ANNUAL REPORT 2013-14
LIVOLINK FOUNDATION
BHUBANESWAR
Our Mission
Addressing sustainable livelihoods and well-being of disadvantaged communities

Our Vision
To promote appropriate farm and non-farm sector livelihoods that has bearing on the quality of life of poor
To get established as one of the leading technical resource agencies on livelihood interventions in Eastern India
Farmer distress has increased in the country over the past decade. Today marginal small-holder farmers are feeling compelled to invest heavily in modern high-cost input agriculture. Lack of knowledge in sustainable agricultural options and inefficient management of natural resources such as water and land leads to inefficient agricultural practice, sub-optimal production and degradation in the natural resource base. In the past few years, Livolink Foundation has strived to work with communities where such issues are intrinsically addressed.

Since its inception in 2010, Livolink has directly and indirectly worked with the poorest and under-privileged rural and tribal communities for augmenting their livelihoods. On the broader note, Livolink’s experiences have repeatedly pointed to the need of strengthening poor and marginal rural communities with appropriate knowledge and skills for water management and sustainable agriculture practices. Over the past few years, Livolink Foundation has evolved into a theme-based socio-technical support
agency, identifying appropriate strategies and interventions based on regional needs and opportunities. However, during the past year we have initiated activities that focus on working directly with the communities at the grassroots – living among them, interacting with them and dreaming with them of a better tomorrow. Other innovative initiatives in collaboration with different stakeholders have also been front-lined.

We have been able to cover more than one and a half lakh poor and marginal farming households through the System of Rice Intensification initiatives with our network partners across six states. Various innovations have been developed in farm implements and application of the SRI principles to various food and cash crops. Farm productivity has increased substantially through the interventions and food self-sufficiency also been addressed. Through the Diversion Based Irrigation programme, close to 70,000 households in fringe pockets of 13 states have reaped benefits. Innovations like the Hydraulic Ram and Solar models have been developed. To cross-pollinate our learnings and to highlight initiatives from the grassroots, we have brought out unique publications and documents for influencing policy and practice. We have been successful in collaborating with a diverse range of stakeholders like the Government and allied departments, donors, private institutions and civil society organizations to carry forth our vision of serving the poor and marginalized communities.

We now strive forward to continue innovate and push new frontiers for catalyzing changes in the lives and well-being of rural communities. Raising funds, building the capacities of our staff and bringing on board varied like-minded stakeholders are the challenges that confront us now. We hope that the reflections shared in the annual report will not only shed light on our journey over the past year, but also strengthen our mandate to make steady progress in building resilient communities.
Background

System for Rice Intensification or SRI, is a set of farming practices that involves management of plant, soil, water and nutrient for enhancing crop productivity. The SRI methodology was synthesized originally by Fr. Henri de Laulanie during the early ‘80s, in an African nation - Madagascar. SRI was introduced much later on in India during 2002. However, it has gradually evolved as more and more actors are showing interest and making earnest efforts for its promotion. During the last half a decade or so, there has been rapid spread and adoption of this methodology among small and marginal farmers. The novel initiative taken up by Sir Dorabji Tata Trust (SDTT), Mumbai during 2008 for promoting System of Rice Intensification, has been noteworthy and successful in up-scaling this innovation across 11 states of the country.

Several yield assessment studies including undertaken by SRI Secretariat revealed the superior performance of SRI over conventional method of paddy cultivation in different agro climatic conditions. The principles of SRI that were synthesized for growing paddy, have also been tried in non-paddy crops. In recent past, few farmers have applied some/all of these principles to important crops like wheat, finger-millet and vegetables and have got immensely benefited. Accordingly, the Trust has also encouraged farmers for growing other crops which is being referred to as System of Crop Intensification (SCI). The program has gained support from the state Governments in various states. The national level SRI Secretariat and the nodal partner NGOs have played a crucial role in mainstreaming the programme at the Government level.
Outreach

The SRI programme supported by SDTT and coordinated by Livolink Foundation mostly enables poor and marginal farmers to adopt the innovative methodology in hilly, mountainous and rain-fed conditions across the country. The programme now benefits almost one and a half lakh households till the 2013-14 kharif season, implemented by a network of 70 partner organizations. The initiative is spread over six intensive programme states of India viz. Odisha, Jharkhand, Bihar, Chhattisgarh, Assam and Manipur. This encompasses 51 districts with average area coverage of 0.68 acre/farmer in the said six states.

