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Vision of CASA

CASA’s vision is inspired by the Christian Faith and values. CASA visualises a society in which peace, justice and equality prevail and wherein all citizens irrespective of caste, creed, language and religion live in peace and communal harmony. CASA also envisages a society where the poor, women, the marginalised and under-privileged lead a quality life with dignity and have equal opportunity for their involvement in the development process which is value-based and sustainable, and also have an appropriate environment to develop their fullest potential.

Mission of CASA

CASA actively supports and works for a just and sustainable society by creating opportunities for the participation of socially and economically marginalised sections in the development process through networking, alliance building and strengthening of their organisation. CASA also supports local self-governance, protection of human rights, peace and reconciliation and sustainable livelihood measures and responds to the environmental issues, natural and manmade disasters and strives to bring the victims to the mainstream while upholding the human dignity. CASA promotes gender mainstreaming at all appropriate levels, mobilises resources in favour of the poor and optimises all potentials and capacities existing within the organisation and other partners.
Dear Readers,

Greetings and very warm welcome! It is our pleasure and privilege to present you our newsletter for the period July to December 2015 for your kind reading.

This Newsletter, amongst the other things, covers Zonal News and Views, Overseas Engagements, Felicitations, Reminiscences and Obituaries.

Detailed reports on “Enhancing Community Adaptation and Resilience towards Disaster Risk Management” in the State of Odisha and “West Bengal Flood Reponse” are also included in this issue. Under Success Story, Active Involvement of Women group in Livelihood Activity (Paddy Straw Button Mushroom Cultivation) is briefed.

In the East Zone, under CASA’s Resilient Livelihoods and Sustainable Food Security Programme was successfully carried out in Odisha. Also, “Kanyasree Divas 2015” was organised on 14th August 2015 in Cooch Behar.

Readers can find visit of Dr. Sushant Agrawal, Director – CASA in Jharkhand Region where the National Council of Churches in India (NCCI) organised “International Day of Peace Celebration” on 21st September 2015. Disaster Preparedness Day celebration and National Day for Disaster Reduction is also included.

In the West Zone, Ms. Sara Delaney, the Senior Program Officer, International Program – Episcopal Relief and Development, USA visited the Comprehensive Food Security Programme (CFSP) in Arni, Yavatmal District – Maharashtra. ACT now for Climate Justice Campaign was successfully carried out in West Zone.

Reports on National Level programme on “National People’s Forum Core Group Meeting” held at Betul, MP; “National People’s Forum Core Group Follow-up Meeting” held at Lucknow, UP and Capacity Development Program – 1st Module (Understanding Development Paradigm in the Current Context) in the North Zone are included. Readers can also find the Kunjethi Housing Project at Guptkashi, Uttarakhand with case study under North Zone.

In the South Zone, CASA’s response to the Tamil Nadu deluge is included with case study.

Further, with most profound sorrow & grief, we pray for and offer our deepest condolences to the bereaved of Mr. Wilfred Balraj, Administrative Officer – CASA, who slept in the Lord on 24th August 2015.

At the same time, we most heartily congratulate Ms. Reenu Mariam (D/o Ms. Rahulamma Thomas, Programme Assistant, CASA – East Zone) on her wedding on July 15, 2015. We wish the couple for all success in their married life.

Soft copies of the News Bulletin are also available on our website: www.casa-india.org If you wish to download and share it amongst your contacts. We look forward to receiving your suggestions/ feedback on this Newsletter.

Warm regards,

Editorial Team
Enhancing Community Adaptation and Resilience towards Disaster Risk Management in the State of Odisha

WORKSHOP ON GOVERNMENT POLICIES ON AGRICULTURE
Workshop on Government policies on agriculture was conducted in two villages Sitalapada and Raypur. Farmers were oriented on various policies and schemes implemented by the state Government. Mr. Saumyandra Kumar Behera – Assistant Agricultural Officer, oriented the participants on “Odisha State Agriculture Policy 2013” and explained various benefits covered under this policy like discounts on purchasing of machinery, medicines, farmer health card etc. A handout on “Odisha State Agriculture Policy 2013” was distributed to participants for future reference.

AWARENESS ON GLOBAL WARMING AND CLIMATE CHANGE FOCUSING ON AGRICULTURE
Farmers of Sana-ano village were oriented on various causes of Climate Change and its effect on agriculture. Mr. Saumyandra Kumar Behera explained the participants on reasons of changed climate and its impact on agriculture. Further, he also added use of fertilizers and pesticides spoil the environment and health, hence practice of applying organic manure in cultivation will be environment friendly and good for health. Finally the resource person explained the participants on how to prepare organic manure, organic medicines for crops.

PREPARATION OF COMMUNITY CONTINGENCY PLAN
Community Contingency Plans were prepared in seven villages Arakhakuda Jenapur, Raypur, Sitalapada, Bauripalli, Paikasahi, Ipinga and Dalabherasahi with the active participation of DMTF members, Village leaders and Villagers. CASA staff depicted different plans on Village map, which was finalized with consultation and participation of community people. Community Contingency Plan will act as a safeguard for the communities to face future disaster situations.

PLANNING FOR LIVELIHOOD – MUSHROOM CULTIVATION AT SITALAPADA VILLAGE
Integration of DRR in to livelihood is another objective of this project. In the first page the project initiated “Paddy Straw Mushroom Cultivation (Button Mushroom)” in Sitalapada village. Women Self Help Group(SHG) of this village took the initiative and were very much excited to put forward the activity. At the initial state materials and technical support was provided by the project so that they can continue the process themselves in future. Mushroom cultivation is a very low investment and high profit return livelihood activity.

During the month of September planning for livelihood programs was completed in Raypur, Jenapur, Paikasahi, Ipinga, Dalabherasahi and Keukakudi. Programs of Govt. policies were conducted at Bauripalli and Paikasahi village. Respective CZO and AEO visited the Satapada program area. Mr. Charles Dhinakaran, CASA - New Delhi also visited ECARDRM area for about one week.
Success Story-
Active Involvement of Women group in Livelihood Activity
(Paddy Straw Button Mushroom Cultivation)

"I am very much happy that CASA has showed a way and provided all support to carry out this activity among our Self Help Group (SHG) group. We were never involved in this type of activity in past. Generally we get loans from the bank but could not able to utilize in the activity. But this time we all were involved in this activity to make it a successful one. At the beginning, we had a meeting with CASA staffs to begin this activity. CASA staffs explained about different activities but we selected mushroom cultivation finally. CASA staffs also helped us in preparing documents.

We prepared cement tank and arranged other requirements to begin the activity. The resource person trained us with theory and practical. Not only me but also our women group members learned the whole process with great interest to make this activity a successful one. Apart from cement tank Rs. 36 is spent per one bed and we have prepared 20 beds at the beginning for trial. We have been able to collect 25kgs. of mushroom and it is sold to vendors' @ Rs. 100 per kg.

We are getting Rs. 64 profit per bed. 40% of profit will be deposited in the bank account and 60% will be shared among members. All the members do not need to spend whole day for the activity. After finishing household works we give our free time for the activity. Our family members are also supporting to us for this activity."
Empowerment of NGOs in West Bengal (ENGOs-WB)
Special Report on Food Security:

Empowerment of Socio-economically poor, marginalised and excluded communities on their Democratic Rights at Kotwali Gram panchayat in Malda District.
Maida Sahayogita Samiti an ENGOs-WB partners (supported by BRW) continued the CASA Supported Project at five villages under Kotwali Gram Panchayat of English Bazar Block in Malda district. These villages are Baganpara, Binpara, Chakbandi, Bridge Colony and Mhiridas Colony, mainly SC/ST dominated. They have migrated from Bangladesh and the Ganges river erosion area. Most of them are land less. They have only land for their shelter but most of the lands are khas. Few of them have received pattas and MSS is helping them to get the pattas through advocacy and linkage with Government Department.

The concept of various government schemes was not clear to the community people. Most of them were compelled to migrate to manage their food, as they hadn’t any job in local area.

With the support of CASA ENGOs Project - MSS build up the capacity of the community on different issues and schemes. The crying need for the community was food security. MSS organised people for the job of MGNREGS. They knew that they would get unemployment benefit after having job card. After repeated meetings, the community people went into proper way and demanded job at Panchayat. They got job in local area, the number of migration of labour is reducing.

The community people did not know the PDS system well and the ration dealer did not behave well with them. Many community people had no ration card, not transferred and some of them had lost. Some agent (Dalal) tried to cheat them by demanding huge amount of money to prepare ration card, the poor community people was unable to pay the same, as a result the community people became far beyond from the PDS system. The Village Level Workers of MSS made them aware to appeal at food and supply office for ration card and got response. In course of time the community people received their ration cards and easily accessed cheap products from public distribution system.

The Anganwadi Centres were not in good condition. Irregularity was common problem for the centre. The pregnant and lactating women were not so much aware about the facilities of Anganwadi Centres. After regular meetings and counselling the pregnant and lactating women are going to Anganwadi Centres to take various services of Integrated Child Development Scheme (ICDS). The quality of Mid Day Meal in school was not so good and the situation was not hygienic. Advocacy done at school level changed the quality and the number of mid day meal taking students.

The Community people used to purchase vegetables from market but now they grow vegetables in their own kitchen gardens. Now a family consumes vegetables of approx. Rs. 35/- per day from their own kitchen garden. The Village Level Workers of MSS motivated them to arrange bio-kitchen garden at house hold level. Brinjal, radish, coriander leaves, cabbages, cauliflower, carrot, guad, tomato etc were planted and used at least 3 days in a week and many sell their vegetables, which were excess. The community people have found lots of ways for food security through the help of MSS.

Benefit received from food Security as under:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>S. No.</th>
<th>Subject</th>
<th>Male</th>
<th>Female</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1.</td>
<td>Ration Card</td>
<td>185</td>
<td>210</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.</td>
<td>Mid Day Meal</td>
<td>181</td>
<td>183</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.</td>
<td>ICDS - Children</td>
<td>118</td>
<td>116</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4.</td>
<td>ICDS-PW/Lactating Mother</td>
<td></td>
<td>83 Pregnant and Lactating mother received benefit</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5.</td>
<td>MGNREGS</td>
<td>253 family (men &amp; women) worked under MGNREGS</td>
<td>Received Rs.1,513,196/-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6.</td>
<td>Kitchen Garden</td>
<td>123 Kitchen Gardens managed by men and women groups</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Empowerment of NGOs in West Bengal Networking Programme at Cooch Behar, West Bengal
CELEBRATION OF KANYASHREE DIVAS’2015 “Girl Child Day”

The celebration of “Kanyashree Divas 2015” was organised on 14th August, 2015 in the premises of Block Development Office, Dinhata-I Block, Cooch Behar. Awareness generation stalls and “Kanyashree Mela” were organised as a part of the celebration. Gitalda Bikash Samity, one of the ENGOs-WB Partners also participated in the programme by putting up a stall.

A rally was organised by the Kanyashree students of the different schools (Okrabari Abakas High School; Nayarkhat Nabibakas High School; Putmari High School; & Goshanimari High School) before the inauguration of the program.

The programme and awareness stalls were inaugurated by Mr. Krishnava Ghosh (SDO) by lighting the candle sticks.

