



Annual Report

2009 - 2010



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Letter from the President

In the news, a national election, a lunar space probe, and a world-record-breaking double century in cricket captured our attention over the last year. At SPREAD, we have some news that we are proud of as well.

Our people's organizations have had a very successful year. In Nandapur, 122 village level and 9 GP level labour unions were created. These Sramik Sangathans' expertise has reduced corruption; in one case, using RTI, members of the labour union were able to detect discrepancies between muster rolls and testimony of those who performed the work. Being thus exposed, officials kept accurate records and did not skim off funds during the second phase of the project. A new chapter of Boipariguda's Women's Federation closed down illegal liquor operations in their area in their first week as a people's organization. Shortly thereafter, they apprehended timber thieves operating outside Doraguda village and filed a case against the illegal loggers, standing down threats from local thugs and bribes from politicians. In Chipakur, Bhumi Adhikar Sangathan returned approximately 80 PDS cards that were being misappropriated by the local authorities. These accomplishments may seem small, but they are large indeed to the people whose rights were restored to them, and successes like this put unscrupulous on notice that corruption will not be tolerated.

This Report contains highlights of SPREAD's activities and outcomes during the year 2009-2010, as well as our financial report. We hope the readers of this report will find here a glimpse inside SPREAD that will make them interested to learn more by visiting our web site at www.SPREAD.in.org and to become a Friend of SPREAD.

Bimal Sundar Ray
President

Letter from the Secretary

We have accomplished much this year. Although there is much more work to be done in actualizing the land rights our communities have received, continuing to reduce food insecurity, achieving the promise of the Mahatma Gandhi Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme, reducing the gap in equality between men and women, and changing the way our communities view and minister to persons with disabilities, I am proud of the progress we've made and look forward with enthusiasm to building on these achievements.

It is not easy to work in the rugged hills of Odisha. Our staff and volunteers work long days and travel rough roads seemingly endlessly in the pursuit of a life of dignity for the people of our communities.

I owe a debt of gratitude to all the members of our SPREAD family for their dedication and hard work this year. I also want to acknowledge not only the support, but the excellent partnership we enjoy with our funding partners: Church's Auxiliary for Social Action ([CASA](#)), Child Rights and You ([CRY](#)), Community Based Rehabilitation ([CBR Forum](#)) Concern Worldwide ([CWI](#)) and Danish Church Action ([DCA](#)).

Last, I would like to recognize the collaboration of like-minded others in civil society who provide inspiration, information and an invaluable network through [KBK Round Table](#), [VSO](#), [Adhikar](#), [Forest Rights Act Campaign](#) and others without whom our work would be impossible.

Bidyut Mohanty,
Secretary

A family receives its *patta*

Individual plots and common areas must be mapped to for applications for rights



A man speaks up for his land rights at SPREAD's public hearing on land

Land Rights

The promise of India's Forest Rights Act, 2006 to restore rights to the lands where 90 million adivasis dwell was a clear step forward for people's rights. Implementing the complicated land mapping, application, verification, demarcation and claim processes has been more problematic. SPREAD's special expertise in land laws has supported the application of 8,283 individual and community claims which resulted in the receipt of 1,042 records of rights to date. Boipariguda's Block Development Officer S. K. Pradhan, said, *"Boipariguda is first among the blocks of Koraput District in implementation of Forest Rights Act and SPREAD is the reason why."* SPREAD uses a core methodology to produce these results, a repeatable, scalable land process which includes the set of activities and instructions that describes the path from landlessness through ownership and possession.

The 2009 decision to award rights to 63,000 acres of cashew trees was followed up this year with the significant effort required to apply for and actually receive those rights. SPREAD garnered community support to create a cashew cooperative so farmers can get a fair price for their harvest and create value-added services such as packaging and products derived from cashews.

In addition, SPREAD works to resolve land issues through the use of public hearings. SPREAD's December 2009 hearing enabled district collector Gadadhar Parida and 400 others to hear 48 cases involving illegal occupation or transfer of lands, allocation of agricultural land that is not suitable for growing crops, forged land records, and delays in resolving disputes.



