An Ideal Village: Kalijharan, Sambalpur

Name of the village: Kalijharan, GP- Ulanda, Block- Kuchinda, Dist-Sambalpur

Total Household: 39 (ST (Oram)-37+ OBC-2), Total Population: 175

Name of the Nari Sangh: Kalijharan Sikha Mahila Mandal, No. of Members: 21

The village Kalijharan is one of the ideal villages in which the Misereor supported project enabled the Mahila Mandals in tapping a good no of Government schemes/programmes for both individuals and community welfare and development.

Before the intervention of Misereor supported project, the villagers were unaware of Government Schemes and Programmes. There was acquit poverty and food insecurity due to lack of Grain Bank in the village. The women were not allowed to go for meeting though the Mahila Mandal was formed long back in 2009. The group saving in the village by the women was stopped due to irregularity and ignorance about the importance of collective saving and micro enterprises.

With the support of Misereor the Block Co-ordinator intervened with the instrument of women empowerment and motivated to reorganise the Mahila Mandal. Women were facilitated training on the concept of eco-village development (including developing vermin composed, green manure, bio fertiliser and organic farming). The women leaders were trained on tapping Government resources through building alliance with government functionaries, and through active participation in Palli Shabha and Grama Sabha. Gradually, women of the village Kalijharan drew the attention of Odisha Livelihood Mission (OLM) and Block Officials through collective efforts. As a result, within 3 years, 9 families received Rs. 5000 each under MAMATA, another 14 families received Rs. 1400 each under JANANI SURAKHYA YOJONA (JSY). The Mahila Mandal of the village was successful to mobilise Rs. 50,000/- from OLM for leaf plate and cup making purchasing a machine at the cost of Rs. 28,000/-. They have already refunded 75% of the loan out of generating profit from the business.
Pertaining to Forest Right Act (FRA), significantly it is noticed that, this is the only village under Misereor supported project that has been issued with Community Forest Rights (CFR) title. In addition, 12 households have received Individual Forest Rights (IFR) title.

4 households are provided with sanitary toilets whereas another 20 households with Indira Awas. Another 4 households are assisted to develop cattle shed through individuals benefit plan under IPPE (MGNREGA). 5 households of the village have received water pumps with water tank facilities. The villagers are also successful to mobilise and install solar water system in the village. 7 households were facilitated to apply for firm pond and found successful.

The department of horticulture was pleased to sanction tube well with pump set for banana cultivation in 5 Acr. of land to 2 families. Under MGNREGA Mr. Antony Kujur has successfully completed 100 days work to his credit and received Rs. 1,30,000 and constructed his Indira Awas. One of the active members of Sikha Mahila Mandal of this village called Ms. Lili Kujur is appointed as Anganwadi Worker of the village.

In terms of bio fertiliser, 5 households have developed vermin composed, 3 households have developed green manure and been getting benefit through gole-bed system of vegetable cultivation mobilising support from horticulture Department. Mr. Antony Kujur says “I do earn Rs. 600/ltr selling green manure. People do order in advance for the same.” Mr. Phillip Lakra says “I was suffering from anaemia but due to regular intake of organic vegetables from my gole-bed system cultivation and taking millets (Ragi) on regular basis I am now ok.” Ms. Filisia Eka, Ms. Nikra Eka and Ms. Sorojini Kujur were in opinion that due to this programme we are able to earn additional income to our families through organic vegetable cultivation. It is to note here that this village of Kalijharan is in fact an ideal village for the difference in mobilising Government resources and enterprises (Individual and collectively).