



Aspiring Voices

OMBADC SUCCESS STORIES

OMBADC SUPPORTED WELFARE
PROJECTS IN MINING DISTRICTS OF ODISHA





Enriching Lives & Livelihoods Across Mining Districts



Odisha Mineral Bearing Areas Development Corporation (OMBADC), registered as a Public Limited Government Company, not for profit under section 8 of the Companies Act 2013, was formed as a Special Purpose Vehicle on 2nd December 2014, under the directions of the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India. The main objective of OMBADC is to implement projects/works for the tribal welfare and area development so as to promote inclusive growth in the mineral bearing area of the state.

OMBADC has a comprehensive mandate to undertake projects for holistic development, including but not limited to area development, livelihood improvement, improvement in healthcare, sanitation, education, sports & agro - silvi - horti based livelihood projects etc in the areas impacted by mining activities which may be extended to such areas as deemed appropriate. OMBADC collaborates with the line departments in implementing such projects of the region to ensure that the interventions serve their purpose of socio-economic upliftment of the local mining population.

OMBADC's diverse and targeted initiatives are designed to tackle the unique challenges faced by local communities in mining areas, fostering sustainable development and environmental conservation. Through its committed efforts, OMBADC aims to create a balanced and equitable growth model that benefits both the people and the environment.

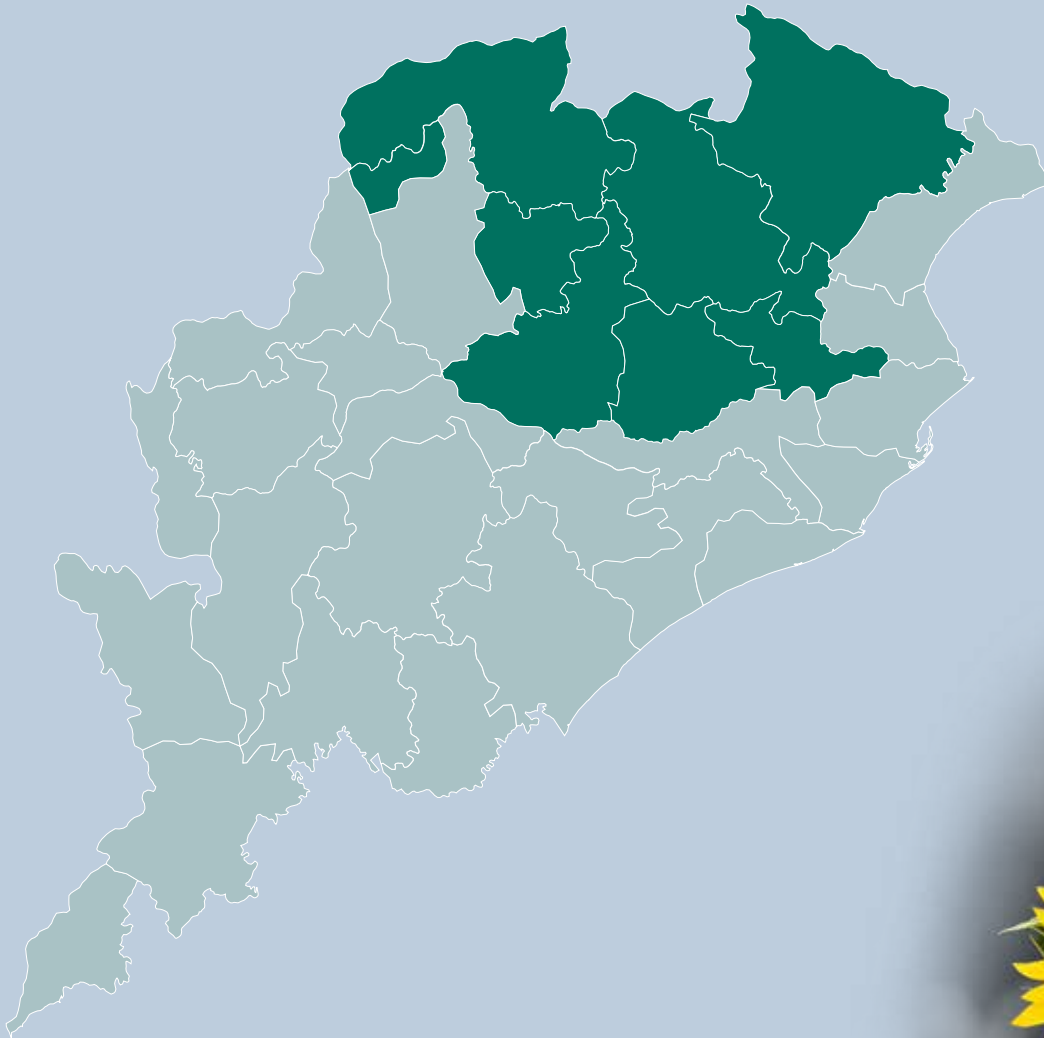
With a strong commitment to transparency and accountability, OMBADC works to realize the vision of transforming Odisha's mineral bearing areas into thriving, self-sufficient regions that would greatly contribute to the progress of the state as a whole.

This publication highlights several success tales of how OMBADC's diverse initiatives have improved the lives and livelihoods of the people residing in the 8 major mining and tribal dominated districts of Odisha.

OMBADC Focuses

8 Major Mining & Tribal Districts of Odisha

- Sundargarh
- Jharsuguda
- Deogarh
- Mayurbhanj
- Keonjhar
- Jajpur
- Angul
- Dhenkanal



OMBADC

Financial Support to Various Initiatives



Piped Drinking
Water Supply



Education



Healthcare



Livelihood
Promotion



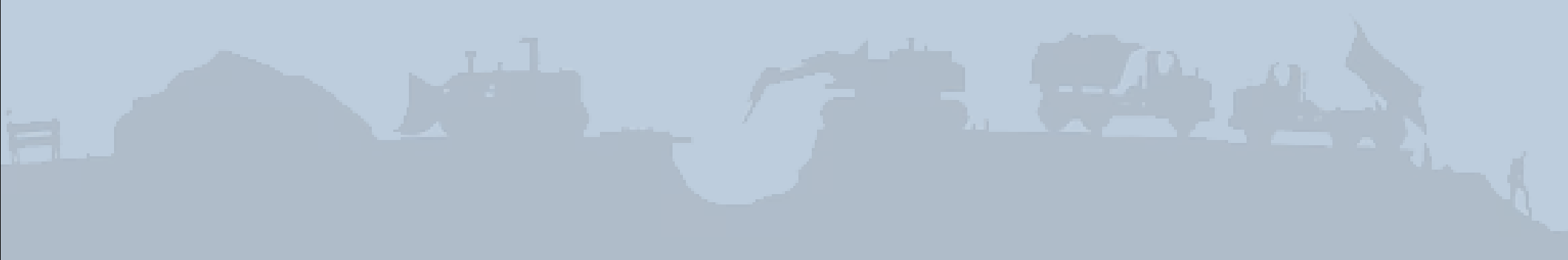
Rural
Connectivity



Environment
Protection
& Pollution
Control



Water
Conservation &
Ground Water
Recharge & SMC



Contents



Drinking Water

- Kundiasul Villagers Access Drinking Water at Doorstep
- Drinking Water a Step Away from Manda Villagers
- Household Tap Connections Transforming Sukinda's Drinking Water Landscape



Education

- Transforming Education in Rural Odisha
- Empowering Tribal Communities through Education



Healthcare

- Chandua Primary Health Centre Serves 30 Mayurbhanj Villages
- Modern Health Facilities: A Boon for Mayurbhanj Residents
- Bankapatuli Witness a Resurgence of Traditional Ayurvedic Practices
- Lifeline on Wheels



Women Empowerment

- Mission Shakti Bhawan: Empowering Women SHGs

Livelihood

- Check Dams Bring Happiness to Balita Farmers
- Harihara Harvests Watermelons: Thanks to OMBADC Support
- Farm Pond Transforms Chandra's Agriculture, Enhancing Livelihood and Food Security
- Bimala's Vermicomposting Enterprise
- Sumitra's Agricultural Awakening
- Delivery Boy to Sustainable Poultry Farmer
- Fields of Opportunity: How Irrigation Changed Jagannath's Life
- Fruits of Labour - Empowered Pathways
- Sustainable Development & Ecological Transformation in Keonjhar
- Empowering Rural Women through Mushroom Cultivation
- A Blooming Success through Banana Cultivation
- Banana Cultivation Elevates Baega's Fortune
- Empowering Rural Farmers with Technology
- Soil & Moisture Conservation Transforms Murga Village in Joda Block, Keonjhar



Sericulture

- Empowering Tribal Communities through Improved Sericulture Practices

Drinking Water



Kundiasul Villagers Access Drinking Water at Doorstep



Drinking Water at Doorstep Kundiasul Village

145 Households

600+ People

Kundiasul village, located in Suliapada tehsil of Mayurbhanj district in Odisha, is situated nearly 12km from the sub-district headquarters of Suliapada and 24km from the district headquarters of Baripada.

