

ANNUAL REPORT

2024-25



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Driven by community wisdom, ecological values and scientific approaches, NIRMAN nurtures resilient landscapes, transforming food systems, and a future where nature and people thrive together.



Foreward

Welcome to a moment of deep reflection and collective pride as we present the Annual Report of NIRMAN for the year 2024–25. This compilation is more than a record—it is a testament to the resilience, dedication, and shared purpose that continue to define our journey. Each year, this report offers us an opportunity to pause, assess our progress, and reaffirm our commitment to the communities and ecosystems we serve.

In the past year, the NIRMAN team has demonstrated unwavering dedication to advancing our mission, while strategically planning and implementing programmes that respond to the evolving social, ecological, and climatic realities of our region. This Annual Report provides our village communities, partners, and readers with evidence of our impact, highlighting measurable change, strengthened systems, and renewed local leadership.

Over the last 27 years, NIRMAN has evolved into a key facilitator of community-led development—restoring ecosystems, enhancing food systems, and supporting dignified livelihoods rooted in justice and sustainability. Through interventions in biodiversity conservation, forest tenure security, ecological agriculture, climate-resilient livelihood systems, value addition, community enterprise development, and women-led governance, we have strengthened pathways that ensure both environmental regeneration and community well-being.

We extend our sincere gratitude to our esteemed funding partners—including SHIVIA (UK), Tata Trusts, SWISSAID, Paul Hamlyn Foundation, Karl Kübel Stiftung (KKS) & BMZ Germany, National Foundation for India (NFI), The Hans Foundation, Azim Premji Foundation, HDFC Bank Parivartan, Living Landscapes, AJWS, FES, ICARDA—and to our government partners, including NABARD and Shree Anna Abhiyan (Government of Odisha). Your belief in our mission continues to inspire our work and expand our impact.

We also acknowledge the active participation and leadership of the communities we work with—the Adivasi, Dalit, forest dwelling, women, youth, and farmer collectives whose knowledge, agency, and partnership remain the foundation of our success.

Within these pages, you will find stories of transformation—stories that illustrate how local wisdom, scientific collaboration, and participatory governance can converge to build resilient landscapes, empowered communities, and sustainable futures.

We invite you to explore this report with curiosity, reflection, and hope. Your thoughts and insights continue to guide and strengthen our journey. Thank you for walking with us—today, and in the years to come.



Prasant Mohanty
Executive Director
NIRMAN



ABOUT US

NIRMAN is a grassroots not-for-profit organisation, established in 1997, working on conservation of biodiversity, landscape restoration, ecological agriculture, forest tenure, sustainable management of natural resources and livelihoods in India. It has played a critical role in shaping the discussion around forest conservation, food systems, promotion of agrobiodiversity, restoration of degraded natural ecosystems, and strengthening community-based institutions to face the twin challenges of a changing climate and depleting knowledge- & resource base.

Operating across 14 tribal and coastal districts of Odisha, Chhattisgarh and Assam in India, the organization has improved the food security and livelihoods of 1,00,917 small & marginal farmers from Adivasi, Dalit and forest dwelling communities, through a holistic approach at food issues, adopting a diverse range of climate-smart agriculture and natural resource-based interventions. It has also supported building and strengthening women led community-based institutions for reviving sovereignty of local food systems, enhancing value of farm products and strengthening collective business for sustaining the initiative.

Today NIRMAN is established as a leading development organization in Odisha, working at the grassroots to empower smallholder farmers, fishers, Adivasi (Scheduled Tribes), Dalit (Scheduled Caste) and other marginalized communities. The organization field interventions covered 2547 villages across 45 blocks in 14 districts of Odisha, Chhattisgarh and Assam.



Vision

A just, resilient and inclusive society enabling ecological and social wellbeing of marginalized and local communities

Mission

Inclusive and sustainable development of marginalized and local communities through landscape restoration, climate-resilient food systems, knowledge co-creation, and empowerment, with special focus on women and children.

NIRMAN's work is firmly rooted in the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and is guided by its core thematic areas of Food System Transformation through Agroecology, Landscape Restoration and Responses, Knowledge Co-creation, and Humanitarian Aid. Through agroecological practices, sustainable landscape management, and community-led resilience building, NIRMAN addresses food security, livelihoods, gender equity, and environmental sustainability. Its emphasis on participatory knowledge sharing and timely humanitarian support strengthens community capacities to respond to social and climate-related challenges.

Our Presence

Over the years NIRMAN has significantly advanced inclusive, sustainable, and community-led development across Odisha and beyond. With a presence in 3 states, 14 districts, 45 blocks and 2,547 villages, the organisation has directly impacted 1,00,917 tribal and farming households primarily small and marginal farmers



Balasore, Bargarh, Boudh, Deogarh, Gajapati, Jajpur, Kalahandi, Kandhamal, Keonjhar, Nayagarh ,Puri and Rayagada Districts of Odisha along with Mahasamud District of Chhatisgarh.



