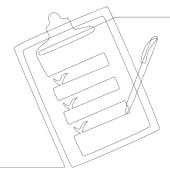




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# CHAIRPERSON'S NOTE



Celebrating the Power of Collaborative Action

It gives me immense pleasure to present the Annual Report of Harsha Trust 2022-23.

We continue to grow together with the communities, expanding our impact in terms of scope, reach and reputation. Through strategic partnerships and collaborations, we broadened our horizons, harnessing the collective ingenuity and influence of diverse stakeholders dedicated towards poverty eradication. Our unwavering commitment to intensifying and saturating livelihood models, combined with holistic integration of nutrition and natural resource management, has enabled us to extend our support to the underserved pockets in Odisha and Madhya Pradesh. I take great pride in the strides we have made thus far in developing and implementing sustainable livelihood solutions for 1,19,047 households.

Harsha Trust serves as a bridge between the communities and the stakeholders to enable inclusive and sustainable economic growth and enhance the effectiveness of poverty reduction. We recognise that poverty alleviation and enhancing the quality of life of rural poor requires a multi-dimensional approach, with a focus towards gender equality.

We embarked on promoting women-centric institutions that place women at the centre of the livelihood portfolio and shifting the perception of women from mere farm labourers to farmers and rural entrepreneurs. Our dedication lies in working diligently at the grassroots level to bolster rural households' well-being and economic stability through an extensive focus on ensuring the availability of food, nutrition, income, health, sanitation and education.

Today, our development models are inclusive and sustainable and leave long-term impact on the communities we are engaged with. In enabling sustainable farming systems, we are aligned with SDGs. Our success is evident in our ability to unlock the potential for collective growth through synchronised production. Our

Farmer Producer Organizations (FPOs) are moving steadily towards sustainability and self-sufficiency. This year is particularly special as it marks the beginning of the International Year of Millets (IYoM). We proudly state that our farm-based models have embraced millets as part of climate-resilient farming systems, championing this cause from the outset.

I convey my heartfelt appreciation to all our stakeholders for their continued collaboration with Harsha Trust in realising the dreams of rural communities.

Our partnerships and collaboration with the Government, Funding Agencies, Donors, Research Institutions and other Civil Society Organisations have leveraged the collective potential of sustainable institutions, bringing in a paradigm shift towards transformative social change.

I would like to extend my compliments to all members of the Board, the leadership team and all our team members for steering our vision and commitment towards improving the lives of rural communities. Our focus areas remained unchanged, and we aspire to extend our support and interventions to reach the unreached. There is still a long road ahead to ensure a brighter future for the rural communities we serve, but I am confident that we are making strides towards realising this vision together.

Best Wishes

Dr. Aurobindo Behera

· Garobinelo Behera

Chairperson

# EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S NOTE



**Envisioning Beyond Livelihood Horizons!** 

The year 2022-23 has been a year of stronger partnerships, co-visioning, broadening our work beyond livelihood promotion and expanding to newer geographies.

We listened, learned, envisioned and delivered our best efforts as an organisation to improve the quality of life of rural households. Nested to the roots of our communities, Harsha Trust have made significant progress in fostering a sense of belongingness to rural development.

This year has been pivotal in strengthening our partnerships. We express our profound gratitude for the unwavering trust and support from our longstanding partners, the Axis Bank Foundation and the Azim Premji Foundation. Their belief in our mission and work has encouraged our efforts and enabled us to make a tangible impact on the communities we serve. With these robust partnerships, we could reach out to 1,19,047 households in 13 districts covering 56 blocks in Odisha and Madhya Pradesh.

Another key focus this year has been on co-visioning for our organisation. Through a series of visioning workshops, we engaged with our teams from various levels to develop a shared vision for our future. These collaborative visioning exercises have been instrumental in synchronising our organisation's aspirations and efforts with ground realities and developing a realistic and comprehensive strategy to design our development programmes. Including ultra-poor households in our project design is a direct outcome of these visioning exercises. The strategic approach reflects our commitment to reaching the most marginalized communities and contributing to a more equitable and prosperous future.

Resonating our dedication to deepen and expand our impact, we have broadened our thematic work areas beyond livelihood promotion. Our seven thematic areas focus on the holistic development of rural villages, aligning closely with 13 SDGs. Our focus on nutrition security represents a response to our communities'

evolving needs, prioritising the health and nutrition of women and children. The nutrition programme has been pivotal in nourishing 42,505 rural households through nutrition education, nutrition gardens and access to nutrition entitlements.

While we intensified our work in the existing villages, we also expanded to newer geographies. This expansion is a testament to our team's dedication and our organisation's ability to scale our vision to reach the unreached, bringing us closer to our vision.

We are evolving as an organisation that values inclusion and gender equality in our field operations and within our organisational structure through the induction of more female colleagues. This move towards greater diversity and inclusion is not just about numbers; it's about enriching our workplace culture, bringing varied perspectives, and driving positive change and innovation.

Through this annual report, I am very happy to share the year's journey that lays a strong foundation for our continued efforts. Our commitment to our vision has helped us face challenges as they come, devise strategies, adapt to evolving circumstances, and grow with our communities.

I am incredibly grateful to each of you for your dedication, hard work, and belief in working with Harsha Trust. Together, we will continue to make a real difference in the lives of rural communities we serve for many more years to come.

Best Wishes

Ms. Rashmi Adlekha Executive Director

Rashmi Adlerha

# **ABBREVIATIONS**

**ABF** Axis Bank Foundation ANC Ante Natal Care

**ANM** Auxiliary Nurse and Midwife APC Agriculture Production Cluster APF Azim Premji Foundation

**ASHA** Accredited Social Health Activist

**ATMA** Agriculture Technology Management Agency

**AWC** Anganwadi Centre **AWW** Anganwadi Worker **BaLA** Building as Learning Aid **BDP** Business Development Plan

Bringing Green Revolution to Eastern India **BGREI** 

**BoD Board of Directors** 

Community Based Organisations **CBO** 

CHC Community Health Center

CLF Cluster Level Forum

**CNG** Community Nutrition Garden **CRP** Community Resource Person **CSO** Civil Society Organization **CSP** Community Service Provider **CSR** Corporate Social Responsibility DA Development Apprentice DHH District Head Quarter Hospital **ECCE** Early Childhood Care and Education

EY Ernst & Young

**FGD** Focus Group Discussion **FLW** Frontline Workers

FPC Farmer Producer Company **FPOs** Farmer Producer Organisations

FY Financial Year

Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit GIZ

Gol Government of India GP Gram Panchayat

Gram Panchayat Development Plan **GPDP GPLF** Gram Panchayat Level Federation

**HDFC** Housing Development Finance Corporation

HH Household HP Horse Power

**HRDP** Holistic Rural Development Programme

HRP High Risk Pregnancy

**ICDS** Integrated Child Development Services (scheme)

**IMR** Infant Mortality Rate

**INRM** Integrated Natural Resource Management **ITDA** Integrated Tribal Development Agency

**IYOM** International Year of Millets (2023)

**KVK** Krishi Vigyan Kendra LE Livestock Entrepreneur **MFIs** Micro finance Institutions

**MGNREGA** Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act

MIS Management Information System

**MMR** Maternal Mortality Rate

MT Metric Ton

NPM Non-Pesticidal Management Nutrition Rehabilitation Centre NRC Other Backward Classes OBC

Odisha Lift Irrigation Corporation OLIC

OLM Odisha Livelihoods Mission Odisha Millets Mission **OMM** 

PAN Permanent Account Number

PG Producer Group

PHC Primary Healthcare Center

Pradhan Mantri Surakshit Matritva Abhiyan PM SMA Pradhan Mantri Kisan Samman Nidhi PM-KISAN **PMKSY** Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchayee Yojana

**PNC** Post Natal Care PoP Package of Practices

**PPL** Paradeep Phosphates Limited **PRIs** Panchayati Raj Institutions

**PVTGs** Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups

**ORT** Quick Reponse Team Severe Acute Malnutrition SAM

**SAMMPurNA** Sishu Abong Matru Mrutyu hara ra Purna Nirakarana Abhiyan

SC Scheduled Castes

**SDGs** Sustainable Development Goals

SENU Securing Nutrition, Enhancing Resilience

SHG Self Help Group

Self-Reliant Initiatives through Joint Action SRIJAN

Scheduled Tribes ST

**SWPCL** Sahayaka Women Producer Company Limited TDCC Tribal Development Co-operative Corporation

THR Take Home Ration **United Nations** UN

UNICEF United Nations Children's Fund VDC Village Development Committee

Village Health Sanitation and Nutrition Day **VHSND** 

WASH Water, Sanitation and Hugiene **WSHGs** Women's Self-Help Groups

WUG Water User Group





Harsha Trust, established in 2002 under the Indian Trusts Act 1882, is dedicated to uplifting rural communities and enhancing their quality of life. A multi-dimensional approach towards improved livelihoods and enhanced food and nutrition security through empowered women's agencies is our key focus, steering the transformative social change.

We unite with communities and partners to enable inclusive and sustainable economic growth and enhance the effectiveness of poverty reduction. Over the last two decades, Harsha Trust has successfully demonstrated cost-effective On-Farm and Off-Farm livelihood models, which not only benefitted the community but also become a template that is now being replicated by other Government and Non-Government Organisations and Agencies in the Rural Development space.

In alignment with our commitment to Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), we have embraced clean energy in many of our ongoing projects and have successfully launched new initiatives for harnessing solar energy and Integrated Natural Resource Management (INRM). These initiatives represent our dedication towards fostering social, economic, and environmental sustainability.





#### Vision

To be a professional based institution of excellence for promoting technologyled and market-driven interventions primarily through community-based organisations



#### Mission

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



#### **Key Objectives**

- To provide affordable, sustainable and climateresilient livelihood models to the vulnerable sections.
- To promote entrepreneurship among the rural poor, especially women and weaker sections
- To enhance the quality of life by ensuring access to entitlements and welfare schemes available.
- To strengthen and enable women's agency and support the emergence of rural institutions that enhance the condition and position of women.

**Values** 

Integrity

Transparency

Caring

Quality & Innovation

#### Our Outreach

Harsha Trust has positively influenced the quality of lives in 16 districts in 3 states (Odisha, Madhya Pradesh and Chhattisgarh)



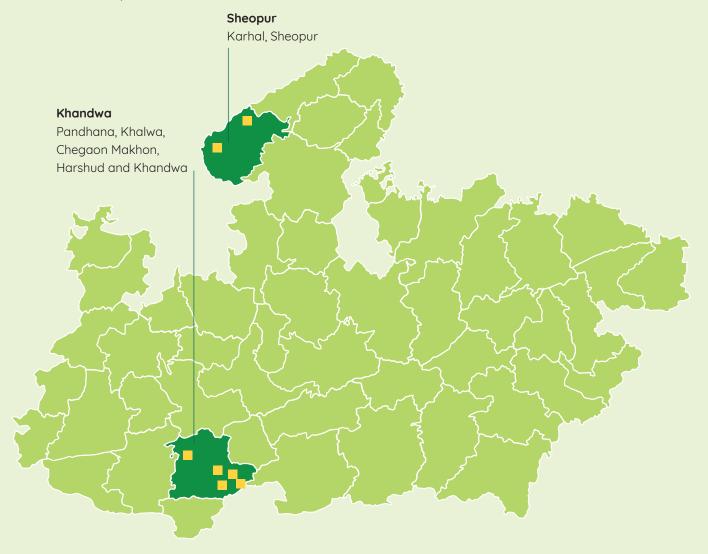
Our current operational focus lies in some of the most remote and underserved regions of Odisha and Madhya Pradesh. These areas are characterised by a unique set of challenges, including extreme remoteness, high levels of multi-dimensional poverty (more than 50%), and a significant concentration of marginalised communities, particularly Scheduled Tribes (ST), Scheduled Castes (SC), and Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups (PVTG).

The existing project districts across two states are:

- 1. Odisha: Malkangiri, Koraput, Rayagada, Nabarangpur, Kalahandi, Gajapati, Bargarh, Keonjhar, Sundargarh, Dhenkanal, Cuttack and Jagatsinghpur
- 2. Madhya Pradesh: Khandwa and Sheopur

#### Our Presence in Madhya Pradesh

As of 31st March, 2023



#### **Our Presence in Odisha**



Total blocks 56 Total districts 14 Total Households 1,19,047

# OUR THEMATIC AREAS: ALIGNMENT WITH SDGs





# **OUR ACHIEVEMENTS**



## INSTITUTION BUILDING

6,061

558

283

41 FPOs ₹84,46,49,000

Total Credit Mobilized

64,830

4,820

28,111

32,195

₹45,038,952

Total Savings

Women Members SHGs as CLF Members

Women Members Shareholders



# FOOD AND NUTRITION SECURITY

PADDY

**PULSES & OILSEEDS** 

**MILLETS** 

MAIZE

**NUTRITION GARDENS** 

69,640

Households

16,427

Households

19,317

<u>Househ</u>olds

17,699

Households

37,549

Households

93,340

Acres

9,179

Acres

13,189

Acres

19,602

Acres

37,306

Numbers



# LIVELIHOOD SECURITY

COMMERCIAL VEGETABLE CULTIVATION

42,093

Households

18,353

Acres

**GOAT REARING** 

12,342

Households

POULTRY REARING

39,821

Households



#### INTEGRATED NATURAL RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

608

Area brought under Irrigation (Hectares)

5,038

Area under Wadi Plantation (Acres) 388

No. of Water Harvesting Structures Constructed 3,62,336

Volume of Water Harvested (Cubic Metres)



#### **ACCESS TO ENTITLEMENTS & SCHEMES**

**MGNREGA** 

Biju Swasthya Kalyan Yojana (BSKY) Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT) PM Kisan Yojana Madhubabu Pension Yojana

**72,506**Households

4,712

Households

4,684

Households

524

Households

1.495

Households



**WASH** 

24

WASH infrastructure created and renovated

16

Safe drinking water units installed

6,573

Households

42 Villages 161

Training and awareness camps



#### **EDUCATION**

26

Schools and AWCs

3

**Smart Schools** 

1673

Students



## **CLEAN ENERGY ADOPTION & CLIMATE CHANGE**

55

Solar-based Irrigation Systems 11

Solar Fencing 111

Solar Traps 48

Solar Lighting

401

HHs

290 HHs 397

1,200

279

acres

**217** acres

141

acres





We build innovative rural institutions to unravel remarkable possibilities of sustainable rural development through a collective process. Organising women-centric community institutions such as Self-Help Groups (SHGs), Cluster Level Forums (CLFs), Producer Groups (PGs) and Farmer Producer Organisations (FPOs) serves to be the core to enhance the collective productivity and provide higher scope for development assistance. Our approach enhances social responsiveness to gender-specific challenges faced by the communities. The institutions enable and strengthen local governance, improving women's political participation and foster social and financial inclusion.



