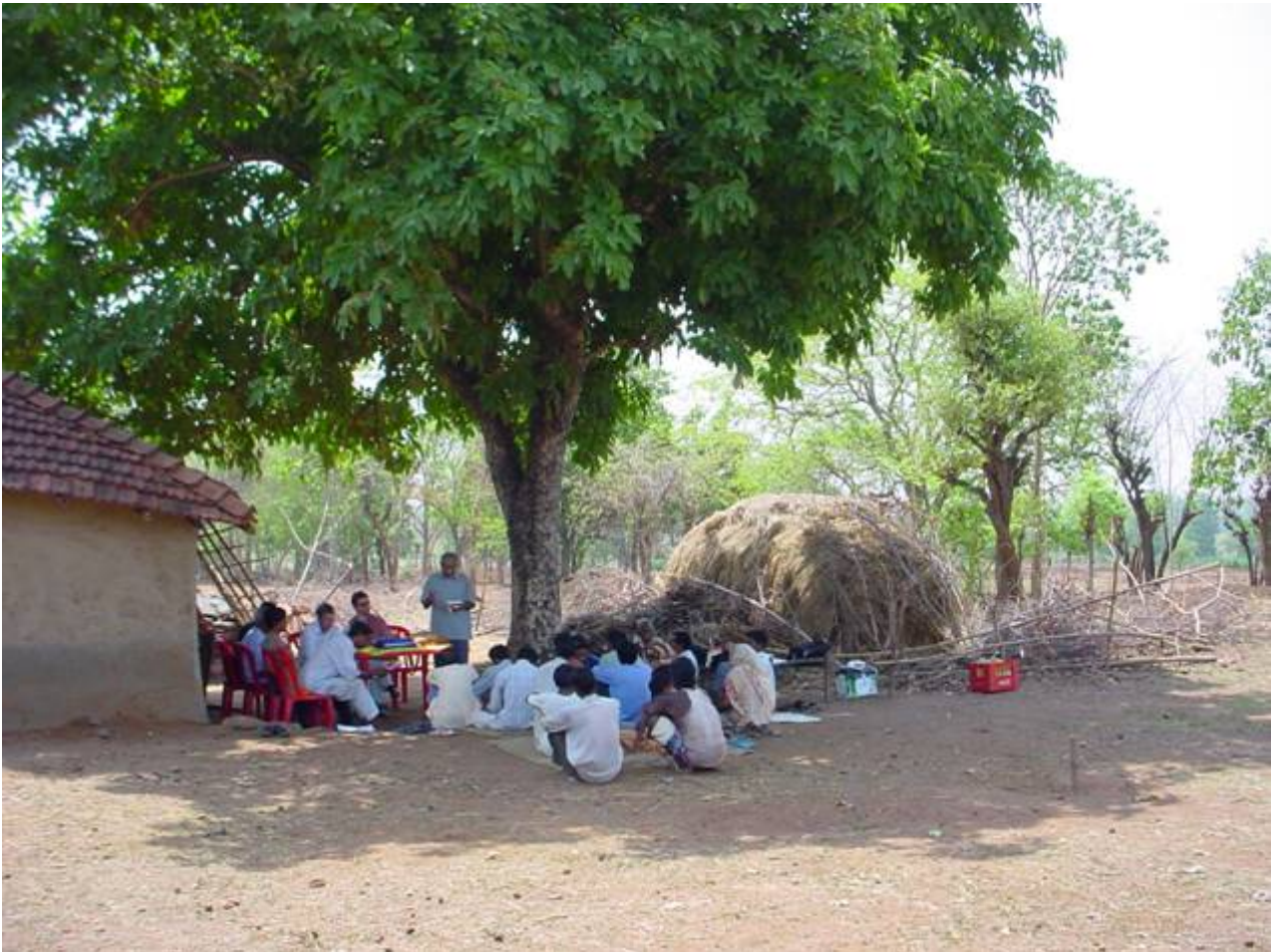


**STREAM**



**Support to Regional Aquatic Resources Management**



**DfID NRSP Research Project R8334  
Promoting the Pro-Poor Policy Lessons of R8100 with Key Policy Actors in India  
September 2003 – September 2005**

**Second Monitoring and Evaluation Workshop**

*at the One-stop Aqua Shop in Kaipara, West Bengal  
17-18 May 2005*

In Association With  
Gramin Vikas Trust (GVT)

*About the Cover Photograph*

Dr Tripathi addresses the Second Monitoring and Evaluation Workshop of project R8334, hosted by the One-stop Aqua Shop in Kaipara Village in West Bengal, where the farmers of Kaipara and Jabarrah villages shared their stories of significant change. A key component of monitoring unanticipated changes is the collection, discussion and evaluation of significant change stories.

Promoting the Pro-Poor Policy Lessons of R8100 with Key Policy Actors in India

Second Monitoring and Evaluation Workshop  
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DfID NRSP Research Project R8334  
September 2003 – September 2005

Graham Haylor, Chris Keating, Rubu Mukherjee, William Savage and S D Tripathi



## Contents

Acronyms	ii
Acknowledgements	iii
Executive Summary	iv
Background	1
Aim and Objective	1
Participants	2
Visit to Jabarrah	2
Day One	3
Opening Session	3
Overview of the Workshop	4
Project Brief and Update	4
Recording Activities and Stakeholders	5
M&E with Significant Change Stories	7
Day Two	7
Review of Day One	7
M&E with Significant Change Stories (continued)	7
M&E with Objectively Verifiable Indicators (OVIs) of the Project	9
The M&E System	9
Follow-up Actions	9
Closing Session	10
Appendices	
1. Participants	11
2. Workshop Agenda	12
3. Project Brief	13
4. Information about OASIS	14
5. Significant Change Stories	16
6. Logframe with OVIs	25
7. Thanda Mahato's Story	27

## Acronyms

BPG	Better-Practice Guideline
CBP	Consensus-Building Process
CHM	Communications Hub Manager
CIFA	Central Institute for Freshwater Aquaculture
CIFE	Central Institute for Fisheries Education
DAHDF	Department of Animal Husbandry, Dairying and Fisheries
DANIDA	Danish International Development Agency
DfID	Department for International Development
GO	Government Organization
GTZ	Gesellschaft Fur Techniciauzamarbeit (German development organization)
GVT	Gramin Vikas Trust
ICAR	Indian Council for Agricultural Research
M&E	Monitoring and evaluation
MPEDA	Marine Product Export Development Agency
NABARD	National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development
NACA	Network of Aquaculture Centers in Asia-Pacific
NGO	Non-governmental Organization
NRSP	Natural Resources Systems Program
OAS	One-Stop Aqua Shop
OASIS	One-Stop Aqua Shop Information Service
OVI	Objectively Verifiable Indicator
PWG	Project Working Group
RSBY	Rashtriya Samaj Bikas Yojana
SHG	Self-Help Group
STREAM	Support to Regional Aquatic Resources Management
SVA	Sahabhagi Vikash Abhiyan
WORLP	Western Orissa Rural Livelihoods Project

## Acknowledgements

We are deeply grateful to our workshop partners – the farmers of Kaipara and Jabarrah, the NGO Gramin Vikas Trust (GVT) and our colleagues in the Panchayat – for an enjoyable collaboration. In particular, we would like to thank:

- Mr Kuddus Ansary for arranging the workshop in Kaipara Village and our visit to Jabarrah. We are also grateful for his hosting of Jabarrah colleagues in Kaipara on 17 May.
- Our venue hosts in Kaipara for arranging our morning and afternoon sessions to maximize shade and available breeze.
- The Akash Hotel for providing lunch packages to our field location each day.
- STREAM Communications Hub Manager, Rubu Mukerjee, for his highly effective efforts to coordinate the workshop and visit logistics.
- Mr S L Yadav, State Coordinator of GVT West Bengal, for his continuing interest and support for colleagues in Kaipara.

