



'give me the strength never to disown the poor or bend my knees before insolent might'
- Rabindranath Tagore



Rhythms in Development III

Five Year Report 2007 - 2012



Laya is legally registered under the Societies' Registration Act of 1860 (now deemed to be registered under the Andhra Pradesh Societies' Registration Act of 2001) and under the Foreign Contribution Regulation Act (FCRA) of 1976.

All donations are exempt from income tax under Section 80G

Vision

We envisage a socially just and humanized society where the marginalised communities find a space for survival with dignity. The vulnerability of such societies is under greater threat with the forces of globalization and privatization on their day-to-day life situation.

Mission

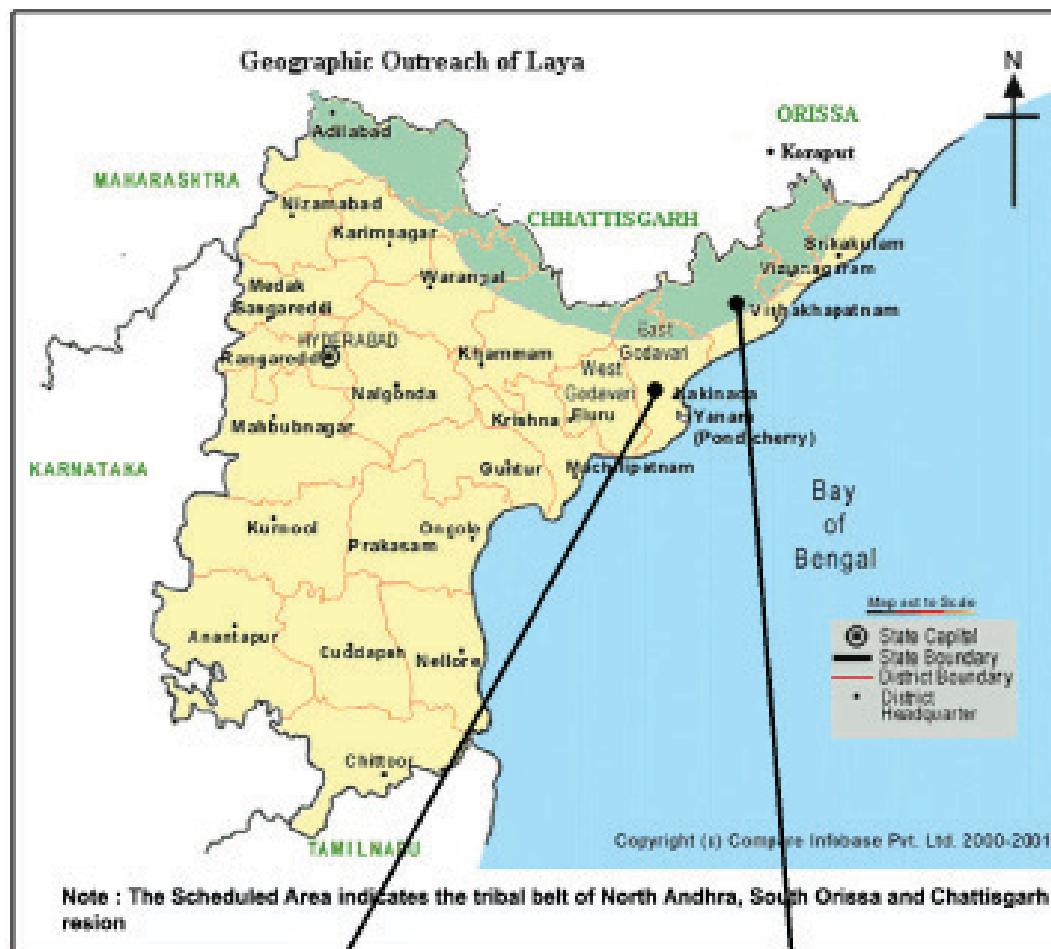
Empowerment of marginalised communities for assertion of their rights and to promote relevant sustainable alternatives at the grassroots level.

Goals

- To promote empowerment of communities in urban, rural, tribal contexts;
- To promote sustainable development initiatives at various levels;
- To undertake capacity development initiatives with various target groups, especially youth and women;
- To build strategic alliances with other voluntary organisations, networks and educational institutions for social development;
- To develop an alternative database through research and documentation to educate, influence policy and support local initiatives.



Geographical Location of Laya's work



Word from the Executive Director...

The last 5 years saw a deepening and strengthening, on the one hand, of those areas that we had been working on for more than two decades, and on the other hand, embarking into new and innovative initiatives.

While continuing our core aspects of intervention: human rights, youth/women's empowerment, herbal based community health care, micro credit and enterprise, natural resource management, decentralised renewable energy options and our networking processes at a broader level, there have been other effective developments.

On safeguarding human rights, the Resource for Legal Action Unit was successful in 213 cases covering an area of 1669 acres, where the adivasis gained repossession of their lands in the last five years. Moreover, due to the longstanding credibility of our advocate with government officials, we have been able to influence various decisions related to legal administrative mechanisms at the State level in favour of adivasis.

The Youth and Women Empowerment Unit, which cuts across multiple Units, reached out directly to about 4000 youth, of which 50% were young women. The nature of activities included orientation and awareness meetings, issue based workshops, promoting value based leadership, capacity building, literacy for leadership and campaigns. More specifically, the Unit outreach extended to more than 100 Community Based Organisations who in turn were engaged in 1120 villages across the Scheduled Areas of 7 districts: Srikakulam, Vizianagaram, Visakhapatnam, East Godavari, West Godavari, Khammam and Warangal.

The Herbal Based Community Health Care Unit's outreach extended to about 60,000 adivasis, almost 50% of whom were women through various initiatives such as community health centres, regular health camps, special need based health camps and through treatment provided at Vanan-

tharam, our Herbal Medicine Resource Centre. This Unit apart from providing training services, facilitated more than 50 village based herbal gardens to promote plant varieties necessary to produce medicine. Perhaps the best achievement was to facilitate the registration of a pharmacy, which now dispenses herbal medicines in the local market.

In relation to Micro Credit and Enterprise the focus in the last five years was mainly on developing a business approach to our interventions and developing feasible options for market access based on the rich natural resource availability in the local habitat. These efforts have provided us with unique insights, which we hope to pursue in the next phase of our engagement. The key problem we faced was with the long-term sustainability of one of the key micro credit alternative banking systems that we have been promoting.

As regards Natural Resource Management, the Unit's involvement in 2011-2012 reached out to 4569 households from 206 villages in 7 mandals of Visakhapatnam and East Godavari districts. Its key objective was to undertake and demonstrate sustainable agriculture initiatives. New initiatives comprised piloting a project on low carbon farming, which emanated from the climate change debate to safeguard sustainable agriculture efforts. This initiative was a part of larger networking process. This unit was also supported by the Science and Technology Desk, which took up innovative action research initiatives.

And finally, the Renewable and Decentralised Energy Options Desk made excellent headway, not only in taking up village and household based energy projects such as improved wood stoves, micro-hydel, solar lanterns, bio-sand filters at the community level but also in up-scaling access of about 4000 families to improved woodstoves thereby safeguarding the health and allaying the drudgery concerns of adivasi women in the region. This was facilitated through a mechanism

called 'voluntary emission reductions', a by-product of United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) negotiations on market instruments to stabilise emission levels.

Besides the multiple networking initiatives at the Unit levels, we were involved in three main processes at the institutional level:

- As a founder member and secretariat of the Indian Network on Ethics and Climate Change (INECC), we played a key facilitation role in safeguarding the interests of marginalised communities in the climate debate;
- As a member of the Asia South Pacific Association for Basic and Adult Education (ASPBAE) and with representation in the Executive Council of ASPBAE, we played a vital role in pursuing the goals of education for sustainable development;
- As part of the core team of Fair Climate Network (FCN), we led one of the 3 coalitions on low carbon farming and promoted pro-poor, environment friendly projects at the grass-roots.

The successes were many at the programmatic level but so were the challenges at the institutional level.

One of the key institutional challenges has been to develop ways by which we are able to sustain our interventions meaningfully in the long run. No doubt that there is a resource crunch to support NGO activity. During this phase two of our Northern partners withdrew due to policy changes at their end. As India is beginning to be perceived as a so called 'emerging nation' several countries among the developed nations have concluded that the 'marginalised' in India do not deserve the same attention as those in Least Developed

Countries. And yet the 2010 Global Hunger Index ranks India at 67 out of 122 developing countries, reporting that 'serious hunger' exists in all States. The amount of daily food grain available per capita and, more importantly, accessible is lower than in the 1950s. This is ironical.

This has led to a rethink among NGOs on their dependence particularly on external funding. Laya has been no exception. As an organisation hence we have been deliberating with our Board of Management on diversifying our source of funds in a way that does not compromise Laya's integrity and key objectives. Our introspection has led us to deliberate on developing a social entrepreneurship perspective for our engagement.

We have realised that mechanisms for resource mobilizing and management have to undergo radical changes. This will be the main driver for our future engagements in order to ensure long term sustainability.

A silver lining on a dark cloud of institutional challenges lay in the very kind gesture from one of our key partners MISEREOR, Germany, to support the construction of an office for Laya Resource Centre at Visakhapatnam. As the building nears completion we are relieved that we will no longer be pushed around for functional space; and we are proud of the institutional identity that this structure will provide.

And finally a special appreciation to all our donors, friends and well-wishers who have supported and stood by us in our long and adventurous journey of engagement with adivasi communities from whom we have learnt so much....



*Dr. Nafisa Gosa D'Souza
Executive Director, Laya*

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Adivasi climbing to tap toddy



Photo Credit: Achim Pohl, MISEREOR

Context and Evolution

The adivasis (tribals) 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 of indiscriminate multiple market demands from agri-business, mining, hydro-power, etc. Though there are special protective laws in the Scheduled Areas, they do not prevent violation of the rights of the adivasis at the grassroots level in the context 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 increasingly complex in an environment which has an accelerated exposure to market forces. Some of these situations are elaborated below in the context of Laya's work.

Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA), 2005

The MGNREGA is a landmark legislation introduced by the government with the tremendous potential of impacting rural livelihoods and economy of the household as well as the tribal

community at the grassroots in terms of work opportunity and also income. It also provides immense scope for advocacy for tribal rights at different levels.

Laya's work has been to facilitate Community Based Organisations (CBOs) to avail of the local resources and act as implementing and monitoring agencies as well as identify need based works and to prepare and propose micro plans of new sites for constructing or deepening tanks and other public works like soil and moisture conservation measures. However, there are loopholes in the Act, which are being plugged through mobilizing community for advocacy on tribal rights at various levels. Laya's intervention has been to facilitate CBOs to avail of the Right to Information Act to make the executive more responsible to the implementation of law as well as empowering the community.

A policy for implementation of MGNREGA in tribal areas was brought out by Ministry of Rural Development, Andhra Pradesh to which the Resource for Legal Action (RLA) Unit responded highlighting the loopholes in the policy and suggesting alternatives for effective implementation of the Act. Secondly the Government passed an order (GO 129) entrusting the MGNREGA implementation to the Work Executive Committee involving huge finances thereby increasing the scope for misappropriation of funds and diluting the powers of the Gram Sabha (village assembly) under PESA Act. Based on a study in East Godavari District on the implementation of GO

129 the RLA Unit submitted a report to the Ministry of Rural Development of Andhra Pradesh and Central Government thus suspending the implementation of GO 129 and forcing an enquiry into lapses in its implementation in East Godavari district.

Forest Rights Recognition Act (FRRA), 2006

This is a central legislation intended to recognize the entitlement rights of forest lands already occupied by the adivasis and other traditional forest dwellers and to provide access to forest produce for livelihood purposes. However, there has been a systematic effort to dilute and obstruct the full and proper implementation of the Forest Rights Recognition Act, 2006. Only 42% (1,38,597 claims) of the total forest rights claims were recommended to the District Level Committees (DLC) by the Sub Divisional Level Committee (SDLC) by May 2009, and the DLC had finally approved 39% (1,28,948 claims) of the total claims.

Laya has been involved in challenging the conversion of the concept of 'community' through both legal and campaign advocacy. In respect to community rights the Government seems to have willfully misinterpreted the Act's meaning of 'community' by vesting powers to the VSS (Forest Protection Committee) rather than the gram sabha comprising all resident adults. The VSS is not the gram sabha, but a selected committee constituted for project implementation by the Forest Department. As a result, a Writ Petition was filed in the High Court of Andhra Pradesh challenging the action of Government in assigning the community forest rights to VSS instead of the tribal village community. The Government of Andhra Pradesh constituted a five member committee of which RLA Unit's representative was invited as a non-official member. The Committee brought out guidelines for implementing the Forest Rights Recognition Act.

At the grassroots level we continued to:

- Ensure the powers of the gram sabhas to manage and control common property and natural forest resources;
- Facilitate regularization of tribal cultivation on hill slopes or forest lands;
- Promote appropriate mechanisms to resolve conflicts between the Forest and Revenue Departments and claims of adivasis over their habitations and lands;
- Ensure the authority of gram sabha/panchayats vis-à-vis the village protection committees and forest development plans;
- Ensure access to NTFP and role of gram sabhas or pri-

- mary collectors' groups or co-operatives to process, transport, and market Non Timber Forest Produce (NTFP) without hindrance from State agencies.

Panchayat Raj Institutions

A landmark legislation was enacted by the Parliament, Panchayat Raj Extension to Scheduled Areas (PESA) Act, 1996 extending its provisions to the Scheduled Areas under the Fifth Schedule of the Constitution. Subsequently, in 1998 the State Government of Andhra Pradesh brought an amendment to the Panchayat Raj Act, 1994 in view of the PESA Act, 1996, making it applicable to the Scheduled Areas of Andhra Pradesh. However for many years the Ministry of Tribal Affairs did not articulate the Rules under the PESA Act, as there was no consensus among the interrelated departments.

The PESA Act Implementation Committee was then formed with the facilitation of NGOs including RLA Unit at the state level to take up this issue. The state government was going ahead with all its 'developmental' projects without heeding the provisions under PESA Act. It did not take the gram sabha/panchayat into confidence in the decision making process



undermining the constitutional Panchayat Raj Institutions. After continued advocacy for framing of Rules under PESA Act 1998, the State Government finally came out with the Rules in February 2011. The Panchayat Extension to Scheduled Areas Act (PESA) 1998, which is intended to empower local bodies as well as the gram sabha, was non-operative till the final framing of Rules. However, although Government of Andhra Pradesh brought out Rules, it failed to notify the villages for the constitution of gram sabhas under the PESA Act.

We have been involved in advocating for the constitution of gram sabhas on the one hand, and going ahead with the implementation of PESA Act without waiting for State Government's response. We have been using the PESA Act to empower the gram sabhas and functional committees for effective local governance. The challenge is in facilitating the target communities in recognizing the important role that gram sabha decisions could play in self-assertion in the local governance process. We are involved in this process through the multiple grassroots networks that we relate with.

