

ANNUAL REPORT 2013 - 2014



Social Action for Community Alternative Learning (SACAL)

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From the Member Secretary...

While pursuing a greater goal of achievement consistent with our introspection to ascertain it, we saw the year 2013-14 no way different from the preceding ones of success notwithstanding the fact that it was "A Year of Challenge" for us since Phailine had caused a massive devastation in South Odisha, more particularly, districts of Ganjam and Gajapati where we operate. Undoubtedly, the damage caused by this natural disaster has left a lasting impression in our mind and heart for the people we work and for the environment we live in.



Undeniably, timely relief and rehabilitation measures taken up by SACAL could bring enabling change in the milieu making us complacent for the effort we made in instilling resilience among the people to fight the calamity. Yet, the gloomy picture of loss caused to lives and livelihood of the resource poor rural people by the disaster continues to loom large in our mind. In fact, the damage caused to Kharif crops like paddy and ragi as well as the Rabi crops including cereals and vegetables besides the maize cultivation initiated by SACAL sustained irreparable loss to the farmers and was virtually a serious threat to their survival.

We must hail the victims and their reliance on SACAL which stood with them at the need of the hour as to build them resilient enough to fight the disaster.

Moreover, SACAL will certainly convey its heart-felt gratitude to its donors - mainly Trocaire, Alternaid and Goonj for extending timely support to mark up its activities in true manner and spirit.

Apart from the earnest responsibility of carrying out the rehabilitation and resilience work, SACAL continued its endeavour as ever for incepting new ideas and motivation in its operational areas. In this context, "Mission Sunhera Kal" with ITC in Hinjilicut Block during 2013 pursued towards promotion of agriculture through soil moisture conservation and Sustainable Agricultural practices was really a timely and need-based endeavour that contributes towards promotion of food security ultimately reducing migration.

Meanwhile our continued effort in furthering the programme on malaria prevention and control witnessed community participation entering the third year with positive impacts of it being discernible in the community. In addition to this, the partnership with Alternaid, aiming to improve child and adolescent health entered the second year with many positive outcomes being noticed in community health.

Even though natural disaster was a major hindrance during 2013-14, SACAL did stick to its social commitment and continued to pursue its development activities - well in time, that not only helped the victims "stand erect" but also promoted confidence, good will and cohesion among the beneficiaries and the organization.

While keeping an eye on the works and fund mobilization activities that are in the pipe line, the organization has appraised the issues of its beneficiary communities coupled with various aspects of administration and resource management to walk over its shortcomings and promote enabling environment for ensuring the optimum from the available minimum. With due honour to its supporters, well wishers and advisers including Government Officials, Resource Persons, all other stakeholders and Staff, SACAL genuinely invites attention of its critics to join hand and make its endeavours more "pro people" and more "critical" in true sense of development.

Nagendra Kumar Nandi
Secretary, SACAL

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ABOUT US

Launched in 1999 by the concerted effort of persons having considerable experience in socio-economic development of the marginalised people in less developed areas, Social Action for Community Alternative Learning (SACAL), Berhampur (Ganjam), is a non-profit, non-partisan and secular organization committed towards bringing overall development of the marginalised and weaker sections of the society -- the poor, tribal and SC population, and women in target areas. The organization functions with the support of experts such as doctors, veterinarians, agriculturists, lawyers etc. having expertise in natural resources management, agriculture development, participatory training, development of self-help groups and community development works and is dedicated towards the promotion of activities and implementation of policies and programmes for the enhancement of quality of life in rural households through community participation.

SACAL had started work in 12 villages spreading over 3 Gram Panchayats of Mohana block in Gajapati district way back in 1999. Ensuring food and livelihood security of the population was the major concern of the organization. A span of 15 years has passed since then. Over the years, the organization has been engaged in a wide range of activities improving the socio-economic condition of the target population by way of ensuring food security, increasing livelihood opportunities, strengthening the civil society organizations, facilitating health and sanitation and creating community awareness on them.

Today the organisation has its activities spread in many areas of adjacent Ganjam district while in Mohana block the operational area has also spread with greater concentration in activities. In all these areas of our activities farming is the primary occupation of the village community comprising mostly tribal, SC and marginalised population living in acute poverty. Most of the inhabitants in these areas are marginal farmers or landless labourers living under sub-human conditions. The poor economic and living conditions of these people are burdened by mass illiteracy making them little aware of government plans and programmes available at the grassroots level. So, they fail to participate in these programmes (by expressing their choice) through CBOs or enforcing their civil rights. Besides, there is widespread superstition prevailing among the villagers for generations. Superstitions like witchcraft and sorcery are deep-rooted in their minds.

In such a socio-economic state, SACAL has been engaged in the activities and programmes that would help the people raise their standard of living and make them educated and aware enough as to enable themselves enforce their rights in various fields other than reaping the benefits of poverty alleviation and employment generating programmes implemented by the government.

Providing food security and opportunity for secure livelihoods, improving health and sanitation in the community and strengthening the CSOs are the priority areas in which SACAL has been working for a decade and half. Towards reaching such ends the organization has been engaged in activities for augmenting of food production through improved practices of sustainable agriculture and allied activities (irrigation etc.), provision of farm inputs, support and promotion to vegetable cultivation and plantation, management of natural resources etc. Our organization has also been engaged in creating community awareness in such activities and the plans and programmes of the government as well, through the participation of the community and various stake holders.

From the very beginning, consistent efforts of the organization has not only enabled people to work organized, live in cohesion and promote their access to available resources but also has helped the stakeholders and beneficiaries to be part of the ever strengthening process of promoting an enabling environment to ensure proper utilization of available resources and obtain optimal benefit out of it.

Over the years, learning from the situation and practice of overcoming the hindrances through participatory effort has been the way with SACAL. The organisation believes to remain associated

and involved with the stakeholders and accelerate the process of development through different need based and area specific endeavours that best suits to their existing status and environment and rather inspires it to facilitate the development initiatives in meaningful manner. Moreover, SACAL believes in the ideology that people should be the main actors in the process of their development. They should adopt a genuine bottom-up strategy to ensure their involvement in planning and programme implementation.

