

AAM Sabha

5-6 November, 2015
Bagaicha, Namkum, Ranchi, Jharkhand

‘AAM Sabha’ was organized under the auspices of Action Against Malnutrition on 5-6 November, 2015 in Ranchi. It was envisaged as a two-day celebration of the AAM programme with the rural people, who have been most central to it; the women from the villages where the programme is being implemented. This was a celebration towards acknowledging and recognizing the community’s efforts towards managing child malnutrition and demonstrating early childhood care and development at village level despite numerous constraints.

Over 500 members from rural areas across four states involved with the programme, such as crèche workers, community mobilisers, mothers, frontline health & anganwadi workers, panchayat members and other members of civil society participated in this event. They shared their experiences of learning, evolving, achievements and struggle through storytelling, songs, dances, skits and plays. A number of stalls were put up by all seven block teams involved in AAM. In addition stalls were also put up by PRADAN and PRAVAH to showcase their work.

The Minister for Food and Civil Supplies and Minister for Women and Child Development attended the meeting and addressed the gathering. Both the ministers spent considerable time in the stalls put up by the AAM partners and in understanding the AAM programme. They appreciated the importance and need for attention to each childhood period (birth-three years), lauded the work done under AAM and promised to visit the programme sites.

The Minister for Food and Civil Supplies, Sri Saryu Rai, informed that it is already being considered in Jharkhand to supply pulses and oil through the Public Distribution System. Dr. Louis Marandi, Minister, Women and Child Development Government of Jharkhand appreciated the Early Childhood Care Development activities in the AAM programme. She informed the participants about the launch of Nutrition Mission and a new cadre of community workers “Poshan Sakhi” by the government in Jharkhand. She invited civil society organisations to be part of the initiative and share their rich experiences in making the nutrition initiative a success. She also encouraged the participants from Jharkhand to take up a few panchayats in Jharkhand to transform them into model panchayats by make them free of child malnutrition so that the experiences in these panchayats can inform the larger state initiatives and actions.

The message from the AAM Sabha to politicians and bureaucrats was loud and clear – urgent measures are required to address child nutrition and that it can be done through community-based interventions. The resolutions from the Sabha articulating the same are attached.