

ANNUAL REPORT: 2012 -2013

“Social Initiatives for Growth and Networking” (SIGN) is the official Body of the Catholic Bishops of Jharkhand for social concern and human development. It anchors the efforts of the 8 Social Service Societies of the dioceses of Ranchi, Gumla, Jamshedpur, Simdega, Khunti, Daltonganj, Hazaribagh and Dumka in promoting a just and humane society based on the gospel values of love, peace, equality and dignity to all. The Society, established in June 2006, was registered in Jharkhand on 23.12.2009 bearing the Registration Number 731. It was granted the 12A registration of tax exemption on 25.05.2010 and has been granted FCRA Registration on 24th December 2010. The Registration Number of FCRA is 337800203.

SIGN remains indebted to its President, Vice President, the members of the governing body and the general body, the partner Directors, the donor agents, friends, benefactors, well wishers and very specially the people for whose cause SIGN is working. SIGN appreciates the support and the great partnership.

1. NATURAL RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

The Project covers 8 districts, 9 blocks, 15 Panchayats, 31 revenue villages 856 families in Jharkhand strengthened by 145 Community Based Organizations.

Promoting sustainable livelihood by restoring and regenerating Natural Resources through Integrated Management techniques and enhancement of capacity of the partners and communities to empower them for an effective takeover of the responsibilities for the implementation of development plans strategically for better accessibility, impact control and the management of the resources available in the area.

Capacity Building Programs	
Forum level	Units
Training on Vegetable cultivation and Horticultural initiatives (Green House, vegetable cultivation, Nursery Raising, Drip Irrigation, Dry Land	01
3 days on farm residential training at HARP (ICAR), Palandu	01
Sound Accounts system and Tally clarified	01
Promotion of Pulses in Rabi Season	01
Training in all the entitlements and rights – constitutional, Acts, Plans, Schemes and Policy based.	01
Capacity Building Program on Value addition of forest Product (Lac, Mahuwa, char, etc) with Market strategy	01
Training Program on Watershed Management (Soil & Moisture Conservation measures)	01
Result Based Monitoring	
Training on NRLM – Forum / Partner Level	01
Training on Crop Diversification with Maize & Arhar in Kharif	01
Food security through promotion of crop based livelihood (SRI)	01
Farmers Exposure Visit to HARP (ICAR), Palandu	01
Project Review Preparation	03
Project Reviews	03
Monthly Meetings	09
Monitoring and External Visit by Caritas Australia	01
At Partners Level	
Food security through promotion of Crop based Livelihood (SRI)	03
Orientation program on Watershed Management (Soil & Moisture Conservation Measure)	08
Capacity Building program on vegetable cultivation and Horticultural initiatives (Green House, vegetable Nursery Raising .Drip Irrigation. Dry Land Horticulture)	08
Technical Inputs on soil testing and soil management – Village level	03
Making the community based organization / Institutions like Gram Sabha, SHG, Farmers Club, Youth Club, Wisdom Council more value based and other	08
Capacity Building program on value addition of Forest product (Lac, Mahua, Charanjivi etc.) with Market strategy	08
Orientation on Grain Bank/ Seed Village to restore Indigenous Species	06
Training on pest management at village level	08

Training on NRLM – village level	06
Training on all the entitlements and rights – constitutional Acts plans and policy based village level	07
Promotion of pulses in Rabi Season	08
Soil & Water conservation Measurement	
Farm Field Bunding	20 Acre
Loose Boulder Checks	95
Renovation of Percolation tank	04
Provision of Vermi Compost, Azolla	15

Project Impact

1. Governance

- 29 Gram Sabhas are functional within the NRM project areas and have network with ATMA, MESO, PRADAN, ATC, BAU, etc. They are running village level institutions, like, MDM, Anganwari centres, schools, PDS, etc, properly
- 365 people benefited from the Government Scheme.
- 80 pregnant and lactating mothers are getting benefits under ICD program
- 25 Farmers' Club is in place which is promoting SRI, seasonal vegetables cultivation, organic farming, etc.
- 19 youth clubs are functional. They are giving services to the communities in various ways, like, helping in house repair, agriculture work, during marriage party by providing utensils, etc.
- There are 09 children's clubs in Saidup, Barwadih who all are taught to keep their house and surroundings neat and clean.