Miss Bharati Chick Boraik (Joint-BDO); Mrs. Jharna Das (Sabha Pati of Dinhata Block – I); Anjan Hasda (B.M.O.H); Tapati Ray (The Child Development Project Officer) and some Headmasters of various schools & Gram Panchayet Pradhans were the main guest speakers.

Gitalda Bikash Samity have generated awareness on prevention of early marriage; child labour; and Right to Free and Compulsory Education Act - 2009. They have also created awareness about the village and Block Level Child Protection Committee and their functions.

The programme began with the inauguration song by the Kanyashree students of the Okrabari Abakas High School.

Miss Bharati Chick Boraik (Joint-BDO) gave speech about the Kanyashree and said that last year 350 girls were married after passing the Madhyamik in Dinhata – I Block. She advised the girls not to marry until they are self-dependent; and requested that the guardians, teachers and government should help the Kanyashree students' issue.

Mr. Krishnava Ghosh (SDO) gave speech on preventing the child marriage, encouraged the girls to do higher studies and also discussed the Kanyashree Prakalpa.

The Kanyashree students of Goshanimari High school also performed a dance. Later on the Kanyashree students of Okrabari Abakas High School, Nayarkhat Nabibakas High School, Putmari High School, Goshanimari High School took part in different events like quiz contests, recitation competition, etc.
West Bengal Flood Response, Swarupnagar, North 24 Parganas

Due to heavy rain caused by the depression in the Bay of Bengal region West Bengal’s North 24 parganas district witnessed flood in the month of August 2015. Blocks of Swarupnagar and adjacent areas were worst affected and water remained stagnant for next 3 months. Being a vulnerable area and surrounded by three rivers Ganga, Ichhamati and Padma becomes difficult for local authorities to drain out water from these areas. Tides and inflow of regular water made the situation more worsen in the area.

CASA provided its humanitarian aid to the flood affected communities in two phases of Swarupnagar block. In first phase 725 families and in second phase 625 families were given relief. The process was started by a need assessment programme, which was conducted by the CASA staff in collaboration of local NGO Bithari Disha.

In the first phase CASA supported families with the non food items viz.: Rice (15 kgs.), Dal (1 kg.), Sugar (1 kg.), Soya bean (1 kg.), Mustard oil (1 ltr.).

In the Second phase CASA supported families with food, non food items and hygiene kit viz.: Rice (15 kgs.), Dal (3 kgs.), Sugar (2 kgs.), Soya bean (1 kg.), Mustard oil (1 ltr.), Chilli Powder (200 gms.), Turmeric powder (200 gms.), Utensit kit (1 kit.), Dhoti (1 no.), Saree (1 no.), Blanket (1 no.).

Hygiene kit contains mirror, soap (bathing and cleaning) with soap case, Dettol, cotton, sanitary napkins, needles, thread, button, towels, tooth paste and brush.

Major focuses in distributing the items was based on priority of Prolonged affected by flood waters; Loss of livelihood by flood; Women headed family/ Single mother; Widow, and Handicapped.

Case Study:
A giver of strength indeed

73 years old widow lady, Hasenanbu Bibi of Barghoria village under Charghat Panchayat of Swarupnagar Block of North 24 Parganas lives alone in a kaccha (temporary) house and only depends on the old age pension scheme by the government. Both of her married son live separated.

At the time of flood in West Bengal in August 2015, she lost everything including the only property, her shelter. When CASA staff visited her house, she was totally ruined at that time, no one was there to look after her condition. CASA extended her support to Hasenanbu Bibi by providing Humanitarian Aids to cope up with the devastating situation. An old lady without anyone helping hands get into the normal life, is the biggest challenge of her own.

The lady was overwhelmed to get the relief materials, which truly secured all the basic amenities of her. The Food items may satiate her hunger, the utensils in which she will cook food and also maintain the basic hygiene in this condition where mostly people got affected with water borne or air borne diseases.

Her smiling face indicated the joy and happiness. She also said in her words, “Ami khub kosto kore thaki.......... keu nei maa amk dekhar, bidhoka maminus...... sob vese gache ..... koto lok elo galo .... kichhi pelam na. Ajke apnara elen.... anik kichu dile .... ami toh vabei ni eto kichu paba...... bason, jama kapor, saban, tel.... eto joto kore apnara dilem ......... asirbaad kori enmi koroi apnara kaui chahta nia jete paren.” (I am a widow lady, living alone, nobody is there to look after me, I lost everything in this flood, many people came to show there sympathy towards me, but nothing has provided, you are the only, who given so many of food and non-food items with care and respect, wishing u from the bottom of my heart that you people can carry on this spirit of work in future).
Resilient Livelihoods and Sustainable Food Security Programme in Odisha

**Highlights:**
CASA organised village meeting to provide knowledge and involvement of villagers on different Government Schemes; Water management to youth and farmers groups in collaboration & facilitation support from Agriculture Department. Food security issue particularly in the agriculture sector/farmers was addressed and sustainability of the initiatives in the farming sector by involvement of agriculture department in the village level. Promotion and distribution of indigenous seed was done in local community and sensitization in community members on different Government schemes like MGNREGA, JSY, MDM, ICDS, PDS and Old age pension.

![Promotion and Distribution of Indigenous Seeds in Sansurma Village](image)

**Promotion and distribution of Indigenous Seeds in Kalahandi:**
Two programmes were conducted to promote and distribute indigenous seeds in Sansurma and Balliguda seed bank to reduce effects of hybrid seeds & preserve local seeds evolved according to the agro-climatic zone of the area for sustainable production. Whereas farmers required more & more water, fertiliser & pesticides for production in case of hybrid seeds but these indigenous seeds would reduce the requirement & preserving the eco-system with climate friendly production. 370kgs. paddy seeds and 27kgs. pulses to small and marginalise farmers of the area was distributed.

![Training to Youth farmers group on water management](image)

**Training to Youth farmers group on water management mechanisms:**
A training programme for youth farmers group on water management was organized. Farmers were given training on different techniques of water management in the field of agriculture & horticulture like; field channels, land leveling, bund management, etc. and also with other topics like: soil management, seed management, fertilizer & pesticide managements. This program was facilitated by Krishi Vikash Kendra and agriculture department staff with the help of CASA staff through sustainable agriculture practice techniques to farmers.

![Food Support for Community Mobilization (FSCM) M. Rampur, Kalahandi, Odisha](image)

**Food Support for Community Mobilization (FSCM) M. Rampur, Kalahandi, Odisha:**
203 participants took part in three training programmes on Kitchen Garden with vermin compost and fish farming in Benaguda, Bhudikhaman and Kujamahal villages.

**Impact of Kitchen Garden and Fish Farming:**
Vegetable cultivation is considered one of the major sources of food security and income generation among the rural community. The ever increasing demand of vegetables has to be systematically met and would be achieved only by promoting better cultivation mechanisms within the rural areas. It has been seen that vegetable cultivation is one of the best options for providing additional income to small and marginal farmers. The overall goal of the project is to enhance rural livelihoods in tribal areas of Odisha by providing knowledge to the farming community for promoting and enhancing vegetable cultivation; thereby leading to rise in income as well as improved dietary habit. Fish farming also become an additional income for the community.

**Goals:**
- Training events and workshop for vegetable and fish farming in villages.
- Resources to assist groups in starting and sustaining kitchen gardens and fish farming.
- Connecting people and communities for improving the kitchen garden.
- Educating the community on Food security, income generating activity and health benefits of community gardening.
The National Council of Churches in India (NCCI) organised "International Day of Peace Celebration" on 21st September 2015 in Human Potential Development Centre, Ranchi, Jharkhand. The programme was jointly organised by Students Christian Movement (SCM), Jharkhand & Bihar Regions; Churches of North India (CNI); Chotta Nagpur Diocese; Gossner Evangelical Lutheran Church and Christian Service Agency on the theme 'Peace and Dignity on Earth'.

Dr. Sushant Agrawal, Director - CASA and the Moderator of the ACT Alliance was the main Speaker. He identified and highlighted the conflicts in four areas which resulted victims of 'ecological violence' in Greece and created the whole issue of migration followed by refugees in the European region, their deplorable economic situation, the 'faith conflict' victims in Syria and the entire African regions, was the ultimate outcome. The increase of human-made 'ecological conflicts' by the extraction industries, climate change and carbon emission, and the 'conflicts among the people's communities' such as caste conflicts was also an outcome of this conflict situation. He challenged all the faith communities and the Civil Society Organizations (CSO) to join together by 'ignoring the differences but to become 'channels of peace' and 'peace-makers''. He further emphasized those faith communities to radically depart from their traditional 'inward looking' practices and move towards being 'outward looking, facilitating 'holistic and inclusive' communities of all. And finally he suggested all the well-wishers of peace to work together with a common programme to address conflicts by educating and emancipating the youth and children at grassroots.

During the occasion, Dr. Sushant Agrawal, as a Key Resources person presented paper on "Peace and Dignity on Earth".

The programme was attended by the General Secretary & Governing Body Members of NCCI; SCM Members from Jharkhand Region; Bishops of CNI; Bishop of GELC and key Church Leaders from NCCI Member Churches.

Dr. Sushant Agrawal also attended the General Body Meeting of National Council of Churches in India (NCCI) on 23rd September 2015 at Ranchi and addressed the Committee Members on various issues.

Workshop on Climate Change and Adaptation with school children

Climate change poses a serious threat to human development and achievement of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). In India, potential impacts of climate change may be severe, especially since two-thirds of the population depends on climate sensitive sectors and natural resources for their livelihoods. As a rapidly growing country with a high rate of growth, India envisages to pursue its development goals following a low-carbon and climate resilience pathway. This is a major challenge since it would involve action at all levels of implementation and decision-making.

In this regard, OPA/OSS organised one day workshop on Climate change and adaptation with school children of Bhagabati U.P School at Rupadiapaur under Puri district on 27th August 2015. 105 students, the members of Puri District Action Group and the school management participated in the programme.

Objectives of the workshop:
- To orient the school children about the changes occur due to climate change.
- The causes and reasons behind it.
- Strategies to respond climate change.

The first session was taken by Ms. Inakhi Patra, Assistant Project Officer, CASA, Odisha through PPT presentation. She spoke on different challenges of climate change, which was increasing every day, and it is now time to rethink once again.

Then Second session was taken by Mr. Satyashree Nayak, LW SI. He showed a video on plantation to the children and explained that how it helps the society and our future generation. He also spoke about the use of Bio organic and herbal medicine and maximum uses of electronic.

After the workshop, a few students participated in the drawing competition on understanding of climate change and its impact on society and awarded with prize. As an adaptation measure school children forum and school staff planted 350 saplings in the school premises.
Disaster Preparedness Day Celebration & National Day for Disaster Reduction


The Hon’ble Chief Minister of Odisha, Mr. Naveen Pattanaik inaugurated the event and also visited stalls with other dignitaries of Odisha State Disaster Mitigation Authority. In his opening address he said that People’s participation in disaster preparedness, response efforts has been our strength. Chief Minister also thanked organisations like Cyclone Shelter Management and Maintenance Committees, PRI and community members, NGOs, Indian Red Cross Society and UN agencies for their cooperation and service in managing disasters in the State.

