Reflections on the Year
Year: 1.12.2014-30.11.2015

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Programme Name</th>
<th>Organisation Name</th>
<th>Organisation Contact</th>
</tr>
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<tr>
<td>ENSURING SUSTAINABLE TRENURAL AND LIVELIHOOD SECURITY OF TRIBAL AND MARGINAL COMMUNITIES THROUGH EFFECTIVE IMPLEMENTATION OF FRA</td>
<td>VALSUNDHARA, ODISHA</td>
<td>1731/C Das Mohapatra Complex, PO- KIIT Compus, Dist-Khorda, Bhubaneswar, odisha</td>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grant Duration: 01/12/2014-01/31/2017</th>
<th>Grant Number:009/2014</th>
<th>Programme Start Date: 1st December 2014</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Year 1 Budget: 54,95,779</td>
<td>Year 2 Budget: INR XX Cr.</td>
<td>Year 3 Budget: INR XX Cr.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Theme: Tenural security and Livelihood</td>
<td>Total Grant Amount (years):</td>
<td></td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Section 1: How did it go?

Narrative on key highlights:

- **Opportunities**: What are the most significant opportunities and achievements for the programme during the last one year? What worked well?

Vasundhara primarily focuses on natural resource governance, conservation and forest based livelihood issues. Vasundhara intervention got a boost with the support of APPI to facilitate proper implementation of forest right act,2006 to ensure tenurial security and sustainable livelihood for the forest dependent communities. Our intervention mostly focused on enhancing the capacity and skills of Gram Sabha, community level institutions to claim the rights over forest land and community forest resources and to democratically manage the resources for their bonafide livelihood. In this year the announcement for implementation of Forest Rights Act in a campaign mode followed by issuing of enabling guidelines and directions by the nodal ministry has created favourable environment for interventions on forest rights. There are few important guidelines and circulars issued by MoTA related to FRA and Minimum Support Price Scheme on Minor Forest Produces, this has been one of the key factors that favored Vasundhara’s major intervention on Forest Rights Act. The State government has continued with its commitment to implement the FRA and has taken up major interventions to further strengthen implementation of the Act particularly the provisions for community forest resource rights, MSP for MFP. Vasundhara’s research and work on FRA have influenced some of the important interventions by the ministry of tribal affairs and the state government. The ministry of tribal affairs and the tribal department of the state government has engaged Vasundhara in the research and training programs. A national resource centre on FRA has been set up at the Tribal Research Institute, Odisha and is functioning under the aegis of the ministry of tribal affairs. In last one year the national resource centre has engaged Vasundhara for training of government officials in the states of Odisha, Telangana, Kerala, Himchal Pradesh, and Jharkhand.

The most remarkable relationship change has been that with the State and its agencies, particularly in terms of our work related to facilitating implementation of Forest Rights Act (FRA) and livelihood initiatives. Vasundhara research based action on FRA and facilitating livelihood model in collaboration with national and state wide networks have found larger appreciation among the cross-section.
In Kandhamal, focused intervention was planned for the 22 villages of Jamjhari GP and 105 villages of Sambalpur and Deogarh region. The local administration was leveraged and integrated in the interventions area after prolonged engagement. Later on we tried to concentrate in Jamjhari Panchayat in a more integrated way by having collaboration with the district administration. Apart from it to bring a concrete visibility on the livelihood gain for the tribals, Vasundhara engaged with different CBOs and Networks. Likewise in Deogarh and Kuchinda areas Vasundhara took a pragmatic approach to engage with cooperatives of women (Banaja and Banani Union) to synchronise livelihood activities along with tenural rights on the natural resources.

- **Ensuring Tenurial Security of all Forest Dependent Communities in 100 villages of Kandhamal & Sambalpur by ensuring titles under Forest Rights Act, 2006.**

**Status of Individual Claims after one year of the project**

**Activities carried out:**

- Since the individual forest right recognition process itself is the most critical aspect to ensure livelihood and ecological security, the projects, initial time period was partly devoted to ensure that 100% claim making is being facilitated in Kandhamal, Deogarh and Kuchinda region. The claim making process involved the gram panchayat, the District Welfare Department and Tribal Development Agency there to facilitate the same. Youths and women from the Panchayat took active part and leadership in the whole process and they started it in their Panchayat in a campaign mode.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name of the District</th>
<th>No. of Claims Applied</th>
<th>No. of Claims Approved</th>
<th>No. of Titles Distributed</th>
<th>Area Recognized (in Acre)</th>
<th>No. of Claims Rejected</th>
<th>No. of Claims Pending</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Deogarh</td>
<td>1326</td>
<td>762</td>
<td>604</td>
<td>128</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kuchinda</td>
<td>2426</td>
<td>1230</td>
<td>1230</td>
<td>848</td>
<td>348</td>
<td>348</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kandhamal</td>
<td>402</td>
<td>402</td>
<td>402</td>
<td>322.564</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>4154</td>
<td>2394</td>
<td>2236</td>
<td>322.564</td>
<td>976</td>
<td>378</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name of the District</th>
<th>No. of New Claims applied</th>
<th>No. of New Claims Approved</th>
<th>No. of Titles Distributed</th>
<th>Area Recognized (in Acre)</th>
<th>No. of Claims Rejected</th>
<th>No. of Claims Pending</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Deogarh</td>
<td>921</td>
<td>604</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>511.09</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>317</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kuchinda</td>
<td>818</td>
<td>479</td>
<td>479</td>
<td>339</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kandhamal</td>
<td>86</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>322.564</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>86</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>1825</td>
<td>1083</td>
<td>479</td>
<td>833.654</td>
<td>339</td>
<td>403</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

The table 1 & 2 indicates that the tenurial security as per the projected level for the first year have been achieved substantially because of certain specific logical interventions. The achievement so far on the tenurial security front has been possible because of the following reasons.

- Massive Training and orientation in a campaign mode for all stake holders at different periods of time.
like the community based organizations, FRCs, Gram Panchayat representatives, implementation level officials at the district and sub-district level.

- Training of village volunteers
- District and Block level consultations

Status of Community Forest Rights/Resources Claims during the Project formulation vis a vis after one year of the project

- **Determination & recognition of Community forest rights:**
Community forest resource, as defined in section 2 (a) of the Act, means customary common forest land within the customary or traditional boundary of the village or seasonal use of landscape in the case of pastoral communities, including reserved forests, protected forests and protected areas such as Sanctuaries and National Parks to which the community had traditional access. 

Forest Right Rules 2 (c) defines “Community Rights” which means the rights listed in clauses (b), (c), (d) (e), (h), (i), (j), (k) and (l) of subsection (1) of section 3. Under Section 3 (1) (i) of Forest Right Act recognises the right to protect, regenerate, conserve and manage any community forest resources traditionally protected by communities for sustainable use. 14 training programs on Implementation of FRA and CFR process were organized in Deogarh and Kuchinda.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>District</th>
<th>No.of Community Rights and Community Forest Resource claims filed at SDLC</th>
<th>No. of Community Forest Resource map prepared</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Deogarh</td>
<td>38</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sambalpur (Kuchinda)</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>22</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kandhamaal</td>
<td>22 CFR claims has been filed in Jamjhari</td>
<td>17 final CFR maps has been prepared for Jamujhari Gram Panchayat of Phulbani block</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Claim Facilitation- A Comparative**

![Claim Facilitation Chart]

- **B Form**
  - Before Intervention: Deogarh - 0, Kuchinda - 0, Kandhamaal - 22
  - After Intervention: Deogarh - 0, Kuchinda - 30, Kandhamaal - 28

- **C Form**
  - Before Intervention: Deogarh - 0, Kuchinda - 0, Kandhamaal - 22
  - After Intervention: Deogarh - 0, Kuchinda - 17, Kandhamaal - 17

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name of the District</th>
<th>No of Potential Villages</th>
<th>Up to Sep.2014</th>
<th>Up to Dec.2015</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Form B</td>
<td>Form C</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Deogarh  | 45 | 0 | 0 | 30 | 28 |
Kuchinda | 60 | 0 | 0 | 22 | 17 |
Kandhamal| 22 | 22| 0 | 0  | 17 |

Note:
Form B for claim over community rights
Form C for claim over community forest resources

COMMUNITY FOREST RIGHTS/RESOURCES
The mobilization of the community on CR/CFR claim facilitation is a critical aspect of the journey towards tenurial security over community forest land. The engagement with the community and community institutions in all these three intervention area has been unique in the sense that they have realized the usefulness of such assertion and recognition of rights and elders and women have participated in the determination and delineation of their traditional and customary community forest resources in the first place. It also provided an opportunity before other stake holders like the local government level officials to realize as to how the community members know and engage themselves with their customary community forest resources. This realization in the official level in the district and sub district level is a critical aspect of a renewed perspective being developed within the govt. officials on the forest dwellers.

Developing and implementation of CFR conservation and management plan with Gram Sabha’s.

• Facilitating development of CFR governance and Management Plan
FRA 2006 ensure the right of local people to forest resources as justice to their customary right on traditional practice of local people such as collection of certain resources from the customary area, authorization of own consumption and special permit to marketing of MFPs and empower to undertake the provision of section 5 of the Act. The FRA Amended Rules 2012 have specified a procedure for delineating the customary boundary of community forest resources and Rules 4 (1) e, f and g specifically provide for constitution of a committee by Gram Sabha for carrying out provisions of section 5 of the Act and preparation of a conservation and management plan for the community forest resource area.

Rounds of discussion have been done with the Madikhol Gram Sabha for development of management plan. The plan was shared with wide range of stakeholders at gram Panchayat and district level. 4 nos of conservation and management plans of Madikhol, Sapangi, Nedipaju, Gabanala has been completed and in more than 10 Nos of village’s initial rounds of discussion on the same has been started and people and community have started formally documenting their kind of management protocols.

With the active support of Madikhol Gram Sabha, a 20 member of CFR conservation and Management Committee was constituted for carry out the compliances and provision as per the Section 3 (i) & 5. The major component of the Plan that developed by the committees after assessing the forest resources are,

• Preventing illicit felling of trees
• Control Grazing ( Rotation basis and also seasonal changes
• Regeneration & Plantation (Bamboo)
• Sustainable harvesting
• NTFP management
• Wildlife management

Protocols were developed after indepth interaction with different resource dependent of the Gram Sabha and made large scale awareness on the do and donts of the protocols. The Gram Sabha has informed the Forest and Kendu Leaf Department regarding their plan for management of the CFR areas
Developing a Gramsabha based convergence plan:
The Forest Rights Act recognizes and vests rights with the Scheduled Tribes and Other Traditional Forest Dwellers over forest land and community forest resources with an aim to ensure their livelihoods and food security. The amended FRA Rules have made enabling provision (Rule 16) for post-claim support to holders of forest rights which mandate the state government to ensure that all government schemes, including those relating to land development, land productivity, basic amenities and other livelihood measures, are extended to the individuals and communities whose rights have been recognised under the Act through its various departments. The Government of Odisha has initiated convergence of various programmes and schemes since 2009 to support the livelihood of forest dwelling communities. But the absence of a proper convergence framework and relevant state-level guideline have been found to be limiting factors for converting the rights recognised under the FRA into sustainable livelihoods. Proper implementation of the convergence programme would need structured and planned interventions to ensure adequate post-claim support and handholding to the rights holders under the FRA. In this context we have started facilitating a Gramsabha based planning in three region of Odisha Kandhamal, Deogarh and Kuchinda, out of which in Kandhamal, Madikhol village Gramsabha have first submitted the plan prepared by community members (FRC members, women right holders, Management committee members) submitted to district collector and PA-ITDA (nodal agency for FRA) as part of facilitation of the process community members actively involve in preparation of social map and resource map by using redbrick and charcoal. They have demarcated the area in the drawing also mention the six different proposed plan prepared by them. District administration has now taking step to execution of the plan prepared by Madikhol GS.

