

ANNUAL REPORT

"JAL SAKHI"

Strengthening Women's leadership in freshwater governance and management

Reporting Period:
December 2025 to August 2026

Presented By:
JEETA, Odisha, India





PROJECT INFORMATION

Project Title:	**"JALSAKHI"**
Reporting Period:	**December 2025 to August 2026**
Project Lead / Coordinator:	**Ms. Panchanan Biswal**
Implementing Partners:	**Joint Endeavour For Emancipation Training & Action of Women(JEETA)**
Date of Submission	**14th September 2026**

WHY JEETA INITIATED THE JAL SAKHI PROGRAMME

With support from the IUCN, Switzerland, JEETA initiated the Jal Sakhi Programme in Barkote block, Deogarh district, Odisha, in response to ongoing challenges of water scarcity, declining freshwater resources, and the disproportionate burden of water collection borne by women, particularly among tribal and marginalised communities.

Although Barkote is located along the Brahmani River and has considerable forest and natural-resource wealth, many villages continue to experience severe seasonal water stress. Local ponds, streams, and other traditional water sources frequently dry up during the summer months, while several tube wells face declining availability and water-quality concerns. As a result, households are often compelled to depend on distant or unsafe water sources for their daily needs. Women and girls bear the primary responsibility for collecting and managing household water, resulting in significant loss of time, physical hardship, and reduced opportunities for education, livelihoods, participation in community institutions, and leadership.

The situation is particularly challenging for Paudi Bhuyan, Munda, and other tribal communities, whose livelihoods are closely linked to agriculture, forests, and natural resources. Rainfed agriculture, degraded landscapes, acidic soils, erratic rainfall, and limited water-storage and recharge structures further increase their vulnerability to water and livelihood insecurity.

The programme also enabled women to participate more effectively in the Gram Panchayat Development Plan (GPDP) process, ensuring that community-identified water and ecological priorities were incorporated into local development planning and government investments. Through convergence with programmes of PBDA, MGNREGA and relevant watershed, drinking water, and Panchayati Raj initiatives, the project created pathways for sustaining and scaling up community-led water-security measures beyond the project period.

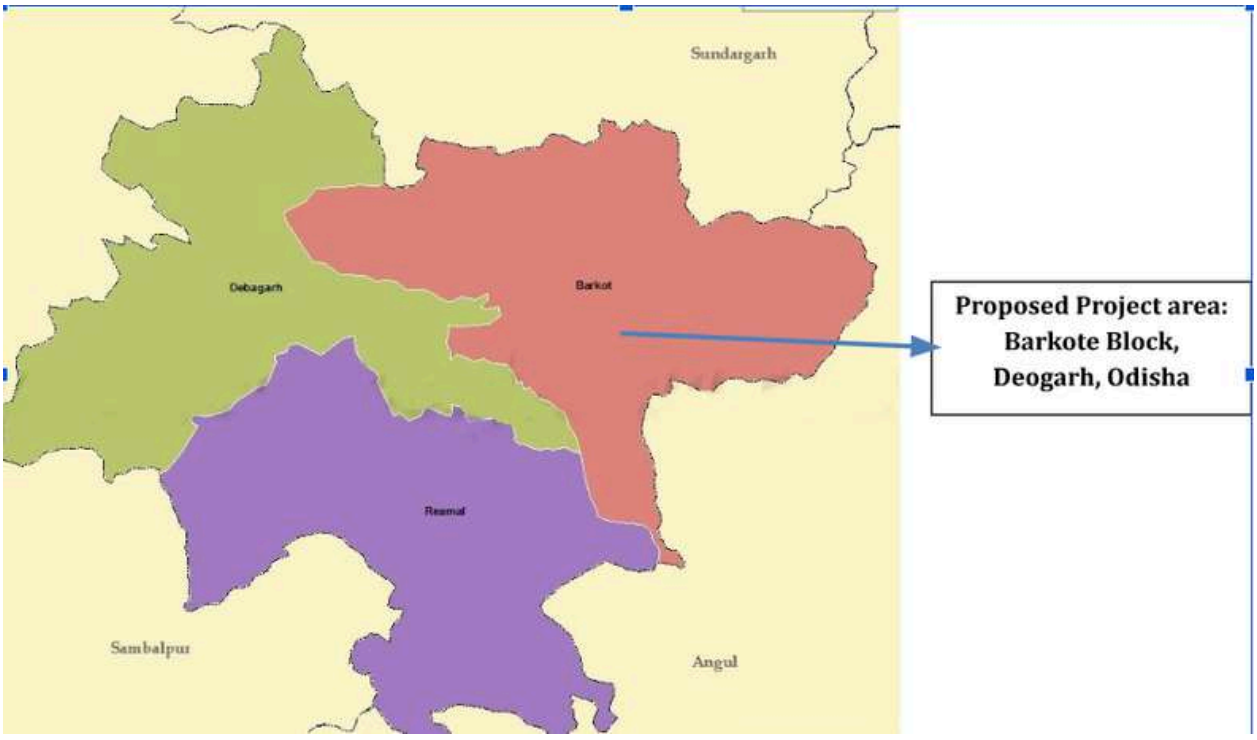


KEY OBJECTIVES:

Overall Goal: To ensure sustainable and equitable water security through ecosystem restoration, women's leadership, and community-based water governance.

Specific Objectives:

- To enhance water security and ecological sustainability by mapping and managing freshwater sources, installing Iron Removal Plants, reviving traditional water bodies through convergence, and implementing eco-restoration and afforestation measures.
- To strengthen women's leadership in water governance by building the capacity of women leaders and Village Water Committees to actively participate in GPDP processes, manage water systems, and advocate for equitable, sustainable water use at community and governance levels.
- To promote community ownership, accountability, and knowledge sharing through participatory monitoring, documentation, and regular review mechanisms, ensuring transparency, replication of best practices, and long-term sustainability of interventions.



