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## Annex G

### Significant Change Stories

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**“Will and self confidence shows the way of victory”**

**Kuddus Ansary, Kaipara**

My house is in a remote village but I do dream to make my village recognized like other 5 villages. Before knowing to others I tried to know my self and by looking in the mirror frame of Swami Vivekananda and Bidya Sagar , I tried to judge myself internally.

Three years back I do not have this thinking, but now I can think that how to improve my locality with my livelihoods. Three years back when I used to visit different villages to make groups, I remember ladies / women were not interested to come out of there houses. And those who used to come out of there houses they calculate how much money they will get. :government’s ignorance were there, it was very difficult to make political sufferer people to understand What, Where and How is the development needed.

I do remember that in an open meeting one of the political leader not only criticized my work but also instructed the *Panchyat* head not to do sign any of my applications. That time I thought that whether is there any thing wrong with my work, am I cheating people? But still I have continued my work with will and self confidence. And now I am surprised to see that the same political leader is giving speech on group formation.

Favorable conditions are coming and every organization (GOs and NGOs) are talking about group formation.

Disadvantages of government projects are; instability of the groups, no one is responsible for keeping the records and information, once the money get exhausted every one left form the group. Vulnerable people are not able to know about the development process.

Demands of the people are growing now, people are not talking about hunger and food but they are talking about electricity and metallic roads. We also want that and also the sustainability of each and every activity. Though government organizations are talking about different job opportunity but we are not sure about its applicability and effectiveness.

We have establish OAS last year as a result of our fruit full work and its success can be evaluated by our work only. We also know that the organization behind OAS will support us from the distance. STREAM has supported us by providing information, organizing exposure visits, fishing net and by providing *Handi* (Pitcher).

By the work of one year we realized that for continuing one organization we do not have structural support but we are having will power, we can do. Government ignorance is there, but still we will continue our activities through federation and we will win.

The whole story is not my creation nor a fake story things are true and real. When now I am writing this story I have taken references from the past and I never forget my past. STREAM is not like other NGOs, we have seen other NGOs have done so many works and their work is still there in the village, and we expect that STREAM will work more closer with the villagers and will make a place in the heart of the people. We also expect that STREAM will organize foreign tours and exposure visits and also raise our moral.

## “Capacity through Awareness”

**Nityo Gopal Mahato, Jabarrah**

**Changes in my Life:** In my life my awareness and thinking get changed, when I visited different places and after visiting different places and sharing thoughts with different people we get encouragement, and gained experience.

**In Livelihood :** In life we are having different expenditure and depending upon our livelihoods we should plan where to spend more and where to spend less, as a result of what we compelled to run for job

**Job:** We tried to earn regularly by crop rotation, and tried to arrange the work for whole of the year so that earning will be a continuous process throughout the year.

**Regional:** There is a positive change to increase the educational level in the locality.

**Why I like this story :** because those GO and NGO coming for the development of village, they are not going to stay with us permanently, we will live in the future with this experience

**Advice:** Arrange different types of trainings to increase awareness (to gain experience) Communications with different organizations is needed There should be sufficient inputs (material) for doing aquaculture Regular interaction should be there as long as STREAM is there.

## “Story of the Tribal community”

Surmali Ansary, Kaipara

In our area 20 Families are living and we do not have good land and money, and also did not have any alternative arrangement for our livelihoods. Every year for 3 months ,they have to go away from the village for the work and in other months they have to work as a labour in the houses of rich people. They accepted that it was their faith. In 2003 with the help of some of the organizer, the people started making groups. And the group started saving. The group members shared their views and difficulties among them. Without telling the name of those peoples the story will be an incomplete one, they are the trained ‘Jankar’ from Gramin Vikas Trust. In those days with many difficulties, Government aloofness, they (Jankars) are able to make understand us why is it necessary to make groups. They have started giving trainings on different activities. So after one year the difficulties gone away and Government was also started doing activities and as a gift there was S.G.S.Y (*Swarna Gayanti Swaroajgar Yojna*) project. Group members started Literacy centre for adult, Vaccination for babies and Pregnant women and also started sending their children to school. Previously, to collect drinking water women used to go 2 km away from the villages. But after the installation of tube well in the village, that problem was also solved. Now Khemu Rjak, Susari Krmakar, Ashalata Shis are the members of the group and they are not only planning for the improvement in the group but also planning for the village and area development. Some of the NGO member, Government officers and bank officers are involved in this development process.