We thank each participant for working with us in such a productive and collaborative manner and look forward to continuing our association with these friends and colleagues.

Appreciation is also expressed to DfID and its Natural Resources Systems Program (NRSP) for the support it has provided to do this work, and for their keen interest in its progress.

## Executive Summary

The objective of this project, in taking forward the achievements of the earlier projects, is to develop and promote mechanisms for the delivery of rural services that can reach and benefit marginalized poor men and women (of scheduled tribes and scheduled castes). This workshop in Kaipara Village was meant to “understand the quality of performance in service delivery to poor people through the project M&E system.”

All stakeholder groups represented at the workshop outlined, from their perspective, the activities that had taken place and the stakeholders who had been involved. These were then compared and compiled. With reference made to the activities and stakeholders which had been previously outlined by groups with different experiences of the project’s work, participants were asked to think about and write stories of significant change. They were asked to include a title, a significant change, an explanation of its significance and lessons that could be learned from this.

The significant change stories were written in Bengali by nine of the participants, of whom seven read theirs out during the workshop itself. STREAM colleagues asked questions about the particulars of the stories, especially those which related to how people perceived the changes they expressed. It became apparent as we listened to the significant change stories that – in addition to responding to the four-part question structure – the storytellers were also speaking as if in response to a question like *What do people in the village talk about?* and that this might also be a useful way of asking about changes in people’s lives and livelihoods.

Once the significant change stories had been told, we talked about the other side of the monitoring and evaluation process using Objectively Verifiable Indicators (OVIs). As a summary of how the various sessions of the workshop fit into the M&E System, participants were informed about how information about activities and stakeholders – and changes to these – formed the first and second levels of the system. In the third level, understandings of such information and changes would allow for the identification of outcomes and impacts among stakeholders, and this would in turn lead to opportunities for learning (level four) about what the project had achieved and about what needed to be modified as a result of what had been learned.

We discussed how the roles of men and women had changed, with increases in education and literacy especially among women, with greater financial independence for women, greater sharing of the outcomes of meetings with women, and increased attendance at meetings with everyone having more opportunity to use their talents to everyone’s benefit.

Participants were informed of how the various sessions of the workshop fit into the M&E System, and there was an explanation about planning and indicators, which complement significant change stories for learning from what we do.

Several follow-up actions were agreed, including holding a meeting to assess the lessons we have learned, developing a Monitoring and Evaluation Learning Report with actions that should follow from that learning, sharing that at a project workshop in Bhubaneswar in August, and seeking ways to continue the relationships which have developed between STREAM and the people in Kaipara and Jabarrah.



## Background

This project (HP-R8334) builds on the work of two preceding projects (R6759 – *Integration of aquaculture into the farming systems of the eastern plateau of India* [1996-2000] and R8100 – *Investigating improved policy on aquaculture service provision to poor people* [2002-03]). Taking forward the achievements of the earlier projects, the purpose of R8334 is to develop and promote mechanisms for the delivery of rural services that can reach and benefit marginalized poor men and women (of scheduled tribes and scheduled castes). Progress has been made in beginning to implement the recommendations for policy changes identified by project R8100 and the use of R8100 approaches is becoming evident among ICAR-funded research. However, because the widening reach of these services and then the carry-through to impact on the livelihoods of poor people will take time, the project has been extended to September 2005.

The first aim of this extension is to spread the activities that are presently planned over a longer timeframe, particularly the development of Policy Briefs (Output 2), and to expand the activities for monitoring and evaluation (Output 4) so that they may be well documented and analyzed, including using the “significant change story” method.

The second aim is to continue support to the STREAM India Communications Hub as an important input to R8334 and integral to sustaining attention to the objectives and planned outputs of R8334 in the three target states after this project ends.

Following the R8334 Stakeholders Meeting in September 2003 (see Publication 1 – R8334) pilot One-stop Aqua Shops (OAS) are being established by the governments of Jharkhand (1) and Orissa (4), by the NGO SVA in Orissa (2) and a Federation of Self-Help Groups (SHG) in West Bengal (1). There is no financial support provided by R8334 to establish OASs; they are themselves a response to the recommendations emerging from R8100, and a strong indicator of uptake by communities, NGOs and government.

The STREAM India Communications Hub has responded with the launch of the One-stop Aqua Shop Information Service (OASIS) (see Publication 5 – R8334). The follow-up actions agreed at the Monitoring and Evaluation Workshop held in Ranchi in October 2004 (see Publication 6 – R8334) highlighted the need to organize a workshop where the early outcomes of M&E could be shared and assessed. This workshop is a response to that need.

Through this report and the Final Project Workshop in August, the project team are documenting, analyzing and reporting – as part of the research assignment – the monitoring and evaluation method which combines indicators and significant change stories, and also includes the production of a Better-Practice Guideline and a Policy Brief on monitoring and evaluation.

## Aim and Objective

The aim of this Second Monitoring and Evaluation Workshop, as with all project activities, is “contributing to ‘giving people a voice’ in policy-making processes that have an impact on their livelihoods”. The objective specific to this workshop is to “understand the quality of performance in service delivery to poor people through the project M&E system.”

## Participants

Although invitations were sent to state, district and local government officials, local NGOs and banks in Jharkhand and West Bengal, the workshop was eventually attended primarily by community members from the villages of Kaipara (the workshop location) and Jabarra, two local Panchayat representatives, the West Bengal State Coordinator for Gramin Vikas Trust (GVT) and five NACA-STREAM colleagues (see Appendix 1).

Participants received a workshop folder with Bengali translations of the workshop program, an earlier version of the Project Brief (Appendix 3), an information sheet on OASIS (Appendix 4) and relevant extracts from the project logframe with the OVI's (Appendix 6).

## Visit to Jabarra

On 16 May, at the request of SHGs from Jabarra to the STREAM Communications Hub, Kuddus Ansary, Bill Savage, Dr Tripathi, Christopher Keating and Graham Haylor visited the village to discuss their current situation and follow up on their idea to host a One-stop Aqua Shop in Jabarra. A small group gathered at the meeting room and talked about activities in the village and particularly on-going excavations with the *dobas* and *gorias* in and around Jabarra.



*Huchak Guria in Jabarra Village, being dewatered for deepening and improvement*

Following the success of aquaculture over recent years within Jabarra, villagers are focusing on improving the natural pond infrastructure that they have with support from a Food-For-Work Program administered by the Panchayat Samiti. The water bodies involved are Bucha Bandh, Madhua Gudia and Huchak Guria. The village has been sanctioned an amount of Rs 300,000 for direct labor to deepen the ponds. The work, administration and payment are being overseen in Jabarra by a Beneficiary Committee called the *Gram Unnayan Committee* (Village

Development Committee). The villagers have drained the water in preparation for the work and have shared the remaining fish (worth Rs 11,000) among the villagers. The work is likely to commence in the next few days when the payment will be made at Rs 62/cft of earth removed – a job that is completed in one day in lieu of 6 kg of rice.

This activity is a living example of the aquaculture activities featured in the awareness-raising drama, *The Pond of the Little Fish* by Rakesh Rahman. The play was inspired by farmer-scientist research conducted in the late 1990s in villages in West Bengal, including Jabarra, about people in remote rural villages in eastern India and a



possible role for fish seed production in small water bodies adapted for the purpose during the dry season, instead of having to migrate seasonally for work. The play was an output from the NRSP project R6759. Seasonal migration also features in the significant change stories told at the Kaipara workshop (see Appendix 5).

Following the Jabbarah visit, where our colleague Ms Thanda Mahato was one of the key informants, Dr Tripathi wrote down her story (Appendix 7).

