

Vasundhara Newsletter, 10th January

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## OVERVIEW :

- Making Kuanria Dam plastic free
- State Level Consultation on FRA
- National level learning exchange
- Nepal Team Visit
- MoUs by the Livelihood team
- Review Meetings
- Traditional Boundary GPS Mapping
- CFR Claim making process
- FRC Reformation and claim making process
- FRA orientation program
- GPS mapping
- Review and Planning meeting
- CR/CFR record submission
- Joint Verification

## Making Kuanria Dam plastic free!

In our bid to promote natural solutions and eliminate active usage of plastic and plastic material, a stall promoting sal and siali leaf plates was inaugurated at Kuanria Dam.

The Producer Group (Banabhoomi Mahila Utpadaka Gosthi) members of Sanakameti approached the stake holders to ban polyethene, thermocol and plasticated plates & cups during visit to Kuaaria dam on new year/ picnic season to keep the area clean & unpolluted.

Instead of plasticated plates, the PG members have brought in an alternative of leaf plates & cups which are decomposable and biodegradable.

The initiative was hailed and supported by the block office, panchayat samiti and the irrigation project officials as well.

The stall was inaugurated by Tehsildar, Kuanria wildlife Forester, Revfenue inspector, Sarpanch of Sariganda Gp and Vasundhara staff members.



## State Level Workshop on FRA



A two days state level workshop on the Forest Rights Act and its implementation in Odisha, was organised on December 14, 15. Representatives from various organisations from 14 different districts participated.

Multiple issues were discussed including Review of Rejections of claims, pending claims both IFR/CFR under the FRA Act and the reasons, Diversion of forest land specifically in mining areas, Creation of land banks through plantation on community land (Alien species plantation on community land affecting the local residents in terms of food and livelihood security), Contention over IFR in Reserve Forest Area and Development projects like railways, highways on forest land and the subsequent issues over compensation.

Prof Dr AB Ota, Director-cum-Special Secretary, Govt. of Odisha, also participated in the discussion as a resource person and shared his valuable inputs.

### National level learning exchange: Forest Economy

Indian School of Business (ISB), in partnership with Society for Rural, Urban & Tribal Initiative (SRUTI) and Vasundhara, hosted a two-day learning exchange on strengthening and building a robust & sustainable forest economy, anchored in secure tenure. This Forest Economy model is based on three pillars – security of tenure of local communities over forest landscapes, community-owned and women-led enterprises of scale that will enable economies of scale and aggregation and, direct market linkages between industry and community-owned enterprises.

The Learning Exchange event hosted over 150 key representatives from the government, forest-based communities, industry, academia & research, civil society organizations, and NGOs, who interacted, deliberated, and networked to collaborate towards building a sustainable forest economy that will benefit the people, profits, and the planet.



## Cross Learning : Visit by Nepal FECOFUN team

24 participants from Nepal visited Odisha to learn about Community Forest Management, Federations in the context of the tribal population in Odisha, and the assertion of rights by tribal communities over NTFPs under the provisions of FRA.

Vasundhara facilitated the cross-learning initiative in Odisha and FECOFUN from Nepal. The delegation included local forest rights activists and people's representatives.

The four days event was divided into an on-field exposure in Kalahandi district and discussions with experts in Bhubaneswar.



## Traditional boundary mapping & GPS Mapping



Continuing the process of traditional boundary mapping, the exercise was carried out at multiple villages across field areas : Binodapada, Bhutapadra village (Nayagarh), Mankadgada, Kandapa

## MoU : Livelihood

The year ended with significant associations being fostered by the Livelihood team of Vasundhara to enhance the prospects of better market linkages.

1) Memorandum of Understanding with Jan Jeevika chaired by Dr Pradipta Mohanty, chairman of SNM groups for generation of business of 414 crores with our women-led producer groups.

2) Our team in Kuchinda signed a long-term partnership agreement with Nilachal Saraswat Sangha (Jay Guru - spiritual group) for supplying a vast volume of forest produces. The first order has been placed for 1,00,000 leaf plates.

## Block level FRA training program : Mayurbhanj



Training and orientations are a key aspects of capacity-building procedures even for those holding key positions of authority.

A block-level training program on provisions of the Forest Rights Act and its implementation was organized in the Rairangpur block of the Mayurbhanj district . Ms Ranjita Patnaik, participated as a resource person on the legislation and its key provisions for the participants.

## CFR Claim making processs :

Badajudi village, Jamupani village Jedarghutu village, Koilisuta village , Dandapani village , Dudhichua , Dhirala, Jhulana , Puranapani , Mankadgada village , Tentiduma village , Katas village Badarangamatia, Charupani

## Meetings and Trainings

### Review and Planning meeting

Monthly review and planning meetings were held in Daspalla and Ranpur field offices of Nayagarh district and with the BBS staff, to reflect upon the work being undertaken and chart out the way ahead.

In Daspalla and Jashipur field offices a livelihood planning and review meeting was also held.

### Cadres review meetings : Gajapati , Rayagada



### Month in Numbers Important Figures :

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Demarcation and Boundary mapping of 3 Forest Villages (2 in Bisoi block (Haridahi & Kunjaldahi of Mayurbhanj & 1 in Nuagaon block of Nayagarh district)

FRC Reformation and claim making process :

Chapal, Gidighati, Guhaldangri , Bisoi

FRA meeting :

Kundullia, Panaposi, Sanpurnapani , Kadua  
Jegarghgutu & Judia

51

Recommendation of 51 CFR claims by SDLC, Parlakhemundi, Gajapati (SDLS meeting held on 06.12.2022)

103

Recommendation of 103 CFR claims by SDLC, Nayagarh (SDLC meeting held on 29.11.2022)

83

Redakhol 83 Cr and CFR claims submitted