



SATPUDA FOUNDATION
Pench-Bor corridor IUCN project
March 2019 activity report

Mandar Pingle – *Conservation Officer*

Nilesh Telang – *Field Assistant*

Highlights:

- *Organized a training programme on food processing and packaging for women's self help groups (SHGs) from Bidgaon - 21 ladies undertook training*
- *Organised exposure visit for 7 women on market linkage to jewellery market in Nagpur*
- *15 students of Telgaon take part in nature trail, learn about local biodiversity*
- *Assisted one villager from Telangkhedi village to file for cattle kill compensation*

Activities:

Satpuda Foundation organised a 3-day workshop on 'Food processing and packaging' for women of Bidgaon, a village of Pench-Bor corridor. As part of the IUCN Pench-Bor corridor project, this workshop was aimed at skill development to provide self-employment opportunities to the women. Maharashtra Center for Entrepreneurship Development (MCED), Hingna provided resource persons for the training programme which focused on food processing and packaging techniques, various licenses and registrations needed to start cottage industries and preparation of project proposal etc.

21 women, 12 belonging to Jai Seva Bachat Gat and 9 not belonging to any self help group, participated in this workshop. These women are currently working as daily wage labourers.

On the first day Mr. Pradip Ingle, officer in-charge of MCED, provided information regarding business opportunities in food processing through case studies shown in short films. Mrs. Aparna Kolarkar, a renowned chef from Nagpur, taught the women numerous recipes on the first day of the training.

On the second day, Mrs. Smita Babhare, Food Safety Officer (Saoner district) taught the trainees about food licensing and registration. The trainees also learnt about food and hygiene standards, use of permitted preservatives and food colouring, standard packaging of different types of food items etc.

Later, the trainees were taught about registrations and permits required to start a business, benefits of Udyog Adhar, a government scheme, and subsidy and loan application process. Ms. Yerne, Gram Sevak for the village, also visited the training and encouraged the aspiring women entrepreneurs to take full benefit of the training workshop.

On the third and final day of the programme, Mr. Deshmukh taught the trainees different packaging techniques. The trainees had a hands-on experience on how to use electronic weight machine, heat sealing machine, bottle sealing and hot air gun machine. They learnt ways to pack both dry and liquid food items. Mr. Wankar later taught them how to prepare a project proposal and to estimate various costs, equipment and raw-material procurement.

The members of Jai Seva Bachat Gat have decided to start spices processing micro-enterprise after undertaking the training.

Mr. Rewatkar, Round Officer for Kelwad Territorial Forest Range, also interacted with the trainees. The ladies thanked IUCN, Maharashtra Forest Department and Satpuda Foundation for providing the skill development training and livelihood opportunities. They assured that they will assist Forest Department staff in conservation of wildlife and forest near their village.



Trainees learn different recipes (left)



Trainees watch films on techniques for vegetable dehydration process (right)



Mr. Sinha provides information regarding various registrations (left)



Trainees learn to use weighing machine (right)



*Trainees learn to use heat sealing machine (left)
Trainees pose for group photo after the conclusion of the programme (right)*

Satpuda Foundation took seven women from 3 self-help groups of Telgaon (Kalmeshwar) for a market visit to help them learn about current market trends in artificial jewellery and fancy items. These women had taken part in the jewellery making training programme organised in their village by Satpuda Foundation last month and have decided to take up jewellery making as a means of livelihood. During the field visit, the women were able to see current designs and fashions. They interacted with the shop owners and tried to understand the cost at which the women can sell their products. The women then learnt about procurement of raw materials and wholesale prices at which these raw materials are available.

Two trainees, Ms. Salma Mansoori and Mrs. Manisha Thakare, said "We had bought artificial jewellery from the market but never thought about things such as who made the jewellery, where did the raw material come from and so on. But now after the training and field visit, we feel that we can certainly make such jewellery items and earn money."

The trainees also expressed that thanks to this visit, they now have a clear idea about where to get raw material from, what sort of designs to make and sell, what quality level needs to be maintained and where and how to sell the end products.

Mandar Pingle and Nilesh Telang provided guidance during this visit.



Members of self help groups from Telgaon explore jewellery market for raw materials (left) and study current trends and designs (right) in Nagpur during the exposure visit

Nature trails were organized for students of Telgaon village near Kolar Lake on March 17 and 24. Students from Telgaon are now regularly participating in nature trails organised by Satpuda Foundation every Sunday morning. They are collecting information on trees seen near their village. They wish to prepare a booklet containing brief information along with a sketch or actual sample of leaf, bark, flower and seeds.

They are also learning bird identification using our field bird guide 'Maitri karuya pakshyanshi'.

Nilesh is providing detailed information on the trees and birds during these nature trails.



*Nilesh helps students to spot birds near Kolar Lake (left)
Discussion session during the nature trail (right)*



*Students on a trail near Kolar Lake (left)
Nilesh provides information on trees during nature trail (right)*

On March 8, Mr. Devendra Kanhere from Telangkhedi village of Kalmeshwar range contacted Mandar Pingle and said that his cattle had been killed by a leopard. He requested Satpuda Foundation to assist him in applying for compensation for his losses.

Nilesh, along with Round Officers Mr. Tibole and Mr. Dahake visited the spot. The Forest Department staff prepared the panchanama and collected necessary documents from Mr. Kanhere.

Nilesh and the Forest Department staff explained to the villagers the benefits of ensuring that the cattle are tied up in secure sheds to avoid such losses. They also urged villagers not to venture out alone in the forest after sunset and to avoid defecation in the open to prevent any attacks on humans.