

**FINAL REPORT  
OF THE PAWP-AIRA PROGRAM**

**AREA WATER PARTNERSHIP  
IN  
DHENKANAL DISTRICT, ODISHA**

**Period**  
OCTOBER - DECEMBER-2015



**Implemented By**



An ISO 9001:2008 Certified Organisation

**ARUN INSTITUTE OF RURAL AFFAIRS (AIRA)**  
Aswakhola, Karamul, Dhenkanal, Odisha-759 014.

**Supported By**



**INDIA WATER PARTNERSHIP**  
Gurgaon



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# ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

Continuing its action towards promoting participatory and judicious water management the AIRA-PAWP joint action has facilitated informed and active involvement of villagers, farming people, Panchayati Raj Institutions & Community Based Organizations & relevant line departments. The core objective was/is to promote community members especially villagers in farming and allied occupations as local water managers to handle and benefit from dispute free water sharing. The small of units of action were directed to ensure improved cooperation and sharing among the true stake holders who in fact are water users and primarily farmers hailing from the very locality. They organized and grouped as micro/local water partnerships are also oriented in improved water care. By this time, given the decline in water disputes the community people feel the need of raising their voice against pollution of their land, water and air; and also for conservation of their local natural resources or common property resources.

Hence, while promoting this water led livelihood and natural rights we have all along got the patronize of India Water Partnership, Gurgaon. While presenting this report we are duty bound to pledge our obligation to this esteemed organization. We are also obliged to the community groups for their continued support to our effort, in fact a joint effort; IWP, AIRA and the community people

Antaryami Rath  
AIRA-PAWP

# EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

## Opening words:

The IWP-AIRA-PAWP action in this phase was almost a crash program in the context of severe drought and resultant crop loss to a high degree capped with the unforeseen huge incidents of farmers' suicide (that was quite a rare thing in the state).

As such, the IWP-AIRA action was directed at building up some mitigation mechanism that was practicable in a short span of 75 days.

## Report:

We would like to open up with this brief facts:

- This monsoon less rainfall was recorded at 13%, 48%, 26% and 46% from June to September.
- This year's drought effect : Crop loss in 25 out of 30 districts in the state.
- 2/3<sup>rd</sup> Taluk's severely affected (173 out of 314 CD Blocks or Taluks affected).
- Dhenkanal (inclusive of PAWP area) being one of the worst hit.
- All 08 Taluk's/Blocks declared drought hit ( with crop loss of 50%-90% resulting in an average 67% all over the district.
- Cases of farmers suicide in all Taluk's. (the Ministers in Revenue and Agriculture departments agreed this number at 05 in the Assembly floor)

## Introduction:

### FARM SECTOR IN ODISHA

- **Employment:**  
As per Census 2001 in Odisha 29.7% working people were engaged in farming. This got a decline and in 2011 Census this figure came down to 23.4% (showing the decline by more than 21%).
- **GDP**  
Employment and production in farming sector taking a downward trend is also reflected in the State's GDP, The farming sector's contribution to state's GDP was 44.5% in 1950-51 and strikingly in 2014-15 it's a share is lowered to 18.81%.

- **Welfare/Support system**

123 in every 1000 farming farmers are having no BPL cards.

Even 24% of farming families do not have any card-based access to welfare/livelihood schemes.

- **Debt Burden/Loan etc.**

- 57% of farmers in Odisha have incurred loan from some source or other. However, availing of loan(s) and managing it is just left to the loanee farmer and his family who really find it heavy when some natural calamity strikes. Even market gimmicks & monopoly, distress sale strikes them harder. Even

- Formal and /or informal finance institutions just leave it to the total responsibility of the loanee farmer.

- It is not just the above; even some social-casualty plays havoc making the loanee farmer totally helpless and the poor soul takes to the final escape route i.e, killing oneself.