The village Fania serves as the gram panchayat for Kundiasul village, having an area of 203 hectares. The village has a population of 664, residing in 145 households. Kundiasul village residents were facing a severe shortage of drinking water.

The adverse situation led to different health issues among the villagers due to regular exposure to polluted water sources. The lack of access to clean water sources had compelled the village folk to undertake daily treks of 8-10 kilometres to fetch water for usage which was often found to be of poor in quality. .

To mitigate the problems faced by the villagers, Odisha Mineral Bearing Areas Development Corporation (OMBADC) came forward and supported the PR&DW Department to execute the piped water supply scheme for village Kundiasul under Suliapada Block.

With the completion of the project, all 145 households can access potable water directly through tap connections. This initiative has eliminated the need for long walks to fetch water for the villagers.

This has saved valuable time for the women of all local households thus enabling them to participate in other income-generating activities and contribute further to their families' livelihoods.

Drinking Water a Step Away from Manda Villagers

Manda is a medium size village located in Suliapada Block of Mayurbhanj district in Odisha with around 159 families residing here. Since access to clean water sources was very limited, contaminated water was a major challenge for the villagers here. Factors such as inadequate infrastructure and environmental pollution contributed to water contamination which exposed the villagers to health risks, including waterborne diseases like diarrhea, cholera, and typhoid.

The lack of access to clean water sources had compelled the village folk to make daily treks of 5-10 kilometres to secure water for daily usage which was often found lacking in quality. The adverse situation led to different health issues among the villagers due to regular exposure to polluted water sources.

To mitigate the problems faced by the villagers, Odisha Mineral Bearing Areas Development Corporation (OMBADC) came forward and supported the PR&DW Department to execute the piped water supply scheme for village Manda under Suliapada Block. It was expected that the initiative would help provide safe drinking water to all 159 households through Tap connection at the doorstep.

With the project now complete, all 159 households of the Manda village can now avail safe and potable water directly through tap connections. This initiative has eliminated the need for long walks to fetch water for the villagers. This has also led to saving valuable time for the women of all local households thus enabling them to involve themselves in other activities like participating in educational activities, and other income generating activities to provide financial stability and addition all livelihoods.



Manda Village Before OMBADC Project

- Limited Clean Water Sources
- Contaminated Drinking Water
- Inadequate Infrastructure
- Health Risks to Villagers
- Waterborne Diseases

Manda Village After OMBADC Project

- Executed Piped Water Supply Scheme
- Safe Drinking Water at the Doorstep
- Tap Connections to 159 Households
- Saved Time & Labour from Long Walk for Water
- Engaged in Educational & Livelihood Activities



Household Tap Connections Transforming Sukinda's Drinking Water Landscape

In the heart of Odisha's mineral-rich Jajpur district, revolution flows through the taps of Sukinda Block. Once parched and struggling, this mining-affected region has witnessed a turnaround that goes beyond just infrastructure. Rather, it's a story of renewed hope.

Mining activities steadily depleted the water table, turning lush lands into arid expanses. Villagers resorted to polluted ponds and distant springs, their health hanging in the balance with every gulp.

At such a juncture, OMBADC (Odisha Mineral Bearing Areas Development Corporation) with a vision to support the mining population brought the silent change. In collaboration with the Rural Water Supply and Sanitation Department, a mega project was conceived, promising 70 liters of safe drinking water per person daily, right at their doorstep.

The scale of this undertaking was monumental. Two detailed project reports, totaling Rs.141.37 crore, outlined a comprehensive plan encompassing everything from head works to underground reservoirs. The project's ambition matched the vastness of Sukinda itself, aiming to cover 71 villages across 20 Gram Panchayats.

Today, the results speak volumes. 38,401 households wake up to the luxury of clean, accessible water - a daily flow of 2,662,870 liters serving 114,865 individuals. For many, it's more than convenience; it's a fundamental shift in quality of life.

One resident, eyes gleaming with gratitude, remarked, "We now feel on par with our urban counterparts. Clean water at our doorstep? It's a dream realized."

The impact extends beyond numbers. It's visible in the smiles of mothers no longer worried about their children's health, in the extra hours saved from long treks to water sources, in the dignity

restored to a community that once felt forgotten.

OMBADC's initiative in Sukinda stands as a testament to what's possible when development is driven by empathy and executed with precision. It's not just about pipes and pumps; it's about nurturing the wellspring of human potential.

As Sukinda's taps flow with promise, they tell a story of a parched land reborn, of a community rising above its challenges, one drop at a time. In this renewed landscape, water isn't just a resource - it's the lifeblood of a brighter, healthier future.



A daily flow of

2,662,870 Liters

serving **38,401** Households

114,865 Individuals



Lahunipara, Sundargarh

2

Projects

20

Gram Panchayats

71

Villages

141.37

Crore

Education





Transforming Education in Rural Odisha

The Govt of Odisha has made significant efforts to develop infrastructure and provide quality education with a vision to enhance the enrolment and retention rate among students. Aligned with the said objective, OMBADC has allocated an amount of Rs.964.86 Cr. for upgrading 1604 high schools in the mining areas of Odisha. Till now, 1550 schools have been completed & dedicated to the people.

In the small village of Tiring Block in District Mayurbhanj, the HS Naranpur UGHS project was initiated on November 9, 2021, aimed to enhance the school's infrastructure, providing a conducive learning environment. With a budget of Rs. 51.185 lakhs for infrastructure development & Rs.8.815 lakhs for teachers training, the project encompassed crucial components supporting quality education.

The project faced hurdles as a few families had illegally occupied a portion of the school land. With multiple stakeholder interactions, including the Block Development Officer, Assistant Executive Engineer, Block Chairman, Sarpanch, and village representatives etc, the issue was resolved.

The revamped school now boasts modern facilities, creating a conducive learning environment for students. The additional classrooms provide ample space for learning, while the boundary wall ensures a safe and secure campus. Access to clean drinking water and modern toilets has significantly improved hygiene and sanitation. The science lab equips students with hands-on learning experiences, igniting curiosity and creativity.

The impact is palpable as various students have benefited from this project while it is expected that the number shall increase in the future. The community comes together to celebrate this achievement, acknowledging the power of collective effort and determination. As the students embark on their academic journey, they carry with them the confidence that their village stands united in support of their growth and success.

Smart Classrooms



Science Lab Equipments



Science Laboratory



Additional Classrooms



Hands-on Learning Experience



Dining Hall



Modern Facilities

Additional Classrooms	Ample Space for Learning
Boundary Wall	Safe and Secure Campus
Clean Drinking Water	Health and Hygiene
Modern Toilets	Sanitation
Science Lab Equips	Hands-on Learning Experiences

OMBADC Budget

964.86 Crore

Target to Upgrade

1604 High Schools

Upgradation Completed

1550 High Schools





Govt High School (SSD), Ramla, Champua, Keonjhar

Empowering Communities through Education

The Success Story of Suakati Ashram School

- Suakati Ashram School faced Infrastructure Challenges
- Situation led to Reduced Student Retention & Admission
- OMBADC Investment Created a Conducive Learning Environment
- Improved Education Empowers Tribal Communities

Education is essential for holistic progress of a nation, serving as a vital tool for socioeconomic development. A strong and vibrant mass education system is key to fostering a bright future for the state and its people.

The Government of Odisha has been instrumental in developing infrastructure for improving the quality of education in elementary and secondary schools to boost student enrollment, retention and transition rates. Complementing these efforts, the Odisha Mineral Bearing Areas Development Corporation (OMBADC) supports the Odisha School Education Programme Authority (OSEPA) in advancing infrastructure and technology-based education in Keonjhar district's elementary and secondary schools. OMBADC has allocated Rs. 194.29 crore for infrastructure development in 630 elementary, 204 secondary, and 51 ST&SC schools in Keonjhar district.