## Day One

### Opening Session

The Second Monitoring and Evaluation Workshop was held in the open air under a shade tree not far from the One-stop Aqua Shop in Kaipara Village. Mr Kuddus Ansary welcomed one and all in the traditional manner, with flowers for the guests.

Mr Rubu Mukherjee, STREAM India CHM, referred to policy-making processes and the project's aim of giving a voice to poor people. He invited Mr Kuddus to give a brief on the OAS at Kaipara. Mr Kuddus drew the attention of participants to the state-level workshops and the consensus-building process through which stakeholders had made 43 recommendations for necessary policy changes. These were intended to remove constraints being faced by fish farmers, particularly by small, poor and illiterate ones in remote rural areas. Thirteen of the recommendations were prioritized and placed before policy-makers in Delhi in April 2003.

One of these recommendations was to provide "one-window delivery" to farmers, called a One-stop Aqua Shop. A federation of 20 SHGs decided to establish one such service center at Kaipara and the idea was supported by the STREAM Initiative. The OAS was thus established in June 2004 and inaugurated by the Block Development Officer. The OAS is receiving the support of agencies involved in the promotion of aquaculture, especially the Fisheries Department, banks, Block Office and Panchayat. About 111 farmers have already taken advantage of the services available here. A drag net and *hundreds* procured by the OAS through funds provided by STREAM have become a source of regular income for the OAS.

Mr Mukherjee then called on Mr Mahato, President of the Village Committee at Jabbarah, to give his ideas on the establishment of an OAS in his village. Appreciating the initiative of Mr Kuddus, Mr Mahato said that it would be possible for them to procure many items under the Rashtriya Samaj Bikas Yojana (RSBY), besides the loans and subsidies available from there. He said that the members of the SHGs in Jabbarah will sit together and decide as to what should be the shape of an OAS in Jabbarah.

Graham Haylor, STREAM Director, recalled his association with the fish farmers and others in Kaipara and Jabbarah over the last ten years including Mr Yadav, now State Coordinator of GVT in West Bengal, fortunately present at this workshop also. He reported how he has been a witness to changes that have come including various projects that were initiated here. These developments and achievements have been presented in various international fora and seen by others on the internet too. The recent visit of fish farmers from Bangladesh is a witness to the interest that has been built by your hard work and the OAS you have developed, which have inspired and influenced many a farmer as well as others; quite a few requests for exposure to your OAS have been received by STREAM

## Overview of the Workshop

Mr Rubu talked about the workshop agenda (Appendix 2).

## Project Brief and Update

Dr Tripathi was then summed up the activities undertaken and achievements made between 2003, when the first workshop was held, to now. He started by talking generally about the project and its four objectives (see original Project Brief in Appendix 3) and how far these were being realized. Dr Tripathi then recounted a series of project activities to date:

- A Stakeholders Workshop in Ranchi and a field visit to Jabarrah in September of 2003, which involved farmers and fishers, central and state government officials and NGOs
- Three State-level Communications Workshops in October-November 2003, in Jharkhand, Orissa and West Bengal
- A Planning Meeting in Ranchi in January 2004 which the Director of Fisheries from Orissa requested to join (and then supported the development of four OASs in the western districts of Orissa)
- A Kaipara visit in February 2004 which discussed the road to the OAS there
- A Planning Meeting for the Kaipara OAS in Purulia in May 2004
- An internet discussion forum since May 2004 on Better-Practice Guidelines
- Two ICAR-funded projects working with approaches piloted in R8100, which began in June 2004 (with CIFE and CIFA)
- Study tours and exposure visits, including:
  - to SHGs in Jabarrah from Kaipara, West Bengal and Silli and Bundu blocks, Jharkhand
  - MPEDA project staff from Andra Pradesh to Jabarrah and Kaipara
  - WORLP staff from Orissa to Kaipara
  - DANIDA Patuakali Berguna Aquaculture Extension Project in Bangladesh to Kaipara and Jabarrah
  - Jabarrah SHG members to Kaipara

There have been a range of outputs and outcomes, especially related to livelihoods, institutions, policy development and communications (STREAM's four themes) in terms "changing the way that information is made available to farmer and fishers." These include:

- Stories, which allow for more in-depth sharing of issues, especially in livelihoods contexts (including stories about people in Jabarrah, Kaipara and Kandhkelgaon in Orissa)
- Planning and establishment of local institutions in the form of eight OASs in the three states
- Involvement in the Orissa state fisheries policy development
- Involvement in the aquaculture development program of the DfID-supported Western Orissa Rural Livelihoods Project (WORLP)
- Development of two genres of publications, one for those who work closely with farmers and fishers, called Better-Practice Guidelines, and one for policy-makers, called Policy Briefs
- Policy changes in the lease period for ponds and tanks from one to five years

Project learning has also been shared more widely through:

- The NACA-STREAM Regional Conferences in Manila in 2003, Siem Reap in 2004 and Hanoi in 2005
- A conference presentation in Malaysia (Seventh Asian Fisheries Forum) by Dr Tripathi
- Participation at the “Development of strategies for enterprise development and promotion of sustainable livelihoods in the fisheries sector” in Orissa, and
- International gatherings in Sri Lanka (GTZ symposium) and Australia (Indigenous aquaculture workshop at the Aquaculture Conference).

### Recording Activities and Stakeholders

Mr William Savage was happy to be among colleagues from NGOs, GOs, farmers, SHGs and the inter-governmental NACA-STREAM. Each person from these places would have different ideas and would also look at the same issue from different angles. It is therefore necessary to understand the viewpoint of each of these people since we are all working together. He suggested that participants work in different groups to:

- Write down what work has been done and with whom
- Discuss these activities and stakeholders (also indicating how women have been involved), and
- Present the outcomes to learn about similar and different views.

He suggested the following groups:

1. Kaipara (those who have not visited other places)
2. Kaipara (those who have visited other places)
3. Jabarrah
4. Panchayat officers, and
5. NACA-STREAM (including Mr Yadav).

<i>1. Kaipara (those who have not visited other places)</i>	
<i>Activities</i>	<i>Stakeholders</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Establishment of OAS for aquaculture activities</li> <li>▪ Self-Help Groups have been formed</li> <li>▪ After several group meetings we have opened the OAS</li> <li>▪ A federation has been established with 20 SHGs</li> <li>▪ Training has been given to federation members</li> <li>▪ Have received different types of training at numerous times</li> <li>▪ Have raised fingerlings from spawn</li> <li>▪ Links were established with different agencies (including both government and private agencies) for aquaculture</li> <li>▪ Have received a fishing net and <i>hundreds</i></li> <li>▪ Involvement of women’s groups in various aquaculture activities</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ GVT</li> <li>▪ NGOs</li> <li>▪ STREAM</li> <li>▪ Panchayat</li> <li>▪ Federation of SHGs</li> </ul>

<b>2. Kaipara (those who have visited other places)</b>	
<i>Activities</i>	<i>Stakeholders</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ In Sept 2003 formed a federation involving 20 SHGs from Kaipara</li> <li>▪ Federation involved in different activities such as mid-day school meals, ground nut cultivation, aquaculture, Harihariali project of government</li> <li>▪ Establishment of OAS and management through the federation</li> <li>▪ Raising fingerlings with support of OAS</li> <li>▪ Selling of fish seed through OAS</li> <li>▪ Through OAS, members of the federation have received training from government fisheries departments</li> <li>▪ Linkages have been increased between different government departments</li> <li>▪ Increased knowledge regarding access to government benefits and schemes</li> <li>▪ People are better able to think about and do aquaculture as part of their livelihoods</li> <li>▪ Involvement of women members in different activities has increased</li> <li>▪ Getting training is now easier</li> <li>▪ Have been able to acquire equipment for doing aquaculture (like nets and <i>hundies</i>)</li> <li>▪ Women are also involved in different sports activities</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Federation of SHGs</li> <li>▪ Villagers</li> <li>▪ SHGs</li> <li>▪ NGOs</li> <li>▪ Government departments</li> </ul>

