

ANNUAL REPORT

2017-18



Vasundhara

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This is the tenth year of the enactment of the Forest Rights Act, an emancipatory and transformative legislation in the history of independent India securing legal rights of millions of forest dwelling communities to correct the historical injustice caused by the colonial forest governance. This legislation not only secures the rights, access and control over the forest resources by the local communities but also tries to address the long standing issue of ecological security.

As Vasundhara believes that this legislation provides a unique opportunity to work on reducing poverty and inequality and promoting ecological health, transforming the lives and livelihoods of rural communities using the provisions of this Act has been our core focus since its enactment. There are ample examples of people witnessing a positive change due to this legislation.

However, even after a lot of efforts by a number of organisations, individuals and the Central and State Governments, we are yet to achieve the goals set by the legislation. The 'Citizens' Report on Promise and Performance of FRA' and the reports from the states like Gujarat, Odisha, West Bengal, Andhra Pradesh, Telengana, Kerala and Maharashtra, which were produced by CFR-Ia, outlined a number of challenges at micro and macro levels. It is high time the civil society organisations, NGOs and the State and Central Governments retrospected the strategies and approach for effective implementation of the Act.

Mr. Y Giri Rao
Executive Director
Vasundhara

SECTION-I



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 also supports other stakeholders (such as Government Departments, PRIs, CSOs, people's network, academia, legislators, researchers) 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. Over the years, Vasundhara's work has also included other natural resources and environmental issues and their interface with rural livelihoods. Vasundhara plays a significant role towards inclusion of community forest rights in the demand for the Forest Rights Act. Since the passage of the Act¹ 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, 2017, Vasundhara's staff strength stands at 34, of which 27 are programme staff. Our governing board comprises of experts

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

and practitioners from diverse backgrounds provide policy, strategy, planning and governance inputs.

Evolution

Odisha has the unique privilege of having a large number of self-evolved forest conservation and management initiatives. These community-based forest resource institutional arrangements, popularly referred to as Community Forest Management (CFM), display enormous diversity, local ingenuity and creativity. CFM has remarkable impacts on the forest resources as well as on institutional capacity of local communities. Community-evolved systems and practices have shown the way for viable and sustainable conservation of natural resources worldwide. However, despite the presence of a large numbers of community forestry groups i.e., approximately 10,000 groups, the response of the state is not proactive and encouraging.

The late 1980s and early 1990s marked the large-scale implementation of social forestry plantation programmes in assistance with SIDA. By aiming at creating village woodlots, the state emphasised plantation, rather than nurturing community efforts. At this time, Vasundhara's founding members were undertaking an assignment on social forestry plantations. They saw numerous community forest protection initiatives in the western regions of the state, and were inspired by them and their potential to usher in new avenues for people-resource interaction and community-based natural resource management.

Vasundhara was informally constituted in 1991 to work for institutional and policy changes in community forest management. Our intervention in this specific area is guided by the belief that local communities have the greatest stake and the capacity to conserve and manage forest resources (and other natural resources) and that there is a need to create policy space for community based arrangements. Vasundhara's initial work entailed understanding creativity of community-based forest management systems, and sharing research experiences and findings aimed at making the CFM groups visible. Vasundhara has also been continuing its efforts for recognition of community forest management initiatives. Contrary to working

towards decentralisation, state forestry policies and programmes tend to move more in the directions of increased centralisation of forest governance, privatisation of natural resources and producing market based solutions to conservation problems.

The organisation was registered under the Societies Registration Act in 1992. The first two years were focused on research aimed at developing a critical understanding of these community forestry efforts. Subsequently, Vasundhara got involved in networking efforts with forest protection groups, people's organisations, and non-governmental organisations (NGOs). We also assisted various NGOs in their forestry-related activities to plan for coordinated efforts aimed at strengthening community-based forest management.

Over the years, while working and retaining our focus on community forestry, Vasundhara has developed a more explicit focus on sustainable livelihood for marginalised communities. We are also embarking on more direct action on different issues related to environmental conservation and biodiversity preservation. The interface of conservation and livelihoods now forms the core of our interventions.

Please visit our website www.vasundharaorissa.org for details.

Our Work and Approach in Brief

Odisha is one of the richest states of India in terms of forest² and natural resources. The greatest contributors to the continued existence and richness of Odisha's forests are tribals and other traditional forest dwellers of Odisha. Communities in Odisha have been at the forefront of protecting and managing forests and biodiversity. Communities have protected forests from timber smugglers, corporates felling trees (and bamboo) for industrial raw materials or mining and sometimes even official felling (coupe) operations under working plans. Around 12,000 such community forest protection initiatives have already been documented³. The continuity of forests and biodiversity require that such initiatives are recognised and supported. The joint forest management approach has proved to be inadequate for recognising and supporting such initiatives. The Forest Rights Act has recognised community

² As per the latest FSI report

³ RCDC report

rights over forests and this has created an opportunity for communities (Gram Sabhas) to claim rights over forests protected/managed/used by them. Vasundhara and many other organisations (including Government Departments) are working to support and facilitate this process.

While community forest resource right seeks to provide rights to communities to protect and manage forests within their traditional boundaries, they also use forests beyond their traditional boundaries for subsistence and livelihoods. However, access to such resources has often been restricted by the state and not infrequently by dominant communities. Apart from physical restrictions on access, change in species composition through centralised plantation programmes of non-local species also hamper the availability of traditionally used produce and services. Community rights secure the rights over such forests and resources.

FRA seeks to undo the historical injustice done to the forest dwelling communities. Among them, there are communities who live in villages that are not recognised by the government as revenue villages. Many such villages comprise of communities that have been displaced due to development projects who have settled in the forests on account of lack of proper resettlement. People in such unrecognised villages are denied the very identity of being a village. On account of this, they are deprived of the most basic facilities and services. Forest Rights Act provides an opportunity to convert such villages into revenue villages along with recognising their rights under other provisions (IFR, CR, CFR etc.) of the Forest Rights Act.

Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups (PVTGs) are the most vulnerable forest dwellers, who are socially, culturally, geographically and economically different from other tribal groups. PVTGs represent unique cultures and lifestyles that are under threat of extinction and which require recognition and protection. Habitat rights under the FRA recognise the socio-cultural, ecological and economic rights of PVTGs confined to a specific geographical territory.

During the colonial period and post colonial era, state laws and policies undermine the traditional governance and management system, thereby affecting the forests as well as livelihoods of the forest dwellers predominantly tribals. The law with regards to the conservation and management of bio-diversity recognises the

responsibility and authority of Gram Sabha for sustainable use, maintenance of ecological balance, thereby strengthening the conservation regime of the community forest resources to ensure livelihood and food security.

Rights over forest produce are an inherent part of community rights over forests. Women have traditionally enjoyed rights over non-timber forest produce for subsistence and income. During decades of denial of community forest rights, these rights of women have been violated through restrictions imposed on collection and marketing. Re-establishing these rights constitutes a major part of implementation of the Forest Rights Act. Vasundhara facilitates women's collectives to assert these rights.

Specific objectives of our work

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.
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 Work is Organised around the Following Themes and Functions

- **The Community Forest Management Movement**
- **Recognition of rights under Forest Rights Act**
 - Community Rights & Community Forest Resources Rights Recognition
 - Conversion of forest villages
 - Habitat Rights of PVTGs
 - Individual Forest Rights
 - Women and FRA
- **Community Forest Resource Governance and Management**
- **Sustainable Livelihood & Economic Democratisation**
- **Land Rights & Rights of Displaced Communities**
- **Publications**

Executive Board (as on 31st March, 2017)

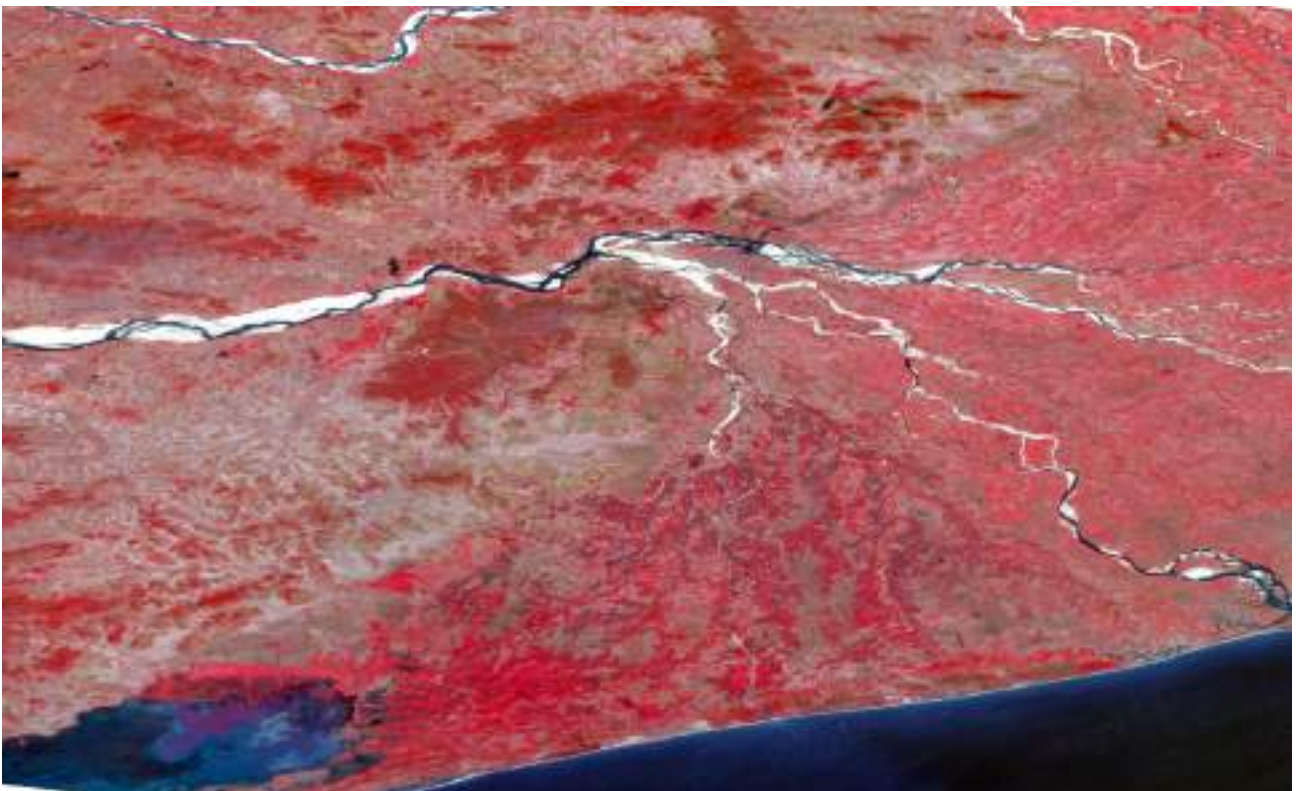
- Ms NeeraM. Singh, President
- Prof. Premananda Panda, Vice-President
- Ms Madhu Sarin, Member
- Dr. (Ms). V. Rukmini Rao, Member
- Ms. Sumi Krishna Chauhan, Member
- Mr. Manas R. Mishra, Secretary Cum-Executive Director
- Mr. Hemanta Sahoo, Treasurer
- Mr. Bibhore Deo, Staff Representative

SECTION-II



From time immemorial till eighteenth century, forests were considered as an open access resource for the forest dwelling communities. With a few exceptions all the forest resources are open for everybody's use. This age-old practice of considering forests as a common resource has been supported by environmentalists with due interpretation.

The vast forest as compared to the small population dwelling inside gives the impression that there is no need of management of forest resources. In the British era, forests were considered as an inexhaustible and exploitable mass and the ecological significance used to be ignored completely.



Unsustainable harvest and wasteful uses practised at that time led to rapid loss of forest resources. Realizing it the Government appointed a commission of teak in Malabar forest around 1800. Scattered efforts to stop unsustainable practices continued up to 1864, which led to the appointment of the first Inspector General of Forests. The process of curtailing the unrestricted rights of people over forests started with the Indian Forest Act 1878. With this Act, the focus shifted from the forests being considered as a resource base for sustenance of local communities to a

state resource for commercial interests and development of land for agriculture. Acts and policies such as the Indian Forest Act of 1878 and 1927 curtailed the centuries-old, customary-use rights of local communities. On the other hand, it consolidated the government's control over the forests. Thus, forest use by villagers was no longer considered a right, but a privilege or a concession given by the government (exceptions being where local people collectively struggled to retain their forest use rights and get them recognised). The post-independence forest policies and laws like the Forest Policy of 1952, Wild Life (Protection) Act of 1972 and the Forest (Conservation) Act of 1980 did little to alleviate the problems of the forest-dependent communities. Local uses were further curtailed; which alienated the village communities from their age-old, symbiotic relationship with forests. The government even labeled these communities as “encroachers” or “illegal users”.

