



LUTHERAN WORLD SERVICE INDIA TRUST

Empowering the last, the least and the lost

E-Newsletter

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Lutheran World Service India Trust (LWSIT) is a Christian, ecumenical organization promoted jointly by the United Evangelical Lutheran Churches in India and the National Council of Churches in India.

LWSIT is registered as a National NGO in 2008 with the objective of owning and continuing the programs of LWSI, the country program of LWF/DWS, Geneva who started working in India in 1974 in collaboration with the Swedish Mission by extending relief support to the refugees of the Bangladesh War of Independence.

The organization works on issues of Sustainable Livelihoods, Community Resilience, Education and Health with Gender and Peace as its thematic areas. The main purpose of LWSIT is to empower disadvantaged communities and it focuses mainly in Odisha, Jharkhand, West Bengal & Assam, while it responds to disaster management in Pan India.



Psalm 65:9 (NIV)

You care for the land and water it; you enrich it abundantly. The streams of God are filled with water to provide the people with grain, for so you have ordained it.

CELEBRATIONS

PROJECT UPDATES

STORIES OF CHANGE

MEETINGS, TRAININGS,
WORKSHOPS & VISITS

INSIDE STORIES:

World Environment Day

June 5th is International World Environment Day; a day dedicated honoring the Earth- Mother Nature. Led by the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and held annually on 5th June since 1973, World Environment Day is the largest global platform for environmental public outreach and is celebrated by millions of people across the world. The year 2023 was the 50th year of celebrating World Environment Day.



Lutheran World Service India Trust

Observed World Environment Day across various projects to not only increase awareness and sensitize communities but also to highlight the significance of protecting the Earth, our mother nature through best practices and conservation of energy in daily life and neighborhood.



Plantation Program at SUH Unit, Kolkata

Observation of Environment Day at Project Units

The Kolkata Unit of GEP Project, celebrated with 32 community people by welcoming everyone and planting trees. The celebration focussed on the theme of this year' on « Solution to plastic pollution » under the campaign **#Beat Plastic Pollution**. Everyone present at the celebrations, took an oath to keep their area clean, reduce the use of plastic products, stop wastage of water, plant more trees. The event was further followed by discussions with various placards, slogans and eco-friendly songs to create awareness about the significance of the day.



Celebrations at GEP & CEC Projects, Kolkata

In Birbhum Unit of DSSQC Project, 8 communities consisting of 104 women and 42 men from 18 groups and 4 FIGs participated in the event of celebrating Environment Day. Communities were encouraged in keeping the surrounding healthy by minimizing the use of plastic material such as polythin which leads to plastic pollution. Alternative habit of carrying **Jute and cotton bags** while shopping was encouraged. To generate public awareness mass Rallies were conducted. The school teachers and self govt. authorities delivered speeches to minimize resource consumption, create greenery models, become more sustainable, safe guard wildlife, train and motivate everyone to live in harmony with nature, and to become custodian of a green future.

Celebration of
World
Environment Day
at DSSQC Project,
Birbhum



Observation of Environment Day at Project Units

Kalahandi Unit of STEER Project celebrated the Environment Day with 104 participants. Foot Rally was organized around the community with different slogans on environment conservation and plantation. Different events like Plantation programme, drawing and song competition was organised to encourage the participants. Finally in the **oath taking programme** all participants took oath for **massive plantation** and to make **disposal of garbage** in right place installed by the government.



Plantation Program at STEER Project, Kalahandi

Balangir Unit of STEER Project observed **International Environment Day** on 5Th June with 167 participants from 14 operational communities by awareness on the increased vulnerabilities related to changing demographics and socio-economic conditions, unplanned urbanization, and development within high-risk zones, environmental degradation, climate change, geological hazards, epidemics and pandemics. All these contribute to a situation where disasters seriously threaten Community's economy, its population and sustainable development. The



World Environment Day Celebrations at STEER Project, Balangir

operational areas are drought prone with degraded forest, eroded soil, and scarcity of water. Temperature rises up to 50 degrees celsius in summers. In order to make the communities sensitive on these environmental issues and **impact of climate change** the project has been organizing a series of activities.

