

# PROJECT HANDING OVER CEREMONY

10<sup>th</sup> December 2013



**DAGAUNA, BAIGA CHAK, DINDORI**

**ORGANISED BY**



**NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF WOMEN CHILD AND YOUTH DEVELOPMENT**

**SUPPORTED BY**



## **PROJECT HANDING OVER CEREMONY**

**10<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER 2013**

### **Introduction**

National Institute of Women Child and Youth Development (NIWCYD) Nagpur, has implemented the programme “Livelihood promotion of Primitive Tribal Groups and Marginalised Communities in Central India” with the cooperation from AWO International” a donor organization from Germany. The programme was started way back in 2001 in Baiga Chak area of Dindori district, Madhya Pradesh in the remotest of the five villages. These villages were Ajagar-Chhapara, Sailatola, Kandawani, Jeelanga and Dhaba. Initially the programme was sanctioned for the period of three years from the year 2001 to 2003. Gradually the programme developed both in terms of the number of villages and the focus areas of interventions. Along with this development of the programme, it also provided an opportunity for NIWCYD to develop its competencies and strengthen its mass base and the network linkages not only with the grassroot institutions but also with the government department and the other stakeholders. The programme which was started in five villages of Baiga Chak area spread to 29 villages in Samnapur block of Dindori district and 5 villages of Kondagaon block of Bastar region in Chhatisgarh state.

Phase 2011-2013 was the last phase of the implementation of the programme. AWO International has been very instrumental in shaping up the programme over the past thirteen years to a certain level of sustainability. To celebrate this long standing partnership of the people with NIWCYD as well as with AWO International, and also to hand over the programme to the communities, Handing over Ceremony was organized on 10<sup>th</sup> December 2013 at place “Dagauna” in the project area. Managing Director of AWO International Mrs. Ingrid Lebherz, Director of AWO International’s South Asia Region Mr. Felix Neuhous and the Programme Coordinator from AWO International for India programme Mr. Arjun Gurung were special invitees for the programme.

## Press Conference:

On 9<sup>th</sup> December 2013, i.e. one day before the Handing Over Ceremony, a press conference was organized in Dindori. In this press conference, Managing Director of



AWO International briefly explained about AWO International, its functioning within Germany and the role AWO International plays at the global level and particularly in South Asia. Mr. Felix Neuhous, Director South Asia region AWO International also spoke about the South Asia regional Office

based in Kathmandu and the different projects being implemented by the office in different parts of India. He also explained to the media persons, how the programme in Baiga Chak area supported the issue of food security for the Baiga Primitive Tribal Groups and the other marginalized communities. Mr. Arjun Gurung, Programme Officer responsible for the programmes in India shared his experiences of being with the people in Baiga Chak area.

In the beginning of the press conference, the Programme Director Mr. Anil Nimbhorkar explained the programme to the media and also the purpose behind organizing the Handing Over Ceremony. The Chief Functionary of NIWCYD Shri Rajeshkumar Malviya recalled his early interventions and the situation in the 1990s in the baiga Chak area. The media persons asked the questions related to programme interventions and the food security issues. They also discussed about how the programme will sustain after the handing over to the village community. There were nearly 12 correspondents and media persons from the local as well as state level media.

## Inaugural Session

On 10<sup>th</sup> December 2013, people from the different villages, not only from the project villages but also from the other villages of the area started coming in to the programme



venue as early as 9 am. They were very enthusiastic and curious to know about the proceedings. By 11.30 AM nearly half of the pandal was occupied by the people.

The guests from AWO International and the well wishers and the supporters of the programme from the very beginning, Mr. Anand Kapoor, Ms. Kusum Karnik, Mr. David Kadam and Mr. Subhash Tamboli from AFARM arrived at the programme venue by around 11.30 AM. They were given traditional welcome by the Baiga Dance Group.

At the inaugural session, the guests were welcomed by the group song sung by the women from the project area. After the welcome of the guests, the Project Coordinator

**Shri Balwant Rahangdale** briefly gave the introduction to the Ceremony and also the purpose for organizing the programme. He said that the programme supported by AWO International has been a learning experience for the



people of the area as well as for the team who has been implementing the programme. The programme has been instrumental in supporting their struggle for the rights over the livelihood resources.