All these resulted in massive forest degradation and destruction and the consequent ecological imbalance. As the situation turned grim, communities started realising the need of initiating immediate measures to protect forested areas. Since then they have been trying to protect forested areas.

While the communities took the initiative of forest protection in the states like Odisha, Bihar and Madhya Pradesh, governments of West Bengal, Gujarat, Haryana, and Himachal Pradesh started discussion with the communities and encouraged them to protect forest.

Community Forest Management in Odisha:

Studies suggest that the community-based forest management (CBFM) in Odisha has emerged due to loss of local communities' access to forest land and resources, loss of livelihood, cultural factors and concerns for conservation.

Local communities, who developed an adaptive community forest management system, frowned at the top-down forest management of state which according to them has been the cause of receding forests and scarcity of forest produce.

Scholars perceive that CBFM in Odisha represents the antithesis of state forest management system and referred to it as the “self-initiated community-based forest management”. The community-based adaptive management system is concentrated

in Dhenkanal, Mayurbhanj, Sundargarh and Koraput districts, however other district have also organised themselves at village level into formal and informal organisations. In Odisha, around 10,000 villages have been protecting 15-20 per cent of the state-owned forest through community-based arrangements.

Collective action for forest protection has strengthened local institutions and enabled villagers to take up the management of other common pool resources. In several areas, women's involvement in forest protection has increased their confidence and ability to deal with the outside world, including government officials.



While the adaptive conservation and management practice is spreading from village to village, the CFM approach is showing development of federations in order to address conflicts and larger issues. The CFM initiatives have effectively dealt with forest related conflicts and external threats and have evolved into more organised forms of federations at local and regional level. Maa Maninag Jungle Surakshya Parishad (MMJSP) in Ranpur, Zilla Jungle Manch in Deogarh and Odisha Jungle Manch (OJM) at state-level are a few examples of organised bodies dealing with issues and conflicts related to forests.

Women's presence in most of the federations remained marginal till 1999. A sub-group called Central Women Committee (CWC) was formed under MMJSP on 26th September in that year at Ranpur. The CWC has been conducting meetings on 18th of every month since then. Now, "athrah tarikh" meeting of every month has been serving as an "open space" for women to discuss and learn the community forestry process.

However, the discouraging factor is that these initiatives and their institutional forms are yet to get legal recognition in the existing conservation regime though long demanded by the CFM groups and federations. The FRA now creates an empowering and enabling framework for legal recognition and strengthening of the community-based initiatives for conservation and management of forests.

Intervention with approach and strategy:

Federations consisting of forest activists at local and regional levels have long advocated for the forest tenure and rights of forest dwelling communities. They also focus on providing practical support for forest people to take initiative on forest conservation and sustainable use. In their action, they have maintained a strong connection with the forest dwelling communities. Over the last couple of decades they have been raising concerns against right deprivation and marginalisation of forest communities. Hence, they have a crucial role to put pressure on government to understand and recognise rights of forest-dependent communities.

In this context, Vasundhara has been engaged with MMJSP at Ranpur, Zilla Jungle Manch in



Central Women Committee Meeting at Ranpur

Deogarh; Budhikhamari Jungle Suraksha Committee at Budhikhamari in Mayurbhanj; OJM in Nilagiri of Balasore and Narasinghpur on CFR and CFR

governance and management for recognition of forest rights and conservation of biodiversity under FRA with special references to forest people's identities, experiences and vision. Vasundhara's engagement with these organisations has gone a long way in prioritising community participation, ensuring democratic control over forests, maximizing the use of traditional knowledge, ensuring minimum standard of life and retaining communities' cultural beliefs associated with forests.

Key achievements:

Several federation-level consultations and training programmes were organised to create awareness on FRA and consolidate the decade-long experience of community forest management practices and institutional settings, decision-making process and ecological knowledge. The following points describe some of our achievements:

- We have documented a handful of CFM practices including institutional mechanisms. With intervention of Vasundhara, women in villages like Dengajhari, Gunduribadi and Lunisahi led the process of CFR management. In villages like Teeni Mouza and Dasa Mauza, groups of villagers led the process for easy management of the forest resources they are dependent on.
- As women gather every month at monthly meetings, they discuss their livelihood problems with those who share a common issue. They brought these issues to the notice of administration and successfully devised solutions in their favour.
- We have generated awareness among hundreds of cadres from people's organisations on FRA and issues related to non-recognition of FRA.
- We have devised strategies for claim filing in CFM villages through the support of forest protecting groups.

Learning experiences:

- With the engagement of movement groups and peoples' organisations, strong advocacy can be made to assert forest rights in a sizable area of forest land in Odisha.

- These groups and organisations played an important role to address the issues of non-cooperation of the forest department towards recognition of forest rights.
- A strong opposition to AJY at local level has been made by Zilla Jungle Manch Deogarh and OJM Balasore and Mayurbhanj.
- Most of the government officials lack clarity on community governance and management provisions under FRA. Even the self-explanatory guidelines issued by MoTA to clarify these yielded no result.
- Plantation of teak and other non-native species by the Forest Department has been stopped by GSs in a number of districts.
- GSs put pressure on district administrations of Kalahandi and Balasore for CFR recognition and obtaining transit permit books to sell bamboo and Kendu leaves.

Looking ahead:

1. Our work will be more focused on strengthening peoples' organisations and movement groups to build up the capacity of their cadres in order to support GSs during CFR governance and management process as well as rights recognition process
2. To facilitate federation where CFR has been recognized and Gram Sabhas constituted CFR management committees
3. Knowledge enrichment activities like sharing learning platforms will be made to develop effective strategies to meet challenges at different levels
4. Identifying resource persons for both CFR claims and CFR governance and management process



District Collector Mayurbhanj distributing Community Forest Resources Title to Gramsabha at Similipal

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Context:

The watershed legislation of the Indian constitution – Scheduled Tribes and Other Traditional Forest Dwellers (Recognition of Forest Rights) Act, 2006, also known as Forest Rights Act (FRA) – has recognised the pre-existing rights of the forest dwelling communities on the Community Forest Resource to protect, regenerate, conserve and manage within the customary boundary and access over customarily enjoyed forest land.

In our continuous efforts to expand the community forest rights recognition process within Odisha and outside, our foremost focus during this year has been to build framework and methodologies for the effective implementation of the CFR rights. We worked extensively on preparation of training modules and claim format for community forest rights and habitat rights. We have also developed training manuals for the government functionaries and Gram Sabha members for National Resource Centre established at SC and ST Research and Training Institute and

Bhubaneswar under the aegis of Ministry of Tribal Affairs (MoTA), supported by UNDP.

Strategies:

- To scale up the mapping initiatives, we worked in collaboration with various groups and organisations like Maa Maninaga Jungle Surakshya Parishad and Jungle Surakshya Mahasangha in Nayagarh; Banani Cooperative and Zilla Jungle Manch in Deogarh); Banaja Banijya Mahila Sangha and Odisha Nari Samaj of Kuchinda; Odisha Adivasi Manch in Ganjam; SACAL in Gajapati; Antaranga in Kandhamal; CIRTD in Sundargarh, Odisha Jungle Manch in Balaosre, Cuttack and Mayurbhanj districts; and Gram Swaraj and CREFTDA in Mayurbhanj.
- Our most important collaborations in 2016-17 were with the district administrations of Mayurbhanj, Kandhamal, Ganjam and Gajapati. We were involved extensively in capacity building of government functionaries, PRI members, CSOs, and community members within the
- state and outside like Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand, Uttarakhand and Himachal Pradesh.



Gram Sabha Meeting for CFR Recognition

- This year we have collaborated with Tata Institute of Social Sciences to organise campus training programmes on FRA and emerging issues for students, researchers, faculties and provided follow-up exposure to various processes and issues on ground.
- We were also engaged with different pressure groups like CSD and other people's group to address the various challenges. Apart from building capacity of our constituent groups, we have also engaged in planning and strategy building with different groups and administration to expedite the process. As a result of our engagement with the district administrations and our follow-up supports, they have been able to mobilise resource from the state to facilitate the process. While Rs 43,64,000 was mobilised by Mayurbhanj district administration, Kandhamal provided Rs 14,18,200 and Ganjam Rs 60,000.

Community Rights and Community Forest Resources

Right Recognition:

Community forest rights and community forest resources rights are important for securing livelihoods of the forest-dwelling communities and for strengthening local self governance of forests and natural resources. Despite this potential of CFR provision, it

has been observed over the years that implementation CFR

has been ignored throughout the country. For a number of reasons such claims are not being made across the country.



Cluster Level Consultation

In order to step up the claim making process, Vasundhara organised a number of national and state-level workshops and capacity building programmes.

A total of 53 training programmes were conducted throughout the state and outside. Apart from preparing training modules and designs for these programmes, we took initiatives to mobilise resources from government, CSOs and communities. The most encouraging factor was that a number of communities collectively mobilised resources to support the programmes in order to empower the local youth to facilitate the CFR claim process at village level. Tribal Development Department of Odisha under the coordination support of SCSTRTI mobilised resources for the district-level campus training programmes.

State-level training-cum-orientation programmes supported by SCSTRTI were conducted for ToTs of 13 scheduled districts of Odisha. The training programmes included the in-house orientation on the FRA.

In order to streamline the difficult task of mapping of the community forest resources boundary on Odisha-Chhattisgarh border as major chunk of community forest land falls outside of revenue boundary, we have carried out seven training programmes on mapping using GPS in these two states. These training programmes hold importance in building trained cadres including women.

Conversion of Forest Villages:

Conversion of forest villages into revenue villages has been our major area of attention 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 un-surveyed 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.

Habitat Rights of PVTGs:

The Forest Rights Act provided the scope for the recognition of the PVTGs' forest and habitat rights.

'Habitat' as defined under Section 2 (h) of the FRA includes the area comprising the customary

habitat and such other habitats in reserved forests and protected forests of primitive tribal groups and pre-agricultural communities and other forest dwelling



Figure 1 Consultation of Mankidia Community on Habitat Rights

Scheduled Tribes. The definition thus extends the recognition of habitat rights to other STs in addition to PVTGs and pre-agricultural communities.

Determination of habitat rights and mapping using GIS is very crucial in the context of Odisha and in many other states as the PVTGs are restricted to the micro-plan project area but there are many other PVTG villages which are not included inside the micro plan. For example, the Hill Khadia and Mankirdia Development Agency, which is the nodal agency for the development of the Hill Khadia and Mankirdia communities, includes only 16 villages in two blocks of Mayurbhanj. However a pilot study done by Vasundhara in support of the Mayurbhanj district administration reveals that the Hill Khadia and Mankidia communities have their existence in over 179 villages and 9 villages respectively under 17 blocks.

We have undertaken these following activities this year to facilitate determination of habitat rights and claim making:

Traditional Leaders' Consultation: The habitat rights recognition process requires consultation with the traditional leaders before the claims are filled at the Gram Sabha. However, the cases of such consultations organised by the DLCs in the PVTG areas are very few across the country.

However, the engagement of Vasundhara with DLCs in Odisha has produced very positive results. DLC are now showing interest in facilitating the habitat rights recognition process. DLCs of Kandhamal, Malkangiri and Mayurbhanj have set examples by organising series of consultation with the traditional leaders of PVTGs like the Kutia Kondh, Bonda, Hill Khadia, Lodha and Mankidia.

Where DLCs showed their reluctance, Vasundhara tried to get involved with the traditional leaders and local bodies to organise such consultation like in the case of Paudi Bhuyan in Sundargarh district. Two local organisations, Paudi Bhuyan Samaj and Jeevan Vikash, supported our initiative to hold the consultation programme.

We have organised traditional leaders' consultations for six PVTG groups - Mankidia, Hill Khadia, Lodha, Paodi Bhuyan, Kutia Kondh and Bonda spread across four districts of Odisha. The consultations have been aimed at creating awareness on the provision of Habitat Rights among the community and to consult with the

traditional leaders to determine the nature and extent of habitat with documentation and identification of their settlements, forest resources dependency, cultural places and their various clans.

Identification of PVTG Villages: One of the most important aspects in the process of recognition of habitat rights is the identification of all PVTG villages of the concerned

community because this data is not available from any secondary source and the best way to get this information is during the

traditional leaders consultations.



Mankidia Man Collecting Siali Fibers

Vasundhara so far has completed this identification process with six PVTGs.

We have organised a number of meetings and workshops in order to build up understanding among our stakeholders regarding the habitat rights recognition process. Our stakeholders include DLC members, forest department officials, revenue officials, ITDA, traditional leaders, local NGOs and PRI members.

The recognition of habitat rights is an extensive, time consuming and also expensive process because the recognition process is still a grey area for most of the facilitating organisations and individuals. As till date MoTA has not released any such guideline, it is difficult to scale up the process with all other PVTG groups in and outside Odisha. In such situation, Vasundhara has taken up the initiative to identify the community-based organisations and NGOs workings with the PVTG groups and enhance their capacity in order to reach out the recognition process with as many PVTGs.