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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>States Covered</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Districts Covered</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>82</td>
<td>104</td>
<td>109</td>
<td>94</td>
<td>65</td>
<td>51</td>
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<tr>
<td>No of Partners</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>5</td>
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<td>161</td>
<td>143</td>
<td>127</td>
<td>76</td>
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<tr>
<td>No of Farmers</td>
<td>11000</td>
<td>14000</td>
<td>37000</td>
<td>65043</td>
<td>90436</td>
<td>150082</td>
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<td>134248</td>
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<tr>
<td>Acreage covered</td>
<td>8140</td>
<td>21544</td>
<td>27184</td>
<td>47247</td>
<td>89093</td>
<td>91006</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Per HH acreage</td>
<td>0.22</td>
<td>0.33</td>
<td>0.3</td>
<td>0.31</td>
<td>0.51</td>
<td>0.68</td>
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Progress & Accomplishments

• Monitoring & Hand-holding Support

The Foundation has been actively involved in providing hand holding support to partner organization through regular visits, interaction with project staff of partner NGOs and participating in on- & off-field trainings programmes. During this financial year, monitoring visits were conducted in states of Chhattisgarh, Odisha, Manipur, Bihar and Jharkhand. The focus has been on strengthening existing SRI interventions and reviewing progress at the district and state levels, discussions with partners for scaling-up of SRI and replicating innovations in the methodology as well as initiating systems to mainstream SRI with on-going development programmes at the Government level.

• On-Farm SRI Research with Partners NGOs

On-farm research on System of Rice Intensification (SRI) was carried out to establish the relationship between various aspects of SRI with yield attributing factors over three consecutive kharif seasons in farmers’ field in four different agro-climatic zones of India with four partner organizations in the states of Odisha, Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand and Bihar for wider adoptability of the SRI methodology with refinement of the practices.

Some of the key findings reveal that the management practice followed in SRI method of cultivation produces significantly more number of panicles per square metre and grains per panicle. Moreover, out of the four major practices of SRI, if due to some reason, we are deviating from one practice, still we find increment in growth parameters and yield attributes over pure conventional method. The research results also demonstrate that if the seedling age exceeds 12 days, for 16 DAS seedlings we can go
for single seedling transplanting at 25x25 cm² spacing but for 22 DAS seedling, we can go for two seedlings transplanting at a spacing of 20x20 cm² for ensuring better yield.

- **Collaborative SRI Research with State Agricultural University**

A collaborative research program on SRI has been initiated with a State Agricultural University - Bidhan Chandra Krishi Vishwavidyalaya (BCKV), Mohanpur, West Bengal. Under the programme, on-station and on-farm trials on aspects like nutrient management, weed management and water management are already in operation.

This project, titled “Improvement of productivity of land through diversity and activity of soil organisms in various agro-ecosystems of System of Rice Intensification (SRI) in West Bengal” has been closely monitored by Livolink Foundation. The on-station trials on SRI are being carried out in the research stations of BCKV and the on-farm trials are being experimented in locations of two partners - Rajarhat PRASARI and Ambuja Cement Foundation. During the past year, SRI research on estimation of green house gas emission, nutrient balance, pest infestation and water saving in SRI vis-à-vis traditional paddy has been conducted. The two on-stations and two on-farm locations are currently spread across four districts in West Bengal. A mid-term workshop for the kharif season was organized during October 2013 in the University campus for disseminating results and progress under this research venture.