(Madikhol community members engaged in preparation of Social map and Resource Map)

Similar process has been carried out in Sapangi, Nedipaju and Gabana village of Jamjhar G.P,Kandhamal. The process also initiated in Dantaribahal G.P of Deogarh district.

We have significantly improved our relationships with various civil society groups, people’s network and academic institutions agencies at different level related to our work on forest rights act, sustainable livelihood promotion etc. Engagement with district and state level implementation apparatus has provided an opportunity to address various emerging issues related to tenurial rights and livelihoods such as the district level committees in the operational districts have taken major steps to expedite claim recognition, providing fair price to MFP gatherers through Minimum Support Price (MSP) scheme. Engagement with the state Tribal Department to train and sensitize the district level officials involved in FRA implementation.
The process of collective trading and the collective imaginary was expected to make the primary gatherers self-governable, responsible and autonomous so that they can direct their life and livelihoods on their own terms. The thrust area of the whole facilitation process has been in terms of facilitating the regular activities of the collectives with major emphasis on strengthening the democratic decision-making process. In addition to this, some efforts have been put towards strengthening and consolidation of the leadership base. Facilitating existing collective business was also another key area of the facilitation process. Besides capacity building inputs formed another major part of the facilitation process. Some of the major activities undertaken in this regard are briefly described as under:

- **Regularization of Meetings**: The leaders of the Primary Collectives need to meet every month at the Union in order to share and exchange views and ideas with each other and review of performance of the PCs. Based on the ideas emerged out of the discussion, the future plan and programmes are formulated. The financial position of the PCs and Union is also discussed here and corrective measures for any irregularities are planned for.

Union has been suffered with lack of human resources for which many collectives were dormant. Dormant collectives were revived by sensitizing them regularly by appointing volunteers. Many institutional issues which were effecting the functioning of the Collectives were sorted out. 10 primary collectives have been revived after lot of deliberation with members. Adequate focus was put to strengthen collective process. Monthly/Bimonthly BoDs meeting of both primary and secondary collectives have been regularized. Participation of the members and directors in the monthly and general body meeting seen rising. Annual general body meeting was organized by unions and primary collectives at their respective level. Proper election process was followed and 236 new Board of Directors were elected to carry out the institutional functions. The primary collectives were bear all the expenses that incurred during the annual general body meeting and part of expenses was borne by Union during the same. Table 1 & Table 2 indicating the changes of the level of participation in the governance process and in terms of Institutional building.

**Table-1:**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>MFP Collectives Institutional Building</th>
<th>2013-14</th>
<th>2014-15</th>
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</thead>
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<td><strong>Regions</strong></td>
<td><strong>Total MFP Collectives</strong></td>
<td><strong>Active</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Deogarh</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kuchinda</td>
<td>26</td>
<td>23</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Table-2:**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Regions</th>
<th>Frequency of BoD Meeting at Primary Level</th>
<th>% of Director Participation</th>
<th>Frequency of BoD meeting at Union Level</th>
<th>% of Director Participation</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Deogarh</td>
<td>50%</td>
<td>65%</td>
<td>65%</td>
<td>75%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kuchinda</td>
<td>45%</td>
<td>60%</td>
<td>60%</td>
<td>70%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

All the registers and records were kept at local level and were tracked at periodical level. This has helped in improving the communication in all tiers and brought greater transparency in the collective process. Organizational meetings of both primary collectives and unions have been regularized up to 70% on average. The
BoDs review the progress of the activities planned related to Institution, Business and Finance.

- **Capacity building**: For smooth functioning of any activity, skill development of facilitators is an important part. Without skill enhancement activity, good result will not achieve. Vasundhara organized many CB activities for the member’s on collective education, enterprise development, record keeping, MIS etc. Union level training programmes were conducted to train the directors and front line leaders on the plan of action for its proper execution. Similarly in perspective areas, non members were also covered in the capacity building programme. Both the Unions have taken some positive steps for self reliance and sustainability. Few key initiatives in this regards are, Banani Union has borne salary of the General Manager, Organizer and administration cost for 6 months in the reporting period. Focused discussion is going on to restructure the geographical location of the Unions and decisions will be taken after taking approval of the both Unions.

- **Establishment of MIS**: Regularization of fixed activities of the collectives and unions have been a major intervention area over the period. The Management Information System (MIS) that has evolved over the period both at the level of primary collectives and the union, during the period, major emphasis was given to establish the MIS that flows logically and covers information sharing and opinion building at all levels of the Collectives. The MIS of the collectives is a mix of activities, which begins with internal audit followed by Review meeting that is followed by Board meeting at collective levels. Every activity produces a report that becomes a basis of review and planning of the following activity.

- **Development of Village Action Plan**: Vasundhara facilitated the Unions to undertake survey for development of village wise plan for 97 villages. The findings of the survey were shared with the different stakeholders in phase wise cluster level consultation. Such 9 cluster level meeting was organized focusing the status of claim making, scope of convergence, livelihood challenges etc. The consultation helped a lot to the PRIs and line department staffs to understand various issues and prioritized it to address. A Central level consultation was organized at Deogarh to present and share the findings came out during the survey before the district authorities.

- **Formation of new MFP Collectives in Kandhamal**: The collective process gained a momentum in the Jamujhari GP of Kandhamal districts with the support from APPI. Till date 10 no of village based women collectives have been formed and got endorsed by the respective gram sabhas. Exposure visits were made to Banaja and Banani Unions for cross learning where 48 gram sabha members participated. These all collectives are formed with the notions of democracy and autonomy, both of which are challenging to achieve and maintain. Vasundhara’s facilitation is mostly focused on these values which need to be strengthened and enhanced further. The process of maintaining independence and autonomy of the collective institution has been relatively far more successful as compared to several NGO – led interventions in different parts of the country

- **Network & Alliance Building**: A state level NTFP consortium has been formed with the likeminded organization where Vasundhara is lead partner for information dissemination on Minor Forest Produces. Vasundhara is part of national level Network on NTFP with NTFP-Exchange Programme. Vasundhara and Basix (ILRT) together developed the curriculum for the forest based livelihood promotion. Vasundhara has been part of big green livelihood with Freidrich Ebert Stiftung, a Germany based foundation promoting big green livelihood in Asia. Vasundhara is member of the Dist level committee in Deogarh district for MSP operation

- **MFP Collectives with the Support from the Unions are now filing petitions before the district administration for illegal plantation, tree felling from the Community managed Forest areas and the unnecessary hassles created by forest departments. Unions have leveraged support of local media to highlight the corruption and mal practices done by line departments which ultimately created institutional roadblocks for the MFP collectives to strengthen their livelihood and management of natural resources. Unnecessary hassles were meted out during procurement of MFPs by PPAs by enabling them to address their grievance before Line departments. In Deogarh, Goilo Gram Sabha lead by women folk challenged the forest department for illegal cutting of trees from their CFR areas and seized the loaded truck. This was a very encouraging experience for the MFP collectives to wards establishing their rights**
on CFR areas where the forest department bowdown before the gram sabha. MFP Collectives with the Support from the Unions are now filing petitions before the district administration for illegal plantation, tree felling from the Community managed Forest areas and the unnecessary hassles created by forest departments. Unions have leveraged support of local media to highlight the corruption and mal practices done by line departments which ultimately created institutional roadblocks for the MFP collectives to strengthen their livelihood and management of natural resources.

Alternative Market Intervention by the MFP Collectives and their Unions:

The NTFP market has been highly unstable with problems such as; dominance of traders and unethical trade practices, imperfection in flow of market information, lack of processing and storage facilities, absence of market yard, etc. Primary collectors deal in the market at the individual level with small quantities of products putting them at a disadvantage. At the policy level, the role of forest and forest product’s in poverty alleviation and in sustaining livelihoods continues to be ignored.

Due to collectivization of MFP trade, Banani Union able to provide 56% (if sold in the local market, the MFP gatherers would have got Rs 4939/- in 4 commodity whereas Union provided them additional Rs 2770/-) more incremental income to the members those participated in the business as compared to the local prevail market price in 4 commodity business. Banani Union able to maintain a steady price in the local market to compete with the local buyers. This has also immensely benefited the non members in the region to get fair price of the commodity that the Union dealt with. Banani has a turnover of Rs 20, 12,022/- where 846 members have participated. Similarly Banaja Union provided 32% more additional incremental value to the members. The total turnover of Banaja was Rs 14, 35,378/- where 925 members participated in various businesses. The Business Development Cell has now better market forecasting on MFP trade and understanding the market intelligence.

