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Message from the Chairman

Prof. Digambar Shatapathy
Chairman
Pragati, Koraput

The annual report of an organization working in the field of socio-economic development is a documented statement of activities undertaken by the organization for year under report. Looking back at the varieties of programmes undertaken by the organization during 2010-11, one feels assured that PRAGATI is well focused on core issues like food security, natural resource management, women empowerment, sustainable livelihood programmes etc. The organization is marching ahead with unmatched speed and vigour.

Adoption of SRI by the villagers is moving with galloping speed. Starting with 11 farmers in Kendar G.P of Koraput block in 2006, adoption of SRI now stands at 3000 farmers in 14 blocks. The case studies incorporated in the report has added colours to the annual report. Dissemination of success stories through videos produced in local language using Pico projectors has well served the motivational aspect which is reflected in increase in number of farmers adopting SRI. District level women convention participated by 500 tribal women drawn from different SHGs is a stand out programme during the year. Other people-centered activities like seed village programme, organic practices in agriculture, enhancing access to MGNREGS, PDS, FRA and other welfare activities through people’s organizations and federation of SHGs have contributed immensely, making PRAGATI an iconic civil society. Forest protection, natural resource management, enabling deserving people to get land entitlements are some of the exemplary activities where coordination with District Administration is best reflected.

I take this opportunity to congratulate PRAGATI family members for their united efforts and unmatched devotion in bringing the organization to this dizzy height of success in the realm of economic uplift of tribals and other needy people.

Chairman
From the Secretary’s Desk

Mr. Prabhakar Adhikari
Secretary
Pragati, Koraput

It gives me immense pleasure to present our Annual Report for the year 2010-11, which gives a broad view of our humble initiatives and key achievements in the past year, as well as the tasks ahead to attain our vision and objectives. As we pass through a difficult phase of economic depression, climate change and civil unrest saturating the local, national and global contexts, there is even more need of mindful and well-informed civil society organisations to ensure social justice.

Change with transformation is a long process. It sometimes takes decades to produce positive impact. Since 1992, Pragati has endeavoured to address poverty from a holistic viewpoint, transitioning individuals from mere recipients of welfare to empowered citizens in control of their own destinies. Over the years, we have organized the isolated poor; piloted, refined and scaled up practical ways to increase their access to resources; and supported their entrepreneurial spirit to empower them to become active agents of change. Women empowerment has been the central analytical lens of our approach. Recognizing both women’s vulnerabilities and their thirst for change, we have consistently worked with them to uplift their condition. Our achievements in this regard may be modest but the long-term results are slowly being felt.

A holistic perspective in community development guided us to develop support services in the areas of social empowerment, livelihood, environmental sustainability and disaster preparedness. Our constructive engagement with the Community-Based Organisations, Federations and Self-Help Groups has enhanced community access to benefits under various government schemes and programmes such as the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGS), the Public Distribution System (PDS), and entitlements under the Forest Rights Act (FRA).

We are happy with the positive changes our work has produced in the lives of marginalised communities and hope to continue in the same spirit for years to come. In our commitment towards realizing our vision and objectives, we engender the values of transparency and accountability by sharing projects details and their corresponding budgets with stakeholders, and involving community in project implementation and management.

On behalf of the Pragati team, I take this opportunity to gratefully acknowledge the generous support extended by our esteemed donors, members of Board, Civil Society Organisations, District administration, NGO partners, CBGs and above all the communities we work with for their continued support towards achieving our Vision and Mission of serving the poor and deprived communities.
A group of youths with a dream to make a change in the lives of marginalised resource poor communities - this was what Pragati was born out of, on 26th January 1992. Pragati is registered under the Societies Registration Act 1860, bearing Registration No.KPT-2035-4/94-95 dated 27.4.1994, Foreign Contribution (Regulation) Act 1976-Registration No.104960054, dated 26-08-1998 and Section 12AA of Income tax Act 1961 - dated 01-04-1997 vide Registration No. 80/97-98.

Times have changed. Starting with a handful of villages, our work has extended across the Koraput District. This has taken us to more than 11,000 households where our interventions have currently reached. The direct operational areas of the organization cover 173 villages in 18 Gram Panchayats of three Blocks i.e. Koraput, Nandapur & Kotpad. Moreover, partnerships and collaborative work with local NGOs expands our reach to 949 villages across the district where it has established a network of forest dependent people. Another District-level initiative of Pragati is the promotion of the System of Rice Intensification (SRI) and sustainable agriculture to enhance the food security of small and marginal farmers that covers 200 villages in 14 Blocks of Koraput District involving 15 local NGOs.

OUR VISION:

To build such a self-reliant society, free from hunger and exploitation, where everyone irrespective of caste, creed, sex and language have right to dignified means of livelihood and through collective action ensure socio-economic justice and ecological balance.

OUR MISSION:

To facilitate and strengthen vibrant people’s organizations at different levels of society that will protect, utilize, control and manage local resources and through collective action, ensure dynamic socio-economic change for sustainable development by advocating for pro-poor governance and bring women, children, tribals and downtrodden, to the mainstream of the society.

