



harsha trust

our core values



integrity



discipline



transparency



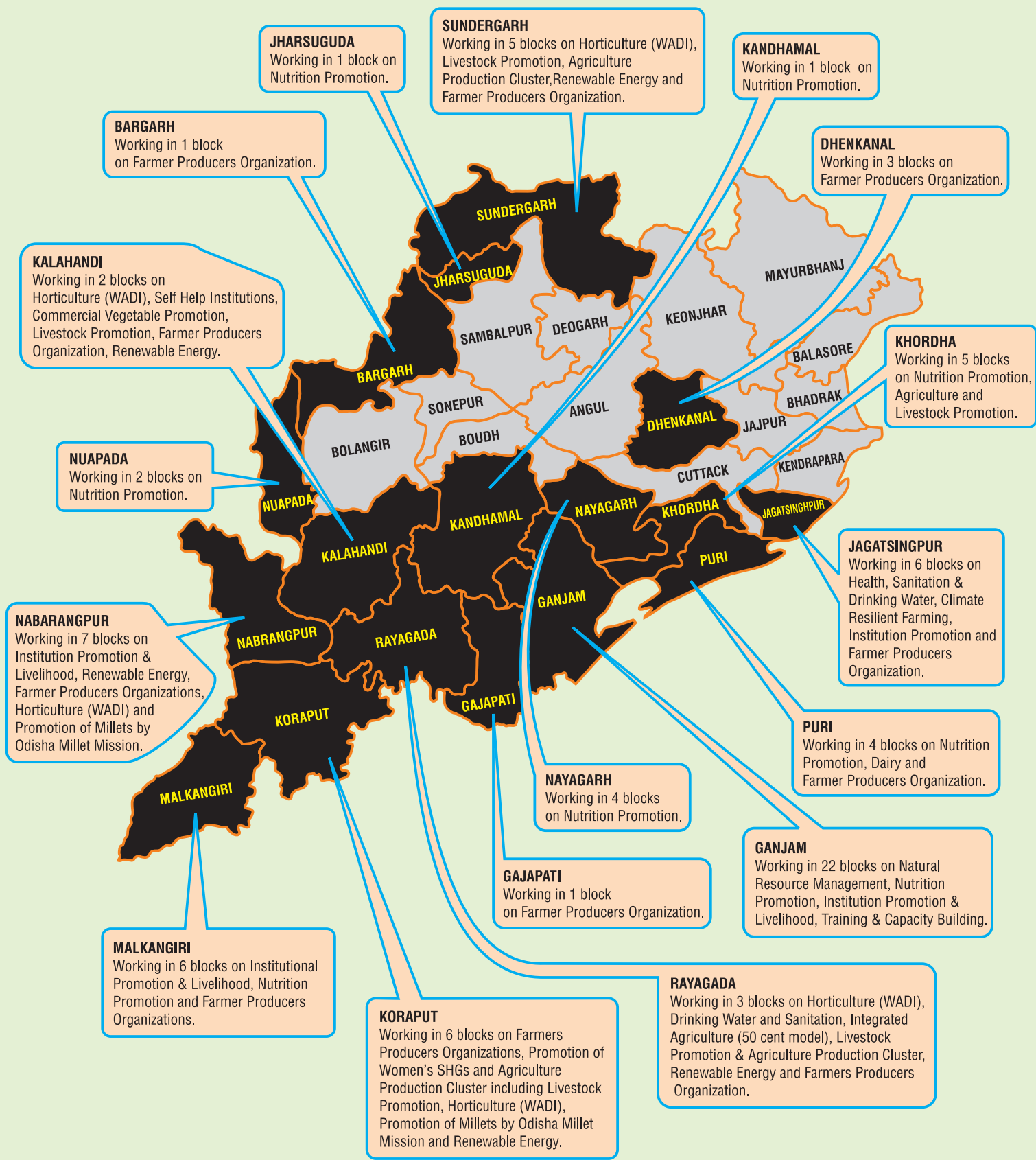
caring



quality



innovation



Why We Exist

Odisha is the eighth largest and the eleventh most populous state with the second lowest human development index in the country. Even though Odisha has profuse natural resources in the form of vast mineral deposits, extensive forests, plentiful ground and surface water and a coastline of 480 kms, it continues to have, as per Niti Aayog SDG India Index Baseline report, 32.59 per cent of people (next only to Bihar), as against the national average of 21.92%, under the poverty line.

