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'A Road Back Home', documentary short-listed for award

The theme describes to make agriculture sustainable by harvesting water

Staff Reporter

BHUBANESWAR: A five-minute documentary film that described community initiative to make agriculture sustainable by harvesting water in Western Orissa villages has been shortlisted for award in climate change category in CMS Vatavaran 2011, an environment and wildlife film festival.

"Depicting the successful journey of a village in Western Orissa, 'A Road Back Home', the film, shows how once-parched lands now yield bumper crops and how dried streams have been revived," Director of the film, Snehasis Das, a city-based film maker said.

The film will be screened from December 6-10 at Convention Centre, New Delhi, as part of the film festival.

Mr. Das said, "What made me excited to pursue the storyline is the small effort by villagers in remote areas that has turned out to be a revolution of its kind.

A still of "A Road Back Home", a five-minute documentary film, which has been shortlisted for award in CMS Vatavaran 2011, an environment and wildlife film festival, in climate change category.

The region has seen heart-rending struggles for survival as it spent more than 45 years in fighting drought.

Endlessly disappointed, people sank into hopelessness."

As local communities were desperate to bring their village back to life, they found a mantra 'catch water where it falls', he said. "For the agrarian village, that was the mantra for rebirth, and a deficit village became a maximum village. Once-parched lands now yield bumper crops. Dried streams have revived," the young director said.

He said agriculture started picking up resulting in increased income while the nightmare of migrating receded into the dark past.

The film was shot in Padiabadmal and Temrimal Bandapada village which turned green due to people's effort.

A well-narrated film with an effective sequence of shots and appropriate music create an amalgam that effectively conveys its message, said Mr. Das quoting jury comments.

The documentary film maker has been associated with the field of social development and environmental communication for several years now.

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