CASA along with other IAG partner members exhibited their Shelter Model, Search and Rescue materials, IEC materials, multipurpose cyclone shelters being prepared and used by the communities during and after disasters.

Good numbers of information, education and communication (IEC) materials were displayed for generating public awareness on disaster risk reduction and preparedness measures.

The visitors including dignitaries appreciated the stalls of CASA and Inter-Agency Group (IAG), Odisha chapter at the state-level Odisha Disaster Preparedness Day and the National Day for Disaster Reduction.

Case Study

Agitation on Targeted Public Distribution System Borio Block of Sahibgunj District

Published in Prabhat Khaber on 27.11.2015CASAA Borio Initiated its Rights Based Approach activities since 2015 in 30 villages of Borio Block in 6 Panchayat of Sahibgunj district. Banjhi Santhali is one of village of Banjhi Santhali Panchayat. Under the New Core Programme CASA initiated its activity since April’2015. Meetings related to strengthening of Gram Sabha and awareness on their Rights and Entitlement were organised in the villages. The Forum “Jan Jatiya Gramin Uthan oath Sajik Perivartan Munch” leaders also played a vital role in the new area in developing critical mass.

In the month of December’2015 the villagers from Banjhi Santhali who were not getting allocated quantity of Rice and Kerosene oil from TPDS vender for a long time initiated protest. They decided to hold dharna in front of Block and decided to lodge complain against the vender of TPDS. They submitted the signed application to the Block Development Officer (BDO) thus, the BDO assured them that they will take necessary action against the TPDS Vender.”
Case Study:  
At the Balapara Village Charm Island: An RLSFS Case Study

The village of Balapara is a char island (a land area separated from the mainland due to change in course of a river and resulting flooding) in the Gumafulbari block of the Guma Panchayat in Barpeta, Assam.

The char holds a populace of 450 families with a total of 1,930 residents. The village was once an agricultural land on which the residing farmers grew paddy, black lentils, mustard and vegetables resulting in an average earning of Rs.30,000/ family. With the Brahmaputra changing its course and the deluge caused by it, the villagers lives changed for the worse forcing them to become daily wage workers.

Five days post flood of 2010, the government arrived with 8kgs rice and 1kg daal (lentils) for each family. CASA sanctioned money to its partner, the Anchalik Gram Bikash Parishad (AGBP), who provided each family with 10kgs flattened rice or chura and 10kgs molasses. CASA segregated the most affected families and gave them 10kgs rice, 2kgs daal (lentils), 1kg mustard oil, 100gms turmeric powder, and 2kgs salt.

Kudus Ali, a severely affected from flooding, aged 36 years resides with his wife and his 7 years old son.

Post flood, none of the villagers had land or jobs. They would go to the madrassa (local) market and work there for daily wages. Kudus would earn Rs.150/ day out of which he would spend Rs.20 on travelling to and fro to the market everyday from his village, while utilising the remaining Rs.130 for food, medicines and clothing.

With CASA’s Right Based Disaster Risk Reduction (RBDRR) project from 2010 - 2012, and the Resident Livelihood Sustenance and Food Security (RLSFS) project since 2013 and with aid from other agencies, training and development was provided to the villagers, including Kudus, such as poultry farming and livelihood maintenance.

Due to such, Kudus was able to minimize losses during the floods of 2012 and 2014 as villagers not only had disaster preparedness but also now trained and thereby able to save lives, reduce property loss, as well as secure imperative documentation such as various IDs, ration cards, and other personal documents. Prior to 2010, Kudus had no knowledge of skilled agricultural training water management, personal and village development or had any leadership skills. He knew about the existence of MGNREGA but lacked any clue on how to secure jobs. Kudus now earns an income of Rs.19,000 p.a., a breakup of the income has been tabulated under in Table.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sl. No.</th>
<th>Source</th>
<th>Earning Member</th>
<th>Amount in Rs.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Daily Labour (MGNREGA, Private masonry, agriculture)</td>
<td>Kudus</td>
<td>4,000 (Private) + 3000 (MGNREGA) = 7,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Fishery</td>
<td>Kudus</td>
<td>p.a.5,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Daily Labour</td>
<td>Kudus’ wife</td>
<td>p.a.3,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Poultry and goatery</td>
<td>Kudus’ wife</td>
<td>p.a.4,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>TOTAL</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td><strong>p.a.19,000 p.a.</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Also, Women are not only empowered to demand for their rights but are also earning members of the family. With the idea of savings instilled in them, they not only save money in banks but also every family has a small kitchen garden on which they grow vegetables for their own consumption. Education is on the rise as well with 400 children attending school as opposed to 300 before CASA’s arrival.

“Mai ashohaya silu. Maimor samasth dhan, sampli, sadhan lose kar silu. CASA ahmor family ho aru mor goan ko sajagaya. Ka. Amko kaam di. Amar jenake ko bhar kar sil. E karane mai aru mar geon kalar par CASA ko bahut dhanyabaad” (I was helpless and lost. I had no land and source of income. CASA came to my rescue and has helped me ever since. Today my life is much better than it was, and me and my family are eternally grateful to every person of CASA who has helped us), says Kudus Ali gratefully.
Empowerment of NGOs in West Bengal

The Project support to various Partners/PIOs in West Bengal which was generously supported by Bread for the World (BftW) Germany has been ended in September 2015.

However, due to availability of funds (unspent balance) both at ENGOs Partners’ and CASA level, BftW has granted an extension period from October 2105 to January 2016 to utilize and complete the activities both at CASA and Partners level including the Final Evaluation.

Revised budget and reallocation including activities have been prepared on the basis of Fund availability both for partners and CASA.

Information Center / DRR
Out of 18 partners, 13 Partner Organizations have some available unspent balance with them during the project tenure. To utilize the balance at the end of the project, partner organizations as well as CASA planned for Information Centre and providing DRR Kit or Rescue Kit for the benefit of the community for future sustainability after withdrawal from the interventional areas.

Information Centre
The Information Centre is designed and established at the community especially for shorting, processing, and retrieving information for dissemination at regular intervals on demand selectively according to express needs of users by using technological advantages as the internet makes the world very small. Its purpose would be set-up the information centre not only the collection of information books, but to collect, process and organize people, share what information is available and take necessary actions for the sake of the community benefit if needed. The information centres making in support of action for accessing the rights and entitlements of the community. Some actions will be taken by the local groups and others focus on action for changes in policy based advocacy at the National and International level. In response to the needs of the community, community level teaching, action oriented research, feasibility and need assessment studies as well as empowering people by providing them with skills and valuable information to bring leadership within the community and have influence power over influential, planning process and the policies through mobilizing the community.

Disaster Risk Reduction Kit
Disaster risk reduction (DRR) is a systematic approach to identifying, assessing and reducing the risks of disaster. It aims to reduce socio-economic vulnerabilities to disaster as well as dealing with the environmental and other hazards that trigger them. Climate change as having a direct impact on the prevalence and seriousness of disasters, as well as causing them to be more frequent in future. There are growing efforts to closely link DRR and climate change adaptation, both in policy and practice. It is usually short-term help until the long-term help by government and other institutions replaces it. The primary objective and purpose of humanitarian aid is to save lives, reduce suffering and respect to human dignity. Humanitarian aid (Rescue kit) is a material or logistical assistance provided for humanitarian purposes, typically in response to humanitarian crises including natural disasters and man-made disaster.

A Video Documentary film shooting which started in August 2015 has been completed the process of production of 26 minutes video documentary film on CASA Empowerment Project in West Bengal highlighting the journey of the project since its inception highlighting the transition of its different phases and successes; and which will carry forward a process of empowerment of the poor and marginalised section of the society through strengthening NGO's in West Bengal through Right Based Approached & Institutional Development.

The Video Documentary film shooting covered the following areas and the partner organizations.

1. CDHI, Buxa Hill, Rural Aid in Alipurduar, - HSWK Kalimpong and SSCCP Cooch Behar areas) Northern Bengal
2. BBDS & CJKS Malda areas)- Mid Bengal
3. DMKK & RDA in Midnapur
4. FPSA Bankura
5. Chapra Sewa Nadia
6. CASA Office Kolkata

The final Video Film has been completed in December 2105.

EVALUATION OF THE PROJECT:
Field visits for preparation of evaluation.

The ENGO Team has visited the ongoing partners to understand the status and give necessary hand holding support for preparation of their documents both narrative & financial reports. Also, they reviewed the organisational legal status, helped them; and suggested to update records as per norms required both by CASA and Law of the Country. The communities have also been visited and interacted of the benefits received by them from various Governments Schemes and also discussed the shortfall of the non receipt of the benefits. The partners and the communities have been given orientation on the process and importance of evaluation.

The Evaluation has been completed in the month of December 2015.
Visit of Ms. Sara Delaney to Comprehensive Food Security programme (CFSP) in Arni, Maharashtra.

This is the 2nd visit of Ms. Sara Delany to the Zonal office on 17th August 2015. A meeting was organised at the Zonal office along with the Chief Zonal Officer, Project Officer and the Zonal staff involved in the project. She was updated on the current status and the progress in terms of the programme. Also, we have discussed about challenges, the relevance of the project in the context of climate change and increasing agrarian distress in India. The 3 years programme and the future of the programme was also deliberated on.

On 18th August, Ms. Sara visited the Arni office. The project staff shared their experience with her at the grass root level. The outcome and the impact of past 2 years programme and various activities were discussed with her so far in detail. She also visited the field areas on 18th and 19th August along with CZO, PO and staffs in 5 villages Varud, Naiknagar, New Kapeshwar, Zapanwadi and Thad.

She interacted with the community of about 1000 people to welcome her in some of the villages. Since these are mostly neglected villages and hardly any visitors visit them, the people were very enthusiastic and large number of women participated.

Ms. Sara also interacted with the small groups and individuals to understand the progress and impact of the program. Her visit gave lot of insight into the programme and added value and knowledge to the staff team.

On 20th August, 2015, she had debriefing with the staff wherein she expressed her appreciation and suggested areas for improvement. This was followed by the consultant presenting the net planning findings and future course of action.

She also worked along with the staff in a workshop on the Monitoring & Evaluation aspects and finalised the Outcome indicators for the entire project period, on which the project will be monitored & evaluated at the end of 2017. On 21st August, she visited the CASA Head office at New Delhi and interacted with Dr. Sushant Agrawal - Director and Dr. Jayant Kumar, Head of Programme - CASA.

Ms. Sara Delaney the Senior Program Officer, International Program - Episcopal Relief and Development, U.S.A. visited the Comprehensive Food Security programme (CFSP) in Arni, Yavatmal District, Taluka Maharashtra State from 17th to 21th August 2015.

After the pilot period in 2013 & 2014, the CFSP has entered into full fledged program for the period 2015 to 2017 with an increase from 3 to 12 villages. The program is a combination of Rights Based and Assets Creation Based Approach. The focus of this programme is food security of the vulnerable, distressed and suicide prone farming community.
33 years Jayantibhai Ubdiya Vasava, is a tribal farmer from Pachumber village of Dediapada taluka, Narmada district of Gujarat. He owns 1.5 acres of stony undulated land in the village. Every year he migrates to nearby towns to get some employment to supplement the meager produce from his land to sustain himself, his mother, wife and two children.