<b>3. Jabbarah</b>	
<i>Activities</i>	<i>Stakeholders</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Received fisheries training with the help of GVT and Malbhum Gramin Bank</li> <li>▪ Raised fingerlings from spawn</li> <li>▪ Adapted CIFA technology for doing aquaculture in two ponds</li> <li>▪ General aquaculture activities taking place in three ponds</li> <li>▪ With the help of Soloanna Group, have organized an event where people can catch fish by purchasing tickets</li> <li>▪ Exposure visit with the help of GVT</li> <li>▪ Involvement in RSBY activity (government program for agricultural activities)</li> <li>▪ Distributed free fish to villagers twice a year</li> <li>▪ Formation of new SHGs</li> <li>▪ Constructed temples and held festivals with money made from selling fish</li> <li>▪ Doing different types of aquaculture activities has enabled people to meet each other within the village</li> <li>▪ Getting easier loans with the help of GVT, Malbhum Gramin Bank and NABARD</li> <li>▪ Women's groups are also involved in fishing activities</li> <li>▪ Taking advantage of government schemes</li> <li>▪ Intention to establish OAS with the help of apex body comprising two representatives each from ten SHGs</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ SHGs</li> <li>▪ Villagers</li> <li>▪ Fishers</li> </ul>

<b>4. Panchayat Officers</b>	
<i>Activities</i>	<i>Stakeholders</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ SHG formation</li> <li>▪ Establishment of OAS by involving 20 SHGs through federation</li> <li>▪ Organized training course in aquaculture for group members</li> <li>▪ Raising and distribution of fingerlings done by Salghati Group</li> <li>▪ Won a tender for receiving mid-day meals from the Panchayat Samiti</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ SHGs</li> <li>▪ Villagers</li> <li>▪ Fishers</li> </ul>

<b>5. NACA-STREAM</b>	
<i>Activities</i>	<i>Stakeholders</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ See section on Project Brief and Update</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Women's participation had increased considerably</li> <li>▪ Farmers from Kaipara and Jabarrah</li> <li>▪ Government</li> <li>▪ NGOs</li> <li>▪ Banks</li> <li>▪ Departments of Fisheries</li> <li>▪ ICAR</li> <li>▪ Fisheries Division of the now Ministry of Agriculture, Department of Animal Husbandry, Dairying and Fisheries (DAHDF)</li> </ul>

### **M&E with Significant Change Stories**

With reference made to the activities and stakeholders which had been previously outlined by groups with different experiences of the project's work, participants were asked to think about and write stories of significant change, to tell to the whole group the next morning. They were advised to structure their stories in four parts:

1. Describe the most significant change in your life, livelihood, work or the broader context over the last two years, whether big or small, positive or negative. What was it? Who was involved? When? Where?
2. Briefly explain why you chose that change. Why was it so significant?
3. What lessons or suggestions do you have for STREAM?
4. Give your story a headline.

### **Day Two**

#### **Review of Day One**

The review of the first day was given by Bill. He spoke about how we had heard an update of the project's activities and who had been involved. We then thought about how each of the project's stakeholder groups present at the workshop perceived the activities that had taken place and who had been involved. Finally, participants were asked to talk together over the night and to come the next morning with significant change stories.

### M&E with Significant Change Stories (continued)

Significant change stories were written in Bengali by nine of the participants (Appendix 5), of which seven were read out during the workshop itself. STREAM colleagues asked questions about the particulars of the stories, especially those which related to how people perceived the changes they expressed.



*People tell their significant change stories at the Kaipara workshop*

The nine stories were written by:

1. Mr Kuddus Ansary, Kaipara
2. Mr Nityo Gopal Mahato, Jabarrah
3. Mr Surmali Ansary, Kaipara
4. Mr Manorajan Mahato, Kaipara
5. Ms Sakuntala Mahato, Kaipara
6. Mr Subhasish Mahato, Jabarrah
7. Mr Shakyo Singho Mahato, Jabarrah
8. Mr Chakra Dhar Mahato, Kaipara
9. Mr Chhutulal Tudu, Kaipara

It became apparent as we listened to the significant change stories that – in addition to responding to the four-part question structure we suggested the previous afternoon – the storytellers were also speaking as if in response to a question like *What do people in the village talk about?* and that this might also be a useful way of asking about changes in people's lives and livelihoods.



One issue in many of the significant change stories was women and their role in communities. We know that the role of women and relationships between men and women is an issue in India as it is in many countries. Experiences in both Jabarrah and Kaipara demonstrate some changes in the role played by women. A question was posed to the men first and then to the women: *What factors do you see that have allowed for these changes to happen in women's lives?*

Nityo Gopal Mahato said of his village, Jabarrah, that awareness among women has been raised through training and education especially literacy and that this in part has come about because of independence and freedom given by the menfolk.

Kuddus Ansary said that in Kaipara many women are not able to attend meetings as they have children to care for and household tasks. Even this meeting held in Kaipara village is mainly attended by men. Men who share well the outcomes of meetings with their wives help a lot.

Thanda Mahato said that financial independence from their husbands, from paying for snacks at group meetings to having savings and bank accounts, brought benefits to women and men.

Nityo Gopal Mahato agreed, saying every man and woman has his or her own talents and if they all do not get the opportunity their talents will be wasted.

### **M&E with Objectively Verifiable Indicators (OVIs) of the Project**

Once the significant change stories had been told, we talked about the other side of the monitoring and evaluation process using OVIs. It was pointed out that certain of the OVIs directly related to STREAM's work with people from Kaipara and Jabarrah (highlighted in yellow in Appendix 6). The others – which tend to be more general and broadly-based, i.e., state and national levels – would be assessed through interactions with other project stakeholders.

### **The M&E System**

As a summary of how the various sessions of the workshop fit into the M&E System, participants were informed about how information about activities and stakeholders – and changes to these – formed the first and second levels of the system. In the third level, understandings of such information and changes would allow for the identification of outcomes and impacts among stakeholders, and this would in turn lead to opportunities for learning (level four) about what the project had achieved and about what needed to be modified as a result of what had been learned.

### **Follow-up Actions**

Throughout the two days of the workshop, several actions were agreed for follow-up:

- STREAM will consider what has been learned about activities, who has been involved, and changes, outcomes and impacts – including those expressed in the significant change stories – and also look at the indicators we have set for ourselves in

our planning (i.e., the logical framework OVIs), and hold a meeting to assess the lessons we have learned.

- Some of the learning we will look at more deeply in terms of a Monitoring and Evaluation Learning Report and actions that should follow from that learning.
- In August we will host a Final Project Workshop in Bhubaneswar and this learning will form an input to that workshop.
- We will continue to seek ways to continue the relationships which have developed between STREAM and the people in Kaipara and Jabarrah.

This approach to monitoring and evaluation forms a pilot for M&E right across the STREAM Initiative in ten other countries, so that lessons learned here will inform broader organizational learning and development.

### **Closing Session**

The workshop ended with remarks by Graham Haylor and Kuddus Ansary.

