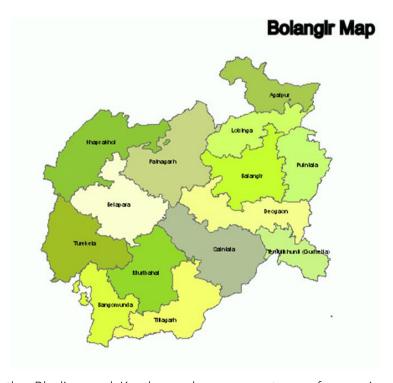






### **About Bolangir District**

Bolangir is drought-prone and one of the poorest districts of odisha in India. 61% of its population lives Below Poverty Line (BPL) and about 30% of its population undernourished. The district lies between 20 9' and 21 11' north latitude and 82 4' and 83 9' East longitude. The district is surrounded by Bargarh, Baudh and Sonepur, Nuapada and Kalahandi districts on north, east, west, respectively. Originally the abode of indigenous tribes like Kutia Kondhs, Binihals and Gonds, it was later



inhabited by other castes including the Bhulias and Kosthas, who are master craftsmen in cotton and tassar fabrics.

The entire district has been divided into three sub divisions, 14 Community Development blocks and 285 Gram Panchayats (GP) and has 1792 villages out of which 31 villages are uninhabited. Balangir is a predominantly agrarian district with more than 70% of the population dependant on agriculture for their livelihood. Cotton plantation is another important bough of agriculture which has immense popularity in Balangir. Other than that of paddy, till, mustard etc which are also cultivated in the district. Most of the areas follow a single cropping pattern. According to 1997 survey, out of 329700 house holds, 201310 nos are BPL house holds in the district. Many poor migrate to cities like Hyderabad, Raipur to work there as "Dadan Sramik". This is a major constraint for education of their children.50 percent of the women involve in agro based Activity and 90 percent of rural women supplement their income through NTFP (Non timbers forest produces) like Kendu leaf, Mahula, Broom and collection of various forest products. Since last few years, a number of SHG (Self Help Group) have been organised by both Government. & NGOs to supplement their livelihood.

### **Bolangir At a Glance**

Description	2011	2001		
Actual Population	1,648,574	1,337,194		
Male	831,349	673,985		
Female	817,225	663,209		
Population Growth	23.29%	8.63%		
Area Sq. Km	6,575	6,575		
Density/km2	251	203		
Proportion to Orissa Population	3.93%	3.63%		
Sex Ratio (Per 1000)	983	984		
Child Sex Ratio (0-6 Age)	951	967		
Average Literacy	65.50	55.70		
Male Literacy	77.08	71.67 39.51		
Female Literacy	53.77			
Total Child Population (0-6 Age)	206,964	191,674		
Male Population (0-6 Age)	106,090	97,431		
Female Population (0-6 Age)	100,874	94,243		
Literates	944,254	638,048		
Male Literates	559,065	413,224		
Female Literates	385,189	224,824		
Child Proportion (0-6 Age)	12.55%	14.33%		
Boys Proportion (0-6 Age)	12.76%	14.46%		
Girls Proportion (0-6 Age)	12.34%	14.21%		

\*Source – Census Data of 2001 and 2011 conducted by GOI

### **Agriculture Scenario of Bolangir**

Agriculture is the primary occupation source of the people living in bolangir district and plays a Very vital role in its economic scenario. It is the primary occupation for more than 66% of people who belong to the Scheduled Tribe and Scheduled Caste communities. Rice is the major crop of the district; it occupies more than 50% of cropped area during Kharif (the summer harvest) and 14% during Rabi, the winter harvest. Agricultural production in the district depends completely on the amount and timing of rainfall.

