



Annual Report 2022-23



DEMOCRATIC ACTION

Empowering the Excluded Communities



FOREWORD

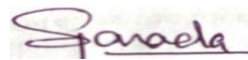
It is my pleasure to present the Annual Activities Report 2022–23 of Democratic Action, highlighting the key initiatives and achievements of the year. Since our journey began in 1999, we have focused on mobilizing Women Self-Help Groups (WSHG) and farmers to form producer and processing groups, strengthening their capacity to process and market local products. Today, many of these Community-Based Organizations (CBOs) have evolved into Farmer Producer Companies, working independently, partnering with government agencies, and successfully implementing technical projects.

Our mission remains clear — to empower grassroots CBOs to act as producers, processors, and marketers, enabling small and marginal farmers to improve incomes and reduce distress migration. We continue to invest in community sensitization, empowerment, and capacity building for sustainable development.

This year, we expanded our interventions to include medicinal plantations and herbal processing, adding new dimensions to our livelihood programs. With the dedication of our team and the trust of our communities, we place people at the center of development, working with the spirit of “Alert for Life & Livelihoods with Hope & Happiness.”

I sincerely thank our collaborators, team members, funding partners, donors, bankers, government authorities, and all supporters for their invaluable contributions. Your solidarity and commitment have strengthened our vision and reputation. I am confident that, together, we will continue advancing sustainable growth and community empowerment.

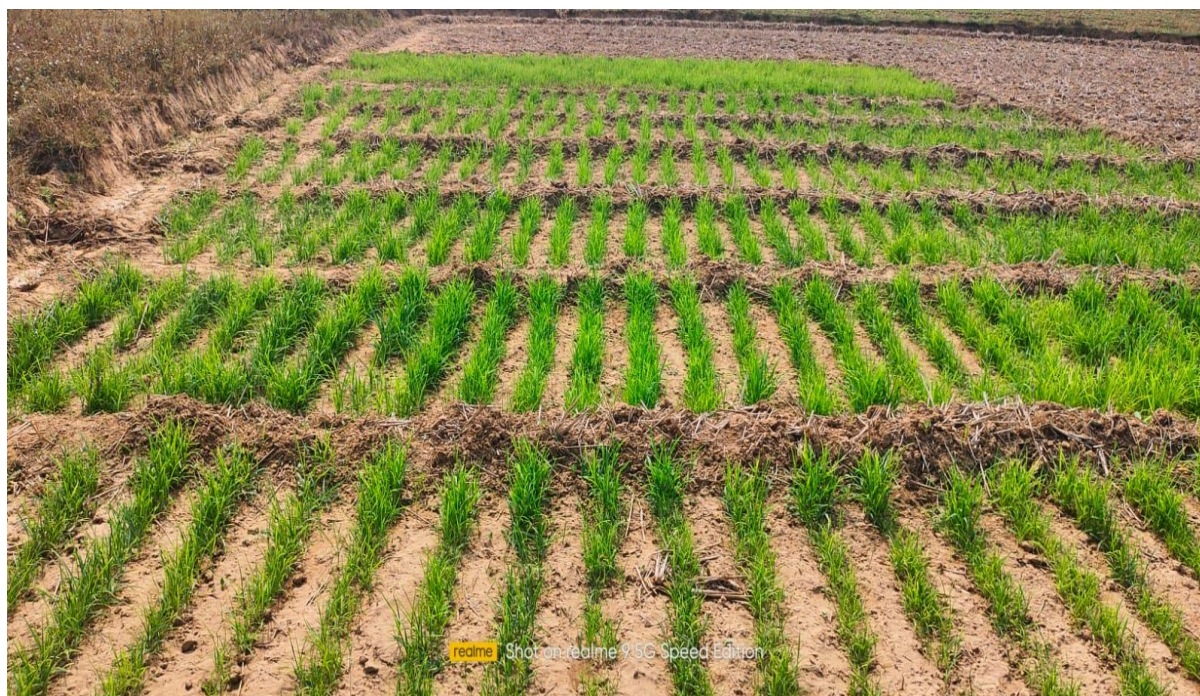
Nabarangpur
31st March 2023



Mr. Sushanta Garada
Founder Secretary, Democratic

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CHAPTER – I

THE ORGANISATION

BACKGROUND

The devastating drought and epidemic of 1998 severely affected the poor and marginalized communities of Nabarangpur district in Odisha's KBK region, leading to acute starvation, malnutrition, and high infant mortality. In response, **Democratic Action** was founded in 1999 to address these pressing challenges. The organization began its journey by forming and strengthening Women Self-Help Groups (WSHGs), fostering empowerment, financial inclusion, and community resilience. Over time, its initiatives expanded beyond immediate relief to encompass long-term development. Today, Democratic Action operates in about 150 villages across Nabarangpur district, implementing diverse programs on livelihood, welfare, and empowerment for sustainable community growth.