*Appendix 1 Participants*

<b>Government</b>	
Mr Sunil Singh	Panchayat Member, Barabazar, Purulia
Mr Niranjana Mahato	Panchayat Member, Barabazar, Purulia
<b>NGOs</b>	
Mr S L Yadav	State Coordinator, GVT West Bengal
<b>Community</b>	
Mr Kuddus Ansary	Khawasadi, Purulia
Mr Chakra Dhar Mahato	Kaipara, Purulia
Mr Surali Ansary	Palma, Purulia
Mr Manorajan Mahato	Kaipara, Purulia
Mr Kirod Mahato	Kaipara, Purulia
Mr Chhutulal Tudu	Salkhati, Purulia
Ms Sakuntala Mahato	Kaipara, Purulia
Mr Ishwar Mahato	Kaipara, Purulia
Mr Trilochan Owarou	Kaipara, Purulia
Mr Lal Mohan Singh Sardar	Kaipara, Purulia
Ms Chanda Tudu	Kaipara, Purulia
Mr Bansidhar Singo	Kaipara, Purulia
Mr Nityo Gopal Mahato	Jabarrah, Purulia
Mr Shakyo Singho Mahato	Jabarrah, Purulia
Ms Thanda Mahato	Jabarrah, Purulia
Mr Subhasish Mahato	Jabarrah, Purulia
<b>NACA-STREAM</b>	
Dr Graham Haylor	Director
Mr William Savage	Communications Specialist
Dr S D Tripathi	Advisor
Mr Rubu Mukherjee	Communications Hub Manager
Mr Chris Keating	M&E Advisor

*Appendix 2 Workshop Agenda*

<b>Day One –Tuesday, 17 May</b>
Opening Session
Overview of the Workshop
Project Brief and Update
Recording Activities and Stakeholders
M&E with Significant Change Stories

<b>Day Two – Wednesday, 18 May</b>
Review of Day One
M&E with Significant Change Stories (continued)
M&E with Objectively Verifiable Indicators (OVIs) of the Project
The M&E System
Follow-up Actions
Closing Session

**Appendix 3 Project Brief**

The STREAM Initiative of NACA (Network of Aquaculture Centres in Asia-Pacific) – with the NGO Gramin Vikas Trust (GVT) and the Indian Council for Agricultural Research (ICAR) – are implementing a DFID NRSP (Natural Resources Systems Programme) research project called “Promoting the Pro-Poor Policy Lessons of R8100 with Key Policy Actors in India” (known to DFID as R8334). The project runs from September 2003 through February 2005 and follows on from R8100 “Investigating Improved Policy on Aquaculture Service Provision to Poor People” which concluded in May 2003. Both projects aim to “contribute to ‘giving people a voice’ in policy-making processes that have an impact on their livelihoods”.

This new project is about working together, nationally and in Jharkhand, Orissa and West Bengal, to develop and promote ways to improve rural services for people (especially tribal communities) who want to do aquaculture. The approach is different from many existing schemes because it looks at how aquaculture fits into people’s lives, based on what they have and how they want to use it. We began in September 2003 by meeting senior policy-makers in Delhi, holding a Stakeholders Meeting in Ranchi, and visiting Jabarrah village in West Bengal.

Over the next eighteen months, there are four things that we hope to do:

1) To hold regular Project Working Group (PWG) meetings to build on the process which we all worked on (in the previous project), of highlighting and prioritizing recommendations for changes in policy.

*The PWG will likely develop short written pieces (‘Policy Briefs’ and ‘Better Practice Guidelines’) about how the priority recommendations already defined can be incorporated into current or new ways of working.*

2) To improve sharing of policy-related experiences to all stakeholders and to promote policy recommendations to policy-related people in government.

*We aim to develop a communications strategy and an action plan. The STREAM Communications Hub being established alongside the GVT East office in Ranchi will test new ways of sharing information and experiences.*

3) To pilot test some of the new ways of working recommended by the previous project.

*These might include the so-called ‘one-stop-shop’ for aquaculture service provision (or the ‘Aquashop’) and the approach of supporting and working with Self-Help Groups.*

4) To try to assess the value of service delivery and how well it meets requirements by measuring changes in poor people’s lives.

*This will involve measuring how we are doing against indicators of progress and also trying to capture unanticipated changes through the collection of ‘significant change’ stories.*

For more information about the project, please contact Rubu Mukherjee, the STREAM India Communications Hub, Duplex No 2, T S Homes Plot Nos 1221/1839, 1840, 1607, Tankapani Road, Bhubaneswar, Orissa, India 751014 India. [streamindia@sancharnet.in](mailto:streamindia@sancharnet.in)

*Appendix 4 Information about OASIS*

**STREAM**

**Support to Regional Aquatic Resources Management launches:**



(oh-ay-sis)...a fertile spot / fertile...rich in the materials needed

As federated SHGs (Self Help Groups) and state governments in Eastern India begin to act on recent recommendations for changing the way that information is made available to farmers, this month STREAM begins piloting in eastern India an information service designed to help information flow between farmers Self-Help Groups and the national STREAM Communications Hub. This may have implications for information flow in other countries too.

**New Access to Information and other Resources**

Farmers in India who are interested in starting aquaculture have to travel to many locations in search of the information and resources they required to understand how to get started. This includes becoming aware of government, inter-governmental and NGO support and rural banking services as well as specific technical advice and inputs.

In 2002-2003 a collaborative project between the Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR), the NGO Gramin Vikas Trust (GVT), the Network of Aquaculture Centers in Asia Pacific (NACA) Support To Regional Aquatic Resources Management (STREAM) Initiative and the UK Government Department for International Development (DFID) Natural Resources Systems Program (NRSP) worked with farmers and fishers to look at how to improve aquaculture services to poor people.

During the project more than 350 farmers and fishers, fisheries service providers and policy makers across the eastern Indian states of Jharkhand, Orissa and West Bengal took part in numerous meetings, workshops at local, state and national level, and developed case studies, films and drama.

42 recommendations for changes to service provision were highlighted and a consensus was reached about 13 priority recommendations. These included changing the way information is made available about fish farming, government schemes and bank loans, including piloting the idea of a “One-stop Aqua Shop” (OAS) to provide a single local location for interested stakeholders to access information, training, sources of micro-credit, loans and details of government schemes (and maybe in future inputs and fingerlings).

Since a consensus was built about the need for an OAS various models have emerged. One is being piloted and run by a federation of Self-help Groups, local to fish farmers (in a part of rural West Bengal), another at a centralized government service provision site run by the state Fisheries Department in Jharkhand and a third by a state government project in several poor districts of Western Orissa.

At a recent planning meeting involving government, intergovernmental and NGO service providers, STREAM agreed to support these One-Stop Aqua Shops through the provision of an information service the **One-stop Aqua Shop Information Service (OASIS)**. The service aims to make available information from farmers and fishers, service providers, news agencies, the internet, academia - including databases of research and outputs from specific research programs, on-line communities of shared-interest groups, as well as learning from other countries. The information service will be made available from the STREAM Initiative through the national Communications Hub in Ranchi.

Oasis aims to provide the following support to the One-stop Aqua Shop.

#### **Find out who is who with ‘Contacts’**

‘Contacts’ is a searchable database of appropriate persons to contact including: Aqua Shops, Banks, Departments of Fisheries persons, NGOs, Panchyats, SHGs, Insurance providers, input suppliers and so on. Contact details can be printed out from a database search.

#### **Utilize the STREAM Virtual Library**

Learn from the experiences of other STREAM countries and access through a CDROM at the One-stop Aqua Shop or live through the STREAM Communications Hub publications, documents, materials and links to websites via the STREAM Virtual Library categorized under Periodicals, Countries and Themes and searchable by typing key words into the search engine. <http://www.streaminitiative.org/Library/VirtualLibrary.html>

#### ***Get you questions answered via the NACA discussion forum***

OASIS will provide the OAS with a link through the STREAM Communications Hub to a “discussion forum” enabling stakeholders to ask questions of an expanding on-line community, available at [www.enaca.org](http://www.enaca.org)

#### **Better-Practice Guidelines**

STREAM produces and also commissions from local specialists Better-Practice Guidelines (BPGs) these are made available through Oasis to the One-stop Aqua Shops in local languages. BPGs provide guidance on an increasing number of ways of working and available techniques.

