

CONSOLIDATED FINAL REPORT

November – 2022 to October- 2024

PROJECT TITLE

**Promoting Sustainable Economic Wellbeing and
Creating Access to Quality Education
(PEACE)**

PROJECT No: IND 76746

SUPPORTED BY

MANOS UNIDAS



IMPLEMENTED BY

BALASORE SOCIAL SERVICE SOCIETY

Balasore Social Service Society (BSSS)

Vivekananda Marg, Balasore

Odisha-756001, Ph- 06782-296540

Email: talk2bsss@gmail.com

Website: www.bsssodisha.com

Contents

A. A.A. General information:	5
B. B. B.Acronyms	6
C. C.C.EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:-	7
D. D. D.INTRODUCTION:	7
E. E. E. Project background:	7
1. Overall Objective / Goal.....	10
2. Specific Objectives (SO)	10
3. Results (R) / Outputs:	10
F. F. E. General Activities:	11
R0.A.0.10 Letter of information to government officials.....	11
R0.A.0.10 Interview and selection of staff:.....	11
R0.A.0.10 Inauguration of the project:	12
R0.A.0.4 Capacity building of the staff.....	12
R0.0.6.& 0.7 Quarterly and monthly meeting of the staff:.....	12
R0.A.0.10 Annual evaluation & External evaluation:	14
R0.A.0.8 Workshop: MIS (Management Information System) and monitoring:	14
G. Project activities:	14
H. Result 1 (R1) Target community will have better knowledge on improved agriculture practices, Integrated Farming System (IFS) and organic cultivation which will ensure their food security	15
Activity -R1 A.0.5 –Orientation to staff on the project, objectives, roles and responsibilities:	15
Activity- R1 A.1.2–Orientation to communities on the intervention:	15
Activity -R.0 A.0.9-Base line survey:	16
Baseline Survey and Data Analysis	16
Activity - R.1.A.1.3 - Training on soil testing, nursery bed, seed and seedling treatment:.....	17
Activity - R1. A.1.5–Creation of seed village and quality seed management.....	22
Activity - R1. A.1.7-Different models creation on traditional/improved and sustainable agriculture practices/organic and climate resilient cultivation	25
Activity - R1.A.1.8 -Training on Rabi paddy cultivation and support seeds (paddy, pulses and cash crop):	26
Activity - R1A.1.9- Training and input support for organic cultivation and models:	28
Activity -R1.A.1.10 – Training on sustainable Integrated Farming System (IFS):	29
Activity-R1.A.1.11 –Model creation (Integrated Farming System):	30

Activity R0.A.0.2 – Development and dissemination of Information, education and communication (IEC) materials on climate smart livelihood, organic cultivation, IGP programs and government schemes:	30
Activity –R2.A.2.1 – Creation and strengthening of Farmers Hub:	31
Activity -R1. A.1.1 – Kharif paddy seed support:	32
Activity R1. A.1.1 –Backyard vegetable support:.....	Error! Bookmark not defined.
I. Result 2 (R2) Target community will have better knowledge and skills to have increased income through alternative income generation programs (IGP) Error! Bookmark not defined.	
Activity R2.A.2.2&2.3 – Training on different model of IGP for FC & SHG with input support:.....	34
Activity R2.A.2.4 – Training on value addition and market linkage:.....	35
Activity R2.A.2.5 – Exposure visit of SHGs to innovative IGP models:	35
Activity R3.A.3.1- Formation and strengthening of Farmers’ Clubs (FCs) and Self Help Groups (SHGs) at the target area (training on government schemes, book keeping, motivation on leadership skills and management.	37
J. Result 3 (R3) All the 13 FCs and 26 SHGs will be actively functioning, taking new initiatives and having at least one IGP to earn a good income. The target farmers through CBOs will have better linkage and rapport with different government departments and agencies and to access schemes related to livelihood, food, income generation and other related benefits.	
Activity R3.A.3.2 – Training on government scheme:	37
Activity R3.A.3.3 – Interface meeting with line departments:	38
Activity R3.A.3.4 Participatory Learning and Action (PLA):	39
Activity R3.A.3.5 – PoA Submission:	42
K. Result 4 (R4)- The children of the targeted community will have quality education.....	
Activity R4.A.4.1 –Formation of Education Committee:.....	43
Activity R4.A.4.2 Appointment of the instructor for BuCs	43
Activity R4.A.4.3- Monthly meeting with instructors and parents:	43
Activity R4.A.4.4 – Community awareness program on education--- Parents:.....	44
Activity R4.A.4.5 – Support of basic educational materials:	45
Activity R4.A.4.6 - Formation and strengthening Children Parliament (1), Children Clubs (7):	46
Activity R4.A.4.7– Creative activity for Children’s Club and Children’s Parliament:	47
Activity R4.A.4.8- Observation of important days and events:	47
Activity R4.A.4.9–Children’s Fair:	48
Activity R4.A.4.10 -Awareness on rights to education, leadership and other motivational sessions:.....	49
Activity R4.A.4.11 -Setting up BuC centers:.....	50
Activity R4.A.4.12- Training on Joyful teaching and learning program:	50
L. Other activities	
	51

1. Weekly planning meeting:.....	52
M. Conclusion:	52
N. Case studies	52
O. Photo gallery	Error! Bookmark not defined.

A. A. General information:

Name of the organization: Balasore Social Service Society, Balasore		
Legal Status: (NGO)	Founding Date: 24 th October 1992	
Registry Date: 24 th October 1992 Number: Registered under Societies Registration Act. XXI of 1860) Regd. No- 19342/61 of 1992-93 FCRA Registration No: 104820098		
Address: Balasore Social Service Society Vivekananda Marg Balasore-756001 Odisha, INDIA		
Telephone: + 06782296540	Fax: No fax	E-mail: talk2bsss@gmail.com
Web site: www.bsssodisha.org		
Priority Sectors of the Institution/Congregation	1. Disaster Risk Reduction 2. Livelihood 3. Education 4. Health	Gender policy Yes
Number of Employees of the Institution/ Congregation:		
Paid: 66 Volunteers: 350 Members or Others: 53 (village educators and supervisors)		
Geographical Coverage Area of the Institution/Congregation:		
Regional: Balasore, Bhadrak, Keonjhar and Mayurbhanj		
Legal Representative of the Institution or Superior of the Congregation:		
Name: Fr. Lijo George Position: Director e-mail: talk2bsss@gmail.com		
Person Responsible for the Project/ Contact Person:		
Name: Fr. Roy Kochupurackal Position: Director e-Mail: talk2bsss@gmail.com		
Project Backer/Guarantor:		
Name: Bishop Varghese Thottamkara Position: Bishop of the Diocese Address: Bishop's House, Vivekananda Marg Balasore-756001 Odisha, INDIA E-mail: balsbishop@gmail.com Telephone: +919040908331		

B.B.Acronyms

Sl.No.		
1	PEACE	Promoting Sustainable Economic Wellbeing and Creating Access to Quality Education.
2	BSSS	Balasore Social Service Society
3	CBOs	Community Based Organizations
4	SHGs	Shelf Help Groups
5	FCs	Farmers' Clubs
6	FF	Farmers' Federation
7	IFS	Integrated Farming System
8	NABARD	National Bank for Rural Development
9	OLM	Odisha Livelihood Mission
10	ORMAS	Odisha Rural Development and Marketing Society
11	INM	Integrated Nutrient Management
12	IPM	Integrated Pest Management
13	IEC	Information Education and Communication
14	IGP	Income Generation Program
14	DRR	Disaster Risk Reduction
15	NRM	Natural Resource Management
16	SS-1	Swarna Sub -1
17	DIP	Detailed Implementation Plan
18	IAP	Improved Agriculture Practice
19	POA	Plan of Action
20	JFM	Joint Forest Management
21	PRI	Panchayati Raj Institution
22	KVK	KrushiVigyan Kendra
23	REI	Research Extension Interface
24	AAO	Asst. Agriculture Officer
25	VAW	Village Agriculture worker
26	STRV	Stress Tolerant Rice Variety
27	VS	Veterinary Surgeon
28	EC	Executive Committee
29	PDS	Public Distribution System
30	MGNREGS	Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme
31	ICDS	Integrated Child Development Scheme
32	B.D.O.	Block Development Officer
33	DBT	Direct Benefit Transfer
34	LI	Livestock Inspector

C.C. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY: -

Balasore Social Service Society (BSSS) is a leading organization in North Odisha and serves as the development wing of the Diocese of Balasore. Since 1992, BSSS has been working with vulnerable rural communities in the Balasore, Bhadrak, Keonjhar, and Mayurbhanj districts of Odisha, focusing on their development. The organization's core areas of intervention include community health, education, livelihoods, and disaster management.

The “*Promoting Sustainable Economic Wellbeing and Creating Access to Quality Education*” (PEACE) project aims to equip target households in Gobardhan Panchayat (comprising 5 villages) with: (i) sustainable livelihood options, particularly through both on-farm and off-farm activities, (ii) the organization and strengthening of people’s institutions (such as FCs and SHGs) to manage livelihoods and income-generating activities, while also establishing strong relationships with government departments to access schemes and entitlements, and (iii) access to quality education for children.

During the past two years of project implementation, visible changes have been documented at various levels, such as increased willingness and interest among the people to adopt improved agricultural practices. To keep the people at the center of the project, ensure results, and promote their involvement in project activities, a people-led development approach has been adopted. This approach focuses on both the implementation of programs and the empowerment of the communities. Key strategic intervention of the project includes organizing the target population around Farmers Clubs (FCs) to help them recognize their core development issues, facilitate decision-making, and create sustainable plans. The approach also encourages individuals to understand their roles, capacities, and the importance of their active participation in the project for greater benefits.

Additionally, two interested Self-Help Groups (SHGs) are identified in each village, and support is provided to help them define their capacity-building needs, which will, in turn, strengthen their economic initiatives. Furthermore, communities are working together to ensure quality education for their children. Activities implemented include initiatives to increase agricultural production, promotion of Integrated Farming Systems (IFS) to ensure food security, trade-specific training followed by exposure to SHGs to sustain and diversify economic activities, and increasing knowledge of government schemes. Interface meetings with line departments and providing quality education opportunities to underperforming students through BuCs are also part of the efforts.

D. D. INTRODUCTION:

Manos Unidas is one of our esteemed partners and has been providing support for a long time. The PEACE Project is focused on the men, women, and children in the target area, with the goal of increasing agricultural production through the adoption of modern agricultural techniques and practices. This will help raise livelihood income and ensure food security. The project also aims to make farmers self-sufficient in accessing and utilizing government schemes and grants to improve their livelihoods.

The project also provides remedial classes for children and creates opportunities for academic growth. Children are actively involved in Children’s Clubs and the Children’s Parliament, helping to develop

their skills and potential. The project's core focus areas include promoting livelihoods, offering remedial education, and preparing children for skilled and secure employment. Additionally, it explores income-generating activities while fostering strong connections with government departments to ensure access to relevant schemes and entitlements.

The project aims to minimize social issues through active community participation. To address these challenges, activities such as community-level awareness campaigns and advocacy initiatives are implemented to amplify the program's impact.

The project covers five villages namely Banuan, Balisuan, Gobardhan, Sendkap, and Ruknadeipur of Gobardhan GP in Keonjhar Sadar Block, Keonjhar District. The implementation phase began in November 2022 and continued till October 2024.

E. E.Project background:

The *“Promoting Sustainable Economic Wellbeing and Creating Access to Quality Education”* (PEACE) project aims to equip target households in Gobardhan Panchayat (5 villages) with: (i) sustainable livelihood options, especially through on-farm and off-farm activities; (ii) organized and strengthened people's institutions, such as Farmer's Clubs (FCs) and Self-Help Groups (SHGs), to manage their livelihoods and income-generating activities, and to establish a good rapport with government departments to access relevant schemes and entitlements; and (iii) access to quality education for children.

The area holds significant economic potential, but the people have been unable to harness it due to various challenges, resulting in poor economic conditions that have persisted for generations. Factors such as low agricultural yields, meagre returns from farming, poor output from other allied activities, lack of collective initiatives, weak governance, and social issues like alcoholism, human trafficking, and child marriage, along with inadequate educational facilities, contribute to their backwardness. Post-pandemic, the situation has worsened, leaving many people penniless and children deprived of education. The project prioritizes increasing agricultural production, boosting livelihood income, and securing food security. It also addresses the educational setbacks caused by the COVID-19 lockdown by providing remedial learning and holistic development opportunities for children. Through farm and off-farm programs, the project aims to empower the community towards self-sufficiency and improve the overall socio-economic well-being of its members.

The majority of households in this region rely on subsistence farming, with a substantial portion of their income dedicated to food and agriculture. Consequently, human development is significantly hindered by issues related to public health, nutrition, food security, and livelihood. The lack of consistent, full-time employment exacerbates food insecurity, leading to widespread malnutrition. Alarming, approximately 44% of children under five suffer from stunting or are underweight, indicating severe malnutrition.