#### At Village Level

SHGs: Organising women into Self Help Groups (10-20 members/group) to improve their living standards through self-governance and volunteerism.

**PGs:** Organising farmers into commodity-specific Producer Groups to ensure synchronised production and access to different livelihood support infrastructures.



#### At the Gram Panchayat Level

**CLF:** SHGs in a village or 2-3 villages are being organised into Cluster Level Forums (CLF) to enable the exchange of ideas and concerns and provide a platform for collective action.

**GPLF:** SHGs of a particular Gram Panchayat join to form Gram Panchayat Level Federation (GPLF), a common platform for the SHGs and CLFs to ensure social and



#### At Block Level

FPOs: Promotion of selfreliant Farmer Producer Organizations (FPOs) to support the farmer members in production, harvesting, procurement, grading, pooling, handling, marketing, selling, export of primary produce of members or import of goods or services for their benefit.



₹84,46,49,000 ₹4,50,38,952

Total Credit Mobilised through Institutions

Total Savings



Harnessing the Power of Panchasutra for Success: **Gupteshwar Cluster Level Forum** 

- Siadimal, Boipariguda Block, Koraput

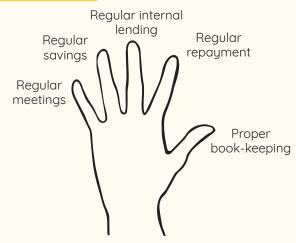
Siadimal, a small village located in the remote pockets of Boipariguda Block, comes under the Pendapada Gram Panchayat. It is surrounded by forest and agricultural farmlands. The village, though not well connected with the mainstream society, has witnessed the power of collectives and people's conviction to fight against poverty.

Harsha Trust introduced its new initiative on the revival, formation and establishment of sustainable women self-help groups (WSHGs) and Federation in April 2017 at Boipariguda Block of Koraput District through a partnership approach in collaboration with OLM (Odisha Livelihoods Mission) and Mission Shakti. During our field-level survey and villagelevel concept-seeding meeting, we observed that most SHGs were formed and existed only for loan

purposes but lacked clarity about Panchasutra, CLF and Future Visioning.

Firstly, we started intervention at the SHG level with different small training modules on the concept of SHG, the need for women to form SHGs, the importance of savings, internal lending and bookkeeping, the vision of each member and the meaning and need of Panchasutra. During our village-level concept seeding on "Why SHG?" we found many defaulter SHGs who have taken loans from the bank and defaulted due to poor utilisation of funds and lack of timely repayment.

#### Panchasutra include:



When Harsha Trust conducted the SHG conceptseeding Programme at Siadimal village, some members realised the gaps in the existing system and tried to visualise the losses they had incurred by making their institution defunct. They arranged an SHG meeting on the same evening and decided to regularise their defunct SHG. They started collecting monthly savings and revolving it as internal lending among the members. During that period, awareness of other tools was conducted in the SHG, viz.- the concept of higher saving, BDP (Business Development Plan) for bank linkage, etc. As their SHGs became regular, they formed a Cluster Level Forum (CLF) named 'Gupteswar CLF'. Siadimal village consists of 48 households, and Bandakaguda village consists of 32 households of ST and OBC community. 6 SHGs and one Cluster Level Forum were formed in these two villages.

In June 2018, one SHG concept-seeding meeting was arranged at Kandlibeda AWC of Pendapada Panchayat, anchored by Harsha Trust. We had a detailed interaction with SHG leaders regarding their present situation and the challenges. The SHG leaders recollected their past mistakes and the consequences they faced. In this meeting, Sabita Harijan, CRP (Cluster Resource Person) of the CLF, planned to arrange one village meeting to apprise the community about the benefits of an SHG and its vision. A three-month intensive capacity building through regular meetings and training was organised.

By September 2018, all the six SHGs of Siadimal and Bandakaguda Village followed the Panchasutra norms. A CLF was formed with proper representation from SHGs with some clarity and visioning of SHG. In the CLF Meetings, SHGs were regularly monitored on Panchasutra, and they audited all 6 SHGs of CLF and FPC. The SHGs paid ₹400/- as a Service Charge to Patneswari Farmer Producer Company Limited (PAPCL).

Gupteswar CLF was formed with 18 members, as three were nominated from each SHG. On the 5th of every month, they conducted monthly meetings and discussed their social and financial problems and derived solutions. They have designed different services. Leaders of CLF developed a good conceptual understanding and now have a robust vision for a bright future. Gupteswar CLF has formed

three sub-committees for looking after different aspects of the village, viz.- Financial Committee, Social Committee and Livelihood Committee. In Gram Sabha, the CLF members have put up their demands actively, and women's participation has also increased. Every month, two meetings were conducted.

#### Social Committee of Gupteshwar CLF

This is the most important committee which takes actions for regularisation of Anganwadi Centre, maintaining the quality of food in Mid-Day-Meals, meeting Block officials and submitting grievances such as road connectivity, supply of drinking water, issue of 47 nos. of new job cards, availing 32 nos. of old age pension under Madhu Babu Pension Yojana and attending Gram Sabha at GP level. Women members' cohesiveness and collective power bore fruitful results in that village. During the COVID-19 pandemic, Gupteswar CLF distributed cooked food to the ultra-poor families, managed the learning centre for children and also created awareness & facilitated vaccination work in those GPs.

#### **Financial Committee**

Similarly, these committee members regularised all 6 SHGs by updating records every month, motivating them for loan repayment and gradually increasing monthly savings. It ensured the audit, gradation and Credit plan of all 6 SHGs on time, which resulted in four SHGs receiving ₹2.8 lakh credit from Utkal Gramya Bank. They try to ensure that all women members have a savings passbook in their name at the bank, and all input and output linkages are carried out through this passbook.

#### **Livelihood Committee**

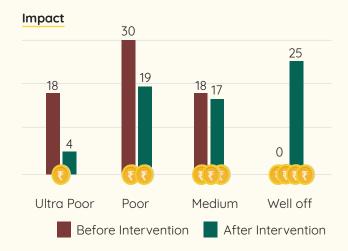
The livelihood committee executed the following tasks,

- Formulating Individual Livelihood Plan of all members
- Drafting Credit needs plans for households
- 50 households received Agri input from the FPC outlet
- Vaccination of livestock
- Supported four ultra-poor families
- An advance deposit of ₹15,000 in FPC for input supply
- Share money of ₹48,000 deposited in FPC

Fertiliser input was the most significant work done by the Finance Committee that links all the households to PAPCL FPC for maize, paddy and Kharif season. The intervention broke the traditional involvement of mediators pocketing their profits.

As part of the CLF, all SHGs can plan for their households and access the inputs from FPC and training on Agriculture and Livestock Management. To improve farming practices, Harsha Trust facilitators have given training on seed treatment nursery raising of paddy, ragi, maize and vegetables. They were not only given in-house training; the CRPs also demonstrated the practical aspects. To enhance livestock production, the facilitators trained members on the importance of animals in the household economy, how the economy is degraded by our lack of awareness and how simple ways can be followed to restore our family economy. The best part of the training was that all the training was made very interesting for CLF Members and easily understood by all members because of the use of precise and visual tools specific to the local context.

After knowing the importance of seed treatment, all the members treated their paddy and ragi seeds before sowing in the nursery. The members who used to sow the seeds in normal seed beds (paddy and Ragi) now sow them on raised beds. All the goats and poultry birds have been covered by deworming in Bandakaguda and Siadimal Village. To ensure the routine vaccination schedule, the cost of the livestock medicines will be borne bu CLF. Members purchase their inputs from Patneswari FPC and collectively sell outputs through FPC.



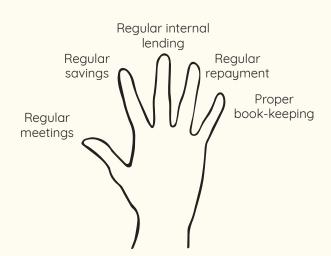
#### Income Analysis of Gupteswar CLF **HH wise Income Analysis**

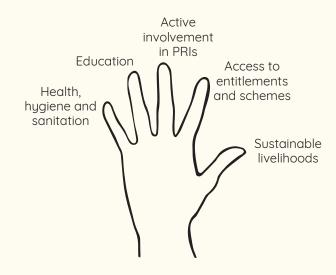


The hard work, active participation and support of FPC have brought a smile to the faces of many women members of Gupteswar CLF in that area. It helps them not only for income enhancement but also in improving their social status & recognition in their locality.

Going forward, we plan to orient the members of Gupteswar CLF on Dasa sutra to promote advocacy, awareness and activities to ensure access to entitlements, better health, education, nutrition and sanitation practices in the community.

#### Dasa sutra includes





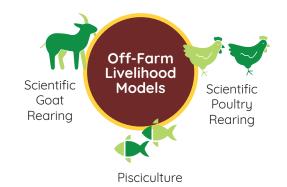
# LIVELIHOOD SECURITY 1 NO POVERTY 8 DECENT WORK AND ECONOMIC GROWTH **⋒**¥╈╈╈ 22 | Harsha Trust Annual Report 2022 - 2023



We pioneered in establishing innovative on-farm and off-based livelihood models that enhance the community's stake in agriculture and livestock value chains to achieve income security, create long-term assets and ensure reverse migration.

By facilitating timely access to Credit and inputs, technical knowledge, production, post-harvest management, processing and value addition, storage and collective marketing, our community-based institutions are critical in providing end-to-end support in promoting sustainable livelihood models.







Agriculture Production Clusters: Promotion of Agriculture and Livestock Production Clusters involving synchronised production of high-value crops in convergence with Government Departments is one of our recent approaches, ensuring enhanced income of women farmers in nine blocks of Odisha covering 27,000 households.





Pioneered developing livestock value chain through setting up poultry cooperatives, hatchery units, feed mixing units, low cost poultry and goat sheds, reducing the mortality through vaccination and veterinary care services covering 23,000 households.



#### **Natural Farming Practices: A Pivotal Step Towards** Sustainable Agriculture and Productivity Enhancement

- Katariput, Kundra Block, Koraput

Katariput is an interior village in the Bhusangaguda GP of Kundra Block of the Koraput district which houses 41 low-income families, mainly from Gadaba tribe. Agricultural production and livestock rearing are the primary sources of income for the households. Throughout different cropping seasons, they grow vegetables, millets, paddy, and maize. In 2019, Harsha Trust entered the region to ensure that the local communities could increase their standard of living through multi-cropping, the adoption of better practices, natural farming, NPM, collective marketing and business strategies. Practice of monoculture, widespread availability of chemical fertilisers, distance from Kundra market, lack of market linkages were problems which mired the agricultural scenario of farmers of Katariput. Farmers had to cycle for more than 15 km in order to sell their agricultural products in Kundra market. They also lacked avenues for consulting professionals/experts to seek help to sort out these issues.

#### Introducing the Concept of Sustainable Farming

To begin with, our team had a meeting with the community to suggest that their livelihood would be promoted through mixed cropping, intercropping and livestock rearing. Then, a survey of the community's residents was conducted and a brief profile of each household was collected wherein,

Asmati Gadaba was selected as a beneficiary. Further, we identified that certain practices followed by her in terms of agriculture and livestock-rearing could be enhanced or modified for better returns. Then we assessed her family's financial situation.

#### **Challenges of Subsistence Farming**

Asmati Gadaba is a farmer whose family owns 3 acres of land. When Harsha Trust started working with her in 2019, she used to cultivate paddy on 2 acres of land in Kharif and Rabi seasons using traditional techniques of farming, harnessing water from the flood irrigation of the Kolab dam. Her remaining 1 acre of land lay unused. She also used to rear backyard poultry. Her family earned ₹28,000 per year from these two sources of income.

#### Commercial Vegetable Farming - Adopting **Sustainable Farming Practices**

Harsha Trust formed Mahalaxmi Producer Group to provide technical knowhow (seedbed formation, seed treatment, soil treatment, etc.), provide agricultural inputs, form backward and forward linkages for female farmers by promotion of vegetable farming. We assisted her in carefully choosing winner crops based on the cropping seasons. Further, we facilitated training and orientation on PoP; preparation and use of NPM

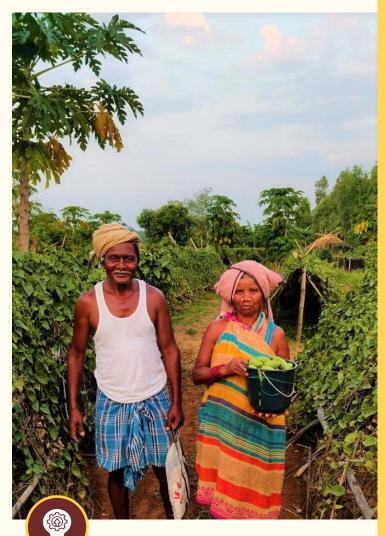
manure for pest management; demonstration for seed treatment, seed bed preparation and line transplanting. Furthermore, we enrolled her in an FPO named- 'Nari Pragati Producer Company Limited' as a shareholder (Share capital deposited: ₹500) to foster market linkage for the sale of vegetables grown by her.