VISION, MISSION AND OBJECTIVES

The vision, mission and objectives of SACAL are directed towards bringing holistic development of the target population. They are expressed as below:

OUR VISION:

SACAL visualizes an amicable, democratic and compassionate society having freedom, dignity and equal rights among men and women through sustainable use of natural resources aimed at achieving food security and enhancing livelihood of weaker sections of the society.

OUR MISSION:

SACAL Endeavour's to empower the marginalized, poor and downtrodden, particularly tribal, women and SC communities by building up community based organizations to support their efforts through an integrated approach for a sustainable natural resource management, gender equity and meaningful livelihood initiatives through a people centered democratic process.

OBJECTIVES:

SACAL has the following objectives:

- ❖ To facilitate social, economic, cultural activities for the underprivileged and weaker sections of the society, particularly tribals, including women, children and the handicapped hailing from various castes, classes and communities.
- ❖ To undertake action, research, training and extension programmes for the development of the weaker sections of the society.
- ❖ To promote integrated development and initiate convergence of programmes by undertaking socio-economic projects with Government and other organizations.
- ❖ To initiate action for improvement of natural resources and proper integration of community with the Natural Resource Management.
- ❖ To promote micro organizations of the tribals and weaker sections through training, capacity building and linkages with financial and credit institutions.
- ❖ To raise funds through charging of fees, receiving grants from agencies in India and/or abroad. To incur expenditure as per needs of the organization and for the goods and services delivered to SACAL. To invest funds and execute financial transactions as permitted by law.
- ❖ To undertake all such actions which are needed or incidental to the attainment of the objectives of the Memorandum of Association, and which are in consonance with the laws of the land. Also to refuse to commit actions or to accept commitments or funds which are opposed to the spirit and objectives of the Memorandum.
- ❖ SACAL aims to intervene mostly on livelihood and NRM aspects and recognizes the importance of gender equity aiming to fulfill the basic needs of the target population.

GOVERNANCE AND STRUCTURE

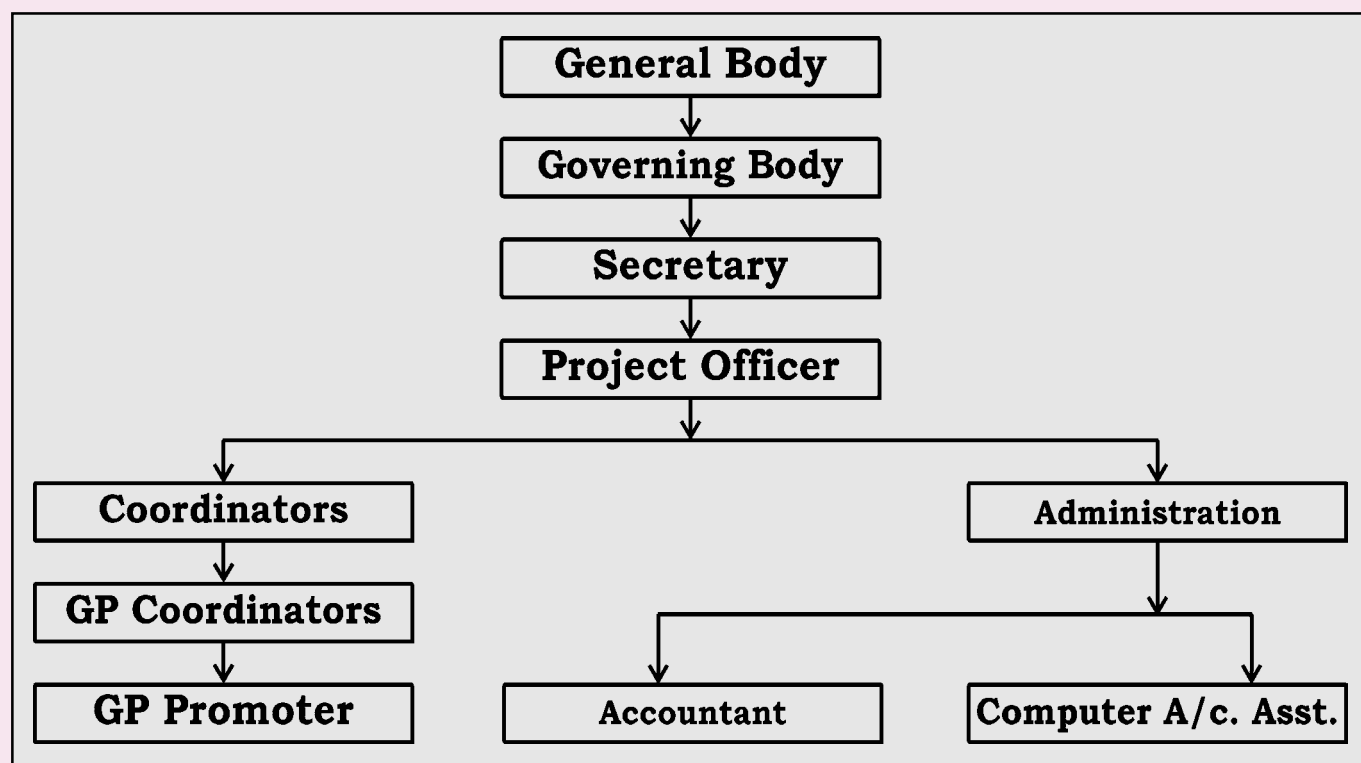
SACAL is governed by its governing body comprising 7 members (The list of members is furnished below). The Secretary is authorized to manage the organization including staff resources and administration. He is accountable to the Governing Body and takes decisions with the core team consisting of senior members, coordinators and the senior accountant.

