



2019-2020

# ANNUAL REPORT



## **VASUNDHARA**

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**SECTION I:  
A BRIEF PROFILE OF  
VASUNDHARA**



## A BRIEF PROFILE OF VASUNDHARA:

Vasundhara is a policy research and action organisation working in the areas of natural resources governance, conservation and sustainable rural livelihoods issues in the state of Odisha. We aim at creating conditions to ensure ecologically sustainable and equitable development through addressing the marginalisation of communities dependent on forests and natural resources for their lives and livelihoods. We support and facilitate community forest management groups; Gram Sabhas working on rights recognition and conservation & management; and women's collectives working on forest-based livelihoods. Apart from direct work with communities, Vasundhara supports other stakeholders such as PRIs, CSOs, people's network, academia, legislators, researchers and Government Departments engaged in work around natural resource rights of communities – especially tribal and other traditional forest dwellers. Vasundhara also works in a few other states of India through providing training and research support to Government Officials, CSOs and People's Organisations working on community rights over forests and forest produce.

Vasundhara was founded in 1991 and the initial focus of the organisation was on supporting and strengthening the self-initiated community forestry groups. Since the passage of the Act<sup>1</sup> we have focused on building understanding on community forest rights (including Habitat Rights and Rights over forest produce) among key stakeholders and also on supporting Gram Sabhas on making proper CFR claims and governance & management of CFRs.

We have a multi-disciplinary team of workers from diverse social, educational and experiential backgrounds. As on 31st March, 2020, Vasundhara's staff strength stands at 34, of which 27 are programme staff. Our governing board comprises of experts and practitioners from diverse backgrounds provide policy, strategy, planning and governance inputs.

Please visit our website [www.vasundharaorissa.org](http://www.vasundharaorissa.org) for details.

## OUR OBJECTIVES

1. To Facilitate more effective policies, institutions and processes for democratic governance of forests and other natural resources in an equitable and ecologically sustainable manner.



2. To facilitate conservation of forest and biodiversity through active involvement of local communities.

3. To Support rights of tribal and other forest dwellers over their ancestral lands; and to help them in their struggle for access and control over forests and forest produce

4. To Strengthen and support community based economic institutions that provide fair and sustainable incomes to women dependent on forest-based livelihoods –especially on non-timber forest produce.

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<sup>1</sup> Scheduled Tribes and Other Traditional Forest Dwellers (Recognition of Forest Rights) Act, 2006.





5. To Enhance capacities of various stakeholders at different levels through awareness generation, training, hand holding, knowledge sharing, cross learning opportunities, publications and other technical support towards democratisation of natural resource governance.

### OUR APPROACH

Our key approach is to actively involve with the local communities, CBOs and people's organizations in the learning and advocacy process on FRA and to strengthen implementation of the law by building a knowledge base on the initiatives taken by the community and the people's organizations at the ground level. As part of this process the critical issues are documented and shared with a wider audience of government and nongovernment organizations and policy makers to facilitate debate and necessary policy changes.

knowledge base on the initiatives taken by the community and the people's organizations at



### OUR STRATEGY

The strategies adopted to achieve our objectives are as follows:

- ✚ Action Research on FRA
- ✚ Training and Capacity Building
- ✚ Policy Advocacy at State & National Level
- ✚ Network and Alliance Building

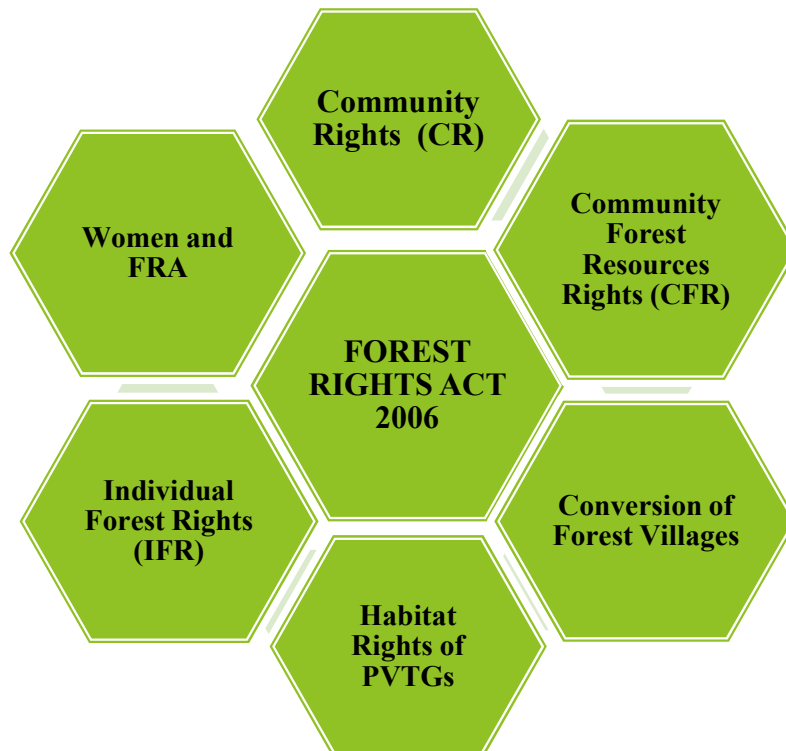


## THEMATICS OF VASUNDHARA

Our Work at Vasundhara is categorised around the following themes:



## OUR FOCUS AREAS UNDER FOREST RIGHTS ACT, 2006 ARE:



**SECTION II:  
SUSTAINABLE  
LIVELIHOOD AND  
ECONOMIC  
DEMOCRATIZATION**



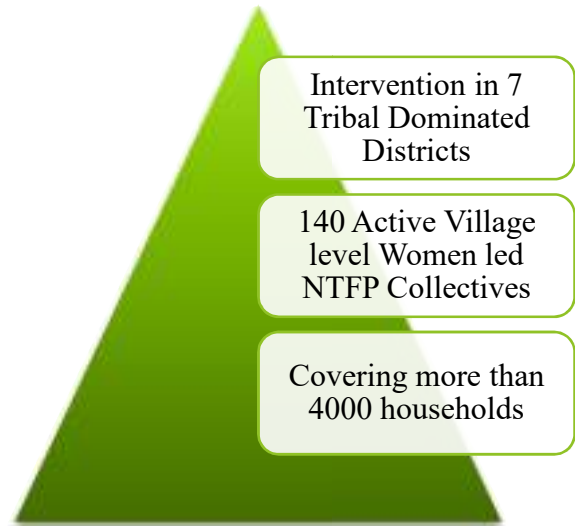


## SUSTAINABLE LIVELIHOOD AND ECONOMIC DEMOCRATIZATION

Vasundhara has been engaged in establishing and deepening the institutional governance systems for the women NTFPs gatherers to deal with NTFP management and trade. Following are the illustration of the initiatives undertaken:

### WOMEN LED NTFP COLLECTIVES

Vasundhara has initiated 140 women led NTFP Collectives at village level in 7 tribal dominated districts of odisha, covering more than 4000 household to create an alternative market for MFP to enhance their income and strengthen livelihood.



Organization and leadership development process has been initiated to identify women



leaders those can play effective role in institutional management and conflict resolution in their monthly board meeting at different level.

Major emphasis has been given to train these women leaders so that they could address various institutional issues in an amicable way. Effective decisions making, proper institutional governance and resolving various conflicts were the key outcome realized after the Organizational Development (OD) Exercise for the NTFP Collectives.

More dedicated women members are coming forward to take greater responsibilities related to institutions and business.

Robust Monitoring Sytem adopted by the Banaja Union and Banani Union of Samabalpur and Deogarh District Respectively . Efforts have been made to Audit the Transactions of the Union.



## TRAINING FOR THE NTFP COLLECTIVES

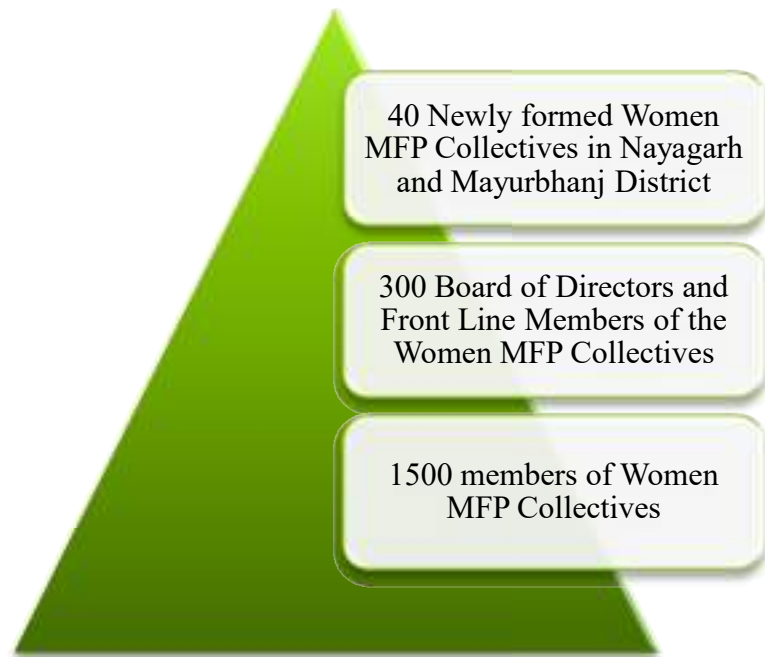
As a measure to support MFP market development and ensuring fair returns to the tribal gatherers, various skills up gradation trainings have been conducted for the women MFP gatherers.

The training provided demonstrative tool kits to the trainees for adoption of scientific collection, harvesting and primary processing of MFPs.

The trainings conducted have been intensive, however, outreach of such intervention remains limited in terms of beneficiaries impacted, sustainability and reliability at grassroots level beyond the trained critical mass.

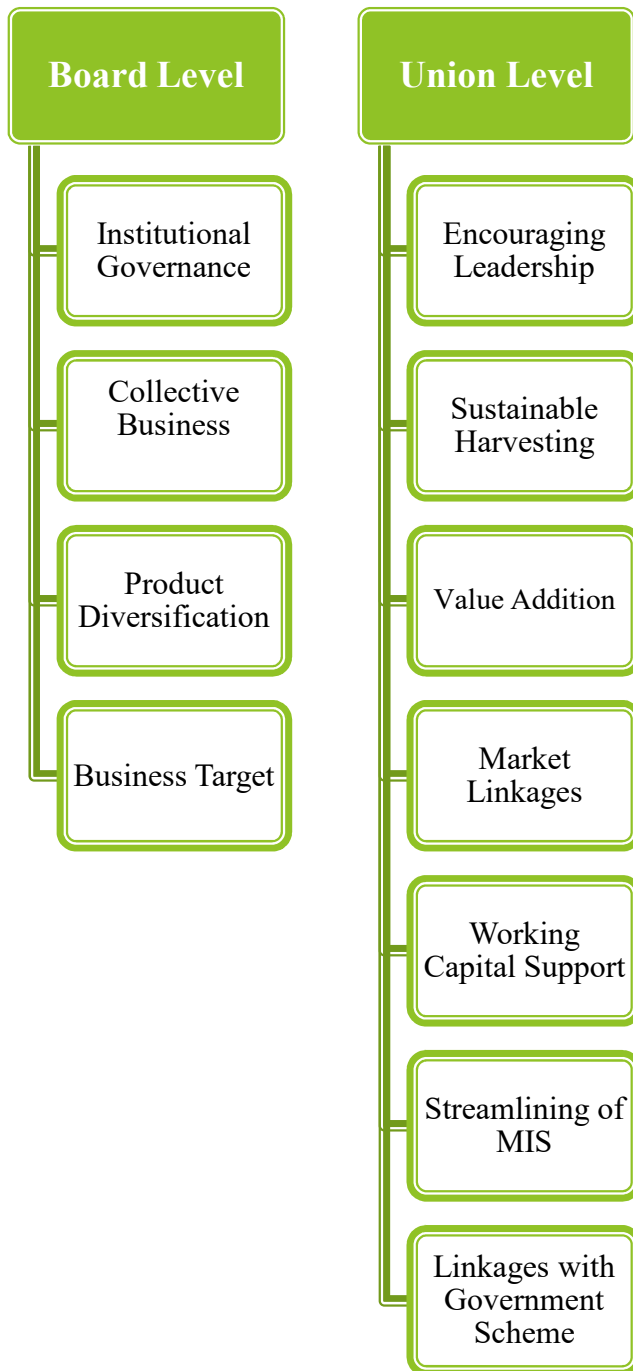
In Mayurbhanj and Nayagarh districts, the newly formed 40 MFPs collectives were given training and orientation on institutional management, leadership record keeping etc. 300 no Board of Directors and front line members were participated in various training programmes. Around 1500 members were being covered by these programmes.