Thematic Focus

NIRMAN has been working at ground level for more than two decades around the various thematic areas like natural resources governance & management, sustainable agriculture & livelihood development, climate change & community resilience, nutrition, and community health & WASH. Based on the learning from the field, organization's core strength, experiences of the staff & changing priorities, other global issues & priorities, it was consensually agreed and prioritized to focus on the following thematic areas during upcoming five-years through a strategic planning process:



1. Food System Transformation through Agroecology
2. Landscape Restoration and Responses
3. Knowledge Co-creation
4. Humanitarian Aid



Food System Transformation through Agroecology

Food System Transformation through Agroecology aims to build sustainable, inclusive and climate-resilient food systems that ensure food and nutrition security for all. Our interventions focus on developing adaptive and agroecological food systems that encompass production, processing, distribution and waste management to minimize environmental impact and enhance resilience. We emphasize integrating social, economic, cultural and environmental dimensions into food system design, promoting equity and sustainability. By addressing hydrological, nutrient, and energy cycles in agriculture, we seek to achieve sustainable resource management and ecological balance. This focus area also works toward strengthening access, availability, and affordability of nutritious food, especially for vulnerable communities. Furthermore, we prioritize enhancing institutional and community capacities to effectively respond to climate-induced disruptions, ensuring that local food systems remain robust, self-reliant, and adaptive to changing climatic and socio-economic conditions.



Landscape Restoration and Responses

As the second thematic focus area of our organisation, Landscape Restoration and Responses aims to rejuvenate degraded ecosystems and strengthen their resilience to climate change. Our interventions focus on the restoration of degraded landscapes to enhance ecological integrity and biodiversity, ensuring healthier and more productive ecosystems. We prioritise the conservation and recovery of native vegetation and wildlife habitats, fostering balance between human needs and natural systems. By enhancing ecosystem services such as water retention, soil fertility, and carbon sequestration, we contribute to improved environmental sustainability and climate mitigation. Our approach promotes community-based sustainable land use practices, empowering local communities to actively participate in landscape management and conservation and participatory governance.



Knowledge Co-creation

As the third thematic focus area of our organisation, Knowledge Co-Creation focuses on generating collaborative and inclusive solutions that draw from diverse knowledge systems, including traditional and indigenous wisdom. We promote participatory action research and community-led innovations to ensure that local experiences and voices shape sustainable development practices. Our approach emphasizes inclusive dialogue among stakeholders to foster contextual understanding and long-term solutions tailored to local realities. Through organizational learning and policy engagement grounded in field-derived knowledge, we aim to bridge the gap between practice and policy for more effective outcomes. Additionally, we prioritize empowering tribal and local communities by recognizing and strengthening their tacit and ecological knowledge systems, ensuring that their contributions form the foundation of resilient and contextually appropriate development pathways.



Humanitarian Aid

As the fourth thematic focus area of our organisation, Humanitarian Aid is dedicated to strengthening community resilience and response mechanisms during crises and disasters. Our work focuses on emergency response planning and relief action in alignment with international humanitarian protocols to ensure timely and coordinated interventions. We invest in staff training on humanitarian approaches and standards to enhance the quality and accountability of our responses. A key priority is strengthening grassroots-level networks for rapid and effective response in crisis situations, empowering local actors to take immediate action. We actively participate in national and global humanitarian networks and knowledge platforms to exchange learning, build partnerships, and influence policy for stronger humanitarian outcomes. Additionally, our efforts include developing preparedness systems to address climate-induced or conflict-related emergencies, ensuring that vulnerable communities are better equipped to withstand and recover from shocks with dignity and resilience.



Fact & figures; an overview 2024-25

Period: April 2024 to March 2025	TOTAL	Mushroom	
Rainwater Management Structures		Number of Mushroom Units established	37
Open / Dug Well		Number of Farmers involved in Mushroom	281
Number of Open/Dug Wells	28	Number of SHGs involved in Mushroom	27
Area under Open/Dug Wells (Acres)	84	Crop Diversification	
Number of Beneficiaries (Open/Dug Well)	210	Millet	
Number of Solar Pumps Installed	33	Number of Farmers	6639
Graded Bund		Number of SHGs	122
Number of Graded Bunds	15	Area covered (Ha)	2737.9
Command Area of Graded Bund (Acres)	269.7	Black Gram	
Number of Beneficiaries (Graded Bund)	274	Number of Farmers	360
Sub-surface Dyke		Number of SHGs/PG	22
Number of Sub-surface Dykes	7	Area covered (Ha)	166.2
Command Area of Sub-surface Dyke (Acres)	111.11	Green Gram	
Number of Beneficiaries (Sub-surface Dyke)	67	Number of Farmers	120
Water Harvesting Structures		Number of SHGs/PG	18
Number of Farm Ponds	18	Area covered (Ha)	35.6
Command Area (Acre)	103.2	Arhar (Seed Production)	
Number of Beneficiaries	125	Number of Farmers	1929
CFR / FRA Details		Number of SHGs	93
Number of villages vested with CFR titles under the FRA	172	Area covered (Ha)	804
Area coverage under CFR/FRA (Acres)	27323	Tuber Crops	
Sustainable Agriculture & Climate Resilience		Number of SHGs	32
Number of Farmers adopted SRI/LS/LT	886	Area covered (Ha)	11.5
Area covered under SRI (Acres)	652	Area covered (Acre)	28.75
Number of Farmers adopted Mixed Farming	1214	Indigenous Seed Conservation	
Area under Mixed Farming (Acres)	569	Number of Indigenous Millet varieties conserved	6
Number of Farmers adopted Intercropping method	700	Number of Indigenous Paddy varieties conserved	48
Area under intercropping (Acres)	354	Number of Indigenous Pulse varieties conserved	8
Number of Farmers adopted Ecological Farming	7039	Number of Indigenous Oilseed varieties conserved	14
Area under Ecological Farming (Acres)	7054.75	Number of Indigenous Vegetable varieties conserved	28
Number of Farmers involved in kitchen garden	2914	Number of Agro-based Processing Units	15
Area under Kitchen garden (Acres)	150	Other information	
Number of vegetable outlets established	5	Number of Renewable Energy Villages	11
Livelihood Interventions		Installation of no. of Street Solar Lights	24
Poultry		Number of FPO	4
Number of Farmers involved in Poultry	2653	Total member of FPO	1274
Number of SHGs involved in Poultry	43	Female member of FPO	689
Number of Farmers involved in Azolla cultivation	511	Number of SHG	260
Goatery		Number of Male Farmers	509
Number of Farmers involved in Goatery	654	Number of Female Farmers	1919
Number of SHGs involved in Goatery	21	Number of Food Forest / Nursery Sites	10