Threat of Displacement by Polavaram Dam

The multi-purpose Polavaram Project, proposed as a boon for farmers in the Krishna delta, threatens the livelihood and very survival of the adivasi communities in the region who are being displaced by the project. In spite of a favourable Project Displacement and Resettlement Policy, there is little change in the attitude of the State Government on displacing the tribals without adhering to the norms and provisions of the policy.

The neighbouring state, Odisha is opposing the dam and has initiated legal proceedings in the Supreme Court of India, which has resulted in a committee being constituted to look into the project details in the light of the 'Bachawat Award' with reference to sharing of waters. The Government without following the provisions under the Forest Rights Recognition Act in the proposed submergence villages has started acquiring lands and initiated steps for eviction. This is an infringement of the inherent rights of the tribal communities, who should have the first right of access to these lands. We have been involved in protecting the forest rights of adivasis living in the submergence villages and empowering the adivasi communities to challenge the process of land acquisition in violation of the Forest Rights Recognition Act as well as Land Transfer Regulations.



State Government's MOU with the World Bank on Water Issues

The State government entered into an Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the World Bank amounting to Rs 17000 crores to reconstruct old check dams and propose new ones. While this could be a positive move at face value, there are concerns related to the politics of decision-making in relation to the location of the check dams. A key vested interest for this programme appears to be to make available additional water to the Special Economic Zone (SEZ) areas.

Skill-based Training for Tribal Youth by the Government

The type and effectiveness of the skilled-based training programmes being promoted by the government for educated tribal youth is a matter of concern, as the focus is on sending tribal youth outside the Scheduled Areas, rather than contributing to their community causing further identity alienation. Also, the manner in which the programmes are executed does not ensure the safety and security of the tribal youth, especially women, during the training period. Our role has been on one hand to critique government policy on youth employment and on the other hand to demonstrate new avenues for self-employment keeping in mind the aspirations of youth.



posed the proposed sanctuary and finally the State Government withdrew its plan.

Bauxite Mining in Scheduled Areas

The Eastern Ghats, which are a storehouse of bauxite - with 564.33 million tons of deposits in East Godavari and Visakhapatnam districts alone, spreads over 4700 hectares of land. Bauxite mining would affect 247 villages and displace 44,000 tribals. The survey of The Energy Research Institute (TERI), New Delhi, disclosed that there would be an environmental loss of Rs 1520 crores alone in Anantagiri mandal in Visakhapatnam district. Also since the entire coffee plantations are in the bauxite belt, the proposed mining would affect 60,000 coffee growers including workers. Rivers such as the Gosthani, Varaha, Tandava and Sarada have their catchments in the bauxite deposits, which will be lost if indiscriminate bauxite mining is allowed. It is surprising that in the face of strong evidence of the losses, the Union Government, Ministry of Environment and Forests cleared the smelting projects for private companies in 2007.

Jindal and Ras-Alkhaima groups have entered into an agreement with the State Government. There is no agreement in relation to mining in the Scheduled Areas. The State claims that the extraction of bauxite will be carried out by the State owned Andhra Pradesh Mineral Development Corporation (APMDC) and as such there would not be any violation of the prevailing Land Transfer Regulation. The tribals and the political parties are opposing the mining proposal. The threat for tribals in our work area is real as the neo-liberal policy is keen on opening up mining area. The State Government has not obtained any consensus under the provisions of PESA Act. A farcical public hearing on the issue at the behest of the State Government in an inaccessible location for local communities was strongly opposed by the tribal communities, civil society organisations and some political parties, who recommended a more participatory process of disclosure and feedback on the project.

Tracking Tribal Sub-Plan Budget

The flow of funds from the State Government to the Tribal Sub-Plan (TSP) is worked out on the basis of total population of the Sub-Plan area, its geographical area, and its comparative level of development and availability of social services. The main objective of the TSP strategy is to narrow the gap between the levels of development of 'tribal areas' as compared to other areas as well as to improve the quality of life

Elephant Sanctuary and Displacement of Tribal Families

The State Government was proposing to declare 117.86 sq. km as a wild life sanctuary in the forest areas of Vizianagaram and Srikakulam districts in order to protect elephants, which have strayed from the border forest areas of Odisha. 13 panchayats in Seetampeta mandal, Srikakulam district, have been declared as an elephant protection zone. The Ministry of Environment and Forests claimed that the sanctuary would affect only 300 families in nine villages in Srikakulam and Vizianagaram districts and that the Central Wildlife Board would provide a compensation of Rs 10 lakh to each family, apart from houses and other civil infrastructure. However, other reports indicated that the proposed Wild Life Sanctuary would displace around 40,000 tribals from 100 villages.

About 5000 adivasi families from 156 villages, with the involvement of 26 CBOs, sought the mediation of the President of the CBO Federation to meet with the Chief Minister on this issue. The adivasi communities and also political parties op-

of the tribal communities. In spite of the fact that several committees, like the Cabinet Sub-Committee, are constituted to monitor the implementation of the TSP, the reality is that the funds are either diverted or unspent. During 2009-10, even though 7.08 percent of TSP funds was allocated from the State outlay, only 5.14 percent was spent. We have been involved in tracking the flow of funds and critically looking at the allocation of funds to various departments and sharing this information with higher authorities advocating the rights of adivasis.

A study was taken up on the strategy of TSP and its impact on livelihoods of adivasis. The findings of the study found place in the report of the Cabinet Sub-Committee. Now the Government of Andhra Pradesh is contemplating to bring out legislations to plug the loopholes in the implementation of TSP strategy in the State.

Climate Change and its implications at the Grassroots

It is well known that the impacts of climate change affect the most those who are marginalized and have least contributed to the problem of climate change. This macro level problem has its implications at the grassroots level both in relation to mitigation and adaptation: mitigation because of the need to reduce emissions without compromising with the goals of development, and adaptation because of the need to mainstream climate change into the development agenda.

Laya Resource Centre, in collaboration with the Indian Network on Ethics and Climate Change (INECC), undertook a

feasibility study on decentralized energy options in the tribal context of the Eastern Ghats region; and at the grassroots level we have been creatively relating to both mitigation and adaptation: mitigation through exploring tribal community centric 'Clean Development Mechanisms' by collaborating with the 'Fair Climate Network' and through taking up decentralised energy options: micro-hydel, solar lighting, and fuel efficient cooking stoves. With reference to adaptation, a vulnerability assessment study was undertaken in Pathakota and Daragedda panchayats in the interior areas of East Godavari district with a view to develop an adaptation strategy around energy based clusters.

We have also been participating in advocacy initiatives at the national and international context. The government of India has come with a National Action Plan on Climate Change (NAPCC) that outlines a number of missions that will work towards voluntarily reducing emissions. Together with the Indian Network on Ethics and Climate Change (INECC), a national level coalition was formed to advocate community voices from different eco-climatic zones in policy formulation. As part of the road map to Copenhagen Conference of Parties (COP) 15, public hearings on the impacts of climate change in the various ecosystems on the marginalised were organised in Delhi in November 2009 in collaboration with various civil society organisations and with the participation of community representatives of each eco-climatic zone. Two more COPs have taken place after Copenhagen. INECC has been utilising this opportunity to share its work through a kiosk at the COPs and organising side events. Besides efforts are being made to connect with INECC associates back in India by brief video snippets and on-line communication. ■





Land Alienation and Human Rights

Laya has been involved in addressing land alienation and human rights issues since its inception. Human rights are basic rights for human existence and refer more specifically to the socio-economic and cultural rights here of the adivasi communities. The livelihood and survival of adivasi communities is closely interlinked to their dependence on and the sustainable use of their natural resources. For adivasis, the threat to natural resources like land, water and forests, is a threat to their livelihood which is symbiotic to their identity as an ethnic group. While there are protective laws in the Scheduled Areas, the rights of adivasis continue to be violated.

Laya's work related to Land Alienation and Human Rights is undertaken by the Resource for Legal Action (RLA), which is an autonomous unit. RLA Unit has adopted a multi-pronged strategy to safeguard the rights of the adivasi communities across four districts: East Godavari, Visakhapatnam, West Godavari and Khammam.

The strategies adopted include

- Facilitating access to justice through legal and other advocacy measures;
- Empowering adivasi communities through awareness and legal education;
- Generating data for advocacy and training on the adivasis' rights to natural resources;
- Promoting activists/paralegals to play a vigilance role in safeguarding rights to natural resources.

Accessing the legal system and other advocacy measures

Legal advocacy relates to cases ranging from land rights issues to maintenance cases, filing bail applications and Public Interest Litigations (PIL), primarily in situations where adivasis have been denied justice. Such cases mainly relate to the following:

Lands restored to adivasis

Though legal advocacy as well as 'alternative dispute resolution' process, a total of 3970 cases related to land were undertaken, of which 1113 were successful in enabling the adivasi families to recover possession of lands to an extent of 7480 acres.

Legal advocacy

Year	Cases taken up	Successful cases	Extent repossessed by tribal families (Ac)
2007-2008	294	48	209
2008-2009	418	11	734
2009-2010	159	85	344
2010-2011	124	21	108
2011-2012	181	48	274
2007-2012	1176	213	1669

Alternative dispute resolution

Year	Cases taken up	Successful cases	Extent repossessed by tribal families(Ac)
2007-2008	647	190	1485
2008-2009	337	151	1169
2009-2010	712	196	1062
2010-2011	671	162	910
2011-2012	427	201	1185
2007-2012	2794	900	5811

Policy advocacy measures

RLA Unit initiated and facilitated the following actions at the State and higher levels:

- Advocated the urgency to frame Rules under PESA Act. The Rules were finally framed in 2011.
- Challenged the notification issued by the Government of

Andhra Pradesh at the High Court for conducting auctions to give licenses to run liquor shops in the Scheduled Areas. This is against the PESA Act and attempts to override the powers of the gram sabhas;

- Lobbied with the Tribal Welfare authorities to follow the 'reservation' norms in the Scheduled Areas to fill up of the Teachers' posts with Scheduled Tribe candidates as per GO Ms 3;
- Challenged the GO Ms 76 issued by Government of Andhra Pradesh considering the major son only as a separate family unit thus ignoring the rights of a major daughter for the rehabilitation and resettlement benefit under Project Displacement;
- Moved to resist delivery of 4000 acres of land situated in 6 hamlets of Manturu estate village in Devipatnam mandal, East Godavari District to a non-advansi 'inamdar' based on an earlier District Court order;
- Made representations to State Human Rights Commission (SHRC) on the issue of compensation for the lands under Musirimilli Project, East Godavari district, thereby drawing attention to the non-implementation of Relief and Rehabilitation Package under Polavaram Project;
- Challenged the proposal for extension of Judicial Courts to Agency areas to deal with civil matters in the Supreme Court and lobbied with the Tribal Welfare Department for continuation of executive courts which are more accessible to tribal communities and the procedures relatively simple. The High Power Committee accepted our contention in the Supreme Court of India. The Supreme Court of India then up held the contention and ordered the continuance of the existing Agency Courts.
- Challenged the monopoly power of Girijan Cooperative Corporation (GCC) over minor forest produce as indicated in PESA in order to empower the gram sabhas with authority to take decisions on sale of minor forest produce. The High Court permitted the tribals to sell their minor forest produce outside the Scheduled Areas.

Empowering adivasi communities

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

- Legal Education Programmes catered mainly to the youth focusing largely on the understanding of the right to self-governance, land rights, other related legal issues and how to address local issues. 191 legal education camps were held for

tribal youth on land rights, women's rights, human rights, the Right to Information Act, Forest Rights Recognition Act, etc., in which the RLA Unit reached out to 7720 tribals including 5505 women;

- Legal Awareness Camps were conducted in villages to inculcate a basic understanding of accessing justice through the legal systems. 248 village level legal awareness camps were held in which 7631 tribals including 3846 women participated;
- Legal Advisory Camps were periodically held mainly on weekly market days in nodal areas, where legal cases were identified, legal advice and suggestions offered, particularly in drafting petitions or representations to authorities on various administrative and legal issues. 198 Legal Advisory camps

Campaign for Panchayat Extension to Scheduled Areas (PESA) Act, 1996

After continued advocacy by Laya and other civil society organisations for framing of rules under PESA Act 1996, Government has come out with the Rules in February 2011. As a part of the campaign several meetings were held, memoranda submitted to Integrated Tribal Development Agencies (ITDAs) of East and West Godavari, Visakhapatnam and Khammam districts. Pamphlets were distributed to create awareness among the Adivasi communities. RLA was invited for discussion on draft Rules of PESA Act at official level meetings of the Government and subsequently as ex officio member at the Tribal Advisory Council meeting for approval. Finally, the Rules were notified by the Government of Andhra Pradesh in February 2011.

We have been involved using the PESA Act to empower the gram sabha and functional committees for effective local governance and in developing micro level plans in selected panchayats to realise the right to development through more democratic involvement of adivasi communities.





PESA training session for Govt. officials in Eturunagaram

counselling tribals on legal and administration matters were held in market places of four mandals in East Godavari District in which 1756 tribals participated including 713 women;

- A host of other meetings were also organised with an aim to bringing about an awareness of land rights, women's rights, role of women in governance, importance of the PESA, MGNREGA, ICDS, etc. Some were organised in collaboration with the ITDA. Meetings were also held with members of the Vigilance Task Force on the implementation of government programs in villages, and with members of the Forest Rights' Committees to educate them on ensuring rightful claims;
- 18 paralegal training programmes in ITDA areas were held on land rights and women's rights, issues and laws in which a total number of 943 adivasis were trained including 438 women;
- International Adivasi Day, which falls on 9th of August was celebrated annually by organising gatherings of adivasis to highlight their rights in the context of natural resources and governance issues;
- 11 Human Rights Workshops were held for sex workers, tribal youth, and team members of the RLA Unit on various rights issues like right to health, constitutional safeguards, land rights in which 202 members attended.

Advocacy for socio economic entitlements

The RLA Unit has been involved in developing an alternative data base to support adivasi communities to rightfully access government benefits and entitlements. The major geographical locations were the tribal belt of 4 key districts: East and West Godavari, Khammam and Visakhapatnam.

Access to land rights

- It is a paradox that while there is wasteland, some adivasis are landless. 79 villages were surveyed revealing 638 tribals landless households. Representations were made to the Government to assign lands;

- Representations were submitted for the grant of pattas on podu (shifting) cultivation in 48 villages of East and West Godavari and Khammam districts to 1110 identified tribals households to an extent of 3048 acres;
- Facilitated adivasi communities to apply for pattas for the forest land to an extent of 4975 acres under the Forest Rights Recognition Act through surveys conducted in 26 villages in East Godavari and Visakhapatnam districts;
- The vested interests of 12 non-adivasi political leaders in Bhadrachalam occupying 197 acres were revealed through a survey exposing the contradiction of the political parties, that claimed before the press that they stand for the enforcement of 1 of 70 Regulation, which prohibits transfer of land between non-adivasis;
- As part of the effort to ensure land titles to the communities affected by the construction of the Polavaram dam, relevant information on forest land under adivasi cultivation, poromboke (barren) lands in Polavaram mandal and lands under adivasi occupation was collected and representations were submitted to the district collector, West Godavari District at Eluru.

