

MAY 2023

IN THE LOOP



Vasundhara Newsletter, 7th JUNE

KIIT Square, Plot No. #1731/C, Das Mohapatra Complex, Opposite of Sai Villa PO: KIIT Campus, Dist.: Patia Station Road, Patia, Bhubaneswar, Odisha 751024



OVERVIEW :

- Campaign launch for sal seed and mango kernel procurement
- Need assessment for NTFP in urban areas
- Two days FRA training
- Exposure visit from Jharkhand to Nayagarh
- Course launch on critical learning of adivasi rights
- Biodiversity assessment
- Inauguration of leaf plate pressing machine
- CFR-MC formation
- Monthly meetings and trainings

PROCUREMENT CAMPAIGN FOR SAL SEED AND MANGO KERNEL



To procure Sal seed and Mango kernel from the forest dwellers, Vasundhara in association with Vanajata, has taken an exemplary initiative. In the first phase of this initiative, Vanajata rolled out the procurement campaign from 17 districts of Odisha. The campaign intends to give the forest dwelling community a collective marketing approach. Vanajata signed an MOU with the Odisha Livelihood Mission and ORMAS to extend this approach. Different district administrations have also agreed to extend their support. VANAJATA is a federation of all women Forest dependent communities of Odisha.



Need assessment for NTFP in urban areas

To make minor forest products popular in the households of urban areas, VANAJATA, in association with VASUNDHARA, started a need assessment survey. This survey aims to promote the use of minor forest products such as nutritious food, natural raw health care products, and other forest products collected by Odisha's primary forest produce gatherers.

The campaign is crucial because it will help create awareness among the urban people about the value of minor forest products and promote sustainable livelihoods for forest dwellers.

It will also help to create a market for minor forest products in urban areas. It will also help promote sustainable lifestyles and the conservation of natural resources.



FRA Training program



Vasundhara conducted a two-phase FRA meeting this month at the CYSD convention hall. Sixty participants from multiple districts participated in this. All the training participants learned different aspects of implementing the Forest Rights Act.

The main objective of the training was to create expert trainers on the FRA who will help PRI members, frontline officers, and district administration for better implementation of the Act. They will also learn how to facilitate the village-level claim-making process and extend guidance to the counselors appointed for the FRA campaign program.

In this 5-day training, the participants learned about all the legal provisions under FRA, types of rights over forests, and different guidelines related to FRA. All the participants visited four villages in Nayagarh district: Dengajhari, Haripur, Tinimouja, and Sinduria-Kodalpalli for field exposure and to learn directly from the community members.

CFR-MC formation and meeting:

kusumaguda village, Tuniapada village

FRC reformation:

Balikharii village, Dubulabeda village

CR-CFR claim making process :

Guhaldangri village



Biodiversity assessment

Vasundhara has initiated a biodiversity and biomass assessment process in the community-protected forest areas of Nayagarh district. The assessment is being undertaken in two villages -- Akhupadar and Dengajhari. Permanent plots in specific forest land in these two village forests are identified for the biodiversity assessments.

The team uses a quadrant plotting sampling method to map the tree species, floral species, shrubs, and wildlife footmarks in the study area. The main objective of this survey is to map forest conservation in a scientific manner through community participation. To major outcome of community forest management through scientific manner is the key significance of this survey.

Villagers empowered through leaf plate

Kadamaha, Padrimaha, and Dugudipadar village members are engaged in Siali leaf plate making. They are stitching 18 to 19-inch hand-stitched plates. Now the three villages stitched 50,000 leaf plates. These villages come under the Chakapada block.



New course on critical learning on Forest and Adivasi Rights



Vasundhara, Nagrik Learning, and the Legal Resource Centre have introduced an online course called 'Critical Learnings on Forest and Adivasi Rights' in an audio-visual format on May 23.