Individual Rights Title Distribution in Kandhamal

Individual Forest Rights:

Getting titles over land that people have been cultivating for decades was one of the primary drivers behind struggles of decades for a Forest Rights Act. Through the FRA, the Government of India has accepted that there are millions of people who have been denied titles for the land that they have been cultivating traditionally as these have been declared as forest land. A cut-off date of 13th December 2005 was set and households that were cultivating land designated as forest land before this cut-off date were to receive secure titles for their land. Vasundhara has worked intensively and extensively on this. In the operational area of the project supported by APPI, we have facilitated such households to make claims and get titles.

So far, 661 claims have been filed as part of the project in Deogarh and Kuchinda. All the claims have been approved by the DLC. Of these, titles have been received for 69 claims.

In Kandhamal, a large number of applications had been facilitated before the APPI Project started. During the project period, facilitation was done for finalisation and distribution of titles. A total of 420 titles have been distributed during the project period.

The key challenges we have faced during the project period were as follows:

Lack of Claim Recognition for OTFD Households: IFR claims of other traditional forest dwellers (OTFDs) have been largely ignored not only in Odisha but throughout the country. In Deogarh and Kuchinda, where there are large OTFD populations, the IFR claim filing process has been very slow. Dalits and other backward communities (OBCs) have been the worst affected. The claims of OTFDs have been largely ignored in Kandhamal even though it has been one of the most progressive districts in terms of recognition of IFR claims.

In 2016, 109 IFR claims by OTFD households have been filed with the support of Vasundhara in its operational area. An action research was supported through the project to identify the issues being faced by OTFDs. Sixty OTFD (Dalit) households in 13 villages were visited. All these households had applied for IFR titles and these titles were approved by the Forest Rights Committee. However, the committee was told by the Revenue Department that IFR is only applicable for tribals. During the research process, opinions of the elderly tribal community members were recorded; wherein they stated that the Dalit households have been living with them for generations and are eligible for getting IFR titles. They have also stated that they would support the process of OTFD households' getting titles.

Partial Recognition under IFR: A large number of IFR claims have been approved partially. A number of people who have claimed a certain area of land have been given titles for a much smaller area. Along with the study of status of claims of OTFDs we also facilitated a study visiting 250 ST Households in 13 villages and found that most households have received titles for areas much less than what they have been cultivating and have applied for.

Apart from filing claims for left-out OTFD households, Vasundhara has initiated steps to ensure the rights of ST households that have received significantly less land as compared to what they have applied for.

Women & FRA:

While reaching out to different areas for FRA implementation, we observed that women were not much aware about the rights conferred under FRA which they should assert on their



GP Level Training Programme at Bandhamunda, Ranpur

own. With an aim of ensuring women's

participation in asserting their rights over the forests and to make the FRA implementation a more gender-inclusive process, GP level training programmes on FRA were planned for women in Bandhamunda, Pachapalli and Khairapalli GPs under Ranpur block. In these GPs, women were facing issues regarding their access to forests and resources due to restrictions posed by Forest Departments and nuisance created timber mafia.

A state-level training programme was conducted for identified women leaders on forests and FRA. These women leaders have been playing an influential role at community level.

Women of Mashanijhala village under Odagaon block of Nayagarh district played a crucial role in asserting their rights over land under the Forest Rights Act. They took possession of a cashew forest forcibly as the Forest department did not recognise their rights over it. They have been making substantial profit out of it, which makes them empowered financially.



Women Consultation on FRA

It may be mentioned here that the common land and forest land near the village was used by the forest department around 1984-85 to plant cashew. This land earlier used by the locals to cultivate food crops was snatched away from them with the promise that they would retain rights over the land later. However, it was leased out to outsiders. The villagers had lost all their hopes. However, after the enforcement of FRA, they demanded community rights over the cashew forest. As the government did not recognise their CFR rights, the villagers led by women forcibly took possession of it.

The courage of Mashanijhula women against exploitation and negative non-tribal interference has inspired and empowered tribal women of other parts of the districts to fight for the possession of land that has rightfully belonged to them for generations.

Impact of training programmes: Hundreds of women actively participated in GP level training programmes and shared their problems. Due to Vasundhara's intervention, women of 12 villages under Bandhamunda GP asserted their rights under FRA. They resumed their participation in forest protection and led the Vana Suraksha Samitis, which had become dysfunctional. The villagers filed claims over their community forest resources. Women went on patrolling the forest during the

day time, while men took the charge during nights. Residents of almost all the villagers filed for CFR and asserted their rights.

Key achievements:

With the intervention of Vasundhara, 539 Community Rights (CR) and Community Forest Resources (CFR) claims have been filed at different geographic spaces. The learning from these initiatives has been disseminated to different states. Four exposure visits of government officials, CSOs and Peoples' Groups of different states were organised this year and participants learnt to carry out similar initiatives in their respective zones. Here are a few examples of our achievements:

- **Enrichment of livelihood in Similipal:** The interventions made by Vasundhara have started changing the lives and livelihoods of communities staying in Similipal reserve forest. They are now able to use and sell non-timber forest products, which has been restricted since the declaration of the forest as tiger reserve. Earlier, there was little possibility of developmental activities inside a protected area which have hindered them from availing basic facilities like health and education. After recognition of their rights, they are getting access to the basic facilities under government schemes such as land development, plantation, micro watershed, transportation and communication, market linkage, health facilities, horticulture and many more. Similar changes are observed in other districts too.
- **Facilitation of claim filing in Chhattisgarh:** One of the highlighting factors of this year's work could be seen in the response that has been seen in Balodabazar district of Chhattisgarh which has been in the state of violation and non-recognition of rights under FRA. With support from Vasundhara, Dalit Adivasi Manch and Sajag, two local organisations, have proactively facilitated the rights recognition process through dialogues and discussions with district administration. This has resulted mobilising people in filing claims in more than 40 villages for CR and CFR as well as individual rights which are approved at DLC and titles are to be conferred soon. This promulgates a scope of transferring

the initiative to other parts of the state with support from the local organisations and administration.

- **Capacity building:** Our efforts in building capacities of CSOs, Sangathans and youth groups in different geographies have gone a long way in extending the knowledge support to communities in different aspects of forest rights. Communities are now capable to file claims, challenge the state against violations and initiate restoration of traditional practices to conserve and manage community forest resources.

Here are our few initiatives of capacity building:

- a- In Kandhamal district, more than 120 youth clubs have been trained by Vasundhara in collaboration with Antaranga (a group of civil society organisations).
 - b- In Ganjam, a local tribal group has been capacitated to facilitate process in tribal-dominated villages
 - c- In Sundargarh, local CSOs and Sangathans have started self assertion of rights due to no response from the district administration.
- **Increase in forest land under ownership of local people:** The rights over common forest land have now empowered the Gram Sabhas to control the forest land. In Odisha, villages have got rights over community forest resources. Over 237789.56 acres forest land has been approved by DLCs for recognition of rights for 392 claims over community forest resources. Under the law and new guidelines issued by MoTA, these forest lands will no more be treated as reserve forest. They will be treated as a separate category as 'CFR' in the Records of Rights. This signifies the shift in land governance from state to the Gram Sabhas.

Workshops and meetings:

We have been involved in a series of trainings and workshops with local CSOs and government officials in the intervention districts, state-level training programmes of CSOs and tribal department officials, workshops for CSOs in other states and exposure visits. The workshops and meetings aimed at creating a platform for sharing experiences and learning on initiatives taken by respective organisations,

discussions on key issues and challenges, response from the government and possible ways to enhance collective efforts.

State & national-level workshops: We have organised a national-level workshop in collaboration with Oxfam to analyse the achievements of FRA in India since 2006. In continuation of the workshop at national-level, a state-level workshop was also conducted focusing on the achievements of FRA in the last decade in Odisha. As many as 72 organisations supported the workshop that provided a platform to share experience and learning on initiatives taken for better implementation of FRA and to chalk out strategies to scale-up collective efforts for better implementation.



Working group meetings: Four working group meetings were organised with the key state groups on preparations of strategies to upgrade the implementation



process. Apart from Vasundhara, FES, OJM, NCAS, Action Aid, CSD, RCDC and CWS were the core members of the working group. We also organised a partners' meet to prepare the action plan for 2017.

Collaborations with district administrations: Regular follow up and support to various actors of the project has led to successful execution of the activities planned

for this year. We have provided support to the district administrations of Mayurbhanj, Kandhamal Ganjam, Keonjhar and Gajapati. Due to our follow up support, Mayurbhanj district administration has led to recognition of CFR rights as

well as extending support through map generation hubs which has been catering to the needs of final map generation in the district. Till date 391 final CFR maps have been produced.

The administration has engaged additional human resources to ITDA to perform activities for claim filing, consolidate claims, coordinate with forest and revenue departments and prepare titles for DLC for approval. As per the report by March 2017, 191 CR and CFR titles have been conferred to the Gram Sabhas along with final CFR maps.

In Kandhamal, the DLC has extended support to the CFR process in the Antaranga area where subsequent training programmes have been completed which would be followed up with ground-level facilitation for claiming and mapping of CFR rights. With the collective effort of the district administration, Antaranga and Vasundhara, Baliguda has approved 41 CFR claims from different blocks. In Jamujhari panchayat of Phulbani sub-division, 22 CFR claims have been approved and titles are soon to be conferred with final CFR maps.

In Gajapati, as part of collaboration with the district administration, Vasundhara has been working in R. Udayagiri block where four panchayats and 47 villages have filed claims for recognition of CR and CFR. As a result of the follow up and support, claim filing process was initiated in more than 50 villages in the current project period, while the process was completed in 110 villages.

In Ganjam, Vasundhara has piloted the CR and CFR recognition process in Chhatrapur sub-division in collaboration with the administration and Odisha Adivasi Manch. The support provided to the administration, PRI members and OAM has resulted the initiation CR and CFR process in 100 villages, out which, 90 villages has filed their CR and CFR claims before SDLC including the mapping of their CFR areas.

In Mayurbhanj, the capacity building programmes on the application of GPS/GIS technology on CFR recognition process has created 139 trained revenue officials to facilitate the GPS mapping process. As many as 424 CFR areas have been mapped out of which more than 400 final CFR maps have been prepared by the FRA cells in

ITDA. DLC has approved 195 CR and CFR claims and conferred titles to those villages. The district administration has also initiated the recognition of habitat rights of Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups (PVTGs).

Networking & collaborations : To scale up the mapping initiatives, Vasundhara worked in collaboration with various groups and organizations like Maa Maninaga Jungle Surakshya Parishad and Jungle Surakshya Mahasangha (Nayagarh), Banani Mahila Sangha and Zilla Jungle Manch (Deogarh), Banaja Banijya Sangha and Odisha Nari Samaj (Kuchinda), Odisha Adiwasi Manch (Ganjam), SACAL (Gajapati), Antaranga (Kandhamal), CIRTD (Sundergarh), Odisha Jungle Manch in Balaosre, Cuttack and Mayubhanj, Gram Swaraj (Mayurbhanj), and CREFTDA (Mayurbhanj). The organisation also worked in collaboration with the district administrations of Mayurbhanj, Kandhamal, Ganjam and Gajapati. Apart from being extensively involved in capacity building of the government functionaries, PRI members, CSOs and community members within the state, the organisation has also been involved in such activities in Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand, Uttarakhand and Himachal Pradesh. This year we have collaborated with the Tata Institute of Social Science to organise campus training programmes on FRA and other emerging issues for students, researchers and faculties. We have also provided follow up exposure to various processes and ground-level issues. This apart, we were engaged with pressure groups like CSD, Odisha Jungle Munch and other people's group to address the challenges. We have also engaged in planning and strategy building with different groups and administration to expedite the process. Our initiatives have made the district administrations to mobilise significant amount of resources from the state government to facilitate the process of FRA implementation.

Typology of Training Program	Number of Training Program	Total Number of Participants					Number of Female Participants	Total Participants	
		FRC/Gram Sabha Members	PRI Members	Govt. Officials	CSO/Sangathan	Any Others			
National Level	6	0	0	0	57	122	76	179	
State Level	8	83	73	10	138	79	130	419	
District Level	8	124	11	281	70	0	156	486	
Block Level	22	758	59	114	82	25	338	1028	
GP Level	9	626	50	8	28	13	299	700	
Total		53	1591	193	413	375	239	999	2822

Looking Ahead:

The crucial opportunities for Vasundhara for 2017-18 would be to get engaged with larger network of facilitators who could translate the initiative in a larger



geographical context within the state and outside. Vasundhara will focus on strengthening such network within the state by getting engaged with OJM, CSD, Adivasi Groups and collective network of CSOs. This apart, we will focus on working with Prime Ministers' Rural Development Fellows (PMRDFs) who could be the potential actors in this process as they work with district administrations. We also look forward to explore our engagements with institutions like TISS and other educational institutes for knowledge development and dissemination. Our collective action with state working groups will continue further this year to build more cohesive approach in scaling up FRA implementation and creating more capacities at different levels. Engagement with MoTA will be one of the major focuses to avail better support for implementation.