Village-level discussions were organized for developing the article of association for the collectives. Share capital, membership fees were collected and deposited in the nearby nationalized banks for financial inclusion



## The Training Module of the Board and Union Level of MFP Collective

Vasundhara has adopted the following training modules for the Board and Union Level Meeting across the intervention areas.



Many startup companies are approaching the Unions to source NTFPs. Even the key office bearers of the unions were invited to impart training on NTFP enterprises. President and one of the BoDs of the Banaja union were invited to Saranda Forest areas to give training on Siali Leaves Plate making to Ho Tribe by a Jharkhand based startup.

**ENSURING MARKET ACCESS AND FAIR PRICING OF NTFP**

The NTFPs markets are highly volatile and many times, the primary gatherers fall prey to the unscrupulous traders. As a part of collective action, now the NTFP collectives are formalizing trade relationship with corporate and big traders. Particularly in Sal Seed and Siali Leaves, the collective process has substantially developed business

relationship with such business houses. Formal agreements are signed by Unions and traders to go for ethical business. The most important thing is women members of the Unions are involved in price fixations and handling the entire business operations.



Most of the MFPs business shown down trend due to fluctuation of Market price and reduction of Price in the MSP for MFP Scheme. Non procurement of MFPs under the MSP for MFP Scheme sharply affected the business of the Union.

Except Mohua flower and Siali leaves plates, most of the MFPs businesses were affected although there is small volume of pooling and transaction. However, Sal Seed was sold to Solvent extraction Unit, Raipur though below the MSP but much more than the local market price.

The local traders were offering Rs 8/- per Kg. However, diversification of MFPs to many extent sustain the collective business.

The trade mechanism of MFP at the primary haat bazar level remains highly inequitable to the tribals. As a result of this, even when the market prices appear impressive, the cash that comes to the tribal's hands remains low. Substantial gain is reaped by the long chain of middlemen.



More and more opportunities are opening up for the leaf plate enterprises especially after the partial ban of plastics came in to force. It's now the high time to leverage this opportunities to establish strong enterprises in and around leaf plates and creating larger employment opportunities for the tribal women in the intervention areas.

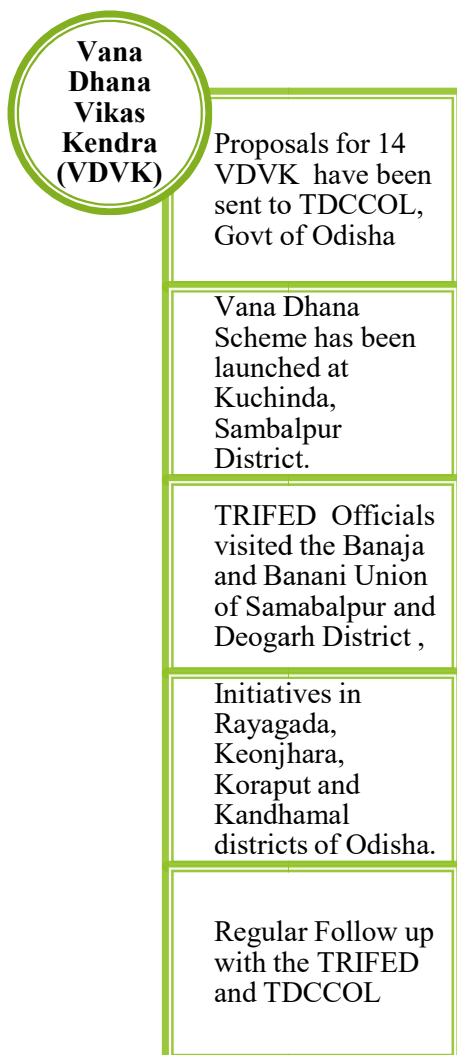
### Major Factor influenced the collective trade:

- Reduction of prices of key highly valued MFPs like Char Seed, Tamarind under the Minimum Support Price Scheme on Minor Forest Produces. There has been 40 percent decline of the Char Seed price followed by 18 percent in case of tamarind.

- Non availability of FAQ of newly added MFPs in the MSP for MFP Schemes
- Natural cycle of crop.
- At the same time the 20 percent increase of MSP for Sal Seed and business linkage with Solvent extraction Unit somehow kept the business on.
- Vasundhara has also supported the other Producers Group and NGOs to have a marketing linkage on Sal Seed in Mayurbhanj dist
- On Mohua aspect, however the Unions have been adopting the Purchase and Sale method to avoid loss after the ban of alcohol in the state of Bihar.



### IMPLEMENTATION OF THE MSP SCHEME AND PRADHAN MANTRI VAN DHAN VIKAS KARYAKRAMA (PMVDVK).



To protect the tribes from distress sale of their produces, Ministry of Tribal Affairs, Government of India, launched a scheme called “Mechanism for Marketing of Minor Forest Produces (MFP) through Minimum Support Price (MSP) and Development of Value Chain for MFP” all States and 50 items are included in the scheme.

Expansion of the basket of NTFPs and revision of the prices under the Scheme is one of the major outcomes of the project intervention. This scheme may not have shown the kind of results that one would have liked to see, but it has thrown up significant lessons.

These lessons highlight the need for now taking the scheme to the next level in the form of Pradhan Mantri Van Dhan Vikas Karyakrama (PMVDVK). Around 14 such VDVK proposals have been sent to TDCCOL to consider.

In Kuchinda, with the support of Vasundhara, the district administration has launched the programme.

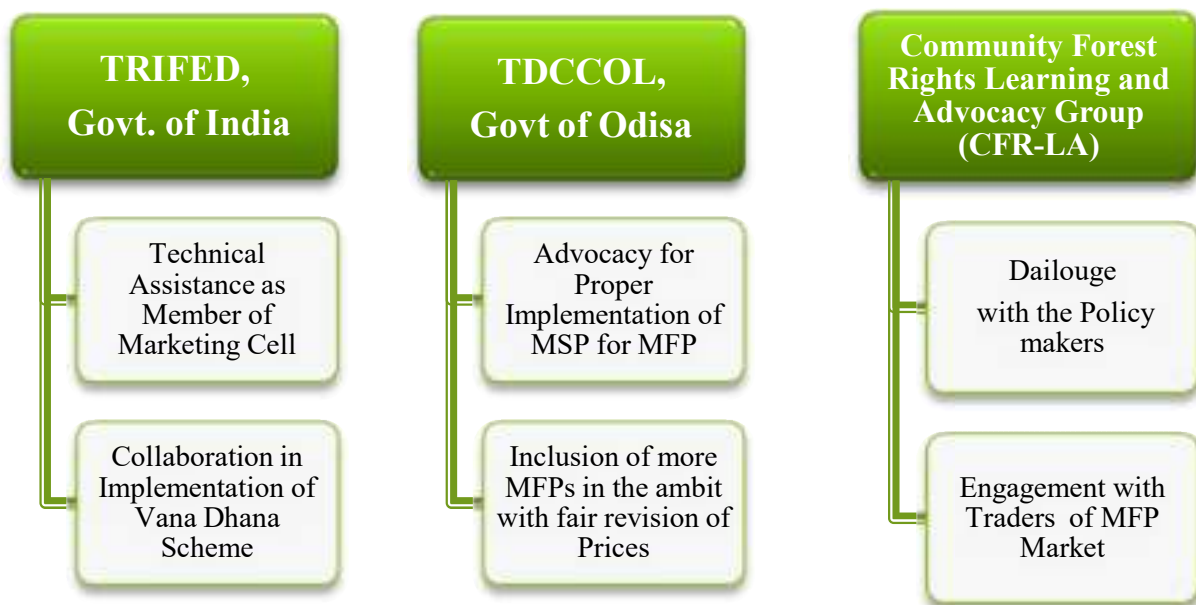


The officials from TRIFED have made a visit to Banaja and Banani Union areas and interacted regarding Van Dhan Scheme.

Similar effort have also been given to other districts like Rayagada, Keonjhora, Koraput and Kandhamal. Regular follow up and discussion have been on with TRIFED and TDCCOL.

## RESEARCH, ADVOCACY AND NETWORKING

Research, Advocacy and Collaboration Work on NTFP constitutes a major area of work of Vasundhara has been part of the State and National Level NTFP Committee, Forums, Platform formed by the government and the CSO Network. It has reached out to various Government Entities and Private institution on issues pertaining to NTFP Collection, Trade and Marketing and Government Schemes. As a part of technical assistance to TRIFED, Vasundhara is one of the members in the marketing cell of TRIFED. Again Vasundhara has played a major role at the national level for the execution of Van Dhan Scheme in collaboration with TRIFED. Vasundhara works with TDCCOL, Govt of Odisha to ensure proper implementation of the MSP for MFP Scheme resulted to include more MFPs in to its ambit with fair revision of prices.



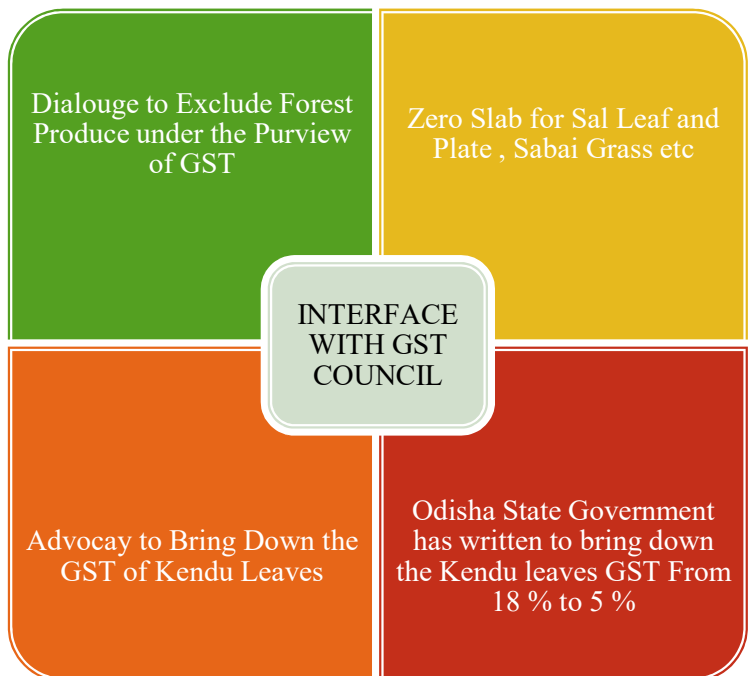
Vasundhara is part of the National Level CSO Network working on Minor Forest Produce, Natural Resource and Forest Governance known as Community Forest Learning and Advocacy Groups (CFR-LA). Being the Member of CFR-LA, Vasundhara has engaged with the policy makers, traders industries for promotion of MFP market.





