

ANNUAL REPORT

2023-24



ANCHALIK JANA KALYAN ANUSTHAN



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From the Chief Functionary's Desk.....

As I look back on the year 2023-24, I am filled with gratitude and pride for what we have achieved together. This has been a period of growth, resilience, and innovation for our organization, as we tackled the diverse challenges that arose with commitment and creativity. The year has reinforced our dedication to uplifting the communities we serve and addressing the issues that impact them the most.

AJKA's mission remains centered on enhancing sustainable livelihoods for rural farmers, building resilience in rural communities, and advancing the socio-economic status of excluded communities. This year, we prioritized promoting sustainable agricultural practices, crop diversification, watershed development, and addressing pressing needs in health and nutrition and access to quality education. Through our interventions, we are not only striving to lift marginalized communities but also to preserve and protect our environment and natural resources, ensuring they remain vibrant for future generations.

None of this would be possible without the dedication and hard work of our committed staff, who tirelessly engage with communities to make our vision a reality. Their efforts have enabled us to expand the reach and impact of our programs, contributing to a tangible improvement in the quality of life for those we serve. Our journey toward self-sustaining communities is ongoing, and we invite all the like minded individuals and agencies to join us in this endeavor.

We extend our heartfelt gratitude to our supporters, donors, government of Odisha, our board members, and team members whose unwavering support fuels our mission. We hope that the "Annual Report 2023-2024" will inspire all the direct, indirect stakeholders and partners to continue or begin supporting our efforts to uplift the marginalized and build a resilient and self sustainable rural society.

Thank you for standing with us in this important work.

With Warm Regards,

(Goutam Behera)

1.About Organization:

Anchalik Jana Kalyan Anusthan (AJKA) is an Odisha-based non-profit, voluntary organization registered under the Societies Registration Act of 1860 (Act XXI), established in 2000. Since its inception, AJKA has been dedicated to empowering rural, marginalized communities through organised approaches including activities towards sustainable livelihood promotion, women’s empowerment, capacity building, inclusive education,community health and natural resource management.

1.1.Our Vision and Mission

Vision Our vision is to build a just and equitable society where socially, economically and culturally excluded communities, particularly women, children, and marginalized groups, can grow and develop to their full potential, becoming active and contributing members of our society and communities

Mission Assisting marginalized communities, especially women, children, adolescents, vulnerable youth, landless people, and smallholders, to become economically and socially empowered by promoting their rights and social justice.

1.2.Organizational Credibility:

Anchalik Jana Kalyan Anusthan (AJKA) has established a strong reputation for transparency, accountability, and impactful interventions within rural communities across Odisha. Guided by principles of community-centered development and sustainable practices, AJKA has been a trusted partner for various stakeholders, including government agencies, international organizations, and local communities. Our credibility stems from a track record of delivering meaningful results across diverse sectors, including sustainable agriculture, environmental conservation, health, nutrition, and education.

Over the years, AJKA has consistently demonstrated integrity and effectiveness in all its initiatives. We are committed to upholding rigorous standards in project planning, implementation, and monitoring to ensure resources are used efficiently and outcomes are sustainable. Each of our programs undergoes regular assessments, allowing us to track progress, measure impact, and continuously improve our approaches based on community feedback and evidence-based practices.

AJKA’s leadership team and field staff bring vast expertise, dedication, and a profound understanding of local challenges, which has been instrumental in building trust and fostering lasting partnerships. Our work with marginalized communities is driven by respect for local knowledge and a collaborative approach, ensuring that the solutions we develop are not only viable but are also embraced by the communities we serve.

Our credibility is further reinforced by our commitment to transparency, with all operations and financial records maintained to the highest standards and open to scrutiny by stakeholders. This dedication to accountability and ethical governance has allowed AJKA to secure ongoing support and funding from a diverse range of donors and partners who share our vision for a self-reliant, empowered rural society.

AJKA’s journey is one of unwavering dedication to social transformation, and our credibility is a testament to the positive and lasting changes we have facilitated within the communities we serve.

We remain committed to maintaining this trust and credibility as we continue to work toward our mission of sustainable and inclusive rural development.

