

ANNUAL REPORT 2015-16

LOK PRERNA



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Belabagan
B. Deoghar-814112
(Jharkhand)

From The Desk

Lok prerna is going to present its 24th annual report. In this auspicious occasion we are pleased to announce that organization plays a pivotal role in promoting livelihood of the rural people of Ranewar and Jarmundi block of Dumka district. We will celebrate Silver Jubilee in the next year. From our humble beginning in 1992 at a remote Gram Panchayat, we are playing the role of catalyst in mobilizing and empowering the marginalized communities through increased range of programmes and activities to address the root causes of issues like poverty, deprivation, exploitation and abuse that hamper the realization of their civic and human rights.

We have completed a successful year and this annual report narrates our progress in community development, SRI, sustainable agriculture and disaster management. However, the problems of climate change, water crisis and natural disasters are increasing and food shortages remain a serious threat to those people who are already living in poverty. In this context of unequal distribution of opportunities and resources, we have been working with our partners to empower communities to access their rights and entitlements. We have continued our work in conservation and utilization of local resources to achieve ecological balance and build sustainable livelihoods.

As always, the challenges have been many, but as our vision gets transformed to veracity, many hurdles are watered down. We would not be reporting such progress if it were not for the unfailing support and contributions of our friends and supporters. I take this opportunity to thank our partners – **MORD New Delhi**, ITDA , Dumka, **NABARD, Dumka and department of water and sanitation, rural development govt of Jharkhand** for sharing our collective dream and contributing their precious time and thoughts towards its realization.

I would also like to thank the members of General Body for their guidance and support over the years and our team of staff for their commitment and hard work. It gives me great pleasure to report that this hard work and the values of transparency and accountability of the organization has been recognized at a state level.

We extend our heartiest thanks to The Resource Alliance and Lok Prerna Family.

Madhav Kumar Das
Secretary

About Us

Lok Prerna is a non-profit philanthropic voluntary organization of youths committed to work at grass root level, with headquarters at Baidyanath Dham, Deoghar in the state of Jharkhand. The organization has been engaged in the multifaceted developmental activities since 1991 in three most backward districts namely Deoghar, Dumka, and Pakur of Jharkhand state. Lok Prerna has been able to organize themselves in separate forums known as 'Mahila Mandal' (women self-help group) and Yuvan Dal (male youth group).

We plan our activities based on analysis of the socio-economic contexts and the community dynamics of the area, with emphasis on community empowerment. Our programmes are unique in the sense as it is basically directed towards involving Community Based Organizations in every aspect including project planning, implementation, monitoring and management.

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.
- * Participatory approach in all aspects.
- * Sensitive towards women.
- * Secular in spirit

1.Our Activities 2015-16

Organisation has been completed successfully 2015-16. Various activities have undertaken in the yesteryear. Some the activities are narrated in the below:

1.1 Pre Cocoon Program :

Lokprerna has undertaken livelihood improvement of tribal community through tassar plantation and rearing under Tribal Development project supported by ITDA Dumka , Govt of Jharkhand. The project covers two clusters belong to two villages Suggipahari and Domnadih of Block Dumka.

Project activities are as follows :

- Covering 90 ha of land and 120 tribal families
- Exposure of farmers
- Nursery preparation
- Transplantation of seedlings
- Hoeing, weeding and land treatment in the plantation area

1.2 Post Cocoon Program:

Organisation has also undertaken the post cocoon project supported by ITDA, Dumka Tribal Welfare Dept., Govt of Jharkhand .

This project covers 450 tribal women belongs to 25 SHGs. The project covers following activities :

- Training on Tassar reeling of 100 women, training on tassar spinning 100 womens
- Free distribution of trained tribal women spinning and reeling machines with solar set for livelihood promotion
- Formation of federation on block level for 450 tribal women

1.3 MKSP Tassar Project

Mahila Kisan Project having its network lead by PRADAN supported by MoRD, Govt of India. This prpject is focussing Tassar plantation and rearing activity. Project area is Devipur block of Deoghar district and Jarmundi block of Dumka distrect. Project is covering 150 ha of land belongs to 750 HHs from tribal community.

