

Vasundhara Newsletter, 10th December

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## OVERVIEW :

- Conversion of Forest Village to Revenue Village
- CR and CFR claim making process
- FRA committee formation
- Traditional Boundary mapping
- Approval of claims by SDLC
- New PG formation
- Exposure visits
- Regional BoD meetings
- FRA orientation program
- GPS mapping
- Review and Planning meeting
- Ethnopharmacology-translational national conclave
- National tribal fair

## Keonjhar CFR claims and forest village into revenue village

With an active intervention of Vasundhara in Keonjhar district, we could successfully enable the approval of **135** Community Forest Resource Right pending claims over the last two months.

On October 18, at the Sub-Divisional Level Committee (SDLC) meeting held in Champua under the chairmanship of the sub-collector, 39 claims were approved. On November 22, 2022, the District Level Committee under the Forest Rights Act in Keonjhar district approved 96 CFR claims along with the conversion of Alkuni Forest Village into a Revenue village. On the same day, a gram sabha level meeting was held in Sikulatalia village under Gumi GP of Nayagarh's Nuagaon block to initiate the conversion process.

Section 3(1) (h) of FRA provides for the rights of settlement and conversion of all forest villages, old habitation, un-surveyed villages, and other villages in forests, whether recorded, notified, or not into revenue villages.



## Training on leaf plate processing

As a part of our ongoing training programs to enhance and accelerate livelihood prospects for our forest-dwelling communities, a training program for leaf plate processing was organised in Sanakamiti village of Nayagarh district's Daspalla block. Following the training program, the Bana Bhumi Producer Group has also initiated the sale of sal leaf bowls handmade by them to nearby villages for various occasions.



Sabita Mallik from Maa sarala leaf production unit Nagleju was felicitated by Minister Arjun Munda as the best tribal woman entrepreneur from Kandhamal district.

## Exposure visits

An 11-member team from Vasundhara visited Korchi in Maharashtra for a three days exposure visit. The visit entailed various aspects, with a prime focus on empowering gram sabhas for better implementation of FRA, management and sale of bamboo, market linkage for Kendu leaves, and other livelihood process.



An exposure visit was also organized to Banaja Baniya sangha, Kuchinda & Banani Mahila Sanghamitra, Barkote., exclusively for women members of Ranpur & Daspalla who have recently joined the collective and marketing process. This exposure will enable them as they move forward to form a Federation or Union.



## Ethnopharmacology-translational national conclave



Vasundhara played a key role in the two-day conclave on 'Ethnopharmacology-translational perspectives towards modern medicine. Vasundhara facilitated the participation of traditional healers from our tribal field areas including Nayagarh, Kandhamal, etc. The Centre is in the process of identifying medicinal plants and produce available in different states in a bid to document them and fix a minimum support price.

## Traditional boundary mapping & GPS Mapping

Continuing the process of traditional boundary mapping, the exercise was carried out at multiple villages across field areas.



Janipadra, Kesenda, Garasa, Kuspalla, Panpara, Talakani, Adala, Garbhanikilo, Thanapalli and Khajuripadasahi



## FRA claim making process



To attain maximum saturation, our team tirelessly initiates claim making process under the FRA in various villages under our existing and new field areas every month.

Dhana village  
Mankadgada village  
Dhirala village  
Guhaldangri village  
Ghagardipa village  
Sudarshanpur village  
Sanjhari village  
Jamupani village

## Trainings and Orientation

### FRA Training Program

The series of refresher training programs on Forest Rights Act, arranged for three groups, culminated on October 14th. Two more sessions were conducted in September prior to this. 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 orientation

A block level orientation on the FRA facilitated by Vasundhara was held at Kuchinda block office from November 22nd to 24th. The training was attended by district sub collector, assistant collector, block development officer, forest ranger, revenue officers and district council members.



### GP level awareness training

To initiate intervention and facilitate better on grassroot implementation of the FRA, GP level refresher awareness programs were organized in Mayurbhanj and Rayagada district.

Four such programs were organised in Rairangpur block of Mayurbhanj district and one training program was organized in K Singhpur block of Rayagada district.



### Regional BoD meetings

With our monthly meeting calendar, regional BoD meeting was organised for Tumandi & Chadeyapalli village.

Participants : 45 members from 6 villages of Tumandi GP and 43 members from 7 villages of Chadeyapalli GP.

The meeting facilitated discussions on collective institutional process, role & responsibility of BoD members, collective marketing of MFP, preparation of business action plan for sal & saili plate and formation of secondary structure of primary producer groups in block level as federation.



### Review and Planning meeting

Our monthly review and planning meetings were held across field areas to reflect upon the work being undertaken and chart out the way ahead.

A review meeting was held with volunteers in Rairakhol, Daspalla, and Changragiri.



### NTPF Capacity Building

A capacity building program for NTFPs was organised at Dhalabani Panchayat in Jashipur block of Mayurbhanj district.

With 25 participants, including Sarpanch and Panchayat Sachiv, the major objective of the program was to make panchayat representatives aware of the existing NTFPs and possibilities of linkage with producer groups and other government programs.

## Parichay Mela

This year too Vasundhara participated in the 5th edition of Parichaya-The National Tribal festival organised in Bhubaneswar to promote and celebrate the traditions and handicraft of the tribes of Odisha.

There were around 80 stalls from different places of Odisha and India, viz. Maharashtra, Kashmir, West Bengal, out of which 20 stalls were set up by Vasundhara. Participants, mostly women from Mayurbhanj( Jashipur, Khunta), Nayagarh (Daspalla, Ranpur), Deogarh, Sambalpur ( Kuchinda) and Kandhamal took part in the fair. For most participants, this kind of fair is a great boon for them- opening a gateway for the mainstream market.

As an exposure to the marketing world in an urban set up, the participants had major takeaways from the fair including an exposure to directly come in contact with the consumers and sell their products at the rate they want to. It provided them to understand marketing with a closure look and gain a deeper understanding.

