

# Peoples Foundation for Scientific Socio Economic Development (PeFSSSED)

Estd : Dec 10, 2001

Regn No. Society : 1689/2002

Trust [Mumbai] : FF-25581

A-6, Ravi Swagat CHS, B S Juvekar Marg, Bhandup (E), Mumbai - 400042

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## PROJECT PROGRESS REPORT

For office use only

<b>Title</b>	Updation on OBI-PeFSSSED Mulising Sal-Khali(Dish) Making Project [Under Programme: Community Livelihood] (Year 2008-09)		
<b>Related Project</b>	All our Balasore centre projects		
<b>Report drafted by</b>	Hippu Salk Kristle Nathan	<b>Drafted on</b>	Feb 10, 2005
<b>Report reviewed by</b>	Chinmaya K Nayak	<b>Reviewed on</b>	Mar 15, 2005
<b>Remarks</b>	This project is supported by OBI and it is the first progress report to be used both by OBI and PeFSSSED.		

- Detailed description of the progress made so far -

### 1 Overview

Community livelihood program is the key to sustainable development by empowering individuals and communities in their own capacities. By empowerment we mean, developing the skills of marginalized people for self-sufficiency, inculcating confidence and sense of belongingness in them, and making them part of a never ending growth process so that the future need for charity is eliminated. As a part of Community livelihood program in Orissa, PeFSSSED started working for "Sarat Cash Crop and Seed Distribution" project at Mayurbhanj in 2004. Orissa Bikas Initiative (OBI), an organization formed by concerned Oriya immigrants with development of Orissa as the prime objective in mind, joined hands with PeFSSSED for the third year of its operation. Aply supported by OBI, the project had demonstrated the villagers of Dangadhia, Khukundu, Paterpada and Jambuni villages of Sarat block the benefits of cash crop farming.



**Figure 1:** A beneficiary at PeFSSSED centre sal dish preparation centre

In continuation to the earlier endeavor of community livelihood related projects at Balasore, Orissa, a project has been initiated under the joined banner of OBI and PeFSSSED, for making food plates from Sal-

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leaves at Mulsingh Gram Panchayat in the Soro Block of Balasore district in Aug 2008. OBI has released first phase of funding for the implementation of the project. This is second project which is executed with OBI partnership. OBI's insistence on livelihood project and its emphasis on sustainability are worth saluting. This is the second livelihood related project for Balasore branch. PeFSSSED has earlier executed Mulising Silei Siksha (a tailoring training project) for adolescent girls of Mulising area, where approximately sixty students got the training.

The objective of this project is

- To expand the livelihood options in the locality by providing engagement to the idle.
- To provide an ability to learn skills for improving one's personal or group power.
- To develop the ability in people to exercise assertiveness in collective decision making and the ability to make change.

## 2 Procurement of leaves

The procurement of leaves is one of the first activities undertaken in the project which threw some surprises. Dried leaves are seasonal. On the top of that, this year dried leaves were not available in Oct-Nov owing to late rains and floods in Balasore in these months. Also there are middlemen present in the system. Middlemen charge double the price of direct procurement from the tribal people. But as a newcomer it is almost impossible to avoid the middlemen. Permission of the forest authority was another hurdle. However, after persistent effort by our project manager Mr Budhiram Biswal, we were successful in procuring leaves. For the first phase, 15 thousand leaves are procured. As Budhiram says, since the channel of procurement has already been established, there won't be further surprises in future procurements.



**Figure 2:** Leaves are brought to office



**Figure 3:** Leaves collected and bundled

### 3 Installation of Machine

A machine has been procured and installed in our office premise. The machine which has been purchased can make the standard bigger plates. It can run potentially for 16 to 18 hrs per day. Once used by competent hands two persons can prepare up to 10000 plates. However, expertise is needed to work at that high frequency level, which we presently lack. Our beneficiaries are new to the work. At present we are targeting 3000 plates per day.



**Figure 4:** Installed machine



**Figure 5:** Our beneficiary (with red t-shirt) with project manager Budhiram Biswal with the finished plates.

As mentioned in the above paragraph, and Fig 5, the present machine prepares the normal plates. In future, we will need machines with different kinds of die - one with a smaller one for preparing the curry plates and one with multiple pockets for making circular tray kind of plates. However, we have decided not to procure more machines till our beneficiaries become comfortable with the present machine.