He was selected as direct beneficiary for the 2014 Food Support for Community Mobilization (FSCM) project started in his village. He was supported for stone bund activity in one acre of fully stony and sloppy barren land. The stony one acre land was cleared of stones and stone bunds were created under the FSCM project to stop soil erosion and it was brought under cultivation. During the kharif season of 2014, he has cultivated moong (green gram) in this particular field and the barren land produced 200 kilograms of moong. He kept 10 kilograms for household use and remaining 190 kgs. were sold in the market, and he got Rs. 12000.00. Out of these 12,000.00 he spent Rs. 7000.00 on land leveling on the land which was cleared of stone and was sloppy and uneven. He wished to purchase a water pump set for lifting water from the river that is close to his field. To purchase such expensive set he had no money.

He decided to go to Ankleshwar town and found some employment and worked there for 15-20 days. Now some amount was in his hand but it was not enough to purchase the water pump. Then he approached to his cousin brother and neighbor's and shared the idea of getting pump to lift water from river. They happily accepted his proposal and collectively purchased a water pump set. He applied in the tribal department for getting pipes for taking the water to his field., His proposal was sanctioned. To get the pipe from the tribal department, he has deposited 12% of the total cost amounting to Rs.6,000.00 in the tribal department office, the rest being subsidy from the department and got 24 pipes of 20' each. With this convergence of resources, he has the required irrigation facility to cultivate his land.

During the year 2015, he planted paddy for the first time in the developed land and harvested 400 kilograms of paddy. There are also other local coarse millet/cereal crops in his field to be harvested by November 2015. During the Rabi season he plans to cultivate Bengal gram in the field. He also worked in FSCM project and received 200 kgs. rice as work incentive. He is very happy and grateful for the support that he received through FSCM program. He has not only developed land, improved finance, irrigation facility, family status but also self confidence, courage, capacity to work hard, believe in unity, and trust in people, leadership skills that showed him a way forward to live with dignity. During current year he became an active member of village vigilance committee. His wife and community members feel proud of him. He has become inspiration to others. Now he does not migrate for employment with the assured food security in the house. He and his family is happy that they do not have to face any more problem in searching employment out side village, which is far away, and where there is no security of shelter, food, and health. Now Jayantibhai decided to continue working in his own field as well as work with FSCM project as active member of the village committee and the People's organization, Gramin Vikas Karyakarta Parishad (GVKP) which is facilitating the people centered advocacy on various issues of the rural communities.
ACT now for Climate Justice Campaign

Climate change affects everyone but especially the most poor and vulnerable people. The ACT Now for Climate Justice Campaign calls on world leaders to cut carbon emissions drastically, and to help the world’s poorest to cope with the impacts of climate change while developing in a sustainable way. The campaign aims to add voices to the growing movement of unrest as climate change reaches more dangerous levels. An online campaign is organized by ACT Alliance with a request to sign the ACT Now for Climate Justice Petition. The information prepared by ACT Alliance on climate justice for online signature was translated in Hindi and the local languages (Oriya, Tamil, Marathi and Gujarati) and posted on the webpage of ACT Alliance.

At West Zone, we were instrumental in joining the ACT Alliance Climate Justice Campaign and actively taken part in the campaign by mobilising, the communities of Ahmednagar, Aurangabad, Nandurbar, Gondia and Yavatmal in Maharashtra and Narmada in Gujarat and gathering signatures for the ACT Alliance petition. Some of the staff even shared the link in their private networks with friends to promote the campaign. We have collected nearly 8563 signatures and handed over to ACT Alliance office to demonstrate to the world leaders in COP 21 at Paris that we have public support through a significant number of signatures of our petition.
National Level Programme:

(I) NATIONAL PEOPLE’S FORUM CORE GROUP MEETING

A two-day meeting of the Core group of National People’s Forum was held at CASA Resource Centre, Padhar, district Betul, Madhya Pradesh on 8th and 9th July, 2015. 20 CASA staff and 28 representatives of People’s Organisations attended this meeting. The meeting was co-chaired by Mr. Tapan Kumbhakar and Mr. Rajat Chowdhury.

Representatives of various state platforms spoke about the issues that the state forum is addressing, processes and strategies adopted, structure of the state platform, and challenges faced. The major discussion of the meeting was National Food Security Act-2013. The issues that emerged from the discussions on the activities and experiences of the state platforms were further deliberated upon to build consensus on a common issue that can be taken up by all state platforms for a national level campaign in the year 2015-2016. The other issues discussed during the meeting were climate change, food security, MGNREGA, violence against women/ gender justice, land acquisition, forest rights, water issues.

During the meeting NPF Campaign Designing Core Group, NPF Advisory Committee and NPF Task Force was constituted. Structure of the national secretariat was also discussed in depth. Some of the key decisions made in the meeting are as follows:

I. Zonal representatives should be from within the community so as to bring the local contexts and issues from the village/ district/ state levels to the national level
II. Further deliberations needed to review the nature of POs and CASA partners especially in North East India, East Zone, and West Zone.
III. Membership criteria of NPF, especially with regard to inclusion of NGOs, to be included in the NPF Constitution.
IV. State platforms to finalise name of their Zonal representative to the national secretariat.
V. State platform to give their feedback to the National Secretariat regarding structure of state platforms, membership criteria of NPF, and zonal representation of National Secretariat on the basis of which the Draft Constitution to be amended accordingly.
VI. National level interaction between state platforms needs to be strengthened.
VII. National level NPF Core Group meetings to be held thrice a year along with one Annual General Body meeting.

(II) NATIONAL PEOPLE’S FORUM CORE GROUP FOLLOW-UP MEETING

A meeting for designing the National Level Campaign of NPF on the National Food Security Act 2013 was held on 11th August, 2015 at Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh.

The agenda for the meeting was:
I. Framing the objectives of the Campaign
II. Developing activities and processes for the campaign at the Community, State and National level.
III. Developing a plan of action for the campaign
IV. Finalise content for campaign material

A step by step Campaign Designing was made along with the activities to be done. A brief concept note on National Food Security Act -2013 was made and responsibilities for various activities were designated to the respective CASA staff.

CORE PROGRAMME

(III) NORTH ZONE CAPACITY DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM - 1ST MODULE (UNDERSTANDING DEVELOPMENT PARADIGM IN THE CURRENT CONTEXT)

In view of frequent changes in the socio economic and political context of the country, it has been realised by CASA that field staff and volunteers/ leaders should be equipped with necessary knowledge and skills to play a meaningful role. Keeping that in consideration, series of Capacity Building Program have been proposed for grass root staff/ volunteers. Capacity Development Program would consist of 4-6 modules on different areas/themes on which intensive program would be organised. The first module on ‘Understanding Development Paradigm in the current context’ is a first step in this direction. The first module of 3 days had been organised in CASA, Udaipur, Resource Centre from 28th -30th September 2015. A total of 24 participants from Himachal Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Madhya Pradesh and Rajasthan participated. The 3 days program has enabled participants to relook at the dramatic changes which have occurred in the socio economic and political context of the country. Participants shared their experiences and strengthened their understanding on issues related to globalisation and its implications, control of market, conflict and development, social oppression, exploitation of small and marginalized farmers, local self governance and challenges to ensure their accountability. The program has been very helpful in enabling participants to understand the development scenario with various dimensions.

Over the period of three days, participants were also led through extensive discussions on different models of development in India, basic concept of development, sustainable development, people centred development, the Panchayati Raj System, the PESA Act and special significance of Gram Sabha etc. The programme proved to be benefited to all the new participants who then assigned to develop a clear understanding for the next module of the training.
37 year old Dhakeshwar Kumar Bhasker hails from village Kodagaon, Kanker district of Chattisgarh and is a successful community mobiliser of CASA. He is deeply involved in advocating for entitlements under the Forest Rights Act and has helped other community members on issues such as proper measurement of land and process of claiming land entitlements. He has played a major role in motivating and inspiring many others to take an interest in community developmental activities; lobbying and advocacy for rights; and entitlements. He has successfully mobilised people in his village and especially the youth who could not even muster the courage to introduce themselves in public previously but now have been transformed into motivators for the communities and individuals fighting for their rights. He also took an initiative against the use of land mines in the area which had been the cause of deaths of thousands of civilians and paramilitary forces. Many local youth have received training and undergone exposure to other programmes under his guidance.

Bhaskar’s trust with social activism began through his association with CASA. Land entitlement is a major issue for the tribals after the Forest Rights Act came into existence in 2005. The villagers had no idea as to how to go through the entire process of measurement of land. With the help of CASA’s intervention in the village 270 people received land entitlements successfully. Bhaskar, after receiving training on Land Measurement through CASA helped the villagers to measure the land with the help of GPS machines. As a result 938 acres of land in the village was allotted to the villagers. He was also associated with CASA’s initiatives for income generation by facilitating collection of bamboo directly from farmers and selling them in Raipur which has resulted in profit to the farmers in his village. Trainings on furniture making was also started by CASA for livelihood and income generation of youth, poor and marginalised. However, the presence of Naxal movements in the area makes the work greatly difficult and challenging.

Bhaskar is currently focused on strengthening the Gram Manch by introducing ecotourism, bringing more SHG members into it and setting up a training centre and making efforts for making capacity building training on FRA, PESA, MGNREGA, Watershed, IGP, marketing etc. more efficient. Bhaskar believes in equal participation of women in the initiatives being taken as working with women brings more transparency and effective changes in the system and society. Transforming Gram Sarviti (village council) into a full fledged resource center and creating a pool of youths as vanguard for campaigning for FRA, land rights, watershed, and IGP are on the future agenda.

PACKAGE PROGRAMME

UTOCHR PRADHESH:
The unexpected rains that lashed a large tract of North and Central India from the month of February to April, 2016 have spelled doom for farmers in many districts of Uttar Pradesh. This year incidentally the heavy spell of rain accompanied by strong winds has not only uprooted the crops but also dashed the hopes of many farmers.

The U.P. government came up with a compensation policy to deal with the disaster caused due to unexpected rainfall. Till date compensation of 914 crores was given to 20,11,000 farmers. But according to farmers the cheque given to them was of peanut amount which was not enough to cover the expenses of the damages caused. Thus, the compensation policy of the Government proved flashy with nothing done on ground.

In order to deal with further challenges Jan Kendrit Vikas Manch (JKVM), LHM and other member organisations conducted a sample survey in 80 Gram Panchayats of 13 districts. The basic objective of this survey was to know about the input and proposed output from the production of the last year, loan taken for agriculture inputs, impact on share croppers, number of months without any food security, impact on human, livestock, milieu and how government schemes may support. According to survey, expected production was 85,000 quintal. But due to heavy rains and hail 50%-80% of the crops were damaged. The heavy losses have led to large scale of migration is seen in the region.

Stating the survey report, share croppers who had invested heavily in agriculture are not eligible for compensation amount. There’s a clause that compensation amount will be given to the owner of land. Accordingly, 25% of the farmers are share croppers and they invested approximate 3000/- for acres.