After Harsha Trust's intervention, Asmati's knowledge enhanced on cultivating vegetables round the year with effective disease and pest management through natural farming practices like using Handikhata, Agneyastra, humic acid, straw mulching etc. She also ensured judicious use of fertilisers with creepers as well as standing crops, adopted the mix and inter crop in pointed gourd and vegetable field and selected two winner crops season wise and cultivated them in systematic ways. Her knowledge of institution building developed, as she participated in training and awareness programs, being an integral part of the PG and FPO.



#### Impressive Economics of the Vegetable Farm

She has received ₹1.2 lakhs from pointed gourd and ₹0.75 lakhs from ivy gourd crop in a year and continues to harvest and sell 1.5-2 quintals of those vegetables per week. Now, she sells vegetables once a week to the FPO, which collects her produce for sale. She expressed her happiness about selling her products without having to travel all the way to Kundra as well as getting to consume fresh organic vegetables from her home-grown farm.



#### Way Forward

This year, as Asmati adopted natural biomass straw mulching, she has saved more than 10 days of labour as she didn't have to do the weeding. Asmati acknowledged that her financial status is continuously growing, being supported by different interventions of Harsha Trust. However, convincing the farmers to shift from conventional methods of farming to systematic methods of NPM and Natural Farming has been an uphill task and a work in progress. After continuous engagement with them, it is rewarding to witness them reap the benefits of Natural Farming and NPM, one farmer at a time. In another 1-2 years, this model could gradually be replicated and become self-sustaining by the end of the project period. Establishing assured irrigation sources and infrastructure such as a borewell or dug well can reduce the issue of water scarcity during the non-flood seasons.





**Drumstick Cultivation: Empowering Farmer Livelihoods** in Golamunda, Odisha

#### Name of the Entrepreneur

Premshila Nag

#### Village/Block/District

Sanchergaon, Golamunda, Kalahandi

#### **Assets Owned**

4 acres of land

#### Intervention/activity

Six years ago, Premshila had transplanted four drumstick branches brought from Raipur along the borders of her upland, yielding a decent income of ₹4,000-₹5,000 annually. Harsha Trust, under its Axis Bank Foundation (ABF) Project, organised capacitybuilding training on NPM and improved methods of agriculture and facilitated market linkages of drumstick branches for cultivation. After this, she was convinced about the economic feasibility of scaling up her drumstick cultivation and replaced her cotton crop with 60 drumstick branches over the next two years. With her knowledge of drumstick plant care, an impressive 90% of the branches survived, and her drumstick plants now bear abundant fruit. She realised that cultivating a drumstick on a farm could be more lucrative and feasible than growing it sparsely in a kitchen garden.

#### **Income Enhancement**

Last year, she earned ₹65,000 by selling 12 quintals of drumsticks from her 60 plants. This year, her earnings soared further, reaching ₹81,000 by selling 18 quintals.



"I had never thought drumstick could give me better profits than cotton crop until I finally grew it on my farm. Along with nourishing my family, it has helped to bolster my income manifold."

- Premshila Nag



Premshila's success in drumstick cultivation has been remarkable, creating a positive ripple effect in the community. Inspired by Premshila's success, all households in Darlipada, Sanchergaon, have planted 20-30 drumstick plants on their uplands.

Over three years, Harsha Trust successfully implemented the drumstick plantation activity, benefitting 1,238 households in 13 villages of Golamunda block. Each household received support to plant 5-10 drumstick branches, ensuring a commendable 70% survival rate. Farmers started harvesting 6-7 kg of drumsticks per plant annually. Initially, they consumed and gifted some of the produce to their relatives and friends, but in the second year, demand from traders surged, leading to bulk purchases.

The drumstick plantation activity in Golamunda, Odisha, has proven to be a game-changer in uplifting farmer livelihoods. Through the dedicated efforts of Harsha Trust, the activities have provided farmers with a sustainable and lucrative income source throughout the year. As more farmers embrace drumstick cultivation, their economic security has improved, reducing dependency on seasonal income and external factors. This success story exemplifies the transformative impact of targeted initiatives in empowering rural communities and fostering a self-sufficient and prosperous future for farmers in Golamunda.



Indra SHG: Diversifying Horizons for Alternative Livelihoods

- Dungriguda, Bikrampur Gram Panchayat, Nabarangpur

Dungriguda village of Bikrampur Gram Panchayat in Nabaranapur District of Odisha has 288 households. Almost 70% of the households are small and marginal farmers. Farming is the major source of livelihood and is predominantly rainfed. Although engaged in farming and allied activities, the income levels are inadequate for sustenance and living. The scenario has compelled most men to migrate to nearby towns and cities for labour. Women of this village faced innumerable barriers due to lack of decision-making power, input and knowledge. They were involved in unpaid work due to a lack of relevant skills.

Indra SHG was formed in 2015 with ten women with similar economic status and livelihoods. The SHG initially served as a platform for savings and internal lending. Within a few months, the SHG became defunct due to a lack of cooperation among members and discontinued savings.

In 2018, Harsha Trust, with the support of the Ernst & Young (EY) Foundation, started engaging women SHGs in community-based rural entrepreneurship. The CSPs trained and capacitated by Harsha Trust have engaged in meetings and orientation with Indra SHG and identified challenges and scope for income generation activities. Frequent interactions and active participation of members in monthly meetings encouraged them to revive their SHG and streamline savings and Credit. The women members also attended training Programmes and exposure visits organised by Harsha Trust to promote alternative livelihood options.

Indra SHG evolved into an economic entity, enabling women members to take up diverse entrepreneurial activities through convergence with different line departments, such as

Pisciculture	Nursery Raising	
Mushroom Cultivation	Goat Rearing	

#### **Pisciculture**

In 2018, Indra SHG took the village pond from Gram Panchayat for lease to start fish farming. The lease tenure was five years, and they paid a yearly deposit of ₹2,000/- to the Gram Panchayat. The training program organised by Harsha Trust in convergence with the Fisheries and Animal Resources Development Department kickstarted this initiative. The SHG continues to reap the benefits of fish farming yearly and has earned a lumpsum of ₹3,55,500/- till 2022.

#### Pisciculture (Fish Farming)

Year	Total Expenditure (₹)	Total Profit (₹)	Net income (₹)
2018	22,000	80,000	58,200
2019	38,000	1,65,000	1,27,000
2020	26,500	88,000	61,500
2021	24,800	75,000	50,200
2022	25,400	84,000	58,600
		Total	3,55,500



#### **Community Nursery**

In 2020, Indra SHG established a Community Nursery and raised 2,000 Papaya plants and 2,000 Drumstick Plants. They had sold these saplings to the other SHG Members in their Gram Panchayat and nearby villages. The SHG also facilitated a CLF meeting and encouraged each household to do a plantation of at least four saplings in the backyard space.



Plants	Nos	Expenditure incl.	Profit	Net Profit
		Transportation (₹)	(₹)	(₹)
Papaya	2,200	5,500	10,000	4,500
Drumstick	2,200	5,800	10,000	4,200
Total		11,300	20,000	8,700



#### **Mushroom Cultivation**

The SHG members started cultivating Oyster Mushrooms after attending on-the-field training on Mushroom Cultivation at Dungriguda village, organised by Harsha Trust in convergence with the Horticulture Department in October 2020. They also had an exposure visit to KVK (Krishi Vigyan Kendra), Nabarangpur, in November 2020. Apart from sufficing the household consumption of members, the intervention has provided a net profit of ₹87,700/-



Year	No. of	Expenditure	Gross	Net Profit
	Beds	(₹)	Profit (₹)	(₹)
2020	75	2,700	22,000	19,300
2021	130	4,400	36,000	31,600
2022	150	5,200	42,000	36,800
Total	355	12,300	1,00,000	87,700





#### **Goat Rearing**

In convergence with the Veterinary Department of Nabarangpur, Indra SHG embarked on a new venture in July 2022 – goat rearing. This initiative received a significant boost from the Veterinary Department, which provided the SHG with 30 Mother Goats and 2 Bucks as a grant. Training on scientific goat-rearing practices was imparted to them, organised by Harsha Trust. Within one year, the herd size increased to 40 female goats and five bucks, and it has already earned an income of ₹35,000/- by selling five goats. They have planned to construct an additional shed to accommodate the increasing number of goats.



#### **Credit Linkage**

Members of the Indra SHG exhibit diligent financial habits, saving ₹150/- each month. Demonstrating their solidarity, the group efficiently facilitated internal lending transactions amounting to ₹1,30,000/- for Kharif cultivation. The SHG availed the loan on a term basis to start entrepreneurial activities and successfully repaid the first two loans. Their creditworthiness has encouraged the bank to support the future activities of the SHG.

- May, 2019 ₹ 1,50,000/-
- June, 2020 ₹ 2,00,000/-
- August, 2022 ₹ 2,00,000/- (Ongoing)





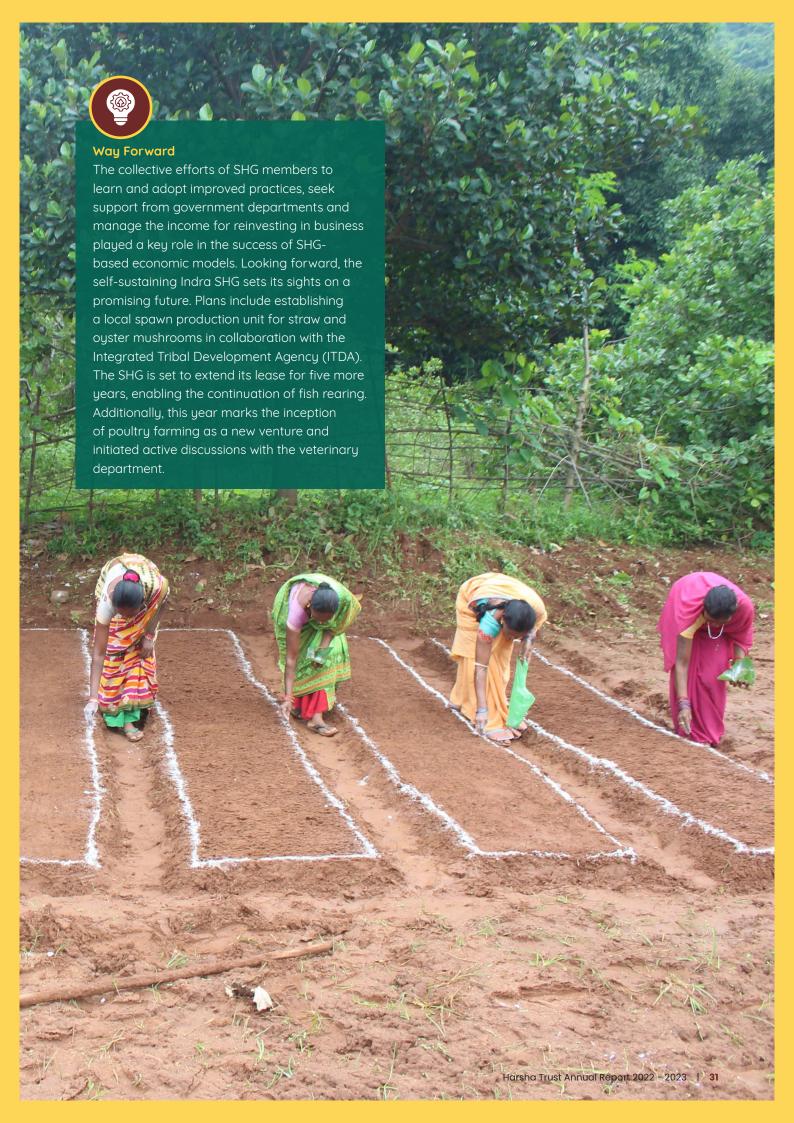
#### **Challenges and Learnings**

Less cooperation and understanding between members have been roadblocks for SHG to take up income generation activities in the initial stage. The members lack the technical support and input to start the offfarm business.

Bank linkages and convergence with line departments for availing training and handholding support have enabled them to overcome the hurdles.

Through regular orientation, training and capacity building, the SHG could unleash the economic potential of rural livelihoods

Indra SHG has emerged as a beacon of hope and success, offering its experience and expertise as a valuable resource platform. It provides training to other SHGs to adopt Seed Treatment, Mushroom Bed preparation, Nutri Garden Bed Preparation and Poultry Birds Vaccination. Inspired by the remarkable achievements of the Indra SHG, several other SHGs in Dungriguda and neighbouring villages have expressed keen interest in establishing similar livelihood models. This year, the impact of the Indra SHG's success is evidenced by the encouraging fact that 15 new SHGs have sought the guidance of Harsha Trust to initiate mushroom cultivation and goat-rearing projects.





Harvesting Success Together: Maa Mangala Producer **Group's Collective Approach to Mushroom Farming** 

- Naudia, Kujanga Block, Jagatsinghpur

Naudia is a hamlet under the Kothi Gram Panchayat of Kujanga Block of Jagatsinghpur District with 210 households. With an average land holding of 3 acres per household, people's lives and livelihoods depend on Kharif cropping and services or labour works in the nearby industrial plants, which are dominated by men. Disproportionate involvement in unpaid work lack of access to knowledge and expertise, coupled with low decision-making power, made women of this village financially dependent upon male members of the family.

Harsha Trust, with the support of Odisha Livelihood Mission (OLM), has facilitated the mobilisation of women to get organised through village cum GP-level women's institutions like SHGs, CLF, and GPLF. The institutional set-up provided space for women to interact, identify social and economic issues and develop concrete solutions for incomegeneration activities. In November 2020, 30 women from Naudia received orientation on forming the Producer Group (PG). As these women were engaged in agriculture interventions, they started farming activity on 3 acres of leased land through the PG. The growing demand for mushrooms in the area made them re-think and start a new venture after theu attended the meeting organised by Harsha Trust on Mushroom and Vegetable Cultivation.