1.3. Legal Status of the AJKA

- Registered under the Societies Registration Act 1860 of 21(IGR).
- Registered under the NGO Darpan Portal.
- Registered U/S 12A of the IT Act. 1961.
- Registered U/S 80G of the IT Act. 1961.
- Registered under FCRA Act 1976.
- Registered under the PAN.
- Registered under the TAN.
- Registered under Service Tax.
- Registered under Professional Tax.
- Registered under EPF Account.
- Registered under GSTR.
- Registered under CSR Act.

1.4. Values and Principles

Values and Principles

At AJKA, our work is guided by a core set of values and principles that shape our approach to community development and social empowerment. These values drive our commitment to fostering sustainable, inclusive growth and creating lasting impact for the communities we serve.

Integrity and Transparency

We prioritize honesty and openness in all our actions, ensuring accountability to our stakeholders and building trust within the communities we support.

Community-Centered Development

AJKA believes that communities are at the heart of sustainable change. We work hand-in-hand with local people, respecting their knowledge and empowering them to lead their own development.

Empowerment and Inclusivity

We are dedicated to empowering marginalized groups, especially women, small and marginalised farmers socially exclude and vulnerable youth, to achieve self-sufficiency and realize their full potential, fostering inclusivity at all levels.

Environmental Stewardship

Our programs are built around respect for the environment and sustainable management of natural resources to protect ecosystems for future generations.

Collaboration and Partnership

We believe in the power of partnerships. By collaborating with government bodies, NGOs, private sector partners, and communities, we create a unified effort toward shared goals.

Continuous Learning and Adaptability

AJKA embraces a culture of learning, innovation, and adaptation, using feedback and evidence-based practices to refine our programs and enhance our impact.

1.5. Organization Beliefs

AJKA's work is deeply rooted in a set of core beliefs that reflect our commitment to social justice, sustainable development, and community empowerment. These beliefs inform every aspect of our mission and guide us in creating meaningful, lasting change for rural communities in the region.

- **Empowerment as a Path to Self-Reliance:** We believe that true development is achieved when communities are empowered to become self-reliant. By equipping individuals with skills, knowledge, and resources, we foster self-sustaining communities capable of leading their own growth.
- **The Power of Inclusive Development:** AJKA believes that inclusive growth, especially for marginalized groups, is essential for balanced development. We prioritize initiatives that uplift women, youth, and vulnerable communities, promoting social equality and broad-based prosperity.
- **Sustainable Livelihoods as a Foundation for Change:** We believe that sustainable livelihood opportunities are the cornerstone of long-term community transformation. By promoting sustainable agriculture, eco-friendly practices, and climate-resilient techniques, we support economic growth that protects both people and the environment.
- **Environmental Harmony:** AJKA believes that environmental conservation is integral to the wellbeing of communities. We are committed to preserving natural resources and promoting ecological balance, ensuring that development efforts do not come at the expense of the environment.
- **Community Knowledge and Leadership:** We recognize that communities hold unique insights into their own challenges and solutions. AJKA believes in leveraging local knowledge, respecting traditional practices, and empowering local leadership to guide our programs and decisions.
- **Collaboration for Greater Impact:** We believe that working together with diverse stakeholders including government agencies, other NGOs, and local communities - amplifies our impact. Partnerships allow us to mobilize resources, share expertise, and create a united approach to solving complex social challenges.
- **Transparency and Accountability in All Actions:** AJKA believes that transparency and accountability are fundamental to building trust. We are dedicated to maintaining high standards of integrity in our operations, ensuring that resources are managed responsibly and outcomes are measurable and impactful.

1.6. Human Resources:

AJKA's success is driven by a dedicated team of professionals committed to fostering sustainable and inclusive development for rural communities. Our human resources strategy is built on recruiting, training, and retaining individuals who are not only skilled but also passionate about making a positive impact.