Take the example of the Suakati Ashram School in the Banspal block of Keonjhar district, a small village primarily inhabited by SC & ST communities. This school serves as a beacon of hope for its 300-400 students. Earlier, the school faced significant challenges in enrollment and retention due to inadequate infrastructure and lack of basic amenities such as drinking water, toilets, and classrooms. To address these issues, OMBADC sanctioned a budget of Rs. 0.66 crore in the 2020-21 financial year for constructing four additional classrooms, a toilet complex, a borewell, a tube well, a dining hall, and a kitchen room.

Such interventions have helped mitigate the earlier shortcomings while significantly improving the school's facilities and increasing student enrollment. The additional classrooms have provided ample space for learning, contributing to a more conducive educational environment. This project's success is attributed to the collaborative efforts of the District Administration, Assistant Executive Engineer of ITDA Keonjhar, the CDO-cum-EO, Collector, Keonjhar and funding support from OMBADC.

OMBADC's intervention has markedly impacted Suakati Ashram School, demonstrating the importance of infrastructure improvements and basic amenities in fostering a supportive learning environment. With these modern amenities, Suakati Ashram School stands as an example of school transformation, symbol of hope, promising a brighter future for students of the village.



OMBADC has allocated
194.29 Crore for
Infra Development in
Keonjhar district



630 Elementary Schools
204 Secondary Schools
51 ST & SC Schools

Healthcare



Chandua Primary Health Centre Serves 30 Mayurbhanj Villages

Situated in the mining region of Mayurbhanj district, Odisha, the Chandua Primary Health Centre (PHC) stands as a testament to the immense role of infrastructure development in revolutionising health service delivery. This state-of-the-art facility has been developed with financial support of Odisha Mineral Bearing Areas Development Corporation (OMBADC). The facility serves over 80,000 people across 30 villages, including communities from the bordering West Bengal.

Prior to the intervention, the building had an old structure struggling to meet basic needs of patients. Now, Chandua PHC

has metamorphosed to a healthcare haven. The new building, constructed as per IPHS norms, boasts of modern amenities including dedicated spaces for pharmacy, laboratory, OPDs, and staff facilities like general and AYUSH OPD, medicine storage room, patient and staff toilet, meeting room etc. This renovation has not only enhanced the quality of care but also boosted the morale of healthcare providers.

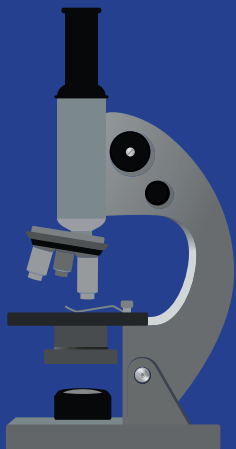
The results speak volumes. From treating over 100 patients daily to winning the prestigious KAYAKALP Quality Award twice, Chandua PHC has become a model of excellence. Dr. Chinmay Kumar Nayak, the Medical Officer, attributes this success to the improved infrastructure, which has instilled confidence in both staff and patients.

Beyond the physical change, Chandua PHC has also embraced innovation. Telemedicine services reach the most remote corners, while creative outreach programs like street plays (Nukkad Natak) and road shows aid in spreading health awareness. The PHC offers a comprehensive range of services, from maternal and child health to management of communicable and non-communicable diseases including the 12 health services under AB-HWC.

Perhaps the most heartwarming aspect of Chandua PHC's story is its impact on the community. It has become more than just a healthcare facility; it's a symbol of progress and hope. As one observer noted, the true measure of its success lies in the smiles of those it serves and the lives it has transformed.

In a world often focused on urban healthcare, Chandua PHC stands as a shining example of what's possible when we concentrate our efforts in the rural health infrastructure.

Renovation Enhanced Quality Healthcare



- New Building
- Modern Amenities
- General OPD
- AYUSH OPD
- Medicine Storage Room
- Patient and Staff Toilet
- Meeting Room

Chandua PHC Serves

30 Villages

80,000+ People



Model of Excellence

2 Time KAYAKALP Quality Award to Chandua PHC at Mayurbhanj by Health Ministry in 2021-22 & 2022-23



Chandua PHC, Mayurbhanj

Modern Health Facilities: A Boon for Mayurbhanj Residents

- Advanced Medical Equipment Provisioned
- Infra Development at Various Health Centers
- Reducing Waiting Time for Patients
- Preventing Out of Pocket Expenditure on Health

The Oversight Authority had made a visit to Mayurbhanj in October 2019, where he identified a need for specialized medical equipment at CHC Jashipur and instructed the Health & Family Welfare department to place a proposal to OMBADC for procurement of necessary medical equipment. Following this, the Health & Family Welfare (H&FW) department, in collaboration with funding support from Odisha Mineral Bearing Areas Development Corporation (OMBADC), initiated a project to procure essential medical equipment for health institutions in the mining district.

The lack of essential equipment in remote tribal areas, coupled by geographical isolation and limited infrastructure, worsened healthcare disparities and increased the burden of preventable diseases. This initiative therefore aimed to address the critical challenges posed by the lack of adequate medical equipment in the tribal-dominated region, which hinders the delivery of quality healthcare services.

OMBADC supported the H&FW Department in executing the 'Procurement of Medical Equipment for Health Institute in Mayurbhanj district' project. More than 50 different types of equipment were purchased and installed in various health facilities, significantly enhancing diagnosis, treatment, patient monitoring, surgical procedures, infection control, and overall healthcare delivery in Mayurbhanj district.

The procurement of advanced medical equipment, such as CT Scan Units, Auto Analyzers, and Portable X-ray Machines, has improved health outcomes for patients and reduced waiting times for critical tests. The project has also facilitated the safe screening of donated blood for infectious diseases and enabled quick and convenient patient imaging across diverse clinical situations.

The introduction of advanced biochemical tests and equipment has significantly improved healthcare services in Mayurbhanj district. The Auto Biochemical Analyzer's high sample handling capacity has reduced patient waiting times, while the ELISA machines have facilitated over 150,000 blood tests, ensuring safe blood transfusions. The portable X-ray machines have enhanced patient care and outcomes through quick and convenient imaging across various clinical situations.

Overall, the investment by OMBADC has transformed government health institutions in Mayurbhanj and improved service provision to the needy tribal population. An assessment exercise will be conducted to evaluate the project's impact and justify the funding allocated to OMBADC, ensuring the benefits received by the people in the district.

50+ Types of Equipment

- ◆ Diagnosis
- ◆ Treatment
- ◆ Patient Monitoring
- ◆ Surgical Procedures
- ◆ Infection Control
- ◆ Healthcare Delivery



Bargaon CHC, Sundargarh



Hatadihi, Keonjhar



ELISA Machines

1.5 Lakh + blood tests



Rairangpur SDH
Mayurbhanj

Bankapatuli Witness a Resurgence of Traditional Ayurvedic Practices

- Govt Ayurveda Dispensary in Bankapatuli Since 1991
- The Building was Old and Dilapidated
- Dispensaries Given a Facelift with OMBADC Funds
- Now, GAD Bankapatuli has Modern OPD, Waiting Area



Daily Patients Visit **30**
Total Patients Treated
4,700 (by mid-2024)

Government Ayurveda Dispensaries (GAD) in Odisha play a crucial role in providing traditional Ayurvedic healthcare services to the population under the AYUSH scheme of GOI. These dispensaries are part of the state's effort to integrate and promote Ayurveda, which is an ancient system of medicine rooted in natural and holistic healing practices. Dispensaries offer a range of Ayurvedic treatments, including herbal remedies, dietary recommendations, and lifestyle advice. Medications are typically derived from natural sources like plants, minerals, and animal products.

Established in 1991, the original GAD rendered decades of service before falling into disrepair. Yet, even as its walls crumbled, the spirit of Ayurveda within remained unshaken. In 2019, a new chapter began with OMBADC funding a state-of-the-art facility, completed in 2021 at a cost of ₹29.56 lakhs.

Today, the dispensary is a hub of holistic health, offering not just treatment rooms but also spaces for counselling, yoga, and even herbal gardens where healing plants flourish. This oasis of wellness serves nearly 6,000 people across six villages, embodying the government's commitment to integrating AYUSH (Ayurveda, Yoga & Naturopathy, Unani, Siddha, and Homeopathy) into the National Health Mission. The impact has been profound. Daily visits have surged to an average of 30 patients, with a total of 4,700 treated by mid-2024. Notably, women and children form a significant

portion of this growing patient base, reflecting the community's burgeoning trust in Ayurvedic practices.