Table-3: Business Development

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Regions</th>
<th>Siali Leaves</th>
<th>Mohua</th>
<th>Chungru</th>
<th>Char seed</th>
<th>Sal seed</th>
<th>Tamarind</th>
<th>Dry Mango</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Participatio n of Members</td>
<td>Participatio n of Members</td>
<td>Participatio n of Members</td>
<td>Participatio n of Members</td>
<td>Participatio n of Members</td>
<td>Participatio n of Members</td>
<td>Participatio n of Members</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Deogar h</td>
<td>345</td>
<td>261</td>
<td>264</td>
<td>379</td>
<td>210</td>
<td>125</td>
<td>65</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kuchinda</td>
<td>369</td>
<td>236</td>
<td>196</td>
<td>346</td>
<td>144</td>
<td>235</td>
<td>0</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

In the reporting period, tamarind and dry mango was added to the trade basket of Banaja Union. Over the period, Mohua became the central MFP where more and more members are participated in the business. The Unions and primary collectives have now better understanding on Mohua after subsequent loss in past years. In Char Seed trade, the market price was very low and it was also not procured by the State Procurement Agency though Char seed is one MFP under the MSP Scheme on ground of FAQ. Traders were paying Rs 70/- per kg which is much below than the MSP Price declared in Deogarh region. Banani Union and its MFP collectives as PPAs procured Char Seed as per the MSP. This has compelled the traders to give the minimum support price for the char seed to the primary gatherers.
### Table 4: Procurement details

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Region</th>
<th>Siali Leaves</th>
<th>Mohua</th>
<th>Chungru</th>
<th>Char seed</th>
<th>Sal seed</th>
<th>Tamarind</th>
<th>Dry Mango</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Deogarh</td>
<td>485.9</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>198.9</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>626.7</td>
<td>2</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Kuchinda</td>
<td>539.2</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>316.8</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>229.5</td>
<td>9</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

### Table 5: Annual Turnover

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Region</th>
<th>Siali Leaves</th>
<th>Mohua</th>
<th>Chungru</th>
<th>Chaar seed</th>
<th>Sal seed</th>
<th>Tamarind</th>
<th>Dry Mango</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Deogarh</td>
<td>8813</td>
<td>07</td>
<td>2884</td>
<td>92</td>
<td>11506</td>
<td>58</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Kuchinda</td>
<td>8088</td>
<td>90</td>
<td>4388</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>39627</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Table 6: Local Market Price Vs Price Offered by MFP Collectives

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Region</th>
<th>Siali Leaves</th>
<th>Mohua</th>
<th>Chungru</th>
<th>Chaar seed</th>
<th>Sal seed</th>
<th>Tamarind</th>
<th>Dry mango</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Local market price</td>
<td>MFP collective Price given to member</td>
<td>Local market price</td>
<td>MFP collective Price given to member</td>
<td>Local market price</td>
<td>MFP collective Price given to member</td>
<td>Local market price</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>2015</td>
<td>110 0</td>
<td>1450</td>
<td>2200</td>
<td>140 0</td>
<td>2500</td>
<td>700 0</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>2014</td>
<td>100 0</td>
<td>1810</td>
<td>1836</td>
<td>125 0</td>
<td>2300</td>
<td>550 0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Kuchinda**

|        | 2015 | 110 0 | 1358 | 160 0 | 1736 | 140 0 | 2076 | 700 0 | 10000 | 850 | 1058 | 130 0 | 2200 | 300 0 | 3500 |
|        | 2014 | 110 0 | 1500 | 160 0 | 1726 | 140 0 | 1798 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 250 0 | 2750 |

While the members would form their business rules, they would again demand the collective to behave exactly like the traders in terms of declaring prices which were highly fluctuating and notional most of the times that occurred more in the collective areas to disturb the process.
Further the in collectives, members were bound by the rules and decisions to engage with the market which was different from the way they used to engage with the market, where they operated on their own individual will. In some ways individual freedom got restricted in a collective venture like this. Although conceptually collectives were only custodians of member’s produce, but the practice of a business model was not aligned to their earlier practice. Indirect benefits of the process like correct weights, security of payment, stability in price were generally insignificant for most of the members as these didn’t reflect any apparent monetary benefit. Besides collective trading brought newer risk of taking responsibilities like storing the produce, taking care of it, protecting it etc. Investment in all this was not considered at par with return. They had their own economics.

The collectives have virtually replaced the local agents and village level buyers to a large extent, which have made matters easy and convenient for the intermediary traders. They now get more quality produce, in correct weights and have to do away with the hassles of managing too many agents at the village level who would always cheat. But whenever the collectives would try to cross over the intermediaries and attempt to contact markets or traders outside Orissa, they faced resistance. The State level intermediary operates in a cartel and play down any negotiation of the collectives with the bigger traders outside the State. The bigger trader who has established old ties with these intermediaries are also quite reluctant and apprehensive to enter into any contract with the collectives. While the collective staff mostly facilitates such negotiations, collective leadership is yet to take constructive leadership in this context, a factor that might have generated more confidence with the bigger traders who want a continuous and assured supply of produce and are not willing to jeopardize their relationship with the established channels.

For the first time, both Unions undertake procurement of Tamarind and Char Seed under the MSP Scheme in the region. Earlier Tamarind and Char seed were sold in a very throw away price where the local traders are getting benefitted. After interventions of the Union, the price of both the commodity were above the MSP price declared in the local market and traders were compelled to procure under the MSP price.

Now the MFP collectives have started doing processing of Siali and Sal leaf in to plates. Earlier only raw materials

From: Barbara Thorwarth <thorwarth@leaf-republic.com>
Date: Mon, Oct 5, 2015 at 12:38 PM
Subject: Draft Version MoU
To: Giri Rao <ygirirao@vasundharaorissa.org>
Cc: pratap@vasundharaodisha.org, barikmanamohan@gmail.com, Leaf republic india office <office@leaf-republic.in>

Dear Mr. Pratap, Mr. Rao and Mr. Barik,

I have been informed about the developments on the local level in regard to the leaf plates production after the field visit of the India Quality Manager of leaf republic Mr. Biswajit Mohanty. He assessed the situation as promising.

Together, we must now prepare an agreement to proceed, therefore I am sending you a general draft version for the MoU.

Please have a look at it and give me the points which need to be modified in your opinion. Just provide me with a detailed list of the critical points and get back to me as soon as possible.

With Kindest Regards,

Ms. Barbara Thorwarth
leaf republic gmbh
tegernseerlandstrasse3
82054 sauerlach I munich I germany
local court of munich hrb 207059
vat id de292061799
trading were done at the MFP collective level and Union was marketing the procured leaf. Now as Union has explored a marketing agency named **Leaf Republic, Germany.** The Leaf Republic, Germany has given rounds of training to the members on maintaining the quality of the leaf plate and both Unions have made legal agreement with the Marketing Agency. This processing activity would give 5 times additional benefits to at least 1000 MFP gatherers. A single household would get Rs 3,000/- to Rs 3,500/- per month by getting involve in the processing activities. Under the claim making facilitation and forest protection process, in many gramsabha, to show conflict and its resolved by discussion with gram sabha.

**Finance:**

- 10 primary MFP Collectives of Banani union, they have developed a risk fund for managing the business losses, shortage of working capital, institutional management cost (Meeting, honorarium, vehicles maintainence, telephone, sitting allowance to the BoDs etc) from the business surplus. Till reporting, a sum of 3.4 lakh’s fund has been deposited in the respective accounts of 10 MFP Collectives.
- Both Unions are now performing more in democratic manner to achieve financial sustainability and the ownership towards the Institutions are visible in their plan of action. Now Unions are bearing their organization’s cost of management from the business surplus. Banani Union has planned to bear six month entire cost (like BoD meeting, AGBM, house rent, vehicle maintenance etc.). Banaja has yet to devise such plan but have started working on this front.

**Linkages with line department:**

- 4 MFP collectives under Banani Union have been converged with Odisha Livelihood Mission (OLM). OLM have supported a grant amount of Rs 8.25 lakhs to these 4 MFP collectives. These grant support was meant to bring institutional stability of these MFP Collectives to run their Institutions in a more democratic way by enhancing their skill and capacity.
- 18 MFP Collectives are being endorsed by the respective Gram Sabha as Primary Procurement Agency (PPA) to support TDCCOL, State Procurement Agency (SPA) under the Minimum Support Price Scheme on Minor Forest Produce, a social scheme meant for the MFP gatherers. TDCCOL has executed agreement with all the 18 MFP collectives.
- TDCCOL has given 33 no of electronic weighing machines to both the Unions to undertake proper weight measurement of the commodity during the business time. This has helped a lot to check the exploitation made by the middle men in weight of the producers. This has not only helped the members of the MFP collectives to get proper price of their produces but also other MFP gatherers in the region were also benefitted due to proper weight measurement.
- 6 no of drying yard have been approved by the gram sabha and submitted it to TDCCOL. TDCCOL has facilitating construction of drying yard by involving Integrated Tribal Development Agency (ITDA). Apart, Banabharati MFP collective, Panibhandar, Deogarh has constructed own ware house for storage of procured commodity by investing labour.
- Banani has purchased 0.25 acres of land at Barkot from its own fund to build up office and ware house.
- For leveraging support of the line departments like ITDA, Unions have organized many block level interface with Peoples representatives and line departments.

**Minimum Support Price Scheme:**

Minimum Support Price Scheme: In addition, the proposed intervention has been closely working with MoTA, state nodal agency and state procurement agency to ensure that the tribal population gets a remunerative price for the produce they collect from the forest and provide alternative employment avenues to them. The scheme also seeks to establish a system to ensure fair monetary returns for forest dweller’s efforts in collection, primary processing, storage, packaging, transportation etc, while ensuring sustainability of the resource base. It also seeks
to get them a share of revenue from the sales proceeds with costs deducted. Regular follow up and constant engagement with the stakeholders is required to success the Scheme for the larger benefit of the MFP gatherers. District level sensitizations were done to make aware the actors on the provision of the Scheme. 22 MFP collectives have been identified as Primary Procurement Agency (PPAs) for procurement of MFP under the Scheme. Madikhol gram sabha has made resolution to be a PPA for the Scheme and submitted to ITDA, Kandhamal.

- Vasundhara providing handholding support to the State Procurement Agency to implement the MSP Scheme in its true letter and spirit. Due to Vasundhara constant engagement with State and Dist agency, the selection of Primary Procurement Agency was faster and procurement of MFP started in 23 districts benefitting millions of MFP gatherers in the region.

- Vasundhara engaged with Sambalpur, Deogarh, Anugul, Sunargarh, Nayagarh, Kandhamal district level monitoring agency regularly to sort out the hassles that rose during procurement of MFP by the PPA and delivering the stocks to PPAs. Due to the vigilant monitoring of the Scheme in the operational areas, TDCCOL was bound to procure the MFPs at the prescribed price which ultimately increased the income of the tribal and other forest dependent communities.

- State and district level MSP consultations have been organized to track the progress of the MSP Scheme. This has resulted in expediting the sensitization process of the scheme.

- Large scale awareness was created on MSP Scheme where Vasundhara’s facilitated MFP collectives were played a major role.

- Banaja Union has organized a Sub Divisional Level Consultation on MSP for MFPs at Conference hall, Kuchinda on dated 4th of Dec 2015 to critically analyze the progress of the Scheme in the region. Govt. official like Sub-collector, PA-ITDA, BM- TDCCOL, Sambalpur, PPAs involved in the procurement of MFP under the Scheme, PRIs members and Directors of Banaja Union attended the consultation. The consultation was important to devise a comprehensive plan to implement the Scheme in a more transparent way. Similarly dist level consultation on MSP MFP organized in Kandhamal district to sensitize the district administration to implement the scheme.

- Challenges: What did not work as planned? How did you go about managing them?