Social security schemes/local governance issues

- Facilitated applications made for the issue of ration cards to 928 households based on surveys carried out in 139 villages as a part of food security efforts;
- Facilitated Job Card applications of 298 households based on surveys carried out in 38 villages under the MGNREGA;
- Identified 879 persons who were eligible for old age pensions in 221 villages;
- Complaint submitted to District Collector, East Godavari district to conduct enquiry into social status of 11 families based on a survey on 'Bogus Caste/Tribe Certificates' conducted in Kothurupadu village where the certified Konda Reddies originally belonged to the plain area Kapu, a non-tribal caste;
- 18 applications were filed seeking information under Right to Information Act related to gram panchayats, tracking of funds, tribal land orders, roads, profiles of ITDAs, MNREGA authorities implementation and ICDS profiles from the concerned;
- 183 representations were made to the Project Officer, ITDA for action from three panchayats-Chavadikota, Pullangi and Pamuleru concerning various social security, infrastructure, agrarian development, health and education issues;
- Brought to the notice of the Principal Secretary, Ministry of Rural Development that 24 villages in Paderu and Pedda-



Demanding a supportive price for brooms outside ITDA office in Rampachodavaram, East Godavari district

bayalu Mandals of Visakhapatnam district were not listed for implementation of the MGNREGA since April 2008 as well as pointed out the lack of proper implementation of MGNREGA in 5 Panchayats in East Godavari district. The RLA Unit also undertook a survey of households in 21 villages of Khammam District to understand the dependence of tribals on MGNREGA for employment. Also a survey was conducted on differential payment of wages to men and women in 8 villages of Bhadrachalam division, which revealed that women were paid lower wages for all types of work.

- A survey on payment of minimum wages in the Government tank construction works in ITDA area of East Godavari district revealed that Rs. 65/- was being paid against the norm of Rs. 90/- Intervened and at the instance of Project Officer, ITDA, 200 wage workers benefited in Devipatnam Mandal;
- The RLA Unit has also worked in bringing dropout children back into school and preparing micro-level plans for 10 villages.

Drinking water

Representations were made to the Government about 189 disfunctioning borewells, which were identified based on surveys conducted in 74 villages in Devipatnam, Rajovomangi, Y. Ramavaram, Rampachodavaram mandals in East Godavari district and some areas of Khammam district.

Health

- Representations were made to the Project Officer, ITDA for identity cards and access to Government benefits for 338 physically challenged persons based on a survey carried out in 117 villages of East and West Godavari Districts;

- Representations were made to Integrated Child Development Service (ICDS) officers for effective implementation as well as interaction with the Mother's Committees in an effort to raise awareness and monitor their rights based on a survey conducted in 109 villages of East Godavari, West Godavari and Khammam districts;
- 89 male and 29 female adivasi coffee growers in 4 Panchayats in G. K. Veedhi Mandal in Visakhapatnam district were supported in accessing an Accident Insurance Scheme, which involved cash amount of Rs. 1 lakh.

Women's rights

- Applications were submitted for sanction of pensions on behalf of 2317 widows and deserted single women, who were identified from 244 villages of East Godavari, West Godavari and Khammam districts. Legal support in seeking monthly maintenance by adivasi women neglected by their spouses was also provided;
- Survey on the beneficiaries of ICDS scheme was carried in 55 villages, which identifies 172 pregnant women and 948 children. The RLA Unit interacted with the Mothers Committee pertaining to 55 anganwadi centres to monitor their rights;
- A representation was made to Deputy Director, Tribal Welfare, Revenue Development Officer, R. Chodavaram and a letter was sent to the Commissioner of Tribal Welfare, Hyderabad against atrocities on girl students.

Housing rights

- A media campaign and a representation was made to the Project Officer, ITDA and the Executive Engineer regarding 22 incomplete houses since 2 years in Ketchelawada village of

Pullangi panchayat, Maredimilli Mandal, East Godavari district. The Project Officer, ITDA ordered the Executive Engineer to release the due amount immediately;

- 552 tribals were facilitated to seek housing provision under the Government's Housing Scheme.

Emergence of groups/networks to advocate the rights of tribals

The RLA Unit facilitated the formation of women's groups, village level vigilance committees, and a Divisional Level Vigilance Task Force to improve the local self-governance at the grassroots level as well as promote networking relationships with civil society representatives at the local and State level.

Paralegal training

From 2007-2009, Laya acted as the Indian Institute of Paralegal Studies' (IIPLS) Regional Resource Centre – East (RRC-E) by facilitating the paralegal identity building process. The geographical focus of RRC-E was on Scheduled and non-Scheduled Areas, where adivasis are in large number. IIPLS-RRC-E was able to conceptualize the role of paralegals in the context of land entitlement rights, displacement, injustices committed against dalits, women, human rights, governance issues with Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRIs), child rights, human rights issues of deserted women and women and children vulnerable from the viewpoint of trafficking. Towards the beginning of 2009, the State Convention of Paralegals was organized with the participation of 75 paralegals representing the 8 Facilitation Centres from the Eastern region.

This national process was terminated in 2009 due to resource constraints. However, with the intent of developing a cadre of trained tribal legal practitioners, paralegals and activists, who would play a vigilance role in safeguarding rights to natural resources, various training programs were organized for tribal activists.

Resource material generation

- A number of articles were published in various newspapers and magazines on a range of issues: Land Reforms – Globalization; Forest Rights Recognition Act, Tribal Land Issues, Adivasi Women Property Rights, Tribal Land Alienation in Scheduled Areas, Tribal Land Issues in Andhra Pradesh (A Study Report), PESA Act - Draft Rules, A study on Implementation of Tribal Sub-Plan (TSP) in Andhra Pradesh and Local Panchayat Governance in Scheduled Areas;

- Developed course material on Land Legislations in Fifth Schedule Areas, Land Acquisition Laws, for Post Graduate Diploma Course on Tribal Development and Management, conducted by National Institute of Rural Development (NIRD), Hyderabad;
- Developed course material on Tribal Land and Livelihoods for Post Graduate Diploma Course on Paralegal Studies, conducted by IGNOU, New Delhi;
- Organised Workshop on Implementation of Tribal Sub-Plan (TSP), involving MP, Ex MPs, MLAs, MLCs, Project Officers of ITDAs, NGOs, etc.



Workshop on implementation of TSP with MLAs, MPs and other officials

Positions of influence of RLA Coordinator at State level

1. Member of the Committee constituted by Govt. of Andhra Pradesh to formulate guidelines for Implementation of Forest Rights Recognition Act;
2. Resource Person on Tribal Land Issues for Government Functionaries at various Training Programs conducted by APARD (Ministry of Rural Development, GoAP) and Tribal Welfare Commission at Hyderabad;
3. Ex-officio Member in Tribal Advisory Council (Constitutional body) meeting on finalising the Draft Rules under PESA legislation of the Andhra Pradesh State;
4. State Resource Person for developing a Training Module on PESA, undertaken by NIRD, Hyderabad;
5. Resource person for operationalization of PESA in Fifth Scheduled Areas of the Country at the request of Ministry of Panchayat Raj (Govt. of India), Delhi. ■



Natural Resource Management

Natural resources form the 'core' source of adivasi livelihood. The ecological management of natural resources is the underlying factor contributing towards a dignified, locally appropriate and ecologically sustainable lifestyle among adivasi communities. Natural resources with favourable conditions can generate required abilities and assets for the outcome of desired livelihood security options at the household, community and village levels.

In the recent past, however, a series of changes in the socio-economic and environmental conditions at the local, regional, national and global levels, have increasingly affected the nature, status and condition of natural resources. Consequently, this has significantly affected the fabric of sustainability of livelihood security in adivasi areas.

This is particularly significant in the High Altitude Tribal Zone (HATZ), one of the 7 geo-climatic zones of Andhra Pradesh. Our main objective in improving sustainable productivity of natural resources is to ensure that adivasi communities of the HATZ value and equip themselves with sustainable

technologies in natural resource management to be 'food secure' and have basic livelihood security.

The year 2009 saw the culmination of a six year project cycle in 5 villages in East Godavari district and 13 villages in Visakhapatnam district and a three year project cycle in 12 villages in East Godavari and 14 villages in Visakhapatnam. The strategy of involvement was then reviewed with identifying that the challenge in responding to the livelihood security needs of tribal 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.

The Natural Resource Management (NRM) Unit of Laya reached out to 206 villages and 4569 households in 7 mandals of Visakhapatnam and East Godavari districts.

Key locations of NRM Unit's involvement in 2011-2012

District	Mandal	Panchayats	No of Villages	No of households
Visakhapatnam	Peddabayalu	Peddakodapalli, Gamparayi, Galaganda, Sikari and Aradikota	50	650
	Paderu	Vanugupalli, Kinchuru, Batrothuputtu, G. Muchingputtu	22	750
	Hukumpeta	Motujoru, Volda and Boddaputtu	10	154
East Godavari	Addateegala	Addateegala, D. Ramavaram, Veeravaram, D. Bhimavaram, Tungamadugula, Dakodu, Somannapalem, Vetamamidi, Bodlanka, Dhanyampalem and Rayapalli	44	1200
	Y. Ramavaram	Pathakota, Daragedda, Boddagandi, P. Erragonda, K. Erragonda, Chamagedda, and Dalipadu	64	1450
	Gangavaram	Marripalem, Yendapalli	4	85
	Rajavomangi	Kindra, Kirrabu, Sarabhavaram and Tallapalem	12	280
	7 mandals	36 Panchayats	206	4569

Sustainable agriculture initiatives

From 2010 onwards, with the aim to align activities along the already existing progressive MGNREGA, the NRM unit facilitated land development under **MGNREGA** in 1300 acres, which involved clearance of bushes, removal of dead tree stumps, land leveling, bunding and developing compost pits at the household level in 80 villages from 23 Panchayats in East Godavari and Visakhapatnam districts;

System of Rice Intensification (SRI) was promoted in 500 acres involving 386 farmers from 114 villages. In the last two years, data has shown that the average increase of yield has been around 40–45% as compared to normal paddy cultivation;

Mixed cropping was promoted by planting a combination of crops and inter-crop cultivation in 1310 acres in 127 villages covering 616 farmers from 128 households; also promoted mixed cropping among SHGs and accompanied 1015 households in sustainable cropping patterns;

Vegetable cultivation was promoted with 30 single women (including technical guidance for pest control, organic manures and management of vegetable gardens) from 30 SHGs and 600 households over an area of 362 acres. All of them earned an additional income of Rs. 5000 to Rs. 10000 from approximately 0.50 acre plots;

Homesteads were developed by providing vegetative fencing and **traditional but economically viable species** for 446 households in East Godavari and Visakhapatnam districts;

A total of 5810 **kitchen gardens** were promoted with women involvement by providing vegetables seeds' mini kits consisting of 8 varieties (leafy, plant and creeper varieties) and also following up on the introduced kitchen gardens every year.

Horticulture plantations like cashew and mango were introduced in collaboration with government departments; also facilitated new horticulture schemes for tribal farmers.

NTFP initiatives

Developed training material and provided skill based training for 170 NTFP collectors (in the last two years) for sustainable harvesting of gums, amla, wild fruits, adda leaves, barks, and brooms in 8 Mandals in East Godavari and Visakhapatnam districts. Monthly meetings with NTFP collectives were conducted in Peddakodapalli and Dalipadu

Panchayats. The outcome in Peddakodapalli panchayat was the registration of the NTFP federation, 'Samarlamma Atavi Utpathula Sekaranadarula Samkshema Sangam,' under the Societies' Registration Act;

In 2010, **broom grass plantation** was facilitated in 33 acres with 52 households from 24 villages through vegetable inter cropping in Peddakodapalli panchayat of Visakhapatnam district. The first year the returns were Rs. 2500/- and in the second year, Rs 3500/- also considering that 3 acres of land was damaged due to free cattle summer grazing;

Monitored **agro-forestry model of seed dibbling** in 4 Panchayats: Gamparai, Bandamamidi, Kandamamidi and Galaganda in Visakhapatnam district. Soap nut seed was dibbled in 8 villages of Visakhapatnam district; also followed up earlier seed dibbling activity in 18 acres in 12 villages: 5 varieties of seeds (tamarind, pongamia, wild mango, jackfruit) in common lands, and also second step plantation

Case example - Work Opportunity in Aradikota Panchayat Stems Seasonal Migration

When the harvest season is over the farmers of Kaguvalasa, Eguvabadama, Nimmagunta and Pandigunta villages generally migrate to other districts for work on constructions, road building works, etc. In 2009, the NRM Unit initiated watershed treatment works in these villages on the farmers' own lands. This engagement enhanced the crop productivity as well as created an opportunity of gainful engagement. This stemmed the migration to faraway places, where the adivasi villagers had to face multiple difficulties: health problems and callous attitude of contractors who often did not pay them their wages regularly. The NRM Unit's intervention was timely creating an opportunity to the families to cultivate their lands in time. They appreciated being in their own habitats with their families. The learning from this experience reveals that viable options in their own habitats prevents seasonal migration and enhances the quality of life of the inhabitants, who are otherwise pushed out due to lack of adequate economic choices in their struggle for survival.

Aradikota



in private lands of 41 farmers in 12 villages, covering 71.30 Ac in Peddakodapalli Panchayat. Plants are growing well with relevant protection by the community resulting in a good survival rate;

NTFP species were strategically promoted by linking up with the nursery at Addateegala with 6 varieties: jeeluga, ippa, kunkudu, goddukura, sadanapuvuduru, and kovala. A total of 3500 plants were raised in the nursery. NTFP species were also planted in common lands in 14 villages including tamarind, bamboo, broom grass, kanuga in the watershed area villages. Bamboo, pongamia, mahuva, soap nut, goddukura and gum karaya were planted in 4 clusters in Paderu area with the aim of increasing livelihood through NTFP.

Water related initiatives

In the last two years, **pisciculture has been promoted**. Fish seedlings were supplied to 84 households in 39 villages earning income of around Rs. 3000/- from small tanks and Rs. 7000/- from medium tanks in Visakhapatnam district. The NRM unit facilitated a clean drinking water system in Munagalapudi village based on gravity water flow through technical assistance and also conducted a feasibility study of water bodies for irrigation and drinking in 5 villages: Pulimetla, Chandurthi, Muvvalavariveedhi, Shesharayi and Tunikelapadu.

