

Project Update: October 2017

We began our work on a joyous note in the villages. Young girls and women got together for celebrating the occasion, by invoking their forest Goddess Bon Bibi.



Invoking forest Goddess Bon Bibi for auspicious start of our work

We began with the following activities –

REVAMPING OF SWRDS CORE COMMITTEE-

In the course of our work in these villages, we realised that women largely influence decision making in their households. So, why not give them more opportunities in the decision making process of our work as well? This revamped core committee of SWRDS, started off with an inception meeting, to discuss new challenges, priorities, focus villages and ensuing course of action to be taken in the present round.



Our revamped women dominated SWRDS core committee

SOCIAL SURVEYS IN VILLAGE LEVEL MEETINGS

We are in the process of conducting social surveys in our upcoming target villages through questionnaires put across to the beneficiaries in various meetings. Some of our questions are as follows –

- How many of your household members and in what age group would enter the forest for livelihood three years ago? In what frequency?
- How much did they earn per trip / per month (as the case may be) then? Was it enough to run your household?
- How many of them and in what age group enter the forest in the present time and how often?
- How many of your households are still dependent on the tiger habitat for your livelihood? What percentage of your income is still derived from the resources of the tiger habitat?
- How many of your household members, in what age group and gender-- earn their living through our developing sustainable livelihood practices outside the tiger habitat?
- What are the average earnings fetched through our present means and activities for livelihood generation? Is it enough to run your family?
- What is the comparative ratio between earnings derived from tiger habitat to earnings generated through activities outside tiger habitat, in your respective households?
- What are the current priorities of your livelihood, especially for the younger generation? What percent of it is met through the activities generated through the project?

Their replies including suggestions are being incorporated in our respective village wise plan of action.



Village level meetings & social surveys

SUSTAINABILITY OF OUR WORK THROUGH PREVIOUS ROUNDS OF RSG

It was encouraging to note that our members are continuing with the field work of seed collection, maintenance of nurseries, mangrove plantation and guarding of sites in our target villages, even after the completion of RSG2. The upcoming community mangrove forests and river banks are also being cleaned by members regularly to keep away plastic and poly packs that can clog mangrove saplings and soil.



Left: mangrove seeds being collected. Right: Maintained mangrove nurseries.

The sustainability of the programme was also evident from the small developing plots of vegetable gardens, next to the ponds. The water from ponds is also helping paddy cultivation in small fields nearby.



Upcoming vegetable plots by pondside