SUMMARY OF THE REPORT

With support from IUCN, Switzerland, JEETA implemented the Jal Sakhi Programme in Barkote Block of Deogarh district, Odisha, to respond to growing water insecurity, declining freshwater resources and the disproportionate burden of water collection on women, particularly among tribal and marginalised communities. The programme promotes sustainable and equitable water security through ecosystem restoration, women's leadership and community-based water governance.

From Baseline Evidence to Community Action:

The initial baseline assessment in Sinduramunda, Taladihi and Nuamunda highlighted that water insecurity extends beyond the availability of infrastructure. Communities continue to experience seasonal water stress due to declining groundwater levels, drying and poorly maintained traditional water bodies, iron contamination, gaps in piped-water infrastructure, forest degradation and changing rainfall patterns. These challenges also affect agriculture, forest-based livelihoods and household resilience.

The findings provided a strong evidence base for adopting an integrated approach to water security, linking water conservation and source protection with ecosystem restoration, water-quality management, community participation and local governance.

During the reporting period, the programme translated this evidence into community-level action. Water-resource mapping was completed across all three villages, enabling communities to identify existing water sources, assess their condition and prioritise local concerns. The findings also informed engagement with Gram Sabhas, Panchayats and relevant government departments.

Strengthening Women's Leadership:

A key achievement of Jal Sakhi has been the growing role of women as leaders in local water governance. The programme strengthened the capacities of 50 women leaders and community members in water management, ecological restoration, governance participation and decision-making. Three Community Water Management Committees were formed and oriented to support collective action and local water governance.

Women leaders are increasingly bringing water-related concerns to Gram Sabhas and village meetings, including water-quality testing, pond renovation, new water sources, check dams and improved water availability. This reflects an important shift in which women are moving from being disproportionately affected by water insecurity to becoming active participants in identifying problems, influencing decisions and advocating for solutions.

Improving Water Quality and Source Management:

The baseline identified water quality, particularly iron contamination, as a significant concern. In response, community volunteers and women leaders facilitated water testing through



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linkages with government laboratories. The findings helped trigger corrective action, including the replacement of a damaged hand-pump pipe in Taladihi and the establishment of an Iron Removal Plant in Nuamunda, with an additional plant mobilised through the Watershed programme.

The programme also promoted safe water practices, source protection and community cleanliness. Women leaders organised cleanliness drives around hand pumps, while youth and community members participated in pond cleaning and stream protection activities.

Leveraging Government Convergence:

An important strength of the programme has been its ability to connect community-identified priorities with government planning and resources. JEETA strengthened coordination with Gram Panchayats, PRI representatives, PBDA, DRDA, the Horticulture Department and other line departments. This helped communities leverage public resources for water and livelihood-related infrastructure.

During the reporting period, community priorities contributed to the following approvals and linkages:

- 5 deep borewells approved for Nuamunda under the Mega Lift Irrigation Programme.
- ₹5 lakh community pond approved for Sinduramunda/Taladihi.
- ₹3 lakh approved for construction of canal in Sinduramunda.
- 2 farm ponds approved, with construction planned for October 2026.
- Community land development approved.
- Approximately 80% of identified water-related issues were incorporated into the 2026 Gram Panchayat action plan for Gurusang GP, including individual farm ponds for 16 beneficiaries.

These developments demonstrate the potential of combining community mobilisation, women's leadership and evidence-based advocacy to leverage public investment and extend programme benefits beyond direct project resources.

Restoring Ecosystems for Long-Term Water Security

Jal Sakhi recognises that lasting water security depends on the health of the surrounding ecosystem. In response to the baseline findings linking forest degradation with declining water availability, women leaders, youth and community members participated in plantation, forest restoration and source-protection activities.

Through Bana Mahotsav and related community mobilisation, 4,000 seed balls were prepared and planted in forest areas, alongside plantation activities involving approximately 1,000 saplings. Women leaders and Community Water Management Committee members are supporting the maintenance and protection of these initiatives.

World Water Day and village-level awareness activities further strengthened community understanding of water conservation, stream protection, plantation and environmental stewardship.



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Emerging Results and Learning:

- **Women are emerging as water leaders:**

Women are increasingly participating in water-resource mapping, Gram Sabhas, community monitoring and advocacy, strengthening their voice in local planning and decision-making.

- **Community institutions are enabling collective action**

The three Community Water Management Committees are providing platforms for communities to address water-source protection, cleanliness, conservation and local planning collectively.

- **Evidence is strengthening local decision-making**

Baseline information and water-quality testing have enabled communities to better identify priorities, engage with institutions and advocate for appropriate solutions.

- **Government convergence is creating pathways for sustainability**

Community priorities are increasingly being linked with government schemes and resources, resulting in approvals for ponds, canals, borewells, farm ponds and other development works.

- **Water security is being addressed through an ecological lens**

The programme is connecting drinking-water security with forest restoration, groundwater recharge, source protection, plantation and community stewardship rather than treating water as only an infrastructure issue.

- **Collective ownership is beginning to grow**

Women leaders, youth and other community members are increasingly taking collective responsibility for cleaning water sources, protecting streams and participating in environmental restoration.

- **Overall Programme Contribution**

The Jal Sakhi Programme has established an important foundation for community-led, inclusive and climate-resilient water security in the three intervention villages. While the underlying challenges require sustained investment and longer-term action, the reporting period has demonstrated meaningful institutional and behavioural change.

Women are taking a stronger role in water governance, communities are increasingly participating in conservation and source protection, water-quality concerns are being translated into action, and local priorities are gaining greater visibility within government planning and investment processes.

The emerging Jal Sakhi model demonstrates that water security is more than creating infrastructure. It requires restoring natural systems, protecting water sources, strengthening community institutions, improving water quality, leveraging government convergence and, most importantly, enabling women and communities to participate meaningfully in decisions concerning the water resources on which their lives and livelihoods depend.



