

# Eucalyptus based Agroforestry in Koraput District of Odisha



The Eucalyptus based agro-forestry model was implemented in Koraput district of Odisha to provide year round employment opportunities, facilitate carbon sequestration, amelioration of biodiversity, and reduction of climatic shocks to the traditional agricultural practices. The farmers were mobilized to undertake improved agricultural practices, including agro-forestry in wastelands. The project aims to bring uncultivated waste land belonging mostly to small & marginal farmers and tribals under the eucalyptus plantation as major activity and intercropping as secondary activity. Implementation of tree based livelihood project has resulted into immense social and economic benefits in the project areas.

## PROJECT RATIONALE

The forestry based community developmental programmes in agriculture land was thought to be an important measure to assist local communities.

## PROJECT FACTS

UPNRM Support	Loan sanctioned by NABARD INR 112.8 million (USD 1.88 million)
	Loan disbursed by NABRD INR 79.6 million (USD 1.33 million)
No. of Participants	3700
Project Duration	2009-2015

## Project Approach

In order to promote agro forestry and livelihood enhancement, fund assistance from BILT under their CSR and Harsha Trust, a society was leveraged to establish, i.e., Patneswari Agricultural Cooperative Ltd (PACL) during 2005. The project was implemented by multi stakeholders partnership with well-defined roles and responsibilities. The model ensured the buyback of produce (pulpwood) with assured minimum support price by the user industry viz., BILT.

NABARD provided loan for project components viz, Cost of saplings, intercultural operations, soil and moisture conservation works, insurance etc., and grant for training & capacity building and livelihood activity such as intercropping. BILT (Paper Mill) supported the management cost of cooperative society with Harsha Trust (NGO) providing hand holding support.

To achieve long term sustainability, the co-operative was encouraged to take up agri-business activities such as collective input supply, hiring out agricultural implements (Tractor and Spray Pumps), marketing of agricultural produce, etc. The farmers were encouraged to take up Inter Cropping (vegetables, pulses, maize, ginger, turmeric) in between the rows of trees. From the year 2006-07 about 5,362 acre of area was brought under Eucalyptus plantation.

### Impact of the Project

- An average farmer earned a gross income of Rs. 1.1 lakh/acre for a cycle of 4.5 years against the expenditure of just Rs. 0.15 - 0.20 lakh/acre.
- Intercropping practices in the Eucalyptus model has increased interim income by an average of Rs. 0.05 lakh per season.
- The Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) certification in line with the International Standards (Chain of Custody) has enabled the co-operative to become a preferred supplier of pulpwood to the paper mills in the region.
- The project has been registered for Afforestation/Reforestation CDM project with UNFCCC in 2012 with an expected issuance of 50,294 tCERs. Total share of proceeds (SOP) for administration is expected to about 8,558.80 USD.
- Profit of society has increased gradually starting from Rs.1.00 lakh in FY 2009-2010 to Rs. 130.00 lakh in the FY 2014-2015.



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