

Selection of Community Hunger Fighters Koraput

The idea of creating a community resource base for nutrition security, through building the capacities of selected persons from the community was first discussed randomly with some men and women from the villages. During the second visit the message was taken to the community with the help ASHA, anganwadi worker and community leaders, who were sensitized about the nutritional status of the villages and the need for an awareness programme in nutrition. Once the villages had agreed to participate in the capacity building exercise, they were requested to select the participants, consisting of both men and women and representing the various caste groups. Two visits were made to Atalguda, Bhejaguda, Banuaguda and Kurkuti respectively and discussions held by field investigators of LANSA before it could culminate in a meeting for selection of CHF. In Chikima and Rauliguda one visit was enough while in Maliguda, as it was planting season, 3 visits had to be made to meet people and explain about the programme before a village meeting could be held.

Selection of the Community Hunger Fighters (CHF) was done purely by the community. At the start of the meeting, a presentation on the nutritional status of the village, food consumption patterns, existing agricultural practices, interventions in progress, linking agriculture to nutrition and the need for nutrition awareness programme was explained. The staffs of LANSA ensured that the selected CHF were from both genders and each caste group by explaining the participants of meeting about the necessity and usefulness of both male and female CHF from each caste group. Table 1 shows the details of participants based on gender. As August and September were the planting season, the meeting was conducted in the evening when most of the villagers had come back from the field.

Table 1. Participation of households in selection meetings

Villages	No of male and female in the village		No. who participated		% male and female participation		No. of male female selected		No. of HHs attended (actual number of HH)		% of HHs rep
	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Actual no. of HH	HH's attended	
Atalguda	171	189	35	10	20	5	3	0	77	42	55
Bhejaguda	194	228	40	20	21	9	2	2	94	55	59
Banuaguda	246	267	61	3	25	1	2	2	128	65	51
Chikima	120	131	27	16	23	12	2	2	59	30	51
Rauliguda	54	62	13	7	24	11	1	2	28	18	64
Kurukuti	362	412	54	41	15	10	2	2	180	85	47
Maliguda	195	214	73	18	37	8	1	2	92	60	65

It was observed that there was representation from more than 50% of households except in Kurkuti. Maliguda and Rauliguda had the highest household representation (more than 60%) in the meeting when the CHF selection was made followed by Bhejaguda at 59%. Notwithstanding this, less than 25% of the total male population attended the meetings, except for Maliguda where about 37% of the male population attended. The female participation in the meetings were lower still, the maximum being 12%, as they were busy with planting in field during day time and with household activities in the evening. With regard to selection of CHFs, except for Atalguda were all the selected CHFs were males, villages like Bhejaguda, Banuaguda, Chikima and Kurkuti had equal number of male and female CHF, while in Rauliguda and Maliguda the male female ratio was 1:2.

The caste based participation and selection is presented in Table 2.

Table 2. Details of participants based on caste

Villages	Existing caste pattern			Caste proportion of participants					Selected members from each caste
	Caste	No. of households	No. of individuals	Sub caste	No. of Household attended	No. of individuals attended	% of Household attended	% of individuals attended	
Atalguda	OBC	74	353	Rana	42	45	57	13	3
	ST	3	7						
Bhejaguda	OBC	15	66	Kamara	4	4	27	6	
	SC	20	105	Harijan	10	10	50	10	2
	ST	59	251	Bhumia	41	41	69	16	2
Banuaguda	OBC	26	108	Rana-12, Mali-3	15	15	58	14	Rana-1 Mali-1
	ST	102	405	Paraja-26, Bhumia -24	50	50	49	12	Paraja-1 Bhumia-1
Chikima	OBC	50	211	Rana-33, Paika-2, Gouda-3	26	38	52	18	Rana-3, Gouda-1
	Other	5	24						
	SC	3	10	Harijan	3	4	100	40	
	ST	1	6	Bhumia	1	1	100	17	
Rauliguda	OBC	4	14						
	SC	1	1						
	ST	23	101	Gadaba	17	19	74	19	3
Kurkuti	OBC	45	195	Rana-13, Paiko-7, Gouda -5	25	27	56	14	Rana- 1
	Others	15	79	Brahmin	4	6	27	8	
	SC	37	170	Harijan	21	21	57	12	1
	ST	83	330	Bhumia-19, Gadaba -14, Paraja-12	35	45	42	14	Gadaba -1 Paraja-1
Maliguda	OBC	89	398	Mali	60	60	67	15	3
	SC	1	2						
	ST	2	9						

Atalguda, Chikima, Kurkuti and Maliguda had predominantly OBC households. In Bhejaguda, Banuaguda and Rauliguda, ST households formed the majority. The proportion of SC households was of the order of 24% and 21% respectively in Bhejaguda and Kurkuti and in the other villages there were only a handful of SC households. In Atalguda Maliguda and Chikima all the selected representatives were from the OBC caste. In Bhejaguda and Banuaguda an equal number of OBC and ST CHF were selected. Of the four selected persons in Kurkuti, two were from the ST community while one each represented SC and OBC communities. In Rauliguda all the selected members were from ST community. While the OBC community was able to represent itself even in villages where their presence was comparatively lesser to other households, the SC representation was restricted to one person, in one of the two villages and that too because she was the ASHA worker of the village.