Missing migrant labourer



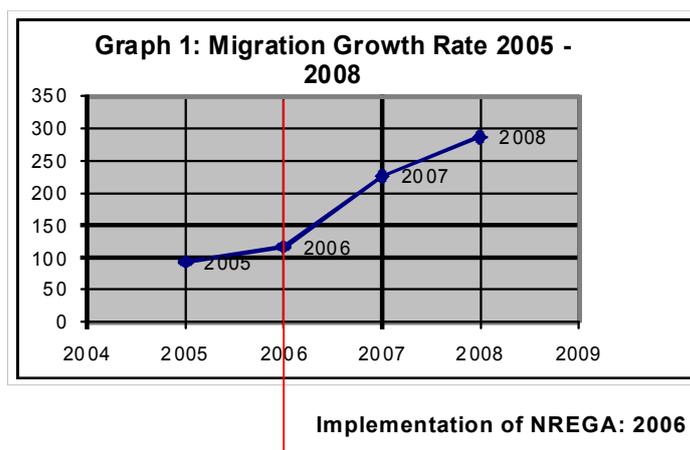
MGNREGA workers break to discuss formation of a cashew cooperative.



Cashews

Food Security and Livelihoods

Fully 95% of those interviewed in SPREAD's operational area report they would prefer to work under MGNREGA than migrate, yet migration is increasingly a fact of life in Koraput's poor rural districts. SPREAD presented this and other findings outlining the scope and character of distress migration in four blocks of Koraput district at the release of its study in December. The study was performed to document the rise of migration in Koraput, where the number of workers who left home "in search of a less grim set of possibilities" doubled from 2006 to 2007 and rose another 25% by 2008, an alarming trend when seen in light of the fact that MGNREGA was implemented during this timeframe specifically to curb the need to migrate. For those who migrate, wages are rarely paid accurately or on time, and are not sufficient to maintain a life with dignity. Risks to health and safety among migrants remain severe, especially for women.



Thus, more effective implementation of MGNREGA is a top priority for SPREAD and its communities. Organizing labour



Discussion of productive assets under MGNREGA at Gelaguda Village



Grain bank records



SPREAD leads a delegation to a Right to Food Public Hearing

unions is a key part of the strategy, while in Boipariguda we SPREAD is developing labour banks to streamline the partnership between government and people. Labour banks are based on household-level calendars that communicate when, where and how much work is needed in order to make the design and delivery of MGNREGA projects better meet community needs.

SPREAD also trains villagers how to request specific projects under MGNREGA; for example, many communities need water tanks or would benefit from plantation of cashew trees but they do not know that these projects are possible under MGNREGA, nor how to apply. These productive assets create more value than merely building roads.

Last year, SPREAD helped villages help themselves by providing training for farmers on vegetable crops and irrigation techniques in order to increase the productivity of their land and in some cases to raise a second crop. SPREAD supported the creation of 145 grain banks through training on how to maintain registers and the provision of secure storage containers. Another facet of sustainable food security is SPREAD's training and support of community organization to monitor PDS and other social security schemes.

"SPREAD gives us the information we need to speak up for our rights. And when we come together to fight an issue, we feel strong and confident" said Malati Nayak, president of the Ramgiri Women's Federation.



Cerebral palsy and spasms have rendered Subash a quadriplegic but that has not dampened his interest in going to school. He is a very intelligent boy but he faces multiple barriers to attending school. His family is very poor; his father migrates 8 or 9 months of the year in search of work and they cannot afford school materials. Even if he could provide them the school teachers would not admit him because of what is perhaps unintentional discrimination against the disabled. Subash is getting benefits as a Child with Disabilities but needs a specialized chair in order to be able to function more effectively and reduce his disability. SPREAD is working with the local teachers to admit him to school but the cost of a chair and school materials are needed to change Subash's prospects from a life of dependency to a life of productivity.

Community Based Rehabilitation of Persons with Disability

This year SPREAD initiated a new project to address the needs of 355 persons and children with disabilities, using the community based rehabilitation approach in partnership with [CBR Forum](#). Through the CBR approach, this project is creating space for persons with disabilities to participate at all levels of society.

Community based rehabilitation starts at the most basic level, changing behaviors and attitudes in villages: making people believe that PWDs are not burdens on the communities, but assets. Rather than focusing on their inabilities, community based rehabilitation teaches people to value and respect PwDs' abilities.

The first step is to encourage villagers to call PWDs by their names, and not the names of their disabilities. The next step is to develop support groups and children's clubs to get PWDs out of their huts and into village life. Training parents on simple techniques reduces the time required to feed and care for their children with disabilities, and information about how PwDs can engage in income generating activities opens eyes and minds to the "able" in disabled.

SPREAD is working in 111 villages to sensitize health workers to the project and the needs of its clients, perform needs assessments, map the resources available for PWDs to receive services and support them in the acquisition of disability certificates and bus passes.