Story of Self Change: My story is, I am little literate, didn’t have self confidence. But after attending meeting I realized what I was and what I am. Earlier I didn’t realize that the key of my development is in my hand. Today I realize the same and so that the whole episode is a history for me.

STREAM: I am writing the incident of the last two years, when GVT started winding up their activities slowly, and that time STREAM started encouraging us, I admire the thinking, the planning and the way of working of STREAM. We will not get the STREAM people for the whole of our life but I hope that, creation of STREAM i.e. OAS is always for us . I also hope that STREAM will create history by developing not only our area but by developing the whole area. We were upset as GVT has closed their activities but we don’t want to loose STREAM and don’t want to get upset and hope STREAM will show us the way.

**“Villagers do not stay in dark, come forward”**

Manoranjan Mahato, Kaipara  
Gosai pua Milan Sangha

Kaipara Tola Gosai Pua Village. Here approximately 50-55 people are staying. Except some families others are schedule Cast. But in this low category village, maximum people are starving for food. They can only manage one time meal in a day for them and other time they are in hunger. Within these there are two types of people: one those who used to migrate for their livelihood and other category used to work as labours in the rich man's houses in the neighboring villages. Now , from the last two years with the help of some of the NGO's and Government services, village people are making small SHG Groups and able to bring some work in the village. As a result of that village peoples are getting some jobs for their livelihood. And it shows some changes in the food status. Earlier people were using only low quality cotton fabric but now they use tricot, terilin and other cotton fabrics. In the education sector, many mothers became literate. But sad thing is that, the primary School is 2 km. away from the village therefore children educational status has not increased as per the expectation.

In one words we can say that the NGO and Government Officers are responsible for this type of change. They showed the light to us. But at the same time it is also true that the things which should have changed completely, they have not changed as per the expectation. Because, Government Officers were not able to plan properly. In last two years peoples are able to speak in different places about livelihoods matter. And women are now able to go to different places and can speak about their personal and village problems. Village people are laborious and which is their main capital or most valuable thing, but they are not able to utilize their labour as there is no work in the village. They don't have money. But some changes have been seen.

The organization which stepped in 2003 that was GVT and after its move away we are just like old dead leaves. At last STREAM came with OAS for us. Earlier people used to do aquaculture in a unscientific way but from the last two years people are doing aquaculture in scientific way. Still fish culture is not so popular like rice cultivation. Because we are not able to do fish culture properly. We hope STREAM can help us in this field. Some few changes are seen in the technique of fish culture but we are expecting some more changes. Farmers are expecting to get some training on fish culture.

Although Government and NGOs are supporting us in some of the fields but we know that the support are not permanent and will not last longer therefore we want STREAM should support us continuously and permanently by providing us new ideas and ways.

**“Story about Mahila Samity of Kaipara Village”****Sakuntala Mahato, Kaipara**

Women of the Kaipara village are now very aware and the process of their work has also changed from last 2 years. Women were not knowing about Groups and its advantages. But now they are organizing meeting regularly and understand discussions of the meeting. So literacy level has become improved. They understood that education is needed in the future. And so they are sending their children to schools. Children and Pregnant women are going to dispensary regularly to take vaccine. Changes from last two years in this village can be notified. Now women are making groups, In school, mid day meal is available. Women have opened I.C.D.S. They don't want to stay in the dark and now they learn to save money for their future, this awareness came from the group decision. Earlier they are deprived from their exact wages but now they are talking openly and demand for their right wages.



## “Success in Sunflower Cultivation”

**Subhasis Mahato, Jabarrah**

From last 2 years a lot of changes are observed in my livelihood. And a lot of development has been taken place in my life. Earlier there were no cultivation of sunflower in our village, but from last year onwards we got some sunflower seed with the help of Block and planed to do its cultivation. After that we form a group and identify two members and send them for training with the help of Block people and K.P.S. (*Kaipara Panchat samity*). And we start cultivating sunflower in scientific way as guided by the two trained members of the group.

From the earning of the Sunflower cultivation we purchased a pump set for our group. And now we are renting that pump set and get the money which goes to our saving fund. And also the pump set is helpful for our other agriculture activity. The cultivation of sunflower has brings a lot of change in my life, and now many people are interested for its cultivation. I believe that if this type of cultivation of sunflower continues then social and financial improvement can be done. Sunflower oil is used for cooking and massaging so no need to purchase mustard oil worth Rs.60/-

I personally believe that sunflower cultivation can contribute a lot for the development of his area. If we do sunflower cultivation then it will give us financial security as well as provide us our daily requirement of cooking oil. Apart from this it gives your farm a beautiful look.