- **SRI Research on Soil Nutrient Status**

To assess the impact of SRI adoption on soil nutrient status, which would help in formulating effective strategy for making up for nutrient loss if any in the SRI farmlands - a pilot project has been taken up in North Gangetic plains (Gaya district of Bihar) as
well as in Western Himalayan region (Rudraprayag district of Uttarakhand). This project aims towards analyzing the status of micro and macro nutrients for different paddy (kharif) and wheat (rabi) crop rotations for a period of three years. The soil-status analysis is being carried out in a mini-soil laboratory existing in the office of Livolink Foundation with support from Government departments and associated partner organizations. Data for two seasons have so far been analyzed and the rest are in process.

- **Social Research on SRI**

Livolink Foundation in collaboration with the Centre for Environment and Development (CED), Thiruvananthapuram, undertook up a comprehensive study to identify socio-economic factors that support or hinder wider adoption of the SRI methodology. The overall objective of the study was to identify and prioritize socio-economic factors responsible for early adoption and dis-adoption of the SRI methodology by small and marginal farmers and to suggest implementable strategies for its large scale diffusion. The study conducted in the states of Chhattisgarh, Bihar, Manipur and Odisha, has recently been published by Livolink Foundation. Some of the recommendations of the study that was tabled during the last financial year are being implemented at various levels for scaling up of SRI.

- **Model SRI Village**

The SRI Secretariat has taken up a Model SRI Village initiative that was established in village Kuanla, near Athagarh in Cuttack district of Odisha. Integrating the SRI activities with micro-irrigation structures and Diversion Based Irrigation (DBI) has been a prominent feature of this initiative. Low cost vermin-composting units have been created. The
activities were monitored on a time-bound manner during the last financial year.

- **Website and MIS**

  A dedicated website on the SRI program had been launched earlier by the SRI Secretariat. The website presently boasts of an exclusive and updated compilation of information on the SDTT-SRI program, its objectives and outreach, partner initiatives, presentations, publications, documents and global SRI resources. The program also has a unique Management Information System (MIS) reporting system to streamline the reporting mechanism by partners. The web-based software was designed for analyzing the MIS submitted by the partners for SRI activities and status.

- **Partners Meet**

  - **National Level SRI Partners Meet**

    Livolink Foundation during the last financial year organized a National level partner’s meet on System of Rice Intensification during March 21-22, 2014, at Raipur, Chhattisgarh. The event was organized for review of program implementation, as well as for learning and sharing of experiences on SRI from different parts of the country. The theme of the sixth SRI partners meet was on Establishing Convergences and Mainstreaming of the SDTT-SRI Programme: Opportunities and Constraints. The two-day meeting was attended by 60 representatives from SRI partner NGOs, senior officials from the Indira Gandhi Krishi Vishwavidyalaya, Raipur, key officials from the Department of Agriculture, SAMETI and SRLM of the Government of Chhattisgarh. Besides, scientists, organic SRI experts and few farmers from the state were invited to share experience.
State Level SRI Partners Meet

A State Level SRI Partners’ Meet for Odisha was organized by Livolink Foundation in Bhubaneswar during February 2014. The objective of this meeting was for reviewing progress by partner NGOs under the SDTT supported SRI programme and exploring avenues to establish convergences with on-going state level programmes of the Government both at the state and district levels in Odisha.

Knowledge Management & Networking

Livolink Foundation has actively moderated the SRI-India Google Group – an online platform for sharing ideas and information on System of Rice Intensification. The Secretariat has been involved in more than 100 mail postings on happenings from the SRI front during the last financial year. This includes news, event features and updates, latest reports and manuals on SRI and interface with the community network in on-going SRI discussions, debates and on sustainable agriculture systems. Also published is a bi-monthly SRI Update that consolidates information and discussions at this community every two months.

