# Report of the National Level Workshop on Community Forest Rights & Mapping: Learning from the initiatives in India

Jointly Organized by

Centre for Science, Technology and Society, School of Habitat Studies, TISS, Mumbai

&

Vasundhara, Odisha

Date: 17th and 18th January
2016 Venue: Library Conference
Hall, Main Campus

Editing & Compilation: Bibhore Deo

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## Background

Forest Rights Act 2006 recognizes and vests forest rights to the scheduled tribes and other traditional forest dwellers who have been residing in forests for generations but whose rights could not be recorded. The law provides for a framework for recording of the forest rights so vested and the nature of evidence required for such recognition and vesting in respect of forest land. The procedure for recognition of the forest rights include delineation and mapping of forest land/community forest resources while filing claims at the Gram Sabha level and after issuing of titles to the forest right holders for the creation of Record of Rights for the rights vested under the law. Since implementation of the FRA and especially after the amendment rules (which make specific provision for final mapping of the forest land recognized and vested under the Act) communities, gram sabhas, civil society organizations and government agencies are engaged in mapping exercises. Ongoing mapping initiatives offer learning and methodologies covering a number of forest rights such as individual forest rights, community forest resource rights, habitat rights of particularly vulnerable tribal groups, rights over seasonal access areas of the pastoralists, forest villages etc. . In 2015 the ministry of tribal affairs has issued specific instructions and guideline on mapping of forest rights.

The mapping process has thrown varying experiences and learning. In some cases the mapping process has served the core purpose of enabling and empowering local communities and gram sabhas to assert rights over land and community forest resources. But large numbers of cases have come up where the mapping process has led to widespread confusion, undermining of the decisions and authorities of the gram sabhas. There is lack of understanding among the various organizations and groups working on this.

Keeping this in the backdrop, two-day national workshop on Forest Land and Resource Rights Mapping was held at the Tata Institute of Social Sciences (TISS), Mumbai on 17-18 January 2016. This workshop was jointly organized by the Centre for Science, Technology & Society of TISS and Vasundhara, Odisha. The workshop includes discussions on use of mapping in the claim making process relating to,

- Individual Forest Right
- Community Rights
- Community Forest Resource Rights
- Rights of Pastoralist Communities
- Habitat Rights of PVTGs
- Rights of Conversion of Forest Village to Revenue Village

Representatives from Odisha, West Bengal, Gujarat, Kerala, Maharashtra, Jharkhand, Chattisgarh, Karnataka and students from different programs of TISS participated in this workshop. Many organizations and individuals working on forest rights issue have been employing different methods and tools and engaged with communities in different ways. The main objective of the workshop was to come out with a framework defining step by step methods for resource mapping during pre-claim, during claim and in the post-claim phase. This note is a consolidated version of the issues and concerns raised by all the participants and detailed points raised by participants in each session is also attached for

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your reference.

DAY 1: 17th JANUARY 2016

## Inaugural Session (Giri Rao, Tushar Dash & Geetanjoy Sahu)

The workshop started with an introduction by representatives from Vasundhara (Giri Rao) and TISS (Geetanjoy Sahu) on the importance of organising a national level meeting to discuss on forest land and resource rights mapping. While setting the context, it was pointed by Mr. Geetanjoy Sahu that the enactment of the FRA enables the tribal and other traditional forest dwellers to access, control, and manage and disposal of forest resources through their own governance structure as per the law. But, a close look at the implementation of the act reveals that there are a number of challenges, especially when it comes to the implementation of community forest rights. These challenges include: rejection of claims, overlapping of IFR and CFR, delay in recognising claim, hurdles from the forest department, conflicts between two villages over resource claim, lack of proper documents and evidence as well as lack of capacity and knowledge for mapping of of individual and common forest resources. The environment groups, NGOs and individuals working on these issues in different states in India have been grappling with these challenges both in the pre-claim and post-claim phase. Though many groups and organizations are working building methodologies and frameworks for smooth facilitation of rights recognition process but it is practically difficult to have an uniform framework applicable across all the states in all conditions and contexts