Observation of Environment Day at Project Units

In Mayurbhanj Unit of STEER Project, the purpose of the observation was to sensitize people on the environmental issues through actions. Strengthen collective efforts to take possible steps and create positive spread effect to bring about attitudinal changes in human being as the **active Change Agents for the sustainable and equitable development** through which people can enjoy a safer life and more prosperous future. Forest Personnel, School Teachers, Local Self-Government, Ward Members, AWW & ASHA were among the guests who joined the program and graced the occasion. The presentation covered the day's theme selected by the UN for the year '**Only One Earth**' which focuses on friendly close tie up with the nature to protect the earth, the only place for existence.

Assam Unit of CAP-R Project observed the World Environment Day with 322 participants. Members of Village Development Committees, Self Help Group members, Youths, School Management Committee members & ICDS workers were the invited speakers for the occasion. The main objective of observing the day in the village was to bring **awareness on Global Warming** due to various environment issues, to encourage community people, to take preventive measures, to protect environment through different approaches, to minimize resource consumption, create greener models, safeguard wild spaces, train and to motive youngster to live in harmony with nature and become custodians of a green nature.



World Environment Day celebrations at CAP-R Project, Assam

PROGRAMS AT PROJECT UNITS

I. In Kendrapada Unit of STEER Project, various awareness program of WASH for community people and School children was organised. Peace lésion learnt, Cultural programs in Joint Initiatives, Sustainable Agriculture training and Adolescent Girls training etc. was observed. People from 40 communities participated in all these AAP related activities.

II. Exposure Visit in Balangir unit of STEER Project- Exposure visit for selected members of the CBOs and SHGs was organized to Sahabhagi Vikash Abhiyan (SVA), Odisha as a learning's process. The main purpose of exposure visit was to encourage and motivate the community people to expose on new feasible technologies both on farm and non-farm most suited to the geo-climatic conditions as the gainful engagement options through better production & income for improvement of qualities of life. From 10 communities 16 participants with 4 staff members participated in the visit. An agriculture expert conducted training on farm based and another trainer covered on non-farm activities. Interaction, discussion, question and answer between resource person and participants were encouraged. Different sectors such as orchard on fruits, horticulture, agriculture, fish culture, veterinary, mushroom cultivation, Spice packing and marketing and Farmers Producer Company / Cooperatives or group etc were covered.

III. Observation of World Health Day 2023 Mayurbhanj : 07th April, World Health Day was observed in 02 Zones with utmost care and concern. People from different Communities actively participated in the program. Sarpanch, Ward Member, School teachers, Anganwadi Workers, ASHA and Tribal Social leaders were among them who joined the Program on invitation by the CBO members. Initially rally was organized across the villages. Both men and Women joined the rally shouting slogans on health 5& hygiene especially on health awareness and care for women & Girls holding placards & banner. The Guests of the day inaugurated the Program. The Children Sang on the occassion. LWSIT Representatives made a presentation on the significance and the history of the World Health Day. Also focus was made on the theme for this year 'Health for all' which focuses on bringing health & health care within the reach of everyone in a given society. CBO representatives shared the steps to deal with various community health issues through one act play & future plan of action/prevention of COVID-19 and washing of hands using hand wash. The program was concluded with vote of thanks given by the organizers. Altogether 144 men, 178 women and 156 Children from 12 Communities under both the Zones participated in the observation. 12 CBOs and 28 SHGs not only represented but also managed the entire Programs.

PROGRAMS AT PROJECT UNITS

IV. Exposure visit in Mayurbhanj unit of STEER Project The prescheduled Exposure Program was organized to the Grow Green Model Nursery & the Krushi Vigyana Kendra, Mayurbhanj. The objective was to get the interested Community Members & Farmers exposed to the new feasible technologies both on-farm and off-farm most suited to the geo-climatic conditions which can create gainful engagement options through better production & income for gradual improvement in the life qualities. 14 Female and 10 Male Community members from 13 Communities took part in the Program. Later the team visited the Krushi Vigyana Kendra. The Chief Scientist of the KVK entrusted one of the Scientists to accompany the team & get the members exposed to the new technologies and successes of the KVK covering the topics on Commercial Vegetable farming, Nursery raising, Horticulture, Apiary, Dairy, Bio-Gas & Electricity, Bio-fertilizer & Compost making including the uses, Vermin Compost.



