



# NAGADA NUTRITION FESTIVAL

**CREATING AWARENESS ON NUTRITIONAL FOOD HABITS AMONG THE JUANGA PVTG**

Organised on  
March 21, 2023  
at  
Upara Nagada  
Sukinda Block, Jajpur dist., Odisha (India)

Nagada made international headlines in July 2016, when the death of at least 19 Juanga children in the area because of malnutrition, within a span of four months, was reported which divulged that this Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Group (PVTG) suffered from severe malnutrition and other health issues. Nagada, the cluster of then unconnected villages also lacked basic amenities needed for survival. After this incident, the Odisha Government immediately took action not only to address the issue of malnutrition, but also for infrastructure development. The Odisha Livelihoods Mission (OLM) also charted an exhaustive long-term plan for the overall well-being of the Juanga tribe in Nagada.

Trickle Up's efforts to complement and supplement the governmental interventions for the development of the Juangas were accelerated after its new implementation partner NIRMAN opened a field office at Chingudipal, the panchayat headquarters, in 2022; and two members the field team were placed at Nagada. Since then the Trickle Up-NIRMAN collaborative initiative has been able to ensure some outstanding accomplishments amidst several challenges.





Having expertise to empower the ultra-poor women, Trickle Up in association with NIRMAN developed thematic interventions for socio-economic development of the Juanga tribe which include to supplement and complement their current food habits and dietary intake.



To tackle the difficult issue of malnourishment, Trickle Up promoted nutrition gardens to appropriately utilise the space at the front and rear ends of the houses to grow vegetables.





The households from Nagada have grown nutrition gardens in the yards and have been cultivating around 10/12 varieties of vegetables that can secure 500 grams to 1 kilogram of their daily requirements.

To encourage diverse food habits and recipes of nutritious dishes, NIRMAN and Trickle Up India Foundation (TUIF) initiated food/nutrition festivals in the cluster of Juanga villages to orient the community members on the necessities and ways of preparing healthy and nutritious food with the help of locally available grains and vegetables. After Kankadagudi and Deogan, the 3<sup>rd</sup> such festival was organized at Nagada as the culminating event of the project-year.





NIRMAN in association with TUIF organized the Nutrition Festival at Upara Nagada on March 21, 2023. Shri Ashok Kumar Behuria, Project Director(PD), DRDA, Jajpur was invited as the Chief Guest to this Festival.



Shri Sudarshan Chhotoroy (Sr. Journalist), Shri Prasant Mohanty (Executive Director of NIRMAN), Ms. Saswati Pattnaik (Program Manager, MPOWERED, TUIF) and Shri Dolagovinda Panda, PRADAN also were present on this occasion.





OLM's Block Program Manager for Sukinda, the CSR team of Tata Steel, journalists, and senior officials from NIRMAL and TUIF were also present on the occasion.



Addressing the gathering, Shri Prasant Mohanty (Executive Director of NIRMAL), highlighted the interventions of NIRMAL particularly with Juanga PVTGs in Nagada and also the way forward to empower the women.



A total of more than 700 members of the Juanga community from 9 villages in the Nagada area attended this Nutrition Festival 2023.



In this event that was coordinated by Ms. Arunima Swain (right) from NIRMAN, Ms. Saswati Patnaik (left) from Trickle Up mentioned about the MPOWERED project and its objective, and stressed upon the programs and presence of Trickle Up.

Nagada Nutrition Festival 2023 – March 21, 2023





The Chief Guest felicitated nine Smart Sakhis of the MPOWERED project who are driving changes in the lives of women in the Nagada area and promoting functional literacy using mobile technology and best livelihood.



The Chief Guest also presented sports equipment to youth clubs (male and female) of Nagada to promote different sports among the local youth for physical & mental health.



Addressing the gathering, Project Director of DRDA Shri Ashok Kumar Behuria(extreme right) mentioned that nutrition festivals like this always give you an opportunity to gain knowledge on the preparation of foods from the vegetables available locally. His address (like those of other guests afterwards) was immediately translated into the Juanga dialect by NIRMAM team member Pramod Juanga, making the communication more effective.





“When we are looking around us, you will find the vegetables that are grown without using any pesticide. These vegetables have their nutritional values. Now we should learn how to prepare the food in the best possible way from the crops and vegetables which you produce in the organic way”.





Shri Sudarshan Chhotoroy informed the audience about the situation of Nagada few years back and also about the developmental activities of the Government and other development organizations in the recent past.



Addressing the gathering, Shri Rabindra Jena (BPM, OLM, Sukinda) highlighted the Government's interventions for the area, and extended his support for betterment of the Juanga community.





Shri Dolagovinda Panda from PRADAN stressed upon the recent research on tribals and also shared some interesting facts about the tribal habits explaining how that affects their diet.



Dr Priyadarshini from Sukinda CHC highlighted the requirements of hygienic practices and nutritious food for a healthy family, and advised people to eat varieties of food and vegetables available in their villages.



The State Facilitator of NCNF Odisha Chapter, Dr Muhammad Imran Ali focused on how the households of Nagada can use the nutrition garden to prepare various types of food to keep themselves safe and healthy. He also explained how alcoholism and other bad addictions like 'gutka' can 'kill' the health.



After the speeches from the guests and dignitaries, the youth from Nagada presented a cultural program.





The Chief Guest inaugurated the food stalls set up in the Nutrition Festival. He visited all the stalls and enquired about the recipes prepared by the Juanga women.

On this occasion, the women from nine villages displayed nutritious food products at the stalls. More than 200 varieties of uncultivated foods and other dishes were exhibited in sal-leaf cups. They also displayed a variety of freshly harvested vegetables from their nutrition gardens. Moreover, this was an opportunity for the Juanga tribe to gather information and to share their experiences on healthy, diversifying food, vegetables and crops.

The display included dishes made from a rare food grain locally known as 'katara'. The programme was a big success, and also a great moment for the local communities (particularly the women) of the Nagada area who look forward to more such exciting events in future.









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