

# RECENT ACTIVITY SUMMARY

of

## PARIBESH UNNAYAN PARISHAD

(COUNCIL FOR ENVIRONMENTAL DEVELOPMENT)



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### Rural Unit: **AMARGRAM**

Village : **Phulbari, P.O. : Sagar Phulbari,**

Dist.: **South 24 Parganas, West Bengal, INDIA**

Paribesh Unnayan Parishad (PUPA), a registered, non-profit NGO, is working at present at Sundarban, particularly at SAGAR ISLAND, a climate-sensitive zone, where life is always under stress & uncertainty. They need to learn how to live with climatic hazards by adopting climate resilient livelihood options. This learning should be started from the very early age. Keeping this in mind, members of PUPA dedicated to uplift the quality of life and livelihood of poor, vulnerable and downtrodden people of the Sagar Island, and have given top priority on the support for the quality education of the children.

### THRUST AREA of ACTIVITIES

**Climate Resilient Livelihood adaptation activities (salt tolerant Paddy, Integrated Farming, etc); Organic Farming, Traditional Paddy Conservation, Environment; Biodiversity Conservation; SHG strengthening; SC & ST Community Development, Alternative Education, etc.**

**1. Climate Resilient adaptation activities (salt tolerant Paddy, Integrated Farming, etc);**

#### **Role of PUPA in Climate change adaptation**

Due to increasing temperature the moisture of the soil is declining. To arrest the declining moisture, PUPA has extensively and successfully transferred **the technology of vermicomposting**, which helps to retain moisture in the soil.

Changing climate has also **made agriculture uncertain**. To reduce this uncertainty PUPA has transferred the **technology of integrated farming where crops-fish –poultry** are produced simultaneously. This not only increases crop production (owing to multiple cropping) but also reduces uncertainty through diversifying the products.

Under the ICZM project at Sagar Island, we have been working on **developing resilient strategies with climate-change migrants from Ghoramara & Lohachora** as well as people who have lost land due to coastal erosion. This could be both preventive (that is, regeneration of the mangrove forests in the endangered coasts) as well as supportive (planning alternative employment).

PUPA has experience of conducting following projects at Sagar Island, Sundarbans, S. 24 Parganas where **climate resilient activities** ( integrated Framing, Rain Water Harvesting, SRI technique of Paddy culture, composting & vermicomposting, etc.) are practiced by the local people.

i) Improving the quality of life and livelihood of the rural community through sustainable use of local resources at Sagar Island, S.24 Parganas (2007-09)[UNDP supported project] Completed.

ii) Establishment of ‘Community Biodiversity Conservation Park’ through participatory conservation network programme at I, S. 24 Parganas, West Bengal (supported by West Bengal Biodiversity Board) Continuing.

iii) “Livelihood Development for the Disadvantaged Sections of the Society at Sagar Island” under Integrated Coastal Zone Management Project on Livelihood Development at Sagar Island. “Socio-economic upliftment of SC community in identified villages of Sagar Island, South 24 Parganas, West Bengal through skill enhancement and livelihood intervention”. Supportef by Dept. of Science & technology, Govt. of India.

(March,2013 – continuing).

iv) “Conservation of Local Agro Biodiversity for Better Livelihoods through use of Local Resources in Response to poor Areas of Sundarbans”. supported by GEF/UNDP/SGP (February,2014—continuing).

**Salt tolerant Paddy Cultivation Report**

Name of the farmer	Village (Pathar Block)	Soil testing Report [ECe (dSm <sup>-1</sup> )]	Cultivation (2014) production/hectre	Cultivation (2013) production/hectre
Shyamal Kinkar Das	Krishnadaspur	9.0	Hamilton Talmugur 1120 kg	Dhudheswar 560 kg
Bharat Hasda	Satyadaspur	1.5	Dhudheswar & Malabati 1960kg	1010 & 1017(paddy variety) 1120 kg
Bimal Kr. Bhunia	Dakshin Sitarampur	1.9	Dhudheswar& Malabati 1960kg	Barsa pankaj 840 kg
Ananta Bera (Lang shaping)	Dakshin Sitarampur	8.5	Malabati & Sadakalobokra 1120 kg	Uncultivated due to salinity
Ramchandra Das	Krishnadaspur	6.5	Dhudheswar & Charmani 1400 kg	Sada bolr champakusi 840 kg
Bimal Dinda	Gobordhanpur	8.7	Dhudheswar & Malabati 1680 Kg	Chapakhusi 1120 kg

In addition, **An innovative participatory strategy development initiative:**

**Preparing locally for a changing climate** (local people’s role on Climate resilient Development) is being

undertaken at three coastal villages (Gobindapur, Debimathurapur & Kaylapara) of Sagar island, under the ICZM project. The objective is to develop a *strategy on “Local people’s role at the household Level on Climate Resilient Development”*.

### Salt tolerant Paddy promotion ( 2015)

**Paribesh Unnayan Parishad** received SUNDARBAN PARYAVARAN PURASKAR-2015 for its initiatives to promote salt tolerant paddy varieties in remote villages of Pathar Pratima (Gobardhanpur, Bura-Burir tat, G-Plot, Rakhaskhali) and Sagar Island. During Aila in 2009, these places have suffered from saline water intrusion, destroying standing crops and making agriculture impossible and unviable. The result has been large scale migration from these places to south Indian states (like AP, Tamil Nadu & Kerala) to work as unskilled labours in the construction Industry. Last year we were given a project by CEE (GEF/UNDP/SGP) to promote salt-tolerant varieties of Paddy in Sundarban. We have now stock of nearly seventy varieties of indigenous varieties of paddy of which nearly 7 or 8 are salt tolerant (like Malaboti, Kerala sundari, Hangra, Dudheswar, Nona Ketki, etc.). No chemical fertilizers or pesticides were used, instead we used locally



manufactured manures like vermicompost, jeevamurtha, and fish tonic accompanied by land shaping to wash away the trapped salinity in the soil. The result may be seen in the pictures below.

