

ANNUAL REPORT



2024 - 2025



Society for promoting Rural Education and Development

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From the Secretaries Desk.

This year's journey has been both humbling and inspiring. As I look back, I am struck not just by the scale of our work—but by the quiet revolutions that have taken root in remote hamlets, forest villages, and artisans' homes across southern Odisha. Whether it's a mother accessing nutrition support for the first time, a young tribal woman starting her own microenterprise, or a person with mental illness regaining dignity through care and livelihood—SPREAD has been privileged to walk alongside communities in moments of transformation.

Our work this year deepened across multiple fronts: disability inclusion, nutrition, agroecology, decentralized renewable energy, forest rights, and women-led manufacturing. These diverse threads are tied together by a common vision—one of dignity, self-reliance, and equity. The courage and determination of our communities have shaped this report more than any metric or milestone. Their leadership has shown us what is possible when development is not done *to* people but *with* them.

We are grateful to our partners—government departments, funding agencies, grassroots federations, and civil society allies—whose faith in community-led models continues to be the bedrock of our efforts. I also want to acknowledge our dedicated team—field mobilisers, coordinators, volunteers, and support staff—who go beyond their roles every day to stand with the most marginalized.

As we prepare for the road ahead—expanding into Malkangiri, and Rayagada scaling millet farming, strengthening decentralized energy systems, working with artisans and pushing forward on gender and climate justice—we do so with deep resolve and collective optimism.

SPREAD began as a small initiative over three decades ago. Today, it stands as a movement rooted in hope, sustained by solidarity, and driven by the belief that change begins from the ground up. Thank you for walking this path with us.



Bidyut Mohanty,
Secretary.

About SPREAD

Founded in 1989 and rooted in the tribal heartlands of southern Odisha, SPREAD (Society for Promoting Rural Education and Development) is a people-first grassroots organization that has consistently worked to uphold the rights and dignity of marginalized communities—particularly Adivasis, Dalits, women, and persons with disabilities.

With over three decades of deep community engagement, SPREAD has built a reputation for catalysing transformative change from the ground up. From securing tenurial rights under the Forest Rights Act to advancing inclusive health and nutrition, climate-resilient farming, decentralized energy, and disability empowerment, SPREAD's work is driven by a belief in justice, dignity, and self-determination.

What sets SPREAD apart is its ability to integrate traditional wisdom with contemporary solutions—reviving indigenous millets and handloom weaving on one hand, while enabling solar-powered enterprises and mental health inclusion on the other. Its initiatives are grounded in participatory processes: Gram Sabha planning, women-led commons mapping, youth leadership training, and collective enterprise development.

Key areas of work include:

- Community Mental Health & Disability Rights
- Agroecology & Millet Farming
- Women's Livelihoods & Creative Manufacturing (Folkweave)
- Health & Nutrition for Vulnerable Groups
- Community Forest Rights & Governance
- Renewable Energy for Rural Livelihoods
- Climate Justice and Commons Management

SPREAD is not just a service provider—it is a facilitator of voice, agency, and change. Whether it's a caregiver speaking at a district forum, a weaver leading her SHG into enterprise, or an adolescent girl preventing child marriage, SPREAD nurtures leadership where it matters most.

It works closely with institutions like LLL Foundation, CRY, SIDBI, FES, SELCO Foundation, and is part of wider movements for food sovereignty, forest governance, and gender equity.

Today, SPREAD stands as a bridge between policy and people, traditional knowledge and innovation, and vulnerability and strength. As it continues to expand into newer districts and themes, the mission remains clear: to build a just, inclusive, and sustainable future—where every person can live with dignity, choice, and hope.

As we move forward in pursuit of our goals, we are firmly committed to making a substantial impact on the lives of those we serve. Through our work, we aim to instil hope and drive change, reinforcing the notion that every person deserves the opportunity to live with dignity. SPREAD is officially registered as a non-profit entity under Indian law, ensuring compliance with all legal requirements as we continue on the path towards meaningful community development.

Year at a Glance

Key impact numbers –

Disability & Mental Health

- 1260 PWMI identified; 1062 treated
- 4 mental health camps held
- 951 grassroots workers trained on mental health
- 342 follow-up medication deliveries at home
- 266 PWMI + 549 caregivers engaged in MGNREGA
- 298 caregivers + 42 PWMI received ₹5,000 under Subhadra Scheme
- 165 caregivers formed block federations; 12 at district level

Health & Nutrition

- 252 VHND sessions in 35 villages
- 9654 participants: Pregnant (569), Lactating (637), Children (5080), Adolescents (3368)
- 2373 children (0–18 yrs) covered
- 1038 families engaged in Nutrition Week
- 1058 families established kitchen gardens
- 552 adolescent girls covered; 3 child marriages prevented

Livelihoods & DRE

- 1200+ stakeholders attended awareness workshops
- 28 village sessions: 1134 individuals
- 20 street plays reached 1400 people
- 117 entrepreneurs identified; 9 DRE systems installed
- 334 entrepreneurs engaged in door-to-door solar outreach

Millets & Food Security

- 677.4 hectares under millet:
 - 585.8 ha Ragi
 - 91.6 ha Non-Ragi
- 4787 quintals ragi procured @ ₹4,500/quintal
- 1100+ farmers incentivized (778 male, 276 female)

Creative Manufacturing (Rang Kerang)

- 250 women artisans involved
 - 90 trained in dyeing/stitching
 - ₹10.68 lakh in sales across 10 exhibitions
- 3 PAC meetings held; baseline for 183 artisans completed

CFR & Governance

- 953 villages filed CFR claims
- 137 CFR titles approved

- 80 village forest plans prepared; 45 integrated with GPDP

Climate & Gender Commons

- 27 villages engaged in women-led commons planning
- 10 seed banks established
- Mapping completed in 10 blocks

Our Thematic Areas



Programme Highlights

A. Disability & Mental Health: Rural Community Mental Health Programme

Operational Area: Nandapur, Lamtaput, Boipariguda & Kundra blocks of Koraput District

Goal: To dismantle barriers for individuals suffering from mental illness (PWMI) and their caregivers by enhancing access to mental health services, boosting self-esteem, establishing government connections, and promoting sustainable livelihoods.