The speakers for the event were CR Bijoy, Seema Mishra, Shalini Gera, Sankar Pani, and Y Giri Rao. More than 100 participants attended the inaugural session.

The course brings together simplified knowledge material on the constitutional and statutory rights of Adivasis and forest dwellers under the Constitution, the Forest Rights Act (FRA), and the Panchayats (Extension to Scheduled Areas) Act, 1996 (PESA).

The course also provides a nuanced perspective on how the FRA intersects with other laws relating to forest governance, forest and wildlife conservation, mining, compensatory afforestation, environmental protection, food security, and the right to information.

The course is spread across three modules, with 18 video lectures, brief quizzes, and supplementary materials (with Weblinks) to help learners understand the concepts in depth.

Meetings and Trainings

- 1) FRA review meeting by Mayurbhanj jungle manch at Baripada.
- 2) FRA Claim making process kutapukharia rairangpur.
- 3) Regional meeting at Geintesahi village of Jashipur was held to discuss the business of NTFP.
- 4) FRA awareness meeting at Pasampokhori village, kaptipada, mayurbhanj
- 5) Discussion Meeting on FRA and Livelihood with mayurbhanj jungle manch
- 6) district level meeting was held at Pradhanpat of Deogarh by jilla jungle manch to introduce FRA
- 7) Sargiful conducted a meeting regarding sal seed and mango kernel collection.
- 8) FRA meeting at Hatia village Mayurbhanj
- 9) GPS Mapping training at Kutapukahari village of Ranpur block.

Exposure visit to Ranpur



Mahila Samagra Utthan Samiti, an organization based out of Daltonganj, Jharkhand, visited our field areas for an exposure visit to understand community forest rights. They visited Kalaskhaman and Kodalapalli villages of Nayagarh to witness community-based forest management systems, women-led forest protection, and community forest title and understand the claim-making processes of IFR, CR, and CFR. The team discussed their struggle to recognize community forest rights under FRA with Gram Sabha members and Forest Rights Committees.



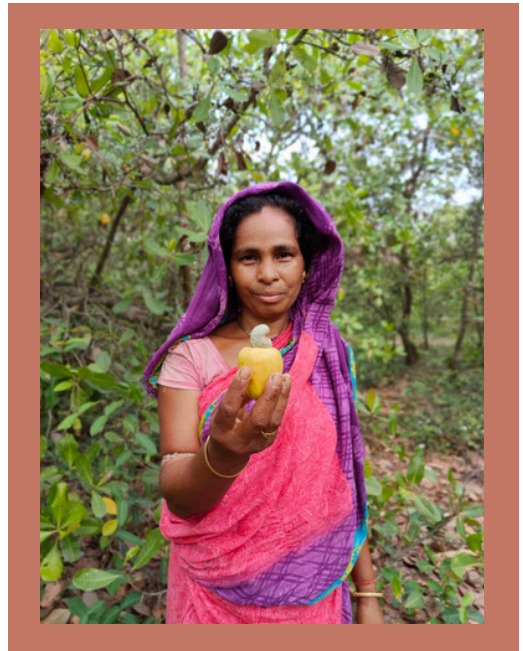
Leaf Plate inaugural program at Sanakameti.

MLA sir, block chairman, sarpanch and forester have participate in this program.

NTFP COLLECTION IN MAY



Our women members of the federation collected 6780 tonne **Sal seed** from 17 major districts of Odisha.



Cashew: 10 PG groups from Ranpur have collected 847 quintals of cashew and sold them at Rs 90/kg. They have generated an income of 76 lakhs, 23 thousand rupees in May.

The federation collected more than 250 quintals of **Tamarind** from. Major collection were from Jashipur (50quintals), Kandhamal (35quintals), and, Nayagarh (15quintals).



In May, 2.5 lakh **leaf plates** were sold to different stakeholder groups. Ranpur, Dasapalla, and Kandhamal are the significant districts where most women are involved in the leaf plate-making.