

Creating a difference in the lives  
of the poor in Sundarbans

# Annual Report 2015-16



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October, 2016

## Joygopalpur Gram Vikash Kendra

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## MESSAGE FROM THE SECRETARY

It is a privilege and pleasure for me to present our Annual Report for 2015-16 to all institutions and individuals who share our ideals and have continued to support our developmental work all these years, and also to all those who are directly or indirectly involved in our work. I trust that you will find the information in this report interesting and useful.

The rural regions of India, as you all know, are generally underdeveloped and poor, due to continued neglect. In the Sundarbans, the situation is even worse, due to its remote location, difficult terrain, and lack of natural resources, plus of course, overpopulation.

For JGVK, a local organization, it has been our cherished aim to improve the conditions in the region through development of local resources and introduction of skill and knowledge.

Our start in 2003 was tentative and modest – we ran a project to introduce improved Animal Husbandry practices among the women in a few villages, with the help and support of IGF, an NGO in Denmark with the same objective as ours. The success of our first project encouraged us to continue.

Since then, IGF has always been at our side and we have been able to obtain additional support from UBU, another leading Danish NGO – and thanks to generous financial support from a large number of donors like HTAS Denmark, we have been able not only to continue but also significantly extend our efforts in improving the conditions in the region and, creating the means of livelihood for a large number of families in the region.

The range of our activity has been quite diverse. The initial focus of our activity was in the four principal areas of income generation in the region - Animal Husbandry, Agriculture, Fishery, and Home Industries – and most of our projects and the bulk of our activity in the early years were in these areas. Thereafter, we have gradually diversified into activities aimed at providing improved Health and Educational facilities as well as preparedness of the community in



tackling problems related to climate and water. We have also participated in partnership activities in a couple of projects, totally different from ours, a) empowering women for more active role in the society and b) improving the hygiene, quality and economic viability of the Kolkata Street Food Vendors. You will find detailed description of these projects in section 4.

I must thank all organisations and individuals – abroad or in India – who have kept us going all these years with their generous help and without whose support our activities would have been simply impossible

Biswajit Mahakur  
October, 2016

Name of the organisation :

Joygopalpur Gram Vikash Kendra (JGVK)

Address and contact person :

Mr. Biswajit Mahakur, Secretary

Village: Joygopalpur, P.O.: J.N. Hat

P.S. : Basanti Via Basanti

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### Vision

To secure basic livelihood and equal rights for all, and, sustainable development in the social, economic, and environmental context.

### Mission

To improve the quality of life of the poor and marginalized, by enhancing food and social security, through an empowered Civil Society in West Bengal and Orissa.

In practical terms, the six elements of this mission are:

1. Sustainable use/consumption and management of local natural resources
2. Food security through promotion and practice of organic farming and use of nature-friendly technology
3. Secure livelihood opportunities through access to and use of new skills
4. Assured access to quality education, protected water supply, adequate health services, drainage and sanitation
5. Develop strong village institutions whereby the entire community is involved in the planning, implementation, and monitoring of development work.
6. Community based research on preparedness for disaster response.

### Areas of Operation

The main operational areas of JGVK are the districts of North and South 24 Parganas.

The district of South 24 Parganas is composed of 29 Development Blocks. Among them, JGVK's operations are primarily concentrated in the Basanti block, one of the poorest blocks in the district, and in the Gosaba, and Canning-I and II blocks.

In the district of North 24 Parganas, JGVK operates in a few selected Gram Panchayats – on their own as well as through partner organisations.

JGVK also runs a home industry programme in the Birbhum district of West Bengal and in the Bhadrak and Balasore districts of Orissa.

### Strategy of Operation

As a rule, the operations are channelled through organizations which are led, controlled, and managed by women.

JGVK uses 45 women-run village committees and 1260 women's groups with membership of over 16000 women.

### Legal Status

JGVK is a Society, registered under the Societies Registration Act of West Bengal, since 2001.

For receiving and using foreign funds, JGVK is registered under the Foreign Contribution Regulation Act (FCRA) of the Government of India, since 2005

### Governance

The Governing Board is the statutory body for the management of JGVK's affairs. The board consists of 7 members:

President, Vice President, Secretary, Assistant Secretary, Treasurer, plus 2 Other members.

The Governing Body performs the following functions.

Making institutional policies for programmes, funds and human resource management, administration etc.

- Reviewing institutional performance periodically and take appropriate measures.
- Approving annual plan and budgets.
- Approving annual audits.

The Governing Body meets at least 4 times per year.

The current members of the Governing Board, in the year 2015-16, were:

Mr. Harekrishna Bharati, President  
Dr. Kalyan Acharyaya, Vice-President  
Mr. Biswajit Mahakur, Secretary and Chief Operating Officer  
Mr. Dilip Sardar, Treasurer  
Ms. Chandana Mondal, Mithu Mondal, Saraswati Sardar, Members

The Governing Board is responsible to the General Body of members, consisting of 28 persons. The General Body of members and the Governing Body come together once a year at the Annual General Meeting (AM) to review and approve the annual programmes, the annual plan and the audited accounts of the Society. This year, the AGM was held on July 5, 2015

Total number of Staff and Volunteers (March'2016): 212

### General Management

The day-to-day management of the activities of JGVK – relating to the projects and other operations - are performed by the Management Committee.