Special programmes for single women

Special programmes for single women were initiated in the last three years. Demonstrative initiatives were undertaken with 132 households of single women covering 98 acres in 36 villages on crop selection linked with nutritional needs by promoting traditional mixed crops: ragi, sama, ganti and pulses like red gram and green gram. Subsequently, in the next year 175 single women were followed up for income generation through agriculture and off-farm activity. Single women livelihood groups in 3 clusters of East Godavari and Visakhapatnam districts were formed and they have started savings in their respective groups.

Accompaniment of community based organizations and people's institutions

The NRM Unit has facilitated 8 community based organizations (CBOs) to promote NRM activities in their areas of op-

eration and organized workshops with 8 CBOs on sustainable agriculture, forest and water management. 5 of these CBOs were from the East Godavari district and 3 from Visakhapatnam district.

Capacity building

Exposures and trainings are key tools of learning when it comes to agriculture. A number of exposures and on-site trainings have been organised for Farmers' Groups' representatives - farmers, young farmers - on issues such as mixed crops cultivation, cashew orchards management, vegetables cultivation, tree based crops like coconut, mango, banana, and backyard poultry, watershed approach to farming, organic farming, etc.



Clean drinking water at Mulagalapudi

Leveraged schemes for tribal farmers from government departments

The NRM Unit plays a role in raising awareness and facilitating access to schemes for tribal farmers from Government departments. It has developed working relationship with the officers of the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MNREGA), State Horticulture Department, Integrated Tribal Development Agency (ITDA), Central Research Institute for Dryland Agriculture (CRIDA), National Institute of Rural Development (NIRD), Regional Agriculture Research Station HAT Zone, Chintapalli and the Andhra Pradesh Micro Irrigation Development Corporation (APMIDC). Some of the key schemes accessed included:

1. Horticulture plantations such as mango and cashew in East Godavari and Visakhapatnam districts through

State Horticulture Mission;

2. SRI paddy tools weeders and markers, and paddy drum seeders by select families in Visakhapatnam district through the ITDA;
3. 5 Vermicompost units and 25 farmyard manure compost units by 30 families in East Godavari district through ITDA and State Horticultural Mission (SHM);
4. Small scale lift irrigation schemes and micro and drip irrigation units facilitated for 60 families in East Godavari through the Andhra Pradesh Micro Irrigation Corporation (APMIC);
5. 500 vegetable seed kits from National Horticulture Mission;
6. Fisheries in 8 villages of Visakhapatnam district and 18 villages in East Godavari district;
7. Created access for 46 households with land restored to access government subsidy schemes and land development activity under MGNREGA, Horticulture Mission and Agriculture Schemes in 12 villages of two mandals.

Low carbon farming 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 2000 households in two districts has been developed. Awareness meetings in 120 villages were organised. ■



Science and Technology: Action Research Initiatives

The Science and Technology Desk has played a role in researching and developing innovative methodologies to improve the existing local technologies in agriculture and collection of Non-Timber Forest Produce (NTFP). It essentially played a supportive role to the Natural Resource Management Unit. Many of the initiatives were taken up in collaboration with the Tribal Habitat Institute, established in 2010 to promote action research initiatives.

Broom grass on degraded forest lands

The unit facilitated domestication of broom grass. Based on its morphological characters and habitat of brooms, three varieties of broom grass were recorded. Rhizome was recommended to the farmers as planting material. Standardized agronomic practices for broom grass were disseminated in the capacity building programmes. Exchange programmes were conducted on knowledge sharing among broom grass cultivators. Broom grass based mixed cropping models were developed with chilli, millets and rajama intercropping practices. Farmers were trained on promotion of broom grass on podu lands and on value addition to broom sticks. Weaving broom fibres obtained from the specific forest shrub into brooms is a common practice in the region. However, due to overexploitation most of the shrubs have been wiped out from surrounding habitations.

Organic agriculture

Nurseries were raised and distributed in targeted villages for papaya, drumstick, gum karaya, orange, custard apple, mango, and vegetable seedlings like tomato, chilli and brinjal (native varieties). Active tribal youth were selected from the community. They were trained on organic farming practices and on the importance of organic agriculture, local manures, local cultivation practices, endemic crop diversity, possible prevention of external input in agriculture and other local agriculture issues. Exposure visits were also organised. Also initiatives were taken to demonstrate the preparation of organic manures and its application. In strategic villages nearly 30 tons of vermicompost was produced. Besides vermicompost preparation, the other organic manures like tank silt, pig manure, harvest of decomposing litter, 'humus', from the surrounding forests, powder of tobacco stumps, crop residues, goat and sheep manure, and having pen in field were advocated. Humus application to the mixed crops and brinjal crops was demonstrated.

A special organic farmers' gathering and exhibition was organized in Visakhapatnam city with 300 tribal farmers, who were involved in organic agriculture. During the farmers gathering various issues were discussed: the importance of land/soil, water, forest and air was discussed. Also crop diversity and various types of organic manures were exhibited. Preservation of these natural resources for future generation was highlighted. About 400 varieties crops were demonstrated and their importance was explained to school teachers and school children, who visited the exhibition.



Promotion of local crop diversity

Seed centres were established of 30 rare and disappearing crop varieties of millets, pulses and vegetables from the surrounding areas. Seeds were collected and distributed to farmers in local habitations for cultivation. Besides the rare varieties, local varieties of dry paddy, pea, and bean were collected with community participation. Communities were encouraged to maintain prevailing crop diversity in the region.

Documentation of wild tubers

Documentation/enumeration of wild tubers and their harvesting methods were initiated through a participatory approach.

Capacity building of the field team

Field team orientation programs were conducted on natural resource management, food security and climate change issues in order to sharpen the perspectives at the grassroots level. ■



Herbal Based Community Health Care

Adivasi areas of East Godavari and Visakhapatnam districts have seen a decline in the overall health situation. People in these areas suffer from endemic health problems such as tuberculosis (TB), malaria, gynaecological problems, diarrhoea, and jaundice. Malarial deaths during the monsoon season are not uncommon.

Access to mainstream health care in these areas is limited. The government has not allocated adequate resources to cater to the basic health needs. Epidemic diseases have been neglected in terms of remedial and preventive measures. Adivasi communities inhabiting these areas are without proper access to clean drinking water, sanitation and adequate nutrition and thus vulnerable to disease.

Meanwhile changing lifestyles and food habits due to external forces have resulted in the decrease in local health care knowledge and resources. Consequently this has led to the dependence of the adivasi community on unqualified private health practitioners (quacks), whose services are expensive and often ineffective. In addition, the government has not made an attempt to understand, recognize and develop prevailing local herbal-based knowledge systems that could materialize in community based health care practices that would be socially and economically relevant in the adivasi context.

Since 1993 we started investigating into the viability of traditional medicinal knowledge systems within the community and its legitimacy in the region. What began as a process to study and revitalize traditional knowledge systems has developed into our Herbal Based Community Health Care Unit. In this unit we have developed a set of processes that ensure safe, effective, accessible and affordable health care within the adivasi community based on traditional health practices involving traditional health practitioners (vaidus) and trained community health practitioners.

In 2003, a centre for traditional health care - Vanantharam was built to lend visibility to traditional adivasi medicine

whose legitimacy in practice was being questioned by the mainstream so called modern medicinal system. The purpose was also to bolster the confidence and credibility of existing Traditional Health Practitioners (THPs), besides creating a space for young men and women interested in practicing herbal medicine to acquire value added skills to function as Community Health Practitioners (CHPs).

Promotion of health care at local level

Regular Health Camps are organized at the weekly markets (shandies), where there is a regular gathering of the local community. Located in a small hut/stall, the Community Health Practitioners offer medical advice and treatment through herbal medicine.

Community Health Centres are located in the village where they serve as nodal health centres run by Community Health Practitioners (CHPs) for villages nearby.

Traditional Health Centres operate in the same manner as the Community Health Centres, except that they are run by Traditional Health Practitioners (THPs) who are members of the THP Federation.

Treatment details from April 2007 to March 2012		Male	Female	Total
Community Health Centres (CHC)	50 CHCs provide health care in 150 villages	18238	17205	35443
Regular Health Camps (RHC)	Regular health camps on weekly market days in 5 centers	7734	6309	14043
Special (need based) Health Camps	Health camps in 2 districts	3065	3096	6161
Treatment provided in Vanantharam	Referral cases	2691	1875	4566
Total		31728	28485	60213

Vanantharam also serves as a space where the community can approach for health care.

Promotion of herbal gardens

2 mother herbal gardens have been constantly upgraded and maintained in Gummaripalem village in Y. Ramavaram mandal and in Vanantharam in Addateegala mandal, both in East Godavari district. They are each equipped with approximately 200 varieties of medicinal plants. These mother herbal gardens produce seed material and are used for training and demonstration.

Medicinal plants are raised in Vanantharam for use in the healing of common illnesses and to supply to community herbal gardens and interested individuals.

58 Community Herbal Gardens have been established, maintained and upgraded in two districts, East Godavari and Visakhapatnam. Each garden is equipped with 30 to 50 medicinal plants which are useful in healing common diseases and are situated in primary schools, community health centers (CHC) and traditional healing centers (THC). These herbal gardens are looked after by the community.

Responded to the special needs of adivasi women

In the last four years, the Herbal based Community Health Care Unit has also focused on activities that cater to the specific needs of women. The focus has been on increasing nutrition levels, and facilitating traditional women health practitioners in being able to treat gynaecological problems. To achieve this purpose, 688 kitchen gardens have been promoted and 10 workshops have been organised on women's health related issues.

Sensitized tribal community on HIV/AIDS

HIV/AIDS is an issue that we have focused on since 2010. The objective is to create awareness among students and the community, as well as sensitising health practitioners. Meetings, workshops have been organised with this aim. International AIDs day was also celebrated by conducting a rally in Addateegala on December 1st as a way of creating awareness.



Skill upgradation training for Community Health Practitioners (CHPs)

A community health practitioner is someone who practices traditional medicine and serves, in most cases, as the first health care support for adivasis who live in remote areas where mainstream healthcare is inaccessible. The Herbal Based Community Health Unit works with the community health practitioners and conducts regular trainings and skill-upgradation to enhance their knowledge and practice.



16 skill-upgradation and trainings were conducted with community health practitioners on subjects involving identification of medicinal plants, collection methods of herbs, diagnosis and preparation of medicines, women's health problems, epidemic diseases, testing of drinking water, skin related diseases, HIV/AIDS, nutrition, diagnosis of diseases and immunization. These were conducted across East Godavari, Vizianagaram and Visakhapatnam districts.



Training on herbal medicine preparation in process

Intensive training on herbal medicine preparation and healing for youth

Since 2008, every year, a six-month long training is organised for tribal youth from East Godavari, Visakhapatnam and Vizianagaram districts, who after the training serve as Community Health Practitioners providing health care in their respective villages at a reasonable cost. The course is split into six modules and is situated locally in the two districts with one central program. The curriculum comprises understanding human anatomy, diagnosis of diseases and preparation of medicines for 16 common diseases; headache, common fever, cough, constipation, indigestion, white discharge (leucorrhoea), red discharge, menstrual pain, skin diseases, jaundice, dysentery, joint pains, earache, mouth ulcer, malaria and piles. On completion of the program, certificates and medicine preparation instruments are presented to the trainees to enable them to practice. A total of 124 (Male: 83 and Female: 41) adivasi youth have been trained so far to be community health practitioners.

Skill upgradation training for Traditional Health Practitioners (THPs)

To expand the outreach of traditional health practices the Herbal Based Community Health Care Unit has initiated train-

ing programmes with THPs building on their existing knowledge. We have been working with them to upgrade their knowledge and skills as well as address issues that arise during their practice. A total of 194 Traditional Health Practitioners (Male: 163 and Female: 31) have been trained in hygienic medicine preparation methods including identification and collection of medicinal plants. Exposures were also organised for THPs between the two districts to facilitate learning.

Accompanying traditional health practitioners network

The Herbal based Community Health Care Unit sees its role to accompany the THP network to strengthen traditional healing centres by institutionalising the network. Hence, a number of regular meetings were facilitated with the THPs to enable sharing of experience among THPs, identify new THPs, provide training on how to raise herbal gardens near the Community Health Centres, provide for identity cards, insurance, and Panchayat resolution certificates as testimonials to network members. The membership in the East Godavari Network has increased gradually to 135 members and in Visakhapatnam to 115 members. The local demonstrations by the THPs on challenging indiscriminate transport of medicinal plants was one of the outcomes of the networking process.

Conducted 2-day 'Herbal Melas' in Vanantharam, East Godavari district

4 Herbal melas have been conducted in the last 5 years exhibiting a number of varieties of live medicinal plants, tubers, barks and seeds at Vanantharam. In conjunction, a mega health camp was also organised. A number of visitors attend every year, such as government officers, political leaders, ayurvedic, allopathic doctors and traditional health practitioners. The last herbal mela registered an attendance of 500 people.

Vanantharam pharmacy

The registration of 'Vanantharam Pharmacy' was facilitated in December 2012. Currently, Ayurvedic and Herbal medicines are prepared by Vanantharam Pharmacy for 16 common diseases. The medicines are supplied to the Community Health Centres, Regular Health Centres and Special Health Camps. Currently, 8 herbal products are marketed within the tribal area for healing common diseases and 2 of the herbal products are produced and marketed in bulk. ■



Micro-credit and Micro-enterprise

The fundamental problem facing adivasi households is their ability to access and utilize resources to improve their livelihood security. It is estimated that approximately 90% of adivasi families depend on informal credit sources for 80% of their credit needs. The informal credit suppliers, who are mostly moneylenders or traders-cum-moneylenders, enjoy a thriving market for their services, since there are very few accessible viable alternatives available to the adivasis. The absence of effective institutional support systems for income generation activities and cultural constraints has also aggravated the problem. Though the Government and corporate banks have introduced many microcredit opportunities, their effective execution without vested interests has been questionable. This has been our experience in the adivasi areas of East Godavari district.

Microcredit and microenterprise are important areas for protecting financial risks and promoting viable economic alternatives. With this in mind we have facilitated microcredit institutions and business enterprises as mutually aided cooperative societies along with exploring viable entrepreneurial initiatives.

Accompanied savings and credit institutions in our working areas

Manyaseema (Adivasi Cooperative Bank) was initiated as an alternative bank catering to a federation of self-help groups in East Godavari district. This institution is being managed by adivasi self-help groups' representatives. In February 2007, Manyaseema was registered as a micro-finance Institution under the Mutually Aided Cooperative Societies (MACS) Act, 1995. It has been 5 years since Manyaseema has been functioning in the East Godavari District. An overall stock taking exercise was done to assess and facilitate the autonomy of the institution. Hence meetings were conducted with the bankers and Board members and the savings and loan patterns were studied. On scrutiny it was found that there were numerous gaps in the saving processes as well in loan repayment meas-

ures. In the process of this stock taking exercise we also came across several discrepancies in the management of records. Hence it was decided to undertake a comprehensive internal audit review in order to support the institution to play an effective role in the community. The audit is in process.

