

Kabil - Annual Activity for Financial Year 2018-19

KABIL was registered as a society Under Societies Registration Act in December 2012. It is also registered as a charity under Section 12A and Section 80G of Income Tax Act. KABIL is eligible to receive foreign contribution under Foreign Contribution Regulation Act.

Summary of activities till March 2018

The first year after formation was devoted to obtaining various necessary legal certifications, exploring opportunities for work and initiating action. The then existing Sir Dorabji Tata Trust - SDTT (now unified with the Tata Trusts) was kind enough to partner with KABIL even though KABIL was just a start-up. SDTT considered KABIL's proposal to work in north-eastern and eastern region to support other NGOs in capacity building for livelihood promotion and set up a pilot project on irrigation. With support from SDTT, KABIL set up a project office near Guwahati. The pilot project was initiated in Assam to help small farmers improve productivity of their homesteads through appropriate irrigation technology. The project created irrigation facilities for the cultivation of vegetables and plantation crops in the homesteads of about 400 farmers mainly in Kamrup Rural district. KABIL also supported 8 local NGOs Assam with operating area in Kamrup Rural, Bongaigaon, Sonitpur, Nalbari, Kokrajhar, Goalpara and Karbi Anglong districts. The aim was to enhance their abilities for livelihood promotion of the rural poor. These NGOs voluntarily formed a learning group in which KABIL also participated.

Support of KABIL professionals was sought by Tripura State Rural Livelihood Mission (TRLM) and they trained TRLM staff in phases on matters relating to promotion of SHGs. Elsewhere in the country, KABIL supported ASA in Madhya Pradesh, Banausodhi Vikas (an SHG federation in Odisha), Kudumbashree at Attapadi of Kerala and Shamayita Math at Dantewada of Chhattisgarh.

KABIL also initiated collaboration in the first year itself with the North-eastern Rural Livelihood Project (NERLP) of the Government of India (supported by the World Bank). The work involved helping the project facilitating teams of NERLP and the local communities to create community development plans as well as capacity building of NERLP staff. The initial work was in Sikkim, which later expanded to Nagaland.

In the year 2016, Government of Jharkhand invited Kabil to impart orientation training to all the Block Development Officers (BDOs) as well as the Block Programme Officers (BPOs) of Mahatma Gandhi Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGS). The trainings were on how to implement MGNREGS for livelihood promotion using the principles of Integrated Natural Resource Management (INRM). Through a series of orientation trainings, each of three days duration, nearly 500 BDOs and BPOs were trained.

In a unique initiative in Assam, the group of NGOs belonging to the learning group has remained engaged for the last two years to improve the quality of MGNREGS implementation and strengthen the natural resource management component of the scheme, particularly with reference to creation of water bodies as individual assets in the homesteads of small and marginal farmers. The initiative is spread over 10 blocks in 7 districts. By end of March 2018, Rs 3.38 crore worth of funds were sanctioned for individual livelihood asset creation by the government and 56 farm ponds were completed.

Activities during the year

The collaborative project at Udalguri of Assam (Udalguri project) between Assam State Rural Livelihoods Mission (ASRLM), Axis Bank Foundation (ABF) and KABIL completed one full year with some significant outcome. We completed a study for OXFAM to identify livelihood opportunities for forest dwellers who had received land as entitlement under Forest Rights Act. More such studies are likely in the coming financial year. Negotiations have been completed with Rajiv Gandhi Foundation to undertake a policy study in the water sector. The study will commence from April 2019.

The Udalguri project:

The project has been a unique one and significant on several counts.

Firstly, this is the first of its kind collaboration between a state rural livelihood mission, a private donor and an NGO implementer, initiated through a detailed written agreement. Across the country, the state SRLMs have promoted lakhs of self help groups but are struggling to intervene for livelihoods enhancement. One major reason is the absence of knowhow. KABIL brings in that knowhow in Udalguri. This project therefore is a pilot that can be replicated in other states and many other actors can be involved to solve a critical problem.

Secondly, unlike most other projects being implemented by NGOs and government agencies for livelihood promotion in rural areas which adopt classical extension methodologies, this project has adopted entrepreneurship of the local youth as the pivot on which the interventions revolve. While this fosters a climate of entrepreneurship in an area, which is immensely remote and tribal, it also has the capacity to impact the rural area economy faster than can happen through other methods.

Thirdly, it is being implemented in an area which has gone through decades of isolation and strife. While the political issue has been settled for the time being by creation of a tribal autonomous council, unless the inhabitants improve their livelihoods, the gains will be shortlived. There are similar areas in almost all states in the North-east as well as in several other states elsewhere. Therefore, the progress in Udalguri and learnings from the project can show a pathway in similar such situations.