Project activities are as follows:

- Tassar Plantation
- Nursery preparation
- Capacity building of farmers regarding tassar plantation
- Strengthening of SHGs & PRI system
- SRI promotion
- Vegetable cultivation
- Promotion of sustainable agriculture

1.4 Mahila Kissan Sasaktikaran Pariyojona (MKSP) has been implementing at two blocks of Dumka district. They are Jarmundi and Ranewar block. The project has been implementing following activities in the block :

- Capacity building of 2000 farmers

- Promotion of SRI among 2000 farmers
- Vegetable cultivation chilly and tomato
- Creepers on macha technology
- Bio dynamic garden promotion among 2000 women farmers
- Promotion of backyard poultry, duckery , goatery among 1500 households
- Immunization of local domestic animal for prevention from diseases
- Promotion of organic pesticide and manure like vermin compost, Nadap , Matka khad etc among 2000 mahila kissan families
- Collection cow urine for using as pesticide and botanical extracts used as medicine for sustainable agriculture.
- Training and demonstration of field school
- Different type of training has been undertaken for sustainable development.

The project ensures success to the women farmers belong to tribal families. They are now earning good income from agriculture sector.

1.5 Program for Poorest of the Poor

A strategy for Poorest of poor (PoP) has been adopted to eradicate poverty among these families. Poor families have been selected for implementing the program.

1.6 Convergence with MKSP and NAREGA:

MKSP program has been converging with NAREGA program for infrastructure development. 1500 mahila kisan has been linked with NAREGA for infrastructure development like cow shed, goatery and poultry shed. This convergence ensures good result.

2. WASH –BRC (Block Resource Centre) :

The organization has been selected as a Block Resource Centre (BRC) for three districts: Deoghar, Jamtara and Pakur this program was supported by department of water and sanitation of govt of Jharkhand. Each Resource centre will cover 10 blocks at Deoghar, 6 blocks at Pakur and 6 blocks at Jamtara. There will be one Block coordinator and 2 cluster coordinator at each block. The BRC will be responsible for following functions :

- Helping the village community information of VWSC in all villages
- Taking up awareness generation and development communication activities among GP and VWSC members and the village community
- Conducting training course at block and village level of members of VWSCs and GPs and other grassroots level workers in the village on various aspects of water and sanitation
- Preparing an Annual activities Calender mainly focusing on IEC and training activities and will be responsible for its implementation.

3. Women Based Groups & Collectives

Lok Prerna believes in participatory approach and building robust community institution is a common practice across the interventions. Organization is engaged in promotion of women SHGs since 2003 and till date has promoted 1637 SHGs with involvement of women from marginalized communities including ST, SC, OBCs and marginal landholders. Most of the

women groups were promoted by the organization during the period of 2003 and 2008 under Swa-Sakti Project (supported by Jharkhand Women Development Society and IFAD) Watershed Project, Prototype Project, NABARD and DFID funded PACS Programme. All the SHGs have savings account with the nationalized banks and RRBs. So far, about 650 SHGs have accessed credit from the banks. The SHGs have so far maintained a good record of loan repayment.

Process has been initiated for formation of block level federations and producer collectives. Organization has successfully facilitated registration of one producer cooperative in Raneshwar block of Dumka district. This cooperative has members from both the SHGs and Kissan Samities (Male & Female) who belongs to same marginalized communities.