A National Level consultation was organized in Deori, Nagpur in November 2019 where CSOs and Gram Sabhas from Chhattisgarh, Odisha, Jharkhand, Madhya Pradesh, and Maharashtra participated to deliberate on the dwindling situations of the MFP market, ownership rights and other policies issues. Like transit permit, Good and Service Tax (GST), R& D etc.

Vasundhara has played a key role at the national level to convince the GST Council to exclude Minor Forest Produces from the purview of GST. In the subsequent GST Council Meeting, the GST was brought down to zero slab for Sal Leaf and Plate, Sabai grass etc. However, still there is higher GST for tendu leaves. The Odisha state government has also written to the GST Council to bring down the GST on kendu leaves from 18 percent to at least 5 percent.



As a constant support to the Gram Sabha for awareness building on the Forest Right Act and post rights activities, this year, 14 more Gram Sabhas have undertaken kendu leaf busines



**SECTION III:  
RECOGNITION OF  
RIGHTS UNDER FOREST  
RIGHTS ACT 2006**





Forest Rights Act provides a legal framework to recognize the rights of the Scheduled Tribes forest dwelling communities and other traditional forest dwelling communities over their forests which they have been traditionally depending upon for their life and livelihood and also given the authority to the village assemblies (Gram Sabha) to protect, conserve and manage their resources through their traditional method of forest management. There is immense potential to intervene by building the capacity of various key actors, especially village assemblies, civil society organizations, various statutory bodies for the implementation of FRA, and of government officials to scale-up the collective forest rights recognition under FRA.

MAYURBHANJ

KALAHANDI.

GANJAM,

RAYAGADA

GAJAPATI

KANDHAMAL

NAYAGARH

DEOGARH

SUNDARGARH

SAMBALPUR

BARGARH

Vasundhara has been playing a role of catalyst in context of implementation of Forest Rights Act in Odisha. The claim filing process has been done through partnering with Civil Society organizations in different districts of Odisha who have direct assistance to forest dwelling communities in filing legal claims over forests. In Odisha, Vasundhara has taken lead role to facilitate the Community Rights and Community Forest Resource Rights claim filing process along with the Individual Forest Rights

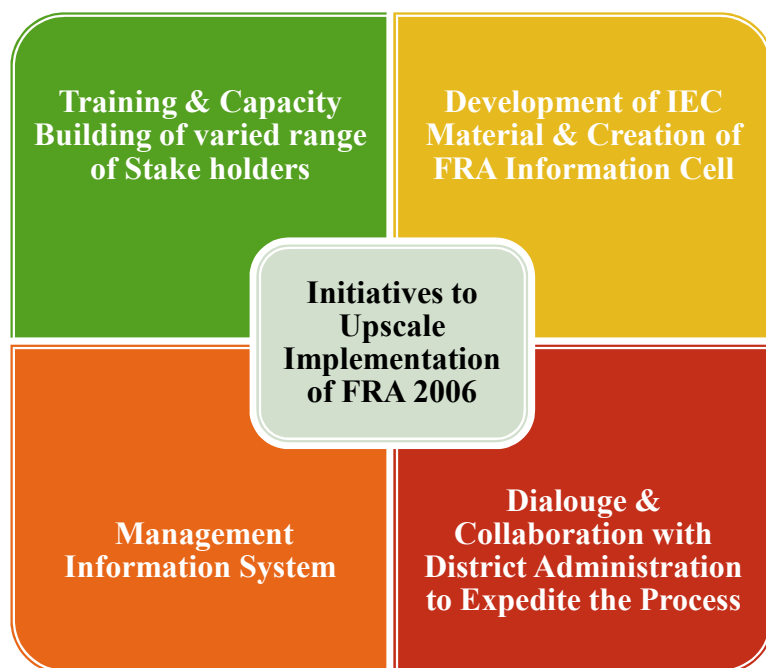


through working in collaboration with the Civil Society organizations, Peoples forums and District administrations in 11 districts of Odisha i.e. Mayurbhanj, Sambalpur, Sundargarh, Deogarh, Bargarh, Nayagarh, Kandhamal, Gajapati, Ganjam, Rayagada and Kalahandi.

## INITIATIVES UNDER TAKEN

### Training and Capacity Building

Training and Capacity building is a key approach for implementation of forest Rights Act 2006 in our intervention areas. Vasundhara especially focuses on the recognition of Community rights and Community Forest Resource Rights along with recognition of Individual Forest Rights. Thus, Vasundhara aims to create awareness and sensitization of different stakeholders like FRC members, Community Leaders, Facilitators, Civil Society organizations and Govt. officials through different level of training programme. The training programme are organized within and outside the intervention areas in collaboration with partners. Training and awareness is generated on various provisions of aspects of the Act and Rule, the role and responsibility of different stake holders, process and procedures of rights recognition, process of conversion of forest villages to revenue villages, process of protection and management of forest etc.



Training programme are organized in different levels for different Stakeholders such as Village level training, GP Level Training, Block Level Training and District Level Training to generate awareness among the FRC Members, Gram Sabha Members, PRI members, SDLC & DLC members, Political leaders and other Govt. officials about different aspects of Forest Rights Act and the role and responsibility of each stake holders prescribed under the Act.

We at Vasundhara work very closely with communities to build their capacity through different methods of mobilization like:

- ✚ Directly discussing with people,
- ✚ Motivating Community leaders,
- ✚ Motivating the elected representatives i.e. PRIs Members,
- ✚ Providing opportunities of cross learning.

As a result of the community mobilization and capacity building we have been able to work in 2059 of villages where the process of recognition of rights is initiated. The types of training and Capacity Building Programme conducted by Vasundhara are as follows:

- a) Village level training program/meetings.
- b) GP level trainings for FRC, PRI representatives and community leaders.

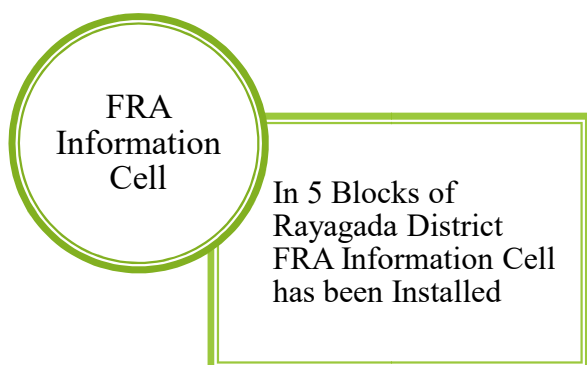
- c) Capacity building program for the People's organisation and NGOs
- d) Training for the Govt. officials and members of functional institutions like SLDC, DLC members etc.

At the end of these Training and Capacity Building, following are the outcome observed in the Participants:

- Participants built a fair understanding on the provisions/rules of Forest Rights Act along with other salient features
- Participants are oriented on the history of forest rights struggle and necessity for such a law in the country relating to the socio-political-ecological context
- Participants are well equipped with procedures, tools and techniques for CR and CFR recognition process along with mapping of CFRs
- Participants developed a crisp understanding over other thematic areas of FRA like CFR management, livelihood, and forest village

### **Development of IEC Material and Creation of FRA Information Cell**

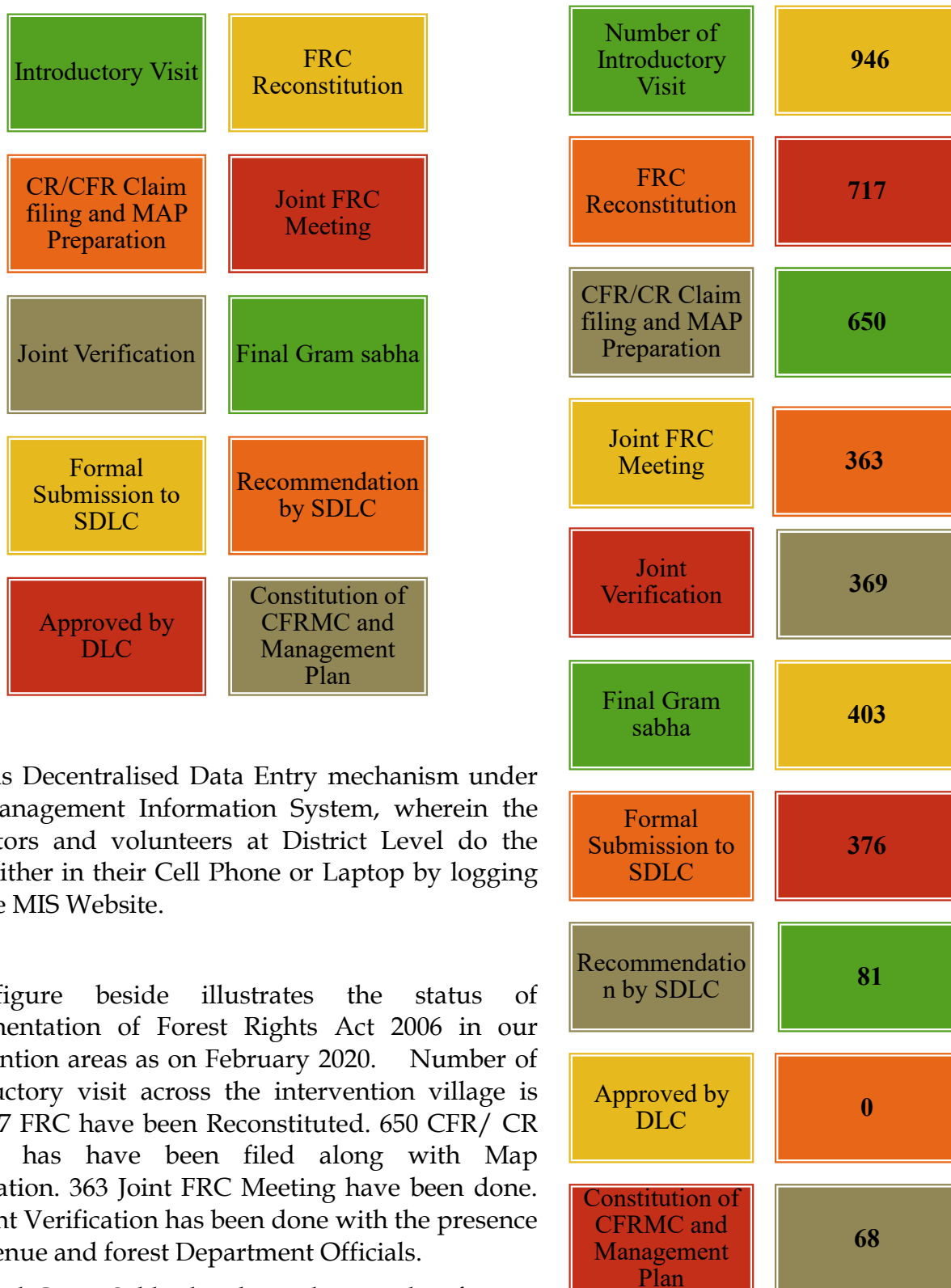
Vasundhara has developed IEC Material on Forest Rights Act 2006 in local language for the forest dependent Communities. It aims to reach out to the community and aware them about Forest Rights Act 2006 by developing leaflets, brochure, and booklets in the regional language. Vasundhara along with its partners and collaborators have created FRA Information Cell, so as to make these IEC materials on FRA 2006 accessible to the communities.



These IEC materials are made available at the FRA Information Cell. This FRA Information Cells have been installed in 5 Blocks of Rayagada District of Odisha. All the FRA related materials are available there in free of cost to the general public. People have started availing all the desired information on FRA from these FRA Information Cell.

### **Management Information System:**

Vasundhara in Collaboration with Indian School of Business (ISB) has adopted Management Information System to manage the database of implementation of Forest Rights Act 2006 in its intervention areas. Management Information System aims to keep a track of the Implementation of FRA 2006. Following are the Stages in the Management Information System.



