

Annual Report 2013-14



Laya



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President's Note

Laya completed 25 years of its eventful journey of working with the disadvantaged and marginalized communities. Its underlying philosophy throughout its journey has been to create a socially just and humane society for the marginalized groups, to live in dignity and with an identity of their own. To this end, we, at Laya have been working with the adivasi communities, women, youth, and lower income urban neighbourhoods. Our strategies have been empowering these communities and groups through their participation to understand their situation and find their voice to resist injustice and exploitation forced on them.

A common thread that goes through all these strategic initiatives - be it encouraging natural resource management, promoting sustainable agriculture or forest regeneration initiatives, or capacity building in eco-education - is sustainable development through empowering people. In the process Laya has built certain core competencies such as knowledge building, capacity building of youth and women, and advocacy. The Annual Report provides an overview of activities under these areas.

Of late, the dangers of climate change are looming large on human society, though nations and communities are still debating about their reality. There is increasing evidence to show that the globe is getting warmer, mainly due to greenhouse gas emissions which are directly associated with the human activity. With the advent of the industrial revolution, the shift in the economic production from agriculture to industry has played a significant role in creating today's condition of the earth's atmosphere. Even though the threats posed by global warming are becoming evident in the day-to-day life, we are currently suffering with a paralysis which is preventing many of us to initiate concrete action to arrest them. Anthony Giddens in his book: *the Politics of Climate Change* described this complex phenomenon as the *Giddens's paradox* which captures what appears to be humanity's multidimensional inertia regarding the changes needed to fight climate change.

Giddens's paradox affects almost every aspect of our current reactions to climate change. For many of us climate change is 'a back-of-the-mind issue rather than a front-of-the-mind one'. That is the reason why only a few are willing to change their lifestyles in any significant manner to counter the climate change. I am happy that we at Laya thought about this way back in 1996 and have taken up climate change as a key issue. Laya's work with INECC (Indian Network on Ethics and Climate Change), and its engagement with the issues of climate change from grassroots' perspective with an emphasis on people's voices have been articulated during the last few years. Its work on decentralized energy options is one of the innovative initiatives in this direction. I am confident that Laya would work toward developing more such viable options not only in energy area but also in finding out sustainable life styles which are environment- friendly.

Currently NGOs are going through difficult times in terms of their sustainability, and in continuing their engagement with the causes for which they stood for, without

compromising their values. Laya is not an exception to this. In fact, we at Laya are exploring creative ways of organizational sustainability during this period of transition.

To my mind, what is unique to Laya is its rights-based perspective, resilience, evidence-based programmatic framework with a focus on the marginalized groups, transparency, and its underlying value framework. This will continue despite the changing times.

B. Devi Prasad
President

Executive Director's Note

We are glad to present our annual report for 2013 – 2014. The report highlights the key activities that were taken up last year and their achievements in the two dimensions of our overall engagement: safeguarding human rights especially land rights of adivasi communities and demonstrating sustainable development initiatives at the grassroots level.

On addressing human rights issues, one of the key units of Laya, Resource for Legal Action has largely been involved in facilitating access to the legal system to ensure repossession of lands to adivasi communities, and take up public interest litigations, writ petitions and bails in favour of adivasis. Last year RLA was successful in 360 cases covering acreage of 1896 acres which include land entitlements for 99 women. Various meetings and events throughout the year were organised to reach out to various groups of adivasis for legal awareness, education and training. Socio economic entitlements especially in relation to ensuring social security schemes such as widow pensions, old age pensions, application for issuance of ration and job cards etc as well as local governance issues on access to basic amenities were facilitated.

On natural resource management sustainable agriculture initiatives such as development of homesteads, system of rice intensification on slope lands, promotion of kitchen gardens and vegetable cultivation, horticulture were strengthened. Water related initiatives for irrigation, drinking water and promotion of fisheries were facilitated. Steps for forest regeneration and NTFP activities such as seed dibbling and broom grass plantation, eco-system based education and capacity building were undertaken. Schemes for adivasi farmers from government departments were leveraged. The NRM unit was also engaged in a pilot action research initiative on low carbon farming. Additionally science and technology initiatives were promoted in organic farming and sustainable agriculture practices. The outreach was 34 panchayats in 7 mandals in East Godavari and Visakhapatnam districts

On decentralised energy options and climate change our work continued towards improving energy security for the vulnerable adivasi communities across the two districts of Visakhapatnam and East Godavari in Andhra Pradesh. We have been able to increase our outreach with regards to community access to decentralised energy technologies. Also to make agriculture more resilient to climate change we have initiated adaptive mechanisms in a remote adivasi pocket in East Godavari district by promoting drought resistant crops. We also initiated a community based carbon project in order to facilitate up scaling of efficient woodstoves, given their benefits particularly for adivasi women.

Our experience in community health care through herbal medicine in the past 15 years has demonstrated that it is affordable, reliable, efficient and accessible. We continued our interventions relating to promoting health care at local level, providing treatment to approximately 6700 patients through community health centres, centres at market places and need-based health camps in collaboration with the AYUSH Department. We also promoted herbal gardens which nurture plant resources and are aid training processes.

Underlying the sustainable development demonstrative activities is the empowerment process with young adivasi men and women. Its specific objectives are to nurture adivasi young men and women for their self-development as well as on the development concerns of their communities. The overall perspective of the activities is to promote value based leadership potential among youth in the region. The outreach has been mainly 4 adivasi populated districts of Andhra Pradesh: East Godavari, Visakhapatnam, Vizianagaram, and Srikakulam. Last year we were intensively engaged in highlighting youth's role and participation in the local governance elections; worked with youth leaders in promoting good governance in the Panchayat Raj institutions; and engaged with government departments on policy issues, especially related to MGNREGA, FRRRA. We facilitated institutional building processes through our engagement with Community Based Groups (CBO), and Village Level Committees (VLC). Some of the specific initiatives included literacy for leadership, herbal based health care and climate change.

Another cross sector engagement has been our documentation process which focuses on building an alternative database on issues and through programmes and activities. We disseminated information to remote areas on one hand and attempted to sharpen the thrust of our intervention by influencing policy on the other. Documentation, field based studies and publications of relevant materials, continued as a priority depending on the need and purpose of involvement.

Campaign activities addressed local issues as well as issues in the region. The Resource for Legal Action (RLA) Unit was mainly involved in specific policy issues and campaign activity. This involved a State level campaign for implementation of PESA Act held for creation of District Panchayats in the Scheduled Areas at Hyderabad as well as representations to local authorities on ensuring land rights of adivasi communities and other issues linked to community concerns. The Youth and Women Empowerment Unit facilitated a campaign for responsible involvement in Panchayat Raj elections in Srikakulam and Vizianagaram districts.

Laya's collaborative work and experiential sharing with other likeminded people and other civil society organizations was continued: APVVU, ASDS, Andhra University, HRF, NAPM, different public and private Forums, NGO networks, Film societies, Government departments like DRDA, etc. There was also collaboration with government agencies related to agriculture: State Horticulture Mission, Integrated Adivasi Development Agency, and High Altitude Adivasi Zone RARS, Chintapalli.

Apart from the networking processes that were initiated at the unit level last year Laya was intensively associated with, **Indian Network on Ethics and Climate Change (INECC)**, a national network, which has been engaging with the issue of Climate Change from a grassroots' perspective; and the **Asia South Pacific Association for Basic and Adult Education (ASPBAE)**, a regional network that works towards promoting quality education for all comprising 4 sub-regions: South Asia, East Asia, South East Asia and the Pacific; and the **Fair Climate Network (FCN)**, which facilitates and capacitates grassroots entities to

develop pro-poor CDM Projects in India and tap carbon resources for the sustainable development of the poorest of the poor.

In the last several years there has been a concerted focus on organisational governance, particularly by strengthening the accountability systems within the organization. As a general management strategy of the organization, a relatively small core of personnel manages a wide outreach through a network with CBOs and collaborative relationships with other NGOs. There have been several discussions within the Board of Management on the roles of the Board and the Executive within the organisational context. All the Board members are professionally qualified and have wide experience in the field of development. Last year two strategic meetings of Laya were held and three Board of Management meetings. Our new office supported by the kind cooperation of one of our key partners Misereor, Germany was inaugurated on June 24, 2013.

We also undertook a focused self-evaluation in January 2014 and experienced an external evaluation in February 2014. The main results of the self-evaluation reaffirmed the overall policy framework of Laya to safeguard human rights of adivasis on natural resources and demonstrate sustainable development alternatives to achieved economic and social security. The challenge was to examine all the programmes and activities of Laya in this context.

The external evaluators had this to say of the organisation: “The evaluation established that the organization is professionally run, works on the basis of clearly defined programmes arrived at through a systematic process, uses established, comprehensible procedures, both operational and financial, and continuously compares results achieved with the goals set earlier. The criteria of effectiveness, efficiency and sustainability are embedded in the strategic planning as well as in the reporting process”.

We endeavour to continue to work in this direction.....

Nafisa Goga D’Souza
Executive Director

1 VISION AND MISSION

OUR VISION

We envisage a socially just and humanized society where the marginalized communities find space for survival with dignity.

OUR MISSION

Empower marginalized communities to assert their rights and to facilitate relevant alternatives at the grassroots level.

OBJECTIVES

- ☞ Empower communities to respond to human rights violations, mainly in the adivasi context;
- ☞ Facilitate sustainable development initiatives at various levels within the larger climate change perspective;
- ☞ Develop capacities of various target groups, especially youth and women;
- ☞ Build strategic alliances with other organizations/networks and educational institutions for social development;
- ☞ Develop an alternative database through research and documentation to educate, influence policy and support local initiatives.

KEY FACILITATING UNITS

- ☞ Human Rights
- ☞ Herbal based Health Care
- ☞ Natural Resource Management
- ☞ Science and Technology
- ☞ Empowerment of Youth and Women
- ☞ Decentralized Energy Options and Climate Change
- ☞ Alternative Data Generation and Documentation

2 CONTEXT AND EVOLUTION

The adivasis of Andhra Pradesh are mainly located in 9 districts in the northern Andhra Pradesh region, which is part of a larger adivasi region comprising contiguous areas of South Orissa, South Chhattisgarh and Eastern Maharashtra. This entire region is rich in natural resources - water, forests and minerals. The major issue affecting the adivasis in this region is displacement and land alienation. The region's high natural resource base is under threat by indiscriminate multiple market demands from agri-business, mining, hydro-power, etc. The special protective laws in the Scheduled Areas do not prevent violation of the rights of the adivasis: lack of access and control over natural resources; threat to livelihood; inadequate basic infrastructure for survival; lack of access to basic health and education; and threat to their identity. The nature of violations becomes more and more complex in an environment, which is more and more exposed to market forces.

3 GEOGRAPHICAL COVERAGE

Laya's geographical spread for its interventions is the adivasi belt of North Andhra Pradesh with an outreach to the adivasi areas of South Orissa and Chhattisgarh. Our direct engagement is mainly confined to the adivasi pockets of two districts: Visakhapatnam and East Godavari. Laya's broader outreach is achieved through collaborating with adivasi leaders, networking with peoples' institutions and adivasi led community based organizations.

Geographical Location of Laya's work



4 THE DEVELOPMENT CONTEXT

MAHATMA GANDHI NATIONAL RURAL EMPLOYMENT GUARANTEE ACT, 2005

The MGNREGA 2005 is intended to provide right to employment on demand and creation of durable assets. The biggest lapse is the failure of timely wage payments. Though the Act provides for payment of wages after 15 days of work, this rarely happens. During the last one year due to changes in smart card payment agencies, there was considerable delay. There is also lack of clarity on when the works will be started, although the Act mandates start of work in within 15 days on the request of group of work seekers. They completely depend on the field assistant or 'mate' to get the work started. A major portion of earmarked funds are diverted for construction of roads instead of creating durable assets like watershed infrastructure, land reclamation, land development, etc. The quality of work is such it is often not visible in the next season or at the time of the social audit.

