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Prepared by FARR MUNIGUDA, ORISSA.

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POVERTY

- According to the Census 2001 and National Human Development Report, 2001, in Orissa 85% of its 36.8 million people are living in rural areas. About half the population (47.15%) is living below the poverty line.
- About 78% of Rayagada district population lives below the poverty line, almost double the state average and triple to the national average of 26%.
- The district generates income mainly through agriculture based activities. Paddy, wheat, ragi, mung, biri, ground nut, potato and maize are the major crops grown in the area.
- Given the right political and economic environment, Rayagada has great cultural, climatic and geographical potential for development.

2

FARR's INTERVENTION

- FARR has a clear focus on the poorest of the poor. It seeks to reach out to those in need of livelihood security. Therefore, it always comes to the aid of those who may be under pressure to migrate in search of a livelihood. Adopting a participatory process FAAR helps empowering the poor to fight poverty, disease and indebtedness.
- FARR has been engaging itself for more than two decades in building community awareness on developmental schemes, and motivating people to get involved in all kinds of developmental work. For past one year, field functionaries of FARR have been mobilizing villagers to resister their family under NREGS and demand for work.

3

UNDERSTANDING ISSUES

- NREGA is a unique social security system as it confers upon vulnerable groups the right to demand work when they need it. The scheme has the potential to accelerate agriculture and livelihood promotion in the tribal communities.
- The core staff members of FARR discussed about the specific problems of the village, in order to critically understand the NREGS issues, and the need for village development plans.

4

CONSULTATIONS

- Consultations at the block and village levels were made with the community leaders, PRI representatives, Govt. officials, men, women, SHGs, and CBOs, to gather opinions on 'why' and 'How' people would participate in the micro-planning exercises.
- The poorest of the poor, like single women, landless laborers, widows, artisans, etc. need to be consulted for their need, and take part actively during planning.

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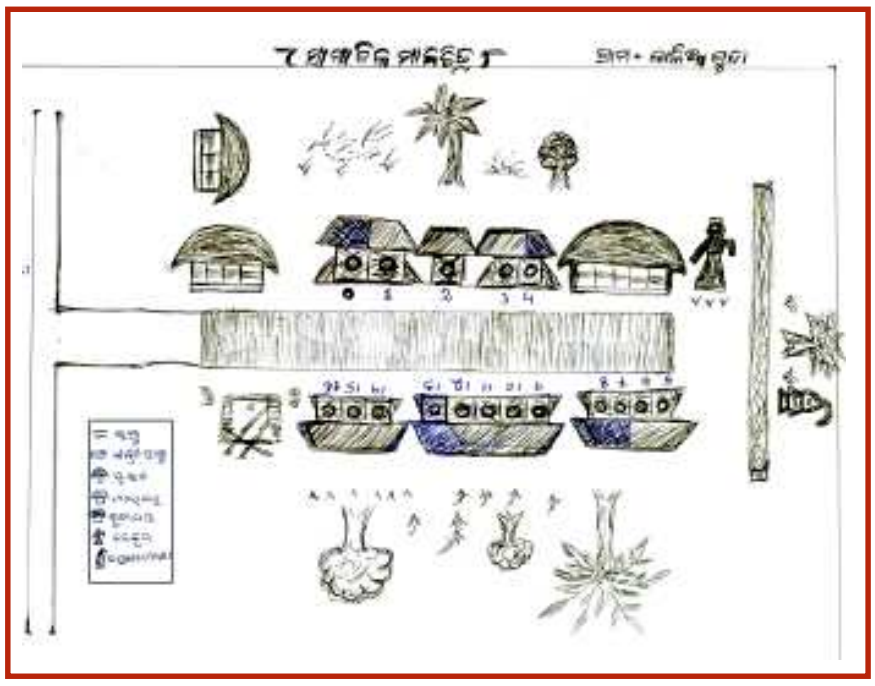
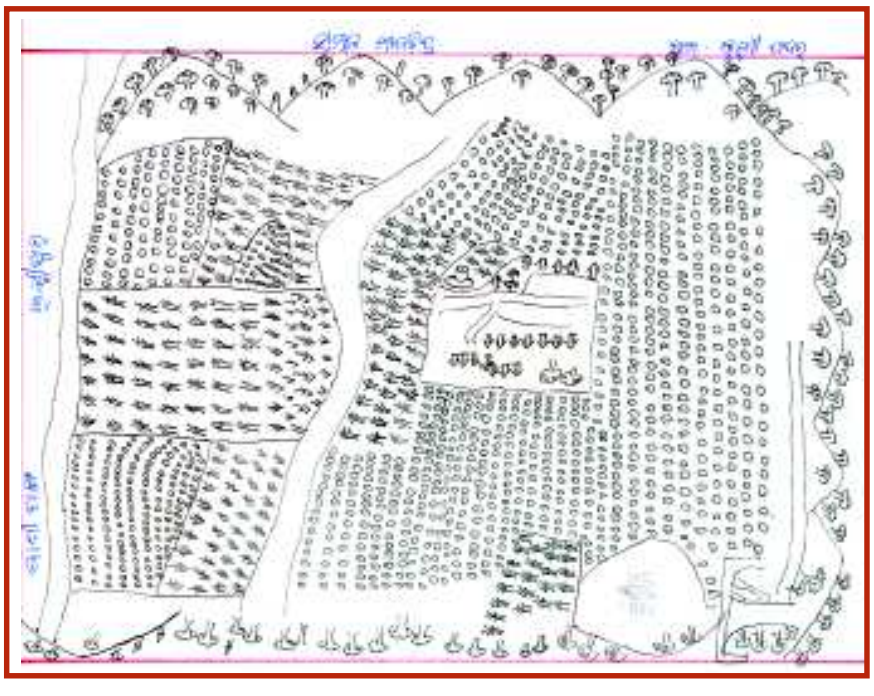
PARTICIPATORY APPRAISAL