There is Decentralised Data Entry mechanism under this Management Information System, wherein the facilitators and volunteers at District Level do the entry either in their Cell Phone or Laptop by logging into the MIS Website.

The figure beside illustrates the status of implementation of Forest Rights Act 2006 in our intervention areas as on February 2020. Number of introductory visit across the intervention village is 946. 717 FRC have been Reconstituted. 650 CFR/ CR Claims has have been filed along with Map Preparation. 363 Joint FRC Meeting have been done. 369 Joint Verification has been done with the presence of Revenue and forest Department Officials.

403 Final Gram Sabha has been done with reference to claim submission under FRA 2006. 376 CR/CFR Claims have been formally submitted to the SDLC. 81 CR/CFR Claims have been recommended by the SDLC to DLC. CR/CFR Claims are yet to be approved by the DLC, efforts are being made on this regard by initiating dialogue with the SDLC and DLC members. 68 Community Forest Rights Management Committee (CFRMC) has been Constituted and efforts are made to document the management plan of this CFRMC's

## **Dialogue and Collaboration with the District Administration to Expedite the Process.**

Vasundhara has engaged in Dialogue with the District Administration, SDLC, DLC and SLMC Members of the intervention areas to expedite the process. It has also collaborated and provided technical support to expedite the process and overcome the challenges in the implementation of FRA 2006. Vasundhara has also been part of various training programmes conducted by the state government as resource persons.



## **Habitat Rights of PVTGs**

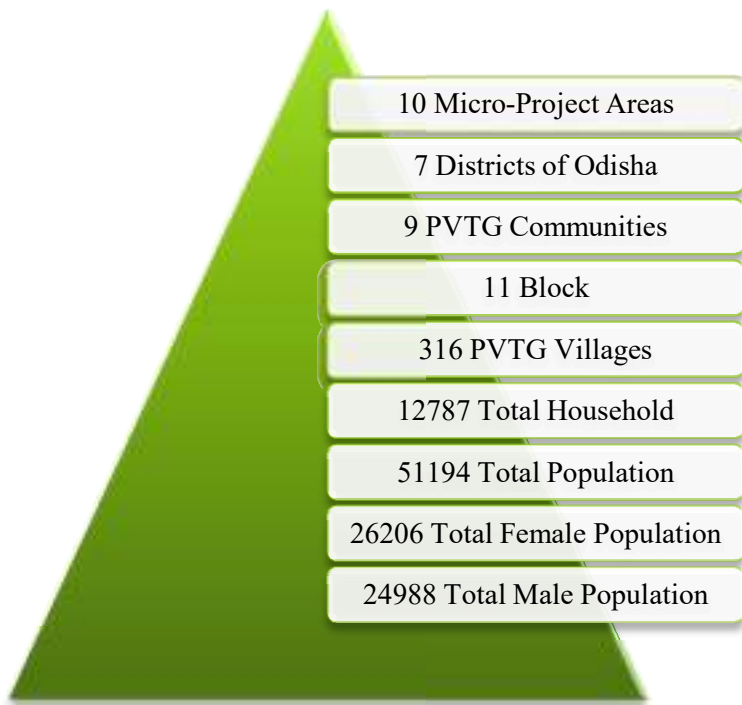
We are working with 3 PVTGs at present namely Kutia Kondha in Kandhamal, Paodibhuyan in Sundergarh, Juanga in Keunjhar through local partnership. The claims for habitat rights has reached to different stages where Paodi Bhuyan in Battisbar Pidha are ready to submit the claims. Juanga communities have been engaging with district administrations to leverage support from them where the correction to the submitted claims of 3 pidha have been under process after remand from SDLC. One panchayat, Mundigarh in Kutia Kondha have completed their Gram Sabhas to finalize the claims and soon be submitted to SDLC after a formal meeting and recommendation from Traditional Leaders. We have also organized a regional level consultation of Juanga and Paodi Bhuyan to build understanding over the law, development collective platform discussion, collective action and learning, and to work as a pressure groups for the administration.



# Section IV: Implementation of FRA in Micro Project Areas



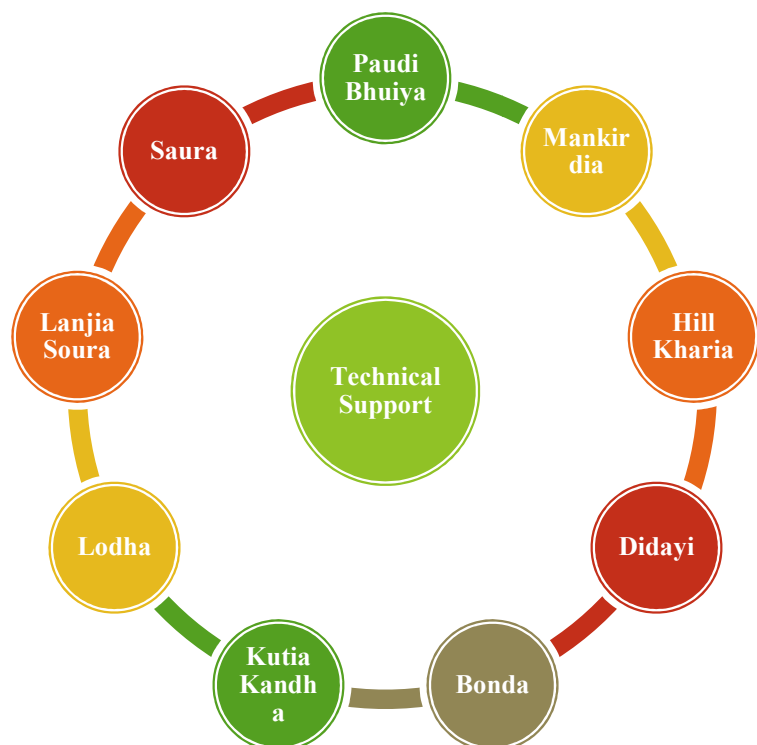
## Implementation of FRA 2006 in Vasundhara's Operational Micro Project Areas



Vasundhara is providing technical support in 10 Micro Project Areas of 7 districts of Odisha i.e. Mayurbhanj, Sundergarh, Gajapati, Ganjam, Malkangiri, Kalahandi and Kandhamal district of odisha. Vasundhara is working with 9 PVTG Communities ; Lodha, Saura, Lanjia Saura, Didayi, Bonda, Kutia Kondh, Paudi Bhuiya, Hill Khadia and Mankidia communities in 316 PVTG villages in this 10 Micro-Project Areas.

In this 10 Micro Project Areas, Vasundhara is facilitating implementation of Forest Rights Act 2006 in 11 Blocks comprising of 316 PVTG Villages. This 316

PVTG Villages, comprises of 12787 total household, 51194 total population, 26206 total female population and 24988 male population. Vasundhara is engaged with the 10 Micro - Project Agency in this 10 Micro - Project Areas. The Name of the Micro Project Agency is listed below:



Lodha Development Agency (LDA), Morada , Mayurbhanj

Khadia & Mankirdia Development Agency (HK & MDA), Jashipur, Mayurbhanj

Paudi Bhuyan Development Agency (PBDA), Khuntagaon Sundargarh

Soura Development Agency (SDA), Chandragiri , Gajapati

Lanjia Soura Development Agency (LSDA), Gumma , Gajapati

Tumba Development Agency (TDA), Tumba , Ganjam

Bonda Development Agency (BDA), Mudulipada, Malkhangiri

Didayi Development Agency (DDA), Kudumulugumma, Malkangiri

Kutia Kandha Development Agency (KKDA), Lanjigarh Kalahandi

Kutia Kandha Development Agency (KKDA), Belghar in Kandhamal

## DETAILS OF THE INTERVENTION AREAS:

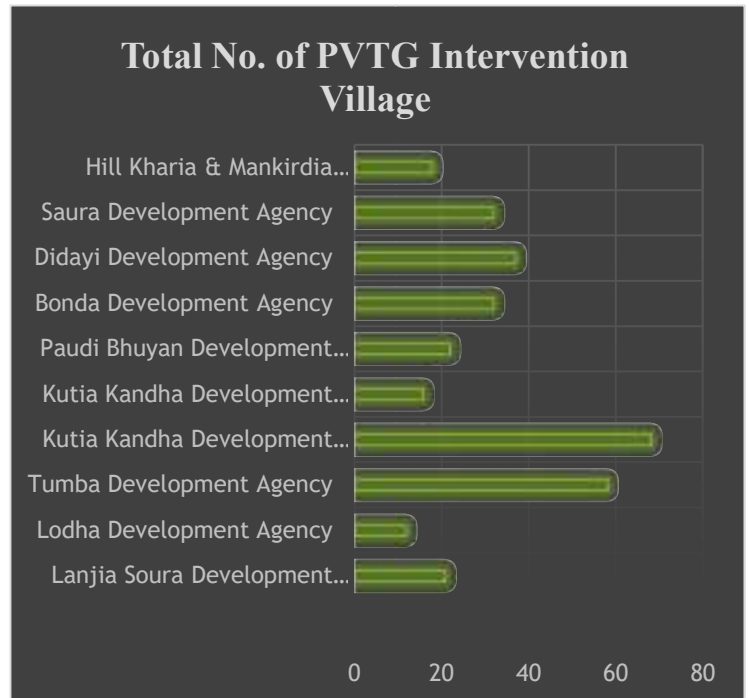
The details of the Micro Project intervention Areas of Vasundhara are illustrated below in the forms of Table and Graph:

1. Total Number of PVTG Intervention Village.
2. Total Number of Household in the PVTG Intervention village.
3. Total Population of the PVTG Intervention village.
4. Total Male Population of the PVTG Intervention Village.
5. Total Female Population of the PVTG Intervention Village

### Total Number of the PVTG Intervention Village

Vasundhara in Collaboration with its partner has reached out to 316 PVTG Villages. Following Table and Graph illustrated the number of intervention village as per the Micro Project Areas/ Micro Project Development Agency.

L. No.	Name of Micro-Project	No. of PVTG Village
1	Lanjia Soura Development Agency	21
	Lodha Development Agency	12
3	Tumba Development Agency	58
4	Kutia Kandha Development Agency	68
5	Kutia Kandha Development Agency	16
6	Paudi Bhuyan Development Agency	22
7	Bonda Development Agency	32
8	Didayi Development Agency	37
9	Saura Development Agency	32
10	Hill Kharia & Mankirdia Development Agency	18



### Total Number of Household in the PVTG Intervention village.

Vasundhara in Collaboration with its partner has reached out to 12787 Households in the PVTG Villages. Following Table and Graph illustrated the number of households in intervention village as per the Micro Project Areas/ Micro Project Development Agency.