In the local context, we look forward to facilitate a more integrated approach of the civil society organisations and administration to scale up the implementation process. More simplification in the community forest resource mapping methodology needs to be devised to expedite the mapping process.

In the national context, a national registry needs to be developed on the Forest Rights Act. A larger network of CSOs, campaign groups, and resource agencies need to be developed for scaling up the process.

In the international context, we need to learn lessons from similar forest tenure reforms and follow initiatives from countries like Mexico and Indonesia.

Vasundhara's future approach will be to design more simplified and participatory methods in community forest resource claims and mapping with less time and cost involvement to ensure communities' control over the process and technology.

Key challenges:

The major challenge has been the lack of political mobilisation at the grassroots level as well as within the administrative mechanism. A collective approach of the civil societies, peoples' group and resource organisations which could have created a larger movement for rights recognition is mostly required to happen. Another limiting factor which also affected Vasundhara's outreach was the limited human resource which coerced us to certain geography.

Case study:

Catalysing conversion of forest villages in Nuagaon (Nayagarh)

Nayagarh district has been a part of the operational areas of Vasundhara for the last twenty years.

In the hamlets of Dengabari and Sinkulataila under Kaptapalli gram panchayat of Nuagaon block, Vasundhara has been working to facilitate their conversion from forest villages to revenue villages. These hamlets form a part of the 'list of '0' area/un-surveyed villages/forest villages/settlements' in the district. In both the cases, the letters sent by the Gram Sabhas to the district administration proved that these hamlets fulfill the criteria to get converted into revenue villages.

Their CFR claims are yet to get recognized. In Dengabari, though the inhabitants have received IFR titles, these are of no use as they were given without proper verification. The inhabitants of Sinkulataila have not received their IFR titles yet.

Due to continuous advocacy measures taken by Vasundhara with the DWO and the district collector, the district administration has promised to speed up the process for conversion of these two hamlets into revenue villages. Vasundhara has been providing technical support to the district administration for the cause of the forest dwellers.

Dengabari, which comprises of sixteen households belonging to Kui community members, as a hamlet has been attached to Bhandaribari revenue village for administrative purposes. Earlier these families used to reside in Barakul village which is located at a distance of eight kilometers from the present habitation. As Barakul does not have enough cultivable land, they migrated to Dengabari located inside Ratadei Reserve Forest around 50 years ago.

On 13th June 1989, following a Gram Sabha meeting, the villagers sent applications to the State Minister of Home and the Tribal Affairs Minister of the Government of Odisha for conversion of their village into a revenue village. An application was sent to the Minister of Environment & Forests on 6th July 1990 to press for their demand.

After this, surveys took place by the Revenue Department in the presence of Forest Department officials, but there was no follow up action. The villagers even alleged that the Forest Department has been undertaking plantation activities on their homestead land. Cases have been filed against them.

Even though 11 households have got IFR titles, the titles were given without proper verification. The case of Subuddhi Malika is worth mentioning. He was given the title for 2 acre and 68 decimal land. But the land has not been identified yet. Same is the case for other families.

An FRC was formed in the Gram Sabha in 2014. Proceedings of this meeting were communicated to the DWO, district collector, DLC, SDLC, SLMC and the secretary of the SC&ST department. However, the government is yet to take any action so far. Later, a follow-up meeting was conducted in 2015. Let alone their community forest rights and right over common land, even their rights over homestead land have not been recognised.

Sinkulataila is a hamlet inhabited by eight families of Kui community. Earlier, the people of Sinkulitaila used to live inside Jamusahi, a revenue village. They left the village 20 years ago under the pressure of the villagers and settled inside the forest. Each of the families has been cultivating around 2.5 acre land inside the forest.

Till date the villagers have not received any IFR and CFR titles. The government has not taken any initiative to aware the villagers about FRA. By the efforts of Vasundhara, they had approached the DLC, SDLC and the BDO to initiate measures for conversion of the village into revenue village through an application in 2008. Gram Sabha meetings facilitated by Vasundhara took place in 2014 and 2015. The proceedings of these meetings were communicated to the concerned authorities, but in vain. Currently, Vasundhara is facilitating the process of forming an FRC in the village.

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The Forest Rights Act establishes a democratic framework for governance of forests by vesting legal rights and authorities on the local communities and Gram Sabhas to protect, conserve and manage community forest resources. Section 5 of the Act along

with Rules 4 (1) (e), (f) and (g) provides for an institutional mechanism for governance and management of community forest resources by the Gram Sabhas. A guideline issued by MoTA under Section 12 of FRA clarifies that plans for the management of CFRs would be prepared by the gram sabhas as per their own format. The state government will provide funds from existing programmes such as forestry, CAMPA, TSP and MGNREGA. District Level Committees are entrusted to ensure that forest rights of all villages with forest dwellers under its geographical jurisdiction are recognised.



In recent years, a number of local communities and gram sabhas have made claims over management rights and facilitating process for conservation and management of community forest resources. In Odisha, CFR governance and management initiatives have been reported from districts

like Bolangir, Balasore, Mayurbhanj, Nayagarh, Kandhamal, Koraput and Kalahandi. In Mayurbhanj, 21 gram sabhas have prepared conservation and management plans for CFRs inside the tiger reserve. These CFR management initiatives provide valuable insight and learning on CBFM across forest landscapes, ecosystems and protected areas in the state.

The management process has seen a number of operational problems such as obstructions from the existing forest management systems and plans set up by the forest department. Gram Sabhas have voiced concern about implementation of forestry programmes such as Joint Forest Management and Ama Jungle Yojana as being inconsistent with the CFR management framework. There is a need to consolidate learnings from the ongoing CFR management process in the state and discuss ways to address issues of implementation.

Intervention with approach and strategies:

We have been working with communities and community leaders in districts like Nayagarh (Ranpur), Mayurbhanj (Similipal Biosphere Reserve), Kandhamal, Deogarh, Sambalpur and Sundargarh to enrich our knowledge on management of natural resources and governance and building networks with similar organisations inside and outside the state. We are organising trainings and workshops for CFR management committee members, PRI members, facilitators from CSOs and other actors of similar interests to build up their capacity and sharing their learning.

Our engagement in research and documentation of traditional practices and biodiversity is to substantiate the information-base for researchers and practitioners.

Our partners:

We worked in collaboration with national organisations, NGOs, local partners, CSOs, district administrations, forest department and MoTA for project implementation and policy-level advocacy at different levels. We have been working with CREFTDA based at Jashipur and Gramswaraj of Baripada to facilitate the CFR governance and management process with support from the district administration. We are providing technical support to CARE, Odisha to facilitate the CFR governance and management process in 86 villages of Kandhamal district.

We are also working with Kuchinda-based Banaja Banijya Mahila Samabaya Samiti, the volunteers of which, are engaged with the community to facilitate the process.

We have planned to facilitate the process in 18 villages with support of this organisation. Vasundhara has also been working with Ranpur-based MMJSP to strengthen community forest management.

Following are the process we followed to achieve our goals:

- **Facilitation at Gram Sabha (GS) level:**
 - Process facilitation at community level
 - Strengthening GS and power assertion
 - Ecological development plans (CFR level)

- Forest-based livelihood related activities
- **Facilitation for CFR management committees' federations:**
 - Formation of federation
 - Strengthening community institution
 - Development of landscape-level management plan

Key achievements and highlights:

- **Facilitation of CFR management process :** CFR management process including constitution of implementing committees and preparation of conservation and management strategies have been initiated in the villages of Kandhamal and Mayurbhanj. The process has been documented. *(Process documentation has been*



shared in annexure).

- **GP-level consultation for community and PRI members:** The draft management process and plan, initiated at Madikhole village under Jamjhari GP of Kandhamal district, were discussed among communities through GP-level consultations. As all the villages under Jamjhari GP have received their CFR titles, plans have been prepared to extend the governance and management process in all 23 villages of the GP. Three GP-level consultations have been completed inside SBR in collaboration with CREFTDA and district administration. The primary objective

of this consultation was to strengthen Gram Sabhas to accelerate the CFR conservation and management process. During the consultation, practical experiences of the communities/PRI/FRC members were shared.

- **Consultation with CFM groups across Odisha:** CFM Group consultations were undertaken at Ranpur in collaboration with MMJSP and at Deogarh in collaboration with Zilla Jungle Manch. The consultations were aimed at discussing strategies and planning for CFR management with the engagement of gram sabha where CFR rights have been claimed. During these consultations, discussions were made in detail about the legal procedure for facilitation of the CFR management including constitution of CFR management committees, their role and responsibilities, preparation of conservation and management plans.
- **Training for capacity building:** Training programmes were organised for capacity building of the officials of the district administration and Forest Department and PRI and community members to facilitate the process of CFR governance and management. These programmes include two district-level training-cum-consultation programmes organised in Mayurbhanj and Keonjhar.
- **Dialogues with authorities on planning & strategy:** Series of discussions were held with Mayurbhanj district administration, Integrated Tribal Development Agency (ITDA) and the DLC Mayurbhanj to plan out strategies for CFR governance and management process post recognition of CFR. The dialogues with authorities aimed at finding out the gap and building up a common understanding. We have also organised a consultation meeting participated by the district collector, PAITDAs, forest officials, local NGOs, PRI members and community leaders.
- **State-level working group meetings:** Three working group meetings were organised to



discuss issues and development on post CFR governance and management. One of the major issues was implementation of Ama Jungle Yojana through VSS which is completely violating Gram Sabha and CFR management committees' authority under FRA. Decision was taken to aware GS on this issue and if required GS may take decision to dissolve VSS. The working group has taken a decision to meet periodically to discuss on CFR and CFR management related developments and issues in order to follow a common approach and explore possibilities of up-scaling the initiatives.

- **Discussion with experts :** We discussed with state and national-level experts like Madhu Sarin, Dr. Sarat Chandra Lele, ATREE, Dr Pranab Choudhury, retired forest officer Nadia Chand Kanungo for smooth implementation of our plans.
- **Development of CFR governance and management manual :** Based on our learning from field, we have prepared CFR governance and management manual for the government functionaries and Gram Sabhas. The manual shares the concept of CFR governance and management, legal provisions under FRA and role of various actors of the process.
- **Film on CFR governance and management :** Shooting of a film on CFR governance and management was done inside the Similipal biosphere reserve. The film highlighted the struggles of the communities for their rights, interface with the forest department, problems of accessing natural resources for livelihood and issues and challenges they face post recognition. It highlighted women participation in recognition, management and governance process.

Learning and experiences:

Our findings in different areas have been different owing to their diversity in ecosystem. Here are the common findings:

- **Governance and institutional arrangement :** CFR protection, management and governance committees have been formed as per Rule 4(1) (e) of the FRA. A similar pattern of selection of the president, secretary and the treasurer were selected by the Gram Sabha. Composition and representation patterns in the committees are as follows:

- ✓ Hamlet-wise representation in multi-hamlet villages (e.g. Kolha, Similipal)
- ✓ Heterogeneous villages consider the ethnic preferences (Rugudipalli, Bolangir)
- ✓ CFM villages selected on the basis of experiences and commitment in past (Dengajahri, Nayagarh)
- ✓ User groups representation (NTFP collectors, traditional healers, grazers, etc) (Madikhola, Kandhamal)
- ✓ Persons who are dependent on forests and can allocate time for protection of forests (Billapaga, Sirigida, Deogarh)
- ✓ The number of members in the committees varies according to the needs. However, a range of 11 to 18 members was maintained in most of the villages.



Bathudi Tribes Celebrating their Cultural Programme at Atharadeula, Similipal

In smaller villages with less population, the entire community becomes member of the committee.

- ✓ In the committees, adequate representation of women as members that is not less than one third of the entire strength has been ensured.
- **Conservation and management plan:** Here are a few salient features:
 - ✓ **Combination of traditional and scientific measures:** Plans for conservation and management of the community forests have been prepared by the concerned committees in consultation with the Gram Sabha. These plans were

an extension of the traditional systems and practices used for protection of forests for generations. The implementation framework provides a right blend of both traditional practices and scientific methods for management, conservation, regeneration and protection of the community forests. Specific sub-committees were formed and entrusted with the responsibilities like fire protection, checking poaching and timber smuggling.

- ✓ **Ensuring Accountability:** While the entire community gets involved in the protection and management of the community forests, the CFR management committee (CFRMC) remains accountable for ensuring that community forests remains protected. The Gram Sabha acts as a monitoring body for the CFRMC. All plans made by the CFRMC regarding protection, governance, management or regeneration of the forests have to be discussed and approved by the Gram Sabha. Every decision of depositing or withdrawing money from the bank has to go through the GS and mentioned in its register. The original copy of the GS proceedings has to be produced at the bank during withdrawal of money. Also a system of fine of a nominal amount of money had been initiated by the GS to discourage people from remaining absent from the GS meetings.