Type of Staff	Number
Permanent Staff	12
Contractual Staff	11
Technical/Professional	10
Total	39 (M-28, F-11)

- **Experienced and Skilled Workforce:** AJKA’s team includes experienced social workers, community mobilizers, program managers, and specialists in areas such as agriculture, natural resource management, health and education. Their expertise ensures effective program implementation and community engagement, addressing the specific needs of our target populations.
- **Continuous Capacity Building:** We prioritize ongoing training and professional development to enhance our team’s skills and adaptability. Regular workshops, training sessions, and exposure visits are organized to keep staff updated on the latest practices in sustainable development, livelihood promotion, and community engagement.
- **Ethical and Safe Work Environment:** AJKA places high importance on creating a safe, supportive, and ethical work environment. Policies addressing work ethics, equal opportunities, and a code of conduct are in place to ensure that every team member feels respected, secure, and motivated to contribute.

1.7.Governance:

Good governance is a cornerstone of AJKA’s operations. The organization ensures that its programs and initiatives are implemented transparently, efficiently, and in alignment with community needs. AJKA fosters accountability and strengthens local governance structures, empowering communities to take ownership of their development. Through capacity-building activities, training programs, and participatory decision-making, AJKA supports the establishment of strong, inclusive, and accountable local institutions that promote effective governance and community-driven development.

1.7.1.Board of Management:

Sl. No	Name	Position on Board	Occupation
1	Subash Pradhan	Chairman	Social Activist
2	Ashok Padhan	Vice-Chairman	Social Activist
3	Goutam Behera	Secretary	Social Activist
4	Bijayalal Biswal	Treasurer	Entrepreneur
5	Binod Kumar Biswal	Board Member	Social Activist
6	Sushama Padhan	Board Member	Social Activist
7	Sachi Khamari	Board Member	Social Activist

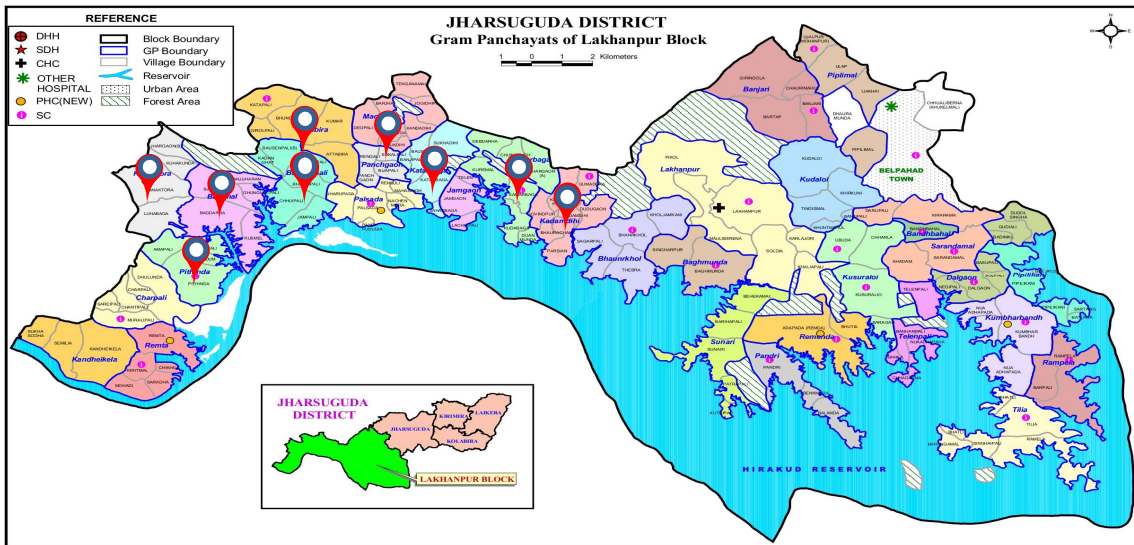
1.7.2.Community Based Structures

Sl.No	Activity	No of Program
1	Gaon Kalyan Samiti (GKS)	133
2	Village Educational Watch Committee	10
3	Farmers Club	05
4	Self Help Group	52
5	District Level Teachers Network	01
6	Farmer Producer Organization	05
7	Village Watershed Committee	01
8	Mahila Aroya Samiti	115
9	Ward Kalyan Samiti	22
10	Rogi Kalyan Samiti	01
11	Children Peer Group	10

12	Producer Group	50
13	Farmer Producer Company	04

1.7.3. Geographic Presence:

AJKA operates across four districts located in western Odisha such as Jharsuguda, Sambalpur, Sundargarh, and Deogarh, reaching a broad spectrum of rural communities. Our strategic presence in these regions allows us to address diverse local needs while focusing on sustainable livelihood promotion, environmental conservation, women’s empowerment and skill development. There is intensively engagements in in two blocks of Jharsuguda District of Odisha.