The dispensary's team, including a pharmacist, lab technician, and yoga teacher, works in harmony to provide a range of treatments. From herbal remedies to dietary advice and lifestyle recommendations, the GAD offers a holistic approach to health that resonates deeply with the local population.

The Bankapatuli GAD stands as a testament to the enduring relevance of Ayurveda. It's not just a healthcare facility; it's a bridge between ancient traditions and modern aspirations, nurturing the wellbeing of a community and rekindling faith in the timeless wisdom of India's healing arts.

The new building has elevated our prestige and confidence in treating patients, allowing us to give more to the community. It has a significant impact, attracting more patients due to its comprehensive Ayurveda services, including counselling and yoga. We are grateful to OMBADC for this service facility.



Dr. Kadambini Mohanty

Lifeline on Wheels

Across the terrain of mining districts in the eastern state of Odisha, a fleet of advanced ambulances is uplifting the standards of emergency healthcare. Funded by Odisha Mineral Bearing Areas Development Corporation (OMBADC), this initiative has deployed 12 Basic Life Support (BLS) and 3 Advanced Life Support (ALS) ambulances across Keonjhar, Mayurbhanj, Sundargarh, and Jajpur, addressing critical healthcare disparities in these vulnerable regions.

The importance of this initiative was aptly underscored during the tragic Bahanaga train tragedy in Balasore on June 2, 2023. As chaos ensued, the OMBADC-funded ambulances; 5 BLS and 1 ALS came to the rescue, becoming beacons of hope amidst the devastation.

The ALS ambulances, equipped with cutting-edge medical technology and staffed by skilled paramedics, proved invaluable in tending to cases of severe trauma. They performed advanced respiratory management, administered crucial medications, and monitored critical cardiac conditions on-site. Meanwhile, the BLS ambulances provided essential pre-hospital care, including wound management and oxygen therapy.

This coordinated response wasn't just about immediate rescue; it was about saving lives that might otherwise have been lost. The efficient system ensured that those with life-threatening injuries received the fastest possible treatment and transport.

Beyond this high-profile incident, the impact of these ambulances has been far-reaching. Across the four mining districts, more than 9,000 people have benefited from the ALS, BLS, and even bike ambulances funded by OMBADC from 2019 to 2023. This comprehensive approach to emergency medical services has significantly reduced response times and improved health

outcomes in areas where every minute can mean the difference between life and death.

The success of this initiative highlights the transformative power of targeted healthcare investments in vulnerable regions. By providing state-of-the-art ambulances, OMBADC has not only enhanced emergency response capabilities but also instilled a sense of security among the mining communities.





- ◆ Keonjhar
- ◆ Mayurbhanj
- ◆ Sundargarh
- ◆ Jajpur

12 BLS
Ambulances

3 ALS
Ambulances

9,000+

People Benefited
2019 to 2023



"We faced a tragic circumstance with bodies piled high. We were tasked with transporting injured patients directly to the district headquarters hospital for emergency care. After one patient from Kolkata recovered, we even travelled there to ensure her safe return."

Aswini Das

(A BLS in-charge who was a firsthand witness to the disaster recounts)

Women Empowerment



Mission Shakti Bhawan: Empowering Women SHGs

In the Jajpur district of Odisha unfolds a silent revolution. The Mission Shakti initiative, supported by OMBADC funds, is bringing a notable change in the lives of 3 lakh women across 25,000 Self Help Groups (SHGs). This ambitious project is not just about economic empowerment; it's a testament to the untapped potential of rural women when given the right kind of opportunities and support.

The centerpiece of this transformation is the newly established Mission Shakti Bhawan, a ₹2 crore marvel that stands as a beacon of hope and progress. Complementing this is the ₹6 crore Mission Shakti Village, dedicated to preserving and promoting local arts and crafts. Together, these initiatives are rewriting the narrative of women's empowerment in rural Odisha.

The project's holistic approach is evident in its three key components. First, the Training and Skilling Centre, in collaboration with the National Skill Development Corporation, equips women with essential business acumen. Trainers become consultants, guiding SHGs through the intricacies of market identification, pricing strategies, and product marketing.

Second, the Product Display cum Selling Centre offers a strategic platform for women entrepreneurs. Located near national highways, it's designed to attract commuters and showcase the fruits of these women's labor under one roof.

Moreover, the Multipurpose Hall, capable of hosting 100 people, serves as a vibrant community space. It's not just a venue for federation meetings; it's a resource center that brings together government departments and local communities, fostering dialogue and collaboration.

This Mission Shakti Bhawan initiative goes beyond mere economic support. It's about recognizing the inner potential of the women especially in Jajpur, Odisha and redirecting SHGs into Strategic Business Enterprises. By providing infrastructure, training, and market access, Mission Shakti is paving the way for sustainable development and improved livelihoods.



3 Key Components of Mission Shakti Bhawan



Training and Skilling Centre



Product Display cum Selling Centre



Multipurpose Hall

“

"This Bhawan is the pillar in the economic growth of our SHG members. Here, we showcase products made by our SHGs, gaining proper marketing benefits. The infrastructure fulfills all our needs, creating a better work environment with clean drinking water, toilets, and restrooms."



Sujata Sahu
President, District Level Federation



Jajpur District

25,000

Self Help Groups (SHGs)

3,00,000

Women

Mission Shakti Bhawan, Jajpur

Livelihood



Check Dams Bring Happiness to Balita Farmers

- **Balita Farmers faced water woes in mining district of Keonjhar**
- **Scarce rainfall led to dwindling harvest**
- **Construction of Series Check Dams initiated with OMBADC Support**
- **Storage Capacity of 10445 CUm, with 39.8 Ha of Irrigation Potential of Achieved**

Small and marginal farmers in the country are mostly dependent on rainfall for a successful harvest. In the tribal majority mining regions of Odisha, the farmers bear the brunt of erratic rainfall and polluted water sources. Balita is one of the villages of Birikala Gram Panchayat in Joda situated in the mining district of Keonjhar, where agriculture is mostly rain fed by nature. The tribal majority Balita village has an area of 457 Ha. The village houses a population of 962 across 207 households.

Therefore, OMBADC approved funding of Check dams on one stream or river which is a viable method to hold a substantial amount of water. Hence, a series Check dam was constructed across perennial nallah of village Balita during the COVID pandemic in 2020-21 at village Balita of Birikala GP.

After construction of series of Check dams, an encouraging irrigation potential of 39.08 Ha has been achieved for both Kharif and Rabi cropping seasons. It is heartening to see that now; the farmers can freely raise crops without dependency on seasonal rainfall and other water resource related interruptions in the area. During Kharif season, the production enhanced by 80-90% against

the previous year. The cropping intensity has been enhanced by more than 130%. Moreover, it is expected that the village will achieve cropping intensity of over 200% in the coming days.

One of the beneficiaries, Ashok Kumar Naik, having a land of 2 acres has notched up a cropping intensity of 140% during 2020-21 by cultivating hybrid rice in Kharif and mustard in Rabi. Similarly, Dambarudhar Naik, another beneficiary with a land holding of about 1.5 acre has raised his cropping intensity by 130%.

The successful implementation of series check dam construction augurs well for Balita farmers as they can now produce crops round the year. This also helps provide them with sustainable livelihood options while augmenting their annual income, thus bringing smiles to their faces. Such small but meaningful endeavours supported by OMBADC are a testament of their commitment to tribal welfare and area development.





Harihara Nayak, Telkoi, Keonjhar

Harihara Harvests Watermelons: Thanks to OMBADC Support

- Benefited by Water Harvesting Structure near his Cropland

- Harihara's Fields get Irrigated with Water Harvesting Structure

In the heart of Chhamunda village, nestled within the lush landscapes of Telkoi Block in Keonjhar district, Odisha, a tale of transformation unfolds. Harihara Nayak, son of Kulamani Nayak, has benefited with the Construction of Water Harvesting Structure (WHS) project, an initiative funded by the Odisha Mineral Bearing Areas Development Corporation (OMBADC) and overseen by the Directorate of Soil Moisture Conservation.

