

# NewsUpdate

A Caritas India weekly



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# Contributing toward 4 crore plantation mission of State Govt.

Report by Mukund Deshmukh, Social Development Officer - CESSS  
Edited by Patrick Hansda, Documentation & Publications



If we are serious about conservation and protection of environment we need to plant more trees. The National Forest Policy aims and emphasizes at maintaining 33% of the country's geographical area under forest and green cover.

The Maharashtra Forest Department aims to plant 4 crore saplings all over the State between 1st to July 7th, 2017 to celebrate 'Vanmohotsav'. In this regard, Caritas India, Center for Environmental Studies in Social Sector (CESSS) organized one day program for awareness and sensitization of community on 4 crore plantation mission of State Government at CESSS and Malkapur village.

CESSS has been working for conservation and protection of environment by the Sustainable Agricultural practices and Natural Resource Management by the community led approach, as well as introduced existing various Natural resource management programs with support of community and government department for conservation Water, Soil, forest etc. to improve human life.

Since last two years, State Government introduced new initiatives for increasing green coverage of Maharashtra and conservation of environment. Every year from 1st to 7th July state government organize Plantation Week with support of all departments, civil societies, NGOs and community for the mass plantation program.

Since last 7 years Caritas India, CESSS has been regularly organizing plantation program at CESSS. Last year, Caritas India received the prestigious Chatrapati Shivaji Maharaj Vanshree Award for plantation for promoting the Green Mission.

On this plantation mission, CESSS has taken initiatives and organized awareness rally from CESSS to Malkapur village with participation of School children's, SHG members, Farmers field school members of CESSS, farmer groups, youth groups, religious, Govt. Officials, CESSS staff and villagers to attend the program and plant saplings in their house premises, schools, roads, CESSS campus and taken responsibility for protection of plants.

Chief guest Fr. Vipin in his speech focussed on increased involvement in protection and conservation of environment by the community leadership. In the plantation program CESSS has mobilized 400 saplings and planted in CESSS campus, CESSS land, School premises and around the Malkapur village. CESSS has given responsibility to each Farmer Field School members, School children and teachers to conserve plants for their better future.





# Building Climate Change Resilience of Tribal Communities

Report by K.A. Sebastian, SO - Madhya Pradesh  
 Edited by Patrick Hansda, Documentation & Publications

**D**ependence on climate has been the core of tribal communities since ages but with time unpredictable weather pattern and change in atmospheric pressure has made the communities more and more vulnerable.

No matter what, tribal communities of Bundhelkhand, Baghelkhand, Malwa and Vindhya range of Madhya Pradesh depends on weather for the survival of their families and communities. Caritas India initiating a programme 'Saksham' to build the climate change resilience of tribal communities to address their socio-economic and agriculture issues.

Supported by Misereor, the programme will cater to 27889 households with a population of 91000 from 152 villages in 102 panchayats of 16 Development blocks in Umaria, Indore, Dhar, Sehore, Jhabua, Ujjain, Sidhi, Sagar and Shivpuri districts of Madhya Pradesh.



A write-shop was organised with the four implementation partners to finalise the programme proposal at Bhopal between June 27-30, 2017. Recalling the programme orientation held in New Delhi, partners shared their aspiration to work on agriculture and climate resilience, volunteerism, Local Resource Mobilization and People Led Development.

The proposed programme aims to achieve enhanced food and nutrition security, diversified livelihood for smallholder farmers, rights realization and promotion of adaptive agriculture. The community will be trained on adaptive agriculture by popularizing and strengthening adaptive and climate change resilient agriculture, reviving traditional farming to build agriculture sovereignty and ensuring cordial relationship of communities' relationship with forest for food and livelihood.

Dr. Saju M.K., Manager, West Zone shared with the partners that People Led Development is an evolution of empowering animation from charity model through various previous approaches of development adopted by Caritas India. It stands on the pillars of people-led approach, powered and driven by people's resources, leads to people's self-reliance, and collectivism (unity & expression).