The Management Committee is composed of, The Secretary of JGVK plus one or more members of the Governing Board plus, A number of professional managers, hired for specific key functions

- The Secretary of JGVK functions as the Chief Executive Officer (CEO).
- The Projects are managed by professional Project Co-ordinators
- The Financial matters are managed by a professional Accountant

### Accounting/Financial Management

The entire Financial Accounting is maintained on a double-entry book-keeping basis, and follows the accounting principles laid down by the Institute of Chartered Accountants of India. The Accounting system is fully computerized, and uses the TALLY 9 software.

The recording and accounting of all transactions involving foreign currency are kept totally separate from all domestic currency transactions – as stipulated by the regulations of the FCRA.

The Management Accounting system for internal and external reporting of accounting and financial information is also fully computerized, based on MS EXCEL.

### Internal/External Audit

All financial transactions and accounting entries are regularly audited by the Internal Auditor, who also certifies all statutory domestic financial returns.

The current Internal Auditor is: M/s Sugato Chowdhury, Chartered Accounts

The financial statements supporting receipt and expenses of foreign currency projects are audited and certified by the External Auditor.

The current External Auditor is: M/s Prabir De, Chartered Accounts

### Awards in recent years

Received Indira Gandhi Paryavaran Award (2010) in February 2014 from the Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change, Government of India. JGVK is the first organisation in the State of West Bengal received this award in organisation category since 1986.

Received State Bio-diversity Award'2014 in May 2014 from the State Bio-diversity Board, Department of Environment and Government of West Bengal.

### Memberships

Member, District level Natural Fibre Mission since 2013. This is constituted by the South 24 Parganas district administration.

Member, sub-divisional level (Canning) Vigilance and Monitoring Committee of Government Programmes. This is also a government committee at the sub-divisional level.

Member, working committee of "Sabuj Manch" a State level platform of organisations and people promoting and supporting conservation of Environment since 2014.

Convenor, Sabju Manch, South 24 Parganas district level platform of NGOs, Civil Society Organisations since 2015.

Member, Peace Committee Basanti Police Station (Basanti block level) since 2011.

Member, Basanti Block Rogi Kalyan Samity, Block Social Welfare Samiti (since 2015)

Also invited by Administrative Training Institute (ATI), Government of West Bengal, Academic Staff College of Jadavpur University, Kolkata and made presentation in the training classes.



Indira Gandhi Paryavaran Award (2010)



State Bio-diversity Award'2014



Poribesh Bondhu Award'2015

## SUMMARY OF ACTIVITIES IN THE YEAR

### 1.Interventions:

We carried out interventions in 134 sites across 42 Gram Panchayats, two informal locations, 1 urban words, one city, directly building capacities of over 2600 people, sensitizing over 35,000 people, community members, leaders (SHG members, students, teachers) on various issues.

### 2.Training programmms:

Over 2400 learners of which 75% were women, attended programmes. Among them Fishery 180 persons, Animal Husbandry 200 persons, Agriculture 540, Health workers 54 attended various trainings.

### 3.Awareness programmes :

Over 650 SHG and VC meetings, 75 farmers and students group meetings, 4 campaigns/rally informed over 4000 citizens across six Gram Panchayats on health, environment, conservation etc.covered.

### 4.Community based participatory research:

Community based participatory research and surveys covered 45 locations, 10 Gram Panchayats across 2 districts.

### 5.Subsidised provision of Goods and Services:

- Distributed poultry birds to 700 households
- Distributed good quality and new variety (in the location) seeds to 160 households.
- 523 students are studying in three model schools.
- 1546 patients treated at a subsidised rate in the OPD Clinic

### 6.Advocacy outreach

- Outreach was extended by engagement with print and television media professionals
- Monthly newsletter reaches 480 subscribers and read by over 3000 people.
- Interaction, dialogue held with 45 professionals, academics and researchers

of 22 educational institutions including national and international universities, institutions.

- Field level interventions, workshops were synthesised in 12 written documents and audio visual film and photographs.





# Projects and Other Activities

# The Education Project (Inclusive Education for Sustainable Development)

The Education project was initiated in 2004 to set up two 'model non-formal schools' for elementary/primary education of the poor children in the interior and difficult-to-reach locations in the region – where such facilities were either insufficient or nonexistent.. The 2 schools are:

Nilkanta Sishu Shiksha Niketan, Bermajur, Shandeskhali-I Block.

Satyanarayanpur Vivekananda Bidya Bhawan, Amlamethi, Gosaba block

In addition, a 'model high school' was started in Joygopalpur for high-school level education of the local children. The school is:

Vivekananda Siksha Niketan, Joygopalpur

All these schools have the following characteristics of being 'model schools' and of qualifying to be centres of "Inclusive Education for Sustainable Development".

- i) joyful teaching by trained teaches
- ii) co-curricular and extra-curricular activities including computer learning from early stage, special emphasis on learning english, mathematics, dance,



music, classes, special emphasis on practical and theoretical aspects of environmental education

- (iii) special emphasis on teaching disadvantaged groups of students
- (iv) close relationship with community and parents, they are fully informed about the aims and methods of education imparted in the school
- (vi) Sports and recreational facilities through experienced persons
- (vii) school library
- (viii) Regular feedback meetings with parents.