Vision:

A society where excluded communities live with dignity, equality, and self-reliance.

Mission:

To empower marginalized and tribal communities through livelihood, education, health, and social justice for inclusive development.

Value:

Promoting equity, dignity, and participation with transparency and compassion for self-reliant, inclusive communities.

INTERVENTION :

1. **Sustainable Livelihoods and Natural Resource Management** – Promoting food security through agriculture, non-farm activities, organic farming, and biodiversity conservation.
2. **Education and Child Rights** – Ensuring quality education for all children and advocating for the elimination of child labor.
3. **Health, Nutrition, Water, and Sanitation** – Providing quality health services, promoting hygiene, and improving nutrition in collaboration with various agencies.
4. **Women's Empowerment and Social Inclusion** – Advancing gender equality, microfinance, and entrepreneurship, with special focus on marginalized groups.
5. **Governance, Research, and Disaster Preparedness** – Strengthening local governance, conducting socio-economic research, and enhancing community resilience to disasters.

CHAPTER: II

Formation of Farmers producer organization

Formation of Farmers Producer Organisation (FPO):

Democratic Action mobilizes small and marginal farmers into village-level Farmers' Associations to collectively address agricultural challenges through self-initiated actions. These groups receive support in alternative and organic cropping, seed distribution, training, and government licensing for direct input sales. Local banks extend subsidized loans for agricultural and allied activities. Through training, bank linkages, and marketing facilitation, Farmers' Clubs evolved into strong Producer Groups, leading to the formation of FPOs. Agronomical practices such as soil and water conservation, contour bunding, mulching, and crop-residue management enhance productivity, while horticulture and plantation initiatives ensure ecological balance and sustainable livelihoods.

Sustainable Agriculture through Watershed Management

Democratic Action implemented watershed management programs to enhance land capability and ensure food security for farming families. Comprehensive trials on key crops and cropping systems helped overcome low productivity and monoculture challenges. As a result, the productivity of various crops, grasses, and legumes increased significantly in watershed-managed areas, promoting self-sufficiency.



CHAPTER:III

PROMOTION OF MILLETS ,BLOCK: DABUGAON,

The Government of India proposed to the United Nations to declare 2024 as the International Year of Millets (IYOM), a proposal supported by 72 countries and officially adopted by the UN General Assembly on 5th March 2021. Millets, known for their high nutritional value and climate resilience, have long been staple crops among tribal communities in rain-fed regions of Odisha. However, post-1960s agricultural policies prioritizing paddy and wheat for national food security led to a decline in millet cultivation and consumption. Although initiatives like the NFSA (2013), NITI Aayog, and NFSM promoted millet revival, fragmented supply-chain efforts limited their success.



MAJOR ACHIEVEMENTS:

1	Project/ programme	Odisha Millet Mission (OMM)(Promotion of Millet in the Tribal areas of Odisha)
2	Project sponsored by	Agriculture Technology Management Agency- ATMA, O/o- the Chief District Agriculture Officer, Department of Agriculture, Government of Odisha, Nabarangpur.
3	Date of starting	Jun-2022
4	Project area/ physical	Block: Dabugaon, Dist : Nabarangpur.
		Gram Panchayats: 12

		Number of villages:72	
5	Activity	Target of the year	Achievements of the years
	Village Meeting	150	136
	Farmers Selection	800	751
	Ragi Cultivated Area in hector	400	427.83
	Ragi Procurement in quintal	2424	2142
6	Main activities/ Course contents		
6.1	Two days non-residential training within district for 10-member Women Campaign Team	6	6
6.2	Campaign in villages to increase awareness on household consumption of millet	4	4
6.3	Block level training and orientation of the CBO on community seed centre management	4	4
6.4	Non-residential training of seed farmer	4	4
6.5	two days non-residential training of trainers within district on System of millet Intensification	4	4
6.6	Organising Field Day	8	8
6.7	Two days non-residential training of CRPs & Progressive farmers	8	8
6.8	Two-day campaign, workshop and food festival	6	6

PROJECT DESIGN AND PLANNING:

The project objectives are well aligned with Organic policies of the Government of Odisha as well as supporting the thematic areas of the Ministry of Agriculture, Government of India, This has extended financial support for this project. Design and planning of the project is to empower the poor & marginalized to participate, get involved and to implement the best possible alternates for sustainable livelihood through organic cultivation of millet varieties sustainable to rain fed conditions.



