**Poorest of the poor strategy**

**P**oor access to resources, markets, information and services, are constraints to realizing the potential of available opportunities and hinder diversification of livelihood strategies in tribal areas of Odisha. This project is formulated to include the excludes or to minimize the exclusion in a rational way. The process includes several steps like

Identification of poor :

* 1. identification of the poor by their peers by forming a savings and credit group;
  2. eligibility criteria to identify candidates for group membership such as landlessness, income below a threshold, capability to work in income enervating activity, married status, and female gender;
  3. participatory wealth ranking methods to rank households on the basis of community-defined poverty/wealth criteria; or
  4. objective indexes, surveys, assets and means tests administered by field staff.

Then the strategies envisage including poorest of the poor first by including and strengthening them in community based institutions. Identifying the resource base that generates livelihoods; and then by fostering micro-enterprises that provide employment and income opportunities to the rural poor.

The first initiative seeks to improve and accessibility of land, water and forest resources of poor people through CBOs and the second track seeks to promote enterprises that lead to value-addition of agricultural and forest produce as well as other micro-enterprises. Multiple livelihoods strategies of the project would also include migrant labour support and access to information.

Through this project, best practitioners of the activities or theme have been identified as CRPs who will act as a moderator for the extension of the successful intervention. The most vulnerable group of people like landless and bonded labours are also planned to be the stake holders of the project either through poultry farming or ensuring livelihood through agriculture in the leased land. Access to irrigation and plantation in the fallow upland which generally belongs to the tribal will definitely enhance the livelihood of the poorest of the poor.