The 3 schools are yet to be fully operational, a fact reflected in the relatively low number of students, particularly in the Amlamethi KG classes and in the higher classes of the high school.

Concerted efforts are being made to increase the intake of students in the coming years.

The class-wise number of students of the 3 schools in March 2016 were as follows:

	KG	LKG	UKG	I	II	III	IV	V	VI	VII	VIII	IX	X	Total
Bermajur (Primary)	51	14	12	6	7	5	4							99
Amlamethi (Primary)	5	5	7	10	14	10	3							54
Joygopalpur (High)	31	58	51	54	27	30	25	29	18	21	14	9	5	372



## Additional Activities of the Education Project

### 1. Education insurance and Environment Awareness for the poor students

The basic purpose of this 'insurance' programme is to develop savings habits among the poor students and provide substantial amount to the students when they pass class-X examination – to help them continue their studies. A student contributes monthly Rs.8-16 and JGVK contributes an equal amount. A total of Rs.1,13,850/- was distributed among 99 students who have passed class-X board examination in 2015. Out of this total amount the students had saved Rs.56,331. Among these 99 students, 81 students are continuing their studies in class-XI

As part of "environmental awareness and action programme", these 824 students participated in various activities, for example,

- (i) 361 students attended awareness programme on bad effects of 'child marriage and child trafficking'.
- (ii) 280 students participated in a quiz competition on environment
- (iii) 101 students participated in a one day excursion and visited Nicco Park, Kolkata
- (iv) 85 students of class VIII-IX participated in a two day "life skill development training" organised by JGVK
- (v) awareness programme was organised on 'Disaster Resilience' in which 72 students, 18 teachers participated.

### 2. Vivekananda Coaching Centre :

Since 2006 JGVK is running this coaching class especially for the weak and poor students at very nominal fees. The coaching classes held four days every week (Monday, Wednesday, Friday and Saturday) from 6 to 9 in the evening. During the year 62 students from class V to X attended



coaching by in English, Mathematics and Science.

This year out of 11 students appeared in the Madhyamik examination (Class-X standard) from this coaching centre, 2 students got star marks (over 80% marks), another three students passed in first division (over 60% marks). This coaching centre also imparts free coaching to few students from economically weak families. Among them Utpalendu Bar got star marks and Rahul Mondal passed with first division marks.

### 3. Vivekananda Computer Training Centre:

JGVK is running this training centre since 2009 for teaching computers to the students and youth of 18-21 years age group. This centre also teaches computer to the students of Vivekananda Siskha

Niketan as well. The training centre provides two courses; basic computer education and DTP. Sixteen outside students has completed basic computer course this year. 119 students of Vivekananda Siksha Niketan attended computer classes as part of their course curriculum of the school. Two teachers conduct trainings for the students. The centre has 7 Desk top computers with all related facilities.

Outside students who attended computer courses in this centre are doing well; doing self business of computer teaching and computer related work (business), some are also involve with computer related job in the private firm.

#### 4. Sabuj Sathi:

42 students - 23 girls and 19 boys – participated in physical, mental, cultural, and spiritual development activities of Sabuj Sathi are as follows:

Every Sunday afternoon they participated in joint activities like sports, physical exercise, cultural activities, storytelling etc. They also attended music, dance, drama classes regularly.

#### 5. Livelihood School:

A very important and effective livelihood intervention is the extended training of young high school dropouts and unemployed village youths in different technical skills. The Sundarban region have increasing demand for these skills and these trainings help the unemployed youth to get employment, self-employment.

In addition to long duration courses, JGVK also offers short duration courses on integrated farming, kitchen (nutrition) garden, mushroom culture, animal rearing, scientific fish farming, preparation of fish feed etc.

During the year 547 youth participated in these short and long duration programmes.

During January–February'2016, a special 15- day long training programme was organised by Danish trainers on skills developments related to above areas.

Sl. No.	Long duration course (six to two months duration)		Sl. No.	Short duration course (three days to seven days)	
	Course name	Student / participants		Course name	Student / participants
1	Mobile repairing	20	1	Fishery	57
2	Machine embroidery	9	2	Preparation fish feed	31
3	Tailoring, designing`	26	3	Mushroom culture	43
4	Electrician	22	4	Integrated farming`	183
5	Furniture making	10	5	Kitchen garden	53
6	Basic computer	12	6	Agri.Technique	81
	Total	99		Total	448

# Sundarban Social Health Programme

(Reduce Inequalities in Health Service)

Fall in infant mortality rate and increase in longevity are the outcome of public health programmes which also include sanitation, safe-drinking water and health education. The paucity of Government health personal during early 2000's prompted JGVK to start a public/social health programme in 20 villages around Joygopalpur. JGVK felt that it was important for the women from the village itself to be trained as health educators and basic health service providers at the village level. It was also felt that women from their own village would be more effective in bringing about a change. The trainees were selected by the village based women organisation (Gram Committee). Over 60 women received initial training and were then appointed as village level health worker. The initial focus was on mother and child health, proper care for expecting mothers and nursing mothers, increase in coverage of immunisation etc.