Prior to this, Harihara faced the perennial challenge of water scarcity during the scorching summer months. With 5 acres of land lying fallow due to the absence of irrigation facilities, his dreams of prosperity remained unfulfilled. The water table receded to over 15 feet, making cultivation an arduous endeavor and casting a shadow of uncertainty over his livelihood.

However, the arrival of the Water Harvesting Structure marked a

turning point in Harihara's life. With over 4 feet of water available even during the sweltering summer months, the once barren lands now bloomed with promise, fostering a resurgence of agricultural activity. Inspired by the newfound abundance, Harihara Nayak embarked on a bold venture, cultivating watermelons across 12 acres of land, a testament to his unwavering determination and entrepreneurial spirit.

The impact of Harihara's endeavors reverberated throughout the village, igniting a wave of optimism and prosperity. The fruits of Harihara's labor bore witness to his tenacity, as he anticipated an annual income ranging from Rs. 5,00,000 to Rs. 6,00,000, a staggering leap from his previous earnings. Today, his heart swells with gratitude towards OMBADC and the Watershed Department for their unwavering support and vision.

Watermelon Cultivation in **12** Acre Land

Annual Income Rs. **5-6** Lakh

Farm Pond Transforms Chandra's Agriculture, Enhancing Livelihood and Food Security

- Benefited by Farm Pond on his farmland
- Supported by OMBADC, Chandra's fields get irrigated with Water Harvesting Structure
- Chandra cultivates paddy, fruits & vegetables on 2 Acre Land

Chandra Jamuda, a small farmer, owned a plot of land inherited from his forefathers. Since he did not have any source of irrigation, he relied only on rainwater for his agricultural needs. Erratic rainfall patterns often resulted in losses despite his efforts. This limited his yield and income potential, trapping him in a cycle of poverty.

In 2022, the Directorate of Soil Conservation and Watershed identified Chandra Jamuda as one of the beneficiaries for the Watershed project. With the support of the watershed department and financial assistance from OMBADC, he decided to construct a

farm pond on his land. The farm pond provided a reliable source of irrigation, allowing Chandra Jamuda to cultivate crops throughout the year.

With better water management, he witnessed a significant increase in crop yield per acre. In addition to paddy, he utilized the water from the farm pond to cultivate various high-value vegetables and fruits, diversifying his agricultural activities.

The impact on the beneficiary's annual income was substantial. Prior to implementing the farm pond and diversifying his crops, his yearly income was Rs. 20k to 25k from traditional crop cultivation. With the strategic adoption of water management practices and the cultivation of high-value crops, his annual revenue is now projected to range from Rs. 1.0 L to 1.5 L.

The integration of farm pond irrigation system with diversified cultivation has boosted the annual income of the beneficiary. Through effectively utilizing water resources and making the most of market opportunities, he found financial success while also advocating for sustainable agricultural practices.



Chandra's Revenue Transformation

BEFORE

Rs. 20 to 25 Thousand

AFTER

Rs. 1 to 1.5 Lakh

Bimala's Vermicomposting Enterprise

- Involved in Livelihood Promotion Project under Ama Jungle Yojana (AJY)
- Supported by OMBADC, Bimala started a Vermicomposting Bed
- Aims to scale production to 6 Ton and increase revenue

Bimala earns monthly income of **Rs 4,000** with **200 KG** production
Target Production in Next Year
6 Tonnes

In the lush green landscapes of Keonjhar, Odisha, Bimala Mohanty, a 35-year-old resident of Taramkanta village, has transformed her life through involvement in the Livelihood Promotion in Forest Divisions of Keonjhar project, supported by the Ama Jungle Yojana (AJY) initiative.

Joining hands with Self-Help Groups, Bimala embarked on a journey of vermicomposting, harnessing the power of nature's own recyclers - earthworms. With funding from OMBADC and the guidance of OFSDP and the Forest Department, her entrepreneurial spirit took flight. A Revolving Fund ignited the spark, enabling Bimala and her fellow changemakers to establish their own vermicomposting enterprise.

With two thriving vermicomposting beds, Bimala produced over 200 kg of this precious soil conditioner, with a market price of Rs. 20 per kg. But her journey didn't stop there - she embraced organic farming, enriching her own fields with the nourishing vermicompost, witnessing a remarkable surge in agricultural yield and sustainability. Procuring four cows, she harnessed the power of cow dung and kitchen waste, combining it with the project-supported vermicomposting infrastructure to create a sustainable cycle of life.

Today, Bimala's monthly income stands at Rs. 4,000, a testament to the transformative power of community-driven initiatives like the AJY project. She sets her sights on expanding production to 6 tons next year, amplifying her earnings and fortifying her commitment to sustainable farming practices.

Bimala Mohanty's story is woven with threads of determination, innovation, and the unwavering support of OMBADC. Her success illuminates the path towards a brighter, more sustainable future, where the earth's bounty is cherished, and dreams take root and flourish.



Sumitra's Agricultural Awakening

- Ama Jungle Yojana in Rayagada in Keonjhar District
- Supported by OMBADC, Sumitra Nayak Harvests Arrowroot (Palua)
- Cultivation done on 10 decimals of Land

In the quaint Rayagada village of serene Keonjhar district, Sumitra Nayak, a spirited 32-year-old, has embarked on a transformative journey, harnessing the bounties of the earth to script her own destiny.

With support of the Forest Department, OFSDP and the Odisha Mineral Bearing Areas Development Corporation, Sumitra has breathed life into arid forestlands, nurturing them into a flourishing cultivation site for the coveted Palua, or arrowroot crop under the Ama Jungle Yojana (AJY) initiative.

Palua, also known as arrowroot, holds immense potential due to its medicinal properties and culinary uses. Rich in nutrients such as potassium, iron, and B vitamins, Palua has a high market demand. Despite its value, traditional extraction methods and lack of marketing avenues hindered its widespread cultivation and commercialization.

Sumitra, with support of women from the Self-Help Group, utilized the funds from the DFO under the Forest Department to procure Palua rhizomes, meticulously prepare the fields, and implement composting techniques. Under the guidance of the Odisha Forestry Sector Development Project, she cultivated Palua across 10 decimals of forestland in her village.

Her diligence bore fruit as Sumitra harvested an impressive 2.5

quintals of Palua, yielding 120 kg of pure Palua extract. With an entrepreneurial flair, she marketed the extract at Rs. 500 per kilogram, reaping substantial financial rewards. Over the past two years, Sumitra has consistently reaped an additional income of Rs. 40,000 to Rs. 45,000, a testament to her unwavering determination and the project's efficacy.

Gaining confidence from this success, Sumitra now aims at expanding her cultivation and engaging 10 to 15 more women from her community. She dreams of empowering fellow women farmers, fostering economic independence and catalyzing community growth. With the enduring support of the Odisha Forestry Sector Development Project, the Forest Department, and the Odisha Mineral Bearing Areas Development Corporation, Sumitra aspires to streamline the extraction process, elevate packaging and branding, and tap into broader markets.

Sumitra's triumphant narrative stands as a beacon of hope, illuminating the profound impact of grassroots initiatives bolstered by governmental interventions in driving rural development and upliftment.

Palua with Rich Nutrients:

- Potassium
- Iron
- Vitamin B



Sumitra's Additional Income Source from Palua

Rs. 40,000 to 45,000

Delivery Boy to Sustainable Poultry Farmer

- Beneficiary was a Delivery Boy in Bangalore
- COVID Pandemic Forced Him Back Home
- OMBADC Assisted Poultry Farming Came to Rescue
- Poultry Venture Yields Successful Returns Today

In the heart of Odisha's Rairangpur Block, unfolds a story of grit, resilience and determination. Mangal Munda, a 30-year-old individual from the Munda tribal community, has transformed his life from a struggling delivery boy in Bangalore to a successful poultry farmer in his native village of Tolak.

Five years ago, Mangal left his studies and hometown behind, seeking fortune in the busy city of Bangalore. Working as a delivery

boy, he managed to send a portion of his ₹15,000 monthly wage back home. However, the COVID-19 pandemic upturned his life, forcing him to return to his hometown with shattered dreams and worry of an uncertain future.

Determined to carve out a new path, Mangal embraced an opportunity through the Odisha Mineral Bearing Areas Development Corporation (OMBADC), assistance program for broiler farming. With a project cost of ₹71,000, split between a poultry shed and working capital, he embarked on his entrepreneurial journey. On December 31, 2021, Mangal stocked his first batch of 200 chicks, marking the beginning of his poultry venture.

