

**ANNUAL REPORT
2005-06**

**ORISSA TRIBAL EMPOWERMENT &
LIVELIHOODS PROGRAMME**

PROGRAMME SUPPORT UNIT

**ST&SC Development Department
Govt. of Orissa,**

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CHAPTER – I **EXECUTIVE SUMMERY**

Orissa Tribal Empowerment and Livelihoods Programme (OTELP) is being launched on the 2nd day of October 2004 by the Honorable Chief Minister, Orissa with an objective of enhancing and enabling the tribal of the South-West districts of Orissa in regards to develop their quality of life and livelihood to ensure the food security in a sustainable approach. The programme is being implemented at the 10 blocks of four districts viz. Koraput, Kandhamal, Kalahandi & Gajapati. Micro Watershed Management is the basic principle adopted in order to delivering the project services in the programme villages by developing the present status of the land and water bodies.

The process started with the selection of the micro watershed in the selected programme blocks. The villages selected are more than 70% of tribal populated with high degradation of the natural resources such as land, water and forest. A geographical area covering 62861.379 ha within 139 micro watershed covering 396 villages was selected for programme interventions. The PSU and the four participating ITDA were strengthened by engaging staffs both from Govt. and contract basis in each subject matter such as Planning, Monitoring, Evaluation, Capacity Building, Finance, Watershed Development, Agriculture, Forestry etc. The selection of Facilitating Non-Govt. Organisations (FNGO) as Project Implementation Agency (PIA) followed and the partnership agreement in this regard between the concerned ITDAs and twelve FNGOs were made.

With an initial capacity building of the programme staffs and programme partners, the process of community mobilization starts by establishing relationship with people of the programme villages and executing entry point activities, addressing the basic needs of the villagers such as drinking water, primary health, communication, storage etc. With an initial relationship among the villagers the dedicated WDT members organize the people of the programme villages to form village level institutions for the implementation of the programme. The women members of the villages with a homogeneity situation were organized into Self Help Groups to promote the savings and credit habits among the members to mitigate problems during the stress situations. The existing village level institutions (in most of the cases SHGs) were also facilitated by the programme activities to strengthen their activities and functioning. At each micro watershed level the individuals above 18 years of age were organized to constitute the Village Development Association (VDA) and elected their representatives as executive members in order to constitute the VDC comprising of the office bearers such as Presidents and Secretary. The village profiles were prepared by undertaking the baseline, household survey and conducting the PRA exercise. Based on those data and information, in facilitation by the FNGO, the villagers prepared the Village Development & Livelihoods Plan (VDLP) indicating the basic needs of the villagers in order to strengthen their livelihood options. Each VDLP contains the issues pertaining to the rural livelihood, identifying interventions, indicating sources of funds and responsibility centres.

Although during the year the villagers were associated in preparing the VDLP, they have also undertaken plantation activities during the year and as a whole total 302462 seedlings

covering 1114.69 were planted in the programme areas. Apart from the above other natural recourse management activities were taken up by the villagers such as land development, field bonding, contour trenching etc.

Developing the community infrastructure for providing better facility at the village level, the people of the village of the each micro watershed decided to construct a multi purpose storage godown and drying yard where the forest/ agricultural produces could be stored collectively. These activities were taken up by the people through the Development Initiative Fund component of the programme.

World Food Programme has issued 200 MT of rice and 8 MT of pulses, which has distributed to the beneficiaries as a part of wage payment to the labours. An unit of food packet comprising of 2.5 kg of rice and .2 kg of pulses were given to the labourers at a subsidized cost or Rs.9.00, which has subsequently saved in the Village Development Fund to be utilized in the post project phase.

In the year 2005-06, in all programme components the expenditure incurred Rs.1042.39 lakhs against the budget outlay of Rs.1022.47 lakhs. The cumulative expenditure incurred till end of March 2006 is Rs.1188.19 lakhs.

