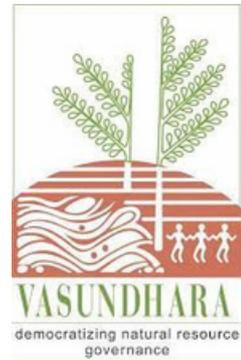


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IN THE LOOP



Vasundhara Newsletter, August 11, 2022

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Dist.: Patia Station Road, Patia, Bhubaneswar, Odisha 751024



OVERVIEW

- Cross learning visit by FECOFUN Nepal
- Approval of Claims in Keonjhar
- Workshop on Women and Land Rights course
- Probationer IAS officers' training program
- Exposure visit to Maa Sarala plate production unit, Nagleju
- First FGD on CFRMC Sanakamit Daspalla
- Awareness meetings in Rayagada
- Monthly meetings
- The month in pictures

Cross Learning Visit by FECOFUN Nepal

Federation of Community Forestry Nepal (FECOFUN) organized an exposure and cross learning visit to VASUNDHARA to learn about Forest Right Act (FRA) implementation, forest based enterprise and livelihood program implementation. The cross learning exposure visit was facilitated by Vasundhara by conducting interactions and discussions with Government authorities, project partners, project staff & other organisations working in the area of Forest Rights Act. A community level exposure visit to our field area Ranpur was also facilitated for a direct dialogue with the community members.

During the four day visit (13th - 17th August), discussions were held on resource mapping, realizing rights on the ground by the tribal and local communities, how they secure customary tenure through the implementation of Forest Right Act, forest based enterprises and livelihoods support activities, etc.





Approval of claims

In a major feat for Vasundhara, our continuous intervention and efforts led to the Sub-divisional level committee (SDLC) for FRA in Keonjhar approved 61 Community Forest Rights claims on August 25. During the same meeting, conversion of one Forest village to revenue village was also approved, along with habitat rights for Juanga pidha in Keonjhar.

Workshop on Women and Land Rights Course

Our team members Ranjita Patnaik and Sayani Chaterjee attended a workshop on Women and Land Rights course organised by WGWLO, in Ahmedabad. The course design is for working professionals and individuals willing to work for women's land rights.

WOMEN AND LAND RIGHTS COURSE

Blended Learning course on Women & Land Rights

- 5 Modules
- 7 Weeks
92 Hours
- Online-Offline Learning
- Field area base Practical Assignment

2 Cohorts with 25-30 Participants Each

- August to September, 2022
- November to December, 2022

Certificate on Course Completion

Probationer IAS officers training program

The Gopabandhu Academy of Administration, Bhubaneswar organised a training program for Odisha cadre IAS officers under probation, on the Forest Rights Act, 2006. Our Executive Director, Y Giri Rao was invited as a resource person to impart the training.

The various topics covered include : Importance of the Act, implementation status of the Act in Odisha, initiatives undertaken by the state government for effective implementation of the Act, etc

Exposure visit to Maa Sarala plate production unit, Nagleju

A two day cross learning exposure visit was organised within our field areas when members from Dasapalla visited Maa sarala sal and siali plate production unit. On August 2, representatives of Odisha Livelihood Mission (OLM) and Mission Shakti group of Phulbani block of the district had also visited the unit for an exposure visit.

In a follow up to that visit, OLM provided 7 new sewing machines to Maa Sarala PG. They also appreciated the efforts undertaken by Vasundhara in Nagleju & are willing for a long term partnership with Vasundhara.



First FGD on CFRMC, Daspalla



A comparative study to understand the importance of CFRMC in villages as well as their institutional mechanisms, was initiated in Daspalla. The research intends to understand the impact of having a CFRMC, the dynamics that affect the formation and operation of the CFRMC and to record a baseline document of all the species that are present in the concerned villages.

In this regard, a Focus Group Discussion was conducted in Sanakamiti and Barasahi villages. Discussions were held on the cultural and economic dependence on the forests, the role CFRMC plays, the traditional community conservation practices and how getting rights has helped the villagers.

Awareness Meetings

In our latest intervention district, Rayagada, awareness meetings were held in August to orient the forest dwelling communities about the power of the Forest Rights Act and the changes it can bring out in their lives. The various topics discussed include importance of the Act, provisions of the Act, claim making process and potentiality of villages. The meetings were held in Nuagada Gram Panchayat under Padmapur block, Karlaghati GP under Gudari block and Gogupadu GP under Ramanaguda block of the district and were attended by the ward members, sarpanches, PRI members and FRC leaders.



Meetings:

August 3	BBS staff's monthly review and planning meeting	Kuchinda
August 5	Mohok Sondhayni union meeting	Jashipur
August 10	Volunteer Review and Midterm assessment of MFP survey	Daspalla
August 22	Review and Planning meeting	Ranpur



The Month in Pictures



FRA claim making process undertaken in various villages of Bisoi, Mayurbhanj



Traditional boundary mapping undertaken in various villages of Ranpur, Nayagarh



CFR-MC formation was undertaken in various villages of Ranpur block, Nayagarh

CELEBRATIONS IN PICTURES!



Independence Day celebration at Head office



Rakhi celebration in the forest areas of Mayurbhanj