

Issue 240 | June 2017



NewsUpdate

A Caritas India weekly

Jharkhand farmers will
adopt agribusiness
approach for increased

**FOOD
SECURITY**



Jharkhand Farmers will adopt agribusiness approach for increased food security

Report by Pradipta Chand, Thematic Officer - NRM
Edited by Patrick Hansda, Documentation & Publications

Farmers in Agrarian Prosperity Program (APP) in Jharkhand will get increased food security and livelihood by opting for organic certification, Information communication technology (ICT), community managed collective marketing in the next phase.

Scottish Catholic International Aid Fund (SCIAF), the official aid and international development charity of the Catholic Church in Scotland financed the programme of Caritas India in Gumla District of Jharkhand to reduce poverty and increase food security and livelihood options for tribals.

“It was very interesting to see how the programme has moved along towards the programme outcomes and benefiting community towards fullness of life”, said Ms. Sadie Scullion, Program Officer, SCIAF during her programme visit on June 17, at Kurum village of APP. She had interacted with the community people on community development, ownership, management & optimal utilization of resources, linkages with local governments.

The programme is supporting 1207 tribal households in 10 villages of Palkot Block under Gumla District of Jharkhand. Following the approach of capacity building of the community, it had formed 42 farmers club, 1 smallholder farmer’s forum, 10 village committee (Gram Ekai), 05 water management committee, 10 community managed seed banks and 36 women self-help groups to ensure quality implementation for their overall development.

Impressive results have been seen in terms of increased crop production per year from 15 Qtls to 22 Qtls. Farmers have now diversified source of food crops adding 7 major crops and 19 vegetables to their food basket. There is progressive increase in soil and moisture conservation from the time of programme inception.

Community is confidently speaking of their contribution in community development through Self Help Groups and Panchayati Raj Institutions. Further, they would like to build on the programme success through various government schemes in a sustainable manner.

“It is worth having such project like APP where, community have been empowered to the point where they are now started taking ownership of community development and resources”, said Ms. Sadie.

She was impressed with the capacity development of the animators and their increased status at community, block and district level government departments for representing APP and establishing a visible status for integration of all adaptive initiatives at various level.



Caritas India and Misereor set its priority for next year campaign

Report by Patrick Hansda, Documentation & Publications



Caritas India and Misereor in Germany had set its priorities for the joint Lenten Campaign for next year. Both the organization has been working for the upliftment of poor, marginalized and disadvantaged section of the society.

Every year through Lenten campaign both the organisations raise the attention of people towards the burning issues to support the underprivileged. Misereor believes that poverty and environmental destruction can neither be treated in isolation, nor can they be overcome from the perspective of the one country or continent alone.

The joint campaign aspires for a just and more sustainable world with a fundamental socio-economic structural shift and a thorough review of the associated models of a good life and the common good.

Next year's campaign will be designed focusing on the Encyclical of Pope Francis 'Laudato Si' to strengthen our trust in the power of human interaction and to involve the whole human family in seeking sustainable and integral development in our 'common home'.

In this regard, five-member team of Misereor visited Caritas India in Maharashtra to capture the stories of change from the Jeevan PLE programme. The team visited Beed district of Aurangabad diocese to witness the change and collect information to design materials of the campaign.

Ms. Anja Hammers, Ms. Marijam Gunter, Ms. Karina Kirch, Mr. Florian Kopp, and Mr. Frederic Spohr from Misereor visited few villages and interacted with the community to understand their issues and their solutions.

The team visited Baranpur village to see the community empowerment and action to solve the issue of water in their village. Mr. Balasahe, the village sarpanch explain the whole process of community

participation, reflection, decision making and implementation to address the issue of water crisis in their village.

The community had constructed water conservation structures to arrest the rain water to recharge the ground level which can be used for the village. The community leveraged its own resources and collectively worked together and constructed 35 water conservation structures in the village. Now, the rain water does not go out from the sloppy terrain of the village but stays in the village. These trenches had stored 25 lakh liters of water which is used by the community for agriculture and household needs.

"Water is no more an issue and it helped in providing livelihood to the people, stopped 100% migration, increased education for children. Now villagers are happy as they don't have to walk for kilometers to fetch water which is now available in their village itself" shared Balasahe with the team.

Misereor team took interviews with different sections of the community to reestablish the facts from the community itself. They asked children, women, married couples and elders about this transformation and gathered their insights.

Team also visited Antharwanpimpri and Umri villages to witness the sustainable Agriculture Practices in terms of organic farming and community collective actions to avail their due entitlements from Government Schemes.