4. Promotion of Agriculture based Livelihoods

Agriculture and goat/pig rearing along with the wage labour are the dominant livelihood activities Lok Prerna's partner communities. Organization works for sustainable livelihood enhancement of its partner communities in farm, off-farm and allied activities which are locally appropriate, considering the physical –financial resources, skills and knowledge base of the community. Under farm based activities, our efforts are aimed at promotion of sustainable farming practices for increasing agriculture production to ensure food security as well improvement in farmers' income. As a key strategy to ensure participation of women in farming, Lok Prerna has been systematically involving women in technology training, demonstration, exposure visits, planning and implementation of various livelihood projects. More than 400 SHGs groups in Dumka & Deoghar districts are engaged in agriculture based livelihood activities under various projects. Key achievements in promotion of Agriculture based Livelihoods are –

- Initiation of second cropping (*rabi*) by around 2,200 HHs in additional area of 1348 acres. (Irrigation facility was created under various projects)
- Initiation of vegetable cultivation as income generation activity by more than 400 farmers.
- Enhanced food security of over 750 resource poor HHs through adoption of SRI & other improved farming practices in *kharif* paddy.
- Development of fruit orchards (mango, kaju, guava, papaya etc) in more than 600 Ha of lands.
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7. Community Institution

Lok Prerna has developed the robust community organizations will be one the core strategies. Project proposes to develop and strengthening of two types of institutions – SHG and their federations; and activity based associations at village level, GP level producers' clusters and collectives for aggregation and market linkage. Project also envisages to create Self-sustaining Community Managed Agriculture Extension System based on local cadre of

community resource persons for technical support to women farmers on various aspects of sustainable agriculture practices. The three core elements of this strategy are – a) Strengthening of women SHGs and Federations, b) Promotion of Producers' Associations & Collectives and c) Community Managed Sustainable Agriculture Extension System.

7.1 Strengthening Women SHGs and Federation

The existing SHGs will be further strengthened and federated at cluster (preferably at GP) level and block level. SHG federations will be strengthened and capacitated through formal training, exposure visit and handholding support. Leaders and office bearers of federations will be taken for exposure to the best performing similar institutions for learning and reflection. SHGs & their federations will be directly engaged in every level of project implementation – planning to execution. Leaders and office bearers of the federation will be rotational as per decision of governing board. Group performances will be monitored against the agreed action plan and periodic reports, actions would be initiated to improve performance. The PIA will be in facilitation role only. The PIA would transfer the funds to the federations. Technical and managerial facilitations will be taken care by the PIA.

7.2 Development of Producers' Associations & Collectives

The proposed project envisages creating multi-tier producers' collective of women farmers, controlled and managed by producer members with the help of professional technical and management staff. At village level there will be an association of women farmers engaged in sustainable farming practices. Similarly, at VO level there will be a cluster association of women farmers. At block level (project area only) a formally registered entity would be promoted as Producers' Collective.

The members would be trained properly to design election process, membership criteria, management of business, governance etc. Leaders and office bearers of producers' collectives will be taken for exposure to the best performing similar institutions for learning and reflection. Standard operating procedures and manual will be developed and implemented. Collective would organize various services like doorstep delivery of inputs, credit linkage, problem solving services, product aggregation and market linkages etc.

The participation of each and every member of the collective is an essential factor for realizing the true benefits of the project. As a true members' institution, the members will have the ownership throughout the process. They will be involved in each and every activity related to CBO as well as value chain like election/selection, administration, marketing, agriculture extension system, monthly and yearly meetings, etc. Different committees of members would be formed for the purpose of - Price Fixation, Quality Assurance and Accessing Market Information.

8. MGNREGA NRLM CFT Convergence Project

National Rural Livelihood Mission (NRLM) works towards creating robust institutional platforms of the rural poor, especially women, in the form of self Help Groups (SHGs) and their federations, to improve their access to financial services, and thereby build their sustainable livelihoods. The strength of NRLM has been its ability to energize the communities and involve them in building sustainable livelihoods, largely based on land. Here is, therefore, a commonality of purpose and natural synergy between both NRLM and MGNREGS.