- **Role of Women in the Management Framework:** Women play an important part of the entire protection plan. To regulate the usage of forest products and inculcate a collective accountability, women groups led in decision making process in CFR conservation and management.



Women Protecting Members Patrolling in Forest

In Jamuguda, even though women participated in management and protection of the CFR, their participation has been ignored in financial decisions. They

basically work as the supervisory body of the community owing to their greater engagement in collection of MFPs and firewood than their male counterparts. They alert the committee about unusual activities like poaching, smuggling or fire outbreaks inside forests.

In some districts women took part in guarding the forests and dousing wildfire. In Bilapagha, a group led by women stopped sacred grove development initiative by the Forest Department as it was without consultation with their community.

Women in Kandhamal are actively engaged in livelihood generation activities through formation of MFP-based women collectives. Their knowledge regarding methods of conservation and regeneration of species like bamboo helped a lot in conservation and regeneration of same.

Women in Kalahandi have initiated measures to create awareness among communities to give up consumption of bamboo shoots, considered as one of their favourite delicacies. Women of Madikhol and Sapangi are also concerned about the gradual decrease in bamboo plants and its eventual extinction within their CFR areas.



CFR Management Committee Member Patrolling Inside CFR Area, Similipal

Women in Kolha have come forward to aware the community on partial collection of Sal seeds, leaving out a part of it to help in regeneration of Sal trees.

- **Community check on poaching and smuggling:** A stricter check by the community on poaching and timber smuggling has been emphasised in the action plan. The CFRMCs ensure that nobody is engaged in hunting within the community forests. The community members briefed us how hunting practices have caused complete extinction of certain wildlife species. Tigers and leopards present inside the community forest areas in Bolangir a few decades ago are no

more in sight. After the community efforts, the population of certain species like wild boar, deer, peacock and dove has increased.

Fines and punishments have been imposed by the CFRMCs in different districts for poaching and timber smuggling. In Bolangir, a CFRMC member has been given the responsibility of guarding the forests. His monthly remuneration comes from the fine amount collected from timber smugglers. In case of non-occurrence of poaching or smuggling in a given month, the GS pays him a nominal amount as salary. The Gramsabha of Jamuguda (Kalahandi) has appointed two guards on monthly payment basis to guard their community forests.

- **Efforts towards checking forest fire :** CFRMCs of almost all the districts adopted similar methods for protection of forests from fire outbreaks. Here are a few methods adopted by them:

- ✓ Sweeping of leaves from the direction of approaching fire
- ✓ Beating down the fire with green branches
- ✓ Use of water for

extinguishing wildfire has been limited to forest areas located near the village periphery as transporting water to deeper woods is both difficult and time consuming.

Kolha has been rewarded for its efforts in protecting the community forest from

wildfire. While wildfire engulfed the entire forest of Similipal, it failed to touch the community forests of Kolha. This can be attributed to the meticulous planning of the people who used their indigenous techniques of fire control.

The communities in Kandhamal are well-aware that occurrence of wildfire is frequent during harvesting of Kendu leaves. They undertake special scrutinies during this time to keep wildfire at bay.



- **Benefit sharing and conflict resolution :** While the age-old practice of mutual exchange of resource benefits from the community forests between the neighbouring villages is still in practice in most of the districts, a mechanism of conflict resolution have been devised by most of the CFR committees. Collection of MFPs remains a community practice as mentioned in the management plan. In most of the districts both the pecuniary and the non-pecuniary benefits is accrued by individuals engaged in MFP collection. The CFRMCs of any of the villages do not deny their neighbouring villages from collection of firewood, herbs or mushrooms which have not been explored yet as potential livelihood options.

However, a benefit sharing mechanism has been devised in certain villages where MFPs contribute a major chunk of their income. For instance, in Jamuguda, the profit made from the sale of timber is divided into three equal parts, out of which, one part is used to pay the people engaged in bamboo cutting, the second part is set aside for the protection and management of the CFR and the third part remains with the Gram Sabha to meet emergencies.

Cutting and collection of wood have been completely forbidden by the CFRMC. Any person/family in need of wood for construction of houses has to take permission from the committee and the Gram Sabha.

- **Parallel Institutions:** In many of the villages there was an overlap of institutions like the VSS and the CFRMC. For instance, in Haripur Deogarh, the VSS and CFRMC coexist. While, the VSS remains a dormant body, the CFRMC has taken the responsibility of management and governance of forests.



- **Beyond tangible means of protection :** Tribals share a special bonding with the forests, which not only provide them food and livelihood, but form the base of their existence. As several small places of worship exist inside community forests, protecting the forests is inherent to their culture and

tradition. This trend has been carried forward by the CFRMCs. Many of the committees have included sacred spaces within their management plan.

- **Ecological Indicators** : Protection of forests from wildfire has resulted in remarkable increase of fresh as well as semi decomposed leaf litters on the forest floor. The density of forest increased which shows the existence of orchids. By default some birds and peacocks population increased in Madikhol village of Kandhamal. In Similipal the abundance of honey comb indicates the richness of flowering plants. Similipal harbours 94 varieties of orchids, which indicates the humidity and high rainfall in these areas. The abundance of pebbles, stones and exposed rock indicate the high erosion of soil.
- **Integration of management plan** :While the villages have not shared their management plan with the forest department in entirety, the Gram Sabha has kept the forest department updated about the formation of the CFRMCs and important decisions taken regarding conservation and regeneration of the community forests. Villages such as Jamuguda, Tarkabahali and Lamer in Kalahandi have kept the forest department in loop while taking important decisions. Obtaining transit permit for sale of bamboo from their community forests have been the result of efforts of the community and continuous transaction with the forest department. Villages like Bilapaka and Kolha in Similipal prepared their own transit permit book.

Looking ahead:

- Attaining critical mass in terms of community forest management plans. Association of CFRM groups.
- All the CFM villages need to get CFR title and legally reconstitute CFRMC
- Going beyond Gram Sabha to Multi-Gram Sabha approach for landscape (geographically contiguous forest patches belonging to different communities) level plans. Federation of CFRM groups
- Developing community practitioners to provide handholding support to CFRM groups & federations
- Insulating the management of CFR from the top-down, data intensive management practices of the state

- Investments and external interventions in forest development should be driven by GS.
- Facilitation support for forest-based livelihoods to check migration
- Development of support (knowledge/ skills) systems for sustainable use and regeneration
- Ensuring horizontal learning networks between gram sabhas for sharing best practices and learning
- Cross-learning systems and platforms for the federated structure

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Context:

Forests, particularly Non-Timber Forest Products (NTFPs) also known as Minor Forest Produces (MFPs) constitute an important part of the livelihood of poor in the most backward and tribal regions in India. Around 275 million poor, mostly



Kenduleaves Collection by Forest Department

landless and marginal farmers belonging to Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes communities, are dependent on NTFP-based livelihood. Despite the vital significance of NTFPs in rural livelihood, very little attention has been paid on their role in rural development. At policy level, role of forests and forest products in poverty alleviation and sustaining livelihoods continues to be ignored.



MLA Phulbani waving flag of Siali Leafplate to Germany for Export

After enactment of the historic Forest Rights Act, which clearly defines MFP and recognises the rights of Gram Sabha on forest and forest resources, a lot need to be done in terms of creating an enabling and support mechanism to materialise these rights. It is important to establish access and control of local community over the use of forest resources to ensure sustainable livelihood through collective and democratic people's institutions and effecting pro-poor policy changes.

Vasundhara's major focus is on establishing rights of the local primary gatherers over NTFPs and their markets after the policy became liberal in 2000. This had graduated Vasundhara from the playing the role of a policy researcher to local facilitator for collectivisation of trade through an alternate trade system/network own and manage by the primary gatherers in the form of Self Help Cooperatives, and develop a proper market information system.

Interventions, approach & strategy:

Collectivisation with proper institutional mechanism and capacity leads to economic democratisation of the primary gatherers, most of whom are women, through controlling the local economy.

We have been playing a key role in promoting self-reliant cooperatives of primary gatherers in five tribal districts of Odisha. The major strategic interventions include

building vibrant NTFP-based enterprises of tribal communities at local level and capacitating them to manage the institution. We facilitate the process of collective trade and procurement of NTFPs, entrepreneurial development and employment generation. In the orientation & capacity building programmes, we prioritised conservation and sustainable management of forest and NTFPs. Our sincere efforts not only made these cooperatives an NTFP-based livelihood model in their respective region or state, but the model is being followed at national level.

Key achievements:

- **Sustainable Livelihoods require Institutional Strength:** Our interventions has resulted in the formation of strong women-led groups and ensured revitalisation of existing MFP Collectives and formation of new collectives in perspective areas.

Name of collectives	No of Collectives	No of Membership
Banaja Baniya Sangha, Kuchinda	35	1768
Banani Mahila Sangha, Deogarh	22	1109
Kandhamal Sargiful MFP Collective, Kandhamal	19	295
Total	76	

In Kandhamal, 19 collectives have been formed with a membership of 295 women. At an average of about 16 members per group, this points to the small and remote hamlets in Kandhamal which has also meant that the grip of traders has been stronger in these villages than in Deogarh and Kuchinda. In Deogarh and Kuchinda where there was already a well-developed system of Collectives, the project added a total of 13 more collectives during the reporting period.

The formation of Secondary Structure in Kandhamal and the revitalisation of the Secondary Structure in Deogarh and Kuchinda have been our major areas of work in Institutional development part.

Repeal of the Self-Help Cooperatives Act in 2013 posed a major challenge in the field of institutional development. This has left the women's collectives in the lurch without access to institutional credit and other support linkages. We have to take the challenge of making a transition to new organisational forms such as producers' company.

- **Capacity building of members and facilitators:** In Kuchinda and Deogarh, 221 office bearers of 56 women's collectives apart from the board of directors (BoDs) have been trained on these aspects of both Unions. Attendance of BoDs in the meetings has seen an increase to 75%. Apart from regular meetings, they also meet for emergent needs. In Kandhamal, 30 office bearers of 19 women's collectives have been trained. There have also been training programmes on record keeping, accounting and financial management; institutional governance; preparation and implementation of a MIS and sustainable harvesting.

Around 2000 women members have been covered during membership drives. Membership drives at village and cluster levels were quite successful in convincing the non-members on the advantage of coming together and becoming part of MFP Collectives. An exposure visit was organized to Gram Muligai Cooperative Ltd, Madurai and Tamil Nadu, for exchange of learnings on the NTFP issues.

- **Enhanced income from better marketing :** The MFP market has been highly unstable with problems such as; dominance of traders and unethical trade practices, imperfection in flow of market information, lack of processing and storage facilities and absence of market yard. Primary collectors deal in the market at the individual level with small quantities of products putting themselves at a disadvantage.



The combined turnover of three regions – Kuchinda, Deogarh and Kandhamal – increased to 74.91 lakh rupees in 2016-17. The turnover doubled (increased by 100.4%) in comparison to the year 2014-15, when it was just 37.38 lakh rupees.

The key factors behind the increase in turnover was income from Siali leaf business went up by 10 lakh rupees – from 21.2 lakh rupees in 2014-15 to 31.6 lakh rupees in 2016-17. While the income from sale of raw leaves decreased from 21.2 lakh rupees to 4.1 lakh rupees, the sale of stitched leaf-plates increased from 0 to 27.5 lakh rupees.

This underlines the potential of moving up the value chain which is possible for many other items including tamarind and chara (chironji) seed which can easily be the next value chain transition.

	2014-15		2016-17		Average Price		Change in Turnover
	Qty	Amount	Qty	Amount	2014-15	2016-17	
Mahua (Quintal)	856.31	1,546,930	670.91	2,455,305	1,807	3,660	908,375
Siali leaf (Quintal)	1,244.02	2,122,624	289.33	405,062	1,706	1,400	(1,717,562)
Dry mango	14.78	40645	-	-	2,750		(40,645)
Chironji seed (Quintal)	5.08	27,940	53.66	536,600	5,500	10,000	508,660
Tamarind (Quintal)	-	-	337.39	766,443	NA	2,272	766,443
Sal seed (quintal)	-	-	556.61	556,610	NA	1,000	556,610
Siali leaf plate (000s')	-	-	1,850	2,750,000	NA	1,486	2,750,000
Bhalia	-	-	16	21,000	NA	1,300	21,000
Grand Total		3,738,139		7,491,020			3,752,881

A second significant contributor to the increase was the role of the Minimum Support Price (MSP) Scheme. In 2014-15 when the scheme had not yet been operationalised in Odisha, the collectives were able to enter the business of neither

sal seed nor tamarind. These two items accounted for 13.2 lakh rupees in 2016-17 while in 2014-15 there was no turnover for the same. Apart from creating new business possibilities for the collectives, as in case of sal seed and tamarind, the MSP scheme also helped to increase the price of chironji seeds which was already part of the business of collectives in 2014, but fetched very low prices to the original collectors. In 2016-17, the price went up by 82% from 55 rupees per KG to 100 rupees per KG as per the MSP. The higher prices also pushed the turnover of the collectives from a mere 5 quintals in 2014-15 to 54 quintals in 2016-17.