General observations

- Initially the villagers were sceptical about selecting CHF since they felt that they were not educated and that MSSRF could 'teach' them directly. However the ASHA worker and PRI members intervened and explained that it was a participatory project concerning the lives of people wherein the people had knowledge about their livelihoods and food habits. The LANSa staff could provide technical support and hence both MSSRF and the community had to be considered as CHF.
- In Bhejaguda, Ms.Rukmani Harijan, an ASHA worker belongs to Harijan caste.
- In Kurkuti, during the meeting they demanded monetary benefit. However the issue was sorted out by the villagers themselves when they said that capacity building did not require any monetary support. In case the trained CHF organized some programme at the village level to spread awareness financial support could be considered on a case by case basis.
- Some of villagers were drunken during the meeting.
- The villagers themselves decided that as far as possible they should select educated person and those who were dedicated and extended cooperation.

The profile of the selected CHF's were given in Annex 1.

Profile of the selected CHF's

Annexure 1

Village	S.No.	Name of the Selected Person	Sex	Age	Caste	Education	Land holding (Acre)	Type of land	Family size	Family size	Position in the village
KURKUTI	1	Samaru Murjia	M	31	GADABA	4 th Pass	2.3	UL-1.3 ML-1.0	4	Husband, wife, 1 son, daughter,	SHG member
	2	Chanchala Bisoi	F	35	DOMB	Illiterate	0.5	LL-0.5	5	Husband, wife, 3 son,	Nil
	3	Manguli Nageswari	F	36	RANA	2 nd Pass	2.6	UL-0.6 ML-2.0	5	Husband, wife, 1 son, daughter-in-law, grandson	PRI member (Samiti Member)
	4	Madhav Paroja	M	28	PAROJA	Illiterate	1.0	UL-0.75 LL-0.25	7	Husband, wife, 3 daughter, 1 son, mother	Nil
CHIKIMA	5	Sahadeb Pujari	M	42	RANA	Illiterate	1.5	UL-0.5 LL-1.0	3	Husband, wife, 1 son,	Nil
	6	Manika Gouda	F	45	OBC	Illiterate	2.0	ML-2.0	5	Husband, wife, 1 son, 2 daughter	Nil
	7	Niranjana Khada	M	48	RANA	Illiterate	3.0	ML-2.0 LL-1.0	6	Husband, wife, 2 son, 1 daughter, mother	Nil
	8	Janaki Nayak	F	38	RANA	Illiterate	0.5	LL-0.5	3	Self, 2 son	Nil
MALIGUDA	9	Sunadei Mali	F	32	MALI	Illiterate	1.5	ML-1.5	3	Husband, wife, 1 grandson	Cook in School, SHG member
	10	Surjya Mali	F	48	MALI	Illiterate	2.45	ML-0.45 LL-2.0	6	Husband, wife, 2 grandson, father-in-law, daughter-in- law	SHG member
	11	Mahendra Mali	M	25	MALI	9 th Pass	4.5	ML-3.5 LL-1.0	6	Husband, wife, 1 daughter, sister, father, mother	Nil
RAULIGUDA	12	Shyama Naria	M	40	GADABA	7 th Pass	2.0	UL-0.3 LL-2.6	5	Husband, wife, father, mother, brother	Nil
	13	Dashu Mundagadia	F	48	GADABA	Illiterate	2.1	UL-0.1 ML-1.0 LL-1.0	3	Husband, wife, 1 son	SHG member
	14	Budri Mundagadia	F	40	GADABA	Illiterate	4	UL-1.0 ML-1.0 LL-2.0	5	Husband, wife, 2 daughter, 1 son	SHG member

ATALGUDA	15	Ananda Pradhani	M	35	RANA	7 th Pass	2.90	UL-0.3 LL-2.6	5	Husband, wife, 1 son, 2 daughter	Former Ward member
	16	Sania Hantala	M	32	RANA	5 th Pass	1.5	UL-0.5 LL-1.0	2	Husband, wife	Member of Farmer's club, CHF
	17	Gupta Guntha	M	19	RANA	Illiterate	1	ML-1.0	6	Husband, wife, father, mother, grandmother, younger brother	Nil
BHEJAGUDA	18	Prahalad Pujari	M	38	BHUMIA	9 th Pass	4.5	UL-0.5 ML-2.0 LL-2.0	5	Husband, wife, 2 son, 1 daughter	SMC President, CHF
	19	Kamala Pujari	F	44	BHUMIA	Illiterate	2	UL-0.5 LL-1.5	1	Self	SHG member, Cook in School, CHF
	20	Balaram Harijan	M	45	HARIJAN	Illiterate	1	ML-0.5 LL-0.5	3	Husband, wife, 1 son,	Nil
	21	Rukmani Harijan	F	33	HARIJAN	5 th Pass	1.2	UL-0.4 LL-0.8	2	Husband, wife	ASHA
BANUAGUDA	22	Damuru Paraja	M	48	PARAJA	Illiterate	1.4	ML-1.0	5	Husband, wife, 1 son, 2 daughter	CHF
	23	Ghasamani Dalei	F	39	MALI	Illiterate	4	UL-1.0 ML-1.5 LL-0.5	7	Husband, wife, 1 son, 2 daughter, father-in-law, Mother-in-law	CHF, SHG member
	24	Prahalad Nayak	M	29	BHUMIA	5 th Pass	6	UL-2.0 ML-2.0 LL-2.0	5	Husband, wife, 1 son, 2 daughter, father, mother	VSS member
	25	Nayana Sukuri	F	25	RANA	9 th Pass	5.5	UL-2.5 ML-1.0 LL-2.0	5	Husband, wife, father-in-law, mother-in-law, sister-in-law	Nil