REGISTRATION

- ❖ Registered under Society Registration Act, 1860 Regd. No. GJM No.5861-97 of 1999-2000.
- ❖ Registered under FCRA 1976 Home Ministry, Govt. of India Regd. No.104910079
- ❖ Registered under 12AA of IT Act 1961 Regd. No.72/202-2003.
- ❖ Members of the Governing Body
 1. Sri Suresh Chandra Bisoyi, President
 2. Sri Nagendra Kumar Nandi, Secretary
 3. Mr.Bidyut Ranjan Das, Treasurer
 4. Dr. Anjali Patnaik, Member
 5. Dr. Manoj Kumar Mohanty, Member
 6. Mr.Natabar Padhi, Member
 7. Ms. Namita Pradhan, Member

ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE

As presented in the diagram below SACAL' organizational structure is very simple:



ADDRESSING FOOD SECURITY



Though India has made a spectacular progress in food grain production and has been a net exporter of food grains for the last three decades, the benefit of Green Revolution (or, water-seed-fertiliser technology) has been reaped mostly by big farmers and that too in the rain-fed and irrigated areas. Food insecurity is still a problem among the population in many parts of the country, especially in tribal inhabited highland areas. Despite the government effort in providing food security and reducing poverty thorough various developmental programmes over the years, a substantial number of population scattered across the country struggles hard to get a square meal for two times a day. In fact, the latest Global Hunger Index prepared by the International Food Policy Research Institute along with other agencies ranks India among the 63 out of the 79 countries where food security is a major area of concern.

The state of food security in Odisha is worse along with a few other states of the country. More often than not we come across the news of starvation deaths, especially in highland and underserved areas of the state inhabited by tribal population. Though the government's mismanagement of food supply to the poor is chiefly responsible for it, the issue is often thwarted under the scapegoat that intake of spurious drink and non-foodstock like mango-kernel as food by the tribal population is the cause of such mishap. However, the fact remains that insufficient food supply, malnutrition and starvation death among the population are results of the bad food security management taken-up by the government.

The operational area of SACAL is mostly spread over Mohana valley in Gajapati and parts of adjacent Ganjam districts. The region usually receives low and erratic rainfall and is inhabited by illiterate small farmers and landless labourers belonging to tribal and downtrodden classes living in poverty. So food security is a matter of prime concern here. Until recently the benefits of the poverty alleviation programmes launched by the government had scarcely reached the people for the latter's illiteracy and unawareness other than haphazardness of the officials. Unaware of the better cultivation practices the inhabitants used to carry out traditional methods of farming yielding low output which was insufficient to provide minimum food security for them when SACAL came to their help.

Keeping in view the urgency of the problem, SACAL undertook measures that could reduce food insecurity and poverty through promotion of agriculture and allied activities with people's participation consistent with the soil and climatic conditions of the region. Again, taking into account the general economic condition of the tribal and poor population in the context of hunger, starvation and farmers' suicide, top-most priority was given to the development of cost-effective and environment friendly

organic and sustainable agricultural practices that would cast a long-term impact as to make the community self-sufficient and put the problem of food security at the bay. For more than a decade we have been promoting SRI method of cultivation of paddy in our target areas resulting in five to seven times higher yield than that carried out earlier by the beneficiaries in the traditional method. The method is suitable for the small land holdings of tribal farmers situated in the hilly terrains of the area. Again, it uses organic manures rather than synthetic fertilizer and pesticides and requires lower input costs.

Besides, our promotion of sustainable agricultural practices in relation to other crops has also helped in mitigating the problem of food insecurity in the region. SACAL has also facilitated increase in the yield of Rabi crops in its operational area by facilitating minor and water based irrigation systems. Ironically, the Millennium Development Goals declared by the United Nations in 2000 which among other things set the unrealistic target for nations of halving the population under poverty line by the year 2015, though seems to be a wistful dream, SACAL has seen it through, albeit within the target communities in its operational areas. True, our effort may be compared to a drop in the ocean, but then, it is the drops that make ocean.

The major activities undertaken by SACAL in the current reporting period to address the problem of food security in target areas are stated as below:

System of Rice Intensification (SRI)

SACAL promoted cultivation of paddy adopting SRI method in total 250 ac of land in 7 GPs of Mohana block. The cultivation was carried out by total 436 numbers of farmer-beneficiaries in the region with the help of training imparted to them by SACAL's staff and experts. Cultivation of finger millet or ragi was also initiated in the area by the organization in 60 ac of land adopting the SRI method of cultivation. Both the activities were supported by Trocaire. There were total 142 beneficiaries of the programme.

Besides, the organization had taken initiative through farmer committees in carrying out SRI method of paddy cultivation during the Rabi season in the target villages of 5 Gram Panchayats of Hinjilicut block in Berhampur sub-division of Ganjam district involving 25 farmers. Paddy was cultivated by the beneficiaries in total 20 ac of land using the SRI method. Besides training, support was provided to the farmers in the way of seeds (indigenous varieties), organic manures and pesticides like liquid manure, vermin-compost, neem and karanj cakes, and implements in the form of markers and weeders for the smooth implementation of the programme. The programme was supported by ITC's Mission Sunehera Kal.

SACAL's orientation to farmers on SRI and sustainable agricultural practices with field demonstration has made the latter self-confident in successfully carrying out the practice.



IMPLEMENTATION OF SRI UNDER RKVY

SACAL was selected as the lead NGO for implementation of the SRI programme under RKVY in Mohana block. Under the provision of the scheme seeds, fertilizers and pesticides were supplied to the beneficiaries. Besides, capacity building trainings were conducted for them. The organization also provided the monitoring service for the success of the programme. In the reporting period paddy was cultivated in total 100 ha of land.

OBSTACLES:

There was widespread damage to khariff paddy crops in our operational areas in October as an aftermath of super-cyclone Phailin. But the majority of SRI fields supported by us could survive the holocaust as the roots of the standing crop held firm to the ground and did not fall. Notwithstanding it, paddy crop in total 200 ha of land supported by SACAL was damaged due to Phailin.

The State Government, however, granted compensation of Rs 2,050/- per hector against the crop loss.



LEARNING:

The damage caused to the paddy crops cultivated by carrying out the SRI method (due to cyclone) was far lower than the damage caused to crops grown in traditional method. This was simply a piece of practical learning for farmers and the SACAL staff as well that vindicated the case for taking up the SRI method.

BGREI PROGRAMME

As the facilitator of the State plan under the GoI sponsored programme, Bringing Green Revolution in Eastern India, SACAL promoted cultivation of paddy in 500 hectares of land under line-sowing method during the Rabi season. The programme had 428 beneficiaries and had a reasonably good harvest.