- Participatory appraisal is a process of community based participatory investigation, education and action for structural and personal transformation. It is a method of investigating problems involving participation of marginalized people to identify their problems, for providing solutions and taking collective action.
- Participatory appraisal tools such as: social mapping, resources mapping, trend analysis, time line, venn diagram, inflow and outflow charts, seasonality analysis, etc. help collecting information and making analysis of the present situation of the village.



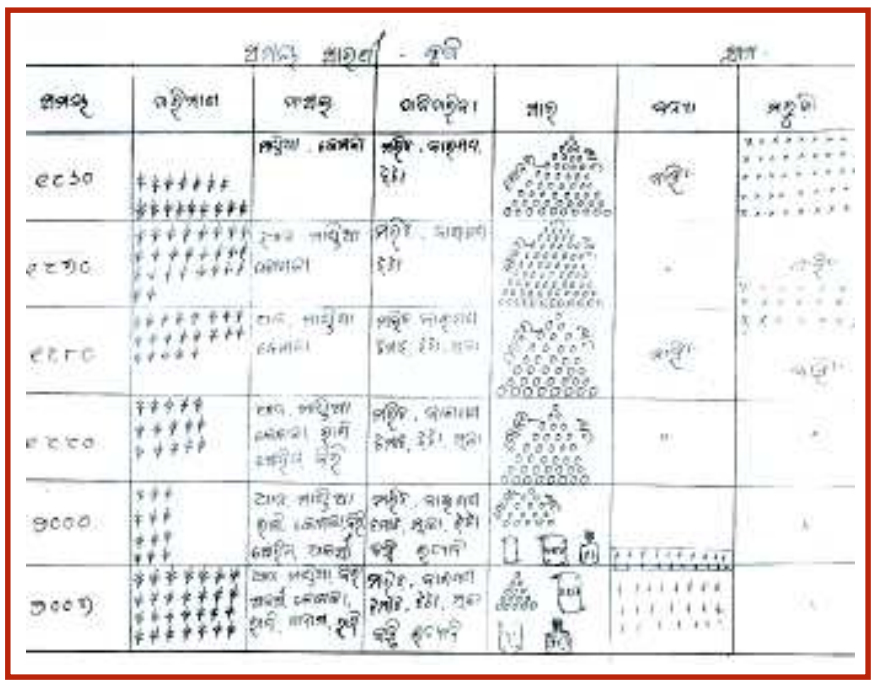
SOCIAL MAPPING

- Social mapping is an interesting and enjoyable tool to involve and engage community members in discussion about their village.
- Social mapping is done to understand the physical structure of the village in respect to caste and gender relation, and other social issues.
- Social Mapping provided a clear picture of the socio-demographic and ethnic profile of the village.



RESOURCE MAPPING

- Resource Mapping is a method for collating and plotting information on the occurrence, distribution, access and use of resources within the economic and cultural domain of a specific community.
- Resource mapping helped in tracking common resources available now in the village, and to figure out the status of the available resources.
- Resource mapping is best associated with other tools and in particular with transect walks, which contribute to a more critical analysis of the individual resource.



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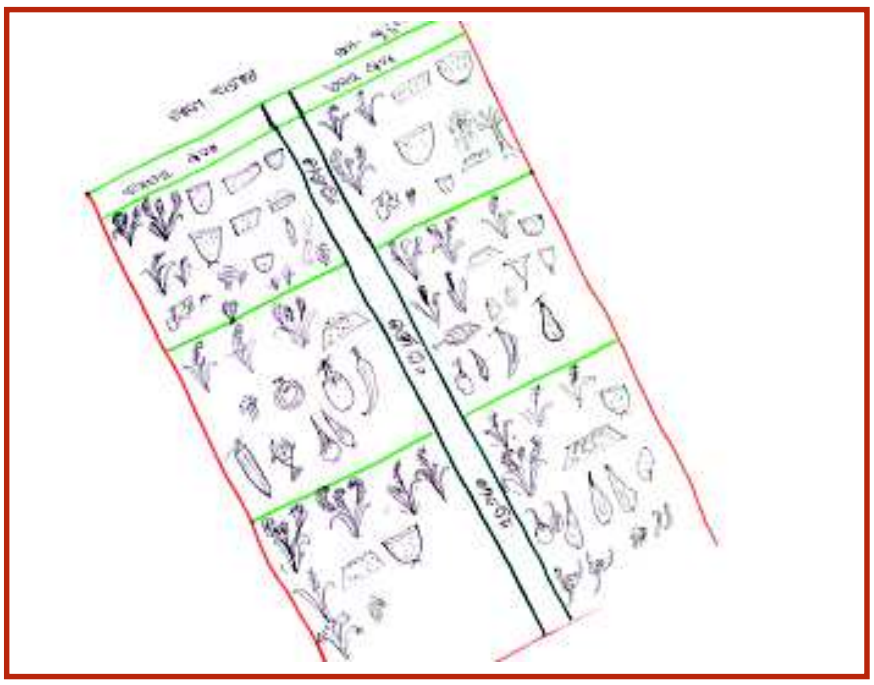
TIMELINE

- TimeLine is a simple tool to track the development history of the village.
- Community groups discuss on a specific theme (e.g., health, farming, employment, disaster) and place their issues or developments across past few years in a matrix.
- TimeLine helps to present a comprehensive picture of the increasing/decreasing trend of problems that the community.



