

JANUARY 2024

IN THE LOOP



Vasundhara Newsletter, 14th February

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 :

5 Forest village approved for conversion to Revenue village

The District Level Committee (DLC) of Keonjhar has approved 5 proposals for the conversion of forest villages into revenue villages. Those include Rugudipanpa, Panganala, Tigiria, Alutumba Reserve Forest, and Mahabiraposi Talbeda Sahi. The total approved area is 3548.5502 acres under Harichandanpur Tahasil in Keonjhar District.

For this Vasundhara paid an introductory visit to those habitation and interacted with the villagers. Among them elders, the village head, community

leaders, sarapanch, and ward members are there. Team Vasundhara discussed about the Forest Rights Act and how communities could claim their Community Forest Resource Rights (CFR) and Individual Forest Rights (IFR). The sarapanch of the villages noticed the need to form a forum during the meeting, and the date for holding the Gram Sabha meeting was finalized.

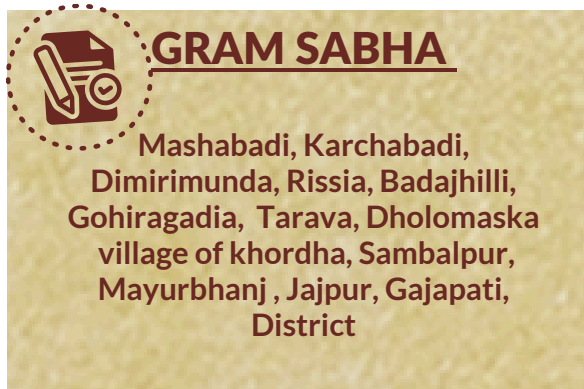
Afterward, the Forest Rights Committee (FRC) got involved to assist the villagers in initiating the process of making their claims.

- 5 Forest village approved for conversion of Revenue village.
- Gram sabha
- Meetings and Training
- Training for govt functionaries
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Villagers drew traditional boundaries and created hand-drawn maps to mark important areas like their land, burial grounds, Non-Timber Forest Produce (NTFP) locations, etc. The officials of the Forest Department and Revenue Department jointly verified these details. Following this, the 5 final Gram Sabha was organized by the sarpanch with the help of government officials. Subsequently, those claims case was taken to the Subdivisional Level Committee (SDLC), and it is currently approved by the District Level Committee (DLC).



Meetings and Trainings

- IFR, CFR Claim-making Process meeting was held at Juliamba village of Niladriprasad gram panchayat of Khordha district.
- A meeting was organized with the FRA Coordinator, MIS staff, and field assistant of Vasundhara to discuss the planning for joint verification and gram panchayat level awareness program in Gunupur block of Raygada district.
- In December, a total of 21 block-level training programs were conducted under the Mo Jungle Jami Yojana across Balasore, Sambalpur, Nayagarh, Gajapati, Raygada, and Jajpur districts. Additionally, two district-level training programs were organized specifically in Nayagarh and Jajpur districts.

Training for govt functionaries



On January last week a three-day training program on the "Forest Rights Act 2006, Land Rights and Record Correction" held at Gopabandhu Academy of Administration. This is a premier training institute striving towards building the skills and capacities of government functionaries. The training program with support from the Department of Personnel & Training, Government of India.

Smt. Aradhana Das, OAS, Course Director cum Special Secretary inaugurated the program. Around 25 officers from the Revenue Department and STSC Development Department participated in the program.

There are 11 sessions spread over three days. Each session deals with various subjects about the Forest Rights Act 2006 and land rights, including records of rights, land disputes, etc. The most promising part of the training program is an exclusive session on "Land rights of Women and SC & ST under the Forest Rights Act 2006".

Vasundhara took two sessions: one was on "Forest Rights Act 2006: an overview", and the other session was on "Forest Rights Act and Its Implementation in Odisha. Vasundhara has been part of the training programs organized by the Academy since 2012.



FRA kit for Jungle Adikar Sathi



To Successfully implement the MJJY program In the state and give support to the Jungle Adhikar Sathi; Vasundhara took the initiative to distribute the FRA kit. For this FRA kit, a press release program was held at SCSTRTI on 18th January 2024 under the chairmanship of Director- SCSTRTI, Indramani Tripathy. Deputy Director SCSTRTI Santosh Ku Rath, in his insightful welcome address, highlighted the importance of providing Forest Rights Act (FRA) kits to our field areas. He emphasized that these kits would be beneficial for coordinators to offer effective guidance.

However, he also expressed concerns about the increasing number of cases where FRA titles were rejected due to various reasons.

Vasundhara executive Director Y. Giri Rao provided a brief overview of the FRA kit. He emphasized the meticulous preparation of various kits personalized for volunteers and members.

One of the crucial points of his address was the Information, Education, and Communication (IEC) materials rooted within the community volunteers' kit.

Programme for MJJY

- A training program for Community Volunteers was held jointly by Daspalla and Gania blocks of Nayagarh districts.
- Block level Training program on MJJY under FRA 2006 at Dharmsala Block conference hall.
- Tehsil level Training program was held at Maneswar Block conference hall on MJJY under FRA 2006 in Sambalpur district.
- A Community Volunteers Training program was Held at Badasahi Block Conference Hall on FRA 2006 Under MJJY.
- A Community Volunteers training program took place at the Nuagaon block conference hall on FRA-2006 under MJJY.
- A joint training session for community volunteers of Khandpada and Bhapur blocks held at Khandpada block conference hall.
- A volunteer training program was held in Karanjia Tehsil
- IFR CFR Claim-making Process Meeting was held at village Juliamba, Khordha district



Advocacy for PVTG rights



Nuagaon is an un-surveyed village under the Goshani Block of Gajapati district. 39 families are residing in this village. All of them are scheduled tribes. Y. Giri Rao, executive director of Vasundhara Aurobindo Rout, Team Lead of the Tenure and Tenurial Security Team, and Swapneswar Dehury, GIS Expert, Vasundhara along with the FRA Cell personnel of Gajapati district visited this village on 16th January and interacted with the villagers. After this interaction, the process of the

conversion of this un-surveyed village into the revenue village has been started with the help of the District Administration of Gajapati District.

Executive Director Vasundhara has been actively engaging with stakeholders to address the habitat rights and development needs of the Soura Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Group (PVTG) in the Gajapati district.

This includes discussions with the Special Officer of Soura Development Agency, Chandragiri, regarding the community's habitat rights, as well as engaging directly with community members to discuss initiatives such as the “Mo Jungle Jami Yojana”.

Additionally, interactions with the Tahasildar, Mohana, indicate efforts towards administrative processes, such as the conversion of a forest village into a revenue village, which could have significant implications for the Soura PVTG community's access to services and legal recognition of their settlements.

Vanajata at Sisira Sarasa

Vanajata took part in the Sisira Sarasa Mela in December 2024, held in Bhubaneswar. The event showcased forest products



collected by communities living in forests from across the state. They sold Minor forest produce and earned an income of 32 thousand rupees. They sold items like phenyl made from neem and turmeric, which gained popularity. Additionally, they sold soaps made from bamboo charcoal, honey, and neem, among others. Other items sold included ritha, turmeric, various types of pulses, ambula, jhuna, and honey.



Gania block in Nayagarh



Raruan Tahasil in Mayurbhanj



Jashipur Tehsil in Mayurbhanj



Dasapalla block in Nayagarh



Karanjia Tehsil in Mayurbhanj



Sukruli Tehsil in Mayurbhanj

FRA KIT DISTRIBUTION IN DIFFERENT DISTRICT