

Augmenting livelihoods of Juang (PVTG) people in Banspal Block through OPELIP initiatives.



Juang social groups are considered as particularly vulnerable tribal groups (PVTG) by Government of India based on socio-economic and wellbeing deprivation. 9046 (female 4575 and male 4471) Juang people mostly resides in 35 villages of Banspal block of Keonjhar district. To take care of special needs of Juang People (PVTGs), a micro project called Juang Development Agency (JDA) covering 6 G.P.s. is functioning in this District since 1978 with special

allocation from Govt. of India. Since June 2017, Odisha PVTG Empowerment and Livelihood Improvement programme (OPELIP) under SC & ST Development department is launched for the development of the Juang people by Government of Odisha where 'WOSCA' an NGO engaged as facilitating agency along with JDA, Gonasika.

Under the OPELIP project, community were consulted and participatory plan prepared to improve the wellbeing of Juang people. To begin with, civil construction activities took up as entry point interventions. Rejuvenating agriculture through building access to water for vegetable cultivation was one of the key areas where focus was given and positive result derived. Case study of Talabaruda village is inspiring

Talabaruda village of Barhagarh GP is situated in 30 KMs away from district headquarter with 89 inhabitant families out of which 48 belongs to Juang social groups. Agriculture is the prime source of livelihood. Apart from agriculture they do wage labour beyond agriculture season. Due to lack of water they could not take up vegetables during Rabi season in previous years. This problem was identified and recommended by the village development committee to construct a canal from perennial water source to the agriculture field where Juang people can take up season vegetables for livelihood development. Accordingly technical estimation prepared by OPELIP staff and approved an amount of Rs 1,82,000 for construction of canal as entry point activities.

The canal was constructed with people's participation; water made available for Juang families and 6 hectares of land is being irrigated where 25 families have taken up vegetables like cabbage, tomato, bitter melon and ladies finger. Apart from this they have taken up potato. This effort brought a change in the mind set up of Juang families on growing crops both for consumption and selling in market for cash income. So far 5 people have sold vegetables for rupees 1200 to 1400 in two weeks times and more will come in future. Through the canal construction Livelihood enhance could be ensured in OPELIP project and





The water source



Pre construction



During Construction

Further, the farmers are planning to take up more area for vegetable cultivation and two SHGs have shown their interest in vegetable cultivation. This will benefit 20 Juang families in livelihood development.