I feel, this is a good change and for that Block and KPS (*Kaipara Panchat Samity*) has played a significant role. And for that reason only I have chosen this story. I also want to advise the villagers those who are present in this workshop, should go for Sunflower cultivation to improve their financial status.

**“Contribution of STREAM and GVT for the improvement of livelihoods”****Shkyo Singho Mahoto, Jabarrah**

From the last 2 years my livelihood has improved a lot. We have able to use the social capital like we have taken different trainings and improved my knowledge on agriculture and aquaculture. We attained different workshops organized by STREAM, interact with fisherman from other villages, Share our knowledge on aquaculture and encourage other to do aquaculture in scientific way. Female and male group started developing fingerlings from seed in the seasonal tank and they get success on it and earned some money from this. For the group members the rate of fish selling is cheaper than the outsider. They saved some money from their earning and from that they arranged the education for their children

We feel that STREAM should open an OAS in our Jabarrah village for our betterment. And from there we will get leaflets, International information regarding aquaculture and we do hope for more workshops and exposure visits to increase the communication system.

## **Story about Kaipara Khamar Tar Village**

### **Chakra Dhar Mahato, Kaipara**

My village name is Kaipara (Tola Khamar tar) .The name of my group is Khamar Tar Nava Tarun Sangha. There are 28 families in this village. In between them, 20 families are the members of Khamar Tar Nava Tarun Sangha. In this village there are another Women group named Khamar Tar Mahila Samiti. Earlier for women to attend meeting is far away from their concern and they even didn't come out in front of men. Not every woman was able to do signature. And every family was poor. And that's why every year families migrated outside the village to earn money and before rainy season they again come back for their agricultural activity. So their children were not able to attend school. That time they didn't have any idea about awareness. But now awareness has increased among them. So now the families are not sending their children to outside of the village, instead, they are sending them to school.

There is hope for the betterment in life but still in some parts darkness remains. Though the children have interest to go to school but due to the distance they are losing their interest. Though Government Project is speaking about 'Literacy for all' still there are some illiterate people in the village.

Though the Group Formation work has been initiated by GVT but their sudden left made us upset. But Still I do hope that I shall succeed in my life and my efforts are important for me.

STREAM launched OAS here and villagers are responsible for its management. STREAM has given recognition to this village. Peoples from different countries are coming to this Village and sharing their knowledge and this is a blessing for us. For continuation of this activity the literacy level should be improved and we hope STREAM can guide us in this aspect also i.e how to improve the literacy level. We hope STREAM will not upset us.

## **Story of Village Development**

### **Chhutulal Tudu, Shalghati, Kaipara**

There are 50 families in this village. Before two years, our family didn't have any source for extra income. But Within this two year, with the help of GVT and cluster organizer there is some improvement in our livelihood. For example, villagers have formed groups or 'samity' of ten members. These Groups are called self help group. In the Self help group every members save Rs.10/- monthly and an account has been opened in a bank. Earlier there was no system for savings and this is the change. In these two years, the members of 20 SHG formed a Federation among them. Through STREAM and GVT with the help of this federation, the members get training and other information in aquaculture. We are taking advantages of Government and NGO projects. This is the change. We try to earn extra for ourselves and for the group. For eg. Ground nut Culture, Fish culture is a source of extra income. With the help of Federation, I took Government training on fish culture. With the help of GVT, I took NABARD training on aquaculture. There are planning to take training on different other activities. Therefore we, Shalghati Adivasi Sidhu Kanhu Mahila Samity and Shalghati Adivasi Bidhu Chandan Mahila Samity reared the fish fingerlings from seed and earned some extra money after marketing them. It was possible only through the group. We cultured fish in two 'Bandhs'(tank).We got training on different fish culture. Now, the difference in the way of thinking of villagers can be noticed. Through Federation OAS was established in the village.

**It is important to make people good then good work will be done**

**Niranjan Mahato**  
Barabazar Panchat Samity

I am a member of the Panchayat Samity, I was involve in the Social activity and I found a difference in the social activities of past and now. Previsely the development projects were prepared from outside but now village people are involve in the preparation of the developmental projects. Prevoiusly there was a dictatorship on the Self Help Group but now governments is also giving importance on Self Help Groups. NGOs are encouraging prople to prepair self help groups and giving training also. And now Government has also started doing the same thing.