A.1 Key Accomplishments:

A.1.1 Mental Health Services:

- Provided treatment to 1062 out of 1260 identified PWMI through collaborations with CHCs, DMHP, District Hospital, and Medical College Koraput.



- Conducted monthly fixed-day OPDs at CHCs and PHCs, serving 720 PWMI and 766 caregivers with medication and counselling.

- Facilitated home delivery of medications for 342 follow-up cases by SPREAD and ASHA workers.

- Distributed medications free of charge, alleviating financial burdens on caregivers.

- Conducted 17 capacity building sessions reaching 951 grassroots workers (ASHA, AWW, ICDS Supervisors) to raise awareness on mental health.

- Held 4 mental health camps, treating 189 new PWMI.

A.1.2 Caregivers' Empowerment:

- 74 GP-level caregivers groups meet quarterly to address issues and plan collaboratively.



- Established 4 block-level federations (totalling 165 members) and a district-level forum (12 members) engaging in advocacy and strategic planning.

- Empowered caregivers to actively participate in Palli Sabhas and Gram Sabhas, facilitating better access to government schemes.

A.1.3 Livelihood & Government Connections:

SPREAD successfully linked PWMI and caregivers with various welfare programs:

- Issued UDID certificates to 159 PWMI.

- Granted pensions (Disability - 63 PWMI, Old Age - 32 caregivers, Widow - 10 caregivers) amounting to ₹1,000/month.

- Provided PMAY housing assistance to 43 beneficiaries (₹1.3 lakh each).

- Empowered 210 women caregivers through Mission Shakti.

- Offered financial aid of ₹5,000 to 42 PWMI and 298 caregivers through the Subhadra Scheme.

A.1.4 Impact Highlights:

- Created personal files for PWMI and caregivers for scheme linkage and documentation (e.g., Aadhar, job cards).

- Arranged home delivery of medicines, especially for the elderly.

A.1.5 Collaboration & Sustainability:

- Maintained strong coordination with government departments, PRI members, ASHAs, and ICDS workers.

- Conducted regular home visits by the SPREAD team and community volunteers to ensure continuous care.

- Strived for institutionalized support through formal linkages and documentation assistance.

Future Plans:

- Advocate for the availability of follow-up medications at the PHC/sub-centre level.

- Engaged 266 PWMI and 549 caregivers in MGNREGA for 14 days.

- Provided vocational training to caregivers in vegetable farming (43), poultry farming (15), and leaf plate making (39).

- Facilitated 108 PWMI and 466 caregivers to participate in PMAY surveys with documentation support.

- Assisted 45 individuals in obtaining UDID certificates, covering travel expenses and coordinating medical board appointments.

- Enhance convergence with line departments to increase access to entitlements.

- Organize more mental health camps to reach untreated PWMI.

- Train active caregivers and recovered PWMI to help others navigate treatment and schemes.
- Strengthen vocational skills training for caregivers to support sustainable income.

- Scale up community awareness on mental health and further empower caregiver associations.

A Journey of Care and Survival

The story of Jayanti Hantal, a 22-year-old woman from Dahanaput village, is a tale of perseverance and survival. Coming from a family that relies on cultivation and wage labor, Jayanti faced numerous health challenges during her pregnancy. Despite experiencing morning sickness, low appetite, low blood pressure, and fatigue, she continued working to support her family.

As her health deteriorated, SPREAD community mobiliser advised Jayanti to take help from the local Anganwadi Center, where she received prenatal care and advice on nutrition. With the support of SPREAD community mobiliser, ANMs and ASHA workers, she took iron-folic acid tablets, attended health check-ups, and followed dietary recommendations.

However, Jayanti's condition worsened in the seventh month of her pregnancy, leading to frequent fainting spells. Thanks to the quick action of the Community Mobiliser of SPREAD, she was referred to a nearby Community Health Centre, where she received life-saving blood transfusions. After a week of observation and medication, Jayanti was discharged and continued to receive government support, including Take-Home Ration, Janani Suraksha Yojana, and assistance from the Mamata Yojana.

Encouraged by SPREAD community mobiliser, Jayanti decided to stay at the Tusuba Maa Gruha (Maternity Waiting Home) before her delivery. This decision proved crucial, as on July 29, 2024, she delivered a healthy baby boy at the Lamtaput CHC, weighing 2.640 kg.

Reflecting on her journey, Jayanti expressed gratitude to those who supported her, acknowledging that without their help, both she and her baby may not have survived.

A Beacon of Hope: The Inspiring Transformation of Madan and Rukmani

The remote tribal village of Kenduguda faced a challenging ordeal when Sunadhar Kendu(Name changed), the primary provider for his family, was struck by a sudden mental illness in January 2023. With sunadhar unable to work, his wife Rukmani sold her jewelry in a desperate attempt to seek traditional treatments, but to no avail. Rukmani found hope through SPREAD, supporting families dealing with mental health issues. With the help of SPREAD and the Carers Group, sunadhara was admitted to Sahid Laxman Naik Medical College and began treatment. Within a month, his condition improved significantly, and by January 2024, he was attending health camps and following doctor's recommendations diligently. Through consistent medication and support, Sunadhara made a remarkable transformation, regaining his ability to care for himself and assist with household tasks. SPREAD's partnership with the community played a crucial role in Sunadhara and Rukmani's inspiring journey towards recovery and stability despite their initial struggles.