The Multi Actor Platform (MAP) as a Step towards Sustainable Natural Resource Governance



The multi actor platform (MAP) is a process to increase the efficiency of the local governance system by involving all stakeholders to address challenges in a sustainable manner. NIRMAN believes in community led governance and facilitates community actions in all its interventions. It focuses on the thematic areas; food system transformation through agroecology, landscape restoration and responses, and knowledge co-creation and is currently working in 8 districts of 3 States; Odisha, Chhattisgarh and Assam.

NIRMAN is actively facilitating the MAP process in the Dasapalla, Tumudibandha, Kalyansinghpur, and Barkote blocks of Nayagarh, Kandhamal, Rayagada, and Deogarh districts of Odisha. In forest-dependent and tribal regions, unresolved land tenure issues, forest degradation, and gaps in basic services undermine livelihoods and ecological sustainability.



NIRMAN, in consultation with the communities, has finalized the following focus areas for the MAP process with due emphasis on women participation;

- Forest based restoration activities
- Climate Action Plans and resilient community
- Livelihood activities and poverty elimination

To prepare for the above the following activities are being conducted under the direct supervision of Forest Management Committees and Gram Sabha Samuha members;

- Forest surveys to audit forest resources, identify depleting species and arranging for their conservation
- Convergence of Government Schemes and Programmes in CFR/IFR to strengthen the livelihoods
- Climate Action Plans preparation in project villages, with emphasis on forest fire awareness, prevention, and response, for integration with GPDP after approval by Block level authorities
- Identification of medicinal plants and its volume so that it could be collected for market linkages.
- Promotion of 'Food Forest' in CFR areas for model creation and livelihoods enhancement.

After capacity building of staff and community resource persons (called catalysts), PRI members, and community leaders on CFR/IFR, Gram Panchayat Development Plan (GPDP), and the MAP process, NIRMAN has so far conducted Block level MAP meetings at Daspalla, Kalyansinghpur, and Barkote Blocks. The stakeholders include community members, Gram Sabha Samuha members, PRI members, CSO representatives, local thematic leaders, forest & agriculture Department officials and media persons. The MAP meetings followed a participatory and dialogue-based approach. Community members articulated issues based on lived experiences, government officials provided policy and procedural clarity, and civil society actors facilitated convergence and follow-up planning. The discussions centered on land tenure and forest rights, forest fire management, and drinking water and basic services.

The following outcomes have been observed;

- Community-led forest fire awareness and prevention campaigns have been initiated by the Gramsabha Samuha Federation with support from Forest Department
- Improved convergence between GPDP processes and Community Forest Management Plans
- Enhanced coordination among community institutions, PRIs, and line departments
- Strengthened community leadership and participation in governance processes



NIRMAN is now gearing up for the next level preparations;

- Establishment of Block Resource Centre – Access to digital public assets
- Block & District Level convening's/Workshops
- Leveraging Government programmes /CSR activities/ projects for landscape level planning's.
- Identification of value chain gaps and opportunities for NTFPs and Millets
- Programmatic /Governance areas supported, assisted or influenced for landscape level planning and restoration.

The work of NIRMAN in the four Blocks is emerging as a model that will be replicated in all the forested blocks of the districts, as is the goal of the exercise. The empowered communities are leading the changes and have graduated from mere spectators of the process to stewards of resources; asserting their control & authority and acting collectively keeping the interests of all stakeholders in mind.





Can Resilience Rewrite a Life Story? Story of Subani Majhi

In the small village of Buguda, under Takeram Gram Panchayat in Daspalla block of Nayagarh district, lives Subani Majhi, a tribal woman whose determination turned adversity into opportunity. Seven years ago, Subani lost her husband to a liver disease. To cover medical expenses, she sold her 0.4 acres of land and borrowed ₹50,000 from a moneylender. After his passing, she was left with three children, debt, and no livelihood. With few local options, she migrated to Bhubaneswar and worked as a construction labourer, earning barely enough to survive.