- **Farmers Suicide**

Unfortunately this year farmers suicide occurred in most parts of the state barring a few coastal pockets. Sadly this mishap occurred in each of the 8 Taluks (Blocks) of the district of Dhenkanal and in most Taluks of the adjacent districts of Angul, Cuttack & Jajpur.

The state government has been refuting this all along taking recourse to technical route or explanation. But infact, farmers continue to suffer from many counts (in PAWP area and elsewhere in the district).

- **PAWP Action**

Given the context of deferred rain fall resulting in drought & water scarcity to crops, PAWP rejuvenated its action on the water management front to produce something compensatory and needful.

The entire action during this phase (spanning over 75 days) was like a crash program when taken to field (considering the needs at the community level).

**(a) Refresher & Consolidative Meetings:**

Such meetings & consultations were held at key LWPs points like Batagaon, Tarajang and Brahmania (in Kankadahad block), Anlaberani, Kusumajodi, Tumusinga, Kantio Kateni, Kamangara, Aluajharan, Mahulpal and Bhagirathipur (in Kamakshyanagar block) with participants of 15 to 20 LWP members.

**(b) Mass Meetings:**

Such meetings (with participation of 60 to 80 people in each) were organized/facilitated at places like Tandimunda (under Kankadahad Block) and Gondia and Karamul (under Gondia-Sadar Block) mainly on the urge of the LWP/MWP members to build up pressure on the local administration (inclusive of the doistrict administration & state government) to access & acknowledge the volume of crop loss and needful action thereof.

The PAWP had also to facilitate participation of LWP/MWP/PAWP members to join the demonstration/ rally(s) staged before the District Collectorate at Dhenkanal.

In-fact, this exercise (jointly with farmers and their formal/informal groups) led to acceleration of efforts on the government side (with involvement of government departments like Revenue & Disaster Management, Agriculture, Statistics, Panchayatiraj etc).

Rapid but technical assessment of crop yield or loss was done and reports reached the government before the Winter session of the State Assembly-2015. The State Government declared compensatory measures along with monetary compensation to farmers for crop loss apart from other support to the bereaved families with suicidal case even though the government differs on such cause(s) of date.

### **Some facts placed/stated in the floor of the State Assembly in the recently (of course abruptly) concluded winter session-2015.**

- Severe drought affected Taluks/Blocks : 173 out of 314
- Over all crop loss : > 50%
- 7054 lift irrigation points defunct out of this 5447 such LI points are to be upgraded and made functional within the coming 4 years.
- Work on 846 lift and minor irrigation points are being taken up with urgency.
- Additional support price for paddy enhanced by Rs.100/- per quintal.
- Rupees 113 crores given as drought support to be affected 25 districts.
- This year's total cases of farming related suicide (as alleged) : 122
- The previous year the same figure stood at : 102
- From 2005 to 2014 (10 years) there are 2099 such cases/complains in Odisha as per National Crime Record Bureau.

### **Specific Drought Mitigation & Support Action for Dhenkanal district (inclusive of the PAWP area)**

- All 08 CD Blocks/Taluks declared drought hit/affected.
- Rupees 2 crores granted as drought assistance to farmers/families @ of :
  - Rs. 13,500/- per hectore of irrigated crop land.
  - Rs. 6,800/- per hectore of non- irrigated crop land.

Here while concluding this executive summary, hope we will further with mutual partnership and support.



Consultation Meeting at Batagaon in Kankadahad block of Dhenkanal

## DETAILS OF ACTIVITIES

### Introduction:

Arun Institute of Rural Affairs (AIRA) in collaboration with IWP has been working in the water & farm based livelihood sector since 2009. Over this period IWP has extended us technical & financial support. And till date, the project benefits are being enjoyed by the 50 odd village communities especially in water-management & small farming development sector. There have been occasional collaboration/joint work with livelihood related line departments of state government like Minor Irrigation, Agriculture, Horticulture, Soil Conservation.