Now no dictatorship is there and decision has been taken by the Group members. Poor people are taking advantage of *Swarnajyanti Gram Swarojgar Yojna* (SGSY) and get involve in different developmental activities.

NGOs and GOs are equally responsible for these kinds of developmental activities and due to their involvement the things are going well. Government interest is noticeable and problems are gradually solving now.

STREAM has taken interest in Kaipara Village and with its support OAS has launched in Kaipara, I hope this activity will continue and for that STREAM should also take interest.

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**By remembering the past we should work in the future****Parbati Mahato**

Member of Sarva Shikhya Abhiyan and Group member of Bonga Laxmi Mahila Samity

My house is in Bodoldi village under Barabazar Police station. I remember those days, two year back when there was only one bus running between my village and Barabazar, Purulia I use to go to collage in that bus only which was over loaded and because of the crowd men's were taking advantages of us. But now the days has changed now I am a member of an education program names "*Sarva Shikhya Abhiyan*" and now 4 – 6 buses are running between my village and Barabazar, Purulia. Previously there were only few girls who use to go to collage but now many girls are going to collage from my village.

As I am involved in a educational program therefore I feel to tell something about it. Previously the School teachers are busy with meeting and other gathering and no one is interested for teaching but now the things have been changed and teachers are taking interest in teaching. Facilities in school like toilet, drinking water and mid day meal are also available now. Students are also taking interest to go to schools.

I heard about OAS, Kaipara and I hope there will be no hindrance from government side for its continuing work.

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**If there is a will then there is a way to do work and example of this is Ms. Tusu Mahato**

### **Alpana Mahato**

Tusu Mahato, a successful name. She started her work in spite of thousand barriers. In spite of being a lady, she feels to do something for her village. She started group making, although there were so many obstacles in her way, till she managed the group very well. And today, she bagged a government project in which 35 lady teachers are working .I am one of them. For this work, we got continuous encouragement from Kudus Dada and the Government favorable policy is now also helpful in our way.

Now I am being a part of OAS and from the OAS only I came to know how the village resources can be utilized: how will we get marketable sized fishes from small ponds. We hope the continuous support from the OAS launcher, i.e. STREAM and we do hope the Stream activity will spread all over the district.

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**For the development of Village, apart from the peoples participation Government involvement is also required**

**Bishaka Mahato, Kaipara**

I am Bishaka Mahato. Previously I was only a housewife and taking care of my handicapped husband . With the help of GVT we formed a group but due to the inactiveness of GVT , the activity was stopped. But I was not depressed and willing to do something.

Again group is formed and Federation is formed. With the help of Federation we got loan and made a shop for my husband. Now my husband is earning. Previously those who ignored us, now they are talking with me. Still, there is no hospital in our area. Generally I used to take pregnant ladies to the District hospital and sometimes I am helping the pregnant ladies in their delivery. But still our village is in dark.

Our success is due to federation only. We are benefited as STREAM is supporting Federation. We planed for aquaculture for this year. I hope this will help more people to become self sufficient.

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**Village development is a dream of each and every individual house wife now****Sakuntala Mahato, Khamartar Mahila Samity Member**

When three years back when I came in this village I saw how people are doing hard work for their livelihoods. And gradually the flow of development has also come to our village like other villages. And due to the establishment of federation and OAS in our village different people from different places are coming to our village. Village people get encouragement from this. Now a government project names "*Hariyali Joal Bivajika*" Project has launched and peoples are getting work. I am also involved in this activity and got the benefit.

Village people have distributed the work among them self to protect and conserve the social resources. Boys and girls are now taking education and people are now sending their children's to schools. The credit goes to GVT for the significant changes as they indicated the formation of group and we do hope same from the STREAM.

STREAM has already launched OAS and we hope the continuous support from STREAM to OAS. I suggest there should be two appointed persons from STREAM to look after OAS Kaipara.

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## **Now people are doing Aquaculture in a scientific way like paddy culture**

### **Chitta Mahato**

I am Chitta Mahato, a middle class farmer. Before two years, I never thought about those things which I am doing now. Though I am a illiterate man but my children are studying now. My wife is a member of Bamu Mahila Samity. Previously we used to cultivate locally available paddy but now we are cultivating high quality paddy variety and vegetables too. Previously we used to go to Purulia for selling our product but now twice in a week local market is available in our village where we sell our product.