CHAPTER-II INTRODUCTION

Orissa is the second poorest state in India. Nearly 22% of the population of the state are tribals, whose position is probably the worst in the entire country. In certain development indicators, the proposed Programme area even lags behind Sub-Saharan Africa. Ecological degradation, erratic rainfall and a high risk of drought in the area have resulted in food insecurity, increasing out-migration and periodic deaths from starvation. Ecological imbalance is now seriously undermining the livelihood patterns and increasing vulnerability. A small land base, low agricultural productivity and low incomes have led to rising indebtedness, trapping tribals into a vicious circle of exploitation. The life of the tribals is increasingly vulnerable due to a persistent lack of assured entitlements to their resource base. Land alienation has deprived them of their land; forest legislation has turned them into encroachers on land they have always used; and they have also been disproportionately affected by displacement due to mining operations, irrigation projects, wildlife sanctuaries, etc. These have led to social discontent and unrest which provide fertile ground for extremist activities which only more meaningful development of the tribal areas can combat.

The purpose of the Programme is to ensure that the livelihoods and food security of poor tribal households are sustainably improved through promoting a more efficient, equitable, self-managed and sustainable exploitation of the natural resources at their disposal and through off-farm/non-farm enterprise development. To achieve this, the Programme will:

- a. Build the capacity of marginal groups as individuals, and grassroots institutions
- b. Enhance the access of poor tribal people to land, water and forests and increase the productivity of these resources in environmentally sustainable and socially equitable ways
- c. Encourage and facilitate off-farm enterprise development focused on the needs of poor tribal households
- d. Monitor the basic food entitlements of tribal households and ensure their access to public food supplies
- e. Strengthen the institutional capacity of government agencies, Panchayati Raj Institutions, NGOs and civil society to work effectively for participatory poverty reduction with tribal communities
- f. Encourage the development of a pro-tribal enabling environment through effective implementation of the legislation governing control of, and access to, development resources by poor tribal households and through recommendation of other policy improvements
- g. Build on the indigenous knowledge and values of tribals and blend these with technological innovations to ensure a speedier pace of development.

The Programme would cover 30 of the most backward blocks with tribal concentrations in seven districts, namely Gajapati, Kalahandi, Kandhamal, Koraput, Malkangiri, Nawarangpur, and Rayagada in South-West Orissa. Programme will be implemented in 3 phases over 10 years. The programme is now in the pilot phase of its implementation where 10 blocks were included in four districts namely Koraput, Kandhamal, Kalahandi

and Gajapati. In those blocs the villages in which the scheduled tribes and scheduled castes form not less than 60% of the population and where most households are below the poverty line have been selected to be covered under the programme. Thus, tribal and non-tribal households would be included but the tribal population would represent the largest share.

The overall strategy of the Programme focuses on empowering the tribals and enabling them to enhance their food security, increase their incomes and improve their overall quality of life through more efficient natural resource management based on the principles of improved watershed management and more productive environmentally sound agricultural practices and through off-farm/non-farm enterprise development. A strong emphasis is placed on promoting participatory processes, building community institutions, fostering self-reliance, and respecting the indigenous knowledge and values of tribals. The Programme would adopt a flexible, non-prescriptive, process-oriented approach to enable the stakeholders to determine the scope of Programme activities, their timing, pace and sequencing.

Programme Components:

(a) **Capacity Building for Empowerment.** The Programme would support NGOs to mobilize communities, empower them through awareness creation on tribal rights, gender and equity issues, natural resource management and programme planning; assist them, through micro-planning exercises, in the prioritization of their development needs and in the formulation and implementation of development proposals and build/strengthen appropriate community institutions. It would also strengthen the capacity of the support agencies that will assist them as facilitators.

