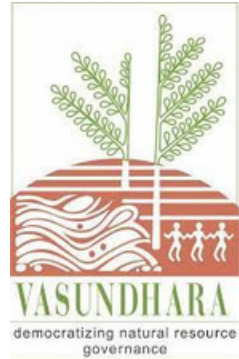


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IN THE LOOP



Vasundhara Newsletter, September 11, 2022

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OVERVIEW

- The Green Choice Campaign Launch
- MoU with Puri Municipality
- Two days CSE workshop
- FRA training for new volunteers
- Dengajhari school program on FRA
- Tamarind Training program
- PG Group Formation
- Meetings and Awareness Programs
- Traditional boundary mapping
- Claim making process
- CFR-MC formation process

The Green Choice Campaign Launch

Vasundhara Odisha in collaboration with the Puri Municipality has launched 'The Green Choice Campaign', to promote biodegradable and sustainable alternatives to plastic. The event was organised in Puri. In the first phase of the campaign we plan on replacing all thermocol and plastic plates used at eateries with leaf plates made of sal and siali leaves. In a phased manner, use of Sal and Siali leaf plates will be maximized across the holy town of Puri, drastically reducing the non-biodegradable waste burden of the town.



The event was organised in Puri and was attended by women involved in plate making process from our intervention areas, the Executive Officer of Puri Municipality, local CSOs and Vasundhara's team.





MoU with Puri Municipality

Vasundhara has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Puri Municipality to introduce Minor Forest Produce in the municipality areas as an alternative to Single Use Plastic. This will enable and help our primary gatherers with market linkage opportunities while we also pledge to make the holy town an ecologically sustainable and zero waste generating town.

Taking FRA to schools!



After a two year pandemic break we resumed our sessions on biodiversity conservation and environment at Dengajari Middle school. The monthly sessions are designed to apprise students about the forest and their rights.



Two separate cluster meetings were held in Ranpur for block-level federations on the 19th (75 participants) and 27th (80 participants) of September. The meetings were attended by village-level women leaders from their respective forest protection committees, FRC members, PRI members and sarpanches. Discussions were held over the status of forest protection and management in their respective villages, issues and challenges at cluster and village level, CR/CFR claim-making status, and claims pending at SDLC and CFR-MC formation.

Two days media worksho with CSE

Centre for Science and Educatrion (CSE) Delhi, in collaboration with Vasundhara, Odisha organised a two day regional media workshop on "How forest communities are using the Community Forest Resource Rights (CFRR) provision in the FRA to reclaim their ownership rights"

The workshop was based on a recent cover story by Down To Earth and was attended by over 45 journalists from across the country.

A field visit to Kodarpali village in Nayagarh district was also facilitated for a direct interaction with the community members on the subject.



FRA Training Program

A series of refresher training programs on Forest Rights Act was arranged for three groups on 26-28 September, 29th September to 1st October, with the third session lined up in October.

The training program incorporated sessions on History and Significance of the Forest Rights Act, its salient features, institutional mechanism, claim filing process, GIS mapping and field visit for on ground exposure.



Block level training program on FRA



A block-level training and orientation program on the Forest Rights Act was organized for the newly inducted volunteers in Vasundhara in Mayurbhanj district. Around 20 volunteers participated in the training program and were apprised of the various aspects of the FRA and its implementation on the ground.

Tamarind Training Program



Trainings are a crucial part of professional upliftment through strengthening skills, acquiring new knowledge and widening one's own purview of work. Our volunteers and staff members from the Livelihood team participated in a one-day training program on tamarind processing, organised by the Odisha University of Agriculture and Technology, Bhubaneswar.

A total of 29 participants attended the program.

Producer Group Formation

With Vasundhara's intervention, new Producer Groups were formed in villages of Dasapalla block of Nayagarh and Bamra block of Sambalpur districts.

Narajipada village (Dasapalla) - BanaBagdevi Mahila Utpadaka Gosthi. Total member - 20, BoD - 6

Behersahi village (Dasapalla) - BanaMukta Mahila Utpadaka Gosthi. Total members - 33, BoD members - 8

Aambalimba village (Dasapalla) - BanaPratima Mahila Utpadaka Gosthi. Total member - 25. BoD members - 5

Badakurubari village (Dasapalla) - BanaJharana Mahila Utpadaka Gosthi. Total member - 27. BoD - 7.

Regalbeda Village (Bamra) - Banapadma Total members -40 BoD members -7

The women from these villages were earlier involved in plate making but had discontinued the process due to absence of procurement options.



Researchers and Members and Representatives of various organisations associated with Vasundhara participated in a three day workshop to discuss their work and the way forward in terms of the implementation of the Forest Rights Act and the rights of indigenous communities.

As a part of the workshop, interested participants also visited our field areas in Ranpur block of Nayagarh district and Jashipur and Bisoi block of Mayurbhanj district for direct interaction with the community members.

The Month in Pictures

FRA /CFR claim making process



CFR-MC formation



Traditional boundary mapping