Her life began to change when SHIVIA and NIRMAL introduced backyard poultry farming in her village. Seeing hope in the idea, Subani joined a two-day training and received a toolkit containing 10 chicks, feed, medicines, and a poultry net enclosure. The training taught her essential poultry management skills—feeding, vaccination, and care. Her first batch of chicks failed, but Subani refused to give up. She began cultivating Azolla and preparing homemade feed, improving chick health and survival. With growing confidence, she expanded her work, investing in 21 more toolkits (a total of 24 received from NIRMAL) and spending ₹14,350 on feed and accessories. Her hard work paid off. Subani sold 192 chickens, earning ₹45,120, and regularly consumed eggs for her family's nutrition. Through persistence and learning, she became a respected poultry entrepreneur and a motivator for other women in her community.

Subani Majhi's journey shows how access to opportunity and the courage to persist can restore livelihoods, dignity, and hope—proving that even in the face of loss, change is possible.

WHAT HAPPENS WHEN WOMEN LEAD? THE FOREST FLOURISHES!



Nestled in the lush hills of Daspalla block in Nayagarh district, the Kondh tribal village of Uparadikhiri has emerged as a beacon of community-led conservation. Once vulnerable to deforestation and forest fires, this small village has transformed its landscape and destiny through the unwavering leadership of its women.

In 2024, Uparadikhiri received its Community Forest Rights (CFR) and Community Forest Resource Rights (CFRR) under the Forest Rights Act (FRA). But the seeds of change were sown long before that. Since 2019, the women-led Gram Sabha has been spearheading forest protection through the traditional practice of Thengapali—a system of rotational forest patrolling that ensures vigilance and shared responsibility.



Their commitment has brought remarkable change—forest fires have nearly vanished, illegal timber cutting stopped, and wildlife returned. The women even place water pots for birds during scorching summers, reflecting their deep ecological care.

One of their greatest achievements is conserving over 5,000 endangered Adanga plants (*Cycas nayagarhensis*) along with many medicinal and wild food species. What was once a degraded forest now thrives again, sustaining both nature and community.

Beyond restoration, this movement has redefined women's roles—turning silent participants into strong leaders who guide decisions and manage resources. Uparadikhiri's women stand as a testament to how empowered collectives can heal forests and reclaim dignity, rights, and resilience.

Can Growing Food Grow Dignity, Confidence and Change?

Parbati Majhi, a determined woman from Pehelaju village in Daspalla block, once struggled to provide her family with nutritious food. With limited awareness of sustainable agriculture and high dependency on market-bought vegetables, her family's diet lacked diversity, and access to fresh produce was uncertain.

Her journey changed when she became part of the KKS–BMZ–funded project implemented by NIRMAN. Through capacity-building training on preparing organic inputs such as Handikhata and Jibamruta, Parbati gained the confidence and skills to start her own kitchen garden.

She now cultivates 10 varieties of vegetables—coriander, carrot, beetroot, brinjal, drumstick, spinach, chilli, bottle gourd, Amaranthus, and others—ensuring year-round availability of clean and chemical-free food for her family.

She preserves seeds produced at home, reducing external dependency. This intervention has significantly improved her family's nutritional intake and well-being. Her children now enjoy diverse and healthy meals and participate actively in gardening, learning valuable lessons in sustainability and ecological care.

Parbati has emerged as a role model for other women in her community, proving that small initiatives and local resources can lead to meaningful transformation and inspire collective progress.





Where Courage Leads, Transformation Follows

Utbasi Majhi, a small farmer from Uparashinki, lives with her family of five. Their livelihood once depended solely on a tiny patch of farmland, Non-Timber Forest Products, and daily wage labour—barely enough to meet basic needs. Limited opportunities and scarce resources made it difficult for her to support her children's education, healthcare, and well-being.

Hope arrived when the KKS-BMZ project, implemented by NIRMAN, introduced modern goat-rearing practices in her village. Utbasi enrolled in training and purchased two female goats, marking the beginning of her journey toward economic independence.

Through the project, she learned vital skills: proper vaccination and deworming, construction of a ventilated goat shed for hygiene, effective feeding and breeding methods, and the use of locally available fodder to reduce cost. Applying these practices, her herd steadily grew, transforming goat rearing into a sustainable source of livelihood.

With improved income and confidence, Utbasi invested in her children's education and well-being. Her progress inspired other women to explore goat rearing as a viable enterprise, fostering collaboration and mutual learning within the community.

Utbasi's journey reflects resilience, determination, and the transformative power of knowledge. She stands as a symbol of hope—proving that empowered women can reshape communities and create lasting change.

Is Self-Reliance Possible Through Poultry Farming? — Tila's Story Says Yes.

Raimada is a remote forest-fringe village in Daspalla block of Nayagarh district, Odisha, where families rely on small-scale farming and daily wages for survival. Among them lives Tila Sethi, a resilient woman supporting a family of seven, including an ailing father-in-law. With limited land and scarce income, Tila's family faced severe hardship, often struggling to meet basic needs.

Hope arrived through NIRMAN's SHIVIA Poultry Development Project, which introduced backyard poultry farming as a low-cost livelihood model for marginalized women. Tila attended a village awareness camp, received training, and joined the project with a small contribution. She was supported to build a poultry shed and received her first toolkit with chicks, feed, vaccination, and medicines.

She adopted low-cost homemade feed practices such as maize, wheat bran, rice husk, and azolla to reduce expenses.