#### **Input and Technical Support**

An initial planning meeting was organised to pool necessary financial resources, knowledge on inputs and a package of practices. A capacity-building training and initial input support of 300 mushroom beds (spawn, gram flour, green net, white polythene, weighing machine, sprayer, etc.) were provided to the PG. As a part of the community contribution, the PG members took the responsibility to arrange lime, paddy straw, bamboo, shed construction and bed formation and the necessary infrastructure arrangements for which they took a credit of ₹50,000/- from the GPLF at an interest rate of 1% per month.

#### **Mushroom Cultivation through Producer Group**

The PG members constructed a structure of length 20 feet and breadth 32 feet with three layers to accommodate three hundred beds. They started the mushroom-rearing activity by laying 20 beds per day. On each alternate day, they started putting up 20 mushroom beds to avoid bulk production in a single day, considering the demand and perishability of the product. They continued cultivating mushrooms for seven continuous months with at least two batches per month.

In the first year, they earned a net profit of ₹70,000/from a total production of 500 kg, which was sold at the rate of ₹200 – ₹220 per kg. They repaid the GPLF loan in the initial year. The interest and dedication of women in mushroom activity have attracted the attention of OLM. Along with the financial assistance of ₹50,000/-, the members also received a three-day training on mushroom spawn production and tissue culture and necessary equipment from OLM.

Infrastructure Unit - Mushroom Spawn Production



Training and Capacity building: Harsha Trust and OLM



Total Cost of the unit: ₹3,77,000/-



Project Cost from PPL CSR funds: ₹3,12,000/-



Community Contribution: ₹70,000/-



Production capacity: 7000 bottles of mushroom spawn per month



Unit Price per bottle: ₹14/-



Average Income per month: ₹98,000/-



Labour Cost per month: ₹30,000/-



Net Profit: ₹68,000 per month



Total women members benefitted: 30



Dividend: ₹10,000 per member

The PG members are engaged in mushroom-rearing activity intensively for 7 to 8 months and rear oyster mushrooms during the lean season as per environment suitability. They also sell mushroom spawns in the nearby markets and haats, mainly at Kujanga, Rahama, Patapur, and Tentulia. The initiative has enhanced the social identity of women members at the household and village level and increased their decision-making power and autonomy due to financial independence. From being confined solely to household chores to running a micro-enterprise, earning profits, technically

equipping themselves, acquiring a social identity and speaking their hearts out in confidence, the story of the perseverance of these women is truly inspirational!



#### Challenges

The availability of raw materials especially paddy straw is a major challenge for the PG members. In order to address this issue, the PG members ensure bulk procurement of the paddy straw for the upcoming entire year from the amount they had earned.

Initially the mobilisation of financial resources was a challenge but the support from OLM and Harsh Trust helped a lot to overcome it.

The necessary infrastructure initially was a big challenge.

Marketing of the products due to their perishability is an ongoing challenge.

#### Learning

Institutions like GPLF, banks, and CLF played major roles in pooling resources

Allocation of the roles and responsibilities per the PG members' skill sets to complete the task in time is crucial.

Having meetings and regular discussions whenever required in order to be transparent and make the business profitable is essential.

Regular maintenance of the records is important for sustainability.

Acquired the required technical knowledge around mushroom cultivation as per the scientific package of practices and enhancing marketing skills is imperative for a business.

Collaborative efforts of multiple stakeholders ensure the success of community-based enterprises.









Our livelihood models are designed to incorporate innovative on-farm and off-farm strategies and targeted nutrition programs to achieve two primary objectives: ensuring dietary diversity and enhancing Food and Nutrition Security of rural tribal households.

Improved crop production practices for Paddy and Maize, promotion of pulses, oilseeds, millets and horticulture plantation

Enhancing the effectiveness of Nutrition Programmes -Convergence with Government Programmes (ICDS); Promotion of Poshan Sathis to work closely with Anganwadi Workers, ASHAs and ANMs

Promotion of Individual and Community Nutrition Gardens

**Nutrition Garden:** A model nutrition garden with 8-12 varieties of vegetables and fruits in 2 decimals of land provides 1.5 kg vegetables daily to a family of 5 members. (Promotion of Community Nutrition Gardens and Vegetable seed banks at the village level by integrating with SHGs and women producer groups.)

37,279

**Nutrition Gardens** 

Community **Nutrition Gardens** 







# Transforming Barren Land into a Lush Green Land of Hope: The Community Nutrition Garden in Sitaberi, Madhya Pradesh

- Khandwa, Madhya Pradesh

#### **Securing Nutrition Enhancing Resilience (SENU) Project**

Khandwa district is located in Madhya Pradesh. It has an area of 6,206 km and a population of 1,310,061 (2011 census). It is located in the Nimar region, which includes the lower valley of the Narmada River, Kherkhali River, Chhoti Tawa River and Shiv River. Khandwa District comprises 710 Revenue and 54 Forest Villages. The people mostly depend on rainfed farming due to lack of irrigation facilities.

Harsha Trust's Project Securing Nutrition Enhancing Resilience (SENU) in the rural sector is operated under the joint aegis of the Government of India (GoI) and Germany (Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH) to improve the status of rural nutrition. Khandwa district has been included in this program. Under the program, MGNREGA planned to establish a community nutrition garden on government land, employ the group, and provide nutrition to pregnant and lactating women.

#### Sitaberi, The Village of Ethnic Tribes

Handiyakheda is a Panchayat in Pandhana Block of Khandwa District. This panchayat has a small hamlet named Sitaberi, located on the right side of the main paved road from Gudi to Handiyakheda, 2 km

from the unpaved road. Sitaberi is a settlement of 190 families with a total population of 1193, with 565 females and 628 males, tribal in ethnicity. Agriculture is the chief livelihood source and the village economy's mainstay. The village is surrounded by forests from where women fetch firewood and sell it in the Gudi market to intermediaries four times a week. Women also migrate in search of better livelihood opportunities, which in turn affect the health and nutrition of their children as well. Village Sitaberi is in the Padhana block of Khandwa district in Madhya Pradesh. It houses 190 families, with a majority of the population from Gond, Bhil, Bhilala, Barela and Korku tribes, who rely on agriculture and agriculture-related labour for their livelihoods.

### Livelihoods and Nutrition - The Interconnect

In Sitaberi, the land is filled with stones, and limited water is available for cultivation. Hence, communities of Sitaberi rely mostly on the Gudi market for seasonal vegetables and fruits which is 5 km away. The purchased vegetables suffer risks of perishability, seasonality, bulkiness, quality variation, irregular supply, high storage cost, transportation cost, damage cost, lack of cold storage, exploitative practices of intermediaries, lack of proper grading and quality control.

Improper storage of fruits and vegetables can lead to waste and discourage people from buying. Also, the village becomes inaccessible during monsoons as there is no paved road, due to which fresh fruits and vegetables are not available there during the season. This affects the nutritional security and minimises livelihood options of the community.

Community Nutrition Garden - A Participatory **Approach to Vegetable Production** 

GIZ's Securing Nutrition, Enhancing Resilience (SENU) project - initiated the development of a Community Nutrition Garden (CNG) in the village to combat malnutrition with the help of its implementing partners, SRIJAN and Harsha Trust. After identifying a suitable patch of land, the Panchayat members and SHGs were oriented in several meetings, and finally Self-Help Group (SHG) agreed to take on the project. However, obtaining permission from the Panchayat and MGNREGA was a challenge due to the novelty of the idea. The women of the SHG were undeterred by this and requested permission to use the land for five years as a nutrition garden. Due to the women's enthusiasm and continued support and orientation from the implementation partners, the proposal was approved by the Gram Sabha. Work codes were issued under various schemes. and permissions were granted by the Sarpanch. The land was cleared of large and small stones, and 625 saplings were planted, including fruits like mango, guava, drumstick and custard-apple and vegetables like cauliflower, tomato, eggplant, and chilli.

#### **Enhanced Production, Consumption and Employment**

Within six months, the once-barren land was transformed into a thriving garden full of nutritious vegetables and fruit-bearing trees producing 78 kg. The SHG uses the produce for their consumption and generously provides vegetables to the Anganwadi Centre (ECCE centre) and the school's Mid-Day Meals program. Additionally, they could sell vegetables worth ₹1,340/- creating a new source of income. They now go to sell fuel wood once a week or not at all.

Thanks to the SHG's partnership with MGNREGA. each member could work for an average of 15 days and earn wages totalling ₹3,060/-. This partnership also provided work opportunities for other members of the community. The government has recognised

this pioneering Community Nutrition Garden as a model initiative and receives numerous visitors. Moreover, it has inspired adjacent villages to start their community nutrition gardens.

#### **Key Highlights of the Intervention**

- Extensive outreach to Panchayat to educate them about CNGs
- Harnessing and supporting the enthusiasm of the SHG members by implementation partners
- · Ensuring capacity building



households engaged



workdays generated



₹3,060/revenues generated



78 Kg vegetables produced



#### **Challenges and Learnings**

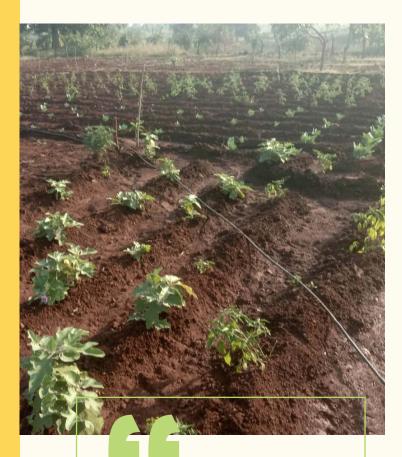
The awareness of health and nutrition is still relatively low amongst women, who are further marginalised due to patriarchal gender norms, which adversely affect women's food habits. This, in turn, affects their nutrition outcomes adversely. We are persistently working towards addressing the same.



"We had never seen or heard anything like this before. We trusted the people who guided and trained us and started the work. Today, it feels truly rewarding to see the results." - Laxmi Bai

"As the soil was very hard and stony, it was initially difficult to convince the Panchayat to support us. But we didn't give up. Even when we started the work, we faced many challenges. The water pump broke down several times. But we continued to work, garnered support from the Panchayat, and today it feels amazing to see this piece of land flourishing with greenery."

- Sheela Bai



Carrying forward the legacy of the sun, even fireflies dispel the darkness in their little way.



#### Way Forward

A second batch of seeds for seasonal additions to the Community Nutrition Garden will be disbursed in the SHG meetings in the coming months, consisting of spinach, fenugreek, carrot, brinjal, tomato, okra, coriander and other vegetables. Digging a new well, establishing seed bank and starting sowing for the millet crops are the further plans. Also, focusing on nutrition education for women to dispel age-old taboos which mire the growth and development of girls and women will be the way forward.





Harsha Trust enables community institutions to converge and leverage schemes and entitlements by unleashing the potential of women SHGs and working as an enabler to voice out and demand their rights and entitlements.

We ensure partnerships and convergence with Government Departments other CSOs, and Resource Agencies to integrate and provide better access to primary entitlements, financial services, credit linkages, development schemes and technical knowledge services, leading to improved social, digital and financial inclusion.

**Social Inclusion:** The initiative extended support to the non-members and encouraged them to join SHGs and avail more benefits, leading to 100% Social Inclusion. Development of Village Plans at the Pallisabha and Gram Sabha level and encouraging/facilitating women to participate in the Gram Sabha.

**Digital and Financial Inclusion:** Registering HHs with active MGNREGA job cards, linking women members' bank accounts for MGNREGA payments, Registration with Madhubabu Pension Yojana, Biju Swasthya Kalyan Yojana (New and Renewal), PM-KISAN Scheme.



Irrigation Solutions through Collaborative Convergence

- Jharbeda, Kuarmunda Block, Sundargarh

Jharbeda village of Kuarmunda block of Sundargarh is 17 km from the block headquarters. Before Harsha Trust started its intervention, there were 12 SHGs and one Cluster Level Forum, which helped the women farmers create savings. In this tribal-dominated region, households primarily relied on agriculture and allied activities for sustenance. Paddy, millet, pulses, and vegetables constituted the staple crops cultivated using traditional methods. The absence of proper irrigation facilities forced farmers into rain-fed cultivation, resulting in limited cultivation areas and, consequently, unsustainable incomes. This scenario led locals to seek supplemental income through daily wage labour and construction work in neighbouring cities like Rourkela.

#### Women-led Institutions Aiding Synchronised **Production**

In collaboration with Odisha Livelihood Mission (OLM), women-led institutions such as SHGs and FPOs are created to promote entrepreneurship of the poor and marginal farmers. Within this

collaborative framework, women farmers have risen to various leadership roles, such as presidents, secretaries, and treasurers within Farmer Producer Companies (FPOs). Collectively, FPO members determine the choice of crops for synchronised production and marketing strategies.

Convergence with various government departments like-Odisha Lift Irrigation Corporation (OLIC) helped set up borewells, ring wells; goat and poultry sheds provided by MGNREGA; drip and sprinklers were provided by the Horticulture department through Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchayee Yojana (PMKSY). A well-functioning Producer Group (PG) was formed, and their account was opened in a nationalised bank authenticated by OLM. With support from the OLIC department, seven borewell motors were installed, electricity was also provided, and MGNREGA provided five ring wells. The Horticulture Department supported drip and sprinkler irrigation systems, which increased the cultivable land up to 40 acres.

#### **Accessing Irrigation Schemes**

Particulars	Schemes	Unit	Farmer Share (₹)	Government Share (₹)	Total Amount (₹)
Cluster Bore well	Jalanidhi	7	70,000	16,80,000	17,50,000
Ring well	MGNREGA	5		8,25,000	8,25,000
Sprinkler pipe	PMKSY	16	1,44,000	3,20,000	4,64,000
Drip System		1	69,000	2,69,000	3,38,000
Total			2,83,000	30,94,000	33,77,000

#### **Impact of Convergence**



Community-built irrigation infrastructure has helped 63 marginal farmers of Kuarmunda block of Sundargarh district to increase their incomes significantly.



