

**ANNUAL PROGRESS REPORT**  
OF THE IWP-AIRA PROGRAM  
**AREA WATER PARTNERSHIP**  
IN  
**DHENKANAL DISTRICT, ODISHA**

PERIOD

**APRIL TO DECEMBER-2013**



IMPLEMENTED BY

**ARUN INSTITUTE OF RURAL AFFAIRS**

**(AIRA)**

**ASWAKHOLA, KARAMUL, DHENKANAL, ODISHA-759 014.**



SUPPORTED BY :

**INDIA WATER PARTNERSHIP**

**NEW DELHI**

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

With the key objective of promoting dispute free participatory water management involving a few water sources the AIRA-PAWP joint action has facilitated involvement of villagers, farming people, PRIs & CBOs, Local Water Managers & other Line Departments. Improved cooperation and sharing among the stake holders involving water users and managers has brought in improved water care and a remarkable decline in water disputes apart from raising peoples say against pollution of their land, water and air mainly by the industries. And the community groups have got organized towards care of local natural resources which has started yielding results.

And for all this we consider it our duty to acknowledge the vital contribution of India Water Partnership, New Delhi. We are obliged to the community groups continued support that enhanced our competency in attempting at handling water issues at grass root level. The line department officials also deserve our thanks.

Soliciting the continued cooperation of all.

Suresh Kumar Panda  
DIRECTOR  
AIRA

## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Water for all with equity and in particular to the marginal and small farmers and also the poorer sections of the society is of prime concern. For a good period in the past and present Integrated Water Resource Management (IWRM) is seen as an appropriate process to deal with water issues and problems. Given the rising need and claim of the industrial sector on water, the struggles for economic and social development of the peasantry are increasing. The industries are also the key pollutants of water at the same time. As a result, water shortages that give rise to conflicts on sharing, quality deterioration that causes hazards to health & life are the key problems that require attention and action.

Along with some other tenets of natural rights, the AIRA-IWP program accepted and operated with some key principles of IWRM:

- Fresh water is a finite and a vulnerable resource, essential to sustain life, development and the environment.
- Water development and management should be based on a participatory approach, involving users, planners and policy makers at all levels.
- Women play a central part in the provision, management and safeguarding of water.
- Water has an economic value in all its competing users and should be recognized as an economic good. Recently social good has also been included.

However, given its limitations (in the context of manpower, resources & scope) the PAWP works ahead with some key agenda.

- Integration of quantity and quality in water resource management,
- Integration of all stakeholders in planning & decision making process
- Participating/joining civic forums/networks on water & livelihood issues

The Peoples Area Water Partnership-PAWP has conducted activities under various heads in pursuance of the above principles and with the following objectives in the current phase.

- Bringing in fruitful participation from the communities concerned.
- Establish transparent decision making in the water sector (in the PAWP area /district).
- Disseminating additional information on water issue (as learnt from IWP/ZWP) among PAWP stake holders.
- Presenting and orienting PAWP representatives/members to local/district/state networks.
- Joining local/ regional groups of advocacy and water saving technology.
- Members of water users associations-WUA, village development committees-VDC, Panchayat raj institutions-PRI, Pani Panchayat members-PPM and farmers' organizations made aware of improved water tech and best practices.
- Capacitate the women groups of the villages on water and sanitation (management).

**DETAILED ACTIVITIES UNDER IWP –AIRA-PAWP ACTION**  
**DURING APRIL-DECEMBER 2013**

- Coverage : i) River Brahmani basin covering twin districts of Dhenkanal and Angul  
( in matters of water pollution and also pollution air & soil)
- ii) Ramial & Indrajeet Sub-basins (in matters of water availability & sharing along with management of local natural resources in the PAWP area)

River Ramial is one of the major tributaries of Brahmani with a flow of about 40 kms. has about half a hundred villages on both banks. On the other hand Indrajeet nalah has a flow of 10 kms. before joining river Brahmani with 12 villages and hamlets on both flanks. These 2 sub-basins should have been water-sufficient naturally; but it is not so. And this made it necessary for some action in the nature of Local Water Partnership and Area Water Partnership from which the PAWP (People's Area Water Partnership) emerged with the joint effort of AIRA & IWP.