Starting with just two hens, Tila gradually expanded; she received toolkits, sold birds, and reinvested her profit. Her income helped fund her children's education and medical expenses. Inspired by her success, her husband also joined the initiative.

Today, Tila stands confident—financially independent and empowered. She is preparing to expand her poultry unit further. Her journey shows how opportunity, when combined with determination, can transform lives and break the cycle of rural poverty.



How Does Failure Turn Into Strength? Maa Gouri SHG Reveals the Journey



Maa Gouri Self-Help Group from Irritiput village began its journey 11 years ago with 10 committed women who started with small savings under the Odisha Livelihood Mission but had no clear direction.

In 2018, with support from OLM and Mission Shakti, they entered mushroom cultivation and even received mushroom houses. However, limited literacy and lack of marketing skills led to losses, forcing them to stop. Their breakthrough came in 2023 through the Mpowered Scale-Up Project implemented by NIRMAN and supported by Trickle Up India Foundation. With continuous training, handholding, and vision-building exercises, their confidence and unity strengthened. The project provided a seed fund of ₹23,500, enabling them to repair units and restart with 50 oyster mushroom beds. Within 15 days, they harvested 60 kg and earned ₹9,000 from the local market.



Today, Maa Gouri SHG stands as a symbol of resilience and revival, proving how the right support can turn failure into success.



A Journey from Monocropping to Resilient Mixed Vegetable Farming

The Story of Pushpanjali Mallik, Nayagarh District, Odisha

In Pehelaju Takeru village of Nayagarh district, Pushpanjali Mallik's journey reflects a meaningful shift from vulnerability to resilience. A smallholder farmer supporting a six-member household, she earlier relied on monocropping brinjal using chemical fertilisers. Despite consistent effort, income remained low, soil health declined, and her family depended on markets for nutritious food.

With sustained handholding support from NIRMAN, Pushpanjali was introduced to mixed vegetable farming and natural farming practices through training and field demonstrations. She learned how crop diversity improves soil fertility, reduces pest risks, and ensures year-round food availability.

Gradually, she transitioned to cultivating multiple vegetables using natural methods and adopted the trellis system for climber crops like bitter melon and beans. Today, she grows four to five vegetable crops annually, ensuring continuous harvests, household nutrition, and surplus for local markets.

This shift has led to an estimated 20% increase in household income, enabling her family to begin constructing a new home. Additional support from her Self-Help Group, Anantakhola Mahila SHG, and seed capital from the Block Agriculture Department further strengthened her efforts.

Pushpanjali's story demonstrates how knowledge-driven, ecological farming can build sustainable and dignified livelihoods for smallholder farmers.



Enhancing Pulse Productivity through Farmer-Led Seed System



NIRMAN implemented pulse crop revival initiatives in Keonjhar and Bargarh districts under the OIIPCRA programme of the Government of Odisha, focusing on farmers' participatory quality seed production, cluster demonstrations, and capacity building in improved pulse varieties and production technologies for rice fallow areas. Training was also provided on seed production, value addition, and market linkages through Producer Groups and FPOs.

During the period, 506 farmers covered 187.8 hectares, supported through 10 training programmes involving 504 participants (Male: 326; Female: 178). These efforts led to improved adoption of technologies and the linkage of 118 quintals of certified black gram seed to OSSC through the Keonjhar Pulse Farmer Producer Company.

In Rayagada district, under the Pigeon Pea (IAP) Programme, 1,929 farmers covered 800 hectares. A total of 120 training programmes engaged 3,786 participants (Male: 2,124; Female: 1,662), promoting scientific cultivation and quality seed practices. As a result, 220 quintals of certified arhar seed were linked to OSSC through the Keonjhar Pulse Farmer Producer Company, enhancing productivity and farmers' incomes.





COMMUNITY SEED FESTIVAL

Community Seed Festival at Daspalla on 29th November 2024, bringing together more than 1,000 community members to celebrate indigenous seeds, sustainable agriculture, and local knowledge systems. The festival served as a vibrant platform to promote seed sovereignty and community-led agroecological practices.

The event was graced by eminent dignitaries, including the Chief Guest, Shri Trilochan Mahapatra, Chairperson of PPVFRA, who emphasized the importance of conserving indigenous seeds. Other key speakers, such as Dr. Pratap Bhattacharya, Head of Crop Production, NRRI, and Shri Prasanjit Mishra, Dean of Extension, OUAT, highlighted innovations in agriculture and the need to bridge research with grassroots farming practices. Representatives from KVK, Mission Shakti, local administration, elected bodies, and the NIRMAN leadership and team actively contributed to the event.



The festival featured 18 exhibition stalls showcasing traditional seed varieties, desi vegetables, integrated farming system models, and photo displays reflecting local agro-cultural heritage. These stalls encouraged seed exchange, learning, and community interaction. The programme concluded with a cultural event celebrating local traditions.



LAKE & MANGROVE CONSERVATION & RESTORATION



NIRMAN has extended its research focus on wetlands, and has e-published status reports on three important RAMSAR sites of Odisha, viz. Chilika, Anshupa, and Tampara under its 'Lakes of Odisha' series revealing the ground realities for the benefit of all stakeholders. Particularly the report on Chilika is quite extensive and can be an eye opener for the policy makers.