Emphasising the importance of CFR and the challenges in the implementation of CFR, Mr. Tushar Das gave an overview of the common issues and concerns with reference to forest land and resource mapping rights in India and hoped the workshhop will address them. He updated the recent developments around mapping – recent guidelines and directions from MoTA. It is pointed out that with the effective implementation of CFR around 40 million ha of forest land can be potentially recognised as Community forest resources



and this will benefit around 150 million people including 90 million forest dwellers can benefit from FRA. However, not more than that of 2 percent of the total potential has been realised, shows a huge gap in implementation particularly in CFR rights. In the past one year, 10-15 guidelines/ circulars/ letters has been issued by govt (MoTA) linked to issues of importance of rights recognition and alsostressed on campaign mode by PM, extensive training programmes to reach out to groups to effectively carry out the process. Most of these circulars concern to mapping and addresses 2- 3 important aspects. For example, the 28th April 2015 circular by MoTA underPM's Pragati programme explains theneed  for extensive training programmes with help of MoTA and National Research Centre, necessity to create  georeference data base for assessment of potential for CFR rights

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recognition,baseline information that State can use for CFR claim filing as well as mapping. The 27th July 2015 guidelines stressed on use of georeferenced maps , also clarified that georeferenced maps should be supplementing and not replacing evidence produced by Gram Sabha and on 22nd September 2015,MoTA  Stressed on the recognition of Community rights and community forest resource rights and need for segregation, assessment of potential of CFR based on FSI, Census information. But the matter of concern isno State Govt. acting on these instructions. However, several NGOs like Vasundhara started using different methods including GIS/GPS/Android Device and through this methods physical verification, mapping of forest areas has been done in Odisha specifically inMayurbhanj, Nayagarh, Kandhmal, Gajapati, Deogarh, Sambalpur and Sundergarh etc whereas other organizations are also working other parts of the state for the same cause. The local community has been trained and involved in the mapping of community forest resources.

## State-Wise Issues and Concerns with reference to Forest Land Rights and Resource Mapping

### Community Forest Rights

*Bibhor Deo, Vasundhara, Odisha*

Presenting the ongoing work of Vasundhara in diffrent districts of Odisha (focusing on Mayurbhanj and Kandhamal ) on community Forest Resources right under section 3 (1) (i), Mr. Bibhor emphasised that Vasundhara worked on the basis of 2 guidelines issued by the MoTA on 28th April 28 and 27th July 2015. A detailed mapping exercise was carried out in selected villages of the above two districts. The mapping exercise involved: identification of potential villages , building knowledge and capacity of Govt. Officials, CSOs, communities ,demarcation and mapping of  the rights and resources and developing stratucture/framework to carry out such process. For the assessment of potential for CFR rights recognition, CFR Atlas is prepared based on 2001 census/ FSI records/ toposheets .Basically mapping of the customary forest land includes the forest land falling outside of the village revenue boundary but the community has been accessing, protecting and managing traditionally for the sustainable use.}. The participation of elder people and women should be essential to identify the traditional landmarks to facilitate mapping.. It was also felt that joint meetings to be considered (neighbouring villages through notices)so that no obstructions and misappropriation on traditional boundaries  during the mapping of the resources will emerge. The mapping exercise was validated by the Gram Sabhas and then by the Government officials afterclaims were submitted for recognisation to SDLC and from there to DLC. Around 400 claims are approved in both the districts and titles are ready to be distributed. It is also pointed out during this presentation that in many districts in Odisha there is a separate FRA cell which have documents  in form of soft and hard copies of claims, records and evidences including the status of progress.

*Devjit Nandi – Navrachna, Chhattisgarh*

The invading approach of the forest department has put a stronghold on the rights recognition creating major concerns and issues in Chhattisgarh as shared by Devjit Nandi

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from Navrachna Samaj Sevi Sansthan, Bilaspur. CFR Manch was established on 3rd March 2013 to take a call on the approach of the CSOs and Peoples' Groups in Chhattisgarh. The precarious situation of rights recognition still continues since 2006 where 180 claims are files on community forest resources but nothing has moved further, everything pending at the SDLC. Though the central province has records nistar rights back from the history, yet no rights are conferred in light of that also. There has been hardly any response to the requests from the Gram Sabha/FRCs to provide records(Nistar/Wajib-ul-Arz/others), administration and FD. Some of the facts and concerns shared by him are mentioned below;