Campaigns were organised in 80 Gram Panchayats of 13 districts to generate public awareness and to make the government accountable. Community members decided to have Padyatra/Cycle Yatra in their reach of gram Panchayats. A 15 point demand letter was prepared and duly signed by the community for the fulfilment of their genuine losses made by this disaster. Finally a memorandum addressed to Chief Minister was submitted to the District Magistrate.

The lack of transparency and non-adoption of any proper scientific method to assess the loss resulted in unanswered questions. Taking up these unanswered questions, RTI petitions were filed from 11 districts regarding the total amount allocated for districts, how much compensation amount is being distributed and how many farmers are still in the queue for receiving the compensation amount. Social audit was conducted in 18 Gram Panchayats to cross verify the data retrieved from government department on ground reality.

The data collected from the survey was shared with the district magistrate but no action was taken. This ignorant behavior of government towards farmers agitated the members of JKVM and LHM which moved them to pressurise the state government for meeting the demands of the farmers. Following this objective a State level public hearing was organised on 28th July 2015 in Lucknow.

PUBLIC HEARING:
As a consequence to the crop loss and improper assessment of the damages, farmers faced food security crisis, unequal distribution of relief and compensation. Despite of all these, the state government did not take any action to address the issues. In response to the Government's insensitive nature, JKVM and LHM partners organised a one day public hearing programme on 28th July, 2015 at Ganga Prasad Memorial Hall, Aminabad, Lucknow. The panelist comprised of legal advisors, media personnel and civil
society organisations working on the issue. Around 400 farmers from 13 affected districts participated in this state level public hearing, while 50 of the farmers shared their experiences in front of the panel members.

RECOMMENDATIONS OF PANEL MEMBERS
During this public hearing, the farmers tilted the panel as “Kisan Jan Aayog” where by they presented 15 points of memorandum which they would further advocate for their demands with State Government.

15 POINTS OF MEMORANDUM
I. The assessment of crop loss should be done in open meetings of Gram Sabha.
ii. Along with the cases of suicide, unnatural deaths should also be counted and fair compensation should be given.
iii. The compensation for crop loss should be given equivalent to the actual production.
iv. In order to minimise the loss caused by the disaster, insurance policy should be made on zero premiums for human, livestock animals and crops.
v. MGNREGA should be started with immediate effect in disaster affected areas till the next production.
vi. Share croppers, contract farmers, agriculture laborer should also be provided with compensation.
vii. All the payments for loss should be made electronically in the bank accounts of the victims.
viii. Relief and compensation should be given for the loss of livestock and fodder in disaster affected areas.
ix. Availability of seeds/ fertilisers should be made to the farmers at free of cost in disaster affected areas for next cropping season.
x. The charges of irrigation, electricity bills should be exempted in disaster affected areas.
xi. Immediate actions should be taken on money lenders in the case of any atrocities made on the applicant.
xii. Rebaton should be provided in the case of quality of grains at wheat procurement centers and payments should be ensured within 24 hours.
xiii. The mid day meals and food at ICDS centers should be ensured till the next crop is cultivated for children and old age people.

UTTARAKHAND, HIMACHAL PRADESH:
Himachal Pradesh Panchayati-Raj Campaign
A two day Panchayati Raj orientation workshop was organised in Shimla, where more than fifty participants, participated from different partner organisations. Most of the participant had good experience of working with Mountain Collective on various core issues and problems at grass roots levels across the Himachal Pradesh.

Mr. Suresh Satpathy, Senior State Co-ordinator - CASA, facilitated the workshop where he explained the IEC material distributed to the participants and discussed the objective of the workshop i.e, to generate awareness among the people so that they can exercise them properly for their development. The concept of establishment of smart village in which good governance and advocacy is required was also discussed.

MADHYA PRADESH:
(1) State Level Follow up and Planning Workshop on Labour Budget Campaign
A two day workshop on follow up and Planning on Labour Budget Campaign was organised on 24th and 25th September, 2015 at Hotel Mid Land, Bhopal. 67 staff (21 female & 46 male) from 21 All Women Package Partner organisations attended the workshop. The main objective of the workshop was to bring all the partners at a common platform where they could share their problems, issues, challenges faced, learning they received while implementing the Labour Budget Campaign in their respective areas.

The participants were also briefed on the queries regarding the Micro Plan, importance of People’s Participation in the Development Process and the Community Development Program; and National Activation.

Participants also shared their learning’s, opportunities and challenges through group presentations.

Opportunities
- Participants had the first-hand experience in preparing labour budget.
- Participation of villagers in the labour budget preparation helped them in understanding the process.

Challenges
- Disinterest shown by government officials.
- Lack of people’s participation due to their unavailability, casteism, parda system.

Learnings
- Capacity building of MGNREGA groups in budget preparation.
- Awareness building among the villagers regarding the process of preparing labour budget, type of plans.

The guest speaker of the event, Executive Engineer Mr. R.K. Gupta (MGNREGA State Council, MP) discussed topics such as challenges in MGNREGA, the labour budget process (2016-2017), and Green India Mission.

Some other major issues discussed in open house discussions were, strategies for up-coming campaign, ways check migration when people are not getting jobs under MGNREGA, different type of format to be filled up during the campaign to collect data, priority needs and to prepare draft plan. IEC materials were also displayed and explained to the participants to make a better and effective use of it at various level for communication with CEO Block level & Sarpanch at village Panchayat level, mobilisation of community etc.
Training on People’s Advocacy (Jan Pairvi)
A two-days training programme on People’s Advocacy/Jan Pairvi was organised for the leaders of State Level Platform on 22nd-23rd September, 2015 at AICUF Ashram, Bhopal. 42 participants including 15 male & 32 female leaders from 16 People’s Organisations associated with State Level Platform attended this programme. Mr. Rajendra Bhandu (a social activist and media writer) was the guest speaker of the event stated the objective of the training programme was to enhance the advocacy skills of the community leaders of peoples’ organisations so that they can exercise their rights in an effective manner while fighting for the rights and entitlements of the excluded and marginalised communities.

Topic such as livelihoods - MGNREGA, women leadership & women empowerment, food security, FRA/land rights, organic farming, social security schemes (old age pension/window pension), health of women and children, women violence were discussed.

Other topics covered were Advocacy for whom, Collective Decision, Advocacy at the level of Sarpanch, Sachiv and Panch at Panchayat level, CEO at Janpad Level and District Collector at District level, and Actions to be taken.

Participants were also given information about the administrative structure from Panchayat to District level along with technical, leadership, documentation and communication skills required for advocacy or Jan Pairvi. Participants were also oriented on different skills of advocacy through group exercise.

(3) Training on Internal Control System of NGOs
One day Training and Orientation programme was organised on 24th September, 2015 at CASA Bhopal Office on the internal control system of NGOs for the accountants of partner organisations. This training cum orientation session was organised to put in place good governance and internal to facilitate effective oversight and control the operations of the organisation. 10 accountants, 6 coordinators and 5 Chief Functionary from 21 AWP partner organisations attended this programme.

Ms. Tuhina Mukherjee facilitated the training programme and briefed about the procedures of control system which consists of establishment of standards, measurement of actual performance, comparing the results with the pre-determined standards and taking corrective actions.

The facilitator also briefed the house on the need for establishment of standard for better governance in internal control system budget allocation, framework of financial, programme and human resource policy etc. and measurement of actual performance need to compare the results with the established standard.

RAJASTHAN
Pasture Land Campaign - A Pro Livelihood Initiative of Rajasthan Vikas Manch (RVM)
Livestock is the backbone of the rural livelihood of Rajasthan and Pasturelands supplements the need of grazing for the livestock of poor and marginalised communities. The state witnesses’ steady disappearance of pasture land because of the changes in land use pattern, mining, encroachment and change in polices. In 2010, State Government came up with Common Land Policy. Realising the importance of pasture land and its effect on the lives of the poor and the marginalised, Rajasthan Vikas Manch (RVM) initiated its campaign process in 2007 and a bulk of encroachment issues were addressed in the year 2013 in areas of Tonk, Jaipur and Jhalawar districts of Rajasthan.

The Campaign on Pasture Land from August 15th to September 15th, 2015 was mainstreamed under RVM’s Land and Livelihood Rights Campaign with the objective of strengthening the role of Gram Sabha. The campaign was held in 60 villages of 20 gram Panchayats of 15 District of Rajasthan with the help of 12 People Organisations.

Another campaign was organised during 15th August and 2nd October, 2015 focusing on mobilising Gram Sabha and raising the issues of removing encroachment from Pasture Land, ensuring development under MGNREGA and protection of Pasture Land with ownership of the Panchayats during the above Gram Sabha. Public meetings were organised to generate awareness and increase participation in Gram Sabha.

RVM also issued an appeal and a concept paper on the present status of Pasture Land in Rajasthan which was shared in the public meetings and was also presented in 15th August and 2nd October, 2015 Gram Sabha by the representatives of People’s Organisation. As a result 15 Gram Sabhas across the state passed the resolution to make the Pasture Lands encroachment free.

RVM is also planning to follow up the issues discussed above in 26th January, 2016 Gram Sabha and also policy related issues with State Revenue Board and Department along with the policy inputs and recommendation to the state Common Land Policy.
There is No Help like Self Help:
A Case Study on Self Help Groups in the Villages of Pariyahi and Jeevachhpur: At Pariyahi
The village of Pariyahi is situated in the Lalgarh Panchayat of the Supaul District in Bihar. Housing 8,079 residents, it was one of the several villages to have been devastated by the Kosin floods of 2008. Since 2011, CASA has been working in the villages of Bihar to restore life back to what is used to be, and to aid in empowering villagers to stand up for themselves economically and socially.

Before the flood, the village was a backward, male-dominated community wherein women were not even permitted to exit their residences. Primarily home-makers, they were prohibited from visiting the local Block Development Officer, and let alone this, speaking to another male resident of the village was looked on with suspicion by the community.

Ever since the advent of Climate Safety Disaster Relief Management (CSDRM) Programme, and the initiation of the Self Help Groups (SHGs), the lives of the women residents have improved not just on a fiscal scale, as they now possess purchasing power but also socially, and it been in a continuous state of escalation since. The objective of the programme was to initially provide aid, training and guidance to the women, and to then take a step back and let them be self-reliant.

Parasmani headed the SHGs, Birsa Self Help Group, that is one of the many ten-member SHGs initiated by CASA. The primary focus of the Birsa SHG is to empower women via the Goatery and Kitchen Gardening Projects so as to enable them earn an income.

To be eligible to be part of the SHG, women need to be between the age groups of 18-60 years old, should hail from the Dalit/ Mahadalit and other poor and marginalised communities, and most of all should show an active interest to join the group.

Two years ago, each of the SHG women began with owning one goat, and since then, as of today, each own approximately five to six goats each. Milk from the goats is used for self-consumption, while only the male goat is sold to local markets at a selling price of approximately Rs. 5,000. Female goats are kept for procreation and milk-production.

This aside, women have begun participating actively in the projects conducted. They have been able to open accounts in the Public Distribution System (PDS), Integrated Child Development Scheme (ICDS) and the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee (MGNREGA) accounts which add to them being self-sufficient, while earning a daily wage of Rs. 150 as opposed to Rs. 80 before the deluge.