Sl. No.	Name of Micro-Project	No. of HHs
	Lanjia Soura Development Agency	1494
2	Lodha Development Agency	1103
3	Tumba Development Agency	1156
4	Kutia Kandha Development Agency	1448
5	Kutia Kandha Development Agency	801
6	Paudi Bhuyan Development	1119



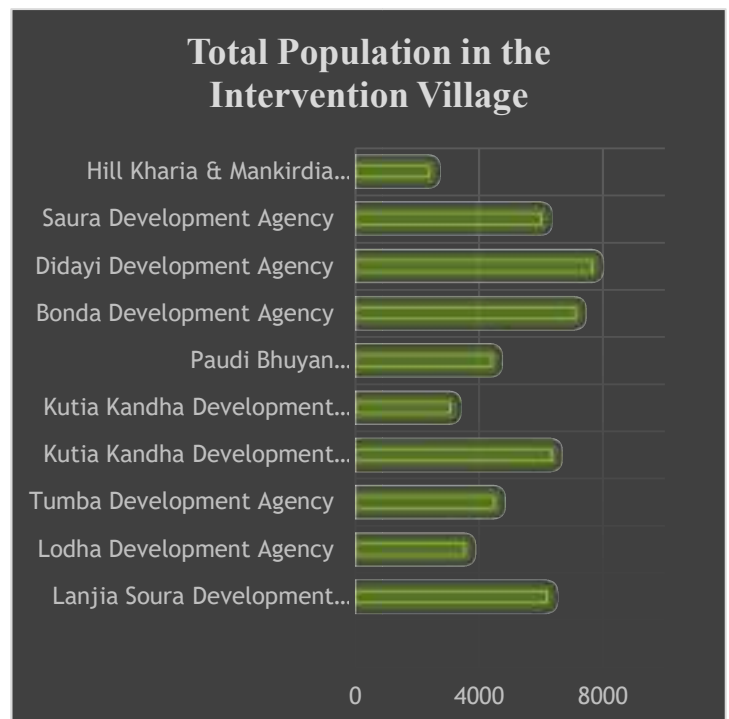


	Agency	
7	Bonda Development Agency	1819
8	Didayi Development Agency	1828
9	Saura Development Agency	1263
10	Hill Kharia & Mankirdia Development Agency	756

### Total Population of the PVTG Intervention village.

The Total Population of the PVTG Intervention village of Vasundhara in Collaboration with its partner is 51194 . Following Table and Graph illustrated the number of households in intervention village as per the Micro Project Areas/ Micro Project Development Agency.

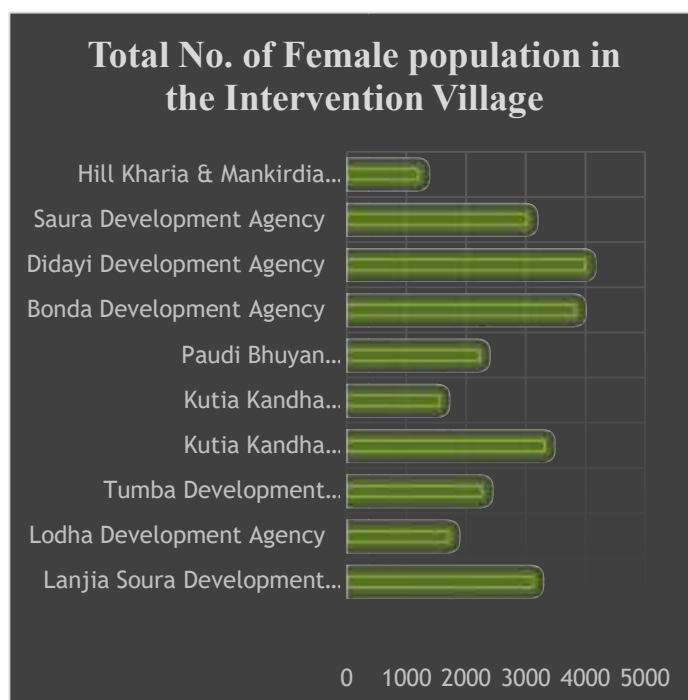
Sl. No.	Name of Micro-Project	Total No. Population
1	Lanjia Soura Development Agency	6180
2	Lodha Development Agency	3541
3	Tumba Development Agency	4494
4	Kutia Kandha Development Agency	6332
5	Kutia Kandha Development Agency	3075
6	Paudi Bhuyan Development Agency	4406
7	Bonda Development Agency	7098
8	Didayi Development Agency	7650
9	Saura Development Agency	6012
10	Hill Kharia & Mankirdia Development Agency	2406



### Total Female Population of the PVTG Intervention Village

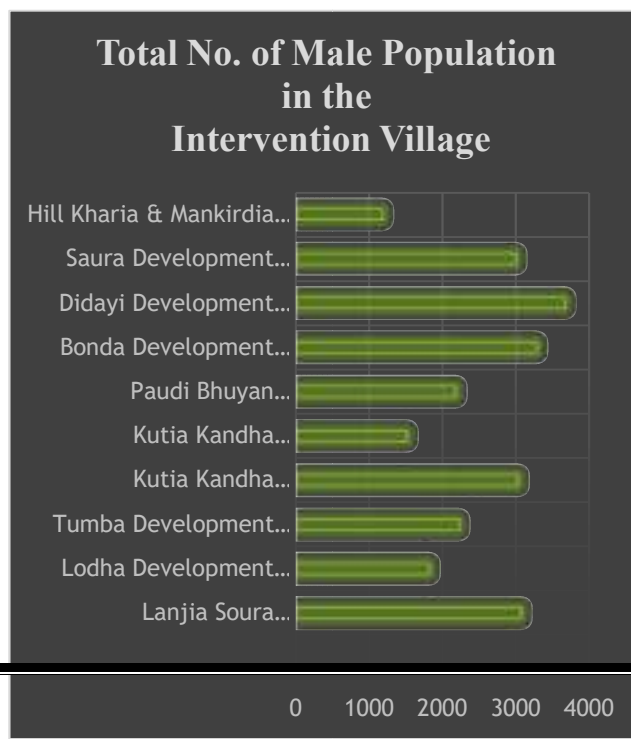
The Total Female Population of the PVTG Intervention village of Vasundhara in Collaboration with its partner is 26206 . Following Table and Graph illustrated the number of households in intervention village as per the Micro Project Areas/ Micro Project Development Agency.

Sl. No.	Name of Micro-Project	No. Female Population
1	Lanjia Soura Development Agency	3112
2	Lodha Development Agency	1718
3	Tumba Development Agency	2267
4	Kutia Kandha Development Agency	3303
5	Kutia Kandha Development Agency	1552
6	Paudi Bhuyan Development Agency	2220
7	Bonda Development Agency	3819
8	Didayi Development Agency	3987
	Saura Development Agency	3014
10	Hill Kharia & Mankirdia Development Agency	1214



### Total Male Population of the PVTG Intervention Village

The Total Male Population of the PVTG Intervention village of Vasundhara in Collaboration with its partner is 24988 . Following Table and Graph illustrated the number of households in intervention village as per the Micro Project Areas/ Micro Project Development Agency.



## Initiatives Undertaken in the Micro Project Area :

Sl. No.	Name of Micro-Project	Total No. of Male Population
1	Lanjia Soura Development Agency	3068
2	Lodha Development Agency	1823
3	Tumba Development Agency	2227
4	Kutia Kandha Development Agency	3029
5	Kutia Kandha Development Agency	1523
6	Paudi Bhuyan Development Agency	2186
7	Bonda Development Agency	3279
8	Didayi Development Agency	3663
9	Saura Development Agency	2998
10	Hill Kharia & Mankirdia Development Agency	1192

### Identification of Community Facilitators

106 Community Facilitators have been Identified and trained in 316 PVTG Villages.

Out of 106, 26 are Female and 80 are Male Community Facilitators

Vasundhara has identified Community facilitators in its intervention village, to enable implementation of the Forest Rights Act 2006. 106 Community facilitators have been Identified in these 316 PVTG Intervention Villages. Out of these 106 Community facilitators, 26 are female and 80 are male. Vasundhara is conducting capacity building programmes for the FRC Members, Traditional Leaders, Frontline Officers, Local Youths, Community Facilitators and PRI members.

### Capacity Building

FRC Members

Traditional Leaders

Frontline Officers

Local Youths

Community Facilitators

PRI Members

Sl. No.	Name of Micro-Project	Number of Community Facilitators		
		Male	Female	Total
1	Lanjia Soura Development Agency	12	4	16
2	Lodha Development Agency	3	1	4
3	Tumba Development Agency	12	5	17
4	Kutia Kandha Development Agency	15	7	22
5	Kutia Kandha Development Agency	4	2	6
6	Paudi Bhuyan Development Agency	4	2	6
7	Bonda Development Agency	8	2	10
8	Didayi Development Agency	10	2	12
9	Saura Development Agency	6	0	6
10	Hill Kharia & Mankirdia Development Agency	6	1	7
<b>Total Number of Community Facilitators</b>		<b>80</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>106</b>

## Process adopted for facilitation of FRA Implementation in Micro-Project Areas:

### Meeting with Special Officer:

Vasundhara met with Special Officers of all the above Micro-Project Offices and introduced about the program designed by the SCSTRTI, Bhubaneswar for implementation of FRA in PVTG villages in the concerned micro-projects. Vasundhara as resource organization and the Special Officers designed the plan to facilitate the process. The planning meeting was scheduled to be organized in presence of PRI members, FRC members from MPA villages, representatives from Revenue and Forest departments and local NGOs.



### Planning Meeting:

All the concerned Special Officers issued letters to the concerned PRI members, FRC members from MPA villages, representatives from Revenue and Forest departments and local NGOs. The planning meetings were organized as per the fixed date at micro-project offices. In that planning meeting, the selection of volunteers was done. The complete plan for facilitation of FRA implementation was chalked out as stated below:



Sl. No.	Activity	Date and Month	Responsibility
1	Preparing Action Plan with concerned SO, FRC Members, Traditional leaders, Panchayat Secy., Sarapanch, Local NGO partners		
2	Selection of Volunteers		
3	Assessment of present status of FRA by Volunteers and Reconstitution of FRC in all the 58 PVTG		



Sl. No.	Activity	Date and Month	Responsibility
	villages		
4	<b>Training to volunteers, FRC members, Govt. support staffs</b>		
5	Initiation of Claim making Process (Gram Sabha, FRC reconstitution (if needed), invite of claim, preparation of CFR, CR & IFR claim by FRC by the help of volunteers.		
6	Joint FRC meeting including neighboring FRCs		
7	Joint Field verification and mapping		
8	Final Gram Sabha and Approval of Claims		
9	Submission of Claims in SDLC with receiving Acknowledgement Receipt		

The proceedings of all the planning meetings have been shared with District Collectors, Director, SCSTRTI, concerned DFOs, Tehsildars and BDOs for their information and necessary support. Vasundhara has supported in drafting all the proceedings and has done regular follow up with micro-project offices to share it with the concerned officials.

#### **Selection of Volunteers:**

As per the suggestion from the present community leaders, PRI members, FRC representatives, the CRPs involved in the OPELIP program were selected for facilitation of implementation of FRA, though this work comes under land allocation program. In some places like PBDA, Khutagaon, DDA, Kudumulugumma, BDA, Mudulipada, SDA, Chandragiri, the people suggested to take the volunteers from the local NGOs who are involved in FRA implementation work. Vasundhara selected the Coordinators from different partner NGOs to provide immediate handhold to the selected volunteers and Vasundhara made agreement with them for their required support and payments. The number of volunteers and Coordinators were selected as stated below:

Sl. No.	Name of Micro-Project	Name of District	Number of Village	Number of Coordinators	No. of Volunteers
1	Hill Kharia & Mankidia Development Agency, Jashipur	Mayurbhanj	18	1	9
2	Lodha Development Agency, Morada	Mayurbhanj	12	1	2

Sl. No.	Name of Micro-Project	Name of District	Number of Villages	Number of Gram Panchayats	No. of Villages
3	Paudi Bhuyan Development Agency, Khuntagaon	Sundargarh	22	1	6
4	Soura Development Agency, Chandragiri	Gajapati	32	1	6
5	Lanjia Soura Development Agency, Serango	Gajapati	21	1	16
6	Tumba Development Agency, Tumba	Ganjam	58	1	17
7	Bonda Development Agency, Mudulipada	Malkangiri	32	1	10
8	Didayi Development Agency, Kudumuluguma	Malkangiri	37	1	12
9	Kutia Kondh Development Agency, Lanjigarh	Kalahandi	16	1	6
10	Kutia Kondh Development Agency, Belghar	Kandhamal	68	1	22
		<b>Total</b>	<b>316</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>106</b>

### Development of IEC Materials:



Vasundhara designed the IEC materials named Form-A, Form-B, Form-C, Books on Forest Rights Act, Rules and important circulars, Posters on FRA Claim making process and Flex on provisions under Forest Rights Act and Rules and different formats related to claim making process at village level. Vasundhara presented all these IEC materials with the SCSTRTI, Bhubaneswar and with all the Special Officers of all above

micro-projects. After approval of all those IEC materials by SCSTRTI and receiving consent from all the micro-project officers, those were supplied to all the micro-project offices and distributed to the community members and installed at GP offices, Tehsil offices along with micro-project offices.