Along with this field based activities, from 2008 JGVK started a health clinic three days a week. Doctors come from Kolkata to treat local patients. As a result of the continuous intervention, the general health of women and children in these villages is comparatively better than in the neighbouring areas.



The major activities during the year are as follows:

- (i) From October 2015, a new initiative "combating malnutrition in children" – a community level health activities was started in 22 villages covering 23,430 households in five Gram Panchayats viz. Jharkhali, Nafargunj, Jyotishpor, Bharatgarh and Masjidbati. For this programme, 54 health staff were given intensive theoretical and practical trainings by the three medical practitioners who also attend OPD of JGVK and are aware about the local situation.
- (ii) to understand the Baseline situation, 'household demography survey' and 'ICDS service delivery survey' were completed by the health workers. The results - the status of health situation in these 22 villages - will be available shortly
- (iii) IGF Denmark conducted two days training for project staff' and a one day training on 'Dental disease and care'
- (iv) The health workers conducted regular meetings with SHG members and ICDS beneficiaries to have discussions on malnutrition, child care, and pregnancy care. A N C check - u p c a m p s - children's growth monitoring camps along with ANM - were also organised.

Additional activities in the year were:

- health workers participated in Gram Panchayat level 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Saturday meetings to discuss health issues in the area and plans for remedial measures
- during the year, 1546 patients received diagnosis and treatment at our OPD Clinic
- 262 patients were given different tests at our Pathological Laboratory
- Rs.2,97,142/- worth of medicines were sold (at cost price) from JGVK's pharmacy
- JGVK is the NGO member of block Rogi

Kalyan Samity and block social welfare samity since beginning of 2015.



# Disaster Resilience Project

(Community Based Research and Preparedness)

Coastal Sundarban is ecologically and environmentally very fragile. Every year large tracts of land are affected by floods and cyclones, creating adverse impact on the local people.

The work in the previous years was primarily concentrated in the areas of rescue and relief, awareness on the growing depletion and conservation of water resources, and contamination of drinking water resources and use of safe drinking water. Since 2000, the Danish Association for Sustainable Development (UBU), Denmark, have been extending technical support and participated in joint planning, strategy, participatory study, research and documentation.

The new project: "Resilience in South and North 24 Parganas, West Bengal:

Work under the project started from late 2014. The Goal of the project is to ensure that rural communities of South and North 24 Parganas districts are prepared to act upon future climate and water problems; the specific objectives of the project are:

1. By August 1<sup>st</sup> 2016, the project partners and the local population in the project areas to have understood the reasons for flooding and groundwater depletion and have identified appropriate preparedness actions.

2. By August 1<sup>st</sup> 2017, the civil society organisations

in South and North 24 Parganas to be capable of using advocacy towards the local government for implementation of solutions for floods, groundwater depletion and arsenic exposure.

3 By August 1<sup>st</sup> 2017, a number of communities in South and North 24 Parganas to have implemented disaster risk mitigation plans including flood preparation plans for cyclones and floods, arsenic exposure reduction (Gaighata, Sandeshkhali) and measures against groundwater depletion.

Coverage: 51 villages in total in 4 blocks in Basanti and Gosaba districts (South 24 Parganas) and Gaighata and Sandeshkhali-II Blocks (North 24 Parganas).





Major activities and coverage :

Activity	Coverage (villages/no)
● Capacity and vulnerable assessment	6 (45)
● GPS	25 (26) villages
● GPS maps	15 (13) villages
● Monthly rainfall measurement	Continuing
● Monthly groundwater level survey	Continuing
● Arsenic test and result (No)	175 No.
● Village committee meeting no. of SHG's covered No. of members attended workshops seminar, training	124 2817

Note : Fig. in brackets are coverage in 2015

The training programmes includes:

- (i) Block level workshops (2)
- (ii) Seminar on climate change and its impact
- (iii) Training on sustainable development and management of groundwater resource
- (iv) Seminar on National Science Day on impact of climate change in Sundarbans.

Impact:

- (1) The studies, surveys are work in progress, however trend shows groundwater tables in almost all the locations are going down especially during the summer months
- (2) arsenic content is quite high in some locations.



# Animal Husbandry Programme (Income Generation)

Animal Husbandry was the first programme started by JGVK in 2003, and it had continued to be JGVK's main field of activity till 2010. During this 7-year period, the total project expenditure amounted to Rs 335 lakh, about 6000 villagers (mostly women) were trained in better maintenance of animals, and about 4000 beneficiary households were able to generate extra monthly income of over Rs 750.

The activities included,

- Firstly, training support on vaccination, maintenance, market linkage and follow-up guidance and support.
- Secondly, ensuring on-site veterinary services at household level.
- Thirdly, emphasis placed on goat rearing, poultry farming, and duck rearing.
- After 2010, the activities have been limited to only strategic areas and relatively small number of beneficiaries.

Activities during the year included,

- (i) 7000 poultry birds were distributed among the 700 households at a subsidised rate (ii) 200 poultry birds and 5 pigs are being maintained at the JGVK's model farm

- (iii) 7 trainings were organized for over 200 villagers, among whom 80% women.
- (iv) linkage is established with the local livestock officer to organise animal health camps where animals are treated and vaccinated. During the year JGVK has received from the block livestock office 7000 and 1800 vaccines of poultry birds and goats respectively.