Exposure visit to the GGM Nursery at STEER Project, Mayurbhanj

Exposure visit to the KVK Nursery at STEER Project, Mayurbhanj



PROGRAMS AT PROJECT UNITS

V. Observation of The World Day to Combat Desertification and Drought : On 17th June, World Day to Combat Desertification and Drought 2023 was observed in different Communities of STEER Project. People's Representatives to the Local Self Government such as Ward Member, School Teachers, ASHA and Tribal Social Leaders actively participated in the program. Initially rally was organized across the villages. LWSIT Representative made presentation on the significance and history of the day with Newspaper clippings highlighting the theme of the year 'Her Land' focusing on women's land rights as a crucial component of achieving the goal of gender equality and land degradation neutrality which can only be achieved through problem solving, strong community involvement and co-operation at all levels. Later the Guests and the Participants joined together to plant the seedlings collected and brought individually to mark the occasion. The CBO Representatives highlighted their efforts on the environmental care and steps taken to bring down violence against women and girls. While forest protection is being considered as routine task, the women SHGs were also being supported especially on documentation & Bank A/C operation to progress in the daily life activities. Girl Children were encouraged to continue studies especially in the higher education level. Altogether 74 Men, 117 Women and 87 Children from 05 communities covering 11 CBO/SHGs took active part in the Program. The CBO members especially women took the entire initiative in organizing and managing the Program.



Observation of World day to combat Desertification & Drought at STEER Project, Mayurbhanj

PROGRAMS AT PROJECT UNITS

VI. Awareness program on WASH for School Children in Balangir unit of STEER Project : The health status of the community people in the operational areas of Balangir unit is poor and there is no service health centre nearby. Inadequate infrastructure facilities, lack of quality health care services and unhealthy practices have resulted in low health status among the rural population and the marginalized people and children of partner communities. The project has given special attention to protect the school children & prevent Corona Virus and other communicable diseases. Awareness program on WASH for school children involving girls-219 and boys-216 from 6 schools from nearby villages were organised by demonstration & mock drill by all participants. The school teacher, ASHA, AWW, PRI members, village leaders, SHG/CBO/CBG leader and members actively participated in the programs.



WASH Awareness Program for Children in STEER Project, Balangir

VII. Campaign on Swachh Bharat Mission at STEER Balangir Project was organized at Dabri and Dumerpada village of Odisha involving 51 men & 102 women of 8 operational communities. The school teacher, ex-vice chair person (Panchayat Samiti), ASHA, AWW, PRI members, village leaders, SHG/CBO/CBG leader and members actively participated in the campaigns. The program started with rally program on sanitation involving posters, leaflets, banners & placards. Then the general meeting was continued with speech, discussion, sharing, and lectures. The main purpose of the programs was to disseminate the message of the negative impacts of the open defecation and availing of individual house hold latrine (IHHL) and encourage people to use sanitary latrine and keep surrounding clean and reduce open defecations.

PROGRAMS AT PROJECT UNITS

VIII. In DSSQC Project, The communities were briefed about the steps taken by the organization through **increasing green coverage in the community** by supporting 9 groups with 600 Mango fruit saplings for **community orchard plantation** in 6 communities in 6 acres of waste lands, which will serve as a boon for the community people both environmentally & also increase livelihood.

Pond Excavation : - Kusbona Dungritola under Shikaripara block, district- Dumka, Jharkhand are suffering from acute water crisis during cultivation. The land patterns of the area are mostly drought prone and undulated. During summer there is no water in the most of the ponds. Most of the dug wells have dried up. The farmers have to depend on rain water and have no irrigation facilities. The land distributions of the operational area are mostly high and high medium. About 90% of the total agricultural lands of this community are high and medium where crop failure is a common phenomenon due to less rainfall and lack of irrigation facilities. Due to this reason the farmers did not get proper production from the cultivation and most of the seasons they faced huge loss and gradually they lost their interest towards agriculture. Support of irrigation facilities is very much needed in this community to protect the standing crops in the field from lack of water to make a difference in productivity. There is a good opportunity and need for the excavation of tank in common properties for the small and marginal farmers of the operational community. It will help them to save their crops from the droughts and will open a possibility to go for the second crop in the winter season.



Excavation of Irrigation Pond at DSSQC Unit, Jharkhand

PROGRAMS AT PROJECT UNITS

IX. In GEP Kolkata Unit, International Domestic workers Day was celebrated on 16th June 2023, with 52 domestic worker from Kolkata domestic worker association at Ultadanga. The celebration started with the significant contributions of domestic workers to the global economy. They are an integral part of the global labor force, whether hired locally or internationally. Mr. Rabindra Nath Chakraborty President of DWA further explained the basic rights of domestic workers, as

- Promotion and protection of the human rights of all domestic workers.
- Respect and protection of fundamental principles and rights at work:
- Freedom of association and the effective recognition of the right;
- Elimination of all forms of forced or compulsory labor; Abolition of child labor
- Elimination of discrimination in respect of employment and occupation.
- Effective protection against all forms of abuse, harassment, and violence.
- Fair terms of employment and decent living conditions.