#### **Stories**

People can read stories in local languages available from the OAS.

#### **Awareness Raising**

People will be able to view video documentaries, street plays and other media which is available at OAS.

#### **Exchange visits**

May be visiting a group already doing what you are planning.

## *Appendix 5 Significant Change Stories*

### **Will and Self-confidence Shows the Way of Victory**

*Mr Kuddus Ansary, Kaipara*

My house is in a remote village but I do dream to make my village recognized among the other five villages where I live. Before knowing others, I try to know myself and by looking in the mirror frame of pictures of Swami Vivekananda (a disciple of Krishna) and Bidya Sagar (a poet and social revolutionary engaged in educational reform), I try to judge myself from the inside.

Three years back I did not have this thinking, but now I think of how to improve my locality with my livelihood. Three years back when I used to visit different villages to help to make groups, I remember that women could not come out of their houses. And those who used to come out calculated how much money they will get. Political leaders were difficult to approach; it was difficult to make them understand what, where and how development was needed.

I remember that in an open meeting one of the political leaders not only criticized my work with Self-Help Groups but also instructed the *Panchayat* head not to sign any of my applications. At that time I thought whether there was anything wrong with my work; am I cheating people? But still I have continued my work with will and self-confidence. And now I am surprised to see that the same political leader is giving speeches on group formation. Favorable conditions are coming and every organization (GOs and NGOs) is talking about group formation.

One of the disadvantages of groups formed by government projects is their instability. No one is responsible for keeping records and information. Once the government money gets exhausted everyone leaves the group, and vulnerable people are not able to know about the development process.

Demands of people are growing now. They are no longer talking about hunger and food but about electricity and metallic roads. We also want that and also the sustainability of each and every activity. Though government organizations are talking about different job opportunities, we are not sure about their applicability and effectiveness.

In the last year, through our efforts, we have established a One-stop Aqua Shop (OAS). We will see in a few years if this is working. People who are helping us are a long way off but still we know they can help. We are not having many funds but still we are thinking how we can help communications. STREAM has supported us by providing information, organizing exposure visits, and loaning a fishing net and *hundies* (fish transport containers).

Through the work of the last year we have realized that we can do something better for ourselves. We know that government will not help us much but the Federation of Self-Help Groups we have established will help us in our development. We do not have structural support but we are having will power, and we can do it, we will win.

The whole story is not my creation, nor a fake story; these things are true and real. When now I am writing this story I have taken references from the past and I never forget my past. STREAM is not like other NGOs. We have seen other NGOs that have done so much work and their work is still there in the village, and we expect that STREAM will work closer with villagers and will make a place in the heart of the people. We also expect that STREAM will organize foreign tours and exposure visits and also raise our morale.



**Capacity through Awareness**  
*Mr Nityo Gopal Mahato, Jabarrah*

In life, I think awareness and thinking may get changed. The way I think has changed over the past two years. I am able to get a lot from visiting different places and after visiting different places and sharing thoughts with different people we get encouragement, so that we gain experience.

For my livelihood I know in which pocket I have to spend which money. We know that if we invest in a project now we can gain a lot of benefit later and that in the future these will come up in a nice way and generate employment in the village. If we talk about activities, so much has changed in the way we do activities. Initially we were not using our time all year but in installments, but now we are using our time all year round for our livelihood. We try to earn regularly by crop rotation, and try to arrange the work for the whole of the year so that earning will be a continuous process. I have seen this improvement in my village and in my own life.

In my surroundings the role of education is there and this affects our livelihoods. There is a positive change and a will to increase the educational level in the locality.

I am writing this story because whosoever comes to our village they will not be here for long enough for our sustainability. If we do the things in our way this will sustain and maintain our livelihoods; we will live in the future with this experience.

Suggestions for STREAM:

- Awareness programs to do things in a better way are helpful.
- Links with different agencies are needed.
- Equipment for doing aquaculture is most helpful.
- Flow of information and exchange regularly is helpful.

### **Story of the Tribal Community**

*Mr Surmali Ansary, Kaipara*

Of 150 families in my village, 20 families don't have good land, didn't have money, and didn't have any arrangement. They didn't have any education and luxury. For nearly three months each year they have to go away from the village for work and in the other months they have to work as laborers in the houses of richer people. They accepted that it was their faith.

In 2003, with the help of some community organizers, the people started making groups, and the groups started saving. The group members shared their views and difficulties among themselves. Without telling the names of those people the story will be an incomplete one. They are the trained *jankars* from Gramin Vikas Trust. In those days with many difficulties and government aloofness, *jankars* were able to make us understand why it is necessary to make groups. They have started giving training on different activities.

So after one year the difficulties had gone away and government also started doing activities and as a gift there was Swarnajyanti Gram Swarojgar Yojna (SGSY) project. Group members started a literacy center for adults, vaccination for babies and pregnant women and also started sending their children to school. At that time, to collect drinking water women used to go two kilometers from the villages. But after the installation of a tube well in the village, that problem was also solved. Now Khemu Rjak, Susari Krmakar and Ashalata Shis are members of the group and they are not only planning for improvement in the group but also planning for village and area development. Some of the NGO members, government officers and bank officers are involved in this development process.

The story of my self change is that I am little literate and didn't have self-confidence. But after attending meetings I realized what I was and what I am. Earlier I didn't realize that the key to my development is in my hand. Today I realize the same and so that whole episode is a history for me.

I am writing the incident of the last two years, when GVT started winding up their activities slowly, and at that time STREAM started encouraging us. I admire the thinking, the planning and the way of working of STREAM. We will not get the STREAM people for the whole of our life but I hope that the creation of STREAM, the OAS, is always for us. I also hope that STREAM will create history by developing not only our area but by developing the whole area. We were upset as GVT has closed their activities but we don't want to lose STREAM and don't want to get upset and hope STREAM will show us the way.

## **Villagers Do Not Stay in Dark, But Come Forward**

*Mr Manoranjan Mahato, Kaipara*

In Kaipara Tola Gosai Pua Village there are approximately 50-55 people. Except for some families most others are Scheduled Caste. But in this low category village, the maximum people are starving for food. They can only manage one meal in a day and at other times they are in hunger. Within these there are two types of people: those who used to migrate for their livelihood and those who used to work as laborers in the rich men's houses in the neighboring villages.

Now, from the last two years with the help of some of the NGOs and government services, village people are making small Self-Help Groups and are able to bring some work in the village. As a result of that, village people are getting some jobs for their livelihood. And it shows some changes in the food status. Earlier people were using only low quality cotton fabric but now they use tricot, terilin and other cotton fabrics. In the education sector, many mothers became literate. But the sad thing is that the primary school is two kilometers from the village. Therefore children's educational status has not increased as per the expectation.

In one phrase, we can say that the NGOs and government officers are responsible for this type of change. They showed the light to us. But at the same time it is also true that the things which should have changed completely, they have not changed as per the expectation, because government officers were not able to plan properly. In the last two years people are able to speak in different places about livelihoods matters. And women are now able to go to different places and can speak about their personal and village problems. Village people are laborers, which is their main capital or most valuable thing, but they are not able to utilize their labor as there is no work in the village. They don't have money. But some changes have been seen.

The organization which stepped in 2003 that was GVT and after its move away we are just like old dead leaves. At last STREAM came with OAS for us. Earlier people used to do aquaculture in an unscientific way but for the last two years people are doing aquaculture in a scientific way. Still fish culture is not so popular like rice cultivation, because we are not able to do it properly. We hope STREAM can help us in this field. Some few changes are seen in the technique of fish culture but we are expecting some more changes. Farmers are expecting to get some training on fish culture.