B. Health & Nutrition

Operational Area: Lamtaput Block of Koraput district

Target Groups: 2373 children (0–18 Yrs), 45 pregnant women, 53 lactating mothers, 552 adolescent girls

B.1 Spreading Health and Nutrition Awareness:

- Conducted 252 VHND sessions in 35 villages with 9654 participants, including pregnant women (569), lactating mothers (637), children (5080), and adolescents (3368).
- Distributed IFA tablets to 566 adolescent girls and 134 pregnant mothers.
- Encouraged cleanliness drives in 418 villages.
- Achieved 100% institutional delivery with colostrum feeding for 89 births.

B.2 Life Skills for Adolescent Girls:



- Organized 12 trainings for 531 girls across 3 GPs, focusing on self-awareness, communication, self-esteem, and preventing child marriage.

- Successfully prevented 3 child marriages and ensured all 552 girls are using sanitary napkins and consuming IFA.

B.3 Cultural and Child-Led Activities:

- Held a Children's Festival in 35 villages with various activities promoting confidence, peer bonding, and awareness of government schemes.

B.4 Nutrition Week & Food Demonstrations:

- Engaged 1038 participants in National Nutrition Week activities promoting local foods, kitchen gardening for 1058 families, and THR cooking demos in 35 villages.

- Trained 405 participants on nutritious recipes using local grains like ragi.

B.5 Health Camps & Emergency Support:

- Conducted 2 health camps screening 193 people, including 53 SAM & 85 MAM children, and 3 severely anaemic adolescent girls.

- Provided emergency referral and nutrition support for 9 SAM children.

B.6 Kitchen Garden & Awareness Campaigns:

- Established backyard gardens for 1058 families growing papaya, lemon, moringa, and leafy greens.

- Linked nutrition and food access to maternal & child health during outreach.

B.7 Coverage Snapshot:

- Covered 2373 children aged 0–18 years with growth monitoring showing 350 green, 119 yellow, and 26 red.

- Mothers received MAMTA Yojana support: ₹396,000 (1st instalment) and ₹168,000 (2nd instalment).

- Conducted 420 village-level meetings, 3093 home visits, 396 adolescent sessions, and 86 child collectives.

- Active participation in 12 immunization centers and referring 51 PHC & 89 CHC pregnancies.

- Administered IFA to 566 girls and HB tests for 359.

B.8 Impact:

SPREAD's nutrition program has led to sustained awareness and significant improvements in institutional deliveries, kitchen gardens, immunizations, adolescent participation, and hygiene practices in 35 villages.

Testimonial from a Mother in Gadihanjar village: "Our child's health starts with the mother's nutrition. SPREAD helped us grow food, understand its importance, and stay healthy together."

B.9 Key Interventions & Outcomes:

B.9.1 Village Health & Nutrition Days (VHND)

- 252 VHND sessions across 35 villages; 9654 participants including pregnant women (569), lactating mothers (637), children (5080), adolescents (3368)
- 100% institutional delivery with colostrum feeding ensured for 89 births
- IFA tablets distributed: 566 adolescent girls, 134 pregnant mothers
- 418 villages engaged in cleanliness drives

B.9.2 Life Skills for Adolescent Girls

- 12 trainings held (3 GPs); 531 girls trained in self-awareness, communication, self-esteem, and child marriage prevention
- 3 child marriages successfully prevented; all 552 girls now using sanitary napkins & consuming IFA

B.9.3 Cultural and Child-Led Activities

- Celebrated Children's Festival in 35 villages: quiz, essay, speech, cultural performances
- Activities built confidence, peer bonding, and government scheme awareness

B.9.4 Nutrition Week & Food Demonstrations

- 1038 participants engaged in National Nutrition Week activities across 35 villages
- Local food promotion, kitchen gardening (1058 families), and THR (Take Home Ration) cooking demos held in 35 villages

- 405 participants trained on nutritious recipes using local grains like ragi

B.9.5 Health Camps & Emergency Support

- 2 health camps conducted: 193 people screened, including 53 SAM & 85 MAM children, 3 severely anaemic adolescent girls
- Emergency referral & nutrition support for 9 SAM children

B.9.6 Kitchen Garden & Awareness Campaigns

- 1058 families established backyard gardens growing papaya, lemon, moringa, leafy greens
- Nutrition and food access linked to maternal & child health during outreach

B.9.7 Coverage Snapshot

- Children covered: 2373 (0–18 years)
- Growth Monitoring: Green – 350, Yellow – 119, Red – 26
- Mothers receiving MAMTA Yojana: ₹396,000 (1st instalment), ₹168,000 (2nd instalment)
- 420 village-level meetings; 3093 home visits; 396 adolescent sessions; 86 child collectives
- 12 immunization centres active; 51 PHC & 89 CHC referrals (pregnancy)
- 566 girls took IFA; 359 underwent HB tests

Impact: SPREAD's nutrition program has created sustained awareness and measurable improvements across 35 villages. Institutional deliveries, kitchen gardens, immunizations, adolescent participation, and hygiene behavior have significantly increased.

"Our child's health begins with the mother's nutrition. SPREAD helped us grow food, understand why it matters, and stay healthy together." – Mother, Gadihanjar village

C. Livelihoods & Decentralized Renewable Energy (DRE)

Project: Economic Empowerment through Renewable Energy

Project area : 8 blocks in Koraput District (Koraput, Dasmantapur, Lamtaput, Nandapur, Boipariguda, Kundra, Narayanpatna & Bandhugaon)

Objective of the Project : The aim of the project is to empower marginalized communities, with a focus on tribal women, by incorporating decentralized renewable energy solutions into local businesses. This initiative seeks to promote entrepreneurship and improve access to clean energy for enhanced livelihoods.

Key Accomplishments:

C.1 Awareness & Training:

- Organized 5 workshops at the block level and 1 district-level event (Soura Udyogi Mela) with over 1200 participants including officials, NGOs, and SHGs.
- Conducted 28 sessions at the village level reaching 1134 individuals; hosted 20 street theatre events engaging 1400 people.