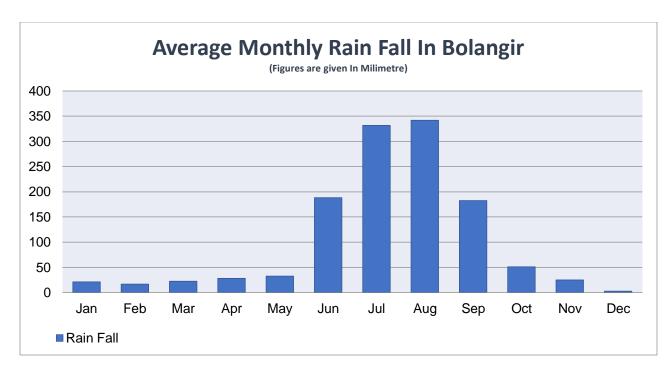
In Bolangir, the landless agriculture workers and the marginal farmers are affected the most in a drought situation. Incessant drought damages land and other assets in the village and render them unproductive for many years. Damage due to drought occur to the agricultural land, grazing or rangeland, and forest land, thereby affecting the resources flow, loss of topsoil, loss of soil nutrients by leaching, decrease in water holding capacity of the soil etc.

### i. Irrigation

Bolangir, located in western Orissa has a geographical area of 6,552 sq km was once an agriculturally rich district, is a haven of disasters now with hardly any irrigation infrastructure in place. Over 75% of the sown area is dependent on rainfall that too only for a single crop. Although the average rainfall is about 1382 mm, the rains are erratic. Deficit rainfall and a variation of its distribution in time and space frequently result in crop loss. There has been a reduction in the total amount rainfall in this district over a period of time. The district has a long history of water scarcity. In the past 100 years, there have been four backbone-breaking droughts in the year 1900, 1965, 1996 and 2000. The frequency of drought has increased to a cycle of almost alternative year since the 80s. Recurring drought has led to large-scale distress migration in which poor and vulnerable people, mainly from the 'lower' castes meet exploitation and injustice for the arduous work that they do for survival.

#### ii. Rainfall

The economy of Bolangir district is basically agrarian. However, agriculture in about 75% of the sown area is dependent on rainfall. Nearly 80% of Bolangir's rainfall comes from the southwest Monson between the months of June and September. In the post Monsoon period i.e October and November some showers occur.



From the above it can be seen that the rainfall is significantly low during June and October when the long duration paddy crop requires critical watering. The rain in October at the time of grain formation of the crop is a critical factor-affecting crop substantially.

### iii. Socio-Economic Analysis

The situation in Bolangir district is particularly bad. The district is one of the most drought-prone regions in the country, with hardly any irrigation infrastructure in place. The landless agriculture workers and the marginal farmers are affected the most in a drought situation. The latter resort to distress mortgaging or selling of their little yet precious land (also other household articles) to none other than the big farmers who are also labour contractors and migrate out along with their families (including school going children, especially girls) to far off places like the brick Kilns in Andhra Pradesh, construction sites in Maharastra and for riskshaw pulling in Chattisgarh in search of wage employment.

While the elders migrate out due to poverty and debt, they drag along their school going children, forcing them to drop out of education. About 45% of the total enrolled children drop out to join their parents in their economic pursuit to far off places. Though villages in Bolangir still practice caste-based community living, when it comes to depleting sources of livelihood, there is no sharing and caring. Families, which barely manage to access food for eight months a year and cannot, afford to feed even a single extra mouth. So, the migrating parents cannot even think of leaving their children and infants behind with relatives and neighbors. Incessant

A picture of 1990s , where few farmers of Gandharla GP are trying dig the hard soil, in a drought affected area

drought damages land and other assets in the village and render them unproductive for many years. Damage due to drought occur to the agricultural land, grazing or rangeland, and forest



land, thereby affecting the resources flow, loss of topsoil, loss of soil nutrients by leaching, decrease in water holding capacity of the soil etc. In villages labor is pooled in order to carryout agricultural activities. Labour is exchanged in various other activities such as construction of

houses, thatching the house etc, however drought leads to loss of such a system. Also they maintain traditional grain banks from where a member in need can take grain loans at the time of need and can return in easy installment. Also many traditional practices lead to the conservation of natural resources. Social sanctions and traditional conventions regulate use natural resources in a village. However due to drought the consequent food insecurity problems these social sanctions and traditional conventions are over ruled.