Depiction of Chaitra Parab, by a Pila Panchayat member



Pila Parab participant

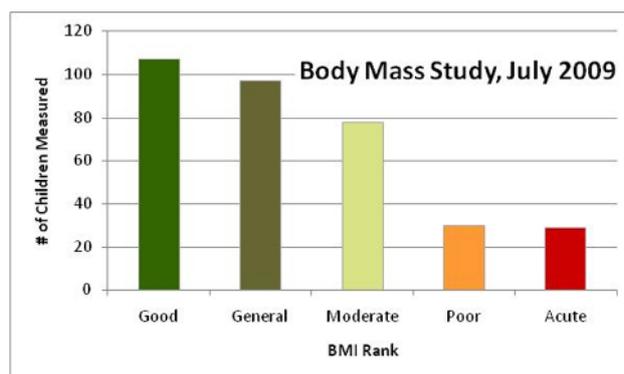


Sculptures of traditional objects and a mobile phone

Child Rights

SPREAD's children's group, Pila Panchayat, celebrated the preservation of Paroja and Gadaba culture at their annual children's convention this year. The children brought artifacts from their homes to share, including bows and arrows, a fish arrow, water gourds, bamboo creels, a hatchet and a gopena – a sisal sling for hurling projectiles at high speed. As in previous years, the children performed dramas, songs and dances, and created artwork portraying traditional life. The most striking thing about this year's event was the clay sculptures that included mobile phones in addition to fruits, boats and water vessels. This is surely an indicator of the winds of change in the Hill Tribe villages.

As for the younger Hill Tribe children, they continue to be undernourished compared to established norms on body mass (BMI). SPREAD performed a follow up to our 2008 BMI study to determine the health of 341 children's under the age of six. 17% of children continue to fall into the "poor"



and "acute" BMI indicators, underscoring the need for continued efforts in food and livelihood security by developing grain banks and monitoring distribution of PDS and other social security entitlements.



RK leads OD exercise



Preparing to present at OD event



Teambuilding with music

Organization Development

SPREAD balanced its focus this past year between building the capacities of its people's organizations and building its own internal assets.

Volunteers from VSO India (Volunteer Services Overseas India) created new manuals for finance and HR which more clearly and consistently express policies are now in force and revised the web site to better describe SPREAD's work and appeal to individual donors. A review of field communications and documentation has resulted in changed reporting requirements that will capture better intelligence at the village level and, in combination with new documentation training and guidelines, will enhance partner reports.

SPREAD is adopting Most Significant Change methodology for qualitative reporting and Results Based Management techniques for its project management activities.

In April, SPREAD organized a three-day organization development session in the Jolaput field office, facilitated by Rama Krishna Surdeo, an international consultant on organization development and training. The goals of the session were to enhance SPREAD's internal processes and capabilities at the individual, team, organization and community contexts and resulted in action plans for each project and the Koraput office staff to apply lessons learned in practical terms to their work.

Donors and Partners

SPREAD gratefully acknowledges the support of its individual donors and development partners.

This year the gifts of individual donors enabled SPREAD to fund school supplies for more than 40 school aged children, 35 of whom lost all their worldly goods, including their homes, in a fire. Warm clothes and household supplies were provided to an additional eight children facing extreme deprivation through the generosity of Friends of SPREAD.

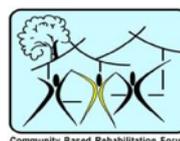
Heartfelt thanks go to our development partners who provide ongoing support as well as valuable collaboration and thought leadership for major programs in Tribal Self Rule ([CASA](#)), Community Based Rehabilitation ([CBR Forum](#)), Rights of Children ([CRY](#)), Rights to Food, Work and Land ([CWI](#)) and Food and Livelihood ([DCA](#)).



Church's Auxiliary for
Social Action



Child Rights & You



Community Based
Rehabilitation Forum



Concern



DanChurchAi



SPREAD initiated a new partnership this year with [VSO India](#), which partly supported two volunteers in organization development and provided capacity building for SPREAD's staff on inclusion and disability.

About SPREAD

Inaugurated in 1997 in Koraput town, the Society for Promoting Rural Education and Development (SPREAD) is dedicated to empowering the marginalized communities of Koraput District so that they may access their rights to land, food and work. Ultimately this will lead to their ability to maintain a dignified way of life.

Scope:

Serving 23 gram panchayats and 693 villages, SPREAD is particularly concerned with those communities that continue to be displaced and marginalized due to hydroelectric projects, expansion of industries and other development programs.

Displacement causes not only loss of land and livelihood, but hampers access to resources and damages the social fabric and culture of these communities.

Vision:

A region and society without any exploitation and discrimination with access to the basic necessities of life and ability for people to assert their rights for a dignified living.

Mission:

To work as a catalyst with the underprivileged class so as to build up their capacity and to facilitate the process of participatory development.

Goal:

To make the most marginalized section of the society aware of their rights and duties and enable them to have access and control over the socio-economic-political process for a dignified living.

