

# THE COMMUNITY HUNGER FIGHTERS PROGRAMME

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## Background

The project is being implemented in 18 villages in Kundra and Boipariguda Blocks of Koraput district of Odisha State. Koraput is one of the most backward district of Odisha with about 50% of tribal population. It is the most food insecure region of Odisha with high level of under nutrition among women and children (IHD-WFP, 2008)

The CHF programme was designed by the M.S. Swaminathan Research Foundation as an action education model, where the trained volunteers act as catalyst. The local communities were energized for action to address hunger and malnutrition through changes in attitudes and practices and by demanding and seeking entitlement.



Crop planning during training



Felicitation ceremony and Interface with Govt.



Street play for community capacity building



Training of CHFs on NPM in paddy and vegetable

## Photos showing result



Women Participation in Palli sabha



Sanctioned entitlements



Kitchen Garden developed by CHFs



Parents meeting discussing feeding practices

## Intervention

Five community level volunteers from each project village were selected in a participatory manner representing proportionately each caste including both men and women within age group of 25 to 40.

The project has so far trained 95 CHFs from 18 villages with a focus on 1748 households, out of which 845HHs from scheduled tribe, 317HHs scheduled caste and 633HHs belong to other backward communities.

Residential training programs were conducted in three sessions to complete the module. It covers (a) food availability & absorption - including concept of a balanced diet, integrating nutrition concern in agriculture, safe drinking water and sanitation, (b) access to food - equality irrespective of caste and gender and (c) exposure visits to working models.

For sensitizing community, street plays were organized on issues like infant feeding practices and gender sensitiveness.

## Findings

### SOME OUTCOMES:

- ❖ 25 to 40% increase your in vegetable cultivation enriching their food basket.
- ❖ Villagers becoming vigilant about Govt. schemes like ICDS, mid-day meal, public distribution system etc.
- ❖ Participation of women in Palli Sabha and Gram Sabha increased by 50%.
- ❖ CHFs mobilized villagers for demanding and obtaining individual & community entitlements on livelihood, health, sanitation, drinking water etc. 29% of demanded entitlements got sanctioned during 2013-14 & 2014-15.
- ❖ Training needs were identified for community.
- ❖ Village level communities were energized - in two village women group protested against liquor production and sale.

### CHALLENGES:

- ❖ Different level of willingness and awareness among tribal community.
- ❖ Sustainability of the intervention.

## Lessons Learned/ Conclusion

- ❖ Community level issues and problems can be addressed by the community itself but needs reflection.
- ❖ Awareness level on entitlement and convergence in the community is low, so that they are not able to derive full benefits.
- ❖ The community has resources and potentiality but needs support to explore and for its sustainability.
- ❖ Inefficient implementation of welfare measures.
- ❖ Control over asset and income by men makes women less assertive.



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