

JUNE 2023

IN THE LOOP



Vasundhara Newsletter, 4th JULY

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OVERVIEW :

- Siali Utsav: A celebration of renewal
- A national conference on local democratic governance
- Manorama industry orientation drive
- Residential training on community-led landscape conservation
- Community forest management workshop at ranpur
- Meetings and Training
- Provide hand-holding support to PA-ITDA Baripada
- Internship Diaries
- Banajata outcome

SIALI UTSAV: CELEBRATION OF REGENERATION

Siali Utsav is a truly transformative festival. Two decades ago, the residents of Dengajhari, Ranpur Block, and Nayagarh villages encountered difficulties in collecting Siali leaves from their own forests due to a lack of natural regeneration. To address this issue, the women of Dengajhari village took the initiative to regenerate Siali leaves within their forests. They gathered Siali seeds from the forests, enveloped them in cow dung, and created Siali seed balls. On the auspicious day of Dev Snanna Purnima, which holds

Significance for the people of Odisha, the seed balls were scattered across various forest areas. This marked the inception of 'Siali Utsav,' originating in Dengajhari village in 2003. Today, this festival has become an integral part of their cultural heritage, and women from 62 villages celebrate the "Siali Utsav" annually on Dev Snanna Purnima



A national conference on local democratic governance



A national conference on local democratic governance took place in Ranchi, organized by Azim Premji University, spanning three days from June 22 to 25. The conference aimed to reflect upon the current state of local democracy and development in India, taking into account the 30 years of the Panchayati Raj, over 25 years of PESA (Panchayats (Extension to Scheduled Areas) Act), and more than 15 years of FRA (Forest Rights Act). Attendees included representatives from civil society, Gramme Sabhas, and the Panchayati Raj, as well as academics, policymakers, activists, and members of the media. The conference provided a platform to discuss the progress made thus far and explore future directions. Y Giri Rao, our Executive Director, participated as one of the panelists in the session focused on the Forest Rights Act (FRA). He shed light on the status of the act in India, with a special emphasis on the initiatives implemented by the government of Odisha. Over 260 participants from 11 states actively engaged in this conference.

survey in 3088 villages on women and land rights

With the help of WHH, Vasundhara has initiated survey work in Keonjhar and Nayagarh districts to recognise and uphold women's rights to land and livelihood.



The preliminary phase of this vital endeavor has commenced in three blocks across these two districts: Ranpur, Daspalla, and Bashanpal. A total of seven panchayats and 71 villages, encompassing 3,088 families, have been included in this survey.

This initiative aims to identify and address the challenges women face in these villages comprehensively. Our team is dedicated to developing strategic solutions to empower women and improve their livelihoods. Our ultimate goal is to ensure that women from marginalized households have the opportunity to secure sustainable and profitable livelihoods through agricultural and forestry activities that are environmentally conscious.



DUE TO THE CAMPAIGN 'MSP VS. MFP' STARTED BY VASUNDHARA TO HELP THE FOREST DWELLERS IN THE SALE OF MINOR FOREST PRODUCE, THE PRICE OF SAL SEED HAS NOT DROPPED BELOW RS 13 PER KG THIS YEAR, WHICH IS THE BIGGEST SUCCESS OF THIS MONTH.



Residential training on community-led landscape conservation

A total of 21 participants from Vasundhara participated in a three-day residential training on community-led landscape conservation and management. The training was provided by the Indian Institute of Bio-Social Research and Development at their campus in Kolkata. The training spanned three days and covered various community-led conservation and landscape management aspects.

On the first day, the participants received an introduction to the training and an overview of the topics covered throughout the program. The second day of the training focused on a digital demonstration of fieldwork. A field coordinator from IBRAD in the Mayurbhanj district showcased how communities can be mobilized effectively for biodiversity conservation and management. Training for day 3 started with a group presentation of our understanding of saptapada.

Next, we had a class on Navratna, or nine livelihood areas that can be focused on sustainable growth and income generation.



Community forest management workshop at ranpur



On June 26th of this month, a workshop titled "Community Forest Management" was conducted by the CFMRC (Community Forest Management Resource Center) team at Ranpur. The primary objective of this workshop was to assess the current situation and future opportunities for community-based forest protection institutions. The team aimed to understand the fundamental needs of these institutions and explore how they could be met through community-based protection management. The workshop engaged participants from 217 villages organized into 22 clusters.

Many working members from the Maa Maninaga Jungle Surakhya Parisada actively participated in the discussions and activities. During the workshop, the participants discussed six critical aspects of community forest management. These aspects, commonly referred to as 6F, are as follows: Finance, Functions, Functionaries, Facilities, Functionality of institutions, and functionality of institutions. The workshop aimed to provide a comprehensive understanding of community forest management and identify strategies for enhancing the effectiveness of forest protection institutions in Ranpur. Overall, this workshop served as a platform for participants to share experiences, exchange knowledge, and collectively work towards strengthening community-based forest management efforts in the region.



Meetings and Trainings

- 1) District-level workshop at Paralakhemundi.
- 2) Meeting with the district administration in Sambalpur about Community Rights and Community Forest Resource rights.
- 3) A district-level training program on the Forest Rights Act was held in Rayagada.
- 4) Meeting with Majhiakhanda and Sinduria village FRC members.
- 5) Adibhumi Mahila Sangha BoD meeting held on May 17 at Dalipadar.
- 6) GP Level FRA Training Programme of Badamauda GP of the Rairangpur Tahasil.
- 7) Meeting with BM-TDCC Baliguda regarding MSP for MFP.

CFR-MC formation:

Guhaldangri, Lodhachua, Kusumagadia,

GPS mapping completed:

Raipada village

CFR process joint verification :

Dhubulabeda, Hatia, Balikhni, Kalasibhanga village

provide hand-holding support to PA-ITDA Baripada

In order to enhance the food security of the tribal population in Mayurbhanj, the Integrated Tribal Development Agency (ITDA) of the district has taken a significant step towards initiating the processes of Individual Forest Rights (IFR), Community Rights (CR), and Community Forest Resource (CFR) claim-making. This collaborative effort between ITDA and Vasundhara aims to address the issue.

A meeting was recently held at the ITDA office on June 13, 2023, with the district administration of Baripada, focusing on providing hand-holding support.



Internship Diaries



Three students from Berhampur University are interning with us on Waste management in Bhubaneswar wards, where they try to find out the facts of Bio-Medical waste and Municipal solid waste management plans.

XIMB student Rishi Kesh did a one-month internship with Vasundhara, where his report presented the findings on the Sal seed collection process and the market rates.

91laksh,81thousand
SAL SEED



76laksh,23thousand
CASHEW



**LIVELIHOOD
INTERVENTION**

2 CRORE 83 LAKSH

6 Federations

244 PRODUCER GROUP

4982 members



64laksh,89thousand
MAHUA



20laksh,96thousand
AMBULA