Additional income on account of collective collection, storage and bargaining:

Commodity	Procur- ement	Total Sale Proceeds (Rs)	Minimu m Local Price	Estimated Value @ Local Price	Total Additional Profit
Mahua (Quintal)	671	2,455,305	1,500	1,341,820	1,113,485
Tamarind (Quintal)	337	766,443	500	484,544	281,899
Chironji seed (Quintal)	54	536,600	4000	268,300	268,300
Sal seed (Quintal)	557	556,610	500	364,607	192,003
Siali leaf (Quintal)	289	405,062	700	347,196	57,866
Siali leaf plates (Thousands)	1,850	2,750,000	150	682,500	2,067,500
Bhalia (Wild Cashew) (Quintal)	16	21,000	500	81	20,919
Grand Total		7,491,020		3,488,967	4,002,053

Another way to look at the benefits accruing from the formation and facilitation of the women's enterprise is to take stock of the additional benefit from higher prices

available through aggregation, storage, processing and collective bargaining. In the financial year 2016-17, for instance, the women's collectives in the three regions earned an additional income of 40 lakh rupees. It is also significant to notice that this was more than a doubling of what the women would have received if they hadn't organised and if they hadn't been able to store beyond the harvesting season. In fact, for the first time ever, two of the older federations (Banaja and Banani) have started taking partial responsibility of paying for staff and overheads at the central level.

Research, Advocacy and Networking:

Research, advocacy and collaboration work on MSP for MFP thus constitutes a major area of work to enhance incomes of the dependent communities in our operational area all over the state and one dare say the country. The increase in procurement by TDCC was to a significant extent influenced by the advocacy and grassroots action done by Vasundhara. The Caravan process to spread awareness on the scheme was a major contributor to the enhanced procurement. Between 2014-15 and 2016-17, expenditure on procurement by TDCC under the MSP for MFP scheme went up from a mere 4 lakh rupees to 1.64 crore rupees. Even if we ignore the first year and compare with 2015-16, the expenditure went up from 95 lakh rupees to 1.64 lakh rupees – an increase of 73%. Further work on the scheme, especially in the context of expansion of the scheme to cover 14 new items as well as the reduction in prices of the existing items, will be critical to NTFP-based livelihoods in Odisha and India.

Our intervention helped to create a state-level informal NTFP support group to engage with state actors to prioritise the NTFP livelihood sector. On behalf of the NTFP support group, a proposal had been given to TDCCOL to roll out MSP for MFP Caravan in more than 750 gram panchayats of 15 districts. The proposal has been approved.

Awareness building campaign (MSP for MFP Caravan):

The actual progress of the Scheme at the ground level is very slow due to inadequate publicity and institutional road blocks impeding the primary gatherers and their institutions to connect with TDCCOL to get fair price on the procured MFPs under the scheme. Although TDCCOL has taken care to expedite rolling of the scheme, apart from tamarind and Myrabolan, other MFPs were either not procured or the procurement volume is very low. The low procurement of MFPs is also one of the factors behind the severe losses faced by TDCCOL in the marketing of the produce. The major reason could be attributed to lack of effective awareness at the ground level that actually created a barrier for the primary gatherers to reach to TDCCOL with their MFPs. This is evident from the low expenditure/utilization of the working capital meant for the Scheme. During 2015-16, in collaboration with TDCCOL, we had organised a Caravan Campaign in 8 districts of Odisha with the local support from likeminded CSOs working on tribal livelihood to sensitize primary gatherers on the modalities of the Scheme and the MSP. This had led to greater awareness building among the people, which made them able to sell their produce to TDCC. The knowledge of assured purchase by TDCC enabled people to



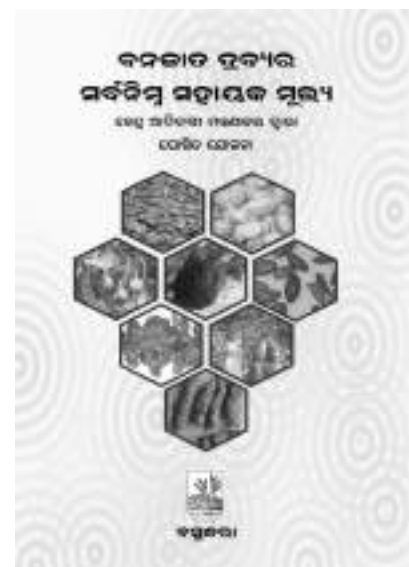
Awareness building campaign (MSP for MFP Caravan)

negotiate with the local traders by increasing their bargaining strength. As a result, the local market price of major MFPs like sal seed, tamarind, and char seed increased and primary gatherers were able to realize fair price. Exploitations by the local traders/middle men were checked to a great extent due to the Caravan. The Caravan also popularised the concept of “Fair Average Quality (FAQ)” and the need to ensure quality in harvesting and storage of the collected MFPs.

A special drive to create awareness on the MSP for MFP scheme:

This year, Vasundhara collaborated with Antaranga (a network of NGOs in Kandhamal district) to create awareness on the scheme. Antaranga helped the community at the village level to form youth clubs in order to bring a visible change in the life and livelihood of poor and marginalised section. Volunteers of the youth clubs were oriented on the provisions of the scheme.

Volunteers of the youth clubs formed twenty teams (each team was having two volunteers who will be part of Caravan riding in a two wheeler to sensitize the primary gatherers). Twenty such teams visited more than 480 villages in 12 blocks of the district on motorcycles. They had taken the message of MSP for MFP to all the potential villages and identified potential volunteers for continuous interaction with TDCCOL, local CSOs/NGOs and also with the Primary



Procurement Agencies (PPAs). During the Caravan process, primary gatherers, their collectives and gram sabhas also sent postcards to the Governor of Odisha demanding higher prices and better procurement by the state procurement agency - TDCCOL.

Drawing from the experiences of the last Caravan, Vasundhara in association with the NTFP Support Group placed a proposal before TDCC to undertake an enhanced version of such process covering about 750 gram panchayats in 15 priority districts

of Odisha. Thirty like-minded NGOs working in those districts had shown interest to be part of this campaign.

The Caravan Campaign was based on the approach of trained committed volunteers who traveled to the habitations and the Haats in the selected GPs and shared about the scheme through oral and visual medium while identifying village-level volunteers and institutions, which could connect to the TDCC as volunteers and PPAs. The volunteers on the Caravan process used two-wheeler vehicles decked with awareness material. During the campaign, they used banners, posters and mikes for awareness building, booklets/leaflets for providing more in-depth knowledge about the scheme.



Training programmes:

Typology of Training Program	Number of Training Program	Total No of Participants					No of Female Participants	Total
		Cooperative Directors/	Cooperative Members	Perspective members	FRC / PRIs Members	NGOs/ CSOs Members		
Regional level meeting for new members enrolment	10	50	321	494	32	35	890	936
District level Training Programme on Forest based livelihood	2	30	22	25	12	6	77	95
Training on MSP for MFPs	3	25	39	12	7	6	62	89
Block/ Cluster/ Region Level meeting on forestry issues and livelihood initiatives through MSP	2	25	18	22	5	10	65	80

implementation								
Village level on forest protection management and livelihood	7	59	67	35	2	3	161	166
Training on cooperative management to cooperative Directors	4	129						129
Exposure visit to trade faire (Participated "Adibasi Mela" BBSR)	1	5	2					7
Exposure visit to Producer company, Mudurai	1						12	15
Workshop on local practice owner of Ayurvedic medicine	1			All are male				27
Training on siali plate stitching	13		298	357			655	655
Caravan on MSP for MSPs (All type of members are involved in the caravan process)	2							3500 to 4000
Organised one EGBM of Union	1	52					52	52
Traders meet with cooperatives								

Looking ahead:

For long term sustainability and independence of these women-led MFP Collectives and their Federations, they need to enhance their business turnover. If we assume that the average turnover target per member should be about 6,000 rupees a year, which would be equivalent to about 500 rupees of NTFP based income per month through the collectives, the combined turnover of the three regions - i.e. the 3 secondary structures needs to be about 2 crore (1.9 crore) rupees. This requires the enhancement of existing business lines as well as addition of new items through processing/value addition, new market linkages, and leveraging the MSP for MFP Scheme.



The most important work on the MSP for MFP Scheme would be the development of FAQ for the newly added items and awareness building/training on the same. Apart from this, there is a need to analyse the reduction in MSP of many existing items and advocating for the enhancement of their price. One of the key value addition areas identified for intervention by Vasundhara is also dependent on the better implementation of the MSP for MFP Scheme. The new list includes deseeded tamarind and if we can successfully advocate for its implementation in Odisha, women collecting tamarind can expect to get an additional income from the higher price as well as the sale of tamarind seed that generally gets wasted

Success Stories

• **Case Study 1: The Sweeter Tamarind**

Tamarind is perhaps the only non-timber forest produce that enters every kitchen in India. Even though tamarind has a strong demand across the country - especially in South India - and abroad, the market is still dominated by informal set-ups, which provide very low prices to the producers/collectors. This is especially so in remote

areas. Kandhamal happens to be one of the most remote districts in Odisha. The price of tamarind in the local market has always been extremely low, for which a number of trees remain un-harvested. This year the local traders were paying villagers only 5 rupees per kilogram for ripe and dry tamarind. In fact the traders do not even buy tamarind from the people but buy the entire tamarind in a tree based on an ocular estimation. The real price in such a case may be even lower than the Rs 5/- per KG that is the stated price. Once the trader buys the produce on the tree, he employs a local labourer (often, ironically employing the owner of the tree itself as a poorly paid labourer) to harvest the tree and hand over the produce to him.



In order to address the plights of the original MFP gatherers, Vasundhara along with an alliance of CSOs organised the 'MSP for MFP' caravan in Kandhamal. The caravan went around villages in Phulbani for 10 days and interacted with people of more than 200 villages. Staff of Vasundhara and the other CSOs which were part of the caravan along with TDCC staff, and local volunteers played recorded audio messages in the local language and held roadside as well as planned meetings at villages, panchayat headquarters, market places and other places of assembly such as PDS shops. They explained the provisions of the schemes and informed people how to access the same. When people learnt that MSP for tamarind was Rs 22 per kg, they refused to sell it to local traders. The MFP collectives facilitated by Vasundhara in the Jamjhari Gram Panchayat of Phulbani block began procuring the product at Rs 22 per KG as the TDCC promised to buy it from them after paying a further commission of 2%. However once they began buying, the local traders got panicked and offered them a much higher price than TDCC. Finally the collectives were able to procure 80 quintals of tamarind from 119 households in 12 villages of the Panchayat and sold it at Rs 25.50 to a district level trader who sells directly in the large Raipur market. The taste of selling the sour tamarind was indeed sweeter this year.

Often people ask how much an agency like TDCC can buy to ensure that producers are able to get the MSP. The experience in Kandhamal suggests that the very fact of people having an option to sell to TDCC at the MSP improves their bargaining power and enables them to sell at the MSP or even higher.

Total Tamarind Sold: 8000 kilograms

Potential Income at local price: 40,000 rupees

Actual Income to Producers at MSP: Rs 1,76,000

Profit earned by Collectives: Rs 28,000/-

Profit Distributed to members as Bonus: Rs 14,000/-

Profit retained for enhancing working capital of collectives: Rs 14,000/-

Total benefit to the community as a result of MSP: Rs 1, 64,000/-

Average additional income per member selling tamarind: Rs 1340/- rupees

- **Case Study 2:**

No winter evening in Northern India is really complete without the helping of Gajar ka Halwa. And it's impossible to imagine a mouth watering Gajar ka Halwa (or other north Indian sweets and kheer) without Chironjee kernels. Good quality Chironjee kernels are usually



available for more than 1400 rupees per kilogram. But the tribal and other forest depending communities who collect the seeds have to sell the seeds at prices as low as 40/- rupees per kg. This is roughly the equivalent of getting paid Rs 120/- for a kilogram of Chironjee kernels that sells at a price of about 1400/- rupees – less than 9% of the market price. Such low prices have been maintained over the years by ensuring lack of competition at the local level and lack of processing facilities with the people.

The declaration of MSP for Chironjee at Rs 100/- per kilogramme was therefore a major advantage for the people collecting Chironjee nuts. Mere declaration of MSP,

however, is no guarantee of actual change in the lives of the people. Even after two years following the declaration of MSP, tribal women in Sundargarh district were continued to get cheated. When CIRTD, a CSO working with tribal people in Sundargarh was contacted by Vasundhara to become part of the MSP caravan, it picked up Chironjee as the focal point of its caravan.

When the informed people, demanded the MSP demanded But as people came to know about the MSP from the TDCC, the latter refused to pay the same on the pretext that they do not have a registered Primary Procuring Agency. The villagers moved the district collector and submitted him a petition. As a result, a PPA was formed within 15 days and the TDCC lifted 7.8 quintals of Chironjee seed. What would have fetched the collectors about 31,200 rupees in the local market earned them 78,000 rupees – an incremental benefit of 46,800 rupees (a hefty 150% more than what they would have got otherwise).