"To achieve agriculture sovereignty, we need to have traditional seeds, availability of water, Integrated Nutrient Management & Integrated Pest Management besides the market" said Dr. Saju.

Partners were facilitated with programme formats like proposal, budget and timelines to design the proposal.

The write shop was facilitated by Dr. Saju M.K., Zone Manager, West zone with the support of Mr. K. A. Sebastian, State Officer, Madhya Pradesh and Mr. Soju Mathew, Finance Officer, M.P. All the eight Diocesan Directors of Social Work along with their project coordinators from ANWC Bhopal, IDSSS Indore, JDSSS.

# Minimising the impact of disaster on livelihood at Mahanadi basin of Odisha

Report by P.J. Varkey, SO - Odisha  
Edited by Patrick Hansda, Documentation & Publications



Caritas India has designed a program to minimise the impact of disaster on livelihood of the people of Cuttack, Balasore and Sonepur districts of Odisha by strengthening the capacities of the people.

The programme was designed based on the vulnerability study conducted at Mahanadi Basin to identify and analyse food security and disaster related vulnerability and capacity of poor communities located at Mahanadi basin in Odisha.

Supported by Caritas Germany, the study will help to design the livelihood strategies for vulnerable populations' in Odisha. It also intended to identify appropriate programmatic areas of interventions and doable actions on livelihood enhancement and Disaster Risk Reduction.

To bring clarity and efficiency, staff of the DRR and Livelihood programme were oriented on the different dimensions of "Enhancing Resilient Livelihoods to Reduce Disaster Risk in Odisha" programme which was shared with the partners during two days' orientation from 26-27, June at Catholic Charities, Jatni, Odisha.

Dr. Pallab Kumar De, Thematic Manager of Caritas India presented the key connectivity between DRR and livelihood, core issues and possible roadmap for mitigating negative impact of disasters with the partners.

He also shared about the labour-based livelihood where most of the small landholders and landless rural households derives livelihoods by selling their labour. He pointed out that for their livelihoods, demand for labour, wage rates and prices of food are the critical factors.

Sharing about the exchange or market based livelihood, he said the rural households which produce surplus food and non-food agricultural products or non-farm goods earn their livelihoods by selling these surpluses in the market. The marketing system for these products and relative prices of what they sell and what they buy, affect their livelihoods.

He said, households without any income/earning/asset or able-bodied person to work depends for their livelihoods on transfers from the government or other social

organizations. Therefore, Government's social security and food assistance programs are important for them.

Disaster Risk Reduction aims to minimise vulnerabilities and disaster risks to avoid or limit the adverse impacts of hazards by prevention, mitigation and preparedness. The programme activities will reduce the direct impact of disaster on assets (i.e. houses are made more resilient to disasters, flood-resistant crop varieties are grown).

Recurrent cycles of flood/drought leave communities food insecure and create a cycle of indebtedness and poverty, affected households and communities are not prepared for such events. Traditional preparedness mechanisms are insufficient to protect livelihoods and assets.

Gaps also exist in accessing government schemes that could assist in preparation. Knowledge of MGNREGA, WASH and First Aid practices as well as storage of seed, grain and fodder is limited.

Income affected as a result of disasters and community cannot cope up easily. During floods/droughts farmers lose their crops as well as the seeds. Scientific practices for seed selection and storage are not followed.

Households are food secure only seven to nine months, following the December harvest which force them to migrate for labor jobs.

Under the strategic aspects, Dr. Pallab suggested to have Preparedness planning, Livelihood resilience measures, Access to Govt. entitlements and benefits, Disseminate good models for learning and replication and Advocacy in the programme.

Under the district level interdepartmental convergence process, Dr. Pallab and Mr. Varkey shared the initiative of Caritas India with OSDMA CGM Dr. K.L Misra at Bhubaneswar and apprised him about the programme. Dr. Mishra suggested to have formal letter of intent for collaboration and support from Caritas India which can be sent to all relevant departmental heads at district and block level.