- Barely any meetings held by the committees (SDLC or DLC)
- Few titles are distributed before election/rallies – 27 titles on CFR rights were distributed
- 450 settlements converted from forest village to revenue village in recent years whereas the process followed hardly adhered by the rules of FRA
- In Nagarjula gaon of Dhantari district,–– CFR title distributed as forest land, but later amount of forest land reduced after conversion of that settlement from forest village to revenue village whereasFD took control over the land with WWF
- The figures and database on status of FRA hardly matches between State and district
- Huge plantation activities by forest development corporations according to Working Plans and no consideration of GS's consent in implementation of working plans as per the rules and recent guideline
- Dist. Administration is supportive in Sarguja where FRCs given with responsibility for mapping process and physical verification done in 7 days –
- GPS mapping is done in some places, but the same activity is not allowed by Govt. in some places as they are sensitive areas
- No Joint verification of claims by the officials and titles are distributed with conditions where FD has played in infusion of conditionality.
- No rights has been recognized in the Orange Areas which is a still disputed between forest and revenue department
- In National parks and sanctuaries the threat of displacement still exists as communities have, no knowledge of CFR rights whereas, 90 percent IFR settled and it is an indication of eviction of people after these settlement of rights

### *Aruna Tirkey and Birender Kumar, JVAM - Jharkhand*

As Aruna Tirkey from JVAM points out 'Jharkhand separated from Bihar due to forest and land issues', where about 29.61 percent of forest land exist in Jharkhand, 28 percent tribal are dependent on forest resources, 89% are the forest dependent people and 25% of total income of the people is generated from the forests. Out of the total potential CFR areas, 9.7% is only recognized till Jan 2016 whereas in case of IFR it is 2.97%. Out of the 1050 unsurveyed villages, 241 villages have been recognized as the revenue village till Oct. 2015. The concern lies in the faulty rights recognition process where the developmental rights under sec 3 (2) are comprehended as CFR rights. In a striking movement, the CM of Jharkhand launched a campaign under FRA for recognition of right in which PACS played a major role along with Jharkhand Van Adhikar Manch to sign a MoU with TCDC on 29th May 2015 to roll down the initiative for rights. Though the campaigned aimed at capacity building and claim filing where

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800 stakeholders are trained (Panchayat to top officials) still people are unaware of the process, role and responsibilities. Within the understanding and approach in Jharkhand, still some complexities and difference of opinion lies, as Chota Nagpur Tendency Act (CNTA), Wilkinson's Rule, PESA can't be overlooked as these laws have already conferred right to people where they think that it is not required to file for claims because they have their ownership over forest land and this law (FRA) will reduce the amount of land they have. Massive training campaign went where 566 people trained as Van Mitra and 507 Panchayats are covered for facilitating claim filing process. A result of those 34000 IFR claims, 1600 CFR claims filed. Instead of such major initiatives, pendency of claims remains in the higher side counting around 22,000 for IFR, and 600 for CFR. Mr. Virender from JVAM also shared the some of the initiatives taken up by the Manch where they have the target to reach around 32000 villages having forest land and to ensure rights in those villages. In his sharing he also pointed out some things mentioned below;

- CFR mapping is being done using
- 6,200 IFRs have been mapped through GPS
- CFR getting significant now, people want CFR than IFR
- CFR process manual has been formed on how to write letter, fill forms etc.
- The framework adopted for right recognition in Odisha has been followed by Jharkhand after the exposure of the state level officials to Mayurbhanj
- Attempts made by some district FDs to convert JFMC/EDC/ VSS as FRCs whereas in Ranchi, Saraikilla and one more area have started such efforts

Badlao Foundation has been working closely with communities where they have filed 300 IFR claims whereas no CFR claims has been filed. The concern which they are facing has been the non-provisioning of revenue maps and other documents by the administration.

### Subhash and Pradeep, Kalpavriksh – Maharashtra

Kalpabriksha is working on facilitation CFR process in 7 villages of Bhimasankar Wildlife Santuary. They have supported the communities in CFR mapping process where 5 villages have completed the mapping of CFRs using GPS. A brief outline of the process they have followed there;

- Bhimashankar Wildlife Sanctuary (WLS – 130 sq.kms) – work in 7 villages, mapping completed in 5 villages, the other 2 process is ongoing
- Mapping Process –
    - Discussions in the village gaon sabha about CFR/IFR and why mapping is important with elders, women etc.
    - Evidence generation like topographic maps, forest compartment maps, village revenue maps, statements of elders of the village and neighbouring villages (elders more than 65 years), village resource maps
    - Physical transect on customary boundary with women and elders
    - Traditional village boundaries demarcated on toposheet during boundary walk itself
    - Village resource map using PRA technique where temple, wildlife, agricultural land, forest land, grazing, firewood collection area (use areas) are portrayed