VALUES WE CHERISH

- Transparency in all aspects.
- Commitment to render selfless service to the poor.
- Accountability to the Society.
- Work with team spirit.
- Punctuality.
- Participatory approach in all aspects.
- Sensitive towards women upliftment.
- Secular in spirit.
- Impartial and non-partisan attitude.

Thematic areas of intervention

- Formation and Empowerment of People’s Organisations.
- Natural Resource Management
- Sustainable Agriculture
- Community-based Disaster Preparedness and Risk Reduction.
OUR PROGRAMMES

EMPOWERMENT OF PEOPLE’S ORGANISATION

Empowerment increases people’s opportunities and capabilities to make and express choices and to transform those choices into desired actions and outcomes. Therefore, in line with our mission, we strive to empower people and communities in situations of poverty and social injustice by building and strengthening community institutions to empower individuals, build relationships and organizations, and create action for social change.

Our interventions aim at achieving positive changes through economic and social empowerment, building capacities of communities to raise their voice, taking collective action to advocate for pro-poor governance, and ensuring gender equity. Village Development Committees, Farmers Clubs, Panchayat & Block Federations, are some of the organisational forms that have been fostered so that people are able to carry forward the development agenda, they have set for themselves. To scale up the initiatives and mobilise larger communities we have forged alliance with local NGOs to establish District level federation of forest dependent people and a network of Organic farmers called Jaivik SRI Samaj.

Building People’s Collectives- From Villages to Block level

The people’s lack of awareness about different plans and programmes, laws and their rights has not only led to their exploitation and deprivation, but is also a factor in the general lack of State accountability to its vulnerable citizens. We believe that building the power of low-income and marginalised communities to self-determine the environment they live in is the most effective and sustainable way to create solutions to environmental, economic, and civic disparities. Over the years, Pragati has established and contributed to the strengthening of 173 Village Development Committees, Farmers Groups, 14 Panchayat-level and two block-level federations, to create avenues for the voiceless and marginalised communities to assert themselves and to have access to their entitlements.

Results Achieved:

- The VDCs of get their micro-plans approved in Gram Sabha and presented the micro-plan findings with the Block and District administration and are able to establish linkages with Govt. programme as a result of which 74 villages are enlisted by the DRDA for implementation of land development activities and 84 farmers executed farm ponds under MGNREGA.

- There is an increase in people’s participation in the Gram Sabha and social audits in 10 Gram Panchayats due to the stimulation of the local self governance system.

- Farmers organised into 311 groups covering 4022 households who regularly watch agriculture and organic practices through human mediated disseminations. Till date 2,196 video disseminations have been conducted resulting in 2,936 adoptions of different agriculture and organic farming practices;
Forest Dependent People’s network

The tribal people and forest dwellers in Koraput have an umbilical relationship with forests which has economic and spiritual dimensions as well as a strong perception of their historic land and forest rights. In this context, Pragati took a proactive role in exploring strategies to stabilize natural forests through empowering communities as “keepers” of these valuable ecosystems and institutionalizing community forest management initiatives as early as 1994. Underlying community-based forest management is the belief that communities are in the best position to manage and protect forests, if they participate in decision-making on the sustainable use of forest resources.

Starting with villages, the initiatives have taken shape of a District-level coordinating body- the Koraput Jilla Banabasi Sangha (KJBS). To date, the KJBS has members from 949 villages actively engaged in restoring rights of marginalised communities over forests and forest land as prescribed under the 'Scheduled Tribes and Other Traditional Forest Dwellers (Recognition of Forest Rights) Act of 2006.'

Key Achievements:

- The District Forest Federation now covers 949 villages in 110 Panchayats of 14 blocks. This translates to around 104,726 households actively engaged in protecting 31,228 hectares of village forest resulting in regeneration of denuded forests, with communities taking up seed and seedling plantations and biodiversity conservation.

- District-level Coordination has been established in association with District administration, and involving 30 local NGOs and Block federations, for ensuring individual and community rights under Forest Rights Act. So far 33,710 individual claims have been filed and 20,742 claimants already received their land entitlements.

- A total of 909 community claims have also been submitted at the Sub-District Level committee (SDLC), out of which 40 villages have already received their entitlements. Efforts are continued in collaboration with District administration for proper implementation of FRA in Koraput district.

- Two women leaders of forest federations were honoured with Prakruti Bandhu Award by the Forest and Environment Department, Govt. Of Orissa. This recognition is also an indication of the State government’s appreciation of the community forest protection and management initiatives.

Women SHGs & Federation:

Empowerment of women is a holistic concept, it is multi-dimensional in its approach and covers political, economic and social aspects. Of all these facets of women’s development, economic empowerment is of utmost significance to achieve a lasting and sustainable development of society. In our initiative for empowering women and mainstreaming gender, we have promoted women self-help groups (SHGs) in Nandapur and Koraput blocks.
We have facilitated 119 SHGs covering 1,514 women members; coalesce to form federations at Panchayat & Block level. Apart from savings and micro-credit, 67 SHGs are also involved in income generation activities while another 13 are implementing government programmes like Mid-Day Meal scheme and distribution of PDS. Now the women have become productive members of the family. Increased self-reliance and self-confidence have improved the ability of women to mobilize various public services for their benefit.

