various ways such as soil control, agriculture, SHG management land development, mushroom production, livestock rearing, sailage making etc. These experts will be available in the village.

Training on micro planning was organised for 32 villages involving youth from three villages of Bhadrak district. The purpose of the training was to revisit the existing micro planning and assess vulnerability in the flood prone Bhadrak district. Following activities were taken up after the review of micro planning.

Leadership training, Sri training, Nursery development training were also organized invouving SHGs, Farmer's club etc in the operational area of shristi

Lift Irrigation 6 no of electric river lift irrigation system was installed in two villages. There are 48 farmers benefited through this system and 30 acre of land was covered under this life irrigation system for vegetables cultivation. This process has been managed by 6 farmers in two villages. These pumps were handed over to farmer's club. This club earned around RS 4,750 by intruding user fees . With this initiative almost 93.6 acres of degraded and sand covered land was de-silted by 46 farmers to do agricultural activities.

Introduced new variety of seeds

By introducing PU-19 Black gram and TARM-1 Green gram which is upland variety, 35 farmers got 107 quintals of production and traditionally these farmers used to get only 75-85 quintals. Promotion of vegetable enhanced the production almost 478 quintals and gave income around RS 2500 per month. At the same time vegetables consumption has been increased at the household level. New variety of groundnut of SMRUTI variety was also introduced from Jharsuguda KVK in the village changua and 67 farmers participated and promoted in 30 acres of land. Farmers could get 16 quintal per acre. A total of 480 quintal ground nut was produced. Water melon was also introduced as an intercrop with groundnut. Farmers got very good result out of the intercropping system (RS 4,800 from 20 decimal area). Farmers also experimented intercropping system with groundnut, pulses and vegetable which was also successful initiative.

Construction work taken up to reduced the vulnerability in flood prone areas



Maintenance of embankment by applying the local technology: Vegetative treatment in 300 fit earthen river embankment has been maintained by plantation. River embankment was covered and protected by Humiculata and Cane grass almost 4 km of area.

A field bonding of 350 fit completed to protect the agricultural field to produce papaya. 70 decimal of land have converted and used as agricultural field by reclamation of sand. Demonstration of various

cropping practices by SHRISTI has improved livelihood opportunities as well as improved soil quality and prevent further land degradation.

Income generation Activity

This year along with watershed SHRISTI focused on different types of IGA programmes in the operational villages through WSHG, Users Group and Farmers Club. All the IGA activities are still going and group made profit except little problems in mushroom cultivation. Detail of IGA activities are given below in Khunta block of Mayurbhanj District;

The details are given below

SI	Income Generation Activity	Unit	No	Narration
1	Backyard Poultry	8 group	2000	2000 Ban raja Birds are provided to 8 WSHG members. Regular vaccination was done by the help of Veterinary Dept. These groups received loan from watershed and repayment was done
2	Mushroom Production	2 groups	100	100 beds are raised by two groups Dasabhujia and Mahabali. The average production per bed is 500 g. (Which is very less). Production is less than expectation.
4	Vermin	5	39	39 pits completed at Baniabasa and Rangamatia. In 20 bed worm

	compost	group		are released in December11 and worms are not released in rest 19 pits due to unavailable of worms in both Govt. and private source.
5	Nursery Development	1 group	1	One group of Dabak started the raising the nursery of papaya, moringa, Jackfruit, Bamboo and gliricidia. This group provided 1000 seedling to watershed committee for back yard plantation.
6	Fishery Activity	3 Farmer s club	3	3 farmers clubs of Nuagaon, Dabak and Srirampur are taken Rs 5000/- in a leased pond by the approval of watershed committee.
7	Rabi Cropping	Users group	1	1 users group has taken Rs 20,000/- for cultivating different rabi crops like maize, watermelon, pulses .
8	Vegetable cultivation	WSHG	1	Members of Pilchuguna WSHG of Nuagaon, after returning their first loan of Rs 20,000, they have taken Rs 40,000 for vegetable and paddy cultivation in their own and leased land.

2. Community based organization and capacity building on various thematic issues,

Women self-help group played a key role in taking up various livelihood initiatives in all four districts. SHRISTI has increasingly realized the importance of devoting attention to the economic betterment and development of women in the targeted districts. In reality, rural women have still harder lives and are often discriminated against with regard to land and property rights, and in access to medical facilities and rural finance. Women have undertaken the more difficult tasks involved in the day-to-day running of households, including the collection of fuel wood for cooking and the fetching of drinking water, and their nutritional status and literacy rates are lower than those of men. They also get lower wages as labour in non-agricultural sectors in the project areas.

Therefore empowerment of rural tribal women has long been a central feature of the watershed approach adopted by SHRISTI. These SHGs have taken up various activities and put their serious effort to make the initiative successful. SHRISTI has been also thinking of incorporating more development initiatives to improve the quality of life of these SHG members. Self-help groups are generally facilitated by field staff and time to time ICDS and other departments interact with the members. Increasingly attention is provided to train members in a variety of on- and off-farm income-generating activities using locally available natural resources. All these initiatives by SHRISTI contributed to improving the overall status of women in terms of income and empowerment results in quality of life.

SHGs, federation and farmers club are regularly interacting among themselves and the investment of their time and money are gradually increasing. To strengthen a sustainable approach, shristi started giving a responsibility to make every payment made in the respective village through the groups itself which become very successful approach and this is creating a new confidence between groups and SHRISTI has been involved on their financial management and the monitoring capability. The attitude repayment to bank/within group and internal loan lending has increased .In last Kharif season 156 women members had availed loan from their group for paddy and vegetables crop cultivation. So each members got RS 1500 by linking with the government agency for financial assistance, *Shristi* has mobilized more than Rs.21,00, 000/- for 7 groups under SJSY scheme for developing Sal leaf plate unit

Status of Women Self Help group in Two district

List of Indicators	Keonjhar Sadar	Harichandanpur	Mayurbhanj
No of villages	103	19	8
SHG/ Co operatives	10	54	24
Savings	24,69,817	6,85,243	4,35,463
Member	417	640	282
Linkages	0	66,25,840	17,50,000
Investment	1,05,80,650	50,96,600	
Bank Balance	0	13,60,770	
Bank Repayment	0	18,08,480	

Type of Income generation taken up by the SHGs in two districts

List of Indicators	Keonjhar	Mayurbhanj	Bhadrak
No of villages	18	8	
SHG	54	24	
Vermin Compost	110 Farmers	45 Farmers	
Mushroom production	100 WSHG Member	40 WSHG Member	
Kitchen Garden		25 Families	
Back Yard Plantation	62 Landless Families	32 Families	
Vegetable cropping	300 farmer	20 Farmer	45 Acres
Ravi Cropping	26 Ha	80 Acres	72 Acre
Animal husbandry			