Construction of bore-well, ring-well, drip irrigation and sprinkler systems, along with mobilisation of government funds, schemes, and farm equipment, have turned 162 acres of wasteland into green fields.

The village now has a fully functional Producer Group, and the community is actively engaging in commercial vegetable cultivation, such as cauliflower and brinjal. After adopting improved farming practices, the farmers, especially women, have enhanced their income and economic condition. Convergence with the Agriculture Production Cluster (APC) enables market linkage, giving them easy access to buyers and better earnings. Developing farmers' knowledge of different forms of irrigation systems makes them equipped to use modern irrigation systems more effectively. Institutionalisation and convergence with government departments help develop the communities more systematically.

The collaborative convergence of various stakeholders, along with the introduction of irrigation infrastructure and modern farming practices has brought about positive changes in the lives of the farmers. Now, they are not just farmers; but also, entrepreneurs, community leaders, and stewards of their environment. These initiatives have empowered them with hope for a better future and improved their overall quality of life.



In the words of Goreti Minz, "These irrigation solutions have transformed our barren land into a green oasis of opportunities. Our incomes are on the rise, and we are nurturing hope for a brighter, more prosperous future for our families and community."





Harsha Trust is at the forefront of promoting clean energy entrepreneurship, integrating renewable energy sources to support improved irrigation facilities. We champion a holistic value chain approach by implementing climate-smart and climate-resilient cropping systems, fortifying sustainability efforts, and combating the adverse effects of climate change. This innovative approach enhances overall efficiency and substantially improves the stake of farmers within the value chain.



#### Village/Block/District

Khamanpada, Thuamul Rampur, Kalahandi

#### **Water Resources**

Indravati and Balijore rivers

#### Intervention

Harsha Trust, supported by Caring Friends, set up a solar-based Lift Irrigation system using a 3 HP solar pump to lift water to the main field, which spans 8 acres of area and is shared among 20 farmers. All the farmers collaborated to lay the pipes, and after a week, they started ploughing their land to cultivate vegetables.

#### **Income Enhancement**

During the last Rabi season, the farmers successfully grew onions, tomatoes, and brinjals, earning approximatel ₹15,000 each.



Earlier, despite having a large area of flat land and two rivers -Indravati and Balijore rivers surrounding the village, villagers could not utilise the same for commercial vegetable cultivation due to erratic electricity supply, high cost of diesel, absence of roads and irrigation infrastructure. Owing to this, only a few farmers would venture into vegetable cultivation during the Kharif season. The day the solar structure was set up and the pump began operating, the villagers, from children to the elderly, were filled with joy. This marked the beginning of a promising journey. They prepared a seedbed early and decided to grow brinjals and chillies as the main crops collectively. This progress has been possible owing to the Solar River Lift System and the combined efforts of the Harsha team and the farmers.

#### Way Forward

The farmers have come to appreciate the organisation's efforts, and as a result, they are willing to contribute towards procuring seeds and other inputs for the upcoming Kharif season. They have taken the responsibility upon themselves to arrange for all necessary inputs and aim to cultivate an average of 40 cents / household of land with vegetables. The community has wholeheartedly accepted the idea that they will be responsible for future system maintenance. Harsha Trust will assist in ensuring quality parameters for all crops and establishing market linkages.

The farmers of Khamanpada are confident that with solar irrigation, they will be able to grow crops throughout the year and earn an average income of ₹80,000 rupees per year. A demand to lay an all-weather concrete road connecting Khamanpada to Kumarkani will be put up at the upcoming Gram Sabha meetings as the fair-weather road adjoining the wooden bridge gets submerged during the monsoons, making it difficult for travel, transport and marketing. Once the road gets constructed, they can even market their produce at the bigger markets of Kashipur and Junagarh, located 40-50 km away.

"On my 2-acre land, earlier, I used to cultivate paddy, ragi and corn on most of my land and vegetables on 15 cents during the monsoons (Kharif). Now, with the solar lift irrigation facility, I cultivate vegetables on 30 cents of land across three seasons. During winter (Rabi), I grow green pea, broccoli and cauliflower; during summer (Zaid), I grow bitter gourd, tomato and brinjal. This year, I gained an additional income of ₹25,000 from winter vegetables compared to last year. This has helped me buy a two-wheeler in instalments, using which it is easier to transport the vegetables to the markets at Dumerpadar (5 km away) and Thuamul Rampur (9 km away). This year's rainy season, I will be sowing pointed gourd and spike gourd."

- Dhanamani Gouda



#### Block/District

Borigumma, Koraput

#### Finger Millet - Ideal Crop of Uplands

In the picturesque landscapes of Borigumma Block in Koraput district, Harsha Trust, in collaboration with ATMA and OMM, embarked on a transformative journey to revitalise agricultural practices and empower local communities through climateresilient crops, millets. Facing the challenges of erratic rainfall, limited resources, and a need for nutritional security, Harsha Trust recognised finger millet's potential to address these issues. With its resilience, nutritional richness, and adaptability to the local environment, finger millet emerged as an ideal solution.

#### Community-centric approach

Our approach has been community-centric since the outset. Through close collaboration with local farmers, we designed workshops and training sessions tailored to regional needs. We aimed to enhance agricultural productivity and food security by combining traditional knowledge with modern techniques.

#### Intervention with beneficiary

Tobha Paika from Mankdiatala village of Khatragada Panchayat was struggling with inconsistent crop yields, she embraced finger millet cultivation after attending our workshop. Tobha's willingness to adopt new practices paid off significantly as her barren land blossomed into a lush finger millet field, demonstrating the crop's resilience and potential.

While transplanting, she was sceptical about the production due to single and line transplanting and the 10 cm gap between seedlings. Still, after the first weeding of that field, she realised that the panicles would grow quickly due to proper spacing.

#### Income enhancement

As harvest time arrived, Tobha's heart swelled with pride as she reaped the rewards of her labour. The finger millet yield was beyond her expectations, and the grains were exceptional. As a result, she got 9.2 quintals of Finger Millet from that 1 acre of barren upland, procured by Tribal Development Cooperative Corporation (TDCC) through Ragi mandi, from which she earned a gross profit of ₹32,900/-.



#### Impact and Way Forward

The success of her harvest not only brought economic benefits but also elevated her social status. She plans to take up more land on lease and cultivate finger millets in the upcoming Kharif season.

As word spread about the positive outcomes, more farmers in Borigumma Block began integrating finger millet into their agricultural systems. We facilitated their access to quality seeds, efficient water management techniques, and modern farming tools. Farmers followed organic practices to promote sustainability and environmental well-being. The remarkable success story of finger millet farming has become a beacon of hope, fostering sustainable development and improving lives.

As the sun sets over the picturesque fields of Borigumma, the legacy of Harsha Trust's millet initiative continues to grow, serving as an inspiring testament to the remarkable impact that can be achieved through community collaboration and sustainable agricultural practices.



## International Year of Millets (IYOM 2023)

At the behest of the Government of India, the United Nations (UN) General Assembly, at its 75th session, declared 2023 as the 'International Year of Millets' (IYOM2023) to raise awareness about the nutritional and environmental benefits of millet consumption and production. This initiative aimed to promote millets as a sustainable and versatile crop that can contribute to food security, poverty reduction, and the overall wellbeing of people worldwide.

The Odisha Millet Mission was set up in April 2017.

It aims to bring millets back to its fields and food plates by encouraging farmers to grow the crops traditionally forming a substantial part of the diet and crop system in tribal areas.

Harsha Trust, being one of the Facilitating Partners of Odisha Millet Mission, arranged for IYOM programs and activities of Odisha Millets Mission (OMM) to commemorate the opportunity and spread the importance and benefits of millets in the rural area, and we named this event as 'Millet Mother Program'.

Awareness of the contribution of millet to Food Security and nutritional benefits.

To provide adequate knowledge to frontline health workers (viz. AWW, ASHA, etc.) who are directly involved as one of the caretakers of pregnant and lactating mothers, adolescent girls, etc.



Inspire stakeholders to improve sustainable production and quality of millets.

Focus on enhanced investment in research and development and extension services to achieve the other two aims.

Millet is a group of small-seeded grasses cultivated for thousands of years as a staple food source in various regions. They are known for their resilience in diverse climatic conditions, requiring minimal water and inputs compared to other major crops. Millets are rich in nutrients like fibre, protein, vitamins, and minerals, making them an important part of a balanced diet. Additionally, millet cultivation can positively impact soil health and contribute to biodiversity.



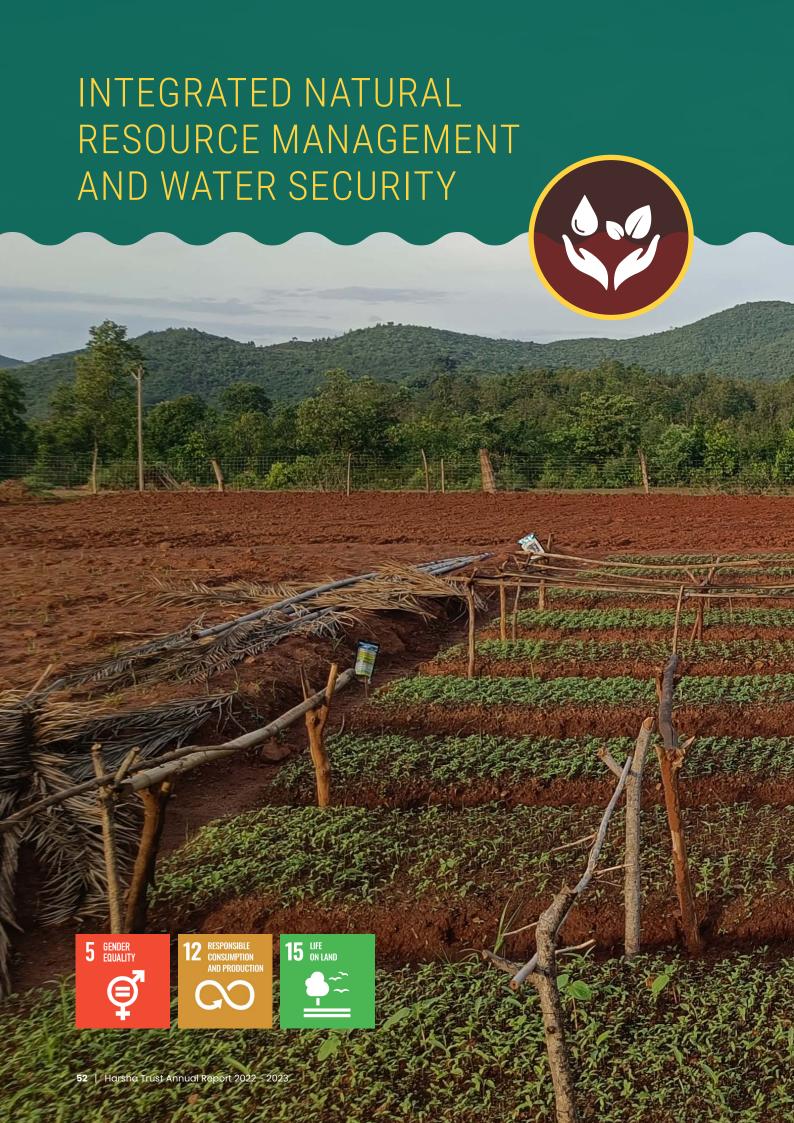
Furthermore, millets are environmentally friendly crops, requiring less water and often being





grown using traditional and organic farming practices. Their cultivation can play a role in enhancing soil fertility and preserving biodiversity. The initiative encourages governments, agricultural organisations, and communities to collaborate in promoting millet cultivation, research, and trade. By emphasising the importance of millets, the International Year of Millet aims to foster sustainable agriculture, improve food security and achieve Sustainable Development Goals.







In the Integrated Natural Resource Management (INRM) approach, various interlinkages between land, water and livelihoods of people in the project villages are considered. Accordingly, interventions for holistic development of land, water and natural resources are developed. The key strategy is designing and developing Village-level INRM Plans through community institutions (SHGs, CLF, PRIs) and other line departments and integrating them into GPDP plans for implementation.

We are consistently engaged in planning and participation of community institutions for leveraging government schemes and programmes such as MGNREGA for watershed development, liaison with Horticulture Department for plantation, Forest Department, Irrigation Department, etc. to ensure water security and enhance biodiversity at the household, farm and village levels.



# Assured Irrigation Makes Farming a Profit-Making Venture

- Kenduguda, Koraput district

#### Irrigation is a distant dream

Kenduguda village is located 14 km from the block headquarters in Koraput district. A total of 195 households inhabit Kenduguda village, with 125 Scheduled tribe families and 70 Scheduled Caste families. About 90 % of households are dependent on agriculture for their livelihood. Lack of irrigation facilities is a significant impediment to making agriculture a lucrative venture. This story is about 21 farming households in Kenduguda village of Koraput district, where the facilitation of an irrigation facility changed their lives by supporting vegetable cultivation on 17 acres of land.

#### Convergence aids Group-based Irrigation

Harsha Trust started working with the marginal farmers of Kenduguda village to improve their income from farm-based livelihood. We organised a village-level meeting to learn the different types of livelihoods and practices that could help the farmers. After a thorough discussion with them in the meeting, the farmers expressed their pressing need for proper irrigation infrastructure.

The community leaders Raibari Durua and Kanankdei Durua went to the block office where they met the Block Agriculture Officer and submitted an application for irrigation infrastructure. In December 2021, the Block Agriculture officer had a meeting with the people of Kenduguda and saw the agriculture area. After meeting the farmers, a Solar powered Cluster borewell under BGREI (Bringing Green Revolution Eastern India) was installed, and a Water User Group was formed. After many efforts, in 2021, three solar borewells were funded and installed by the Agriculture Department.

#### Radhakrishna Water User Group

A group of 21 marginal farmers came together to constitute a Water User Group (WUG) in the area and officiated the group by obtaining approval from the Tehsil office. They then opened a bank account to deposit the collected group money.