CULTIVATION OF PULSES

While cultivation of green gram was promoted in total 60 ac of land in Mohana block during the reporting period, cultivation of green gram was also promoted in total 161 ac in target areas of Hinjilicut block with seed and manure support to total 294 beneficiaries.

OBJECTIVES AND IMPACT:

The objective of this activity was to enhance the nutrition of the community as pulses are very important sources of protein. The programmes in both the areas were carried out successfully with organic method of farming. Our orientation to the farmers with necessary support proved fruitful.

VEGETABLE CULTIVATION

SACAL has been supporting farmers for long in carrying out the cultivation of vegetables with the support of partner organizations like Trocaire, Ireland. Ensuring food security of the target population and improving their livelihood have been the chief objectives of the programme.

During the reporting period, SACAL promoted cultivation of vegetables such as beans, cauliflower, brinjal in total 85 acres of land in the target villages of Mohana block with the support of Trocaire. The programme carried out with purely organic method of farming supported 96 farmer-beneficiaries through VDCs, KSs and SHGs. While organic farming ensured better nutritional intake by our target groups-cultivator-consumers, it conserved and increased soil fertility. Moreover, the organic method proved cost effective and enabled the farmers to sell the surplus produce in the market after their own consumption bringing them a good profit.



Besides, the organization promoted farmers to carry out potato farming in 6 acres of land. The 13 farmers that carried out the programme were supported with potato cones. Total 14 numbers of villages were covered under the vegetable and potato cultivation programmes.

Vegetable cultivation was also initiated in the target areas of Hinjilicut block with the support of ITC. Total 231 beneficiaries were supported with seed and bio-fertilizers including vermin compost and pot manure to grow vegetables like tomato, brinjal, cauliflower, cabbage, bitter gourd, chilli and beans in total 76 acres of land.

NABARD ASSISTANCE FOR VEGETABLE CULTIVATION

In the reporting period SACAL facilitated farmers in Mohana block in carrying out mixed vegetable cultivation with the support provided by NABARD for the implementation of the programme. It was practised in total 53 ac of land benefitting 86 farmers. The latter cultivated vegetables like bean, brinjal, tomato, cauliflower, cabbage. The objective of this integrated programme of vegetable cultivation was to build a safeguard as to counter the possible loss of one segment by another.

SACAL also facilitated formation of 24 Krushak Clubs for the smooth implementation of the programme while NABARD assistance of Rs 1,33,000/- was provided through 10 Krushak Clubs.

OUTCOME:

The programme was successful to a considerable extent as it made available a variety of vegetables supplying nutrition for self-consumption of farmers. Besides, the farmers sold the surplus produce in the market and could make a profit of around Rs 8000/- to Rs 10,000/- each during the rabi season.

Two Krushak Clubs were provided with tractors and regular quarterly meetings were held with the members of the Krushak Clubs with the orientation of resource persons from the Horticulture Department and AAO.

SWEET POTATO CULTIVATION

Cultivation of orange flesh sweet potatoes, full of beta carotene and vitamin C, was promoted in target villages of Mohana block primarily for self-consumption of the produce among farmers. The objective was to increase the nutritional standard of the beneficiaries and improve their livelihood condition as well.

During the reporting period total 427 beneficiaries in 35 villages had cultivated the crop in 54 acres of land. The yield per acre was 12-15 quintals.

OUTCOME:

The activity resulted in sufficient consumption of this vegetable by farmers giving them nutritional value though it has also strengthened their livelihood as they sold the rest of the produce in the market. Besides, the beneficiaries had developed planting materials and sold to other farmers thereby spreading the plantation of this nutritional food.

SWEET CORN CULTIVATION

Cultivation of sweet corn, a variety of maize having high nutritional content was promoted in 20 ac of land in target villages of Mohana block for self-consumption of the farmers as a part of our food and nutritional security drive.

It must be stressed that our approach to food security has been both quantitative and qualitative and has already shown positive impact in the community.

PROMOTION OF LIVELIHOOD

SACAL is also committed to promotion of sustainable livelihood for the poor and marginalised sections of the society struggling hard to make a living. The majority of population in our operational areas consisting of small farmers or landless labourers belonging to tribal or SC class living with a low level of income and without the means to maintain a secure livelihood throughout the year, SACAL has stressed the need for providing suitable livelihood for them especially during the non-Khariff season.

Our initiatives in this direction included promotion of oilseeds, sunflower and other cash crops. The initiatives undertaken in the reporting period 2013-14 is discussed as below:

MUSTARD AND SUNFLOWER CULTIVATION

Total 43 numbers of farmers in Hinjilicut block carried out cultivation of mustard in 10 ac of land while 17 numbers of farmers carried out cultivation of sunflower also in 10 ac of land with the seed and manure support provided by SACAL.

STATE AGRICULTURE PROGRAMME

Under Chief Minister's Special Programme for promotion of oil seeds, cultivation of sunflower was carried out by farmers in Mohana block in total 100 hac of land and mustard in total 1000 hac of land with the facilitation of SACAL during the reporting period 2013-14.



MAIZE CULTIVATION

Maize cultivation was facilitated by SACAL under Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojna of Govt. of India in total 2050 hectares of land in Mohana block for which seed and inputs were supplied to farmers.

OBSTACLES:

Unfortunately, the standing crop under RKVY was damaged in over 1500 ha of land due to the havoc caused by super-cyclone Phailin hitting the Odisha coast on 12th October, 2013.

Moreover, the entire 100 ac (approx) of maize cultivation promoted directly by SACAL in 4 GPs of Mohana block was damaged by Phailin (See Annexure-II). However, the State government declared compensation of Rs 3,250/- per hectare against the crop loss.

CULTIVATION OF BLACK GRAM

During the reporting period SACAL promoted cultivation of black gram in 40 acres of land in Mohana block and in 17 ac of land in the target villages of Hinjilicut block of Ganjam district with seed support. Though meant for livelihood support the programmes also fulfilled the objective of food security in the region as the farmers used the output also for their own consumption.

Besides the above, our programmes implemented primarily for ensuring food security of the target communities like the cultivation of green gram, vegetables and sweet potatoes also added to farmers' income as they also sold the surplus produce after self-consumption.