1.7.4. Our Donors and Supporters

Name of the Program	Name of Agency
Agriculture Production Cluster	District Mineral Foundation, Jharsuguda
Odisha Millet Mission	Directorate of Agriculture Govt of Odisha
Micro Watershed Development Project	NABARD, Bhubaneswar, Odisha
Agro Forestry Project	LTI Mindree Foundation, Mumbai
Crop Diversification Project	Directorate of Agriculture Govt of Odisha
Promotion of Farmer Producer Organization	NABARD, Bhubaneswar, Odisha
MGREGA Social Audit	District Rural Development Agency, Jharsuguda
Natural Resource Management Project	Foundation For Ecological Security, Hyderabad

2. Program Highlights 2023-24

2.1. Agriculture Production Cluster:

This program was initiated in Lakhanpur Block in FY 2022-2023 and expanded to Jharsuguda Block in FY 2023-2024, the project now reaches 45 villages, impacting women farmers across 12 key practices.

AJKA's Agriculture Production Cluster initiative is designed to transform rural economies by boosting the incomes of women farmers and fostering sustainable agricultural practices. By organizing women into Producer Groups (PGs) and Farmer Producer Companies (FPCs), the project strengthens their collective bargaining power, enhances their market access, and enables them to adopt climate-resilient crops. These crops are selected based on agro-climatic suitability, market demand, and smallholder adaptability, ensuring greater resilience and profitability for farmers.

This initiative goes beyond crop production, integrating livestock rearing to provide additional income streams and address the vulnerabilities of rural families. To curb youth migration, the project promotes the development of local agri-entrepreneurs who deliver door-to-door farm services, thereby building a robust agricultural ecosystem. The project also aligns with relevant government schemes, creating a cohesive support system for small and marginal women farmers.

A key component of the Agriculture Production Cluster is skill development, where women farmers receive training in advanced crop management, farm mechanization, irrigation techniques, storage systems, and local market strategies. These efforts have enhanced production quality and farmer knowledge, enabling communities to benefit from a full agricultural value chain.

Key Strategic Interventions:

- Promotion of cluster-based agriculture and horticulture activities
- Formation and strengthening of women-led Producer Groups (PGs)
- Establishment and promotion of Farmer Producer Companies (FPCs)
- Creation of irrigation facilities for previously non-irrigated lands
- Income enhancement for women farmers through plantation initiatives, deworming, and vaccination of livestock (goats, sheep, and backyard poultry)
- Collective marketing of agricultural, horticultural products, and livestock
- Capacity building for women farmers on improved, sustainable farming practices
- Through these strategic activities, the Agriculture Production Cluster project is empowering women farmers, securing their livelihoods, and promoting sustainable agricultural growth in Odisha.

Impact at a Glance

Impact at a Glance	Households (HHs) Impacted	Area/Quantity
Women Farmers Mobilized	4318	46 Producer Groups (PGs)
Plantation Activities	322	345acre
Irrigation Facilities Created	356	331 acre
Deworming & Vaccination	615	1824 goats and sheep
High-Value Vegetable Crops	2246	996.8 acre
Non-Pesticide Management (NPM) Practices	1333	687acre

2.1.1. Program photos at a glance:



AJKA Initiatives under APC Project.

2.2.Odisha Millet Mission:

The Odisha Millet Mission (OMM) is a flagship initiative by the Department of Agriculture & Farmers Empowerment, Government of Odisha, aimed at reviving the cultivation and consumption of millets across the state, particularly in tribal regions. This unique program prioritizes the promotion of millets as a sustainable and nutritious food source, with the goal of integrating millet back into both farming systems and daily diets. It is one of the first agriculture programs in the state that specifically focuses on increasing millet consumption to improve public health and food security.

