

**Ensuring Sustainable Tenurial and Livelihood Security of Tribal and Marginal  
Communities of Odisha through Effective Implementation of FRA**

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Half Yearly Report 2016

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Submitted to Azim Premji Philanthropic Initiatives



<b>Programme Name:</b> Ensuring sustainable tenurial and livelihood security of tribal and marginal communities of Odisha through effective implementation of Forest rights Act	<b>Organisation Name:</b> Vasundhara	<b>Organisation Contact:</b> 0674-2728884/85/86
<b>Grant Duration:</b> 12/2014 – 11/2017	<b>Grant Number:</b> 009/2014	<b>Programme Start Date:</b> December 2014
<b>Year 1 Budget:</b> 54.96lakhs	<b>Year 2 Budget:</b> 42.33lakhs.	<b>Year 3 Budget:</b> 33.14lakhs
<b>Theme:</b> Forest rights act & livelihood		<b>Total Grant Amount (years):</b> 130.43lakhs

**Section 1: How did it go?**

**Narrative on key highlights:**

- **What are the most significant opportunities and achievements for the programme during the last 6 months? What worked well?**

Vasundhara’s partnership with APPI seeks to strengthen the forest based livelihoods of people in our designated operational areas through recognition of their individual rights over occupation in forest areas, recognition of their community / collective rights over forests, and strengthening of processing and marketing of their non timber forest produce. This we achieve through facilitating the formation and strengthening of people’s organisations as well as through interfacing with the local administration and PRIs. Our work on the ground also often requires policy changes and improvement in the implementation of existing policies and programmes of the government at the state and national level. So under the project that we run as part of our partnership with APPI we also work to catalyse pro-poor policy change and improvement in the implementation of existing pro-poor programmes. Our work in the designated operational areas also throws up models and learnings that we seek to replicate through advocacy with governments as well as collaboration with and influencing of like-minded civil society groups. We present below our achievements and learnings as well as the challenges we have faced in the last 6 months.

**Policy level:**

Our policy influencing work has resulted in the following. As expected these are not the outcome of our work

alone but that of our collaborative work with other like-minded institutions and people.

### **National**

- Vasundhara has been working for expansion in the list of Non Timber Forest Produce (NTFPs/MFPs) under the ambit of the MSP for MFP Scheme. As a result of our work and the work of other likeminded institutions, the Central Government has finally expanded the MFPs covered under the MSP Scheme to include 14 more items. The important additions are Kusum Seed, Neem Seed, PudwaSeed, Behada, Hill Broom Grass, Shikakai, Gugul ( exudate), Bael ( dried and without crust), Nagarmotha, PalashKesuda ( flower), Satavari (dried), Madhunashini, Kalmegh, and Tamarind ( de-seeded)
- Vasundhara was part of the State Level Price Revision Committee for Sal Leaves under the MSP for MFP Scheme. We are happy to report that unlike many other MFPs, the MSP for Sal Leaves has not been reduced under the revised guidelines.
- There has been a sustained engagement with the MoTA through sharing of information and learning from FRA interventions, meeting and consultations. Some of the interventions are showcased as good practices in FRA and showcased by the tribal welfare dept and ministry which are a) Mapping of CFRs, b) Convergence programs for forest rights title holders, c) facilitation of PVTG habitat rights.
- Rights recognition process is followed by formation of CFR Management Committees and preparation of conservation and management plans which is important to ensure sustainable use of the community forest resources. However the pace of formation of these committees has been very slow. Vasundhara has been seeking to expedite the process in the districts where it is physically present and also to advocate with the MoTA (Ministry of Tribal Affairs) that this be emphasised and monitored regularly. In the month of September MOTA has revised its reporting format and has now made it mandatory for the state governments to report on the progress of constitution of CFR Management Committees.

### **State Level**

- **Review of all claims rejected under the Forest Rights Act, 2006:** The ST and SC Development Department, Govt. of Odisha has issued instruction on 16<sup>th</sup> June 2016 for *suo moto* review all forest rights claims rejected under the Forest Rights Act, 2006, which means 1.55 lakh claims which were rejected till end of June 2016 are going to reviewed. As per the instruction, 22 districts out of 30 districts of the State initiated the process and communicated cause of rejection to 68828 applicants.
- **Campaign for Demarcation and Correction of Record of Rights:** State Government has initiated a campaign for demarcation and correction of Record of rights for forest rights which are recognised under the Forest Rights Act, 2006. Till end of November 2016, demarcation of forest land has been completed in 1.65 lakh out of 4.04 lakh approved claims. And during this period Record of Rights created for 39341 approved claims.
- Civil Society Organisations and People's (especially women's) collectives engaged with the issue of NTFPs have been demanding that TDCC work in collaboration with them to ensure greater awareness regarding and better implementation of the MSP for MFP Scheme. Vasundhara facilitated such an interface in August 2016 which has enhanced interaction between TDCC (including TDCC Branch Managers) and CSOs & People's Collectives.
- Vasundhara provided support (in terms of grassroots price evidence) to the TDCC to prepare its response with regard to TRIFED's enquiry regarding the justification for continuation and further expansion of the MSP for MFP Scheme.
- The 'MSP for MFP' Caravan facilitated by Vasundhara (in collaboration with likeminded CSOs, People's Collectives, TDCC and respective District Administrations) resulted in the empowerment of frontline TDCC Staff to undertake procurement of MFPs under the Scheme. It also made them more accountable to people engaged in NTFP based livelihoods (and their collectives).

## Reflections on the half-year

Year x: 06/2016 – 11/2016



### **District Level**

- Vasundhara's work with the Kandhamal district administration influenced the decision of the DLC (District Level Committee under FRA) to endorse the Gram Sabha based CFR Governance and Management Plans.
- Intervention in Mayurbhanj district has played a key role in influencing Mayurbhanj district administration to facilitate the CFR governance and management process designating a senior district level officer as the Nodal officer and allocate specific resources for the process.
- Vasundhara's engagement with the Deogarh district administration has led to a letter being issued by the district administration for verification and Gram Sabha in 12 "Forest Villages" for conversion to revenue village as per the Forest Rights Act. Similar letter has been issued by the district administration Kandhamal for initiating conversion of 8 Forest Villages in to revenue villages.

### **Ground Level**

1. **Recognition of Forest Rights (Individual and Community)**
2. **Strengthening of People's Institutions on Forest Rights and Governance**
3. **Enhancing Lives and Livelihoods through convergence programmes based on Forest Rights**
4. **Strengthening Institutional aspects of NTFP Collectives**
5. **Enhancing Income from NTFPs through MSP and Open Market Initiatives**

### **Recognition of Forest Rights (Individual and Community)**

#### **Recognition of Individual Forest Rights**

- During the reporting period a total of 222 new claims for individual forest rights have been filed in the project area. All these claims have been approved by the respective Gramsabhas and been forwarded to the SDLC. All the claims have been filed in the name of both spouses. This is an improvement over the claims filed previously. Before this 595 such claims had been filed in Deogarh and 1189 in Sambalpur.