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- ▪ Discussion with neighbouring villages about CFR boundaries and mapping of the same where their objections are heard (if any)
  Some of the major challenges which they have encountered such as;
- ▪ SDLC/DLC not proactive or informed and though they are pressurised, yet no role played in terms supporting the process
- ▪ Internal conflicts play deterrent role among the communities
- ▪ FD has objection over the process whereas lobbying for the adoption of JFMCs as the committees to play role for the various provisions under FRA

### *Geetanjoy Sahu and Sandeep Mahato, TISS - Maharashtra*

Out of the academia, TISS has started its involvement at the ground level with the communities in Gondia district which they started as a pilot intervention. The foremost objective of the pilot was to get learning for the academic purpose as well as revisiting the collective action for the common pool resources and the challenges in realisation of such things. Before the intervention from TISS, 840 CFR titles were given to the villages in Gondia where 56 and 43 in Deori and Sadak Arjuni respectively. But the titles were returned back due to some mistakes in them. Whereas the titles which were given to the villages are imposed with the conditionality. In those villages members from the JFMCs were the members in the FRCs. Initially TISS started intervening in 10 villages where 300 to 400 ha. of forest land recognized under CFR. Before starting the CFR process in those villages, some of the ground level preparatory activities were carried out including verification CFR titles which were returned, collection of documents and evidences like nistar patrak, land records and also resource assessment of the pilot areas. As part of the CFR process facilitation process, mapping of the CFR areas were carried. The challenges faced during the mapping were majorly the improper land settlement surveys, allotment of lands (resurveys), individual encroachments, common forest boundary conflicts. A framework was developed to assist the CFR process through identification of Community Rights over resources and collect evidences, physical verification, preparation of base maps, establishing current land use pattern finally which can be sent for RoR correction, consolidation of old records and present records, integrating mapping with resource assessment. Looking at mapping as an holistic process the approach comprise of rights and resource mapping of CFRs, Forest conservation efforts and livelihood enhancement where this tool has played a vital role.

### *Keshab Gurnule, Sristi - Chhattisgarh and Maharashtra*

Stristi has been working with communities in Maharasthra and Chhattisgarh on Forest Rights. In the Gadchirolli district of Maharsthra, communities have got rights over CFR where Shristi has supported the Gram Sabhas and administration in this process. Presently they are focused on management and conservation of CFRs. In Sankarpur, there is conflict over forest boundaries in the forest and revenue records which creates disquiet for the communities. But in Chhattisgarh, the scenario remains interrupted as FD still creating concerns and obstruction in right recognition where in Rajnandgaon 132 villages filed CFR claims but results are still awaited. A case study he shared where one compartment has been divided among 4 JFMCs and CFR rights has been conferred to 4 villages on same land. As part of the JFMCs area, 10 ha of plantation has been done in each of the area which is also part of the CFR area and the consent of the Gram Sabhas have not been

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obtained. Two major concerns he shared as follows

- Forest management is mainly for environment conservation more than livelihood enhancement
- FD says about NTFP rights where no timber rights given to the villages

## Habitat Rights

*Premananda Panda, Vasundhara - Odisha*

Prof. Premanand Panda, former director of TRI, Odisha has done extensive studies of tribes and was also involved with Vasundhara in the studies and initiatives taken under Habitat Rights of PVTGs under FRA in Odisha. In his deliberation, he set forth the definition of PVTGs on the four features defined by planning commission on the basis of the Debar commission report (1960-61) for their identification such as stagnant or declining population, practice of hunting and gathering, low level of literacy as compared to other tribal groups, existence of pre-agricultural practices. Out of the in-depth understanding over life and culture, he shared some of the facets of the Habitat rights of PVTGs;

-
- Tribal are never identified by individuals as the individual is a biological entity not social. They are bound with customs, customary law, and cultural realities
- Intangible dimensions of habitat rights are not touched till date only tangible dimensions explored
- Habitat is a caring component of economic, ecological, spiritual, social etc.
- Mind mapping of territorial identification
- Material, normative culture identification – material cultural dominance
    1. Distribution of the people geographically
    2. Material cultural identities.
    3. Non material cultural identities