Adopting the Deep Litter system and following guidance from local veterinary officials, Mangal adapted to his new role. His wife joined him in this endeavor, lending a hand with daily farm activities. Instead of selling live birds, the couple opened a chicken slicing center, adding value to their product and increasing their profit margins.

After just two batches, the results are showing great promise! Mangal's profits range from ₹16,500 per batch for undressed birds to ₹36,500 for dressed chicken. This success has not only improved his family's financial situation but has also reinforced his commitment for rearing poultry.

In the near future, the young agripreneur plans to expand his venture and explore alternative feeding methods to optimize costs. His success story has spread through the community, inspiring unemployed youth to consider poultry farming as a sustainable livelihood opportunity. Mangal Munda's journey from a city-bound gig worker to a thriving rural entrepreneur reiterates that right support and perseverance can spur rural youth to create sustainable livelihoods in their own communities.



Fields of Opportunity: How Irrigation Changed Jagannath's Life

In the heart of Salamundali village, where raindrops once dictated destinies, a revolution was about to unveil. Imagine a landscape where paddy once grew lush, now its yield was meager and people's spirits low. The farmers' eyes beseeched the skies for showers with each passing cloud. But change was on the horizon, carried by the winds of progress and the promise of OMBADC's vision.

With the installation of the solar-powered borewell rising 380 feet from the earth, six panels now harnessing the sun's energy to quench the thirst of 2 acres of once parched land. This eco-friendly marvel, with its zero maintenance and operational costs is the harbinger of a greener tomorrow. It stands as a beacon of hope, a testament to the union between traditional farming and cutting-edge technology.

In this spectacle, stands Jagannath, a young farmer with dreams in his eyes. His fields once dry, now grow brinjals, cucumbers, and chilies alongside cauliflowers and cabbages. A thousand papaya trees stand proud, their fruits heavy with promise.

The numbers sing a sweet song of success - a ₹5.4 lakh investment per year blooming into a ₹3 lakh profit in a single season. The cropping intensity which stood 90% has now grown to 200%.

Eight farmers now reap the benefit in these fertile soils, their livelihoods intertwined with the land's rebirth. The ripple effects of this success story spread through the village, inspiring others to dream bigger and reach higher.

It is remarkable that a single borewell, a visionary program, and a farmer's unwavering spirit has painted a picture of agricultural triumph. Jagannath's example is a testament to the indomitable human spirit, flourishing against all odds. It's a narrative of hope, illustrating how targeted interventions can breathe new life into struggling communities.

The transformation of Salamundali serves as a blueprint for rural development, a shining example of what's possible when innovation meets determination. OMBADC, with its endeavors of tribal welfare and area development has thus served countless individuals enhancing their livelihoods and helping them aspire for a better tomorrow.



Producers Group
Patna block, Keonjhar



In a Single Season
₹5.4 lakh Investment
₹3 lakh Profit

Fruits of Labour - Empowered Pathways

- COVID Pandemic hit Amar's Earnings
- Dwindling Savings Led to Desperation
- Amar Sought Assistance from Horticulture Dept
- Beneficiary Earns Sustainable Income from Cultivating Mushroom

In the quaint Sakua village of district Mayurbhanj, Amar Mohakud's life took an unexpected turn during the COVID-19 pandemic. As a father of two young daughters and the sole breadwinner for his family of five, Amar found himself at a crossroads when his work as a driver came to a sudden halt.

Faced with dwindling savings and mounting uncertainty, Amar sought guidance from the Assistant Horticulture Officer in Badasahi. This pivotal conversation introduced him to the world

of mushroom cultivation, a revelation that would soon transform his life.

Eager to learn, Amar underwent training at the Krishi Vigyan Kendra in Shamakhunta. Equipped with newfound knowledge and a modest government grant of Rs. 1,500, he embarked on his entrepreneurial journey. Starting small with just 30 mushroom beds, Amar quickly discovered the potential of these humble fungi.

His initial investment of Rs. 80 per bed, covering essentials like paddy straw, spawn, and labor, yielded encouraging returns. Each bed produced up to 1 kg of mushrooms within 12 to 18 days, fetching Rs. 200 per kilogram in the local market. Despite space limitations, Amar's monthly earnings reached Rs. 6,000, a significant boost to his family's income.

Amar's dedication and success caught the attention of the Deputy Director of Horticulture in Mayurbhanj. Selected as a beneficiary under the OMBADC scheme in 2021-22, Amar received OMBADC support to expand his operation. This financial assistance allowed him to construct a permanent structure with three-tier bamboo racks, increasing his capacity to 600 beds.

The upgrade transformed Amar's small-scale venture into a thriving business. With daily production soaring to 5-6 kg of mushrooms, the family's income multiplied. Amar's wife joined the enterprise, managing sales from a small shop in front of their home. Their joint efforts now yield a daily profit of Rs. 1,000 after expenses.

Amar and his wife are now exploring value-added mushroom products and sustainable practices, such as converting used straw into compost. Their story serves as an inspiring testament to resilience, adaptability, and the power of agricultural entrepreneurship in rural India.



Sustainable Development & Ecological Transformation in Keonjhar

- Cropping intensity increased to 140%, with potential to reach 200%
- Improvement in Soil Moisture

1,150+ Beneficiaries

698 Hectares of land irrigated

Per capita income rose to

62,000 Rupees annually

In the heart of Keonjhar district unfolds a story of regeneration. Once a dry, barren landscape marred by erratic rainfall and depleted groundwater levels, this region has undergone a remarkable metamorphosis courtesy the innovative water management projects, supported by the Odisha Mineral Bearing Areas Development Corporation (OMBADC).

The story begins with a community at the mercy of nature. Farmlands degraded, forests overgrazed, and water sources unreliable. The delicate balance between man, plant, and animal had been disrupted, leaving the inhabitants struggling to survive in an environment of deprivation.

Recognizing the urgent need for intervention, the district administration implemented a series of water harvesting structures, check dams, and other water bodies across several blocks in Keonjhar, with funding support of OMBADC. These projects aimed not only to address immediate water scarcity but also to foster a symbiotic relationship between the people and their environment.

The results have been overwhelming. With improved access

to water, farmers can now cultivate both Kharif and Rabi crops, thereby increasing agricultural production. The landscape is now replenishing with rising soil moisture levels and enhanced soil fertility breathing new life into the fields which were once arid.

More importantly, these initiatives have rekindled hope among the local population. Farmers like Jogendra Naik, Dambarudhar Naik, and Pandia Munda have seen their cropping intensity soar to 140%, a testament to the project's success. As crop yields improve, so do the economic prospects of these rural communities.

The OMBADC enriched projects in Keonjhar stand as a shining example of how thoughtful intervention can create a ripple effect of positive change. By addressing the fundamental need for water, these initiatives have set in motion a cycle of ecological regeneration and economic growth that promises a brighter, more sustainable future for the region.

As the resurgence continues, Keonjhar's story serves as an inspiration for similar arid regions worldwide, demonstrating that with vision, commitment, and community involvement, even the most challenging environments can be revitalized.

Empowering Rural Women through Mushroom Cultivation

- Gouri Patra's Family Faced Hardship During COVID
- She Then Turned Financial Crisis into Opportunity
- Gouri Starts Mushroom Cultivation
- Venture leads to Sustainable Income Generation

Gouri Patra, a resident of Trijanga village in Odisha's Jajpur District, has become a symbol of success in mushroom cultivation, thanks to initiatives by the Odisha Mineral Bearing Areas Development Corporation (OMBADC). Her story illustrates how innovative agricultural practices can empower rural women and transform lives. Faced with financial hardship after her husband lost his job during the COVID-19 crisis, Gouri Patra sought alternative livelihood options. The turning point came when she joined the Mushroom Cultivation initiative sponsored by OMBADC and the District Horticulture Department. In 2020-21, she acquired a mushroom

house under OMBADC, which became the foundation of her venture. Today, Gouri Patra cultivates paddy straw mushrooms for eight months and Dhingri mushrooms for four months annually. She manages about 100 mushroom beds, producing 20 kg of mushrooms daily. Selling her harvest at Rs.150/- to Rs.200/- per kg, she generates an annual income of Rs.30,000/- to Rs.35,000/-, with expenses of Rs.15,000/-.