2. Livelihood

- 153 farmers adopted SRI using organic manure.
- 53 SHGs are engaged in entrepreneurship development activity
- 201 farmers cultivated cash crop after farm residential training at HARP(ICAR) Palandu.
- 35 famers are practicing second crop (Rabi crop)
- 15 new Self Help Group has been formed in and out of the project areas.
- 250 farmers visited ICAR Palandu as an exposure visit to learn and understand the latest technique of agriculture

3. Attitudinal and Behavior Change

- 131 children benefited from ICDS program
- 25 SHGs in the project area have stopped preparation of liquor (Mahuwa)
- Total of (5 khunti, 4 jam, 25 simdega)
- 196 children have been immunized by Anganbari Sewika
- 5686 tree plantation by the community in the project villages of NRM.
- 30 women have developed their leadership quality.
- 103 students Participated in environment day celebration
- 200 families use mosquito net
- 65 families use herbal medicine
- 400 families are sensitized and have adopted precaution and prevention of communicable diseases.
- Villagers are collectively cleaning their surroundings and adopting behaviour change in keeping their community neat and clean

2. HEALTH

SIGN launched the **Standard Treatment Guideline (STG)**, in collaboration with Community Development Medicinal Unit of Kolkata, to serve as reference for all the Nurse Sisters engaged in health ministry in rural Jharkhand. The book is the fruit of the labour of many doctors. It has become very handy to the Nurses as it focuses on diseases prevalent in Jharkhand. SIGN did not want to take anything for granted and thus organized 8 workshops in all partner dioceses across Jharkhand in the

months of August-September 2012 for all the Nurse Sisters to explain to them the use of the book. SIGN is thankful to Drs. Anjan Adhikari Isaac David, Jeevan Kuruvilla, and Ilene for undertaking this tedious job of conducting classes for the Sisters and CDMU, Kolkata for supporting the cause. The Sisters found the classes very useful and practical. The Standard Treatment Guideline is a hallmark support to the Sisters working in the remote villages of Jharkhand.

3. NETWORKING AND LIASOINING

SIGN has built up a very cordial relationship with NABARD and in partnership gave training to many of the SIGN and partner staffs on micro-finance, SHG, Federation, Record maintenance, Kisan Clubs etc. in BIRD, Shanti Niketan

First Phase	Date	Venue	Participants
	27 th - 28 th Sep 2012	Shanti Niketan, Bolpur	10 persons
Second Phase	29 th – 30 th Nov 2012	Shanti Niketan, Bolpur	14 person
Third Phase	28 th – 29 th Jan 2013	Institute of Cooperative Management, Ulta Danga, Kolkata	4 persons
Fourth Phase	6 th -7 th Feb 2012	Shanti Niketan, Bolpur	3 persons

4. ‘Awakening the Adivasi Soul’

‘Awakening the Tirbal Soul’ is a bold initiative begun by SIGN. It received yet another boost with a one day workshop of the Bishops of Jharkhand, Chhattisgarh, Bihar and Orissa along with the Major Superiors and the Directors of the Partner dioceses for development conducted on 25.11.2012 at SDC, Ranchi. The workshop reflected on the theme from different perspectives guided by Mr. Benjamin Lakra, the former Accountant General, Fr. Ranjit Toppo, the Deputy Director of XISS, Ranchi and Fr. S. Christu Das, the Director of SIGN. The workshop ended with a clear conclusion that this needs to become our mission as an awakened Adivasi will be able to stand up for his/her rights and emerge out of the existing misery and exploitations. The participants mandated SIGN and the partners to make it their focus in all their interventions. A plan was drawn up to further the cause. SIGN conducted workshops in every partner diocese and followed it up with a review.

The partners and SIGN combined together conducted more than 1000 workshops covering a record 83478 participants in one year. The effort was supported very much by Mr. Benjamin Lakra and Mr. Gladson Dungdung, the SIGN staffs and all the partners along with their staffs. The march is on and the ripple effects have already reached Chhattisgarh

4. MODAL PANCHAYAT

‘Modal Panchyat’ is an effort in partnership with 8 partners to make one Panchayat in every partner area into a modal focused on capacity and awareness building of the villagers based on five major objectives: Emotional Bank Account, Economic Development, Social Development, Sustainable Development and Good Governance. Each diocese conducted many workshops on the following topics:

- System of Rice Intensification, System of Wheat Intensification
- Vermi-compost, Pest Management, Plant Pathology and seed handling
- Behaviour Change Communication and Home Remedies
- Lac cultivation and Development
- Fishery, Poultry, Goatery, Piggery and animal husbandry

- Government schemes, Good governance, Rights and entitlements
- HIV AIDS, Primary Health Care and herbal medicine
- Kitchen Garden, other livelihood options, value addition to project products
- SHG, Bank Linkage, ILG and TFG