Managing water disputes (especially in judicious sharing of available water for irrigation) at LWP level has contributed to peace between claimant communities. The groups have also benefited from the training/orientation sessions conducted by AIRA-PAWP in improved farming in non-irrigated rain-fed areas. Members of LWP have also joined local forums in raising voice against water pollution, water misuse by the industrial and mining establishments in the upstream locations of river Brahmini (the second largest river in the state of Odisha). Needful action to arrest flood damage and crop loss on the basin/sub-basin of river Ramial (the biggest tributary of river Brahmini) has also been raised with the district and irrigation authorities; a sort of pro-farmer, pro-water advocacy.

### Key Objective

In this phase of action spanning over 75 days (1<sup>st</sup> October to 15<sup>th</sup> December-2015) some of the action components were revived alongside adding fresh and needful activities (given the urgency and consensus of the partner LWP/MWP/PAWP members), but all directed at expanding the “Community Partnership in Water Management” process and also involve the community groups in the adjacent areas.



Consultation meeting at Aluajharan under Kamakshyanagar Block



*Consultation meeting at Brahmania under Kankadahad Block*

## Planned Activities

- **Refresher and Consolidative Meetings:** This was planned to work on themes like water management and sharing, drought adaptation and farming practices, accessing technical and other benefits from the concerned departments like agriculture, irrigation, soil conservation, revenue & disaster mitigation, forest, animal husbandry etc.
- **Primary round meetings:** This was planned to expand PAWP activities into adjacent areas (villages and gram panchayats) and to form new Micro Water Partnership involving farm workers, community heads, village agriculture workers, line departments etc.
- There was a component for collecting rain fall and crop yield/loss figures gram panchayat wise/ revenue circle wise apart from photography and written documentation.
- The other important component of action was to liaison with district, sub district agriculture and irrigation officials and sharing with them government departments plans for compensatory/ alternative cropping, nature and quantity of departmental support/ assistance/subsidy etc.
- Liaison with minor irrigation and lift irrigation authorities at district and sub district levels collecting information on their plan to renovate, improve, upgrade the infrastructural facilities apart from facilitating interface with area specific Pani Panchayats for better water availability and management.

## ACTIVITIES ACTUALLY EXECUTED

The IWP-AIRA-PAWP action in this phase was almost a crash program in the context of severe drought and resultant crop loss to a high degree capped with the unforeseen huge incidents of farmers' suicide (that was quite a rare thing in the state). As such, the IWP-AIRA action was directed at building up some mitigation mechanism that was practicable in a short span of 75 days.

## Report:

Given the urgency-cum-demand of the situation where crop loss to a great extent was imminent, we as partners and facilitators (of the area water partnership and supporters of livelihood promotion) had to accommodate the spirit and need of our partners. As such, we are struck by the following brief facts:

- This monsoon less rainfall was recorded at 13%, 48%, 26% and 46% from June to September.
- This year's drought effect : Crop loss in 25 out of 30 districts in the state.
- 2/3<sup>rd</sup> Taluk's severely affected (173 out of 314 CD Blocks or Taluks affected).
- Dhenkanal (inclusive of PAWP area) being one of the worst hit.
- All 08 Taluk's/Blocks declared drought hit ( with crop loss of 50%-90% resulting in an average 67% all over the district.
- Cases of farmers suicide in all Taluk's. (the Ministers in Revenue and Agriculture departments agreed this number at 05 in the Assembly floor)

To move ahead with the partly modified (rather improvised) action at the field level, we need to refer to the following facts.

## Farm sector in Odisha

- **Employment**

As per Census 2001 in Odisha 29.7% working people were engaged in farming. This got a decline and in 2011 Census this figure came down to 23.4% (showing the decline by more than 21%).

- **The GDP factor**

Employment and production in farming sector taking a downward trend is also reflected in the State's GDP, The farming sector's contribution to state's GDP was 44.5% in 1950-51 and strikingly in 2014-15 it's a share is lowered to 18.81%.