**Shri Anil Nimbhorkar**, in his welcome speech introduced the dais to the audience. On the dais those seated included, Mrs. Ingrid Lebherz, Managing Director, AWO



International, Germany, Mr. Felix Neuhaus, Director AWO International South Asia region Kathmandu, Mr. Arjun Gurung, Programme Coordinator for India Programme AWO International, Mr. Harish Dixit, Coordinator Agriculture Science Center, Dindori, Mr. David Kadam, former country coordinator,

Swissaid India Programme, Mr. Anand Kapoor and Ms. Kusum Karnik from Shashwat Trust Manchar Pune, Maharashtra, Mr. Subhash Tamboli, Executive Director, AFARM Pune, Mr. Rajesh Malviya, Chief Functionary of NIWCYD, Shri Vijay Chinchkhede, Treasurer, NIWCYD and Mr. Uttam Kannake, Programme Director, NIWCYD. Mr. Nimbhorkar narrated how the programme was started in Baiga Chak area way back in 1993 in four villages under the food for work programme, gradually it developed in to a livelihood initiative firstly with support from Oxfam India Trust and later on with support from AWO International. The programme which was started with 4 villages in 1995 has reached to almost all the 52 villages of Baiga Chak area and AWO International has played a key role in spreading it through the Gramdoot Campaign. He said that the programme supported by AWO International has helped the people of the project area to overcome the issue of food insecurity as well as it has also helped the people in establishing their rights over the forest resources.

**Shri Anand Kapoor**, who was instrumental in introducing NIWCYD to AWO way back in 1998, spoke about how the programme was started. He told that to address the issue of food security, the land development programme was started in Baiga Chak area. For the



better implementation of the programme, the local people from the villages were trained in the aspects of soil water conservation programme such as mapping of the resources, methods of measurement of slopes etc. and all this was done by using the indigenous knowledge of the people. He said that lacs of the people from outside and far off places such as Germany has contributed by supporting from their earnings for the programme. He stressed that whatever support is brought in for the people of baiga Chak area is the support for the Solidarity and not for the Charity.

**Shri Mahaprasad Barkare**, one of the senior most field level worker, who was instrumental in introducing the work of NIWCYD in Baiga Chak area, spoke about the challenges those are coming up due to the changes in the policies and the programmes of the Government. He said that the Baiga who was tagged as the “National Human” is on the verge of losing his identity. He said that the lot of changes have occurred in the traditions, customs and the dressing patterns of the people living in Baiga Chak area. There should be a thorough discussion on what should be the course of future action for the people in the Baiga Chak area so that their roots remain undisturbed.

**Smt Ujjiyarobai Kewatiya**, the functionary of village development committee of village



Pondi narrated her experiences of working with NIWCYD. She said that before the entry of NIWCYD in our village we were very conservative and scared about the outside world and especially about the people wearing pant-shirts. But once NIWCYD started working with us, our fear has gone and now we can talk with any officials

and put our demands and opinion to them. She said that organization has helped us in knowing about our rights over the forest. We formed the group of women to protect and conserve our forests. We have fought all the odds and even had a fight with the local forest department officials about the illegal marking and cutting of the tress. She said

that this all we could do only because of the knowledge we gain from the workers of NIWCYD.

**Shri Sukkalsingh Rathudiya**, the President of the Village Development Committee



village Dhaba and one of the key members of Forestry Study Group in Baiga Chak area spoke about the forest conservation and forest management. He said that it is because of NIWCYD, we could realize the importance of forest conservation and management. He said “We must protect our forest as well as our agriculture. Forest

conservation and protection is not the issue of one village only but it is the issue of entire Baiga Chak area. If we want to live healthy, we must protect the forest.” He said that both, the people of the area and the forest department should work together for the forest conservation and management..

**Shri Dhansingh Kushram** of village Serazar narrated his experiences of working with

NIWCYD. He said that from a very young age he has seen the workers of the organization working relentlessly for the people of the area. He said that now it is the responsibility of the people to take this work forward. He said that we must strengthen our



village level institutions and more importantly the Gramsabhas. He said that the women from the villages should be encouraged not only to participate in the Gramsabha meetings but they should also become the part of decision making process at the village level. He said that the people will continue to work on the path shown by NIWCYD.

**Dr. Harish Dixit**, Programme Coordinator, Krishi Vigyan Kendra Dindori shared his experiences of working with the people of Baiga Chak area. He said that it was due to the cooperation from NIWCYD that they could implement their research in the deep forest villages such as Dhaba, Gaura, Kanhari and Thadpathara. He said that KVK had the mandate of working within the radius of 20 kilometers from its research center, but we could change our system and style of functioning because of the support KVK got from NIWCYD in implementing the programmes. He assured that this cooperation between KVK and NIWCYD would be continued in the coming years also.