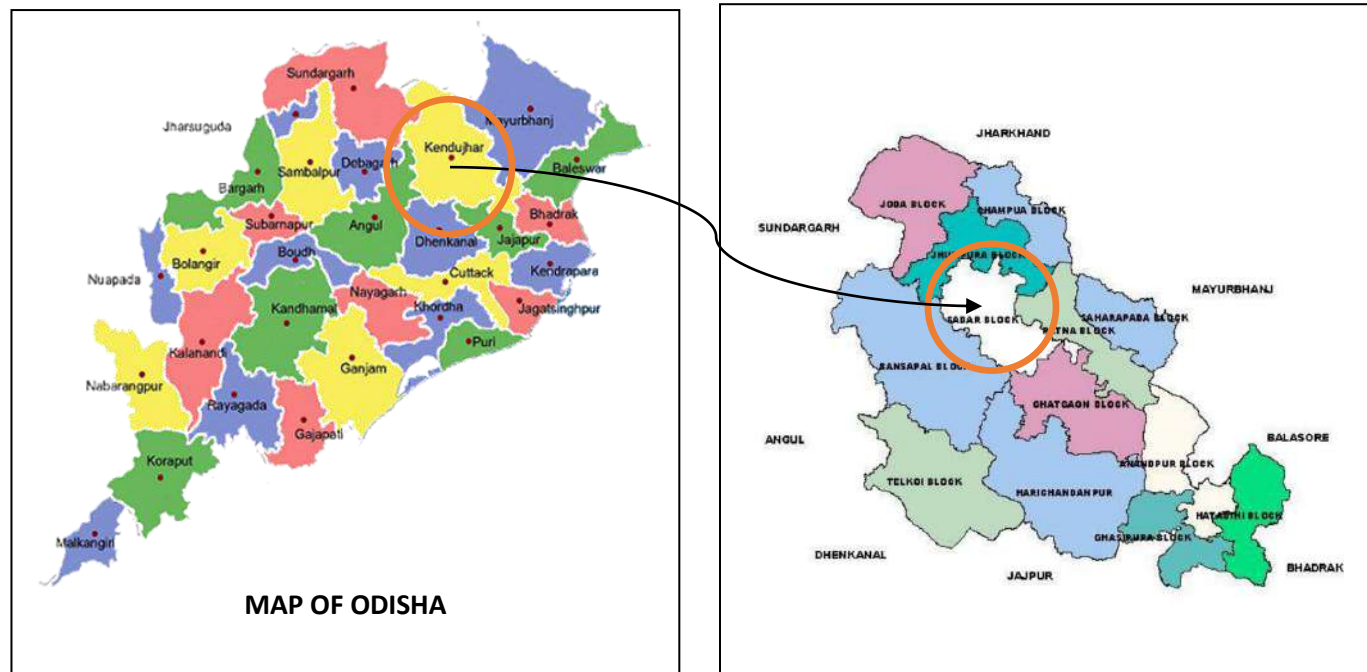
Anaemia is another critical health concern, particularly affecting pregnant women, with about 40% of women aged 15-49 experiencing this condition. Furthermore, literacy rates are alarmingly low, with a

severe deficit in education levels necessary for securing decent employment. Only 2.5% of the district's literate population has completed graduation, and a mere 3.5% has attained higher secondary education.

Several factors contribute to low school enrolment and high dropout rates: the considerable distance to schools, inadequate educational quality due to teacher shortages and lack of basic facilities, and the financial constraints faced by households. These challenges create a significant gap in developing an educated workforce capable of securing stable employment and sustainable livelihoods.

Project location:

The GP Head Quarter Gobardhan village is located at 21.7420° N, 85.5998° E.

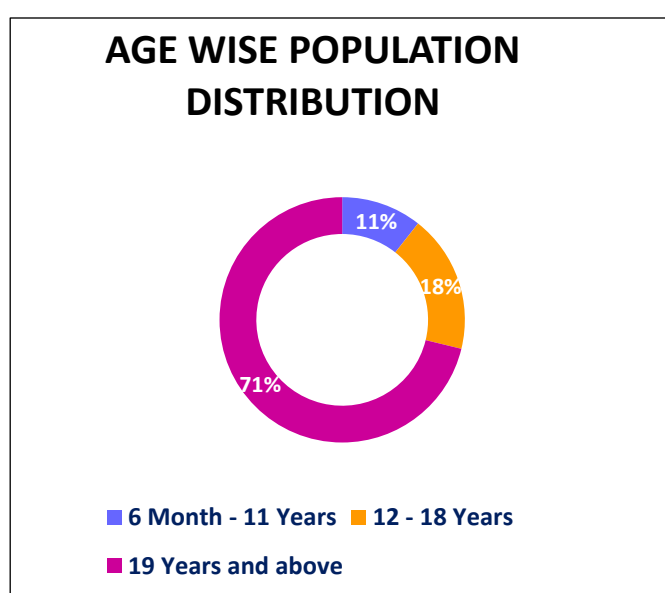
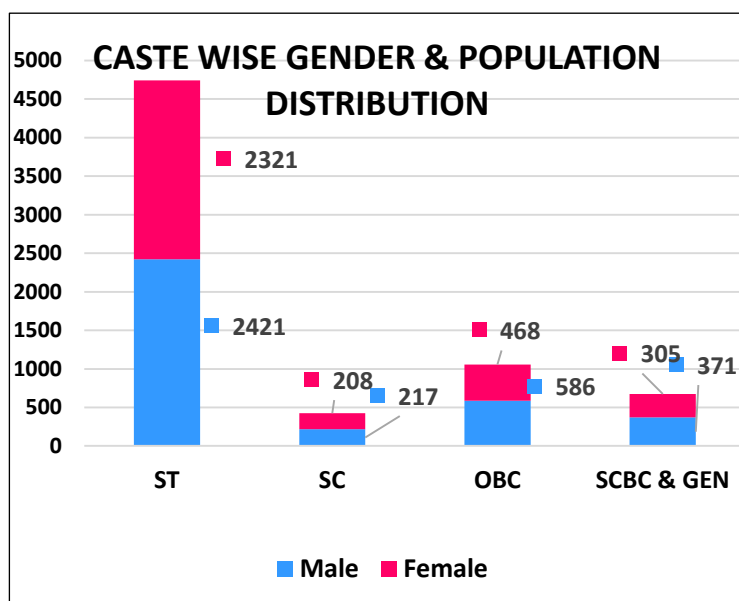


Target Household and Beneficiaries

The Project covers 1417 Households with a total population of 6897 in 5 villages of Gobardhan GP of Keonjhar Sadar Block of Keonjhar district.

SL No.	Names o Villages	Household	Number of Beneficiaries	Number of Men	Number of Women
1	Banuan	225	1071	656	415
2	Balisuan	125	896	488	408
3	Gobardhan	742	2540	1341	1199
4	Sendkap	272	1922	907	1015
5	Ruknadeipur	53	468	203	265
TOTAL	5 villages	1417	6897	3595	3302

Caste, Gender and Age-Specific Details of the Target Population.



Direct & Indirect Beneficiaries of the Project:

The project directly benefits 1,020 farmers, 50% of whom are women, and 180 children, totaling 1,200 households. The farmers will receive support through various livelihood measures and options, while the children will be provided with quality education at community-based Bridge-up Centers. Similarly, the project indirectly benefits approximately 3240 people.

1. Overall Objective / Goal

The people of Keonjhar have enhanced economic stability/security and have quality education

2. Specific Objectives (SO)

1. The target households will equip themselves for a sustainable livelihood option, especially through on-farm and off-farm activities.
2. 13 wards within the 5 villages of Gobardhan Panchayat will have formed and strengthened at least one FC and two SHGs each, organizing and managing their livelihood, income generation activities and establishing a good rapport with the line departments of government to tap the schemes and entitlements.
3. The children of all the 5 villages have access to quality education to bridge the gap made by COVID-19 lockdown.

3. Results (R) / Outputs:

1. The target community will have better knowledge on improved agricultural practices, Integrated Farming Systems (IFS), and organic cultivation which will ensure their food security.
2. The target community will have better knowledge and skills to have increased income by 30% through alternative income generation programs (IGPs)

3. All the 13 FCs and 26 SHGs will be actively functioning, taking new initiatives and having at least one IGP to earn a good income. The target farmers through CBOs will have better linkage and rapport with different departments and agencies and access to schemes related to livelihood, food, income generation and other related benefits.
4. The children of the target communities will have quality education to cope with the school curriculum.

F. E. General Activities:

R0.A.0.10 Letter of information to government officials

Informing government officials about the activities and initiatives of NGOs is an obligation under the law. In compliance with this requirement, BSSS has issued a letter to various district and block-level officials regarding the PEACE project, detailing its activities and the areas of operation. The officials who have been updated about the program include the Additional District Magistrate (ADM) of Keonjhar, Sub-Collector of Keonjhar, Block Development Officer (BDO) of Sadar, District Education Officer (DEO) of Keonjhar, and the local police, among others.

Additionally, officials from Krishi Vigyan Kendra (KVK), the District Horticulture Office (DHO) of Keonjhar, and the Department of Agriculture were personally contacted and informed about the project. All of the above officials have given their approval and assured their support and collaboration to ensure the success of the project.

Results Achieved:

- Nearly all departments, including the Collector and District Magistrate of Keonjhar, have appreciated BSSS's initiative.
- All officials have committed to providing their cooperation whenever necessary.

R0.A.0.10 Interview and selection of staff:

The PEACE project in Gobardhan Panchayat, Keonjhar, was a new initiative in the area. To ensure the proper execution of the project, the required staff (Animators, Project Coordinator, and Assistant Project Coordinator) were selected through an interview process from the Panchayat area. In total, 7 animators were selected from 45 candidates interviewed. The list of the selected 7 candidates is provided in the table below.



Staff selected and wards allotted :

Sl.No.	Name of the candidate	Village/wards allotted
1.	Chandan Mahanta	Sandkap & Rukunadeipur (W. 10 and 13)
2.	Jonali Sahoo	Gobardhan (Ward-7&8)
3.	Smitarani Kar	Sandkap (Ward – 11 & 12)
4.	Rolita Sahoo	Gobardhan (Ward no. 4 & 6)
5.	Rakesh Prashad Sahoo	Gobardhan and Sandkap (Ward no. 5 & 9)
6.	Laxmipriya Hansda	Balisuan (Ward no. 3)
7.	Sumitra Giri	Banua (Ward no. 1 & 2)

R0.A.0.10 Inauguration of the project:



Sarapanch and Panchayat Samittee member were present on the occasion. The target people from all villages of Gobardhan GP participated in the inauguration ceremony.

The PEACE project was formally inaugurated by the Chief District Agriculture Officer (CDAO) in presence of Block Agriculture Officer (BAO), Assistant Agriculture Officer (AAO), Village-Level Agriculture Worker (VAW), and officials from Horticulture, Krishi Vigyan Kendra (KVK), Soil Conservation departments. Among others official from Odisha Livelihood Mission (OLM), the



Results achieved:

- ❖ A Greater number of people became aware about the project and its objectives
- ❖ The various line departments present assured their cooperation for the project

R0.A.0.4 Capacity building of the staff



Given the importance of the project for the target villages, it was crucial to form and activate Community-Based Organizations (FC/SHGs/FF) to ensure their sustainability, develop community ownership of the project, and facilitate its proper implementation. This required building the capacity of the staff. The staff appointed for the project were also relatively new to the approach. Therefore, the project conducted a two-day capacity-building training for them.

The subjects covered during the training included the formation process and strengthening of Community-Based Organizations (CBOs), community motivation and mobilization, communication, conducting meetings at the community level, leadership, decision-making, and problem-solving. Additionally, the training addressed the documents to be maintained at the CBO level, the BSSS working process, weekly planning and reporting, maintaining a daily diary, taking photographs of activities as part of documentation, and other related topics. The resource person for the training was Mr. Alin Naik, the consultant. Nine staff members, including seven animators, enhanced their understanding of the various aspects of capacity building mentioned above. Mr. Satyaranjan Mohapatra, the Finance Officer, conducted a session on general administration and financial issues related to the project. Mr. Hrushikesh Mohanty, former Agriculture Extension Officer, provided training on



livelihoods and various Integrated Farming System (IFS) models, including organic farming and climate-friendly cultivation..

Result achieved:

- The staff members enhanced their knowledge and understanding of the basic responsibilities involved in the project.
- It boosted their confidence in their areas of work responsibility for the project.
- The staff members are now more capable of guiding the CBOs in updating their records more efficiently.

R0.0.6.& 0.7 Quarterly and monthly meeting of the staff:

Objective of the activity:

- To review the progress of each activity implemented.
- To justify and adjust the intervention wherever necessary for better results.
- To plan and set targets based on the review findings.

Activity in brief:



The project conducts monthly and quarterly meetings with staff, where animators present their achievements against set targets and discuss any challenges faced. The Project Coordinator leads the monthly meetings, where animators share their progress and develop the next month's plan from the quarterly plan. The monthly plan is then broken down into weekly tasks. Animators receive orientation on the week's activities, and discussions focus on addressing doubts, challenges, and finding solutions for better implementation..

Similarly, quarterly staff meetings are conducted regularly, either at the project or organizational level at BSSS. In these meetings, both the Director and Assistant Director of BSSS preside to review the progress for the period. In the review process, the activities of the quarter are discussed in detail, and suggestions for further improvement are made. Any backlogs from the quarter are also addressed, with reasons for deviation and plans for execution. The plan for the next quarter is then revised, and activities are bifurcated into monthly and weekly tasks. Finally, staff performance is reviewed, suggestions for further improvement are provided, and areas requiring capacity building are addressed.



Result achieved:

- The reviews conducted on a monthly and quarterly basis helped the animators identify areas where their capacities needed further strengthening.
- It allowed each animator to analyse their performance.
- It encouraged them to be more committed and put their best efforts into serving the communities

R0.A.0.10 Annual evaluation & External evaluation:

(Completed separate Report attached as Anexture -1)

R0.A.0.8 Workshop: MIS (Management Information System) and monitoring:

Objective of the activity:

- To help the animators understand the importance of MIS, including monitoring for a project.
- To make them realize when, how, and what types of information need to be collected for updating the MIS.

Activity in brief:



The intervention of the project brings both qualitative and quantitative changes in line with the objectives set forth. Properly collected and documented information, at a later stage, helps assess the intervention, justifies the results achieved or expected, and tracks the project's progress toward its goal. To ensure proper documentation of the changes brought about by the intervention, the project conducted a workshop on MIS and monitoring for its staff members. The resource person for the workshop was Mr. Alin Nayak, the consultant. All 7 animators attended the workshop to gain an understanding of MIS.

During the process, the resource person thoroughly covered the different components of the project, including the target area, target population, their socio-economic status, constraints, project goals and objectives, and activities. He connected these elements with the Log Frame of the proposal, demonstrating how activities are linked to changes such as input, output, outcome, and impact. He also explained when, from whom, and where the changes should be collected, as well as the process for documenting them. To make the MIS easy to understand and ensure it is updated in a timely manner, the MIS was linked to baseline information.



