



TITLE - A Success Story of Change through INRM under MGNREGA - "Ara and Keram" Villages

District - Ranchi

Block - Ormanjhi

Gram Panchayat - Tundahuli

## OVERVIEW OF THE PROJECT

### **I. Introduction**

The inspirational quote "Arise ! Awake ! and stop not until the goal is reached" has been turned true by community in these two villages of Ara & Keram. These adjoining scenic villages, gifted with the beauty of nature of Ormanjhi block, situated 28 kms from capital Ranchi of Jharkhand were declared severely drought affected in 2018 by the government. The crops, cattle, the daily life and the water bodies were all affected by this rainfall deficit. Surrounded by mountains with a geographical area of 233 Ha, the community strived to transform the water situation through their own efforts. Their determination, attitude, consciousness, motivation and hard-working nature of the villagers make them distinct and they managed to bring the change in a small span of a year.



### **II. Demography of the village**

Name of the Pradhan - Mr. Gopal Ram Bedia						
Sl.No.	Village	No. of Total family	No of ST family	No of ST family	No of OBC Family	No of other family
01	Ara	83	39	04	40	00
02	Keram	34	32	00	02	00

### **III. Need of the work**

The situation in the villages had deteriorated over the years. Water scarcity, migration for employment, rainfed agriculture, monocropping, unavailability of fertile land, forest cover depletion were some of the problems apart from other social evils like child marriage, intoxication, neglected personal hygiene, non-institutional child delivery, etc., were some of the challenges faced by them.

### **IV. Challenges**

Initially people were unorganized, usually migrated to other places in the search of livelihood and leaned towards material intensive works in MGNREGA. The people were also unaware of integrated natural resource management i.e., using the natural resources in such an efficient manner that it is available to the future generation. The villagers also neglected government schemes as they considered the co-ordination with government officials/field staffs a cumbersome process, because of delay in payment and low wages. Due to lack of technical knowhow, people were facing problem in selecting site specific activities.

### **V. Implementation Process: How the work was implemented**

- A. With the support of CFT's highly motivated team members, youth of the village came forward to convince all their fellow villagers to adopt INRM approach. Survey and formation of SHGs was completed. Involvement of women in the planning process, resource mapping, current land use mapping, problem mapping, interventions map, overlaying family based plan maps, prioritizing, budgeting works, role division for implementation and supervision by community was ensured and under taken.
- B. Training of villagers especially SHG mate on technical design and layout, measurement of work and payments, maintenance of books of accounts were organized. Farmers were also trained to adopt improved technology like new variety adoption, plastic culture and drip irrigation for productivity enhancement. Training on animal Husbandry and exposure visit to demonstration farm was also planned and executed successfully.

Representatives from the villages were sent to Ralegaon Siddhi, in Maharashtra, courtesy Forest department to witness the change brought by the villagers of Ralegaon Siddhi in terms of large crop production and water availability even though the area has scanty rainfall. Inspired by the techniques adopted there, the villagers decided to change the scenario of their Ara and Keram villages. Soon they joined their hands together for regulation of over exploited resources of the area, storage of water at convenient location for different purposes, controlling soil erosion, ensuring safety of the ecosystem, recharging ground water, augmenting economic stability of local peoples, and sustained production of food, fuel, fodder,

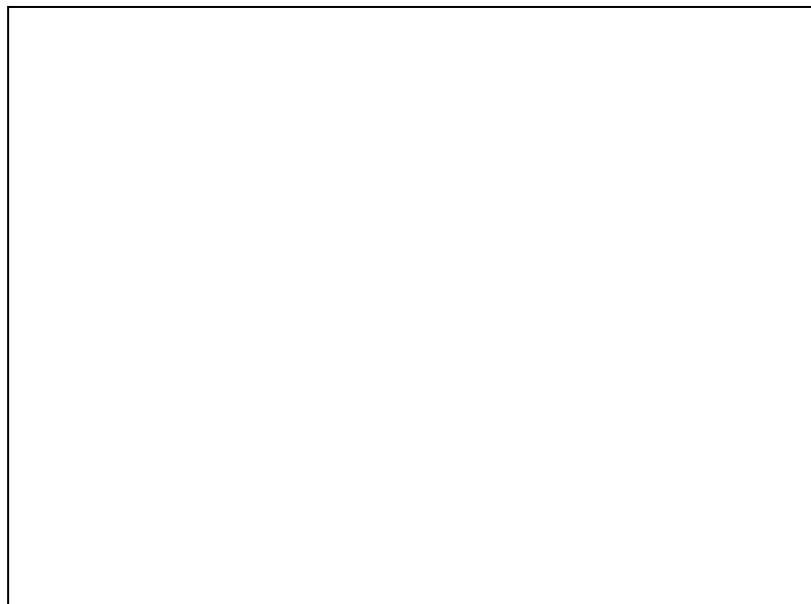
fruit, animals, etc. Various MGNREGA works were undertaken by the State MGNREGA department with the aid of CFT members fostered by the government.

