

## Report

### **Brief of Consultation on Leveraging Agriculture for Nutrition through a Farming Systems Approach Jeypore, 23 March 2018**

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A stakeholder consultation on Leveraging Agriculture for Nutrition through a Farming Systems Approach was held with officials of Koraput district in Jeypore on 23 March 2018. The objective was to share the results of the Farming System for Nutrition (FSN) Study under LANSA, in Koraput. The meeting was chaired by Shri K Sudarshan Chakravarty, Collector and District Magistrate, Koraput; officials from different government departments in the district participated. Farm men and women from the FSN study villages and MSSRF staff also participated.

The list of participants is in the annex.

The meeting commenced with Akshaya Panda, Coordinator, FSN Study in Koraput welcoming the gathering and explaining the objective of the meeting. Dr. Oliver King, the Director-in-Charge of the Centre added his words of welcome and made a brief presentation highlighting MSSRF's work in the district in the areas of biodiversity conservation and sustainable livelihoods. This was followed by Dr. Aliza Pradhan, Coordinator, FSN Study under LANSA making a detailed [presentation](#) of the Study and the results.

The Collector had to leave and made his remarks immediately following the presentation. He was appreciative of the idea of promoting Nutrition Gardens in schools, Anganwadi Centres and residential tribal schools. He highlighted that both food security and nutrition security are important and that malnutrition has been a persistent problem in Odisha. Agriculture productivity was also low. Appreciating the results of the study, he expressed that if it could be scaled up to the block – sub-division and district levels, it would help alleviate the stigma of malnutrition. A lot was being done under government programmes but the impact was not being assessed. Market linkage was another aspect needing attention. He requested help from MSSRF in these aspects. He referred to an earlier project of MSSRF under which ring wells had been promoted for retaining water and promoting vegetable cultivation; he said that he had found during a recent visit that they were sustaining and had sanctioned more such wells.

Following the departure of the Collector and sub-Collector, the Deputy Director of Agriculture (DDA), Koraput, Mr. Sahoo was requested to chair the deliberations along with Dr. R V Bhavani, Programme Manager, LANSA, MSSRF.

Ms. Ghasha Dalei from Banuaguda village shared her experience of the farming system for nutrition approach in detail and was lauded by all the participants. Another farmer, Mr. Niranjan Khada from Chikima village also shared his experience of adopting the farming system for nutrition approach under MSSRF's guidance.

The DDA, Mr. Umesh Chandra Sahoo shared that already ten blocks in the district were being covered under the Millet Mission and under National Food Security Mission, 3500 ha paddy fallows had been covered under green gram cultivation in rabi. He mentioned that nutrition education is a must for uptake of the FSN interventions and felt that the work should be scaled up to other Gram Panchayats and villages but the baseline status of those areas need to be documented as well (as done in the FSN study) in order to showcase the impact.

He suggested that some demonstration trials could be done through ATMA in every block and exposure visits of farmers organized for orientation.

The Associate Director of Research, RRTTS, Semiliguda, Dr. Kedareswar Pradhan suggested identification of one or two proactive farmers in each village like Ghasa Dalei and demonstrating entire approach of FSN through them will be much effective. These farmers and their families can help in scale up and further dissemination of the agriculture nutrition messages within and outside the community.

He also expressed that importance should be given to input availability; specially seeds of the nutri dense crops and that a composite scheme on crop, fishery, veterinary and horticulture is needed to support FSN activities in long run.

Mr. Biswa Ranjan Rath from the Department of Fishery informed that the Odisha government had entered into a collaboration with WorldFish to promote fishery in 11 districts of the state; Koraput is one of the districts in the list and it is planned to have composite culture of Mola (Mahurali in Odia), which is rich in protein and carp in backyard, community ponds and old tanks. He also said that as a part of encouraging and making people aware about the Mola species, they had already started the procurement process, buying one kg of the mola fish @ Rs. 400 as against prevailing market price of fish @ Rs. 120 per kg. He also briefed about high protein and fast growing nature of Genetically Improved Farmed (GIF) Tilapia variety.

Mr. Bhabagrahi Behera, the Assistant Director of Horticulture emphasized on market linkages and training programmes conducted by the department on horticulture crops (e.g. value added products from tomato). He suggested each household should grow banana, moringa, lemon, curry leaf trees and also other perennial trees near to the area where they wash the kitchen utensils so that the plants continue to grow and give year round availability of nutrient rich produce. They will however need to be protected from cattle.