MANAGEMENT, MONITORING, INTERACTION AND COORDINATION:

The management system of the project is well structured with organizational subsystems that functions as the support and provide hand holding to the farmers in the implementation of the activities. The monitoring system has adopted the flexibility to suit the situation of the beneficiaries in the context of seasonal cultivation of millet, field work and leadership protocol of the WSHGs. The MIS systems are to fulfil the requirements of the project. The documentation system needs to be strengthened further to keep record of the process and successful case stories for replication and exchange of Knowledge at larger level. The support system to increase the productivity need more inputs, preferably through more numbers of Women farmers field programs (demonstration), addressing the emergencies during pest attacks, technical know-how on soil & water management.

PROJECT IMPACTS AND SUSTAINABILITY

The project is on track of improving the livelihoods of poor and marginal land holding farmers. It is the time that Field Demonstration centers at Gram panchayat / block level need to be systematized, that service of specialist from Government is mobilized to support the farmers on the technical know-how. As most of the Government schemes are at the block level, regular on field interaction with block level Agriculture Officials helped the farmers to approach directly to Government Officials and ensured convergence with different welfare and livelihood schemes of Government.



BEST PRACTICES:

The project is promoting some best practices like preparing organic manure and organic pesticides at local level with locally available materials for cultivation of millet, mobilization of incentives from Government to beneficiaries, and participation of WOMEN in implementation, that are opening up the scope for community ownership, for improving life & livelihoods of the poor and marginalized.

The interventions at village level are limited compared to existing needs in terms of agro-inputs. The scope of financial linkages & subsidized schemes for income generation as group-based activities, increase in cash saving, insurance of crops and lives need to be emphasized. Many farmers need to be nurtured further to reach tangible outcomes (e.g. increased in crop areas, yields of staple crops, marketing of farm produce and incomes) and long term impacts (e.g. increased expenditure on health, education, productivity enhancing skills e.g. use of livestock, community cohesion, etc).

CHAPTER: IV

Nutrition Support for Under-Five Children sponsored by- jivadaya foundation, USA

Nutrition Support for Under-Five Children through Community Participation

Coverage: 272 children from five villages of Dabugaon Block, Nabarangpur District, Odisha.

Objective: To prevent stunting, wasting, and underweight among children aged 6 months to 5 years through daily milk provision.

Strategy: Regular child health check-ups under the Government's *Arogya Plus* program.

Support Provided:

- Milk powder and biscuits distribution
- Uniforms and shoes for children
- RAHAT-PDS support for families
- Nutrition worker training
- Mothers' meetings at village level
- Seeds and bio-fertilizer for home nutrition gardens

Milk supplementation improved calcium and haemoglobin levels but had limited impact on vitamin D. To combat anaemia and malnutrition, Democratic Action promotes home-based nutrition gardens using wastewater, benefitting 300 households and ensuring [sustainable dietary improvement](#).



CHAPTER- V

CULTIVATION & PRESERVATION OF MEDICINAL PLANTS

Promoting Medicinal and Aromatic Plant Cultivation for Sustainable Livelihoods

Introduction :

With declining returns from traditional crops, diversification toward medicinal and aromatic plants offers a viable alternative. These crops promise higher profitability and sustainability. This initiative focuses on motivating farmers to cultivate medicinal and aromatic plants, ensuring better income, and contributing to the growing global demand for natural health and wellness products.



Processing and Value Addition of Medicinal Plants

Medicinal plants, rich in secondary metabolites, form the foundation of traditional and modern medicine. India's biodiversity and scientific knowledge offer vast potential for global markets. Training cultivators in processing, quality enhancement, and marketing builds awareness and confidence, helping farmers view medicinal plants as lucrative commercial crops beyond traditional uses.

Objectives :

The project aims to develop and standardize processing techniques for key medicinal plants, improve storage methods using chromatography for better shelf life, and enhance the quality of value-added products. It also studies post-harvest technologies to ensure consistent product standards, thereby strengthening India's position in the medicinal plant value chain.

Cultivation and Conservation :

Sustainable cultivation of medicinal plants addresses overexploitation and species loss. Large-scale and community-based cultivation ensures consistent supply, better income, and employment. These crops are resource-efficient, resilient, and market-assured. Pilot cultivation in Nabarangpur shows success, with farmers benefiting from stable prices, easy cultivation methods, and strong market and export potential.

Raising of Seedlings :

Medicinal plant seedlings require careful nurturing under protected conditions to ensure survival. Using plastic covers or plant igloos helps maintain warmth and moisture. Regular watering and protection from sun and wind are essential. Democratic Action successfully raised 5,500 seedlings of diverse species and distributed them among grower groups for plantation.

Training to Women on Herbal Processing :

In tribal Nabarangpur, women farmers lack knowledge of medicinal plant processing and market access. Democratic Action organized five training programs on herbal processing, marketing, and management of agricultural and forest produce. A total of 120 women collectors participated, gaining essential skills to add value and secure fair prices for their produce.