Achievements:

Diocese	SRI	Gram	SHG	Kisan Club	Kitchen Garden
Gumla	46 Families (50 Acres)	05	26	22	250
Hazaribag	7 Families (4-5 Acres)	06	35	28	300
Khunti	2 Families (1.5 Acres)	10	18	08	35
Simdega	3 Families (3 Acres)	06	21	14	51
Jamshedpur	41 Families (20 Acres)	14	36	25	150
Dumka	1 family (1 Acre)	17	57	14	180
Daltonganj	25 Families (15 Acres)	04	04	04	50
Ranchi	2 Families (2 Acres)	08	08	08	100
Total	127 Families (97.5 Acres)	70	205	123	1116

- Many families in Arangi Panchayat have abolished the traditional practice of carrying a pot of rice bear to the marriage ceremony. They have replaced this by carrying rice and pulses.
- SRI method is catching up in all the Panchayats.
- Gram Sabha is taking roots and they are able to solve social issues (inter caste marriage, land cases) and plan for the development of their village community.
- Women's participation in the Gram Sabha has increased to 30-40 percent
- Strong linkages of the community is seen with the Government department/ officials from the schemes taken and the participation in the government programs.
- Entrepreneurship development among the community is taking place e.g. selling vegetable, running small hotels, selling of Mahua in the off season etc.

5. Stories of Change

a. Determination and motivation are keys to success.

Mr. Peter Bodra of Latauli village, Torpa Block is a determined person and the fact that he is retired Army personnel speaks for the determination. He has become a model today for all the farmers of Latauli and its neighbouring villages in Torpa block. He realized that the pension was not sufficient to provide quality education to his children. The capacity building conducted by SIGN gave him a new belief, make the land more productive. He said to himself that the land should produce. He took to vegetable cultivation. He also participated in the seminar on vegetable cultivation and Horticulture initiative training at Ranchi, from 25-26 September 2012 and HARP (ICAR) at Palandu from 27-29 September 2012, organized by SIGN, Ranchi. After the training he has cultivated vegetables and Pulses about in one acre of land. He is on his feet. He wants to teach all the farmers that hard work can yield much fruit. He has checked a small river stream which flows rather close to his land and the water is sufficient till the month of April. He has also a 2.5 HP diesel pump by which he irrigates the vegetable garden. Determination and motivation are keys to success.

b. Bonded in the feeling of ownership

Saidup village in Barwadih Block has a Micro Planning team born out of the intervention. The purpose of its formation is to create awareness among people on the available natural resources in the village; its protection, promotion and generating a deep sense of ownership. The team consists of ten

active farmers. They took different steps and initiatives to protect their existing forest & planting more trees to increase the forest cover. They also learnt that a thick forest cover would be to their advantage as it will cause more rainfall and stop soil erosion. It will also be a boost to their livelihood as many people depend on the forest for supplementary food. The team awakened the people of the village, prepared a social and resource map, spotting on it all available natural resources and encouraged the people to protect their forest and other endowments of nature. People were also motivated to do tree plantation, contour trench, Gully plugs, and water bodies and get all the benefits of all the government schemes available especially under National Rural Employment Guarantee Act. The process led to their bonding motivating them to care for nature and one another.

c. Self Help Group makes her to help self

Pratima Devi Singh of Rangigocha village in Anandpur block of East Singhbhum district is a member of Adarsh Jagriti Mahila Samiti of which Meena Devi is the president. Devendra Singh, the husband of Pratima Devi is an awakened person too. Both of them have been participating in many of the workshops conducted by SIGN in partnership with Catholic Charities, Jamshedpur on Natural Management, Self Help, Livelihood Options, Rights, Entitlements etc. The impact was that supported by her husband Pratima Devi Singh applied for a loan for Self Employment under the Prime Minister Self Employment Scheme. She received Rs. 300,000.00 with a subsidy of 35% and the loan to be returned within 5 years with 13% interest. She has already bought from Balasore, Odessa, 6 machines for making leaf plates and leaf bowls with a Generator and a stabilizer. 4000 leaf plates can be made in a day by one machine or 9600 leaf bowls. The production has already started and they are getting order from neighbouring markets. However, Pratima or Devendra has to undergo a training in Ranchi for furthering their skill and to be certified to be in the business which they are planning to undertake shortly. The leaves for both plates and the bowls come from forests because of which almost 100 people can earn their daily bread and 10 people can get job directly under them. They have believed fiercely and the machines will do the rest.

Fr. S. Christu Das
Secretary