District level Women Conventions are organised every year with an objective to foster a learning environment among women, build a platform where women can share their issues and above all creating opportunities for linkage with different stakeholders.

**District Level Women Convention:**

The 2nd District-level Women Convention was organised on 16th & 17th January 2011 at Nishanimunda, Koraput in association with the District administration, Mission Shakti and NGOs- CYSD and SOVA (Koraput). More than 600 women of different SHGs, co-operatives, CBOs, Govt. officials, NGOs, PRI representatives and media persons participated in the Convention.

The Hon’ble Chief Guest of the event, Dr. Jyoti Panigrahi, Chairperson of the Odisha Women Commission expressed her concern over issues like dowry torture, female foeticide, domestic violence which continue to be pervasive despite laws and enforcing mechanisms in place and she reiterated her commitment to address these issues. A booklet entitled “Ma Sangathana, Gosthi Unnayan” (“Women Organization and Community Development”) was released on the occasion.

The participants got an opportunity to listen to and interact with Hon’ble Guests and eminent persons which included Sri Jayaram Pang, Smt. Renubala Pradhan, Member, Members of Rajya Sabha; Smt. Usha Padhi, Additional Secretary Govt. Of Odisha Water Resources Department; Sri Rajesh Prabhakar Patil, I.A.S., District Collector & Magistrate, Koraput; Sri A.V. Swami, Member Planning Commission; Ms. Amrita Patel, academician, Ms. Sneha Mishra, State Convenor, WE CAN Campaign and Professor Digambar Shatapathy, Chairman, Pragati, Koraput.

Some of the issues presented by women participants include: lack of awareness of PRIs about their powers and functions; license to open liquor shops which has negative impact on livelihoods and aggravates domestic violence; problems in implementation of NREGA; irregularities in PDS; the difficulties of SHGs for bank linkage; and the limitations in market linkage of SHG and local products. A proposal forwarded during the Convention was to set up a producer’s network in the District for creating marketing opportunities for SHGs and Federations.
Livelihood and Food security

System of Rice Intensification

The System of Rice Intensification (SRI), first introduced by us in 2006 Kharif with only 11 farmers in Koraput block, is increasing credence and momentum as more and more farmers across the Koraput District are now using this method to raise their rice production. As the threat of climate change is increasingly felt (e.g. erratic rainfall, the growing competition for water and land), SRI offers an opportunity for multiplying the production value per drop of water and for reducing agricultural water demand.

We started the scale up of SRI in 2008 with support from SDTT covering 88 villages and 395 farmers in 8 blocks of Koraput adopted SRI. By the end of the first year 60 percent of the farmers experienced an almost a twofold yield as compared to when they were adopting the traditional paddy method. Further, our promotion of SRI placed emphasis on the use of indigenous seed varieties with organic applications in view of their sustainable ecological benefits.

Since Kharif 2010 we have scaled up the technology to cover 3000 farmers of 190 villages across all 14 blocks of the Koraput District through farmer’s trainings, exposure visits, field demonstrations and input provision. To date 1,360 acres of land are put under SRI with 72 percent of farmers harvesting double yield, thereby extending the period of household food security by three to six months. Out of this 63% of farmers are small landholders. A total of 650 farmers have been provided with input supports for increasing organic application in SRI.

SRI Village Programme

In line with scale up of SRI, we have implemented SRI Village programme in Kathargada Panchayat of Borigumma block with an objective to enhance food and income security of small farm holders. The programme was supported by NABARD and implemented in association with a local NGO called TRIBE. Out of 500 farmers of 16 villages trained on SRI principles, 446 farmers adopted the practice during Kharif 2010 in 120 acres of land. Along with awareness and trainings, farm input supports were given to farmers that included seed, markers, weeders and organic manures. The farmers, though adopting SRI for the first time have adhered to all the principles of SRI & followed organic applications only. The farmers realised that they can increase yield with less farm inputs. The highest yield record was 12.50 quintals per acre with average yield of 8 quintals per acre. In coming Kharif 2011, all the adopting farmers have decided to follow SRI principles for their paddy crop.
Case study: Organic SRI-For Food Security & Ending the Debt cycle

Radhakanta, a small farmer of Nuaguda Village in Kathargada Panchayat of Borigumma Block, has found a solution to ensure food security and escape the debt trap. SRI is the answer. Two acres of rain fed paddy land is the only food source for his six-member household. Prior to adopting SRI, Radhakanta had to invest Rs 7000/- to 8000/- per acre which included expenses for seeds, labour, chemical fertilizers and pesticides. He had to depend on the village money-lender for sourcing the money. Thus, after harvest, the first priority was to repay the loan. However, the 14 to 15 quintal yield was often inadequate, even for consumption of the family.