#### **Community Rights and Community Forest Resource right**

- During the reporting period, 22 Community Resource Rights claims of Jamjhari GP of Kandhamal have been approved in DLC. Title distribution is pending.
- In Deogarh, 5 more Gram Sabhas have claimed their Community rights and Community Forest Resource rights claims at SDLC level.
- In Kuchinda, 14 nos. of Community Rights Claims & 12 Community Resource Rights Claims have been filed by the Gram Sabha and forwarded to SDLC for recognition of their rights.
- Out of 127 (Kandhamal-22, Deogarh- 45 , Kuchinda-49) villages a total of 116 villages have filed CFR claims.
- Seven training programmes have been organized in Deogarh and Kuchinda cluster for the volunteers, FRC members and PRI members and Directors/volunteers of Banaja and Banani those who all are facilitating the claim making process at Gramsabha level.
- FRA clinic (where a team of experts provide guidance for understanding FRA and filing claim under it) are opened in every weekly Haats to provide support to local forest dwelling community.

## **Strengthening of People's Institutions on Forest Rights**

### **Community forest resource governance and management**

- A total of 15 Community forest resource management committees have been constituted which has been followed by 15 community forest resource management plans prepared and approved by respective Gram Sabhas within the reporting period. Till end of November 2016, a total of 40 plans have been prepared, including 9 plans prepared in the last project year. Each plan comprises of following steps
  1. Constitution CFR conservation and management committee
  2. Development of simple Community forest resource management plan approved by Gramsabha
  3. Documentation of local knowledge associated with biodiversity conservation, protection, management and utilisation.
- Local ecological knowledge of forest structure, flora & fauna, forest produce for subsistence and commercial utilization, are essential for preparation of remunerative and sustainable forest management plan. Towards this we have undertaken participatory documentation of such information in 8 villages.
- During the reporting period 2 training programmes and 5 sharing meetings have been organised with other CSOs/Peoples organisations. Support to a very large number of youth clubs(The Antaranga Youth Clubs) has been a major achievement of the last six months. There have been 8 training programmes with these youth clubs leading to the identification of 144 key youth volunteers. *The training programmes have become so popular that many villages have invited Vasundhara to come and organize training programmes where all the organizing costs are being borne by contributions from the local people.* The participants of the training programme included village elders, FRC members, women's groups, members of forest management committee and officials of district administration etc. Sharing meetings have been the mechanism to provide villagers opportunities to learn from representatives (FRC, CFR management committee, women group, PRI members and volunteers) of villages which have already engaged with the process.

### **Challenges:**

One of the major issues identified in the field area of Deogarh and Sambalpur districts has been the non-cooperation of Forest department. The Forest department has been encouraging the continuation and strengthening Vana Suraksha Samitis (including helping the VSS to undertake plantation in CFR areas) which is against the letter and spirit of FRA. The local communities have been trying to address this issue and Vasundhara is providing advocacy support for the same.

A second challenge faced by CFR management committees is the development of people oriented forest management plans. In the 150 years history of state controlled forest management, the focus of management has been timber and a few industrial raw materials. There is very little existing literature/ experience on forest management focused on people need such as subsistence items( food, fuelwood, fibre, medicine etc) and NTFPs that are collected and marketed by the people. Development of forest management plans focused on such NTFPs according to local conditions is a major challenge that needs to be addressed by us. In the coming year we shall be working on developing such plans for at least 20 villages. This process will require the development of trained cadres who can facilitate such a process at the village level.

A third challenge is to ensure symbiotic relationship between forest ecology and agro-ecology at the local level.

## Reflections on the half-year

Year x: 06/2016 – 11/2016



Chemical intensive agro-ecology has harmful impact on forest ecology especially through loss of pollinating (i.e Bees) and disseminating ( i.e birds) agents, and other fauna. On the other hand, timber oriented commercial forest management has negative impact on the agro-ecology through loss of humus, loss of ground water, increased soil erosion etc..

Outputs and activities	Target Unit	Actual	Variance
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	14	15	107%
Training/consultation programme on CFR Governance and management Members	1	2	200%
Cross Learning workshop for development of Conservation and Management of CFR with Gram Sabha, Management Committee, PRI Members and other stakeholders	3	5	166%

### Enhancing Lives and Livelihoods through convergence programmes based on Forest Rights

Gramsabha based Convergence plan under FRA

- A total number of 25 Gram Sabha based convergence plan has been prepared .Out of which 16 Gram Sabha plans have been integrated ,approved and now in the process of execution . Till end of November 2016, a total of 47 plans have been prepared. Each plan comprises of following steps
  - Awareness in the Gramsabha level about FRA and about various programs and schemes
  - Preparation and development of Gramsabha based convergence plan
  - District level Institutional mechanisim set-up
  - State-level Guideline specific on Convergence and FRA.
  - Sharing of experience and learning with other Organization and similar process to be taken up in other districts
- During the reporting period of last three month in Kandhamal ITDA dept, dept .of horticulture, and soil conservation dept. have taken up initiative to execute the 18 Gram Sabha based plan .
- In the month of September District Collector Kandhamal along with Project director Watershed dept. have specifically included the FRA and convergence portion in the agenda of monthly district level convergence meeting.
- In Kandhamal district PA-ITDA have taken initiative and along with PD-DRDA the line dept. **have formed a district level convergence committee** to monitor the progress of Gram Sabha plan under FRA.
- **ST&SC development department has issued a comprehensive guideline on “Convergence under Forest Rights Act” this year .This guideline has taken reference of our pilot work in Kandhamal.**
- Based on guideline issued by State in Sundergarh and Rayagada district level convergence committees have been formed and are proposed in other tribal districts.
- An Odiya pamphlet of the process has prepared and circulated .
- Process document of convergence is also prepared in English.

#### Challenges:

- Fund crunch and irregular budget allocation to line dept. from State limiting the scope of convergence .

## Reflections on the half-year

Year x: 06/2016 – 11/2016



- Despite of directions from the MoTA funds are not made directly available to the Gram Sabhas for convergence activities and other forest development programs. Gram Sabhas which have proposed convergence plans have been demanding direct resource allocation to the Gram Sabhas from Tribal Sub-Plan, MGNREGA and other forestry programs.
- Irregular payment and delay disbursement of wages to right holder under MGNREGA is demotivating factor for community member.
- The focus is more on rural housing and plantation of commercial species over the forest land and promotion of hybrid saplings than promotion of local species.
- In case of IFR right holders the plan get implemented easily but any kind of community based plan for CFR area takes a longer time for budgeting and planning .