Publications & Documents

Livolink Foundation during the last financial year published a document titled “System of Rice Intensification: Concept and Cases”. This document is a select compilation of cases and stories on the SRI methodology as practiced and narrated by poor and marginal farmers from the states of Odisha, Manipur, Assam, West Bengal, Chhattisgarh, Bihar and Jharkhand. Experiences of farmers in SRI, application of its principles to other major crops as well as innovations taken up are capsuled in this document.

Livolink Foundation also published a comprehensive document titled
“Strategies for diffusion of the SRI Technology in the eastern and north-eastern part of India”. This publication was inaugurated by the Vice-Chancellor of IGKVV in presence of key officials from SDTT and the Government of Chhattisgarh during the SRI partners meet at Raipur. The document brought out by Livolink presents findings of the social research study on SRI done by a team of experts from the Centre for Environment & Development, Thiruvananthapuram, in four SDTT- SRI programme states of Odisha, Manipur, Chhattisgarh and Bihar.

The results of the two years’ on-farm trials on System of Rice Intensification were conducted in different agro-climatic conditions at select partners’ fields. The results were brought out by the SRI Secretariat of Livolink Foundation as a consolidated booklet. The booklet was released during the SRI Partners Meet at Raipur.

Background

Jamsetji Tata Trust (JTT), Mumbai has been promoting DBI through a network of partner organizations across the country. Diversion Based Irrigation (DBI) is a simple and cost effective method that applies gravitational force to guide water from adjacent streams and rivers to the cropping field areas. Hence, DBI also known as ‘Gravity Flow Systems’ - is suitable for undulating, hilly and mountainous terrains. The National Level Programme on DBI supported by Jamsetji Tata Trust targets those families which are predominantly from forest fringes near the origin of streams – the ones who are deprived and excluded from many developmental schemes and programmes.

JTT during October 2008, mounted a national level program on Diversion Based Irrigation with a sanctioned allocation of Rs. 1500 lakh spread over a period of three years. Further, during July 2011 this program was boosted with an additional financial outlay of Rs. 3000 lakhs for implementation and promotion of this novel initiative in the country.

Outreach

The DBI Secretariat which was established during April 2010 is involved in monitoring of the said programme supported by the Trusts. The Secretariat is presently operating from Livolink Foundation at Bhubaneswar. The DBI Secretariat assists partner NGOs in providing hand holding support for design and implementation of DBI structures,
capacity building and facilitate cross-learning amongst the partners in the operational areas.

Presently, the DBI program is operational in 13 states of the country. The initiative has benefitted 68,363 families in 590 villages of 48 districts across 13 states of the country implemented by a network of 80 partners including copartners.

The gross irrigation potential under the DBI program is 74,018 acres. However the season wise irrigational potential generated is as follows.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Agricultural seasons</th>
<th>Irrigational potential (In Acres)</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Kharif</td>
<td>42012</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rabi</td>
<td>27750</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Summer</td>
<td>4256</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>74018</td>
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</table>

**Progress & Accomplishments**

- **Monitoring & Hand-holding Support**

Livolink Foundation during the past financial year has taken up regular monitoring visits to NGO partners’ areas for review on the progress made on DBI interventions across the country. The programme states in which monitoring visits were conducted are Odisha, Assam and Manipur.

Such visits have helped in keeping track of progress in implementation of DBI schemes. It has simultaneously enabled partners in receiving hand holding support on varied domains of technicalities involved in the programme such as pre-feasibility studies, feasibility studies as well as survey, design & estimate preparation, community mobilization, institutional arrangements, agricultural planning and measures for sustainability of DBI structures.

- **Partners Meets**
Livolink Foundation has taken initiatives for organizing National Level partners’ meet of DBI partners every year. During the last financial year, a national Level Partners Meet was organized during March 24-25, 2014, at Puri, Odisha. A total number of 61 participants attended the said programme that enabled cross learning, collective decision making for strengthening of program and policy advocacy amongst the Trust, partners and other stakeholders. The partners meet has been a crucial platform for reviewing progress of the DBI endeavour and chalking strategies for taking forward the programme in the future.