In Kharif, 2010 Radhakanta first started doing SRI in 0.30 decimal land with Khandagiri variety. 27 other farmers in his village also tried SRI that season with him. It was also the first time he followed total organic practices. He harvested 6.10 quintals of paddy from the land where he used to get only 3.5 quintals. His investment was also a minimal Rs. 1,300/- because he need not invest in chemical fertilizer or pesticide. Encouraged by the experience, Radhakanta has decided to adopt SRI in all his paddy land. He has now found a solution to increase his farm’s productivity and eventually shed off his debt burden.

JAIVIKA SRI SAMAJ:

We are leading a District level network of civil society organisations, the “Jaivik SRI Samaj” for promotion and up scaling of SRI & organic farming in Koraput District. There are 15 local NGOs as members in the network, engaged in technology transfer for wider replication of SRI for food security and income enhancement of small farm holders. Due to this initiative 3,000 farmers are now adopting SRI method in 190 villages of 14 blocks, with 1360 acres of land brought under SRI cultivation. Farmers in 135 villages have formed Farmers Clubs to consolidate their initiatives for up scaling of SRI & organic farming and mobilise Govt. Plans and programmes.

Pragati & the “Jaivik SRI Samaj” have been organizing annual district-level symposiums since 2009 to create a platform for sharing of experiences and preparing future strategies for further up-scaling the practice.

District Level Symposium on SRI

The 3rd District-Level Symposium was held on 29th March 2011, at Tribal Museum, Koraput. Five hundred farmers from across the District attended the event along with NGO representatives involved in SRI promotion, line department officials, researchers, bankers and media persons participated.

The Symposium was formally inaugurated by the Chief Guest, Sri Ashok Pangi, President, Zilla Parisad. Other Honorable Guests included Bharat Chandra Nath, Dy. Director of Agriculture; Sri Narayan Sethi, Additional Project Director, ATMA, Koraput; Mr. B.B. Panigrahi, Manager Lead Bank, Koraput; Sri Alekh Chandra Sahu, District Agriculture Officer, Koraput; and Mr. D. Narayan, a progressive farmer from Ganjam. An Oriya booklet entitled “Koraput re SRI Dhana” (SRI in Koraput) containing the principles of SRI, success stories, innovations and best practices of practicing farmers was released on the occasion.
30 farmers from 14 blocks of the district presented their experiences and narrated how challenging it has been for them to adopt SRI, both socially and from technological perspective. Most of the farmers reported that they have got enhanced yield, less incidence of pest and diseases and used organic manures. Some farmers have also made their own innovations. A good number of farmers have become good motivators and trainers in their respective areas.

Mr. Rajesh Prabhakar Patil, I.A.S., District Collector, Koraput, encouraged the farmers to adopt SRI. He announced to the participants about the future plan of the District administration to promote SRI on 30,000 acres in the coming Kharif, 2011. In an initiative to encourage farmers and to recognize their initiatives and innovations, 35 farmer couples were felicitated with the SRI SAMMAN award.

ICT for sustainable Agriculture

Farmers have different types of information needs during each stage of agricultural production, ranging from inputs, solutions to pest attacks, improved cultivation practices, pest and disease management, prices and markets. In rural areas, a common source of information is the farmer’s social network i.e. farmers share among themselves information they have and also their experiences in the field. Low literacy rates in the rural areas renders text-heavy media out of reach to many people, while electronic equipments are inaccessible to farmers. Where information is lacking or come from limited sources, the farmers’ decisions to continue, discard or adopt an agricultural practice may be based on information which may be outdated or misleading which are often major constraints to adoption of good agricultural practices.

In this context, Pragati has started the use of information and communication technologies (ICT) in 110 villages of Koraput and Nandapur Blocks, with the objective to ensure livelihood security of small and marginal farmers through production and dissemination of videos in local language. There are 40 community service providers engaged in the video disseminations using Pico Projectors with 4,784 farmers watching the shows regularly. The human-mediated instruction model for dissemination minimizes the distance between educator and the learner, thus improving the delivery of information to farmers.

81 Videos have been produced in local languages documenting different agricultural practices, including organic farming, success stories and government programmes. In 22 of these videos women farmers are featured. The excitement to be featured in the videos motivates the farmers to share their knowledge while the audience is motivated to learn because the practice is being demonstrated by a peer. To date, 2,196 video disseminations have been conducted resulting in 2,936 adoptions of different agriculture and organic farming practices.
Case study: Disseminating Practices using ICT

The family and friends of Bhagabati (a tribal woman from Daleiput village of Koraput block) now take pride in her, as the video on paddy seed treatment in which she has featured is played in more than 100 villages in Koraput & Nandapur blocks. She works on a hectare of land owned by her family. Her knowledge on SRI and organic farming came from the various trainings and exposures she had attended in the past. Although she has adopted and demonstrated these in her own farm, she has never got an opportunity to share her knowledge with fellow farmers, much less outside her village.

Thus, Bhagabati was happy when she was selected to be featured in a video on seed treatment and preservation. She felt a little nervous as she faced a camera for the first time in her life but this soon passed. She was very excited as she knew that the video will be played in a number of villages, and that the information she had shared will be appreciated and adopted by the farmers. She feels that without the aid of videos, agricultural information would be difficult or take a long time to spread in the villages, where farmers are mostly illiterate.