### **Handing Over of the programme to the Village Development Committees**

After the inaugural session the moment had come to hand over the programme initiated by NIWCYD 13 years ago with the support of AWO International to its real stakeholders,



the people of the area. The Handing Over Certificates were given to the representatives of Village Institutions and the Village Development Committees at the hands of Chief



Functionary, Shri R.K. Malviya, Treasurer, Shri Vijay Chinchkhede and Senior Programme Director Shri U.S. Kannake. The representatives from the set of villages where the work began in the year 2001 were called on the Dias. This was followed by the villages where work began in the year 2004 and 2008 respectively. Representatives from all the 34 villages where the programme was implemented were then called on the dais for the group photograph. There was a festival like atmosphere at the programme venue when the certificates were being distributed.

### **Felicitation of the senior most field workers of the Organisation**

Shri Domanlal Yadav, Shri ganesh Keiwart, Shri G.D. manikpuri and Shri Sufalsingh Maravi were instrumental in initiating the work in Baiga Chak area way back in 1993. It was because of these three pillars of the initial work in the Baiga Chak area in the adverse conditions, the present generation of worker could build on the work. To acknowledge their contribution, NIWCYD chose the occasion to felicitate them. Shri domallal Yadav was felicitated at the hands of Shri Omkarsingh Markam, the newly elected Member of Legislative Assembly. Shri ganesh Keiwart was felicitated at the hands of Mrs. Ingrid Lebherz, the Managging Director of AWO International Germany. Shri Sufalsingh Maravi was felicitated at the hands of Mr. Felix Neuhaus, Regional Director, AWO International, Kathmandu Nepal. All of them were given shawl and Coconut fruit as a token of gratitude.



**Acknowledging the role of Project Staff in the Project Implementation** The project staff had played a very crucial role in the implementation and the development of the programme in the past thirteen years. Way back in 2001, when the programme started



in 5 villages of Baiga Chak area, there were only four personnel for the implementation including project coordinator and three field facilitators. As the programme grew over the years, the project team also grew in number and in experience. The good part of the entire phase has been that the four team members who initiated

the programme in 2001, continued with the programme till the end of 2013. Each of the team members numbering 25 over the past 13 years have contributed in their own way for the success of the programme. NIWCYD management thought it appropriate to appreciate the role played by each staff in the programme implementation. They were given the Certificate of Appreciation signed by the Managing Director of AWO International, The Regional Director of AWO International for South Asia and the President of NIWCYD. The certificates were given at the hands of Managing Director AWO International, Mrs. Ingrid Lebherz, Regional Director, AWO International South Asia, Mr. Felix Neuhaus and Programme Coordinator AWO International for India Programme, Mr. Arjun Gurung. It was a very emotional moment for all the project staff who had worked relentlessly for the success of the programme over the years.

## Release of the Souvenir

On the occasion of the Handing Over Ceremony, a special souvenir was brought up



reflecting journey of the programme from 2001 to 2013. The Souvenir titled “DEDICATING THE PARTNERSHIP TO THE PEOPLE” was released at the hand on the distinguished guests. The copies of the souvenir were distributed to the guests.

## Concluding Session

At the concluding session of the programme, the member of the Legislative Assembly **Mr. Omkarsingh Markam** was present on the dais. He said that even though the organization is phasing out from the villages, it should not phase out from the area. There is still a need to work with the people. He said that there are quite a few challenges. One



of the prominent challenge is that people have still not got the forest rights. NIWCYD should now focus on working in coordination with the government agencies.

In key note address, **Mrs. Ingrid Lebherz**, the Managing Director AWO International



said stressed the need to strengthen the social structures. She said that 90 years back, AWO was founded by a lady who fought for the rights of the workers in Germany. The main focus of AWO international work is on creating and strengthening the social structures and systems. She said that the results of the programme

supported by AWO International for the past 13 years have been such that she can go back and tell the people in Germany about them. She said that she felt very proud to be the part of this entire journey.