Fourthly, Mahatma Gandhi Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme, which never focused on creating individual livelihood assets for the poor in Assam, is now being extensively used for this purpose under the project. Udalguri is the only place in Assam where this is happening. The

project team of KABIL not only is conceptualising and designing the interventions but also are involved in capacity building of the government staff. For example, Udalguri is the first district in Assam that has used “SECURE”, a new software for planning under MGNREGS (introduced by the Government of India) and our team has trained the government staff in using the software, especially for individual livelihood creation of the poor.

Fifthly, a number of new technology applications have taken place through the project and more are to be applied in the next few years. These technologies - for water harvesting, plant and animal husbandry - have been suitably improvised for the local context. They are creating new demonstrations and large-scale adoption has started. For example, nearly 2,000 families have undertaken to create a low-cost model of pig-sty. This will remove a critical bottleneck in rearing improved pigs, one of the most vital livelihood activities in the area.

Sixthly, the project has made rapid advances in reaching the households. Out of 15,000 households to be impacted in four years’ time we have reached nearly 6,000 households by the end of the first year. This is not only fast for any such project, considering the fact that we set up a fresh new team in an unknown rural area, it sets up a new example of speed and growth.

Finally, we could develop an excellent working relationship with the staff of ASRLM at all levels as well as the local government functionaries and chairpersons of the VDCs. The Minister from local area was especially warm to us and created space for us in all possible ways. This is in sharp contrast with our professional experience elsewhere in the country where it took strenuous efforts and long time to build a working relationship, if at all!

The context of Udalguri

The district of Udalguri was formed in 2004 as one of the four new districts (Kokrajhar, Baksa, Udalguri and Chirang) of Assam under the Bodoland Territorial Council (BTC). The territory of the present district was earlier Udalguri sub-division of the undivided district of Darrang. BTC was created responding to the agitation for a separate state because the original inhabitants of the area, the Bodo tribe in particular, thought that they had been socially and economically marginalized.

Udalguri block had 44,856 households and population of 2.2 lakh as per Census 2011. 0.93 lakh among them belonged to scheduled tribe (ST). However, considering the fact that Santhals and other “tea tribes” (tribal people from Chhotanagpur who work in tea gardens) constitute a significant share of the population but were until recently not counted among the scheduled tribe in Assam, the actual number of tribal population would be significantly higher. Majority of the ST population in the block constitute of Bodo, Rabha and Garo tribes.

As per data compiled from the Socio-economic and Caste Census (SECC) 2011, Udalguri ranks 11th (out of 27 districts) in Assam in terms of percentage of households suffering from one or more deprivations and requiring interventions under government poverty alleviation programmes, indicating a measure of poverty. 56% of the households in Udalguri district require help for coming out of one or more deprivations. By that measure, Udalguri block is the poorest in Udalguri district (ranks first).

Progress of the project:

The goal of the project is to Improve the income of 15,000 households by implementation of different rural livelihood interventions. These households have members in SHGs promoted by ASRLM. The project has reached 5,994 households against the target of 6,000 in 122 villages spread over Udalguri & Harisinga development blocks.

Villages	122
Households reached	5,994
Male Beneficiaries	2,806
Female Beneficiaries	3,187
Transgender beneficiary	1

Three broad streams of activities, integrated at the village level, have been launched. In the first, MGNREGS has been accessed to create farm ponds, and erect sheds for housing of animals (pigsties mostly). In the second, some new techniques and approaches have been introduced for improved cultivation and better return from agriculture. These include rain-shelters for vegetable cultivation to produce them at off-season, *jalkund* to ensure water for vegetables in drought situation, poly-houses and nurseries for raising and sale of improved saplings etc. Paddy seed production has been undertaken in summer by entrepreneurs for sale in the local area during the next kharif season. New plantations of black pepper are being created in the betel nut gardens of the families. Demonstrations have been undertaken for cash crop cultivations like watermelon and pumpkin. In the third, small pig farms have been established by entrepreneurs, which provide breeding services and supply healthy piglets of improved breeds. Regular vaccination, de-worming of animals and poultry and even curative measures, where necessary, have been undertaken. Pigsties, which hardly existed earlier are being constructed through various means.

As mentioned earlier, new entrepreneurs – both women and men from local area – have been instrumental in adopting and spreading these technologies, methods and tools. They were selected through a designed selection process, imparted entrepreneurial as well as technical training and provided critical minimum start-up capital. There are 30 of them now, all first-time entrepreneurs, and are being mentored on an ongoing basis.

Agriculture

Until end of March, 68,136 pits for black pepper were dug by 2,125 participating households from 9 VCDCs (equivalent to gram panchayats). Planting of improved saplings in the pits have started from late April. Each black pepper vine can produce a kilogram of fresh black pepper in the third year, which earns Rs 300. Therefore, with 100 vines a family can earn Rs 30,000 gross. This income will go up as the vines grow further. Even though nondescript cultivars of black pepper are grown in many areas of Assam, black pepper is new in the project area and the variety is among the best commercial ones.