(b) **Livelihood Enhancement.** The Programme would support: (i) land and water management; (ii) participatory forest management to regenerate degraded forest land and to develop NTFP processing and marketing enterprises; (iii) improvements in agricultural productivity; (iv) improvements in animal husbandry; (v) improved access to rural financial services through the promotion of self-help savings and credit groups and linking them with formal financing institutions to augment their capital base; and (vi) development of community infrastructure to fill critical gaps in the provision of key rural infrastructure (e.g. drinking water, village link road upgrading) and to provide for necessary economic (e.g. worksheds, stores, mills, expellers) and social infrastructure (e.g. community halls)

(c) **Support for Policy Initiatives.** The Programme would support the operationalisation of the government's existing policy initiatives in relation to tribals' access to land and forest products through: (i) providing a legal defence fund to assist tribals in pursuit of land alienation/restoration cases; (ii) supporting operational costs for improved detection and disposal of land alienation cases and monitoring enforcement of land restoration orders; and (iii) funding the survey and settlement process for the hill slopes between 10° and 30°. The Programme would also fund studies to deepen understanding on other key policy issues and engage government in dialogue on unresolved policy areas through a

structured framework involving the establishment of milestones and a timetable for action.

(d) **Development Initiatives Fund.** Through this Fund, the Programme would provide the flexibility to provide additional funding for well performing activities in demand from the communities and for new activities which become feasible and attractive in the course of Programme implementation.

(e) **Programme Management.** The Programme would provide for the costs of Programme management at the state and field level.

(f) **Food Handling.** The Programme would cover the cost of transport, storage and distribution of WFP food assistance.

The Programme is being jointly funded by IFAD, DFID and WFP in partnership with the Government of Orissa. The Programme proposes a long-term development intervention, in the northern and southern tribal belts of Orissa where poverty and deprivation are pervasive. The Programme would fall under IFAD's Flexible Lending Mechanism; DFID would place a Technical Cooperation fund and WFP would provide Food Assistance. The whole outlay of the project is USD 91 million comprising 22% of loan from IFAD, 44% grant from DFID, 13% grant in terms of food grains from WFP, 11% from the State Govt and 10% from the community participation and financial institutions.

The Ministry of Tribal Affairs at the central level and the Scheduled Tribe/Scheduled Caste Development Department at the state level are the nodal agencies for the Programme. At the state level, the Programme envisages a three-tier management structure as follows: (i) the SHGs and VDCs as the main implementing agencies at the grassroots level; (ii) the ITDAs at the district level and (iii) a Programme Support Unit (PSU) within the ST/SCDD at the state level. Each block would generally be assigned to a facilitating NGO for providing support to the SHGs and VDCs for capacity-building, micro-planning and supervision. The Programme would provide for flexibility in the provision of technical support services to the communities allowing for the NGOs to recruit their own technical staff or to enter into partnership with the line departments or other service providers, or, as the last option, assigning implementation responsibility to other government/private organizations.

The Programme would be monitored and evaluated from the perspective of input, output and impact. A specialist M&E agency to design the MIS system would be contracted. Emphasis would be placed on participatory M & E to assist the communities to monitor their own progress, evaluate performance, and identify implementation issues. Similarly, qualified service providers would be recruited to carry out periodic impact assessments, thematic and diagnostic studies, nutrition surveys and environmental monitoring

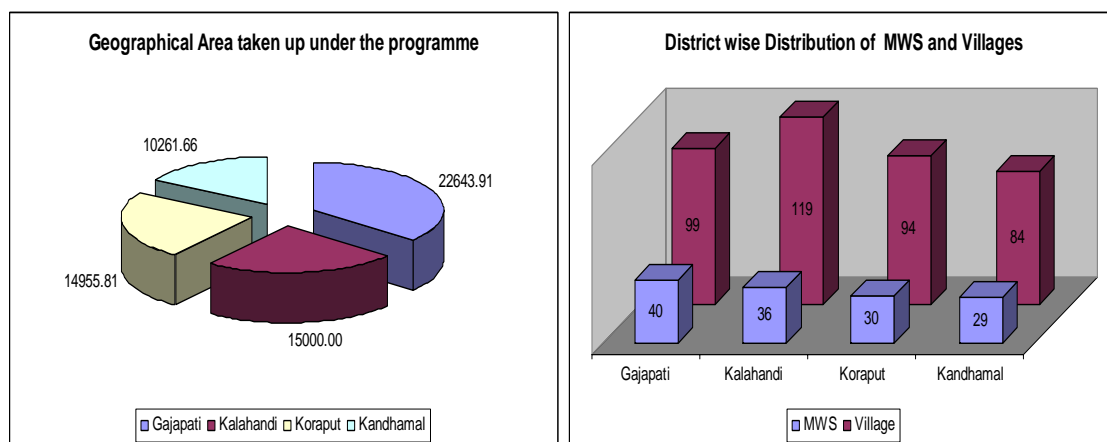
Around 75 000 households in 1080 villages would benefit from the increase in incomes, achievement of household food security, and attainment of food self-sufficiency. The Programme would put emphasis to ensure women of equal wages, draw women more