I have started doing fish culture from last year in a big pond and 'Doba'. I have able to increase my earning through aquaculture. Now all my family members are getting two times meal daily. My group has always supported me in my needs. With the help of Federation / OAS, we are getting training in different aspects and that's why today we are doing aquaculture in a scientific way. Federation, OAS , STREAM are responsible for my betterment. In future, if OAS can provide a market to sell our product (fish) then aquaculture activity will get more flourished. I hope STREAM will help OAS in this way.

**In every work you will face some difficulties but you have to move ahead within these difficulties.**

### **Nidhiram Mahato**

People of different caste like Mahato, Sahis, Rajowar, Ruhidas, Karmakar, Modak , Goswami's are living in Kaipara Village. Previously due to castism, people didn't have good relation with each other. And in between this, moneylenders of the village are making advantages of the situation, lending money with a high interest.

With the help of GVT, we formed group but due to the ignorance of some people, the group concept didn't work. And at that time only, Federation was formed. With the help of Federation, we again formed Group but all the members of the old group are not there as many of them are already left.

Jiapi Kalindi and group started doing cane work, Ruhidas are making shoes, some members started with aquaculture and vegetable cultivation and due to all these earning activities , we come up from our indebttness.

I gave the credit to STREAM for this change in our life as the concept of Federation came from the STREAM only and Federation shows us the new way.

Even if STREAM will closed its activity in near future but we wish OAS will remain with us with new technique and new ways and STREAM should initiate the process.

**Now the deprived people are also coming forward in the development work****Jaladhar, Kaipara**

I am from the so called deprived people community. I belong to Sabar cast. My father, uncle were engaged in unsocial activity and many of them are compelled to that. If there was any incident of thieving in the area, then people used to torture us though we might were innocent in that case.

Now time has changed. We took loan from the group and started doing earning activities. We got help from the Government also. We got a goat from the Group. We have constructed our house under Indira Bikas Yojna. and now we are having a tube well nearer to our house.

Now we are not unwanted in the society. The credit of our change goes to the group and government. Now our children are going to school.

We got training on aquaculture. If we get pond in lease, then we wish to do aquaculture. If there will be some arrangement for getting lease easily then we will able to earn more.

**Girls-boys from every caste taking their mid day meal from the tribal backward class female, now there is no differentiation due to castism**

**Khemu Rajak**

I am Khemu Rajak, member and secretary of Palma Harijan Mahila Samitty. Before two years, we couldn't think about doing so many work with the help of a group. But now we are doing. We got Rs.2500/- from SGSY project and we have started different earning activities. Our children are now going to school.

Now the school authority has given the cooking responsibility to our group for their daily mid day meal. Previously, due to castism, many were not taking food from our hand but now girls, boys from every cast are taking food from us. I think this is the biggest change.

From all these activity we always got help and support from Kuddus and now also we are getting the support from him. SBI Manager is also helpful to us.

Last year we did fish culture in a single pond. And we hope this year we will be able to do more fish culture after getting fingerlings from the OAS. Hope STREAM will help us in this way.

## **Unity is strength**

**Jagarnath Mahato,**  
Sukurhuttu Village, Purulia, West Bengal

Two years back I never had any idea about group formation and its benefits. But now I am involved in different village development activities through group (SHG).

There is a pond in our village which was constructed by irrigation department, government of West Bengal. But the pond was forcefully and illegally captured by so called influential people of the village.

Then the Villagers of Sukurhuttu village united to fight for their rights on pond and the case went up to the court and finally they won the case. Now the pond is under the supervision of group and with the help of OAS people are doing fish culture in it. Now we are planning to do aquaculture in other ponds also, and for that we have taken training through OAS.

We got the help and support from the Kaipara OAS, last year we have purchased fish seed from OAS. I like the way of communication between STREAM and OAS, Kaipara and I also feel that people will remember STREAM for its activity.

**Conservative Muslim ladies are also taking part in the village development activities****Marrium Bibi**

I am a member of Khawasidi Mahilla Mangal Samity, when we formed group no body was supported us, and now everyone is a member of one or another group and with the help of group they are taking loan and are doing different activities.

Earlier people were not willing to take Polio vaccination, people are not using any birth control method and for them baby is a gift of God. Now the religious blindness has gone away. Previously girl child are not allow to go to school, but now they are going to school. Females are involved in village development work, group of *Jankar* was formed, we hope, OAS will provide us more chance for exposure visit and we can learn more things from those visits.