On the other hand, we have endeavoured to revive/restore mangroves at some potential sites of Puri and Kendrapada districts, and ground action for a mangrove plantation has begun at Keutajanga with an on-spot scientific assessment followed by capacity building training of the local community and simultaneous arrangements for establishing the nursery.



One sapling today, a safer tomorrow.

EXPOSURE VISITS



A team comprising NIRMAN SMT members and core team undertook a cross-learning exposure visit to PRADAN and SELCO Foundation to gain insights into solar energy inclusion models, last-mile marketing strategies, and community-owned enterprise systems.

The visit focused on understanding decentralized solar energy solutions, inclusive financing and distribution mechanisms, and their integration with Farmer Producer Organization (FPO)-led business models. Interactions with field teams and enterprise units provided practical learnings on sustainable energy adoption, market linkage, and institutional strengthening, which will inform NIRMAN's ongoing and future interventions in renewable energy and producer-led enterprises.



Knowledge Sharing and Capacity Building

Throughout the year, the NIRMAN team has dedicated its efforts to strengthening grassroots capacities by leading trainings and knowledge-sharing sessions on the Forest Rights Act (FRA), agroecology transformation, product development, business plan development, water resource management, and organizational development. By facilitating these processes and preparing detailed implementation plans, the team empowered communities with practical skills, deeper understanding, and confidence to drive change. These collective efforts reflect the team's commitment to learning, collaboration, and long-term impact, enabling communities to move toward self-reliance and sustainable development.



Inspiring commendations by our farmers;



Earlier, debt and failure had taken away our hope. Through NIRMAN's poultry support, I got a second chance. Today, my family earns with dignity, my daughter is educated, and I now guide other women to stand on their own feet.

Sukanti Kanhar, Gopalpur

The forest is our life and our responsibility. Through the Community Forest Resource Management Committee, we protect it together preventing fires, saving wildlife, and ensuring that future generations inherit a living forest, not a dry land.

**CFRMC Village Leader, Tangisahi,
Bhogabadi, Daspalla, Odisha**



With integrated farming, nothing goes to waste—crop residues, animal waste, and pond water all come back to the field. Our soil has improved, yields have increased, and farming has become sustainable for our family.

Sanjita Pradhan

Small Fishers: Vulnerability to Viability

NIRMAN has been engaged with the small-scale fishers of the Chilika Lagoon, working hand in hand with the Government of Odisha to bring the FAO Voluntary Guidelines for Small-Scale Fisheries to life. Through this effort, NIRMAN strives to foster sustainable fishing practices, restore ecological balance, and uplift the livelihoods of the fishing communities that depend on these waters.

Strengthening its commitment to knowledge and collaboration, NIRMAN has built enduring research partnerships with the University of Waterloo (Canada) and the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Kharagpur, focusing on the socio-ecological systems that define Chilika's delicate ecosystem.

Beyond research, NIRMAN hosts an annual field school followed by a community workshop, creating a vital bridge between science and society. These engagements bring together fisher communities, students, and faculty members to learn from one another, exchange knowledge, and co-create innovative solutions that strengthen resilience and promote sustainable livelihoods within the Chilika Lagoon ecosystem.

This year, the Field School was held from August 3rd to August 10th, 2024, at Barkul, bringing together participants for an immersive learning experience. The Community Policy Workshop followed on August 9th, 2024, at Barkul OTDC, Chilika Lagoon, where fisher representatives, researchers, and policymakers came together to discuss pathways for sustainable fisheries and community well-being.



Faunal Survey in Rayagada & Nayagarh Districts of Odisha

This year, our organization conducted a faunal diversity survey across six CFR villages to systematically document the existing wildlife and ecological landscape. The study focused on identifying threatened and ecologically significant species while assessing their habitats and conservation status. The study documented a wide range of fauna; 38 species of mammals, 185 species of birds, 27 species of reptiles, 12 species of amphibians, 51 species of butterflies & 33 species of moths.

Major findings;

- Higher Biodiversity in CFRR-Recognized Forests under FRA
- Tree Species Diversity is Stronger in Community-Conserved Areas
- Better Forest Health Indicators in CFR Villages
- Shanon diversity index is higher in CFRR-recognized forests under FRA





Pictures From the Faunal Survey

Governing Body



Prof. Vishwa Ballabh, President



Mr. Ranjan Rout, Vice-President



Mr. Prasant Mohanty, Secretary cum Executive Director



Ms. Sikha Dash, Asst. Secretary



Ms. Debasina Mohanty, Treasurer



Ms. Geeta Praharaj, Member



Mr. Sisir K Pradhan, Member



Ms. Neema Pathak, Member



Mr. Pranab R Chaudhury, Member



Ms. Sugata Nayak, Member



Mr. Gobinda B Dalai, Member

Our Team

NIRMAN has a multidisciplinary team of committed professionals with deep expertise in diverse sectors, including millet-based and ecological farming systems, rural development, land tenure, rainwater harvesting & management, natural resource governance, climate change adaptation, community empowerment, public health, and food- & nutrition security. This robust in-house capacity is further enhanced through collaborations with subject matter specialists and consultants, who are engaged as needed for specific thematic areas and projects.