into public life and strengthen their voice in the community and develop their management capabilities. Awareness raising on legal literacy and social issues, coupled with the solidarity emanating from the SHGs, would equip women to deal more effectively with domestic issues. Communities understanding and ability to address equity issues and to manage ensuing conflicts will be enhanced. The environmental impact would be strongly positive.

CHAPTER – III ACHIEVEMENTS 2005-06

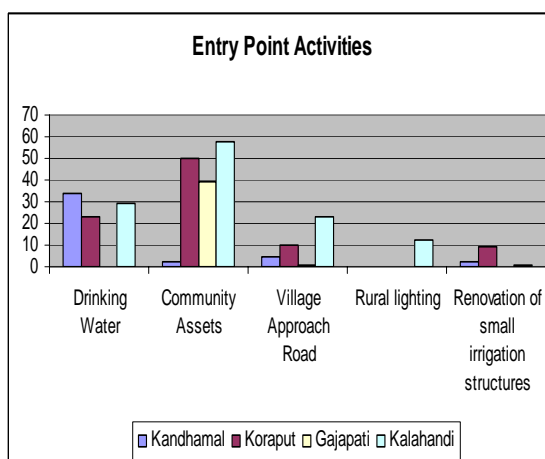
It was the preliminary period of the actual field interventions in regards to community mobilization and institutionalizing the community organization in order to implement the programme at the village level. Not only the community were organized into groups and sub groups but also the existing village level institutions were identified and their status of functioning were accessed to integrate their functioning with the desired programme implementation structure.

The charts below explain the detail of the programme villages taken up in different programme districts with their geographical areas taken up in hectares.



Community Mobilisation

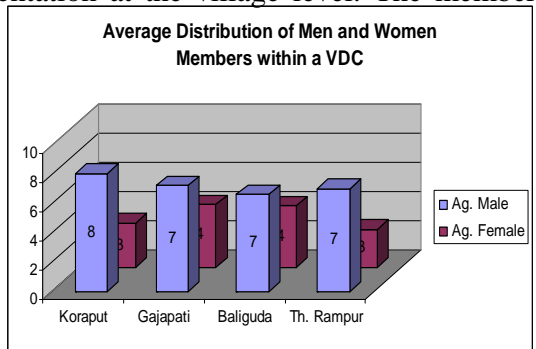
The programme is being implemented in the remotest tribal pockets of the most deprived districts of Orissa. The people of the programme villages are having very low level of literacy. The people are away from the mainstream facilities per say health services, education etc. The dedicated member of the Watershed Development Team conducted relationship building activities by organizing human health camps, animal health camps, enrollment drives, sensitization meetings towards different types of developmental programmes undergoing in the programme districts, supplying clothes and food during disasters etc. The process followed with identifying potential youths in order to promote them as second line leaders in the village without disturbing the traditional village leadership pattern. Execution of Entry Point Activities in the villages boost the confidence of the villagers as all of those activities directly addresses the basic requirements of the villagers such as drinking



water, repair of village approach road and creating/ repairing small community assets at village level (community hall/platform, village worship place, bathing ghats etc.).