# Agriculture Programme (for Sustainability)

Being part of a delta region and dependant on the vagaries of monsoon, the Sundarban region has to regularly face high intensity of rainfall, sea level rise, regular floods and sea water intrusion to agricultural land, disrupting availability of fresh surface as well as ground water and leaching of soil nutrients.

To deal with this situation, JGVK has been working since 2007 on adaptation strategies to climatic condition by using sustainable fertiliser for improving soil, changing planting dates, planting different varieties of crop species, development and promotion of neglected (so far) and alternative crops, more use of intercropping, improved crop residue, weed management and off-farm employment initiative.

This year, a large number of small but useful activities were undertaken:

- 12 new varieties of paddy, oil seeds, and vegetables - mushroom, cauliflower, onion, capsicum etc - were cultivated successfully in the farm of JGVK as well as by local farmers.
- 33 training programmes in cultivation of mushroom, paddy and fruit and also in organic and integrated farming were organized for over 800 farmers.

- Supplied oilseeds and pulses seeds to the 40 farmers in the coastal region on experimental basis using moisture of Kharif season.
- Introduced low water consuming crop maize in the region. Last year 15 farmers successfully cultivated these crops.
- Demonstration farm of JGVK produced 300kg of good quality seeds and also cultivated sugar beet and produced 60 kg of gur.
- A small mushroom lab was developed in the farm, where spawn was produced and distributed among the farmers.
- In the farm, mixed cropping like tomato with maize, tomato with onion, beans with chilly etc was successfully introduced One of the purpose of this mixed cropping is to protect the crops from pests, insects.
- Distributed seasonal seeds to 20 poor families for setting up 'nutritional garden' and provided regular onsite guidance to them. Good quality vegetable seeds were supplied to another 140 families.



# Fishery Programme

(Local Resource based livelihood Development)

Next to Agriculture, Aquaculture and Fishing are the main occupations of the local people in coastal Sundarban and more particularly of Basanti and Gosaba blocks.

The commonly cultivated fish species in Sundarban villages are Catla, Rohu, Marigal, Silver Carp, Grass Carp, and common carp.

Coastal Sundarban region is full of small size ponds; almost every house has a pond but these are not used appropriately; systematic, scientific fish farming is rarely seen. The objective of JGVK is to provide viable livelihood options to the poor population of Sundarbans. With this objective in mind, in 2006-07 JGVK in collaboration and technical support from Royal Veterinary and Agricultural University, Denmark and Bangladesh Agricultural University started a pilot project on "experimenting scientific fish farming with Poly-Culture" involving 30 farmers in the region, and later, it was extended to more local farmers.

In 2009 JGVK set up its own Hatchery to produce good quality fish spawn, and gradually, demonstration, extension and production units were created in the campus covering 4.25 acres of water area divided into 16 ponds. Here, local farmers received practical training on scientific fish farming, pond preparation, feed for different types and size of fish, maintenance of nursery and brooder ponds. As a result, about 600 farmers in the area are doing improved fish farming and earn on average additional income of Rs.12-15,000 per year.

This year, the activity has been limited to the following,

- 350 Bati fish spawn produced and sold to the local farmers.
- 270 kg fingerlings distributed among the local farmers at a subsidised rate.
- small and local varieties of fish species conserved in 60 ponds
- first time successful hatching undertaken for Magur fish.
- Training cum Demonstration centre conducted 7 training programmes on scientific fish farming with participation of 180 local farmers.



# Home Industry Programme

(Impetus to Sustainable Livelihoods)

During 2006-07, JGVK staff, volunteers and community understood that only agriculture or allied areas like improved fish farming, animal rearing cannot provide the viable livelihood to the local poor. Therefore, JGVK started a home based industry programme from 2007.

This programme primarily focused on:

- (i) training of local women as recommended by village level local women's committee. The skill trainings provided on knitting of woollen garments for children, tailoring, hand embroidery, katha stitch, incense stick making, carpentry etc.
- (ii) after successful completion of trainings JGVK provided machine and raw materials to the trainees to produce products at their respective homes.
- (iii) JGVK also took the responsibility for procurement of raw materials for the primary producers and also of marketing the finished products
- (iv) Till this year nearly 2500 village women have undergone these skill trainings and many of them work independently and earn on average Rs. 1500/- p.m.

The activities of this year:

- Conducted 28 skill training on tailoring for 279 village women

- produced 41 local towel (Gamcha) and 25 metre cloth for shirt by the handloom unit of JGVK
- produced 115 sets of children's dress, 20 sets of adults dress including school uniform, and over 100 products which includes pen box, money bag, bags for mobile phones etc.
- The Dubrajpur unit produced 200 good quality silk scarves which were exported to Denmark. Similarly some specially designed items of clothing (boxer shorts etc.) were also produced for export.



## Kolkata Street Food Vendors Project

This project (phase II) started in July 2014 as a joint initiative of JGVK and Gana Unnayan Parshad with technical and financial support from Inno-aid, Denmark. There are three separate but interrelated initiatives in this phase; JGVK is primarily involved in initiative 2.