CHAPTER-VI

Need Based Activities

ACTIVITIES CONDUCTED FOR THE WELFARE OF THE CONSUMER:

FINANCIAL INCLUSION AWARENESS:

Democratic Action organized a Financial Inclusion Quiz Competition for rural poor, especially resource-deprived communities often excluded from government benefits. Awareness was promoted through leaflets, posters, and wall paintings among local youth and SHGs under the Financial Literacy Awareness Programme (FLAP). The initiative, aligned with the government's financial inclusion mission, educated rural people on savings, credit, insurance, pensions, and key welfare schemes like Biju Swasthya Kalyan Yojana, PM Suraksha Bima Yojana, PM Jeevan Jyoti Bima Yojana, and Atal Pension Yojana.

AWARENESS ON DIGITAL FINANCIAL LITERACY PROGRAMME:

Democratic Action organized a Digital Financial Literacy Awareness Programme to educate rural youth, SHGs, and the public on digital finance services like IMPS, UPI, and PoS machines. The initiative aimed to promote awareness of government policies and digital payment options, enabling citizens and local merchants to adopt electronic payment systems and support India's move toward a cashless economy.

WAY FORWARD

Driven by the spirit of serving the neediest, *Democratic Action* continues its dedicated efforts for the poor despite challenges. Over the years, the organization has achieved significant milestones toward its mission of uplifting the deprived and marginalized, while striving for greater impact and sustainability. Maintaining strong community relations, *Democratic Action* actively addresses global issues such as climate-resilient agriculture, natural resource management, farmer income enhancement, and migration. It is steadily building partnerships with government, civil society, and experts to expand its work on a global scale.

Nabarangpur
31st July 2023



Mr. Sushanta Garada
Founder and Secretary
Democratic Action, Odisha

Audit report 2022-23

DEMOCRATIC ACTION
AT: GANDHI NAGAR, POST/DIST: NABARANGPUR (ODISHA)

CONSOLIDATED RECEIPT AND PAYMENT ACCOUNT
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2023

RECEIPTS	SCHEDULE	RUPEES
OPENING BALANCE :		
Cash in Hand		3,560.00
Cash at Bank		7,058.20
Interest From Bank		10,618.20
Donation		14,122.00
Other Revenue & Govt. Grant in Aid	1	
RELATED TO NON-F.C.		
Govt. Grant in Aid		20,52,000.00
Other Revenue		5,54,410.00
		26,06,410.00
Grant Received For Project Funds :	2	
RELATED TO F.C.		8,69,540.00
TOTAL		35,00,690.20

PAYMENTS	SCHEDULE	RUPEES
EXPENDITURE FOR PROJECT FUNDS	3	9,06,467.00
EXPENDITURE FOR REVENUE EARNING	4	19,62,199.95
CLOSING BALANCE:		
Cash in Hand		3,944.00
Cash at Bank		
General-Democratic Action		2,927.10
O.M.M.		5,85,725.05
JIV DAYA		35,284.80
FCRA		4,142.30
		6,28,079.25
TOTAL		35,00,690.20

The schedule referred to above form an integral part of the
Income and Expenditure Account

For Pradcepta Saroj & Associates
Chartered Accountants

(Signature)
Saroj Kumar Sahoo
Partner
UDIN-23064474BGUCNC9887

Bhubaneswar
Date: 25.07.2023

For and on behalf of
DA
Secretary

(Signature)
Secretary

INCOME AND EXPENDITURE

DEMOCRATIC ACTION
AT: GANDHI NAGAR, POST/DIST: NABARANGPUR (ODISHA)

CONSOLIDATED INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2023

I N C O M E	SCHEDULE	RUPEES
Interest From Bank		82.00
Donation		
Other Revenue & Govt. Grant in Aid (RELATED TO NON-F.C.)	1	14,77,054.95
Grant Received For Project Funds (RELATED TO F.C.)	2	8,37,131.20
Bank Interest		3,260.00
Excess of expenditure over income transferred to Balance Sheet		15,449.80
TOTAL		<u>23,32,977.95</u>

E X P E N D I T U R E	SCHEDULE	RUPEES
EXPENDITURE FOR PROJECT FUNDS	3	14,77,054.95
EXPENDITURE FOR REVENUE EARNING	4	8,37,131.20
Bank Charges		70.80
Depreciation		18,721.00
TOTAL		<u>23,32,977.95</u>

The schedule referred to above form an integral part of the
Income and Expenditure Account

Bhubaneswar
Date:25.07.2023

For Pradeepta Saroj & Associates
Chartered Accountants



Saroj Kumar Sahoo
Partner
UDIN-23064474BGUCNC9887

For and on behalf of
DA



Secretary

Our Partners



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