With respect to the kitchen gardening project, CASA elected 20 women for the scheme based on Dalit/ Mahadalit community and SHG membership. They were provided with the apt training and raw materials such as potatoes, pumpkin, bitter gourd, lady’s fingers as well as green and red spinach to start a kitchen garden for their own consumption as well as for selling the produce to local markets.

The women were also provided with government linkages, as well, for securing further aid and in order to sell the produce which, per head, is approximately:

Prior to the intervention, income was only based on daily wages, that too, they were not regular but with gratitude to the kitchen gardening projects, women are able to contribute financially to the overall household income, able to use pure and organic vegetables for own consumption thereby also leading to lesser health issues.

On the whole, the community has benefitted via the awareness of the existence of such methods of cultivation and income generation.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Vegetable</th>
<th>Quantity</th>
<th>Selling Price/ kg</th>
<th>Total Selling Price</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Potatoes</td>
<td>80 - 100kgs.</td>
<td>Rs. 10</td>
<td>Rs. 800 - Rs. 1,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spinach</td>
<td>10-15kgs.</td>
<td>Rs. 12</td>
<td>Rs. 120 - Rs. 180</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Radish</td>
<td>20 - 30kgs.</td>
<td>Rs. 5</td>
<td>Rs. 100 - Rs. 150</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bitter Gourd</td>
<td>10 - 15kgs.</td>
<td>Rs. 15</td>
<td>Rs. 150 - Rs. 225</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lady Fingers</td>
<td>20 - 30kgs.</td>
<td>Rs. 20</td>
<td>Rs. 400 - Rs. 600</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Fiscal benefits aside, overall, women have been capacitated to stand on their own as opposed to before the intervention. Prior to CASA’s work, families were forced to take loans from money lenders who charged a hefty interest rate. As of today, families, especially women, have their own bank accounts, and money earned is distributed among the members of the family.

Women now speak for themselves and for others in need as now they have been made aware of issues such as disaster management, capacity building and various government schemes. And with the upliftment provided, they also now receive the support of the men folk as well. The SHGs, per se, have benefitted the village by integrating the village and its residents, aiding in women empowerment, helping villagers in understanding the sorrows and worries of each other, and building an overall awareness towards having such Self Help groups and organisations.
Finding Value in Vermicompost:
A Case Study on the Vermicompost Pits

A farmer by profession, Mr. Nunual Oraon, who lives with his wife, Mrs. Mangli Devi, and two sons, a daughter-in-law and a grandson, owns three acres of land on which he cultivates wheat and paddy in the far interiors of the village Jeevachhpur.

Post flood, he received aid, assistance, medicine and shelter from the local government and CASA. Furthermore, CASA trained farmers, like Nunuial, to send soil samples to the Rajendra Agricultural University (RAU) at Pusa, Samastipur, for testing, manage vermi compost and cultivate kitchen gardens. The election was based on being a member of the (Schedule Caste/ Schedule Tribe) SC/ ST and other poor communities, the number of cattle owned, and the capability to manage owning a vermi compost pit. In addition, CASA also took resident farmers to the RAU, so as to form linkages, ensuring further aid.

In order to make compost, a mix of about 400 kgs. of cow-dung and agricultural waste is dumped in the pit (each about 1m x 1.5m x 3m) and left for about two weeks after which the worms, given by the RAU, are added to the mix and covered with dead leaves and crops from the fields. The worms start acting on the dung-waste mix in about a month’s time and keep on decomposing it into organic manure excellent for fertilising the soil.

The process, on a whole, takes about two months resulting in about 200 kgs. of compost. Nunual produces such compost at least six times a year and uses this bio-fertiliser for his fields, on which, in the past, has even grown sunflowers, which resulted in a total produce of 2,800 kgs. which sold for Rs. 25/kg.

Though the compost itself can be sold for Rs. 10/kg, what is produced by him is just sufficient for using on the field. From a mere Rs. 4,000 to 5,000 per year, Nunual now earns a double amount of Rs. 8,000 to Rs. 10,000 annually, with full gratitude to CASA’s apt training, and of course, the high-yielding vermi compost bio-fertiliser.

Apart from farming, Nunual, also own a kitchen garden, which his wife tends to, growing potatoes, peaches and berries. Having a family of six members, produce from the kitchen garden is used for only for self-consumption. CASA’s training has also taught him and his family to get into the habit of saving, and with the money earned via the practice and utilisation of vermi compost, their overall lifestyle and condition has improved immensely as opposed to before facing the devastation of the flood.

A Fire without Smoke:
A Case Study on the Usage of the Smokeless Chulah

Rupa Devi is a homemaker and resident of the village of Jeevachhpur, one of the several villages inflicted by the destruction of the 2008 Kosi Floods. With CASA working for the restoration and overall upliftment of the people in the village, one of the several projects initiated was the Smokeless Chulah Project.

According CASA’s statistics, around six to eight families per ward receive a smokeless chulah or stove at an installation cost of Rs. 870 per beneficiary. Only families from the Dalit/ Mahadalit communities and families under the BPL level were selected to be beneficiaries for the project. Rupa, who lives with her three sons, three daughters, a son-in-law and his parents, was elected as a beneficiary for the project by the Self Help Group (SHG) Sadaa Samuh Sahayata’s members of the and CASA’s officials.

The innovative and economical apparatus works on a very simple theory: Made of cement and brick. (Height 1.5’ x Width 2’ x Length 2.5’) with a cement exhaust pipe (Length 7’ x Diameter 6”) exiting the chulah to the side wall; firewood is inserted from one end, heats the food placed and exits via the opposite end through exhaust pipe.

The chulah works in a way an oven does by preserving the latent heat within itself. An extension, with pits, was also made to so as to place the cooked food, keeping them warm. The apparatus is several times more economical and efficient than the regular chulah, as more items can be cooked in half the time, while consuming 30% less firewood thus leading to a total savings of approximately Rs. 1,100 a year.

“Since the past two years, not only savings have increased but also cooking has become a pleasant experience, as a very minute amount of smoke enters the cooking area, and I can cook without worrying about coughing or getting all teary-eyed!”, says Rupa’s daughter.
A two-day FSCM Measurement Tools Workshop was conducted at the four zonal offices: in East Zone - Barasat on July 1st and 2nd, 2015; in North Zone - at the CASA resource centre in Padhar, Betul on July 10th and 11th 2015. This workshop was attended by the staff from Banswara, Betul, Ratanpur, Raipur, Bhopal and Delhi.

In the South Zone - Chennai, the meeting was held from July 21st to 23rd 2015, and in the West Zone - at Mumbai on September 3rd and 4th, 2015. The workshop was a follow-up and was planned as per the guidelines/training imparted by the Canadian Foodgrains Bank (CFGB) during their work at Kathmandu, Nepal in the February, 2015.

The workshop was attended by all staff members who were directly or indirectly related with the Food Security for Community Mobilisation (FSCM) project and other food security related programmes, including the Core Programme Coordinators and staff of all resource centers from the different zones.

The programme was facilitated by the Chief Zonal Officers from the respective zones along with other imperative heads such as the Assistant Emergency Officers (AEOs) and Project Officers (POs) who welcomed the participants and explained the purpose of conducting the Measurement Tool Workshop. The motive was to enhance knowledge of the programme staff about the FSCM and its implementing strategy, and lay emphasis on the importance and need of measurement in projects.

Further to this, the stakeholders were asked to present the factors that enhance food security. Important factors cited were: Addressing issues in villages, increased food intake/ security for the beneficiaries, ensure migration reduction, increase nutrition of women and children, enhance sustainability of agriculture practices, improve usage of unused or unusable assets, convert non-productive assets to productive ones, equal wages for men and women, gender equity among communities and villages, enhanced quality of life for vulnerable people, more employment opportunities in the villages and access to government bodies to get certificates.

What follows is a succinct compilation on sessions conducted in all zones. The sessions were initiated by the CZOs with a brief introduction about the CFGB, its genesis, purpose, etc., while also discussing the objectives, and other topics that fall under the CFGB.

The following issues were covered: Food Consumption Scale, Household Dietary Diversity Tool, Understanding the six programmes of the CFGB, food security is an important CFGB programme, and its dimensions, Result Based Management and its purposes, the RBM six key questions, The unequal distribution of capital, Safe Food: The Cultural Impact on Consumption, Month of Adequate Household Food Provision, measuring household food consumption, introduction to measurement tools, Food Assistance End-use Survey Tool, sampling, survey design methods and tools, as well as the factors impacting food security and measurement challenges.

Conclusion

The workshop concluded with reviewing the topics covered during the two days including a feedback session where participants shared the usefulness and practicality of the learned measurement tools in their respective projects.
The Kunjeti Housing Project at Guptkashi, Uttarakhand

In June 2013, a cloudburst centered on the state of Uttarakhand caused devastating floods and landslides becoming the country’s worst natural disaster since the 2004 tsunami. The floods were on a large scale as they carried with it the debris from the building of dams upstream which blocked the rivers, causing major overflow.

The Kunjeti village of the Ukhimath Panchayat in Rudraprayag, home to 57 families out the 200 families in the area, was one of the several villages to be ravaged by the deluge.

When the flood hit, the residents of the village fled to safety, leaving all belongings behind as their houses perished. They took refuge in the local school for 3 - 4 days after which they sought temporary shelter in the forests, residing there for six months.

CASA, with financial support from the Marthoma Church, started a programme to rebuild the houses of the affected. More so, Kunjeti itself comprised of residents who belonged to the Schedule Caste community, which made them less likely to receive any future flood relief support.

The flood had ravaged around 25 houses, out of these CASA selected 18 families. Selection was on the basis of poverty, caste background, approachability to government and other aid, and their ability to secure land elsewhere for construction as the government had refused to provide them land due to their caste background. The government also declared the initial area of residence unfit for construction as the entire area was (and still is) shifting and crumbling downhill at approximately 5’/ month.

Therefore, with construction to be planned in varied areas across the district of Guptkashi, starting April 6th, 2015 CASA, along with its partner organisation Parvateey Niyojan Viks Sanssth (PNVS), held several meetings and conferences with the families.

Via the meetings, a procurement committee was also formed comprising of a total of six members: four representatives from beneficiaries families, one member from the partner organization, PNVS, and one staff member from CASA. The committee’s main role and responsibility was to identify suppliers of construction material, collect quotations and negotiate with the suppliers within the proposed time frame of six months.

Further, meetings were conducted to ensure the finalisation of housing construction. This resulted in the proposal that the construction would be a participatory process, done solely by the beneficiaries themselves as the residents were daily wage construction workers. CASA and the overseeing committee would provide technical support and guidance, while also finalising labor cost for the different stages of construction, which would be paid to the beneficiaries on completion and technical verification of every stage.

The secondary purpose was also to aid the beneficiary family members monetarily, via the agreement, as none of them were earning any income from other sources. The fiscal benefits provided by CASA after every stage of construction completed can be seen from the labour charges provided in Table.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sl. No.</th>
<th>Particulars</th>
<th>Amount in Rs.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Heading</td>
<td>Sub-Particulars</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Labour</td>
<td>Substructure/Walls</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Foundation work labour charges</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Wooden windows and doors</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Bath &amp; Lavatory</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Plastering</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Roofing</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>2,15,800</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Material Cost</td>
<td>Construction</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Solar Power System</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Total Cost</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

With support from a technical architect and the CASA team, along with aid from the locals, they selected and marked the areas for initiating the foundation work. This was completed in all 18 locations. The beneficiary families contributed to the construction of their new homes, starting by levelling the land, and making it suitable for construction.