### **Another story by Mr. Kuddus Ansary with respect to OAS Kaipara, West Bengal**

In *Kaipara* cluster of Barabazar block of Purulia there are 70 groups. Among the 70 groups 2 persons each from 20 groups form a general body comprising of 40 members, and from that 40 member committee they form an executive committee comprising of 14 members named “*Barabazar Self Help Group Development Federation*”

This executive committee facilitates the regular meetings of the federation and in one of that meeting discussions were made for the establishment of OAS and also people were asked to give their opinion about the management of OAS so that every one can get all the facilities under one roof . And again a 9 member working committee was formed comprising of a manager, Secretary, President, Treasurer, Trainer / extension workers. And with the presence of officials of *Panchyat* and local administrative member, OAS was inaugurated by respected Mr. Anukul Sarkar, BDO (Block Development Officer) of Barabazar, on 1<sup>st</sup> June 2004.

Within last one year visitors from different countries like Bangladesh and Australia visited the OAS and appreciated its activity. And people from different villages are also started to come to OAS. Now people can understand the need of OAS initiated by STREAM. The activity of OAS include raising fry from spawn, renting fishing net, *Handi* (vessel to carry fry), distributing news letters, pamphlet regarding fisheries, and if farmers are facing any problem regarding fish culture then OAS is also giving solution to them, thus fish culture is now becoming a part of their livelihoods. Jobless young men and women are getting training on fish culture from OAS and applying for FFDA (Fish Farmers Developmental Agency) scheme and now housewives are contributing in their household income by doing fish culture. Again, those who has formed group, are strengthening their group earning by doing aquaculture. People are also telling their group members about the activity after getting the advice from local NGO or club. Now through OAS peoples are getting all the benefits under one roof regarding aquaculture.

The area gets recognized in different countries due to the OAS establishment. Specially, I am benefited from OAS, different articles were written by me are getting published in different journals, interacting with different peoples helps me to share my views and also helps me to learn more things. Now in different village meeting I used to tell about objective, concept about OAS and also collecting the significant change stories in the life of the villagers. After the formation of OAS, the government offices are also giving reorganization to me and this will help me in my future. Now, I am having the confidence to establish an OAS in any part of the country.

The evaluation of the experience of last one year of OAS management reflects that the demand of OAS is increasing continuously and to fulfill the demand we need to organize workshop, fair, exposure visit. Because according to demand we need to update ourselves. Apart from that, village people are not well literate to read the journals and those who can read, they don't have the practice or patience to read the journals so one or two person those who are capable of reading used to read and re-read the journal to everyone and some times it is really painful. I think, village people are fond of watching TV. So if we can show our meeting photographs, different fish culture activity of different countries, objective of OAS, training of different activities in a video format and if we add some traditional folk songs in that video clip to make it popular and can show it to different places then the accessibility and understanding of OAS functioning and STRAM vision will be clear to women, students and



those village people who are illiterate. And I will request Mr. Rubu Mukherjee from STREAM Management to visit OAS regularly (As he used to do) to guide us regarding management, organize sports event, fair, exposure visit, video, video cassette for publicity.

#### FUTURE PLAN

Last year we have earned through OAS Rs. 3200/- by selling fish fry. Also by renting fishing net and *Handi* (Vessels for fish seed transportation) we have earn Rs. 1000/-

In current financial year, rearing fingerlings from spawn has been started. OAS is planning to establish Carp Hatchery in near future so that we will be benefited through job and people will get good quality fish seed. I hope in future STREAM will cooperate with us.

## **Beginning of a new way of land less Kalindi families of Kaipara village**

### **Jilapi Kalindi, Kaipara**

Initially only five Kalindi families were staying in Kaipara. One of the kind hearted people of the village has given land to these Kalindi families to stay and because of that reason now they are having their permanent shelter over there. That time with the help of Gramin Vikas Trust we formed many groups (SHGs) but due to improper management we have not able to do much. Afterwards federation was formed and they have taken the responsibility to look after the group. Government have started many approaches but till we didn't get the opportunity to construct house under *Indira Awas Yojna*(Government scheme for making houses). Only if there is any pond renovation work or pond construction work in our area then we get employment.

Kalindi families and others are now having the dreams of new life. By seeing their activity you can mark their changes that happened within 1 year. Group members think that, the credit for their changes goes to the federation. If STEAM and OAS can able to make a market for the products, then it will be a great help for us.