Community Organisation and Institution Building

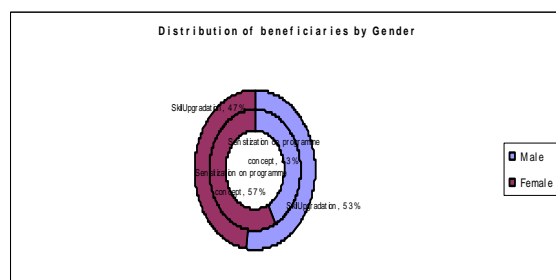
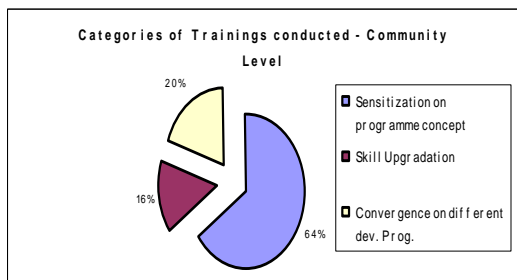
Simultaneously the village level institutions/ community based organizations were promoted for managing the programme at the village level. Each individual above 18 years of age became the member of the Village Development Association (VDA), which is the general body at the micro watershed level. Each member of the VDA elected their representatives as a member of the Village Development Committee (VDC), which is the executive body of the VDA and functions at the micro watershed level to coordinate the programme implementation at the village level. The members elected to the VDC are kind of the people live watershed villages such marginalized and have their own groups in the form of Self Help Groups 744 Self Help Groups SHGs have been the programme



The members of the VDC have selected their own office bearer such as President and Secretary to look into the day today affair of the programme implementation. The village level volunteers are the work force of the VDC to facilitate the implementation of the programme activities at the village level. Each of such volunteer was trained in their respective fields. During the year total 110 Village Development Committees were formed and registered. In all the districts the representation of the tribal people in the VDC is above 85% and the landless and deprived are about 18%.

Capacity Building:

The thrust under this component has been building the capacity of primary stake holders through constitution of different community based organizations and strengthening them with regular hand holding support. Not only developing the preferred skill of individual beneficiaries but also developing them in terms of managing the community based organization and the programme activities. Along with the capacity building of the primary stake holders, sufficient training programmes have been conducted for the secondary stake holders such as the staffs of the FNGO, ITDA and line departments.

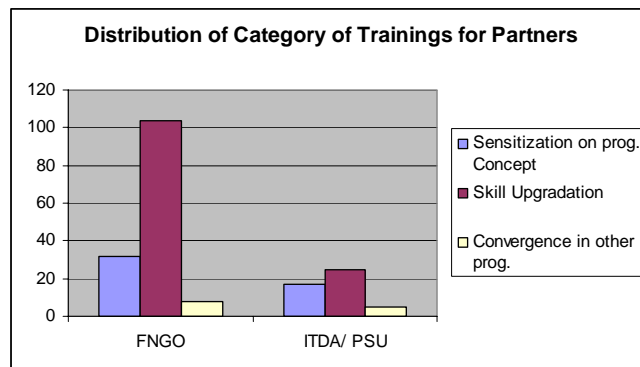


For the community group the focus trainings and exposures conducted are as follows:

- Concept clarity on the programme
- Institution building
- Roles and responsibilities of each capacity/ entity
- Leadership and Group Management
- Concept of thrift and credit
- Accounting & Record keeping
- Skill upgradation for specific land based NRM and other off farm activities
- Exposure to successful watershed areas in Koraput/ Bolangir
- Sensitisation of PRI members at block level and other line department officials

Besides, the following specific trainings and exposure visits have been undertaken for the programme partners:

- The Programme Director along with the Programme Officers of PSU and ITDAs have undertaken visit to Andhra Pradesh and Chhattisgarh to get an exposure to the activities taken up under DFID funded A.P.Rural Livelihood Programme and IFAD funded Chhattisgarh Tribal development Programme.
- The Programme Officer (Capacity Building) and the Programme Officer (Livelihood & Natural Resource Management), PSU have completed the Training Need and Strength Assessment (TNSA) for Kandhamal district.
- The Programme Officers of PSU and ITDAs have undergone a training programme on Environment & Livelihood system in Tribal Areas at NIRD, Hyderabad during 1st week of June.
- A two days Process Facilitation Workshop was organized by PSU, OTELP on 4th and 5th August at Bhubaneswar, which was attended by the representatives of all the three funding agencies, staff of PSU/ITDAs, FNGOs and the primary stakeholders from some of the programme villages. The objective of the workshop was to refresh the programme concept and the strategy of implementation while re-identifying the roles and responsibilities of different stakeholders. A review of the progress made so far was taken from this perspective and future course of action was planned along with the identification of capacity building needs at all levels.
- The Programme Officer (PME), Manager (MIS) of PSU and MIS executives along with the Watershed Development Officers of the ITDAs attended a training cum experience sharing workshop on “Application of Information Technology in NRM” organized by the Watershed Organisation Trust (WOTR) , Ahmednagar, Maharashtra from 15th to 19th November, 2005.