Results achieved:

- The participants gained an understanding of the need for and importance of MIS.
- The participants also learned the process of collecting information for documentation.
- Participants acquired the knowledge to document real-time data systematically and present it properly.
- The field team became clear about the project indicators and the relevant MIS to maintain in order to strengthen the project.
- The MIS data was updated for use in reporting.

Project activities:

Result 1 (R1) Target community will have better knowledge on improved agriculture practices, Integrated Farming System (IFS) and organic cultivation which will ensure their food security

Activity –R0. A.0.5–Orientation to staff on the project, objectives, roles and responsibilities:

Objective of the activity:

- To help the staff understand the project background and its objectives.
- To outline the roles and responsibilities of the staff.

Activity in brief:

The project conducted a two-day orientation program for its staff members. During the program, the staff members were provided



with an understanding of the project background, its objectives, and the types of activities, including the results to be achieved. Additionally, the roles and responsibilities of the staff members were outlined to ensure



the smooth execution of the project. The resource persons for the orientation program were Fr. Jojo CV, the former Director of BSSS, Mr. Alin Nayak, the consultant, and Mr. Chandrasekhar Panda, the State-Level Trainer, Government of Odisha. Nine staff members, including seven animators, participated in the program and gained a clear understanding of the project.

Results achieved:

- The staff members enhanced their knowledge about the project, its activities, and the types of results to be achieved.
- All staff became self-reliant in carrying out program activities as required.
- They performed their assigned roles and responsibilities more effectively.

Activity- R1 A.1.2–Orientation to communities on the intervention:

Objective of the activity:

- To provide the communities with a detailed understanding of the project, its objectives, the types of activities to be implemented, and the expected benefits and results.
- To seek their support, cooperation, and involvement as beneficiaries for the smooth implementation of the project.

Activity in brief:

Since the communities are at the center of the project, it was essential for them to be well informed about the project in detail. To achieve this, the project conducted an orientation program for them. For the convenience of the target communities, the program was held ward-wise, covering all 13 wards. The orientation sessions included the topics such as the project background, goals and objectives, types of activities, government collaboration, the target households, their response and involvement in the implementation, how the project will benefit them, and the roles and responsibilities, including the participation and cooperation expected from the target communities. Mr. Silu Saha and Mr. Sambid Giri facilitated the orientation sessions. A total of 560 participants from 5 villages (13 wards) attended the program.

**Results achieved:**

- 560 participants from 5 villages (13 wards) learned about the project, the benefits they would receive, and their roles and responsibilities. In short, they welcomed the BSSS project with open arms.
- Almost all of them agreed to extend their cooperation for the successful implementation of the PEACE project.

Activity -R.0 A.0.9-Base line & End line survey:**Objective of the activity:**

- To collect detailed information about the target communities, including their sources of income, on- and off-farm practices, and education.
- To develop baseline data for reference and to compare the changes brought about through the intervention.

Activity in brief

Developing and maintaining a database of the target communities was essential to assess the changes brought about through the intervention. Accordingly, the project



conducted a survey. After the survey, the data was tabulated and analyzed. The project used the results of the analysis to take the necessary steps to make the intervention more meaningful..

Baseline/ end line survey and data analysis

The baseline survey was conducted in the first half of the project, covering 1,140 households across 16 villages to assess the socio-economic status. The animators conducted the survey through home visits. The survey data was consolidated and analyzed, which helped identify the direct beneficiaries in the villages.

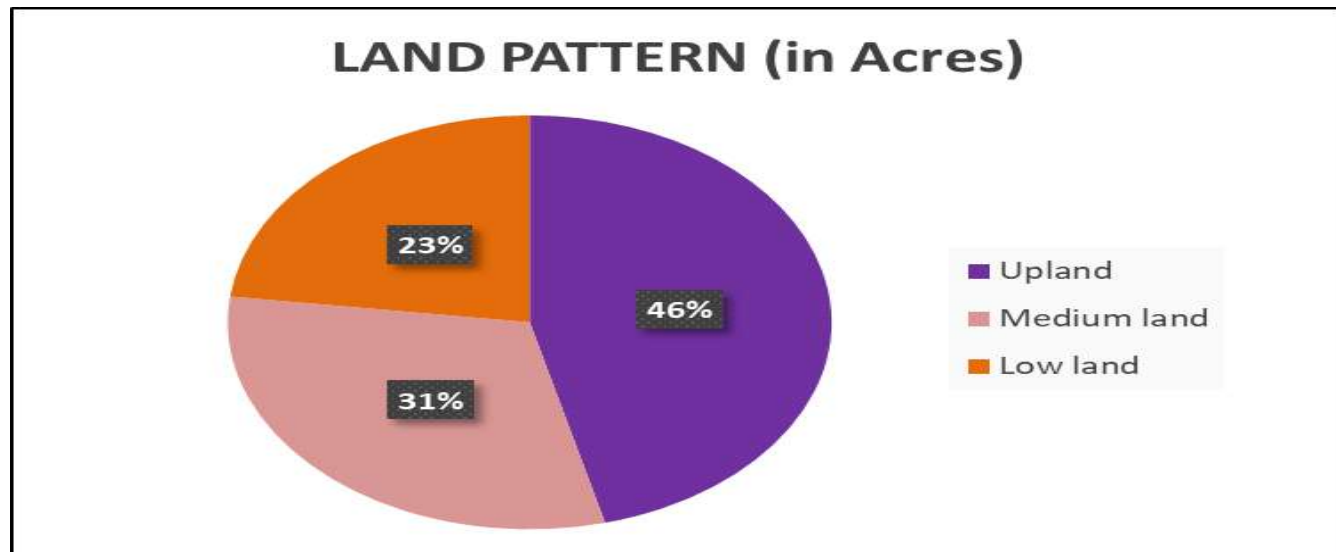


Fig 3- Total land in that area 2963 acres and 46 % of land is high land which leads to low productivity due to lack of irrigation

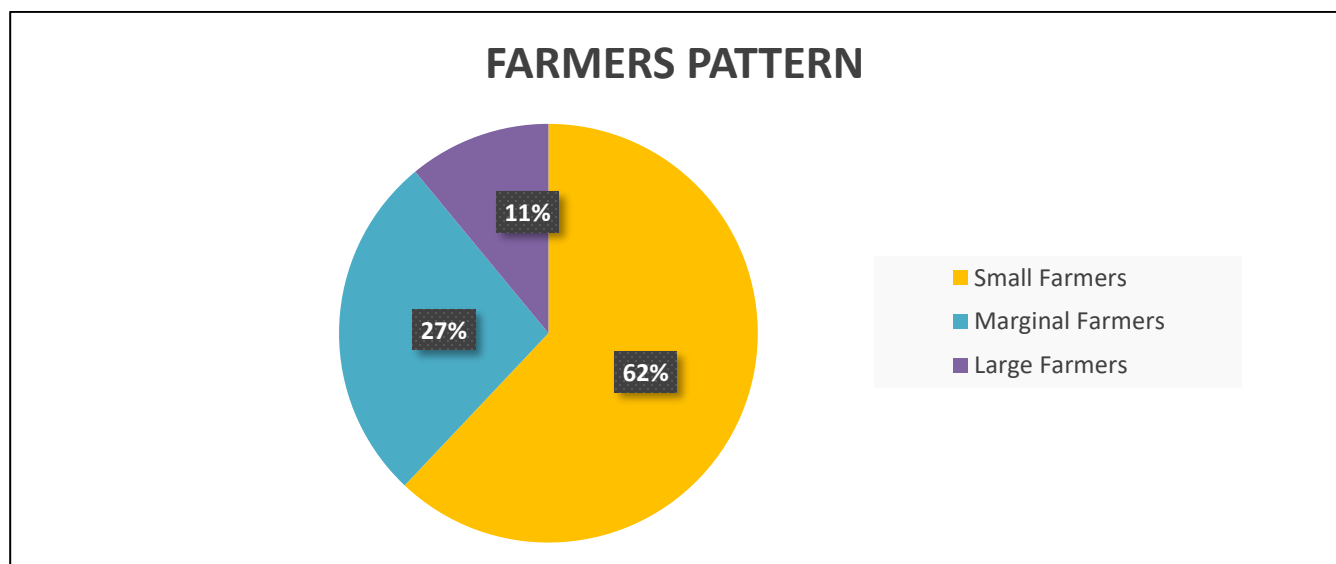


Fig 4- Total farmer 1176 and Small farmers have very less land but their presence is higher and accounts 62 %

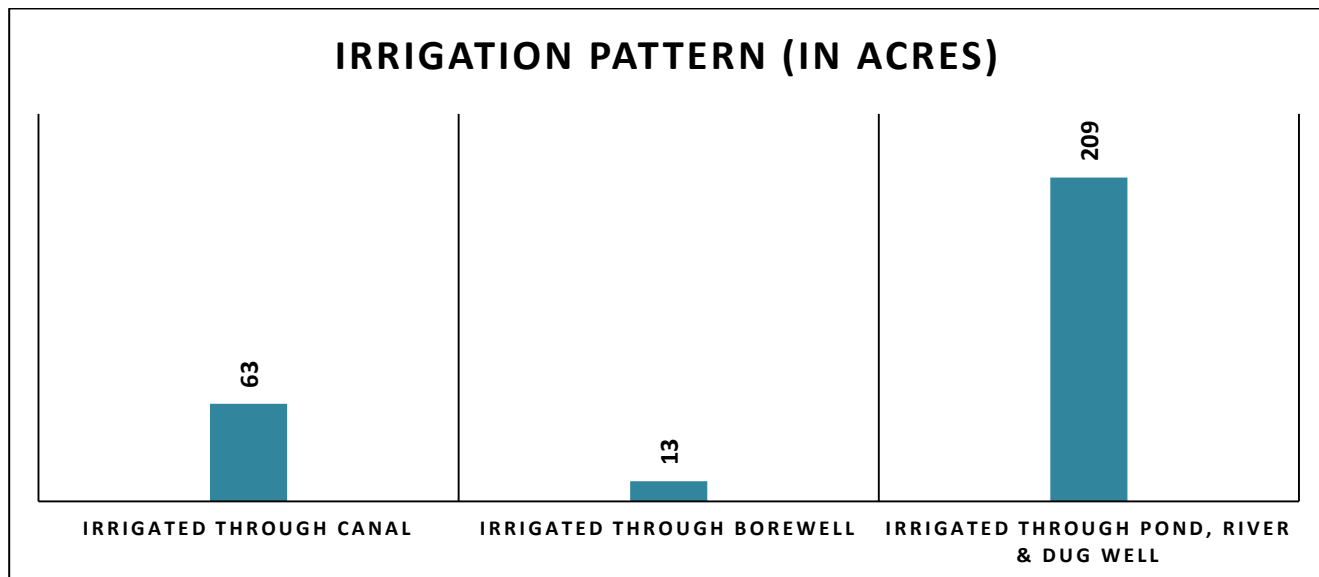


Fig 5- Only 285 acres of land have some sorts of irrigation source during Kharif season when there is a deficit in normal rain fall. They use pump set to lift water from the sources.

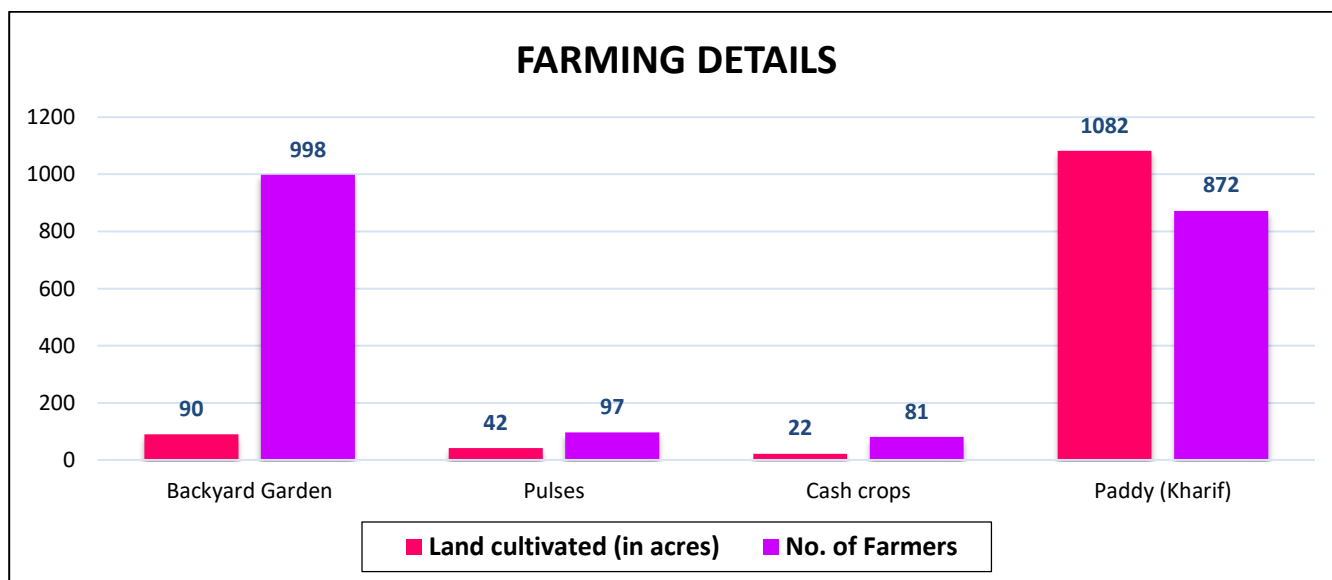


Fig 6- The majority of farmers cultivate paddy during the Kharif season, as it is their primary source of livelihood. Additionally, farmers with land near or adjacent to the river also grow vegetables. Some other farmers cultivate backyard vegetables mainly for personal consumption, selling any surplus.