Key Activities

Under the Jal Sakhi Programme, various activities were conducted as proposed in the project plan during the 10-month project period. The activities focused on the conservation, protection, and sustainable management of local water bodies, while strengthening the participation and leadership of community members and women's groups in freshwater governance and management.

MAPPING OF WATER RESOURCES:
Key Findings and Recommendations of Baseline

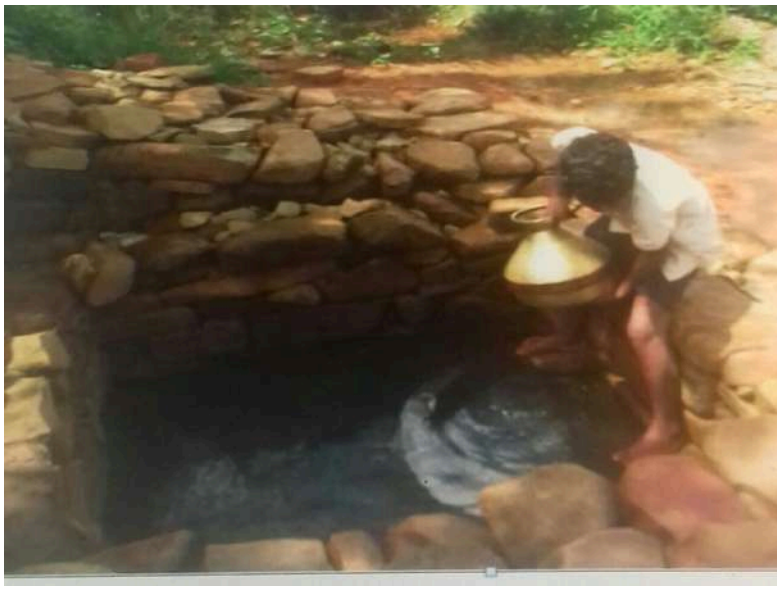
Background

As part of the Jal Sakhi Initiative, a baseline assessment was conducted in Sinduramunda, Taladihi and Nuamunda villages of Deogarh district to understand the status of local water resources, drinking water security, water quality, ecological conditions and existing community-level water governance. The assessment used participatory approaches including water-resource mapping, Focus Group Discussions, community consultations, water-quality testing and field verification, with active participation of women, Self-Help Groups, youth, community members and local stakeholders.

Key Findings

1. **Water insecurity persists despite multiple water assets.**

The baseline found that all three villages have several ponds, wells, bore wells and other water infrastructure, yet communities continue to experience significant water insecurity. The number of water sources does not necessarily translate into reliable access because many sources are seasonal, poorly maintained, contaminated or have inadequate yields. Sinduramunda and Taladihi face particularly severe shortages, while Nuamunda has relatively more groundwater infrastructure but limited community access because many productive sources are privately owned.



2.Traditional water sources are deteriorating.

Ponds, streams, and open wells that historically supported communities have experienced heavy siltation, reduced storage capacity and seasonal drying. In Sinduramunda and Taladihi, once perennial streams have become seasonal, significantly reducing water availability during the lean period. In Taladihi, only three of ten ponds retain water throughout the year, while in Nuamunda only three of seven ponds remain perennial.

3. Groundwater availability and reliability are declining.

Increasing dependence on bore wells has not resolved the water crisis. Declining groundwater levels and inadequate bore-well yields are evident across the three villages. As surface-water sources deteriorate, pressure on groundwater is increasing, creating a cycle of declining recharge and greater dependence on already stressed aquifers.

4. Iron contamination is a major drinking-water challenge.

Water-quality assessment revealed widespread iron contamination, particularly in public hand pumps. In some locations, previously usable sources have also become contaminated over time. In the absence of regular village-level water-quality surveillance and treatment systems, communities are increasingly dependent on a small number of relatively safe sources.

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5. Incomplete piped-water infrastructure remains a critical gap.

Jal Jeevan Mission schemes have been initiated in all three villages, but their delayed completion and operationalisation have prolonged dependence on inadequate groundwater sources. This highlights the importance of focusing not only on infrastructure creation but also on functionality, reliability and long-term operation and maintenance.

6. Water insecurity is closely linked to forest degradation and climate variability.

Community members consistently identified degradation of surrounding forests as an important factor contributing to declining water availability. Reduced vegetation affects infiltration, soil-moisture retention and groundwater recharge, while erratic rainfall and prolonged dry periods further intensify seasonal water stress. The baseline therefore establishes a strong connection between forest health, watershed functioning, groundwater recharge and water security.

7. Water scarcity is affecting women, livelihoods and household resilience.

The burden of collecting water falls largely on women and girls, increasing the time and effort required to secure water for households. Water shortages also affect agriculture, livestock and forest-based livelihoods, particularly among tribal households dependent on natural resources. These impacts reduce household resilience to drought and climate variability.

Key Recommendations

Based on the baseline findings, the following priorities are recommended for the Jal Sakhi programme and local development planning:

1. Ensure reliable drinking water supply by completing and operationalising pending Jal Jeevan Mission schemes, repairing existing systems and maintaining alternative sources for periods of breakdown or shortage.
2. Establish community-based water-quality monitoring, with trained Jal Sakhis, women's groups and community volunteers regularly testing drinking-water sources and maintaining local records. Particular attention should be given to iron contamination and appropriate treatment solutions.
3. Restore traditional water bodies through desiltation, repair, catchment treatment and recharge measures, with community participation in their protection and maintenance.
4. Strengthen groundwater recharge and management through village water-security planning, rainwater harvesting,



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recharge structures, water-efficient agriculture and community-led groundwater management.