Two other MACS have subsequently been established in Boddagandi in East Godavari district and Matsyagedda in Visakhapatnam district. Also, in Visakhapatnam, Srikulam and Vizianagaram districts there is on-going accompaniment process with CBOs to ensure proper functioning of SHGs in terms of savings/loans and access to government loans. The role of the CBOs is to promote leadership potential among SHG women members by involvement in local decision making and representing issues to government officials.

During the last 5 years Laya undertook several activities to develop in house perspective and capacities in promoting entrepreneurship skills:

Generated database to understand local market dynamics

Commodity profiles for key products

The commodity profile of five products i.e., tamarind, hill brooms, adda leaves, pulses and jackfruit was undertaken in preparation for feasibility studies for market access in 10 mandals in East Godavari and Visakhapatnam districts.

The major findings of the study suggests that apart from adda leaves, which are purchased by the Girijan Cooperative Corporation through the DWCRA/Velugu government facilitated self-help groups, for the other products, there is no external marketing agency (either government or NGO) facilitating the marketing process. Demand for these products is prevalent and there is a possibility of supporting the marketing of these products through value addition.

Village based sample surveys

These surveys were undertaken to assess the volume of products and transactions for market access at various shandy points in Visakhapatnam and East Godavari districts. The survey revealed that the adivasi communities are not accustomed to selling directly (retail) in shandy shops and that they prefer to sell wholesale to local non-advansi traders. Most shops are run by non-advansi: 98% in East Godavari and 75% in Visakhapatnam districts.

Study of 10 village markets

The study of 10 village markets in the adivasi areas of East Godavari and Visakhapatnam districts revealed that the advansi receive advances from the traders at the current year's price of the product for rice, pulses, cashew and tamarind and the actual selling takes place in the following year. Therefore, the farmers incur losses if the price of the products increases. Advansi communities are also being exploited through fraudulent grading and weighing. Traders give seeds, fertilizers and pesticides for commercial crops in advance and the repayment at interest is done after the crop is harvested. Interestingly, barter system still exists in villages and is mainly prevalent for tamarind, cashew, ice fruit and groceries. There is no system of measurement determining the value of the exchange. The receiver of produce during the barter is predominantly non-advansi.

Local initiatives for entrepreneurial development

- Established 10 village level Marketing Action Groups in East Godavari and Visakhapatnam districts to be actively involved in fixing prices of products to traders and at the weekly market (shandy) points;
- Facilitated value addition on select NTFP and agriculture produce;
- Initiated marketing of cashew through 5 Marketing Action Groups in East Godavari District in 5 strategic locations;
- Provided cashew nuts processing training to 25 tribal representatives (15 women) from two mandals in East Godavari district;
- Facilitated 50 single women in taking up entrepreneurial initiatives in East Godavari and Visakhapatnam districts;
- Facilitated proper weighing, grading, storing, and collective selling of cashew and turmeric;
- Facilitated access to loans to creditworthy farmers and NTFP collectors from the Union Bank of India;

- Strengthened producer centred marketing practices and market linkages for agricultural products and NTFP such as barter exchange practices of seeds and grains in about 60 villages in Visakhapatnam and East Godavari districts and promoting outlets at shandy points.

Capacity building for SHG members to access markets

- Organized exposure visits for selected advansi from Paderu and Addateegala to Visakhapatnam and Rajahmundry respectively to gain an understanding of prevailing marketing practices outside the Scheduled Areas.
- Organized visit to the Regional Agriculture Research Station, Chinthapalli for a 4-day programme on vegetable cultivation training for 33 SHG members was organized with the support of the Natural Resource Management Unit;

Case example - Extending market linkages

In the adivasi area of the East Godavari district two Mutually Aided Cooperative Societies (MACS) have been established; Manyaseema MACS in Addateegala and Boddagandi MACS in Y. Ramavaram Mandal. Both are registered under the Mutually Aided Cooperative Societies Act, 1995. The two MACS were linked for the marketing of hill brooms in the area. Hill brooms are abundantly available in the Mangampadu area where the advansi were selling the product at Rs 10/- to 14/- each. With the marketing linkage in place, Boddagandi MACS purchased the brooms at a higher price of Rs 16/- to 17/- from the locals. This was supplied to Manyaseema MACS (located 180 km away) at the rate Rs 17/- to Rs 18/-. Manyaseema MACS sold the brooms at a local market in Addateegala at the rate of Rs 25/-. This linkage provided an improved source of income for the two MACs.



- Conducted capacity building program for 125 SHG leaders in Addateegala area on future business plans;
- Conducted workshops in East Godavari for 200 SHG representatives, of whom 160 were women. The workshops were on encouraging thrift and savings, concerns about the barter system practiced and general understanding about exploitative market practices.

Promoted MACS to play a social empowerment role in their working areas

- The SHG members and the community bankers were actively involved in the social empowerment process and creating awareness on MNREGA, Forest Rights Recognition Act 2006 and Right to Information Act;
- Representation was made to the Manager, Girijan Cooperative Corporation by the SHG members of Doramamidi to provide a village level ration shop in Doramamidi village, which was granted;
- Manyaseema MACS complained to Mandal Revenue Officer and Police Circle Inspector against an external Micro Finance Institution (MFI), which was charging an exorbitant rate of interest. The Revenue Department and Police Department took necessary action against this institution.

Collaborative micro enterprise initiatives with EarthCare Designs

EarthCare Designs a Nashik-based design organization has been collaborating with Laya to design need-based technologies to strengthen livelihood opportunities in the tribal area of East Godavari and Visakhapatnam districts. Several meetings were held to discuss the concept and activities that could be organized.

The goal was to strengthen the entrepreneurship abilities of the adivasi communities through structured learning process and other opportunities to empower the adivasi community for starting locally-relevant social enterprises for overall development of the community and the region. **Laya in collaboration with EarthCare Designs initiated the following activities:**

Exploration of livelihoods that would suit the needs of the adivasi community: In the discussion with EarthCare Designs several options were explored: cashew processing, making paper from fibre of palmyrah, creating saleable items from coconut shell, bamboo, etc. A five-day workshop was

organized on making different products from coconut, paper, and bamboo. Several products were created by the youth who participated;

Exploration in designing simple technologies that work on renewable energy and are relevant to the adivasi conditions:

In this context, three type of technologies are being currently designed, namely – hand-driven oil-exPELLer, smokeless stoves and cashew-nut processing. After several trials and discussion with Laya team the oil-exPELLer was tested and we were able to extract oil without much difficulty. However, the context in tribal area was gradually changing with drop in oil-seed cultivation. Regarding the design of smokeless stoves, EarthCare Designs' team explored ways to reduce the present cost by changing the material used for outlet pipes, from cement ones to earthen material. A prototype working model was constructed at Addateegala and its functioning was demonstrated. A Training of Trainers (TOT) was organized at Addateegala to demonstrate the working of the cashew processing which involved several tasks like raw seed collection, boiling, drying, cutting, removing the cashew and baking and husking. Later the same process was repeated in Gummaripalem village involving adivasis to demonstrate the working and evoke interest in the production of the finished cashew nuts;

Designing skills-based workshops on making products from waste material:

A five-day workshop was organized at Addateegala in the second week of December, 2011. The aim of the workshop was to enhance the skills and perspective of the tribal youth in creating useful products from waste such as coconut shells, bamboo and paper, and to explore whether such products were viable for generating livelihoods;

Setting up Entrepreneurship Centre at Addateegala:

After the basic technical equipment was identified and agreed upon, the EarthCare Designs' team went about the purchase a wooden lathe, a sander machine, a cutter and a few other accessories. Later, they helped the Laya team to assemble and install the machinery at Addateegala. These machines were used by the participants of the workshop in making products from waste. Also, EarthCare Designs' team assembled a tool box with a variety of useful tools for the technical workshop. Discussions were also held with the Laya team about the setting up of the centre and its likely design.

The interest shown by the youth in both the cashew processing and products-from-waste workshop is a good indicator to believe that the idea and initiation of an entrepreneurship centre is in the right direction. ■



Youth and Women Empowerment

The Youth and Women Empowerment Unit, also known as 'Parichay', engages with youth mainly across 7 adivasi populated districts of Andhra Pradesh: Srikakulam, Vizianagaram, Visakhapatnam, East Godavari, West Godavari, and Khammam. Its specific objectives are to nurture adivasi young men and women for their self-development as well as sensitize them on the development concerns of their communities. The overall perspective is to promote value based leadership potential among adivasi youth in the region.

Orientation and issue based workshops

Orientation and awareness meetings focused on Right to Information (RTI), government programs and policies, forest rights, MGNREGA, PESA Act, and sustainable agriculture. We intensively engaged with youth in 6 panchayats in Srikakulam, Vizianagaram, Visakhapatnam and East Godavari districts on youth leadership promotion. 18 Issue Based Workshops were organized on MGNREGA and RTI, Forest Rights, PESA in Srikakulam, Vizianagaram, East

Godavari and Visakhapatnam districts to facilitate youth to play a proactive role in the issues affecting their lifestyle, culture, identity, livelihood opportunities and community bond.

Education on Climate Change impacts and implications for local communities and sustainable development was held with multiple stakeholders across villages, panchayats in the 6 districts

Value based leadership

Short-term intensive training programs were conducted in collaboration with CBOs in Srikakulam, Vizianagaram, Visakhapatnam and East Godavari to promote value-based leadership with participants drawn from the 'primitive tribal' Savara community.

32 CBOs were facilitated to develop second line leadership potential for long-term sustainability especially on community issues and sustainable development of the villages.

Key interventions and outreach

S. No	Name of the Program	Total Outreach	Male	Female
1	Orientation and awareness meetings	1020	680	340
2	Issue based workshops	240	188	52
	Climate Change education			
3	Value based leadership promotion	148	90	58
4	CBO Capacity building and monitoring process	178	123	55
5	VLC promotion/women leadership promotion	480		480
6	Alternative Education (Savara Lipi, experiential sharing in schools)	245	150	95
7	Literacy for leadership – 10-day program	97	9	88
8	Farmers Literacy program	46	40	6
9	Village level literacy	129	52	77
10	Follow up of literacy trainees	184	57	127
11	Fellows	50	37	13
12	Model Panchayat	2800	1600	1200
13	Livelihood alternatives	120	90	30
14	Campaigns (RTI/MGNREGA/Forest Rights)	22000		
15	CBO Federation outreach (villages)	1320		

CBO capacity building process

CBO network at district levels: To strengthen the district level CBO network, periodic training and review meetings were conducted in 6 districts. CBOs felt the need to include other CBOs to enable an immediate response to the human rights violation in the area and to respond collectively to broader issues. Representatives from the other districts participated in the meetings and shared their experiences and their suggestions. This process created a space for cross learning and involvement on common issues.

CBO Federation across 6 districts: Periodic CBO Federation core group meetings were organized to strengthen the network to collectively respond to macro issues. The key issues addressed in the last five years were: the effective implementation of the MGNREGA, the Forest Rights Regulation Act and the allocation mechanisms of housing programme 'Indiramma Illu' of the government. The outcome of the cross sharing and cross learning in these meetings was the engagement of the CBO representatives in their own areas to ensure effective implementation of the government schemes. Furthermore the key leaders of the CBO Federation also discussed the negative impacts of the job oriented and skill based trainings provided by the Indira Kranthi Padakkam (IKP) on youth and youth livelihood. Testimonies were collected from different youth to provide meaningful feedback to the relevant government officers.

Promotion of women's leadership

78 Village Level Committees (VLCs) were promoted in 12 panchayats in 8 mandals of 2 districts. More specifically, 12 panchayats and 4 mandal level meetings were organized to strengthen the VLCs regional network in Visakhapatnam and East Godavari districts. A platform was created for the adivasi women in the region to discuss their issues and strategies. Significant engagement of adivasi women on their issues and village issues through the network was seen in the region.

Capacity building programs were organized for 25 young women with leadership potential and 2 Women's CBOs on women's issues and rights. The training process involved a 3-day reflection, and input sessions every quarter as well as field assignments.

Regular accompaniment of Women CBO groups in Srikakulam, Vizianagaram, Visakhapatnam and East Godavari districts was carried out by facilitating strategic review processes



with the the women's groups to sustain their motivation. During these meetings, issues of single women, girl-child education, girls' hostel facilities, women's role in governance in panchayat institutions in the region as well as the need for women to assume leadership roles at the grassroots were deliberated.

Alternative education

'Savara Lipi' Training: To revive and promote tribal culture, we initiated a programme on 'Promotion of Savara language' in Srikakulam and Vizianagaram districts. We facilitated 155 youth to learn the Savara script from the elders in the region. This has resulted in some of the youth translating Telugu primary books in Savara language and writing short stories and songs. The ITDA absorbed around 65 trained youth as part-time teachers in the government primary schools. This opportunity of making available primary education in their own mother tongue has helped children to assimilate better in mainstream secondary level in schools.

In East Godavari we started pilot initiatives in two schools on experiential sharing and learning processes with 9th and 10th standard children on communication, local history, leadership, culture, alternative health care and sustainable agriculture. There was a very good response from the community as well as from the Government.

Literacy for leadership

Women's literacy program

Four ten-day Crash Literacy Programmes were organized at Paderu and Addateegala regions in which 97 adivasis (9 male and 88 female) participated. The aim of the programme is to promote basic literacy and numeracy skills. Apart from the literacy and numeracy skills, inputs sessions on sustainable agriculture, credit and enterprises, women's rights, health and

education were designed to create awareness on issues which were useful and relevant in their day to day life. A majority of them are now equipped with rudimentary literacy skills and are able to sign their bank accounts and monitor their balances in their savings' pass books of the self-help groups.



Literacy programme in progress

Farmers literacy programme

Two ten-day Crash Literacy Programmes were organized for 46 farmers (including 6 women farmers) in the Addateegala and Paderu region. Apart from the literacy and numeric skills, inputs were also provided on sustainable agriculture, micro-credit and microenterprises, land development, health and education. The farmers have been motivated to set up two Information Centres, where the community members can have access to various relevant resource materials such as journals, newspapers, books, etc., to inculcate the habit of reading and writing in the community as part of the neo-literacy follow up.

Village level literacy initiatives

Pilot village level initiatives for literacy promotion by organizing night classes with village communities were undertaken



Meeting at Jalampalli with Yuva Chetana Vedika

in East Godavari and Visakhapatnam districts. While it was difficult to sustain the classes for various reasons we were successful in identifying interested participants for the ten-day programmes.