In the regional level, the Southern Odisha districts (Koraput, Rayagada, Malkangiri and Nabarangpur) have some of the lowest per capita expenditure with INR 588.00, much less than the state average. Wide rural-urban disparities in the Southern Region exist (NSS 66th Round). These districts are in the periphery, literally borders of three states, Odisha, Chattisgarh and Jharkhand, and are much neglected and remain stark poverty pockets. They are mainly inhabited by India's indigenous population, with Odisha being home to 62 tribal communities. The female literacy in the four districts of South Odisha, Koraput (38.92%), Rayagada (39.87%), Malkangiri (38.95%) and Nabarangpur (37.22%), as per census 2011, demonstrate the educational backwardness of the area. As a result of its backwardness in all indicators of per capita consumer expenditure or human development indicators reflecting quality of life, the area is often in the midst of violent conflict between the state and discontented youth who join the Maoist forces in armed rebellion against the Indian state.

The proportion of infants and women suffering from anaemia and malnutrition is almost twice that of the national average. While Odisha contributes 3.5% of India's population it shares 7% of the country's anaemic and malnourished people.

Harsha Trust works in the nine most backward districts of Southern and Northern Odisha and believes that change is possible, and we have demonstrated that since 2002, through our work on rural livelihoods and institution building.

Our Mission

To ensure livelihood security and improve the quality of life of the rural poor.

Our Vision

To be a professional based institute of excellence for promoting technology led and market driven interventions primarily through community based organizations.



About Us

Harsha Trust has operated in Odisha since 2002. By the year 2020 we have already worked with more than 1.8 lakh families to enhance their income by at least 50% of their existing incomes. Our objective is to eliminate hunger and malnutrition in the backward pockets of the state, actively supported by the community, other NGO partners, government and corporations. Our idea is to place small women farmers who produce our food at the forefront. We provide platforms for communities which will address myriad dimensions of rural livelihood, starting from organizing women into SHGs and subsequently village organizations. We have 12 Farmer Produce Organizations helping in aggregation of products and thus better prices for both ends of the value chain.

Some of our key goals are:

Generate livelihood and employment for indigenous farmers – women farmers will adopt scientific methods of agriculture, soil and water management will help cultivate existing fallows and healthy communities with enhanced incomes will emerge.

Build institutions – women will get together through the concept of self help and federate to build a strong institution which will cater to their needs. Women will access institutional finance through linkages with government financial institutions and village women will save from their enhanced agricultural incomes.

Alternate employment avenues for the landless – the landless families who till now have worked largely as agriculture labour will have alternate employment through scientific methods of livelihood management. Livestock work be introduced in scales as alternative means of livelihoods for poor families.

Provide innovative solutions – we also strive to provide innovative solutions around both farm and non farm based initiatives. One of our key areas of thrust is to provide clean energy through solar and other renewable energy.



Our Approach

Is that the community is the principal stakeholder. Farmers, particularly women farmers lack access to quality inputs, credit and also do not have land titles. We converge with the government and other quality input providers to make available seeds, fertilisers and other requirements. We train farmers on preparation of organic alternatives addressing long term sustainability. Soil and water management is the process we have adopted to maximize outputs in small patches.

We promote people's institutions that augment opportunities for the rural poor. The emphasis is on building up of a social capital which will help the poor. We believe that better linkages will lead to better lives.

We Create Service Providers From Village Youth And Women

Harsha Trust has promoted the concept of Community Service Providers (CSPs), Community Resource Persons (CRPs) and Para Resource Persons (PRPs) from the rural youth and women who act as catalysts of change within their communities. They are also seen as bridges between the organization and the people and help us in implementing our projects. These community derived and based individuals have made it possible for us to scale up our endeavours, as they belong to the communities and are right there to render services, demonstrate their own skills and upgrade skills.

The entire community cadre has different roles. Let us examine the services provided by them:

PRPs Para Resource Persons

Train the CRPs.
Have their own skills like providing linkages associated with agriculture and allied services and livestock management.
Provide M&E support to the CSPs.