The idea of covering the entire households through survey was more cumbersome and would have taken much of the time and hence the idea was changed in to go for village level survey with the involvement of Gram Sabha members. Even if it was a challenge to execute, it opened up a new opportunity on understanding the gamut of issues being confronted by the forest dwellers. Again we divided all the interventions village in to group of clusters where more focus will be given and in 3 regions core clusters were selected keeping in view the vulnerability context. Even if it was challenging to intervene in an integrated manner in all these 3 core clusters envisaging the logical end point of livelihood promotion and food security, we along with the community and community institutions have taken up the challenges’ and directed all our efforts starting from ensuring tenure security through innovative community based claim making process which has been inclusive in its approach towards ecological and livelihood security. The volunteers so engaged in this intervention were the pivotal harbingers of change in the sense that they have been capacitated and strengthened through multiple sensitization and orientation programmes, so that along with district and sub district level government apparatus would be providing handholding support to the community. Here also, beyond capacity building of the volunteers, other stakeholders such as members of the community, community institutions like MFP collective, FRC members, SHGs members, Youth and women were capacitated. Earlier the government machineries were not very supportive and hence much of the claim related issues as well as livelihood promotion got thwarted. This observation influenced out strategy and hence from the very beginning of the project interventions, we were very careful and we strategized our programme activities in such a manner that, the entire government machineries in these districts were made accountable to extend their
support from claim facilitation to livelihood enhancement.

- What are the modifications you would like to make to the programme from the initial plan?
  A little bit of modification which had been discussed with APPI Team during their visit to Kandhamal regarding the approach of the project along with the activities reflected in Result Framework. The modifications related to the activities are planned in such a manner that in 3 regions, the core clusters would be prioritized and all the programme activities would be executed and sufficient care will be taken that the impact of such interventions in the core cluster would be replicated in other clusters and even areas and regions beyond the intervention areas.

- Could you utilise resources the way you had planned? What are some of the resource gaps (financial and non-financial)?
  Most of the financial resources have been utilized as per the planned programme but there are few instances where some of the programme activities that have been envisaged in the project has been conducted by different stakeholders like state and dist level government apparatus. Because of our association and engagement, we could mobilize govt. Funds specifically for state level consultation as well as block and village level orientation programmes. The engagement of Vasundhara whereby we could facilitate community interface with govt. Officials at dist. And sub district levels, a definite level of accountability could be ensured whereby instead of incurring expenditure from APPI budget line, the same activities has been taken forward by the district authorities. In other sense it shows resolute commitment of the community and community institutions in bringing down govts. Accountability near the villagers.

- Have you forged any new partnerships, funders or linkages during the last one year of the programme?
  The most remarkable partnership developed with the State and its agencies, particularly in terms of our work related to facilitating implementation of Forest Rights Act (FRA) and livelihood. Our continuous engagement with the nodal agency, i.e. ST SC Department, Govt. Of Odisha & Ministry of Tribal Affairs, Gol, eke out an unique opportunity for the state. Our mobilization becomes fructified when we could persuade MoTA to establish a National Resource Centre (NRC) in Odisha. Partly the support by APPI wherein we could visualize our effectiveness with community institutions in Kandhama, Deogarh & Sambalpur districts of Odisha. The learnings and challenges working in such difficult terrains on tribals livelihood aspects provided us with leverage to such an extent. In the meantime the phenomenon development of Minimum Support Price for Minor Forest Produces also created spaces for Vasundhara overall out reach.

Beside this, agencies like ITDA, DRDA, ORMAS, etc have also started taking note of our interventions on NTFP based cooperative work. Some concrete partnerships are also in the pipeline and would materialise soon particularly to support initiatives on business development in terms of value addition and diversification.

- Are there any outputs or outcomes of the programme that we did not foresee?
- Anything else you would like to share with us?
## Section 2: What did you do?

**Planned outputs and activities carried out during the last year:**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Outputs and Activities</th>
<th>Units</th>
<th>Target</th>
<th>Actual</th>
<th>Variance %</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Line Item 1</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Baseline survey on status of claim filing under Forest rights Act, 2006 in 127 villages (22 villages of Jamujhari GP of Kandhamal, 60 member villages of BanajaBanijja Sangha, Kuchinda and 45 member villages of BananiBanijya Sangha, Deogarh, Sambalpur)</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>0%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Line Item 2</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Regional Consultation</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>25%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Line Item 3</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Enhancement of skill and capacities of representatives of local partners, cadres, Forest Right Committee members, PRI representatives on various provisions of the Act &amp; Rule and amended Rule, 2012 to ensure 100% claims on IFR / CFR Training cum orientation for Local Partners, Cadres, Forest Right Committee members and PRI representatives on IFR, CFR, Claims Forest Villages</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>45%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Line Item 4</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Consultation / Workshop with Government Officials such as DWO, ITDA Officials, Revenue / Forest Department Officials</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>45%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Line Item 5</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Developing and</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>1</td>
<td></td>
<td>45%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Reflections on the Year
Year: 1.12.2014- 30.11.2015

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Line Item</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Status 1</th>
<th>Status 2</th>
<th>Status 3</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1.12.2014</td>
<td>Line Item 6</td>
<td>Enhancing livelihood security for 100% individual forest rights holders (HHs) through convergence of various developmental programmes and schemes in 30 to 40 villages of 3 selected clusters in 3 districts of Odisha over 3 years</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1.12.2014</td>
<td>Line Item 7</td>
<td>Exposure Visit of Primary Gatherers</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1.12.2014</td>
<td>Line Item 8</td>
<td>Facilitating constitution of MFPs collectives (in Jamujhari GP of Kandhamal district)</td>
<td>22</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1.12.2014</td>
<td>Line Item 9</td>
<td>Training on Organisational Management, Financial Management &amp; MIS</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1.12.2014</td>
<td>Line Item 10</td>
<td>Regular Market Assessment and Interaction with</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Traders/Industries ,

**Line Item 11**
State and District level of Consultation for MSP for MFPs

| MFPs | 7 | 3 | 57% |

**Narrative:**
- Is there any note that you would like to add for any of the planned activities above?
The support for the tenurial rights and sustainable livelihood for the forest dependent communities by APPI was immensely contributed towards establishing their traditional rights over the resources in the reporting period but there were certain external factors that impede to accomplish the planned activities. Since in the mid of the year, we had to revise and reshape the result frame work and activity line as suggested by team from APPI, where by things got delayed a bit affecting the overall accomplishment of the original planned activity. Again to make all the stakeholders aware about the objective of the intervention took substantial time because all the activities are linked with their active involvement. Since the planned activities were made in such a logical manner if one programme activity will be changed then the whole set of activities gets affected and the sequence get disturbed ultimately affecting the goal of the intervention envisaged. In order to keep the momentum going without affecting much the overall envisaged objectives, at times we have gone beyond the planned and budgeted activity line to accommodate the views, opinions and suggestion of important stakeholders like the districts authorities, PRI members and partner organizations in intervention districts.
- Are there any changes to the planned activities?
Except of accomplishing some of the logical programmes activity in the second year, we are not making any significant change in the planned activities.
- What are the significant changes, if any, from the original planned targets? Why?

### Section 3: What was the spend pattern?

#### Financial health for Year 1: Dec2014 – Nov 2015

**Programme Expenses (in INR Lakhs)**

*For illustration purposes only*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Budgeted Y1</th>
<th>Actual Y1</th>
<th>Remaining</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Salaries and Benefits</td>
<td>139.2</td>
<td>35.8</td>
<td>103.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Office Administration</td>
<td>29.9</td>
<td>8.2</td>
<td>21.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Travel &amp; Related Expenses</td>
<td>46</td>
<td>11.8</td>
<td>34.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Audit, Evaluation, &amp; Learning</td>
<td>18.9</td>
<td>4.9</td>
<td>14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Programme Expenses</td>
<td>19.5</td>
<td>4.8</td>
<td>14.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL</strong></td>
<td><strong>253.5</strong></td>
<td><strong>65.5</strong></td>
<td><strong>188</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Reflections on the Year
Year : 1.12.2014- 30.11.2015

Half Yearly Utilisation

(Graph above will be reflective of the 5 budget heads provided to the organisations. The above graph is for reference only)

Narrative:
- What are the budget categories where there is a possibility of the budget to be under-spent?
- What are the budget categories where there is a possibility of the budget to be over-spent?
- Have there been any significant changes to the budgets as planned?

Section 4: What are your plans for the future?

Please review and confirm your programme’s activity plan for the next 6 months i.e. the activities that would lead to the planned outputs/outcomes. If you would like to make revisions to any output/outcome indicator, please specify the revised target number and provide comments on the same.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Target</th>
<th>Baseline</th>
<th>Unit</th>
<th>Year 2</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Outcome 1 : Tenurial Security of all Forest Dependent Communities in 100 villages of Kandhamal &amp; Sambalpur by ensuring titles under Forest Rights Act, 2006</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
## Activities

<p>| | | |</p>
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>1.1</strong> Training of Volunteers (2 days training for 20 participants)</td>
<td>Training/ No. of Participants</td>
<td>Target 1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>1.2</strong> Development of village wise Action plan through organising regional consultation (a total of 10 clusters: Kuchinda: 5, Deogarh-4, Kandhamal-1)</td>
<td>Village Action Plan</td>
<td>Target 10/10' Actual</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>1.3</strong> Regional Consultations to follow up on village wise action plan (2 days Program for 60 participants)</td>
<td>Consultation</td>
<td>Target 2 Actual</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Outcome 2: Enhancement of skill and capacities of representatives of local partners, cadres, Forest Right Committee members, PRI representatives on various provisions of the Act & Rule and amended Rule, 2012 to ensure 100% claims on IFR / CFR

<p>| | | |</p>
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
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</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>2.1</strong> Training cum orientation for Local Partners, Cadres, Forest Right Committee members and PRI representatives on IFR, CFR, Claims Forest Villages</td>
<td>Training / Participants</td>
<td>Target 3/0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Actual</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Outcome 3: Developing and implementation of CFR conservation and management plan with Gram Sabhas (with special focus on forest dependent communities) in selected 3 clusters in 3 districts over 3 years to ensure ecological and livelihood security

<p>| | | |</p>
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>3.1</strong> Constitution of CFR Management Committee, facilitation of CFR management plan Documentation (Phase-wise) of forest and people interaction, traditional knowledge related to Biodiversity Conservation, and practices adopted by the communities for protection and management of forests through using participatory research framework</td>
<td>Number</td>
<td>Target 13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>3.2</strong> Training programme On CFR Governance and management</td>
<td>Training programme</td>
<td>Target 3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Actual</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>3.3</strong> Cross Learning workshop for development of</td>
<td>Consultation</td>
<td>Target 0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
### Outcome 4: Enhancing livelihood security for 100% individual forest rights holders (HHs) through convergence of various developmental programmes and schemes in 30 to 40 villages of 3 selected clusters in 3 districts of Odisha over 3 years