Drought thus causes economic, social, psychological and political misery to the poor. Working under unhygienic conditions results in health degeneration, forced separation from family members which causes mental stress and remaining away from the villages for a fairly long time excludes the poor people from the decision making process and political participation in the village. Here agriculture continues to remain as the primary source of livelihood in the district. But since agriculture is dependent on the vagaries of rainfall, and due to inadequate irrigation facilities leads to crop loss resulting in large scale unemployment and distress migration. So in the absence of any alternative means of livelihood, hundreds of people from this region have been migrating to urban areas and neighboring Andhra Pradesh, Maharshtra and chandigarh in search of work and food. So Migration remains and considered as the major problem for bolangir. There is no alternative, because of unavailability of water resources and rain, after harvesting their crops in 6 months, basically villagers became jobless for another 6 Months. That's why hundreds of peoples are migrating every year for to full-fill the needs of their family and Hunger. There is no alternate, either they have to choose migration to metro's with their family and childrens or they have to face poverty and hunger for the next year.

### Scenario of Drought

Drought 2015-16 has affected more than 330 million people in more than 2.5 lakh villages of 266 districts from 11 states. It has had a devastating impact on people's lives as it affected water availability, agriculture, livelihoods, food production and food security, natural resources and also put a huge burden on exchequer.

Odisha receives 80% of the rainfall during the monsoon months from June-September. Of late, the quantum and distribution of rainfall over time and space has tended to be deficient, erratic and uneven. The rainfall deficiency in the monsoon season varied from 26% to 36%, seven times during the last 35 years causing severe droughts and crop loss. Droughts in Odisha generally occur during the *Kharif* season and are harmful mainly to the paddy crop. In the past years, the *Kharif* crop received more rains due to low pressure than from the monsoons. In years of poor rainfall, even irrigated areas also suffer due to insufficient storage in the reservoirs.

As in other emergencies, a great part of the most vulnerable population who are directly affected by drought comprised of women and children. The household coping strategies include temporary separations among family members. As men are often compelled to move in search of alternative means of survival, women and children are left behind in food-scarce areas, with no food relief from any side. Drought crisis is now having devastating effects on people's capacity to recover and re-establish a sustainable productive balance. Assets have been depleted, rights to land surrendered, and the stocks have been decimated.

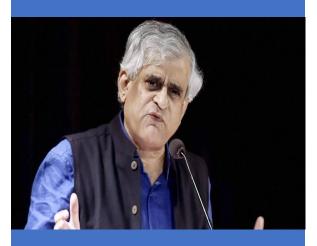
On Oct 29, 2015, the Special Relief Commissioner of the state informed that the government had received 41 reports of farmer suicides from across the state. An inquiry into the suicides reported "mainly family disputes and excessive liquor consumption" for causing the deaths of the farmers. The Odisha government refused to link the suicides to crop failure. By mid March 2016, the official number of farmer suicides since the kharif season of 2015 had gone up to 174. However, the government continued to insist that none of the suicides was linked to crop loss and they were due to causes like illness, heart attack, mental disturbance, drug addiction and family quarrel. Failure of crops due to drought and growing indebtedness are the main reasons for farmer distress and suicide. According to media reports Over 3600 farmers have committed suicide in Odisha between 1999 and 2013. Farm distress in Odisha worsened this year after the kharif crop was severely impacted by scanty rainfall in July and August. According to the official records, crop area of 21.6 lakh ha is affected, out of which at least 14.82 lakh ha. in 233 blocks

in 27 districts have suffered losses over 33%. Though drought is not a new phenomenon in western Odisha and it is common knowledge that in a year like this damage to the crop could be avoided to a great extent by increasing irrigation cover, successive Governments in the State have not been able to do the needful.

In 2016- there was an extensive migration of the family's along-with their children and old people. Although seasonal migration was a common phenomenon in the west Odisha but the male member of the family would only go and then the rest of the family would stay at home. But this year the trend is just changed. Normally the people used to migrate after Nuakhai but this year the migration started much before this festival.