Activities :

April 13 : Continuing its activities on the water front along with care and management of local natural resources in the PAWP area (covering good parts of the Kamakshyanagar sub-district in central Odishan district of Dhenkanal), AIRA-IWP action during the year was like the following:

Dialogue with PRI members and other stake holders.

2 Meetings: Venue: 1. Kantiokateni GP High School, 2. Analabereni Hata ghara, Dates: 21 April -2013 & 27 April-2013

Members Present: Sarpanch, Naib Sarpanch, Wadmembers, Panchaya samiti members, Traditional Community/Village Heads, Retired teachers and Govt Servants, Pani Panchayat members, Local VAW & Executive officers, VFPC/VSS members.

Water: All the above structure of water storage and supply have gone dry unlike the previous years. Vegetable farming is just destroyed and there is no alternative source of water affecting about 120 small vegetable growers.

Sarpanch from Kantiokateni GP, Kotogara GP, Naib Sarpanch of Kusuma Jodi GP and PS members from Kantioputasahi GP, wanted to know the remedial plan from the respective Panipanchayat members. Replying to this PP members from Kusuma Jodi and Dhobabahali opined to put up such a plan before the next Panipanchayat meeting in the presence of minor irrigation officials.

Forest: Senior retired banker Sri PK Nanda and PAWP members Mr. A RATH and Ms P Sethi raised the issue of poor forest status and the need to restore it to the previous state and to develop

a plan on the part of the forest department with focus to arrest forest fire. Forest men from the Kadalipal and Khatuahata beat said to plan some measures in consultation with the respective VSSs and local FDP plan.

Industry matter: The two industrial houses RSB Metals and ACK Powers limited have started negotiating with the revenue officials and the A-4 notices have been served. Local people are reported to be resisting this move.

May 13 : Dialogue sessions with PRIs/other stake holders including persons of agricultural deptt. on water inclusive of water regulators was held on 14 May 13 at Rekula with 42 heads and at Jagannathpur on 26 May 13 with 38 heads during the month of May-2013.

Issues dealt with	Remarks
Crop planning for the monsoon crops drawn up with cooperation of the VAWs, Seeds requirement by the farmers.	Planning was done and placed demand for immediate supply of seeds by the agriculture deptt.
Source of drinking water for domestic purpose and Repair works of the Minor Irrigation, Irrigation sites.	Decision taken for installation of additional source of drinking water for domestic purpose. Repair works to be undertaken and completed by the respective departments i.e, Minor Irrigation, Irrigation and RWSS with on-field verification by PAWP members.

June-13: Enhancing community participation in improved water management leading towards caring of local natural resources and bettering livelihood.

Planned Activities	Compliance
Dialogue sessions with PRIs/other stake holders on water inclusive of water	<p>2 dialogue sessions were organized at Manitri and Rainrasinghapur on dated 06/06/13 and 15/06/13 respectively.</p> <p>The Gram Panchayat and Panchayat Samiti members expressed to influence the concerned departmental officials in minor irrigation and agriculture. They also gave their willingness to be a part of any delegation of PAWP as and when required.</p> <p>As facilitators local Panchayati Raj Institutions members, local media persons, Pani Panchayat and farming officials, social activists and volunteers, senior community leaders were present</p>

regulators

Session –II : Mr. P. K. Sahoo, Convenor, PAWP on chair

Mr. Iswar Ch. Panda has welcome the participants. Mr. Golak Bihari Panigrahi (Asst. Dir, AIRA) spoke on the agenda of the session.

Key discussion points centered round the water management issue where the apathy of the concern departments & their officials. Mr. R. Sethy, LWP head from Rainrusinghapur raised the issue of poor maintenance of the systems of Dandadhar Irrigation Project Dandadhar MIP) of which about 60 villages in the command area and another 60 villages down stream of Ramial are not getting their due share/benefits of farm-water. These peasant dominated village populace should have found themselves agriculturally and thereby economically advanced with right use of the project potential. He urged to go for additional structural improvement on the distributaries mechanism/canal systems of the project. (There was a decision to talk to the Executive Engineer in charge and to put this in the district level development agenda thru the MLA/MP; and the task was assigned to the Convener and Co-Convener)

Mr. G. S. Das, LWP head of Manitri raise the cases of the 3 sub-branches of Ramial at Kangeilo, Jagannathpur and Pipala. These branching out channels have remained a bane for the respected villages, especially to the farming communities when they are in full flow during rainy season. As a safe guard there have been petitions and public urges for construction of small bridges and stone bonding to which the authorities have not yet responded positively. (The PAWP decides to present/press for needful action with the Executive Engineer.