Work under MGNREGA										
Sl. No.	Village	Total Well (No)	Total Dobha (No)	Total Shed (No)	NADEP	Loose boulder Structure (No.)	TCB (acre)	Total Labor registered	Job card holder	Other work
01	Ara	04	28	16	09	400	35	160	80	Biogas
02	Keram	04	14	05	11	0	15	60	34	Biogas

### VI. Convergence and implementing agency

Apart from MGNREGA, in Ara and Keram village Jharkhand State Livelihood Promotion Society formed different SHG groups. The members regularly discuss about the work progress, and problems related to their community including

supporting each other in agricultural, financial issues and other endeavors. With the assistance of the forest Department, about 25 Ha. of land was treated by Afforestation. Benefits like seeds, agricultural inputs, other inputs under various schemes of Agriculture and allied departments were also availed and equipments



such as drip irrigation system, pumpsets, etc., were also availed and utilized for the betterment of people.



## VII. Impacts

Agriculture is now the main source of livelihood (previously it was wage labor and forest dependency) for Ara and Keram villagers. Water Harvesting Structures and Ponds (Specially Dobha) were constructed and used for agriculture and fisheries. Department. of Agriculture, Animal husbandry and Co-operative identified, trained and provided fish spawn to the beneficiary of Ara and Keram villages. 'Jungle Bachao Samati', a committee formed by the villagers, is protecting and rejuvenated its neighboring approx. 80 Ha. of



forests. Total 45 Dobhas were constructed in the village out of which, 33 Dobhas are filled with adequate water during this rainy season and are being utilized for fish farming and rest of the 12 Dobhas, located on the upstream ridges, do not have sufficient water retention capacity throughout the year but are used during agriculture season, for water collection and recharging the surface water but in all the 33 Ponds, fish farming with fingerlings of different species of fish has been taken up. The ponds owner have benefited on an average Rs 10-15,000 per year out of fisheries.

Replication and Dissemination- A village name Baridih of the same Block Ormanjhi has also been selected and similar strategy and technology have been planned on ridge to valley approach to increase water recharge and soil productivity for sustainable development. Ara and Keram villages are role models and live demonstration site for the state to facilitate formulation of favorable policy frame work for convergence and livelihoods.

Shramdaan – Villagers decided to make their village clean and hygienic inspired by Ralegaon Siddhi and decided to go for Shramdan voluntarily. Initially the children started cleaning their village early morning and now the whole community joins in this effort. This event also serves the purpose of unity.

Village committee and Social fencing :-

A village 'forest protection committee' has also been formed by the villagers to protect their forest and adjoining natural forests. President of this forest protection

committee is young and energetic. Under his leadership, the committee has taken exceptional decisions such as plant/forest debris are not used by villagers for their personal use and felling of trees is strictly prohibited. Women group and committee members have done remarkable job too in



mobilizing people towards dependency on the forest and decided to stop injudicious felling of trees completely. They have controlled free grazing of animals. On finding some animal grazing in the field they catch it, they have a meeting and decide the penalty. Villagers also made a 'Chabutra' with stairs leading to it inside the forest which is used for rituals during Raksha Bandhan (an event to take resolution to protect their forest) on 14<sup>th</sup> April every year.

This village was announced a "Model village" by the Honorable CM Sri. Raghubar Das after witnessing the model pace of development and irony determination of villagers to transform their village.

### Voice from the field

Testimonials of the beneficiaries:

*Gopal Ram Bediya(Gram Pradhan): "previously I was unaware about water conservation and its benefits. During CFT monthly meetings it was unanimously decided that to conserve water and soil, holistic approach for the area treatment of the whole village is required. We decided to excavate Dobha to store Rain water of forthcoming monsoon which provided surplus rain water for irrigation during dry spells and water for fishery activity. Exhilarated by the benefits and convinced by MGNREGA department, we decided to construct other water harvesting structures like TCB, loose boulder check Dam etc., adopting 'ridge to valley approach'. We also planted papaya , subabool, red gram, and hybrid napier on bunds of dobha to make it more efficient."*