On the part of the audience, they became interested in seed treatment and preservation because the message comes from a fellow farmer. Bhagabati’s video is one of the most popular videos produced, with 70 farmers adopting the practice. It has also encouraged other women farmers to share their knowledge and skills. To date, 22 videos have been documented featuring women farmers.

Land and water conservation

The rural poor are dependant on natural resources for their survival; it buffers them against absolute poverty and provides them opportunities for self-employment. However, as the resource base declines in quantity and quality, the livelihoods of people dependant on them are becoming at risk along with their food security.

We are working to strengthen the livelihoods of these people by promoting more sustainable natural resource management (NRM) practices, improving the local community access and their capacity to actively manage resources through social mobilization, building people’s skills and technology transfer. The demonstration models created under the programme interventions have increased awareness among communities to conserve protect and properly utilize land and water resources. At the same time, people are organized to mobilize government schemes for resource conservation and upgradation.

Interventions & Outcomes:

- Soil conservation structures like land bunding, gully control and 5% model has produced visible benefits for 329 farming families of 16 villages as soil erosion is arrested in 127 hectares of land with the increased infiltration and water conservation. This has also resulted to subsistence farmers getting increased yields per unit of land. Moreover, 67 hectares of waste land were used for agriculture purposes.
People have mobilized land development activities in 42 villages benefitting 402 farmers under MGNREGA.

508 Small farm holders in 42 villages have raised fruit orchards (cashew and mango) in the uplands, thereby increasing the utility of land for multiple cropping and the possibility of additional income when the trees start bearing fruits.

Installation of lift irrigations through pump sets in 39 villages have helped 400 farmers to grow a second crop that not only adds to the nutritional requirement but enabled them to earn additional income of Rs. 10,000/- to Rs 12,000/- per year.

**Sustainable Agriculture using Organic practices**

Agricultural development since the last few decades has largely focused on short-term productivity based on external inputs, especially on synthetic fertilizers, pesticides and hybrid seeds. This has resulted in the neglect and improper use of natural resources which in turn leads to ecosystem damage. At the household level, the impact is felt in the increasing financial burden on the small farm holders.

In this context, the transition to sustainable agriculture by the small farmers normally requires a series of small, realistic steps. We have been working to demonstrate environment-friendly organic practices with specific strategies which take into account topography, soil characteristics, climate, local availability of inputs and the grower’s goals. Our focus is on the small and marginal farmers. To date, our interventions are concentrated in 162 villages in Koraput and Nandapur Blocks and, on a smaller scale, in seven other blocks of Koraput District. These include skill building, demonstrations, technical and input supports and organizing farmer’s collectives.

**Interventions and Outcomes:**

- 1,246 farmers have reduced dependency on chemical inputs and started organic applications like vermin compost, green manure, bio-fertilizers and Azolla.

- 74 varieties of local elite germ plasm, on the verge of extinction are collected and conserved in eight seed banks and accessed by the farmers. The preservation and continued use of these local varieties will ensure availability of seeds adapted to the local geo-climate and of good genetic stock.
• 4,860 Farmers are organised in to 135 Farmers clubs which are committed to practise organic agriculture. Farmers clubs will also mobilise government programmes and advocate for farmer-friendly policy decisions.

• A Farmer’s Cooperative covering 98 farmers is facilitated in Koraput block.

**Action Research:**

The proponents of SRI claim that it is not a packaged set of technology, rather it is a work in progress, still evolving and improving with innovations of farmers, experience of researchers as well as civil society organisations. As intensive efforts are made to popularize SRI by civil societies and government, research backing is necessary for ensuring wider adoption and sustainability of the practice. Each research reveals new experiences and findings.

Pragati, with support of the SRI Secretariat, has been involved in an on-farm research. The research is conducted in Hardoli village of Kotpad block and directly involves 21 local farmers in 123 plots over an area of four acres. This is a longitudinal research which covers three Kharif seasons from 2009 to 2011. The uniqueness of the research is that the farmers are not only regarded as beneficiaries of the research output and outcomes, but they are proactively included in the research process.

The subjects of research are:

1. Nutrient Management (NM) (organic, chemical)
2. Age of seedling in days (AS) (0, 8, 12, 16, 20, 25)
3. Variety Response (VR) (Local, HYV, Hybrid, Aromatic)
4. Spacing (4, 5, 6, 8, 9, 10, 12 inch)
5. Spacing (5) X Age of seedling (AOS)
6. Direct seeded

**The major findings of the research from the past two Kharif seasons were:**

- 50% organic + 50% chemical gives more yield (15.52 Qnt. per acre)
- 12 days old seedlings - highest yield (14.08 Qnt. per acre)
- Hybrid variety - maximum harvest (16.56 Qnt. per acre)
- Row to row 30 cm + plant to plant 30 cm (11.05 Qnt. per acre)
- 12 days old seedling + 25 sq.cm. spacing most productive (12.57 Qnt. per acre)
- Line sowing method proved to be effective (12.50 Qnt. per acre)
**Paddy Seed production:**

Seed has been the most basic input in agriculture ever since people started domesticating the first crop plant. Thus the sustained supply of quality seeds is the most important factor for agriculture growth. Usually the farmers of Koraput depend on their own farm-saved seeds which do not always meet the quality standards. Thus they result in poor field stand and, consequently, poor yield.