Mr. B.K.Sahoo, from Kadua-Bhagirathpur LWP presented the case of Kalavila and Chadeichhada nallah. The huge potential of water flow in these 2 streams just goes waste when drained into the Ramial without any irrigation structure on these. A few local farmers only use a bit of it thru raw manual mechanism of lifting water to their small crop patches on

	<p>their own arrangement. Mr. K. Behera expressed his concern over the apathy of the water officials who have so far avoided such potential irrigation sources for coverage under any plan. And may be this avoidance was deliberate to keep the area under-developed and thus to facilitate the industrial houses acquiring land. (The PAWP decides to present/press for needful action with the Executive Engineer for urgent needful action.</p> <p>The PRI members including Sarapanch and Samiti Members of both of the GPs extended their cooperation to be a part of the delegation to go and discuss with the Executive Engineer, Irrigation, Kamakshyanagar and Agriculture Officials of Kamakshyanagar and Dhenkanal for early support for disposal of such issues.</p>
<p>Liaison with networks and organizations working on water, sanitation/ water quality and NR sector.</p>	<p>There have been interface, sharing and joint consultation sessions apart from delegation teams to various events and departmental offices.</p> <p>A meeting on 12/06/2013 with the local community leaders of villages Kateni, Upar Taila, Julang and Tumusinga under the umbrella organization called Zilla Chasa O Paribesh Surakshya Parishad, Dhenkanal. Discussion was held on the problems faced by the farmers concerning mal-functioning of irrigation, shortage of seeds and manures provides by the agriculture deptt., drinking water and sanitation front. A team consisting of the members of Zilla Chasa O Paribesh Surakshya Parishad and PAWP constituted to visit the District Agriculture Office and Rural Water &amp; Sanitation Office for submission of memorandum to resolve the issues pertaining to agriculture, water and sanitation.</p>

**July 13: Liaison with networks/forums and local organizations working on water:**

The PAWP member-cum-Action Coordinator joined by Chief Program Coordinator of AIRA organized a consultation workshop with members from CBOs, Pani Panchayats and PRIs at Mahalaxmi Club, Mahuli, Kamakhyanagar on 19 July 2013 with Mr. P.K.Mishra, Mr. A.Naik, Ms.R.Behera (Zilla Chasa ‘O’ Paribesh Suraksha Parishad, Dhenkanal) as key participants.



The members/delegates at the consultation workshop discussed on the deteriorating quality of water in the PAWP area and in the district as a whole. The matter of the polluting industries in the Talcher-Angul, Meramuldali-Odapada and Sadar Dhenkanal regions. Case of particular water channel/nalla/rivulets were presented by members representing their respective areas and forms.

<b>Nalla/Rivulet/River</b>	<b>Polluting Industries</b>
Badjora Nalla	Shakti Sugars Ltd. (Sugar & Pulp), Haripur
Kisinda Nalla	Bhusan Steels Ltd. (Steel), Meramundali
Lingara Rivulet	NTPC (Thermal Power), Talcher
	Novchrome, Rungta Steels & Power, NimBahali
Nandira Nalla	FCI Plant (fertilizer), Talcher
	TTPS (Thermal), Talcher
Brahmani River (directly & via Kisinda, Lingira, Nandira Nalla)	TTPS (Thermal Power), BRG Steel Ltd., GMR Energy Ltd, Kamalang, Salvania Steels Ltd, Meramundali, Nab Bharat Ventures (Power, Steel, Ferro Alloys)



All the above, thermal power and steel/alloy industries burn about 40,000 MT coal per day to produce power for sale and/or for self consumption. (India's second largest coal-block Mahanadi Coal-fields Ltd-MCL's main base Talcher is very close to this industrial Zone on the western flank of Dhenkanal district. And PAWP's water advocacy sphere covers the entire district of Dhenkanal and also Angul that was carved out of this Dhenkanal district in the recent past.)