Name of the District	Status of Convergence Plan for the Period of One Year					
	(Dec , 2015- May, 2016)			(Jun – Nov, 2016)		
	Plan Prepared	Plan Submitted	Approved by DLC	Plan Prepared	Plan Submitted	Approved by DLC
Kandhamal	22	11	10	8	8	8
Deogarh	0	0	0	11	1	0
Kuchinda	0	0	0	6	0	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>8</b>
Name of the District/District level progress	Interface with Line department				Status	Remark
Kandhamal	G.P level interface with line department in Jamjhari				Completed(Brief report shared)	
Deogarh	G.P level interface with line departments at Rambhei				Completed(draft report shared )	
	District level workshop is planned at Kandhamal in December third week				Planned in December	Discussion done with Pa-itda and SO
State-level Progress	ST&Sc development dept. has issued a comprehensive guideline especially for forest rights holder “Effective implementation of Convergence programs and schemes under FRA”					
Other progress in our direct intervention area	In Kandhamal Soil conservation department taken up 10 village for check dam and irrigation facility. In Deogarh budget approved for 7 village community based plan and Individual right holders are also got converged in land development under MGNREGS and IAY.					Letter issued from watershed dept. and budget approval is in the process .
Replication in	The state guideline and process has been					



Other districts	followed in Sundergarh, Raygarh and Koraput		
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**Strengthening Institutional aspects of NTFP Collectives**

- The board of directors elected by the representatives of the member collectives is the executive body of the union of collectives (Secondary Structure). In the six monthly period we have been able to facilitate regular monthly meetings of the BoDs. Apart from this, special BoD meetings have also convened to take important decisions between planned monthly meetings. While both Banaja and Banani Unions held 6 monthly meetings each, Banaja had three more special meetings to institutionalize a staff appraisal system and responsibility allocation. To ensure even quicker decision making, Banaja has created a core committee that meets on a weekly basis.
- Higher business requires larger working capital and both Banaja and Banani Unions have contributed to the created additional funds to take care of greater working capital. Cooperatives have contributed from their own funds to the tune of 2.8lakh rupees in Banaja and 3.8lakh rupees in Banani. Corpus funds for working capital have also been created at the primary collective level averaging about 50,000 rupees per unit.
- Banani Union has begun the construction of a warehouse-cum-office through member contributions and shramdaan. They are actively engaged in leveraging support from other sources to complete the building.
- In Kandhamal newly formed collectives (6) have opened their bank account in the nationalized bank in Kandhamal district. Rs 17800 rupees have been contributed by the MFP Collectives of Kandhamal as share capital and an equal amount as member fees.
- 34 no of board of directors from the NTFP Collectives in Kandhamal have undergone account training to know more on the basic of record keeping and accounting procedure.

**Membership Drive:**

A membership drive was launched by the collectives in their respective areas reaching out to 1195 people through village level meetings. This has led to the enrolment of 105 new members. The total membership in Banaja-Banani unions has now gone up to 2875

• **Capacity & Skill enhancement**

Union level training programmes were conducted to train the directors and front line leaders on the plan of action for its proper execution. 259 front line board members were covered under various training programme in the reporting period. Similarly more than 1000 members of both primary and Unions were covered under the Institutional Management, business and record keeping training during the zone meeting.

**Enhancing Income from NTFP through MSP and Open Market Initiatives**

• **Community based Siali Leaf Plate Enterprise**

Vasundhara had facilitated the linkage between Siali Leaf plate makers and a business entity exporting siali leaf plates. Compared to local market prices, this linkage provided people a price that was 2.7 times higher than the local market price. However due to some production and marketing complexities the previous six monthly reporting period had shown a downtrend. Now we have been able to get a better understanding and grip over the process and in the past six months our sales have gone up and so has the price. The price has improved to Rs

150/- per 100 leaf plates (this is about 4 times the local market price) and in the six month period, Banaja and Banani unions have sold a cumulative 8,34,000 no of plates amounting to 12,51,000 rupees. The benefit is even higher if we compare it with the sale of raw leaves which has been the practice for a majority of women in the region and it has been felt that the expansion of the Siali Leaf enterprise can be a major economic driver for women in the region.

As a part of streamlining and scaling up of the Siali Leaf Plate making enterprise, both unions have initiated village level discussion processes with potential participants in the enterprise. Till May 2016, approximately 300 women from 22 villages were part of the Siali leaf enterprise. By November 2016, 84 new villages (58 in Banaja and 26 in Banani) have been identified as potential areas for expansion of the enterprise. Of these villages, enterprise related training (including awareness and stitching as per business standards) have been carried out in 43 villages covering 567 new members.

### Other Existing NTFP Business

Mahua Flowers, Tamarind, Char Seed, Sal Seed and Siali Leaves (raw) have been the principal items procured and traded by the collectives and their unions. The business season started from March and part of the stocks sold during the last 6 months were collected in the previous six monthly period. The table below provides details of sale proceeds in the last eight months (including last two months of the previous six monthly period). As a result of the collective process facilitated by the project, members of the women's collectives received additional income of 26.7 Lakh rupees. A very important aspect of the additional income generation this year has been the benefit from access to minimum support price under the MSP for MFP Scheme. The three items that benefited most from the scheme are Char Seed, Tamarind and Sal Seed respectively. The cumulative benefit to the collectives on account of MSP of these three items is about 5.85 lakh rupees<sup>1</sup>.

Commodity	Total Procurement	Average Selling Price / Unit (Rs)	Total Sale Proceeds (Rs)	Local Market Price(in Rs)	Additional profit earned Rs/ Unit	Total Additional Profit
Mahua (Quintal)	667	3,616	2,411,375	2000	1616	<b>1,077,555</b>
Tamarind (Quintal)	268	2,200	590,238	1600	600	<b>160,974</b>
Char Seed (Quintal)	54	10,000	536,600	5000	5000	<b>268,300</b>
Sal Seed (Quintal)	521	1,000	520,610	700	300	<b>156,183</b>
Siali Leaf (Quintal)	289	1,400	405,062	1200	200	<b>57,866</b>
Siali Leaf Plate (Thousands)	842	1,500	1,263,000	375	1125	<b>947,250</b>
<b>Grand Total</b>			<b>5,726,885</b>			<b>2,668,128</b>

**Beyond Distilleries: Documenting and Popularizing Nutritious and Organic Recipes made from Mahua Flowers**  
Mahua is generally considered to be an ingredient for preparation of alcohol. The predominant part of Mahua Flowers sold by the women actually goes for use in distilleries. However the women themselves use Mahua

<sup>1</sup> The total benefit from the MSP from MFP Scheme is of course higher as women outside the collectives were also able to sell at these higher prices and women in other areas of the district and other districts of the state have also benefited to a great extent from the implementation of the MSP for MFP programme which was facilitated through the MSP Caravan.