Misereor team expressed deep appreciation to the Caritas India team for their relentless efforts working in such far flung villages and bringing tremendous change. The team gathered all the information, facts and photographs needed to prepare materials for the Lenten Campaign.

Preventing climate change can begin at home

Report by Dr. Haridas VR, Incharge - Climate Adaptive Agriculture and Livelihood

The withdrawal of US from Paris agreement is a setback to the effective climate action. Being the largest historical emitter and the second largest current emitter of Green House Gases (GHG), US has a major role to play in reducing the carbon emission. This withdrawal will also affect their financial and technological support to the developing nations in climate adaptation and mitigation measures. World is getting warmer and climate change is a reality. Climate change is affecting our nations. We are already bearing the brunt of its consequences and this happens when the world is facing multiple climate irregularities which is manifested in the increased incidences of extreme weather conditions leading to disasters, water stress, variation in food production etc. The glaciers are melting causing severe flash floods and landslides which in turn causing disasters and widespread destructions every year. Melting of the glaciers and high level of soil erosion is also resulted in the sea erosion and submergence of the coastlines. Extreme weather conditions and high intensity rainfall are more frequent. The incidences of heat related and cold related deaths are increasing. Water borne illnesses and diseases vectors are on the rise. The coping mechanism of the poor and marginalized people crumbles with the extreme change in the climate leading to the loss of their lives and livelihoods.

The challenge is to maintain the momentum of climate finance for climate change mitigation and adaptation, as US withdraws their financial pledge of US\$3 billion for the Green Climate Fund (GCF). Hence this withdrawal should help galvanize greater action and forming new alliances and partnership for systematic planning and implementation of climate change mitigation and adaptation measures. We must fight climate change to reduce carbon emission and to become Carbon neutral. All

countries, whether small or big must come together, work together and act together in reducing carbon emissions with the prime aim to protect our mother earth.

This partnership should promote clean energy transition, massive afforestation of multi species, soil and water conservation measures to mitigate droughts and floods, sustainable farming practices to ensure food production. Community involvement in performing these measures will bring greater ownership from their end. If we all go in for a little local action – changing the things we can change within our own immediate surroundings for the better – the effects can be surprising and if every local community were to do the same, they could be truly staggering. Preventing climate change can begin at home!

India stands firm in her decision: The commitment of India to stick on to Paris agreement needs to be appreciated. India has announced various schemes and projects to shift from the traditional energy sources to renewable energy. At the time of Paris agreement our Prime Minister Mr. Narendra Modi said that India needs to meet the expectations of 125 crore people including 30 crores who are yet to get the electricity connections. The interest of India to produce 40% of its energy sources through renewable energy by 2030 and the plan to produce 100 Gigawatt solar energy by 2022 is our commitment to reduce carbon emission. Massive afforestation drive, soil and water conservation measures, promotion of sustainable farming practices can definitely help our country to meet our targets. Our Foreign Minister Ms. Sushma Swaraj on hearing the allegations of Mr. Trump that India signed Paris pact to get billions of dollars from the developed nations said “we are committed to the protection of our environment and this commitment is 5000 years old”. Worshipping nature is Indian ethos.





III Effects of Tobacco shared with Children of Mumbai

Report by Melvin Pangya, SO - Maharashtra
Edited by Patrick Hansda, Documentation & Publications

Most of the adult users of tobacco start tobacco use in childhood or adolescence. Therefore, it is imperative to understand the key factors influencing teenagers to start consuming tobacco products at that early stage.

Tobacco use has become serious problem among children in developing countries and especially India. India is second largest consumer of tobacco globally and about 20 million children of ages 10-14 are estimated to be tobacco-addicted according to a survey done by the National Sample Survey Organization of the Indian Government.

Caritas India observed Anti-Tobacco day to spread awareness among the children about ill effects of the tobacco's and gutkha at Shree Gadge Maharaj Vidyalay, Kurla West, Mumbai on June 27, 2017. Funded by Tata Social Welfare Trust, the programme Health Action Program for Progress of Youth (HAPPY) aims to promote health and combat substance use/abuse among youth in 40 schools.

The event was marked to spread the awareness among the children about ill effects of the tobacco's and gutkha. 64 students along with the special teachers, project coordinator and trainer of HAPPY project staff participated in the event.

Mrs. Varsha Sonawane, Project Coordinator of

HAPPY shared the purpose of the programme and stressed that "prevention is better than cure, as we should know the ill effects of the tobacco and Gutkha which is common in our area".