In order to use this synergy and improve the implementation of MGNREGS, it has been decided to achieve convergence between the two covering the following components:

- a. Facilitate annual planning of MGNREGA works.
- b. Make workers aware of their MGNREGA entitlements.
- c. Provides trainings to Grampanchayat members, MGNREGA fybctuibarues, local resource person and workers.
- d. Help workers demand work, jobcard and bank account and file complaints in case of violation of MGNREGA entitlements.
- e. Monitor action by the local administration on workers applications for work, jobcard and grievances.
- f. Facilitate selection and training of SHG mates and help these mates with their work.
- g. Provide technical inputs to ensure timely construction of good quality assets.
- h. Monitor workers wage payment and alert the local administration in case of delays

This project covers 3 block of dumka district namely Raneshwar Masaliya and Jarmundi and covers 3 CFT in each block.

Major achievement of CFT block Jarmundi

1. Opening Bank account 10,300 of MGNREGA labour
2. Identification of 726 SHG mates and trained them
3. Preparation of new job card 8,200
4. Total number of provided persondays 3,74,343
5. Two times training provided to 27 grampanchayat members(mukhia, upmukhiya, ward members, panchayat samiti, panchayat sachiv)
6. Weakly orgnised rojgar diwas at the head quater of concerned grampanchayat for demand of job, application of job card, opening of bank account, rectification of job card master roll delay wage payment etc.

7. Village level meeting and nukkad natak, panchayat level awareness program, 465 villages covering wall writing, awareness on MGNREGA through movement of MGNREGA rath with video clip on MGNREGA.
8. Bloc level workshop organized two times and meeting fortnight basic
9. District level meeting organized quarterly basis
10. Number of families completed 100 days- 1,130

Major achievement of CFT block of Raneshwar

- i) Opening Bank account 13,553 of MGNREGA labour
- ii) Identification of 418 SHG mates and trained them
- iii) Preparation of new job card 9,432
- iv) Total number of provided persondays 6,92,305
- iv) Two times training provided to 17 grampanchayat members(mukhia, upmukhiya, ward members, panchayat samiti, panchayat sachiv)
- v) Weakly organised rojgar diwas at the headquarter of consorned grampanchayat for demand of job, application of job card, opening of bank account, rectification of job card master roll delay wage payment etc.
- vi) Village level meeting and nukkad natak, panchayat level awareness program, 300 villages covering wall writing, awareness on MGNREGA through movement of MGNREGA rath with video clip on MGNREGA.
- vii) Bloc level workshop organized two times and meeting fortnight basic
- viii) District level meeting organized quarterly basis
- ix) Number of families completed 100 days- 3,595

Major achievement of CFT block of Masaliya

- i) Opening Bank account 11,963 of MGNREGA labour
- ii) Identification of 477 SHG mates and trained them
- iii) Preparation of new job card 4,325
- iv) Total number of provided persondays 5,28,340
- iv) Two times training provided to 21 grampanchayat members(mukhia, upmukhiya, ward members, panchayat samiti, panchayat sachiv)
- v) Weakly organized rojgar diwas at the headquarter of consorned grampanchayat for demand of job, application of job card, opening of bank account, rectification of job card master roll delay wage payment etc.
- vi) Village level meeting and nukkad natak, panchayat level awareness program, 300 villages covering wall writing, awareness on MGNREGA through movement of MGNREGA rath with video clip on MGNREGA.

- vii) Bloc level workshop organized two times and meeting fortnight basic
- viii) District level meeting organized quarterly basis
- ix) Number of families completed 100 days- 2,086

9.1 Seed Village of Paddy, SPP

The member of seed production Committee decided in the meeting after the harvesting and cleaning of paddy in own individual house. And processing of seed in common platform and store the seed 5 to 10 farmers house for the selling of seed and utilization also. Almost farmers in our field area is tribal farmer and we select for the Seed Production Programme one village and one field area this field is on the bank of a big harvesting tank. So that our farmers not facing drought situation because farmers are using water from such tank and taken timely transplanting.

The PIA involvement to improve the livelihood opportunities for tribal disadvantaged communities. In these pretexts Lok Prerna presents in the area for agriculture promotion and strengthening among tribal population in Raneshwar block. Agriculture has been mainstay of rural economy but the present level of productivity has not been satisfactory to sustain local livelihood. This has also make farming activities a non viable proposition, presence: putting the farmers in cycle of vicious poverty which results into high number of migration for wage employment.

