ECONOMIC JUSTICE

Only 55.3% of Indian rural households have access to electricity while only 11.4% have access to LPG.
By 2020, marginalised communities in our focus states will have improved livelihoods through rights over natural resources specifically land, minerals and energy.

**OXFAM GOAL**

**FAIR SHARING OF NATURAL RESOURCES**

Tribal and other forest dependent communities have access to, control and management rights over forest land and its resources.

1. Improved implementation of Mines and Minerals Development and Regulation Act (MMDR) and Right to Fair Compensation and Transparency in Land Acquisition, Rehabilitation & Resettlement (RFCTLARRA) to secure rights of the tribal and other forest dependent communities.

2. Increased access to appropriate renewable energy sources by Tribal and other forest dependent communities.

**OXFAM INDIA’S IMPACT**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Total</th>
<th>2,89,731</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Female</td>
<td>1,47,755</td>
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In the year 2015-16, we had 1,47,755 female beneficiaries from a total of 2,89,731 beneficiaries.
**SMALL HOLDER AGRICULTURE**

With a focus on women farmers, our work in the area of Small Holder Agriculture and Climate Change aims for resilient and sustainable incomes of the small and marginal farmers.

A volatile market and climate-induced variability make agriculture a very risky proposition, especially for small and vulnerable farmers.

This programme focuses on strengthening the economic leadership and land rights of women farmers, making public investments in agriculture accessible to small farmers, especially women farmers and increasing their resilience to the impacts of climate change.

Despite playing a significant role in the agriculture production system, most often women are neither legally nor socially recognised or acknowledged as farmers.

To bridge this gap, Oxfam India launched the AAROH Campaign in 2006 to help women farmers create a special space for women farmers in the Shahjahanpur and Saharanpur Mandis in Uttar Pradesh, aiming to encourage economic empowerment and independence of women farmers with an increase in their participation in daily markets.

As part of the campaign an annual convention ‘Samyak Vimash’ was conducted in collaboration with the Gorakhpur Environmental Action Group (GEAG) on 10th March 2015. A report on ‘Status of Women Farmers in UP’ and a compilation of success stories ‘Parcham’ were released at the convention.

In a powerful display of independence, 62 women leaders of fisherwomen producer companies in Odisha and a vegetable women farmers’ collective in Uttar Pradesh, went through leadership development and business management training for striving and sustaining their respective collectives.

**86% of all rural female workers are in agriculture.**

In India it is estimated that only 13% of land holdings are in the names of women, even as 77% women rely on agriculture as their primary source of income (As per the Agricultural Census 2010-11). Andhra Pradesh tops with 22%, Gujarat 14%, UP worse 7%.

**KEY HIGHLIGHTS**

- ‘New Land Revenue Bill Code’ was passed. It provides for exemption on stamp duty in case of land transfer within the family in the name of women members and land ownership to unmarried daughters.
- 8,500 women are linked with the Aaroh Manch and have been fighting for their rights since 2006.
- Five Aaroh Manch women leaders were selected by Uttar Pradesh government to discuss the impact of delayed monsoon, agricultural losses due to rain, transparency and issues related to services with Chief Minister of UP. The leaders were very motivated in taking forward the agenda to different levels.
Nearly 275 million poor people in India, especially tribal people who constitute 8.6% of the total population, depend on Non-timber forest products (NTFPs) for subsistence and livelihoods. A majority of the forest dwellers also depend on forests for 25% to 50% of their food. Yet, the abundance of resources has not yielded them benefits. Rather, these communities are being challenged by low levels of literacy, poor health status, food insecurity and scant economic development.

Alongside its local partners in the states of Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand and Odisha, Oxfam India is thus making efforts to secure both access and the entitlements of marginalised communities, especially women and tribal communities, to natural resources. Since forest land and resources are critical to their well-being and livelihoods, this is being done through efficient implementation of the Forest Rights Act, 2006.

We currently work with 10 grassroots partners in the 3 states thereby reaching 19 districts, 500 villages and a lakh households and 3 national-level networks. The focus is on facilitating the recognition of the rights of these communities under FRA, and enhancing their livelihood options through sustainable management of resources. A mix of tools and strategies ranging from capacity building of village institutions, technological support through GPS mapping of lands, exposure visits and learning workshops have been done in identified areas to enable communities to claim their individual and community forest rights.

