



ARANYANI

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Editor: Dr. Puspangini Mohanty

From Editor's Desk

Economic development encompasses a broad range of activities aimed at improving economic performance, enhancing living standards and promoting sustainable growth. On the other hand, environment plays a vital role in supporting life and sustaining ecosystems. Economic development is the prerequisite for advancement of any social system, whereas environment is the building block for sustenance of the civilization. The relationship between economic development and environment is intertwined and necessitates careful management to ensure that economic growth benefits societies without compromising the planet's natural systems and resources essential for future generations. Economic development often leads to increased consumption of natural resources such as fossil fuels, minerals and water. Industrialization and urbanization can result in pollution of air, water and soil through emissions, waste disposal and chemical runoff. There is a increasing recognition of the need for sustainable development, which considers environmental conservation alongside economic and social progress. There constant efforts for balancing economic growth with environmental protection.

Contextually, Sambandh is incessantly endeavouring to uphold the potency of natural resources without hindering the path of economic progress. Our activities in the field of agriculture and other livelihood sectors are certainly imitable by those who sincerely work for socio-economic upliftment of rural people. We are committed to take forward such efforts in future days to strengthen rural economy of our state.

Dr. Puspangini Mohanty

Edge Avengers for Furthering Collaboration



Participation in national and international events can be rewarding experience, which offers opportunities for interaction, recognition and meaningful connections. In this regard, Sambandh is effectively participating in various national and international events to acquire knowledge and expertise on various aspects. Recently, Ms. Natasha Mohanty of Sambandh participated in Edge avengers, an annual program of Edelgive Foundation held at New Delhi during 12-14 February 2024. Various partner NGOs were congregated in the three day programme to strengthen the network of NGOs, establishing connections for further collaboration and to accentuate NGO-donor relationship for better societal development.

Annual Day Celebration



Celebration of Annual Day plays a crucial role in celebrating achievements, nurturing talent, fostering relationships, promoting unity and reinforcing the values of an organization. Like other organizations, Sambandh has celebrated its Annual day on 28th April 2024 at Bhubaneswar and all the field offices. The Board Members and other dignitaries participated in a specially arranged programme in the Head Office at Saradeipur, Bhubaneswar. The events and achievements for last year were displayed for awareness of the participants. To mark the occasion, a "Traditional seeds fair" was organized at Sambandh office Dhalabani, Jashipur with display of several local seeds of various crops. Traditional paddy seeds like salkhan, basumati, dhaba bhajana, bali bhajana, chaushathi, bibisaal, kala champa, etc. were exhibited for the benefit of farmers and other stake holders. Besides, local vegetable seeds of okra, pea, koshala saga, cucumber, pumpkin, etc. were also displayed separately.



State Head of Azim Premji Foundation Visits Dhalabani



Mr Rajkishor Mishra, State Head Azim Premji Foundation visited Dhalabani on 15th May 2024 to overview the progress of project activities. He interacted with the farmers and members of Women Self Help Group and took a note on various activities taken up for economic empowerment of rural people. He expressed his satisfaction over the progress of work made for strengthening livelihood activities of the rural people in areas adjacent to Semilipal forest. He had an interaction meeting with field level functionaries of Sambandh involved in activities related to Azim Premji Foundation and emphasized on organic cultivation of field crops, vegetables and fruit trees for sustainability in agricultural production system.



Traditional Seeds Fair



Traditional seeds represent a wide range of genetic diversity, which include variations in color, size, flavor and adaptability to different environmental conditions. This genetic diversity is crucial for ensuring resilience in crops against diseases, pests and changing environmental conditions. In this context, a Traditional Seeds Fair was organized at Dhalabani in Jashipur block of Mayurbhanj district on 27th April 2024 to create awareness about importance of available local varieties of seeds among the farmers. There was active participation of 25 farmers and other stake holders in the programme.

This seed fair provided a platform for local farmers and seed lovers to exchange and share open-pollinated seeds. This is not only about seed exchange, but also about celebrating biodiversity, promoting cultural heritage, supporting sustainable agriculture and strengthening community resilience. This type of programme is vital for preservation of traditional seeds and ensuring their continuance to play a crucial role in agriculture and food systems.

Women Empowerment- A Case Study

Self-help groups play a crucial role in enhancing mental and emotional well-being, promoting personal growth and providing a supportive community for solving various problems faced by the members. By connecting with others, individuals may feel less stigmatized by fostering greater acceptance and understanding. Participation in self-help group can empower individuals by giving them a voice and allowing them to take an active role for personal development. Keeping these in mind, Maa Mangala Mahila self-help group was formed by ten like-minded women of Palasbani village under Nursinghpur Gram Panchayat in Nilgiri block of Balasore district. The group was lead by Mrs Jhunu Singh, a dedicated woman of the area. Initially, the group was provided with Rs 15000/- as revolving fund by Mission Shakti, Nilagiri. After a year of formation, they have been supported by State Bank of India to undertake goat rearing activities. Subsequently, they have expanded the canvas and started *Mudhi* (hot rice crispy) processing business and mushroom cultivation. The group members shared the profit on monthly basis. Their activities were further expanded with guidance of Ms Sagarika Khuntia, CRP of Sambandh. During December, 2023, they have taken two hectares of leased land and started millet cultivation. For the purpose, a financial support of Rs 20,000 was provided by Odisha Millets Mission as incentive. The crop is in good condition and they expect handsome profit from this.



Healthy Practice for Healthy Living



Menstruation is a unique phenomenon among the females and this has always been surrounded by taboos and myths in various societies. The girls of Saida Village in Pallahara Block of Angul district were no exception. Some of them used old cloths for their protection during menstruation period. It had resulted several health problems including urogenital infection.

Looking towards gravity of situation, SAMBANDH initiated Peer Educator programme under SWAHAR project to educate young girls on various issues related to adolescent reproductive, sexual health and nutrition. Regular monthly meeting and peer educator session were organized through Kishori Sangha, an adolescent group of the village. The girls could learn about the importance of sanitary hygiene and its impact on health. The peer educator Sarojini Pradhan enumerated the importance of using sanitary pads during menstruation period. The Peer educator also helped them to obtain sanitary napkins from the ASHA worker. After experiencing the benefits of sanitary pads, the girls shared this experience with other ladies of the village. This has motivated other women of the village to sanitary pads for maintaining good health.



Agri-planning for Profit Enhancement



Mr Gourahari Mohanta of Bada Pahad Village of Jashipur block in Mayurbhanj district is a small farmer with 2 acre 3 decimal land. He was maintaining his family of six members from growing rice crop. SAMBANDH organized a meeting in the village during May 2023 to discuss about improved cultivation of maize, cowpea and rice under SRI method. Besides, there was discussion on production of organic matter for use in crop field. The field workers of SAMBANDH supported him to grow maize, cowpea and rice in one acre area. Besides he was trained for production of organic manure and vermi-compost. With his own effort, Mr Gourahari Mohanta cultivated rice in one acre area under SRI method and obtained a yield of 18 quintal. He got profit of about Rs 19000 from maize & cowpea and Rs 10000 from winter tomato. Now, he has been motivated to grow other vegetable crops like ridge gourd, poi and cowpea. He has become a role model for other farmers of the village.

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