Some of the reasons that were analyzed to be the main cause of the drought are:

- a. Rains: The western Odisha did not have rains for two consecutive years. Normally the expected rainfall is 1300-mm average the rainfall was around 500-600 mm. Due to this the underground water table went very low which was one of the major causes of drought.
- b. This condition of low water has resulted in huge crop loss, which may be around 90% 96%.
- c. The faulty cropping pattern is also one of the reasons of the drought conditions. Normally Paddy is not suitable for the uplands whereas crops like ragi, millets are but this is not being practiced. Rather the communities are into the practice of growing paddy crops which requires too much of water and also it is unsuccessful.



Rainfall deficit alone may not be blamed for the recent crisis of water shortage, crop losses and resultant plight of wage seekers, farmers, women and children who suffered either in villages or while migrating to urban centers under distress and in search of work and water. It has been the cumulative result of major lapses in our policy and practices for the past few decades, in relation to neglect and encroachment of water bodies and commons, exploitation of ground water, water governance, land use patterns, cropping choices, priority for mega dams and negligence of minor irrigation, use and production models of power sector, management and conservation of forests, environment and bio diversity...all these factors had contributed to the recent predicament of the drought.

"At least 10 states in India are in the grip of a drought, will not be relieved by a good monsoon. For this "mega water crisis" is at least twenty years in the making",

**P. Sainath**- a renowned journalist and policy analyst.

#### The Background of WHS Management Initiative

The Western Odisha is experiencing one of the severest drought conditions in the last 100 years. Although Drought is a common phenomenon in the western Odisha due to its soil conditions and non-availability of water but the situation became worse since there were no rains for two consecutive years. The conditions of drought has severely paralyzed the already poverty stricken people of western Odisha especially in Bolangir district, and block like Bongomunda especially. There is a huge crop loss and since the people did not have a good crop the previous two seasons due to very less rainfall the food stocks have totally emptied. This has resulted in large-scale migrations as well as created a situation where the women and children suffer more than anyone else. The specter of drought is strikingly visible in the non-irrigated high land areas of the tribal dominated western Odisha districts with the kharif crop suffering severe damage due to highly deficient rainfall. With the chances of harvest gone, paddy fields in the worst hit areas have been thrown open for cattle grazing.

By looking forward these problems AJSA under the IGSSS came forward to address the challenges related to water scarcity in Bongomunda and the WHS management was initiated. Under the programme 3 water harvesting structures has been constructed in pilot basis. Which will directly provide irrigation to 141.04-acre land in the coming crop seasons.

# WHS Management Initiative at a Glance

Villages Covered- 3

Households Covered- 1078

Population Covered - 2896

Total Male- 1573

Total Female- 1323



### About the Initiative

In the operational villages, the water sank to low level at an earlier date in 2016 and the tube-wells became non-usable with water flowing only occasionally. It is learnt that the water level in the area has sunk to at least 50 feet lower in the last five years. There are 5 ponds in Gandharla, sundhimunda and batharla villages (where the project has been implemented), but the water is unsuitable for drinking, more so following the drought. So, in order to fetch water the women folk needs to walk to "oonder" river flowing 2 km away from the village. They often go to the river to fetch water at least 4 times a day, even in scorching sun. But with the drought even the river became dry compelling them to collect water by digging ditches in the sand in the dry bed of the river. There is a pond 4 to 5 kms away where clean water is available. But that would mean too much physical labor for women. Moreover, because they also go to the forest to collect edible roots as there is the shortage of food grains to consume. Men from these families have migrated in search of work opportunities.