These efforts have also been supported by advocacy to ensure that the policies and schemes related to the rights of forest dwelling communities over resources and livelihoods are implemented in letter and spirit and are accessed by them. Along with our national and state level networks and alliances we have built credible evidence to inform national and state level policies on FRA.

• In Odisha, the community members of Mayurbhanj, Bolangir, Kalahandi field locations have made in-situ conservation of tuber crops and herbal plantation in 3 acres of land. These were collected from the local forest and 5,000 saplings were raised under nursery raising programme in the common forest land area.

• In Jharkhand, 70 Community Forest Rights claims for 33,702 acres were facilitated and 17 were submitted to the district committee. Through consistent advocacy with the government through the Jharkhand Van Adhikar Manch, this year for the first time the State Level Monitoring Committee met to review the status of implementation of FRA in the state. Our local partner Naya Sawera Vikas Kendra (NSVK) has been recognised as one of the members of the core team by the Government of Jharkhand responsible for implementation of FRA.
FOOD AND CLIMATE JUSTICE

Oxfam India envisions shared solutions for a better future where everyone has enough to eat, always.

Towards this, we and our partners played a proactive role in strengthening the right to food network, and also in the movement to lobby with parliamentarians to pass the National Food Security Act (NFSA).

Our partners are engaging with their respective state governments to influence the rules for implementing the National Food Security Act (NFSA) that includes a Standard Operative Procedure for mid-day meals, and recommendations of inclusion or exclusion criteria at the state level.

As part of the advocacy work on climate change, we facilitated civil society consultations on state climate action plans for Uttar Pradesh, Bihar and Chhattisgarh.

Our Food & Climate Justice Campaign has a two-fold agenda - to strengthen food security for the hungry and also build resilience for climate change.

FOOD AND CLIMATE JUSTICE

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• In Chhattisgarh, to capacitate civil society organisation and activists working on issues of land and adivasi rights, Oxfam India took initiative to develop a communication tool kit for the struggling community to simply understand the principle, provision, scope and challenges of free, prior and informed consent for the development projects which make them vulnerable or forced to displace them. The tool kit was translated in Hindi and published. A dissemination workshop was organised for activists and NGO representatives to have better understanding of how to use the tool kit.

• At the national level, we have also engaged with key issues of implementation of FRA by sending letters and petitions to the government on violation of forest rights of vulnerable tribal groups in the states of Odisha and Telangana through plantations on FRA land, notification on 40 percent of forests being opened to private sector for afforestation in violation of FRA, notification of village forest rules in violation of FRA and PESA and against withdrawal of CFR rights in Surguja district in Chhattisgarh.

• Our national level alliance partner mines, minerals and People appeared before the “Parliamentary Select Committee” reviewing the new Mining Act and lobbied to give precedence to protective legislations like PESA, FRA which give rights and governance powers to affected people in mining areas, and not dilute them.

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RENEWABLE ENERGY

DEMOCRACY

About 1.3 billion people around the world do not have access to any form of modern energy services out of which 493 million live in South Asia (IEA 2011) - International Energy Agency

BIJLI VIKALP SANGAM

Confluence of Alternatives or Vikalp Sangam is an effort to bring together people and organisations generating and practicing alternatives to put forth ideas for sustainable equitable practices. These alternatives do not only challenge the dominant ‘development’ paradigm, but provide viable pathways for human well-being that are ecologically sustainable and socio-economically equitable. In the year 2015-16, Oxfam India, Centre for Environment and Energy Development, New Delhi (CEED), Greenpeace India, SELCO and Kaipavriksh co-organised a Vikalp Sangam on renewable energy as the most sustainable alternative energy option that can ensure energy security in the longer run. This confluence, Bijli Vikalp Sangam held in Bodh Gaya, culminated with a declaration for democratisation of energy sector. This declaration has been sent to the honourable Prime Minister of India and honourable Chief Minister of Bihar.

CONFERENCES ON ‘RENEWABLE ENERGY AS SUSTAINABLE ALTERNATIVE’ WERE ORGANISED IN BHUBANESWAR, RAIPUR AND RANCHI TO UNDERSTAND THE STATUS OF RENEWABLE ENERGY DEVELOPMENT IN ALL THE THREE STATES AND ALSO TO TAKE AN ACCOUNT OF THE CHALLENGES AND OPPORTUNITIES IN THE AREA. AT THE CONFERENCES HELD, ISSUES RELATED TO ENERGY CHALLENGES, EXPERIENCES AND LEARNING OF RENEWABLE ENERGY USAGE, ACCESSIBILITY TO THE POOR COMMUNITIES, GOVERNMENT POLICIES, ROLE OF DIFFERENT INSTITUTIONS AND STAKEHOLDERS AND WAYS IN WHICH TO ENGAGE THE CIVIL SOCIETY ON IMPLEMENTING RENEWABLE ENERGY WERE DISCUSSED. THESE CONFERENCES HAD REPRESENTATION FROM STATE RENEWABLE ENERGY DEVELOPMENT AGENCIES, PARLIAMENTARIANS, RENEWABLE ENERGY PRACTITIONERS AND ACADEMICIANS.