Fellowships and support to CBOs

The fellowship programme has been an effort to support individuals who are involved in tribal empowerment. A total of 50 fellowships were awarded to tribal youth working on issues ranging from implementation and advocacy issues regarding the MGNREGA, Forest Rights Recognition Act, good governance and sustainable development through the development of model panchayats, women issues and women leadership promotion, alternative health promotion, youth issues and youth development.

12 CBO groups were supported for their involvement in local initiatives: 2 CBOs are working on herbal based community health care; 4 CBOs on women issues – women development and women in development; 2 CBOs on sustainable development initiatives, 2 CBOs on youth development and youth in development; and 2 CBOs on human rights promotion and action on human rights violations. Several of them are raising resources for their work from government sources.

Promotion of 'model panchayats'

The 'Parichay' Unit has been collaborating with CBOs in promotion of model panchayats for youth engagement in Srikakulam, Vizianagaram and Visakhapatnam, East Godavari districts. In Visakhapatnam district, Parichay has been working with a Women's CBO in promotion of adivasi women in leadership positions. There has been a visible change in the mind set of the community in Titukupai panchayat, Srikakulam district. They now settle disputes locally, interface with middlemen in fixing prices for agricultural and forest produce, and access government programmes effectively. In other areas more follow up is needed to keep the model panchayat committees active.

Promotion of livelihood alternatives

Parichay has been collaboratively working with four CBOs, who are directly involved in sustainable farming practices:

- Retaining mixed cropping models and its adaptations;
- Adoption of System of Rice Intensification (SRI) practices;
- Adaptation of vegetable cultivation;
- Backyard utilization;

- Adaptations in local manure models;
- Use of indigenous knowledge and practices for agriculture production and productivity;
- Adoption of Inter-cultivation.

Campaigns

By 2012 we have reached out to 22000 young adivasi men and women through different campaigns on RTI, MGNREGA and FRRA in 6 districts: Srikakulam, Vizianagaram, Visakhapatnam, East Godavari, West Godavari, Khammam districts. The campaign on RTI involved training 30 youth on specialized skills in preparing RTI applications. They in turn facilitated various stakeholders to use the RTI effectively. In relation to the MNREGS, issues in each region across the districts were identified and settled. In several cases CBOs were remunerated for their services by the community. With reference to the FRRA the CBO youth facilitated applications for land titles across all districts and 70% of the applications have already been sanctioned. The follow up process is continuing. To facilitate communication, pamphlets were used, village level meetings, padayatras (walkathons) were organized as tools to pressurize the decision makers at the local level.

Coalition process

Parichay was one of the founder members in promoting the Yuva Chetana Vedika (YCV) Coalition with the objective of extending the student and non student youth engagement in rural Andhra Pradesh. The outreach of this network included the two major regions: the coastal districts where Sam-

alochana (in the plain areas) and Parichay (in the hilly tracts) are based; and the Rayalseema region where Yuvatha, the Timbuktu Collective is based. Parichay reached out to youth in the Telengana areas, mainly Khammam and Warangal as well. The overall strategy was to work through the facilitating centres undertaking common collaborative initiative between the centres on common concerns.

The operational activities of the centres were at various stages of engagement. The following has been the geographical coverage within each of the centres. Parichay's outreach has been the Scheduled Areas of North Andhra Pradesh: seven districts of Srikakulam, Visakhapatnam, Vizianagaram, East Godavari, West Godavari, Khammam and Warangal. Samalochana has been focusing on student/non-student youth in non-Scheduled Areas of three districts: Visakhapatnam, Vizianagaram and East Godavari covering approximately 22 mandals. Yuvatha has been concentrating on three mandals in Anantapur district.

The major activities during the last five years has been on livelihood and Climate change. The coalition organized a state level work shop on 'Youth and Livelihood' from a marginalised youth perspective and facilitated senior youth representatives to organize local meetings with youth in the respective centres. The major out come from this engagement was that youth engagement on issues of youth livelihood was visible across all the centres. The coalition also organized as common activities around the theme 'Youth and Climate Change' in respective centres to create awareness across the working area of YCV. ■

Celebrating World Indigenous Day





Alternative Energy and Climate Change

The last five years has seen a gradual but steady rise in our involvement in this area. The Alternative Energy and Climate Change Desk essentially focuses on access to renewable and decentralised energy options at the grassroots. This initiative has been an important learning ground for us mostly in terms of understanding the various aspects of sustainability of small technologies in the adivasi context. The insights have helped in studying the feasibility and implementation options of a variety of technologies and climate related activities in geographically remote regions.

This involvement can be categorised as follows:

Exploring community based CDM projects: pro-poor clean development mechanisms

A micro study that we conducted on Clean Development Mechanisms included a desk study of 353 projects and 7 site specific Clean Development Mechanism (CDM) projects being implemented in the adivasi region of Andhra Pradesh, Orissa, Jharkhand and Chhattisgarh. This initiative provided us the space to carry forward our exploration of viable CDM options for energy access for the adivasi communities.

Laya Paderu Micro Scale Gold Standard VER Project

After exploring all possible options, we learnt that the need and potential to upscale improved stoves was immense. Hence Laya began promoting energy efficient household cooking stoves of mud and brick construction called the Sarala stoves. We developed linkages with premier technological institutions like the Indian Institute of Science (IIS), Bangalore and other organisations such as Technology Initiative for Development Endeavour (TIDE), Bangalore, and Appropriate Rural Technology Institute (ARTI), Pune, to assist us with suitable community based cooking stoves. Subsequently, in order to upscale this initiative we developed a Micro Scale Gold Standard project to enable us to outreach approximately 4000 families. A

CDM Consultant facilitated the process through Fair Climate Network (FCN) set up to facilitate pro-poor 'Clean Development Projects'. The project has been registered under the 'Gold standard' Voluntary Emission Reduction (VER) under the micro scheme'. The Emission Reduction Purchase Agreement was finalised in March 2012. Energy Efficient woodstoves for 4000 families will be built and maintained for 10 years.

Laya Surakshana Gold standard VER project

During September – October 2011, Laya applied for a consultancy service from PUM, the Netherlands, a Dutch agency comprising environment experts, to assess the potential of a drinking water project through carbon credits. In January 2012, a consultant Mr. Wiel Senden spent two weeks to assess the need situation and suggest an appropriate technology for drinking water purification in the region based on testing of about 40 samples in the adivasi region of both East Godavari and Visakhapatnam Districts. The samples suggested a high content of iron in bore-well sources of water and bacteria contamination in open wells and streams.

The technology solution suggested were Bio-Sand Filters (BSF) and Ceramic Filters (Steel Filters). In this context a project for a combination of both BSF (9000 families) and energy efficient woodstoves (4500 families) in Laya's working areas is being formulated. This project has been termed Laya Surakshana (Protection) Project.

Pilot on 'Adaptation'

This was taken up largely from the sustainable development perspective of communities, who are being greatly impacted by climate change. The key objective was to assess and undertake measures required for developing resilience of such impacted communities. This entailed community perceptions on impacts of climate change on their lives and livelihoods followed by an intensive vulnerability assessment study. The vulnerability assessment study provided detailed insights into

the coping mechanisms of the communities of two remote panchayats, Pathakota and Daragedda of Y. Ramavaram Mandal, East Godavari District. The report has been a useful tool to develop a road map of our initiatives on adaptive mechanisms.

Decentralized energy clusters

A cluster comprises a set of appropriate alternative energy technologies and adaptation practices in geographically contiguous villages. Two clusters were established at Pathakota, Y. Ramavaram Mandal, East Godavari District and Bonjangi, Paderu Mandal, Visakhapatnam District. Also a relatively new cluster was initiated in Munagalapudi, Y. Ramavaram Mandal, East Godavari District.



Microhydro being operated in Pathakota

Pathakota cluster

Pathakota cluster comprises 19 villages and 650 households inhabited mainly by the Konda Reddi, and few others: Valmiki, Konda Kammara, Konda Dora, Koya Dora as well as adivasi immigrants (Porja) from Orissa. It is situated at an altitude ranging from 1800 to 2500 feet from Mean Sea Level (MSL) and receives about 1200-1400 mm of rain per annum. It is a hilly region with gentle slopes, with a reasonably good forest cover. Shifting cultivation is practiced in the middle part of the hills. The average land holding per household is as high as 6 acres.

A Micro Hydro of 6 kilowatts servicing 70 families in 2 villages, Rachmetta and Pathakota (Konda Reddi and Valmiki hamlets) was constructed. Besides, 650 Solar Lanterns and Energy Efficient Woodstoves service 22 villages in the Pathakota Panchayat. These initiatives have succeeded in bringing greater access to lighting and other basic energy needs. The energy

efficient woodstoves have reduced the health related threats to women besides reducing their drudgery in carrying large amounts of wood from long distances.

Given the increasing vulnerability to climatic changes, adaptive measures were introduced with a main focus on low water intensive crops like System of Rice Intensification (SRI), low carbon farming techniques, rain water harvesting, soil moisture conservation measures, improved varieties of seeds with low input suitable to a High Altitude Tribal Zone (rain-fed condition, short duration, and pest resistance varieties), mixed crops, agro forestry, horticulture and vegetables cultivation relevant to Pathakota Cluster.

Bonjangi cluster

Bonjangi cluster comprises 15 villages with 608 households inhabited by Bhagatha, Khond, Valmiki and Gouda communities. It rests at an altitude of 3000-4000 feet MSL consisting of steep hilly slopes, degraded forests and soils with relatively low crop yields but with a reasonably good crop diversity. The average landholding here, unlike Pathakota, is 3 acres per household.

The Bonjangi cluster essentially involved the construction of a micro-hydro coupled with deployment of solar lanterns and efficient woodstoves in adjacent areas. The Micro Hydro was constructed at Bonjangi with the contribution of local labour. It was completed in December 2010 and is functional, producing about 6-7 kilowatts/hour. It outreaches to about 50 households from 2 villages. Moreover, a solar energy hub comprising 120 lanterns in the cluster was facilitated with contributions of Rs. 600 for each lantern from every household.

In relation to the efficient woodstoves, baseline data was collected from five villages in this cluster to understand their present cooking practices, duration of cooking, amount of firewood used, fuelwood collection time, type of stove used and expectations from an improved cooking stove. In a three-



day training programme 18 adivasi women were imparted skills on Sarala stove building. There was proactive involvement from the community. Male members also equally participated during the stove demonstration. The local women CBO 'Vanaja' based in East Godavari District and 'Vikasini' based in Visakhapatnam District were the master trainers for the programme. The master trainers had been trained by the resource agency, Technology Initiative for Development Endeavour (TIDE) who made the stove technology available to us. The construction of 100 energy efficient woodstoves was completed in December 2010.

The adaptive measures undertaken in this cluster included mainly facilitating SRI and homestead development consisting of supply of seeds for turmeric, ginger and maize crops. Organic fertilisers were promoted.

Munagalapudi cluster

Work at a new cluster at Munagalapudi, Y. Ramavaram Mandal, East Godavari District has been initiated. The cluster consists of a 3.5 kilowatt Micro Hydro set up at Munagalapudi and the promotion of Solar Lanterns and Energy Efficient Woodstoves (100) in the surrounding villages and new pilot initiatives are envisaged on hydrams, bio-sand filters and solar pumps.

The construction of the Micro Hydro began in February 2012 and the sites for feasibility studies for hydrams were located. This project will explore options of solar pumps and hydrams as options for access to irrigation and development of water purification units (bio-sand filters) for drinking water needs in this remote adivasi region. In addition it will also explore adaptive mechanisms to ensure food security in a changing climate situation, with initiatives such as on homestead farming, kitchen gardens, soil and moisture conservation and introducing the system of rice intensification (SRI).

Firewood is reduced with the use of the smokeless stove. The chimney reduces the smoke in the kitchen.



Biofuels

A micro study was taken up on understanding the role of biofuels from the perspective of the grass roots. We have so far been able to conclude from this study that producing 'biofuels' at the local, small scale level is not viable. However there is significant demand for oil expellers to facilitate edible oil extraction especially of sesame, groundnut, niger, etc., which are cultivated locally. We have procured household level oil expellers for which there was overwhelming response from the community. However, there are limitations in terms of scale and hence less extraction. In this context, we have explored for community based expellers, which are relatively larger in size thereby having a greater extraction capacity. 30 households and 22 village level oil expellers have been deployed at various strategic locations within village communities.



Energy efficiency at the institutional level

The Herbal Community Based Health Care Centre, 'Vanantharam' at Addateegala in East Godavari District is powered by solar technology. The 1.5 KW unit supports computers, lights, fans and other moderate consumption equipment. This has effectively streamlined the working conditions in Vanantharam which otherwise is prone to suffer from erratic and regular power cuts. This intervention also serves as a model for others to see and emulate.

The new Laya Resource Centre at Visakhapatnam will also be largely powered by solar panels. Energy saving fans and lights will be instituted. The solar system will support about 70% of our electricity requirements including computer usage. ■

Alternative Data Generation

As a Resource Centre, Laya has been generating relevant information through documentation at the field level by undertaking issue based surveys, various studies on key areas of concern, by publishing periodicals and audio visual documentation. Through the years we have been able to develop a wealth of information that at one level is useful in planning and designing appropriate strategies and on the other enables us to critically understand policies to suggest informed changes in major policies relating to the adivasi context. Each unit in Laya, be it in the field of human rights, health care, natural resource management, access to markets and credit, youth empowerment or alternative energy, is located in a different place and have their own ways of recording and documenting information that brings value to its work. At the Laya Resource Centre in Visakhapatnam a copy of this information is kept for reference allowing the members of the team involved in these particular areas to share details of their work. It also helps us converge on major policy issues related to adivasis.

At the Laya Resource Centre at Visakhapatnam, a library of approximately 4000 books and 30 periodicals in English/Telugu are maintained and there is continuous filing of relevant materials from five daily newspapers for internal and external use on relevant issues such as sustainable agriculture, natural resource management, displacement, decentralized energy options, government policies, environmental pollution, min-

ing, climate change, health, gender issues, human rights, education, literacy, legal advocacy, etc.

This information is then disseminated through training processes and utilised for advocacy initiatives. Training processes include alternative education programs in tribal residential schools, personality development classes for students, environment education in urban and tribal schools, promotion of community reading centres, and creating relevant information material as well as translating relevant information in suitable media, including audio/video as well as print.

Periodicals

'Mannemlo' is a quarterly Telugu periodical in circulation since 1994. It is the newsletter that reaches out to adivasi youth with information related to pertinent issues concerning the adivasi context. Over the years, it has built a considerable readership base among adivasi youth, CBOs, NGOs and other civil society representatives.

20 issues of Mannemlo have been produced in the last 5 years focussing on a range of issues relating to land acquisition and displacement, environmental issues, significant legal legislations, atrocities on tribal women, corruption, development, literacy, education, Special Economic Zones and their effect on adivasis, etc.