- Distributed 4500+ brochures and booklets in the communities.

C.2 Business Engagement:

- Identified 117 entrepreneurs, with 64 submitting applications for DRE support.
- Completed 9 installations, including 8 poultry lighting systems and 1 solar hotel system.



- Reached out to 334 entrepreneurs through door-to-door campaigns to promote solar adoption.

C.3 Skill Development & Exposure:

- Organized an exposure visit to Bissamcuttack for 55 entrepreneurs from the 8 blocks.
- Conducted 3 internal team orientation sessions to align program delivery.

C.4 Impact & Results:

- Raised awareness on renewable energy access among over 1450 individuals.
- Enabled local business innovation utilizing solar technology in sectors like poultry, hotels, milling, and sewing.
- Facilitated cost savings and increased productivity through energy-efficient installations.
- Provided training to rural women on maintaining and operating DRE systems.

C.5 Challenges Faced:

- High initial investment requirements and financial constraints in tribal areas.
- Difficulty engaging communities during agricultural or festive seasons.
- Slow processes of financial institutions for small entrepreneurs.

C.6 Key Takeaways:

- Demonstrations using solar model units helped build trust and promote adoption.
- Early involvement of community leaders improved participation and long-term sustainability.

The partnership between SPREAD and SELCO Foundation has laid a strong foundation for energy-related livelihoods. The project's inclusive and community-driven approach is assisting in the transition towards cleaner

and more sustainable energy sources while also boosting rural incomes. "One workshop participant from Nandapur expressed, 'DRE is not just electricity—it's about economic opportunity for our youth and dignity for women.'"

From Struggle to Stability: A Rural Entrepreneur's Journey with Renewable Energy

Trinath Pitia, from Padeiguda village in Koraput district, comes from a family background of entrepreneurship. His mother, Kamsula Pitia, started a small roadside hotel unit which faced challenges due to lack of electricity and basic infrastructure. Despite efforts to improve, his request for an electricity connection from the government was denied, citing high costs for serving only one household. Thanks to SPREAD's intervention through the DRE project, a solar energy system was installed, allowing the hotel to expand services and attract more customers. What was once a struggling business without electricity has now become a thriving hotel, showcasing the transformative impact of renewable energy on rural livelihoods.

D. Millets & Food Security

Program: Shree Anna Abhiyan (SAA) Location: Koraput District – targeting tribal farmers, women farmers, and WSHGs in Narayanpatna block.

Goals : 1. Boost household millet intake by 25% 2. Develop millet value chains: seed, processing, and marketing 3. Encourage organic farming and sustainable agricultural methods 4. • Incorporate millets into various welfare programs (PDS, ICDS, MDM)

Main Activities Implemented

- Conducted awareness campaigns and food festivals in 3 villages
- Provided trainings on 4 Sustainable Millet Initiatives, 7 agronomic practices, and organized 2 women campaign teams
- Established 1 biodiversity block and 2 seed centers
- Operated 3 custom hiring centers
- Completed 5 field days and 50 CCE samplings

Key Outcomes (Kharif & Rabi)

- Achieved 674.4 hector overall millet cultivation 585.8 hector of ragi and 91.6 hector Non ragi.
- Procured 4787 quintals of ragi at ₹4,500/quintal, benefiting 332 farmers

Impact

- Improved millet yields and earnings through markets
- Enhanced understanding and adoption of organic agriculture

- Collaborated with PRI, ICDS, and FPOs for synergy



- Provided incentives to 778 male & 276 female farmers embracing agronomy
- Witnessed a considerable shift to organic inputs and sustainable farming practices

- Enhanced mechanization through FPO machinery
- Increased visibility of women-led farming units

Challenges:

- Some farmers shifted to maize due to market dynamics
- FRA landholders faced challenges in selling due to paperwork gaps
- Limited market awareness for non-ragi millets
- Slow uptake among women farmers

Future Strategies

- Intensify millet cultivation in additional blocks
- Encourage more women farmers to engage in millet farming
- Expand focus to encompass non-ragi millets
- Strengthen SHGs and FPOs for united marketing
- Promote millet-based value-added products and processing facilities

Shree Anna Abhiyan has driven growth in production, consumption, and income within tribal regions of Koraput. The initiative has successfully positioned millets as a resilient, community-supported essential food source.

“I now cultivate for my family and the market. Ragi signifies income and honor.” – Women Farmer.

Case Study: The Inspiring Journey of Ani Mandingi: A Tale of Resilience and Growth

Ani Mandingi, a women farmer from Gechela village in Odisha, underwent a transformative journey that led to increased productivity and sustainability in her farming practices. Originally focusing on traditional finger millet cultivation, Ani faced challenges such as limited income and decreasing soil fertility. However, through training programs by the SPREAD, she learned about climate-resilient millets and adopted the System of Millet Intensification (SMI). By implementing new techniques like seed treatment and organic manure, Ani significantly increased her ragi yield from 6 to 16 quintals per hectare. Encouraged by this success, she diversified her crops to include onions and paddy, combining traditional wisdom with modern methods to further enhance her agricultural output. Ani's inspiring journey showcases resilience, growth, and the transformative power of education and innovation in farming practices.

E. Creative Manufacturing & Livelihoods

Program: Rang Kerang – Empowering Tribal Women through Craft and Enterprise

Location: Koraput region, Odisha (Blocks: Lamtaput, Boipariguda, Koraput, Kundra, Kotpad, Bissamcuttack)

Rang Kerang is a SPREAD-led initiative supported by SIDBI and the Odisha Textile Department. It promotes sustainable livelihoods for tribal women artisans by combining traditional weaving, natural dyeing, hand embroidery, and eco-conscious product design. The initiative supports artisans across weaving, dyeing, stitching, branding, and packaging, creating the social enterprise platform **Folkweave** to connect them with broader markets.