5. Integrate forest and catchment restoration with water-security planning. Protection of existing forests, plantations, soil conservation and restoration of degraded catchments should be incorporated into village development plans because healthy ecosystems are essential to sustaining water resources.
6. Strengthen women-led community institutions. Capacity building of Jal Sakhis, Village Water and Sanitation Committees and women's Self-Help Groups should be prioritised so that communities can actively participate in water-resource planning, monitoring, conservation and social accountability.
7. Promote convergence and integrated planning. Water security interventions should be linked with Gram Panchayat Development Plans and relevant government programmes covering rural water supply, watershed development, forest conservation, MGNREGS/VBGRAMG and tribal development.

Overall Implication for the Programme

The baseline establishes that water insecurity in the three intervention villages is not simply an infrastructure deficit; it is a wider socio-ecological challenge involving declining groundwater, deteriorating traditional water bodies, water-quality concerns, forest degradation, climate variability and weak local water governance.

The findings provide a clear baseline for the Jal Sakhi Initiative to move towards an integrated, community-led and climate-resilient approach to water security. Going forward, programme efforts should combine restoration of natural water systems with improved drinking-water infrastructure, groundwater recharge, water-quality surveillance and stronger participation of women and community institutions. Such an approach can contribute not only to improved access to safe water but also to greater livelihood resilience, reduced burden on women, ecological restoration and stronger community ownership of local water resources.



CAPACITY BUILDING OF WOMEN LEADERS

To ensure sustainable impact and strengthen collective ownership of local water resources, the Jal Sakhi Programme placed strong emphasis on building the knowledge, skills, and leadership capacities of women's groups, as proposed in the project plan. The capacity-building process was designed to enable women to actively participate in the conservation, protection, restoration, and governance of freshwater resources within their communities.

As part of this effort, a two-day workshop was conducted on 28 and 29 January, with the participation of 50 women from three villages. The workshop focused on strengthening participants' understanding of water management, ecological restoration, and their role in local governance. Key discussions and learning sessions included:

- Identification and mapping of existing water bodies and freshwater resources in the villages.
- Understanding the major water-related issues and challenges faced by local communities.
- Discussion on traditional knowledge and community practices for protecting and managing local water resources.
- Introduction to different methods and approaches for water-body restoration and ecological restoration.
- Understanding the local governance systems, institutions, and processes relevant to water-resource management.
- Building knowledge on community participation, advocacy, and engagement with local governance institutions for addressing water-related issues.

To strengthen experiential learning, an exposure visit was also facilitated for 20 women leaders to Gram Vikash organisation, Barhmpur, Odisha. The visit provided an opportunity for women leaders to observe and learn from practical examples of water conservation, natural-resource management, community participation, and women's leadership. The exposure helped participants gain practical insights that could be adapted to their own villages.

As a follow-up to the first phase of capacity building, a second-phase training programme was conducted on 12 June 2026 for women leaders. The training focused on practical approaches for the protection and conservation of water resources and supported participants in developing village-level action plans for addressing identified water-related challenges.

Through these capacity-building initiatives, the programme strengthened the confidence, knowledge, and leadership capacities of women and encouraged them to take collective responsibility for the protection and sustainable management of local water resources. After the developed own capacity, the women leaders facilitated training and capacity of women groups in their villages. More than 100 women were reached through the process. The process also helped establish a stronger foundation for collective ownership, community-led action, and women's meaningful participation in freshwater governance, thereby contributing to the sustainability of the programme beyond the project period.





COMMUNITY-LED WATER COMMITTEE FORMATION AND STRENGTHENING

To strengthen community ownership and women's leadership in the management of local water resources, the Jal Sakhi Programme facilitated the formation of three Community Water Management Committees (CWMCs). The committees were established through village-level meetings and consultations, where community members discussed local water-related challenges and the need for a dedicated community mechanism to collectively address issues related to water conservation, protection, and management.

A total of 15 members were included across the three committees, with approximately 80% women's representation. The committees included women from Self-Help Groups (SHGs), including single-women SHG members, as well as representatives from the Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRIs) and other active community members. Each committee was structured with designated President, Secretary, and general members to ensure clear roles and responsibilities and effective functioning.

Orientation sessions were conducted for committee members on their roles, responsibilities, functions, and processes for collective action on water-related issues. The committees were also supported to identify priority water challenges in their respective villages and develop appropriate local responses.

To ensure continued engagement and follow-up, monthly committee meetings were conducted during the project period. These meetings provided a platform for women leaders and community representatives to discuss emerging water-related concerns, review local conditions, identify solutions, and plan collective actions for the protection and management of water resources.

Key Achievements:

The formation and strengthening of the committees resulted in several community-led actions and corrective measures, including:

- Replacement of a damaged hand-pump pipe in Taldihi, restoring access to a functional water source for the community.
- Construction of an Iron Removal Plant in Nuamunda to address water-quality concerns and improve access to safer drinking water.
- Cleanliness drives around hand-pump areas led by women committee members, promoting improved hygiene, cleanliness, and safe water-use practices.
- Collective action by youth and committee members to protect local streams and clean village ponds, contributing to improved water conservation and storage during the rainy season.
- Regular discussions within the committees helped community members identify water-related problems, prioritise local needs, and initiate corrective actions.

The active participation of women leaders in the Community Water Management Committees strengthened women's voice and leadership in local water governance. Their involvement in identifying problems, mobilising community members, advocating for solutions, and participating in decision-making contributed to stronger community ownership, collective problem-solving, and accountability in the management of local water resources.

The committees also created a platform through which women could engage more confidently with village institutions, PRI representatives, and other stakeholders on water and village development issues, thereby strengthening the foundation for inclusive and sustainable freshwater governance beyond the project period.