STRENGTHENING OF CIVIL SOCIETY ORGANIZATIONS

Civil society or Community Based Organizations (CBOs) have significant roles to play in improving the quality of life of the community through its all-round development. We felt the need for strengthening of such organizations at the village and Panchayat level. Efficient functioning of such institutions is necessary to make people aware of various issues and problems related to their wellbeing and enable them to enforce their rights. Besides helping community directly in solving its socio-economic problems, they should facilitate the means for development through linkages with Govt. departments. Even in those villages where such organizations were operational there was need for their strengthening and re-orientation as to make them efficient enough in dealing with community problems.

VDC and PDC: SACAL has developed a two-tier system in the formation and strengthening of people's organizations, namely: (i) Village Development Committee (VDC) and Panchayat Development Committee (PDC) functioning respectively at the village and Gram Panchayat level.

There is a Village Development Committee (VDC) in each of the operational villages consisting of 5 to 7 members elected democratically by the community for a period of 2 years. It is the apex body at the village level which coordinates different activities and acts in the matter of village development. It establishes linkages with institutions like Anganwadi Centres (AWC), ANM Centres, Village Education Committee (VEC) and School teachers, VLW, PRI members and other line departments for smooth execution of developmental works relating to health, education, agriculture etc. at the village level. It also monitors the activities of various village level functionaries and institutions like the VEC, SHGs, KSs etc. The VDC also facilitates the preparation and smooth passage of the micro-plan at the Panchayat level by sharing its contents with PRI members.

Analogously, the Panchayat Development Committee is the apex body at the Panchayat level. It is a federal body. The PDC members consist of the Secretaries and Presidents of VDCs and its office bearers are elected by them. The PDC supervises and coordinates all ongoing activities undertaken at the Panchayat level. It keeps linkages at the block and district level - Block Office, Agriculture Office, Forest Office, PHC, DI of Schools etc. The PDC monitors works relating to NREGA, FRA, PDS

etc. Besides, delay in sanction and release of funds for development, problems relating to execution of developmental works, quality of construction, social security schemes etc. are resolved through it. Further, the VDC and PDC resolve all matters of minor village disputes under their jurisdiction. The PDC intervenes in such and other matters where VDC finds any difficulty.

Hence, considering the responsibilities of the CSOs in socio-economic matters of the village community and realizing their importance in overall development at village and Panchayat level, SACAL puts stress on strengthening of such bodies.

The organization has been conducting activities each year such as imparting training to CSO members, arranging exposure visits and workshops for their capacity building etc. apart from facilitating their smooth functioning with respect to development.

Activities during the reporting period:

- **Workshops on MGNREGA, PDS and Process of implementation:**

SACAL conducted workshop on recent changes made in the MGNREGA scheme. The Workshop educated the PRI, VDC & PDC members on the newly launched policies of MGNREGA and PDS by the Government in the State. The workshop was a great help to the members of PRI, VDC, PDC and GKS in equipping them with the provisions of the new policy by which they could spread the message to their respective villages.

- **PDC Meeting**

During the year 2013-14 total 24 nos. of PDC meeting were organized in the operational villages with the participation of total 419 numbers of PDC members. The main purpose of the meeting was to strengthen the VDCs and facilitate their linkage with different line departments. In these meetings orientation was given to the participants on the process of linkages with govt. programmes like MGNREGA, FRA, KS and etc. and the role and responsibility of sub-committee members as well. The members were also oriented on co-ordination, monitoring and support to the sub-committees.

- **PDC Get-together Meeting**

Total 2 nos. of get-together meetings with PDC members were organised at Brahmandei and Baghamari by SACAL. The meetings were participated by 88 PDC members (from 4 PDCs). Each PDC shared their experience of good works initiated in their areas and the same were reviewed by other PDCs.

- **Planning for Palli Sabha and Gram Sabha**

A planning and review meeting was organised at village level by the VDCs concerned. First a checklist was prepared and submitted at the PDC meeting. After the approval of the PDC, a consolidated list was prepared and submitted before the PRI members. Then it was presented in the Gram Sabha for necessary approval after the necessary correction as per the advice of the PRI representatives.

PDC and VDC members had visited Gram Panchayat offices to review the action plan submitted by VDC/PDC against the achievements. As per the panning of VDCs/PDCs, this year 30% works have been done and 70% work was to be done in phased manner.

- **Women convention**

A women convention was organized at Karachabadi Panchayat on 18th March 2014 in which there were 800 women participants. The convention was centred round a wide range of issues specific to women welfare including the problem of less participation of women in Palli Sabha and Gram Sabha. Chairman of Mohana block and PRI members, CDPO and WEO of Mohana block were among others present in the workshop.

- **Training on Public speaking for PDC members**

Training on public speaking (for PDC members) was held at Brahmandei in two batches. Mr. Sudhir Kumar Das from PDC, Bhubaneswar was the resource person. On the occasion, total 67 participants (PDC leaders) received training on public speaking. The trainer used different methods in the sessions like game, dance, pictorial representation and lecturer.

The training has helped the participants to speak up the village level issues in Panchayat meeting. The participants have developed their speaking power to speak up in the VDC and PDC meetings. The speaking ability is also considered as one of the important quality of a good leader.

- **Training to new leaders**

Training was imparted to new leaders of VDCs and PDCs. Three nos. of training were organized at Chandiput (2 nos.) and Brahmandei during the reporting period. Mr. Sudhir Kumar Das from PDC, Bhubaneswar was the resource person. Total 106 participants underwent training on leadership development which included public speaking, documentation/record keeping etc. The trainer used a variety of methods in the sessions like game, dance, pictorial representation and lecturer.

Presently the new leaders are organizing regular meeting at VDC and PDC level.

- **Workshop on progress and process review of FRA**

The workshop on progress and process review of FRA (facilitated by Mis Sujata Das & Mr. Pratap of VASUNDHARA) has educated and motivated the members of the PRI, VDC & PDC to spread the message to the villagers /communities. As a result, 36 villages (out of 51) could apply for community land to the SDLC and 22 villages could apply for IFR to the SDLC. The latter has instructed the matter to the local Revenue inspector for verification.