### Collection and Compilation of Primary Data:

The present status of FRA was collected from SDLC, DLC, WEOs and micro-project offices through the appointed Coordinators and also directly by Vasundhara. All that information was compiled by Vasundhara and shared with the concerned micro-project offices. The plan was chalked out according to this status.

### **Extending Training Support:**

Vasundhara provided training in all above 10 micro-projects. The training was imparted to FRC members, community youths, PRI members, representatives from forest and revenue department, WEOs, village volunteers and local NGOs. Prior to training, Vasundhara designed the training module, agenda and required IEC materials and drafted the invitation letter for all the participants on behalf of micro-project officers to attend the training. The invitation letters were circulated to all the above participants according to fixed plan designed in the planning meeting. Vasundhara extended the training support according to the planned schedule for two days in each micro-project followed by group exercise on claim making process. At the end of the training, Vasundhara coordinated with the micro-project officers to issue the ToRs to the selected Community Facilitators.



### **Claim Making Process at Gram Sabha Level:**



All the community Facilitators are facilitating Gram Sabhas at village level with help of PRI members, FRC members and members of concerned Gram Sabha. They are helping the determination of forest rights by the Gram Sabha members and accordingly filling up the required forms and collecting the evidences. Then the GPS mapping is being done by Vasundhara by the technical persons and the final approval of the claims are being done by the concerned Gram Sabhas.

### **Monthly Review Meeting:**

Vasundhara has facilitated monthly review meeting two to three times in each micro-project and verified the progress and extended guidance to the volunteers to solve the field level issues. All the Coordinators appointed by Vasundhara are facilitating the program in the ground level



with the guidance of a program lead from the state office of Vasundhara. The Program Lead of Vasundhara is reviewing the progress, regularly, in all micro-project offices in presence of all the appointed volunteers, PRI members, and frontline officers.

**Regular Coordination with Field:**

Vasundhara is doing regular coordination with all the micro-project offices, Revenue department, forest department and welfare departments with help of Special Officers. For facilitation of demarcation and RoR correction, Vasundhara is also coordinating with the revenue department.



## **SECTION V:**

## **GIS CELL**



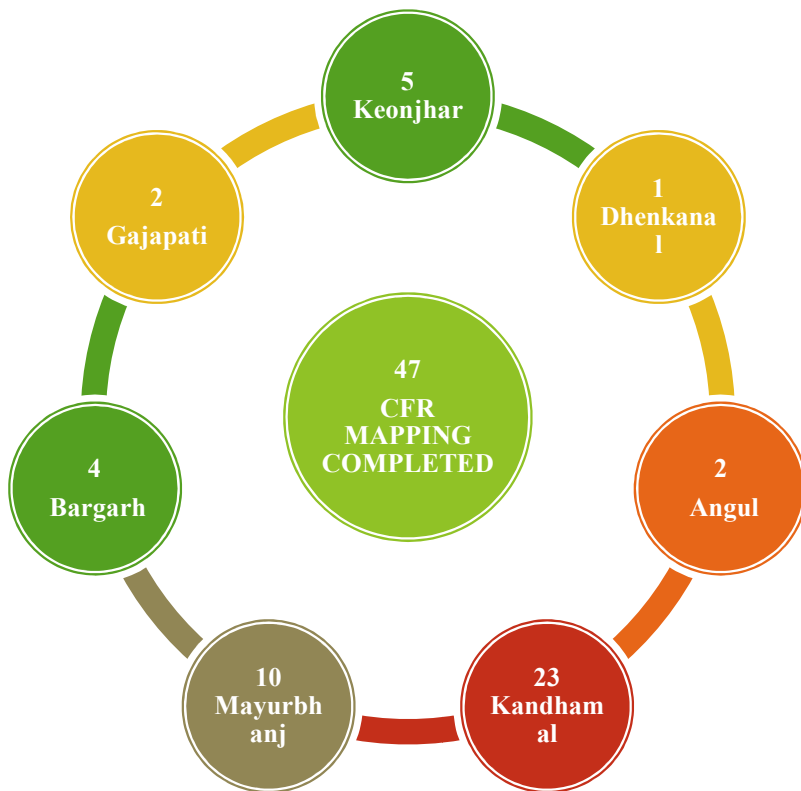


VASUNDHARA GIS CELL

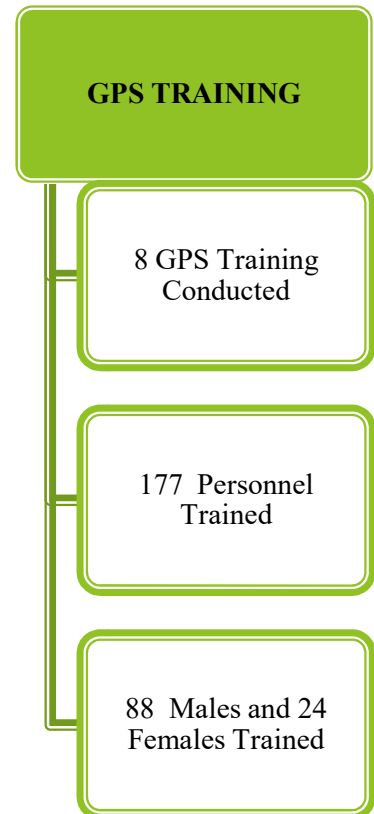


Vasundhara GIS Cell is working for community forest resource mapping and delineating resource potential, along with the livelihood team. It Emphasises on Community forest resource mapping under FRA and Individual Forest right mapping and identifying their position and area for claim making process. GIS Cell Provides Technical Support for research and advocacy in terms of Implementation of FRA 2006.

In this year 2019-20 total 47 numbers of CFR maps mapped in different parts of the Odisha. Mayurbhanj 10, kandhamal 23, keonjhar 5, Gajapati 2, Baragarh 4, dhenkanal 1, and Angul 2 numbers of maps have been completed.



Vasundhara GIS Cell has also extended support and collaborated with Academic Institutes like IIFM, TISS etc in terms of GPS Mapping. It has also prepared Maps Illustrating the FRA Potential areas in all the districts of Odisha 3 districts of Jharakhand. ,



In the year 2019-20, also the GIS Cell of Vasundhara facilitated IFR and CFR mapping, and training to different stake holders such as Administration, partner civil society organizations, people’s forum and volunteers were the major stake holders.



members and volunteers as participating in such trainings, make them aware about GIS/GPS which can be used in their right recognition process.

These Trainings on IFR and CFR Mapping, has tremendous impact on the community



# **SECTION VI: COMMUNITY FOREST PROTECTION AND**





## COMMUNITY FOREST RESOURCES GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT:

The Community Forest Resource Governance and Management System in most of our intervention areas is organised by rotational patrolling duty between all the households involved. Institutionally the Forest protection is headed by president of CFR management committees constituted under Rule 4(1) (e) under FRA 2006. The CFR management committees are responsible for daily management of the protection system and enforcement of protection rules approved by Gram Sabhas as well as conflicts resolution. We along with partner organisations are working in Mayurbhanj (especially Similipal), Deogarh cluster, Kandhamal and Nayagarh to facilitate development of framework for conservation and management.

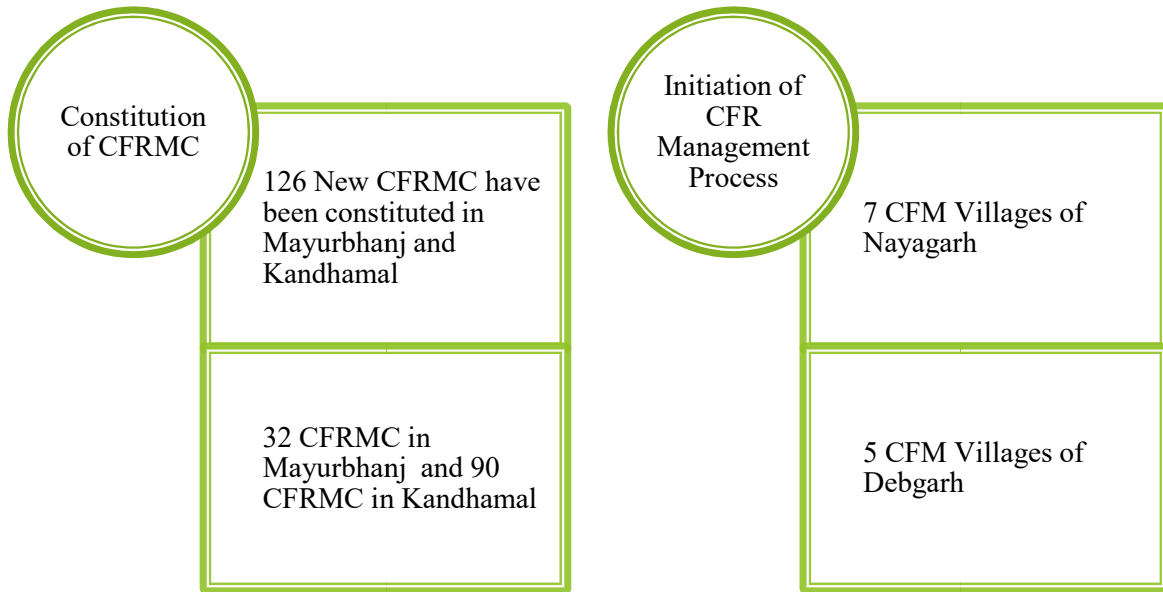


Our partners are CREFTDA, Jashipur, Gramswaraj, Bangiriposhi in Mayurbhanj. Similarly we are working with Zilla Jungle Mancha, Banani Mahila Sangha, Banaja Mahila Sangha and CIRTD in Deogarh cluster. In Nayagarh we are working with MMJSP and in Kandhamal we are working in Jamjhari Panchayat and Antaranga, a federation of youths of Kandhamal to strengthening the Gram Sabha-based governance and management process.

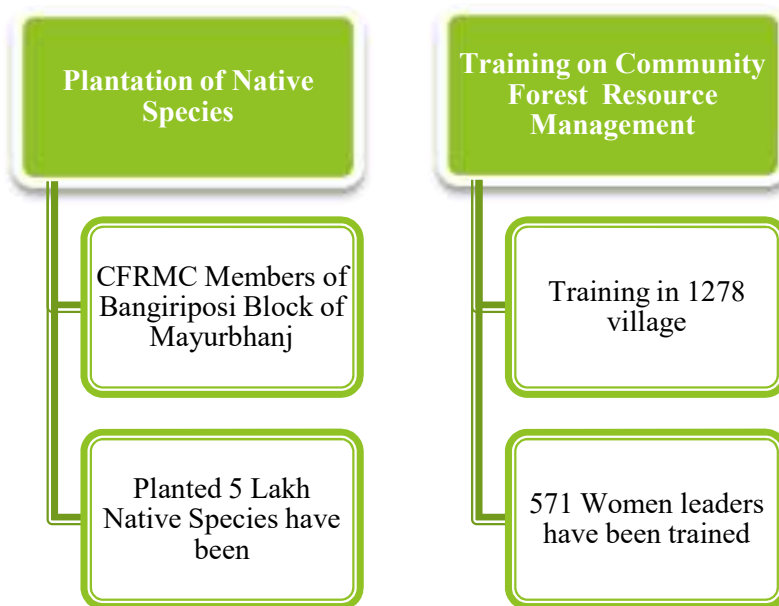
## INITIATIVES UNDERTAKEN

126 new CFR management committees are constituted to execute decisions taken by Gramsabhas in Bangiriposhi, Mayurbhanj and Kandhamal each having 32 and 90 respectively in this year. Besides this, day to day hand holding support is being provided to the CFR MC members. The Composition and representation patterns of forest dependent user groups in the committees are based on democratic and ecological principles varied from village to village. CFR management process initiated in 7 CFM villages under FRA provision of Nayagarh District and 5 CFM villages in Reamal, Deogarh.





