

## **Agroforestry Project in Odisha: Non-Technical Summary**

Established in 2014, Crosslinks Foundation is a registered charity organization (12A certified) with operations across Odisha and Karnataka states. The Crosslinks Agroforestry Project aims to implement plantation of selected native species of trees to bolster carbon sequestration for mitigating climate change effects, improve land utilization, create jobs and enhance livelihood options for rural communities.

### **Project objectives**

1. Bring small and marginal farmers in Mayurbhanj, Sambalpur, Keonjhar and Sundargarh districts of Odisha to the forefront of climate action by motivating them to plant a combination of fruit trees and forestry species (Arjuna, Asana, Cashew, Mango, Guava) on their land holdings to increase soil carbon sequestration
2. Work with communities and related stakeholders to set up broadband-enabled “InterGram” centers to catalyze the adoption of next-generation agricultural technologies for increasing seasonal yields, improving resource efficiency and growing their income
3. Initiate carbon credit certification process under Gold Standard to sustain, maintain and scale-up these interventions by channelizing carbon finance to farmers participating in the Agroforestry project

### **Project locations**

Multiple villages in the following blocks of the aforesaid districts.

**Mayurbhanj:** Kusumi, Bisoi, Shamakhunta, Kuliana, Bangriposi

**Sambalpur:** Kuchinda, Bamra, Jamankira, Rengali

**Sundargarh:** Lahunipada; **Keonjhar:** Sadar, Telkoi

### **Project implementation timeline**

The proposed project implementation will have three phases during its lifetime, namely, design, implementation and monitoring.

### **Project targets**

1. To promote plantation of native species of trees across 3000 hectares of Mayurbhanj, Sambalpur, Sundargarh and Keonjhar districts
2. To offer agriculture employment opportunities in the catchment area, especially for women
3. To implement a monitoring system to continually measure all project impacts over the years till 2050 using various interventions developed by Crosslinks Foundation
4. To cumulatively generate a minimum of 500,000 Gold Standard Verified Emission Reductions through carbon sequestration resulting from plantations over 30 years

The project is a large-scale Program of Activities being undertaken across the above districts. The implementation plan also includes capacity-building using mixed methods of technological interventions and capacity building of small and marginal farmers to ensure the trees successfully take root and grow at intended pace. The duration of the project period is approximately 30 years.

The ownership of the carbon credits and its benefit sharing will be between Crosslinks Foundation and the farmers upon whose lands the plantations are carried out. No land rights are affected by this project, nor is it intended to affect the same and the small and marginal farmers will retain the rights to their land itself. The project aims to benefit the local communities through providing nutritional security and livelihood opportunities for the beneficiaries.