Values:

- Secularism
- Democracy
- Mutual respect
- Honesty
- Non violence

Guiding Principles:

- SPREAD's approach is participatory. All stakeholders' participation will be sought while making decisions at organisation and project levels.
- Equity for society's poorest is SPREAD's priority as it exercises positive discrimination in favour of the underprivileged.
- SPREAD respects the community's knowledge and skill and takes this into account when designing and implementing interventions.
- Gender equity is a component of all SPREAD's activities as it seeks to change the unequal position of women in the community.
- SPREAD ensures transparency in all transactions and is accountable to its partners and individual donors.
- SPREAD implements its work within the framework of the Indian Constitution.

Legal Aspect of the Organization:

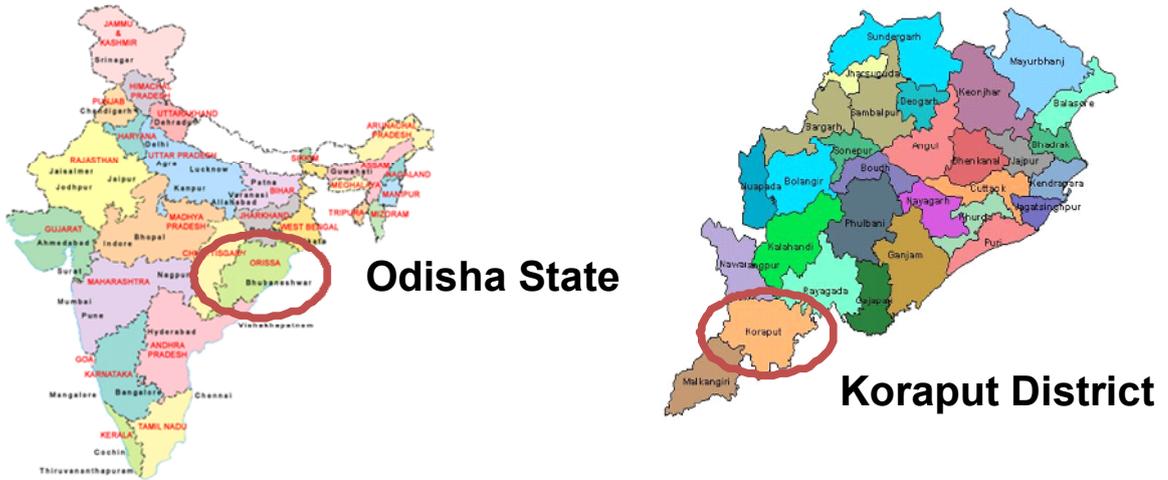
Registered under Societies registration Act, 2445-200, 1989-90 Date: 14.09.1989

Income Tax Registration – 42/93-94

FCRA No.: 105020098/ Dated: 24 September 1993

Registered under Provident Fund & Gratuity

Area Map:



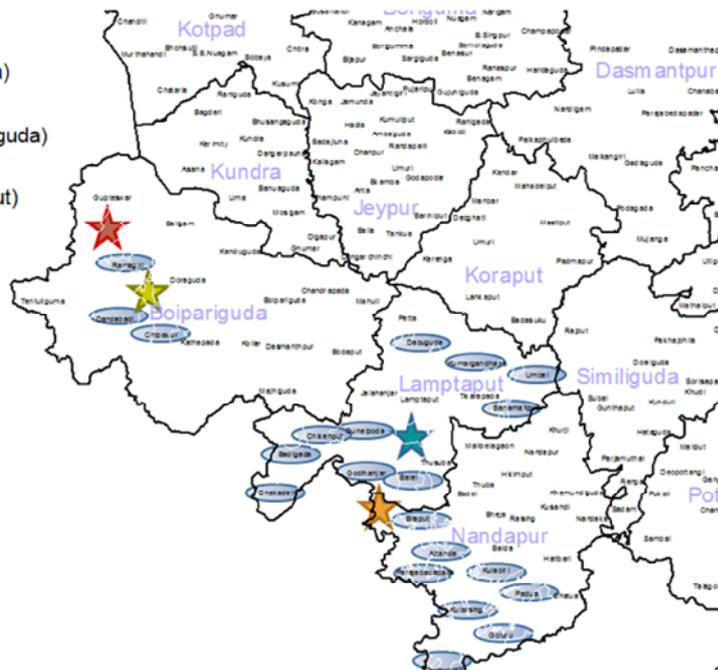
Field Centres

-  Jolaput (Nandapur)
-  Kalijajodi (Boipariguda)
-  Khajuripadar (Boipariguda)
-  Mattamput (Lamptaput)

GPs



SPREAD's Operational Area





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