The TDCC bought only a very small part of the total Chironjee seeds sold in the region. However, because of this intervention, local price of Chironjee seeds went up to more than 60 to 70 rupees per kilogram. Inspired by this instance, other villages are getting ready to assert their right to get MSP. In the coming season (May-June 2017) the total benefit to people in the region from the MSP provision for Chironjee is likely to increase manifold. Unfortunately, however, the MSP for Chironjee seed has been reduced for the coming season to Rs 60/- per KG. The people of Sundargarh as well as Chironjee collecting forest dependent communities across Odisha are already raising their voice against the decision.

C t s

Considering the deprivation and loss of traditional rights on forest and common property resources caused by displacement, the Forest Rights Act (FRA) has included provisions to ensure rights for the scheduled tribes and other traditional forest dwellers, who were illegally evicted or displaced or forced to relocate from the forestland for development interventions without proper rehabilitation. As the issue of displacement of the forest communities has been the prime focus of the Act along

with the insecurity of tenure and access rights, Vasundhara in its continuous efforts has been trying its best to ensure that the rights of the displaced people be realised.

Apart from the right to in-situ rehabilitation and alternative land as recommended by the joint parliamentary committee that was constituted to examine the Forest Rights Bill, Vasundhara has also worked to get the rehabilitation packages for the beneficiaries in cases of displacement and relocation.

Vasundhara has made efforts to ensure that pattas or leases or grants issued by any local authority or State Government to the displaced people on forest lands be converted into titles. Notably, in Odisha, prior to enactment of Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980, a large number of families displaced by developmental interventions like dams, irrigation and multi-purpose projects were rehabilitated on different categories of forestland. At that time Pattas or leases or grants were issued to the displaced persons by the local authority or the State Government without issuing them regular land titles.

All such leases, grants or pattas issued to the communities/persons following displacement can be converted into permanent titles under the FRA. Further, such settlements/colonies on forestland can be converted into revenue villages as per Section 3(1)(h) of the FRA.

For those affected individuals needing relocation from critical wildlife habitats within protected areas, the FRA offers a resettlement and alternative package to provide a secured livelihood.

Vasundhara through its interventions, attempts to ensure that displaced people avail the benefits of various laws and provisions of FRA.

Strategy:

Given the violation of rights of tribals and OTFDs in Odisha because of displacements and sometimes because of multiple and displacements, Vasundhara tried its best to get them their rights through the following means:

- Advocacy with media, administration and political circle
- Interventions at policy-level

- Awareness generation among affected communities about their rights through publications and networking
- Collaborations with rights panels and local, national and international organisations

Key achievement/ Highlights:

- Twenty-five villages were converted from un-surveyed village to revenue villages in Jharsuguda and Sambalpur districts due to the intervention of Vasundhara. While 19 villages belong to Jharsuguda district, the rest are in Sambalpur. A number of Hirakud project-affected people, who had received DC Pattas, were given permanent Pattas in these two districts.
- Rengali project displaced people of Deogarh district, who were given K-Pattas, were given permanent pattas.
- Process has been initiated to convert the villages situated in the demarcated protected forests (DPFs) into revenue villages in Sambalpur and Deogarh districts. Displaced people of Rengali project in these two districts were rehabilitated in six villages inside the DPFs.
- With the intervention of Vasundhara, Badamul of Angul district is going to be the first non-tribal village converted to revenue village in India under FRA. It may be mentioned here that displaced people of Derjang medium river project have been staying at Badamula for more than 50 years. Their claims for right settlement have been submitted to the sub-division-level committee (SDLC). The mapping process has been completed.
- Process has been initiated to return the land procured by Indravati project displaced people who are settled in Nabarangpur, Rayagada, Kalahandi and Koraput districts. Vasundhara played a crucial role in it. It may be mentioned here that monetary compensation was given to displaced population of Indravati project during their relocation. The state ensured that people procure agriculture land with the compensation they received. Even though the displaced were in possession of the revenue land they bought, the bought land went back to their original owners during a new survey settlement. It was because of the fact that the bought pieces of land were not mutated in the name of the displaced persons.

As Vasundhara apprised KBK administrator SP Thakur of the matter seeking his intervention, the latter issued a letter to the Secretary of the Revenue and Disaster Management to settle the issue. The process is on to get back the land to the buyers.

- In Nayagarh district, a tribal village – Krushnapalli under Khandapada block – was submerged in a minor irrigation project. The villagers supported by Vasundhara, have submitted a petition to the district collector. Process has been on to rehabilitate the affected people.
- Vasundhara has been monitoring the relocation process in two villages of Debrigarh sanctuary area in Bargarh district in order to ensure that the people



realise their rights. It may be mentioned here that Debrigarh that is one out of these two villages was relocated. Vasundhara has identified a number of cases of violation of FRA norms. Out of 23 families, only seven families were compensated till date. In the other

village that is Jhagadabehera, the process is on to rehabilitate the people following the consent of Gram Sabha.

Learning:

- No doubt Vasundhara's efforts and advocacy went a long way in mobilising people to assert their rights over land, but it is the perseverance of people and their sincere struggle which make them getting closure to success
- Roads are gradually being cleared for conversion of displaced and un-surveyed villages into revenue villages under Section 3(1) (h) of the Forest Rights Act.
- Lack of political will and reluctance on the part of the administration deprive the displaced communities of realising their rights

Looking ahead:

- Involvement of more stakeholders

- Awareness generation and involvement of more people
- More follow up actions

Case studies

I-Bilaspur villagers awaiting for CFR

Families of Girdha village, who were displaced due to Hirakud dam project, have been settled at Bilaspur, a hamlet in Nuabaghra village in Kulundi gram panchayat of Sambalpur district. Later, various families belonging to Oraon, Munda, Badaik and Mirdha communities immigrated to the hamlet. The descendants of the displaced families have not received



any compensation. Moreover, they have been asked by the Forest Department to pay fines for cultivating forest land.

This hamlet has filed IFR and CFR claims under the Bangtal forest rights committee (FRC). A total of 44 IFR claims over 77 acres of land have been approved. However, their CFR claims are yet to be settled.

The FRC had discussions with the neighbouring villages/hamlets of Kadalipal, Bangtal, and Badakachhal for fixing the boundaries of the CFR claims. The process is getting delayed due to negligence by the SDLC and the Forest Department.

However, the PA ITDA has initiated measures to settle the issue at the earliest.

II-Land bank eludes Basantpur villagers

Basantpur has been an example of land not used for the purpose it was acquired for.

Government of Odisha acquired 7,500 acre land in Basantpur gram panchayat (consisting of villages Basantpur, Sahajbahal, Gadamunda, Satijiore, Rengalpali and Talpadar) in 1946 for Chiplima Subsidiary Reservoir of the Hirakud project. People got a meagre compensation of Rs 100 per acre of agricultural land and Rs. 1000 per house. However, only 500 acre was used for the subsidiary reservoir project. As

people were not evacuated from the land even after acquisition due to change in the design of the project, they demanded that the surplus land be returned to them. But their demand did not yield any result. Villagers were allowed to cultivate on small patches of land and 216 acres were given on annual lease basis.

The Government of Odisha has been treating the acquired land in Basantpur as a conveniently located land bank close to the city of Sambalpur, and has no intention of honouring people's land rights. The surplus land is owned by the Department of Water Resources. The chairperson of the Committee on Government Assurances (1989-90), Odisha State Legislative Assembly, observed that the leased lands being cultivated by villagers of Basantpur should be settled in their favour. But this is yet to happen.

It may be mentioned here that despite opposition by the villagers, 447.46 acre land was allotted to the Central Cattle Breeding Farm in 1968. The authorities of the farm fenced off the village and the annual leases were also cancelled resulting in untold misery of the residents. Due to continuous agitations by the villagers, the government allowed 950 acres of land to the villagers for farming activities. However, around the year 1991, cases were registered and fines ranging between Rs 330 and Rs 13, 000 were collected from the villagers, who were cultivating on the land.

Later, the government allotted land for the Orissa University for Agricultural Technology (OUAT). The second Sainik School also came up here. The permanent campus of IIM Sambalpur will come up in Basantpur. GM Unitary University and the Odisha State Open University were given 50 acres and 25 acres of land respectively in the village.

Vasundhara came forward to support the cause of the villagers, who have been practising double crop on the land. Under the support of Vasundhara, villagers have filed petitions to the RDC and collector to grant the land occupied by them. Vasundhara has been instrumental in generating awareness among the villagers about the FRA. Now villagers are demanding community forest rights over the land.

III- OTFDs left in lurch in Badamul

Badamul village in Angul district is a case where one can see incongruence between the spirit and letter of FRA. The inhabitants of Badamul are marginalised OTFDs. They don't have a history of continuous settlement at the present site of the habitation as they have been displaced by the Derjang Project earlier. Here, if the letter of FRA is followed, it will end up violating the spirit of the law by denying Badamul residents their legitimate rights. The best solution to the rights of Badamul residents seems to lie in surveying the settlement as soon as possible and converting it into a revenue village. As the government itself has settled them at the place, it holds the responsibility of recognising their rights over the land they have been using.

The Forest Rights claims were submitted at SDLC in 2010-11 by the Badamul displaced; but the SDLC returned the claims saying that they are ineligible.

An RTI application was filed by Vasundhara regarding the Badamul case. After receiving the relevant information, we conducted meetings with the Collector, and other relevant district officials. After our advocacy efforts, people have also met and petitioned relevant government officials including the Revenue Secretary, Government of Odisha. Following this, the Revenue Secretary sent a fact finding team to Badamul and a report was prepared on this issue. Recently, DFO, Athmallik has initiated the process for Stage-I forest clearance with MoEF in coordination with ADM, Angul.

If the village is recognised as revenue village, it will be the first instance of an OTFD village converted into a revenue village.

IV- Mining threat to Patrapali villagers

People of Patrapali, around 80 per cent of whom are ST and SC community members, were displaced during the Hirakud project. They are being asked by the administration from time to time to relocate from the place for a proposed coal mining.

It is against the Orissa Land Reforms Act to acquire the land of STs without their consent. This apart, it took the villagers around five decades to rebuild their lives

following displacement. It is utter inhumanity to ask them to relocate again and start their lives from scratch.

After FRA came into force, the villagers saw a ray of hope of getting their rights over forest land. The SLMC (State Level Monitoring Committee), Odisha under the amended FRA Rules of 2012 has been given the charge of identifying and monitoring the displaced persons eligible for recognition of their rights. However, the SLMC did not act in this respect.

People had been protecting the village forest since 1981 by appointing guards. They had formed a Jungle Surakhya Committee which functions with the money contributed by the families. After FRA came into existence, the villagers formed Forest Rights Committee in 2008. They reformed the committee with proper representation of women and tribals as per the amended rules of FRA in 2012.

The villagers have filed 89 IFR claims and one CFR claim in 2011. Despite fulfilling all the criteria of getting the benefits under the FRA, some of the villagers are yet to receive IFR titles. They allege that the government is conspiring to lease out the forest land in Patrapali for mining activities.

The government file shows that of the 701.37 acres of forest cover in Patrapali, 460.11 acres belongs to Patthar Chattan Kisam. This land was classified as forest kizam under the Sabik settlement. But it has been converted to Patthar Chattan Kisam under the Hall settlement, even though dense forest covers the entire area. The change of Kisam violates the Forest Conservation Act 1980.

The villagers have signed a petition and forwarded it to the Secretary of the Ministry of Tribal Affairs (MoTA) and the SLMC.

The villagers, however, lost hope on the government. During interactions with Vasundhara, the villagers have shared their apprehensions of a government conspiracy in favour of mining companies.

The FRA has strengthened the Pallisabha to a great extent and Vasundhara played a crucial role in mobilising people to assert their rights. Villagers of Patrapali have opposed the coal block allocation through repeated resolutions of their Pallishabha. With its continuous efforts, Vasundhara has been generating awareness that it is the

duty of the state to respect the decision of a village most of whose citizens have been carrying the legacy of displacement. Vasundhara has been pitching for preservation of the remaining forest cover in a heavily industrialised belt like Jharsuguda.

Ensuring production and dissemination of quality awareness materials and literature on forest rights, livelihood and related issues have been the core focus of Vasundhara.

We have an independent publications unit to consolidate the learning from field and document and publish them for larger outreach. Our small effort in terms of publications has brought tremendous results to influence the policy and decision makers. In the reporting period, we have come out with monographs, training modules, research reports, status reports, case studies and also extended our support to various agencies including government for effective implementation of Forest Rights Act.

We have a quarterly newsletter - **Banabarata** - focusing on the entire gamut of forest rights and livelihood. **Banabarata** attracts writings from a wide cross section of people ranging from leaders of community forest management committees to retired and serving forest officers, teachers and civil society workers. It has played a significant role in building awareness, influencing policy and helping different people working on forest rights to connect to one another. Its reader number is increasing.

