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NewsUpdate

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**People Led
Development**
toward community
development &
sustainability

People Led Development towards community development and sustainability

Report by Shimray Mungreiphy, AHO (PSS), Edited by Patrick Hansda, Caritas India



“Give a man a fish and you feed him for a day; teach a man how to fish and you feed him for a lifetime”. The saying stands relevant in the context of community development. The objective is to provide sustainable solutions emerging out of the community instead of giving temporary support based on external felt needs.

Our strong realisation having worked with community for decades is that Community by nature has inherent strength to handle its complexities and challenges. Hence, building their capacity coupled with showing a path of their self-reflection and action for development is more constructive. In this regard U3 (Uttoran, Ujivana & Ujeevula) programmes in West Bengal, Karnataka and Telanga respectively aimed at three major areas namely improving livelihood options, Rights and entitlement and strengthening institutions to facilitate transformation processes of the community..

Indigenous inhabitants of Mairu Basti village of Bagdogra, West Bengal has shown remarkable results in preventing the sand mining from Chenga River of their village. The illegal mining was causing destruction of river bed, environmental pollution, destruction of pasture, depletion of ground water level with increase number of accidents.

The process entails sensitizing Self-Help Groups (SHGs) constituted under UTTORAN programme about their rights, entitlements and livelihood options. Through community level intervention mass petitions were submitted to the Gram Sabha, Naxalbari Police Station, Naxalbari BDO and Irrigation Department for stopping the mining. The efforts were fruitless unless community blocked roads under the leadership of women's group and able to bring a full stop to the illegal mining in the area.

The programme made persistent efforts to mobilize communities for conscientization and made them aware about the ill impact of situation and possibilities for taking control of their own development. Communities were motivated to move from being passive recipients to active change agents and learnt to value and use the strength of the collective.

Similarly, women SHG 'Malige' of Gulbarga district of Karnataka received Rs. 91800/- for developing vermi compost units through a scheme coupled with MGNREGA scheme under Ujeevana programme. At present 30 vermi compost units are maintained by the group at RSK centre Kottanur. The profit gained by selling manure will be deposited to the SHG account once the sale starts.





Hence, Communities are encouraged to initiate grassroots level movements to gain greater self-reliance through livelihood options like improved agriculture, accessing rights and entitlements. The programme had created space for traditional platforms and institutions as an integral part of the development agenda and enabled people to make use of their skills, knowledge and practices for solving problems.

With People Led Development approach the joint review of U3 cluster programme supported by Misereor exhibited various individual and community level achievements and results through collective efforts. The changes happening among individuals and community through collectives effort is encouraging.

Implemented by 16 local partners in 16 districts and 18 blocks of Karnataka, Telengana and West Bengal was recently reviewed at Dharwad, Belgaum in Karnataka on 14-15 Nov. 2016. 43 participants including 10 Directors of different Diocesan Social Service Societies along with 16 co-ordinators/animators and representatives from Caritas

India Zonal and Head office staff participated in the review meeting of U3 programme.

The programme was inaugurated by Most Rev. Peter Machado, Bishop of Belgaum (Karnataka State). In his inaugural speech he informed that we all as human and development workers need to retrospect and take stock of how things happened for learning in order to progress with corrective measures.

Fr. Paul Moonjely, Assistant Director of Caritas India revisited the programme progress shared by the Partners from People Led Development perspective and provided input to concretise and document the change processes achieved through this programme.

A full-page background image showing a man climbing a tall palm tree. The man is shirtless, wearing a white headband and patterned shorts, with a basket hanging from his waist. He is positioned on the right side of the frame, climbing the trunk of a large palm tree that dominates the left and center. The sky is a clear, vibrant blue with some light clouds at the bottom right.

Step towards Cooperative Venture

Report by Fr. M. J. Suresh, Sivagangai SSS & Pramod Sharma, Caritas India
Edited by Patrick Hansda, Caritas India

Rosary's family was borrowing money from moneylenders to lease palm trees to make palm jaggery for their livelihood.

The income was very less as most of the amount was spent in settling the lease money to the landlords or moneylenders.

Sivagangai Social Service Society with the support of Caritas India extended financial assistance to Rosary that enabled her to lease the palm trees and prepare palm cakes. As a result, she was able to sell the product directly at the shops and earn good profit.

Palm Jaggery is the only business for the people of Sayalkudi village of Ramnad district of Tamil Nadu as palm and acacia trees are the only beneficial trees available in the block. Villagers used to borrow money from the moneylenders for leasing palm trees from the landlord.

The financial need of the family was difficult to meet as they had to sell palm jaggery to the same moneylenders at a lesser price.

Programme 'Promotion of Palm cake producer's cooperative for sustainable livelihood' tried to address the issue by training sayalkudi women on quality palm jaggeries production and by-production from palm juice, entrepreneurial skill development, team cooperating and cooperative system and marketing. It also extended financial support to the selected women for cooperative venture to free them from the clutches of moneylenders and middlemen.

Today, Rosary and many others are earning Rs.300/- per day by selling their palm jaggeries and supporting their family needs.

Farmer's self-sufficiency can be achieved through organic farming said minister

Report by Pradipta Chand (Zonal Thematic Officer), Edited by Patrick Hansda, Caritas India



NGO's have to come forward to promote organic farming, the agriculture minister said on Monday at Birsa Agriculture University, Ranchi.

Randhir Kumar Singh, Minister for Agriculture & Sugarcane Development, Animal Husbandry & Fisheries, Ranchi emphasized that systematic irrigation system needs to be made available in the farming sector. Special focus will be given to various irrigation infrastructure based on the topography of the village said the minister.

Bank loans will be provided to the farmers so that farmers could adopt new technology and become self-reliant.

He was addressing the farmers from 10 districts of Jharkhand during the farmers learning exchange programme organized by Caritas India on November 21, 2016 at Birsa Agriculture University, Ranchi. He also appreciated Caritas India's initiative in the field of organic farming, low cost farming and promotion of seed banks.

He lauded Caritas India for reaching to the geographically challenged areas with farmers friendly initiatives organized for smallholders and the most marginalized sections of the community through strengthening village level community institutions.

The learning exchange programme aimed to establish better linkages and networking between farmers and relevant institutions, research stations and State Governments.

The agriculture minister also said that farmer's self-sufficiency can be achieved by balancing the environment and promoting organic farming through improved quality production.

Minister assured farmers that in the next financial year 6500 Dhoba's (5% farm pond for irrigation) will be constructed throughout Jharkhand.

“Organisation is working for the livelihood of Smallholder and marginalized framers, landless, widows and single women headed family along with promotion of organic farming” informed Pradipta Chand, Zonal Thematic Officer of Caritas India.

Dean of Birsa Agriculture University (BAU), Raghav Thakur informed minister about the good work carried out by Caritas India for the upliftment of stallholders since last 5 years. Caritas India is one of the leading organisation which ensured 1500 soil health card to the farmers from the BAU which helped in taking informed decision about the soil management.