Encouraged by her success, Gouri Patra reinvested her earnings to expand her farm activities. She also undertook Spawn production training, demonstrating her commitment to empowering other rural women through similar activities.

Gouri Patra's success has allowed her to repay debts and save for her children's future. Her story serves as an inspiration for the community, highlighting mushroom cultivation as a sustainable and lucrative livelihood option for rural women in Odisha.

This case study underscores the positive impact of innovative agricultural interventions on rural women's lives. It demonstrates how initiatives like OMBADC's support can trigger significant socio-economic changes in rural areas. Gouri Patra's journey from financial struggle to empowerment showcases the transformative potential of such programs.

As the fragrance of success spreads through Trijanga village, it echoes the potential for similar transformations across Odisha's agricultural landscape and beyond. Gouri Patra's story stands as a testament to the power of determination, coupled with the right support and opportunities, in overcoming economic challenges and achieving financial independence.



Gouri Patra's Venture: **100** Mushroom Beds
20kg Daily Production
35,000 Rupees Annual Income



Rajgangpur, Sundargarh

A Blooming Success through Banana Cultivation

- Beneficiary Earlier Engaged In Traditional Farming
- Grew Paddy as Main Crop
- Banana Cultivation Led To Increase In Income
- Intercropping Vegetables Led To Additional Profit

Sairam Mohanta, a rural farmer from Sarangpur village, Sukinda Block of Jajpur District was a firm believer in traditional farming. The hardworking individual later embarked on an eventful agricultural journey, cultivating bananas with the invaluable support of the Odisha Mineral Bearing Areas Development Corporation (OMBADC).

Driven by a desire to explore a more profitable and sustainable alternative to traditional paddy cultivation, Sairam sought guidance from the horticulture staff, who, recognizing the potential, directed him towards the OMBADC scheme. Possessing 4 hectares of land, Sairam dedicated 2 hectares to cultivating bananas, complementing his venture with the cultivation of diverse vegetables within his fields.

In a show of business acumen, Sairam, during the initial stage of banana plantation, intercropped various vegetables in his land. By doing so, he reaped an additional income of Rs. 1 lakh by selling the veggies successfully in the local market. The growth of his banana plants was more than anyone would have expected. The bountiful yield has instilled in him a spirit of certainty and contentment.

Moreover, Sairam's success has sparked renewed interest and enthusiasm among fellow farmers in the locality, inspiring them to explore the possibilities of banana cultivation. His dedication, together with the guidance and financial support of OMBADC,

positions him as an enterprising farmer in the eyes of the local community.

Sairam's story is not limited to the fields! The success has led to numerous visits by the state and district OMBADC teams, who were left impressed with the thriving banana orchard. The active involvement and support from Nutrition Experts of the District OMBADC cell and office of ADHO Jajpur have played a pivotal role in ensuring the project's success.



Sairam Profits From Cultivation

Additional Income of

Rs. 1 Lakh

by Selling Veggies

As Sairam Mohanta continues to set exemplary standards in banana cultivation, his story stands as a testament to the overwhelming impact of OMBADC in empowering farmers to embrace innovative and lucrative agricultural practices. His journey from traditional farming to a thriving banana plantation serves as a beacon of hope, inspiring others in the community to follow suit and redefine their agricultural pursuits. The story is also indicative of OMBADC's commitment to support local communities thrive and prosper.



Banana Cultivation Elevates Baega's Fortune

- Banana Cultivation Proposed to Improve the Farmer's Fortune
- 1,200 G9 variety banana suckers planted on 1 Acre, with Bumper Harvest

The Agriculture & Farmers' Empowerment Department through the Directorate of Horticulture had implemented a livelihood project with OMBADC funding in the year 2020. Banana cultivation was one of the interventions approved in the project to be taken up by tribal farmers. The initiative, taken up by the Horticulture officials with support from local PRI members in 2021-22, began with careful land suitability assessments and beneficiary selection. Priority was given to ST/SC communities and those actively involved in agriculture and allied sectors.

One of the beneficiaries selected under the project was a tribal farmer named Baega Kalha who is a resident of village Dhalpur, Hensda Gram Panchayat under Jamda block, Mayurbhanj district. He was struggling to support his family with a single paddy crop. His fortunes improved when the OMBADC supported project introduced a banana cultivation project, aiming to boost income for small and marginal farmers through fruit-based horticulture.

Baega received 1,200 G9 variety banana suckers for his one-acre plot, along with support for manure, fertilizers, and fencing. The project, valued at Rs. 3 lakhs per hectare, also promised future incentives for propping materials. Throughout the cultivation, Baega got constant guidance on technical aspects from the Assistant Horticulture Officer and field staff. The regular follow-up activity ensured thorough care and nurturing of the young orchard. Within a year, Baega's efforts bore fruit. His orchard flourished, producing quality bananas that had a great demand in the market.

He sold 200 bunches for Rs. 80,000, with another 500 bunches ripening for immediate harvest. The success of his venture had a ripple effect, with neighboring farmers sourcing suckers from Baega's orchard to start their own plantations. To diversify his income, Baega sold floral stems at Rs. 20 each, earning an additional Rs. 4,000 from 200 stems. This new revenue stream further boosted his family's fortune.

The banana orchard has become a valuable asset for Baega's family, transforming their economic outlook. Energized by his success, Baega now advocates for similar initiatives among his peers, showcasing the positive impact of the OMBADC scheme and the Horticulture Department's intervention.



Baega's journey from a struggling paddy farmer to a successful banana cultivator illustrates the power of pointed agricultural initiatives. His story serves as an inspiration, demonstrating how innovative farming practices can create sustainable livelihoods in rural communities.

”

Rs. 1 Lakh
in one year for farmers'



Tangarpali, Sundargarh

Empowering Rural Farmers With Technology

- Local Farmers Fetched Low Price for Vegetables
- Lack of Storage Ailed the Farmers
- Farmers Now Rejoice with Fair Price for Produce

In the verdant landscapes of Sansailo village, a revolution is underway, thanks to the innovative spirit of Laxman Mohanta. Undertaking an initiative supported by the Odisha Mineral Bearing Areas Development Corporation (OMBADC), the Horticulture Directorate has successfully setup a 5 MT solar cool chamber in the name of Laxman, now managed by the Durga Self-Help Group (SHG).

Located in the Sukinda block, Sansailo panchayat has long been known for its bountiful vegetable cultivation. Despite year-round availability, local farmers faced the challenge of low price for their produce due to inadequate marketing infrastructure and the absence of cold storage facilities. Determined to support the fellow farmers, Laxman Mohanta took it upon himself to address this need.

Prior to the establishment of the solar cold room, discouragement loomed among the farmers. This led to a collective decision to minimize vegetable cultivation. Recognizing the need for a solution, Laxman's initiative breathed new life into the agricultural landscape. The solar cold room not only revived interest among farmers but also helped them to fetch better price for their produce.

Currently, the management of the solar cool chamber has been entrusted to the Durga SHG, which exemplifies community collaboration. Generating nearly Rs. 5000 per month from the project, the SHG members are not only sustaining the growth of their group but also setting an inspiring example for other women in the Panchayat.

The success of this solar cold room has not only reinvigorated vegetable cultivation but has also economically empowered the community. Sansailo is witnessing a resurgence of farming enthusiasm, with farmers now eager to grow more vegetables and secure fair value for their toils.

The story of Laxman Mohanta's solar cold chamber is more than a technological feat. Rather, it's a narrative of community resilience and empowerment. As Durga SHG continues to flourish and inspire, this initiative serves as a shining example for sustainable agricultural practices, proving that innovation and community collaboration can create lasting positive impact.



5 MT | set up by Laxman Mohanta
Solar Cold Room | in Sansailo, Jajpur
a Boon for Local Farmers

Soil & Moisture Conservation Transforms Murga village in Joda Block, Keonjhar

- Check dams transformed a seasonal waterfall into a year-round water source
- Farmers saw enhanced crop yields and diversified beyond traditional paddy
- Women-led groups gained income through nurseries
- Project led to effective community water management and development

This is the story of Murga village of Deojhar GP, under Joda block. During the summer in Murga village, a once-seasonal waterfall posed significant challenges for the local community. During summer, reduced water flow made it inaccessible for daily needs and agriculture, while monsoon seasons brought severe soil erosion. Nearby mining activities further depleted groundwater levels, leaving villagers without a reliable year-round water source.