They carried construction material travelling nearly 2kms by foot without using any secondary means of transportation such as khacchars or mules. The risk was great as the roads were wrecked and accident prone.

With the main purpose of constructing their homes, the beneficiaries, along with CASA’s team toiled and completed all 18 residences in six months. The new residences measured 50’ x 40’, had two bedrooms, a kitchen-cum-storage room and an exterior sheltered bathroom and lavatory.

The beneficiaries were still in the process of securing an electrical connection so CASA, as of November 2015, began providing the selected families with a solar power system connection. The families, through this, can get electricity all night (depending on power usage), and can recharge the supply during daytime.
After completion in October, the project was inaugurated by Bishop Dr. Joseph Marthoma along with Mr. Nirmal J. Singh (Head of Emergency, CASA, New Delhi) and other staff members of CASA.

The residents are more than appreciative as they now have a permanent roof over their heads. The residences have been a blessing in many ways as schools, hospitals and markets are nearer. The construction having been a participatory process, the residents are now equipped to handle any future problems well, maybe not individually, but definitely as a community. Being finally secure, shelter wise, they can concentrate on restoring securing their livelihood by hunting for jobs.

Case Study:
Three is not a Crowd:
A UFRP - KHP Case Story of a Three Families who Stood by Each Other

36 year old Budi Lal, lived with his wife, Urmila Devi, 32, with their two sons and a daughter of ages 15, 12 and 11 years in the Harjian Basti in the village of Kunjeti. The village was one of the many areas devastated by the deluge in 2013. The Harjian Basti comprised of 57 households, mostly including residents, Harjians, who are considered to belong to the lowest class of society, according to rural Indian tradition.

Budi worked as a daily wage worker @ Rs.250/ day for approximately 15 days a month for three months a year, in addition to working as a porter in Kedarnath, a pilgrimage spot for Hindus, for another three months a year @ Rs.5,000 p.a. earning him a total of approximately Rs.26,250 p.a. His wife, Urmila, worked as a home-maker while his children attended the local government school, Prarthnik Vidhyalaya, Kunjeti.

When the flood hit, Budi and his family evacuated the area along with bare essentials, and whatever food they could get their hands on, and headed to high grounds in the forest. There, along with other evacuees they resided for six months.

Initially they were provided food and medicinal supplies by rescue helicopters but once the water levels receded, they procured food and other supplies from the relief camp way down in Gupkashi. With no work in hand, they borrowed money from neighbours and relatives in order to ensure survival.

CASA, which was already working in the neighbouring villages and districts, providing tarpaulins, blankets, cooking utensils and dry ration, arrived in 2014, once the area was accessible, via its partner agency PNVS, with the prime objective of constructing homes for the affected through the Uttarakhand Flood Rehabilitation Programme - Kunjeti Housing Project (UFRP - KHP).

Out of the 57 families in Kunjeti, CASA selected 25 families.

What they are truly thankful for is the immense safety they feel during the monsoons. While in Kunjeti, with the past history of floods, such as that in 1998, they would have sleepless nights in times when it rained. As of now, they are void of that fear once and for all. They have been given renewed confidence, security and a stepping to restore their life to what it was and make it even better than before.

Selection was on the basis of poverty, caste background and approachability to government and other aid. The government declared the area Kunjeti as unstable as the ground was (and is still) shifting and crumbling therefore was unfit for construction.

Therefore, with construction to be planned in areas across the district of Gupkashi, through several meetings and conferences with the families, CASA drew up the terms and conditions that houses would be built provided the beneficiaries could provide the land of and on their own, and provide the necessary official documents to prove ownership as well. Residents, who did not own land elsewhere, either purchased land individually or collectively, or were given land by relatives. Therefore, out of the 25 selected villagers, only 18 residents were able to secure land plots.

Also, through the myriad meetings held, a procurement and monitoring committee was formed, comprising of two men and two women, one staff member from CASA and one from the local partner organisation, to oversee and ensure completion was up to the required specifications and quality. Before any construction commenced, the land provided would be analysed and surveyed by this committee to ensure it was fit for construction.

During that time, land near main roads was being sold for nearly Rs. 6 - Rs.7 lakhs/ 50' x 50' plot area. Land towards the interiors was being sold for far cheaper rates. More so, it also proved difficult to purchase the land as owners and neighbours belonged to the general caste and, by no accord, wanted a Harjian living between them. Therefore, land was purchased by relatives and later had it transferred to the beneficiaries.

Budi and his family arranged the money by pulling in whatever savings they had and selling Urmila's silver jewellery. Budi received no work as a porter, as visiting season was far from over, so he
therefore worked along with the Border Security Force (BSF) members earning Rs.3,000/ month. The family also received aid from close relatives, in cash and kind, such as a loan of Rs.35,000 without interest, goats, and other farm animals to be used for selling.

Budi, along with two other residents: Anil Lal, aged 35 years, who lives with his wife and three sons, and Sheru Lal, aged 53 years, who lives with his wife, son, daughter-in-law and two grandchildren, purchased a plot of land 150’ x 150’ for a sum total of Rs.3.5 lakhs, each contributing nearly Rs.1.2 lakhs each.

With land being purchased, Budi, Anil and Sheru, along with their families worked hard to level the land, lay the foundation, build the walls, plaster them, and finally construct the roofs, thereby building themselves, with assistance from CASA, three houses with an area of 50’x40’ on the purchased plot.

Though, as opposed to other families, there were three families working together, the task of constructing their houses was filled with challenges. They had to carry construction material from the main road to the site, though all roads were wrecked and accident prone, travelling nearly 3kms by foot without using any mules. The risk taken was immense as, with the hill descending, landslides and mudslides were common, especially during monsoons.

Damage to construction materials was another risk being faced during the wet seasons so Ram used the semi-constructed house to store materials. He also ensured that a member of his family would reside in the semi-constructed house every night so as to safeguard the stored materials from people of the higher castes, in case of theft so as to delay construction.

On the related issue, they further faced animosity from the higher caste neighbours and those of neighbouring villages who charged them Rs.7,000/ month/family, a total of Rs.21,000, for carrying stones to the construction site. They (Budi, Anil and Sheru) even had their tools and implements confiscated when the neighbours approached and forbade them taking construction any further. It was only with assistance from relatives and by approaching government officials that they were able recover the implements.

With all housing, land, and identity lost in the flood, the three families had no means of earning an income. CASA, so as to aid the families, financially provided a sum of money via transfer to each family’s bank account on completion of every stage of construction in return for their contribution.

It took six months for Budi, Anil, Sheru and their families, along with CASA’s team to complete the three houses with an area of 50’x40’ house that included two bedrooms, a kitchen-cum-storage room, and an exterior bathroom and lavatory.

The life and lifestyle has its share of pros and cons. On one hand, they do feel the risk of animosity from higher class neighbours would be much more as prior to the flood, being in a large community, oppression and fear of the higher castes was low but now, since housing is scattered, risk of threats from the general caste is higher. Also, as firewood is unavailable in their new locality, they have to travel way back to the forests to collect firewood.

On the other hand unlike other residents, Budi, Anil and Sheru have already shifted into their new home and could not be more relieved. The main market, road and the schools are just 2kms - 3kms away in comparison to being 10-kms away while in Kunjeti. This has made the children’s as well as Budi’s life easier as he can now go in search of work to the nearby markets easily.

Electricity was another issue being faced by the beneficiary families, including those of Budi, Anil and Sheru. As a solution CASA began providing the elected families with a solar power system connection in November 2015. The specifications are provided in the Table.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>S.No.</th>
<th>Items</th>
<th>Specific</th>
<th>Pieces</th>
<th>Amount in Rs.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Solar Panel</td>
<td>Luminous, 100W</td>
<td>x1</td>
<td>5,800</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Solar Control Panel</td>
<td>Luminous</td>
<td>x1</td>
<td>950</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>LED Bulbs</td>
<td>Philips, 3W</td>
<td>x4</td>
<td>800</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Bulb-holder</td>
<td>Cora</td>
<td>x4</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Inverter</td>
<td>Luminous, 850 VA</td>
<td>x1</td>
<td>5,200</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Battery</td>
<td>Luminous, 150W</td>
<td>x1</td>
<td>9,200</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>Wiring</td>
<td>Plaza, 1.2mm x 100m</td>
<td>x1</td>
<td>175</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>TOTAL</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>23,025</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

CASA provided the above to the beneficiaries for their own personal consumption. The families, through this, can get electricity all night (depending on power usage), and can recharge the supply during daytime.

When asked how they will manage their new lives without a steady income, Budi’s wife, Urmila, stated that, “As of now we are living on past savings. Having shifted to a new locality, we have to mingle with the neighbours, even if they be from higher castes, so as to secure work but also with the main market and road closer, finding work is going to be much easier for certain.”

As opposed to life in Kunjeti, what they are truly thankful for is the immense safety they feel during the monsoons. While in Kunjeti, with the past history of floods, such as that in 1998, they would have sleepless nights in times when it rained. As of now, they are void of that fear once and for all. More than that, being provided a permanent roof over their heads has made other worries fickle, and given them the confidence and surety that they have laid the foundation to a better life.

Hume yehin par refina hai kyunki dheere dheere sab apni jagah aa jayega. Humne yeh bhi socha ki ek baar nauki lag jaye aur humara basera ja jaye, hum kuch geya, baki khaare the, aur ek gaushala bhi banne de (We intend to live here as we are sure that everything will fall in place in time. Once we get work, income is steady, and we are more settled, we plan to get some cows and goats, and even build a cowshed) says Urmila while telling what plans she has for the future.
The Tamil Nadu Deluge

Background
In November 2015, a cyclonic slow-moving circulation system over southwest Bay of Bengal brought about torrential rains over the states of Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh and Kerala. The system caused widespread flooding in Chennai and adjoining areas. Rainfall spread as far north as Visakhapatnam in north east Andhra Pradesh with its impact in Kanchipuram, Thiruvallur, Tuticorin, Villupuram and Pondicherry; however, heaviest rain was received by Chennai and Cuddalore.

Heavy rain in the catchment areas of the Chembarambakkam and other reservoirs forced authorities to discharge water thereby flooding the river. Around 3,000 people living along the banks of the Adyar River were relocated. Over 10 lakh were affected with a loss of over 200 lives in Tamil Nadu and 80 in Cuddalore.

Daily life in Chennai was paralysed as numerous roads were inundated with minimal road connectivity, and train and air transport was either cancelled or delayed by hours. To worsen situations, 80% of Chennai, Kanchipuram, Thiruvallur and Puducherry faced power cuts for days. Schools and colleges were shut in several districts, and patients were evacuated from government and private hospitals after flood waters entered the buildings.

Relief
Under the Tamil Nadu Flood Relief Programme, CASA, since November 2015, with aid from its overseas partner organisations, Christian Aid - ECHO, ACT - RRF, UMCOR, DKH and MCCI, provided relief of varying capacities to villages in several districts of Tamil Nadu. The aid was specifically for the residents who were worst affected by the floods that hit the areas including those of Chennai, Kanchipuram, Thiruvallur and Cuddalore.