AJKA, in collaboration with WASSAN and the program secretariat in Bhubaneswar, is implementing the Odisha Millet Mission in Lakhanpur and Jharsuguda blocks of Jharsuguda district. The initiative focuses on revitalizing millet farming, promoting its benefits, and building community awareness about its nutritional value. Through training, capacity building, and awareness campaigns, the project aims to support millet farmers, enhance local consumption, and contribute to the long-term sustainability of agricultural practices in the region. By doing so, it helps strengthen rural livelihoods, improve dietary diversity, and encourage sustainable agricultural practices that are resilient to climate change.

Operational Area:

District	Block	No's of GP	No's of Village	HHs Covered	Millet Promotion in hac.
Jharsuguda	Lakhanpur	12	35	302	165
Jharsuguda	Jharsuguda	9	54	249	125
Total		21	89	551	841

Key Strategic Interventions:

- Enhance household consumption of millets by 25% from the baseline, promoting them as a staple food in rural and urban communities.
- Revive and promote millet-based food traditions and culture in both urban and rural areas, increasing awareness about the health benefits and versatility of millets.
- Conserve and promote the diverse land races of millets through sustainable seed systems, ensuring the preservation of traditional varieties and strengthening local seed banks.
- Support the establishment and growth of post-harvest and primary processing enterprises, adding value to millets and creating economic opportunities in rural areas.
- Enhance the productivity of millet-based crop systems through better farming practices, training, and access to resources, increasing millet yield and farmer income.
- Foster the development of value-added millet enterprises in both rural and urban areas, creating new market opportunities for processed millet products.
- Advocate for the inclusion of millets in public distribution systems (PDS), Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS), Mid-Day Meal (MDM) schemes, welfare hostels, and other government welfare initiatives to increase millet consumption at scale.
- Strengthen millet markets and create pathways for the export of millet-based products from Odisha, connecting local farmers to national and international markets.

2.2.1. Program photos at a glance:



AJKA Initiatives under Odisha Millet Mission Project

2.3. Micro Watershed Development

Since 2018, AJKA has been implementing a Micro Watershed Development Program in two watersheds, Jharan and Girigobardhan, located in the Lakhanpur block of Jharsuguda district, with support from NABARD, RO, Odisha. The initiative focuses on restoring and managing vital natural resources—soil, water, and vegetation—through comprehensive watershed management strategies aimed at both immediate and long-term ecological benefits.

The core goal of the program is to conserve and regenerate soil and water resources while improving land surface management and enhancing vegetation cover. By addressing the degradation of natural resources, the program aims to restore the ecological balance in the region. Furthermore, the intervention promotes sustainable farming practices and allied activities to support and improve local livelihoods with the following key objectives.

- **Groundwater Recharge:** Promote systems to recharge groundwater and improve water availability in the region.
- **Soil and Water Conservation Awareness:** Raise awareness about the importance of soil and water conservation practices to ensure long-term resource sustainability.
- **Afforestation:** Enhance afforestation efforts to improve soil fertility, prevent erosion, and restore biodiversity.
- **Sustainable Livelihoods:** Encourage and promote sustainable livelihood activities that support local communities while conserving natural resources.

Key Strategic Intervention :

- **Farm Pond Construction:** Digging of farm ponds to improve water storage and irrigation for agricultural use.
- **Straw Establishment:** Implementing sustainable land management practices to restore soil health and prevent erosion.
- **Capacity Building and Strengthening of Village Watershed Committees (VWCs):** Empowering local communities by strengthening their capacity to manage watersheds and natural resources.
- **Tree Plantation:** Undertaking tree plantation activities to restore vegetative cover, enhance biodiversity, and improve the local environment.
- **Livelihood Promotion:** Mainstreaming community members through various livelihood promotion activities that contribute to both environmental conservation and economic sustainability.

This Micro Watershed Development Program is pivotal in improving the local ecological system, enhancing agricultural productivity, and fostering sustainable livelihoods in the region.