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Activities</th>
<th>Number of Convergence plan</th>
<th>Target</th>
<th>Actual</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Development of Gram Sabha based Convergence / development plans and sharing with Gram Panchayat and other government bodies for effective implementation</td>
<td>Target 16</td>
<td>Actual</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Meeting at village and cluster level</td>
<td>Numbers</td>
<td>Target 2</td>
<td>Actual</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Orientation cum training program to Volunteers for facilitation of the process</td>
<td>Number</td>
<td>Target 2</td>
<td>Actual</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Interface with line departments and district level consultation to share the gramsabha based plan for execution of the plans</td>
<td>Numbers</td>
<td>Target 2</td>
<td>Actual</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>State-level consultation (Govt.Officials,CSOs,FNGOs and community member)</td>
<td>Number</td>
<td>Target 1</td>
<td>Actual</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Outcome 5: Facilitating development for 4,000 minor forest produce (MFP) gatherers/ producers' collectives (Existing 52 and New 22) undertaking value addition activities and collective marketing to develop as sustainable marketing models to strengthen their forest based livelihoods in the tribal areas of 5 districts of Odisha (Angul, Deogarh, Kandhamal, Sambalpur, Sundargarh) over 3 years

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Activities</th>
<th>Target</th>
<th>Actual</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Exposure Visit of Primary Gatherers outside Odisha (Maharashtra) for cross learning. Participation in different exhibitions at state and district level (Adivasi Mela &amp; Dist level trade fair)</td>
<td>03/03'</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Facilitating constitution of MFPs collectives (in Jamujhari GP of Kandhamal district) and formation of Secondary Collectives of these 22 Primary Collectives</td>
<td>17/1'</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Training on Organisational Management, Financial Management &amp; MIS (2 Days Program for 30 participants)</td>
<td>04/04'</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Regular Market Assessment and Interaction</td>
<td>Target 1</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
## Reflections on the Year

**Year:** 1.12.2014-30.11.2015

<p>| | | |</p>
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>5.5</td>
<td>State level consultation on MFP with policy makers, buyers on MFP policy regime</td>
<td>Database</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Consultation</td>
<td>Target</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5.6</td>
<td>State level Consultation for MSP for MFPs</td>
<td>Consultation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5.7</td>
<td>Collaboration with NGOs/ITDAs/PPAs at different districts for the MSP Scheme (both in intervention districts and non intervention in Malkangiri, Koraput, Rayagada, Nabrangpur, Mayurbhanja, Kalahandi, Keonjhar Tribal Districts) for larger awareness of the Scheme</td>
<td>Number of Consultation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Monitoring and tracking the procurement of MFP under the Scheme in the entire 23 districts</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Note:**
1. Year 2 Quarterly Activity Plan will be detailed towards end of Year 1; similarly, Year 3 Quarterly Activity Plan will be detailed towards end of Year 2.
2. All activities may not have a quantitative target in which case please indicate with Yes/No.
**Section 5: What significant change stories would you like to share?**

Please share 1 or 2 short stories from the grassroots/stakeholders/your organisation

---

**State Level Consultation on the implementation of Minimum Support Price on MFP**

**Date:** 30th November, **Venue:** STSCRTI, Bhubaneswar  
**Organized by:** Vasundhara in collaboration with TDCC, Odisha

**An Introduction to MSP on MFP:**

In the month of July 2014, Ministry of Tribal Affairs (MoTA) started the Minimum Support Price (MSP) Scheme on Minor Forest Produces (MFP) to support the individuals and community who are dependent on the forest for survival and livelihood. This particular scheme has been designed as one of the social safety measure for the MFP gatherers, who are predominantly tribal. The basic objective of the scheme is to ensure fair to establish a system to ensure fair monetary returns to the MFP (Minor Forest Produces) gatherers mainly for their efforts in collection, primary processing, storage, packaging, transportation etc. while providing minimum support price for selective MFPs, collected by the gatherers.

In the context of Odisha, 12 MFPs have been included under the scheme. Initially, the scheme was supposed to be implemented in 23 districts (both Scheduled and Non-Scheduled districts) of Odisha where NTFPs (Non-Timber Forest Products) are abundantly available.
and ST& SC Development Department was bestowed with the responsibility to be the Nodal Agency and OFDC (Odisha Forest Development Corporation) & TDCCCOL were bequeathed as the State Procurement Agency for implementation of MSP Scheme Odisha.

In order to address the initiation and proper implementation of the scheme, in the month of September of 2014, TDCC in collaboration with Vasundhara organized a State level consultation where 100 participants consisting of Govt. functionaries like PD, OFSDP, PD, OLM, CEO, ORMAS, RM, TRIFED, representatives from NGOs, members of the PPAs (Primary Procurement Agency) participated in the consultation.

In order to assess the extent of the implementation of the scheme and identify the bottlenecks in the implementation of MSP on the MFPs in Odisha, a one day State Level Consultation in the series was organized by TDCCOL in collaboration with Vasundhara, SCSTRTI Auditorium Hall, Bhubaneswar on 30th November 2015. Around 75 persons including officials from TDCCOL and persons belonging to various CSOs participated in the workshop.

The workshop started under the chairmanship of Mr. Susant Nanda (IFS) M.D, TDCCOL accompanied by Mr. Subrat Kar, GM(O) TDCCOL, Mr. Y. Giri Rao, Director Vasundhara, Mr. Chitta Ranjan Pani and Mr. Pratap K. Mohanty initiated the workshop by welcoming all the participants and guests.

SESSION 1:

Mr. Pratap Mohanty welcomed the participants and discussed about the scheme where mentioned about the financial outlay of the implementation of MSP on MFP in Odisha after which Mr. Sushant Nanda (MD, TDCCOL) in his deliberation shared the objective of the meeting. He mentioned that MSP has been implemented in last two years after rigorous dialogue between Govt. & civil society groups. Odisha has taken lead role in the implementation of MSP in comparison to other states.

Then, Mr. Subrat Kumar Kar: (General Manager, TDCCOL) shared the progress and experience in the MSP Implementation process in last two years in the state. He addressed briefly on the overview of the scheme and also stated that there is a need for marketing of the MFPs through MSP and also development of value chain in Odisha. Mr. Kar mentioned that the cost of implementation of MSP is being shared by Govt. of India & Govt. of Odisha at a ratio of 75:25 and TDCCOL has been nominated as State Procurement Agency for 10 MFPs whereas STSC Development Department, Govt. of Odisha is the State Nodal Dept. & TRIFED at the Regional level to facilitate the SPA for smooth implementation of the scheme. Further, Mr. Kar also shared that the State level Coordination and Monitoring Committee and District level Coordination and Monitoring Committee has been formulated (presently constituted in
the state) to monitor the implementation of the scheme which was launched on 1st July, 2014 and is to continue during XII Five Year Plan (2012-2017) having the below mentioned objectives:

**Objective of the Scheme:**

- The Procuring Agencies are to ensure Minimum Support Price to the Primary Gatherers for the MFPs covered under the Scheme. *(FAQ Parameters).*
- Primary Gatherers have the freedom to sale at higher price, where ever feasible.
- Facilitate for Value Addition, to extent possible to make the scheme viable and more profitable for the Primary Gatherers.
- Creation of additional infrastructure to facilitate marketing of MFPs at fair price.

Furthermore, he also shared that besides, District Level Monitoring &Coordination Committees have been constituted in 23 districts. As per the information shared by Mr. Kar, in the last MFP season, MSP scheme was implemented only in 13 districts and in total only 580 Primary Procurement Agency (PPA) were approved hailing from 1098 G.Ps falling in 136 blocks in the State. Out of the 10 MFP included in the scheme, procurement has been done for only in case of six MFPs in the State and due to the reservation of Forest Department, in the state which led to non-procurement of three products i.e. Gum Keraya, Sal Seed and Lac has been stalled. He also stated that while the approved quantity of MFP collection was 1,31,000 quintals, with the help of PPAs , the TDCCOL could only procure 4381.7 quintals (includes- Harida-232.94 , Seeded Tamarind-3030, Char Seed-105.28, Karanja Seed-160.76, Sal Seed -232.39 and Mahua Seed-623.23) in 2014-15 having a total operational cost incurred of Rs.1,34,67,045.00 including the MFP procurement cost of Rs.99,09,049.00 rupees during the session.

**Progress Till date:**

- TDCCOL could manage to operate 7 Products (MFP) out of 10 notified.
- Three products namely Sal Leaf, Lac and Gum Karaya are not been covered due to restriction from Forest department.
- PA, ITDAs / DWOs have been notified as Member Convener of DLCMC for effective implementation of the Scheme.
- Informal convergence has been established with ORMAS to facilitate the implementation of the Scheme at the district level.
- Selected members from CSOs have been sensitized both at State and District level to facilitate the implementation.
• About Rs. 62 Crores has been received from Govt. of India and Govt. of Odisha as Revolving funds under the scheme.

• Rs. 8.2 Crores received from GoI for Infrastructure Development. (Godown/ Haats/ Cold Rooms).

• TDCCOL has expanded its operational base from 10 district to 23 districts to augment benefit to tribal dwellers living in non schedule districts.

• SLCMC & DLCMC meeting has been convened in all districts

• About 580 Primary Procuring Agencies have been approved in consultation with the Gram Sabhas against about 980 identified.

• Book on FAQ Parameter has been translated into odia, 5500 copies printed and supplied to the NGOs, PPAs and others.

• Series of Communication activities such as wall writing, Drum Beating / Miking / distribution of leaflets etc. taken up at the grass-root level.

• Cold Storages under the scheme is being established with the assistance of Directorate, Horticulture, Odisha

• Funds for Construction of 35 godowns of 50 MT capacity and for modernisation of 100 haats is being transferred to the districts.

• Web based MIS for monitoring of the scheme has been developed with the assistance of ORSAC.

He has also shared the district wise physical achievement of the implementation of MSP scheme on MFPs which is as follows:

PHYSICAL ACHIEVEMENT:

DISTRICT WISE PROCUREMENT ABSTRACT 2015 CROP

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>DISTRICT</th>
<th>BRANCH</th>
<th>PROCUREMENT (In Qtls.)</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Harida</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Koraput</td>
<td>Sunabeda</td>
<td>452.60</td>
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<tr>
<td>Keonjhar</td>
<td>Keonjhar</td>
<td>4.95</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nabarangpur</td>
<td>Umerkote</td>
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### Reflections on the Year

**Year**: 1.12.2014-30.11.2015

#### TARGET VS ACHIEVEMENT:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ITEMS</th>
<th>IN QUINTALS</th>
<th>Tentative State Potential</th>
<th>Target Approved</th>
<th>Achievement</th>
<th>Achievement in (%)</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
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<td></td>
<td>20000</td>
<td>5000</td>
<td>232.94</td>
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<td>20000</td>
<td>5000</td>
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<td>50000</td>
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TENTATIVE LOSS

<table>
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<tr>
<th>ITEMS</th>
<th>MSP IN RS./ QTL</th>
<th>ACHIEVEMENT IN QTL.</th>
<th>PROCUREMENT COST IN LAKH</th>
<th>HANDLING CHARGES IN LAKH</th>
<th>TOTAL IN LAKH</th>
<th>DISPOSAL RATE RS. / QTL</th>
<th>DISPOSAL VALUE IN LAKH</th>
<th>LOSS IN LAKH</th>
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<td>3030.00</td>
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<td>49.19</td>
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</table>

37% LOSS

Positive Impact of the Scheme:

- Wide publicity of the MSP Scheme has resulted into rise in market price, which ensure better price realization by the Primary Collectors than before.
- Awareness of FAQ parameters among the PPA has improved.
- Aggregation of stock helped the Primary Collector to negotiate with traders for better price realization due to assured MSP declared.
- Initial level of coordination has established among the functionaries (TDCCOL, ORMAS & NGO)-
- Bargaining power increases among communities after declaration of MSP.