#### Budget of the scheme

The total budget for three solar borewells installations was ₹15,42,000 rupees, with community contribution being ₹42,000 and other funds were received from the Agriculture Department. The borewell facility has given the farmers 21 acres of irrigated land, of which 17 acres are used for cultivating commercial vegetables by 21 farmers.

#### Training in Vegetable Cultivation

Along with irrigation facilities, the farmers also received intensive training through capacity-building programs on commercial vegetable cultivation. They received training on crop selection, new practices,

application of new technology, pest and disease management, crop sorting and grading and value addition.

#### Assured Irrigation provides Better Income

Since the borewell installation on 15th May 2022, this new convenient irrigation facility has been helping farmers to cultivate profit-making commercial crops and has increased their income. The three bore wells are irrigating 21 acres of land. Farmers were actively engaged in all on-farm and off-farm activities, giving them sufficient time for meetings and cultivating their agricultural land. For maintenance of the solar borewell they collected ₹2,000 from each household. After the interventions, the farmers also earned ₹20,000 to 30,000 per season.

#### **Promising Results**



#### Round-the-Year Vegetable Crop

**Production:** The farmers are now cultivating vegetables such as cauliflower on 10 acres and tomatoes on 7 acres, and made a tomato nursery for the Rabi season. Earlier, they could grow a single crop in a year, but now they cultivate vegetables three times a year.



**Increased Income:** Initially, the average income of the farmers was ₹10,000 to ₹15,000 from their agricultural land. Post the intervention, average incomes have increased to ₹20,000 to ₹25,000, solely from vegetable cultivation.



**Reduced Market Dependency:** Farmers used to depend on the local market for vegetable marketing. However, after the intervention, they got fresh vegetables for their consumption and saved money for their contingency needs.



Raibari Durua emphatically exclaims: "Aa de Sukhla Bhuin daa a jeeuna aila!" (The dryland has got infused with life!)



#### **Challenges and Learnings**

While helping farmers to increase their income through vegetable farming, several challenges were faced:

#### Trust building

Building trust among farmers is a time consuming process.

#### Water User Group Building

Obtaining the legal certificate from Tahsildar for the water user group formation required lots of time, efforts and liaising with government line departments.

**User-fee** collection was initially difficult because all farmers belonged to poor marginal families.

#### **Heavy Rainfall**

40 to 50% of vegetable farms were damaged by heavy rainfall with several diseases like Collar rot, Fusarium, and White Mold. The application of Handikhata and Agneyastra helped resolve these.

#### Market linkage

Initially, it was difficult to connect farmers with the market, but as they gained more experience in producing commercial vegetables, they were also able to get the hang of collective marketing.

#### Conclusion

Farmers can earn more from farming through institution building, training, guidance, and convergence with line departments. By availing various schemes and opportunities the government can go a long way in ensuring sustainable livelihoods for marginal farmers. As farmers of this village have started earning better and have successfully stepped out of survival mode, they have started small savings and are investing more in their children's education. The Agriculture Production Cluster (APC) enables market linkage, giving them easy access to buyers and better earnings.



# Water Harvesting through Farm Pond Reaps a Treasure

-Arakhakuda, Naugaon tehsil, Jagatsinghpur, Odisha

#### Arakhakuda on the banks of Devi River

Arakhakuda village is located in Naugaon tehsil of Jagatsinghpur district in Odisha, India. It is situated 3 km from the sub-district headquarters Naugaon (tehsildar office) and 20 km from the district headquarters Jagatsinghpur. This village is situated on the banks of the Devi River and comes under Rohia Gram Panchayat of the Naugaon block in Jagatsinghpur district of Odisha. Devi River, a distributary of River Mahanadi, is one of the crucial water resources that has created more opportunities for farmers in developing vegetable production clusters on a large scale due to its more Pattu (depositional fertile soil) on the river bank side. Arakhakuda village has 500 households (SC -60, ST-0, OBC-40 & General-385). Agriculture and Livestock Rearing are the main sources of livelihood. Approximately 450 households are involved in the farming of paddy, pulses (green gram, black gram) and oilseeds (groundnut).

#### Pranati Nayak's Quest for Irrigation

Pranati Nayak is a progressive farmer whose family is involved in farm-based agricultural activity. The family has two and a half acres of land holding, mainly growing paddy, pulses, and vegetables. Particularly in the nearby area of the planned farm pond, she has an approximate area of one

and a half acres of land where they grow paddy. Before the intervention, her family was involved in agricultural activity, but the year-round availability of water was a major concern, due to which they suffered a lot. Even though the family had nurtured a desire to excavate a farm pond, it had remained a far-fetched dream due to lack of financial resources.

#### Formation of Village Development Committee

Harsha Trust started working in this village in the year 2020 with community mobilisation work through the formation of a Village Development Committee (VDC) and continuous strengthening of this village-level institution. After community mobilisation, we started working on livelihood interventions, mainly climate-resilient agriculture practices, high-value vegetable cluster promotion, natural farming and soil moisture conservation. Technical capacity building, especially of women farmers, has been one of the major focus areas in this village through the support of the HRDP (Holistic Rural Development Programme) Parivartan project in collaboration with HDFC Bank Ltd.

Through a focused discussion at the VDC level, the identification of beneficiaries was made for Integrated Natural Resource Management interventions. The primary objective of this INRM intervention was to address the issue of soil moisture conservation through rainwater harvesting and irrigation infrastructure development for irrigating the paddy field during water stress conditions. Apart from this, one of the major plans was to ensure the second crop in the area adjoining the farm pond during the Rabi season.

#### Farm Pond - The Source of Irrigation and Recharge

With due support from Harsha Trust, a farm pond was excavated in the paddy field of Pranati Nayak in Arakhakuda village. The dimension of the farm pond is 15 meters in length,10 meters in width, and 2 meters in depth. The plan was to conserve 3 lakh litres of water through this water harvesting structure.

After excavating the farm pond, Pranati secured the surrounding bunds of the farm pond with a border plantation to avoid soil erosion. Through HRDP Parivartan, she received 12 horticulture plants (coconut, betelnut, lemon, etc.). In the bund area of the farm pond, she has done pigeon pea cultivation comprising about 250 bush-variety pigeon pea plants and planted 90 betel nut plants near the farm pond with her investment. This can contribute to enhancing her farm income shortly.

#### **Impact and Outcomes**

- A productive asset has been created in the name of the household.
- She has ensured the border plantation of 12 horticulture plants.
- Pigeon pea and Daincha (green manure) cultivation in the bund area of the farm pond.
- 90 numbers of betel nut plants are in the farm pond's nearby area.
- The vegetative coverage of the area has increased through intercropping of vegetables.
- Supplements the nutritional needs of the household.

In the first year itself, she was able to harvest a total of 90 kg of pigeon pea (Arhar) from her bunding cultivation, which she had never practiced earlier. The monetary value of the production is approximately ₹7,000. Before the intervention, usually male members of the family were majorly involved in agriculture-related activities in the area, but after the intervention, there has been a gradual change in the scenario. Pranati Nayak regularly visiting and takes care of her pigeon pea farm and betel nut plantation every alternate day. This has enhanced her confidence and vision for her farming practices in the near future.



#### **Challenges and Learnings**

Pranati had visualised that the farm pond could harvest 2.5 to 3 lakh litres of rainwater. However, the water harvested in the first year was less due to irregular rainfall and soil type. As a result, she could not cultivate the second crop of vegetables.

Pest attack in pigeon pea was a major challenge at the flowering stage and could lower the production.

Sticking to timely and early sowing of pigeon pea seeds can improve the yield.

Adopting integrated pest management to avoid insect and pest attacks.

Regular application of organic manure to increase the fertility of the land.

Name of Crop	No. of Plants	Production (kg)	Rate/kg (₹)	Gross Expected Income (₹)
Pigeon Pea cultivation	250	90	80	7,200
Betel Nut	90	Yet to be started	350	47,000
Horticulture plants	12	Yet to be started		10,000

Apart from life-saving irrigation, the family will earn a gross income of more than ₹60,000 /-additionally from this particular intervention, enhancing the family's income level.













Accelerating holistic development through Education Programmes and WASH initiatives to bridge learning gaps for the children at the village level and enhance access to safe drinking water and sanitation facilities for rural tribal households.



Awareness is an Antidote which Heals and Saves Lives -Muniguda, Odisha

Rayagada district comprises 11 blocks, Muniguda being one of them. The block consists of 17 Gram Panchayats spread over 404 villages. Among those,125 villages in 10 Panchayats are difficultto-reach areas. The ICDS project in Muniguda comprises seven sectors having 187 Anganwadi Centres (AWCs) (Main-139 and Mini-38) but only 139 Village Health, Sanitation and Nutrition Day (VHSND) points. There is one Community Health Center (CHC), four Public Health Centers (PHCs), four Health centres and 23 Sub-centres for providing healthcare services in the block. Ninety-five villages have been declared 'SAMPurNA villages' by the Health Department of Government of Odisha, and additional 30 villages have been identified by Harsha Trust as 'Hard-To-Reach areas'.



SAMPurNA (Sishu Abom Matru Mrityuhara Purna Nirakaran Abhijan): A scheme launched by the Govt. of Odisha in the year 2017, aimed to ensure immunisation and reduce IMR and MMR by providing financial support of ₹1,000 to expectant mothers coming from areas where the access of four-wheeler ambulance services is not available so that they can make their transport arrangements to reach the nearest public health facility for timely delivery. It lays special emphasis on vulnerable pockets in 15 tribal-dominated districts of Odisha.

**Hard-To-Reach areas:** Remote areas which lack ambulance facilities, are difficult to reach by four-wheelers, can be reached mostly by walking, are covered by dense forests, with poor network connectivity have been identified by Harsha Trust as 'Hard-To-Reach areas'.

Harsha Trust is implementing the Nutrition and Health project in Muniguda block with support from the Azim Premji Foundation (APF) in collaboration with the ICDS and Health department to improve the nutritional status of children under five, pregnant and lactating women. The project period is from 1st September 2022 to 30th November 2023, starting with staff recruitment and capacity building programmes, followed by intervention.

#### **Lower Penetration of Community Health Initiatives**

Before the intervention of Harsha Trust, awareness and participation of women – especially mothers - regarding VHSND was very low. This led to a low participation of eligible women and children at the VHSND. This meant insufficient growth monitoring of children under the age of 5 years. This is especially true for hard-to-reach areas for which participation in VHSND was low because of both lack of awareness and accessibility.

Moreover, the community has unflinching trust in traditional healers/Jani/Disari's treatment. So, people prefer primary treatment from their Jani/ Disari in case of any illness and during pregnancy. There are villages where even ambulances cannot transport critical patients to the nearest health centre and SAM (Severe Acute Malnutrition) children and pregnant mothers for routine health checkups. The inaccessibility of health services in difficult terrains, limited faith in modern healthcare (viz. allopathy) and low awareness about health and nutrition-related entitlements and services amona communities limit their ability to get timely health services, causing maternal and child mortalities.

#### **Convergence for Streamlining Public Health**

To regularise the VHSND and growth monitoring of children, Harsha Trust initiated the Block level launching of the project and regular meetings with ICDS and Health departments to build rapport, coordination and acceptance. Monthly updates have been submitted to the ICDS and Health department. Supervisors and Poshan Saathis are continuously visiting and supporting the Front-Line Workers (FLWs) in VHSND and supporting them in Growth monitoring, Home Ration (THR) distribution, immunisation days and observation of relevant days and other activities in the field. Supervisors and Poshan Saathis are participating in the Sector meetings of ICDS. The Programme Manager, CBO,

and MIS team are also addressing the field-level difficulties with the support of AWI; Poshan Saathis informed the child's parents to ensure regular growth monitoring, by which the nutritional status can be identified. Harsha Team members have worked with the ICDS functionaries, ASHA and ANM to organise the VHSND at a location closer to such areas. They have also ensured that pregnant women and lactating mothers in the due do not receive Ante Natal Care and Post Natal Care. In arch 2023, Harsha Trust, Nutrition & Health project team prepared a plan with ICDS supervisors and AWWs to observe the 'Ojan Utsav' to ensure 100% growth monitoring of children under the age of five.

#### Quick Response Team (QRT)

The induction of the "Quick Response Team (QRT)" is a unique initiative of Harsha Trust-APF Nutrition and Health project. The basic role of QRT is to provide immediate emergency health services to SAM/ ill children and High-Risk Pregnant women (HRP) through proper counselling and transportation so that they can be treated quickly and chances of mortality can be reduced. QRT also does follow-up visits and takes necessary steps to monitor and address the health condition. One four-wheeler vehicle has been provided to QRT, dedicated to transporting SAM children and HRP for health check-ups.

The team started working in January 2023. The QRT consists of a Nutrition Counsellor and an ANM. After the identification of a Severely Acute Malnutrition (SAM) child in Growth measurement and a High-Risk Pregnant mother (HRP) in the VHSND, the information comes from Poshan Saathis and Supervisors to the QRT through MIS.

QRT prepares the visit plan with guidance and support of the Programme Coordinator, Programme Manager and MIS team every week and shares it with Supervisors accordingly for accessing the support from Poshan Saathis, AWC/ASHA/ANM/PRIs during counselling and transportation to medical facility for health check-ups.

QRT conducts both individual and group counselling through picture cards and telling case stories with the support of Frontline Workers and PRI members. QRT conducts awareness and counselling sessions on the necessity of health check-ups, sanitation & hygiene, feeding frequency, quality and quantity of

feeding, etc. A visiting card has been developed for the QRT and shared with the community, by which HRP women and parents of SAM children can communicate with QRT as and when in need. The review of progress is done regularly, encouraging the QRT to continue with their best efforts.