Although government and NGOs are supporting us in some fields we know that the support is not permanent and will not last so long. Therefore we want that STREAM should support us continuously and permanently by providing us new ideas and ways.

**Story about Mahila Samity of Kaipara Village**

*Ms Sakuntala Mahato, Kaipara*

Women of Kaipara Village are now aware and the process of their work has also changed from the last two years. Women were not knowing about groups and their advantages. But now they are organizing meetings regularly and they understand meeting discussions. So literacy has improved. They understood that education is needed in the future. And so they are sending their children to schools. And mid-day meals are available. Children and pregnant women are going to the dispensary regularly to take vaccines.

Women have opened Integrated Child Health Development Program for women and children. They don't want to stay in the dark and now they learn to save money for their future. This awareness came from the group decision. Earlier (when selling their labor) they were deprived of their exact wages but now they are talking openly and demand their right wages.

### **Success in Sunflower Cultivation**

*Mr Subhasish Mahato, Jabarrah*

From the last two years a lot of changes are observed in my livelihood. And a lot of development has taken place in my life. Earlier there was no cultivation of sunflower in our village, but from last year onwards we got some sunflower seed with the help of the block and planned to do its cultivation. After that we formed a group and identified two members and sent them for training with the help of block people and KPS (*Kaipara Panchayat Samity*). We started cultivating sunflower in a scientific way as guided by the two trained members of the group.

From the earnings from the sunflower cultivation we purchased a pump set for our group. Now we are renting that pump set and get the money which goes to our saving fund. Also the pump set is helpful for our other agriculture activity. The cultivation of sunflower has brought a lot of change in my life, and now many people are interested in its cultivation. I believe that if this type of cultivation of sunflower continues then social and financial improvements can be done. Sunflower oil is used for cooking and massaging so there no need to purchase mustard oil worth Rs 60.

I personally believe that sunflower cultivation can contribute a lot for the development of this area. If we do sunflower cultivation then it will give us financial security as well as provide us with our daily requirement of cooking oil. Apart from this it gives your farm a beautiful look.

I feel this is a good change and for that the block and KPS has played a significant role. For that reason only I have chosen this story. I also want to advise the villagers who are present in this workshop that they should go for sunflower cultivation to improve their financial status.

**Contribution of STREAM and GVT for the Improvement of Livelihoods**

*Mr Shakyo Singho Mahoto, Jabarrah*

From the last two years my options and social status have improved a lot. We have been able to take different training and I improved my knowledge on agriculture and aquaculture. We attended different workshops organized by STREAM, interacted with fishermen from other villages, shared our knowledge on aquaculture and encouraged others to do aquaculture in a scientific way. Women's and men's groups started developing fingerlings from seed in the seasonal tank. They got success with it and earned some money from this. For the group members the rate of fish selling is cheaper than for outsiders. They saved some money from their earnings and from that they arranged the education for their children.

We hope that STREAM could help us to open a One-stop Aqua Shop in Jabarrah Village for our betterment. From there we will get leaflets and international information regarding aquaculture. We hope for more workshops and exposure visits to increase the communication system.

**Story about Kaipara Khamar Tar Village**

*Mr Chakra Dhar Mahato, Kaipara*

My village name is Kaipara Khamar Tar. I belong to a group called Khamar Tar Nava Tarun Sangha. There are 28 families in this village. Among them, 20 families are members of Khamar Tar Nava Tarun Sangha. In this village there is another women's group named Khamar Tar Mahila Samiti. Earlier, for a woman to attend meetings was far away from their concern and they even didn't come out in front of men. Not every woman was able to write her signature. And every family was poor. That's why every year families migrated for six months outside the village to earn money to save their lives, and before rainy season they again came back for their agricultural activity. So their children were not able to attend school. At that time they didn't have any idea or awareness of how to change things. But now awareness has increased among them. So now the families are not sending their children outside of the village; instead, they are sending them to school.

There is hope for the betterment in life but still in some parts darkness remains. Though the children have interest to go to school, due to the distance they are losing their interest. Though the government project is speaking about "literacy for all" still there are some illiterate people in the village.

Though the group formation work has been initiated by GVT, their sudden departure made us upset. But still I do hope that I shall succeed in my life and my efforts are important for me.

With the help of STREAM we launched OAS here, and villagers are responsible for its management. STREAM has given recognition to this village. People from different countries are coming to this village and sharing their knowledge and this is a blessing for us. For continuation of this activity the literacy level should be improved and we hope STREAM can guide us in this aspect also. We hope STREAM will not desert us.

### **Story of Village Development**

*Mr Chhutulal Tudu, Kaipara*

There are 50 families in Shalghati Village. Two years before, our family didn't have any source for extra income. But within these two years, with the help of GVT and the cluster organizer there is some improvement in our livelihood. For example, villagers have formed groups or *samity* of ten members. These groups are called Self-Help Groups (SHG). In the SHG every member saves Rs10 monthly and an account has been opened in a bank. Earlier there was no system for savings and this is a change.

In these two years, the members of 20 SHGs formed a federation among themselves. Through STREAM and GVT, with the help of this federation, the members get training and other information in aquaculture. We are taking advantages of government and NGO projects. This is a change. We try to earn extra for ourselves and for the group. For example, ground nut culture and fish culture are sources of extra income. With the help of the federation, I took government training on fish culture. With the help of GVT, I took NABARD training on aquaculture. There is a plan to have training on other activities.

Therefore we, Shalghati Adivasi Sidhu Kanhu Mahila Samity and Shalghati Adivasi Bidhu Chandan Mahila Samity, reared fish fingerlings from seed and earned some extra money after marketing them. It was possible only through the group. We cultured fish in two tanks. We got training on different fish culture. Now, the difference in the way of thinking of villagers can be noticed. Through the federation an OAS was established in the village.



*Appendix 6 Logframe with OVIs*

Narrative summary	Objectively verifiable indicators
<b>Goal</b>	
<p>Strategies to provide specific groups of poor people with better access to knowledge that can enhance their decisions on management of natural capital, developed and promoted</p>	<p>By 2005, integrated natural resources management strategies adopted by target institutions in at least two target countries that include cost efficient delivery systems for provision of agricultural services (<i>inter alia</i> marketing, input supply, mechanisation, storage, financing)</p>
<b>Purpose</b>	
<p><b>Mechanisms for the delivery of improved rural services</b> (critical to the development of rural livelihoods of poor marginalised people with complex and diverse livelihood strategies) <b>developed and promoted</b> at state and national levels in India, with priority given to three target States in eastern India</p>	<p>By Sep 2005, evidence that stakeholders in at least two state-level institutions and some key national level policy actors are using the knowledge that the project has generated in ways that can benefit the poor, and specifically:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ The consensus-building process (CBP) used in at least two target States and one apex national organisation towards pro-poor policy formulation</li> <li>▪ National and state level policy-related action has made use of the findings of R8100</li> <li>▪ At least two state institutions for service provision begin to act on the policy recommendations for service improvement that the stakeholders of project R8100 identified</li> <li>▪ Farmers in at least one State recognise favourable changes for them regarding the Government's service provision</li> </ul>