- The MIS executives of the four ITDAs along with the Manager (MIS), PSU were given an exposure cum hands on practice on application of GIS in developing database of all the activities under the programme in the PSU, OTELP from 16th to 17th December, 2005.
- The FNGO representatives, WDT members, selected SHG members and Village Volunteers of all the programme districts have been given orientation training on Market linkages with the support of Marketing & Research Team (MART)
- The MIS Manager and the Programme Officer (P.M.E.) of PSU visited the Programme Management Unit and few field units of Andhra Pradesh Rural Livelihood Programme (APRLP) for a detailed study on the Monitoring & Evaluation System followed by them and to develop a computerized M&E package to be followed under OTELP.
- The P.D. and all the officials of PSU/ITDA along with the representatives of the FNGOs were sent for an exposure visit to taluk Vandsa in Gujarat for studying the processes followed under WADI Programme implemented by BAIF Development Research Foundation for a sustainable development of tribal communities.
- The Accountants/ Data Entry Operators of PSU/ ITDAs/ FNGOs have been given training on double entry book keeping system of accounting to be followed under the programme.

Engagement of RNGOs

In order to support the process of implementation and design the Capacity Building Strategy for different stake holders, a four day field visit cum workshop was conducted during first week of July, 2005 with the support of Watershed Support and Services Network (WASSAN), a Hyderabad based national level network of NGOs. As a follow up on the recommendations there of, the PSU has entered into agreement with WASSAN and VASUNDHARA, a local based NGO engaging them as Resource NGOs to address to the capacity building needs of all the stakeholders in regards to implementation of activities under watershed development, livelihood and policy initiative agenda of the programme. In this regard, a first phase microplanning exercise has been conducted in Kirkicha micro watershed of Thuamul Rampur block involving the staff of RNGOs/FNGOs/ITDAs and other resource organizations like SVA/PSI in order to develop a process guideline for preparation of empowerment centered Village Development & Livelihood Plan.

Livelihood Enhancement:

Village Development & Livelihood Plans for the micro watersheds are being prepared after a detailed house hold and base line survey with active participation of villagers through PRA technique. These include treatment plan for the watersheds, Education and Literacy Plan, Health, Sanitation & Drinking Water Plan, Vocational & Skill up gradation Plan, Household wise / SHG wise feasible livelihoods Plan with good economic returns, food security Plan and Marketing Plan etc. Different land based NRM activities like raising of nurseries, location specific soil & moisture conservation measures, crop demonstration etc. have been initiated as per the plans so

prepared. Under the Participatory Forest management component, 200ha of Reserved Forest area adjoining the micro watersheds have been identified and are taken for treatment as per the micro plan duly approved by the concerned D.F.Os. Plantations over 1114.2 ha have been taken up during 2005-06 in the upper slopes, forest lands and private lands of programme areas of all the four Phase – I districts.

Field bonding, contour bonding, block plantation, small water harvesting structures etc are the activities were taken up during the year in order to address the issues of soil erosion and moisture conservation. For production enhancement, the smaller agricultural interventions were made to provide an immediate support in the food security. The activities include providing improved mustard, vegetable seeds to the farmers, demonstrating the advanced process of cultivation, exposing farmers to the integrated pest and nutrient management etc. For livestock development, serial animal health camps were organized within the micro watersheds in association with the veterinary department. Activities in smaller scale were taken up such as AI, improved breed replacement (in cattle and goat) etc.