Dr. Mishra, the Veterinary Officer, mentioned that the planning and implementation of any approach should be from grass root level rather than top down; only then there will be acceptance of the programme in an area.

Mrs. Tripathy, CDPO, Jeypore highlighted the need for programmes on balanced diet with special focus on children in the 0-5 years age group and pregnant women and lactating mothers.

Shri Barad, Headmaster of the school in Chikima briefed about the school nutrition garden, promoted as part of the under FSN study and appreciated the support he got from villagers in supply of seeds and provision of piped water for irrigation. He said awareness had increased among school children about balanced diet and some new vegetables such as carrot, orange flesh sweet potato, coriander etc. He was very happy to see the fruiting stages of papaya, lemon and pomegranate and mentioned that as more farm families were now cultivating nutrient dense crops, children were also getting a good nutritious meal at home. He also mentioned about the Farmers' Field Day and Millet Food Festival organised in the village by MSSRF. He suggested having a boundary wall in order to protect the vegetables and seedlings from hens and other grazing animals.

Mrs. Mahapatra, CDPO, Boipariguda block, where the FSN study villages are located, mentioned that 99 per cent of children in Boipariguda block were severely malnourished and 10-12 numbers among them were from Bodaput Pachayat. She suggested that if MSSRF staff can participate as resource persons on VHN Day (held on 22nd of every month in the block) and share the nutrition related messages; this would be helpful for the villagers, especially the pregnant women and lactating mothers.

She also said that under the Mission Shakti Yojana, they had provided saplings of moringa, lemon, mango etc. to households. She felt that farmers should grow different kinds of vegetables rather

than one single kind in order to avoid over surplus situations in the market during peak harvesting season, leading to less return to the farmers.

Dr. Pradhan from the Regional Research and Technology Transfer Station (RRTTSS), Jeypore suggested varietal replacement in paddy as it is grown in all the land types of the district; for instance zinc rich paddy variety could be promoted. Some traditional varieties of rice are also more nutritious. He expressed that malnutrition is more prevalent in non-irrigated upland areas of the district, and more research should be done on the food and nutrition security of the people living in these areas. Further he shared the need for cold tolerant varieties of black gram and green gram; currently the crops are only grown during January end/early February due to extreme low temperatures in November-December. He said that a FSN model in each village will also be very helpful.

The meeting ended with a vote of thanks to all the participants for their valuable suggestions and support.

## Annex

<b>“Leveraging Agriculture for Nutrition through a Farming Systems Approach” District Level Consultation</b>	
<b>Friday, 23 March 2018</b>	
<b>M S Swaminathan Research Foundation, Regional Centre, Jeypore</b>	
<b>Agenda</b>	
10.30-11.00 am	Registration and Tea
11.00 am to 1.30 pm	
Welcome and Purpose of the Meeting:	Akshaya Panda, Senior Scientist and Coordinator, FSN Study in Koraput, MSSRF Jeypore
About MSSRF	Dr. Oliver King, Director (i/c), MSSRF, Jeypore
Insights from Farming System for Nutrition (FSN) Study	Dr. Aliza Pradhan, Coordinator, FSN Study under LANSa, MSSRF, Chennai
Remarks	Shri. K. Sudarshan Chakravarthy, IAS Collector and District Magistrate, Koraput
Sharing of experience by farmers	Ms. Ghasamani Dalei, Banuaguda Mr. Niranjan Khada, Chikima
	<b>Open Discussion:</b> <b>Chair. Sri Umesh Chandra Sahoo, Deputy Director of Agriculture, Jeypore and Dr. R V Bhavani, Programme Manager, LANSa, MSSRF</b>
Vote of Thanks	Akshaya Kumar Panda
1.30 pm	Lunch