ACCESS TO FORESTS

The implementation of Scheduled Tribes and Other Traditional Forest Dwellers (Recognition of Forest Rights) Act, 2006 has come to a grinding halt due to lack of priority and will of the State Government. In November 2013, the Ministry of Adivasi Affairs, Government of India held that the grant of Community Forestry Rights (CFR) titles to the Forest Protection Committees (VSS) is illegal and it directed the Principal Chief Conservator of Forests to withdraw it. However the State Government is dillydallying in nullifying the CFR titles. The Governor of Andhra Pradesh was requested to intervene and protect the forest rights of adivasis. What is disheartening is that the number of rejections of the claims under the Act has increased: 67 percent of the total claims of adivasis in West Godavari District were rejected, pushing the district in to the first position in the rejections list in the Scheduled Areas. Worse still, of 33 percent of the total claims allowed, forest land titles were only distributed to 17 percent of the individual claimants, permitting each claimant to hold an average of Ac 2.22 against legal permissible limit of Ac.10. East Godavari stood in the second position in the case of total rejections with a record of 58 percent of the total claims. Several appeals filed challenging the rejection of individual claims have been pending for last three years.

THREAT OF DISPLACEMENT BY POLAVARAM DAM

The threat of dispossession and displacement due to Polavaram Project has further intensified due to the bifurcation of the State. One of the 32 amendments to the Andhra Pradesh Reorganization Bill is the transfer of the villages in Khammam district, which would be submerged on account of Polavaram project to the residuary Andhra Pradesh state. The

amendment seeks to transfer all the villages of the mandals of Kukunoor, Veleirpadu, Burgampadu, Chintoor, Kunavaram, and Vararamachandrapuram to the new state of Andhra Pradesh. All villages of Bhadrachalam mandal except revenue village of Bhadrachalam comprising Temple of Lord Rama also are proposed to be transferred. The proposed amendment lacks consent of the Adivasi Advisory Council. Historically the Scheduled Area of Khammam district has been part of the state of Hyderabad and the Koya identity is disturbed if they are divided into two states. In fact the Government is struggling to provide rehabilitation and resettlement to the project affected adivasi families in both the East and West Godavari districts. The problem is compounded by the amendment to the law transferring the Scheduled villages of Khammam district to the residuary Andhra Pradesh. Representations have been made to the President of India and the Governor of Andhra Pradesh to reverse the Union cabinet decision.

PANCHAYAT RAJ INSTITUTIONS

The implementation of Panchayat Extension to Scheduled Area (PESA) Act 1996 is yet to commence in the Scheduled Areas of Andhra Pradesh. In September 2013, the Commissioner of Adivasi Welfare notified the list of Gram Sabhas to be operationalized. However, the district administration has failed to do so. For example, no Gram Sabha is in operation as per the notification in the Scheduled Area of East Godavari District. Defying the provisions of PESA Act, all the 11 Zilla Parishad Territorial Constituency (ZPTC) seats in the Paderu Scheduled Area Division in Visakhapatnam district have been opened for non- adivasis. Thus none of the ZPTCs in this Scheduled Area Division is reserved for Scheduled Tribes. Similarly out of 7 seats in the Scheduled Area Division of East Godavari District, only one was reserved for Scheduled Tribe. The very purpose of the PESA Act is defeated by giving berths to non- adivasis in the local governance. Adivasis have filed Writ Petitions challenging the election notification issued by the District Administration.

BAUXITE MINING IN SCHEDULED AREAS

The issue of handing over the forest land to an extent of 1212 ha from Jerrela Hills to the AnRak Aluminium Company for bauxite mining, as part of the bauxite supply agreement entered by the Government of Andhra Pradesh, is hanging in balance in the light of Tribal Advisory Council decision opposing the bauxite mining during its meeting held in March 2013. The Government has not yet confirmed individual or community titles under Forest Rights Recognition Act to adivasi communities in the bauxite mining areas of Visakhapatnam district. The mining is to be operated by the state government to circumvent the ban on non- adivasi landownership. In fact, the state government has disregarded the huge environmental and social impact and popular protests against mining bauxite in the Jerrela Hills, inhabited almost exclusively by adivasis, who will be displaced.

TRIBAL SUB-PLAN

The Government has failed to implement the Scheduled Castes (SC) & Scheduled Tribes (ST) Sub-Plan Act 2013, which is intended for equity and accelerated adivasi development. Both SC & ST have separate panels for spending. The sub-plan was meant to prevent the government from diverting funds meant for SCs and STs to other programmes, which has historically been the case. The report of the Comptroller and Auditor General of India submitted to the legislature revealed that there was a big gap between the lofty objectives and the reality on the ground. While it was expected that all the government departments should earmark at least 6.6 per cent of their Plan outlay in the budget exclusively for the accelerated development of STs, the actual allotment was only 4 per cent for STs in 2012-13. For the fiscal year 2013-14, from the State Government sanctioned Rs.12,251 crores for SC & ST sub-plan, only Rs. 4,204 crore (34 %) has been spent as on January 14, 2014. The ST budget is Rs.3,666 crores of the total SC & ST sub-plan budget Rs.12,251 crores. If the adivasis have to benefit a closer budget analysis is necessary to goad the State Government for efficient and effective implementation of the legislation.

CLIMATE CHANGE AND ITS IMPLICATIONS AT THE GRASSROOTS LEVEL

There have been significant ecological impacts in as much as India has been hit by Climate Extremes - the landslide disaster in Uttarakand in June 2013 and the cyclone Phalin in Eastern and Southern India in October 2013 followed by 'Helen' and 'Leher', which have severely impacted the socio-economic and ecological landscape of the country. These disasters point to the need for urgent action on climate change; capacity building and resilience building of local communities, who are dependent on sensitive eco systems for their survival and livelihoods.

At the national level the change of the Environment Minister addressing issues of environment and Climate Change in favour of another Minister, who was more compliant to bypassing environmental norms does not portend well on India's approach to issues of environment in general and Climate Change in particular. The central issue is that the urgency of the problem is subsumed under vested interests of an elite minority in the Indian context. That climate change is not yet a priority issue was also evident from the fact that none of the manifestos of the mainstream political parties referred to the phenomenon as a key issue that India would need to address in the coming years.

It is with reference to this background that community action must be of extreme significance to contribute positively to a resilient building process at the grassroots level. Hence, there is a need for continued engagement with the community on issues of energy and sustainable agriculture to enhance the coping capacities of grassroots communities.

In this context Laya's work especially in collaboration with the Indian Network on Ethics and Climate Change (INECC) in the project areas has been highlighted in various sections of this report.

5 HIGHLIGHTS OF PROGRAMMES AND ACTIVITIES

5.1 SAFEGUARDING HUMAN RIGHTS OF ADIVASI COMMUNITIES



Adivasis assert land rights to the Mandal revenue Officer, Devipatnam mandal 24 May 13.

The livelihood and survival of adivasi communities is closely interlinked to their ownership and the sustainable use of natural resources. To address the threats to this intrinsic interrelationship, the Resource for Legal Action (RLA) Unit of Laya, has adopted a multi-pronged strategy across 6 districts: Srikakulam, Vizianagaram, Visakhapatnam, East Godavari, West Godavari and Khammam.

The Resource for Legal Action Unit:

- ☞ Facilitates access to justice through legal and other advocacy measures;
- ☞ Empowers adivasi communities through awareness and legal education;
- ☞ Generates data for advocacy and training on rights to natural resources;
- ☞ Promotes paralegals to play a vigilance role in safeguarding rights to natural resources.

ACCESSING JUSTICE THROUGH THE LEGAL SYSTEM

RLA has largely been involved in facilitating access to the legal system to ensure repossession of lands to adivasi communities, and take up public interest litigations, writ petitions and bails in favour of adivasis. The adivasi women have been given special attention in its engagement.

Type	Description
Land cases	Took up 711 legal cases - 360 were successful, covering an extent of 1859 acres, which include land entitlements for 99 women.
Public Interest Litigation	10 cases were taken up at the High Court related to adivasi land and forest rights issues.
Conversion of rights into productive assets	Right to Non-Timber Forest Produce (NTFP): Facilitated Pullangi Panchayat villagers in August 2013 to market their 50,000 bundles of broomsticks @Rs 60/bundle outside as compared to GCC's price @Rs 40/bundle. They also benefitted similarly when they sold 6000 kg of jafra @Rs.65 outside as compared to the GCC's price @ Rs. 45/kg. Both were done through the Grama Sabha resolutions.
Cases related to women	Extended legal support to women in 6 maintenance cases in East Godavari district. Also took up 6 cases related to matrimonial disputes under Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR) process.

EMPOWERING ADIVASI COMMUNITIES

Various meetings and events throughout the year were organised to reach out to various groups of adivasis for legal awareness, education and training.



Meeting at Rampachodavaram on 19th Dec-2013 with Sarpanches

Programme	Participation
38 legal education camps for adivasi youth on land rights, women's rights, human rights, Right to Information Act, Forest Rights Recognition Act, etc.	1663 adivasi youth attended: 842 women
46 village level legal awareness camps on PESA Act & Gram Sabhas	1434 adivasis participated: 747 women
25 Legal orientation Camps to CBOs/Women Groups in 25 villages	900 CBO representatives participated: 717 women

100 Gram Sabhas Facilitated for effective functioning of Gram Panchayats in East Godavari district.	5938 adivasis attended: 2640 women
15 meetings organised in 15 villages of East Godavari district to bring awareness on PESA Act.	522 adivasis participated: 239 women
International Women's Day was celebrated on March 8 at Kunavaram mandal, Khammam district and Buttaigudem mandal, West Godavari district	73 adivasi leaders participated: 27 women
104 sessions on Human Rights Education were taken up in 6 Ashram Schools in the agency division of Rampachodavaram	305 students attended: 90 boys and 215 girls
25 meetings were held to follow up of issues came during the developing of micro plans of 20 villages	1194 adivasis participated: male 663; female 531
One 2-day training input for adivasi advocates, who practice at the ITDA level. They are selected for training inputs and accompaniment to take up cases relating to adivasi issues. Through this linkage these advocates pursue cases at higher level courts: District Court and High Court.	23 adivasi advocates

ADVOCACY FOR SOCIO-ECONOMIC ENTITLEMENTS

LAND

- ☞ A survey done on podu (shifting) land cultivations in 1 village in East district: identified 16 adivasis with an extent of Ac. 38.06. Claims were made for land entitlements under Forest Rights Recognition Act 2006.
- ☞ Land development programme taken up in Ac 36.00 under IKP in Devaram village, Devipatnam mandal benefitting 18 adivasi families. Representations submitted to PO, ITDA, Rampachodavaram for payment of wages.
- ☞ A survey conducted on Other than Reserved Forests (ORF) lands in 10 villages of East and West Godavari districts: identified the rejected claims of 142 adivasi families under Forest Rights Recognition Act, covering land an extent of Ac. 721.08. Appeals filed before the Sub Divisional Level Committee, East Godavari District under Forest Rights Recognition Act.
- ☞ A survey on landless poor in 4 villages of Devipatnam mandal, East Godavari district: identified 59 landless adivasis with an extent of Ac.126.90 land. Facilitated the sanctioning of assigned lands to 39 landless adivasis to an extent of Ac. 80.90.



HEALTH

- ☞ Conducted 34 meetings to bring awareness among ICDS/Mothers' Committees' members of K. R. Puram mandal, West Godavari district and Kunavaram mandal, Khammam district on nutrition, health, etc: 966 women participated.

EDUCATION

- ☞ A survey carried out on school going children dropouts in 26 villages of Khammam, East and West Godavari districts: identified 125 drop outs (boys: 72 and girls: 53). Facilitated readmission of 87 drop outs (boys: 45 and girls: 42).