In this initiative, the project concentrates on nurturing income generating entrepreneurial activities in the rural areas as well as for the urban street food vendors' family and to make available healthy and hygienically sound products for the vendors to invest in. This initiative also includes supplementing the income of the street vendors' family since street food business is often the only source of their income.

This initiative also addresses the supply of plastic free paper plates, pure spices, good quality vegetables by the rural entrepreneurs.

This linkage between the urban vendors and the rural entrepreneurs is one of the important aspects of this initiative.

As part of this initiative during the year following activities were undertaken:

(i) development of three SHG's into producers group - one in the urban area and two in the Sundarban and help them to enter into business

- (ii) preparation and development of the business model; disbursement of loan or grant from the project.
- (iii) successful start of spices production by Ma Kali group in Ranigarh and supply the products to the urban vendors
- (iv) installing paper plate making machine and start of experimental production by the Matribandana SHG in Brinchibari
- (v) organizing large number of meetings, workshops, trainings, and advocacy workshops with SHG's and stakeholders for production and marketing of products like spices, paper plates, and snacks.
- (vi) The urban group 'Disha' took the responsibility of marketing as well as processing of products



# Joy Du Bengale Project

This was the fifth year of the JGVK-JDB Collaboration. The focus of this project continues with functional literacy for young adult women (housewife as well), scholarship for high school students, house re-building and integrated development of economically poor households.

This five years long project covering 11 six-month courses for adult women's learning centre covering 160 women were completed. Thirteen senior school students received scholarship, among them seven are girls. The concept of integrated development of poor households is an important intervention in this partnership. These activities facilitated the foundation of socio-economic development of "poor families" in the area, under which 46 households were supported through house repairing, kitchen garden, fish farming, training in cottage industry, animal rearing, education of children etc. The five year partnership brings out following positive difference in the lives of the poor in the region.

Over 160 adult poor women who completed their course are more assertive to articulate their views, to voice them at the family level as well as in Gram Panchayats, (Village level elected constitutional body) and Gram Sansads (Village assembly) and in meetings of self-help groups. These women also gradually take active role in

their hamlet level e.g. assist families who are affected by poverty and require assistance. . At the family level, most of them are more organised and take action for well-being of their family. They assist their husband for use of their land, and water resource more judiciously. Many husbands and in-laws appreciate their wife/daughter-in-laws participation in literacy classes. Thus, these classes have also contributed towards empowerment – more articulate, confident, and capable women.

Here are a few actual examples:

1. Sampa Majhi, Sourav Das, Anup Bar, and Surojit Pariya have completed their higher secondary examination (class-XII standard) and are now studying for degree courses or professional courses like Hotel Management.
2. Similarly, Radharani Mondal, Tapan Sardar, and Sahyed Bhanu, after completion of Madhyamik examination (class-X), are now studying in Higher Secondary course. JDB also supported Radharani when she was suffering for a difficult disease.

It is a reality that without support from JDB and JGVK they would have been unable to continue their studies.



# Sanitation Programme (Road to cleanliness)

Since 2008, JGVK has been involved in 'Total Sanitation Campaign and implementation'. in collaboration with the District authorities and the respective GP administration

Since then, JGVK has constructed thousands of toilets in the individual households, which has effectively prevented open defecation in the river banks, pond embankments, open fields or even roadsides.

In addition to construction of toilets in individual houses and schools, JGVKs sanitation programme also included a range of hygiene and sanitation education activities especially in the schools (with an emphasis of adolescent girls) and with SHG's at the village and hamlet level. This has resulted in children adopting more hygienic practices and playing an important practical role in their family as well as community.

Joygopalpur and its surrounding villages are now almost 100% free from open defecation.

In addition to sanitation, JGVK is also involved with the study of the use of rural household and market level garbage - its nature, estimated quantity used, and present disposal system.

Based on this study, JGVK is preparing to undertake a garbage collection and disposal programme at the village level. This will be implemented in collaboration with the local administration and the community.





## Micro-finance at a Micro level (Credit Support to the Women)

Since early days, JGVK believed in formation of poor women's collective and had realised that coming together in group was a process towards empowerment. Therefore, mobilising women members to form self-help groups has been a strategy of JGVK to create empowerment of women at the community level.

Till date, JGVK has mobilized and organised nearly 1600 women SHG's with membership of over 22,000. These women groups are divided into 45 functional village committees. JGVK has assisted these women to learn to read, write, count, access skills and engage in suitable livelihood which has increased their income.

JGVK also realised that one of the ways for the women to increase their income was to start a small business, and to start the business the women required finance. Unfortunately, the financial institutions were not willing to give loan to these poor women, who had no assets to offer as collateral.

Therefore, JGVK decided to set-up a fund themselves, from which to provide short-term loan at a nominal interest to the women who were both needy and deserving.

This fund is jointly managed by the village committee and JGVK. The respective village committee recommends the application along with a business plan. Till now over 200 women have benefited from this fund. The timely payback such loans has been nearly 100%.