Every year all ponds, rivers and wells becomes dry during the summer sessions, sometimes even before that. Though it creates number of problems for people and livestocks. It was not only all about the situation of drinking water or household needs, but also in the prevailing situation, no amount of rain were in the position to save the crop in the high land areas. There was long felt need to renovate the water harvesting structures which will not only address the above said problems, but also it will create a positive visible impact in the livelihood scenario of the migrant communities of the villages. And now the need has been full filled through emergency drought response programme of AJSA and IGSSS. Now 3 WHSs of gandharla, sundhimunda and batharla has been constructed and renovated. Which will not only provide irrigation, but also it will help the entire villagers from severe water scarcity, of these 3 drought prone villages of Bongomunda, which has always been a center of debate for development discourse and problems like drought and migration. Now, the farmers and villagers of the said villages got relief because, there will be no water scarcity in the upcoming years.

Since AJSA has been working very closely with Govt. and it has been working on MGNREGA for its successful implementation since last 10 years, though AJSA is now giving special emphasize to replicate the same models, by creating advocacy on MGNREGA in the other drought prone villages.



### **Target Group and Working Area:**

AJSA has targeted all the people who were affected by the drought irrespective of any caste, creed or religion. The project has been implemented in 3 Villages of 2 Grampanchayts, of Bongomunda block in Bolangir District. The direct number of beneficiaries Households is 352 including 1773 population and around 1136 persons are indirectly impacted through this intervention.

#### **POPULATION DATA OF OPERATIONAL VILLAGES**

S L	Villages	Household Details		SCs		STs		Others		Male	Fema le
N		Househ old	Person s	House hold	Perso ns	Househ old	Persons	House hold	Perso ns		
1	Batharla	285	758	18	62	166	429	101	267	394	364
2	GANDHARLA	673	1534	157	370	121	301	395	863	861	673
3	Sundhimunda	120	604	35	152	20	110	65	343	318	286
	Total:	1078	2896	210	584	307	837	561	1473	1573	1323

# Activities Undertaken By AJSA

### 1.Community Consultation-

Initially community consultation meetings were organised by AJSA in Batharla, Gandharla and sundhimunda villages, to seek the villagers view and opinion on the WHS renovation work. The major objective behind this meetings was to ensure community members participation in entire process of HWS renovation. Followed by that-the WHS renovation work was started, during the entire process community members were



A community consultation meeting near Garndharla

participated whole-heartedly. And they had helped AJSA team members during demarcation process and renovation work.

During the process, the team members of AJSA found that- there was a huge demand for renovation and construction of WHS. Since it will create huge impact in the socio-economic scenario of these areas, though the idea of renovation of Water Harvesting Structures was widely appreciated among the communities.

### 2. Construction of Water Harvesting Structures

Under this project 3 water harvesting structures has been created and renovated of 3 drought prone villages of bongomunda block in Bolangir District. Before the initiation of work, the team members found that all the 3 WHSs water has been evaporated in the month of January 2016 itself and the soil became too hard. During the work few large rocks were also found in two of the work site, which was removed by using machines, later on. All three WHS has been constructed in a 100x150 ft. approx. area land. The excavation of soil and excavation of rocks and was done till 10 to 15 foot in each tank, depending upon the water source and soil type from the above said areas. The proposed project will address the water scarcity problems not only for farmers but also for local women and villagers. And it will be a source of water for all time including summer session, when the area faces most water scarcity related problems. The entire process has been done in equal participation of the local community members. And they have contributed the programme by donating labor, during excavation of soil from the water harvesting structure and cleaning and dressing of the WHS. AJSA has created Transparency boards in each WHS site for proper communication and transparency.



WHS construction work near Sundhimunda, Malpada



### **BEFORE AND AFTER CONSTRUCTION WORK PHOTOGRAPHS**



Photograph of Before Initiation of Work at Site-1 (Khinbasa tank), Village Name- Batharla



Photograph of After Completation of Work at Site-1 (Khinbasa tank), Village Name- Batharla



Photograph of Before Initiation of Work at Site-2 (Malmunda tank), Village Name- Sundhimunda, malpada



Photograph of after completation of Work at Site-2 (Malmunda tank), Village Name- Sundhimunda, malpada



Photograph of Before Initiation of Work at Site-3 (Dihili tank), Village Name-Gandhar he Journey Towards Drought Resilient Villages



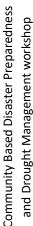
Photograph of after completation of Work at Site-3 (Dihili tank), Village Name- Gandharla  $15 \mid P \text{ a g e}$ 

\*Disclaimer- these are actual site photographs, which has been captured before and after completation of WHS construction work. This is being expected that at-least 10-15 feet water will be available, in the newly constructed ponds-during the upcoming summer& drought sessions.