The award is dedicated to all the staff, members and well wishers of PUPA. Special thanks are due to WWF Sundarban Project, Baruipur Horticulture Farm of Calcutta University and agricultural scientist and well wisher Dr. Anupam Pal, ATC, Fulia, Nadia

## 2. Organic Farming (training support):



**Organic Inputs for sustainable Farming**

1. Cow dung
2. Cow urine
3. Earthworm
4. Liquid Starch
5. Molasses
6. Bason
7. Green leaves
8. Fish tonic
9. Biofertilisers & bio-pesticides
10. Neem, Karanja, miscellaneous leaves, ash, etc.

Training support by  
**Paribesh Unnayan Parishad**  
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**VERMICOMPOSTING Training support**  
by  
**Paribesh Unnayan Parishad**  
At Sagar Island  
Contact: 9002497090  
Mail ID: amargram.pupa@gmail.com

"Plantation For Life & Livelihood", a project is launched at Sagar Island. It is the joint effort of KREEPA & PUPA. A brief record of first phase of this programme (19/07/15) is as follows:

Name of village	No of beneficiaries
Fulbari	31
Koah Tala	35
Shibpur	32
Pathaprotima	22
Pakhrala	28
Kochuberia	27
Shilpara	38
Murganga	11
Hendaketi	37
Sakhibeli	03
STUDENTS	78
<b>Total</b>	<b>342</b>

List of Plants Distributed:


Mango (Amrapali, Malika, Himsagar, Subarnarekha, Bhastura, Lal dofala, Alfraso)
Jamrul (sada)
Jamrul (lal)
Guava (Ekhabad, Kg, L-40) .. 4 feet
Patilchu
Kajri & Gandharaj
Kamranga
Bilki Amra
Kanthal (Jakfruit)
Ata
Bakful
Mehagani
Lambu



2nd phase will be on 24th July 2015.

## PLANTATION FOR LIVELIHOOD (Supported by KREEPA)

**INTEGRATED FARMING SYSTEM (IFS)**



It includes the following activities

Activities	Activities
1. Land shaping	8. Kitchen garden (nutritional)
2. Rain water harvesting	9. Nursery raising
3. On-farm vermicomposting	10. Herbal Garden
4. Bio-pesticide preparation	11. Azolla cultivation
5. Diversified horticulture and agriculture	12. Cultivation on "AIL" land for a better economic return.
6. Paddy-cum-duck-cum-fish culture	13. Utilisation of aerial space for vegetable & fruit plant cultivation.
7. Livestock maintenance (Backyard poultry & goat rearing)	

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### 3. Biodiversity Conservation; SHG strengthening; Traditional Paddy Conservation, etc.



Traditional Paddy cultivation (more than 100 varieties), being grown with harvested rain water ( during one month rainless days) and organic manures only



Traditional Paddy Seed Bank (PUPA), Sagar Island



**BUTTERFLY GARDEN**



Flood affected people at Sagar Island & PUPA's support ( July, 2014)

Conservation of Traditiona varieties of Paddy (102 varieties) at Sagar Island

Paradigm shift in Education, alternative way of agriculture and living are the need to adapt the climatic hazards. One of the climate resilient activities is promotion of Traditional Paddy varieties, being done at Sagar Island. Share it , visit it and support the same.

**4. Alternative Education:** In the year 2010 ( P.K.Ray Memorial Study Centre) and in 2014 ( Krishna-Suchitra Memorial Study Centre for pre-primary children) PUPA involved different age groups of children for their total development. Though these are in infancy, some of the achievements are:

- **Sri N.S.Misra**, a student of the study Centre (Class VII), participated in the **National Children Science Congress** held at Jaipur, Rajasthan with an innovative Project on maintaining natural fertility of soil with Jeebamrutha in the year 2011.
- **Miss Anima Das**, the Teacher of the Study Centre was offered best presentation Award (amongst 25 others) in the Bangla Bignan Congress ( 2012).
- **Miss Hasi Patra**, an SC student, participated in the 'Young Leaders for Change' programme of Paryavaran Mitra project of Ministry of Environment & Forest, Govt. of India, facilitated by CEE, held at Ahmedabad, Gujrat, during 23 – 26 July,13, along with **Anima Das** (Guide Teacher) & Dr A.Misra (Paryavaran Sathi), Secretay, PUPA. **Hasi is declared as one of the four National leaders in 2014.**



- Dipti Pramanik**, a student of Class IX, participated in the **National Children Science Congress (2016)** held at Baramati, Maharashtra with an innovative Project on **ORGANIC PADDY CULTIVATION** with household inputs during 23-26 Dec.,16. she has undertaken a project of examining the impact of organic farming on HYV seeds on paddy productivity under controlled irrigation. The organic materials (fish tonic, cow urine, and vermi compost) are prepared in our experimental farm at Sagar Island from waste materials and the experiment was also conducted in our experimental farm. If the results are found to hold also in the field (for Boro crops) then they will have major impact on human and soil health. Moreover it could also reduce market dependence of small and marginal farmers and increase their incomes by reducing cost of production. Her project has been included in top 30 projects and ranked 'A' at the National Childrens Science Congress 2016. In fact, the project has already received appreciation from Agricultural Scientist Dr. M S Swaminathan.



- Krishna-Suchitra Memorial Study Centre for pre-primary children**

We have started an innovative learning Centre at Sagar Island with initial support from Dr. Santanu Mitra, President, PUPA in the year 2015. The idea of the learning Centre is to involve the children from their pre-school school age (5 yr +).