'Eco-ethic' is an English periodical that covers issues related to ethics and climate change that has an all India outreach. The idea behind 'eco-ethic' is to create awareness among development practitioners about the effects of climate change as well as update the readers on some of the basic debates happening on this issue nationally and internationally.

In the last 5 years, a total of 9 issues have been circulated on thematic areas such as reclaiming development in the climate discourse, voices of the vulnerable: to Durban and beyond, global campaigns and local action, etc.

Training for Personality Development



Publications: 2007-2012

Tribal Identity, Law and Human Rights: Contributions by P. Trinadh Rao, Resource for Legal Action	
01	Adivasi Land Rights: A book of landmark judgments in English on LTR 1 of 70, December 2007
02	Adivasi Adavi Hakkulu Gurthempu Chattam: booklet explaining the provisions of the Forest Rights Act 2007 in Telugu, 2008
03	Agency Pranthalo Amalukani Gram Panchayati Palana: a book in Telugu on non-implementation of PESA, 2008
04	Gram Panchayati Adhikaralu-Badhyatalu; Panchayati Secretary Vidulu: a booklet in Telugu on powers and responsibilities of the Gram Panchayat and Panchayat Secretary, 2008
05	Agency Prantha Vanaralu Paraeekarana Adivasila Nirasrayatha: A book in Telugu on Alienation of Resources and Tribal Displacement, 2008
06	HIV-AIDS Mannava Hakkulu; a book in Telugu on rights related to HIV AIDS, 2008
07	Gram Panchayats Case Law Digest: a book in English, 2010
08	Andhra Pradesh Scheduled Prantha Panchayati Raj (PESA) Chhattam 1998 and Niyamalu (Rules) 2011: booklet in Telugu on PESA Act and Rules, 2011
09	Scheduled Prantha Grama Sabhala Nirvahana-Margadarsi: A Telugu guide for the 'Administration of Grama Sabha in Scheduled Areas', 2012
Climate Crisis and Renewable/Decentralized Energy Options produced by the Laya-INECC Team	
10	Decentralised Energy Options in the Tribal Belt of the Eastern Ghats region in India: a handbook in English based on a feasibility study of the region, 2008
11	Civil society Voices Reflected in Roundtables in Strategic Cities and at the National Consultation on 'People's Voices in the Domestic and International Agenda: a booklet in English, 2009
12	Money for Nothing: A People's perspective: a document in English based on a study of seven Clean Development Mechanism (CDM) projects, 2009
13	Manduthunna Bhugolam-Samsya Valayamlo Vathavaranam: A book in Telugu on the Climate Crisis by L. Mallik, Documentation Unit, 2011
14	Development through A Low Carbon Pathway: a documentation in English of 8 case studies on local technology alternatives, 2011
15	Vulnerability of the Forest Eco-system in the context of Changing Climate: a document in English based on a participatory assessment of two interior Panchayats in East Godavari District, 2012
Displacement	
16	Resource Rich Tribal Poor: Displacing People, Destroying Identity in India's indigenous heartland; an Andhra Pradesh study report by Laya and Action Aid, 2008
17	Resource Rich Tribal Poor: Displacing People, Destroying Identity in India's indigenous heartland; a study report by Action Aid, Indian Social Institute and Laya, 2008
Community Health Care	
18	Saadarna Vyadulaku Mulika Vidyam: a booklet in Telugu on herbal medicine, Vanantharam, 2007
19	Vanamulika Vaidhyavidanam Sikshana Karadeepika, a handbook in Telugu on herbal medicines by G. Bulliyya, Herbal Based Community Health Care Unit, 2012

Sustainable Resource Management	
20	Sustainable Livelihood: A participatory case study of Laya's experience: an appraisal of livelihood practices and opportunities, a book in English with the assistance of a consultant, Sanjay Khatua, 2007
21	Adivasi Prantha Vyavasaaya Vignanam: a book in Telugu on local agricultural practices by K. Koteswar Rao, 2008
Women	
22	Mahilala Hakkulu; a booklet in Telugu on 'Women's Rights' by M. Annapurna, Resource for Legal Action, 2010
Reports	
23	Rhythms in Development –II: A brief report of the various activities of Laya, 2008

Articles for national/international readership

P. Trinadh Rao	
Issues relating to implementation of the Forest Rights Act in Andhra Pradesh, in edited book-"The Adivasi Question", EPW and Orient Black-Swan, 2012	
An Assessment and Analysis of Tribal Sub Plan (TSP) in Kerala, CESS, July, 2012, Hyderabad	
Implementation of Tribal Sub Plan Strategy: Impact on Livelihoods of Tribals in Andhra Pradesh, CESS, June 2012, Hyderabad	
Why Agency Courts preferred over Judicial Courts, All India Law Digest-June, 2012, Hyderabad	
Right to inherited property for Adivasi women denied, All India Law Digest, April, 2012, Hyderabad	
Denial of Tribal Land Justice, All India Law Digest, March, 2012, Hyderabad	
Issues relating to implementation of the Forest Rights Act in Andhra Pradesh, EPW, April 30, 2011	
K. Balagopal - Support Pillar for tribals, Combat Law, Jan-Feb, 2010	
Persisting Alienation of Tribal Lands, Rekindling Hope? AP Social Watch Report – 2007	
Nafisa Goga D'Souza	
'SHGs and Microcredit in the Tribal Context: Experience of Laya Resource Centre' published in the <i>Indian Journal of Social Work</i> (Tata Institute of Social Sciences) Volume 71, Issue 1, January 2010	
Low Carbon Development in India: Potential and Challenges for pro poor development, publication of presentation at Transformation Congress, 2012, Berlin, www.epd.de Nr 35/36	
'Ecological Sustainability in a Climate Changing World'; The World We Want: Looking Beyond 2015, Voices from India, Wada Na Todo Abhiyan, 2012 and Eco-Ethic, November 2012, No 44	
Dominic D'Souza	
Notes from an Advocate who decided not to go to Cancun, ASPBAE Ed-Lines, January 2011, Issue No 1, Quarterly Newsletter	

Philippines: A Tale of Hope in the Face of Typhoons: Disaster Risk Reduction Education, Tales of Hope III, Asia-Pacific Cultural Centre for UNESCO, August 2012

Ajita Tiwari

Energy Audit, 'eco ethic', September 2008;

The Cluster approach to Energy Access, 'eco ethic', August 2009;

Issues as they stand today, 'eco ethic', November 2010;

Expectations from Durban, 'eco ethic', November 2011

Siddharth D'Souza

Low carbon farming. A win-win prospect - LEISA Magazine and 'eco ethic', 2012

Electrifying Pathakota, 'eco ethic', 2011

Copenhagen to Cancun: The UNFCCC journey, 'eco ethic', 2010

Films

Films by Laya

01	Money for Nothing, Film on the Clean Development Mechanism and ITC Bhadrachalam, 2009, 12 minutes
02	Diamonds and Rust, Film on Clean Development Mechanism and Kohinoor Steel and Sponge Iron Company, 2009, 8 minutes
03	Kulei, Film on Clean Development Mechanism at Kulei, Orissa, 2009, 5 minutes
04	Climate Justice for All!, Film on the Public Hearing on Climate Change, 2009, 11 minutes
05	Film on Forest Eco System, Manapuram, 2009, 7 minutes
06	Film on Forest Eco System, Polavaram 2009, 7 minutes 20 secs
07	Yuva Drishti, A National Convention on Climate Change in Addateegala, 2009, 4 minutes
08	Chinnade Manchidi/Small is Beautiful, Film on the Microhydro at Pathakota after a year of its existence, 2010, 13.39 minutes
09	Seeds of Change, Film on Oil Extraction, 2010, 9.55 minutes
10	Development Through a Low Carbon Pathway, 2011, 10 min
11	Less Carbon, More Food, Alternative Energy Case Study, 2011, 06.54 minutes
12	Chulika, Alternative Energy Case Study, 2011, 06.09 minutes

13	Make Market Maintain, Alternative Energy Case Study, 2011, 06.41 minutes
14	Without the Grid, Alternative Energy Case Study, 2011, 08.18 minutes
15	Tree today, Life tomorrow, Alternative Energy Case Study, 2011, 05.02
16	Talking Trash, Alternative Energy Case Study, 2011, 06.51 minutes
17	No Shit, Alternative Energy Case Study, 2011, 07.18 minutes
<p>Manyam Praja Video comprises a video unit of four young tribal representatives who have been trained in developing films on local issues for dissemination in strategic villages. This unit has produced 30 films (below) in the last five years in Telugu. Five key films have been summarised with English subtitles.</p>	
18	Addateegala Mandal News, 2007, 5 minutes
19	Health, 2007, 36 minutes
20	Basic Infrastructure, 2007, 33 minutes and summarised in 10 minutes with English subtitles
21	Food Security, 2007, 64 minutes
22	Credit, 2007, 43 minutes
23	Tribal Culture and Traditional Knowledge, 2007, 33 minutes and summarised in 10 minutes with English subtitles
24	Irrigation Water, 2007, 27 minutes
25	Lack of Electricity Problem, 2007, 33 minutes
26	Health Issues, 2007, 26 minutes
27	Natural Resources, 2007, 26 minutes
28	Mother and Child Health, 2007, 25 minutes
29	Thrift and Credit, 2007, 21 minutes
30	Land Issues, 2007, 5 minutes
31	Seed Distribution Programme, 2007, 7 minutes
32	Forest Rights Act and Panchayati Raj Act, 2008, 35 minutes
33	Marketing Facilities in Tribal Areas, 2008, 44 minutes
34	Anganwadi Centres, 2009, 31 minutes

35	Migration Issue, 2009, 34 minutes and summarised in 10 minutes with English subtitles
36	Problems in Housing Scheme, 2009, 30 minutes
37	Food Insecurity, 2009, 38 minutes and summarised in 10 minutes with English subtitles
38	Problem of Drinking Water in Agency, 2009, 21 minutes
39	Literacy Training for Farmers, 2009, 15 minutes
40	Addateegala Mandal News, 2010, 11 minutes
41	Unemployment Issue, 2010, 35 minutes
42	Animal Husbandry, 2010, 30 minutes
43	Youth and Livelihoods, 2010, 35 minutes and summarised in 10 minutes with English subtitles
44	National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme, 2010, 25 minutes
45	Thrift and Credit Societies, 2010, 22 minutes
46	Problem of Alcoholism, 2011, 32 minutes

The team on their way to conduct the Vulnerability Assessment of the forest ecosystem





Networking and Advocacy

Along with networking by each of the units in differing capacities at the local, district and state levels with government and non-government organisations, Laya has been a key member of various other national networks, more specifically: the Indian Network on Ethics and Climate Change (INECC), the Asia South Pacific Association for Basic and Adult Education (ASPBAE), and the Fair Climate Network (FCN). Laya sees the role of networking as a way of linking and learning – sharing experiences, learning from other's experiences and also as opportunities for collaboration and solidarity for advocacy.

Indian Network on Ethics and Climate Change (INECC)

INECC is an open and flexible national network of organisations and individuals who connect on the issue of climate change from the perspective of marginalised communities. Comprising currently of a core team of 16 active members, it was formed in 1996 at the initiative of a few development practitioners who saw the link between the climate change crisis and the larger issues of sustainable development and social justice. INECC's outreach is about 150 organisations based in various locations in the country. Laya has been one of the key founder members of the network and acts as its Secretariat.


INECC endeavours to bring forth concerns of the marginalised majority on climate change and sustainable development to

the policy tables through four key thematic areas:

1. Engaging with policy dialogue and advocacy at various levels: from local to international;
2. Creating spaces for dialogue on climate issues with a diverse set of youth with a focus on climate justice, international processes, campaigns etc. The aim of this aspect is to identify 'change agents' and support enabling initiatives;
3. Mainstreaming climate change to integrate climate change in development processes. This translates into action research on aspects like vulnerabilities, adaptation undertaken from a climate lens. This dimension also focuses on creating pilots for replication e.g: developing grassroots renewable energy clusters, decentralised waste management, etc. The need for climate change related education at various levels is being strongly emphasised from a mainstreaming perspective;
4. Linking, learning and convergence involves sharing our experiences with a variety of actors: NGO representatives, grassroots organisations, movements, academicians, researchers, scientists etc; learning from others' initiatives, building collaborations and forging convergence.

Asia South Pacific Association for Basic and Adult Education (ASPBAE)

The Asia South Pacific Association for Basic and Adult Education (ASPBAE) is a regional association of more than 200 organisations and individuals. It works towards promoting quality education for all and focuses on transformative and liberating, life-long adult education and learning. It strives to strengthen an Asia-Pacific movement to support community and people's organizations, national education coalitions, teachers' unions, campaign networks, and other civil society groups and institutions in holding governments and the international donor community accountable in meeting education targets and commitments.



INECC at the Copenhagen COP

Through its work ASPBAE lobbies with governments to:

- Ensure the right of all to education;
- Uphold education as an empowering tool to combat poverty and all forms of exclusion and discrimination;
- Enable active and meaningful participation in governance;
- Build a culture of peace and international understanding.

Laya is a member organisation of ASPBAE. The Associate Director of Laya is a member of the Executive Council of ASPBAE from the South Asia Region for the period 2008-2012.

Fair Climate Network (FCN) and the Formation of the 3rd FCN Low Carbon Farming (LCF) Coalition

The Fair Climate Network comprises more than 100 persons: development workers, climate change activists, environmentalists, scientists and other professionals from India and abroad. They represent 32 Grassroots NGOs who work

with the rural poor, 20 support organisations and 6 Network members who participate in their individual capacity. FCN's purpose is to facilitate and capacitate grassroots bodies to develop pro-poor Clean Development Mechanism (CDM) Projects in India and tap carbon resources for the sustainable development of the poorest of the poor.

Laya promoted the idea of the 3rd FCN-Low Carbon Farming Coalition to involve NGOs that were working with adivasis on Sustainable Agriculture in the Scheduled Areas. Later, also NGOs working with adivasis in non-Scheduled Areas joined in, as the broad goals were similar. Low Carbon Farming, while essentially based on principles of sustainable farming also takes into account reduced emissions from low input agricultural practices.

Laya, IRDWSI, CPSW, CeFHA, ACTION have been part of the 3rd FCN-LCF coalition, under the leadership of the Fair Climate Network. Environmental Defense Fund (EDF), New York, provides cutting edge science needed to calculate carbon emission reductions. Laya is the lead organization for this project. ■

Pro-poor CDM: Low carbon farming





Governance and Management

Laya is legally registered under the Societies' Registration Act of 1860 (now deemed to be registered under the Andhra Pradesh Societies' Registration Act of 2001) and under the Foreign Contribution Regulation Act (FCRA) of 1976. The Society has a General Body of 11 members, governed by a Board of Management of 7 members, which gives policy and direction to the Secretariat through the Executive Director. A team of unit facilitators and the Associate Director, constituting the Project Policy Team, assists the Executive Director.