### **3.Community Based Disaster Preparedness:**

### i-Panchayat Level Disaster Preparedness and Drought Management workshop

In order to evolve a long-term strategy and develop a community based coping mechanism





for the disasters, especially for slow-onset disasters like drought, a Community Based Disaster Preparedness and Drought Management workshop was organsied by AJSA on 30<sup>th</sup> march 2017, at AJSA Sundhimunda, OFFICE. The workshop was attended by more than 80 community leaders of 3 panchayats. The training was inaugurated by Sri. Sudarshan Chotroyeminent journalist and expert of DRR and Mr.Sushant ku Dash, Block Development

officer of Bongomunda and sri- Bhutesh Meher- programme officer of Lokadrusti.

During the workshop the emerging problems of Drought and migration was discussed and debated. In the 1st session Sri. Sudarshan Chotroy- highlighted the basic concepts, terminology and models of disaster risk management. And also, guided the participants on Planning and developing effective strategies and systems for disaster risk reduction especially for disasters like drought. And Sri. meher and Sri. Dash expressed how to- Develop effective processes for preparedness planning in order to improve disaster response and recovery program. The workshop also highlighted existing creative practices and coping mechanisms which is being used by the communities, during the time of drought. The second session workshop was devoted to open house discussions drought management. The intent was also to spell out possible ways by which Community members could use the WHS and the local available resources, to address the problems of drought.

#### ii- Formation of WUA and VDMC

3 water user association and disaster management committees has been formed by AJSA, in Sundhimunda, Gnadharla and batharla village. In each of village separate resolutions were

made in the presence of members committee roles the and and responsibilities of the WUA and VDMC was clearly discussed with The WUA them. members are mutually agreed to take-care of the newly constructed WHS and also agreed to leverage funds for its maintenance through MGNREGA work.



Meeting of WUA and VDMC Members in Gandharla village

### **4.Convergence with Government Programmes**

After the construction of WHS in 3 villages, the villagers got together to identify different things to do for the WHS. These were documented in the village micro plans which were approved in the *palli sabha* and resources were mobilised from ongoing government programmes like MGRNREGA. While the overall initiatives were led by the community itself, the role of AJSA was restricted to facilitation and handholding support.

Results -One of the major outcomes of the process was building transformative capacities of the communities. These capacities got reflected through various outputs such as construction of Guard wall in the newly constructed WHS and stairs for WHS etc. within 1 to 2 month times, all 3 WHS will have the Guards-walls and stairs for the WHS. The VDMC and WUA are now giving special emphasize to further work on these WHS by mobilsing resources from MGNREGA. As per the request from the community members AJSA has mobilized 50 Krushak Bandhu paddle pumps for interested farmers through horticulture and agriculture department.



Construction of Guard wall near newly constructed WHS (site 2 -Sundhimunda Village , Malmuda tank)

Distribution of KB pumps by the Guests during the Disaster Preparedness workshop

### 5. Outcomes

### A. Increased water availability-

In the upcoming years, the newly constructed WHSs will create a positive impact on water availability in the proposed villages both in agriculture and animal husbandry purpose which will reduce the migration ratio of the prosed villages. As well it will provide a great relief to the affected communities during upcoming drought/summer session. Especially it will help them to use the water for bathing and household purpose alongwith agriculture purpose.

### B. Impact on agriculture and animal husbandry

In Sundhimunda, batharla and gandharla villages, increased surface and groundwater will translate into significant economic gains, especially from the Rabi crop. In the above said villages, farmers will be advised to ensure cash crops due to assured water availability leading to an increase in agricultural income. Simillarly wastelands will be used for agriculture purpose. As well as- Increased water availability will lead to change in livestock composition towards more cattle and therefore a greater income. Construction of water harvesting structures on grazing plateau will also lead to an increase in water and fodder availability in grazing lands.