A Two days' workshop of CFRMC members of Bangiriposhi block of Mayurbhanj was organized where the participants were invested their labour for plantation of 5 lakhs native species in the different forested pockets.

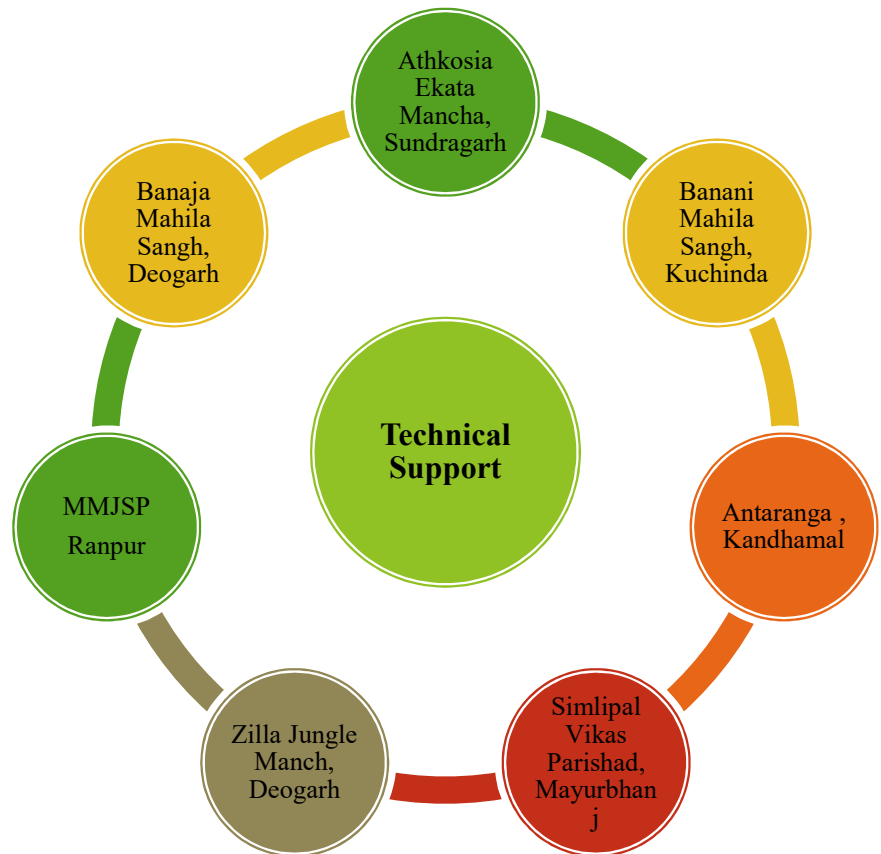


Several training programme have been done to train 1278 number of village based forest resource managers out of which 571 women , who could uses their knowledge and skill in forestry, ecology, forest based economics and ethno biology.

Vasundhara has provided technical support to the Cadres of People Organisations working on Forest Resource Management such as Athkosia Ekata Mancha, Sundargarh; Simlipal Vikas Parishad, Mayurbhanj, Zilla Jungle Manch, Deogarh; Banaja Mahila Sangh, Deogarh; Banani Mahila Sangh, Kuchinda, Maa Maninag Jungle Suraksha Parishad (MMJSP), Ranpur and Antarang Kandhamal.

51 CFR claims that had been submitted earlier were rectified and resubmitted to District Level Committee, Keonjhar

Effort has been also taken to strengthen the PRI members of 3 Gram Panchayats, Astak kumar, Barehpani and Gudgudia in Simlipal and one Gram Panchayat of Kandhamal to support Gramsabha based governance and management.



We have initiated documentation of forest foods, which are the major supplementary source of nutrition for forest dwelling communities for other intervention areas. They are rich with traditional harvesting techniques that have been in practice from generations to generations respecting the sustainable aspects of the forest resources in Simlipal and other intervention areas.

Transport of minor forest from the forests to outside market is one of the major challenges faced by the inhabitants due to the restrictions by the Forest Department. This year, people sold a good amount of honey, Sal seeds and Kusum seeds from Simlipal. National and local media are sensitised to highlight the successful story of community conservation practices of Ranpur, Kandhamal and Mayurbhanj. Similarly a national level programme

organised on CFR governance and management at Deori, Nagpur to discuss several aspects of CFR management across India. Gram Sabha's are more actively coming forward for management of the Sacred Groves. There are instances that more than one Gram Sabhas have jointly sharing responsibilities to address the issues on Sacred Groves. One of the example is

- Initiation of Documentation on Forest Foods
- Transport of Honey, Sal Seeds and Kusum Seeds from Simlipal
- National and Local Media Sensitization and Coverage on Community Conservation Practices.
- Management of Sacred Groves

of Maa Khilamunda, Bandhamunda, Ranpur, Nayagarh. Gramsabhas like that of Bilapagha are able to protect their sacred grove from illegal construction of Forest department which is violating their culture, faith and belief.

Gramsabhas are emphasizing women members to share greater responsibilities towards management and governance of CFR areas within the legal framework. On Conservation and management aspects, Gram Sabhas have significant understanding on the legal aspects of CFR governance under FRA. At the same time, though small but a practical baby steps have been taken to ensure food and livelihood security. Irrespective of heterogeneous composition of the caste, all households are getting the privilege of collection of forest produces.



Now they are trying to integrate the knowledge between forest seasonal changes and local demands. Strengthening of Gram Sabha level CFR management process in 203 villages that have already been constituted CFR management committees and newly constituted committees under FRA, empowering them to take decision.

## LEARNINGS

- Community Based Forest Management require a formal simple management plan and a periodic monitoring system. Community who are residing inside forests possess better knowledge on forest, biodiversity and ecologically sensitive area. They are the true observer and manager.
- Management based on community knowledge and wisdom has more sustainable in true sense than outsider input. They require simple facilitation to use their knowledge and skills in forestry, ecology and ethno biology or climate change issues.
- People who are working in the areas of climate change, water and river are looking forward to partnering with community who all are managing community forest resource areas.
- In coastal areas people are looking to integrate disaster preparedness with their Community forest resource management plan.
- Community who are residing inside forests possess better knowledge on forest, biodiversity and ecologically sensitive area. They are the true observer and manager.



**SECTION VII:  
CONVERSION OF  
FOREST VILLAGE INTO  
REVENUE VILLAGE**



### **Conversion of Forest Village into Revenue Village:**

Conversion of forest villages into revenue villages has been our major thrust area of Vasundhara as Odisha has hundreds of forest villages which include un-surveyed villages, hamlets and forest settlements even though official figures put it at only 36. After FRA came into being in 2006, amended rules came in 2012 and specific guidelines on forest and unsurveyed village came in 2013, provisions are now available which can facilitate the conversion of forest villages into revenue villages under section 3(1) h. A very effective process has been laid down for the same by the FRA. But till now not a single forest village in Odisha has been converted into a revenue village. With support from local organisations, we have facilitated the conversion process in a number of districts. District administrations of Mayurbhanj, Kandhamal, Sambalpur, Nayagarh and Ganjam have extended support to us to facilitate the field-level process. Vasundhara played a key role in generating awareness on conversion of forest villages into revenue villages in the training programmes organised by STSCRTI in different districts of Ohisha. We had requested the district Collectors to initiate process for identification forest villages. Collectors of Mayurbhanj, Sambalpur, Kandhamal and Gajapati have issued proclamation letters and notifications in their respective districts. In Deogarh, DLC has approved conversion of two forest villages into revenue villages. Vasundhara has been facilitating the Conversion of Forest Villages into Revenue Villages in the Following areas and the output of the intervention is as follows:

Proclamation letter has been issued in Angul, Bargarh, Dhenkanal, Phulbani, Kalahandi, Sambalpur, Deogarh, Ganjam, Nawarangpur, Rayagada and Malkanagiri. Gram sabha level facilitation process is going on by the district administration in different district namely Narayanpur village of Bargarh district, Gangamunda village of Dhenkanal district, Sahajbahal & Dangteka villages of Sambalpur district, 32 villages of Kashipur block of Rayagada district and the un- surveyed villages of Kalahandi district. Final notification has been issued to Badmul village of Angul district and Jaritaila of Deogarh district for the conversion of forest village to revenue villages under 3(1) (h) of Forest Rights Act.



**SECTION VIII:**  
**MAJOR INITIATIVES**

## Ground Truthing of the Rejection of IFR Cases Post the Supreme Court Order

The Supreme Court of India had issued an interim order on 13<sup>th</sup> February 2019 to evict the people from forest land within 4 months, whose claims have been rejected in finality. Subsequently the Supreme Court revised its own order on 28<sup>th</sup> February 2019 and asked all the states to place action plan for dealing the rejected claims. In this context in collaboration with the Legal Resource Centre, New Delhi leaflets in Odia, English and Hindi had been developed and circulated widely with the CSOs, networks who are engaged in facilitation of Forest Rights Act 2006. Besides this, two sensitization programmes for CSOs of Odisha had been conducted on various provisions of the Act and Rules and procedural aspects were communicated to the participants to deal with the rejected claims.



Along with sensitization programmes, we have conducted ground truthing of the rejection of IFR Cases in our intervention areas, to assess the process adopted for rejection and intimation to the claimants. During the course, we have also generated awareness among the communities and helped them in filing appeal, analysed case studies, extended support to local organization and regarding the rejection of claims. We had a dialogue with the administration regarding the process illustrated in the Act for rejections and what

are the process that needs to be followed for rejection of IFR Claims.

## Launching of State Wide Campaign on “Justice to Last Mile”



A State Level Consultation was organised on 11<sup>th</sup> November 2019, comprising of Community Leaders, Civil Society Organisation, Para Legal Volunteers, Lawyers and Community Leaders in Collaboration with Legal Research Centre, wherein A State Wide Campaign on “Justice to Last Mile” was launched. Supreme Court Advocate Shomona Khanna and Legal Resource Centre Team illustrated the Supreme Court order to the Participants. The Community Leaders, Para Legal Volunteers gave their testimonies as to how there has been wrongful rejection of their IFR Claims, how they have not been intimated prior to the hearings, how they have not been given adequate opportunity to present their case in the SDLC and DLC Hearings, and testimonies of community people on wrongful rejection of their IFR Claims

### **Vasundhara is part of various State and National Level Committee formed by the Government**

- ✚ National Committee on Van Dhana Scheme of Government of India
- ✚ Expert Committee by Ministry of Tribal Affairs, Government of India on Community Forest Rights and Habitat Rights under FRA 2006
- ✚ Committee on Monetary Compensation on Acquisition of forest Rights by the Scheduled Caste & Scheduled Tribe Research and Training Institute

### **Vasundhara collaborated with South Asia Solidarity Interpreters (SASI) for Interpretation in the Biennial Convention & 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of National Alliance of People’s Movement 2019.**



Vasundhara in collaboration with South Asia Solidarity Interpreters (SASI) organised a workshop for training solidarity interpreters for Multi - Lingual Interpretation for the 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of national Alliance of People’s Movement 2019 held at Puri from 23<sup>rd</sup> to 25<sup>th</sup> November 2019. Colleagues from vasundhara Participated in this workshop for training, which was held 2 days prior to the event and also interpreted in the 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of National Alliance of



People's Movement. Around 500 activists, community leaders, researchers, people's representatives of the people's movement across India participated in this Convention. Many Prominent Leaders such as Medha Pathkar, Teesta Setalvad, Aruna Roy, Lingaraj Azad participated in this



Convention and addressed this gathering. This three-day event was multilingual. The event was held in Odia, Kannada, Telugu, Malayalam, Hindi, Tamil, and English. Colleagues from Vasundhara were part of the Multilingual Interpreters, who interpreted (spoken translation) at the event from hindi to odia, English to odia, odia to English, odia to hindi.