Impact at a Glance

Major Activities	Unit	Potential Impact
Water Harvesting Structure	1	Water conservation for the local ecosystem and agriculture
Farm Pond	10	Improved water storage for irrigation and livestock
Percolation Tank	4	Increased groundwater recharge and water retention
Water Absorption Trench	2226 meters	Enhanced water infiltration and reduced surface runoff
Contour Bund	1250 meters	Erosion control and improved soil conservation
Stone Gully Plug	12	Prevention of gully erosion and improved soil retention
Drops Structure	7	Erosion control and water flow regulation
Machinery Drops Structure	14	Improved water management and land stabilization
Earth Cannel	1100 meters	Better water distribution for irrigation
Field bonding	1500 meters	Soil erosion prevention and land stabilization
Stone Outlet	145	Enhanced water drainage and soil protection
Scattered Contour Trench	1200	Improved water retention and soil conservation
Vermicomposting Pit	30	Enhanced soil fertility through organic waste recycling
Afforestation	12 hectares	Biodiversity improvement and carbon sequestration
Irrigation	310 hectares	Increased agricultural productivity through efficient irrigation

2.3.1. Program photos at a glance:



AJKA Initiatives under Watershed Project

2.4. Agro Forestry

AJKA launched this initiative in Lakhanpur and Jharsuguda blocks of Jharsuguda district in 2022, with the support from LTIMindtree Foundation. The project not only supports the environment but also provides a platform for farmers to engage in carbon credit processes, ensuring that the benefits of sustainable land management are shared.

The Fruit Bearing Tree Plantation project aims to address the pressing challenges of climate change and land degradation while simultaneously promoting sustainable livelihoods in vulnerable communities. By planting fruit-bearing trees in regions susceptible to heavy rainfall and cyclone-induced damage such as erosion and landslides, this initiative seeks to reduce the risks posed by such environmental disasters.

Key Strategic Interventions:

- Land restoration through reforestation, ensuring that these plantations help to conserve water, improve soil quality, and contribute to the reduction of carbon emissions.
- To meet the environmental benefits, the project enhances plant biodiversity by introducing both endemic and soil-stabilizing species to areas dominated by monoculture farming. This increase in biodiversity helps promote more resilient agricultural systems, making farms more sustainable in the long run.
- Recognizing the nutritional value and income potential of fruit-bearing trees, the project has a direct focus on improving food security and providing sustainable livelihoods for rural farmers.
- Special emphasis is towards promoting climate resilience, improving agricultural productivity, and fostering sustainable livelihoods for rural communities. Through collaborative efforts with local farmers, AJKA aims to create long-lasting impacts on the environment and the well-being of the communities it serves.

Key Achievements:

Key Activity	Unit	Impact
Area covered	58.6 acre	Expanded green cover and improved environmental health
Households Covered	106	Direct engagement of local families in sustainability initiatives
Farmers Involved in Plantation	106	Active participation in the plantation of fruit trees
Farmers Involved in Carbon Credit Process	106	Involvement in carbon credit generation for environmental benefits

2.4.1. Program photos at a glance:



2.5.Crop Diversification Programme

Under the Mega Lift Irrigation project, AJKA has been actively promoting crop diversification with support from the Department of Agriculture and Farmers Empowerment, Government of Odisha. In 2022, this initiative targeted the diversification of paddy cultivation areas to non-paddy crops within the ayacut of three Mega Lift Irrigation projects in the Lakhanpur block of Jharsuguda district. The shift from paddy, which requires significantly more water (3 to 5 times) than pulses, oilseeds, and other horticultural crops, is essential in addressing the growing water scarcity in industrialized regions like Jharsuguda, which is heavily impacted by mining activities.

Key Strategic Interventions:

- Aims to reduce dependency on water-intensive paddy cultivation by encouraging the adoption of a broader range of crops such as cereals, pulses, vegetables, fruits, oilseeds, and fibers.
- Helps in water conservation, enhances soil health and promotes a balanced agro-ecosystem to improving the resilience of farming communities.
- Supports farmers in transitioning to more sustainable agricultural practices, contributing to both ecological balance and enhanced economic stability.