Domestic Worker's Day Celebrations at GEP Project, Kolkata

X. In Children Education Centre- International Yoga Day was celebrated with the dropout children on 21st June, 2023. The children were taught about the benefits of Yoga and how it is essential and can be practiced in our life for our good health. Different Yoga postures were taught to make them a health conscious person. Since mostly the children are from vulnerable places, like Railway Slums and Roadside Temporary Structures, so discussions on good Hygienic practices which is a very

PROGRAMS AT PROJECT UNITS

important thing to keep good health. At last we finished the program with Sankrit ward “Yogaschittavrttinirodhah”, which means “Yoga is restraining the mind-stuff from taking various forms”.



Meditation by children at CEC Project, Kolkata

XI. TFR Project, Assam focused on the activities of School Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) Program for Students and Teachers during the 2nd quarter by considering the schools time factor as the annual examination is over & the beginning of rainy season when the flood like situation is common in Assam. The safety of schools is important and DRR aims to prepare both teachers and students for potential disasters, thereby reducing the impact of the disaster. ‘School Safety’ has been defined as the creation of safe environments for children starting from their homes to their schools and back. This includes safety from large-scale ‘natural’ hazards of geological/climatic origin, human-made risks, pandemics, violence as well as more frequent and smaller-scale fires, transportation and other related emergencies, and environmental threats that can adversely affect the lives of children. So, 2,575 Students (1,213 Boys & 1,362 Girls) & 68 Teachers participated in the following programs implemented during the quarter;

PROGRAMS AT PROJECT UNITS

- 20 Awareness on Disaster Preparedness to School Students and Teachers in 20 Schools
- 17 Formation and Training of School Disaster Management Team in 17 Schools
- 3 School Vulnerability Mapping program in 3 Schools
- 2 Simulation/ Mock Drills involving School Students in 2 Schools



Awareness on DRR for School Students and Teachers at TFR Project, Assam



School Mock Drills on Disaster Preparedness at TFR Project, Assam

PROGRAMS AT PROJECT UNITS

Besides, during the 2nd Qtr., Piglets and Goats were assisted to 50 Women headed families as livelihood enhancement measures. While 36 Piglets were assisted to 18 Women, 64 she Goats assisted to 32 Women. Trainings on livestock rearing was conducted with the help of Sub-Divisional Veterinary Officer, Gossaigaon which was extremely beneficial for the women.



Goatery Support to Women Headed Families in TFR Project, Assam

XII. Monitoring Visit by The Hans Foundation : The Monitoring Evaluation & Learning (MEL) Team of The Hans Foundation comprising of Mr. Yash Paul, Program Manager & Mr. Narayan Rao, MEL Manager, had visited the LWSIT Project Units to overview the field and to discuss with the Rights Holders and the CBO members. During de-briefing THF members focused mostly on the objectives of the Program and the documentation at different levels.



Visits from The Hans Foundation Team in LWSIT Project Unit

MEETINGS / PROGRAMS / WEBINARS ATTENDED FROM APRIL TO JUNE 2023

Meeting/Workshop/Training attended by the ED - Online/Offline:

- ❖ Online meeting with RILM (Rotary India Literacy Mission) on 11th April 2023
- ❖ Online meeting with Ms. Ingrid from Normisjon on 5th May & 16th June 2023
- ❖ Briefing /Debriefing meetings held with the External evaluators for all 4-core projects in May and June 2023.
- ❖ Online meeting with The Hans Foundation on 20th June 2023

Visits done by ED:

- Bhubaneswar unit, Odisha on 18-19th April 2023 for taking the Handover and Staff meeting
- HMI (Henry Martin Institute) Hyderabad for attending NCCI AGM from 21st 24th April 2023
- Darjeeling for Staff Retreat from 26th - 28th April 2023
- Bhubaneswar unit for conducting Interview of the candidate for Project Co-ordinator, GEP Bhubaneswar Unit on 8th & 9th June 2023



Staff Retreat Program at Darjeeling in April



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