*Subrat Nayak, Vasundhara - Odisha (continued)*

Mr. Subrat from Vasundhara carried forward the discussion on Habitat Rights putting forth the experiences and learning from Odisha from the initiatives of Habitat Rights process facilitation in Kandhamal, Mayurbhanj, Keonjhar, Rayagada and Sundergarh. The highlights of his sharing were;
- Tangibles can be mapped, intangibles cannot be mapped at all which also constitute the habitat
- Habitat meansnot only forest land and forest resources but it is also economic aspects (NTFP, podu cultivation), social and cultural (rights over places of worship), ecological and demographic dimensions.
- 13 PVTGs in Odisha where many community members among the identified groups left out in the identification process  while restricting them to the micro plans projects area but recognition pf habitat rights have the potential to undo that injustice and in many cases like in case of Kutia Kondha, Mankirdia, Lodha and Hill khadia PVTG the district administration has in-fact gone beyond the micro

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plan area.

- PVTG in Odisha claimed for Habitat in 2010, administration had no clear idea about habitat right at that time
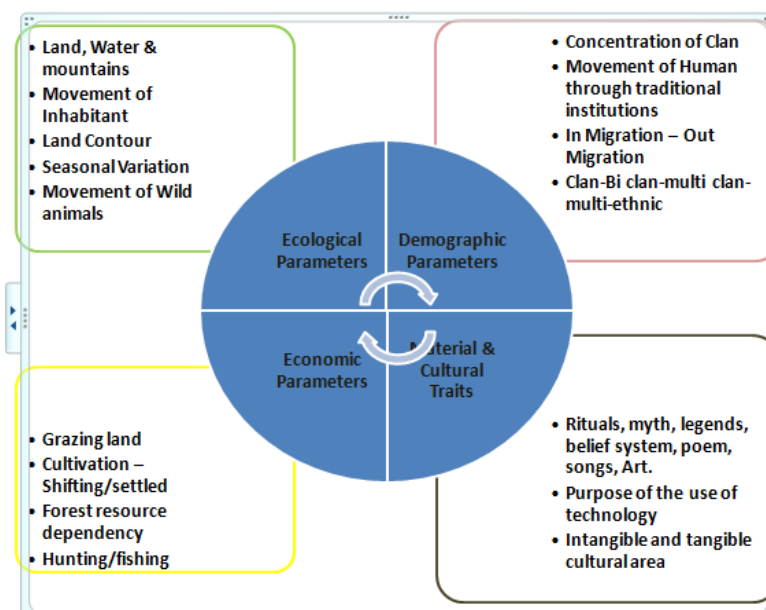
What constitute a 'Habitat'?

Layer 1 – Demographic parameters, Identification of PVTGs and the area of their settlements
Layer 2 – Cultural parameters (worshipping places)
Layer 3 – Economic parameters – identification of resource dependency area
Layer 4 – Ecological parameters

- Land, Water & mountains
- Movement of Inhabitant
- Land Contour
- Seasonal Variation
- Movement of Wild animals

- Concentration of Clan
- Movement of Human through traditional institutions
- In Migration – Out Migration
- Clan-Bi clan-multi clan-multi-ethnic

Ecological Parameters    Demographic Parameters

Economic Parameters    Material & Cultural Traits

- Grazing land
- Cultivation – Shifting/settled
- Forest resource dependency
- Hunting/fishing

- Rituals, myth, legends, belief system, poem, songs, Art.
- Purpose of the use of technology
- Intangible and tangible cultural area

- Intangible parameters are alsoneeded to be recorded
- Use ofcadastral maps, GPS device , discusseion with communities for identification all four parameters mainly
- The PVTGs have no boundary concept, only there are traditional landmarks

### *Mahesh Raut , Gadchiroli - Maharasthra*

Bharat Jan Andolan has the history of working on rights and equity of the "Aadim Jamati Samuh" much before to the Forest Right Act. In Maharasthra, though the initial focus was on CFR rights, Bharat Jan Andolan lead the way in the facilitation of Habitat Rights of the Maria Gond tribe in north Vidarbha out of the 3 PVTGs such as Maria Gond (N. Vidarbha), Kolam (Yavatmal), Katkari (Raigad and nearby regions). Kolam's development looks dispersed and destructed whereas Katkaris are in a better state and Maria Gond has been independent and traditional practices are well defined. Some of the slices out his detail sharing of Habitat Rights claim process are as follows;

- District Administration gave old records including ASI old records of Maria Gond as researchers from German who visited Gadchiroli during British reign
- "Ilaka Daava" was being considered as the synonym of Habitat rights in local language
- Identification of cultural and historical significance with demographical importance
- Khudgam, Jhada (2 consultations organized in 32 villages)–from where the habitat rights process started which had a common GS with all villages and discussion on the whole process of Habitat Rights
- 2 groups were formed including old villagers with traditional knowledg[e] and youth with literacy and education

