

4. Irregularities/Corruption in Khariar block of Nuapada district, Orissa

See Article in the Hindu on this - ["Irregularities over MGNREGA works alleged"](#)

On March 4, 2010, Ajit Panda reported on the OREGS Mailing list - "Friends, You must have come across the news of *theft of Farm Ponds under NREGS* in Khariar block of Nuapada district. This has been published in various Odiya news papers recently. The fact is that, the block department has spent more than Rs.2.13 lakhs for construction of 7 farm ponds in the private plots of 7 beneficiaries of Kusmal Village during 2007-8 and 09. But, physically it has not been done. This truth has been unearthed by Khirasindhu Sagra of the same village through RTI. The beneficiaries of the farm ponds and the villagers have complained about this matter to the BDO, Khariar and the district Collector, Nuapada. I have also drawn the attention of the BDO and the Collector to take action against the culprits. But no action has yet been taken. Rather, to cover up the truth the concerned J.E. with the help of goons of Khariar town took an attempt on 15th of March to dig the ponds by using machine. This was stopped by the villagers and the machine was handed over to the police by the villagers."

Further, the person who uncovered the irregularities, Khirasindhu Sagra has been charged with cases under the IPC. On March 30, 2010, Ajit Panda reported " Court cases, death threats and harassment. Khirasindhu Sagra of Kusmal village has been facing all such harassments due to his fight against corruption in Farm Ponds in Kusmal of Khariar block (Nuapada district). Khariar Police after investigation has charge sheeted him and his relatives under different sections of IPC (including attempt to rape, snatching mangalsutra etc. etc.) The case has been forwarded to the Court by the police on the day of visit of the Director, Special Project (NREGS) Mr. Lohani. This is in spite of the assurance of Mr. Lohani that the case would not be registered against Khirasindhu.