Facilitating learning and development of students and professionals

Raj Sutar

MA Development 2024-2026, Azim Premji University, Bangalore



My time as an intern at NIRMAN has been really rewarding. I was fascinated by the organisation's ability to combine traditional tribal knowledge with modern ecological principles through community-led approaches. Revival of Thengapali system, facilitation in community forest rights claim making process, and Community Seed Banks are not only environmentally impactful; but also, socially empowering. NIRMAN believes in Participatory approach in planning and implementation of the intervention where women, youth and old people are involved as changemakers in natural resource governance. I was moved by the Knowledge Co-Creation approach by the organisation where it listens, facilitates, and co-creates from people's knowledge and experiences, which builds true ownership and long-term sustainability. I leave with deep respect for NIRMAN's philosophy and gratitude for the opportunity to learn from both the team and the communities.

Stuti Singh

MA Development 2024-2026, Azim Premji University, Bangalore



Working as a field intern at NIRMAN has been a novel experience for me. I found the organization's vision which encompasses peaceful coexistence between people and ecology very relevant for the current times. The organization facilitated my work in exploring 'Women and Livelihoods and Climate Resilient Agriculture Based on Principles of Agroecology. By the end of the internship, I had not only closely interacted with the Kondha community, but I had also gained appreciation for NIRMAN's work in the upliftment of the resource dependent communities. Keeping the community at the centre of all its interventions, NIRMAN taught me how a people's-led approach can work wonders in addressing many social and environmental concerns. I am grateful for the entire team at NIRMAN for making this internship experience full of learning and fun.



BALANCE SHEET AS ON 31.03.2025

NIRMAN
AT/PO- BIRUDA, VIA- ITAMATI, DIST- NAYAGARH, ODISHA, PIN-752068

BALANCE SHEET AS ON 31.03.2025 (Consolidated)

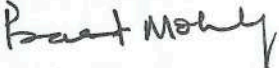
PARTICULAR	SCHEDULE	FINANCIAL YEAR	
		2024-2025 Amount (Rs.)	2023-2024 Amount (Rs.)
SOURCE OF FUNDS			
Own Fund			
Income accumulated under section 11(2)	[1.1]	-	8,976,012.00
Non-mandatory application up to 15%	[1.2]	17,329,609.11	16,427,078.52
Asset Fund			
	[1.3]	5,007,515.00	4,240,940.00
Total		22,337,124.11	29,644,030.52
APPLICATION OF FUND			
Fixed Assets			
	[02]		
Gross Block		7,790,964.08	5,403,842.08
Addition during the Year		1,951,526.00	2,387,122.00
Depriciation as of 31.03.2025		4,734,975.08	3,550,024.08
Net Block		5,007,515.00	4,240,940.00
Current assets, loans and advances			
	[03]		
Cash and Bank Balances		20,934,933.78	24,843,680.52
Loan & Advance		446,519.00	297,829.00
TDS Receivable		276,820.00	276,820.00
		21,658,272.78	25,418,329.52
Current liabilities and provisions			
	[04]		
Interest Credited to Project [Refundable]		-	9,015.00
Loan & Advance		2,166.00	6,224.00
Payable & Provision		4,326,497.67	
		4,328,663.67	15,239.00
Net Current Assets		17,329,609.11	25,403,090.52
Total		22,337,124.11	29,644,030.52

Significant Accounting Policies and Notes to Accounts

The schedules referred to above form an integral part of the Balance Sheet

In terms of our report of even date

FOR NIRMAN


(PRASANT MOHANTY)
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Place : Bhubaneswar
Date: 10.09.2025



FOR RDA & ASSOCIATES
CHARTERED ACCOUNTANTS


CA BHABANI PRASAD PADHI)
PARTNER
M. NO. 069840



INCOME & EXPENDITURE

NIRMAN
AT/PO- BIRUDA, VIA- ITAMATI, DIST- NAYAGARH, ODISHA, PIN-752068

INCOME & EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31.03.2025

(Consolidated)

PARTICULAR	SCHEDULE	FINANCIAL YEAR	
		2024-2025 Amount (Rs.)	2023-2024 Amount (Rs.)
I INCOME			
Grant in aid (Domestic Contribution)			
Grants Received from Government	[5.1]	8,993,560.29	7,800,177.00
Grants Received from Companies under CSR	[5.2]	17,475,756.00	3,032,421.00
Other specific grants	[5.3]	29,446,724.59	16,883,069.40
Grant in aid (Foreign Contribution)	[5.4]	56,294,201.80	50,886,090.79
Aggregate of income excluding Voluntary contributions			
Beneficiaries Contribution received	[5.5]	803,665.00	1,568,200.00
Administration cost received from Project	[5.5]	850,653.41	1,476,538.60
Donation/Other receipt for charitable purposes	[5.5]	361,291.86	137,931.00
Membership fees	[5.5]	3,750.00	3,750.00
Interest Credited to Project Bank Account	[5.6]	377,785.00	322,793.00
Total		114,607,387.95	82,110,970.79
II EXPENDITURE			
II-A Expenditure for Current Year			
Revenue Expenditure	[6.1]	117,778,600.36	74,822,008.74
Capital Expenditure	[6.2]	1,951,526.00	2,387,122.00
		119,730,126.36	77,209,130.74
II-B Expenditure out of own fund			
Revenue Payment			
Income accumulated as under section 11(2)	[6.3]	8,976,012.00	9,451,650.00
Income of earlier years up to 15% accumulated	[6.4]	8,362,976.41	2,071,472.22
		17,338,988.41	11,523,122.22
II-C Payable for Expenses Paid	[6.5]	1,612,372.00	1,145,253.00
II -D Payable for Expenses not Paid	[6.6]	2,988,126.67	2,898,047.00
II-E Net amount to be allowed as application(A-B+C+D)		101,015,383.28	63,933,214.52
III Excess of Income over Expenditure (I-II)		13,592,004.67	18,177,756.27
Total		114,607,387.95	82,110,970.79
IV Excess of Income over Expenditure transfer to:			
Income accumulated - non-mandatory application up to 15%		13,592,004.67	9,201,744.27
Income accumulated as under section 11(2)		-	8,976,012.00
Total		13,592,004.67	18,177,756.27