**If we make the Village Development Centers popular in the Village, then creating awareness will be more easier**

**Niranjan Panday**

I am a representative from a Village literacy Center. I am closely associated with OAS. 2 years back I was frustrated but I had a dream to show the light of literacy to the illiterate people. I continued my work without earning a single pie. Many people told me mad but now that people are coming to me and this feeling drive me to write this story.

Since aged male and female folk are coming to my center, so to make the lesson interesting we discuss about agriculture, fish culture, animal husbandry, music etc. And I noticed that people are more interested to do fish culture. And they are getting support from OAS for doing fish culture.

I think, in future if STREAM will discuss about fish culture in every literacy center, then they will get a great acceptability.

**Willingness is the main key, not the Government aloofness**  
**Bablu Mahato**

I am the secretary of *Ma tara mahila samity* (SHG) of village, post office Sukurhutu. My group is 2 year 1 month old. Himani, Bela, Padma are the members of the group. But earlier it was out of our dream.

The poor families in the village was able to improve their financial status by saving, doing their own work by themselves, give and take process, by the use of his house and village resources. We are always the victim of political influences. Though there were Government aloofness but due to the help of GVT *Jankar*, STREAM , today I am able to write this story.

Now we are getting help from OAS and if this help will continue in future then definitely we will become one of the best groups. I feel good that STREAM is trying to associate women in the aquaculture. If women can earn money through aquaculture then they will get respect in family and as well as financial independence.

**Educational improvement cannot be done by propaganda, need inner concern**

**Manoranjan Mahato**

My village name is Kaipara . There are two 'tola' under this village one Gusaipara and another Khamartar . These two ' tolas' are very nearby to each other. It is very sad that though we are talking about the development, till we don't have any school in our area. For this we may blame to the Government irresponsibility.

As there is OAS in the village, I expect that if STREAM will think for the educational part then it will be great.

**Bhagini Nivedita Mahila Samity is the other name of success.**

**Madan Mahato**  
**Member of Banjora Gram panchayat**  
**Manager of S.K.V.S.**

Bhagini Nivedita Mahila Samity of village Kadanacha is a 12 members group. Before two years those who couldn't think about outgoing activities now they are going to Barabazar Mallabhum Gramin Bank for their group account transaction. The manager is also coming regularly to their place to discuss about their problems on monetary issues. Females are working equally with male. Group is lending money to the outsiders. Group has able to change the old concept of the people. Everyone is earning by doing agriculture and aquaculture and they help each other in their activity. I feel to write this story as it may give inspiration to other groups of the area to do good work.

GVT *jankars* help us to build the group and we are thankful to the manager for the financial support. Now several government projects are going on in the village but earlier which were not there.

Recently one member has taken training from OAS on how to do fish culture and he is going to do fish culture through his group support. OAS has arranged the training courses from West Bengal Fisheries Department, Purulia. In future to do fish culture in a better way, if STREAM will arrange exposure visit, library, aquaculture equipments, Fair etc. and provide support to us in other aspects then we will be benefited.

**“Bring awareness through education; break all the boundaries of castism”****Sidheswar Sarangi  
Bhegari mahila Samity**

Bhegari is a small village under Dhelatu Panchyat of Barabazar block. The families of Mahato, Answari, Kalindi, Sarangi are staying in this village. Due to the castism, Sarangi's used to dominate over the other people as they thought they were the master. People were not allow to take bath in the same 'ghat' with Sarangis.

With the help of Kaipara Federation we started group formation involving all the village people. People started to do savings and in emergency they are taking loans from group. We are getting benefit from Government SGSY (*Swarn Ganty Swarojgar Yojna*) project . People are happy by earning through cane work, goatry, animal husbandry, fish culture. I am writing this story because now these families got a way to earn through these livelihood options.

All activities are quite well managed by the federation and OAS. As the way STREAM is giving importance to the aquaculture, I think these groups will sustain longer.

**“The name of the deprived village was Salgati”**  
**Chutulal Tudu**

The most deprived village of the area is Salgati. All the families in this village are tribal. Only two years before, the road entering the village was not good and there was scarcity for drinking water. Every family was badly affected with poverty and illiteracy. Villagers used to migrate outside the village for the sake of their livelihood. And as they were taking their children along with them, so children used to drop their school.

Now people become aware through the Public literacy center. With the help of Mr. Kuddus GVT *Jankar* group was formed. There are total 4 groups involving every family. Among the 4 groups, two are the member of Federation. Awareness rising on bad effect of liquor is going on and we can see the changes in people's habit. Group is raising their fund through nut culture, fish culture etc.