SOURCES OF LIVELIHOOD

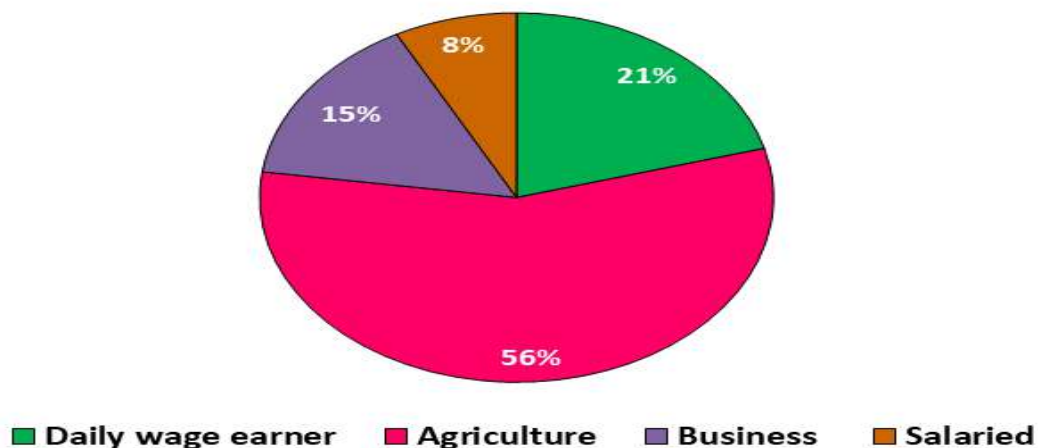


Fig 7- In all the 5 villages 21 % of people depends on wage to run their family. 8 % depends on Job, Majority percentage people depend on Agriculture for their livelihood .

INM & IPM FOLLOWED

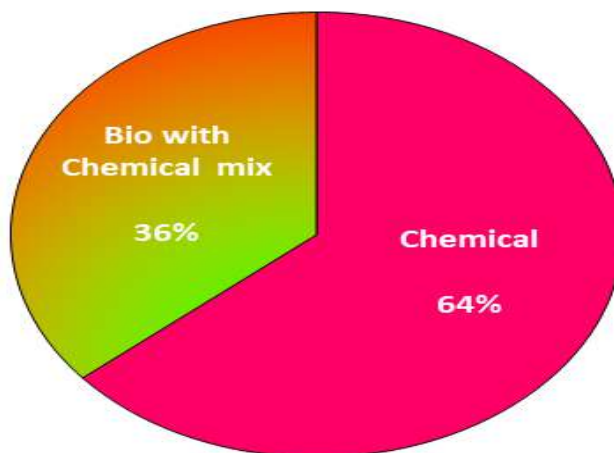


Fig- 8 INM (Integrated Nutrient Management) and IPM (Integrated Pest Management) are major concerns in crop cultivation. In our area, farmers are gradually adopting these concepts. Some farmers are practicing mixed cropping, followed by natural farming methods, especially for vegetable crops.

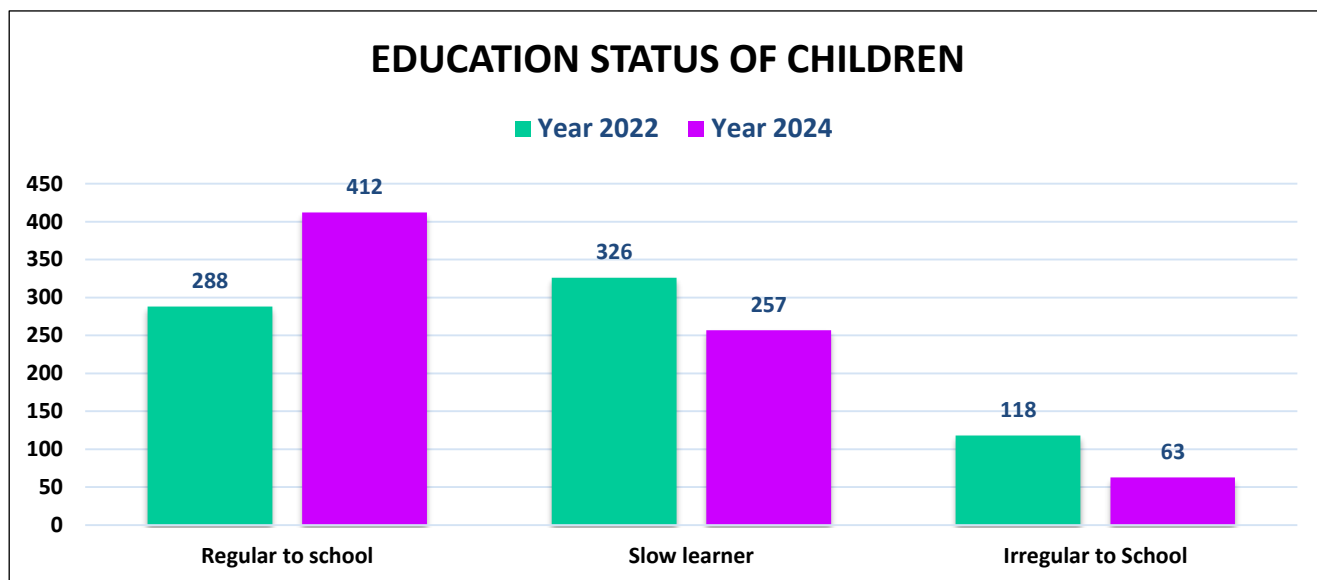


Fig 9 During and after COVID, most children were out of school. Gradually, the education system became functional again, and children started attending school. Those who are slow learners are being supported through BuC (Bridge Learning Centers). The trained staff is tracking the children's progress, indicating their status and improvements in BuC.

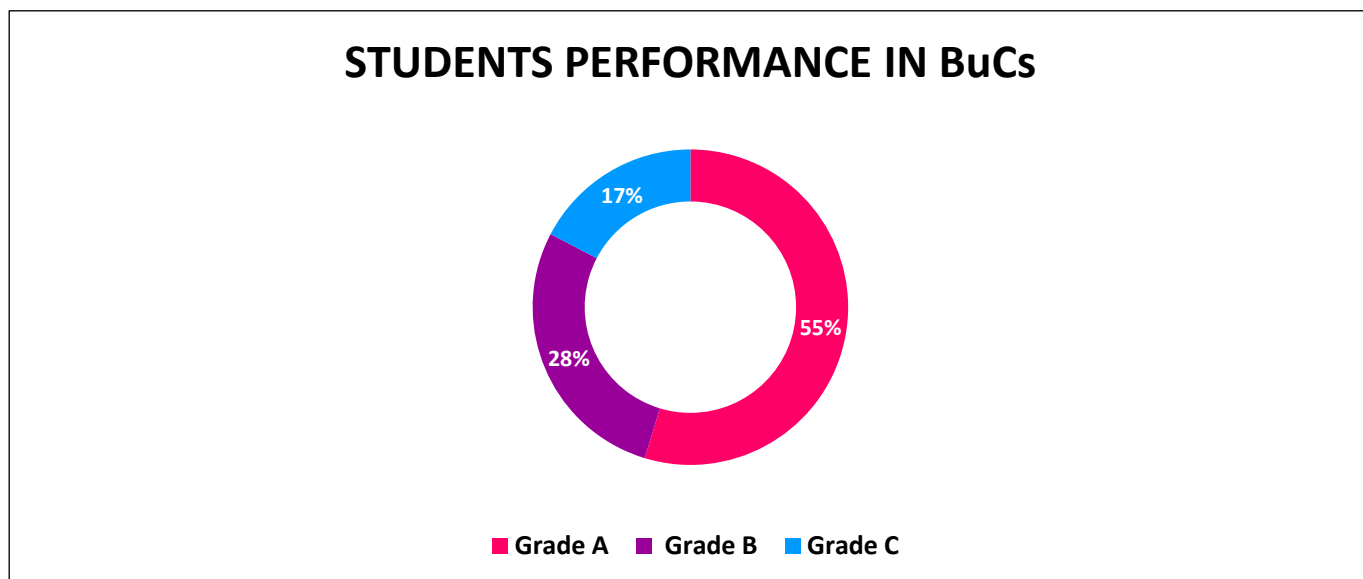


Fig 10- Altogether, there are 732 children in the villages. Through BuC, we supported 151 children who achieved good marks during the annual examination.

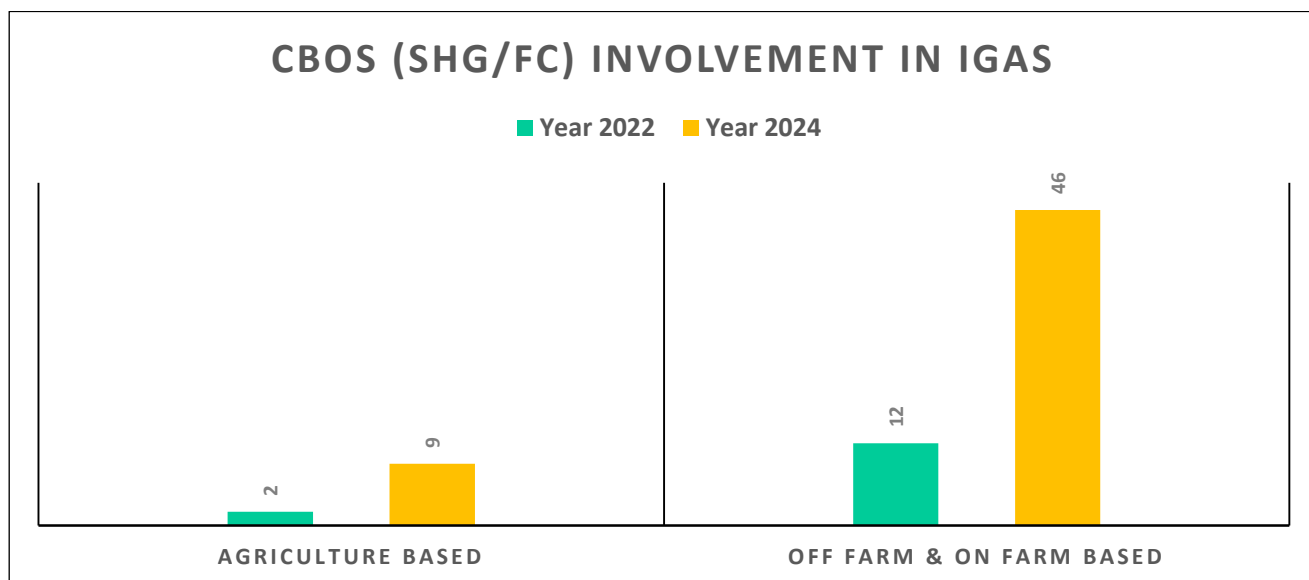


Fig 11 IGP (Income Generation Program) is a key component to enhance skills and income. As per the diagram, off-farm-based income is gradually increasing.

Activity R.1.A.1.3 - Training on soil testing, nursery bed, seed and seedling treatment:

Objective of the activity:

- To enhance farmers' knowledge of key components of the agricultural practices package.
- To encourage and facilitate farmers in adopting the package of practices that are crucial for increasing yields.

Activity in brief:

There are certain components under sustainable and improved agricultural practices that cannot be ignored if one wants to achieve optimal yields from a particular piece of land. The specific components addressed under this activity from the package of practices include soil testing, nursery bed preparation, and seed and seedling treatment. The importance of these components is well recognized as effective scientific tools for improving yields.

Upon observing the knowledge and practices of farmers in the project area, it was found that they were lacking in these areas—either partially or completely. To improve farmers' knowledge and help them understand the importance of these practices, a training session on soil testing was conducted. This training was specifically for the project's staff (7 animators). The resource person for the training was Mr. Hrushikesh Mohanty, a retired agriculture overseer, who



trained the staff along with the beneficiary farmers on the importance of soil and its role in supplying nutrients to plants, along with a demonstration on the process of collecting soil samples for testing. Based on the test results, farmers can decide the appropriate crop to grow and determine the nutritional requirements of the soil.

A total of 302 participants from 7 cluster villages attended the first training session that included 181 males and 121 females. During the second-phase training, 338 participants from the 7 cluster villages attended of whom 176 were female and 162 were male. Additionally, field hand-holding practices were carried out, where some participants also engaged in practical field activities.

After receiving training, the staff (animators) are now equipped to collect soil samples from interested farmers. They are conducting ward-wise meetings with the communities, informing them about the importance of soil testing. During these meetings, they compile a list of farmers interested in soil testing. Following this, the staff visits the farmers' fields, guiding and demonstrating the process of soil collection. The collected soil is then stored in packets and kept at the project office.

The soil samples are later submitted to the Department of Agriculture for testing, and a soil health card is obtained from the department before Kharif cultivation. This process helps farmers apply the recommended doses of fertilizers and compost to treat their soil effectively.

Result achieved:

- The animators collected soil samples from interested farmers, ward by ward.
- A total of 200 soil samples were collected from 7 cluster villages, including high, medium, and low lands.
- The concerned department provided the soil health report after testing.
- 95 farmers took appropriate action based on the report.
- The farmers learned various steps to improve soil health on their fields.
- The training helped them grow crops with limited or less water, teaching them how to apply the required dose of fertilizer based on crop patterns, which minimized their water usage for cultivation.
- Some farmers took steps such as land leveling to prevent water runoff, which helped retain water and soil nutrients.
- The training also taught them how to raise nurseries using proper methods, saving money and manpower.
- Additionally, the training enhanced their knowledge on seed and seedling treatment to protect against pest attacks.

Activity -R1.A.1.4 - Training on INM, IPM and post-harvest management:

Objective of the activity:

- To educate farmers about the need for and importance of Integrated Nutrient Management (INM), Integrated Pest Management (IPM), and post-harvest management in cultivation.
- To help them understand the merits and demerits of using chemical fertilizers.

Activity in brief:

Increasing paddy production requires the systematic application and appropriate use of various agricultural components. However, the farmers in the project area were unaware of the importance of these components and the need for their systematic application. This lack of awareness is one of the reasons for low production compared to the expenses incurred. Additionally, the farmers apply chemical fertilizers based on their purchasing capacity, often without understanding their negative impact on the crop, soil, and environment.