<b>Outputs</b>	
<b><i>1. Promotion of process for pro-poor policy formulation</i></b>	
Building on the findings of R8100, key national and state level stakeholders brought to a level of engagement with, and sense of ownership of, the Consensus-Building Process (CBP) and its pro-poor features that could engender sustained pro-poor policy formulation, particularly as it relates to the use of water bodies for livelihood enterprises	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ By Dec 2003, agreement obtained and meeting held of some kind of a Policy Working Group (PWG)</li> <li>▪ By April 2005<sup>1</sup>, a CBP Policy Brief available in draft</li> <li>▪ By Sept 2004, at least two policy-related mini-projects, initiated by DDG-ICAR Fisheries, have specified the use of CBP in their designs</li> <li>▪ By Dec 2004, stakeholder awareness is optimal for policy-favourable use of the CBP for pro-poor outcomes</li> </ul>
<b><i>2. Capacity building for policy formulation that favours pro-poor service provision, especially for integrated aquaculture</i></b>	
Potential for implementation of the pro-poor recommendations for service provision that R8100 identified further progressed through institutional capacity-building, including improved sharing of policy-related experiences and promotion of the policy recommendations in relevant government policy-related communication channels	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ By Mar 2004, state and national-level policy ‘shapers’ share a common vision on how to advance R8100’s recommendations into formal policy channels</li> <li>▪ By Jul 2005, draft policy briefs available for the suite of pro-poor service priorities of R8100</li> <li>▪ By Jun 2005, evidence from an improved system of quantitative and qualitative monitoring of where and how the Communications Hub has assisted pro-poor policy dialogues</li> <li>▪ By Jun 2005, evidence of use of information in the R8100-related policy briefs by apex-level policy-makers at national and state levels</li> </ul>
<b><i>3. Capacity building for transforming policy recommendations into pro-poor service provision (learning-by-doing)</i></b>	
State-level capacity to provide pro-poor services for livelihoods improved through stakeholders designing and pilot testing revised procedures and institutional arrangements for service delivery	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ By Feb 2004, key GO and NGO stakeholders in at least one state agree on prioritised plan to test revisions in service delivery</li> <li>▪ By Jun 2005, stakeholders assess progress and evaluate their experiences in pilot testing of revised service delivery</li> <li>▪ By Jul 2005, at least three stakeholders in service provision communicate their experiences to apex-level policy actors</li> </ul>
<b><i>4. Assessing progress towards livelihood improvement of target groups of the poor</i></b>	
GO and NGO stakeholder understanding of the quality of their performance in pro-poor service delivery and requirements for pro-poor services further improved through assessment of emerging trends in change in livelihood circumstances of the poor people targeted in this project	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ By Jun 2005, ‘significant change’ assessed in at least one target state with a sample of at least 30% of the men and women exposed to the project’s pilot testing</li> <li>▪ By Aug 2005, findings on ‘significant change’ communicated and implications discussed amongst intermediate stakeholders</li> <li>▪ By Aug 2005, evidence of at least two ways by which intermediate stakeholders have internalised the project feedback</li> </ul>

<sup>1</sup> The OVI has been delayed as an ICAR-funded research project by Dr Shyam Salim of CIFE, who is trying out the methodology in Maharashtra and will contribute to the final Policy Brief, which would include the learning from R8100 and the ICAR research project.

*Appendix 7 Thanda Mahato's Story*

Once a sleeping village, Jabbarah is no longer the same. It has been on the road to progress ever since the awakening brought about by the DfID-GVT Project and continues to be charting new grounds though the project is now over. The village was revisited today, 16 May 2005, and discussions held with the President and Secretary of the Village Committee. The village has 12 SHGs, seven women's and five men's.

The village has been sanctioned an amount of Rs 2 lakhs for deepening of the ponds under the Food-For-Work Program by the Panchayat Samiti, Rs 1 lakh each for Bucha Bandh and Madhua Gudia, while Rs 40,000 have been sanctioned by the Panchayat Sansad for Huchak Guria. To ensure proper utilization of the funds, two committees have been constituted. Ms Thanda Mahato is a member of the Beneficiary Committee while there is another committee called *Gram Unnayan Committee* (Village Development Committee). These are meant to oversee the expenditure incurred on each item and prevent any manipulation. The work is likely to commence in the next few days when the payment will be made at Rs 62/cft of earth removed – a job that is completed in one day in lieu of 6 kg of rice.

Huchak Guria has been dewatered to a large extent to dry it up for deepening. The fish from the pond, which had grown well, were distributed free among all 145 village members twice during the recent days, once at 1 kg per family and the second time at 500 g per family. Thus fish worth Rs 11,000 was harvested – common carp weighing 850 g, catla and silver carp 750 g each, rohu and mrigal 250-400 g each – and consumed by the villagers. There are two orders for the supply of 70 kg of fish to each one of these parties at Rs 40-50/kg depending on its size.

The growth of fish in Huchak Guria is good because there are a number of compost pits where the villagers are preparing the compost using the dung from the rich cattle population in the village. During rains, the washings from these pits go to the pond, fertilizing it at no expense. The compost is sold after one year at Rs 6/*jhuri* (bamboo basket) and the farmers get as much as Rs 2,000 from the sale of compost alone. Thanda too has a compost pit wherefrom she will get Rs 900.

The earnings from angling licenses were a little less than expected this year, being Rs 35,000 only as the fish were small in size and the licenses were issued only once for each of the two large ponds.

One of the leading lights of the village, Ms Thanda Mahato, President of the Maa Kalyani SHG, was interviewed again to assess the changes brought about by her in the women's Self-Help Group. She mentioned that she has closed her account in the Mallyabhum Bank as the Kesargarh Bank gives an amount of Rs 25,000: Rs10,000 as Revolving Fund and Rs 15,000 as loan. Of the loan, she has deposited Rs 9,000 already and only Rs 6,000 now remain to be paid. The money was given to her ten-member group to enable them to take up their own businesses of sale of goats, garments, rice, vegetables and fish. Based on the good performance of her group, she has received another Rs 10,000 as a Revolving Fund. However, it is the scheme known as SGRY (Swarna Jayanti Gram Swarojagar Yojana) which is being operated by the Block that is providing this support.

The villagers were organizing a three-day *puja* from Sunday, 22 May, to propitiate the Rain God to get good rains where each one was contributing as decided by the village body and

each of her group members is also contributing Rs 41 besides 1 kg each of rice and *chira* (pounded rice).

We also discussed the changes in her livelihood style. During our last visit she had a bank deposit of Rs 40,000 but now she was left with Rs 5,000 only owing to various expenses which she had to incur during this period.

She was herself involved in selling fish as in the past, purchasing it from Purulia or Lalpur *aarat* and then selling it from door-to-door in villages around Jabarrah, which fetches her anything from Rs 30-100 per day. However, this work is limited to winter months only as fish preserved in ice fetches a low price and gets spoiled by noon if ice is not used. She sometimes suffers a loss too.

Her husband, Mr Kalipada Mahato, goes for harvesting fish but has to hire a net that costs him Rs 200 which he pays after selling the catch (30% of the fish caught) himself or through his wife, Thanda.

She has recently constructed a house on the land that belongs to her husband, spending Rs 70,000 for which she had to get the bricks for Rs 21,000, pay labor charges for five persons and two masons with food and also contribute two laborers from the family. A neem tree that she had was cut to be used for beams and other purposes.

An unexpected problem faced by her was the premature birth of her grandson who weighed only 1.9 kg. She had to run to Purulia and keep her daughter-in-law in the hospital and spend Rs 12,000 in just one month. To meet these expenses, she sold 14 goats at Rs 500 each, about 1,400 kg of rice which she had collected in lieu of the wages for grazing the village cattle for one year, 200 pairs of cowdung cakes for Rs 1,000, and birds for Rs 300, besides using another Rs 1,000 received from the salary of her two sons. Of her four sons and one daughter, the eldest son and her daughter have been married. Her daughter has been widowed and has a school-going boy, who now stays with her. A total of 11 members stay in her house. Her youngest son and her grandson (daughter's son) go to school. She borrowed Rs 1,500 from a school teacher to put the two boys in school.

Thanda works hard from daybreak to dusk and has been such a great support to her family! It was her planning and savings that helped her save the life of her grandson and build a house for them all.