Again, the Department of Horticulture has provided saplings (Mango and cashew) to the villagers under MGNREGA scheme for 110 acres of land covering 6 villages (Guduripada, Raldipanka, Kandha Adaba, Ghaibali, Jamadiha and B. Raising). The land covered under horticulture scheme is mostly FRA land.

- **Workshops with Teacher, SMC and Parents**

During the reporting period total 3 nos. of workshops were held with the participation of teachers, parents and SMCs. The workshops organized at Chandiput, Dhadiamba and Brahmeidei were participated by 14 teachers, 42 SMC members and 106 parents from 27 schools. BRCC and CRCC of Mohana Block were the resource persons in these workshops. The topics discussed in the session included management of MDM, regular attendance of the teachers, school sanitation and proper utilization of government funds.



- **Exposure Visit of Lead Farmers**

Lead farmers of 4 Grampanchayats in Hinjilicut block (Bhabandha, Sahapur, Dhobadi and Sasan Ambagaon villages) and project staff of SACAL visited Merikote Grampanchayat of Sorada Block of Ganjam district. Total 11 farmers and 4 SACAL staff visited SRI field of Merikote Grampanchayat where more than 100 acres of SRI paddy field promoted by SACAL. The farmers of Hinjilicut block also interacted with the farmers of Merikote Grampanchayat regarding procedures followed in SRI crops and etc.

PHAILIN RELIEF & REHABILITATION

The super-cyclone Phailin that hit the Odisha coast on 12th October, 2013 with incessant rain caused wide-spread damages in the State, especially in Ganjam

and adjacent Gajapati districts. SACAL's operational area, being spread in Mohana block of Gajapati district, was severely hit with large scale damages caused to thatched/kuchha houses and belongings, destruction to standing khariff crops and vegetables, and casualties to bovine life. (See Annexure-I and II for GP-wise damage in our operational areas in Mohana block)



In such a perspective SACAL made every effort to reach the affected people in time and work for their relief and rehabilitation with the support of agencies like Trocaire, Alternaid and Goonj.

Relief and Rehabilitation with 'Troaire'

Relief and rehabilitation operations were started by SACAL with Trocaire's support in 7 GPs of Mohana block.

Immediate Relief

Immediate relief was provided by way of distribution of flattened rice, molasses/sugar and tarpaulin to 1572 numbers of affected families at the time of heavy rain /flood. Each family received 5 kg of flattened rice and 2 kg of sugar/ molasses.

Ration Distribution:



Later, one month's ration was distributed to 850 families of 51 villages covering 7 Grampanchayats of the block. The relief support consisted of rice, dal, chillies, edible oil, sarees, dhoties, mats, blankets, mosquito nets and utensils.

Repairing of Houses

SACAL also facilitated repairing of 200 numbers of houses of the affected households with the



material support provided in the form of GI sheet, cement, mason, bricks, sand and other materials.

While houses were repaired within a few days of time, selection of beneficiaries was based on some specific criteria-(i) if woman headed family, a household with widow, handicapped or vulnerable person, (ii) and on the VDC survey consistent with the above.

Impact

The house repairing support and ration distribution for a month helped the beneficiaries to deal with the situation and especially checked their migration. The vulnerable households received shelter support from TROCAIRE to survive in the society with a renewed hope and developed resilience against disaster as well. Again, the victims did not seek help from the moneylanders and stayed away from their clutches.

Working with Alternaid

Losses to houses, property, crops and livestock were also recorded in 4 other GPs of Mohana block (See Annexure-II) where SACAL helped the victims with the support of the funding agency Alternaid. Selection of beneficiaries was done thorough the VDCs according to the extent of damage inflicted to them. The criteria for selecting families included those (i) who fully lost their houses included house roofs completely destroyed with utensils, clothing, other gadgets and food materials, and (ii) who partially lost their houses included roofs and walls partly damaged, utensils, clothes, gadgets and foodstocks partly damaged. The third category of selection included farmers who lost their crops and vegetables. SACAL supported the victims with supply of utensils like buckets, jugs, cooking pots, bed sheets, and clothes including dress for children. Besides, seeds and manures were supported to the farmers for the rabi crop and vegetable cultivation apart from facilitating the government supply of food and polyethene sheets to the affected people.



Besides, under the Cloth-for-Work (CFW) programme the woman members from Phalin affected households in our operational areas were engaged with reconstruction activities like building minor infrastructure as village roads, bamboo bridges, renovating ponds etc against the support of clothes and sanitary napkins through VDCs with the support of the voluntary organization Goonj. The woman members were also oriented on the importance of menstrual sanitation and use of clean napkins.

SHG DEVELOPMENT

For more than a decade SACAL has been engaged in the development of women Self-help Groups (SHGs) promoting activities aimed at generating income of the members and their families besides making them self-reliant. At present there are total 84 SHGs functioning under our facilitation and support. We have been arranging regular training programmes in order to orient the members in taking up various profitable trades. They are encouraged to start micro-saving and engage in profitable trade with facilitation provided for establishing linkage of the SHGs with banks. The later has helped the SHGs in easy availability of credit on which they have prospered a lot.

Developments during 2013-14

Staff Training on Planning for SHG Business Development

A two-day training of SACAL staff on chalking out a business development plan for SHGs was held at Brahmandei on 22nd and 23rd September 2013. Total 25 nos. of staff members participated in the training. Mr. Amar Singh (consultant) was the trainer in these sessions. The methods of the training included game, group work, pictorial representation and lecture. Discussions on cost benefit analyses

were held for different trades in the training sessions. The trades were poultry, goat rearing, petty business and etc. The analyses made were based on availability of funds, human resources, time and etc.

The training was immensely helpful for participants as they learned preparing business development plans for different trades feasible at the village level.

GP Level Training for SHGs on Record Keeping

Four numbers of Grampanchayat-wise capacity building training for SHG members were held at Chandiput, Brahmandei, Andiragada and Gobindpur. Total 127 SHG members were imparted training on record keeping and maintenance at SHG level by SACAL staff. The follow up of the event was also continued by our staff.