SOCIAL SECURITY SCHEMES/LOCAL GOVERNANCE ISSUES

- ☞ Identified 229 persons with physical disability from 87 villages of East, West Godavari and Khammam districts: facilitated representations to issue of identity cards to obtain government benefits - 24 sanctioned.
- ☞ Identified 573 households without ration cards in 97 villages of East, West and Khammam districts: Facilitated applications for the issue of ration cards as part food security - 272 sanctioned.
- ☞ Identified 479 households without job cards in 79 villages of Kunavaram mandal and Buttaigudem mandal: facilitated applications for the issue of job cards under MGNREGA - 187 sanctioned.
- ☞ Identified 528 eligible persons for Old Age Pensions (OAP) from 135 villages of Khammam district and adivasi areas of East and West Godavari districts: facilitated applications to the concerned departments - 94 sanctioned.
- ☞ Submitted 206 representations to concerned officials for safe drinking water, irrigation sources, power supply, completion of housing, clearing of pending MGNREGs bills, transfer of pattas, sanction of new ration cards, Aadhar cards, Voter ID cards, electricity supply to Ketchelawada village and sanction of pensions and other government schemes to the eligible persons etc.
- ☞ Facilitated sanctioning of 255 Indiramma houses in 6 villages, Maredumilli mandal, East Godavari district; 42 Indiramma houses in Gondiwada village.
- ☞ Under the MGNREGS facilitated: representation for payment of wages to 42 members of Gondiwada and 14 villagers of Uttaluru village for removal of the waste plants; sanctioning of wages worth Rs 1,05,000/- to 141 adivasis (male - 64, female - 77); sanctioning of Rs 2,52,000/- under horticulture to 42 households @Rs6000/-.
- ☞ Facilitated sanctioning of new drinking water connections from water tank to 42 households at Akkumamidi Kota;
- ☞ Facilitated income generation activities through government: 22 units of sewing machines sanctioned in 4 villages based on the identification of the needy in the Gram Sabha; 50% subsidy (Rs 2,00,000/-) sanctioned to 2 adivasis in Tenelamamidi, Chawadikota Panchayat; 50% subsidy (Rs 2,00,000/-) sanctioned to 2 adivasis to set up tent houses; 50% subsidy (Rs 50,000/-) sanctioned to 5 adivasis from 5 villages in Maredumilli mandal

- ☞ Facilitated through a Gram Sabha resolution the building of a check dam in Gundrathi village: 16 adivasi farmers are cultivating an extent of Ac.50.

FOCUS ON ADIVASI WOMEN

- ☞ 382 adivasi widows facilitated to apply for widows' pension in 110 villages of East, West Godavari and Khammam districts: 86 'widow pensions' were sanctioned;
- ☞ Identified 46 'single women' in 12 villages of West Godavari district.

FACILITATED THE GROUPS/NETWORKS TO ADVOCATE THE RIGHTS OF ADIVASIS

- ☞ Promoted 4 adivasi women's groups in 4 villages of Kunavaram Mandal to deal women related issues in the villages;
- ☞ Strengthened the 25 functional committees to follow up of resolutions of Gram Sabhas initiated in 8 focused Gram Panchayats in East and West Godavari, Visakhapatnam and Khammam districts;
- ☞ Facilitated the functioning of the Sarpanches Federation in Maredumilli Mandal.
- ☞ Strengthened the earlier Forum-Adivasi Solidarity Forum.

5.2 NATURAL RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

The challenge in responding to the livelihood security needs of adivasi communities has two major dimensions:

- ☞ That of facilitating processes for optimum use and regeneration of natural resources for higher productivity and sustainability; and
- ☞ Being culturally coherent in the interventions, especially package of practices (POP) that we seek to introduce.

Key locations of NRMs involvement

District	Mandal	Panchayats	Villages	Households
Visakhapatnam	Peddabayalu	Peddakodapalli, Gamparayi, Galaganda, Sikari and Aradikota, Kimudupalli	58	715
	Paderu	Vanugupalli, Kinchuru, Batrothuputtu, G. Muchingputtu	26	750
	Hukumpeta	Motujoru, Volda and Boddaputtu	14	210
East Godavari	Addateegala	Addateegala, D.Ramavaram, Veeravaram, D.Bhimavaram, Tungamadugula, Dakodu, Somannapalem, Vetamamidi, Bodlanka, Dhanyampalem, Rayapalli	44	1292
	Y.Ramavaram	Pathakota, Daragedda, Boddagandi, P. Erragonda, K. Erragonda, Chamagedda,	70	1835

		Yarlagedda and Dalipadu		
	Gangavaram	Marripalem, Yendapalli	5	125
	Rajvomangi	Kindra	3	82
	7 mandals	34 panchayats	220	5009

ACTIVITIES AND OUTCOMES:

SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURAL INITIATIVES:

Development of Homesteads

The strategy of development of homesteads was introduced with the perspective of increasing biodiversity and economic security at the household level. In 2013-14, our outreach comprised 55.10 acres in 65 villages relating to 414 households, of which 68 were women headed households: 3 villages from Dalipadu, 5 villages from K. Yerragonda, 5 villages from Chamagedda, 10 villages from Daragedda, 13 villages from Pathakota,



11 villages from Boddagandi panchayats of Y. Ramavaram mandal; one village from Tungamadugula, one village from D. Bhimavaram, 3 villages from Dhanyampalem panchayats of Addateegala mandal; and 2 villages from Marripalem, one village from Endapalli panchayats of Gangavaram mandal of East Godavari district; and 5 villages from Volda, 2 villages from Boddaputtu, 3 villages from Kinchuru panchayat of Hukumpeta mandal of Visakhapatnam district, resulting in increased cash income at the household level.

System of Rice Intensification (SRI)

The earlier initiatives in promoting SRI in 33 villages with 163 farmers in 205 acres were followed up. In addition SRI was taken up in 21 villages with 74 farmers in 37.6 acres in pallamu (wet lands) in kharif season (2013) in East Godavari and Visakhapatnam districts: total 242.6 acres with 237 farmers in 54 villages. The harvested crop gave an increased yield of 40% in one acre as compared to the normal cultivated paddy. SRI cultivation was facilitated in rabi season in 183.90



acres with 253 farmers in 34 villages of 11 panchayats of 3 mandals of Paderu Division. Drought, pests and disease resistant seed varieties were supplied: 400 kg of MTU 1001, 200 kg of Thellahamsa, and provided technical support to SRI farmers of Visakhapatnam district. Here too the result was an average increase of yield by 40% as compared to the normal paddy cultivation. Promotion of Mixed Crops



Promoted mixed crops in 972 acres in 'mettagaruvulu' and 'garuvulu' lands (slope lands) in 13 panchayats of East Godavari District (Y. Ramavaram mandal - 8, Addateegala mandal - 3 and Gangavaram - 2); and 48.15 acres from 5 panchayats of Visakhapatnam district (Pedabayalu mandal - 3, Paderu - 2). We facilitated ragi millet as single crop cultivation with 185 farmers (each one acre) from 3 panchayats of Y. Ramavaram mandal and one panchayat from Addateegala

mandal of East Godavari district.

Kitchen Gardens

Kitchen gardens promoted in 32 villages of 10 mandals across 4 districts with 2500 families: 2 panchayats in Srikakulam, 2 panchayats in Vizianagaram, 12 panchayats in Visakhapatnam and 16 panchayats in East Godavari district. Mobilized seed material worth Rs 2,50,000/- from the State Horticulture Mission and supplied to the farmers. This venture has shown tangible impacts on the health and nutrition of the family members, cut down the cost of purchasing of vegetables from market (in terms of money INR 4800/- over a 6 months period), in some case the families have marketed vegetables in the weekly markets thereby earning some cash income of about INR 3000/-.

Vegetables cultivation

Facilitated vegetable cultivation in 191 acres with 223 households in 27 villages from 7 panchayats of East Godavari district: brinjal, tomato, a variety of beans, amaranth, gongura, okra, pumpkin and ridge gourd seeds were distributed to farmers; this season each household earned cash income ranging from Rs 10000/- to Rs 15000/- per acre. Also promoted vegetable cultivation in rabi season in 28 acres with 97 households in 24 villages from 10 panchayats of Visakhapatnam district: benda, goruchikudu, gongura, thotakura, munaga, vulli, carrot, cauliflower, vanga, bobbara, beera, chilli, and dosakai.

Horticulture

Promoted horticulture with cashew, mango, lemon, sweet lime, orange, and coconut involving 233 farmers in 442.5 acres in 4 panchayats of East Godavari district. Plants, organic fertilizers and other inputs were distributed to the farmers. Also followed up previous years'

274 farmers in 443 acres from 4 panchayats in East Godavari district and 7 acres belongs to 20 households from 7 panchayats of Visakhapatnam district. The survival rate of cashew, mango is 60%; lemon, sweet lime, orange and coconuts is 40%. For gap filling, citrus plants were given to the 12 farmers in East Godavari District; disease was found in mango plantation in 5 clusters of Paderu area: KVK & RARS scientists were approached and remedies obtained.

Type of plantation	Number of villages	Number of households	Acres	Programme in collaboration with
Cashew new plantation	25	190	372	MGNREGS and SHM
Mango, lemon, sweet lime, orange and coconut (mixed plantation)	31	233	70.5	-
Total	56	423	442.5	

Details of horticulture plantation

Village	Cashew plantation		Mango, lemon, sweet lime, orange and coconut (mixed plantation)		Panchayat	Mandal	District
	HH	Ac	HH	Ac			
Sesharayi	6	12	6	4.50	Yarlagedda	Y. Ramavaram	East Godavari
1. Singavaram	8	16	8	2.00	Chamagedda	Y. Ramavaram	East Godavari
2. Nellikota	8	16	8	2.00			
3. Chamagedda	10	20	10	2.50			
4. Ramulakonda	7	14	7	1.75			
5. Dadalikavada	15	30	15	3.75			
6. Jangalutota	15	30	15	3.75			
7. Bandigedda	13	26	13	3.25			
1. Daragedda	0	0	6	3.00	Daragedda	Y. Ramavaram	East Godavari
2. Dumpavalasa	0	0	12	6.00			
3. Irlavada	0	0	6	3.00			
4. Polamanugondi	0	0	2	1.00			
5. Lingavaram	0	0	2	1.00			
6. Poolova	0	0	4	1.00			
7. Busikota	0	0	6	3.00			
8. Babilova	0	0	5	2.00			
1. Pathakota	6	12	6	1.50	Pathakota	Y. Ramavaram	East Godavari
2. P.M.Lanka	10	20	10	2.50			

3. Kinnerla	5	10	5	1.25			
4. Kothapakalu	5	10	5	1.25			
5. Karnuthula	12	24	12	3.00			
6. Ganaganuru	12	24	12	3.00			
7. Tangedukota	8	12	8	2.00			
8. Gudlavada	7	10.5	7	1.75			
9. Koppulakota	5	10	5	1.25			
10. Pulimetla	10	20	10	2.50			
11. Karnikota	5	10	5	1.25			
12. Tummichelu	5	10	5	1.25			
14. Palusurimetta	8	16	8	2.00			
15. Senaganuru	5	10	5	1.25			
16. Kinkinirayi	5	10	5	1.25			
Total	190	372	233	70.5			

Establish seed centres with rare seed varieties:

Collected 20 rare varieties of seeds and established 4 seed centres in Pathakota and Daragedda panchayats. These seeds were collected from few farmers from the area and distributed to farmers, who cultivated and produced seeds for the seed centres. These seeds are climate resilient.

S. No	Seed variety	Number	Characteristics of Seed
1	Chitti Bobbarlu, Kummari Bobbarlu, Thella Bobbarlu	5	Late kharif crop, drought resistant, pest resistant and enriches the soil nutrients
2	Police Bobbarlu, Alasandala, Thimirelu	3	Kharif crop, drought resistant, pest resistant and enriches the soil nutrients
3	ThellaVulavalu, Nallavulavalu	2	Late kharif crop, drought resistant, pest resistant and enriches the soil nutrients
4	DumpaMinumulu	1	Kharif crop, long duration, resistant to heavy rainfall and less rainfall
5	Nelachikkudu (Thelupu), Nelachikkudu (Yerupu)	2	Late kharif crop, drought resistant, pest resistant and enriches the soil nutrients
6	SriramaChikkullu	1	Kharif crop, drought resistant, pest and disease resistant
7	Adusulu	1	Late kharif crop, drought resistant, pest resistant and enriches the soil nutrients
8	Korralu	1	Early kharif, short duration, drought resistant, gives yield in any condition
9	Ganti	1	Early kharif, short duration, drought resistant, gives yield in any condition
10	Bobbiliganti Dhanyam	1	Old traditional paddy variety, pest and disease resistant, and can survive with less or more rainfall

11	Kondakandhulu	1	Early kharif, mixed with cereals crop
12	Chaya Pasupu	1	Good in color and aroma, drought resistant, pest and disease resistant
13	Dumpa Karrapendalam	1	Drought resistant, pest and disease resistant
	Total	20	

Demonstration of crops in Dumpavalasa

Demonstrated rajma (nelachikkudu), dry paddy (budama), turmeric (pasupu), mustard (avaalu), niger (alusulu), and finger millet (ragi) in 2013 kharif season: line sowing, spacing and manure application was introduced.