It is in this context, Pragati started the Seed Village Programme in 2009 with the objectives to raise good seeds that can be made available to farmers at the right time and at reasonable price, and to increase seed replacement rate. It would further encourage the farmers to produce and exchange quality seeds and to ensure self-sufficiency at the village level.

The Seed Village Programme was implemented in conjunction with the promotion of SRI. In Rabi 2010, the programme was implemented in six villages in Kotpad and Kundra Blocks, covering 200 farmers and 200 acres of land. The farmers were trained and provided with farming materials including certified and foundation seeds. The seeds so produced were again certified to ensure its quality. This has helped farmers to retain seeds for their own use, even produce surplus quality seeds to sell to the Orissa State Seed Corporation, Ltd. in Jeypore (OSSC). They have sold a total of 2,175 quintals of paddy seeds from their own production to the OSSC. Besides certified seeds, farmers were also encouraged to preserve and replicate local seed varieties on the verge of extinction.

Since 2009, a total of 230 farmers from Jeypore, Kotpad and Kundra blocks have been directly involved in the programme with area coverage of 230 acres.

**Selfhelp Cooperatives**

Self Help Cooperatives, as economic enterprises and as self-help organizations, play a meaningful role in uplifting the socio-economic conditions of their members and the local communities while also serving as catalysts for social organization. With their concern for their members and communities, they represent a model of economic enterprise that places high regard for democratic and human values. We started a Self Help Cooperative in 2005, in Nandapur block with an initial membership of 154 women who, by working together, by pooling their resources, by submitting themselves to group discipline have resolved to raise themselves above poverty and powerlessness. The Self Help Cooperative
named Anchalik Bahumukhi Samabaya Ltd. has been registered in 2007 under Orissa Self Help Cooperative Act 2001.

There are now 923 members enrolled in the Cooperative with an annual transaction of 14,63,922/- during the financial year 2010-11. 25% percent of its members have regular access to credit and started taking up income generating programmes for better livelihoods. The Cooperative has supported 300 members for agriculture inputs, 25 families for off farm activities like goatery and poultry and 50 families for small business.

**Case study: Pratima finds a life with dignity**

Life changed for Pratima, a 26-year old girl with a disability, when she became a member of the Cooperative. Pratima belongs to other backward caste living in Sindhuput village of Bheja Panchayat. Her disability barred her from engaging in physical labor, a common source of income for people of her economic status. She felt as most people saw her: a burden to her family.

Pratima became a Cooperative member in 2008, having heard of it in the Village Development Committee (VDC) meetings. She initially got a loan of Rs. 1,500/- which she used to grow potato and tomato in a small patch of land. She earned a profit of Rs. 2,000/- from this venture. Encouraged, she took another loan, this time Rs.3,000/-. Because it was the season for tamarinds, Pratima used the loan to process and sell tamarinds. After one month, she earned a net profit of Rs.2,000/-. She invested this money in paddy cultivation. This was a great help to her family which in the previous seasons were dependent on money lenders to meet their farming expenses. With Pratima’s contribution, her family were not only freed from debt, but also they got a profit of Rs.2,000/- from the sale of paddy.

Pratima continues to support her family’s livelihood activities. She recently took another loan of Rs.6,000/- which she invested in paddy and vegetable cultivation in two acres of land (share cropping arrangement). She also adopted organic farming practices to reduce expenses.

The Cooperative has given Pratima the means to live with dignity. Aside from the Cooperative, the VDC also helped her to get a pension, to which disabled persons are entitled. Pratima is now confident and full of dreams. She plans that her brother finishes his education - and with her contribution to the household income, this is more possible than before.
Community Based Disaster Preparedness & Risk Reduction

The community based disaster preparedness programme was implemented in 51 villages of four Gram Panchayats in the Nandapur block (Hatibari, Raising, Golluru & Chatwa), vulnerable to natural disasters like flash floods, landslides, drought and occasionally epidemics resulting from food and water contamination. The people in these areas are resource-poor and they lack awareness to address disaster risks.

In this context, VDCs and Task Force have been formed in the villages and the community leaders are oriented on disaster preparedness, risk analysis and vulnerability mapping. The villagers have been facilitated to prepare micro-plans and contingency plans whereby they have identified issues and disaster risks and also prepared action plans to address the same.

Besides capacity building programmes, demonstration of resource management through soil and water conservation was taken up in few villages as means to educate people on disaster preparedness in the hilly areas.

Results Achieved:

- VDCs became aware of disaster risks and the disaster preparedness measures and initiate actions to address the same. The VDCs and Task Force members are able to present their issues before line department officials; the Task Force team start responding to disaster situations.

- VDCs & Task Force of 22 villages mobilised land development and water conservation activities as a part of disaster risk reduction measures. These activities were included in the micro-plans and contingency plans which were approved in Gram Sabhas. The people also presented the micro-plan findings before Block and District administration.