# Other Important Activities During the Year

## Other Important Activities During the Year

In addition to programme and project related activities, JGVK regularly undertake some socially relevant activities. The organisation invite local community especially villager elders, leaders in these programmes. These activities are an opportunity for the local villagers as well as JGVK staff, volunteers to listen, interact with the outside speakers who talk on various relevant subject related to socio-economic development of the local people and region. Some of the important activities explained below:

1. Preparation of Bricks from plastic waste: As part of "innovation of new technology", JGVK in collaboration with INNO-AID, Denmark doing a long term research work since 2012 on use of waste plastics in brick making.
2. Sundarban Paryavaran (Environment) Award Distributed: In February'2014 JGVK has received Indira Gandhi Paryavaran Award'2010. As part of Award, JGVK also received Rs.5 lakh. JGVK keep this Award amount in a bank as Fixed deposit. On 2014 JGVK decided to give Award to the organisations, individual and self-help group who are doing exemplary work in the development and conservation of environment in the Sundarbans. On the occasion of World Environment Day the awards were given to the : (i) Paribesh

Unnayan Parishad, working in particular Sagar block of Sundarban (ii) Sriniketan Swanirbhar Gosthi, Jharkhali. Since 2006 this SHG doing excellent work for protection of river bund, plantation in the slopes of river bund, protection of small, indigenous fishes etc. (iii) since 1990 Ramkaran Gupta promote plantation in the fragile ecosystem in the country like dry regions of Maharashtra, Andhra Pradesh, Jharkhand to coastal Sundarbans. On this occasion, BDO, Basanti, officials of Sundarban Development Board, local teachers, villagers present and speak on the importance and need of protection of environment of coastal Sundarban.

3. Exploration of collaboration with 'Auroville' Pondichery: Mr. Biswajit Mahakur, Secretary, JGVK and Mr. Ganesh Sengupta Chairperson, IGF-Denmark visited Auroville and observed the self-managed village having 5000 population, use of various technology like solar power, planned homes, garden, forests, farm, community living etc. As a follow-up three members team from Auroville visited JGVK and explore the possibility of collaboration to develop Joygopalpur and its surrounding area on the pattern of Auroville village.
4. Workshop on sustainable and climate resilience plan in Sundarban: JGVK in collaboration with WWF-India organised this workshop. In this workshop 42 NGO representatives from Canning sub-division participated along with researchers, activists, government officials and staff of JGVK participated and shared their experiences and suggestions.
5. Celebration of National Science Day: On October 14<sup>th</sup> JGVK in collaboration with West Bengal State Council of Science and Technology organised a workshop on

in this programme. The students presented different scientific models like 'waste management model', 'solar water pump model', 'model village' in the workshop. The scientists and students interacted on these models.

Students also presented papers. Scientists shared their views on the role of science in the development especially in the coastal Sundarban.

6. All Bengal traditional sports training and competition: During December 25-31, JGVK in collaboration with all Bengal Children Sports Association organised a sports festival. Over 600 children from different districts of West Bengal participated in this seven days programme.

7. Sundarban Rural Cottage Industry and Cultural Festival: JGVK organised this 9<sup>th</sup> annual festival during February 11-16'2016. On this occasion a new OPD building was inaugurated. A new primary school building in Bermajur was also inaugurated. The festival was attended by Hon'ble Minister Sundarban Affairs, MLA of Gosaba, Government Officials, Social Workers and supporters from Denmark. Six days festival organised discussion in every afternoon, cultural evenings. An exhibition of JGVK's work, products also organised.



## Future Priorities and Programmes of JGVK

During the coming years, JGVK would be making some major strategic decisions in order to realize its mission:

1. Taking forward its existing efforts towards income generating work among the rural poor, especially women; on empowerment, environmental sanitation, education and health.
2. Set up a small public health centre, to act as a model health support centre in the area. Also upgrade Pathological Laboratory.
3. Upgrade Vivekananda Shiksha Niketan as a model residential school in the region. Necessary long-term support, both technical and financial are to be explored.
4. Develop a Science Museum along with Resource cum information centre for Sundarban people, focussing on livelihood, culture, environment, development process, development prospects and challenges. Along with this ensure greater environmental awareness and accountability on local environment, its conservation and development. This Resource cum documentation centre will extend support, guidance to the students, especially science students.
6. Launch a new educational programme focusing on job oriented skill development training of various locally relevant technical aspects for the local youth as well as prepare local youth for outside job market.
7. Work with local self governing institutions and departments: JGVK's work on developmental issues would be expanded to include both Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRI's) and government departments
8. Work in the Kolkata metropolitan city and its hinterland with local partners : Street Food Hawkers project will be expanded including work with urban poor in the municipal areas on the issues affecting urban poor.
9. Initiative to link JGVK programmes (on Health, Home Industry, Fishery, Agriculture etc.) with government departments, research and training institutions.
10. Continue to work on integrated development of poor households, adult women's literacy.
11. Work in few areas, households in an intensive way and other areas on a extensive mode with partners.