ECO-RESTORATION & AFFORESTATION (PLANTATION DRIVE)

As part of the Jal Sakhi Programme, JEETA facilitated community sensitisation initiatives on the importance of forests, water conservation, and the interlinkages between healthy forest ecosystems and sustainable water resources. The sessions focused on building awareness about the role of forests in rainfall retention, groundwater recharge, protection of streams and water bodies, and maintaining the ecological balance of the landscape.

The sensitisation process also involved experienced and elderly members of the community as local knowledge holders. They shared their traditional knowledge and experiences related to water-source protection, conservation practices, forest management, and the sustainable use of natural resources. Their involvement helped bridge traditional ecological knowledge with contemporary conservation practices and encouraged younger generations and community members to value and protect their natural resources.

For JEETA, plantation and forest restoration were not viewed merely as tree-planting activities. Rather, they were used as an entry point for building community awareness, collective ownership, and long-term responsibility towards forest conservation, protection, regeneration, and the revival of local water resources. Community members were encouraged to understand the relationship between healthy forests, water availability, soil and moisture conservation, and the sustainability of local water bodies.

Bana Mahotsav:

JEETA facilitated Bana Mahotsav during the first week of July 2026 as a community-led initiative to promote forest conservation and ecological restoration. More than 260 women, young people, and other community members actively participated in the process. As part of the initiative, participants collectively prepared and planted approximately 4,000 seed balls in open forest areas.

The activity served not only as an ecological restoration intervention but also as an important community mobilisation and awareness-building process. Through their direct involvement, participants developed a stronger understanding of the importance of forest regeneration and their role in protecting local ecosystems and water resources.

Community Plantation Drive:

A further community plantation drive was organised in August 2026, with the participation of approximately 350 community members. During the drive, 1,000 trees were planted in identified areas.

The active involvement of women, youth, and community members in both the Bana Mahotsav and plantation drive helped strengthen collective ownership and community responsibility for forest protection and restoration. These initiatives also reinforced the understanding that forest conservation and water security are closely interconnected, as healthy forests contribute to groundwater recharge, protection of streams and water bodies, soil conservation, and improved ecological resilience.

Overall, the initiatives contributed to strengthening community awareness, promoting traditional knowledge, encouraging collective action, and building local ownership for the long-term protection and restoration of forests and freshwater resources.



INSTALLATION OF THE IRON REMOVAL PLANT/MACHINE:

As proposed under the Jal Sakhi Programme, JEETA supported the establishment of an Iron Removal Plant (IRP) in Nuamunda in response to water-quality concerns identified through water testing. Water quality assessment revealed high levels of iron in the available water source, which raised concerns regarding the quality and suitability of drinking water for the community.

Following the water-quality findings, JEETA facilitated community meetings and discussions in Nuamunda to share the results with community members, explain the health and water-quality concerns associated with high iron content, and discuss the purpose and benefits of establishing an Iron Removal Plant. The meetings also focused on the importance of community ownership, participation, and collective responsibility for the construction, operation, and long-term management of the facility.

A significant achievement of the intervention was the active contribution and ownership demonstrated by the Nuamunda community. Community members voluntarily contributed land for the establishment of the Iron Removal Plant and actively participated in the construction process. This contribution reflected the community's commitment to improving access to safe drinking water and ensuring the sustainability of the intervention.

In addition to the Nuamunda intervention, based on the identified needs of the community, JEETA also mobilised an additional Iron Removal Plant through convergence with the Watershed Department, Deogarh. This strengthened the programme's efforts to expand access to improved and safer drinking water while demonstrating the value of institutional convergence and community-led initiatives.

Community Management and Sustainability

To ensure the sustainability of the intervention beyond the project period, the Community Water Management Committee (CWMC) was entrusted with the responsibility of managing and overseeing the Iron Removal Plant. The committee is responsible for supporting the regular functioning of the plant, monitoring community use, addressing emerging issues, and promoting collective responsibility for its maintenance.

The intervention demonstrated that improving water quality was not limited to providing infrastructure; it also involved community awareness, participation, contribution, institutional convergence, and local ownership. The active involvement of the Nuamunda community and the role of the Community Water Management Committee created a stronger foundation for the long-term management and sustainability of safe drinking-water facilities.





REVIVAL OF WATER BODIES THROUGH CONVERGENCE AND INSTITUTIONAL LINKAGES

A key focus of the Jal Sakhi Programme was to strengthen the linkage between women's groups and local governance institutions and mentor women leaders to effectively raise and address water-related concerns within their communities. JEETA provided continuous facilitation and mentoring support to women leaders, enabling them to engage with Gram Sabhas, village meetings, Gram Panchayats, PRI representatives, and relevant line departments.

Women leaders increasingly took an active role in identifying and raising local water and development issues. During Gram Sabhas and village-level meetings, they advocated for priorities such as water-quality testing, renovation of existing ponds, construction of new ponds and open wells, check dams, improved water availability, and other water-conservation measures.

The water-quality findings also enabled communities to move from identification of problems to collective action and corrective measures. For example, the damaged hand-pump pipe in Taldihi was replaced, while an Iron Removal Plant was established in Nuamunda to address high iron content in the available water source. An additional Iron Removal Plant was also mobilised through the Watershed Department, Deogarh, further expanding efforts to improve access to safe drinking water.

Women leaders and community members also advocated for and successfully facilitated several local development works, including community ponds, canals, village roads, farm ponds, and land-development activities. Their engagement demonstrated an increasing ability to connect community priorities with government planning and development processes.

Strengthening Institutional Convergence

The programme strengthened coordination between women's groups and Gram Panchayats, PRI members, line departments, District Rural Development Agency (DRDA), Paudi Bhuyan Development Agency (PBDA), Horticulture Department, Watershed Department, and other relevant government agencies.

The engagement with the Paudi Bhuyan Development Agency (PBDA) received a positive response and resulted in the approval and support of several community development priorities. Similarly, linkages were facilitated with the Horticulture Department to support plantation activities at sites identified and prioritised by women leaders.