In rural financial services, the SHGs existing prior to the project and the SHGs promoted in the project were sufficiently mobilized and capacitated to take up the micro finance activities. Most of the existing SHGs were already involved in practicing micro credit and savings services but the process was much unorganized. They were again revived by providing them sufficient inputs in training and exposure to the better practices on organization management, leadership, communication, conflict resolution etc. Micro enterprise development in a very small scale have been taken with those kind of SHGs. For the SHGs promoted in project are in very initial phases and they are only mobilized to make regular savings, organize regular meetings. The details of the SHGs promoted is as follows:

The details of block wise achievement are given in the Annexure.

Programme Management:

- One meeting each of the SLPMC and the PSC have been convened and relevant decisions have been taken pertaining to modalities of programme implementation. The meetings of District Level Programme Management Committees are being held regularly as required.
- The Draft Programme Implementation Manual including the Financial and Administration Regulations for OTELP has been prepared by the PSU largely drawing on the existing regulations of Societies formed for implementing the projects of very similar nature including Bihar Education Project, Jharkhand Tribal Development Programme, Orissa Electricity Regulatory Commission and Orissa State Disaster Mitigation Authority, Orissa Watershed Development Mission and orders and resolutions issued by GoO for the OTELP Programme, to facilitate smooth implementation of the above innovative programme. The manual/regulations framed herein is/are not meant to be static; and they will be further evolved and improved as the Programme cruises along towards meeting its

goal and objectives. As decided in the first meeting of the Programme Steering Committee, the above manual was scrutinized by Sri Ullas Das (Retd Joint Secy, Finance, GoO), who suggested certain changes in the draft. The same were incorporated and the manual has been further improved through suggestions and views obtained in a series of meetings with the Chairperson, OTELP, the Joint Secy, STSCDD, GoO, A.F.A. cum Under Secy, STSCDD, GoO, Chattered Accountant, APICOL etc. The Draft Manual has been approved by the SLPMC and at the Govt. level after due scrutiny by the Finance Department. The same has also been concurred by IFAD/UNOPS as per the Programme Loan Agreement.

- Five instalments of funds towards Administrative Overhead along with funds for Entry Point Activities have been released in favour of each of the above FNGOs as per the schedule of release of funds agreed upon, to carry out the base line survey, PRA exercise, preparation of Village Development and Livelihoods Plans and Entry Point Activities etc.
- Funds under Administrative overhead and Livelihood enhancement have been released to the VDCs, who are utilizing the same through accounts opened in nearby banks.

Support for Policy initiatives:

Action has been initiated through Vasundhara for identifying the cases relating to land entitlement in the villages. The first set of recommendations from Vasundhara is expected during May, 2006.

Development Initiatives Fund:

Action has been taken up for improving the community infrastructure through construction of community storage godowns, drying platforms, provision of rice mill & oil expellers etc. under this component.

Food Handling:

100 MT of rice and 8MT of pulses have been received from WFP, which have been utilized as part of the labour component under Entry Point Activities, Livelihood Enhancement and Development Initiatives Funds activities. The details of month wise utilization are as follows:

Sl. No.	Month	Rice in MT	Pulses in MT	Total in MT
1	October, 05	14.70	1.18	15.88
2	November, 05	16.56	1.33	17.89
3	December, 05	25.94	2.08	28.12
4	January, 06	10.49	0.83	11.32
5	February, 06	22.15	1.47	23.62
6	March, 06	10.17	1.11	11.28
Total		100.00	8.00	108.00

The second lot of 100 MT of rice has been received on 31st March, 2006, which will be utilized during 2006-07.

CHAPTER - IV
Financial Progress

In the year 2005-06, the projected financial target was Rs. 1022.47 lakhs against which an amount of Rs. 1042.39 lakhs have been spent during 2005-06.

The details of financial progress under the programme by end of March, 2006 are as follows:

Sl.No.	Programme Components	Expenditure incurred in Rs.
1	Technical assistance, Contractual Services, Studies & Training	9,36,24,465
2	Salaries & Allowance	68,72,693
3	Vehicle, Equipment & Materials	56,88,360
4	Other incremental Operating Cost	18,89,112
5	Development Initiatives Fund	1,07,44,000
Total		11,88,18,630