### **The Water pollution Problem**

The huge burn ash slurry from all these industries are often released into the natural rivulets or nallahs during rainy season. Leakage and international breakage of 'ash-pond' bunds or boundaries/embankments allows the ash-slurry to get mixed with the nalla & river water. Also a big volume of industrial waste-water carrying residual toxicants, chemicals are frequently released into the nalla and river Brahmani. Nandira (rivulet) and Kisinda (nalla) are already turned into waste-carrying drains.

In all, the main and perennial natural water sources of most parts of the district are by now quite polluted causing harms to human, domestic animal and crop health. (River Brahmani flows just parting the district into two halves from West to East with 4 Block/Taluk areas on the northern and southern banks of it.)

Mr. A. Rath and Mr. G.P.Nayak presented the type & extent of pollution of water. Getting alert on this vital issue, members proposed to send a delegation mostly comprising woman-members to discuss & apprise this grave issue to the District authorities.

August 13 : Given the continuous rain and most water channels being in full spate the coal based power and steel companies on the upstream regions released their fly ashes and other liquid debris into the waters. This usually pollutes the water flows of Brahmani, Lingara, Kisinda and other nallahs and rivers. The PAWP representatives in collaboration with other water rights actors in the district have been raising their voice against it to influence the authorities (both civil administration and pollution control board) to do the needful.

May be as response recently the State Pollution Control Board (Odisha) with support from the District Administration (Dhenkanal) have taken a drastic action by sealing up two units of the Bhusan Energy Ltd. at Kantabania.

1. Also the PAWP representatives joined the 'Jan Sunani' (public hearing) at Motanga RI Circle in Odapada block and supported the local people in opposing expansion (from 300 MW to 485 MW) of this power plant on conditions of adequate safety measures on stopping pollution with construction of ash pond and fitting of scientific devices for pollution control.

2. There are available other reports on massive water pollution courtesy PAWP's friends in the neighboring region and also from media reports. PAWP needs to join the other local/regional groups working on water safety and sharing.
3. As a field level participation-cum-learning sixteen members from LWP-MWPs under PAWP participated in the training-cum-demo of SRI process in paddy transplantation and farming at Krishi Vigyan Kendra, Kadalipal during 11<sup>th</sup> -12<sup>th</sup> August led by Mr. Binay K. Sahoo.

Sept. 13 : Activities as planned were taken up .

1. A visit to flood water merged areas by a six member team of PAWP led by Mr. B.K Sahu (farm lands and connecting roads from Bhagirathipur to Kadua to Markata remained water logged owing to a large breach in the embankment of river Ramial).
2. One more visit to Khadkhadi fall point at Jaka-Khuntabati inspecting breach spots on Indrajit nallah was led by Mr. P Sathy accompanied by Pani Panchayat members inclusive of JE, minor irrigation.
3. PAWP representatives who joined the 'Jan Sunani' (public hearing) at Motanga RI Circle in Odapada block last month went on an information sharing rounds at villages Kadalipal, Kateni, Upartaila and Julanga. This was a felt necessity as the local people are opposing a new power plant that is going to come up in their area and for which land acquisition processes have already begun. (The farming people in this fertile country side have been waiting for the past 40 odd years for land irrigation from the major Rengali Project, the distributor channels of which are nearing completion.).
4. A fresh team of 11 people were escorted to join the training-cum-demo of SRI process in paddy transplantation and farming at Jiral mp of Krishi Vigyan Kendra, Kadalipal during 6<sup>th</sup> -8<sup>th</sup> of September led by Mr. G.S Das.

October 13 : In place of about 100mm of usual rain at best during this period, it was about 500mm of rain during the first 3 weeks of the month. Hence, it was a tough time of flood preceded by the cyclone Pheylin. The PAWP members and volunteers also had a tough time in being in touch/contact with affected people.