- People in six landslide affected village were able to reclaim their lands and adopt crop diversity to address their food insecurity.

- 95 poor and marginalized families have built their own houses under Shanti Kutira Programme. The 20 families affected by a landslide in one village were shifted and resettled in a safer place.
## Members of General Body

The General Body met twice and the Executive Body met four times during the year 2009-10; the minutes of the meetings are circulated. The board approves programmes, budgets, annual activity reports and audited financial statements and ensures that the organization complies with laws and regulations.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sl. No</th>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Designation</th>
<th>Experience</th>
<th>Year of Involvement</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Prof. Digambar Shatapathy</td>
<td>Chairman</td>
<td>Former member of Orissa Public Service Commission, 36 years experience in the field of Administrative and Supervisory work under both central and State Govt., Adult Education, Youth Development and Social Service.</td>
<td>7 Years</td>
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<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Sir Suresh Kumar Panigrahi</td>
<td>Vice Chairman</td>
<td>24 years Experience in Social Service and Administration.</td>
<td>18 Years</td>
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<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Sri Prabhakar Adhikari</td>
<td>Secretary</td>
<td>20 years in community development, NRM and Livelihood.</td>
<td>18 years</td>
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<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Smt. Radha Panda</td>
<td>Joint Secretary</td>
<td>22 years in Community forest management and Sustainable agriculture.</td>
<td>8 years</td>
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<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Sri Jagannath Shroff</td>
<td>Treasurer</td>
<td>Retired Orissa Administrative Service, Expert in Land &amp; Revenue Matters.</td>
<td>2 Years</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Sri. V. Bhaskar Rao,</td>
<td>Ex. Board Member</td>
<td>40 years in Administration and Financial management.</td>
<td>14 Years</td>
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<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>Dr. P.C. Mohapatra</td>
<td>Ex. Board Member</td>
<td>40 years in academics, economics &amp; research.</td>
<td>2 Years</td>
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<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>Dr. (Smt.) Luna Panda</td>
<td>Ex. Board Member</td>
<td>10 years experience in community development, livelihood &amp; Gender issues.</td>
<td>8 years</td>
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<td>9</td>
<td>Sri Surendra Masti</td>
<td>Ex. Board Member</td>
<td>10 years in community mobilization and Forest protection &amp; leadership</td>
<td>4 years</td>
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<td>10</td>
<td>Smt. Shantiati Behera</td>
<td>Ex. Board Member</td>
<td>20 years in women's development and activist for women rights.</td>
<td>4 years</td>
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<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td>Sir Gurucharan Datur</td>
<td>Member</td>
<td>6 years experience in Civil Society organization, community mobilization &amp; community leadership</td>
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<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>Sri Dibakar Jani</td>
<td>Member</td>
<td>10 years in Community mobilization, community forest management and Organic farming.</td>
<td>13 Years</td>
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<td>13</td>
<td>Sri Shramik Jogi</td>
<td>Member</td>
<td>40 years in Community forest management, environment protection &amp; social activist.</td>
<td>8 years</td>
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<tr>
<td>14</td>
<td>Sri Dharmananda Guntha</td>
<td>Member</td>
<td>20 years experience in community forest management, NTFP processing and marketing &amp; SRI</td>
<td>8 years</td>
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<tr>
<td>15</td>
<td>Sri K.C. Panigrahi</td>
<td>Member</td>
<td>50 years in development &amp; conservation of Tribal culture in Koraput region</td>
<td>2 Years</td>
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<tr>
<td>16</td>
<td>Sri Sanjay Patnaik</td>
<td>Member</td>
<td>20 years experience in community forest &amp; research.</td>
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<tr>
<td>17</td>
<td>Sri Ranjan Raut</td>
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<tr>
<td>18</td>
<td>Sri Suryanarayan Panda</td>
<td>Member</td>
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<tr>
<td>19</td>
<td>Sri Pantulu Kulampaoda</td>
<td>Member</td>
<td>15 years experience in agriculture &amp; community forest management</td>
<td>13 Years</td>
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<tr>
<td>20</td>
<td>Sri Hemant Kumar Patnaik</td>
<td>Member</td>
<td>20 years Experience in Social Service</td>
<td>18 Years</td>
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<tr>
<td>21</td>
<td>Sri Kamaya Pangi</td>
<td>Member</td>
<td>Community Forest management, NTFP processing and marketing.</td>
<td>7 years</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Financial report

Our Supporters:
The following donors have generously supported us during the financial year 2010-11. We extend our sincere thanks for their financial support, feedback, and suggestions for better delivery of our programmes.

- Trocaire, Ireland - Supporting for implementation of Community Development Project since 2003 & Disaster Risk Reduction Project from January 2009.
- Sir Dorabji Tata Trust, Mumbai - Supporting for Scale up of SRI & Sustainable Agriculture since 2008 and Implementation of Forest Rights Act in 2010.
- Digital Green Foundation, New Delhi for implementation of a Project for "Ensuring livelihood security of Small and marginal farmers using ICT."
- NABARD, Bhubaneswar for implementation of SRI Village Programme and Seed Village Programme
- SRI Secretariat for on farm research on SRI.