#### Inspiring Journey of Budhubari Jakesika

Earlier, mothers used to rely on local midwives and opted for home deliveries of infants, as they firmly believed that any pregnant woman who crossed beyond the limits of the village deity for delivering her child would be cursed to have a stillbirth. Through regular nutrition counselling and awareness programmes by our Supervisor, Poshan Sathi, Nutrition Counsellor and ANM (QRT) in collaboration with govt. ANM, ASHA, AWW and ICDS Supervisor, a slow yet gradual shift towards VHSNDs happening in the same village and institutional deliveries has been seen. A case in point can be Budhubari Jakesika, who belongs to a SAMPurNA village which is on undulating land, inaccessible by ambulance and 20 km away from CHC Muniguda. With support from professionals and a QRT vehicle, she could avail free of cost antenatal check-up under the Pradhan Mantri Surakshit Matritva Abhiyan (PM SMA) and delivered a healthy child at CHC, Muniguda and both were duly immunised.



#### **Challenges and Learnings**

Building rapport and collaborating with different stakeholders took time to achieve.

In hard-to-reach areas, QRT cannot cover 100% of planned visits in the same month.

At times, QRT cannot meet the family members in case of their unavailability at home during the QRT visit.

The community is requested to provide lunch during QRT visits because the team works throughout the day for the health check-up.

Language is a barrier to spreading awareness and counselling in the interior PVTG villages.

#### Results - Post Intervention

The child growth monitoring in the Presence of Poshan Saathi at the VHSND gradually increased:

62%	74%	90%
January	February	March
2023	2023	2023



The ANC & PNC health check-ups have also **increased to 90%** with the support of Poshan Saathis.

Regular and appropriate awarenessbuilding activities have enhanced participation in VHSND. Also, with the support and active efforts of ICDS and Health functionaries, VHSND has been regularised in 7 points such as Gunjapai, Dhandra, Melchua, Alishavatta, Palkapada, Kudubaru, and Serubaru w, here the services were earlier being given at other points. Further, growth monitoring has been regularised in 29 AWCs. Involvement of the child's parents, PRI members and other village-level institutions in growth monitoring and VHSND is crucial to regularise and sustain it.

The QRT reached 65% to 70% of SAM children and HRP women in March 2023. QRT has done 1st-time visits and counselled 189 SAM children and done 2nd-time visits to 107 SAM children out of 189 children by March 2023. QRT has referred 44 children to PHC, 60 children to CHC, five children to DHH and 12 children to the Nutrition Rehabilitation Centre (NRC), Rayagada, for health check-ups. At the same time, QRT visited and did 1st time counselling for 177 High-Risk Pregnancy women and 2nd time counselling for 55 High-Risk Pregnancy women. The team also referred 34 HRPs to PHC, 75 HRP to CHC and 2 HRP to DHH for ante-natal check-up for safe delivery.







For three years, UNICEF has been the knowledge partner in restructuring the Anganwadi Centres (AWC) in Building as Learning Aid (BaLA) model. It's an innovative approach that integrates the physical infrastructure of Anganwadi centres with learning aids to create an engaging and stimulating environment for preschool children.

The building has distinctive features like ramps, railings, blind tiles, a well-furnished kitchen, WaSHcompliant child-friendly toilets, an interactive classroom with eye-catching art, and many more. To focus on the specified focus groups under the ICDS program, such as children, adolescent girls and

pregnant-cum-lactating mothers, separate toilets with water connections have been ensured. Also, the building has a water recharge pit to harvest the rainwater. This year, we renovated the following eight AWCs as per the UNICEF standard with the support of Paradeep Phospates Ltd.

To enhance the attractiveness of the Anganwadi centres and make them catchy for preschool children, BaLA art has been ensured. As a result of this intervention, better infrastructure was ensured in the village with all the integrated facilities inside the Anganwadi premises, increasing the overall learning and holistic growth from the early stage itself.

Sl. No.	Renovation work in AWC 2022-2023	No. of Children benefitted	No. of Adolescent Girls benefitted	No. of Pregnant and Lactating  Mothers benefitted
1	Santara	27	51	9
2	Talapada	28	38	12
3	Mangrajpur-1	20	49	14
4	Pratappur	18	25	14
5	Kaliapata	33	28	21
6	Barunakandha	22	34	18
7	Chasapada	18	22	11
8	Ghodamara	18	27	13
	TOTAL	184	274	112



# FARMER PRODUCER ORGANISATIONS













Harsha Trust has been promoting self-reliant Farmer Producer Organisations (FPOs) to provide end-to-end support in Production, Harvesting, Aggregation, Procurement (grading, pooling, handling), Processing, Value Addition, Marketing and Export of primary produce of members.

So far, 46 FPOs have been promoted by Harsha Trust, engaging and supporting 24,773 farmers covering 42 blocks in 9 districts of Odisha.

The FPOs play a critical role in enhancing the stake of farmers in the value chain through input support, technical knowledge, production, aggregation of the produce, processing/value addition, storage and

marketing by eliminating the chain of intermediaries and providing higher returns to the members through the direct transfer of profits.







# The Journey of Sahayak Farmer Producer Company Limited

Sahayak Farmer Producer Company Limited was formed in 2016 with a vision of "Ensuring end-toend services to members for achieving a sustained growth path to enhance Production, Productivity and Profitability and Promoting Farmer-Friendly Technology and Market-Driven Intervention primarily through women's community-based organisation."

The FPO supports 88 villages in the Papadahandi block of Nabarangpur district. (355 SHGs and 47 CLFs in 18 GPs) through extensive services like Agriinputs, Technology for Production Enhancement, Short-term Credit for Seasonal Crops, Value-Addition, Output and Market Linkages.

## SAHAYAK WOMEN PRODUCER COMPANY LTD. AT A GLANCE

Registered Office	Goti Street, Main Road, Papadahandi-764071				
Administrative Office	Cool Chamber, Sirsi, Papadahandi, Nabarangpur-764071				
Date of Registration	27/05/2016				
Registration No.	U01100OR2016PTC025305				
Act/s under which registered	Companies Act, 2013				
Permanent Account No (PAN)	AAXCS7771E				
No of shareholders	3,296				
Paid-up capital (₹)	6,82,300				
<b>Business Activity</b>	Input Supply: Seed, Fertilisers, Pesticides				
	Agri-equipment				
	Cattle Feeds				
	Maize, Tamarind and Pulses Procurement				
	Trading				
Licenses	Seeds, Pesticides, Fertiliser, Trader				
Own Godown	800 sq.ft.				
FPO Outlet	1 No.				
<u> </u>	·				

## **Unlocking Business Potential through FPC**

Getting access to Credit and timely input supply for agriculture was a distant dream of women farmers of the Papadahandi block before 2016. Although SHGs and CLFs are established at the village level, their contribution towards economic activities was minimal. These SHGs required strategic support towards enhancing agriculture production and income, for which the integration of CLFs into a Farmer Producer Company was imperative.

The SHGs provided a platform to initiate meetings and FGDs on the felt need of an FPC. The conceptualisation of FPC at the Gram Panchayat level, followed by cluster-level meetings, provided traction for the community to constitute an FPC. Harsha Trust's intervention towards enabling the SHGs and CLFs for member mobilisation and registration of FPC was the major leap towards the progressive Journey of women farmers of Papadahandi.

## Key Services Provided by the FPC

- Institution Strengthening (SHG and CLF meeting, Recordkeeping, Audit, Gradation)
- Individual Livelihood Planning
- Prepare a Business Development Plan (BDP) to avail Credit Support from the Bank and MFI
- Training and capacity building programme for BODs, CRP, LE and farmers.
- Quality Input Supply
- Technical Support through Cadre of CSPs
- Technologies for Production and Value Addition
- Market Information Services
- Output marketing of Maize, Tamarind and pulses
- Livestock services Supply quality Cattle feed to farmers, Maintain Livestock Deworming and Vaccination Cycle

#### Results

By partnering with Rang De, the enhanced access to Credit provided timely inputs to the FPC members. To diversify the business, FPC also undertakes the business activity of producing and marketing vegetables, millet, paddy and maise. The members could receive timely payment through collective marketing of their produce.

Name of the Component	Achievement	
No. of Shareholders	3,296 HH	
No. of Share Holders availing	1,555 HH	
Input or Output services		
Amount of Agri-Equipment sold	₹0.84 Lakh	
Amount of Fertilizers sold	₹8.72 Lakh	
Amount of Micronutrients sold	₹0.04 Lakh	
Amount of Pesticides sold	₹3.25 Lakh	
Amount of Seeds sold	₹33.72 Lakh	
Amount of Tamarind sold	₹11.82 Lakh	
Amount of Maize sold	₹60,71,920/-	
	(278MT)	
Business Turnover in 2022-2023 FY	₹1.20 Cr	
Net Profit earned	₹0.55 Lakh	

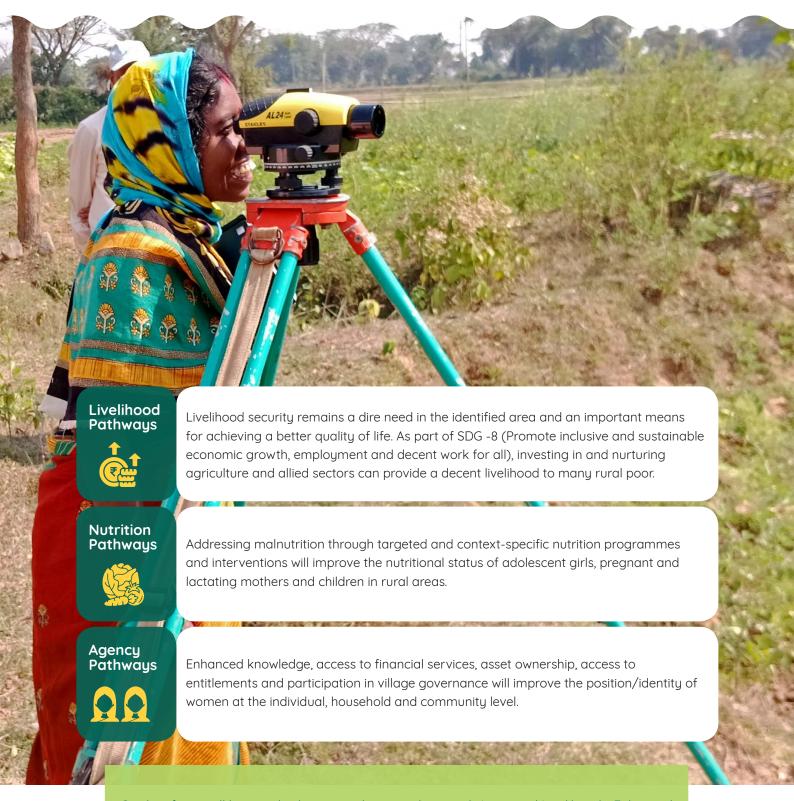


#### Learnings

- Three-tier self-sustainable farmer institutions boost the FPC business as well as the income of the farmers
- Collaboration with the government and Research Institutions reduces the financial burden of the FPOs.
- Proper and timely service delivery ensures regular community contribution, increasing ownership and sustainability.



# ENVISIONING THE YEARS AHEAD



Our key focus will be a multi-dimensional approach towards Improved Livelihoods, Enhanced Nutrition and Improved Women's Agencies. Harsha Trust envisions- "Enhanced quality of life of 2,50,000 rural poor households of 13 districts of Odisha and two districts of Madhya Pradesh through women-centric interventions" in the next three years.

# **OUR HUMAN RESOURCES**

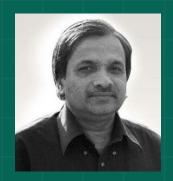
Harsha Trust is committed to fostering an environment where diversity and inclusion are integrated and valued. We provide a welcoming space to passionate professionals from various backgrounds, creating a vibrant and impactful work environment. The collaboration between employees and farmers fosters a symbiotic relationship that benefits both and contributes to the overall development of agriculture and livelihoods.

Position	Total No.	No. of Females	No. of Males
DA/Executive	85	27	58
Team Leader	22	2	20
Coordinator	11	3	8
Contractual	23	5	18
Consultant	1	1	0
	142	38	104





# OUR BOARD



**Dr. Aurobindo Behera** has served Odisha as a District Collector, Revenue Divisional Commissioner, Secretary to Chief Minister, Secretary – Departments of Forest and Environment, ST and SC Development, Rural Development, Public Works Department, and Water Resources Department, etc. He was also the Managing Director, Odisha State Disaster Management, Additional CMD, Industrial Development Corporation of Odisha, and a member of the Board of Revenue. He is associated with several civil society initiatives in education, tribal affairs, and sanitation.



Mr. Gautam Kumar Pradhan has worked for 19 years with Harsha Trust with a rich experience in enhancing the livelihoods of poor and vulnerable tribes in Odisha. He led the organization as Executive Director for the period 2012-2017. He has played an instrumental role in transforming the organization to be an institution of excellence in the field of rural livelihoods and improving the quality of life of rural poor adhering to the mission, vision, and values of the organization by creating an ecosystem for good governance, synergy for teamwork and equal opportunity for all. The year 2017 onwards he focused on establishing robust systems and processes at Harsha Trust fostering its journey towards excellence. He is currently working as Regional Head, Odisha and Jharkhand, Selco Foundation.



Dr. Nivedita Narain has a PhD in Management Studies from the Indian Institute of Technology Delhi; a master's in Professional Studies in International Development Policy from Cornell University in the USA; a Post-graduate Diploma in Rural Management from the Institute of Rural Management, Anand. She is a certified trainer in the Myers Briggs Type Indicator, training of trainers, and entrepreneurial motivation trainer at NIESBUD (National Institute for Small Business and Entrepreneurship Development) and is a founder member of the Institute for Group Facilitators. Nivedita has led PRADAN's Human Resources Development Unit, and Research and Resource Centre and has also led PRADAN's initiative to institutionalise development practice in the higher education sector, in collaboration with Ambedkar University Delhi. She is currently the CEO, CAF India.