- Visit to flood water merged areas on the banks of river Ramial by a four member team of PAWP led by Mr. N.Mohapatra (meeting farmers and villagers in villages Bhagirathipur, Mahulpal, Kadua, Markata, Bijasahi, Baunsapal, Nua Alutuma etc.) The team also joined local revenue officials and media persons in visiting the breach points in connecting roads, river banks, canal bunds and also water logged farm lands.
- Another team led by Mr. G.P. Nayak visited to damaged minor irrigation reservoirs at Mayurkata, Dhobabahali and Kadalipal where spill ways were washed out. The other damaged points were Khadkhadi fall point at Jaka-Khuntabati on Indrajit nallah.
- The third team led by Ms. P. Sethy visited crop damage and siltation patches and flood damage embankments close to river Brahmani accompanied by local PRI representatives Pani Panchayat members and Revenue & Agriculture field officials.

November 13 : This month farming people in the PAWP-area are mostly busy in harvesting the early variety paddy that was also affected in the un-timely showers of rain. It affected the long duration paddy varieties (standing plants in the fields) while making the harvesting of early variety paddy quite difficult and expensive. Most of the LWP/MWP members being small farmers themselves, they had a tough time.

Members led by PAWP advisors visited farm land patches (Chaka/Bahal) and made on overall assessment of the degree of crop loss; and subsequently wrote to the Dist. Agriculture Officer for remedial and compensatory action. Joint verification (with revenue and panchayatiraj officials) could only be conducted in 3 R.I. Circles.

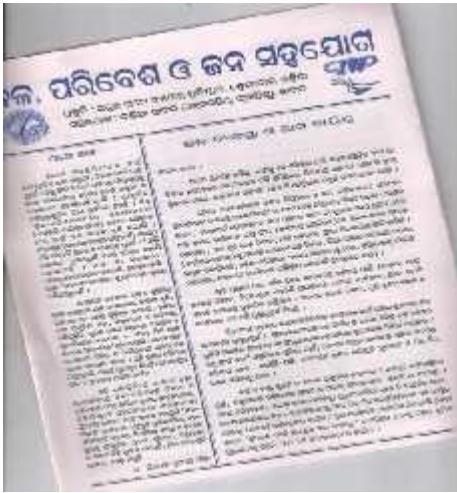
A group led by Mr. A.Rath and Mr.G.B.Panigrahi visited the river embankment (Gheri Bandh) that was severely damaged at Baunspal on river Ramial. The irrigation authorities at sub-district level have been approached by the villagers and PAWP which they Engineer I/C promised to do thru FDR fund.



In collaboration with Gaon Kalyan Samities (funded by Zilla Swasthya Samity and NRHM) 62 open wells were disinfected followed with village corner health awareness camps.

During post harvesting period of this crop, the usual Rabi crop is sowed/raised. Given the untimely and extra rain this year the process has to be delayed by almost a month. However, our LWP/MWP members (as farmers themselves) shall join the relevant training/demo sessions that are to be conducted by the Krishi Vigyan Kendra and other demo centres.

Further, some PAWP members join the demonstration against (the largest land-water-air polluting major steel plant of the district) Bhushan Steels & Co called by the **Zilla Chasa O Paribesh Surakshya Parishad** and **Nagarik Manch** on the 25<sup>th</sup> November 2013. (This



demonstration was organized in the recent mishap in the Plant's 2<sup>nd</sup> Blast Furnace causing big casualty on 13<sup>th</sup> November 2013. xx In the past 7 years there had been about 150 human deaths in the plant activities).

A booklet titled '**Jal O Jan Sahayog: Paribesh Surakshya**' has been published in vernacular Odia and has been circulated among the villagers/supporters in PAWP area and also in adjacent localities.

December 13: Mr. A. Rath, Managing Trustee of PAWP and Vice-Chairman of AIRA participated the Annual General Body Meeting of IWP held at New Delhi on the 16<sup>th</sup> of December 2013.