- **Welfare/Support system**

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Consultation meeting at Gondia under Gondia Block



*Consultation meeting at Karamul under Gondia Block*

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Unfortunately this year farmers suicide occurred in most parts of the state barring a few coastal pockets. Sadly this mishap occurred in each of the 8 Taluks (Blocks) of the district of Dhenkanal and in most Taluks of the adjacent districts of Angul, Cuttack & Jajpur.

The state government has been refuting this all along taking recourse to technical route or explanation. But infact, farmers continue to suffer from many counts (in PAWP area and elsewhere in the district).

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The entire action during this phase (spanning over 75 days) was like a crash program when taken to field (considering the needs at the community level).

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Such meetings & consultations were held at key LWPs points like Batagaon, Tarajang and Brahmania (in Kankadahad block), Anlaberani, Kusumajodi, Tumusinga, Kantio Kateni, Kamangara, Aluajharan, Mahulpal and Bhagirathipur (in Kamakshyanagar block) with participants of 15 to 20 LWP members.

In all these consultative meetings our LWP/MWP members (consisting of farmers and farm workers, domestic animal keepers, community heads) are joined by panchayatiraj functionaries, village base line department officials together numbering about 500+. They discussed immediate issues of

fresh cropping (early winter cropping) and renovating/repairing, irrigation facilities in most water sources with immediate effect. The line department officials assured to move the demands/needs with the authorities with no letting up in providing the services and facilities made available in their custody.

**(b) Mass Meetings:**

Such meetings (with participation of 60 to 80 people in each) were organized/facilitated at places like Tandimunda (under Kankadahad Block) and Gondia and Karamul (under Gondia-Sadar Block) mainly on the urge of the LWP/MWP members to build up pressure on the local administration (inclusive of the district administration & state government) to access & acknowledge the volume of crop loss and needful action thereof.

**(c) Lobby & Advocacy:**

The PAWP had also to facilitate participation of LWP/MWP/PAWP members to join the demonstration/rally(s) staged before the District Collectorate at Dhenkanal. In all the three places 300+ people staged demonstrations with demands those are genuine given the situation and context.

**Charter of demands**

- Renovation of WHS, LI Points etc.
- Revamping the Pani Panchayat systems with focus on rotational membership
- Reviving old cold stores and putting up new ones in village clusters. GP clusters

Consultation meeting at Tarajang under Kankadahad Block



Drought situation in different parts of Dhenkanal district.

- Raising support price on paddy and cereals
- Early completion of flow irrigation systems (with focus on Brahmani Major Irrigation Project that started 43 years back)
- Compensation for crop loss substantially (not token).
- Waiving of loans incurred by small and marginal farmers with priority
- Examining and recognizing farmers killing them selves owing to crop loss and debt burden.

In-fact, this exercise (jointly with farmers and their formal/informal groups) led to acceleration of efforts on the government side (with involvement of government departments like Revenue & Disaster Management, Agriculture, Statics, Panchayatiraj etc).

Rapid but technical assessment of crop yield or loss was done and reports reached the government before the Winter session of the State Assembly-2015. The State Government declared compensatory measures along with monetary compensation to farmers for crop loss apart from other support to the bereaved families with suicidal case even though the government differs on such cause(s) of date.

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Cases of farming related suicide in the previous year i.e 2014	102

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### **Specific Drought Mitigation & Support Action for Dhenkanal district (inclusive of the PAWP area)**

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## OUTCOME OF THE ACTIVITIES