Improved agriculture implements

We have explored locally made agriculture tools and found a workshop at Peddapuram, East Godavari district, which makes improved tools for dry land agriculture. We have bought 5 different types of ploughs and 6 hand tools for inter cultivation (weeding and loosening the soil), one direct seed sowing instrument called 'direct drum seeder' for paddy and pulses from the Agriculture Department and we have had a pilot demonstration of these tools in one village.



Training on using Improved Agriculture Tools



Training on using Improved Agriculture Tools

Land Development and Soil and Moisture Conservation

Facilitated land development under **MGNREGS** in 230 acres, which involved clearance of bushes, removal of dead tree stumps, land leveling, bunding and developing compost pits at household level in 18 villages from 9 panchayats in East Godavari and Visakhapatnam districts

Districts	Mandals	Panchayats	Villages	Families	Acres
Visakhapatnam	2 (Pedabayalu and Hukumpeta)	4	8	80	80
East Godavari	3 (Y. Ramavaram, Rajavomangi and Addateegala)	5	10	150	150
2	5	9	18	230	230

Fallow lands brought under cultivation in Dumpavalasa after 6 years 3



Soil and moisture conservation was carried out in 120 acres, 68 families in 12 villages: 60 acres, 30 families in 6 villages of Daragedda panchayat; and 60 acres, 38 families in 6 villages of Pathakota, Y. Ramavaram Mandal, East Godavari district.

Demonstrated soil and moisture conservation (SMC) in 12 acres of paddy cultivated lands and 4 acres dry crops lands of 15 farmers from two villages Dumpavalasa and Pamugondi of

Daragedda Panchayat of Y. Ramavaram mandal and identified two sites, each site consist of 6 acres plots for SMC works: Muvvalakonda in Pathakota panchayat and Velugulametta in Daragedda panchayat. Also motivated farmers to take up humus based manure models (farmyard manure storage pits, green leaves composting and mulching for homestead plots): 45 farmers took up this activity in the two panchayats.

WATER RELATED INITIATIVES

Feasibility study of water bodies to provide irrigation and drinking water facility: Demonstrated the use of 2 hydram pumps (gravity flow water lifting devices) for village water supply and irrigation for horticulture plants in Sesharayi village.

In addition, feasibility studies were done for 14 sites in 10 villages in East Godavari, of which 4 sites were found feasible for drinking water (Tangedukota, Rachamettha, Gudlawada and Karnikota villages) and 10 sites for Irrigation (Tungamadugula - 3, Singavaram- 1, Pulusumamidi - 2, Annampalem- 1, Burugupalem- 1, and Dalipadu- 2 sites). Reports have been prepared separately for each site.



Gravity scheme work process at Dumpavalasa

Fisheries in village tanks: Facilitated fisheries with 32 beneficiaries from 12 villages covering a total of 17 water bodies from Paderu area. Supplied 29,000 fish seed, which was purchased from the Fisheries Department at Narsipatnam, Visakhapatnam district.

FOREST REGENERATION AND NTFP INITIATIVES:

Seed dibbling:

Identified common lands in 4 panchayats (Peddakodapalli, Gamparayi, Chamagedda and K. Yerragonda) to dibble forest species seeds in hill slopes and common lands (avenues, tank bunds and village deity places during Gangamma festival in Addateegala area and Vitingi festival in Paderu area. Also Identified two hillocks in Pathakota and Daragedda panchayats to demonstrate slope land development with agroforestry (presently the farmers are doing podu in these patches);

Broom grass plantation:

was done on agriculture field bunds in 20 acres of 40 households from Chamagedda, Dalipadu, K.Yerragonda, Daragedda, Marrisipalem and Kindra panchayats of East Godavari district and 18.1 acres of 38 households from 12 villages, 7 panchayats of Visakhapatnam district This year the plants have grown well and a good yield of broom grass is expected in the harvesting season: April to May 2014;



Organized 12 monthly meetings with Samaramma NTFP Federation's members In Peddakodapalli panchayat, Paderu mandal, Visakhapatnam district and Dalipadu panchayat, Y. Ramavaram mandal, East Godavari district: 120 adivasi members attended (45 women).

ACCOMPANIMENT OF CBOs AND PEOPLE'S INSTITUTIONS

Facilitated 6 CBOs to promote NRM activities in their areas of operation in East Godavari and Visakhapatnam districts; organized 2 workshops with Samaramma NTFP Federation, Single Women Livelihood Group, Adivasi Girijana Samkshema Seva Sangam and Adivasi Mahila Raithu Abhivrudhi Seva Sangam in Gummaripalem and Paderu.

EAST GODAVARI DISTRICT:

- ✓ Adivasi Girijana Samkshema Seva Sangam, Pulusumamidi;
- ✓ Adivasi Mahila Raithu Abhivrudhi Seva Sangam, Tungamadugula;
- ✓ Vananari Jagruthi (VANAJA), Addateegala.

VISAKHAPATNAM DISTRICT:

- ✓ Samaramma NTFP Federation, Peddakodapalli;
- ✓ Vikasini, Paderu;
- ✓ Single women livelihood group in Peddakodapalli panchayat.

CAPACITY BUILDING (ORIENTATION AND TRAININGS)

ECOSYSTEM BASED EDUCATION AND CAPACITY BUILDING:



Organized 29 village level meetings focusing on forest ecosystem based on the vulnerability assessment study conducted in Pathakota and Daragedda panchayats; also organized 46 village level meetings in 8 panchayats (Chamagedda-7, Dalipadu-6, Gurthedu-6, K. Yerragonda -5, Boddagandi -12, Kindra-3, Tungamadugula-3, and Marripalem-4 village meetings) of East

Godavari district; also organized 42 village level meetings with 164 farmers from 11 panchayats of Visakhapatnam districts: main topics were sustainable agriculture practices and protection of forest and forest regeneration; government schemes;

Organized a 3-day exposure visit for 20 adivasis (male – 17, female - 3) in June 2013 to Chintapalli, Chaparathipalem and Paderu area to understand concept of homesteads development, SRI, forest regeneration with viable species and sustainable agriculture practices for livelihood enhancement;

Organized a two-day follow up training on Sustainable Agriculture in May at Pathakota for 48 adivasis (female – 26);

Organized 3- day training at Andhra Pradesh State Horticulture Mission Training Institute (APSHMTI) for 25 male adivasi farmers at Eluru in April 2013; and another 3-day training was held at APSHMTI for 25 adivasi farmers (female – 5) in January 2014;

Organized 2-day training for 60 adivasi farmers (female – 25) of 10 villages from Daragedda panchayat in August 2013 at Dumpavalasa. We invited the Agriculture Officer from the Department of Agriculture to explain crop insurance, government subsidies for organic farming, promotion of millets cultivation, and farming improved tools, etc;

Organized one-day training on Sustainable Agriculture and Farmer Groups for 75 adivasi farmers in November from 48 villages of Paderu area of Visakhapatnam district;

Facilitated participation of 19 adivasi farmers (female – 7) form Paderu area and 22 adivasi farmers (female – 10) form Addateegala area in Kisan Mela & Organic Agriculture Products' Exhibition at RARS, Chinthapalli in March 2014;

Forest Management training programme was organized for 36 forest dependent adivasis (female - 14) from 12 villages in Addateegala area of East Godavari District.

Organized 12 monthly meetings with Samaramma NTFP Federation's members In Peddakodapalli panchayat, Paderu mandal, Visakhapatnam district and Dalipadu panchayat, Y. Ramavaram mandal, East Godavari district: 135 adivasi members attended (65 adivasi women).

LEVERAGED SCHEMES FOR ADIVASI FARMERS FROM GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS

Facilitated the distribution of 2500 kitchen garden vegetable seeds mini kits worth Rs. 2,50,000/-

Facilitated horticulture plantations like mango and cashew in East Godavari and Visakhapatnam districts through State Horticulture Mission;

Facilitated ragi millet cultivation with 105 farmers in 262.5 acres from 6 panchayats covering 22 villages. 420 kg of ragi seed material and 5,259 kg of neem cake worth INR 89,250/- was supplied by the Department of Agriculture free of cost with the assurance of buy back of the produce from the farmers by the Department of Agriculture. The ragi millet was to be supplied for hostels in the East Godavari district. The farmers produced ragi with an average yield of 300 kg per acre and sold some of it to the GCC and some produce was kept for their domestic consumption.

LOW CARBON FARMING (LCF) INITIATIVES:

Laya as a lead organisation in collaboration with a national network, Fair Climate Network, embarked on an initiative to integrate measurement of carbon saved in sustainable agriculture. In this context a model building exercise as part of a larger national framework was initiated, which involved developing a data base on emission reduction from sustainable farming practices. The baseline development process involves profiling of farmers families and discrete plotting of land holdings. Primary data for 7451 households in 2 districts has been developed. Awareness meetings in 316 villages were organised. Primary data for 5333 households in 2 districts has been developed. Awareness meetings in 223 villages were organised.

LCF Base line data for Addateegala Area as on March 31, 2013

Mandal	Vill.	Farmers	Plots	Acres	Discrete Plots (GPS)	Discrete Acres (GPS)	Committed Plots	Committed Acres
Addateegala	45	1276	2483	4912	967	1225	181	258
Gangavaram	7	247	470	812	175	258	19	14
Rajvomangi	11	303	601	1412	132	320	17	22
Y. Ramavaram	84	2078	3994	9749	2101	5178	331	795
Total	147	3904	7548	16885	3375	6981	548	1089

LCF Base line data for Paderu Area as on March 31, 2013

Mandal	Villages	Farmers	Plots	Acres	Discrete Plots (GPS)	Discrete Acres (GPS)	Committed Plots	Committed Acres
Hukumpeta	36	1276	2483	4912	967	1225	181	258
Paderu	43	910	3842	3224	1366	681	499	298
Peddabayalu	90	1838	7403	8541	3603	2752	1094	809
Total	169	4024	13728	16677	5936	4658	1774	1365

LCF Documentation

- ✓ Land titles were collected and uploaded to Family Database of LCF software solution;
- ✓ Family members' photos were uploaded to the Family Database;
- ✓ Tree base line done for discrete plots and uploaded to the Plot Information;
- ✓ Bond stones were planted in the discrete plots;
- ✓ Dairies were maintained for 3000 plots in both districts for paddy.

5.3. SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

The action research in science and technology initiatives mainly focused on organic agriculture and sustainable harvesting practices.

ORGANIC AGRICULTURE

A cluster of 5 villages: Choppakonda, Pedanutala, Yerlametla, Kotekarai and Gangavaram in the Papikonda National Park was selected for the promotion of organic manure preparation and its application for better yields in agriculture. Our preliminary experiments had proved that the palmyra pith can be converted into manure. Four training programs were conducted covering 58 trainees on preparation of organic manures, its application to the cashew gardens and on possible enterprise models with organic manures.

SUSTAINABLE HARVESTING PRACTICES

Sustainable Harvesting of Celastrus Paniculatus (Jyotishmati): one of the economically important forest species commonly found both in forests and common properties of adivasi habitations of Andhra Pradesh. It is still an untapped resource. Its seed yields around 50% of oil content, which is having great medicinal value. The mechanism for sustainable harvest of seeds was demonstrated to the local communities thus making additional income possible to the adivasi families in the season: Rs 15000/- to 20000/- in a four-month season. Based on our understanding the system of adivasi medicine, ayurveda, and the secondary sources of



Adivasi family involved in harvesting Celastrus

information on the properties of Celastrus oil, an attempt was made to develop value added products. Though there are positive results, the experiment is still at the preliminary stage. Success of these efforts can create employment in the adivasi habitations and at the same time help the adivasi communities in the preparation and use of herbal medicine for the common diseases, especially skin diseases. So far 3 training programs were conducted on

making value added products from Celastrus oil. 43 adivasi herbal practitioners were trained (female – 19). These adivasi herbal medicinal practitioners are called locally *Sampradaya Mullika Vaidyudu*. Further research may help in exploring/extracting greater medicinal value from *Celastrus paniculatus*.

PROMOTION OF ORGANIC FARMING WITH TRIBAL HABITAT INSTITUTE (THI)

Collaborated with the Tribal Habitat Institute (THI), Visakhapatnam for technical inputs in organic farming practices: collection of rare varieties of seeds, maintenance of seed banks, distribution of seeds, organising village meetings to promote of organic farming practices. An adivasi CBO based at Pachipenta, Vizianagaram district was supported to follow up organic agriculture and mixed crop models in Itukalavalasa, Kotturu, Retlapadu and Puligantipadu villages of Pachipenta mandal. Facilitated continuation of seed exchange of both millets and pulses in Kotturu, Itukalavalasa and Retlapadu villages.