- **Training & Capacity Building**

Initiatives to induct training for partners and field level practitioners on DBI have been undertaken by Livolink at regular intervals. Such intensive training programmes designed for capacitating partner NGOs have focused mostly on technical aspects in DBI structures and related aspects.

During the last financial year, a training program was organized by Livolink Foundation during October 2013, in association with RNBA, Imphal, for implementing NGO partners of Manipur and Assam. The objective of this event was for enhancing knowledge on technical aspects and community mobilization in DBI. The training programme was attended by 24 participants from 11 partners of Manipur and two partners from Assam.
The most recent training programme was conducted during February 2014 for field staff of few partner NGOs based in South Odisha. The components included orientation to application of GPS survey, intake structure layouts and pipe-line demarcation in DBI systems. The training programmes were conducted separately in two field locations - one in Nandapur and the other in Kundra Block, both in Koraput District, Odisha.

- **Pre-funding Assessment**

Technical feasibility assessments of new DBI sites identified by partners have been undertaken in Odisha. Before the sanction and approval of a new project, the Secretariat takes up the pre funding assessment of the proposed DBI project as and when desired by the Trusts. It helps the partner organization to modify and do the needful amendments in the submitted proposal making the project technically viable and socio-economically feasible, if required. On the basis of prefunding assessment visit, the Secretariat also provides feedback & suggestions to the Trusts. The staff from DBI Secretariat has visited NGOs for pre-funding assessment of DBI systems.

- **Idea Incubation:**

Standardization of location specific ideas in different DBI schemes of implementing partners and up scaling the ideas are efforts initiated as part of this programme.

- All the Cultivable Command area cannot be irrigated because of high elevation and called as Non Irrigable Command Area (NICA) in Effective Command Area. Some of the ideas implemented by the farmers in the DBI sites of Jamgoria Sevabrata have been promoted to irrigate a part of NICA. The farmers used the net head available at outlet inserting the suction & delivery pipe to irrigate the high elevated land holdings.
- The location specific ideas of construction of low cost intake structures have been promoted.
The farmer-Friendly techniques for Head measurement from source to outlet like A-Frame, U-Tube/Hydro Markers/Hand Levels have been adopted to measure during survey.

- **Innovations**

Different innovative projects like interconnecting of artesian oozing wells to supply irrigation, Hydraulic Ram project to lift the water from the stream flowing below than the upland for irrigation have been promoted. Innovative projects related to DBI adding allied objectives like drinking water supply, converting of hydro energy to mechanical energy to install huller machines, converting hydro energy to electrical energy for supply of rural electricity along with Irrigation facility has been undertaken as well as planned ahead.

**Hydraulic Ram:**

An Innovative Project of Hydraulic Ram has been installed to lift 65000 liters water per day to upland at 30mt. higher than the stream flowing below. A hydraulic ram pump is a device that uses energy of falling water to lift a lesser amount of water to a higher elevation than the source. These are relatively economical and provide trouble-free maintenance for many years with zero operating cost.

A hydraulic ram under the DBI programme was installed previously during 2012-13 period, in Barba village of Nandapur Block, Koraput district, Odisha. Agricultural cultivation of 14.81 acres included Cereals-Ragi (SRI), Vegetables - potato, beans, tomato, chilly & Spices - turmeric & ginger, oil seeds - ground nut & Niger & Tuber crop-Sweet Potato (25 farmers each 0.75 acres). Further, 5 acres of tissue-banana cultivation was also done during the last 2013 kharif season. This innovative activity was taken up by the communities in collaboration partner NGO PRAGATI and the Department of Horticulture, Koraput District.
Another hydraulic ram project was installed during the last financial year in Lungin village of Nandapur Block of Koraput district whereby 15.7 acres of land were cultivated that comprised of paddy, ragi and vegetables like brinjal and tomato.