This process of institutional convergence enabled women leaders to move beyond identifying water-related problems and play an active role in advocating for solutions, following up with government institutions, influencing local development priorities, and mobilising resources for community needs.





KEY ACHIEVEMENTS

Summarise the key accomplishments and progress made during the reporting period. Highlight major milestones, outputs delivered, and positive impacts achieved.

A. Achievements in Organisational Level

- **Developed a Baseline Report** on "Understanding Water Resources" to assess local water availability, access, existing resources, and key water-related challenges.
- **Developed a booklet on water conservation** to support community awareness and learning on water resource management.
- **Built the capacity of 32 women leaders** on water resource management, community water governance, participation, and decision-making.
- **Facilitated an exposure visit for 16 women leaders and volunteers** to learn from effective water management practices.
- **Formed 3 Community Water Management Committees** and oriented them on their roles, responsibilities, and functions in strengthening community ownership of water resources.
- **Facilitated Bana Mahotsav, including village awareness, seed-ball preparation, and planted 4,000 seed balls** in forest areas to support plantation and forest protection.
- **Established/initiated support for an Iron Removal Plant** in Nuamunda based on water quality findings.

B. Achievements in Community Level

- **Women leaders actively raised water-related issues in Gram Sabhas and village meetings,** including demands for water quality testing, pond renovation, new ponds, open wells, check dams, and improved water availability.
- Based on water testing findings, communities initiated corrective measures, including **replacement of a damaged hand-pump pipe in** Taldihi and **construction of an Iron Removal Plant in Nuamunda.**
- **Women leaders led cleanliness drives around hand-pump areas** to promote hygiene and safe water use.
- **Youth and community members took collective action to protect streams and clean village ponds,** supporting water conservation and improved water storage during the rainy season.
- **Women leaders and volunteers actively participated in water resource mapping,** identification of water sources and their condition, and local decision-making processes.
- **Women leaders and community members successfully advocated** for several local development works, including community ponds, canals, village roads, and farm ponds.
- The **participation of women leaders** has strengthened community ownership, collective problem-solving, advocacy, and decision-making on water and village development issues.





KEY ACHIEVEMENTS

Summarise the key accomplishments and progress made during the reporting period. Highlight major milestones, outputs delivered, and positive impacts achieved.

C. Achievements in Government partnership Level

- **Strengthened coordination with Gram Panchayats, PRI members, line departments, DRDA, PBDA, Horticulture Department, and other concerned agencies** for addressing community water and development priorities.
- Received a positive response from the Paudi Bhuyan Development Agency (PBDA), resulting in **approval and support for several community development works.**
- **Facilitated linkage with the Horticulture Department** for plantation activities at sites identified by women leaders.
- **5 deep borewells were approved** for Nuamunda under the Mega Lift Irrigation Programme, with site selection completed.
- A **Rs.5 lakh community pond was approved** for Sindurmunda/Taldihi, and a **Rs.3 lakh canal was approved** in Sindurmunda.
- **A village road in Sindurmunda was completed**, while **2 farm ponds were approved,** with construction scheduled to begin in October 2026.
- **Community land development was approved**, with implementation scheduled to commence in October 2026.
- In the 2026 Gram Panchayat action plan for Gurusang GP, approximately **80% of identified water-related issues were approved,** including individual farm ponds for 16 beneficiaries.
- **Mobilised an additional Iron Removal Plant** from Watershed, Deogarh, expanding efforts to improve access to safe drinking water.



STATUS OF ACTIVITIES

Output	Activities	Planned timeline	Current status	Remarks./ next step
Water mapping tool designed and by using the tool identified Water source of 3 villages and their status	Designing water mapping tools and conducting water mapping in selecte villages	December	Community involved in issue identification Discussed in gramsabha	Follow up of gram sabha resolution
Base line report completed and this document helped in taking further action and also to measure the work progress	Baseline Report	June	Base line report prepared	Based on the identified issues, ensure that women leaders and the water committee advocate in Local Governance
Formed and strengthened water management committees	Facilitate capacity building training	January	Regularise Water management committee meeting on their functioning	Planned for the opening of a committee bank account for sustainable water protection work
Community awareness developed on their role on water conservation and management	Village meeting on the water management committee(3 villages)(Awareness)	February	Village level awareness is continuing every month	Ensure the continuation of the committee
Water management Committee formed in 3 villages and awareness built up on the role of the committee	Formation of Water Management Committee	February &March	Committee involved community for cleaning of water source surroundings and water conservation	Follow up on regular meeting
Training conducted for 50 women directly and 100 women indirectly (through peer learning by 5 selected women leaders) on water management, eco-resoration, and governance participation	Peer- learning sessions and exposure visits to succesfull women - led water governance and eco- restoration	January 28th ande 29th 2026 27th 28th April 2026 12th June 2026		
Planted 4,000 seed balls in forest areas to support plantation and forest protection by Women leaders and Young people	Facilitated community orientation, seedball preparation, and saplings collection	July and August 2026	Plantation of 1000 saplings and 4000 seedballs	Ensuring the maintenance by women leaders and committee members

Water sample collected and testing of one village completed	Water testing ensured by the Committee through linkages with the Government.	March	Water testing report completed	
Revival of 10 local water sources and installation of 1 water purification solutions.	Cleaning and renovation of damaged water bodies Installation of the Iron Removal plant/machine	April 2026	Women leaders and young people collective action to protect streams and clean village ponds, hand-pump areas 1 Iron Removal plant established within this partnership 1 Iron Removal plant mobilized from Watershed	Ensure the establishment of an Iron Removal plant by Watershed Ensure maintenance of Iron Removal plants by the Community Water Management Committee
Along with an awareness rally in the village Stream water was checked by the community involvement during the observation of World Water Day	Observation of World Water Day Observation of World Water Day	March		
Awareness meeting organised in 3 villages on anti-fire	Awareness on Plantation drive	February & March		
Monthly organised the meeting in 3 village	Monthly planning and review meeting with the women's group and Community Water Committees	January to May	Currently Coomunity Water Committee continue the process	