Ms. Nisha Jamvwal's works in branding, luxury, social causes, Interiors & design, blend seamlessly, converting her passion for the creative and visual arts into her work where all synergise seamlessly. She authors six columns as well and does television shows on design. In Nisha you find adversity has become an ally where her inspiring story even drew the attention of international bestselling author Jeffrey Archer so that he has chronicled her life story in 'And Thereby Hangs A Tale' where she is called by her real name. Nisha is also a craft crusader and works to save our traditional heritage. She has authored two books on traditional Indian craft & is working also with activist Abha Singh to make India Accessible.



Ms. Bishakha Bhanja is a postgraduate in Political Science, Graduate in Law, and holds a diploma in "Law, Development, and Justice" from ISS, The Hague. She has 30 years of experience in the development sector and worked in international organizations like OXFAM, Lutheran World Service, DFID, Diakonia, and Water Aid. Earlier she was the country representative of India for Diakonia. She was the Regional Representative of Water Aid. Presently she is actively involved with the National Alliance of Women Odisha (NAWO) as its Core Committeee Member and Program Director. She is an expert in imparting gender training to various categories of people while contributing 15 years working on trafficking and migration issues in her different capacities. She is a pioneer in visualizing the issues of trafficking in Odisha beyond commercial sexual exploitation and the importance of safe migration.



**Prof D. V Ramana** is a Professor of Accounting at Xavier Institute of Management, Bhubaneswar. His teaching interests are in the areas of Financial Accounting, Strategic Management Accounting and Regulatory Accounting and Finance. He has also worked as a senior consultant with the Price waterhouse Coopers (PwC) ltd. He is also associated with many government enterprises as Director. He is engaged in the action research of making management education relevant for the people doing business on streets (BOS). The experiment was to provide support to the mini and micro enterprises operating at the base of the pyramid (BOP).



Mr. Umi Daniel has more than 24 years of experience in the social sector holding his Masters in Social Work. He is Director, Migration and Education in the Aide et Action International in South Asia. He is leading Action Aid's South Asia Team that addresses the issues of migrant children's inclusion & Development. Also, he has set up a Migration & Education thematic unit known as MiRC (Migration Information & Resource Centre). He leads MiRC in carrying out the research, training, program designing, policy briefing, and advocacy on the rights and entitlement of internal migrant workers and children in India. He worked closely with the migrant children & workers across geographies Andhra Pradesh, Odisha, Tamil Nadu, and Telangana for psychosocial aspects and innovating education for children affected in the Odisha Super cyclone. He also worked closely with the Ministry of Rural development on designing an Intensive Participatory Planning Exercise (IPPE-1) for the implementation of MGNREGS in India.

# **OUR FINANCES**

#### HARSHA TRUST

Reg. Office: 217/B, Bayababa Matha Lane, Unit - IX FLats, Bhubaneswar - 751 022 Admin Office: 1st Floor, Plot No.-N1/36, IRC Village, Nayapalli, Bhubaneswar - 751015

## **BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31ST MARCH 2023**

Particulars	Sch.	As at 31.03.2023		As at 31.03.2022	
		Amount (₹)	Amount (₹)	Amount (₹)	Amount (₹)
SOURCE OF FUNDS					
Capital Fund	"A"	48,373,858.43		44,364,633.64	
Revolving Fund	"B"	12,675,447.30		12,524,916.30	
Restricted Fund	"C"	42,124,777.47	103,174,083.20	41,098,473.20	97,988,023.14
Total			103,174,083.20		97,988,023.14
APPLICATION OF FUNDS FIXED ASSETS Gross Block Less: Depreciation Net Block	"D"	37,080,549.00 -	37,080,549.00	34,413,265.00 -	34,413,265.00
			, , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , ,		, ,
INVESTMENTS	"E"		7,032,017.50		5,870,778.50
CURRENT ASSETS, LOANS & ADVANCES: CURRENT ASSETS:					
Cash and Bank Balances	"F"	46,985,751.71		45,608,049.22	
Loans & Advances	"G"	15,606,477.44		15,291,024.77	
Grant Receivable	"H"	3,434,696.01		22,064,437.75	
LESS: CURRENT LIABLTIES & PROVISIONS:	" "	66,026,925.16		82,963,511.74 25,259,532.10	
NET CURRENT ASSETS:			59,061,516.70		57,703,979.64
TOTAL			103,174,083.20		97,988,023.14

## Accounting Policies and Notes on Accounts "N"

Note: Schedules A to M and N referred to above form an integral part of the Balace Sheet as per our report of even date

For SPP ASSOCIATES **Chartered Accountants** 

FRN-322862E

Partner

M. No:060051 Place:Bhubaneswar Date: 25.09.2023

UDIN: 23060051BGWLBJ5484

For HARSHA TRUST

Bishakha Bhanja

Gautam Kumar Pradhar **Managing Trustee** Place :Bhubaneswar Date: 25.09.2023

Trustee Place :Bhubaneswar Date: 25.09.2023

Rashmi Allekda Rashmi Adlekha **Executive Director** Place: Bhubaneswar

Date: 25.09.2023

#### HARSHA TRUST

Reg. Office: 217/B, Bayababa Matha Lane, Unit - IX FLats, Bhubaneswar - 751 022 Admin Office: 1st Floor, Plot No.-N1/36, IRC Village, Nayapalli, Bhubaneswar - 751015

#### **INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT FOR THE YEAR ENDING 31ST MARCH 2023**

Particulars	Schedules	For the Year Ending	
		31.03.2023	31.03.2022
Income			
Income from Contribution & Grant	"J"	208,834,513.92	229,524,870.02
Other Income	"K"	1,247,024.02	3,374,500.67
Total		210,081,537.94	232,899,370.69
Expenditure			
Project Execution Expenditure	"L"	206,019,808.25	229,828,576.02
Administrative Expenditure	"⋈"	2,706,533.90	2,321,995.51
Total		208,726,342.15	232,150,571.53
Excess of Income Over Expenditure		1,355,195.79	748,7999.16
Total		210,081,537.94	232,899,370.69
Amount transferred to B/S		1,355,195.79	748,799.16

## Accounting Policies and Notes on Accounts "N"

Accountant

Note: Schedules J to M and N referred to above form an integral part of the Balace Sheet as per our report of even date

For SPP ASSOCIATES **Chartered Accountants** 

FRN-322862E

CA. Bibhu P Mohapatra Partner M. No:060051

Place :Bhubaneswar Date: 25.09.2023

UDIN: 23060051BGWLBJ5484

For HARSHA TRUST

Pathan Gautam Kumar Pradhar **Managing Trustee** Place :Bhubaneswar

Date: 25.09.2023

Trustee Place :Bhubaneswar

Date: 25.09.2023

Rashmi Adlekha **Executive Director** Place :Bhubaneswar Date: 25.09.2023

Rashmi Allekda

# **OUR PARTNERS AND DONORS**

Our partnerships and collaboration with the Government, Funding Agencies, Research Institutions and other Civil Society Organisations leverage the collective potential of sustainable institutions and bring in a paradigm shift towards rural transformation.

# CSRs/Corporates, Foundations & Philanthropies, International Cooperation

























## Govt. of Odisha

















## Govt. of India









# **Research Institute**



# **OUR OFFICE ADDRESSES**

Team Name: Bhubaneswar Head office

District: Khordha

Harsha Trust, C/o- Birendra Narayan Tripathy, First floor, N1/36, IRC Village, Nayapalli, Bhubaneswar-751015, Ph-6743566836

Team Name: Paradeep **District:** Jagatsinghpur

At-16 Number, Hasina, Near Nilotpala Hotel, PO- Mangarajpur, Block / PS- Kujang

Dist-Jagatsinghpur PIN: 754141

Team Name: Jharigaon District: Nabaranapur

C/O Sibram Satapati, At-Chitabeda, PO-Jharigaon,

PS-Jharigaon, Block-Jharigaon

District- Nabaranapur PIN-764076, Ph-7873973456

Team Name: Boipariguda

District: Koraput

C/O- Dilip Ratha, VIP colony, Boipariguda block,

PO-Boipariguda,

PIN-764043, Ph-9937230627

Team Name: Thuamul Rampur

District: Kalahandi

C/O Bhagaban Das, In front of Agriculture Office,

Th. Rampur, Kalahandi, Odisha, PIN-766037, Ph-8598081677

Team Name: Muniquda District: Rayagada

C/O- Sitaram Sahu, Opposite CHC, Muniguda PO-

Muniguda, PS- Muniguda,

Block- Muniguda, District- Rayagada,

PIN-765020, Ph-7608050855

Team Name: Kundra **District:** Koraput

Near Maa Gruha, Hatapada Sahi, Kundra,

District-Koraput

PIN-764002, Ph-9853755716

Team Name: Kosagumuda District: Nabarangpur

C/O Radhika Raut, Jagadev sahi, Near TVS showroom, Kosagumuda,

Dist Nabarangpur

PIN-764061, Ph-9437862868

Team Name: Sikarpai District: Rayagada

C/O-Bugata Jyoti, Gandhi Building,

Room No-2, At/PO: Sikarpai, Via/Block-Kalyansingpur,

District-Rayagada, PIN-765017, Ph-8658720452

Team Name: Malkangiri District: Malkangiri

C/O Manorama Singh, At: Samabayaguda, PO/Block: Malkangiri, Dist: Malkangiri,

PIN-764048, Ph-7908038782

Team Name: Jagatsinghpur District: Jagatsinghpur

C/O Rajkishor Panda, Jayabada, Panisalia, Alipingal Road, Near Sathibhauni Temple and

Gyanaprabha Graphics, Block/District-Jagatsingpur,

PIN - 754103, Ph-8018179799

Team Name: Bandhugaon

**District:** Koraput

C/O- Mukunda Behera, Near Sai Mandir,

At-R.K. Nagar, Post/Via-Bandhugaon, Dist-Koraput,

PIN-764027, Ph-9668452773

Team Name: Hatadihi District: Keonihar C/O-Kumudini Mohanty

At-Galigopalpur, Chhenapadi PO-Hatadihi, PIN -758083 (Keonjhar, Odisha), Ph-9437900986

Team Name: Kuarmunda District: Sundergarh,

C/O: Moti Singh, AT/PO: Kuarmunda, Master Colony,

Near Block Office, Dist: Sundergarh,

PIN: 770039, Ph-9938013663

Team Name: Bonai District: Sundergarh, C/O: Subash Pradhan,

AT/PO: Bonai (Kantajodi Road), Dist: Sundergarh,

PIN: 770038, Ph-9438672965

Team Name: Rajgangpur District: Sundergarh

C/O: Prativa Puruseth, Gouda pada, Near OMSIST college, At/PO-Rajgangpur,

Dist.- Sundergarh,

PIN-770017, Ph-7787872939

Team Name: CBBO **District:** Dhenkanal

Chinmaya Bhuyan, C/O- Sangram Keshari Singh

At-Panchkania, PO-Mangalpur, PS-Dhenkanal Sadar Dist.Dhenkanal PIN-759015, Ph-9439720098, 7008763187

Team Name: Borigumma

District: Koraput

C/O Pendra Prasad Patanaik,

At-Damodar Nagar (Near Block Office) PO/Via/PS - Borigumma, District-Koraput,

PIN - 764056. Ph-9438399219

Team Name: Khandwa

**District:** Khandwa (Madhya Pradesh)

C/O Sandeep Prakash Sonar, House No-LIG-A-974,

Ram Nagar, Jaswadi Road,

Behind Sai Baba Mandir, Ward No-8, Dist-Khandwa,

Madhua Pradesh.

PIN-450001, Ph-7869116609

Team Name: Sheopur

**District:** Sheopur (Madhya Pradesh)

C/O Vishal Jat, House no. 10, Housing Board Colony,

By-pass Road, Near Kendriya Vidyalaya,

Dist.-Sheopur, Madhya Pradesh PIN-476337, Ph-8319499602

Team Name: Pottangi **District:** Koraput

C/O: Rabindra Kumar Tripathy, Gate Sahi,

Block Colony, At/Po/Via: Pottangi

Dist: Koraput, PIN: 764039, Ph-8249969345

Team Name: Bissamcuttack

District: Rayagada

Centre for Rural Innovation, Harsha Trust,

Village: Mundiguda, PO: Jhigidi, Via: Bissamcuttack, Dist.: Rayagada,

PIN: 765019, Ph-9668437418

Team Name: Golamunda

District: Kalahandi

At-Basanta Bishi New House,

Near Gram Panchayat Office, Post-Golamunda, Dist- Kalahandi, PIN-766016, Ph-9937538109

Team Name: Papadahandi District: Nabarangpur

Chamar Street, PO-Papadahandi,

Dist.-Nabarangpur,

PIN: 764071, Ph-7077946988

Team Name: Joda District: Keonjhar

Joda, At/Po: - Rimuli (New PHC Road),

Via-Champua, Dist-Keonjhar PIN:-758047, Ph-8249992151

Team Name: Nandapur

**District:** Koraput

C/O- Upendra Talamari, At- DP Camp, Main Road,

Kulabir, PO-Padwa,

Block-Nandapur, Dist-Koraput PIN-764038, Ph-6371664642

Team Name: Nabarangpur District: Nabaranapur

Near Pandrani Temple Ichhabatiguda,

At/PO/Dist.- Nabarangpur, PIN- 764059, Ph-9178787347

Team Name: ITC- MSK Project Khordha

**District:** Khordha

D/1, Duplex, Ground Flour, Nature Avenue Colony,

Mukundprasad, Khorda - 752057,

Ph-9668603128

Team Name: ITC-MSK Project District: Ganjam House No. 126

Shiv-Padma Habitat, Bharat Bihar, 2nd Lane

Khodasingi, Berhampur- 760010

Ph-9439513525

**Team Name**: Kalimela **District:** Malkangiri

C/O- Kamal Mandal, AT/PO/PS- Kalimela, EPDP Colony, Near AWC, PIN-764047

Team Name: Sukma dornapal

District: Sukma

C/O Rahul Rajput Behind Hero showroom PO-dornapal, Tahsil-dornapal, Block-konta PIN-494122, District Sukma Chhattisgarh



# NOTES ..... .....