### C. Other positive spin-offs

There will be chances of significant reduction in drudgery of women in fetching water, fuel wood and fodder. This project will lead to a release of social capital in the proposed villages.

# Way Forward

A long term sustainable development plan and governance of natural resources with most marginalised communities at the core focus with a rights frame work over relief, rehabilitation and development would provide lasting solution for overcoming drought. Drought is not yet over and will come back, may be with more frequency and intensity if we do not learn lessons from a very bitter experience.

Resilience is the ability of women and men to realize their rights and improve their well -being, despite shocks, stresses and uncertainties. The unmet needs of the community reduce its capacity to recover and aggravate poverty and vulnerabilities. Investments on mainstreaming DRR in local development plans can not only prevent and mitigate disaster impacts but can also enhance the absorptive capacities of the vulnerable communities. Programmatic investments are also significantly low as compared to the post-disaster interventions and hence could be viable options for resource optimisation as well. Interlinkages with the local governance structures are mutually beneficial and lead to sustainable outcomes.

Renovation of WHS is wonderful and life-saving idea for the drought prone areas like Western Odisha, which can directly and indirectly create huge impact on thousands of lives, in a positive way. Water harvesting and recharge of ground water, protection, reclaiming and developing water bodies should be given highest priority and integrated in all related works of Drought Management. This has to happen with the participation and leadership of the communities by integrating their traditional knowledge.

# Acknowledgements

AJSA is grateful to the many individuals, institutions who have been associated with us during the emergency drought management programme and construction of WHS in bongomunda block of Bolangir. We express our appreciation and thank each of them Especially the District, block administarion and PRI members.

Special thanks must go to IGSSS (Indo-Global Social Service Society) for supporting this wonderful initiative in the drought prone areas of Bolangir district. The perceptive guidance and timely assistance provided by Mr. Basant Panigrahi, state programme officer of IGSSS and Ms. Sukanya Chatterjee, Manager East of IGSSS is highly acknowledged, we are also grateful to Mr. Sanjay Pani for the financial guidance during our work.

We extend our gratitude to the hundreds of people of Sundhimunda, Gandharla and Batharla Village, who have contributed to the progression of sustainable development initiatives in their own areas, including our members of WUA and VDMC. You are a constant source of inspiration and invigoration. We think, all our efforts would have remained incomplete without your active participation in our activities. Special thanks must go to the entire team of AJSA, our work has been enriched by their sincere efforts.

### **About - IGSSS**

Indo-Global Social Service Society (IGSSS) is a non-profit organisation working with the



mandate for a humane social order based on truth, justice, freedom and equity. Established in 1960, IGSSS works for development, capacity building and enlightenment of the vulnerable communities across the country

for their effective participation in development.

With its presence in 25 states and one Union Territory of India, IGSSS has set its thematic focus on promoting sustainable livelihood, energising the youth as change makers, protecting lives, livelihood and assets from the impact of hazards, advocating for the rights of City Makers (Homeless Residents) and developing cadre of leaders from the community and civil society

### **About - AJSA**

AJSA is a grass root level rights-based non-government and not-for-profit organisation based



in the state of Odisha in India. Facilitating community development initiatives since 1989, working towards the root cause of Poverty and eliminating social injustice and for the down trodden and under privileged section in the remotest part of the country. It is a nonpolitical, non-profit motive social development organization involved in sustainable development initiatives since inception.

AJSA was formed by local poor people of bongomnuda block in the bolangir district, to work for the socio-economic development of small and marginal farmers, landless labor, agricultural labor, bonded labor as well as women, children and other weaker deprived sections of the society. The vision of the organization is to draw upon grass root level workers, volunteers, and suppressed people of the society and work with them to create awareness for sustainable development through constructive work and struggles. The spheres of its work are governed by issues related to livelihood security, health, education, Natural Resource Management and Disaster Risk Reduction etc.





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