Area of operation

No's of MLIP	State	District	Block	GPs	Villages	Area in hac
(Cluster-1)	Odisha	Jharsuguda	Lakhanpur	8	23	657

Key Achievements

Key Activity	Households	Area (in hectare)	Small and marginal farmers benefited
Agriculture	485	450	1094
Horticulture	609	207	

2.5.1.Program photos at a glance:



2.6.Promotion of Producer Company

AJKA, with the support of NABARD Regional Office, Odisha, has been actively promoting the "Sankalpa Producer Company" (PC) since 2016 in the Lakhampur block of Jharsuguda district. The initiative aims to enhance the sustainable livelihoods of rural women farmers by empowering them through collective action and market linkages. The Sankalpa PC focuses on promoting Non-Pesticidal Management (NPM) practices to encourage organic farming and environmental sustainability.

To support this, a vermi-compost production unit has been established, enabling large-scale production of organic manure. This initiative has helped farmers shift to bio-inputs, improving soil health while also reducing input costs in agriculture. In addition to agriculture and crop management, the producer company emphasizes collective marketing of agricultural, horticultural produce, and livestock, ensuring better prices for farmers and promoting local entrepreneurship.

The learning and capacity-building of the members have been further strengthened through rigorous training programs and exposure visits, enabling them to enhance their livelihood practices and improve their economic stability.

Key Achievements:

Key Activity	Details
No of Shareholders	1352
No of of Small and marginal Women farmers	1352
Equity Share	Rs 5,50,500
Business turnover	Rs 1,35,92,877
Grading status as per NABARD portal	A

2.6.1.Program photos at a glance:



2.7.Natural Resource Conservation

All around the globe the importance of the forest has been raised, especially in the context of climate change, which is the main reason forest conservation is thought to be essential. AJKA believes that “we cannot protect the earth’s biodiversity without protecting our forests, in fact the forest and Biodiversity support food security, jobs and livelihood for millions of people” AJKA as its responsibility towards sustainability of the nature has under taken the project “Promoting Natural Resource Conservation and Sustainable Agriculture in Forest Fringe Villages of Jharsuguda District of Odisha” with the support of Foundation For Ecological Security (FES).

Key Strategic Interventions:

- ❖ Planting and maintaining forest areas for the benefit and sustainability of future generation
- ❖ Preserving the forest ecosystems including the livelihood promotion of the people residing around the forest.
- ❖ Removal of the invasive species that cause threat to the growth of the indigenous trees in the forest.

Key Achievements:

Sl. No	Activity	Lives Reached (HH)	Area (in acre)
1	Village Development Micro Planning	14788	-
2	Seeding of native species	534	80.3
3	Invasive species mitigation	587	230
4	Sustainable Agriculture practices	550	256

2.8.Sustainable Aquaculture Development

The fisheries sector plays a crucial role in enhancing livelihood opportunities, improving nutrition, and ensuring food security. In AJKA’s intervention areas, rural farmers are increasingly recognizing the potential of aquaculture as a sustainable livelihood option. Over the past three years, AJKA has been working to promote aquaculture practices among farmers by highlighting its benefits and viability as an alternative income source.

During the reporting year, AJKA successfully facilitated the inclusion of 20 women’s Self-Help Groups (SHGs) from the Lakhanpur block of Jharsuguda district in fish farming. This was achieved through the collaboration with the District Fishery Department, Jharsuguda, which supported the development of fisheries in Gram Panchayat tanks. In addition, 15 individual stakeholders were supported with quality inputs, such as fish seed and feed, extension services, credit linkages, and capacity building in fish culture.

Key achievement:

Fish Pond Unit	Cage Culture Unit	Biofloc Unit
32	1	2

2.9.MGNREGA Social Audit

Social audit is a participatory process that involves a detailed examination and assessment of government programs and schemes, comparing official records with the actual ground realities. It empowers the community by actively engaging them in the audit process, promoting social transformation, fostering accountability, and ensuring that public resources are being utilized effectively.