PATRO & CO.,
CHARTERED ACCOUNTS
NEHRU NAGAR, JEYPORE
DIST - KORAPUT, 764 001

AUDITOR'S REPORT

We have audited the Balance Sheet of PRAGATI, KORAPUT, Dist- Koraput (Odisha) as at 31.03.2011, the Income and Expenditure Account for the year ended on that date and the receipt and payment Account of the Society for the year ended on that date, annexed there to. These financial statements are the responsibility of the Governing Body of the society. Our responsibility is to express an opinion on these financial statements based on our audit.

We conducted our audit in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in India. Those Standards require that we plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements are free of material misstatement. An audit includes examining, on a test basis, evidence supporting the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. An audit also includes assessing the accounting principles used and significant estimates made by the management, as well as evaluating the overall financial statement presentation. We believe that our audit provides a reasonable basis for our opinion.

We report that:

1. We have obtained all the information and explanations which to the best of our knowledge and belief were necessary for the purpose of the audit;
2. In our opinion, proper books of accounts have been kept by the Board of Trustees so far as appears from our examination of the books;
3. The Balance Sheet, Income and Expenditure Account and Receipt and Payment Account are in agreement with the Books of Accounts;
4. In our opinion and to the best of our information and according to the explanations given to us, the said accounts give a true and fair view in conformity with the accounting principles generally accepted in India
   a. In the case of Balance Sheet of the Affairs of the Trust as at 31st March 2010.
   b. In the case of Income and Expenditure Account, of the excess of income over expenditure of the trust for the year ended 31st March 2010.
   c. In the case Receipts and Payments Account of the trust for the year ended 31st March 2011.
# OUR SUPPORTERS

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<tr>
<th></th>
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<tr>
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**INCOME**

- Trocaire CD-NRM
- Trocaire DRR
- SDTT-SRI & SA
- DG ICT
- NABARD SRI Village
- NABARD Village
- CWS (Khelaghar)
- FRA
- SRI Secretariate
- General

**Expenditure**

- Trocaire CD-NRM
- Trocaire DRR
- SDTT-SRI & SA
- DG ICT
- NABARD SRI Village
- NABARD Village
- CWS
- FRA
- SRI Secretariate
- General

# OUR SUPPORTERS

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**RECEIPT**

- Trocaire CD-NRM
- Trocaire DRR
- SDTT-SRI & SA
- DG ICT
- NABARD SRI Village
- NABARD Village
- CWS (Khelaghar)
- FRA
- SRI Secretariate
- General

**PAYMENT**

- Trocaire CD-NRM
- Trocaire DRR
- SDTT-SRI & SA
- DG ICT
- NABARD SRI Village
- NABARD Village
- CWS (Khelaghar)
- FRA
- SRI Secretariate
- General
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## Acronyms used

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Acronym</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| AJSP    | Anchalik Jungle Surakshya Parisad  
(Block level Forest Dependent People's Federation, Nandapur) |
| CBO     | Community Based Organisation |
| DRDA    | District Rural Development Agency |
| DRR     | Disaster Risk Reduction |
| GP      | Gram Panchayat |
| ICT     | Information & Communication Technology |
| KJBS    | Koraput Jilla Banabasi Sangha  
(District level Federation of Forest Dependent people) |
| MGNREGS | Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme |
| NABARD  | National Bank for Agriculture & Rural Development |
| NGO     | Non Government Organisation |
| PRI     | Panchayati Raj Institution |
| SHC     | Self Help Cooperative |
| SHG     | Self Help Group |
| SRI     | System of Rice Intensification |
| SKP     | Shanti Kutira Programme  
(support to poor families for house construction) |
| VDC     | Village Development Committee |
Chairman: Prof. Digambar Shatapathy
Director/Secretary: Prabhakar Adhikari

Our affiliations and associations:
Credibility Alliance, New-Delhi
VSO India
Women Power Connect, New Delhi
National Alliance of Women Organisation, Bhubaneswar
Agricultural Technology Management Agency (ATMA) Koraput
Regional Research Technology Transfer station, Semiliguda
SRI India
Our network with NGOs and People’s Organizations
For
Community Forest Management
&
Jaivik SRI Samaj for Scale up of SRI and Sustainable Agriculture

KZBS, Koraput (District level Forest dependent peoples organisation)
Anchalik Jungle Surakshya Parishad, Nandapur
Dangar Bikash Parishad, Koraput
Anchalik Unnayan Sangathan, Dasmanthpur
BKS, Boipariguda
Gangeswari Jubak Sangha, Pottangi
ODISA, Lamtaput
Prastutee, Pottangi
RAD, Bandhugaon
SAHARA, Semiliguda
SAMPRATI, Koraput
SEARCH, Boipariguda
Society for Integrated Village Augmentation (SIVA), Laxmipur
Surakshya, Kundura
TRIBE, Borigumma
Yuba-The Youth, Jeypore