*flowers in many ways and it contributes to local food and nutrition security. To promote the consumption of Mahua flower by the consumers in other (especially urban) areas, there is a need to spread awareness regarding the nutritional value of Mahua flowers as well as popularize different culinary preparations that can be made from the flowers. Towards this is, Banaja union has undertaken, to study the surviving food practices around Mahua, document recipes and consumption practices, and to understand its economy and ecology from the point of view of forest dwelling people. As a result around 30 types of recipes have been identified and the process has been documented for larger outreach. The initiative is of course in its early stages but amounts to practical baby steps to revive the food and cooking culture around Mahua, not just among the forest dwelling people, but also among health and ecology conscious urban consumers.*

#### **Caravan on Minimum Support Price:**

The Government of India had taken the progressive step to implement the “Mechanism of Minor Forest Produce through Minimum Support Price and Development of Value Chain” as a part of extending the forest right act. This is one of the safety net schemes for the forest dwelling communities to get fair price for their MFP/NTFP. Though there are substantial amount of funds allocated to implement the Scheme in true letter and spirit, the actual progress of the scheme on the ground has been very slow. Out of 8 PESA states, only Chattisgarh has done some noticeable procurement in the last two years of implementation of the Scheme. One of the reasons that could be attributed to this lackluster performance is the lack of awareness on the scheme at the grassroots level.

Odisha had also performed poorly in the earlier years. In this context, Vasundhara in association with the NTFP Collectives (Banaja&Banani) collaborated with TDCCOL, TRIFED, Dist. Admn., and like minded CSOs to sensitize the primary producers on the Scheme. A Caravan programme was planned to reach out to the primary producers, and this was undertaken in 10 potential districts (including our own intervention-districts and other districts where likeminded CSOs are present and active) of the State covering more than 200 villages. Vasundhara (along with local people’s organizations) anchored the Caravan process in 4 districts and other CSO partners anchored the process in another 8 districts. Apart from Vasundhara, a total of 8 CSOs took part in the initiative. The caravans used different awareness tools such as Miking, Posters & Banners, distribution of leaflets and public meetings. The Caravan also documented the hassles and roadblocks that impede the implementation of the scheme at the bottom level.

The finding of the Caravan was shared with TDCCOL, TRIFED and other stakeholders at Conference hall, TDCCOL on 5<sup>th</sup> August 2016, where the APPI Team during the visit to Vasundhara participated. The Caravan able to connect the MFP gatherers to TDCCOL which has the responsibility of ensuring MSP for MFP. This small initiative have tremendously helped the primary gatherers to know the support price for the minor forest produce and enable them to bargain with the traders to get the fair price. This has also seen in the shape of rising of market price of MFPs in the local market. Similarly the procurement by TDCCOL has increased due to adequate awareness in the Scheme.

#### **Challenges faced in the Livelihood Sector**

While there have been major successes in the last six months with regard to the enhancement of forest based livelihoods, we have also face significant challenges. One of the most significant challenges we face today is the reduction in MSP of many of the MFPs designated under the Scheme. The reduction in price of Lac (57% reduction for Rangini Lac and 53% reduction for Kusumi Lac). There is also the reduction in MSP for Chironjee (40% reduction), Tamarind (18% reduction) and Myrobalan (27% reduction) and Char Seeds (40% reduction) From

## Reflections on the half-year

Year x: 06/2016 – 11/2016



100 rupees /KG to 60/- rupees/kg) have been especially harsh. This has to be addressed through both advocacy with the government as well as awareness building among people. The case of Tamarind places a challenge as well as an opportunity. The MSP has been reduced by 18% (from 22 rupees per KG to 18 rupees per kg). At the same time de-seeded tamarind has been added to the list at Rs 40/- per kg. In the upcoming season training and organising women’s collectives to de-seed tamarind needs to be taken up as a major initiative.

Siali leaf plate business has also brought forth new challenges. The drying and storage of leaf plates in a manner that adheres to stringent international standards is a core challenge. In some of the new places where we have facilitated the enterprise, poor drying has led to rejection and price cuts that have affected overall profitability of the enterprise. We are already taking up training programme on the same but would also need to work further to ensure proper skill and facilities for proper drying and storage.

At present, the super structure supporting the business of the collectives is run by staffs and volunteers fully or partly supported by the project. The current turnover about 65 lakhs rupees per year is insufficient to entirely support the super structure. Enhancing this to about Rs 2 Crore rupees per year would make the system internally viable without any requirement of project support. Reaching this target as soon as possible is a major challenge. We are hoping to reach this by 2020. We are hopeful of reaching this target as in the last financial year we had a total turnover of 48 lakh rupees and in the financial year before that we had a total turnover of 35 lakh rupees. In the current financial year we have already reached 57 lakhs and are expecting to reach at least 66 lakh rupees by 31<sup>st</sup> March 2017.

Two of the most important requirements to attain the target of 2 crore rupees turnover would be expansion of membership and diversification of business (new commodities as well as value addition to existing commodities). The process of expansion of membership is currently on and at this stage we are focusing on the consolidation of existing collectives rather than creation of new collectives. However, soon there would be needed to form new collectives in Deogarh/ Sambalpur/ Sundergarh region. Kandhamal anyway is currently in the stage of formation of new collectives. Expansion of the MSP Scheme to 14 additional MFPs is a major opportunity to diversify the commodity basket. Similarly the addition of the semi processed item “deseeded tamarind” provides a scope to initiate value addition.

The rescinding of the Odisha Self Help Cooperatives Act under which all the collectives had been registered, has been a major challenge. Giving the collectives new legal identity is one of the key challenges we’ll have to address in the upcoming year.

Towards the end of the project period, the demonetisation of high value currency also affected the business of the collectives and the unions and affected the pace of work. This led to the postponement of two key activities that had to be completed by 20<sup>th</sup> of December instead of 30<sup>th</sup> of November as planned.