**Solar Model**

In Sukriput village of Bheja GP, Nandapur Block of Koraput District in Odisha - an innovative perennial solar lifting project under DBI has been initiated. A total number of 24 farmers of the village have been practicing agriculture in around 21.5 acres of rain-fed land in Kharif seasons. Some 6-8 farmers have been using the diesel pump set to lift the water from the Garadi perennial stream flowing below to grow vegetables in 4-5 acres of land in winter and summer season, since there is no irrigation source in the village.

Realizing the essence of the poor tribal communities to irrigate the upland, Livolink Foundation along with an implementing NGO Partner-PRAGATI have taken up the initiative for lifting water for irrigation without using petrol/diesel/kerosene and minimizing the cost of cultivation for irrigation by the farmers. After a technical assessment study by a technical team from Livolink Foundation, 5 HP AC Mono block pump operated by solar energy was installed in the village and an over-head tank was constructed to supply water through piped irrigation to 21.5 acres of land throughout the year. Details of the endeavour include:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Discharge at source</th>
<th>30 lps</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Suction Head</td>
<td>6 mt.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Delivery Head</td>
<td>10mt.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Dynamic Head</td>
<td>16 mt.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Discharge in Liters per day at delivery points</td>
<td>12 lps</td>
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Cost of the Project - SDTT support (Rs.)

4.21 lakh (5KWatt solar Panel, 5HP AC mono block pump, HD GI mounting structure, 5HP solar controller-
| Cost of the Community | 1.00 lakh |
| contribution (Rs.)    |          |
| Area covered in Kharif-2013 | 21.50 Acres |
| Crops covered         | Paddy, Ragi & Vegetables like potato, beans, tomato, chilly, brinjal, ginger etc |
| Area Covered in Rabi-2013 (Acres) | Vegetables (cauliflower, cabbage, tomato) - 21.5 acre |
| Convergence Programme  | Creation of Poly-Vermi beds (10 nos) through a Community Development Project (CDP) support to PRAGATI by Troicare |

- **Publications**

Documentation, validation, standardization and dissemination of available technologies related to DBI in various states forms a core component of the Trust supported programme. Disseminating technical knowhow is crucial for leveraging with Government and advocacy at policy level in DBIM. In the said context Livolink has taken initiatives to bring out different documents like case studies, success stories and technical manuals.

- The DBI Secretariat completed work related to a hand book on Pipe Based Gravity Fed Irrigation System. The document was finalized after inviting suggestions from partner NGOs to make the manual more useful. The publication was released during the most recent DBI partners meet held during March 2014 at Puri, Odisha.
- An information brochure on Hydraulic Ram Pump System was published by the Foundation that has been made operational in few select DBI sites in Odisha. This document was also released during the Puri partners meet in March 2014.

- **Management Information System**

A basic Management Information System (MIS) for DBI have been developed to track the progress and impact. The information so collected has been analysed and feedback provided to the partners.
A **web-based GIS system** has been developed by Livolink Foundation. It was developed with support of CSMPL – a techno-based agency in Bhubaneswar. This feature is full-fledgedly in operation and the program achievements are analyzed in different modalities and indicators. The GIS based system enables the programme as well as partner NGOs to learn about the outreach and other details of the national DBI programme.

**Background**

The “Targeted Rural Initiatives for Poverty Termination and Infrastructure” (TRIPTI) is being implemented by the Odisha Poverty Reduction Mission (OPRM) with the assistance of the World Bank. The project’s aim is to enhance social and economic empowerment of the rural poor, particularly poor and extremely poor and vulnerable groups in ten 10 coastal districts Odisha through development of self-sustained and community managed institutions.

Harsha Trust, Livolink Foundation & Foundation for Ecological Security, through a consortium had been contracted during 2012 to undertake the “Support on Implementation of Agriculture Productivity Enhancement Measures through Improved Package of Agriculture Practice Including System for Rice Intensification (SRI)” initiative, under the TRIPTI project. The Project initiated agriculture based livelihood interventions from the year 2011-12 and during the Kharif and Rabi Seasons of 2012-13.