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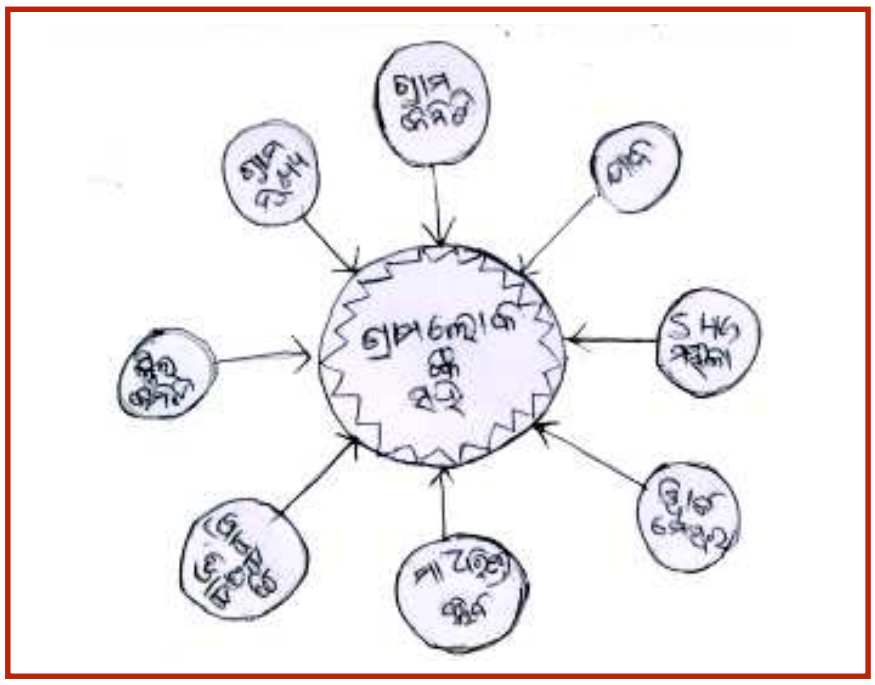
SEASONALITY ANALYSIS

- Seasonal and historical variations and trends can be easy to miss during a short visit to the field.
- Seasonality Analysis attempts various diagramming techniques to explore changes in: rainfall, labour demand, farming activities, wood supply for fuel, disease incidence, migration for employment, food stocks, and many other elements that change over time of a year.



VENN DIAGRAM

- One way to understand the less sensitive aspects of social interaction in a community is to ask the villagers to construct a Venn diagram.
- This technique is simply a collection of circles, each of which represents a different group or organization active in the community.
- The size of each circle reflects the relative importance of the group represented -- the smaller the circle, the less influential the group. The amount of overlap between two circles represents the amount of collaboration or joint decision making between two groups.

FOCUS GROUP DISCUSSION

- Members of the community have a range of experiences and opinions. There are certain sensitivity in divulging information to outsiders or to others within the community.
- This is where a focus group discussion was useful.
- The discussion topics chosen were specific and fewer than for the general community inventory.

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FOCUS GROUP DISCUSSION

- Separate sessions for the different interest groups were organized; and their contributions were carefully recorded.
- Special focus groups (e.g., women, artisans, elderly people, children) provided the opportunity to explore and record issues, problems, and solutions more objectively and critically.

PRIORITIZING ISSUES

- Group discussion, village consultation, individual discussion, secondary data collection, and PRA exercise aided identification of problems and issues of each individual village. The total list of problems was discussed with the villagers and they were encouraged to plan solutions to these problems.
- A list of priority issues/problems was made by the villagers in order of significance, and they indicated who would get benefits when problems are solved.

PROGRAM PLANNING

- The planning process began with listing of things to do – when and how!
- For example, if the villagers want to solve the irrigation problem, then what type facility do they need — Lift, canal or WHS; and from where they will get support; who will manage the work; from where they will get the labour, etc.
- The planning also included calculation of money required for a work (the financial requirement of a solution).
- They also discussed on the source of money – from where the money comes from, how much contribution villagers can make.

PRESENTATION OF VILLAGE PLANS

- A consolidated picture of the Village Plan was presented in each village in order to get the feedback on the correctness of the plan.
- Villagers were encouraged to point out whether there has been some wrong reporting, some omission; and is there a need to make some changes or additions.
- The final version of the plan – **"People's Plan"** – was also shared with the Block/District Administration.