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

Financial health for Half Year 4: June – November 2016

#### **Programme Expenses (in INR Lakhs)**

Budget Variance ( Amount in Lakhs<sup>2</sup>)

<sup>2</sup>Total may not match due to rounding

**Reflections on the half-year**

Year x: 06/2016 – 11/2016



Budget Head	Revised Budget for Year 2	Actual 1 <sup>st</sup> Half Year	Actual 2 <sup>nd</sup> Half Year	Total	Balance
Salaries and Benefits	22.97	9.97	11.38	21.35	1.62
Office Administration cost	5.72	2.99	2.77	5.75	-0.04
Equipment	0.54	0.13	0.13	0.26	0.28
Travel & Related Expenses	4.20	2.21	1.28	3.50	0.70
Meeting, Training & Workshop	16.62	3.59	4.19	7.78	8.84
Publication & Dissemination	4.21	2.23	1.17	3.41	0.81
Consultancies & Honorarium	7.95	3.42	3.44	6.86	1.09
Audit, Evaluation, & Learning	2.13	0.86	1.02	1.88	0.25
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>64.34</b>	<b>25.4</b>	<b>25.39</b>	<b>50.79</b>	<b>13.55</b>

**Narrative:**

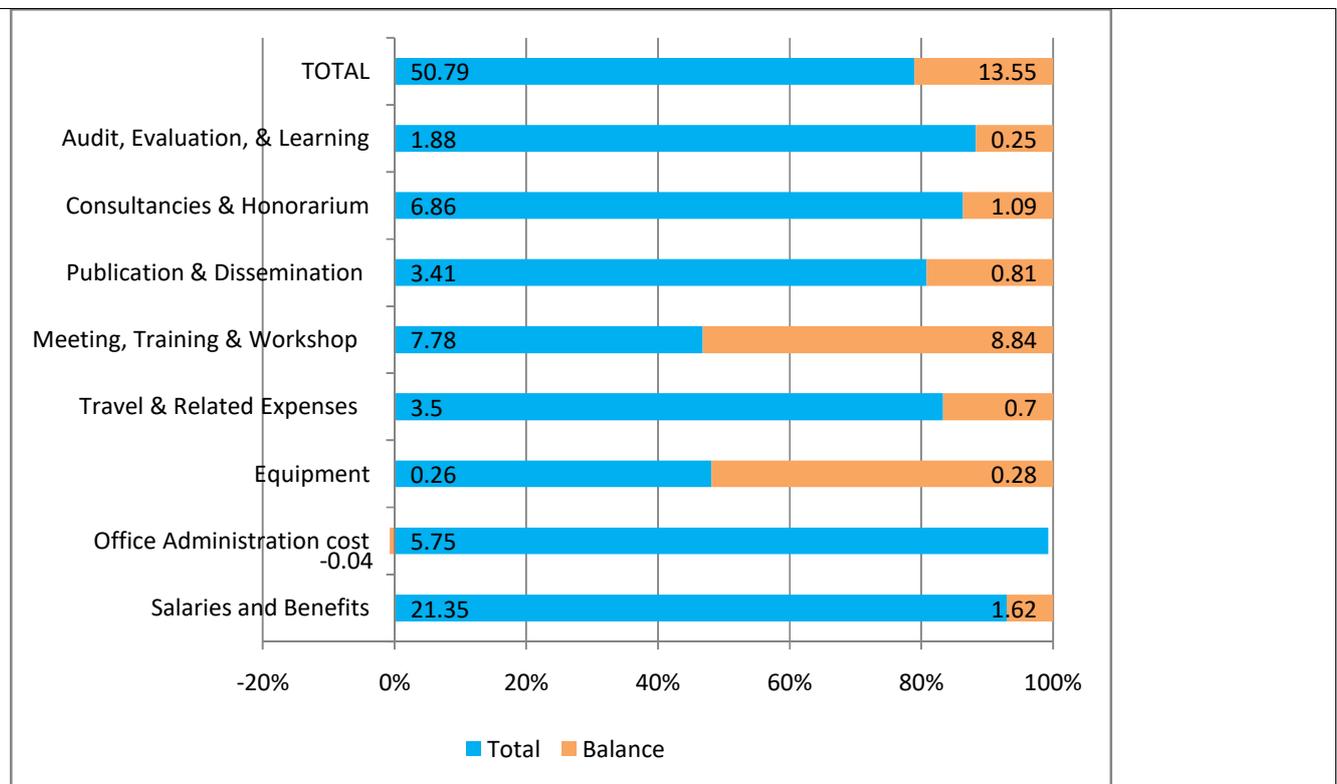
- What are the budget categories where there is a possibility of the budget to be under-spent?
- *In the coming year, there is a possibility of budget to be under-spent in the heads Meetings, Trainings and Workshops*
- What are the budget categories where there is a possibility of the budget to be over-spent?
- *There is a possibility of overspend under the head Consultancy & Honorarium. This is likely to be about 2.65 lakh rupees. This is primarily on account of the continuation of volunteers support for NTFP business of the women's collectives in Deogarh, Kuchinda and Kandhamal zones. This continuation is requested till June 2017, i.e. till the end of the major NTFP season. This additional expenditure is sought to be mobilised through a reduction in the 'Meetings, Trainings, Workshops' category where there is significant savings in the first two years.*
- Have there been any significant changes to the budgets as planned?
- The budget for year 3 will be different from the originally approved budget for the year on account of balance from the first two years. Also we request for a transfer of allocation from the 'meeting, training, workshop' head to the 'consultancies & honorarium' head.

We request for approval of the revised budget for Year 3 which includes balances from previous years along with the original budget of year 3, including the reallocation that we have requested.

**Expenditure Pattern on Budget for Year 2**

## Reflections on the half-year

Year x: 06/2016 – 11/2016



### Change Stories

#### The Sweeter Tamarind

Tamarind is perhaps the one non timber forest produce that enters every kitchen in India. Many people do not even know that it's a designated forest produce. In reality too most tamarind trees are on non-forest land. However it's designated as a MFP and the MSP for MFP Scheme has included Tamarind in the list of items. While Tamarind has a strong demand across the country – especially in South India – and abroad, the market is still dominated by informal set-ups that have ensured very low prices to the producers / collectors. This is especially so in remote areas. Kandhamal happens to be one of the most remote districts in Odisha (for instance it has no railway connectivity) and the price of tamarind in the local market has always been extremely low. So much so that a number of trees remain un-harvested. This year the local traders were paying villagers only 5 rupees a kilogram for ripe & dry tamarind. In fact the traders do not even buy tamarind from the people but buy the entire tamarind in a tree based on an ocular estimation. The real price in such a case may be even lower than the Rs 5/- per KG that is the stated price. Once the trader buys the produce on the tree, he employs a local labourer (often, ironically, employing the owner of the tree itself as a poorly paid labourer) to harvest the tree and hand over the produce to him.