# Donors and Supporters

We are thankful to all our donors, friends and partners for their support and encouragement in our work :

- DANIDA and Danish NGO Council, CISU, Denmark
- Indian Group Funen (IGF), Denmark
- Haldor Topsoe AS, Denmark
- UBU (Danish Association for Sustainable Development), Denmark
- Royal Veterinary and Agricultural University, Denmark
- Joy Du Bengale (JDB), France
- INNO-AID-Denmark
- Danish Technical University, Denmark
- Aarhus University, Denmark
- Bangladesh Agricultural University, Bangladesh
- International Poultry Network, Copenhagen, Denmark
- West Bengal State University of Animal Sciences and Fishery
- Department of Botany, Calcutta University
- Department of Agriculture, Calcutta University
- Mamraj Agrwal Foundation, Kolkata
- Bermajur Gram Vikash Kendra, Sandeshkhali
- Horticulture Department, South 24 Pgs Zila Parishad
- Nagorik Mancha, Kolkata
- Jadavpur University, Kolkata
- Sundarban Development Board, Government of West Bengal
- District Collector of Balasore, Odisha
- South 24 Parganas Zilla Parishad
- District Magistrate, South 24 Parganas
- Paschim Banga Marwari Sammelani Siksha Kosh, Kolkata
- Vikash Trust, Kolkata
- Lok Kalyan Parishad, Kolkata
- The Art of Living
- West Bengal Voluntary Health Association (WBVHA)
- Science Communicators' Forum, Kolkata
- Engineers Association of India, Kolkata
- Ram Karan Gupta-Social Activist
- Block Development Office, Basanti, Gosaba, Canning-U & II, Baruipirm Gaighata, Baduria, Sandeshkhali-II, Deganga (N. 24-Pgs.), Dubrajpur (Birbhum), Khira & Simulia (Odisha)
- All the PRI institutions in our operational areas
- Dr. Mritunjoy Kundu, Bangladesh Agricultural University
- Madam Birgitte argaard and Dr. Adam argaard, Denmark
- Manabata Trust, Kolkata
- Human Excellence Care, Kolkata
- Department of Science and Technology, Government of West Bengal, Kolkata
- Soil Science Research Institute, Canning, Government of India
- Calcutta Charity Friends Club (CCFC), Tollygunge, Kolkata
- Srma Matritirtha Mahila Samity
- Amnesha for Science, Gosaba
- Bermajur Janakalyan samity
- Sundarban Unnayan Niketan
- Birinchibari Manab Kalyan Samity
- Kalidaspur Gramin Vikas Kendra
- Kisholoy Taruntirtha
- Gramajyoti Voluntary Organisation (GJVO), Odisha
- Birinchibari Agragami Samaj Kalyan Samity
- Kendula Susthayi Tantu Samabay Samity, Birbhum
- Gana Unnayan Parshad
- Sabuj Manch
- Administrative Training Institute (ATI), Government of West Bengal

JOYGOPALPUR GRAM VIKASH KENDRA

CONSOLIDATED INCOME & EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT: 1st APRIL 2015 - 31st MARCH 2016

<u>EXPENDITURE</u>	<u>Rs.</u>	<u>INCOME</u>	<u>Rs.</u>
Cost of running diff. Programmes	1,595,694	Cost recovery from diff. Programmes	2,730,580
General Expenses	357,440	Donations, Subscriptions	20,550
Repairs & Maintenance	328,242	Other Income	81,842
Social/Cultural Expenses	92,244	Other Receipts	17,265
Depreciation on Assets	415,616	Depreciation trf. To Property Funds	115,189
Excess of Income over Expenditure	591,806	Bank Interest & Service Charges	415,616
<u>Expenses : FC Projects</u>	11,607,255	<u>Grant-in-Aid: FC Projects:</u>	
Education	2,037,873	Education	9,946,210
Health	4,154,308	Health	3,027,245
Resilience	103,361	Resilience	3,713,581
Animal Husbandry	485,891	Animal Husbandry	100,000
Agriculture & Fishery	512,337	Agriculture & Fishery	300,000
Home Industry	1,866,641	Home Industry	
IECI	1,773,363	IECI	2,198,928
Street Food Vending	299,872	Street Food Vending	1,638,300
Joy du Bengale	1,783,393	Joy du Bengale	333,941
Training Centre	819,891	Training Centre	170,000
Others	25,444,185	Others	924,518
Total		Unutilized Balance: Add Prev.Year	6,584,481
		Less: This Year	3,806,967
		Total	25,130,237
Depreciation on Assets	1,753,776	Depreciation trf. To Property Funds	1,753,776
		Bank Interest	313,948
Total	30,579,003	Total	30,579,003

CONSOLIDATED BALANCE SHEET : AS ON 31st MARCH 2016

<u>LIABILITIES</u>	<u>Rs.</u>	<u>ASSETS</u>	<u>Rs.</u>
General Fund	3,890,805	Fixed Assets : NFC	5,360,079
Properties Fund: NFC	5,360,080	: FC	32,480,299
: FC	32,480,299		
Revolving Fund	249,605	TDS Receivable	103,044
Micro Credit Fund	273,059	Fixed Deposits	1,344,997
TCH Fund	246,561	Accrued Interest	1,056,589
Sanitation Fund	990,212		
Unutilized Grant: FC	3,806,967	Cash & Bank Cl. Balance : NFC	3,145,613
		: FC	3,806,967
Total	47,297,588	Total	47,297,588









## Joygopalpur Gram Vikash Kendra

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