To raise awareness among farmers about the harmful effects of existing practices and to teach them the proper and systematic practices needed, a training on INM, IPM, and post-harvest management was conducted. The resource person for the training was Mr. Hrushikesh Mahanty, a retired agriculture overseer. A total of 650 participants from 5 villages attended the training in the first year, with 362 participants from 5 target villages, and 288 participants in the second year from the same cluster villages. The total number of female participants was 339, while the male participants numbered 311.

The following topics were covered during the training:

- Importance of INM and IPM in increasing production
- Stages of fertilizer application and crop growth monitoring
- Recommended doses of chemical/organic fertilizers per acre
- Recommended doses of chemical fertilizers per acre with compost manure
- Types of pests affecting paddy and other crops, along with remedial measures (both chemical and environmentally friendly, including natural farming models)
- Merits and demerits of chemical fertilizers, and the benefits of organic fertilizers and farming
- Post-harvest management processes and their benefits

Results achieved:

- 650 farmers improved their knowledge and understanding of INM, IPM, and post-harvest management.
- 220 farmers implemented practices on a small patch of land to observe the results.
- 186 farmers out of 650 applied the changes into practice.
- The concept is now spreading widely in the surrounding villages, with some farmers practicing it on small plots to measure the impact.
- Farmers are gradually understanding its broader impact on preserving ecological balance on Earth.

Activity - R1.A.1.5—Creation of seed village and quality seed management

Objective of the activity:

- To enhance farmers' knowledge of the Seed Village Program.
- To encourage farmers to follow the Package of Practices (POP) to enhance production and yields.
- To store quality seeds for future cultivation, replication, and profit-making.

Activity in brief:

Accessing quality seeds has been a major challenge for farmers in the area. As a result, farmers often rely on seeds saved from the previous harvest, even though they know these seeds may result in lower yields. To address this issue, the Seed Village Program was introduced to ensure farmers have access to timely, quality seeds. Under this program, improved seeds are cultivated, and after harvest, these seeds are stored properly for future use, securing a reliable seed supply for the farmers.

Before starting the program, in-depth training was provided to the farmers. The training covered the topics such as the importance of the Seed Village Program, understanding foundation seeds, the registration process for the seed village, land preparation methods for seed plots, seed processing techniques, seed procurement, tagging, and profit-making strategies.

The training was conducted across 7 clusters in 5 villages. The resource person for the training was Mr. Hrushikesh Mohanty. Altogether, 105 acres of land were covered over the 2 years of the project under the Seed Village Program. The project supported the short-duration paddy variety MT 1010, benefiting 162 farmers. In the first year, the seed village was established on 35 acres, and in the second year, it expanded to 70 acres, across each of the seven cluster villages.



in

Results achieved:

- All 5 villages involved in the project—Banuan, Balisuan, Gobardhan, Sendkap, and Ruknadeipur—were covered under the Seed Village Program.
- The popular high-yielding foundation seed variety, MT1010, was provided for the creation of the seed village.
- In July 2024, the Seed Village farmers and their seeds were processed through the Odisha State Seed Corporation Ltd. (OSSC) portal for the Seed Village Program.
- In July, the farmers received the required quantity of paddy seed and used a very nominal amount of fertilizer, along with cow dung and organic pesticides such as Nimastra and Brahmastra, which they learned about during the training sessions.

Activity-R1.A1.6-Training to Farmers for Seed village Program

Objective of the activity:

- To enhance farmers' knowledge and clarity about foundation seed, processing, land preparation, and seed preservation.
- To train them in techniques for storing quality seed and increasing production.

Activity in brief:

Procuring quality seeds is a major challenge for farmers in the area. As a result, farmers generally cultivate seeds saved from the previous harvest, even though they know it leads to reduced production due to various diseases. To address this, the project aimed to support farmers with quality seeds to ensure timely availability and to achieve this the farmers of the project area trained on the following topics and was conducted across 7 clusters in 5 villages, with Mr. Hrushikesh Mohanty serving as the resource person.

The topics included:

- Clarity on foundation seed
- Seed village registration process
- Land preparation methods for seed plots
- Seed processing techniques and seed procurement

The farmers were given proper orientation on the need of seed village and its objective so that they would give better focus on the program.

Results achieved:

- In the training, a total of 312 participants from 7 cluster villages attended the sessions, including 129 males and 183 females, and gained knowledge on the subject.
- During the Kharif cultivation, 162 farmers out of 312 followed the proper process to cultivate the MT 1010 paddy variety, enhancing production.
- All of these farmers adopted seed treatment practices and ensured proper land preparation for better seed production.
- The field team monitored the process regularly to ensure the implementation of the package of practices (POP) and improve production.
- During their visits, it was observed that the farmers applied INM and IPM practices, which resulted in better plant growth and higher yields.

Activity - R1.A.1.7-Different models creation on traditional/improved and sustainable agriculture practices/organic and climate resilient cultivation



Objective of the activity:

- To experiment with and adopt climate-friendly cropping patterns for sustainability.
- To adopt land and water management techniques.

Activity in brief:

Agriculture remains a fundamental practice in rural areas, with village life and the economy deeply tied to it. Through the creation of agricultural models, the project promoted the use of both traditional practices, such as broadcasting, and improved techniques, including line transplantation, seed and seedling treatment, bio-cultivation of paddy using azolla, and replacing chemical fertilizers with vermicompost. These practices were tested, and the most effective, sustainable, and appropriate methods were chosen for future use. Alongside these, challenges like water scarcity, weather conditions, land patterns, and marketing strategies were also taken into account. In all five villages, a number of models were implemented. The project team offering hands-on support in seed and seedling treatment, nursery preparation, the use of organic manure, and pest control. These models enabled farmers to embrace and adapt to new, more sustainable farming practices. 38 farmers followed line transplantation method.

**Result Achieved:**

- At least 52 farmers have experienced the new method.
- A good production of 18-22 quintals of paddy yield has been documented using this method.
- Farmers' confidence has increased after harvesting organic paddy.
- Awareness has been raised about the disease resistance benefits of consuming organic rice.
- Farmers have made critical observations regarding reduced water consumption through the use of Azolla, which helps retain moisture in the soil, and other organic methods that have contributed to fewer pest attacks and less water usage.

Activity - R1.A.1.8& A1.1.1-Training on Rabi paddy cultivation and support seeds (paddy, pulses and cash crop):**Objectives of the activity:**

- To impart knowledge on the process of cultivating Rabi crops.
- To train farmers to adapt to climate conditions and cultivate paddy during the Rabi season for higher production.
- To encourage interested farmers to utilize land and water effectively for cultivating Rabi crops to achieve better



income, and to support them with quality Rabi crop seeds and training to increase their profits.

Activity in brief:



The area is rainfed, and most of the farmers lack irrigation facilities. As a result, they generally do not engage in Rabi cultivation to avoid losses due to insufficient moisture in the land. Additionally, seed quality and cultivation practices are also major concerns. The farmers often do not know the proper processes. To bring about changes in the existing practices, a training session on Rabi crop cultivation was conducted. Mr. Hrushikesh Mohanty served as the resource person for the training. A total of 386 farmers from all 7 cluster villages participated. The topics covered are outlined below.

- Selection of seeds and seed requirement per acre
- Treatment of seeds
- Land preparation
- Weed management
- Pest management

To help the trained farmers apply their newly acquired knowledge, the project provided support by supplying quality pulse seeds. As a result, the farmers were provided with seeds for green gram and black gram, covering a total of 60 acres and benefiting 142 farmers. Additionally, for Rabi cash crops, 6 acres of potatoes were cultivated, benefiting 136 farmers.



Result Achieved:

- A total of 386 farmers from 7 cluster villages attended the training session, enhancing their knowledge on topics such as pulses, paddy, and cash crop cultivation.
- Between November 2022 and October 2024, 142 farmers cultivated pulses, applying the processes and practices they learned during the training.
- 136 of the trained farmers received quality potato seeds, covering 6 acres of land.
- All the farmers benefited from this seed support and have continued their cultivation work season by season.
- The average yield of pulses per acre is approximately 3-4 quintals, while the yield of potatoes per acre is around 35-40 quintals.

Activity - R1A.1.9- Training and input support for organic cultivation and models:

Objective of the activity:

- To foster a healthy attitude towards improving the soil health in the area.
- To provide farmers with knowledge and the process of preparing organic manure, along with its importance for both soil and crops.
- To encourage and support farmers in applying organic manure to maintain soil health and increase production.

Activity in brief:

The farmers in the project area have generally become accustomed to using chemical fertilizers. They often do not conduct soil testing to assess the soil's condition or receive recommendations for the appropriate remedial treatments. Additionally, they are not fully aware of the negative impacts of chemical fertilizers on both soil and crops. To foster a healthier attitude toward soil and crops, training programs with demonstrations were organized for the farmers. The training covered the following topics:

- Nadev compost and its preparation process
- Vermi compost and its preparation process
- Preparation of bio-pesticides, with a demonstration
- Preparation of bio-insecticides
- Other environmentally friendly pest repellent techniques

This approach aimed to equip farmers with alternative, sustainable farming practices. A total of 317 participants from 5 villages attended the training sessions. The resource person for the training was Mr. Hrushikesh Mohanty, a retired agriculture overseer. Along with the training, a plan was developed to support selected farmers with inputs for creating models of vermi compost preparation. As part of this support, 14 units of plastic sheets with vermi and 14 units of cement rings with Azolla seeds were provided to the farmers. Additionally, farmers were encouraged to prepare Nadev compost at no cost.



Results achieved:

- A total of 200 farmers conducted soil testing.
- Based on the soil health reports, 92 farmers applied bio-fertilizers such as vermi compost, Azolla, local Nadev, and Handi Khata to both paddy and vegetable crops.
- Other farmers in the village, who did not participate in the training, showed interest in the process and expressed eagerness to learn about vermi compost production and its usage.
- Farmers produced Nadev organic fertilizer on their own farms using leaves, straw, and cow dung, applying it to their vegetable fields.
- A total of 317 farmers enhanced their knowledge and understanding of the importance and benefits of organic manure.

Activity -R1.A.1.10 – Training on sustainable Integrated Farming System (IFS):

Objective of the activity:

- To improve soil fertility, increase agricultural production, promote organic farming, and encourage farmers to adopt the Integrated Farming System (IFS) and its practices.
- To engage farmers in practicing sustainable and integrated farming methodologies.
- To encourage and assist interested farmers in adopting systematic farming methods to generate income year-round.

Activity in brief:

The main purpose of implementing the Integrated Farming System (IFS) is to create a variety of livelihood options on a given piece of land to generate income year-round. Marginal farmers, who often struggle to secure adequate income, can greatly benefit from this approach by developing diverse livelihood options on their small plots of land. A model IFS could include fish cultivation (in silpaulin or earthen ponds), vegetable gardening, fruit tree plantation, mushroom cultivation, poultry farming, goat rearing, vermi-composting, and Azolla cultivation, alongside traditional paddy cultivation.

To promote the concept and process of IFS, training sessions were conducted. A total of 557 farmers participated in these sessions to gain a better understanding of IFS. The resource person for the training, Mr. Hrushikesh Mohanty, a retired agriculture overseer, effectively demonstrated various livelihood options. The main objective of this IFS training was to teach marginal farmers how to maximize the use of their land by incorporating a variety of livelihood options that generate year-round income in an organised manner, tailored to the available land and local conditions.

Results achieved:



- A total of 557 farmers enhanced their knowledge and gained a clearer understanding of IFS. Additionally, 14 farmers received support for silpaulin, earthen ponds, vegetable gardens, fruit tree plantations, mushroom cultivation, poultry farming, goat rearing, vermi-composting, and Azolla cultivation, alongside traditional paddy farming.
- After the training, they gained more clarity on the methods and learned how to generate income throughout the year by adopting these practices.
- All participants were motivated to implement these models to increase their supplementary income by developing IFS on the available land.

Activity-R1.A.1.11–Model creation (Integrated Farming System):

Objective of the activity:

- To address many of the existing economic and ecological challenges, and to enhance the production of fuel, fertilizer, and feed.
- To revolutionize conventional farming practices in livestock, aquaculture, horticulture, agro-industry, and allied activities, the Integrated Farming System (IFS) will serve as an ideal model for economic growth and ecological balance.

Activity in brief:

The Integrated Farming System (IFS) model is an innovative approach compared to conventional farming practices in livestock, aquaculture, horticulture, agro-industry, and allied activities. IFS can address these constraints by solving many of the existing economic and ecological challenges while also providing essential means of production such as fuel, fertilizer, and feed. Additionally, it increases productivity many-fold. BSSS has implemented such models with marginal farmers to educate them on the purpose and benefits of IFS.

Each cluster received support that included a silpaulin of 18 x 20 size, an earthen pond, a vegetable garden, and fruit trees such as Mango, Guava, and Banana, along with mushroom cultivation. The project also provided mushroom seeds, poultry farming support, goat rearing, vermi/nadef composting, and Azolla cultivation, along with the usual paddy cultivation.

One IFS model was established in each of the 7 clusters, and these models were replicated by other farmers.

Results achieved:

- 14 families have been supported in establishing the model.
- This model not only increases the supplementary income of a family but also helps promote environmental protection and address ecological imbalances.



Result 2 :The target community will have better knowledge and skills to have increased income by 30% through alternative income generation programs (IGPs)

Activity R0.A.0.2 – Development and dissemination of Information, education and communication (IEC) materials on climate smart livelihood, organic cultivation, IGP programs and government schemes:

Objective of the activity:

- IEC materials to be designed and displayed to enhance the knowledge and understanding of the targeted community.
- The design and methods of the IEC materials to help refresh their minds and attitudes, motivating the community toward positive change.

Activity in brief:

BSSS developed IEC materials for awareness activities to sensitize the target households. These materials enhanced their knowledge and understanding in an easy and effective manner, guiding them to adopt these practices and achieve the expected results. In addition, the IEC materials proved to be an effective method for refreshing their minds and attitudes toward positive change. This was accomplished through the printing of books.



