

# Reviving ecosystems, restoring futures

Inspiring stories from the NGO, Gram Vikas

***"We did not wait for change—we led the change."***



This powerful sentiment, shared by many across **Odisha**, embodies the **collective spirit of resilience** that's **rewriting the future** of these communities.

Faced with depleting water sources and degraded land, local communities are coming together—**reviving ponds, greening forests, and reclaiming hope, one determined step at a time.**

With Deloitte's support over the past two years, traditional wisdom has been combined with grassroots action to tackle climate and water challenges and build a more sustainable tomorrow.



**Junian village** – Once barren, now breathing—with 20 acres of forest brought back to life, recharging groundwater and reviving the soil. “The land will speak again,” says Dilip Kumar Bagh, village leader.



**Modatola village** – A dried-up pond turned into a thriving livelihood—deepened, greened, and now home to fish farming with INR 30k–40k expected income. **“We turned water into income—and hope,”** shares Pinki Toppo, Secretary, Village Development Committee.



**Bhaisamunda village** – Led by 70 women and 500 days of community labour, a once-dry pond now irrigates fields and supports fisheries. **“This water brings more than crops—it brings confidence,”** says Janya Rai Kumara, local resident.

Through these initiatives, local communities have started their journey towards empowerment, even creating additional income through their environmental efforts.

**Here's the collective impact Gram Vikas has enabled through the communities supported (as of April 2025):**

- **5,000** contour trenches dug to capture rainwater and prevent soil erosion
- **4,000** saplings planted across **9** native species to revive lost green cover
- **20+** acres of forest regenerated, breathing life back into degraded land
- **475** cubic metre pond expanded to **1,423** cubic metres, boosting water security

These aren't just stories of water or trees. These are stories of people taking back control of their land, their livelihoods, and their future.

**Together, we are restoring balance and building resilience—one drop, one tree, one dream at a time.**