Watermelon was cultivated in 17 hectares of land by 43 farmers. Out of them 41 farmers have taken up watermelon cultivation for the first time. 20 *jalkunds* with dimension of 4-meter x 2-meter x 1.5 meters have been dug in the drought prone area of Amjuli and Sonaigaon VCDC. These will help farmers to store 12,000 liters of water in each for 2 more months and thereby elongating the harvest period of rain fed chili for 2 more months. 2,125 members have been trained on improved crop practices, including for kharif paddy during the last kharif season. 16 farmers have produced nearly 12 tons of paddy seeds for sale in the coming kharif season. 13 service provider entrepreneurs (agriculture) are actively working to boost their enterprise activities by catering to the farming needs of the neighbours.



Shri Rihon Daimari, Minister for Public Health Engineering and Co-operation, Assam and local MLA inaugurates a worksite under MGNREGS



Service provider entrepreneur imparting training on improved agriculture at Sonaigaon



Demonstration of black pepper pit digging to SHG members



Demonstration of watermelon & pumpkin in Sonaigaon.

Livestock

1,095 households have started doing piggery activity following improved methods of rearing. 873 families have adopted commercial feed, partly or wholly replacing their traditional inferior ration. 314 households have adopted swine fever vaccine and de-worming practice for the first time. Through the boars of improved breed (Hampshire), breeding services have been provided to 80 Ghoongru breed sows. Besides these, 2,440 members have been imparted training on improved rearing of pigs. The sows reared by livestock entrepreneurs have delivered 82 piglets of pure breed and the sows, which were crossbred with pure breed boars, have delivered 97 cross-bred piglets.

Grooming of livestock entrepreneurs is going on. 17 active entrepreneurs are trying hard to establish their business entities. A new model of low-cost yet robust pigsty suitable for improved breeds has been developed. This has received large-scale acceptance from pig rearers. Once they construct their pigsties, many more interventions for improving pig rearing will be possible. Livestock entrepreneurs are spearheading this activity. They understand that improved pig rearing by the communities will generate more business revenue for them.

Case of a livestock entrepreneur

Ringkhang Daimari from village “No 1 Sapkhaiti” under Sapkhaiti VCDC started pig breeding farm in October 2018. KABIL assisted her with 2 Hampshire pigs (1 male and the other female). She also started rendering breeding services to nearby farmers by her male pig. She additionally started selling commercial pig feeds to the local pig farmers.

Her business status after 9 months:

	9 months ago	Current
Pigs	2	11 (male 6, female 5)
Value	Rs. 30,000	Rs. 112,500
Feed sold		4537 kg
Profit by selling feed @ Rs. 4/Kg		Rs. 18,148
Sale of 6 Piglets @Rs. 4,500/piglet		Rs. 27,000
Earning by breeding services 15 @ Rs. 600 per service		9,000
Total running cost in feeding and other activities		Rs. 84,240
Net income {(Value of stock + profit of feed + sale of piglets + earning through breeding services)- Total running cost-KABIL’s Assistance}		Rs. 52,408



Low Cost Pig Sty



New Born Piglets of Hampshire

Creating individual livelihood assets through MGNREGS

In the financial year 2017-18, due to our early interventions, schemes worth Rs. 1.12 crore received administrative approval, out of which technical sanction was obtained for Rs. 0.69 crore until March 2019. Works worth Rs. 0.34 crore has been completed so far and the remaining is going on and will be completed in next financial year.

During 2018-19 KABIL team facilitated and generated demand for individual schemes worth Rs. 6.69 crore; out of which plans of Rs. 4.41 crore have been included in annual action plan for FY 2019-20.



Farm Pond by MGNREGS (12.2M x 18.3M x 2.75M)



Pig Sty through MGNREGS (Cost Rs. 30,000/-)

Experience of collaboration with ASRLM:

As per the agreement, among various supports, ASRLM was to introduce KABIL with the community groups, strengthen field level implementation by allowing the use of community cadre paid by them and help in leveraging program fund for investment in various activities by the community.

The community cadres promoted by ASRLMS have been helping KABIL in implementing activities in following ways:

1. Introducing KABIL to the SHGs, Village organizations(VO)
2. Supporting KABIL in organizing various meetings in the new villages
3. Helping in collection of Baseline data of the SHG families identified by KABIL
4. Organizing meetings with SHG/VO for livelihood planning and leveraging credit needs
5. Ensuring digging and filling of pits for black pepper

Additionally, ASRLMS Udalguri block officials have assured KABIL to support in leveraging Bank loan through Mudra scheme and Cash Credit linkage with SHGs.