5.4 DECENTRALIZED ENERGY OPTIONS AND CLIMATE CHANGE



Our work continues towards improving energy security for the vulnerable adivasi communities across the two districts of Visakhapatnam and East Godavari in Andhra Pradesh. We have been able to increase our outreach with regards to community access to decentralised energy technologies. We have continued with our energy interventions from the perspective of improving energy security. Also to make agriculture more resilient to climate change we have initiated adaptive mechanisms in a

remote adivasi pocket in East Godavari district by promoting drought resistant crops.

EXPLORING COMMUNITY BASED CARBON PROJECTS

This initiative has provided us the opportunity to upscale viable energy technology solutions, which can be accessed by adivasi communities. Household solar technology, community based small hydro and fuel efficient cooking stoves and recently bio-sand water filters emerged as potential options to meet basic energy requirement and clean drinking water. Besides, the potential for improved stoves, bio-sand water filters (BWF) were also found to be viable for a CDM/VER project.



LAYA PADERU MICRO SCALE GOLD STANDARD VER PROJECT

We are proud to finally declare that the Laya Paderu team has successfully deployed about 4000 energy efficient woodstoves to as many adivasi families in the region as a part of the 'Laya Paderu Micro Scale Gold Standard VER Project'. This is the first project Micro Scale Gold Standard energy efficient woodstoves project in India.

This year also saw the development of a computer based online monitoring Management Information System (MIS) interface that was designed in house. The MIS is available in the public domain via the web

link 'ver.laya.org.in'. In addition we have also initiated the process for the first validation for issuing carbon credits. This is being done in association with the Fair Climate Services (FCS) team.

LAYA SURAKSHANA GOLD STANDARD VER PROJECT

The LAYA Surakshana VER Gold Standard project preparation period is now in its final stage. The contract for the PDD preparation with FCS was signed and subsequently the Project Design Document (PDD) has been prepared. Stakeholders meetings took place in Addateegala and Paderu in early 2014. Unfortunately the delay in woodstove and testing steel water filters delayed the process by a few months.

The BWF laboratory tests' results were positive; unfortunately that was not the case with steel water filters. We tried even the ISI marked steel water filters, transported all the way from Kolkata but obtained negative results. So finally, the decision is to take on the challenge of building BWF units on a large scale. The major change is that now the project will take 4 years to put in place instead of the 2 years as previously envisaged.

PILOT ON ADAPTATION

The results and findings that emerged from detailed vulnerability assessment have been used in two projects implemented in the energy clusters of Munagalapudi and Daragedda (both are situated adjacently in Y. Ramavaram Mandal). Besides, conserving natural resources through watershed management, an attempt is being made to identify, procure and propagate seed banks of rare varieties of seeds and encourage cultivation local drought and flood resistant varieties of crops.

In addition to promoting System of Rice Intensification (SRI), kitchen gardens, live fencing on agriculture bunds, soil and moisture conservation, demonstration of high humus based manure models and applications, feasibility of gravity flow water sites was carried out and renewable energy water pumps such as the hydram installed.

DECENTRALIZED ENERGY CLUSTERS

PATHAKOTA AND BONJANGI CLUSTERS

The Alternative Energy Cluster at Pathakota, East Godavari District is functioning well. Now with a motorable road constructed all the way to the village access for follow up has become much easier. The community based micro-hydro is working thanks to the community effort to maintain it. Recently the village also chose to give up on government supplied electricity in favour of the micro-hydro due intermittent power cuts and increase in the charges of electricity.

Bonjangi, Visakhapatnam district, unfortunately continues to face issues in maintaining the micro-hydro since the system broke down at the end of 2013, due to a faulty valve. We are negotiating with the community to repair the system through our micro-hydro consultant.

MUNAGALAPUDI CLUSTER

The pico-hydro was commissioned at Munagalapudi, Y. Ramavaram Mandal, East Godavari District, in January 2012 and ran successfully for about 6 months. About that time the government also began supply of electricity. The community had changeover switches installed in their homes to avail both electricity sources. However, a family with newly constructed house were unaware of the changeover switch and connected both electricity sources



directly. As a result the system short circuited and the Electronic Load Controller (ELC) got severely damaged. The ELC needs to be sent back to the company in Delhi for repairs. In this cluster we made progress in demonstrating the viability of renewable energy water pumps: 3 hydrams were installed in 2 villages. They are working successfully and we feel encouraged to further promote these units in other areas, where feasible. In addition we have also demonstrated the viability of solar pumps in Y. Ramavaram mandal, East Godavari district.

We have also implemented adaptive mechanisms to ensure food security in a changing climate situation, with initiatives such as homestead farming, kitchen gardens, soil and moisture conservation and introducing SRI.

NEW INITIATIVES

A pilot initiative to produce coal briquettes from abundantly available weeds was undertaken successfully. Encouraged with the results we acquired a small machinery setup to produce coal briquettes. Initial trials have been completed successfully. So far 100 kg of briquettes and 300 kg of char was produced. Local distribution/selling possibilities are being explored. This initiative is mainly to replace wood based charcoal.

5.5. ALTERNATIVE HEALTH CARE

For hundreds of years the adivasi communities have used herbal based medicines. This form of medicine is closer to Ayurveda but different from the conventional allopathic medicine. The medicinal plants, which are the source of this medicine are abundantly available in the forests of this region. Moreover the use of herbal medicines has been an integral part of adivasi culture. Herbal medicine can be potentially relevant and useful at least for basic illnesses. Our experience in community health care through herbal medicine in the past 15 years has demonstrated that it is affordable, reliable, efficient and accessible.

PROMOTION OF HERBAL GARDENS

MOTHER HERBAL GARDENS

Maintained and up graded 2 Mother Herbal Gardens in Gummaripalem and in Addateegala (Vanantharam): Gummaripalem Herbal Garden is equipped with 200 varieties of medicinal plants, and in Vanantharam (Addateegala) Herbal Garden is equipped with 230 varieties of medicinal plants. These Mother Herbal Gardens are used for seed collection and demonstration.



Raised Medicinal plants Nursery in Vanantharam

MEDICINAL PLANT NURSERY

Raised 25 varieties of medicinal plants in Vanantharam nursery, with 500 to 800 seedlings each. These seedlings were supplied to Community Herbal Gardens and interested individuals.



Special Health camp at Burugupalem village collaboration with AYUSH Department. focus on

COMMUNITY HERBAL GARDENS

Maintained 58 community herbal gardens in two districts (35 in East Godavari district and 23 in Visakhapatnam district, which are established in primary schools, community health centres (CHC) and traditional healing centres (THC).

PROMOTION OF HEALTH CARE AT LOCAL LEVEL

Provided Treatment for 6635 patients (female - 2876) through Community Health Centres (CHC), Regular Health Centres (market place), Need-based (Special) Health Camps in collaboration with the AYUSH Department and in Vanantharam for referral cases.

Treatment Details from April 2013 to March 2014				
		Male	Female	Total
Community Health Centres (CHC)	50 CHC are providing health care in 150 villages	2639	1934	4573
Regular Health Camps (RHC)	Regularly organize health camps in weekly market day in 5 centres	559	562	1121

Special (Need based) Health Camps	Organized health camps in 18 villages	207	170	377
Treatment provided in Vanantharam		354	210	564
Total		3579	2876	6635

- Distributed malaria preventive dose to identified 830 chronic malaria patients in 2 districts.
- Distributed malaria preventive Medicine (ChinaArs - Homeopathy) in 8 adivasi welfare residential schools (Vedurunagaram, Panasalapalem, P.Yerrakonda, Dalipadu, Bandigedda, D. Bheemavaram, Kindra, Tallapalem) to around 1800 students.
- Upgraded and followed up of 19 Traditional Healing Centres in 2 districts, which are providing community health care in 38 villages.
- Regularly monitored Traditional Health Practitioners to provide treatment in their respective villages and facilitated them to fill in the Out Patient (OP) registers.

POPULARIZED HERBAL MEDICINE

- Organized 3 exhibitions on 'Medicinal Plants and Herbal Products' in Kakinada, Bheemavaram and Ungaturu (West Godavari district): exhibited around 200 varieties of medicinal plants (plants, photographs, tubers, seeds) and 25 varieties of prepared herbal medicines.
- Raised 75 medicinal plants in nursery pots for easy transportation to various places for medicinal plants' exhibitions.
- Organized a 5-day workshop on preparation of herbal based medicines for Andhra Pradesh Mahila Samtha Society (APMSS) for 25 women (8 APMSS staff and 17 adivasi community members from Paderu region). The training focused on preparation of 9 types of herbal medicines and identification of herbal medicinal plants.

SKILL UP GRADATION TRAINING FOR COMMUNITY HEALTH PRACTITIONERS (CHPs):

- Organised two 3-day skills up-gradation trainings for Community Health Practitioners in Addateegala (East Godavari district) and Paderu (Visakhapatnam district). In Addateegala training program 9 CHPs (female - 4, male – 5) and in Paderu 11 CHPs (female -1, male - 10) attended.

INTENSIVE TRAINING ON HERBAL MEDICINE PREPARATION AND HEALING (HMP&HP) FOR YOUTH:

- Conducted 2-day training program on safe drinking water and sanitation focusing on water borne diseases and the importance of safe drinking water; explored different water treatment methods: 22 adivasi youth (female 9) from 16 villages.

SKILL UP GRADATION TRAINING FOR TRADITIONAL HEALTH PRACTITIONERS (THPS):

- Organized 3-day skills training for Traditional Health Practitioners (THP) in Doddipalli village, Visakhapatnam district, on medicine preparation and preservation methods: 16 THPs attended.



Medicine preparation in training for APMSS¹⁸ womens (Anakapalli)

- Organized 3-day skills training for Traditional Health Practitioners (THP) in Vanantharam: 27 (one female) THPs were attended. At the end of the training program medical kits and medicine preparation instruments were distributed to 8 THPs.

ACCOMPANYING TRADITIONAL HEALTH PRACTITIONERS (THP) NETWORK

- Facilitated THP Network to conduct bi-monthly mandal level meetings in 10 mandals (4 mandals in East Godavari district and 6 in Visakhapatnam district). The main agenda was sharing experience among THPs, strengthening Mandal level network and construction of traditional healing centres.
- Facilitated THP Network to conduct executive body meetings in East Godavari and Visakhapatnam districts (3 meetings in each district) to strengthen mandal level networking and ensure that all THPs obtain a panchayat resolution certifying their practice and wear an identity card; increase the membership fee from Rs 60 to Rs 100 and identify potential THPs for training.
- Facilitated the Adivasi Sampradaya Vanamulika Vaidyula Sankshema Sangam (THPs network) to conduct General Body meeting in Addateegala with the attendance of 86 THPs (male - 64, female -12).
- Facilitated the Adivasi Sampradaya Vanamulika Vaidyula Sankshema Sangam (THPs network) to conduct General body meeting in Paderu with the attendance of 60 THPs (male - 51, female -9). It was decided among other things to go for new registration with a new executive body.

RESPONDED TO THE SPECIAL NEEDS FOR WOMEN

- Promoted kitchen gardens in 373 households in East Godavari district (238) and Visakhapatnam district (135) and supplied 7 varieties of vegetable seeds
- Screened two video films (Women's Health and HIV-AIDS) in two girls' hostels in Addateegala: total audience – 450.
- Followed up 50 smokeless stoves (Sarala stoves) and constructed 50 more stoves in 5 villages of Chamagedda Panchayat of East Godavari District (Nellikota, Buradakota, Dadalikawada, Bandigedda and Chamagedda).
- Installed 180 bio-sand water filters in 180 households in 9 villages: Mulagalapudi, Chamagedda, Kappalabanda, Devaramadugula, Ramulakonda, Manapuram, Kunjamvariveedi (Chinnaulempadu) Sadalavariveedi and Gummaripalem villages.