### Research Collaboration with Council for Social Development, Hyderabad and TISS Mumbai

### National Convention on Women and Forest Rights

Oxfam, WOSCA, RCDC, FES and Vasundhara organised National Convention on Women and Forest Rights at Bhubaneswar on 12<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup> December 2019. The Convention on Women and Forest Rights was inaugurated by Shri Sujeet Kumar, Advisor of Special Development Council, Government of Odisha, Ms. Sashiprava Bindhani, Information Commissioner, Government of Odisha and Ms. Anna Kujur, Tribal Women Activist.



Madhu Sarin, member of the drafting committee of Forest Rights Act 2006, the Guest Speaker, addressed the gathering and spoke on the National Perspective of Implementation of Forest Rights Act 2006. 250 Grassroot tribal women leaders, women rights activists, members of state and national networks of women and forest rights organisations and form the states of Chattisgarh, Uttarakhand, Odisha, Jharkhand, Andhra Pradesh, Gujarat, Maharashtra, Rajasthan,

had participated in this Convention along with representatives from Government, Resource Organisations and Media. Women leaders shared their stories of leadership and struggle in natural resource governance, including protection of natural resources; vulnerabilities associated with single women, women households claiming rights and resistance faced by them. The Delegates of Women Leaders met the Governor of Odisha and submitted the Demand Charter which was endorsed by all the participants of the convention.

### **Vasundhara extended Technical Support for FRA Atlas of Odisha**



Ministry of Tribal Affairs, Govt. of India in collaboration with the SC & ST Development Department, Govt. of Odisha organised an All India Launch of Programme for Capacity Building of ST Representatives in Local Self Governments on 27<sup>th</sup> February 2020, wherein they Launched Forest Rights Act Atlas of Odisha illustrating the total number of potential villages, blocks for recognition of forest rights Act 2006 in Odisha. Vasundhara extended technical support in preparing maps for the FRA Atlas of Odisha.

### **Interaction with the Students of TISS Hyderabad on Democratization of Natural Resource Governance**

Vasundhara aims to reach out to students and interact with them about Natural Resource Governance, Forest Rights Governance. In light of this, Our Colleague Archana Soreng, Alumni of TISS had been to TISS Hyderabad for a talk organised by Bahujan Collective on Democratization of Natural Resource Governance, wherein she emphasised about the need of Democratization of Natural Resource Governance, Contradictory and Enabling laws, Potential and Provisions of Forest Rights Act 2006, Forest Rights Act 2006 and UN Treaties and Field insights



### **Vasundhara Team Participated in the Doordarshan Odia Programme of Women and Forest Rights Act 2006 and Vana Dhana Scheme.**

Doordarshan Odia had organised a Panel Discussion on Women and FRA 2006, which was telecasted on 19<sup>th</sup> January 2020. Mr. Nisha Pradhan, Community Leader of Dhengajari Village of Ranpur Block of Nayagarh and our colleague Archana Soreng participated in the Panel Discussion on Women and Forest Rights Act 2006 hosted by Doordarshan Odia along with Mr. Akhsay Biswal (Oxfam) and Mr. Ghasiram Panda (Anchor).



Nisha Pradhan being one of the Pioneer of the Women Led Community Forest Protection and



Management in Ranpur shared about the initiatives undertaken by the Women of her village and neighbouring Villages and how things have changed in their Village Post Forest Rights Act 2006. Our Colleague Archana, illustrated the provisions for women under the Forest Rights Act 2006 and if the Act is implemented effectively, how it will bring in a change.



Doordarshan Odia had organised a Talkshow on Vana Dhana Scheme which was telecasted on 29<sup>th</sup> February and 1<sup>st</sup> March 2020. Mr. Prafulla kumar Panda, Regional Manager TRIFED India of Odisha, Ms. Nalini Mahakul, President of Banani Mahila Sangh, Debgarh and Our Colleague Ms. Ispita Behera were the Panelist of this Programme along with Mr. Ghasiram Panda (anchor). Around 20

community leaders from five districts of Odisha; Nayagarh, Mayurbhanj, Sambalpur, Debgarh, Kandhamal and few vasundhara staff participated in this programme. The Van Dhan Scheme Programme of Dooradarshan Odia was an interactive programme, wherein the Community Leaders raised question about what is Van Dhana Scheme and how will it be implemented in their districts and how it is a distinct scheme from the minimum support Price and the panellist answered these question given their expertise.

### **Visit of Indian Institute of Forest Management (IIFM), Bhopal Students in the Intervention Area of Vasundhara for Experiential Learning**

30 students of Indian Institute of Forest Management (IIFM) Bhopal visited the Intervention Area of vasundhara for experiential learning. They visited Villages in Mayurbhanj, Kandhamal, Kendrapara and Nayagarh districts of Odisha to get insights on Implementation of Forest Rights Act 2006, Community Rights (CR) Community Forest Resource (CFR) Rights, Conversion of Forest Village into Revenue Village, Shifting Cultivation, Habitat Rights, Mapping of Forest Resources and Customary Boundary and GPS Mapping. They visited Simlipal Tiger Reserve in Mayurbhanj, Bitarkanika in Kendrapara. They had classroom learnings in Bhubaneshwar for 2 days, wherein the experts from the domain of Natural Resource Governance interacted with the students and gave them



theoretical perspectives and insights on ground realities. These visit enabled the students to get first-hand experience of Community Forest Protection and Management, Sustainable way of living, Collection of minor forest Produce and livelihood of the forest dwelling communities and the challenges faced by them.

## Training cum Sensitization Program on The Scheduled Tribes & Other Traditional Forest Dwellers (Recognition of Forest Rights) Act, 2006 and Rules

The ST & SC Development Department bearing its letter No. 19742/SSD dated on 16.11.2019 has instructed to all the districts administration to organise capacity building and training of the Government officials and local functionaries at various level in the District on implementation of the Forest Rights Act, 2006 and Amendment Rules, 2012. This instruction was issued based the D.O. letter bearing No-23011/29/2019-FRA dated 14.10.2019 of the Ministry of Tribal Affairs, Government of India.



Based on the instruction of the Department, there was a plan of Subarnapur district administration to hold two Training cum Capacity Building in the District, which includes one district level on 12<sup>th</sup> February and one Sub-Divisional Level capacity building program on 13<sup>th</sup> February 2020. The participants of the training were:

- Field Staffs of Revenue, Forest and ST & SC Department
- Members nominated by Zila Parishad to SDLC and DLC
- Members of the Forest rights Committees
- PRI Representatives



Besides the stakeholders stated above, there is an instruction to involve local NGOs/CSOs for providing capacity building on Forest Rights Act 2006. Vasundhara was invited to this training program as resource person to facilitate the program. Mr. Y. Giri Rao, Mr. Aurobindo Rout and Mrs. Ranjeeta Pattnaik joined in the program.

During the training program, a Kit was provided to all frontline officers for their ready reference. The Kit carried the following materials:

- English version of the Act and Rules (amended upto 2012)
- Odia version of the Act and Rules (amended upto 2012)
- Key features of the Act and Rules
- Quick Reference of various provisions
- Frequently Asked Question, prepared by the Ministry of Tribal Affairs
- Guideline on Conversion of the Forest & Un-surveyed villages, issued by the Revenue Department
- Guideline on the Demarcation and RoR Correction, issued by the Revenue Department

- Guideline on Convergence of various programs and schemes, issued by ST & SC Department

**Participated in 66<sup>th</sup> Session of CESCR: A Day of General Discussion on land and ICESCR at UN Head Quarters Geneva at 14<sup>th</sup> October 2019**



Our Colleague Archana Soreng, participated in the 66<sup>th</sup> Session of the Committee of Economic Social and Cultural Rights (CESCR): A Day of General Discussion on land and International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights on 14<sup>th</sup> October 2019 at UN Head Quarters, Geneva, as an Indigenous Youth

Representatives from India. She was also selected in the list of 7 Indigenous Grantees across the world, who made oral intervention along with written intervention in the 66<sup>th</sup> Session of CESCR. We are grateful to Oxfam International, Adibhumi, Seba Jagat and TISS Forest Rights and Governance Project Odisha for giving her this opportunity and enabling her to participate in this United Nation 66<sup>th</sup> Session of CESCR and put forward the voice and perspectives of Indigenous People.



**Participated in the Sixth Tenure Facility Learning Exchange Event in Bogota, Colombia 2019**



Our Executive Director, Y. Giri Rao, participated in the Sixth Tenure Facility Learning Exchange Event in Bagota, Colombia 2019, wherein around 100 participants comprising of Community Leaders, Civil Society Organisations, Representatives from Government, Researchers, Academician's of 19 countries from Africa, Asia and Latin America came together to discuss on tenure security of the forest dwelling communities and indigenous people, so as to ensure titling and registration of

communal lands.

**Participated in the Forest Management Workshop in Thailand, 2019**

Our Colleague Hemant Sahu

**SECTION IX:**  
**OUR PUBLICATIONS**  
**&**  
**COLLABORATORS**



## OUR PUBLICATION

Vasundhara has published the following document in the year 2019-2020

- FRA Book (both in English & Regional language)
- FRA poster on the claim filing process of Community Rights and Community Forest Resource Rights
- Booklet on Conversion of Forest Villages to Revenue Villages (in Regional Language)
- Vana Dhana Scheme Odia Leaflet.

## OUR COLLABORATORS:



ST & SC Development, Minorities &  
Backward Classes Welfare Department

Government of Odisha



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of Forest Management



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FOUNDATION**



**SECTION X:  
BOARD MEMBERS  
&  
OUR TEAM**

**GOVERNING BOARD MEMBERS OF VASUNDHARA AS ON 31ST MARCH, 2020**

<b>Ms NeeraM. Singh, President</b>	<b>Prof. Premananda Panda, Vice-President</b>	<b>Ms Madhu Sarin, Member</b>	<b>Dr. (Ms). V. Rukmini Rao, Member</b>
<b>Dr. Geetanjoy Sahu, Member</b>	<b>Mr. Y. Giri Rao, Secretary cum Executive Director</b>	<b>Ms. Puspanjali Sathpathy, Treasurer</b>	<b>Ms. Ranjita Pattnaik, Staff Representative</b>

**Our Vasundhara Team as on 31<sup>st</sup> March 2020**

Y Giri Rao	Puspanjali Satapathy	Ranjita Pattnaik	Aurobindo Rout	Balkrushna Sahu	Sushant Dalai
Chitta Ranjan Pani	Hemant Ku Sahoo	Archana Soreng	Ipsita Behera	Bhagyalaxmi Biswal	Ashok Parida
Nilamani Mohapatra	Aditya Prasad Panda	Trinath Kabasi	Mithun Khora	Ajay Muduli	Sunaram Murmu
Chakradhar Majhi	Pragya Pandey	Saraswati Soren	Biswanath Tung	Manoj Ku Dehury	Swapneshwar Dehury
Shyam Sundar Sahoo	Manmohan Barik	Sakuntala Acharya	Krupasindu Parida	Padmacharan Panigrahy	Rohit Behera
		Basant Kumar Si	Silu Pradhan		