In the last Rabi season, though KABIL facilitated livelihood plans and generated credit demand worth Rs 3 crore, the SHGs and their village organisations could not meet the demand due to unavailability of sufficient fund with them. The funds available with SHG & VO had already been used for other purposes and since repayment of loan was not on time, SHGs could not manage to extend further credit. The matter has been brought to the notice of the senior management of

ASRLM. They have assured that measures would be taken for streamlining the financial functions of the SHGs.

ASRLM has promised to help so that the entrepreneurs can avail mudra loan from banks and link the SHGs with cash credit linkage. KABIL is going to facilitate communities in applying for both these options.

Livelihood study for OXFAM India

Oxfam assigned to KABIL a study to understand the various livelihood (income generating) activities pursued by communities in 16 forest dwelling villages of Jharkhand, Chhattisgarh, and Odisha. All the villages are in the process of obtaining forest rights, and focus of Oxfam's programme is now shifting towards post-rights forest conservation and management processes for securing local livelihoods. The study, which is now complete, has mapped all the existing income generating activities, including agriculture and allied, non-timber forest produce (NTFP) based, migration, and employment with government programmes that are pursued by the forest dependent communities in the villages to arrive at a livelihood calendar, along with the details about income from above different sources. This will help OXFAM India and its NGO partners to design their activities in the next two years.

More such associations with OXFAM are expected in the next year.

Capacity building of staff of SeSTA:

KABIL has provided training and on-field hand-holding support to professionals of SeSTA, one of the prominent NGOs of Assam, for improved implementation of MGNREGS projects using the principles of integrated natural resource management.

The upcoming study of water sector in India

Negotiations have been completed with Rajiv Gandhi Institute of Contemporary Studies (RGICS) under the aegis of Rajiv Gandhi Foundation to undertake a policy study in the water sector. The study will commence from April 2019. The study will come up with recommendation particularly for rural areas addressing the challenges in irrigation and livestock rearing activity, pollution free drinking water and domestic water use. It is supposed to learn from China's dedicated work for long years in solving the water crisis by using technology, through regulatory and Institutional Mechanisms.

The objectives of the study are:

- *To understand the key innovations and solutions at the policy, legislative, institutional, technical and operational, and local initiatives levels that have addressed the water crisis successfully and sustainably in the Peoples Republic of China (PRC) and India. From the*

study, it is envisaged to identify and highlight those interventions which are high on efficiency, equity, and sustainability.

- *To prepare useful recommendations* that offer effective solutions in addressing water crisis through policies, laws, and programs, by *drawing relevant lessons* from successful interventions and innovations in PRC and India.
- To suggest actionable steps (at the policy, legislative, institutional, technical, and local management levels) for addressing the water crisis in India.

Analysis of policies, laws, institutions, technologies, and local management related to water resource will be done to understand their effectiveness in terms of efficiency, equity, and sustainability. Both countries would be studied separately to analyse the trend of water management with different interventions and their impacts. A comparison between the two countries is expected to suggest the reforms that can be undertaken in India to meet its water challenges at present and in the future.

Human resources and capacity building

KABIL had 14 full-time functionaries on its payroll in March 2019. 12 of them were placed in Assam and the rest two were in Delhi. Three more-part time personnel (either as part time staff or as retainer consultant) functioned from the Head Office. Another retainer consultant functioned from Kolkata.

KABIL could maintain a fair gender balance. Six out of the 14 full-time functionaries have been women. KABIL also had a healthy mix of young and experienced functionaries during the year and invested much effort in professional capacity building of the young ones. Out of the total 18 functionaries (including 4-part time ones), 10 were in the experience level between 0 and 6 years, 4 were between 10 and 20 years and the rest 4 had experience of three decades or more.

The younger functionaries have been recruited using rigorous recruitment methods. The more experienced functionaries have come with significant past achievement in their professional field and distinguished employment record.

The newly recruited young staff went through two phase “process awareness and sensitivity” training. All the functionaries have also undergone “entrepreneurial motivation training”. Both these trainings were conducted by distinguished resource persons. We also had an annual retreat this year in which all the full and part time functionaries participated. The event was a reflective one and focused on our individual growth as professionals as well as growth of KABIL.

Finances

During this financial year of 2018-19 Kabil received a total grant of Rs 1,88,18,000/- from three agencies: namely Axis Bank Foundation, Oxfam India Trust and Northeast Rural Livelihood

Projects (NERLP). Kabil has spent 1,72,73,000/-. During this year additionally it has received corpus donations of Rs 2,50,000 totaling Rs 6,08,000/-.

Axis Bank Foundation (ABF) has conducted an audit of Kabil's financial systems and records for the FY 2018-19 and has shared their finding. Kabil has been graded with 76% marks and regarded as medium risk organisation. The grant of ABF for second year has been released after due scrutiny of the auditors' report.

Kabil has a budget of FY 2019-20 of Rs 262 Lakh that has been fully committed from donors.