Prevalent Situation and Challenges Faced
Cuddalore, Chennai, Kanchipuram, Thiruvallur, Villupuram and Pondicherry were under three spells of severe rains; which caused severe flooding in the area. Thus, the criteria changed after each spell, and identifying villages proved challenging as villages that were identified initially had to be reviewed in the context of changing weather and its impacts.

Therefore, the CASA team had to work through the harsh environmental conditions and respond based on the needs that arose from the situation. Since the areas targeted were scattered over a vast expanse, the need became more with people pitching on their demand that everyone were affected irrespective of the level of vulnerability.

In relation, since the affected communities were mostly confined to locations near water bodies, the identification process and administrative response also had its own challenges in terms of its reach, as the areas were scattered. For example: The identification of scheduled tribes, such as the Irulas, who are a very socially and economically vulnerable community, was also testing as they resided in isolated pockets.

Furthermore, difficulties arose with respect to access to villages as some roads were cutoff or underneath residual flood waters and sludge thus hindering vehicle movement. Also with just one vehicle available to reach all targeted villages, the team had to strategize movement for distribution in timing.

Response
The setback of the unavailability of food, and potable water, the loss of homes and household items was suffered by a majority of the population, especially in villages. Immediate response was provided by CASA, with aid from its partner organisations and local churches. They provided food, facilities for the provision of potable water as well as non-food items, hygiene kits, tarpaulins and other relief items. The efforts were greatly appreciated by the victims.
Case Study:
In the Blink of an Eye:
The Case Stories of Slums, Cities and the Lives in it brought to Ruins Overnight:
At Chinnadimadam, Chennai

The village of Chinnadimadam is located in Satyawadi in North Chennai. Over 125 families live there, all of whom are daily wage workers, working as masons, carpenters, driver, loaders, etc, and have lived there for over 25 years.

Since November 2015, Tamil Nadu had been receiving heavy rainfall due to the depression in the Bay of Bengal. On December 1st, 2015, not just due to excessive rainfall but also due to tonnes of gallons of water being released from the Chembarambakkam dam, the ponds in the vicinity as well in the river Adyar overflowed.

The water gushed not only into the residential areas near the embankments while also into the neighbouring towns and cities. Post Diwali, since November 12th, 2015, areas had already experienced slight flooding twice due to the prevailing torrential rain so people were almost prepared for a minor flood. What they did not expect was a flood of such immense proportions.

On December 1st, 2015, around 1 am, the outflow caused the water from the canal near the village, which is a joining of two other mainstream canals, the Kudugaiyur as well as the Mulailalai canals to overflow. The flooding brought with itself garbage and human excreta, submerging the village and residences under 2ft. of water and sewage.

The waters destroyed all houses and household items. The residents rushed to the nearby school for shelter where people from other nearby areas had also taken refuge, thereby resulting in a total of nearly 2,000 people taking shelter there for nearly five days.

Within hours of the flooding, CASA, with aid from the Church of South India (CSI) reached the village and provided bread and water to the 1,200 affected. The church gave milk for the children and rice for the elderly.

Marimuthu, aged 26 years, lives with his wife, Kanimuli, 24 years, and their children of 4 and 2 years. He works as a fishing vendor, selling fish on the roadside, earning about Rs. 9,000/ month. He, since the flooding has not been able to go back to work as the economy has had a setback, and at the moment, the demand for fish by the locals has reduced due to health and safety reasons.

He, since then has been living on his savings and by taking loans. He along with other villagers, most of whom have also been rendered jobless have been busy spending time renovating and rebuilding the village and houses.

Also, so is the story of Aritu, aged 28, who lives with her husband Parani of 30 years with their two sons aged 8 and 6 years. Aritu’s younger son suffers from being deaf and mute. Her husband works as a porter earning about Rs. 500/ day while giving Rs. 200 of his daily earnings to his wife for running the house.

Past midnight, on December 1st, when the flood hit, Aritu heard neighbours shouting. She immediately rushed out of her home to see the canal right beside her home flooded. She and her family rushed to the nearby school where they stayed for about 10 days only to find that the water had brought with itself all the garbage, destroying all the furniture and every other item at ground level.

When the flood hit, all she wondered was how she could manage? By seeing the devastation the flood has caused, she had lost all confidence in herself. CASA, which had immediately, on occurrence of the flood, supplied bread and water offered her support, assuring her that they were there for helping her.

She, since then, called her brother and mother who, along with her family, helped in restoring their home. Her husband began work again, by joining a plastic manufacturing company as a worker though it is not as paying as it used to be. The local churches have been a major support in helping her and her family with the food being provided.

Financial and food losses aside, what the floods have left behind is more damage that can be seen especially with the epidemics, such as malaria, typhoid and other water borne diseases, on the rise due to swamps of sludge and stagnant water.

The setback of the unavailability of potable water was suffered not just by Marimuthu, but also by the other villagers. Post flood, the village was submerged under 2ft. of water, garbage, and human excreta which had contaminated the underground water as well. More so, the water stagnated on ground for over 20 days since the rains began, so many of the children in the village have fallen ill to diarrhoea, loose motion, and viral fever.

In response to the drinking water problem, CASA, with aid from Christian Aid, installed a water purification system that provides around 700lts of potable water/ hr. This has in fact helped the villagers securing clean drinking water, without any second thoughts of how it would affect their health. The Municipal Corporation was also called in to aid with the issue concerning the hand-pump. They resolved the case by changing the pipeline. Marimuthu, Aritu and the other villagers are truly thankful for the water installation saying that it has, since its instalment, provided them water for drinking and cooking. They now use the clean hand-pump water for bathing and washing utensils and clothes only while relying whole-heartedly on the water installation.
OVERSEAS ENGAGEMENTS

Mr. Suresh Satpathy, Senior State Co-Ordinator, CASA-Dheradun, Mr. Joseph James, Project Officer and Miss Ruth Yamima Kachhap attended a Sub-Committee Meeting of Local Capacities for Peace (LCP) form 28th-29th July, 2015, in Nepal.

Mr. Joycia Thorat, Project Officer, CASA - Mumbai attended an International Workshop on Food Security from 20th to 26th September 2015 at Kisumu, Kenya
OVERSEAS ENGAGEMENTS

2015 PARIS CLIMATE CONFERENCE, (COP 21)

Mrs. Joycia Thorat, Project Officer/Policy Desk, CASA West Zone and Mr. Dinesh Vyas, Sr. Program Coordinator, CASA Udaipur attended and actively participated in the UNFCCC Conference at Paris, France on 28th November to 5th December, 2015.

The Project Officer of West Zone also participated in the following events.

Media Engagement - Ms. Thorat gave a video interview for ACT Alliance. A news letter interview for Christian Aid/ACT Alliance, radio interview for Norway National Radio, and article for ACT’s news letter on Gender and Climate Change.

Advocacy - Campaigned in the green zone with Ministers and party who visited the conference. The key issues that was focused was to include Gender, Human Rights inclusion, indigenous people and intergenerational, 1.5 degree Celsius for warming, and green finance. She met leaders like Mr. Hollande, President of France and his wife, Sports Minister of France, Morocco Environment Minister the next COP host, Scotland Environment Minister and Canada Chief Negotiator. She also tied wrist bands to many visitors promoting green finance and shared ACT Alliance position and stand on climate change.

Ecumenical worship – Participated in the Ecumenical workshop at Mortadella.

Contribution to Act Alliance - Including gender as one focal group, drafted the text for elevator speech for all the four groups, taking notes from gender constituency important notes to ACT meetings, participated regularly in the morning strategy meetings, etc. Also set up a space in green zone for Act Alliance conferences, seminars and campaigns particularly in 5 workshops and seminars on youth and climate, fast for climate, water and climate, gender and climate, and disaster and climate. Participated in discussions with other country members. Also took part in People’s summit which is alternate CoP which was a critical event of all business UN nexus. It was a great opportunity of learning and sharing.

Let us join our hands with Global Initiatives to eliminate Lymphatic Filariasis From India

Mr. Jonathan Rout, Project Officer of CASA, East Zone attended the Sixth Annual Meeting of Neglected Tropical Disease NGDO Network at Abu Dhabi from 13th to 15th of September 2015.

On behalf of IMA-WH and CASA he submitted the report on the achievement of the Morbidity Management / Foot Care Management in Odisha state of India.

During their sixth annual meeting in Abu Dhabi, UAE, in September 2015, members of the Neglected Tropical Disease (NTD) Non-Governmental Development Organisation (NGDO) and Network (NNN) declared their full and unanimous support for a global indicator for NTDs for Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 3, Target 3.3, reflecting language endorsed by the World Health Organisation and the NTD community.
Ms. Reenu Mariam Thomas daughter of Mrs. Rahelamma Thomas, Programme Assistant, CASA, East Zone “tied the knot” with Mr. Biju Baby on July 15, 2015. We congratulate and wish the couple all success in their married life.
REMINISCENCES

(A glimpse of CASA’s Newsletter in this quarter way back in 1967. Then CASA was known as CORAGS (Committee on Relief and Gift Supplies) and was a programme of the NCCI (National Christian Council of India)

INFORMATION BULLETIN

SEPTEMBER 1967

SUCCESS OF KITCHEN GARDENS IN MADRAS

Eight hundred and fifty kitchen gardens, growing vegetables such as brinjal, spinach, peas, capsicum and a variety of beans, have been developed by the YMCA Rural Demonstration Centre in Martandam, Kanyakumari district of Madras State, reports Mr. M.A. Samuel, a secretary of the Martandam YMCA.

Sponsored by CORAGS (Committee on Relief and Gift Supplies) of the National Christian Council of India, the Kitchen Garden Programme serves to 20 volunteers supervising the programme. Each volunteer is responsible for growing 150 gardens, using desert back-yards and other vacant spaces in the area.

CORAGS, with support received through the World Council of Churches, has initially contributed Rs. 25,000 towards the Kitchen Garden Programme in Madras. Nearly 2,500 similar gardens are expected to be developed by March 1968. Already serv-

Mr. G. B. Thomas, CORAGS Field Representative showing to the Director Stephen Mathal (right) a lush crop of brinjals growing in one of the Kitchen Gardens in Martandam.

stimulate farmers in the neighbouring areas to organize and develop similar gardens with a view to supplementing their diet with green vegetables having sufficient proteins and maximum nutrition value.

The YMCA of Martandam laid aside a 2-acre plot which has been converted into the central vegetable seed farm. Since its inception in January 1967, the central seed farm has supplied 103,000 seedlings and 25 kilograms of vegetable seeds to

ing half a million people in India through its nutritional feeding programmes in addition to the emergency feeding programmes catering to another one million, CORAGS has shifted its emphasis from food distribution to Community Development and has urged institutions to increase their food production through kitchen gardens and Grow-More-Food schemes to promote self-help activities making lasting contributions to the community.
OBITUARIES

(We express our deepest condolences to the bereaved families on this great loss. May God grant everyone in the bereaved families, peace, comfort and strength to bear this loss.)

Mr. Wilfred Balraj, Administrative Officer, CASA - New Delhi passed away on 24th August 2015.