RENEWABLE ENERGY

KEY HIGHLIGHTS

FORMATION OF STATE LEVEL CITIZENS GROUP ON RENEWABLE ENERGY (CGRE) IN ODISHA

INTERACTIVE E-PORTAL ON RENEWABLE ENERGY
Ten villages located inside Simlipal Biosphere have been provided with community solar lighting systems with provisions for a lamp, a table fan, and a mobile recharge point. This has created a safe and secure environment for everyone to be together as one village and benefit from this facility.

**KEY HIGHLIGHTS**

- 10 VILLAGE ENERGY COMMITTEES FORMED
- 400 PEOPLE WERE TRAINED TO USE THE FACILITIES
- 20 YOUTH WERE TRAINED TO SERVICE AND MAINTAIN THESE SYSTEMS

**SOLAR MICRO IRRIGATION**

A solar micro irrigation system was set-up in Bhaliadal village, Mayurbhanj district in Odisha. This village is located inside Simlipal Biosphere Reserve and cannot be electrified by the Government because of the possible threats that it may cause to the wildlife. The village community has claimed their rights over the land under FRA and had been engaged in agriculture. For lack of irrigation facility, agriculture was limited to only 3-4 months of monsoon and would migrate later. Now agriculture is possible throughout the year.

**THE IMPACT**

- LIVELIHOOD SUPPORT TO 28 FAMILIES FOR ENTIRE YEAR
- NUTRITIOUS HOME-GROWN FOOD
- LOWER RATE OF MIGRATION TO URBAN AREAS
- INCREASED AND BALANCED INCOMES
- PERENNIAL WATER STREAM WHICH DOES NOT EXPLOIT THE GROUND WATER RESOURCE
- ‘The Solar Irrigation Project has not only united us to make our land productive but has also put an end to long standing issues of connectivity and communication.’
  
  **PRADHANSINGH PURTY**
  President of Solar Energy Committee
  Bhaliadal village

**SOLAR LIGHTING**

Elephants no longer enter the villages at night. Women gather together and stitch leaf plates after finishing the household chores. Children can read and play with ease after nightfall. Village meetings are held at night.

**THE IMPACT**

- ELEPHANTS NO LONGER ENTER THE VILLAGES AT NIGHT
- WOMEN GATHER TOGETHER AND STITCH LEAF PLATES AFTER FINISHING THE HOUSEHOLD ChORES
- CHILDREN CAN READ AND PLAY WITH EASE AFTER NIGHTFALL
- VILLAGE MEETINGS ARE HELD AT NIGHT

**Village Energy Committees formed**

10 people were trained to use the facilities

400 people were trained to service and maintain these systems

20 youth were trained to service and maintain these systems

**OXFAM INDIA**
Jambani village in Odisha comprises 115 tribal households from the Kolha, Gond and Saunti communities. Small agriculture, forest-based livelihood and fishing activities are the major sources of income here.

However, Jambani lies between Similipal Tiger Reserve and the Hadagada Elephant Sanctuary. This posed a huge challenge on the sustenance of the village as the Forest Department felt that their presence could endanger wildlife and thus wanted to relocate them.

The communities not only understood the concerns but agreed that no harm should be done to the wildlife. Keeping this in mind they appealed to convert the forest village into Revenue village as per section 3(h) of the Forest Rights Act. In order to enable the community to get the forest land titles, the Regional Centre for Development Cooperation (RCDC) conducted trainings on Forest Rights Act in the village. Under the guidance of RCDC, villagers cultivated wild food and herbal plantation to enhance food and livelihood security. Subsequently, the Forest Department confirmed the availability of 600 acres of land under FRA.

As a result, pumpkin was cultivated during the season. Three truckloads were produced earning the community an income of Rs 60,000. This cash was used for the welfare of vulnerable families. After witnessing this success, the authorities assured conversion of six forest villages into revenue villages.

Jambani village is aware and empowered.