GP Level SHG Cluster Meetings

Total 21 nos. of GP level SHG cluster meetings were organized during the reporting period. President and secretary of all groups had attended the meeting. Topics discussed in the meeting centred round gradation of SHGs, involvement of SHGs in NRLM activity, Chief Minister special fund for SHGs and BDP.

ICDS supervisors and AWW were attending the meeting regularly

Poultry Rearing

During the reporting period 4 SHGs have been supported for poultry rearing activities. They are from Raldipanka, Taramala and Andiragada. Each SHG was supported with 50 nos. of local poultry birds.

HEALTH AND SANITATION

Inhabited by poor and illiterate communities, health, nutritional and sanitary standards of people are very low in and around Mohana valley. Poor health, disease, malnutrition and anaemia (especially among children and young girls) widely prevail in the area while many villages continue to be underserved of basic medical services provided by the government both due to remoteness of the villages and lackadaisical attitude revealed by officials. Diseases like malaria and tuberculosis are common being accentuated by illiteracy and lack of awareness among the population. Besides, prevalence of social rigidities like early marriage, occult practices and superstition, along with the economic, educational and sanitary factors have resulted in deterioration of health of the community, the brunt of the burden falling on the children and adolescents, especially girls. In such a perspective, SACAL initiated several programmes on health awareness and support as below:

Malaria Prevention and Control Programme

The programme, supported by SDTT-TET is being implemented by SACAL in 50 villages under 7 Gram Panchayats of Mohana Block in Gajapati district with the goal of making the target communities, with special emphasis on women and children below 5 years (vulnerability being higher in pregnant women and malnourished children), free from physical, mental, social and economic burden of malaria. The organisation's approach has been both holistic and participatory.

The implementation of the project had envisaged interaction of village level workers (VLWs) selected by the Village Development Committees (VDCs) of each village, with the field coordinator who facilitated the smooth running of the programme with the help of 4 numbers of malaria resource persons. The communities were sensitized on areas of concern with regard to prevention and control

of malaria and they were encouraged to get themselves involved actively in the programme backed by the support of our staff and resource persons.

During the reporting period, 2013-14, the following activities were carried out by SACAL towards the achievement of the goal:

- ***Training to SHG members, VEC and PRI representatives***

Four days' training were given to SHG and VEC members and PRI representatives (one each) from each of the 50 target villages on the modalities of carrying out the programme.

- ***Training to GKS and ASHA***

Four days' training programme was imparted to the Gaon Kalyan Samiti (GKS) members and ASHA at Kharidhepa and Mohana by resource person Rajendra Dora. There were total 294 participants.



- ***Training to pregnant and Lactating Mothers***

Total 4 numbers of such trainings were given to the mothers at the Community Hall, Kharidhepa on nutrition care and management.

- ***Village Meetings***

The village level meetings were conducted every month in each of the 50 villages on issues relating to health, sanitation and nutrition and malaria prevention.

- ***Monthly Meetings of Volunteers***

Meetings of volunteers are held in the villages every month where discussions are held on the state of the health, malaria, information on health and role of ASHA/ GKS.

- ***Community Level Meeting***

Community level meetings were held in every 3 months. All VDC members participated at the PDC meeting apart from the AWW, ASHA, and malaria supervisor. The general health problems of the community and the problems of malaria, its prevention and cure were discussed.

- ***GKS Meetings***

Gaon Kalyan Samiti (GKS) meetings were held in all villages every week. Discussions were made at these meetings on proper utilization of the Rs 20,000/- GKS fund for the treatment of the inhabitants. SACAL helped the preparation of a health chart on the priority basis, and health issues were discussed on the basis of the chart.

- ***SHG Meetings***

SHG meetings were held every month where the members were given instruction on the health and sanitation as to prevent the spread of malaria.

CHILD AND ADOLESCENT HEALTH

In view of large scale prevalence of malnutrition among children and adolescents, mostly young girls, in target communities stricken by poverty, illiteracy and social rigidities (including occult practices) other than government apathy, SACAL started the project 'Healthy Children-Healthy Adolescents- Healthy Families'.

The project is aimed at improving the health and nutritional standards of children and adolescents of tribal and downtrodden communities in underserved villages of Karachabadi and Malaspadar Gram Panchayats of Mohana block in Gajapati district through programmes and initiatives undertaken with the participation of community based organizations (CBOs).

The major activities undertaken during the implementation of the project in the reporting period, 2013-14, are given as below:

- **Immunization Camps:**

Two numbers of immunization camps were facilitated in Malaspadar GP during the reporting period shifting them to hilly site of Jamling from Padmapur as an outcome of our coordination with AWW, VDC and GKS members. The purpose was to benefit the communities living in underserved areas. Total 75 children and 14 pregnant mothers were vaccinated in these camps.

- **Health Camps:**

SACAL organized total 10 numbers of health checkup camps during the reporting period, 2013-14. Total 1,334 patients including children and pregnant mothers were treated in these camps. A number of patients were also referred to MKCG medical college for further treatment. The health camps were facilitated by paediatricians, gynaecologists and medicine specialists from MKCG medical college and government hospitals.



- **Training to ASHA and AWW on Reproductive and Child Health**

Three numbers of training camps were organised to impart training to ASHA and Anganwadi workers on reproductive and child health. The topics discussed centered round child and adult nutrition, child care and reproductive health, reproductive system and its functions, RTI and STI. There were total 103 participants in these programmes.

- **Adolescent Girl Groups**

Regular quarterly meetings of SACAL staff were held with adolescent girl groups (already formed last year) and master trainers in villages on the smooth implementation of the programme. Total 7 nos. of new adolescent groups were formed during the reporting period (4 in Malaspadar GP and 3 in Karachabadi GP).

- **Training to Master Trainers**

Training was imparted to master trainers among adolescents at Youth Hostel, Gopalpur from 11th to 13th December, 2013.



- **School Level Awareness Camps**

Awareness Camps were organized by SACAL at school level to make school students aware of diseases and importance of personal hygiene. Besides, debate and quiz competitions were held on health awareness. Total 17 such camps were organized by SACAL for the first time under the programme at 17 different schools in Malasapader, Mohana and Karachabadi GPs.

As an outcome of these camps teachers are taking initiative in guiding the students for better health practices and students in their part stay clean and demand their parents(most being less educated) to use mosquito net.