We are thankful to STREAM that they have given importance to our village also and I feel that the contribution of OAS in the developmental activity will be remembered by all throughout their life.



**“Courage and Risk taking mentality shows the way of light”****Chanda Tudu**

I am a member of *Salgati Mahila Samity* (Female SHG). I used to assist a local medicine practitioner. Earlier I didn't have any experience to visit outside the village. STREAM has given me the chance to visit Silli of Jharkhand under their exposure visit organize by them. After seeing the Ras Behari's fish culture activity in Silli, I realized that if one have the courage then he or she will very soon can able to become self sustained. If Ras Behari can do, then why not we? Then we discussed among all villagers and had taken decision to do fish culture from this year only.

I have encouraged everyone to take risk. And definitely OAS always has inspired our work. We are having a female dance group and we think through the cultural activities also we can promote OAS. And I always appreciate STREAM advice in this aspect.

**A thought of a fish farmer: leaving traditional way, doing aquaculture in a scientific way.**

**Ganesh Kaibarta, Fish Farmer.**

I am a fish farmer. My father, uncle were involved in the same business. Now, we have noticed that people are quite aware of aquaculture activity. Now when we are going to the villages for fish selling then people are asking where the fingerlings are of good quality or not, what about the species? etc. Earlier the situation was not like this, whatever we sold people used to take that bluntly. Then we came to know that OAS has opened in our area. We can get fish culture inputs, training from OAS. I also visited the OAS. I joined the group, and went to Silli. I also came to know that, if we do aquaculture in a scientific way we will get more benefit. Now I used to visit OAS regularly and taking net and *Handi* (vessels for carrying fish seed) in rent for fish culture. OAS has changed my concept. I have taken training on fish culture, which was not available earlier.

I feel those who have supported OAS launching, if they will continue their help to grow the activity of fish culture then the fish farmer like me will be more benefited.

**Being elected as a panchayet member from group member has given me the diversified power**

**Kiriti Mahato**

I am a member of *Palma Sabuj Sangha* (SHG). When I joined group I had no idea that this group will take a big part in the village development. But now I am realizing the group's role in village development. Now I am not only the member of group but also the member of Panchayat. As I am the group member, that's why my position is different (higher) from other Panchayat member. And this plays an important role in my livelihood too. I am really thankful to 'Jankars' that they have inspired me to join the group. They are the first person who made the plan for group formation.

Now villagers are getting the advantages of Government schemes; pond construction, drinking water, well digging activities are going on under several projects.

I feel STREAM activity planned on fish culture need more propagation and we expect continuous help to OAS from STREAM. WE feel STREAM will do that.

**OAS from the view of Women Panchayat Samity**  
**Suchitra Singha**  
**Member of Barabazar Panchayat Samity**

I am aware of the Kaipara cluster activities as I was involved in different activities during the Kaipara cluster formation. Later I have read some articles related to STREAM, planning meeting, their concept and also participated in the Planning meeting of OAS Kaipara at Hotel Aakash, Purulia. I know that earlier the working environment was not good, now road construction, pond renovation, arrangement of drinking water, and different other activities for betterment of poor people are going on under several projects.

I hope OAS will help to form groups in every village and will ensure the earning of every member by guiding them in aquaculture activity. We can promote OAS purpose by regular meeting, Workshop, exposure visit, cultural program etc.

**“Do not be superstitious, Instead of that if we work together then village development is possible”**

**-Which is possible in Salgati, can be possible in other villages too-**

**Ludhu Tudu  
Member of Dhelatu Bamu Gram Panchayat**

I am Ludhu Tudu. I am the member of Panchayat of Salgati Village. Before I joined as a member, I have never seen that Government, N.G.O. officials were coming to the village.

Later on *Jankars* came to our village and they helped in forming SHG and then everyone came together to form group. But in our village many people are illiterate and for that many believe in superstitious factors like evil spirit etc.

After making the SHG, we tried to bring awareness on education, health and extra income. We prepared every pond in the village and doing fish culture by rearing fingerlings from fish seeds. Every households are now getting extra income. At the same time SGSY project and food against work project started in the village. Villagers are getting work in the village only. I am also involved in each and every activity.

Firstly I appreciate the role of '*Jankars*' and I thankful to Government approach also.

I wish OAS will inspire every people to earn extra income by doing aquaculture.