SENSITIZED ADIVASI COMMUNITY ON HIV/AIDS

- Celebrated international AIDS Day on December 1, 2013 in three places: Addateegala (conducted rally with college and school students, PHC staff: 300 students and Government officers participated); Dalipadu Girls Ashram School (organized rally with students and village elders in Dalipadu village: 250 students and villagers participated; and Veeravaram Boys Ashram School (organized rally with students village elders and VANAJA CBO representatives in Veeravaram village: 220 students and villagers participated).
- Conducted a 2-day workshop with youth to create awareness on HIV/AIDS: 22 youth (male 17, female – 5 attended). The main focus was on the causes of spreading HIV in adivasi areas and the precautions to be taken; and the importance educating the community on HIV/AIDS.

COLLABORATED WITH VANANTHARAM AYURVEDIC PHARMACY, ADDATEEGALA

- Prepared regular medicines 20 types of herbal medicines for distribution in Regular Health Centres and Special Health Camps and to Community Health Practitioners;

5.6. EMPOWERMENT OF YOUTH AND WOMEN

As Also known as 'Parichay', this unit of Laya is involved in the process of engagement in leadership development of adivasi youth. Its outreach has been mainly 4 adivasi populated districts of Andhra Pradesh: East Godavari, Visakhapatnam, Vizianagaram, and Srikakulam. Its specific objectives are to nurture adivasi young men and women for their self-development as well as on the development concerns of their communities

The overall perspective of the activities is to promote value based leadership potential among youth in the region. This year we intensively engaged in highlighting youth's role and participation in the local body elections; worked with youth leaders in promoting good governance in the panchayat Raj institutions; and engaged with government departments on policy issues, especially related to MGNREGA, FRRA. We facilitated institutional building processes through our engagement with Community Based Groups (CBO), and Village Level Committees (VLC). Some of the specific initiatives included literacy for leadership, herbal based health care and climate change.

KEY INTERVENTIONS:

HUMAN RIGHTS PROTECTION COMMITTEE MEETINGS:

In order to strengthen youth engagement and action against violation of human rights at the district level, we facilitated monthly review meetings and follow up action on the initiatives taken up in Srikakulam and Vizianagaram districts. The CBO representatives in these districts identified the issues and actively brought them to the notice of the ITDA authorities.

WOMEN COMMUNITY BASED ORGANIZATIONS (WCBO) PROMOTIONS AND NETWORK OF WCBO INITIATION:

Monitoring and accompaniment continued with the WCBOs in East Godavari, Visakhapatnam, Vizianagaram and Srikakulam districts focusing on nature of issues they are involving in and the strategic involvement of women in the process of development. Strategies were developed for the promotion of women leadership across the four districts.

VILLAGE LEVEL COMMITTEES (VLC) NETWORK PROMOTION:

- Facilitated the strengthening of 64 VLCs in 12 panchayats in 8 mandals in 2 districts. 64 village level meetings and 12 panchayat level meetings were organized to strengthen the VLCs' capacities on women's issues/gender issues and women's leadership.
- Facilitated VLCs' 'Regional Network' in Visakhapatnam and East Godavari districts for collective voice on women issues, to meet the need of women's leadership to act on their own. Women were more actively involved in the process and have begun owning the 'Regional Network'.

TRAINING PROGRAMMES

INTENSIVE TRAINING PROGRAMME

One intensive training program was initiated for youth from Visakhapatnam and East Godavari districts to develop youth cadre and strengthen the youth leadership in the areas of human rights violation and youth livelihood promotion. 30 youth were trained in human rights, land rights, PESA Act, personality development and leadership, government policies, legislations and schemes. 20 youth successfully completed their training and are working in the field in association with nearby CBOs.



Career Guidance Workshop at S. Gopalapuram

SAVARA LANGUAGE TRAINING PROGRAM:

A special training programme on local language promotion was initiated for 25 Savara youth in the Savara language in Srikakulam and Vizianagaram districts.

ISSUE BASED WORKSHOPS:

5 issue based workshops were organised to continuously nurture the CBO representatives in 4 districts: Srikakulam, Vizianagaram, East Godavari, and Visakhapatnam. Through this initiative youth/youth groups (CBOs) are intensively involved in understanding their issues and drawing road maps to tackle them.

NEW CBO PROMOTION:

18 CBOs were promoted, of which 4 are WCBOs. As they were in a growing stage, they need more specific capacity building.

ORIENTATION MEETINGS:

In the process of awareness building on issues in the field we reached out to around 10,000 youth in 4 districts through orientation on the nature and roles of PESA, health, agriculture, RTI, FRRA, RTE, SMC, anganwadi centres, SHGs, etc.

EVENTS:

We organised International Women Day, International Indigenous Day, and International Youth Day in the project area.

LITERACY FOR LEADERSHIP:

To empower the adivasi women and



Literacy training Programme at Jalampalli

promote their leadership we initiated ‘Literacy for Leadership’. A 10-day intensive adult literacy training programme was held with selected potential women leaders in East Godavari and Visakhapatnam districts: 20 women were equipped with basic functional numeracy and literacy skills.

FELLOWSHIPS

The fellowship programme has been an effort to reach out to individuals, who are involved in adivasi empowerment. 25 adivasi youth from community based youth groups were supported with fellowships: herbal based health care - 2; women rights - 6; youth & sustainable development - 10; human rights - 4; sustainable agriculture - 2; and youth development - 1.

NETWORKING AT LOCAL LEVEL

Networking in collaboration with other units of Laya continued with active involvement in implementation of MNREGA, and relevant information generation through RTI. The unit has been involved intensively in 43 panchayats, 240 villages in 4 districts and has facilitated micro plans in 18 panchayats.

5.7. ALTERNATIVE DATA GENERATION AND DOCUMENTATION

The documentation focused on building an alternative database on issues and through programmes and activities. We disseminated information to remote areas on one hand and attempted to sharpen the thrust of our intervention by influencing policy on the other. Documentation, field based studies and publications of relevant documents continued as a priority depending on the need and purpose of involvement. Campaign activities addressed local issues as well as issues in the region. These activities are coordinated by at the Resource Centre level.

ACTIVITIES AND OUTCOMES

Documentation: Continued to focus on building alternative database mainly on adivasi issues and disseminating information for strategic involvement and campaign initiatives.

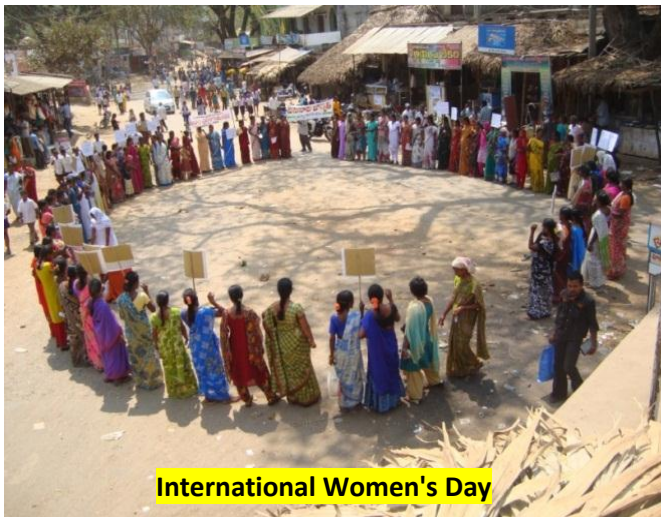
Maintaining library: Continued filing of relevant materials from 5 daily newsletters and about 40 magazines and bulletins for internal and external use on various aspects: sustainable agriculture, natural resource management, displacement, decentralized energy options, government policies and programs, environmental pollution, mining, climate change, health, gender issues, human rights, literacy and education, etc.

Material preparation: Reading and training material on ‘documentation process; personality development; communication skills and climate change’ was prepared for both internal and external use of trainings. This material was used in all the training programmes conducted in this period to students, field activists of Laya and other organizations.

Dissemination of information through training, participation in seminars, etc., and other processes:

TRAINING PROGRAMMES

- ☞ Conducted 3-day training programme on 'Communication Skills' to 20 adivasi youth in April 2013.
- ☞ Resource person in a 2-day training programme conducted by District Rural Development Agency (DRDA) on 'Social Audit' for MGNREGS staff and NGO personnel in July 2013 at Paderu.
- ☞ Coordinated a 2-day 'Capacity Building Programme for Women CBOs' for the Unit of Youth and Women Empowerment at Paderu in December 2013.
- ☞ Resource person in one-day training on 'Leadership Qualities' to sarpanches and ward members in December at Paderu.
- ☞ Resource person and coordination support to Youth and Women Empowerment Unit in a 2-day training on 'Leadership and Awareness on PESA, MGNREGA' to newly elected panchayat leaders in January 2014.
- ☞ Key speaker in 'International Women's Day' celebrations organized by the District Fishermen's and Youth Welfare Association (DFYWA) in March 2014 at Pudimadaka.



☞ Shared information on Laya's interventions in the promoting alternative energy options in the adivasi areas in the context of climate change in one-day seminar organized by Visakha Jilla Nava Nirmana Samithi (VJNNS) at Visakhapatnam in March 2014.

☞ Coordinated the conducting of the 'Status of Basic Amenities in Slum Areas of Visakhapatnam City' with the participation of the college students with an aim for future intervention on the basic energy needs of the city.

PROMOTION OF COMMUNITY LEARNING CENTERS (CLC)

Promoted Community Learning Centres in the three field areas of Laya, East Godavari (two regions Addateegala and Rampachodavaram), Visakhapatnam (Paderu area) and Srikakulam (Manapuram area) districts as a follow up programme of the '10-day Adivasi Leadership Literacy Programme' in those villages, where the number of neo-literates is high. Promoting reading habit among the adivasis as part of lifelong learning process, is another objective of the CLCs. The CLCs are stocked with some relevant books/publications, e.g., back issues of 'Mannem lo' and other publications of the Laya, as well as some other popular Telugu magazines, journals, books, etc. Some CLCs are also being used as meeting places for CBOs and Women Village Level Committees. These CLCs are maintained by the village community.

The local CBOs are playing a significant role in the functioning of CLCs, especially in Addateegala and Paderu areas.

PARTICIPATION IN SEMINARS, MEETINGS

- ☞ Participated in 2-day 'South Indian Adivasi Meet' in May 2013 at Rekhapalli, V.R. Puram mandal, Khammam district, organized by a Network of Adivasi NGOs. The meet focused on the current issues in the name of development and anti- adivasi development policies by governments in the globalization process. Documented the all the issues, reflections, resolutions and action plans raised in the meet and published in 'Mannem lo'.
- ☞ Participated in a public meeting on "Current Development Issues' organized by 'Visakha Journalists Forum (VJF)' in April 2013 at Visakhapatnam. Some of the case studies presented on the present adivasi education system were published in 'Mannem lo'.
- ☞ Participated in a public meeting for an open discussion on 'Government promoted violations of human rights especially in the case of backward communities and other minorities in the name of development, internal security, etc.' organized by Human Rights Forum(HRF) in July 2013 at Visakhapatnam.
- ☞ Participated as a representative of 'Mannem lo' in the visit of an 'International Fact Finding Committee' on the 'Non-implementation of Forest Rights Act' hosted by APVVU in January 2014. Published the findings in 'Mannem lo'.

PUBLICATIONS:

Regular Publications (Newsletters):

'MANNEM LO': 4 ISSUES

- ✓ April - June 2013 with a special focus on 'Rights in Adivasi Scheduled Areas'.
- ✓ July - September 2013 with a special focus on 'Adivasi Identity'.
- ✓ October - December 2013 with a special focus on 'Socio-economic Conditions of Adivasis in Andhra Pradesh'.
- ✓ January – March 2014 with a special focus on 'Implementation of Forest Rights Recognition Act, 2006'.

'ECO-ETHIC' (ON CLIMATE CHANGE)

- ✓ Two issues (July and October 2013) on two key thematic areas 'Disasters' and 'Current Emission Cuts'.

OTHER PUBLICATIONS:

- ✓ **Rhythms of Development – III: A Five Year Activity Report of Laya (2007 – 2012).**
- ✓ **Scheduled Prantha Gramasabhala Nirvahana – Margadarsi (Telugu) by RLA: A guide to organize the Grama sabha in scheduled Areas (reprint).**

FILMS:

- ✓ A 30-minute video film was produced on construction, maintenance and user manual of bio-sand water filters and screened in 10 villages.

DISSEMINATION ROLE

Disseminated information on various development issues: displacement, exploitation of local resources, non-implementation of welfare schemes and legislations (MGNREGA, PESA, FRRA, Constitutional Rights, etc.), and issues (gender, environment and climate change, adivasi health, violation of Human Rights, atrocities on weaker sections, and sustainable development).