#### 4 Profile of the beneficiary

At present three beneficiary families (two workers and one care taker) are involved in the project apart from the project manager himself and the director. With the consent of the community, two relatively poor households of the village are asked to come forward to be part of the project. Being novice to the work, the productivity of the workers is abysmally low. Low expertise level, not only affects the quantity of plates prepared, but also the quality. If the finishing of the plate is not up to the mark, it would be difficult to market the same. However, there are experts in the field who can train our inexperienced workers and develop their skill set.

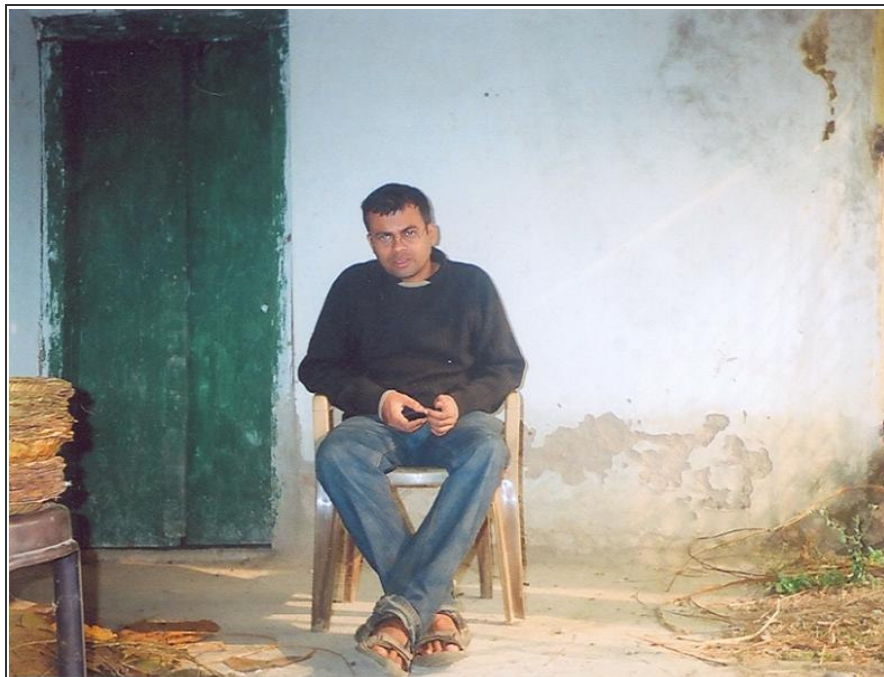
The two workers are Sadhu Sandha (age 42) and Jayakrushna (age 25). They are both married. Mr Sadhu stays with his wife and three children. Jayakrushna is newly married and stays with his wife and mother. Sadhu and Jayakrushna are the sole earning members of the family. They are selected for our project with recommendation of the community as the families are relatively poor and Sadhu and Jayakrushna both were sitting idle due to unavailability of regular work. One young bachelor named Baina Nayak (age 21) involved in the project in terms of taking care of the storage of leaves and maintenance of the premise. He acts as a guard to the machine as well.

## 5 Difficulties Faced and Lessons Learnt

There was a delay in the scheduled implementation of the project by almost six months for the following reasons –

- I. There was late rain and floods in Balasore in the months of so dried leaves are not available till early and.
- II. The time to get permit from the forest authority to collect leaves was initially underestimated by us.
- III. Purchased new machine takes time to cut the leaves properly. Expert hands are needed to demonstrate the workers how to get a perfect cut. Our workers, being novice faced this difficulty. And people who are knowledgeable are not easily accessible. This issue was not anticipated before. So, it took us sometime to get hold of the experts. When the quality of the plates is not proper, then market penetration becomes difficult as well.

## 6 Future Plan



**Figure 5:** The director of projects Balasore branch

We all, particularly the Balasore branch in charge Bikram Keshari Mohaparta (whose pic is above) are very keen to make this endeavour a sustainable business enterprise. We have utilized around 60% of the funds we have received from OBI. We do not need the second phase of funds immediately. Our priority at the moment is to work on the difficulties and take the project to a position of accelerating track.

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