The year has seen preparation of Community Rights and Community Forest Resource Right manual for the National Resource Centre established under SCSTRTI, Odisha which is working as technical resource agency to support different states, districts and agencies working on FRA. We have also prepared training manuals on FRA for people's network like Ekta Parishad. We have also published a learning material highlighting the successful implementation of FRA in Similipal Tiger Reserve with the collective effort by the communities in Similipal, CSOs, district administration and Vasundhara. This document is beneficial



for administration, CSOs and practitioners to learn and execute in their own landscapes.

Our reports during this year include:

- Recognition of Community Forest Rights under the FRA at Experience from Similipal Tiger Reserve
- Promise and Performance: Odisha Report
- Promise and Performance: National Report
- Recognition and Mapping of Community Forest Resource Rights: whether this is a handbook or guide
- The Forest Rights Act and the Issues of Displacement in Odisha
- Community Voices: The Stories of Success and Struggle

We have also tried to have a proper space in the electronic and

print media apart

from our own

publication. Below are a few links of

our publications as on 31st March 2017

<http://www.downtoearth.org.in/>

[blog/the-silence-on-minimum-](http://www.downtoearth.org.in/blog/the-silence-on-minimum-support-price-for-minor-forest-produce-58149)

[support-price-for-minor-forest-](http://www.downtoearth.org.in/blog/the-silence-on-minimum-support-price-for-minor-forest-produce-58149)

[produce-58149](http://www.downtoearth.org.in/blog/the-silence-on-minimum-support-price-for-minor-forest-produce-58149)

[http://www.downtoearth.org.in/news/15-lakh-tribals-in-odisha-hit-](http://www.downtoearth.org.in/news/15-lakh-tribals-in-odisha-hit-by-18-gst-on-sal-leaf-58533)

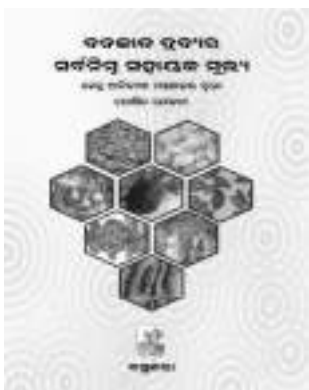
[by-18-gst-on-sal-leaf-58533](http://www.downtoearth.org.in/news/15-lakh-tribals-in-odisha-hit-by-18-gst-on-sal-leaf-58533)

[http://www.pressinstitute.in/the-humble-soap-nut-helps-tribal-](http://www.pressinstitute.in/the-humble-soap-nut-helps-tribal-women-turn-the-tide/)

[women-turn-the-tide/](http://www.pressinstitute.in/the-humble-soap-nut-helps-tribal-women-turn-the-tide/)

[http://orissadiary.com/csd-displeased-poor-implementation-msp-](http://orissadiary.com/csd-displeased-poor-implementation-msp-minor-forest-produce-odisha/)

[minor-forest-produce-odisha/](http://orissadiary.com/csd-displeased-poor-implementation-msp-minor-forest-produce-odisha/)



<https://www.google.co.in/url?sa=t&rct=j&q=&esrc=s&source=web&cd=1&cad=rja&uact=8&ved=0ahUKEwiF26bik8XXAhUYSY8KHWZiCMoQFgglMAA&url=http%3A%2F%2Fwww.dailypioneer.com%2Fstate-editions%2Fbhubaneswar%2Fpoverty-hit-women-stitch-siali-leaf-plates-earn-handsomely.html&usg=AOvVaw2tYNNp3SahnCsRC2vc0poc>

SECTION - III



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VASUNDHARA

PLOT NO 1731/C, DASH MOHAPATRA COMPLEX, NEAR MARUTI VILLA (PHASE II)
AT/PO - KIIT CAMPUS BHUBANESWAR-751024, ODISHA, INDIA

CONSOLIDATED BALANCE SHEET AS ON 31ST MARCH, 2018					
SOURCES OF FUNDS	SCH	2017-18		2016-17	
		AMOUNT		AMOUNT	
Capital Fund (as per last Balance Sheet)		13,057,083.89		12,519,350.59	
Add: Excess of Income over Expenditure		491,885.43	13,548,769.32	537,733.30	13,057,083.89
Temporary Restricted Fund (Unspent Grant)	1		4,254,708.53		12,287,051.46
Corpus Fund (FC)	2		323,052.67		311,177.07
Corpus Fund	2A		201,000.00		
Pension & Gratuity Fund	3		1,578,834.82		1,450,141.65
Staff Welfare and Staff Development Fund (FC)	4		499,096.00		292,863.00
Staff Welfare Fund (SWF)	5		200,524.74		267,916.11
Community Empowerment Revolving Fund (CERF)	6		5,351,183.49		6,427,653.14
TOTAL			25,967,169.57		34,093,886.32
APPLICATION OF FUNDS					
Fixed Assets	7		8,109,931.30		8,233,499.30
Current Assets, Loans & Advances					
Cash & Bank Balance	8	9,057,640.75		17,387,969.23	
LIC of India (P & GS)		1,578,834.82		1,450,141.65	
Loans & Advances	9	253,382.00		129,109.00	
Revolving Fund	10	3,740,069.00		3,834,200.00	
Grant-in-Aid Receivable	11	3,113,459.29		3,111,133.22	
Tax Deducted at Sources		360,468.44		414,588.92	
Security Deposit	12	78,705.00		66,405.00	
		18,192,559.27		26,393,547.02	
Current Liabilities & Provisions					
Liabilities for Expenses	13	335,321.00		533,160.00	
		335,321.00		533,160.00	
Net Current Assets			17,857,238.27		25,860,367.02
TOTAL			25,967,169.57		34,093,886.32

The above Balance Sheet, to the best of our belief contains a true account of the funds & liabilities and assets & properties of the organisation as on 31.03.2018.

For SDR & Associates
Chartered Accountants

N Y Bhaskar Rao

N Y Bhaskar Rao
Partner

Place: Bhubaneswar
Date: 21.07.2018



Signature of Authorized Signatory

Manas Ranjan Mishra

Manas Ranjan Mishra
Secretary

VASUNDHARA

PLOT NO 1731/C, DASH MOHAPATRA COMPLEX, NEAR MARUTI VILLA (PHASE II)
AT/PO - KIIT CAMPUS BHUBANESWAR-751024, ODISHA, INDIA

CONSOLIDATED INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2018					
EXPENDITURE	AMOUNT		INCOME	AMOUNT	
	2017-18	2016-17		2017-18	2016-17
To Project Expenses			By Grant-in-Aid Utilised (Schedule -I)	23,632,020.11	24,928,498.38
- OXFAM India	-	2,017,380.00			
- OXFAM India (2018)	240,085.00	-	By Reimbursement of Expenses	208,474.00	-
- Centre for World Solidarity	439,351.00	421,204.00			
- Unitarian Universalist Association 1	541,700.00	-	By Bank Interest	720,904.97	367,639.76
- Unitarian Universalist Association 2	337,394.20	-			
- RRI - 15 VASU 01	-	32,809.08	By Other Receipts		
- RRI - 15 VASU 02	-	17,830.36	- Use of Infrastructures	781,211.12	623,135.96
- RRI - 16 VASU 01	8,130.80	11,851,413.72	- Institutional Consultancy	8,000.00	190,500.00
- RRI - 16 VASU 02	-	1,819,127.52	- Membership Contribution	-	700.00
- RRI - 16 VASU 03	-	877,635.52	- Miscellaneous Receipts	8,447.00	26,046.00
- RRI - 17 VASU 01	7,243,434.41	332,406.00			
- RRI - 17 VASU 02	1,656,333.36	-			
- TFRRRI-ISB	793,811.00	-			
- The Ford Foundation (Project No. 0193-1370)	10,182,737.00	2,346,497.60			
- APPI (Project No. 009/2014)	2,295,642.00	5,050,759.00			
- OXFAM India Project	338,734.00	-			
- FAO Project Expenses	-	186,123.00			
To Exposure Visit	180,084.00	-			
To General Expenses					
- Foreign	19,469.00	118,351.00			
- Indian	16,220.00	287,161.00			
To Transferred to Corpus Fund	201,000.00	223,000.00			
To Depreciation	273,246.00	357,260.00			
To Excess of Income over Expenditure	491,685.43	637,733.30			
	25,357,057.20	26,336,520.10		25,357,057.20	26,336,520.10

The above Income and Expenditure Account, to the best of my/our belief contains a true account of all the Income and Expenditure of the Organisation for the period from 01.04.2017 to 31.03.2018.

For SOR & Associates
Chartered Accountants

MVRao

N V Bhaskar Rao
Partner



Place: Bhubaneswar
Date: 21.07.2018



Signature of Authorized Signatory

Manas Ranjan Mishra

Manas Ranjan Mishra
Secretary

VASUNDHARA
PLOT NO 1731/C, DASH MOHAPATRA COMPLEX
NEAR MARUTI VILLA (PHASE II)
AT/PO- KIIT CAMPUS BHUBANESWAR-751024, ODISHA, INDIA

CONSOLIDATED RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS ACCOUNT FOR THE HALF YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2018					
RECEIPTS	AMOUNT	AMOUNT	PAYMENTS	AMOUNT	AMOUNT
To Opening Balance			By Payment made from FC Funds		
- Cash-in-hand	54,094.00		- OXFAM India	240,085.00	
- Cash-at-Bank & Fixed Deposits	17,333,875.23		- Centre for World Solidarity	438,351.00	
- Payables	(333,160.00)	16,804,809.23	- UU-1	641,700.00	
			- UU-2	337,394.20	
To Grant in Aid Received			- RRI - 16 VASU 01	6,130.80	
- Foreign	11,943,434.14		- RRI - 17 VASU 01	7,243,434.41	
- Indian	3,663,917.00	15,607,351.14	- RRI - 17 VASU 02	1,656,333.36	
			- The Ford Foundation(0166-1370)	10,311,865.00	
To Received from Gratuity Fund- LIC		144,231.00	- TF/RR/MSB	793,811.00	
			- Staff Welfare & Staff Develop. Fund	637,071.00	
To Bank Interest			- FC General Fund Expenses	19,469.00	22,326,644.77
- Foreign	594,410.85				
- Indian	164,231.05	758,642.03	By Payment made from		
			Indian Funds		
To Other Receipts			- APP1 (Project No. 009/2014)	2,316,192.00	
- Use of Infrastructures	781,211.12		- OXFAM India Project Expenses	338,734.00	
- Institutional Consultancy	8,000.00		- CERF Loan	1,982,000.00	
- Miscellaneous Receipts	8,447.00	797,658.12	- CERF Expenses	147.00	
			- Staff Welfare Fund Expenses	29,873.00	
To Project Contribution to Staff Welfare			- General Fund Expenses	16,220.00	
- Foreign	460,479.00		- Gratuity Fund Contribution	166,941.00	
- Indian	117,300.00	577,779.00	- Gratuity paid to Staff	144,231.00	5,004,338.00
To Project Contribution to SDF			By House Rent Security Deposit		17,000.00
- Foreign		382,825.00			
			By Loans & Advances		261,593.00
To CERF Loan Refund		957,000.00			
			By Exposure Visit Expenses		180,084.00
To Income Tax Refund Received		93,190.00			
			By Closing Balance		
To Security Deposit(House) Refunded		4,700.00	- Cash-in-hand	28,789.00	
			- Cash-at-Bank & Fixed Deposits	9,028,851.75	
To Reimbursement of Expenses			- Payables	(335,321.00)	8,722,319.75
- Programme Expenses	26,360.00				
- Exposure Visits	150,114.00	206,474.00			
To Loans & Advances					
- Foreign	78,548.00				
- Indian	49,772.00	127,320.00			
		<u>36,511,979.52</u>			<u>36,511,979.52</u>

The above Receipts and Payments Account, to the best of our belief contains a true & fair account of the movement of cash and cash equivalents for the period 01.04.2017 to 31.03.2018.

For SDR & Associates
Chartered Accountants



N V Bhasker Rao
Partner

Place: Bhubaneswar
Date: 21.07.2018



Signature of Authorized Signatory


Manas Ranjan Mishra
Secretary



Manas Ranjan Mishra

Y Giri Rao

Puspanjali Satapathy

Chittaranjan Pani

Bhagyalaxmi Biswal

Hemanta Kumar Sahoo

Bibhore Deo

Ms.Sanghamitra Dubey

Sakuntala Acharya

Manamohan Barik

Nilamani Mohapatra

Ranjita Pattanaik

Biswanath Tung

Manoj Kumar Dehury

Swapneswar Dehury

Pragatiprava Bai

Shyam Sundar Sahoo

Tanuja Mishra

Ashok Parida

Aditya Prasad Panda

Chakradhara Majhi

Saraswati Soren

Basant Kumar Si

Rohit Behera

Krupasindhu Parida

Padma Charana Panigrahy

Manoj Patra