It is in such a context that Vasundhara and the alliance of CSOs it had facilitated in Kandhamal organised the ‘MSP for MFP’ caravan. The caravan went around villages in Phulbani for 10 days, travelling a total of more than 1200 kilometres and touching people from more than 200 villages. Staff of Vasundhara and the other CSOs which were part of the caravan along with TDCC staff, and local volunteers played recorded audio messages in the local language, and held wayside as well as planned meetings at village / panchayat headquarters, local market places, and other places of assembly such as PDS shops etc. They explained the provisions of the schemes and told people how to access the same. The MSP for Tamarind was 22/- rupees per kg<sup>3</sup>. When people learnt about this, they refused to sell their tamarind to the local traders. The MFP collectives facilitated by Vasundhara in the Jamjhari Gram Panchayat of Phulbani block began procuring at at 22/- rupees per KG as the TDCC promised to buy it from them after paying a further commission of 2%. However once they began buying, the local traders panicked and offered them a much higher price than TDCC. Finally the collectives were able to procure 80 quintals of tamarind from 119 households in 12 villages of the Panchayat and sold it at Rs 25.50/- to a district level trader who sells directly in the large Raipur Market. The taste of selling the sour tamarind was indeed sweeter this year.

Often people ask how much can an agency like TDCC buy to ensure that producers are able to get the MSP? The experience in Kandhamal suggests that the very fact of people having an option to sell to TDCC at the MSP improves their bargaining power and enables them to sell at the MSP or even higher.

Total Tamarind Sold: 8000 kilograms  
 Potential Income at local price: 40,000 rupees  
 Actual Income to Producers at MSP: Rs 1,76,000  
 Profit earned by Collectives: Rs 28,000/-  
 Profit Distributed to members as Bonus: Rs 14,000/-  
 Profit retained for enhancing working capital of collectives: Rs 14,000/-  
 Total benefit to the community as a result of MSP: Rs 1,64,000/-  
 Average additional income per member selling tamarind: 1340/- rupees

**Case 2**

No winter evening in Northern India is really complete without a helping of Gajar ka Halwa. And it’s impossible to imagine good Gajar ka Halwa (or for that matter many other north Indian sweets and kheer) without the mandatory Chironjee kernels. Good quality Chironjee kernels are usually available for more than 1400 rupees per kilogram. But the tribal and other forest depending communities who collect the seeds have to sell the seeds at prices as low as 40/- rupees per kg. This is roughly the equivalent of getting paid Rs 120/- for a kilogram of Chironjee kernels that sell for about 1400/- rupees – less than 9% of the market price. Such low prices have been maintained over the years through ensuring lack of competition at the local level and lack of processing facilities with the people.



<sup>3</sup> Unfortunately reduced this year to 18 rupees per KG

The declaration of MSP for Chironjee at Rs 100/- per kilogram was therefore a major advantage for the people collecting Chironjee nuts. Mere declaration of MSP, however, is no guarantee of actual change in the lives of the people. So even after almost two years of the MSP being declared, tribal women in Sundargarh district of Odisha were continuing to get cheated. But when CIRTD, a CSO working with tribal people in Sundargarh was contacted by Vasundhara to become part of the MSP Caravan, they picked up Chironjee as the principal focal point of their caravan. But as people came to know about the MSP and collected Chironjee seed for handing over to TDCC, they were told that they can't do so as they do not have a local PPA (Primary Procuring Agency registered with TDCC). As TDCC initially refused to collect, the villagers went to the District Collector and petitioned him. As a result of the petition a PPA was formed within 15 days and the TDCC finally lifted 7.8 quintals of Chironjee seed. What would have fetched the collectors about 31,200 rupees in the local market ultimately earned them 78,000 rupees - an incremental benefit of 46,800/- rupees ( a hefty 150% more than what they'd have got otherwise).

While the TDCC ultimately bought only a very small part of the total Chironjee seeds sold in the region, because of this intervention local price of Chironjee seeds went up to more than 60 to 70 rupees per kilogram. With this one example of success this year, the other villages are also getting ready to assert their right to MSP and in the coming season (May-June 2017) the total benefit to people in the region from the MSP provision for Chironjee is likely to increase manifold. *(Unfortunately, however, the MSP for Chironjee seed has been reduced for the coming season to Rs 60/- per KG. The people of Sundargarh as well as Chironjee collecting forest dependent communities across Odisha are already raising their voice against the decision)*

#### **CASE STUDY OF LUDHAR**(date-10.11.16)

Sakuntala Kalo, a 67 year old widow woman who lost her husband 30 year back suffering from T.B, living with her 2 daughter and still ready to face all the difficulties coming towards her. This woman lives in village named Ludhar which comes under Dimirikuda GP and Tileibani block of Deogarh district. She was 37 years old and with 3 children (1 son and 2 daughters) when her husband sarttukalo died. At first she started working as bonded labour to raise her kids. Then she started collecting NTFPs from nearest forest and sells them in local market.

At that time she has only 0.50 acres of ceiling land of her own but she was not cultivating. After her husband died a person of her village forcefully acquired her land and started cultivating on it. At first she protested but there was no result. Then she asked for help from villagers and with the help of them she got back her land.

In 1975 there was a case on her land and she was paying encroachment fee for 2 years. For forest use forester also collected money in 2 phases (Rs 25 and 100) from her. In 2008 she came to know about FRA from her nephew Niranjankalo (now president of FRC committee) and filled the IFR claim form in 2008-09 and got title in 2011 for 0.84 acre.

After getting IFR title there was a convergence plan meeting in their village including BDO, RI, sarpanch in 2011 and allotted fund to 15-20 people for land renovation in which sakuntalakalo was also a part of that plan under MGNREGA. Panchayat took whole money allotted to village and started work on respective lands by engaging people of their village and did not pay proper wages to them. For sakuntala's land she paid Rs 2000 to the workers and requested in panchayat office for refund of the money but didn't get any.

Now she is living with her 2 daughter (one is unmarried and another is divorced with a son) and earning livelihood for them alone. In 2003 she got a job under MDM in their village primary school as cook. At first she was getting Rs200/month salary but now she is getting Rs1000/month. Now she is also collecting NTFPs like mahua, sal seed, kendu leaf, siali leaf etc. from forest and also making siali plate and selling them through cooperative named Baba Ratna in their village. This year she sold 70 kg mahul at Rs 15/kg she is also a member

of SHG (maamahalaxmi) in their village.

She is a shining example of women empowerment and also self sufficient in her village. Also she is saying “patanitae ta forester kedarlaguthilaebemorjami k kahakudukh bake nai die” (till the time I didn’t have title I was afraid of forest guard now that I got IFR title I will not allow anyone in my land ).

No scheme and program works for her but ownership over a small piece of land created changes in her life as well as forest and NTFP is always a friend to her .she created her own plan and work with her own minimum budget .seems quite successful.

**Struggle of a Single woman in Mahulata –She said “Forest matters than anything”**

Village-Mahulata

GP- Saruali

Block- Barkot

Dist –Deogarh

In Mahulata, a 46 year old widow Baisakhi dehury who belongs to PaudiBhuyan (PVTG) tribe is living with her 2 sons (older one is 14 year and younger one is 10 year old). Her husband died before 16 years in accident while playing football. After her husband’s death she was completely helpless and did not get a single penny to raise her kids then she started working as bonded labour in her village for livelihood. Due to lack of money she didn’t able to provide education to her sons. It’s been 3 years her elder son migrated to Tamil Nadu for money and working in a tile factory and her younger son who is only 10 years old is now working in a hotel at Mayurbhanj.