- 500+ old and new members/villagers participated in small group and large group meetings with scope of interface-cum-joint planning (for water management and crop promotion) with instant effect.
- 300+ water partnership members and sympathizers/supporters came together putting forth their genuine demands of emergency draught mitigation and livelihood support activities before the local administration and government resulting in or influencing in the following action on the part of the government;
  - The district revenue administration declared all the 08 CD Blocks (Taluks) draught hit with an aggregate crop loss of 67%.
  - The government placed Rupees 2 crores with the district administration towards compensating crop loss.
  - 76 defunct lift irrigation points were taken up instant repair and functioning for watering the early crops/winter crops.
  - The Krishi Vigyan Kendra (KVK) and the District Agriculture Offices were given specific targets for facilitating crop farming with accountability.
  - Estimates were ordered to be conducted on the defunct cold storages (under private or cooperative ownership) to be placed before the government by the year end.
  - Rupees 2 crores granted as drought assistance to farmers/families @ of :
    - Rs. 13,500/- per hecter of irrigated crop land.
    - Rs. 6,800/- per hecter of non- irrigated crop land.

## CONCLUDING LINES

This phase of IWP-AIRA action, as mentioned earlier, followed a busy and demand-driven schedule. It yielded some results as a return of the coordinated and collaborative efforts. However, we are not going to (and we cannot afford to) relax. We need to and hope to work further with mutual partnership and support.





**ସଂସ୍ଥାଧାରଣ**

ଶୁକ୍ରବାର, ୨୯ ନଭେମ୍ବର ୨୦୧୫

**ପରଜଙ୍ଗ, କଙ୍କଡ଼ାହାଡ଼ ବ୍ଲକ୍ରେ ମରୁଡ଼ିର ପଦଧ୍ବନୀ**

ପରଜଙ୍ଗ, ୨୮.୧୦(ଆପ୍): ପରିବର୍ତ୍ତନୀୟ ଜଳ ସମ୍ପଦର ଯୋଗ୍ୟତାକୁ ନିଶ୍ଚିତ ଭାବରେ ଯତ୍ନ ଦେବାକୁ ପଡ଼ିବ ବୋଲି ପରଜଙ୍ଗ ଓ କଙ୍କଡ଼ାହାଡ଼ ବ୍ଲକ୍ରେ ମରୁଡ଼ିର ପଦଧ୍ବନୀ ଶୁଣାଯାଉଛି । ଏହା ଯୋଗୁଁ ଲୋକମାନଙ୍କ ମଧ୍ୟରେ ଚିନ୍ତା ଓ ଚାଲିଯାଇଛି ।

**Drought news of Dhenkanal district in Odia dailies.**

ପରଜଙ୍ଗ ଓ କଙ୍କଡ଼ାହାଡ଼ ବ୍ଲକ୍ରେ ମରୁଡ଼ିର ପଦଧ୍ବନୀ ଶୁଣାଯାଉଛି । ଏହା ଯୋଗୁଁ ଲୋକମାନଙ୍କ ମଧ୍ୟରେ ଚିନ୍ତା ଓ ଚାଲିଯାଇଛି ।



**ପ୍ରମେୟ**

ମଙ୍ଗଳବାର, ୩ ନଭେମ୍ବର ୨୦୧୫

**କରମୂଳକୁ ମରୁଡ଼ି ଘୋଷଣା ଦାବି, ଜିଲ୍ଲାପାଳଙ୍କ ଅର୍ଥିୟ ଘେରାଉ**



ପରଜଙ୍ଗ, ୨୮.୧୦(ଆପ୍): ପରିବର୍ତ୍ତନୀୟ ଜଳ ସମ୍ପଦର ଯୋଗ୍ୟତାକୁ ନିଶ୍ଚିତ ଭାବରେ ଯତ୍ନ ଦେବାକୁ ପଡ଼ିବ ବୋଲି ପରଜଙ୍ଗ ଓ କଙ୍କଡ଼ାହାଡ଼ ବ୍ଲକ୍ରେ ମରୁଡ଼ିର ପଦଧ୍ବନୀ ଶୁଣାଯାଉଛି । ଏହା ଯୋଗୁଁ ଲୋକମାନଙ୍କ ମଧ୍ୟରେ ଚିନ୍ତା ଓ ଚାଲିଯାଇଛି ।

**Farmers' demonstrating in front of District Collector Office in Dhenkanal. Prameya Odia daily on 03.11.2015**

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down

# CM's order on drought report not carried out

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Bhubaneswar, Sept 23:** Even as Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik last week had asked the agricultural department to submit a report on the prevailing drought situation in the state within a week, the department is yet to carry it out.