- **Kitchen Garden**

Kitchen gardens were developed by households, AWCs and schools in 10 villages of Malasapader and Karachabadi GPs on SACAL's initiative and support for the purpose of reducing malnutrition and anemia among the target population. The beneficiaries grew vegetables like beans, tomato, radish and green leaves in their yards apart from perennial plants like papaya and drumstick. They also grew sweet potatoes full of vitamin c and beta-carotene. Kitchen garden vegetables were also used in the mid-day meal of the AWCs and schools. Besides, cultivation of millet ragi was promoted in 4 villages with 35 beneficiaries under the programme as it is known to contain high percentage of iron.

However, the ragi crop were badly affected and vegetables partially by the onslaught of cyclone Phailine.

WATERSHED DEVELOPMENT

OTELP

SACAL has been implementing the State Government sponsored minor watershed development programme under Odisha Tribal Empowerment and Livelihood Programme (OTELP) Plus in Mohana block on Public-Private-Community Partnership (PPCP) mode since August, 2012. MoUs were signed for the purpose both with the State Government and the Ahamedanagar (Maharashtra) based Watershed Organization Trust.

The project aims to enable the poor tribal households to sustainably ensure their livelihoods and food security through promoting a more efficient, equitable, self-managed, optimum use of the natural resources, off-farm/ non-farm enterprise development, and access the rights and entitlements due to them from the area to which they belong i.e. the land, forest, water and the environment as a whole.

Capacity building of marginal groups, enhancing their access to natural resources as to increase productivity, and encouraging off-farm enterprises are the chief objectives of the project.

In the reporting period, 2013-14 SACAL has facilitated formation of 26 VDCs and 15 SHGs and revived the work of 49 SHGs to implement the project.

While the village development and livelihood plans have already been submitted to the Government, orientation to VDC, VDA and SHG members has also been completed for the purpose.

RR & R

SACAL is facilitating the implementation of the scheme 'Repair, Renovation and Restoration of Water Bodies with Domestic Support' by Government of Orissa under the Central assistance. The scheme envisages rehabilitation of existing water bodies with a view to augmenting the storage capacity of these bodies as to provide timely and equitable delivery of water to farmers through their participatory management under the Pani Panchayats.

In the reporting period SACAL has already formed 25 numbers of Pani Panchayats in 25 villages of Chikiti and Patrapada blocks of Ganjam district and promoted irrigation to total ayacut area of over 3373 ac of land while renovation of MI projects has already started in these blocks.

Rainwater Management

Rain water management (Graded guide bund and loose boulder surplus) activities were undertaken in Bugudapalli and Somapur villages in Hinjilicut block with support of ITC's Mission Sunehera Kal. As a part of these activities graded guide bunds of total 1035 metre length were constructed (530 + 505 mtrs) in both of the villages. Village committees of both of these villages have monitored the activities with the help of SACAL staff. The technical support was provided by Engineer Mr. Bimal Chandra Sahu. Total 16 nos. of loose boulder surpluses have been completed in both the villages (Buguda palli 12 and Somapur 4 nos.). Total treatable area of the villages is 100 hectares.



CASE STUDY

COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION IN CURBING MALARIA: HEALTH VOLUNTEER'S SERVICE SHOWS THE WAY

Situated in a valley area, Bhalia Sahi in Baghamari GP of Mohana block is a small village inhabited by 60 households belonging to marginalized community maintaining their livelihood as landless labourers, or small farmers. The community was reeling under malaria and ill-health along with poverty and illiteracy, the latter serving a catalyst for the former while the quacks were exploiting people.

Meanwhile SACAL initiated a community awareness and control programme on malaria. The objective was to make the community free from physical, mental, social and economic burden of malaria by reducing the onslaught of the disease and death due to it. As a part of implementation of this programme with community participation, the organization facilitated the choice of a health volunteer, Hemant Rout from the village community. He was oriented on the disease and in turn educated and helped the inhabitants to fight it.

Today Hemant is able to take the blood test of people and administer the prescribed medicine in positive cases according to the age-medicine ratio. He serves people both at the programme health camps and at his village. Now the inhabitants of Bhalia Sahi are aware of awfulness of malaria and precaution to be taken to check the spread of the disease. While they are taking sanitary measures like keeping the home and vicinity clean and dry and sleeping under the mosquito net, making regular health checkups etc on the orientation of Hemant and the SACAL volunteers, at the same time they are no longer exploited by quacks as to pay Rs 500/- to 20000/- for the cure of a malarial fever.

In this context Hemant shows his gratitude to SACAL for giving him an opportunity to serve the people. For according to him he never thought he would acquire so much knowledge of malaria and come to the community help. While his service has influenced youths from other villages, he himself plans to gather more knowledge on the disease and serve the people better.

ANNEXES**ANNEXURE-I****Phalin Damage Details in GPs of Mohana supported by Trocaire**

SL No.	Name of GP	No. of Damaged Houses		Crop Loss (In Hectors)				Animal Loss (In Numbers)			
		Fully	Partially	Paddy	Maize	Millet	Pulses	Cow	Goat	sheep	Others
1	Karachabadi	96	321	12	178	14	8	9	12	0	12
2	Baghamari	103	373	15	352	10	12	8	28	3	12
3	Chandiput	94	358	30	473	8	15	4	3	4	14
4	Chandragiri	32	42	10	323	0	7	12	8		6
5	Dhadiamba	27	67	17	170	8	10	2	4	0	3
6	Jiranga	42	52	9	80	14	7	5	6	3	8
	Total	394	1213	93	1576	54	59	40	61	10	55

ANNEXURE-II**Damage Details in some GPs of Mohana Block Supported by Alternaid**

Sl No.	GP	No. of Villages	House damaged		Maize crop damaged in Ha	Bovine life casualty			
			Fully	Partially		Bullock	Cow	Goat	Sheep
1	Sikulipadar	24	59	62	383	9	6	8	4
2	Luhagudi	20	36	29	202	11	7	14	2
3	Mohana	25	82	58	359	8	5	14	2
4	Malaspadar	25	43	51	120	8	2	10	0
	Total	94	220	200	1064	36	20	46	8

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