To address these challenges, the Odisha Mineral Bearing Areas Development Corporation (OMBADC) funded Soil Moisture Conservation (SMC) activities, implemented by the Forest Environment & Climate Change Department. The project incorporated two main interventions like Wire Mesh Loose Boulder Check Dams and Concrete Check Dams.

The Wire Mesh Loose Boulder Check Dams were strategically placed above the waterfall to check running water flow and enhance ground seepage. These structures effectively trapped sediment and reduced soil erosion, improving downstream soil quality. Concrete Check Dams were constructed to ensure year-round water storage, maintaining steady waterfall flow during dry seasons and recharging groundwater that fed local wells and hand

pumps. The project also included restoring mined-out areas with soil-binding vegetation and establishing community-managed nurseries for reforestation.

The impacts were significant across seasons. During monsoons, the check dams moderated flood water speed, preventing soil erosion and allowing fertile soil to settle on farmland. In post-monsoon periods, stored water maintained steady waterfall flow, enabling farmers to irrigate winter crops and diversify beyond paddy cultivation to include vegetables and pulses. Most notably, the waterfall maintained a steady trickle even during peak summer months for the first time in decades.

The project yielded impressive results where farmers experienced a 70% increase in crop yields due to improved irrigation. Similarly, women-led groups found new income sources through nursery management and organic fertilizer production. The restoration of mining-affected areas into green spaces achieved a 70% plant survival rate, enhancing the local environment. Neighbouring villages benefited from improved groundwater levels and consistent stream flow.



Project Results

70%

Increase in crop yields
due to improved irrigation

70%

Plant survival rate in restoration
of mining-affected areas
into green spaces

Beyond environmental improvements, the project strengthened community bonds. Local participation in conservation efforts created a sense of pride and unity, inspiring nearby villages to adopt similar initiatives. The restoration of the waterfall surpassed its physical impact, becoming a symbol of successful collaboration between nature and community.

The Murga waterfall project demonstrates how sustainable practices can simultaneously benefit the environment and improve community livelihoods. By addressing soil erosion, vegetation loss, and water scarcity, the initiative transformed a seasonal water source into a perennial one. This success story serves as an inspiration for other regions facing similar challenges, proving that coordinated efforts and community engagement can create lasting positive change.

Success Story of Kande Babanga

Kande Babanga, a 75-year old farmer and a father of three used to earn just Rs. 2,500-3,000 a month from traditional farming. After introducing a farm pond and diversifying his crops, he now grows a variety of vegetables and fruits like papaya, brinjal, onion, and mango, which he sells in local markets. The changes have brought a significant boost to his livelihood, ensuring a better life for his family.

Sericulture



Empowering Tribal Communities through Improved Sericulture Practices

- **Odisha, a major Tasar Producing State**
- **Tasar cultivation Dense in Tribal regions**
- **OMBADC Supports Tasar Silk Production in Keonjhar**
- **Empowering Farmers with Sericulture**

Odisha is a major Tasar producing state of the country. Tasar farming serves as a means of sustainable livelihood for people in tribal regions of the state. Moreover, Tasar silk production in Odisha holds significant cultural and economic importance.

Tasar silk is extracted from the cocoons of various species of silkworms with the more prominent of them being *Antheraea mylitta*. In the tribal regions of Odisha, Tasar Silk production is primarily concentrated in those tribal pockets where Sericulture is a traditional occupation. Additionally, Tasar silk production also plays a crucial role in preserving traditional craftsmanship and cultural heritage.

However, the production and preservation of Tasar silk encountered challenges like climatic unpredictability, inadequate infrastructure, pest susceptibility and market accessibility issues. Adding to the farmers' woes were synthetic fibers, traditional knowledge decline and land use alterations.

To overcome the same, Odisha Mineral Bearing Areas Development Corporation (OMBADC) stepped forward. OMBADC is extending its support to the Department of Handlooms, Textiles & Handicrafts for the 'Projects under Sericulture & Handloom sector for upliftment of rural tribal farmers/weavers', which was approved during the 20th Board of Director's meeting.

The initiative aims to boost the local Tasar industry through

Sericulture in mining affected districts like Keonjhar, which constitutes over 30% of the state's silk production. The initiative of this Cluster Development Programme is to foster the empowerment of the weavers both from within and outside the cooperative fold towards supply of raw materials, design intervention and technology upgradation with market access support. It will also enhance the livelihoods of Tasar farmers, reelers, and spinners in the districts, fostering sustainable development.

To strengthen Sericulture in Keonjhar, assistance was given for Operationalization of Pilot Project Centers for production of Disease free layings for supply to Tasar seed farmers of Primary Tasar Rearer Cooperative Societies (PTRCS). Assistance was also given to PTRCS for procurement of Tasar cocoon from farmers of the locality. Prophylactic measures were adopted of by farmers in Tasar cultivation for better crop yield.

Moreover, Pilot Project Centre (PPC)s were operationalized with OMBADC fund to manage various aspects like Working Capital, Seed Testing, Grainage Management, Prophylactic measures, manpower etc.

Such interventions shall facilitate quality seed production and preservation to meet timely demand of basic seed with creation of resources for commercial purpose. Each center is expected to preserve the diapause seed cocoons for a period stretching up to 07 months covering the entire period of summer and produce diseases free laying annually.

K2616-0-0 nos. of good quality cocoons have been preserved through PPCs assistance in Keonjhar district.

The 4 (Four) Pilot Project Centers currently operational with OMBADC assistance include Jagmohanpur, Harichandanpur- I, Harichandanpur- II and Pandapada.

4 Pilot Project Centers operates with OMBADC assistance

- Jagmohanpur
- Harichandanpur - I
- Harichandanpur - II
- Pandapada

3,000 Tasar Farmers

13 Primary Tasar Rearer Cooperative Societies



With proper technical handholding, the farmers are able to avail field disinfectants like Leaf Surface Microbes (LSM), Bleaching Powder, Slaked Lime, Grease, Brown Tape, Jeevan Sudha, etc. to each Tasar farmer during Silkworm rearing. This will facilitate better and higher productivity while augmenting the farmers' income.

To support in generating additional employment of farmers, reelers and spinners in value chain process, a 'Silk Park' has been established at Bhagamunda of Harichandanpur block where the stakeholders are engaged in different Sericulture activities from the grading till the finished product.

Additionally, the farmers can trade their Tasar through cooperative facility @ 12/- per Dfls as per the price fixed by SERIFED. The farmers have also been empowered to make open market transactions as well.

The production of high-quality silk through sustainable practices demands meticulous management and attention to detail. In this context, the Odisha Mineral Bearing Areas Development Corporation (OMBADC) has made significant strides in supporting and developing the sericulture sector. Their interventions have yielded positive results, demonstrating a marked improvement in the economic status of silk farmers and, by extension, their communities.

I have been cultivating Tasar for the past 7 years. We get good quality eggs for our production. We also get support during other times from releasing the worms in the jungle till harvesting the cocoon. The state government has put a robust arrangement for sale of Tasar cocoons.



Iswar Chandra Marandi
Beneficiary farmer, Harichandanpur block

The support provided by OMBADC has been instrumental in enhancing the income levels of sericulture practitioners. This improvement in earnings can be attributed to targeted initiatives, which have addressed various aspects of the silk production process and value chain.

Over 3,000 Tasar farmers have been registered and organized through 13 (thirteen) active PTRCS who have benefitted with OMBADC assistance. As per the recommendation of Central Silk Board, Govt of India for crop yield, prophylactic measures were adopted before the starting of the crop schedule and after harvest of the crop to reduce the pathogen load in the rearing environment.

**2023-24 season
Keonjhar district
reported a production of**

**3.28 crore
Tasar Cocoons**

Earlier I used to rear Tasar cocoons and sell it without substantial profit. Now, with the support from OMBADC, better quality Tasar cocoon is being produced. During the last season, I earned Rs. 1.5 lakh from sale of the cocoons.



Malti Tudu
Beneficiary farmer, Harichandanpur block





NEW YORK CITY
BROOKLYN

BS



Odisha Mineral Bearing Areas Development Corporation

Regd. Office: Aranya Bhawan, GD-2/12

Chandrasekharpur, Bhubaneswar, Odisha - 751023

☎ 0674-2300488 ✉ ombadc@gmail.com 🌐 www.ombadc.in

📌 📷 📺 📺 📺 /OMBADC1