

**Localizing Climate Resilience in the Eastern Ghats region of Odisha and Jharkhand  
Initiation meeting: Bhubaneshwar: 19 August 2023**

Gram Vikas is initiating a project on "Localization of Climate Resilience in the Eastern Ghats region of Odisha and Jharkhand", with support of Rainmatter Foundation. A meeting to initiate the project was organised with members of the Governing Board, and Management Groups.

**Participants**

Veena Joshi, Biren Bhuta, Liby T. Johnson, Anas K P, Anurag Sharma, Apurva Vijay Ghugey, Aravind AR, Benstin Jenith B.G, Chandrika Patnaik, Gokulnath G.L, Jaison Jose Thomas, Jannatun Begum, Jobin Chacko, Jyotsna Tirkey, Kabir Rana, Laxmi Narayan Panda, Lipika Verma, Manjary S, N Dibya Alok, Nirmal Chandra Mohanty, Ramesh Chandra Naik, Samiksha Goel, Sangita Patra, Sukanta Bhattacharya, Thomas Sunil K, Varun Namineni

The meeting was organised to initiate the project and define Gram Vikas' role in building climate resilience capacities and consciousness as part of the work done at the community level. The discussion aimed at defining the climate layers that could be added to the work, in the Water Secure Gram Panchayat (WSGP) and Safe and Dignified Migration (SDM) programmes.

***Session 1 – Understanding different aspects of climate related work***

The design note for the “Localizing Climate Resilience in the Eastern Ghats region of Odisha and Jharkhand” project was shared as reading material in advance. Based on the reading of the note, the participants were asked to list down what they imagined need to be done, as part of the project. The following points came up from the discussions.

- Experiment for future
- Awareness on Climate consciousness
- Upgrading existing systems
- Documenting & Streamlining
- Qualitative Monitoring
- Internal Technical advancement
- Partnership
- Knowledge sharing and Cross learning platform

In order to further streamline the thinking process, a follow-up activity was carried out. Participants were asked to place keywords, related to what they think need to happen, in a 4x4 grid.

<b>Internal</b> <i>Interventions required organisation level</i>	<b>External</b> <i>Interventions required external level</i>
<b>Current</b> <i>Status of organisational capacities at current level</i>	<b>Future</b> <i>What we envision</i>

The activity was carried out on a white board in the plenary. The grid of ideas that emerged was as follows.

<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Internal</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Planning, monitoring, documentation, and communication capacities within organisation</li> <li>• Strengthening accountability within organisation</li> <li>• Demonstration of new methods for implementation</li> <li>• Strengthening transparency within organisation</li> <li>• Organisation being receptive to new change and adapting to new situations</li> <li>• Improving the quality of case studies prepared</li> <li>• Improvement of infrastructure resource to support programmes</li> </ul>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>External</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Networking and communication with civil society organisations, cadres, and communities</li> <li>• Initiate cross learning activities with civil society organisations, cadres, and communities</li> <li>• Developing ownership among the community</li> <li>• New strategy for 1000 Gram Panchayats to be water secure</li> <li>• Demand generation by community which is incorporated in Gram Panchayat development plan</li> <li>• Network of skilled entrepreneurs available across Gram Panchayat</li> </ul>
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Current</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Water Secure Gram Panchayat/ Safe and Dignified Migration programmes in the context of climate change</li> <li>• Strengthening village institutions for climate consciousness</li> <li>• Working for community aspiration</li> <li>• Resource mobilization for climate action</li> <li>• Better utilization of existing database</li> <li>• Enabling 1000 Grams panchayat to be Water Secure</li> <li>• Assessment on climate resilience</li> </ul>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Future</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Envision a climate consciousness community</li> <li>• System in which proper documentation of success stories can be done and disseminated</li> <li>• Build tracking system on change/ impact measurement</li> <li>• Creation of portal for access to knowledge and cross learning</li> <li>• Younger generation in more positions</li> <li>• Overcome organisational biases</li> <li>• Inclusive</li> <li>• New technology interventions</li> </ul>

## ***Session 2 – Imagining the impact of work on climate action***

The participants worked in small groups to discuss “the impact of climate consciousness activities of Gram Vikas at the community level, in the next three years”. Three groups deliberated and came up with their ideas.

<p><b>Group A</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Community has access to new opportunities through upskilling and job networks.</li> <li>• Community ensures proper management of basic parameters such as health, education, and security</li> <li>• Community is able to think and act independently to address the challenges they face.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Group B</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Panchayats should pass a resolution in Gram Sabha declaring themselves as Climate Resilience Gram Panchayat.</li> <li>• Panchayat has access to community professionals (Gram Vikas Saathi) who can provide technical support to the panchayat to implement climate mitigation measures.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Group C</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Community institutions are able to manage their own natural resources for improved quality of life.</li> <li>• Community institutions are familiar with and manage water management tools like water passbook, water security plan, and weather advisory.</li> </ul>

The points presented by the three groups were further discussed in the plenary. The key points that emerged from the plenary discussions are:

- Define a ‘Climate consciousness’ layer for Gram Vikas programmes
- There is a need to develop a network of rural service providers (Gram Vikas Saathi), who can assist rural village institutions to implement climate mitigation measures.
- Capacity building programmes need to be designed for village institutions to enable them in managing water resources and tools like water passbook, water security plan, and weather advisory.
- Develop improved methods of communicating to communities and community platforms to enable cross learning.
- Lobbying government institutions to create climate conscious policies and interventions.
- Skilling and networking of youth for effectively implementing activities that enhance climate resilience in villages, by developing enterprise models for community service.
- Formation and active functioning of Village institutions and sustainable mechanisms for engagement with PRI systems.
- Establishing partnerships and a cross-learning platform among stakeholders operating in similar domains and geographical areas, including CSOs, social forums, government institutions, and research bodies.
- Internal Capacity Building of Gram Vikas to enhancing its internal structural and knowledge capacities to effectively showcase climate-resilient practices.

### **Session 3 – Planning next steps**

A plenary discussion tried to list the key components for the project in order to help build the climate consciousness action as part of Gram Vikas' work. Natural resources, habitation patterns, energy, food security and consumption are areas where work needs to happen.

Small groups worked on identifying initial activities for the period till March 2023. Three action points were finalized.

- Formation of a task group to coordinate preparatory activities and develop internal knowledge systems
- Evaluating internal human resource and knowledge capacities to undertake the project
- Creating a learning management system for staff and Gram Vikas Saathi

An important task that has to be planned during this period, is a landscape assessment and basket of needs analysis. The Block Enterprise Profile being taken up by the Enterprise Development Resource Group and a series of GP level studies for “Understanding Rural Settlement Growth Patterns” are to be taken up.

#### **Climate Consciousness Action Task Group**

The task group consisting of the following members will be set up. The group will work under the guidance of the Executive Director and carry out the preparatory tasks.

- Anurag Sharma
- Aravind AR
- Chandrika Patnaik
- Gokulnath G L
- Jyotsna Tirkey
- Kabir Rana

#### **Immediate action points for the task group**

- Expand the existing WSGP learning course by including climate resilience related modules, and rolling out a comprehensive internal learning system
- Work with the Enterprise Development Resource Group to carry out Block Enterprise Profiles that includes studying the demand and supply dynamics of the local markets (*haat*), understanding local consumption pattern and possibilities for local production to substitute imported goods.
- Coordinate the pilot study being done by Geeta Vaidyanathan on “Understanding Rural Settlement Growth Patterns” in Tarava GP of Gumma block. The study is expected to contribute to enhancing the understanding of nature-based spatially integrated planning in rural areas.