In order to facilitate quality and focused intervention a unit approach has been developed in the programme involvements. The units are based on the specific dimensions or issues or problems addressed. The unit approach has helped to decentralize systems for more effective functioning. Each unit has been encouraged to function autonomously in programmatic and administrative matters 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. There have been several discussions within the Board of Management on the role of the Board and the role of the Executive within the organizational context. All the Board members are professionally qualified and have wide experience in the field of development.

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.

Organizational Systems

Our organizational systems encourage autonomy functioning at the unit levels. It is envisaged that some units will emerge eventually as autonomous organisations in time and Laya Resource Centre will provide a coordinating link for a network of organisations. Transparency is encouraged and we have

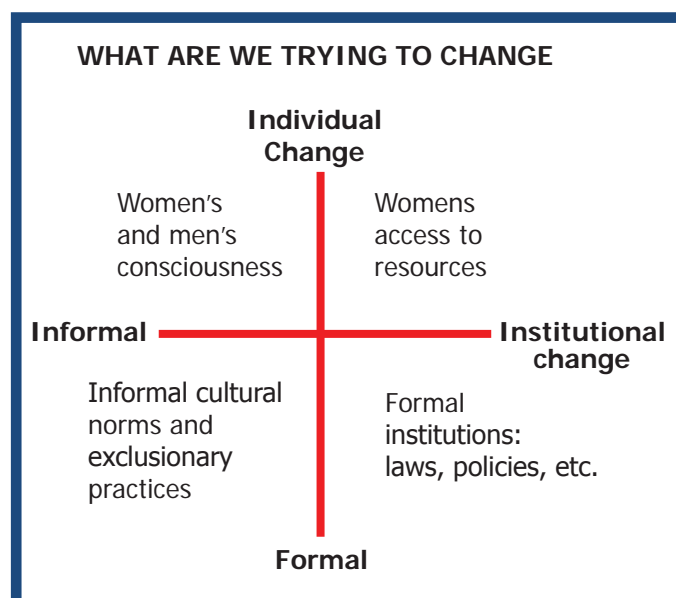
relevant policies which facilitate efficiency in management, which are updated as per need.

Strategy, Review and Planning Meetings

At the organizational level, we hold strategy review and planning meetings twice a year which aid the planning of the work of the various units. The agenda of the meetings vary according to the situational need and have ranged from practice and policy changes in Laya to sustainability through the perspective of each of the units. These meetings help in sharing of each unit's plans, previous work and reviewing its strategy for future direction collectively.

Gender at Work

There has been a steady effort to integrate a gender based approach in the functioning of Laya. Laya has a gender policy at the organisational level. Besides a framework, 'Gender at Work' was developed in a workshop in 2010. The units were represented by the coordinators and some key members. Each unit assessed their programmes using the framework. They then identified the gaps and articulated strategies and activities. Specific exercises and case studies were used to



enable participants to reflect and analyze their context. The participants mainly worked in small groups followed by plenary sessions.

Some basic definitions on sex, gender, gender discrimination, gender division of labour, gender equality, gender equity, women's empowerment was shared with the participants and these were linked to the exercises that they undertook. Some statistics of women's work and position globally was also shared with them.

The key learning for almost all the participants was the understanding of the difference between gender (social) and sex (biological). The participants also identified social, religious, educational, political and economic practices that are applicable to 'only men', 'men and women' and 'only women' in Laya's areas of work. There was also some discussion on the need to change stereotypes and the role of Laya in facilitating gender justice. Gender unjust practices were identified in the region and key insights were followed up with specific actions by the units during the accompanying process.

This was an enriching experience for the Laya team and was a positive step towards integrating gender sensitivity in the functioning and governance of Laya.

Governance

The General Body and by delegation the Board of Management takes the legal and management responsibility for the overall affairs of Laya. The role of the Board of Management of Laya is to determine the policy of the organisation, have an oversight on the programme initiatives, proposals and projects, be informed of financial matters in relation to financial compliances and financial affairs of the society, ratify executive decisions related to all programme, administrative and financial matters and advise the executive in relation to future initiatives of the organisation. The Board meets thrice a year, also participates in strategic meetings of the organisation, and visits Laya's field areas from time to time in order to be informed of Laya's operational areas.

The General Body of Laya meets once a year to consider and adopt the Secretary's annual report, consider and adopt the annual audited accounts and auditor's report, appointment of the auditor for the next financial year, elect the Board of Management for a three-year term and consider any other matters put up by the Board.



General Body

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

Financial Management

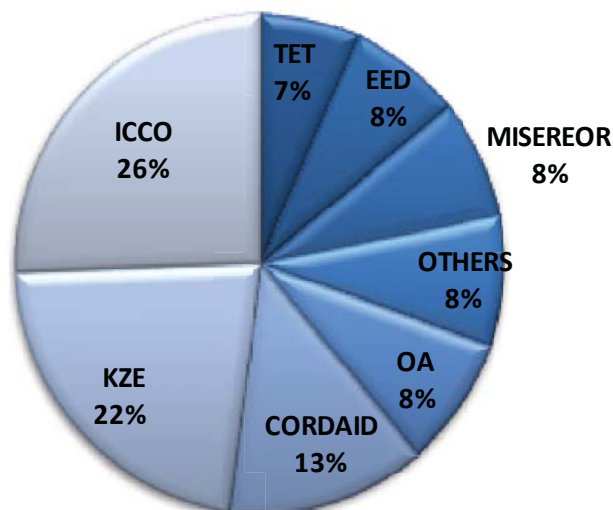
Financial management is a critical aspect of our accountability towards the donors and our constituency. Our experience in developing systems of financial accounting, monitoring and planning has developed as we have had to take up additional responsibilities during the process of our institutional growth. NGO financial management constitutes the processing of several projects with varied time lines. As an NGO registered under the Societies Registration act and the Foreign Contribution Regulation Act (FCRA) we are required to submit our audited statements in time and in order.

The financial system has been through a significant change since inception in decentralising the processes of monitoring of budget v/s expenditure, now being the major responsibility of individual units.

List of Support Agencies

1. Actionaid, Secunderabad
2. Centre for World Solidarity , Secunderabad
3. Evangelischer Entwicklungsdienst e.V. (EED), Germany
4. ICCO & Kerk in Actie , The Netherlands
5. Cordaid , The Netherlands
6. Global Greengrants Fund, United States of America
7. Janvikas, Ahmedabad
8. Katholische Zentralstelle fur Entwicklungshilfe e.V. (KZE), Germany
9. Misereor, Germany
10. Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC), Switzerland
11. Non-TimberForestProducts-ExchangeProgramme(NTFEP) for South and South East Asia
12. North Eastern Social Research Centre , Guwahati, Assam
13. Oxfam Australia, Australia
14. Video Volunteers , United States of America
15. Andhra Pradesh State Coucil of Science and Techonology (APCOST), Hyderabad
16. Centre for Economic and Social Studies, Hyderabad
17. Department of Biotechnology, Government of India (DBT, GOI)
18. Department of Science & Technolocy Government of India (DST, GOI)
19. DRISHTI, Ahmedabad , India
20. Tata Education Trust, Mumbai, India ■

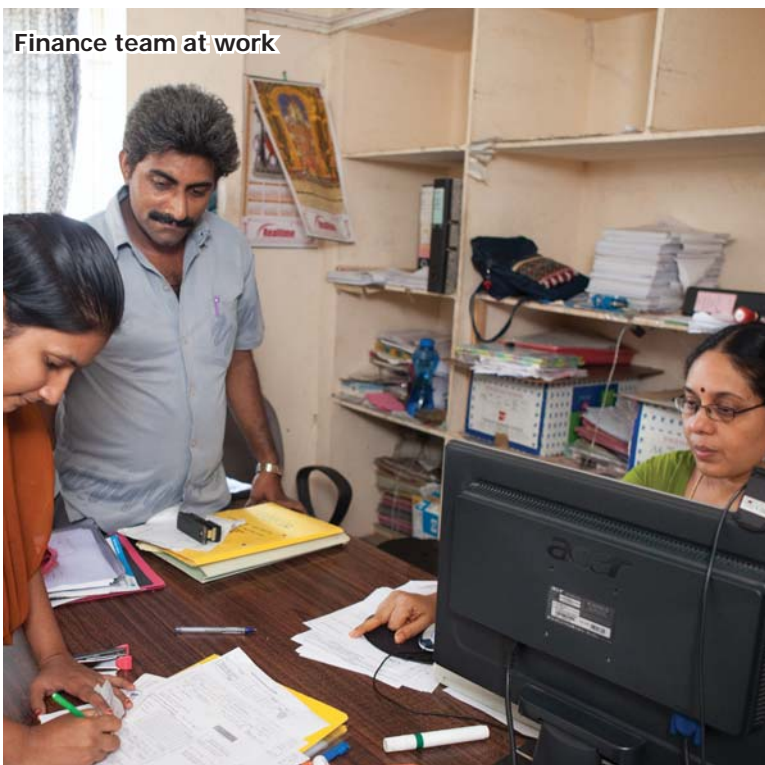
Receipts from Key Support Agencies



Receipts from Key Support Agencies

S.No	Projects	Receipts (Rs In Million)	Percentage
1	TET	10.31	7%
2	EED	11.77	8%
3	Misereor	12.12	8%
4	Others	13.19	8%
5	OA	13.32	9%
6	Cordaid	20.47	13%
7	KZE	35.00	22%
8	ICCO	39.88	26%
		156.06	100%

(Rs. in million)





Laya Team - Past and Present (2007 -2012)

Visakhapatnam	Nafisa Goga D'Souza	Executive Director	Founder Member	In service
	Dominic D'Souza	Associate Director	1996	In service
	D. Seshu Surya Prasanna Kumar	Office Assistant	1993	In service
	P. Shankar Rao	Driver	1994	In service
	V. V. Nagamani	Coordinator, Finance and Accounts	1998	In service
	P. Viplav Kumar	Accounts Assistant	1998	2011
	L. Mallikharjuna Rao	Coordinator, Documentation Unit	1999	In service
	Ch. Ramulamma	Office Assistant	2000	In service
	J. V. Sekhar	Coordinator, Computer Unit	2001	2009
	R. Venu Gopal	Coordinator, Science & Technology	1998	In service
	B. Srinivas Rao	Coordinator, Youth and Women Empowerment Unit	2002	In service
	Manisha Banerjee	Coordinator, Administration	2003	In service
	R. Madhava Rao	Driver and Office Assistant	2004	In service
	M. Satyanarayana	Coordinator, Information Technology (IT) Unit	2005	In service
	T. Kantha Rao	Field Coordinator, Youth and Women Empowerment Unit	2004	In service
	B. Kanaka Rao	Programme Coordinator, IIPLS	2006	2007
	K. Lavanya	Accounts Assistant	2011	In service
	Siddharth D'Souza	Coordinator, Climate Change Desk	2007	In service
	Ajita Tiwari Padhi	Facilitator, INECC, New Delhi	2007	In service
	Dara Ma Jenny Gevela	Coordinator, Regional Resource Centre	2008	2009
	L. Gouri Shankar	Programme Officer, Regional Resource Centre	2008	2010
	K. Jagadeesh	Hardware Technical Assistant, IT Unit	2010	In service
	Garima Suman	Consultant, Market Access & Micro Enterprise	2010	2011
	Riya Datta	Coordinator, Climate Change Desk	2010	2011
	P. Bala Jyothi	Accounts Assistant	2010	In service
Addateegala	G. Bulliyya	Coordinator, Field Area and Herbal Based Health Care unit,	1986	In service
	K. Koteswar Rao	Coordinator, Natural Resource Management Unit	1986	In service
	K. Pushpa Raju	Field Support, Resource for Legal Action	1986	2012
	A. Ravi Kumar	Field Coordinator, Micro Credit & Enterprise	1993	2012
	G. V. V. Satyanarayana	Accountant, Field Support	1993	In service
	A. Padmavathi	Field Coordinator, Youth and Women Empowerment Unit	2003	In service
	S. Srinivas	Assistant Ethno-Botanist	2006	2008
	B. Chakrababu	Field Coordinator, Natural Resource Management	2007	In service
	P. Anil Kumar	Training Coordinator, Community Media Unit	2007	2008
	D. Sayanarayana	Driver cum Office Assistant	2007	In service
	M. Veeru Naidu	Field Coordinator, NRM Unit	2008	2011
	B. Chellayya	Field Coordinator, Decentralised Energy Options (DEO)	2008	In service
	K. Veeraraghava	Field Coordinator, HBHC Unit	2009	In service
	E. Gowri Shankar	Field Coordinator, Youth and Women Empowerment Unit	2009	In service
	J. Ravi Raja	Coordinator, Community Media Unit	2011	In service
	B. Raga Sindhu	Data Entry Operator	2011	2012
	T. Ravi Kiran	Consultant, Micro Credit Activities	2011	2012
	P. Ramesh	Field Supervisor, Non-edible Oils Project	2012	In service
Paderu	V. Ravindra	Field Support and Area Coordinator, NRM Unit	1993	In service
	V. Mohan	Field Coordinator, RLA Unit	2003	2012
	I. S. Narayana	Field Coordinator, NRM Unit	2004	2010
	M. V. Sitaram	Field Assistant, Accounts and Administration	2006	2008
	A. Vijaya Sarada	Field Support, Youth and Women Empowerment Unit	2006	2008
	S. Annapoorna	Finance and Administrative Assistant	2008	In service
	N. Srinivasa Rao	Field Coordinator, Youth and Women Empowerment Unit,	1998	In service
	S. Kiran Kumar	Field Coordinator, DEO	2009	2009
	B. Uma Maheshwar Rao	Field Coordinator, DEO, Bonjangi Village	2009	2010
	T. Raju	Field Coordinator, DEO, Bonjangi Village	2010	2011
	D. Lova Raju	Field Coordinator, DEO	2010	In service
	V. Lakshmi Sunita	Data Entry Operator	2011	In service
	R. Somesh Kumar	Field Coordinator, NRM Unit	2012	In service
Rajahmundry & Rampachodavaram	R. Prasad	Caretaker, Jalampalli Training Centre	1997	In service
	P. Trinadha Rao	Coordinator, Resource for Legal Action (RLA) Unit	1987	In service
	M. Annapurna	Advocate, RLA Unit	1993	In service
	P. Ram Babu	Field Coordinator, RLA Unit	1998	In service
	M. Ram Babu	Driver and Office Support, RLA Unit	2000	In service
	P. Murali Vasu	Finance and Administrative Assistant, RLA Unit	2007	In service
	A. Srinivas	Field Coordinator, Displacement Study	2012	In service



Laya Team



Laya Resource Centre
Near Senora Resorts, Yendada village, close to Sagar Nagar
Visakhapatnam - 530 045

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