During the last financial year, Livolink Foundation’s association in the project came to a successful end. Various interventions on
agricultural productivity enhancement in paddy like System of Rice Intensification (SRI) and in other field/horticultural crops through the System of Crop Intensification could be taken up in selected blocks of Coastal Odisha.

The overall achievements are summed up below:

- Livolink’s intervention through the consortium mode in the TRIPTI project was spread across five districts of Balasore, Bhadrak, Jajpur, Cuttack and Anugul.
- A total number of 188 villages in 63 Gram panchayats spread across 11 Blocks of the five districts were covered during the entire project cycle.
- 11552 households benefitted from the initiatives, through improved agricultural package of practices including SRI.
- 2096 farmers practiced System of Rice Intensification in 1426 acres of land.
- 6004 farmers cultivated vegetables with improved practices in 1944 acres of land.
- 3479 farmers practiced part of the SRI principles in other crops like blackgram, green gram, sunflower & groundnut in 3017 acres of land.
- 26 Farmer Field Schools (FFS) with 846 members could be established.
- 22 FLDs were conducted in 9.45 acres of land.
- 66% of the farmers who were covered during the project period may be classified under Poor & Extremely Poor and Vulnerable Groups (EPGV) category.
- 208 Producers Groups were promoted during the project period.
- Trainings, exposures & block-level workshops were frequently conducted to sensitize project staff and farmers on SRI and improved agricultural practices.

INITIATIVES UNDER MKSP

Livolink Foundation has been appointed as a resource agency for providing monitoring and technical support to the Mahila Kisan Sashaktikaran Pariyojana (MKSP) project for the South Odisha Development Initiative (SODI). The main focus of this initiative is to
ensure food security of the target groups, enhance house-hold level income and promote vibrant community based institutions of women farmers for improving their collective bargaining power. The MKSP project is being implemented by few select partners in four districts of South Odisha and one district in Chhattisgarh. Led by Madhyam Foundation, the other consortium partners include RCDC, Harsha Trust, Chetna Organic Farmers Association, Bastar Sevak Mandal, OPDSC and PRAGATI spread across the districts of Nabarangapur, Koraput, Malkangiri and Koraput in Odisha and Bastar in Chhattisgarh.

Livolink Foundation, which acts as a monitoring agency in the project has appointed a full-time staff for review and support for the said initiative. Moreover, an experienced professional of Livolink is also engaged in overseeing progress under the MKSP activities.

INITIATIVES UNDER ATMA

Livolink Foundation has over the past few years taken initiatives for mainstreaming various livelihood models including System of Rice Intensification (SRI) through various Government supported schemes.

Notable has been a project titled “Addressing Food Security through System of Rice Intensification (SRI)” taken up in Muniguda Block of Rayagada District, Odisha. This initiative is being supported by the Agriculture Technology Management Agency (ATMA), Government of Odisha, under which Livolink Foundation has been granted 16.64 lakhs rupees for piloting the said initiatives. The agricultural activities have directly been implemented by Livolink through its field staff stationed at the grassroots level. Till the last financial year, 357 farmers spread across 14 villages in Muniguda Block have taken up SRI as a yield increasing agricultural method in 460 acres of agricultural land.
Livolink Foundation entered into an agreement with National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) for undertaking a series of training on “Motivation to lead farmers on technology adoption & dissemination” in 12 Blocks of Balasore District, Odisha. This is primarily under the NABARD sponsored pilot project on augmenting farm productivity in partnership with local NGOs. The training programme aspires to enhance capability of lead farmers on techno-managerial aspects and motivate them to play a pivotal role in agriculture development through technology adoption and dissemination.

