

## Earning Livelihood through Vegetable Cultivation

Sarukudar Village of Talachampey Gram Panchayat is situated 27 km distance from block quarter and 11km from Gonasika MPA office. In this village total 121 families are residing and out of them 16 are PVTGs.

Eshadaru SHG of this village has 10 PVTG members. SHG members conduct regular meeting and saving in each month. They have done vegetable cultivation successfully. Earlier, the group has sought financial support for PVTG people from the VDC to start income generating activities. The VDC has assured the group to provide financial support whenever fund will available to them.



In the meantime a Central Sponsored Scheme namely Rastriya Krushivikash Yojana (RKVY) comes under JDA, Gonasika, Keonjhar which comes to the Village which was mainly meant for Agriculture Production Enhancement in the remote and tribal areas. The programme has been started with the objective to enhance sustainable livelihood activities and eradicate poverty of the PVTG's in OPELIP implemented area. Adding to the objective, the effort has been given to improve their living condition through different developmental activities.

Opportunity came knocking to the SHGs door in the form of Sarukudar-OPELIP- Unnayan Sangha, under OPELIP project. The group got assistance to start vegetable cultivation. Thereafter the group organised meeting among themselves to execute the vegetable cultivation activities.

In the month of March, i.e. early period of 2nd wave of COVID-19 pandemic situation, the Eshadaru SHG was stated Okra cultivation under RKVY Scheme covering an area of 2 hector with the support of OPELIP. During pandemic also they did not stopped their activities and busy with their Okra cultivation following with COVID-19 protocols and guidelines like wearing mask, maintaining social distancing, etc. For this cultivation,

training as well as technical guidance has been provided to the SHG members by JAO and AO under OPELIP during this pandemic despite their day to day busy schedule in COVID-19 activities. Time to time monitoring and supervision work support has been provided by the field functionaries.

In this 2 hectores of land area, the SHG group cultivated high yielding variety of Okra. This cultivation is about 90 days' time period. An amount of Rs.82,453/- assistance has been provided to the SHGs through their bank account. For this cultivation, they have spent total Rs.82,450/-. Out of the total expenditure, the group has procured 30 kg of high yielding variety of okra seed which costs about Rs.48,000/-, 40 kg of fertiliser which costs about Rs.22,000/-, for 4 litters of pesticides which costs about Rs.8453/- and other expenditure which costs about Rs.4000/-.

They have harvest okra in 3 months and got 34 quintal in 2 hector of cultivation. By this the SHG got Rs.1,36,000 by selling Okra at Rs.40 per kg. They got a net profit of Rs.53,550 from Okra cultivation. Now the group members are happy, getting encouraged by their self-motivated activities. Their self-confidence level has been developed by this group activity in this pandemic situation. They have conveyed their special thanks to OPELIP for timely financial, technical and moral support.