E.1 Key Activities & Achievements:

E.1.1 Artisan Training:

90 artisans trained in natural dyeing and stitching (e.g., babywear)

30 artisans received mentorship in design innovation; created new sarees, stoles, and yardage

E.1.2 Product Development & Sales:

Gadaba Utariyas, hand-embroidered stoles, and naturally dyed towels produced



₹10.68 lakh in total sales from exhibitions across Bhubaneswar, Bangalore, Koraput, and Cuttack

E.1.3 Exhibitions:

10 exhibitions organized with participation of 20 artisans; market linkages strengthened

E.1.4 Dyeing Unit & Weaving Revival:

Gadaba weaving revival in progress; dyeing unit established (partial delays due to festivals)

Cultural event *Chaita Parab* used to promote craft traditions and intergenerational learning

E.1.5 Social Inclusion:

Mentally challenged artisans integrated (e.g., Rukmini and Banamali) promoting dignity and healing

E.2 Institutional Partnerships & Capacity Building

- **Trytoon Academy:** Collaboration for design mentorship and student exchanges
- **Textile Department:** Ongoing basic weaving training for Gadaba artisans in Lamtaput
- **Social media & Branding:** Full-time digital media manager appointed; visibility expanded
- **Government Certifications:** Crafts mark, ISI, and eco-certification processes initiated
- **Leadership Development:** Women artisans mentored as local leaders and peer trainers



E.3 Monitoring & Documentation

- Baseline completed for 183 artisans; operational module prepared
- 3 PAC (Project Advisory Committee) meetings conducted
- Monthly and quarterly reports submitted from March 2025 onward
- Folkweave also facilitated training in Bargarh and supported Munda tribal weaves in Jharkhand

E.5 Targeted Artisan Involvement

CATEGORY	NO. OF ARTISANS
WEAVERS	80
DYERS	80
HAND EMBROIDERERS	50
STITCHING (BABYWEAR)	30
BRANDING & PACKAGING	10
TOTAL	250



E.6 Challenges & Lessons Learned

- Project timing was disrupted by local festivals—addressed via adaptive scheduling
- Some artisans required onboarding before baseline for dignity inclusion
- Market linkage is promising but needs scale and sustained marketing push
- High demand for training from unlisted tribal blocks signals growth potential

E.7 Future Directions

- Launch refresher stitching and packaging trainings in next quarter
- Strengthen cluster-level model combining Lamtaput & Boipariguda spokes
- Expand operations to Nabarangpur and Rayagada with new product lines
- Advance certification, branding, and peer-led training modules

The Rang Kerang initiative is redefining craft-based livelihoods in Koraput. By reviving indigenous traditions and creating modern enterprise models, Folkweave is enabling tribal women to build sustainable incomes, preserve cultural heritage, and lead with dignity.



“Craft is healing. When I weave, I feel proud—and I feel seen.” –Rupa Tanti, artisan at Folkweave.

Revival of Weaving and Healing through Craft in Bhaluguda Village

In the village of Bhaluguda, artisans are reviving traditional weaving techniques to not only preserve a fading art form, but also to promote healing and restoration. Rukmini Tanti and her son, Banamali Tanti, who have faced mental health challenges, have found solace and empowerment in returning to their cultural heritage of weaving. Through the Rang Kerang project, they have experienced emotional and social rehabilitation, showcasing the transformative power of art in promoting healing and preserving cultural traditions. Rukmini's newfound sense of fulfilment and stability through weaving has not only improved her confidence and emotional well-being but has also provided a modest income. Weaving, once a daily practice, has become a source of beauty and strength for the Tanti family, illustrating how traditional skills, when combined with mental health support, can positively impact individuals and communities

Case Study: The Empowerment Journey of Dasami Wadaka and Jyoti Huika Through Embroidery .

Dasami Wadaka, a talented artisan skilled in hand embroidery from Khajur, discovered a new sense of purpose and direction in her life upon joining the Rang Kerang artisan collective. Her involvement with the group fueled her confidence, reigniting her desire to pursue further education that she had long harbored. With unwavering determination, Dasami decided to re-enroll in senior secondary education (+2) through the National Institute of Open Schooling (NIOS). She embarked on a journey to Koraput, where she resided at the SPREAD office and attended her exams at the designated center—a testament not only to her dedication to her studies but also to her courage in stepping outside traditional norms. Her husband, Suresh Wadaka, stood by her side, offering his support. Though our focus is primarily on women artisans, it's noteworthy that men are also actively and effectively involved in this process. Inspired by Dasami's story, Jyoti Huika, her friend from the Dongria Kondh community (classified as a lower Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Group, or PVTG), also made the decision to resume her education. Accompanying Dasami to her exams, Jyoti exemplifies how individual empowerment can spark a chain reaction of positive change within a community. These narratives serve as compelling illustrations of the transformative power of creative livelihoods, such as hand embroidery. These activities go beyond mere income generation; they serve as platforms for personal development, social empowerment, and educational advancement. Through their craft, these artisans not only uphold cultural heritage but also craft new narratives of ambition, learning, and self-empowerment.

F. Enterprise Development Programme & Mentorship for micro enterprise Indigenous Men & Women leaders.

Numerous young individuals in the districts have taken up micro/nano ventures, facing various challenges such as limited exposure, lack of leadership and entrepreneurship skills, inadequate knowledge on financial inclusion, marketing strategies, and accessing government benefits. Women artisans in the handloom sector, including those skilled in natural dyeing, weaving, and tailoring, are facing hurdles hindering their progress as successful micropreneurs. This initiative was carried out in collaboration with Palladium, World Skill Center, Odisha, under the program called "SWAKALPA".

Goal: To offer entrepreneurship training and mentorship to Tribal Women and Women Caregivers of Persons with Disabilities in Koraput district.