COLLABORATION WITH OTHER LIKEMINDED PEOPLE

Continued to collaborate with and shared experience with other likeminded persons and other civil society organizations: APVVU, ASDS, Andhra University, HRF, NAPM, DFYWA, VJNNS and other public and private fora.

PROVIDING SERVICES TO OTHER UNITS

This unit provided different documentation services and support in organization of trainings, meetings etc. to the other units as its contribution to the overall goals of the organization.

5.8. POLICY ADVOCACY

The Resource for Legal Action (RLA) Unit was mainly involved in specific policy issues and campaign activity:

- ☞ State level campaign for implementation of PESA Act held for creation of District Panchayats in the Scheduled Areas at Hyderabad.
- ☞ Protested at Nuthiramannapalem School, Buttaigudem Mandal, to suspend and take action against the teacher, who made a girl student pregnant. Complaint was given to police and other officials to take action on the school teacher and headmaster.
- ☞ Representation made to the SDT office, Buttaigudem Mandal, with the participation of 300 adivasis (female - 147) to demand for pattas for Podu lands.
- ☞ Representation made to the SDT office, Buttaigudem Mandal, with the participation of 80 adivasis (female - 45) to prevent purchase of LTR lands of Reddyppagudem for Polavaram Project affected adivasis.
- ☞ Representation made to the SDT office, Polavaram Mandal, with the participation of 200 adivasis (female - 100) to solve the problems of Project Affected Persons.
- ☞ Representation made to the SDT office, Buttaigudem Mandal, with the participation of 100 adivasi (female 54) to demand for Rs.7500/- as MSP for 1 quintal of cotton.
- ☞ Representation made to the MDO office, Kunavaram Mandal, with the participation of 160 adivasis (female - 70) demanding the release of payments for work done under MGNREGS.

- ☞ The Youth and Women Empowerment Unit facilitated a campaign for responsible involvement in Panchayat Raj elections in Titukapai, Somagandi and Puliputti in Srikakulam district and G. Sivada, Marripalli, Uridi, Neelakanapuram and Manda in Vizianagaram district: 1025 adivasis participated.

5.9. NETWORKING

NETWORKING AT THE LOCAL LEVEL

Laya's collaborative work and experiential sharing with other likeminded people and other civil society organizations was continued: APVVU, ASDS, Andhra University, HRF, NAPM, different public and private Forums, NGO networks, Film societies, Government departments like DRDA, etc. There was also collaboration with government agencies related to agriculture: State Horticulture Mission, Integrated Adivasi Development Agency, and High Altitude Adivasi Zone RARS, Chintapalli.

NETWORKING AT THE NATIONAL LEVEL

Apart from the networking processes that are initiated at the unit level last year Laya was intensively associated with, **Indian Network on Ethics and Climate Change (INECC)**, a national network, which has been engaging with the issue of Climate Change from a grassroots' perspective; and the **Asia South Pacific Association for Basic and Adult Education (ASPBAE)**, a regional network that works towards promoting quality education for all. It comprises 4 sub-regions: South Asia, East Asia, South East Asia and the Pacific; and the **Fair Climate Network (FCN)**, which facilitates and capacitates grassroots entities to develop pro-poor CDM Projects in India and tap carbon resources for the sustainable development of the poorest of the poor.

INDIAN NETWORK ON ETHICS AND CLIMATE CHANGE (INECC)

Laya has been the secretariat of INECC since its inception in 1996. The network has been more active over the last couple of years because of the increasing significance of Climate Change in the national and international context. Laya-INECC has been engaged in relating to the issue largely from an ethical and justice perspective. The network was involved in the following key thematic areas:

- 1 **People's voices into policy choices:** 'Peoples' voices in Policy choices' has been at the core of INECC's engagement. INECC works to bring to the fore, the concerns of the marginalized. Its engagement with policy dialogue ranges from the local to the international.
- 2 **Dialogue on climate justice:** INECC has created spaces for dialogue with a diverse set of youth and individuals that focus on climate justice, international processes, campaigns and behaviour change. Its aim has been to help youth and individuals become catalysts for climate change. Through this, it democratizes and enables climate responses that are varied, responsible and equitable.

3 **Climate Change and sustainable development:** INECC's work aims to mainstream climate change into sustainable development processes. Its action research on vulnerabilities, livelihoods and adaptation and other areas like food security, health gender through a climate lens. It strongly emphasizes climate education at various levels as a critical component of mainstreaming.



4 **Linking, learning and convergence:** defines how INECC shares experiences, learns from others, builds collaborations and forge convergence with a variety of actors: NGO representatives, grassroots organizations, movements, academicians, researchers, scientists, etc.

INECC's work explores how pilots in diverse areas such as renewable energy clusters, decentralised waste and 'climate-neutral villages' can lead to a larger climate action through replication and upscaling. In this context our specific contribution to the INECC process involved the following:



Accompaniment Role in Low Carbon Path study: This study attempted to articulate a low carbon pathway to a sustainable India by defining indicators of 'well-being' and carbon budget availability for India until 2050. This was a

seminal study in a sense despite several shortcomings as it brought together the need for development as perceived from the grassroots within the context of a carbon constrained India. The study was completed in February 2014.

Leading the Climate Education Working Group in INECC: Based on the experience of being a member of the ASPBAE's 'Education for Sustainable Development Working Group', the Associate Director is the convener of the 'Climate Change Working Group' of INECC. Drawing on



INECC's initial experience in organising seminars and workshops on 'Climate Change Education (CCE)', a framework for curriculum building on CCE has been drawn up to enable and add value to INECC partners' CCE initiatives with different target groups and ecosystems.

Facilitating key meetings of INECC: Laya played a key role in organising and facilitating three national meetings on thematic areas related to the Aviation sector in Climate Change in May 2013 and the Energy Issue and Indicators of Sustainable Development in August 2013 and 'Adaptation' in Laya's field area in March 2014.



Clean Development Mechanism (CDM) process and Sustainable Development: Some of the key initiatives included undertaking a comprehensive study on contextualising the CDM framework within the perspective of sustainable development. We have networked with several grassroots organisations across the country to understand the impact of CDM projects and the role

of grassroots organisations in highlighting violations particularly in the context of sustainable development.

Participation in Conference of Parties (CoP): Two representatives from Laya and one video reporter participated in CoP 19 at Warsaw in November 2013. The theme for this year for INECC was sharing and seeking collaboration on the Climate Neutral Village (CNV) concept. Several presentations were made to diverse audience at the Laya exhibit booth. The video reporter has made a film putting together understanding and work on adaptation.

Energy Assessment in Slums, Visakhapatnam: Laya facilitated a study on energy need assessment in 4 slums of urban Visakhapatnam involving college students and young professionals. A report has been prepared and the findings to be built on to identify issues for dialogue with the municipal officials.

Vulnerability assessment and follow up intervention: Based on a vulnerability assessment study in two of the interior panchayats in Laya's working area, we took the initiative to intervene in grassroots action in the context of community resilience building from the energy and farming perspectives. Our interventions involved undertaking initiatives to



Solar lanterns Assembling Training

preserve/restore local crop diversity, encouraging cultivation of local drought and flood tolerant varieties of crops, promoting mixed cropping on slope lands in 150 acres, promoting System of Rice Intensification (SRI) in irrigated and semi-irrigated source lands, promoting kitchen gardens in back yards/homesteads, soil and moisture conservation, demonstrating preparation of high humus based manure models and its applications, undertaking participatory documentation of present agricultural practices, drought and flood tolerant crop properties, present methods/types of distillations prevailing in the area, surface water sources, designing a study of gravity flow water schemes, introducing improved agriculture implements for drought conditions and promoting technologies such as fuel wood efficiency stoves, solar energy based lighting in Daragedda panchayat and installation of a hydro ram pump for irrigation and drinking water needs. (www.inecc.net)

ASIA SOUTH PACIFIC ASSOCIATION FOR BASIC AND ADULT EDUCATION (ASPBAE)

Laya is a member organisation of ASPBAE. The Associate Director of Laya has been re-elected as a member of the Executive Council for another term: 2013-2016. He has been involved with ASPBAE and related organisations in the following events in 2013-2014:

- ☞ As Co-Course Director, ASPBAE's Basic Leadership Development Course (BLDC) – Youth Voices in Education in Asia Pacific, September 2 – 7, 2013, Yangon, Myanmar;
- ☞ ASPBAE Executive Council Meeting: January 26 – 29, 2014, Tagaytay, Manila;
- ☞ As a Panelist In "Beholding the Future" session to talk about 'Challenges Ahead on Education for Sustainable Development (ESD) and their implications to ASPBAE's work in Asia-Pacific', at the ASPBAE's 50th Anniversary Launch: January 30, 2014, Quezon City, Manila.

Laya is kept informed on the latest developments, especially advocacy issues on education through the regular publications of ASPBAE: 'The APSBAE Bulletin – Learning Beyond Boundaries' and 'ASPBAE Ed-lines – Quality Education for All'. The Associate Director contributed a piece on 'Training for Transformation' in the June 2013 issue and the Executive Director wrote a piece on 'Civil Society Networks and Climate Crisis' in the December 2013 issue of ASPBAE Ed-lines – Quality Education for All'. (www.aspbae.org)

FAIR CLIMATE NETWORK- LOW CARBON FARMING COALITION

The Executive Director of Laya, who is one of the core group members of the Fair Climate Network (FCN) promoted the involvement of NGOs working with adivasis on Sustainable Agriculture in the Scheduled Areas to join in the coalition of FCN and Low Carbon Farming (LCF). Low Carbon Farming leads to reduced emissions from agriculture practice as a new concept in the discourse of climate change carbon trading mechanisms. From the initial 6 NGOs only 3 have persevered: Laya, IRDWSI and CeFHA. Environmental Defence Fund (EDF), New York, is also a member of this Coalition providing cutting edge science needed to interpret Sustainable Agriculture as carbon emission reduction. Laya is the lead organization for the project that is funded by ICCO, the Netherlands. So far 12,778 adivasi/marginal

farmers from 426 villages in project areas of the 3 NGOs have been surveyed and **44,683** acres of land have been identified, of which **17,116** acres have been delineated based on Global Positioning System (GPS) readings. (www.fairclimate.com)

6 GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT

Laya is legally registered under the Societies' Registration Act of 1860, now amended as the Andhra Pradesh Societies Registration Act, 2001, and under the Foreign Contribution Regulation Act (FCRA) of 1976, now amended in 2010 and governed by the Foreign Contribution (Regulation) Rules, 2011. The Society has a General Body of 13 members, governed by a Board of Management with 7 members, which advises the Secretariat through the Executive Director. A team of unit facilitators, constituting the Project Policy Team, assists the Executive Director.

As a strategy a unit approach has been adopted to facilitate quality and focused intervention in the programme promotion and implementation. These are based on the specific dimensions of the issues or problems addressed. The unit approach has helped to decentralize decision making for more effective functioning. Each unit has been encouraged to function autonomously with responsibility and collaborate through organic linkages with other units on the programme front.

In the last several years there has been a concerted focus on governance, particularly by strengthening the accountability systems within the organization. As a general management strategy of the organization, a relatively small core of personnel manages a wide outreach through a network with CBOs and collaborative relationships with other NGOs. There have been several discussions within the Board of Management on the roles of the Board and the Executive within the organisational context. All the Board members are professionally qualified and have wide experience in the field of development.

MANAGEMENT – GOVERNANCE INTERFACE

STRATEGIC MEETINGS



The strategic meetings of Laya are held half yearly:

- ☞ The first one was held on April 29-30, 2013 focused on 'Science and Technology: its relevance and our perspective and unit plans for 2013-2014'.
- ☞ The second strategic meeting held on January 3 & 4, 2014 was on the 'Planning for the Evaluation of Laya'

BOARD MEETINGS

THREE MEETINGS OF THE BOARD OF MANAGEMENT WERE HELD LAST YEAR:



☞ June 24-25, 2013: Inauguration of the new office (on June 24) and Board of Management Meeting (June 25)

☞ September 30 - October 1, 2013: Workshop on 'Laya Governance' and 'Social Entrepreneurship' (September 30) and General Body and Board of Management Meetings (October 1);

☞ February 21 - 22, 2014: Debriefing on Evaluation findings (February 21) and Board of Management Meeting (February 22).