AJKA has been actively involved in conducting the MGNREGA (Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act) Social Audit across four blocks in Jharsuguda district: Lakhanpur, Jharsuguda, Kirmira, and Laikera. This initiative aims to improve participatory governance and strengthen the transparency and accountability of government schemes at the grassroots level.

Through this approach, AJKA has enabled local communities to hold government bodies accountable; ensuring that benefits reach the intended beneficiaries and that there is transparency in the implementation of programs.

3.REACHING OUT

3.1.Information, Education & Communication (IEC):

AJKA's Information, Education, and Communication (IEC) initiatives are designed to foster awareness and promote behavioral change among communities, particularly in rural and marginalized areas. These programs aim to disseminate critical information, educate communities about their rights, and encourage active participation in sustainable development practices. Through innovative approaches, AJKA ensures that vital messages reach the target populations effectively.

The IEC strategy focuses on addressing key social issues such as health, nutrition, sanitation, livelihood opportunities, and environmental sustainability. AJKA employs a range of communication tools, using posters, leaflets, and local events to spread awareness about important issues and government schemes. These communication efforts are central to AJKA's outreach and play a pivotal role in promoting inclusive development, social awareness, and community engagement across its intervention areas.

AJKA to leverage resources, knowledge, and expertise to address complex social, economic, and environmental challenges.

3.2.Advocacy, Networking, and Governance

AJKA is deeply committed to advocating for the rights of marginalized communities, fostering networks that amplify the voices of rural populations, and promoting good governance practices at the local level. Through strategic advocacy and networking, AJKA works to create an enabling environment for sustainable development, ensuring that policies and programs are inclusive, equitable, and responsive to the needs of the most vulnerable groups.

3.2.1.Advocacy

AJKA actively engages in advocacy to influence public policies, ensuring that they align with the aspirations of rural communities. By working with local and state governments, civil society organizations, and community-based groups, AJKA advocates for better access to resources, social justice, and environmental sustainability. Key areas of focus include improving access to education, healthcare, water, sanitation, and promoting gender equality, sustainable livelihoods, and climate resilience.

3.2.2.Networking

Building strong networks is the strength of AJKA's approach. The organization collaborates with a wide range of stakeholders, including NGOs, government agencies, corporate partners, and community groups, to create synergies and maximize the impact of development initiatives. Through these networks, AJKA enhances knowledge sharing, resource mobilization, and collective action to address complex social challenges. Networking also helps to promote community participation and ensures that local voices are heard in policy and decision-making processes.

3.3.Alliance Building: Our representation in District & State level Committees

Sl.No	Name of the Department	Name of the Committee	Year
1	District Rural Development Agency, Jharsuguda	District Level Public Grievance Redressal in MGNREGA, Jharsuguda district.	2010
2	Block Development Office, Jharsuguda	Block Level Public Hearing Committee under MGNREGA, Jharsuguda Block	2011
3	Jharsuguda Engineering School, Jharsuguda	Advisor Committee of Community Development through Polytechnic Scheme of Jharsuguda Engineering School, Jharsuguda	2010
4	District NGO Cell, Jharsuguda	District Progressive Alliance(DPA), Jharsuguda	2010
5	District Welfare Office, Jharsuguda	District level Vigilance Committee ,Jharsuguda	2013
6	Chief District Medical Office, Jharsuguda	PNDT Advisory Committee Board, Jharsuguda	2013
7	Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan , Jharsuguda	Executive Member	2012
8	District Rural Development Agency, Jharsuguda.	District Level Bonded Labour Committee, Jharsuguda	2013
9	Chief District Medical Office, Jharsuguda	ASHA Redressal	2013
10	District Police Office, Jharsuguda	District Level AIHTU, Jharsuguda	2016

4.Award and Recognition for Innovation Excellence

Sl.No.	Department	Purpose	Year
1	Collector cum DPC, Jharsuguda	Tribal Welfare	2010
2	District Medical Officer, Jharsuguda	Community based healthcare interventions	2008
3	Development Officer, Lakhanpur	Welfare activities	2005
4	Officer of In -charge, Lakhanpur CHC	Women and children healthcare activities	2006
5	Samikhya News Paper, Bhubaneswar	Innovative Welfare programs	2015