Significant Accounting Policies and Notes to Accounts
The schedules referred to above form an integral part of the Balance Sheet
In terms of our report of even date

FOR NIRMAN

Prasant Mohanty
(PRASANT MOHANTY)
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Place : Bhubaneswar
Date: 10.09.2025



FOR RDA & ASSOCIATES
CHARTERED ACCOUNTANTS

Bhabani Prasad Padhi
(CA BHABANI PRASAD PADHI)
PARTNER
M. NO. 069840

RECEIPT & PAYMENT

NIRMAN
AT/PO- BIRUDA, VIA- ITAMATI, DIST- NAYAGARH, ODISHA, PIN-752068

RECEIPT & PAYMENT ACCOUNT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31.03.2025 (Consolidated)

PARTICULAR	SCHEDULE	FINANCIAL YEAR	
		2024-2025 Amount (Rs.)	2023-2024 Amount (Rs.)
RECEIPTS			
Opening Balances			
Cash in hand	[09]	30,416.00	52,248.00
Cash at Bank	[09]	24,813,264.52	18,418,484.54
		24,843,680.52	18,470,732.54
Grant in aid (Domestic Contribution)			
Grants Received from Government	[7.1]	8,993,560.29	7,800,177.00
Grants Received from Companies under CSR	[7.2]	17,475,756.00	3,032,421.00
Other specific grants	[7.3]	29,446,724.59	16,883,069.40
Grant in aid (Foreign Contribution)			
	[7.4]	56,294,201.80	50,886,090.79
Aggregate of income excluding Voluntary contributions			
Beneficiaries Contribution received	[7.5]	803,665.00	1,568,200.00
Administration cost received from Project	[7.5]	850,653.41	1,476,538.60
Donation/Other receipt for charitable purposes	[7.5]	361,291.86	137,931.00
Membership fees	[7.5]	3,750.00	3,750.00
Interest Credited to Project Bank Account(Non Refundable)	[7.6]	377,785.00	322,793.00
Loans and Advances			
	[11]	191,203.00	53,556.00
Total		139,642,271.47	100,635,259.33
PAYMENTS			
Project Expenditure			
Programme Expenditure	[08]	102,992,145.14	64,189,992.51
Revenue Expenditure	[08]	14,786,455.22	10,624,017.30
Capital Expenditure	[08]	1,951,526.00	2,387,122.00
		119,730,126.36	77,201,131.81
Less Payable for Expenses not Paid	[10]	2,988,126.67	2,898,047.00
Add Payable for Expenses Paid	[10]	1,612,372.00	1,145,253.00
		118,354,371.69	75,448,337.81
Loans and Advances			
	[11]	343,951.00	244,713.00
Interest credited to Project refunded		9,015.00	98,528.00
Closing Balances			
Cash in hand	[09]	28,004.00	30,416.00
Cash at Bank	[09]	20,906,929.78	24,813,264.52
Total		139,642,271.47	100,635,259.33

Significant Accounting Policies and Notes to Accounts
The schedules referred to above form an integral part of the Balance Sheet
In terms of our report of even date

FOR NIRMAN

Prasant Mohanty
(PRASANT MOHANTY)
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Place : Bhubaneswar
Date: 10.09.2025



FOR RDA & ASSOCIATES
CHARTERED ACCOUNTANTS

Prasad Padhi
(CA BHABANI PRASAD PADHI)
PARTNER
M. NO. 069840



Our Funding Partners

The organization's work has been supported by a range of national- and international partners, including SHIVIA(UK), the Tata Trust, SWISSAID, Paul Hamlyn Foundation (PHF), Karl Kübel Stiftung (KKS) & BMZ Germany, National Foundation for India (NFI), The Hans Foundation (THF), Azim Premji Foundation, HDFC Bank Parivartan, Living Landscapes, AJWS, FES and ICARDA. At local level we are also a partner of NABARD (Govt. of India) and Shree Anna Abhiyan (Govt. of Odisha).

NIRMAN's contributions extend beyond field-level interventions. The organization has actively collaborated with renowned research institutions such as IIT-Kharagpur, the University of Waterloo (Canada), and ICRISAT. These partnerships have enabled NIRMAN to infuse its grassroots efforts with global research insights, thereby enriching its development programs and expanding its impact.



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NATIONAL BANK FOR AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT



Azim Premji Foundation



FOUNDATION FOR ECOLOGICAL SECURITY





**A small drop of water for a bird can become
a whole world of life and hope.**