DELAYS OR CHALLENGES



- Most of the hand pumps in the area are having unsafe water which are the only source of drinking water and poses health risk for people. Sinceit is not possible to establish anew source immediately, we advised people for some methods to make hand pump water healthy and safe such as boiling and filtering, chlorination etc. Along with this we also ensuring the water managing committee and the community to present the issue in gram sabha demand for water testing.
- Once the issues are discussed and approved, the PEO is responsible to write down the decision in the gramsabha minute register. But the PEO and Sarpanch sometimes delay in writing the demands of people to prioritize other projects.
- Regularaizing the bank account
- Achieving community ownership on safe water management is a challenge. It is difficult to motivate people to act on own initiative. Because people always prioritize their own need, not the community need.

DELAYS OR CHALLENGES

Outline any revisions made to the original workplan, including newly added or adjusted activities. Explain the rationale for changes and implications for project delivery.

NA

Revised Activities	Reasons for change	New time line	Responsible

COMMUNICATIONS VISIBILITY

Summarize communications efforts, outreach, media engagement, and visibility actions undertaken during the period (e.g., press releases, social media, publications).



ନୂଆଁମୁଣ୍ଡା ଗ୍ରାମରେ ବିଶ୍ୱ ଜଳ ଦିବସ ପାଳନ

ନୂଆଁମୁଣ୍ଡା, ୨୪।୩: ଜିତା ଅନୁଷ୍ଠାନ ଓ ଆଇ.ସି.ଏ.ଏନ, ସୁଇଜରଲାଣ୍ଡର ମିଳିତ ସହଯୋଗରେ ବିଶ୍ୱ ଜଳ ଦିବସ ପାଳନ ହୋଇ ଯାଇ । ଦେବଗଡ ଜିଲ୍ଲା ବାରକୋଟ ବ୍ଲକ ଅନ୍ତର୍ଗତ ସାରୁଆଲି ଗ୍ରାମ ପଞ୍ଚାୟତର ନୂଆଁମୁଣ୍ଡା ଗ୍ରାମରେ ଜିତା ଅନୁଷ୍ଠାନର ଜଳସଞ୍ଚ କାର୍ଯ୍ୟକ୍ରମ ଅନ୍ତର୍ଗତ ଯୁବ ସ୍ୱେଚ୍ଛାସେବୀ ତଥା ଗ୍ରାମର ମହିଳା ମିଶି ଗ୍ରାମର ଝରଣା ସଫା କରିବା ସହ ଗାଧୋଇ ବା ପାଇଁ ମାଟି ପକାଇ ପାଣି ବାଞ୍ଚି ରଖିଥିଲେ । ଏଥିସହ ବାସ୍ତବ ଗାଁର ଝିଅ ମାନେ ଗ୍ରାମବାସୀଙ୍କ ସହ ଏଇ ବିଶ୍ୱ ଜଳ ଦିବସ ଅବସରରେ ଜଳ ସଂରକ୍ଷଣ ତଥା ବିଶୁଦ୍ଧ ପାଳୀୟ ଜଳ ସମ୍ବନ୍ଧୀୟ ସ୍ଲୋଗାନ ଦେଇ ଏକ ସଚେତନତା ଶୋଭାଯାତ୍ରା କରିଥିଲେ । ଏଥିରେ ଜିତା ଅନୁଷ୍ଠାନର କର୍ମୀ ରୁପେଶ ବେହେରା, ପଞ୍ଚାନନ ବିଶ୍ୱାଳ, ଶ୍ରଦ୍ଧାଞ୍ଜଳି ସାହୁ ଓ ମନୋଦରୀ ସାହୁ ସକ୍ରିୟ ସହଯୋଗ କରି ଥିଲେ ।



ROURKELA | 25 March, 2026

Celebrating World Water Day in Nuamunda

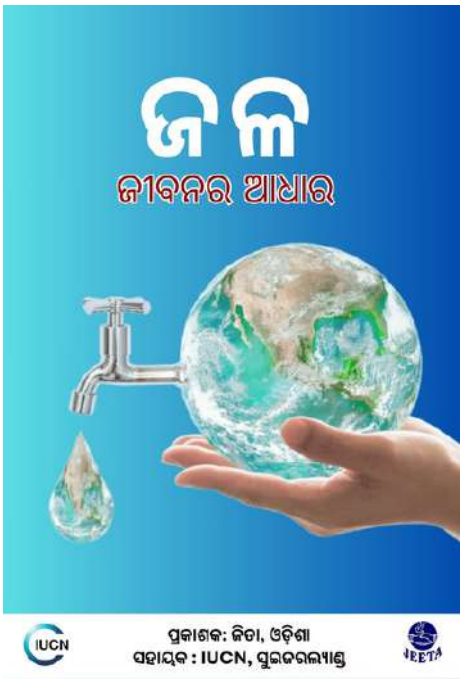
Deogarh (Corresp., 24-03-26): Earlier, on 22-03-2026, World Water Day was celebrated with the cooperation of Rik Jita Anushthan and ICUN, Switzerland. In Nuamunda village of Saruali village panchayat under Barkot block of Devgarh district, the young volunteers under the Jalsakhi program of the Jita Institute and the women of the village cleaned the village stream and blocked the water by putting soil for bathing. Apart from this, the girls of the village along with the villagers took part in an awareness procession on the occasion of World Water Day with slogans related to water conservation and clean drinking water. Jita Institute workers Rupesh Behera, Panchanan Vishwawal, Shradhanjali Sahu and Dunnodari Sahu actively contributed.