F.1 Key Accomplishments:

- SPREAD selected 180 young women and men entrepreneurs from the artisans' community, NTFP value chain, and those with micro/nano enterprises.
- Training was provided to 10 trainers on the EDP module.
- SPREAD conducted 100 hours of training spread over 25 days in 5 batches.
- Upon completion of the EDP training, an assessment was carried out by an independent agency.
- 172 candidates passed the assessment test and certificates were distributed to all successful candidates.
- SPREAD identified the most promising 20 candidates for a three-month mentorship program.
- A boot camp was organized for the 20 candidates.
- All necessary support such as registration on the Udyam portal, obtaining food licenses, and applying for bank loans was provided to the mentored entrepreneurs.

F.2 Impact:

- 80% of the 172 successful candidates are now conducting their businesses professionally.
- All participants have gained a new perspective and energy from the training.
- The mentored enterprises have a vision and are striving for excellence in their businesses.

G. Tenurial Rights under Forest Right Act.

Community Forest Right

G.1 Operational Area: The project was implemented across 8 blocks in Koraput District, Odisha . Core interventions were focused in Baipariguda block and extended across Jeypore, Boriguma, Kundra, Kotpad, Lamtaput, Nanapur, and Dasmantpur.

Community Forest Rights were successfully implemented in Koraput District, Odisha, covering 8 blocks including Baipariguda and extending to Jeypore, Boriguma, Kundra, Kotpad, Lamtaput, Nanapur, and Dasmantpur.

G.2 The main goal was to ensure that all 962 potential villages achieved 100% saturation of Community Forest Rights. Additionally, the project aimed to restore, conserve, manage, and protect community forest resources by creating 80 village-level forest resource management plans.

G.3 Key accomplishments included supporting the filing of CFR claims in 953 villages, completing 539 joint verifications, submitting 355 claims, and obtaining approval for 137 CFR titles.



Moreover, 80 Community Forest Resource Management Plans were developed and 45 of these were integrated with local Gram Panchayat Development Plans. The project also worked on strengthening women's leadership in forest management and promoting sustainable forest-based livelihoods.

G.4 The impact was significant, with villages like Panganpani leading the way in implementing successful CFRM plans. Women's leadership was strengthened through the Gupteswari Mahila Maha Sangha, leading to increased participation in forest conservation efforts.



Community awareness and understanding of the Forest Rights Act also increased, resulting in improved forest conservation and local planning.

G.5 Moving forward, the project plans to expand management plans to more villages, strengthen CFRMCs and enhance women's leadership roles, and scale up NTFP value chains through Gram Sabha federations. The integration of CFRMP with local development plans will continue, as well as efforts to convert forest villages into revenue villages.



In conclusion, the Tenurial Rights programme is not just about land rights—it's about dignity, unity, and creating a sustainable future for communities. With the rights secured and determination in their hearts, women and communities are leading the way towards forest protection, nature restoration, and building resilient villages.

"Getting our forest and land rights has changed everything. Now we protect our home, care for our trees, and build a future for our children. This land is not just soil—it's our identity, our strength, and our hope renewed." – Villagers of panganpani

Transformation from Forest village to Revenue village.

Panganpani is transitioning from a forest village to a revenue village, with 17 ST families owning a vast forest area. These families obtained titles of CFR and CFRR after seeking assistance from SPREAD staff. They initiated a post CFR management plan, establishing a community resource management plan to address challenges and develop the village. Measures were taken to regenerate resources, protect the forest, and market non-timber forest products. The villagers constantly update their village development plan, positioning Panganpani as a leader among 79 villages with forest management plans.

H. Climate change commons and Gender

Operational Area - 10 blocks of Koraput District (Koraput, Dasmantpur, Narayanpatna, Nandpur, Lamtaput, Baipariguda, Kundra, Kotpad, Boriguma, Jeypore)

A program focusing on Gender, Commons, and Climate Change in Koraput district is currently being implemented by SPREAD. Indigenous women leaders are leading the project in 10 blocks within the district, with the main goal of addressing climate change issues through mainstreaming concerns about commons in a women-led approach.

Key Accomplishments

H.1. Commons Mapping:

- Training for women leaders on commons, climate change, and gender.
- Completion of a baseline report.
- Development of a Commons Mapping Manual.

- Successful completion of mapping of commons.
- Sharing of findings with stakeholders at both block and district levels.



H..2 GPDP Planning:

- Women have started planning to tackle identified issues in 27 villages.
- Formation of Village Development Committees.
- Engagement with Panchayats through attending Gram Sabhas.
- Orientation on GPDP process and SDG goals.
- Submission of village development plans focused on commons restoration.

H.3 Impact Highlights:

- Significant achievement in mapping by tribal women leaders.
- Initiative to regenerate forests in 20 villages across 10 blocks.
- Preparation of seed banks and plans for regeneration in 10 forest areas.



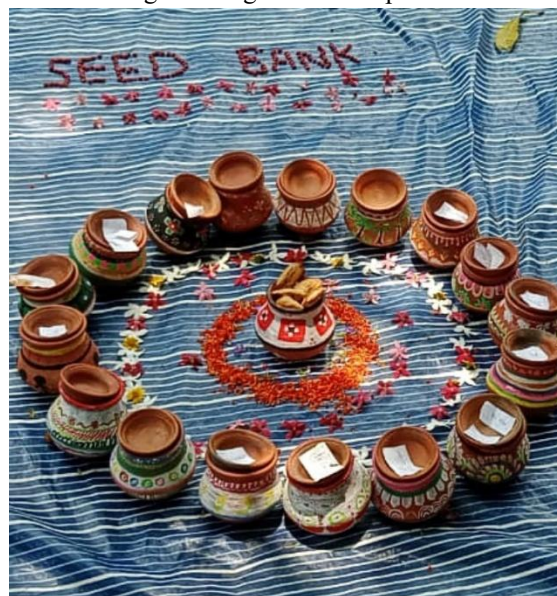
- Utilization of crystal maps for land resource mapping by tribal women leaders.