Challenges:

- Lack of adequate publicity of the scheme.
Inadequate manpower of TDCCOL at branch level

Inadequate sensitization programme for the PPAs on FAQ parameters.

Non availability of basic machinery support for FAQ measurement

Inadequate working capital at PPA level

Lack of funds for monitoring at district level.

Lack of skill and provisions at community level for value addition

Disposal of stock atleast at no loss no profit

After sharing the status and experience he has also urged the following expectations from the workshop and also gave few suggestions to overcome the challenges faced in last two years.

- Needs wide publicity of the Scheme with the help of TRIFED & CSOs
- Strong convergence at the district level through TDCCOL / ORMAS / OFSDP / OLM & CSO
- How the provision for working capital will be taken care of (OLM/ORMAS/CSO)
- Follow up & Monitoring in PA ITDA / DWO / TDCCOL level
- To ensure machinery like Measurement scale & moisture parameter to all PPAs.

Y. Giri Rao, Director, VASUNDHARA:

Mr. Y Giri Rao, Director of Vasundhara began his deliberation on sharing his views regarding the objective of the workshop, and stated that MSP for MFP is a historic step taken by the MoTA to give benefit to the lakhs of forest dwellers depending upon forest produces for their livelihood since 2014. Thus it is pertinent to review the achievement and failure of this scheme after the completion of one year of its implementation in the State. According to him, Vasundhara has been trying to track and monitor the implementation of MSP scheme since last one year and Vasundhara will extend its support to TDCCOL for future course of action in the implementation of the scheme. Along with this he mentioned about one of the initiative taken up by the Collector of Kandhamal, where the Collector in the recently held DLC meeting emphasized on the implementation of MSP in the district and greatly stressed the DWO & ITDA to provide adequate support for effective implementation of the scheme. Mr. Rao also suggested that funds from TSP could be utilized for MSP apart from that, CSR fund can be put forth for the implementation of the MSP like awareness generation programme, procurement of machinery etc. after discussion with collector and secretaries and training to youths on the processing of MFPs will give fair price to the communities. Along with this he also mentioned that a meeting could be held with different industries like Dabar who can help in better marketing of the MFPs and there should be district wise specific products.
identified, which is important for the district and need to implement the MSP scheme on that basis.

Issues:

- Why Lac, Gum keraya & Sal seed are under the restriction of Forest Department?
- Sal Leaf Policy, 2015 is not applicable in the area where community has given title or applied for CFR.
- PPAs can be formed with the list of CFR & CR from DWOs & PAITDAs
- Restriction in selling of MFPs in Protected area

ChittaRanjanPani (Programme Coordinator, Vasundhara)

Mr. ChittaRanjanPani, Vasundhara flagged up some of the implementation issues and ground realities relating to the implementation of MSP on MFPs. He has also shared the district level and state level issues that are mentioned below:

- Lack of awareness among the stake holders (Ex - After analysis in Malkanagiri district, the PPAs are not aware about the scheme). Non-involvement of Gram Sabha in this scheme.
- The scheme of MSP on MFP is yet to be known to the people it is meant for. Adequate sensitization has not taken place.
- The nodal agency took a longer phase to notify TDCCOL and OFDC as State Procurement Agency.
- Selection of Primary Procurement Agency (PPA). In Sambalpur & Mayurbhanj district, individuals have been selected as PPA
- Lack of proper coordination among the different line departments at the district level (Progress should be reviewed by the Collector).
- Progress of Infrastructural Development & Modernization of Haats is very poor though money has been allocated.
- PPAs facing hassles from TDCCOL officials on FAQ, deduction of price due to not proper FAQ, transportations, updating of procurement registers etc.
- Distresses sell in Sal seeds.
- Conflict regarding FAQ parameters
- Issue in lifting & procuring of MFPs
- Policy constraints relating to LAC, Sal seeds & Gum Keraya which is affecting to get fair price for the primary gatherers.
Despite of the clarification by MoTA on 10th April, 2015 for the implementation of MSP in Protected areas, till date it has not been implemented.

R.M. (TRIFED) - Experience of TRIFED on MSP Implementation in Odisha

Mr. Ashok Mishra, Regional Manager of TRIFED welcomed to all participants and shared his experience on implementation of MSP scheme in Odisha. He flagged up some of the issues as follows:

- Lack of awareness in community level (upto GP level not to Community level)
- No awareness on FAQ. So proper awareness to PPAs regarding FAQs is needed during procurement of MFPs.
- List of SHGs / PPAs needs to be submitted to district collector
- Posters, Leaflets, Banners have been prepared with help of TDCC for awareness generation but these are not reached out to people in a massive scale.
- Potential of MFPs needs to be identified

G.M. (OFSDP) - Experience of TRIFED on MSP Implementation in Odisha

He has mentioned that the objective of the Forest department lies in the fact that, there should not be any kind of pressure on the forest while collecting the minor forest produce from the forest and people are not aware about the process of sustainable harvesting of the produce. So, awareness regarding sustainable harvesting is needed for the communities for future benefit and then the restriction of forest department will be go out. He also cited the example of convergence programme with Dabar & OFSDP for procurig Amla, Harida and Bahada.

SESSION 2: SHARING FROM THE PARTICIPANTS:

Four to five PPAs participated in the workshop and shared their experiences in the procurement of MFP under the MSP scheme. The important problems shared by PPAs are issues relating to weight of the procured items due to lifting of procured MFP after one
month by the TDCCOL despite of prescribed 7 to 10 days under the MSP scheme, storage problems, late payment, purchase of gunny (bags) etc.

a. Banani Banijya Sangha (PPA), Deogarh
   - Lack of awareness
   - No information on the FAQ parameters
   - TDCC not collecting the products
   - Measurement done is faulty
   - Confusion regarding the time of collection and selling
   - District level committees and District administration inactive in grounding and proper implementation of MSP in the district
   - Lack of proper storage facility

b. Chandra SekharParida (PPA), Ranpur, Nayagarh
   - No work or initiative taken for the awareness of MSP
   - Late procurement by TDCC is an issue which is resulting in loss incurred by the Primary collectors
   - No training on FAQs
   - Lack of proper storage facility

c. Beda KalikaPPA,Sankhajodivillage, Bandhamunda G.P. Ranpur, Nayagrah
   - Even after a year of formation of PPA, no trading has been done till date
   - Forest Department not allowing the local traders to buy collected NTFPs from the villages falling within the protected area, hence primary collector bearing loss
   - Women of some villages have started protecting the forest to secure the NTFPs after VSS got defunct

d. BanajaBanijyaSangha (PPA),Deogarh
   - No training on the MSP given as of now
   - No support provided yet
   - Lack of proper storage facility
   - No clarity on the rate for selling which led to selling of the seasons collection at a lesser price

e. Maa Maninang Jungle Surakhya Parishad, Ranpur
Due to MSP, people got good prices. Like in Mahua earlier people use to get Rs.7 per k.g but now, people got Rs.22
People collected Char seed but TDCC did not procure it from the people
Sal leaf given on lease by FD is an issue in the area
Proper implementation of MSP is needed in the area

f. Purnachandra Sahoo, Nilagiri, Balasore
   - The area has the potential for Sal leaf, Harida, Bahada, sal seed, tamarind etc.
   - Char seed was sold to local traders as TDCC never bought those from the PPAs
   - Requested TDCC to do awareness on MSP
   - Inspite of applying for CFR, people are unable to collect and sell Sal leaf due to the restriction from the Forest Department

g. Ravi Kamal, CIRTD, Sundergarh
   - Not much done towards awareness of people on MSP which led to its failure
   - Mechanisms like training programs etc should be developed to reach out to other PPAs and also on the value addition aspect of the MFPs like Mahua that under the control of other policies and departments which is very crucial to the forest dependent people
   - Utilizing of resources by the forest department for teak plantation is an issue
   - We should respect the community’s traditional knowledge of conserving, protecting and managing the forest

h. Supriyan Xaxa, Sundergarh
   - PRIs and CSOs should be engaged in building awareness for the primary collectors in the locality’
   - It’s time that, pressure should be put on the District administration, particularly the collectors to properly execute MSP scheme

i. Panchanana Pradhan, Koraput
   - MSP should be rolled down in all the districts
   - Because of the prevailing circumstances, primary collectors are not able to collect MFPs which is currently posing a threat to their food security
   - Identify the primary collectors and provide them with identification numbers so that they can collect and sell the NTFPs without being obstructed by the Forest Department and CRPF personnel
j. Bibhu Prasad Mohanty
   - The representatives of industries who buy the MFPs for their products should also be invited for such meetings and parallel sessions should be planned in order to have full length discussion on MSP
   - Lac as a MFP has huge potential to have profit based on its huge industrial demand. Hence, training programs can be provided on its proper method of procurement
   - Interface between the govt departments like ITDAs, DICs, Primary collectors, other agencies, CSOs and industries is needed to have good strategies and implementation of MSP

k. Dhansing Majhi, M-Rampur, Kalahandi
   - Heavy loss incurred in Sal seeds this year as those were not procured by the TDCC
   - Planting of the trees like harida, amla, karajaetc in the areas where communities’ have applied for CFR can be helpful
   - FD pressurizing the communities on accessing the forests as CFRs are not recognized
   - Monopoly of the FD

l. Sushant Ku. Dalai, Vasundhara, Kandhamal
   - Inappropriate method of collection of honey is leading to degradation in its quality and heavy exploitation by the middle men
   - Training needed on the proper extraction process

m. Manohar Chauhan, Nuapada (CSD)
   - There are issues relating to selection of PPAs, lack of understanding on the policy, monopoly of the FD where they are restricting people inspite of the recognition of their ownership under FRA, lack of inter-departmental coordination
   - Awareness on MSP is an issue, TDCC can provide support to the CSOs for generating awareness
   - TDCC should provide storing facility to the PPAs
   - Despite the issues in some places, people have got benefit out of the scheme

n. Biswanath Purty, OJM, Mayurbhanj
   - ITDA failed to implement the MSP scheme
   - TDCC dysfunctional in Mayurbhanj
People failed to get good price for sal leaf and sal seed
Instead of looking towards increasing the sal leaf production, FD in engaged in 
plantation of teak and other unwanted plants

**o. Prasanna Behera, NEWS, Angul**
- Restriction on collection of MFPs from the protected areas
- There needs to be clarity and understanding on the schemes and its 
implementation in Protected areas

**p. Akhaya Pani, Dhenkanal**
- Mahua flower and seed are available of good quality
- There is exploitation from middle men and local traders and people received 
lesser price