The main objective of the trainings was for enhancing productivity of major crops of the district by 30%, income enhancement of farmers by 50% as well as reduction in cost of agricultural production. To achieve the goal, NABARD identified and presented several agricultural practices with lead farmers like use of quality seed, seed treatment, integrated nutrient & pest management (INM & IPM), application of organic manure, water management and farm mechanization.

Livolink Foundation in this context organized a series of training programs to address the said objectives. The training programmes that were organized at the village level emphasized issues like attitudinal change, effective communication, group work and effective coordination. Skills required for intra and inter-group
functions were highlighted in such trainings. The entire process was based on participatory methodology. A total number of 209 training programmes were conducted, spread over the period from July to December 2013.

Training Manual

A training manual was developed by Livolink Foundation for facilitating the training programmes under the NABARD supported pilot project. The module was developed into a Trainer’s Guidance Manual and shared with NABARD, trainers and partner NGOs responsible for implementing the project. The manual was developed in Odia as the training was intended to be imparted in the regional language. External resource experts were hired on consultancy basis to develop this document.

Training of Trainers
A two-day event on Training of Trainers (ToT) was organized by Livolink Foundation on 2nd & 3rd July 2013 in CYSD, Bhubaneswar. The purpose of the event was to make trainers acquainted with the design of the training and how it needs to be conducted at the field level. A total number of 32 participants selected for the training took part in the two-day event. Mr. B. Sridhar, AGM-NABARD, Balasore, was present as a resource person to provide guidance for betterment of the training. This two-day event subsequently helped the trainers in imparting training at various villages and blocks of Balasore District under the said initiative.

**CSR INITIATIVES WITH TATA STEEL**

**Background**

To address the socio-economic upliftment of targeted beneficiaries in its operational areas through land based livelihood interventions, Tata Steel Rural Development Society (TSRDS) initiated discussions during this reporting year with Livolink Foundation, towards partnership for implementation of developmental projects in TSRDS project villages in Ganjam District of Odisha.

Livolink at the onset carried out a two-day preliminary visit to some of the operational areas of TSRDS in Ganjam District during October 2013 for a holistic and integrated planning of desired community-based interventions. Accordingly, a technical team comprising of three experts from Livolink visited TSRDS, Gopalpur later on during December 2013 for a detailed and extensive plan to develop an understanding on CSR activities in the area. The visit also enabled Livolink to obtain an overview of implemented and ongoing activities in the operational areas. A further assessment study was done subsequently during January 2014. These visits were conducted for assessing the need of the area, its people & beneficiaries, intervention profile, existing cropping pattern, agriculture and irrigation systems, institutional arrangements and for discussing intervention areas as well as future course of action.
Interventions Planned

Livolink Foundation is in the process of submitting a detailed project proposal during the financial year 2014-15, to Tata Steel Rural Development Society for consideration on the basis of the earlier need assessment studies. Such studies were notably carried out by professionals and experts working with Livolink. Based on an agreement to be initiated between the parties, the project implementation would be carried out soon. This joint venture with TSRDS in its CSR activities is expected to be one of a kind in the existing interventions of Livolink Foundation. The interventions should formally commence during the forth-coming financial year.
GOVERNANCE

The Board of Trustees of Livolink Foundation comprises of eminent persons drawn from external stakeholder groups such as social development and academia. The present board is comprised of five members. During the reporting year, the Trustees of the Foundation met once at Bhubaneswar.

**Governing Board**

Dr Haribandhu Panda  
Ms Rekha Panigrahi  
Mr Biswanath Sinha  
Mr Manas Satpathy  
Mr Biren Bhuta

**Professionals and Staff**

Mr Tushar Kanta Dash  
Mr Ashutosh Pal  
Mr Anibrata Biswas  
Mr Kamakshi Prasad Padhy  
Mr Shreesh Tripathy  
Mr Mano Ranjan Panda  
Ms Suraiya Tarannum  
Mr Dibyajyoti Behera

**Auditor**

M/s P C Das and Associates, Bhubaneswar