. H.4 Challenges Identified:

- Difficulty encountered in accessing crystal maps from revenue offices.
- Reluctance from Panchayat in incorporating women's development plans.

H.6 Forest Seed Bank:

- Establishment of seed banks in all 10 blocks for regenerating lost forest species.



- Training for women on sustainable harvesting and forest protection measures.
- Community awareness activities on forest fires in collaboration with the Forest Department.
- Lack of sustainable harvesting knowledge contributing to forest degradation.

H.5 Future Goals

- Increase the distribution of seed balls for reforestation in additional forest areas.
- Advocate for the full integration of women's development plans in remaining Gram Sabhas.
- Establish formal regulations for forest protection in all villages.

H.7 Key Takeaways:

- Empowering indigenous women can lead to effective grassroots climate action.
- Using maps to visualize resource depletion can spur collaborative efforts.
- Sustained community involvement is essential for influencing governance and development plans.
- Restoring common resources necessitates bridging traditional knowledge with local planning systems.

This project extends beyond mere mapping and planning; it pertains to the well-being of our communities, forests, land, and future. Women are at the forefront of safeguarding our natural resources and reviving depleted areas. Through solidarity and knowledge sharing, we are combatting climate change and revitalizing our shared spaces.

"We never knew our forest was vanishing until we mapped it ourselves. Now, we are not just protecting it—we're restoring it for our daughters and the generations to come."

— Adivasi Woman Leader, Koraput

Partners and Supporters



Road Ahead

As SPREAD continues its grassroots engagement across southern Odisha, our path forward is shaped by the powerful lessons of resilience, community strength, and the transformative impact of inclusive development. The past year has demonstrated that even in the face of poverty, stigma, and climate uncertainty, meaningful change is possible when solutions are people-led, contextually grounded, and focused on dignity.

1. Deepening Disability Inclusion:

We will continue advocating for the rights and entitlements of persons with disabilities by strengthening carers' groups, facilitating access to social security schemes, and influencing policy through block- and district-level federations. Building on the success of community mental health interventions, we aim to integrate mental health services more deeply into public health systems and ensure medication and counselling access at the doorstep. With the learning we are expanding into the neighbouring district of Malkangiri.

2. Strengthening Health & Nutrition:

We will enhance our work with vulnerable groups—especially adolescent girls, pregnant and lactating mothers, and children under five—by improving access to nutrition services, running community-level awareness campaigns, and advocating for better implementation of government schemes. Life cycle-based education and empowerment for

adolescent girls will remain a cornerstone of our work.

3. Expanding Agroecological Transitions with Millets:

The revival of millet-based farming through the Shree Anna Abhiyan has not only improved incomes but also restored soil health and food security. Going forward, we will support more farmers—particularly women like Mrs. Ani Mandangi—in scaling up climate-resilient millet cultivation using SMI techniques and organic practices, while facilitating market linkages for surplus produce.

4. Livelihood Diversification & Creative Manufacturing:

Sustainable income generation will remain central to our vision. Building on the success of local enterprises, we aim to further skill up women and youth in creative manufacturing—especially those from marginalised communities—so they can participate in local economies as producers and entrepreneurs. We'll also work on branding and

marketing their products through community institutions. We will build an ecosystem for the Koraput tribal heritage handloom, natural dyeing and hand embroidery.

5. Promoting Decentralised Renewable Energy (DRE):

DRE has proven to be a game-changer for remote tribal villages by enabling clean energy access, reducing drudgery, and powering livelihoods. In the coming year, we will expand our DRE interventions

to reach more hamlets, integrate energy with livelihood clusters, and advocate for energy justice as a key component of rural development planning.

6. Consolidating Grassroots Governance:

Our focus will remain on building the capacities of Panchayat-level institutions, SHGs, and federations to take charge of local development. We believe that genuine decentralisation and community ownership are vital to sustain impact across themes—from health and agriculture to energy and inclusion.

In essence, the road ahead for SPREAD is one of deepening impact and broadening participation—centering dignity, resilience, and equity in all that we do. With community leadership at the core, we remain committed to building a just, inclusive, and sustainable future for the most marginalised in Odisha.

Media Highlights

ସମ୍ବାଦ

ପ୍ରାକୃତିକ ରଙ୍ଗ ପ୍ରସ୍ତୁତିରେ ଜିଲ୍ଲା ହେବ ଅଗ୍ରଣୀ



କୋରାପୁଟ, ୧୯/୧୧(ଭସିମ): ପ୍ରାକୃତିକ ରଙ୍ଗ ଉତ୍ପାଦନ କ୍ଷେତ୍ରରେ ଜିଲ୍ଲା ନୂତନ ଖ୍ୟାତି ଅର୍ଜନ କରିବା ମହିଳାମାନେ ଏଥିରେ ସାମିଲ ବିଭିନ୍ନ ଗଛରୁ ରଙ୍ଗ ପ୍ରସ୍ତୁତ କରି ସ୍ବାବଲମ୍ବୀ ହେବେ। ଫୋକ ଡ୍ରେବସ ନିର୍ଦ୍ଦେଶିକା ଡ. ଅନୁରାଧା ଏ ନେଇ ଆଶାପୋଷଣ କରିଛନ୍ତି। ଜିଲ୍ଲାର ବଣଜଙ୍ଗଲରେ ଉପଲବ୍ଧ ଆମ୍ବ, ବିଳା, ସିନ୍ଦୂର ଭଳି ଗଛର ବିଭିନ୍ନ ଅଂଶରୁ ପ୍ରାକୃତିକ ରଙ୍ଗ ପ୍ରସ୍ତୁତ କରିବାରେ ଜିଲ୍ଲା ରାଜ୍ୟରେ ଅଗ୍ରଣୀ ହେବ ବୋଲି ଅନୁରାଧା କହିଛନ୍ତି। କୋରାପୁଟ ନିକଟ ଦେଉଳାଠାରେ ସଂସ୍ଥା ଦ୍ଵାରା ସ୍ଥାପିତ ପ୍ରାକୃତିକ ରଙ୍ଗ ପ୍ରସ୍ତୁତି ଏବଂ ବସ୍ତ୍ର ବୟନ କେନ୍ଦ୍ର ଜିଲ୍ଲାର ପରମ୍ପରା ଓ ଐତିହ୍ୟର ସଂରକ୍ଷଣ କରିବା ସହ ମହିଳାଙ୍କୁ ସ୍ବାବଲମ୍ବୀ କରିବ ବୋଲି ଅନୁରାଧା କହିଛନ୍ତି।