**q. Amiya Ku. Nayak, Kandhamal**
- Lately, Chakunda seeds have become one of the important MFP that has been 
collected in the district, so this can be considered under the scheme. So MSP 
should be implemented on the district specific MFPs
- Need for more awareness and training on Value addition

**r. Deepak Mishra**
- There has to a study on the primary and secondary MFPs
- There is no secondary information on MFPs which makes difficult for us to do 
a trade analysis
- Market, procurement and processing are to be segregated

**s. Swadhin Panda**
- Develop plan indicator wise like awareness etc. and MIS based data has to be 
maintained properly
- Planning on targets and strategies on marketing are to be more realistic
- Flash buying leads to a lot of conflicts among buyers
- MSP is also creating awareness on sustainable harvesting

**t. Pramod Pradhan, SWISS AID**
- Nodal agencies should identify and link to the industries and work on the 
terms of trade and allocating funds
- Policy advocacy on the implementation is needed
- Monitor and understand the price fluctuation and fixation
u. Ajaya Ku Mohanta
   • Loss incurred due to late in procurement by the TDCC
   • There are concerns regarding the sustainability of the scheme

v. Suresh Ku. Rout, Nuapada
   • Converging and linking to the institutions like OUAT for machineries and value addition
   • Study on the market feasibility
   • PPAs not working n protected area of Sunabeda sanctuary
   • TDCC dysfunctional in Nuapada district
   • MSP not implemented in Nuapada district

Presentation were followed by open house discussion where all the members present in the workshop emphasized on the wider publicity of the MSP programme at the ground level and selection of more and more number of PPA at the village level. ManoharChauhan, member Campaign for Survival and Dignity(CSD) criticized the State Forest Department for its anti-community attitude and creating obstacle on the way of implementation of the historic MSP scheme in the State and keeping control over Kendu leave and Bamboo under its control despite ownership rights ensured under FRA,2006. He suggested the TDCCOL to seek financial support from the nodal STSC Department, GoO and MoTA from Article 275 (1) of the Constitution for the wider publicity on the MSP scheme at the grassroots by involving CBOs and NGOs.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. Divert TSP funds for providing working capital for the PPAs and mobilizing funds for implementation of MSP.
2. Using CSR funds for carrying out awareness program for MSP.
3. Training programs can be planned for building capacity of the tribal youths and women for enhancing entrepreneurship and also setting up processing unit
4. Organizing such consultation and meetings with industries and buyers like Dabur, Baidyanathetc. to provide an interface for all the stakeholders involved in it.
5. Implementing agencies or CSOs to prepare a list of PPAs and provide it to the district administration for empanelment, which will be helpful for TRIFED to impart training on value addition and other relevant know-hows.
6. Adequate training is needed to sensitize for the primary gatherers about the MSP scheme and FAQ parameters for the publicity of the scheme.
Reflections on the Year
Year : 1.12.2014- 30.11.2015

7. District Administration to take up the publicity of the scheme through diff. medium like radio, TV, Press, Notice, banners, posters, meetings, workshop etc.
8. Capacity of members of Gram Sabha are to be enhanced on
   - The role & responsibility for transparent implementation.
   - FAQ Parameters
   - Finalization of Primary Procurement Agencies

9. District level Workshop to be organized on Operational procedures & Roles and Responsibility of each Stakeholders

At the end of the programme VivekanandPatnaik proposed vote of thanks to all the participants of the workshop.
## ANNEXURE - I

### Agenda of the Meeting:

<table>
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<tr>
<th>SL. NO.</th>
<th>SESSIONS</th>
<th>SESSIONS</th>
<th>TIME</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Participants Registration</td>
<td>Vasundhara</td>
<td>9.00 am – 9.30 am</td>
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<td>2</td>
<td>Welcome note to the Invitees</td>
<td>Vasundhara</td>
<td>9.30 am – 9.45 am</td>
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<td>3</td>
<td>MSP Implementation Status: Progress and Experiences in Odisha</td>
<td>GM, TDCCOL</td>
<td>9.45 am – 10.15 am</td>
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<td>Experience Sharing by PPA on implementation of MSP Scheme</td>
<td>PPA</td>
<td>10.15 am – 10.35 am</td>
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<td>5</td>
<td>MSP Implementation: Issues and Challenges</td>
<td>Vasundhara</td>
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<td>Experience of TRIFED on MSP Implementation in Odisha</td>
<td>RM, TRIFED</td>
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<td>Tea Break</td>
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<td>Implementation of MSP Scheme: Perspective of STSC Development Department, GoO</td>
<td>Director (ST), STSC Dev. Dept.</td>
<td>11.35 am – 11.55 pm</td>
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<td>7</td>
<td>Implementation of MSP Scheme: Perspective of Forest &amp; Environment Department, GoO.</td>
<td>Secretary, F&amp;E Dept.</td>
<td>11.55 am – 12.15 pm</td>
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<td>Experience of ORMAS in MSP Implementation</td>
<td>CE, ORMAS</td>
<td>12.15 pm – 12.35 pm</td>
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<td>9</td>
<td>Lessons and road ahead</td>
<td>MD, TDCCOL</td>
<td>12.35 pm – 12.50 pm</td>
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<td>10</td>
<td>Open House Discussion</td>
<td>TDCCOL &amp; Vasundhara</td>
<td>12.50 pm – 1.50 pm</td>
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<td>11</td>
<td>Summing up &amp; Way Forward</td>
<td>Vasundhara</td>
<td>1.50 pm – 2.00 pm</td>
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<td>12</td>
<td>Vote of Thanks</td>
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Please share 1 or 2 short stories from the grassroots/stakeholders/your organisation

**Ensuring tenure, ecological and livelihood rights of tribal women under the Forest Rights Act 2006 in Kandhamal Vasundhara**

In India, studies reveal that between 20% and 35% of households are headed by women. Around 86% of women in rural India are farmers, yet less than 10% own land, which is the most important household asset to support their families and provide food, nutrition and income security (Giovarelli, 2009). Since 2014, APPI and Vasundhara have supported vulnerable women in Kandhamal District to claim their land rights and improve their livelihood security. This work has responded to the urgent needs of more than 500,000 single, rural, landless women in Odisha who are critically dependent on forests and land for their livelihoods. Forest dwelling women are involved in agricultural production and forest land protection and conservation. Women are also the primary collectors of non-timber forest products (NTFP). They collect firewood, fodder, edible herbs, medicinal plants, mushrooms etc. for household consumption and sale. In 2012, a major study found that 75% or more of women are engaged in agriculture and that many are also working in unorganized sectors such as mining, tobacco manufacturing, non timber forest products collection and construction work. About 50% of migrants from Odisha are women from the tribal districts who migrate within the state and also outside the state to work in brick kilns.

An innovative one-year pilot programme stemmed from the need to establish a space for women to claim access, use and control over land and natural resources to ensure their equal rights to an adequate standard of living. The programme specifically engages with government district administration and larger civil society organisations, whose purpose is to ensure women’s rights over land under the Scheduled Tribes and Other Traditional Forest Dwellers (Recognition of Forest Rights) Act, 2006.

The programme adopts a collaborative framework in order to involve the government district administration. Stakeholders in Kandhamal have joined hands to work for women’s land rights and post-right recognitions for ensuring their

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3 Women of Odisha - Status and Challenges, Odisha Review (Feb-Mar 2012) by Prof. Asha Hans and Dr. Amrta Patel
Empowering provisions for women under the Forest Right Act 2006:

- Section 2(g) of the act provides for the **full and unrestricted participation of women** in Gramsabha (village council meeting).
- Rule 4 (2) provides that “The quorum of the Gram Sabha meeting shall be not less than one-half of all members of such Gram Sabha: **Provided that at least one-third of the members present shall be women**
- Rule 3 (1) provides that **not less than 1/3rd of the members of the FRC shall be women**
- Rule 5 (c) requires that **at least one of the three PRI members** nominated to the Sub Division Level Committee shall be a woman.
- Similarly, rule 7 (c) requires that out of the three members of the district Panchayat to be nominated to the District Level Committee by the district Panchayat, **at least one shall be a woman**.
- **Joint title** is the most important statutory provisions enshrined.

Box 3:

**Joint Titling - The beginning of a new identity for tribal women in a new empowering right based framework**

Joint land titling not only provided women with rights over resources but it also became an instrument of identity. The Forest Rights Act 2006 granted women legal recognition in their own right and reduced their dependency on family members. Such internalization by women like Sebati Kanhar and Mali Kanhar has no parallel in Indian history. This was the beginning of their journey to take up other agendas in their community and empowered them to organise women around forest resources leading to food security. New initiatives undertaken subsequently by Kandhamal women originated from the understanding that since they have become owners of forest land both through Individual Forest Rights and Community Forest Resources, therefore they can take the lead in other areas of women’s empowerment.

**Background to Sambhavana:**

Sambhavana is an initiative by Vasundhara along with local civil society organisations and district administration towards empowerment of women in post right recognition scenario and ensuring their participation in conservation and livelihood security.

Sambhavana constitutes an array of consultations at gram panchayat / district/ state level for the women title holders, women members of Forest Right Committees and representatives of the panchayat and was first initiated in the district of Kandhamal in collaboration with the government district administration. The dialogue and consultations were conducted with the aim of leading to a process of networking and federation building which can create enabling spaces for women’s groups to work further to achieve legal recognition of forest land rights. Jamjhar gram panchayat was taken as a model and women from eight villages of the panchayat organised themselves and started taking initiatives to communicate the messages of the Forest Rights Act 2006. In each of the villages there is a women’s committee which...

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1. *Sarpanch*: The village level Institution of local self-government called the panchayat (village government) in India. The sarpanch is the head of the panchayat at the village level and have been given Constitutional status under 73rd and 74th Amendment of the Indian Constitution. A sarpanch is an elected head of the panchayat (village government) in India.

2. **Forest Right Committee**: The Village level Committee constituted by government for looking into receive claim form and process under Forest Right Act 2006.
monitors the progression of the implementation of the Forest Rights Act 2006. The process of consultations and federation building will go hand in hand with a participatory process of documentation of the status of the Forest Rights Act 2006 with specific focus on women and their participation. Case studies highlighting the impact of the Forest Rights Act 2006 process on women will also be gathered.