CRPs Community Resource Persons

Individuals who have a particular skill and work to motivate others to take up the skill and/or improve the skill.

CSPs Community Service Providers

Those who provide all kinds of services to community members and their skills are/can be enhanced by PRPs and they are remunerated by the community.

Their skills are being further augmented by Harsha Trust and we see them as the future leaders who will show the way. This definitely is one of our greatest challenges as their exposure, education and the skills are limited and orienting them to be community leaders requires challenging among other things their self perception.

Our Technical Expertise

Livelihood Enhancement – we use different approaches and diverse farm practices for different kinds of land. We work with tribal farmers who often cultivate on undulating lands, thus we de-risk farms by promotion of integrated crop cultivation models.

Natural Resource Management – we help farming populations to manage soil and other natural resources and prevent drainage of water and other nutrients and allow the resources to be conserved. Village institutions are facilitated to take up plantations at household and village level with local tree species. Field bunding, contour trenching and green manuring are done to conserve in-situ soil and moisture at the farm level.

Scientific Livestock Management – our trained professionals, PRPs, CSPs and CRPs work in collaboration with Producer Companies to support landless households. Promoting micro enterprise through livestock rearing (Poultry, Goatery and Fishery) have been major income supplements for poor families.

Farmer Producer Organizations – Harsha Trust has promoted 12 FPOs whose combined annual turnover is 6.4 crores. These Producer Companies are linked to NABARD to get assistance from their PRODUCE FUND.

Education – In partnership with Klorofeel Foundation we are attempting to make learning fun. Currently we have 104 Joyful Learning Centres (KLCs) in rural areas of Koraput, Nabarangpur and Rayagada districts of Odisha.

Our Impact

- ◆ Promoted about 6577 women self help groups (SHGs) with 74973 women members
- ◆ Promoted 12 Farmers' Producers Organizations with a member base of more than 17847
- ◆ The combined annual turnover of these Producers' Organization is more than INR 6.4 Crores
- ◆ Built capacities of about 259 local youth as community service providers
- ◆ Established supply chain on pulp wood production and marketing with JK Paper Mill benefiting more than 9235 farmers
- ◆ Vegetable production clusters promoted with about 16588 farmers
- ◆ Mango and Cashew orchards developed in 4020 acres
- ◆ About 1650 irrigation schemes implemented benefitting more than 11000 farmers
- ◆ About 3089 toilets constructed with 24 hrs water supply system
- ◆ About 19754 farmers covered under livestock farming
- ◆ Running 104 Learning centres with activity based Joyful Learning technique
- ◆ Working as a resource NGO for Odisha Livelihood Mission on promoting nutrition sensitive interventions in 18 blocks of Odisha
- ◆ Supported rural community to mobilize 771415 man-days of value Rs.16.68 Crores under MGNREGS in the year 2020-21
- ◆ Supported 3387 rural households to access Social Security Scheme in 2020-21



OUR PARTNERS

GOVT. OF INDIA

Ministry of Rural Development

National Bank for Agriculture & Rural Development (NABARD)

National Cooperative Development Corporation

GOVT. OF ODISHA

ST&SC Development, Minorities & Backward Classes Welfare Dept.

District Rural Development Agency (DRDA)

Integrated Tribal Development Agency (ITDA)

Dept. of Panchayati Raj & Drinking Water - Odisha Livelihoods Mission

Agriculture & Farmers Empowerment, Govt. of Odisha

Department of Sports & Youth Affairs

District Mineral Fund (DMF), Sundargarh

Odisha Millet Mission

INDIAN CORPORATE FUNDING

AXIS Bank Foundation

Azim Premji Foundation

Ernst & Young Foundation

INDIAN CORPORATE FUNDING

Utkal Alumina Pvt. Ltd.

HT Parekh Foundation

ITC

PI Foundation, India

Paradeep Phosphates Limited

Utkal Alumina International Limited

NGO/TRUST

International Rice Research Institute (IRRI)

ICRISAT, India

Klorofeel Foundation

FOREIGN FUNDING AGENCIES

The Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office (FCDO), UK

FOREIGN CORPORATE/FOUNDATION

SYNGENTA Foundation

Schneider Electric India Foundation

Selco Foundation



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