ଜିଲ୍ଲାର କୋଟପାଡ଼ ସମେତ ବୈପାରିଗୁଡ଼ା, ଲମତାପୁଟ, ନନ୍ଦପୁର ଓ କୋରାପୁଟ ବ୍ଲକର ଶତାଧିକ ମହିଳାଙ୍କୁ ଏ ନେଇ ଅନୁଷ୍ଠାନ ପକ୍ଷରୁ ତାଲିମ ଦିଆଯାଇଛି। ମହିଳାମାନେ ବିଭିନ୍ନ ବୃକ୍ଷର ଛାଲି, ପତ୍ର, ଫଳ ଓ ଫୁଲକୁ ସଂଗ୍ରହ କରିବା ସହ ଏଥିରୁ କିପରି ପ୍ରାକୃତିକ ରଙ୍ଗ ପ୍ରସ୍ତୁତ କରିବେ। ବୈପାରିଗୁଡ଼ା ବ୍ଲକ ବାଗ୍ଯାଗୁଡ଼ା ଗାଁର ଆଦିବାସୀ ସୁବତୀ ତିନୋତ୍ତମା ମାଝି ଓ ପୁରୁଣାଗୁଡ଼ାର ତମେଇ ତାଳାଣ ସୂତାରେ ରଙ୍ଗଦେବା, ଅରଟରେ ସୂତାକାଟିବା ଓ ତନ୍ତରେ ଲୁଗା ବୁଣିବା ତାଲିମ ନେଇ ସ୍ବାବଲମ୍ବୀ ହୋଇ ଅନ୍ୟମାନଙ୍କ ପାଇଁ ଉଦାହରଣ ସାଜିଛନ୍ତି। ଏ ପର୍ଯ୍ୟନ୍ତ କେବଳ ଆଲ୍ ଗଛର ତେରରୁ ପ୍ରାକୃତିକ ରଙ୍ଗ ପ୍ରସ୍ତୁତ କରି କୋଟପାଡ଼ ଅଂଚଳର

ଦୁଣ୍ଡାକାର ଅନ୍ତର୍ଜାତୀୟ ସ୍ତରରେ ବେଶ୍ ନାଁ କମାଇଛନ୍ତି। ଆଲ ବେର ସଥେଷ୍ଟ ମିଳୁ ନଥିବାରୁ ସମସ୍ୟା ହେଉଛି। ଫୋକ ଡ୍ରେବସ ସଂସ୍ଥା ସହଯୋଗରେ ମହିଳାମାନେ ଆଲ ବେରରୁ ପ୍ରସ୍ତୁତ ପ୍ରାକୃତିକ ରଙ୍ଗକୁ ବ୍ୟବହାର କରି ହସ୍ତତନ୍ତ ସାହାଯ୍ୟରେ ମିଶ୍ରାଣ ଶାଢ଼ି ଓ ଲୁଗାବୁଣି ଭଳି ରୋଜଗାର କରିପାରୁଛନ୍ତି। ବର୍ଷତମାମ ବିଭିନ୍ନ ବୃକ୍ଷରୁ ପ୍ରାକୃତିକ ରଙ୍ଗ ପ୍ରସ୍ତୁତ କରି ଜିଲ୍ଲାର ମହିଳାମାନେ ଉତ୍ତମ ରୋଜଗାର କରିପାରିବେ ବୋଲି ଅନୁରାଧା କହିଛନ୍ତି। ମହିଳାଙ୍କ ସ୍ଵପ୍ନ ସାକାର କରିବାକୁ ଫୋକ ସଂସ୍ଥା ପକ୍ଷରୁ ସୂତା ଯୋଗାଇ ଦେବା ସହ ଜାତୀୟସ୍ତରରେ ବଜାର ଉପଲବ୍ଧ, କରାଉଦା ନେଇ ବିସ୍ତୃତ ସୋଜନା ପ୍ରସ୍ତୁତ ହୋଇଥିବା କହିଛନ୍ତି ଅନୁରାଧା।

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This report is a reflection of the collective efforts, resilience, and collaboration that define SPREAD's journey. We extend our deepest gratitude to the communities we work with particularly persons with disabilities, women farmers, carers, adolescent girls, and youth whose strength, determination, and trust continue to inspire our work every day.

We are immensely thankful to our community institutions—Self Help Groups, Village Development Committees, artisanal groups, weaver cooperatives, Carers Groups, and Panchayat-level federations—who have been our partners in co-creating sustainable, inclusive, and grassroots-driven development.

Our sincere appreciation goes to our funders, collaborators, and well-wishers for their unwavering support and belief in our vision. Your contributions—financial, technical, and strategic—have made it possible for us to deepen our interventions and innovate across themes including disability inclusion, agroecology, health & nutrition, renewable energy, and livelihoods.

We would like to thank the District and Block administrations, line departments, and frontline workers, whose cooperation and openness to community-led approaches have helped us scale impact and improve access to rights and services.

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Lastly, we thank every individual, partner, and institution that stood with us during this journey—your solidarity fuels our hope and strengthens our resolve.

Together, we move forward—toward a more just, inclusive, and sustainable future.