Results achieved:

- Booklets containing various aspects of Organic Farming, INM, IPM preparation, and usage processes were printed and disseminated among 13 FCs, 26 SHG members, and many leading farmers.
- The booklets increased understanding of organic farming, low-cost integrated nutrition preparation, and pest control measures using local resources.
- A total of 500 families were sensitized, enhancing their knowledge and understanding of these subjects, which they have successfully applied in practice to increase production and income.

Activity –R2.A.2.1 – Creation and strengthening of Farmers Hub:

Objective of the activity:

- To make modern agricultural equipment available at the doorstep of farmers to solve irrigation problems.
- To generate funds/income for FCs by renting out equipment to farmers.



Activity in brief:

Farming with modern and improved practices requires equipment to complete cultivation tasks. These tools are essential not only for timely completion of work but also for protecting crops from potential loss. All categories of farmers need agricultural equipment; however, poor and marginalized farmers often cannot afford these tools due to financial constraints. To address this, the project is making such equipment available to these farmers through hubs. As per the project plan, 13 hubs were promoted, with each FC managing one hub. The equipment provided to these hubs is managed by the concerned FCs to generate income. The equipment is then rented out to farmers at a moderate fee. Each hub has been equipped with 26 battery-operated sprayer machines and 5 water pump sets (3 hp) with delivery pipes.



Results achieved:

- 13 hubs have been functioning with 26 sprayers and 5 water pump sets in 5 villages.
- Selected members from FCs and SHGs have been assigned to manage the hub equipment and generate funds for maintenance.
- 680 farmers have accessed this facility during both the Rabi and Kharif seasons for paddy and vegetable cultivation. Approximately 723 acres of land were covered under assured irrigation with the supported items during the project period.
- A total of Rs. 37,995.00 has been collected from user groups after the Rabi and Kharif cultivation for future maintenance and deposited into the FC account. A separate logbook has been maintained to record the proper use and income from the equipment.
- Following this initiative, people from other villages visited and met with the farmers. They applied for agricultural equipment from the government and received items like the cono-weeder free of charge.
- The use of these equipment items has enhanced vegetable cultivation, resulting in increased income for the farmers.



Activity -R1. A.1.1 – Kharif paddy seed support:

Objective of the activity:

- To support the production of quality, drought- and flood-resilient paddy seeds for increased yields.
- To cycle the seeds for the next cropping season, thereby boosting



production.

Activity in brief:

Last year, the project provided 356 farmers with quality seeds of four varieties during the Kharif season (June to December). This initiative aimed to demonstrate the increased production achievable through quality seeds and recommended farming practices. Additionally, it facilitated the preservation of these seeds for the next two years, ensuring consistent yields.

Result achieved:

- Over the project period, 718 farmers received support with MT 1010, Lalat, Swarna, Sahabhagi, Kalachampa, and Mamata varieties of paddy seeds, enabling cultivation across 700 acres. This initiative benefited 718 families. After harvest, farmers preserved seeds for the following season.
- Production increased by 18-20 quintals compared to the previous year. The successful growth and increased yields led to neighboring villagers requesting and exchanging seeds. This outcome significantly boosted farmers' confidence in seed preservation and achieving higher production

Activity R1. A.1.1 –Backyard vegetable support:

Objective of the activity:

- Support vegetable seeds to families & develop practice of growing vegetable in their back yard or any other place at their convenient .
- To produce fresh vegetables for consumption and better nutrition and save money .

Activity in brief:

Growing vegetables for personal consumption is a good practice as it helps save money. To encourage this healthy habit, the project supported 943 households by providing 9 different varieties of vegetable seeds, including brinjal, tomato, beans, carrots, green leaves, French beans, pumpkin, ridge gourd, and others.

Results achieved:

- 943 families have benefited and are practicing backyard gardening and using any other available spaces.
- They are saving money both directly and indirectly.
- More vegetables have been added to their regular menu, leading to a healthier lifestyle.



- After consumption, any extra vegetables are sold in the market, generating additional income.
- Vegetable consumption and intake have increased among children, adolescents, and women, reducing health risks.

The concept of backyard gardening has influenced the villages, and its benefits have become viral within the community. This good practice is being replicated in other villages.

Activity R2.A.2.2&2.3 – Training on different model of IGP for FC & SHG with input support:

Objective of the activity:

- To increase understanding of the different models of IGP (Income Generation Programs) possible in the area.
- To facilitate their initiation of the IGP of their choice with ongoing support.
- To involve women in IGPs, increasing income for their families and enhancing their social status.



Activity in brief:

Farmers, especially the marginalized, have never been food secure unless they have alternative livelihood options or secondary sources of income to support their family needs. Their current economic situation largely revolves around paddy, pulses, and cash crops, which sometimes fail to provide the necessary income or production due to climatic variability. Therefore, involving them in income generation programs will not only increase family income but also improve their status within the family and society. With this in mind, focus group discussions were held in the communities to identify potential IGP programs. Mushroom cultivation was one of the identified IGP trades. The market price of mushrooms is good, and it can generate a substantial profit..

Hence, training sessions were conducted for 26 SHGs and 13 FCs, covering 582 participants. The training included demonstrations on the process of preparing mushroom beds, the ingredients required, and the harvesting timeline. The nutritional value of mushrooms was discussed, and a cost-benefit analysis was conducted to assess the viability of mushroom cultivation. Initial support was provided in the form of mushroom seeds, and technical know-how was shared with the participants. Additionally, chick rearing training and support were provided to 24 SHGs and 13 FCs. A sealing machine and weighing



machine were also supplied to 5 SHGs involved in preparing pulse tablets.

Results achieved:

- Batch-wise training was provided to 582 members (26 SHGs and 13 FCs), equipping them with skills in mushroom cultivation, chick rearing techniques, and pulse tablet (Badi) making.
- 26 SHGs and 13 FC members were supported in chick rearing and group pulse tablet making as part of income generation (IGP) activities.
- The SHG group members regularly engage in pulse tablet making and chick rearing, both individually and in groups.
- They sell the pulse tablets in local market shops and at weekly markets. Each member earns approximately Rs. 1,400 to 2,000 monthly, which serves as additional family income.
- 244 households out of the 582 have engaged in seasonal mushroom cultivation when sufficient straw is available, earning Rs. 1,200 each.
- The chick rearing group members sell their chicks after 5–6 months of growth, earning between Rs. 3,000 and 4,000 per member.
-

Activity R2.A.2.4 – Training on value addition and market linkage:

Objective of the activity:

- To enhance the capacity of FCs and SHGs in various income generation activities feasible in their locality.
- To build the capacity of SHG members for value addition in *Badi* making.

Activity in brief:



Trade-specific training was conducted for FCs and SHGs to share different ideas on various trades and enhance their knowledge of feasible income generation activities in their locality. This activity helped build their capacity and confidence to undertake income generation activities, as well as trained them in marketing their products to ensure proper value. FCs and SHGs were also provided training on value addition and market linkages, enabling them to secure assured marketing opportunities with better prices for their products.

Results achieved:

- 53 members from 5 SHGs were trained in pulse tablet (Badi) making and provided with a weighing machine and sealing machine for better packaging.
- Linkages were established through ORMAS, providing a stall platform for SHG products to improve marketing.
- Pulse tablets (Badi) are sold in local markets, shops, and weekly markets.
- The monthly income of members from this business ranges from INR 2,500 to 3,000.

Activity R2.A.2.5 – Exposure visits of SHGs to innovative IGP models:

Objective of the activity

- To expand the knowledge of SHG members on various income generation options.
- To encourage them to diversify their IGPs based on new knowledge and increase their income.
- To capacitate SHG members in selecting new IGP models to boost their earnings.

Activity in brief:

The exposure visit was organized for SHG members already engaged



in various income generation (IGP) activities, aiming to increase their income by providing them the opportunity to explore new and viable means of generating income. The exposure visit took place at KVK, Keonjhar, where the members were introduced to

various livelihood options, such as orchard farming, mushroom cultivation, vegetable nursery, fish culture, vegetable cultivation, poultry farming, flower cultivation, bio-compost making (NADEF and vermi), Integrated Farming Systems (IFS), and other schemes offered by KVK.

The resource person guiding the SHG members and helping them understand the processes and management of these options was Susant Kumar, the scientist and head of KVK. A total of 58 participants from 11 SHGs across 5 villages took part in the exposure visit.



Results achieved:

- A total of 58 members from 11 SHGs visited and gained knowledge on orchard farming, mushroom cultivation, vegetable nursery, fish culture, vegetable cultivation, poultry farming, and natural farming.
- 11 SHG members are now engaged in vegetable cultivation and poultry farming in their villages.
- 11 SHG members have increased their income through poultry farming and vegetable cultivation..

Result 3 (R3) All the 13 FCs and 26 SHGs will be actively functioning, taking new initiatives and having at least one IGP to earn a good income. The target farmers through CBOs will have better linkage and rapport with different government departments and agencies and to access schemes related to livelihood, food, income generation and other related

Activity R3.A.3.1- Formation and strengthening of Farmers' Clubs (FCs) and Self Help Groups (SHGs) at the target area (training on government schemes, book keeping, motivation on leadership skills and management.

Objective of the activity:

- To form and strengthen FCs/SHGs as institutions within the communities.
- To help them define their roles and responsibilities, with a focus on governance, ensuring the sustainability of these institutions.
- To enhance and develop leadership within the groups, enabling them to lead and manage initiatives while maintaining books and accounts for transparency

Activity in brief:

BSSS works with people through people's institutions. As needed, it forms, reforms, and strengthens

these institutions. The goal is to enable these institutions to benefit from interventions and build them with the necessary knowledge, skills, development processes, empowerment, and actions for sustainability. During



this reporting period, the project conducted a series of community meetings, ward-wise, to sensitize the target communities on topics such as i) Importance of institutions; ii) Governance systems; iii) Functioning of the institutions; iv) Members' roles and responsibilities; v) The future of these institutions, along with the meaningful cooperation and support required to accomplish the project. The clubs or groups will work in the interest of the farming community, acting as resource farmers who will share knowledge and skills with others. A total of 13 farmers' clubs will be formed in 13 wards, and three SHGs will be selected from each ward, resulting in the strengthening of 26 SHGs.

Following the discussions, Farmers' Clubs (FCs) were formed at the ward level with local leaders to manage them. Similarly, meetings were held ward-wise for Self-Help Groups (SHGs), but no new SHGs were formed, as they already existed. Instead, two SHGs were identified based on their willingness to collaborate with BSSS. After the formation of FCs and identification of SHGs, regular meetings are conducted to strengthen these groups and provide guidance for better initiatives

Results achieved:

- The project has formed 13 Farmers' Clubs (FCs) and strengthened 26 Self-Help Groups (SHGs).
- Regular meetings are held from time to time to strengthen these groups.
- Training on documentation and bookkeeping has been conducted for both FCs and SHGs.
- Forty-two leaders from these FCs and SHGs have acquired skills and are now responsible for record-keeping tasks.
- Forty-six members are now able to write meeting minutes, maintain petty cashbooks, loan registers, members' savings registers, individual savings books, etc.
- Forty-seven lead farmers from the FCs have received various trainings on sustainable and improved agricultural practices, including the cultivation of cash crops, pulses, vermicomposting, pest management, soil and water conservation measures, Integrated Farming Systems, and kitchen gardening.

Activity R 3.A.3.2 – Training on government scheme:

Objective of the activity:

- To share information about government schemes available through various government departments.
- To encourage and support people in accessing government schemes for their socio-economic development.

Activity in brief:



Each line department of the government has its own plan, which is executed in different areas accessible to them. However, they often lack the manpower to cover all areas. Additionally, the target population



does not frequently visit these offices to get the latest information about the various schemes available to them. One of the main reasons for this is their remoteness and ignorance. To raise awareness about the different government schemes, training sessions were conducted, where the resource person, Mr. Sangram Murmu, covered several government schemes available to the participants. A total of 448 participants from 5 target villages attended 2 training sessions.

Sl.No.	Departments	Schemes
1	Agriculture	IFS, Kalia Yojana, PMFBY, MKUY,AIF, (Agriculture infrastructure fund)
2	Mission Shakti	Business loan,
3	Horticulture	IFS, cold storage, orchard, NFSM

4	Veterinary	NLM- (National Livestock Mission); NPDD- (Milky cow); LH&DC- (Livestock Health & Disease Control Prog) Pasu Bima Yojana animal husbandry, poultry development, fodder cultivation, pig commercial farming
5	State government of Odisha	Kalia yojana, Farm Pond,
6	Central government	NMSA, PMKSY,

Results achieved:

- A total of 14 training sessions were conducted, with 448 participants from 5 villages attending the program.
- 448 farming families received training, and 300 farmers benefited from the Kalia Yojana provided by the Agriculture Department.
- 300 farming families received benefits under the Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchayee Yojana (PMKSY).
- 251 women benefited from the Subhadra Yojana under the Women and Child Development Department.
- 102 families received fruit-bearing trees from the Horticulture Department.
- 5 Self-Help Groups (SHGs) received chick hatching equipment for better poultry farming.
- 15 SHGs received business loans for small businesses and agricultural activities.

Activity R3.A.3.3 – Interface meeting with line departments:

Objective of the activity:

- To familiarize people with the departments and build working relationships with them.
- To raise the concerns of the people and convince the departmental authorities about the various issues affecting them.
- To influence officers to act in favor of the target community.

Activity in brief:

A good working relationship is essential to channel government resources and schemes. These departments are permanent and always have resources to support people who meet the prescribed eligibility criteria. If communities can develop and maintain a good working relationship with these departments, they can access various resources and schemes related to livelihood and food security. By mobilizing these resources, people can improve their

socio-economic status. To make this happen, an interface meeting was held in the project. During this program, personnel from various departments, such as



Agriculture, Horticulture, Odisha Livelihood Mission, Krishi Vigyan Kendra, Soil Conservation, etc., were present. The Sarpanch and Panchayat Samiti members were also in attendance. A total of 276 participants from the communities attended the meeting and gained knowledge about the different schemes offered by the concerned departments.