She applied for widow pension for some help for her family but govt. officials didn’t cooperate her and rejected her form so many times and then with the help of some villagers she fight for her right and got the pension in 2011 which is Rs300 per month. Now she has also got a house under IAY in the year 2007.

Earlier though she was alone she was not feeling secured about this land but in 2006 she got to know about FRA from her villagers and in 2008 she claimed IFR and got the title in 2010. Now she owns 0.76 acres of forest land which she is now cultivating. After getting the title she was not able to cultivate the land because there is no proper irrigation system in their village which causes crop loss in many years. From the very beginning she was collecting NTFPs from forest for her daily consumptions which was not enough for her family then she came to know about Bananibanijya cooperative and joined in 2015. Now she is collecting Mahua, char seed, siali leaf, mushroom from forest and selling them throughco-operative to secure her livelihood .last year she earned 700 rupees against 35 kg Mahua seed which she sold, Rs20 per kg and also 12 kg of char seed with Rs70 per kgthrough cooperative. She has also harvested 2and1/2 quintals of rice this year.

Now she is planning to stitch siali plates this year and wishes to earn enough to get back her sons to her family. Forest food and rights over forest land is enough for survival and could open up the way to stop migration.

**CASE STUDY**

VILLAGE- SIRIGIDA

GP-RAMBHEI

BLOCK-BARKOT

**DISTRICT-DEOGARH**

**INTRODUCTION:**

10 km away from NH 49, Deogarh there is a village lies in the lap of the Mother Nature named as Siriguda which comes under Rambhei gram panchayat of Barkot block, Deogarh. It is a revenue village. There are 66 families living in this village forming 3 hamlets containing 6 communities like kolha, khandayat, kisan (kandha), dama, pana and chasa. There is no school in this village. Students are travelling 1.5km to Telitileimal to attend school. Anganwadi is working in the house given by VSS. There is no supply water to the village. People are using ponds and streams as main sources of water for their regular use.

**HISTORY OF THE VILLAGE:**

There is a story behind the formation of the village. Hundred years back when king was ruling over Deogarh, he had lot of servants working for him called as khamari/baidar. Once the king was pleased with the work of one of the Baidar and gifted a piece of land to live with his family and named it as SIRIGIDA. After that the servant started living there with his family. Afterward 6-7 more families joined them and in the course of time the whole village raised its head.

From the very beginning the village was surrounded by dense forest and the people were using forest for their day to day livelihood purpose. At that time the forest was also full with wild animals like wild boar, tiger, deer, peacock elephant etc. Till now the village completely depends on the forest for their livelihood throughout the year.

**PHRASES OF VILLAGE DURING DIFFERENT LAWS:**

During the period of British govt forest act, 1927 passed in which all the power on forest lies under forest department, a newly formed dept. by govt of India. After independence another two laws passed by Indian govt. such as wildlife (protection) act, 1972 and forest (conservation) act, 1980. Under these acts the security of the forest got tightened for the forest dwellers and the villagers of Sirigida. They started paying tax or TP (transit permit) for entering or any use of forest or forest produces.

- They were paying Rs.1 per a cattle or goat for grazing them in the forest.
- To build a house they have to pay Rs 200-500 for the amount of log/wood needed for it.
- Also they were paying tax for collecting NTFPs from forest for their domestic use.

In 1980 COUP started. It is a system made by forest department with motto of revenue generation through marketing of woods cut down from the forest. At that time most of the forest decreased and people faced a lot of problems in their daily life.

In year 2000 people became aware of their rights on forest and started guarding their traditional boundaries of forest made by their fore fathers. At that time they were collecting different NTFPs like mahua, firewood, logs, some varieties of mushroom and spinaches for their domestic use only. At that time they does not knew the uses of other NTFPs.

**STRENGTHING VILLAGE THROUGH PATTERNS OF LIVELIHOOD**

From ancient times the villagers have been depending upon forest. They were collecting only limited produces from forest for their personal household uses. They were not aware of collection, processing and marketing of NTFPs. But now they are collecting 14 varieties of NTFPs.

In 2007 a cooperative was formed taking 3 neighbouring village such as Budhabahal, Chakulia and Sirigida. Through this cooperative they started collection and marketing of 2 NTFPs like siali leaf and mahua. At that time the rate was

1. Siali leaf-Rs 3/kg
2. Mahul –Rs 1.5/kg

This cooperative lasted for 2-3 years. Then in 2014 Sirigida separated and started its own cooperative named as Bana chuliapatamahilasamabaya and started collecting 14 NTFPs and exporting them to different part of India.

## Reflections on the half-year

Year x: 06/2016 – 11/2016



Rate chart of NTFPs collected by cooperatives:

Name of NTFP	Cost (in Rs)
Tamarind	22
Siali leaf	16/kg
Kharasiali leaf	26/kg
Siali plate	1.20/piece
Mahul	41
Sal seed	10
Harida	11

This year a woman from their village named and jamunanayak sold 11 quintal of mahul flower. Another woman named sukumarihanumat sold highest amount of tamarind which was 105 kg

### **STRENGTHING VILLAGE THROUGH FRA (FOREST RIGHT ACT)**

Since the village formed the people have been depending on forest for their livelihood. They are also considering forest as their home. Then different plans related forest came to their village. In 2009 one of the villager named Prafulla Pradhan (secy. VSS) came to know about VSS (vanasurakshyasamiti) from neighbouring village Rambhei and he talked to the villagers and then they started it in their village. VSS have been made a community hall in their village and also provided a motor pump, a generator and other instruments for their village.