## List of Participants

1	Shri K Sudarshan Chakravarty, IAS, Collector & District Magistrate, Koraput.
2	Shri, Bikash Chandra Bain, OAS (1). Sub-Collector, Jeypore
3	Shri Umesh Chanrda Sahoo, Deputy Director of Agriculture, Koraput, Jeypore
4	Shri Bhabagrahi Behera, Asst. Director of Horticulture, Jeypore.
5	Shri Simanchal Behera, Deputy Director of Fisheries, Koraput, Jeypore
6	Shri Biswa Ranjan Rath, Asst. Fishery Officer, Jeypore,
7	Mrs. Prasanti Rani Tripathy, Child Development Project Officer, Jeypore
8	Mrs. Surama Mahapatra, Child Development Project Officer, Boipariguda
9	Shri Ganeswar Choudhury, Civil Supply Officer, Koraput, Jeypore
10	Dr. Kedareswar Pradhan, Asst. Director of Research, RRTTS, Semiliguda
11	Mr. Mihir Ranjan Mohanty, Officer-in-Charge, RRTTSS, Jeypore
12	Dr. S K Mishra, SDVO, Jeypore
13	Shri Manoj Kumar Samantaray, All India Radio, Jeypore
14	Shri Akshaya Kumar Mishra, DD News, Jeypore
15	Shri Anil Pattnaik, DD News
16	Shri Bharat Chandra Barad, Head Master, UGHS, Chikima
17	Ms. Jasaswini Padhy, Programme Coordinator, SWABHIMAAN
18	Shri Padma Pradhani, President, Vikash Mahasangha (VIMAS), Tolla
19	Shri Krushna Chandra Batri, Sarapanch, Bodaput G.P, Boipariguda
20	Shri Harekrishna Panda, Executive Engineer, Jeypore
21	Mrs. Ghasamani Dalei, CHF and Progressive Farmer, Banuaguda.
22	Shri Prahallad Nayak, CHF and Progressive Farmer, Banuaguda.
23	Shri, Ghenu Khillo, CHF and Progressive Farmer, Atalguda
24	Shri Nithyananda Khada, Progressive Farmer, Chikima
25	Shri Niranjan Khada, CHF and Progressive Farmer, Chikima
26	Shri Daitari Khada, Progressive Farmer, Kurukuti

27	Mrs, Kamala Pujari, CHF and Progressive Farmer, Bhejaguda
28	Shri Shyam Naria, Progressive Farmer, Rauliguda
29	Dr. Oliver King, Director-in-charge, MSSRF, Jeypore
30	Dr. S.Malarvannan, Senior Scientist, MSSRF, Jeypore
31	Mr. Prasanta Kumar Parida, Senior Scientist, MSSRF, Jeypore
32	Mr. Jaganath Khillo, SRF, MSSRF, Jeypore
33	Mr. Pratap Chandra Jena, Technical Assistant, MSSRF, Jeypore
34	Mr. A. Lakshmana Rao, Technical Assistant, MSSRF, Jeypore
35	Mr. Ajit Kumar Sahu, Technical Assistant, MSSRF, Jeypore
36	Mr. Rajdeep Behera, Field Assistant, MSSRF, Jeypore
37	Mr. Anirudha Barik, Field Assistant, MSSRF, Jeypore
38	Mr. Malay Kumar Nayak, Field Assistant, MSSRF, Jeypore
39	Mr. Ranjit Kumar Dalei, Field Assistant, MSSRF, Jeypore
40	Dr. R.V.Bhavani, Programme Manager, LANSa, MSSRF, Chennai
41	Dr. Aliza Pradhan, Coordinator, FSN study, LANSa, MSSRF, Chennai
42	Mr. Akshaya Kumar Panda, Senior Scientist, LANSa, MSSRF, Jeypore
43	Mr. Jaganath Naik, Technical Assistant, LANSa, MSSRF, Jeypore
44	Mr. Naresh Chandra Patro, Technical Assistant, LANSa, MSSRF, Jeypore
45	Mr. Balaji Mohanty, Field Assistant, LANSa, MSSRF, Jeypore
46	Mr. Santosh Raj Benia, Field Assistant, LANSa, MSSRF, Jeypore
47	Mr. Susanta Kumar Mishra, Project Assistant, LANSa, MSSRF, Jeypore
48	Mr. Max Aurthor Gill, Project Assistant, LANSa, MSSRF, Jeypore
49	Mr. Ghasi Takri, Project Assistant, LANSa, MSSRF, Jeypore
50	Mr. Sadasiba Majhi, Village Volunteer, Atalguda
51	Mr. Gupta Prasad Ghadei, Village Volunteer, Chikima
52	Mr. Trilochan Muduli, Village Volunteer, Rauliguda
53	Mr. Jagannath Khara, Village Volunteer, Kurkuti