Results achieved:

- Two interface meetings were held at the Panchayat level with line departments, where the Chief District Agriculture Officer, ADAO Gokul Chandra Pradhan, KVK Scientist Lipsa Das, BAO Laxmi Devi Sharma, and Sarpanch Sanjay Munda were present. The officers assured their support in helping people access government schemes.
- A total of 496 participants from 5 villages took part in the program.
- In addition to the interface meetings, we received cooperation from these officers and their departments throughout the year. The most supportive among them were the Odisha Livelihood Mission (OLM), Agriculture, KVK, Soil Conservation, Rural Development (RD), and Panchayat Raj Departments.
- Timely seed supply, cold store supply, marketing support, cluster bore wells, fruit-bearing tree supply, technical training for various schemes, and the issue of IGP models were raised and discussed with the concerned departments. At the same time, key issues affecting the people were brought to the attention of the departmental heads, and action was taken by the concerned authorities for the betterment of the people.
- In June, the supply of high-yielding variety paddy seeds and their timely availability became critical issues. We contacted the concerned department to address and resolve the problem, benefiting the farmers.
- Similarly, the supply of potato seeds and fingerlings from the Fishery and Horticulture Departments was delayed, causing panic among farmers. This issue was also resolved by the BSSS team through negotiations with the concerned authorities.

ActivityR3. A. 3.4 Participatory Learning and Action (PLA):

Objectives of the activity:

- To involve the communities in identifying and assessing their socio-economic problems, as well as finding solutions using Participatory Learning and Action (PLA) tools.
- To engage the communities in analysing the findings themselves and preparing village-specific integrated development plans for implementation.
- To help them understand the history of their village, the resources available, and the livelihood options within the village.
- To make community development schemes accessible to them in order to mitigate the problems they are facing by using mapping tools..



Activity in brief:

There is a routine for the execution and implementation of development activities every year. The Gram Panchayat carries out several activities related to food, social security, and social welfare, along with mother and child healthcare through ICDS. Based on eligibility criteria, and to ensure that no beneficiaries are left out, the Panchayat develops a plan of action during the Pallisabha meeting and submits it to the Gram Sabha for approval.

However, the problem lies in the lack of records for the activities prepared in the Pallisabha and submitted to the Gram Sabha by the community. There is no collective initiative to follow up on the submitted plan. Additionally, when the scheme is approved, only a handful of duty bearers are informed, leading to malpractice and corruption in the system. For example, sometimes a grant may be approved in one person's name, but someone else receives the benefit. This creates disturbances within the community and hampers genuine development.

To prevent such malpractice, BSSS has introduced Participatory Learning and Action (PLA) for every village. In this process, the villagers develop a plan of action (PoA) sheet before the Pallisabha meeting. On the day of the meeting, they submit the prepared PoA for approval, which is later submitted to the Gram Sabha for higher-level approval. The community regularly follows up on the plan until they receive sanctions. Once the approval and sanctions are granted, they implement the plan. Then, they prepare a new PoA sheet, updating the existing one by adding new items and removing the completed ones. This process continues year after year.



The PLA exercise was completed on time with the concerned people in all 5 villages separately. Activities such as transect walks, social and resource mapping, hazard mapping, vulnerability analysis, problem identification, and the process of triangulation/data validation were carried out actively by the community.

Following the exercises, the target villages have prepared and submitted their PoA in the respective Pallisabhas, as well as to the B.D.O. Sadar Keonjhar, for the proper implementation of the approved activities.

Results achieved:

- The participation of people in the PLA process was highly encouraging, with both women and men actively involved.
- An action plan for the 5 villages has been developed, and it will be submitted to the Palli Sabha and Gram Sabha for approval.
- The people of each village, along with key village leaders, now know the actual boundaries of their village.

- They have gained an understanding of their village's status, the village map, vulnerability periods, socio-economic conditions, and potential solutions.
- They have identified a contact person in the village who will be involved in future implementation.
- Through this process, the entire community has felt that the program is meant for them, and they are ready to execute it as planned.

Activity R3.A.3.5 – PoA Submission:

Objectives of the activity:

- To prepare a village plan based on the needs within the village, ensuring funds for proper implementation.
- To identify problems, which will be prioritized by the committee.
- To secure the necessary funding, communities will submit their final PoA to the PRI at the Palli Sabha and Gram Sabha for approval.

Activity in brief:

After the completion of Participatory Learning and Action (PLA) exercises in the communities, the Plan of Action (PoA) was submitted to the Sarpanch through the Palli and Gram Sabha. The PoA for all 5 target villages was completed on time and approved by the Palli and Gram Sabha in each village. Therefore, 5 PoAs have been submitted.



Results achieved:

- Village-wise PLA has been completed, and based on the PLA, the PoA has been prioritized and submitted to the PRI.
- 5 PoAs have been submitted for approval, and all 5 PoAs have been approved by the Panchayat, with 2 PoAs approved by the Block Administration.
- Activities approved through the process have been implemented in 2 villages.

Result 4 (R4)- The children of the targeted community will have quality education

Activity R4.A.4.1 –Formation of Education Committee:

Objective of the activity:

- To form a committee to monitor the functioning of BuCs and the educational progress of children.
- To work towards the sustainability of the committee.

Activity in brief:

The Bridge-up Centers (BuCs) were established to improve children's academic standards and bridge the gap caused by the closure of schools during COVID-19. To manage, monitor, and ensure the regular functioning of the 7 BuCs, education committees were formed. The Farmers' Clubs (FCs) took on the responsibility of monitoring the centers at the 7 locations.



Results achieved:

- Regular meetings are held on a monthly basis, and the following decisions have been made by the committee to ensure the sustainability of the BuC.
- FC members review the progress of children's learning and extracurricular activities.
- Regular reviews of the Children's Parliament and Children's Club activities are conducted, with guidance provided to help them perform better.

Activity R4.A.4.2 Appointment of the instructor for BuCs

Objective of the activity:

- To run the BuCs smoothly and improve the status of children in order to sustain the education program.

Activity in brief:

Access to quality education is the right of every student, and providing this education is the duty and responsibility of both teachers and parents. However, a significant gap emerged in educational institutions when schools were closed due to COVID-19. Children, especially those from poor families, were unable to attend school, while children from economically sound families had access to tuition and online



education due to their financial stability. To bridge this gap in the educational standards of disadvantaged children, the project aimed to operate Bridge-up Centers (BuCs) by appointing instructors.

Following the proper procedure, the project invited applications through an advertisement. In due course, an interview was conducted, and 7 suitable candidates were selected as instructors for the BuCs. A total of 50 candidates appeared for the interview. The interview panel consisted of the Director of BSSS, the former Director of BSSS, and the project coordinator.

Results achieved:

- Following the due process, 7 candidates were selected as instructors for the 7 BuCs.
- All 7 instructors have been briefed on their basic roles and responsibilities related to the BuC centers.

Activity R4.A.4.3- Monthly meeting with instructors and parents:

Objective of the activity:

- To review the progress and functioning of the BuCs.
- To develop remedial measures for any difficulties faced by students at home and in the BuCs.

Activity in brief:

Monthly meetings were held with instructors and parents. The purpose of these meetings was to review the progress of BuC students in their studies and to analyze the performance of the instructors in delivering quality education to the children. In addition, the meetings provided an opportunity to work out suitable remedial measures for any issues or difficulties related to the children's education.

During the meetings, each center's progress was reviewed with the instructors, and the progress made so far was shared with the parents. It was observed that the children were improving, and the parents appreciated the progress. Instructors made sure that parents were present at the meetings. The Assistant Project Coordinator usually facilitated the meetings



Result achieved:

- The parents were pleased with the performance of the instructors.
- The review of the children's marks was done publicly.
- Discussions about extracurricular activities were held regularly.
- The parents appreciated the teaching methods adopted in the BuCs.

Activity R4.A.4.4 – Community awareness program on education--- Parents:

Objective of the activity:

- To raise awareness among parents about the importance of education for children.
- To outline their roles and responsibilities in supporting their children's education.

Activity in brief:

Education builds the foundation for a better future for children. However, the COVID-19 pandemic, followed by the closure of schools for two years, distanced and weakened parents' ability to take appropriate measures for their children's education. To restore parents' initiative in ensuring their children receive quality education, a community awareness program was organized.

The purpose of the program was to rekindle parents' understanding of the importance of education and the necessary measures they need to take. The program covered various topics, including the importance of education, available schemes for children's education, and bank loan facilities. The program was attended by 210 parents, and the resource person was Mr. Sangram Murmu.



Results achieved:

- The community became more aware of the importance of education for their children.
- Parents became more committed to their children's education and actively participated in BuC.
- In addition to teaching and learning, they also support and encourage their children to engage in extracurricular activities, such as drawing, singing, dancing, and handicraft making.

Activity R4.A.4.5 – Support of basic educational materials:

Objective of the activity:

- To fulfill the educational material needs of children and minimize the financial constraints of parents.

Activity in brief:

This initiative will encourage parents and ensure children have access to the necessary educational materials, which are crucial for learning. Generally, these materials spark interest in children and motivate them to learn. However, parents often struggle to provide the required school



materials due to economic constraints. Children at all centers have been provided with writing materials along with other essential items.

Results achieved:

- 151 students from Classes I-V were supported with TLM items (bag, pen, pencil, eraser, notebook, drawing book, and handwriting book), and they are happy and performing well.
- Their school attendance has been regularly observed, and it has been noted that their interest in studies has increased.



Activity R 4.A.4.6 - Formation and strengthening Children Parliament (1), Children Clubs (7):

Objective of the activity:

- To develop leadership qualities among the children.
- To create a platform where children can enjoy education while showcasing their abilities and talents.

Activity in brief:

The concept of the Children's Parliament (CP) is primarily focused on children and their rights. It aims to organize children, shaping their perceptions on various social, economic, and educational issues that affect or influence them and their lives. The learning from this forum of CP and Children's Clubs will, in turn, help develop leadership qualities in children, enabling them to address different issues and learn to become responsible members of society from a young age.

As per the plan, the project aimed to form 1 Children's Parliament and 7 Children's Clubs (CC) in 7 clusters of project villages where BuCs would function. As part of this activity, an orientation was conducted for children on the CC, which included the aims and objectives of the CC, the process and formation, the functions of the CC, as well as the infusion of education on life skills, extracurricular activities, and involvement in community development initiatives. A total of 124 children from the 7 clusters participated in these programs. The resource person for the program was Mr. Sangram Murmu, the project coordinator of the STEER project, who has expertise in CP and CC and provided guidance.

Results achieved:

- 7 Children's Clubs were formed in 7 clusters, covering 124 children.



- 124 children participated in the orientation program, which increased their understanding of CP and CC.
- The children who participated in the program were found to be quite enthusiastic about being members of the CC.
- The 7 Children's Clubs formed in 7 clusters are continuing education along with extracurricular activities.
- During the reporting period, 1 CP session was held with 25 selected children (13 girls and 12 boys).

Activity R4.A.4.7– Creative activity for Children's Club and Children's Parliament:

Objective of the activity:

- To involve children in various socio-cultural activities to foster a positive learning attitude in them.
- To encourage them to maintain physical health and immerse their minds and hearts in their studies.

Activity in brief:

Apart from enhancing the educational standards of the children, this activity is aimed at developing, shaping, and broadening the minds and thinking of the children in CP and CCs on various issues that concern them and others, both in the present and for the future. During this reporting period, several meetings were held where the children were educated about the social environment they live in, issues or incidents that cause discomfort, and the opportunities they have to become responsible members of society. The topics discussed will help cultivate leadership qualities and a service-oriented mindset. A total of 138 children attended these meetings, with 25 of them coming from CP.



Result achieved:

- The children of the Parliament placed stickers on bicycles as a reflection tool to help avoid accidents.
- An awareness rally was organized at the BuC level.
- A rally was held for a plantation drive and to promote the use of mosquito nets to protect against mosquito-borne diseases.

Activity R4.A.4.8- Observation of important days and events:

Objective of the activity:

- To observe various national and international days of importance and encourage people to uphold the lessons learned from these events.



- To pay homage to the heroes for their heroic deeds and sacrifices, and to draw inspiration from them.

Activity in brief:



During the reporting period, Republic Day was celebrated on January 26th and Independence Day on August 15th. These days were observed by hoisting the National Flag and paying homage to those who made significant contributions to the development of the Constitution of sovereign India. The celebration was attended by animators, village leaders, the Sarpanch of Gobardhan GP, BuC children, and instructors. The guest of honor delivered a speech on the Constitution of India and the responsibilities of Indians in safeguarding the nation's values and dignity.

Results achieved:

- Celebration of important days such as Independence Day and Republic Day, one at our BuCs and another at the field level.
- Most of the FC members, parents, teachers, PRI members, and the Gram Panchayat Sarpanch participated in the program.



Activity R4.A.4.9–Children's Fair:

Objective of the activity:

- To organize a fair to showcase the talents of the children.
- To create a platform for children to exchange their opinions and views.
- To encourage them in their further development.

Activity in brief:

As per the plan, a Children's Fair was held in the Gobardhan Gram Panchayat, with the venue at the village field.

Children
from 7
Bridge Up
Centres
attended,



accompanied by their parents and villagers.



Representatives from the government, including the District Agriculture Officer (ADAO), Block Agriculture Officer (BAO), KVK Scientist, and the local Sarpanch, were also present.

Result Achieved

- A total of 250 participants, including parents, took part in the event, where children competed in activities like singing, quizzes, and dancing.
- The local Sarpanch and government officials attended the program, offering inspiring advice and moral teachings to the children.
- The fair provided a cultural platform to showcase the children's talents, with prizes awarded to the winners of various events.

Activity R4.A.4.10 -Awareness on rights to education, leadership and other motivational sessions:

Objective of the activity:

- To sensitize parents about the importance of schooling their children and their rights.
- To impart knowledge and ideas about the Constitution and educational provisions.