Dr. Roomani Shrivastav from Indian Cancer Society (ICS) interacted with the children about personal health and hygiene. She also emphasized on ill effects of the tobacco and gutkha. A video documentary was screened on cancer and its impact. She informed that ICS gives counselling and support for all those who want to get rid of tobacco.

Stressing majorly on chewing tobacco and gutkha, she informed that internal as well as external factors are contributing towards this addiction. Adolescents often get attracted to tobacco products due to family environment, peer pressure and surrounding of the child. Social media, Television and role model of the children especially hero's and celebrities influence children to fall for tobacco very easily. She insisted children to say "NO" to tobacco and gutkha.

Slogan writing and drawing competition was organized during the event. Class 10 students participated in the slogan writing on Anti-Tobacco and other participated in the drawing competition. Mr. Gode, principal of the school awarded prizes to the children as a token of appreciation.

Jitendra was worried because his 3 months old son Naman was constantly losing weight and his health was deteriorating day by day. He was suffering from Severe Acute Malnutrition (SAM). SAM is the most extreme and visible form of undernutrition. Children with severe acute malnutrition have very low weight for their height and severe muscle

wasting. Severe acute malnutrition is a major cause of death in children under 5, and its prevention and treatment are critical to child survival and development.

India ranks 120 out of 130 countries in prevalence of wasting (15.1%), or low weight for height, according to the 2016 Global Nutrition Report, which ranks

countries from lowest to highest prevalence.

SABAL, an integrated programme of Caritas India supported by Misereor helping Korku community in Khalwa block of Khandwa in Madhya Pradesh and Melghat region of Amravati district in Maharashtra to free themselves from chronic malnutrition and hunger. The

Fight against Malnutrition

Report by Robinson Robert, SABAL -Asst. Program Manager
Edited by Patrick Hansda, Documentation & Publications



programme addresses the major nutritional problems of public health significance in the Korku areas like Protein Energy Malnutrition (PEM), Vitamin A deficiency (VAD) and iron deficiency anemia (IDA).

Rakesh Karole, working for the Nutritional Health of SABAL programme identified Naman during the normal house visit. Naman belongs to the Korku tribe who deeply trust and believes in the local healer called Padiharas but he was also not able to treat the child and his parents were giving traditional remedies to Naman for curing the illness.

Rakesh gave counselling to the family member on the critical condition of the child & asked the parents to admit the child to the nearest Nutrition Rehabilitation Center (NRC) but parents were not agreeing. Rakesh never left hope but continuously visited Naman's family and counselled parents which made them agree to admit the child in NRC. After some primary checkups, Nurse & Doctor at NRC Khalwa referred Naman to the district hospital NRC Khandwa where he was given complete care for 15 days. With some additional treatment from private health facilities of Khandwa his condition

started improving and he gained 1.5Kg weight after the treatment.

At present his weight is 5.1 Kg just double of the first weight measured during the NRC Linkage. Now after two and half months of intensive care and support his weight was found doubled.

Rakesh regularly visiting Naman and guiding his parents to provide good nutritious diet. Now, after two and half months Naman's condition has improved positively. SABAL initiative has proved that SABAL is just not the word but is the voyage towards the welfare of the mankind.



Rescued Children in Puducherry rally against Child Labour

Report by Dr. John Arockiaraj, SO - Tamilnadu
Edited by Patrick Hansda, Documentation & Publications

Rescued children in Puducherry took out awareness rally against child labour on June 12, 2017. They were holding the placards raising slogans on importance of education and against child labour.

The rally was organised by Pondicherry Multipurpose Social Service Society Child line staff to observed world day against Child Labour and create awareness among public. The also undertook signature campaign and went around important streets of Puducherry to create awareness on not to employ children especially in hotels and establishments.

Flagged off by Mr. Kandasamy, Hon'ble Minister for Welfare, Puducherry Government, the rally started from the Urban Primary Health Centre in Odiansalai to Childline Office in Laporte Street. He also unfurled a banner on eliminating child labour in the district of Puducherry. The banner would educate and explain the people on Child Labour Prohibition and Regulation Amendment Act 2016 and the Punishment. Member of Legislative Assembly, Mr. Siva administered oath of protecting the rights of children during the occasion

While delivering his inaugural message the Director of PMSSS Fr.Arumai Selavam said "Child is meant to Learn and not to Earn" and continued saying that education is the best weapon to eliminate child labour from the Country.

During the discussion with Caritas India State Officer Dr. John Arockiaraj, he reiterated that PMSSS is using Udhayam programme to support for child rights and conscientise the parents not to give poverty as an excuse for children dropping out of school.

Udhayam programme is investing in children's education and means of creating resources to meet the educational expenses and for creating child friendly environment.