

# Vedanta Aluminium Helps Kalahandi's Villages Adopt Resilient Farming Practices, Benefitting 10,000 People

**Bhubaneswar** (Correspondent): In the villages surrounding Odisha's Kalahandi district, the arrival of summer is often accompanied by a sense of growing uncertainty. As temperatures rise and water bodies recede, farmers turn their heads towards the sky, awaiting signs of the rains that have grown increasingly erratic over the years. For generations, agriculture in the region has remained heavily dependent on the monsoon, leaving thousands of farming families vulnerable to crop failures, declining incomes, and seasonal migration. In districts like Kalahandi, changing rainfall patterns and water scarcity have steadily intensified the



challenges faced by local communities. Today, however, a quiet transformation is beginning to reshape this reality across dozens of villages near Lanjigarh with support from Vedanta Aluminium, leading the revival of local water systems, scientific watershed planning, and community participation. Through its efforts, villages that once struggled with recurring water stress are gradually witnessing

the return of dependable irrigation sources and renewed confidence in farming as a dependable livelihood. Vedanta Aluminium's watershed development initiative, Project Sangam, has enabled access to irrigation across more than 800 acres of farmland in 41 villages of Kalahandi, positively impacting over 9,000 people. More importantly, for local farming communities, the

initiative is helping restore faith in agriculture as a sustainable and reliable livelihood. At the heart of the programme lies a simple yet powerful idea: conserving rainwater where it is naturally available. By rejuvenating traditional water bodies, strengthening local irrigation infrastructure, and scientifically managing monsoon runoff, the initiative has created more than 11 lakh cubic metres of water recharge potential. This has significantly improved groundwater availability in several pockets of the district, ensuring that water remains accessible well beyond the monsoon season. The impact is increasingly visible across agricultural fields. Land that once

remained dry after a single crop cycle is now supporting extended cultivation and multiple cropping seasons. Improved soil moisture retention and stabilised groundwater levels are enabling farmers to plan agricultural activities with greater certainty, reducing their dependence on unpredictable rainfall. For many, the change has been transformative. 'For years, our farming depended entirely on uncertain rainfall. Now we have assured irrigation for our fields. Water remains available for a much longer period, crop yields have improved, and families are earning better incomes. Earlier, many people worried about leaving the village in search of work during dry months.