**Strategies:**

**Participatory research on the perceptions of women and men on issues of rights and access to forest resources and forest land**

Participatory research work was carried out in 24 villages, in which a group of women played a major role in convening and facilitating dialogue and debate on the issue of rights and access of women over forest resources and forest land. At the outset, a series of meetings and orientations were organised in the district along with the ITDA and other relevant line Departments. The panchayat representatives and particularly the women representatives actively took part in the whole process. The entire intervention had a domino effect. The women who took leadership in the process started carrying the message to the neighbouring villages wherein groups started deliberating upon conservation and livelihood issues and devised their own mechanisms for ensuring environmental conservation and livelihoods security. The key findings were

- lack of awareness regarding the role of women in the implementation of FRA 2006,
- social pressures and power dynamics leading to lack of confidence among the women in the community,
- recognition of rights without proper verification and demarcation of land,
- titles not conferred in the name of women,
- non availability of storage facilities for the Minor Forest Products (MFPS) collected and
- Implementation of convergence programmes for securing the livelihoods of the people (land development and housing schemes etc.).
Engagement with Government

In light of the type of initiatives these women’s groups have taken, the block level government officials have agreed to meet them once every month and provided assurance of instant redressal of problems related not only to the Forest Right Act 2006 but also of issues relating to their lives and livelihoods as a whole. Since livelihood-related issues including women’s collectives have been constituted, the group is also continuously following up on such issues with the district collector and ITDA. A most important example is that since there is now a government scheme of minimum support price (MSP) for minor forest produce, which provides protective intervention as a safety net to these groups, the women members have also started to review the process of MSP in the district. A dedicated government web portal on the Forest Rights Act 2006 has been established where detailed information on women title holders are available. The portal also provides detailed information about joint title holders and other related information. The District administration has issued departmental orders to block and other government functionaries for ensuring participation of women during the distribution of titles.

Rights, Access and Control over IFR and CFR

24 villages in Jamujharia grampanchayat obtained title over Community Forest Resources (CFR), for which CFR mapping is complete in 17 villages. The total area covered by the CFR is 7,394 acres. A total of 402 Individual Forest Rights (IFR) titles have been issued, of which 19 were issued in favour of single women and the remaining titles are joint titles. Out of the 402 IFR title holders, 352 availed of housing schemes and 175 availed of land development under the post-claim process of FRA 2006. All single women title holders availed of the benefit of the post-claim process under FRA 2006. Preliminary discussion has been completed in all 24 villages for the constitution of committees for conservation and management of CFRs. Five village CFR committees have actually been constituted (more than 50% are women members).

“I had been cultivating my land for years when there was an encroachment case from forest department taken against me. I was harassed many times by forest department officials and driven away from cultivation on the land. Now I have the land title over the land, no one can take way that piece of land from me. This time I will utilise the land in the best possible manner which in a way is going to help me

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6 Minimum Support Price (MSP) scheme of the government: The scheme is designed as a social livelihood of MFP gatherers by providing them fair price for the MFPs they collect. The Scheme States having Schedule areas as listed in the Fifth Schedule of the constitution of India. Odisha is one of them.

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sustain my family.” Rajomati Kanhar from Rabingia Village, 45 year-old widow woman living with two of sons.

Padmaphula Dehuri is a 45 year-old woman living with three children. She says that getting title over the land has given her immense strength as she can utilize the land in bad times and can assure a better future for her children.

**Impact of regular consultations**

Women are actively participating in the assertion process in gramsabhas where they give their opinions and suggestions in the intervention areas. Women also took an active role in delineating their forest resource access areas and traditional boundaries in the intervention areas. The women’s groups themselves have been instrumental, engaging with the block level government line department officials. Post-right convergence related programmes have been initiated following on from 78 families obtaining titles for forest lands. More than 33 land plots for single and destitute women have been provided with land development assistance. The women’s groups have taken up the issues of corruption with regard to housing scheme beneficiaries where linked with land recognized under the Forest Rights Act 2006. Subsequently the Block authorities have started consulting these groups prior to any such interventions. The Panchayat have also started taking these women’s groups seriously. They have been regularly invited to the monthly panchayat meetings to share their development agenda keeping in view the local issues and problems with regard to their economy and further development plans for forest based livelihoods. The continuous engagement of different stakeholders with the women leaders has provided them with new strength, as a result of which they are now better organized in eight villages and have started engaging in various other worthwhile initiatives.

**Addressing issues concerning conservation of CFR**

These women’s groups, along with some volunteers and youths, have started an initiative to document the biodiversity of their forest. After regular interaction and trainings with the women’s groups the volunteers have started documenting their traditional knowledge with the help of Vasundhara and the district administration. Even prior to the recent circular from the Ministry of Tribal Affairs, which discusses the formulation of a simple format to be used for conservation and management planning, the women’s groups had already started it in their own way. Community Biodiversity Registers have been completed in two villages, which has been greatly appreciated by the Kandhamal District Collector. The understanding of local biodiversity, the livelihood security opportunities provided through FRA 2006 and the dwindling local economy has also focused the women’s intentions towards a new era of “Women Collectives”. They have also started mobilizing around their forest product enterprises, which to date had been more of a household matter and contributing less towards the local economic sustainability beyond their immediate families. Now, the increased understanding of local biodiversity, the mapping of resources, their potential in local and distant markets and the support schemes such as Minimum Support Price (MSP) has

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**Box – 5: Role of Vasundhara as a facilitator**

- Vasundhara as a state level advocacy organization, started deliberation with the nodal government department for FRA 2006 implementation and came out with a training module specifically for women.
- A series of trainings and orientations were carried out for concerned government officials with the active involvement of the ST & SC Development Department.
- Documentation of the case studies of the single women title holders and others women stakeholders.
- Series of consultation organised by Vasundhara at Phulbani block where women were participated and shared their expectations & problems in FRA implementation process.
- IEC (Information, Education & Communication) development
- Advocacy in different levels for FRA 2006 implementation
provided the impetus to constitute Women Collectives. Women have also started requesting training on the MSP scheme and value addition from the local administration.

Challenges

The programme in Kandhamal has introduced a number of innovative approaches to addressing the land rights of women. It includes communities, CBOs and government in a common platform as a strategy, which posed a number of challenges that needed to be addressed.

Working effectively with government
Concerned government line departments i.e. revenue and forest department officials did not coordinate with each other and personnel who were engaged in implementation of FRA 2006 were not gender sensitive. The forest department has continued its massive plantation programmes and forest sector development programmes in the forest lands which are utter violations of the Forest Right Act 2006. The regular changes and transfer of government officials at district level, Sub-Divisional Level Committee (SDLC)\(^7\) and District Level Committee (DLC)\(^8\) affected the pace of claim settlement due to lack of understanding and coordination. Participation of women in the Sub-Divisional Level Committee (SDLC) and District Level Committee (DLC) was poor. To overcome these challenges, Vasundhara continued the process for regular dialogue with the government district administration through the district level coordination process which tried to bring together multiple stakeholders for open discussion on issues and actions. Interfaces were organised with SDLC and DLC. Vasundhara frequently facilitated the interface of the women members with the district authorities, with the collectors and other government officials. Their assurance and commitment also contributed a lot in boosting women’s confidence levels. Nonetheless this challenge requires ongoing attention.

Navigating Power dynamics.
Social taboos, traditions, customs, household level responsibilities and power dynamics make women reluctant to participate in the gramsabhas and implementation process of FRA 2006. Vasundhara took a multipronged approach in dealing with specific challenges in a real time situation. Time and again partner organization staffs sat with the women panchayat representatatives at different levels to build confidence and rapport with their male counterparts who are equally important stakeholders in terms of power dynamics at the village level. Vasundhara also took some of the emerging women leaders on exposure visits to other places and intervention areas to raise their level of self-confidence. The challenge of addressing power dynamics continues.

Lessons Learned

The Role of Facilitator is critical
• This role involves understanding the aspirations of women, issues, articulation of issues and challenges. It needs lots of patience, passion, emotion, skills to handle local situations and continuous dialogue with different stakeholders.

Engaging Man and other stakeholders increases acceptance of a gendered approach

\(^7\) SDLC – is the Sub divisional level Committee constituted for looking into and approval of claims under FRA
\(^8\) DLC- is the District level Committee for looking into and approval of claims under FRA
• Incorporating women’s inclusion as a specific objective within the programme takes lots of effort. It is necessary to train the whole staff of an organisation and of government, not just for increased understanding on gender as a concept but also for mainstreaming at organisation level.

What next?

Sambhabana is a process which has tried to reach out to the different organizations working in Kandhamal on the implementation of IFR through District Level consultation. Some of the organizations who participated in these consultations such as Aahimsa, Swati, Pradan, etc. have agreed to continue to work collectively for the cause of advancing women’s rights assertions under FRA 2006. A meeting is planned in order to have concerted efforts towards this and an exposure visit to the areas where women are playing a lead role in the assertion process as well as in effective forest management mechanism is envisaged. In an attempt to replicate the structure, a similar zonal consultation process was organized at Nayagarh where women across 3 G.Ps participated in huge numbers. The meeting was aimed at generating awareness on women’s rights and their participation in the pre- and post- claim process. Women not only realized how important it what was for them to understand the Act, but they also began to share the issues that they have been facing due to the non-recognition of rights under FRA 2006.

SAMPATI KANHAR- INSPIRING WOMEN IN HER LATE FIFTIES
A Crusader of Forest Resources in Jamjhari Panchayat in Kandhamal

Sampati Kanhar, a 55 year-old widow from Desia Kondh tribe lives with her three sons and three daughters in Madikhol village of Jamjhari gram panchayat in Kandhamal district. At a very early stage in life, she lost her husband leaving her standing alone to take care of all six children. Being the eldest daughter-in-law of the house, as per their local tradition, when she parted ways from the joint family, she got an extra piece of land along with her husband’s share and the rest of the property was equally divided amongst her late husband’s brothers. Presently, Sampati has around 1 acre of revenue land and has obtained recognition for 1.659 acres of land under Individual Forest Rights (IFR) over the forest land that she has kept under cultivation over the years. During the focus group discussion, when asked how she felt after getting the title in her name, she said that, “this title has given me the right over my land and now I can cultivate more on it”. Currently, she is staying with all her children in a separate house and recently one of her sons got married and has started earning an income.

She goes to the forest every day to get Siali leaves (Bauhinia Vahlitii) and mushrooms from the forest. Sampati makes plates out of the Siali leaves that she gets from the forest. For a bundle comprising 80 plates, the sale price is 12INR. In a week she makes around 25 such units for which she gets 300 INR. She also looks after her kitchen garden where she has planted pumpkins, some leafy vegetables and brinjals, etc. which she sells in the market along with the mushrooms and other things that she gets from the forest. Every week, she goes to the market and makes 400 to 800 INR. Apart from this she cultivates the land alongside her son. She has also converged her IFR land under job scheme for land development and many other schemes from the Horticulture as well as the Animal Husbandry
Department. Further, she is the Secretary of the Forest Management Committee that was constituted under the section 4(1)(e) of FRA 2006 and is now actively participating in the decision making relating to the forest management and conservation.

During the inception stage of Samabhavana she participated in community level meetings. She barely spoke in front of the male members of her community but gradually, with time, she started giving her opinions. It was during the first gram panchayat level consultation that she became very vocal about her participation in the rights assertion process and other issues and challenges that she saw. Sampati now attends various meetings and workshops and zonal level and district consultations that are organized in Kandhamal. As a resource person she shares her views, opinions and emotions on how a conferring of right has changed her life, why the forest is so important to her, and why women should take care of the forest by being a part of the 4(1) (e) committee.