In the mid of 2009-10 another person named Bhubanibaula (secy.FRA committee) met a member from Zilla jungle manch Mr.Hiradharsahoo and came to know about FRA, 2006. After discussion with villagers, people became aware of FRA and felt that they are the real owner of the forest and all the power of resources including forest and land lies under the power of gramsabha. In 2012 they claimed for IFR as well as CFR for their village. Here is the IFR claimant list:

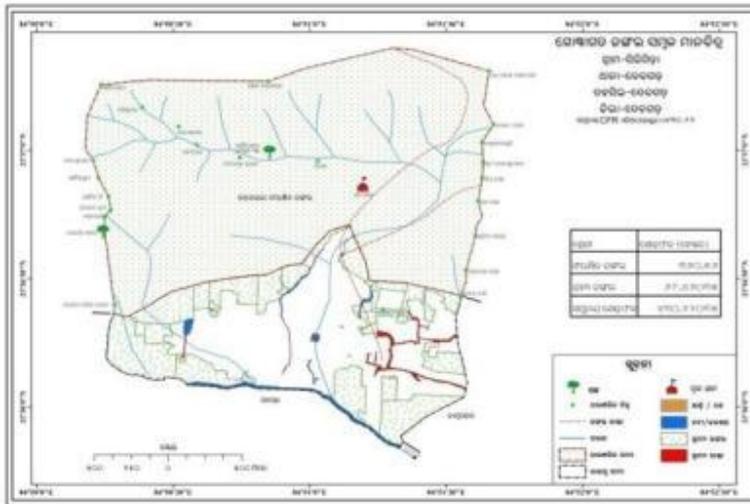
### **IFR Title list of Sirigida village**

Sl. No.	Name	Address	Village	Block	Dist.	Area (sq. ft)	Area (sq. m)	Rate	
1	Rasi Munda	Ladar	Sirigida	Rambhei	Barkote	Munda	49	77,4ru	0.98
1	Gouranga Baula	Sashi	Sirigida	Rambhei	Barkote	Kisan	49	918/3	0.44
1	Jashobanta Kisan	Bhagyarathi	Sirigida	Rambhei	Barkote	Kisan	49	918/2	0.10
1	Bholeswar Baula	Ratnakara	Sirigida	Rambhei	Barkote	Kisan	49	918/1	0.26
1	Gopal Patta	Murali	Sirigida	Rambhei	Barkote	Gond	49	389,397	0.47
1	Milu Baula	Sadhu	Sirigida	Rambhei	Barkote	Kisan	47,49	1132,3,281	1.26
1	Padmalochan Patta	Daitari	Sirigida	Rambhei	Barkote	Gond	49	387/2	0.25
1	Jhasaketan Patta	Daitari	Sirigida	Rambhei	Barkote	Gond	49	387/3	0.33
1	Sukura Munda	Jaga	Sirigida	Rambhei	Barkote	Munda	49	56,4/1	1.23
1	Shyam Munda	Jaga	Sirigida	Rambhei	Barkote	Munda	49	54,5	0.89
1	Sudarshan Naik	Budhu	Sirigida	Rambhei	Barkote	Gond	49	26/1	1.42
1	Ganesh Pradhan	Budhu	Sirigida	Rambhei	Barkote	Gond	49	27/1,33/7	0.91
1	Bideshi Pradhan	Budhu	Sirigida	Rambhei	Barkote	Gond	49	33/1,27/3	0.69
1	Janga Munda	Somnath	Sirigida	Rambhei	Barkote	Munda	47	1/5	0.44
1	Champa Bhoi	Abhi	Sirigida	Rambhei	Barkote	Gond	49	1046ru	0.41
1	Purna Ch Bhoi	Abhi	Sirigida	Rambhei	Barkote	Gond	49	1046/2	0.50
1	Manoj Ku.Kumura	Bidyadhar	Sirigida	Rambhei	Barkote	Gond	49	620,825	0.82
1	Ramesh Hemram	Mangulu	Sirigida	Rambhei	Barkote	Munda	47	1/1,1/10	1.62
1	Gopala Kirai	Bijaya	Sirigida	Rambhei	Barkote	Munda	47	1/8	0.42
1	Janga Munda,Kshetrabasi	Somnath	Sirigida	Rambhei	Barkote	Munda	47	1/9	1.30
1	Biranchi Patta	Judhistir	Sirigida	Rambhei	Barkote	Gond	49	1113/1,1129/1	0.25
1	Banchanidhi Patta	Judhistir	Sirigida	Rambhei	Barkote	Gond	49	1113/2,1229/2	0.26
1	Ghanashyam Patta	Murali	Sirigida	Rambhei	Barkote	Gond	49	395,405	0.49
1	Sombari Naik	Markanda	Sirigida	Rambhei	Barkote	Gond	49	1034/2	0.46
1	Patras Munda	Kirtadas	Sirigida	Rambhei	Barkote	Munda	49	140,143	0.46
1	Usha Patta	Arkhitia	Sirigida	Rambhei	Barkote	Gond	49	390,391	0.25
1	Rabi Baula	Sadhu	Sirigida	Rambhei	Barkote	Kisan	49	1030/1	0.11
1	Mohan Naik,Kishor Ch.,Jam	Jayadeb	Sirigida	Rambhei	Barkote	Gond	49	1050,1054	0.86
1	Jugeswar Pradhan	Budhu	Sirigida	Rambhei	Barkote		49	27/2,33/2	1.00
1	Ratnakar Baula	Panu	Sirigida	Rambhei	Barkote	Kisan	49	853,872	0.82
1	Manjari Nayak	Debana	Sirigida	Rambhei	Barkote	Gond	19	1032/1,1032/4	1.47
1	Debananda Gagrai	Dambodhar	Sirigida	Rambhei	Barkote	Munda	47	1/2	0.32
1	Sobhagya Nayak	Debananda	Sirigida	Rambhei	Barkote	Gond	49	1032/2,1032/3	1.40
1	Surya mUnda	Aduara	Sirigida	Rambhei	Barkote	Munda	47	1/7,1/2	0.58
1	Sasi Pradhan	Panu	Sirigida	Rambhei	Barkote	Gond	49	33/3	0.85
1	Gouranga	Bhikari	Sirigida	Rambhei	Barkote	Kisan	49	944,985	0.21
1	Guru ch.Dangilo	Hari	Sirigida	Rambhei	Barkote	Munda	47	1/4	0.60

## Reflections on the half-year

Year x: 06/2016 – 11/2016

Under this act after completion of CFR claim villagers prepared their village resource map with the help of mapping team such as forest officer, RI, amin and staffs from Vasundhara. They completed mapping process in 2 days.



Then they formed a management committee and made resolution and also prepared annual plan for their village for the year of 2016-17. Under this plan now they are guarding their forest regularly to protect their forest from thieves and mafias. Under FRA they also included their village in different convergence plans like IAY, Mo kudia, MGNREGA etc. They submitted their village management plan to Gramsabha on 2<sup>nd</sup> October 2016 under convergence plan.

Except all these in year 2014-15 and 2015-16 they also got funds from DRDA in 2 phases in the name of the name of the Gramsabha for developmental work of the village.

- In first phase they got Rs75000 with which they bought a digital weighing machine and other instruments and accessories for their cooperative.
- In second phase they got Rs 1 lakh from which they invested half of the money in some developmental work and other half been invested in their cooperative as capital money for seasonal business.

### **CONCLUSION:**

Now they are feeling safe and secured with this law and saying “agaru jungle forester adhina re thilaebemalika. Au kahaadhina re rahibakupaduni.”