## CIRCULATING/GENERATING MEDIA REPORTS ON WATER, LIVELIHOOD AND LOCAL NATURAL RESOURCES:

### 1. **Elephants Destroyed Dwelling House: Narrow escape for families.**

Place Odapada in Dhenkanal district/ Report in The SAMAYA 23/06/13

25 wild elephants in a flock roaming the Odapada-Badalu area entered into village Ghodadian on 21<sup>st</sup> June 2013 and ransacked thatched houses of 2 families of Kailash Dehury and Athani Dehury both Shabar tribals. x x x x The pachyderms also destroyed paddy saplings apart from ransacking tick and mango plantations of three villagers. x x x x x Local forest officer has visited the spots and gets ready to prepare his report.



*( PAWP volunteers/members who have visited the spots have planned to see the Divisional Forest Officer as delegates to press for due compensations to the victims and technical action that deems fit to stop re-occurrence of the menace.)*

### 2. **Embankment Wide open: Fear of further Damage and Destruction.**

Report : Pragatibadi dt.27/06/13.



Broken embankments are not being properly repaired. x  
x x Patch work are nominal. x x  
Risk of flood damage looms large.

**3. Excessive Delay in Completing Construction of Check Dam: Farmers Worried.**

Three years passed away, check dam on Kalabila Nallah incomplete.



The construction works of check dams on Kalabila Nallah at village Bahada in Kamakshyanagar that was started in 2009 is yet to be completed long after expiry of its stipulated period of completion. x x x x Started with a budget of 11 lakh rupees by now 25 lakh have already been spent for the

incomplete works. As such local farmers expecting irrigation to crops have started venting their dissatisfaction. x x x x Same is the fate of Osta nallah (near Baligorada) and Mahapata Nallah (near Parajang) x x x x

Later on 29<sup>th</sup> July 2013 a delegation on the water issue moved to the district office and presented a memorandum to the government and State Pollution Control Board. (Copy of Media Coverage & rendering in English of the brief of the news items in vernacular Odia attached herewith)

**KISINDA AND LINGIRA NALLA FULL WITH INDUSTRIAL WASTE**

Local People Apprise the District Magistrate.



Odapada 31.07.13 : The two perennial water channels are now heavily laden with industrial waste making the water poisonous. Delegates carrying the water samples in pots and bottles present it to the Collector. NALCO, bhushan Steels, BRG Steels along with a number other industries are the polluters and need to be acted against immediately. xxxx

*News in The DHARITRI Dated 31.07.2013*

**RIVER WATER POLLUTED WITH BHUSHAN (Steel Plant)'s WASTE:**



*News in The SAMAJ Dated 31.07.2013*

Dhenkanal, 31.07.2013 : Water in the Kisinda Nalla is fully polluted with the industrial waste from Bhushan Steel Plant. The local people depending on its water complain before the Collector for immediate remedy. Xxx Industrial waste and ash-slurry from this and other steel, thermal power and other industries gets flown into river Brahmani and Lingiri via Kisinda and other water channels. Xxx The Bhushan industries is yet to construct an ash-pond and by now has dumped dry-ash near Kisinda nalla upto 130 feet height that falls or gets washed into the water channel in rain water or with other liquid waste. People around suffer from air, water and soil pollution especially in the form of skin diseases, stomach & level defects, TB & other pulmonary problems. Xx xx

Some Additional matters



News Item in The SAMAJ/Dt.18<sup>th</sup> November 2013

**BHUSHAN STEELS & CO GRABS PUBLIC & PRIVATE LAND FOR ITS**

**ASH- POND WITH TOTAL DISREGARD OF THE LOCAL ADMINISTRATION.**

The Bhushan Steels & Co continues to take land in to its possession in Nimidha and adjacent villages for constructing its ash-pond. This the company does in total disregard of the orders of the then DM & Collector Mr. Girish S.N. xx xx Seventy acres of such farm land in villages like Gopalpur, Nimidha, Viswanathpur, Goudakateni, Baliratnapur, Ranibania and Dhalapur have already been acquired by now xx xx In the earlier phases this plant had acquired a total of 4000 acres of private land from farmers of Raghunathpur, Sarapa, Sivapur, Nuagaon and Narendrapur villages in 3 phases. xx xx Now the villagers with the balance land find it impossible to do farming and even to lead their normal life being suffocated by the multiple pollutions caused by this plant.

*(Brief rendering of the Odia news in English).*