**Mr. Felix Neuhaus**, Regional Director AWO International in his address praised the results achieved over the 13 yrs period. He said that these results are amazing and especially the food security, the people of the area have attained has been very remarkable. He also said that, the Gramdoots have done the good work as the social change among the people. He said that what ever the results have been achieved will remain with the people even after the phasing out of the project from the area. The knowledge developed over the years, the rights over the resources people have gained will remain with the people. He said that over the next one year AWO International will support for strengthening the Baiga Resource



Center at Samnapur. This center will cater to the needs of the people of not only the project villages but the entire area.

In his concluding remarks, the Chief Functionary of NIWCYD, **Shri R.K Malviya**



recollected how the work had began on a very small scale in Baiga Chak area and now he realizes its spread over the years. He said that the local persons from the area were trained by NIWCYD and were involved in the implementation of the programme. This has helped in achieving the positive results in the area. He stressed that the role of the

Gramdoots is very crucial in taking the programme further from now onwards. He thanked AWO International for supporting the programme in the Baiga Chak area over a long period of time. He also thanked the well wishers of NIWCYD for their support in the development of the programme in Baiga Chak area. The role of the government agencies and the District Administration support was specially mentioned by him.

### **Photo Exhibition**

On this occasion the photo exhibition reflecting the work of NIWCYD with the people in the area was organized at the programme venue. The exhibition was inaugurated by the Member of Legislative Assembly, Shri Omkarsingh Markam. The exhibition exhibited the work done in the area over thirteen years period. The local varieties of the foods, the crops, the medicines and herbs of the area were also on the display in the exhibition. The Krishi Vigyan Kendra Dindori had also



organized the exhibition of different agriculture tools and implements developed by them in the same exhibition.

The entire Handing over Ceremony was very ably facilitated by senior staff of NIWCYD **Shri Lallan Prasad Gond** and **Shri Satyam Satendra Pandey**. The entire staff of the project worked relentlessly for the success of the programme. We would like to give special thanks to the people of entire Baiga Chak area and also the members of Gramdoot Parishad from Mandla, and Chhindwara district for their participation in the programme.



## PROJECT HANDING OVER CERMONY

9<sup>TH</sup> & 10<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER 2013

PLACE: DAGAUNA BAIGA CHAK AREA, DINDORI

### PROGRAMME SCHEDULE

S.N.	Duration	Event	Participation	Responsibility/Place
<b>9<sup>th</sup> December 2013</b>				
1.	4.00 PM	Press Conference about the programme	Three to five representatives of Village Institutions, Gramdoots, NIWCYD Representative and AWO International Representative	Dindori at the Krishi Vigyan Kendra Hall
2.	7.30 PM	Dinner with the AWO International Guests, Partner representatives and guest		At Neelam Lodge Dindori
<b>10<sup>th</sup> December 2013</b>				
3.	9.00 AM to 11.00 AM	Arrival of the village representatives and village functionaries		Respective Cluster Facilitators and Field Coordinators
4.	11.00 AM to 11.15 AM	Arrival of guests from AWO International and partner organizations and other dignitaries at the programme place		Dagauna
5.	11.15 AM to 11.30 AM	Traditional Welcome of the dignitaries and guests	Welcome by traditional Baiga Dance and Biranmala	Dagauna
6.	11.30 to 11.45 AM	Welcome speech by NIWCYD Chief Functionary		Mr. R.K. Malviya
7.	12.00 noon to 12.15 PM	Brief note about the programme and project by Project Director	Reflection of 20 years of work of NIWCYD in Baiga Chak and 13 years of partnership with AWO International	Anil Nimbhorkar
8.	12.15 PM to 12.55 PM	Speeches by the representatives of Gramdoot Parishad	Experience sharing by Gramdoots for 10 minutes each	4 representatives from 4 districts
9.	1.00 PM to 2.00 PM	Handing over certificates to be distributed to representatives of 34 VDCs	Short speeches by 4-5 representatives	Guests
10.	2.00 to 2.15 PM	Distribution of Certificates to project staff		Guests
11		Speech by the Elected Member of Assembly		

		Madhya Pradesh		
11.	2.15 PM to 2.25 PM	Address by Regional Director AWO International e.V		Mr. Felix Neuhaus
12.	2.25 to 2.45 PM	Address by the Managing Director AWO International e.V		Ms. Ingrid Lebherz
13.	2.45 PM to 3.00 PM	Vote of Thanks by Project Coordinator		Balwant Rahangdale
14.	3.00 PM to 3.30 PM	Inauguration of photo exhibition by the guests	Photo exhibition on the work of NIWCYD with support from AWO International	Dagauna
15.		Lunch for the guests and participants and disbursal		





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