The Chief Minister September 14 had reviewed the drought situation and the crop status in drought-hit districts of the state and asked the agriculture department to submit a report within seven days.

Based on the report, the government was likely to announce a special package for the affected districts.

According to agriculture department, 16 districts had registered deficit rainfall during this monsoon and the situation was critical in eight districts such as Bargarh, Bolangir, Subarnapur, Dhenkanal, Khurda, Keonjhar, Kandhamal and Boudh, Koraput and Nayagarh which received rainfall between (-) 19 per cent to (-) 39 per cent between June 1 and August end. The rain deficit resulted in thousands of acres of land remaining uncultivated.

Though the recent spell of rain, which resulted in flash flood in a few districts like Kalahandi, the situation remains critical in four districts including Kandhamal, Khurda and Nayagarh, sources said.

When asked, agriculture minister Pradeep Maharathi feigned ignorance about the status report sought by the Chief Minister. He, however, said the department officials are taking stock of the situations and update him on a weekly basis.

The minister said steps are being taken to provide assistance to affected farmers.

He has already reviewed the situation in Khurda and Kandhamal districts while review of other districts like Balasore, Baripada, Jajpur, Bargarh, Sundargarh will start from September 25 onwards.

**ପ୍ରମେୟ**

ମଙ୍ଗଳବାର, ୩ ନଭେମ୍ବର ୨୦୧୫

**ଜିଲ୍ଲାପାଳଙ୍କ କାର୍ଯ୍ୟାଳୟରେ ତାଷୀଙ୍କ ଆତ୍ମହତ୍ୟା ଉଦ୍ୟମ**

କେନ୍ଦ୍ରୀୟ, ୨୮.୧୧(ଆପ୍): କାମାକ୍ଷାନଗର

**News of Suicide attempt in front of District Collector Office in Dhenkanal. Prameya Odia daily on 03.11.2015**

ପରଜଙ୍ଗ ଓ କଙ୍କଡ଼ାହାଡ଼ ବ୍ଲକ୍ରେ ମରୁଡ଼ିର ପଦଧ୍ବନୀ ଶୁଣାଯାଉଛି । ଏହା ଯୋଗୁଁ ଲୋକମାନଙ୍କ ମଧ୍ୟରେ ଚିନ୍ତା ଓ ଚାଲିଯାଇଛି ।

**News of government apathy in odia dailies. (Samaj Odia daily 02.11.2015)**

ପରଜଙ୍ଗ ଓ କଙ୍କଡ଼ାହାଡ଼ ବ୍ଲକ୍ରେ ମରୁଡ଼ିର ପଦଧ୍ବନୀ ଶୁଣାଯାଉଛି । ଏହା ଯୋଗୁଁ ଲୋକମାନଙ୍କ ମଧ୍ୟରେ ଚିନ୍ତା ଓ ଚାଲିଯାଇଛି ।



**କ୍ଷତିରେ ତାଷୀ, ସରକାରୀ ବାଦାମ ବିହନର ଦେଖାନାହିଁ**

ପରଜଙ୍ଗ, ୨୮.୧୧(କେ.ପ୍): ପରଜଙ୍ଗ ଓ କଙ୍କଡ଼ାହାଡ଼ ବ୍ଲକ୍ରେ ମରୁଡ଼ିର ପଦଧ୍ବନୀ ଶୁଣାଯାଉଛି । ଏହା ଯୋଗୁଁ ଲୋକମାନଙ୍କ ମଧ୍ୟରେ ଚିନ୍ତା ଓ ଚାଲିଯାଇଛି ।

**News of government apathy in odia dailies. (Samaj Odia daily 02.11.2015)**

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