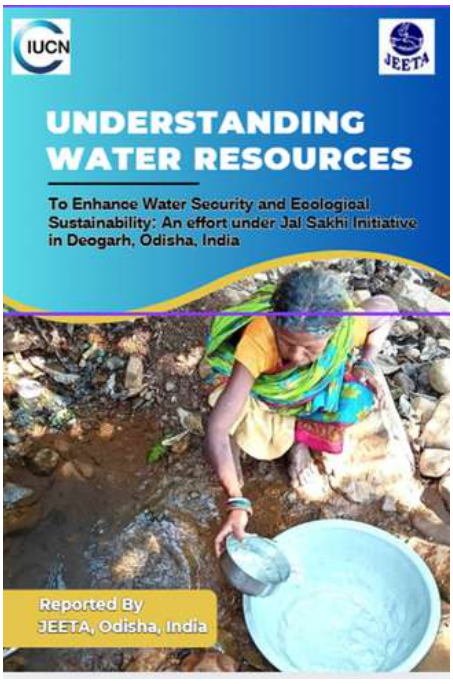


JEETA's post

JEETA is in Deogarh
19 February

Participatory Rural Appraisal (PRA) in action at Taldihi village...
Through a ***collaborative water resource mapping exercise***, ***community members*** came together to identify and map existing water sources including wells, hand pumps, ponds, and other seasonal sources. The activity helped us understand local water availability, usage patterns, and challenges faced by households. This participatory approach ensures that future water planning and conservation efforts are community-driven, inclusive, and sustainable.
#jalsakhiprogram
#JEETA
#deogarh
#iucn
@iucn_official @iucnasia

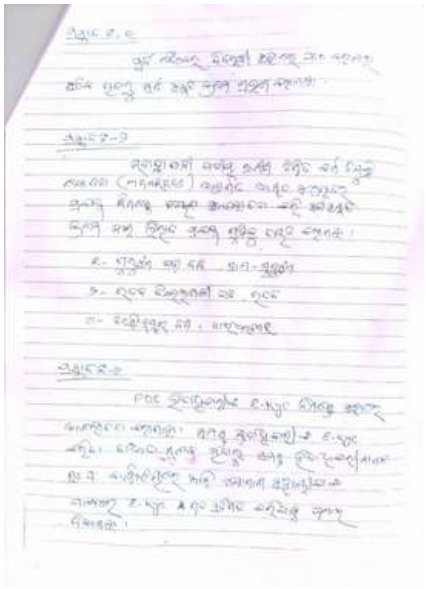


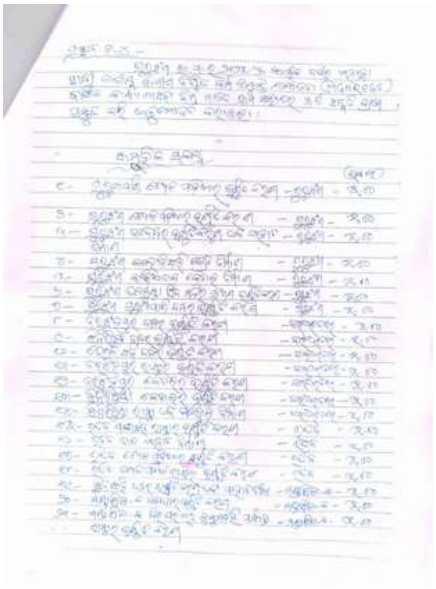




COMMUNICATIONS VISIBILITY

Summarize communications efforts, outreach, media engagement, and visibility actions undertaken during the period (e.g., press releases, social media, publications).











RESOLUTIONS PASSED BY GRAMSABHA

EVENTS AND PARTICIPATION

List and describe key project events, meetings, or workshops held during the reporting period. Include participation details.

Event Title / Description	Date	Location	Number of Participants (Men)	Number of Participants (Women)	Total Participants
Capacity building of women leaders on water management, eco restoration and Governance participa	28th & 29th january 2026	Prakrutipalli Gurusang	10	58	68
Training and workshop	7th February 2026	Nuamunda	0	45	45
Training and workshop	10th February 2026	Taldihi	0	44	44
Training and workshop	22nd February 2026	Sindurmunda	0	37	37
Observation of World water day	22nd March2026	Nuamunda	4	32	36
Obervation of BanMohatsav and plantation drive	July 1st week	Nuamunda, Sindurmunda and Taldihi	100	160	260
Awareness and Plantation drive	Aug 2026	3 Panchayat	150	200	350





EXPENDITURES OVERVIEW

BRIDGE -Grant agreement reporting template Grant Agreement number: 08 JEETA	APPROVED BUDGET Period of implementation 01/12/2025 - 15/07/2026	Financial Report 1 01/12/2025-28/02/2026	Financial Report 2 28/02/2026-15/07/2026		
Categories	**Total Cost (in CHF)**	**Total Cost Period 1 (in CHF)**	**Total Cost Period 2 (in CHF)**	**Total Cost Period 1+2 (in CHF)**	**Balance = Budget - Total Cost**
1. Personnel costs					
Personnel costs	**3,213**	1,310	1,910	3,220	-7
2. Travel and Logisitics					
Travel and Logisitics	**407**	172	232	404	3
3. Training / Workshops					
Training / Workshops	**2,027**	802	1,202	2,004	23
4. Materials and Supplies					
Materials and Supplies	**2,579**	0	2,613	2,613	-34
5. Communications and Outreach			0		
Communications and Outreach	**634**	359	275	634	0
6. Monitoring and Reporting			0		
Monitoring and Reporting	**434**	55	368	423	11
7. Other (specify) (Local Partner Coordination)					
Other	**652**	302	346	647	4
8. Total eligible costs of the Action	**9,946**	**2,999.35**	**6,946**	**9,946**	**0**