Activity in brief:

Education plays a crucial role in helping individuals realize their duties and responsibilities, while also enhancing their knowledge and experience. It empowers them to use this knowledge as an asset to serve others and become self-sufficient. Education fosters positive changes in both personal lives and society, benefiting people in meaningful ways.

The awareness program was conducted across all five villages and 13 wards of Gobardhan Gram Panchayat. As the program took place in the target villages, more and more parents, including key community leaders, became actively engaged.

The program was led by resource persons Mr. Silu Saha and Mr.

Sangram Murmu, who facilitated sessions after sensitizing the communities. The topics covered included children's rights, the right to education (free and compulsory education for children), the significance of education in shaping children's futures, and the role of parents as leaders in driving positive change in the community. Group exercises focused on the right to education and the roles and responsibilities of parents.

A total of 625 participants attended the program, including 395 women, 120 men, and 110 children (62 girls and 48 boys).



Result achieved:

- Both parents and children have gained a better understanding of the importance of education.

- They have learned about the rules associated with the right to education guaranteed by our Constitution.
- Parents have recognized their roles and responsibilities in ensuring their children's education.
- Most parents have understood the need for leadership within their communities.

Activity R4.A.4.11 -Setting up BuC centers:

Objective of the activity:

- To equip each center with basic learning and teaching materials.
- To appoint instructors and assign selected students to each BuC

Activity in brief:

Children are the future of any community, and education is the key to unlocking their potential. Unfortunately, schools in the project areas have struggled to meet this need. To address this, BSSS has established BuC centers in the project areas, bridging the learning gap among children. A preparatory meeting with parents helped identify 7 convenient clusters for setting up the centers. Instructors were appointed through interviews, and each BuC center was equipped with essential learning materials such as tarpaulins, blackboards, chalk, registers, and examination records. The centers cater to children from standards I to V, with 151 children (66 boys, 85 girls) enrolled. Classes are held daily from 7:00 am to 9:00 am, and on Saturdays from 2:00 pm to 5:00 pm. These centers are proving effective in upgrading the education standards of the children.



Result achieved:

- Each BuC center is equipped with essential learning materials and other logistical items, ensuring a conducive learning environment.
- A total of 151 children regularly attend the BuCs with great interest, and parents have started actively monitoring the centers' functioning.
- The BuCs have significantly improved the education standards of children in the project areas, bridging the knowledge gap.
- Due to the success of the centers, there is increasing demand from other families in the village to enroll their children.
- Children frequently share their positive experiences from the BuCs with their families, schools, and peers, and even some government school authorities have requested BuC teachers to support them.

Activity R4.A.4.12- Training on Joyful teaching and learning program:

Objective of the activity:

- To equip instructors with joyful teaching and learning techniques.

- To support instructors in helping children bridge their learning gaps and ensure access to quality education.

Activity in brief:

To make classroom learning easier and more enjoyable for the students, a two-day training on Joyful Teaching and Learning was conducted for the BuC instructors. The training provided instructors with skills and techniques to enhance their teaching abilities. The joyful teaching and learning techniques included preparing proper lesson plans, adopting effective teaching methods, tailoring lesson plans to the students' learning capacities, giving special attention to weak students, and conducting monthly tests. Extracurricular activities were also emphasized, such as preparing Teaching and Learning Materials (TLMs) using various materials, storytelling, speech competitions, common games, drawing, singing, dancing, and organizing sports events. The resource person for the training was Mr. Surendra Singh. All 7 instructors and 3 project staff members attended the training.

Instructors used effective teaching techniques, guiding children in studies and extracurricular activities, while addressing both school syllabus and backlogs caused by COVID-19 following the training.



Results achieved:

- All instructors and staff have enhanced their knowledge and skills, becoming confident in applying what they've learned.
- The BuC children and parents have appreciated the teaching methods, with instructors becoming more confident in handling students through extracurricular activities.
- Sports have made classes more engaging, encouraging regular attendance among the children.

Other activities

Weekly planning meetings: Weekly meetings are held to review progress and plan for the following week. The local partner, project coordinator, assistant coordinator, and all animators attend. Staff performance is reviewed, and guidance is given to prepare weekly plans. The project coordinator and assistant coordinator review these plans, while discussions focus on project activities to enhance staff insights.



Core Committee Meeting:

Before implementing any activities, BSSS holds a monthly core committee meeting, attended by the Director, Finance Officer, and Project Coordinator. They review the project's status, plan activities based on the DIP and proposal, and discuss any deviations with reasons. The next month's plan is reviewed and shared, ensuring timely updates and smooth project implementation through effective management.



Conclusion:

The PEACE project has successfully completed two years, with targeted communities understanding its relevance and benefiting from its positive outcomes. The project has had a significant impact on the socio-economic life of the project villages. Staff members continue to stay engaged with the communities, helping them organize and understand the essence of the project, as well as their roles and responsibilities. The project has fostered a movement for unity and collective action toward a better life. Over the past two years, various activities have been successfully implemented. BSSS expresses gratitude to Manos Unidas, Spain, and all the benefactors and dedicated staff for their generous support. The beneficiaries also extend their goodwill to the agency for the positive changes brought to their lives.

Stories of Change

1. Empowering Women Through Animal Husbandry

In Gobardhan village, Keonjhar, Maa Saraswati SHG, formed by twelve impoverished women ten years



ago, struggled for sustainable income. Their initial efforts through pooled savings and loans yielded limited results. Hope arrived with the Peace project in 2022. BSSS organized meetings, inspiring income-boosting ideas. Rebati Sahoo, the Secretary, led the group towards animal and bird rearing.

In 2023, BSSS provided training in animal care and disease management. The group received eighty chicks, sharing responsibilities for feeding, vaccination, and monitoring. Their efforts paid off. Egg production increased, and sixty-seven birds were sold for ₹48,900, resulting in a ₹31,250 profit. Encouraged, they reinvested in one hundred new chicks.

This income brought confidence. The women learned to vaccinate their birds, becoming active agents of change. The group and their families expressed deep gratitude to BSSS and Manos Unidas. Their support empowered the vulnerable, transforming lives through a small initiative. The Maa Saraswati SHG's story highlights the power of collective effort, knowledge, and compassionate support, fostering hope and empowerment.

2. The Badi Brigade: Maa Laxmi SHG's Entrepreneurial Triumph

In Gobardhan village, the Maa Laxmi SHG, formed nine years ago by twelve women from impoverished families, struggled for income. Their savings and loans offered limited relief.

The Peace project offered a turning point. Secretary Tilotoma Khatua engaged the group in various activities. They opted for pulse tablet (Badi) making, a value-added product. BSSS provided training, exposure, and equipment like seal and weight measurement machines.



Training, conducted in phases over ten days, covered product making, packaging, marketing, and business development. In January 2023, the group began Badi production. Ten members now participate, procuring bulk raw materials, processing, and drying the tablets at home.

After drying, they package the Badi. Vendors and merchants place bulk orders. They produce an average of 200 kg, costing ₹50,000. Selling at ₹60-70 per kg, they earn a net profit of ₹14,000. They dedicate 3 days, 4-5 hours weekly, to this year-round business, except during the rainy season.

With increased demand, they plan to expand production. The women and their families express gratitude to BSSS and Manos Unidas for their support, which aims to improve the lives of vulnerable women.

3.The Power of Improved Practices: Parmeswar's Farming Triumph

Parmeswar Mohanta, a marginal farmer in Bana village, struggled with low paddy yields. Traditional farming on his two-acre land provided insufficient food for his four-member family.

BSSS's Peace project offered hope. After joining the Farmer's Committee (FC), he attended training on improved cropping practices, learning seed treatment, line transplantation, and quality seed cultivation.



His eagerness led to selection for project support. He received 1010 paddy seeds, suitable for the local climate. Following his training, he harvested 21 quintals from one acre, significantly more than the 14 quintals from traditional methods.

This success improved his family's food security. He consumed his harvest and sold his PDS rice, using the income for his children's education. He now encourages other farmers to adopt these improved practices for agricultural self-sufficiency. He plans to continue with the 1010 variety, aiming for further yield increases.

4.Cultivating Change: Kalpana's Journey to Prosperity

Kalpana Mahanto, 42, of Sendkap village, struggled with food insecurity. Her family's 80 decimal land yielded poor paddy harvests due to water scarcity. Additional expenses like education and healthcare burdened them.

BSSS's Peace Project offered a solution. Kalpana and her husband attended community meetings and agriculture training on natural farming. She learned water-efficient vegetable cultivation, organic pest control, and soil health improvement.



Supported with fruit trees and vegetable seeds (cabbage, brinjal, tomato, chili), she cultivated 30 decimal of land. BSSS provided ongoing technical support. In one season, she earned a net profit of ₹60,000 from vegetable sales.

Encouraged, she prepared her land again in November, planting cabbage, tomato, chili, and brinjal. Harvesting and sales have begun and will continue till February.

Kalpana and her family are grateful to BSSS and Manos Unidas for their support, which has significantly improved their livelihood and aims to empower vulnerable women.

5.From Drop-Out to Achiever: Sanjana's Inspiring Story

Sanjana Khatua, from Gobardhan village, faced educational disruptions due to her family's financial struggles. Despite this, she was a dedicated student. With support from BSSS's animator, Jonali Sahoo, she rejoined the Bridge Up Centre (BUC) under the Peace project.

The BUC provided free tuition, learning materials, and extracurricular activities. Sanjana excelled academically and participated in drawing, essay writing, singing, and sports. She also learned valuable life skills, including respect for elders.

Enrolled in class V, she received consistent academic support. Her performance improved significantly, scoring 80% in BUC exams and 85% in school exams.



Sanjana hopes her academic success and dreams happiness for the family through academic advancement .

6. The Bridge to Education: Kajal's Story of Hope

Eleven-year-old Kajal Naik, from Balisuan village, faced significant challenges. As the eldest of three sisters in a poor family, she was responsible for her younger siblings and household chores while her parents worked. This led to her dropping out of school in class III.

Kajal felt isolated and unhappy, missing her education. BuC instructor S. Giri learned about Kajal's situation and her desire to learn. Giri met Kajal's parents and explained the BSSS Bridge Up Centre (BUC), encouraging them to send Kajal for regular classes.

Now, Kajal attends the BUC, studying in class IV. She excels in English and math, manages household duties, and participates in extracurricular activities, including sports and cultural events. She is also a leader in the Children's Parliament.

Kajal's parents are grateful to BSSS and Manos Unidas for enabling her to continue her education.



7.A Harvest of Relief: Damodara's Path to Stability

Damodara Mahanta, a marginal farmer in Sendkap village, struggled to provide for his six-member family. Poverty caused him distress, especially regarding his children's needs.

In 2022, BSSS's PEACE project-initiated development activities in Sendkap. Following village meetings, Damodara joined a newly formed Farmers Club (FC). He participated in agriculture and improved crop cultivation trainings.

During the Rabi season, he received potato seeds through the project. Cultivating 20 decimal of land, he used advanced agricultural practices and treated seeds to prevent pests. The favorable climate resulted in a good yield.

He harvested 4.30 quintals of potatoes from 40 kgs of seed. After storing some for consumption, he sold the rest for ₹9,600, earning a net profit of ₹8,000. This income helped cover his wife's medical expenses, household needs, and his children's educational supplies.



Damodara is grateful to BSSS and the funding agency. He now encourages other farmers to adopt these practices for better production and plans to cultivate more land next year.

8.Sishira Kar's Green Gram Harvest

Nestled within the Keonjhar district, Rukunadeipur, a village of 85 households, relies heavily on the rhythm of cultivation. Sishira Kar, amidst his family of five, tilled his meager land, striving to nurture both paddy and occasional Rabi crops. His children, bright sparks, attended both school and the local Bridge Up Centre.



In 2022, the winds of change stirred with BSSS's PEACE project. A communal gathering illuminated the project's vision, igniting a spark of hope. From this, the Maa Naranpatrukashasangha Farmers Club blossomed, with Sishira Kar as a guiding light. He absorbed the wisdom of BSSS's agricultural training, embracing the promise of Rabi pulses, specifically green gram.

The resilient green gram, a perfect harmony with the land, thrived under his care. He meticulously followed the training's guidance, embracing line sowing and enriching the soil with organic compost. From 4 kg of seed, he cultivated 0.05 acres, yielding a bountiful 102 kg harvest. Selling 90 kg at ₹90 per kg, he earned ₹9,000, storing the rest for seed and sustenance.

This boon allowed him to procure seeds and fertilizers for his Kharif paddy, and to ease the burden of his children's education. A profound gratitude blossomed within him, a heartfelt thanks to BSSS and its benevolent funders. He now envisions expanding his green gram cultivation, inspiring his fellow villagers to embrace these methods for a richer harvest.

9.The Success Story of a Marginal Farmer

Atul Giri, 53, resides in Balisuan, a large village in Keonjhar district. His family relies on agriculture, but with only one acre of land, it is challenging to meet household needs, including children's education. As the sole earning member, he often borrows from others or takes loans through his wife's SHG to cover expenses. Seeking additional income sources, Atul found hope when BSSS adopted his village under the PEACE project in 2022.



A common meeting introduced villagers to the project, leading 15 farmers from ward 3 to form a Farmers Club (FC), with Atul elected as president. Through BSSS, he learned about Rabi cash crops, particularly potato cultivation, to boost farmers' income. He attended training sessions on line

transplantation and pest management, and successfully cultivated potatoes using quality seeds and irrigation from a nearby canal.

Atul planted 45 kg of potato seeds and harvested 5.22 quintals. Selling the potatoes at ₹25 per kg, he earned ₹13,000, with expenses totaling ₹3,100, resulting in a net profit of ₹10,000. This income helped Atul meet essential needs like clothing and medicine for his family, with 55 kg of potatoes reserved for household consumption. Grateful for the support, Atul expressed his thanks to BSSS and the donor, Manos Unidas, for their role in improving the lives of vulnerable families.

Fr. Roy Kochupurackal
Director- BSSS
Balasore, Orissa