EXTERNAL EVALUATION

There was a focused self-evaluation in January 2014 as well as an external evaluation carried out in February 2014.

The main results of the self-evaluation: reaffirmed the overall policy framework of Laya to safeguard human rights of adivasis on natural resources and demonstrate sustainable development alternatives to achieved economic and social security. The challenge was to examine all the programmes and activities of Laya in this context.

The main results of the external evaluation: "Laya has as its main objectives the safeguarding of the human rights of the Adivasis and the promotion of sustainable development; it also fosters leadership training for women and young people. Laya's advocacy on behalf of the indigenous population has resulted in an impressive record of assisting local claimants to secure their rights to land, which constitutes their main source of livelihood and is also a cultural resource. Laya's concept is not to discard traditional culture in the name of 'development', but to cultivate the gifts of the target groups, aiming at smooth modernization and acceptable change. This is well illustrated by another major activity of the organization: the support given and the infrastructure created for the revival and systematic upgrading of customary herbal-based medicine. Other efforts include the enhancement of agricultural practices, the improvement of basic living conditions in the rural areas through better access to clean water, and promotion of the use of energy-efficient cooking stoves and solar lanterns. Such projects go beyond demonstration purposes in the local communities. The leadership training for women and young people aims at dedicated and informed involvement in community affairs. Most impressive and convincing is the seriousness with which women's groups are devoted to their endeavours in savings cooperatives or other SHGs and CBOs.

“The evaluation established that the organization is professionally run, works on the basis of clearly defined programmes arrived at through a systematic process, uses established, comprehensible procedures, both operational and financial, and continuously compares results achieved with the goals set earlier. The criteria of effectiveness, efficiency and sustainability are embedded in the strategic planning as well as in the reporting process.

“In its specific area of work and using its capabilities, Laya is certainly one of the actors setting the rhythm of change. At the same time it has to take into account the changing environment of its own operations. In fact it has embarked on a transition process involving decentralization of its units and the exploration of innovative ways of acting. Creation of new autonomous sources of income and creativity in enticing local fundraising are both needed, as is the enhancement of organizational sustainability at the top management level.

“Another area of concern to the evaluators is that the work in the Adivasi areas – though certainly carried out 'for' and 'in concert with' the inhabitants – is basically still of the 'intervention' type. Moreover, the long history of Laya in the Adivasi area notwithstanding, there is practically no presence of members of the local indigenous population on the full-time staff of Laya; and neither the General Body nor the Board of Management has a member with an Adivasi background.”

7 SUMMARY OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

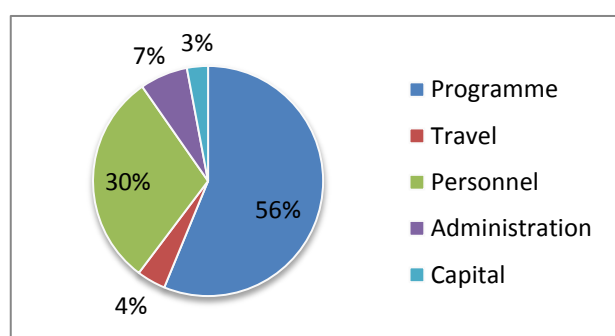
BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31-03-2014					
Liabilities	Amount (Rs. Rounded in Lakhs)		ASSETS	Amount (Rs. Rounded in Lakhs)	
<u>Excess of Income over Expenditure:</u>			<u>Fixed Assets</u>		228.95
Opening Balance	427.00				
<u>Less: Excess of the Expenditure over Income for the year</u>	51.15	375.85			
<u>Current Liabilities</u>			<u>Current Assets</u>		
			Cash-in-hand	0.44	
Project Advances	6.57		Cash-at-Bank	147.53	
			Programme Advances	5.15	153.12
Audit Fee Payable	0.36				
Gratuity Fund Payable	2.61		Project Advances		6.57
Bills Payable to CASA	0.80		TDS Receivable		0.30
Provision for Medical Reimbursement	2.75	13.09			
Total		388.94	Total		388.94

RECEIPTS FOR 2013- 2014

Funding Agencies	Total (in Rs.)	%
Centre for World Solidarity, India	387500	1.60
EED, Germany	8286146	34.22
Katholische Zentralstelle fur Entwicklungshilfe.V, Germany	15287483	63.15
Department of Science & Technology, Government of India, Delhi	250000	1.03
Total	24211129	100

EXPENDITURE FOR THE YEAR 2013 - 2014

Expenditure	Rs.	%
Programme	17526968	56
Travel	1267566	4
Personnel	9360006	30
Administration	2100632	7
Capital	921999	3
Total	31177171	100



UNIT/PROGRAMME-WISE EXPENDITURE FOR THE YEAR 2013-14

INTERVENTIONS	Total Expenditure	%
Natural Resource Management	763075	3
Alternative Health Care	1044743	4
Micro Credit & Micro Enterprise	431912	2
Empowerment of Youth & Women	3463529	12
Resource for Legal Action	2914603	10
Alternative Data Base, Networking & Advocacy	1002640	4
Science & Technology	1321087	5
Alternative and Decentralised Energy Options	17212951	60
Total	28154540	100

ANNEXURES

GENERAL BODY

- 1 Dr. B. Devi Prasad, Professor, Centre for Equity for Women Children and Families, School of Social Work, Tata Institute of Social Sciences, Mumbai;
- 2 Dr. B. Devi Prasad, Professor, Centre for Equity for Women Children and Families, School of Social Work, Tata Institute of Social Sciences, Mumbai;
- 3 Dr. Nafisa Goga D'Souza, Executive Director, Laya, Visakhapatnam;
- 4 Mr. Walter Mendoza, Development Consultant, Pune;
- 5 Dr. Lata Narayan, Professor, Centre for Lifelong Learning, Tata Institute of Social Sciences, Mumbai;
- 6 Ms. Nandini Narula, Development Consultant, New Delhi;
- 7 Prof. T. Sudhakar Reddy, Department of Fine Arts, Andhra University, Visakhapatnam;
- 8 Mr. Sanjay Khatua, Director, DHARA, Bhubaneswar;
- 9 Mr. Dominic D'Souza, Associate Director, Laya, Visakhapatnam;
- 10 Dr. D.V.R. Murthy, Professor, Department of Journalism and Mass Communication, Andhra University, Visakhapatnam;
- 11 Ms. Mani Mistry, Executive Director, Children of the World, Mumbai;
- 12 Mr. Minar Pimple, Asia Deputy Director, The United Nations Millennium Campaign, Bangkok;
- 13 Ms. Maveen Soares Pereira, Head of South Asia Programmes, Traidcraft, U.K.;
- 14 Ms. Rama Nandanavanam, Senior Development Professional, Hyderabad.

BOARD OF MANAGEMENT

- 1 Prof. B. Devi Prasad, President;
- 2 Dr. Nafisa Goga D'Souza, Secretary;
- 3 Mr. Walter Mendoza, Treasurer;
- 4 Dr. Lata Narayan, Member;
- 5 Ms. Nandini Narula, Member;
- 6 Prof. T. Sudhakar Reddy, Member;
- 7 Mr. Sanjay Khatua, Member.

THE LAYA TEAM

S No	Names	Location	Designation
1	Dr. Nafisa Goga D'Souza	Visakhapatnam	Executive Director
2	Dominic D'Souza	Visakhapatnam	Associate Director
3	Srinivas Rao B.	Visakhapatnam	Coordinator, Empowerment of Youth and Women
4	Dr. Venugopal Rayudu	Visakhapatnam	Specialist, Science and Technology
5	Ms Nagamani V. V.	Visakhapatnam	Coordinator, Finance
6	Mallikharjuna Rao. L.	Visakhapatnam	Coordinator, Documentation
7	Ms Manisha Banerjee	Visakhapatnam	Coordinator, Administration
8	Satyanarayana M.	Visakhapatnam	Coordinator, Information Technology
9	Kumar D.S.S.P.	Visakhapatnam	Office Assistant
10	Ms Bala Jyothi P.	Visakhapatnam	Accounts Assistant
11	Shankar Rao P.	Visakhapatnam	Driver
12	Ms Ramulamma. Ch.	Visakhapatnam	Office Assistant
13	Kantha Rao T.	Visakhapatnam	Field Coordinator, Empowerment of Youth
14	Madhava Rao R.	Visakhapatnam	Driver cum Office Assistant
15	Jagadeesh K.	Visakhapatnam	Hardware Technical Assistant
16	Ms Lavanya K.	Visakhapatnam	Assistant Accountant
17	Siddharth D'Souza	Visakhapatnam	Coordinator, Climate Change
18	Ms AjitaTiwari Padhi	New Delhi	Facilitator, Indian Network on Ethics and Climate Change (INECC)
19	Myron Mendes	Mumbai	Field Coordinator, CDM Project
20	Bulliyya G.	Addateegala	Coordinator, Alternative Health Care
21	Koteswara Rao K.	Addateegala	Coordinator, Natural Resource Management
22	Satyanarayana G.V.V.	Addateegala	Accountant
23	Ms Padmavathi A.	Addateegala	Project Assistant, Empowerment of Women
24	Chakra Babu B.	Addateegala	Field Coordinator, Natural Resource Management
25	Chellayya B.	Addateegala	Field Coordinator, Decentralised Energy Option
26	Ravi Raja J.	Addateegala	Coordinator, Community Media Unit
27	Satyanarayana D.	Addateegala	Driver cum Office Assistant
28	Veeraraghava K.	Addateegala	Field Coordinator, Herbal Based Health Care
29	Gowri Shankar E.	Addateegala	Field Coordinator, Empowerment of Youth & Women
30	Prasad R.	Jalampalli	Care taker of Training Centre
31	Ravindra V.	Paderu	Area Coordinator
32	Srinivas Rao N.	Paderu	Field Coordinator, Empowerment of Youth
33	Ms Annapoorna S.	Paderu	Finance and Administrative Assistant
34	Lova Raju D.	Paderu	Field Coordinator, Decentralised Energy Options
35	Ms Lakshmi Sunitha V.	Paderu	Data Entry Operator, LCF Project
36	Somesh Kumar R.	Paderu	Field Coordinator, Natural Resource Management
37	Satyanarayana B.	Paderu	Field Coordinator, VER Project
38	Dr. Trinadh Rao P.	Rajahmundry	Advocate, Resource for Legal Action
39	Ms Annapurna M.	Rajahmundry	Advocate, Resource for Legal Action
40	Ram Babu P.	Rajahmundry	Field Coordinator, Resource for Legal Action
41	Ram Babu M.	Rajahmundry	Office Assistant, Resource for Legal Action
42	MuraliVasu P.	Rajahmundry	Finance and Administrative Assistant, Resource for Legal Action
43	Srinivas A.	Rajahmundry	Field Coordinator, Displacement Study

PARTICIPATION IN INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCES:

NAFISA GOGA D'SOUZA

- ☞ 'Eco-Theology-Caring for Creation Today and Building a Sustainable World for Tomorrow' Conference and the 'Working Group on Climate Change': May 14 – 18, 2013, Chateau de Bossey, Geneva, Switzerland.
- ☞ Asian Approaches to Climate Change Adaptation and Disaster Resilience: Experience, Lessons and Opportunities for Cooperation: August 1 – 2, 2013, Vietnam.
- ☞ Shaping the Development We Want: Voices from the Global South: September 23 – 25, 2013, New York.
- ☞ Conference of Parties (COP) - 19: November 16 – 22, Warsaw, Poland.

DOMINIC D'SOUZA

- ☞ Attended as Co-Course Director, ASPBAE's Basic Leadership Development Course (BLDC) – Youth Voices in Education in Asia Pacific, September 2 – 7, 2013, Yangon, Myanmar
- ☞ ASPBAE Executive Council Meeting: January 26 – 29, 2014, Tagaytay, Manila.
- ☞ ASPBAE 50th Anniversary Launch: January 30, 2014, Quezon City, Manila.

AJITA TIWARI

- ☞ Conference on "Power up! – A just energy transition for the South": October 7 – 11, 2013, Cape Town, South Africa.
- ☞ Conference of Parties (COP) - 19: November 18 – 22, Warsaw, Poland.

SIDDHARTH D'SOUZA

- ☞ Conference on "Power up! – A just energy transition for the South": October 7 – 11, 2013, Cape Town, South Africa.

Conference of Parties (COP) - 19: November 16 – 22, Warsaw, Poland.

27/09/2014