The tribal population has relied over subsistence farming and forests to fulfill their basic needs. However in recent times forests have alarmingly decreased. This has also increased pressure on agriculture. Under such conditions intensive farming activities have been most important livelihood opportunities.

The rural economy has not become nor more resilient due to poor agriculture productivity and lack of irrigational facilities have been one of the most important constraints for resource poor farmers of the area. Per capita food grain availability is at lower levels of 242 gms against national figures of 480 gm. Poor crop intensity, monocropping systems are popular in the rainfed agriculture and total food grain production is not enough to provide food security to farmers beyond an average period of 5-7 months.

Lok Prerna is one of the leading organization working on community based natural resource management to develop sustainable livelihood opportunities for the resource poor communities of Santhal Pargana region. The organization primarily works in Deoghar and Dumka districts on water harvesting, sanitation, health and agriculture issues. Capacity building and entrepreneurship have been focus of Lok Prerna to promote and strengthen the rural economy for overall development of disadvantaged communities.

The organization has facilitated village level participatory planning process to identify potential activities for irrigation facilities and to strengthen farm based activities with small inputs. Lok Prerna facilitated the participatory plan through following methods –

- Village level meetings and focus group discussion
- Need Assessment and Prioritization
- Collection of primary and secondary data
- Field observation and selection of sites for construction activities.

- Technical feasibility study.

Emphasis has been given on endogenous development practice to maintain fair balance between traditional knowledge system and the technology.

10.1 PRE Coocoon Tasar

Lok Prerna PRESENT TASAR SERICULTURE BASED LIVELIHOOD IN MKSP-NTFP_NRLM Devipur of Deoghar dist. & Jarmundi of Dumka District For 716 Farmers .

Main Focus of Project

- Establishment of effective institutional platforms of NTFP collectors
- Market Information for better marketing of their products
- Promotion of community based livelihoods Organisations
- Promotion of sustainable NTFP management practices in pre harvest , harvest and post harvest
- Drudgery reduction for women NTFP collectors
- Improved productivity of NTFP resources

10.2 Post Coocoon Tasar

Tasar rearing is one supplementary livelihood of this block. Those who are residing in the forest area is engaged with this subsector. More than 5000 families engaged in tasar work traditionally. People who are residing in forest area who know about the cocoon . But the main hurdles of the activity is earning in subsistence level. This will not sustain the livelihood of the villagers. There is a need for value addition in tasar rearing work so that tasar reeling and spinning is important value chain in tasar sub sector. The process of post cocoon is needed for this area. Because rearers will get premium price for cocoon selling and again at the time of leem period women may be engaged in tasar reeling and spinning work and get again employment and sell tarsar yarn on optimum price through the women's cooperative institutional arrangement. In this circumstances organization wants to start reeling and spinning work for reduction of migration and extension of tasar rearing opportunities.

Since the whole of the block is an undulating terrain with high run off the Agriculture is not sustainable in absence of secured irrigation facilities. Most of the households are depending on the agriculture activity. But the area is mono cropped and producing only paddy in the kharif season. But due to undulating terrain and lack of irrigation agriculture becomes unproductive and un remunerative. Therefore, local residents are exploring better livelihood opportunity. As a result people are used to migrate in the different areas either seasonally or semi permanently. On the other side, the Tribals prefer to migrate to bordering state of West Bengal or some times to distance states like Punjab, Assam, Jammu & Kashmir,

Delhi etc leaving their offspring and families at home. Those who remain at home, after the completion of the agricultural practices used to sit idle. But there are many of Tribal families who during the lean period use to adopt some other secondary occupation for their sustenance and livelihood support. Few of the Tribal community like Mohuli community adopt their Bamboo craft and among the Santhal community many of the families practices Tasar warm rearing in scattered patches in unscientific ways.

We have narrated earlier the achievements of the above two mentioned projects.

11. List of Board Members

12. List of Collaborating agencies

13. Last year Audit Report

14. List of Existing Human Resources.