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- Lists made for all locations to be included i.e. cultural, natural resource, sharing of resources
- OTFDs and other STs also included in the process
- No support from district administration and they are not in favour of area to be recognized for people as the area has been marked for giving to mining companies
- Habitat rights powerful tool to safeguard land from diversion
- Though the land is not under CFR or PESA whereFD has control but villagers claim it as their customarily boundaries

### *Amitha Bachan, Hornbill Foundation - Kerala*

Western Ghat Hornbill Foundation has been working with the tribes in Vazhachal region. They are involved with Kadar and Malayar tribe where they have filed claims over an area of 40000 Ha of forest land. They got the CFR right over that territory which a collective right of 8 Kadar communities which is a PVTG and 1 Malayar community. As it is a collective right the customary territories of each of the community overlaps with another in term resource access. Though there has been a encouraging initiative taken up by Hornbill Foundation with support from administration, still impediments are there on further recognition of rights, such as

- Non recognition of hamlets/ settlements  as Forest villages and their conversion of status to revenue villages
- 2 DFOs are not signing over 30 titles which are still pending at the DLC
- Villagers identified the area, and even the forest conservation plan demarcated the area as MFP collection sites, still reluctance to recognize the rights over that land by the administration due to large area
- 100 CFR rights were recognized with a approximate area around2.5 ha for each CFR whereas in Wayanand 10 acre of land is recognized under CFR rights
- Titles are written in English
- Lack of availability of base maps in Kerala where community has prepared maps

## Rights of Pastoralist Community

### *Ramesh Bhatti, Sahjeevan - Gujarat*

The presentation from Mr. Ramesh seemed quite fun all together but a whole of learning was involved in the entire presentation starting from the interesting tag line "Kutch nahi dekha to kuchh nahi dekha". The in-depth involvement of Sahjeevan with the people of Banni Grass land gave a deep insight of their lifestyle, culture and the attitude towards living with nature its survival and their survival as well. The Banni grassland of Kutch region is the second largest grassland of Asia which is tropical zone with many indigenous species along with a pastoralist's community of Maldharis. The 54 settlements in 19 panchayats have no revenue status as they are unsurveyed spread across an area of 2500 sq km with an annual economy of 125 crore. The major dependency for livelihood is on livestock. The 23 different communities living in the length and breadth of the Banni grassland have an immense knowledge about the landscape, ecology and relationship of them with the living beings.  The Banni buffalos produce 1 lakh litres of milk with an

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approx estimation of 40 lakhs per day which is sold to AMUL through the Banni Breeder's Association, a registered society. There has been disputes over Banni grassland when it was declared as a protected forest in 1955 where they have got the MAHAL status in which only grazing rights is given excluding the agricultural right. But after the communities started claiming for the land in 2010, they got control over this from FD. Still there were working plans made by the FD where different working circles were created with a declaration of Desert Wildlife Sanctuary. In this they had identified 2200 plot for non-grazing areas for which people started protest against this to declare it as a open grazing system as it has such characteristics. Within the working plan, the FD made announcement to make Banni as Nandanban which was strongly opposed by the communities as they demand it to be as tropical grassland where no fragmentation will be done. Some of the initiative taken up by the Sahjeevan to support the communities to file claims for their rights are as follows;

- FRC made after govt gave a notice for FRA in non scheduled areas (Special Government Resolution for Gujarat non scheduled areas in 2012)
- Resource mapping was done by formation of RAMBLE (Research and Monitoring on Banni Landscape) where mapping exercises (using google imageries), FGDs, GPS, Field transects, ground truthing etc were performed.



Migratory patterns in Banni

- Biodiversity is taken as indicators for boundaries as there isno pillars of FDs and 13 different clusters were formed
- In the tropic of Cancer,22 wetlands  are there out of which 1 declared as Community Reserve
- Biodiversity species mapping was done
- 256 water sources in the villages which were mapped with help of GPS, also flora and fauna and their behavioural details
- Migration mapping of community according to season/rain
- In February  2013 FRCs were formed
- In March  2014 all claims are filed
- Rights claimed  for the pastoralist community includes Nistar, NTFP, migratory pastorals, Forest to revenue villages conversion, management rights, IPR, traditional locations

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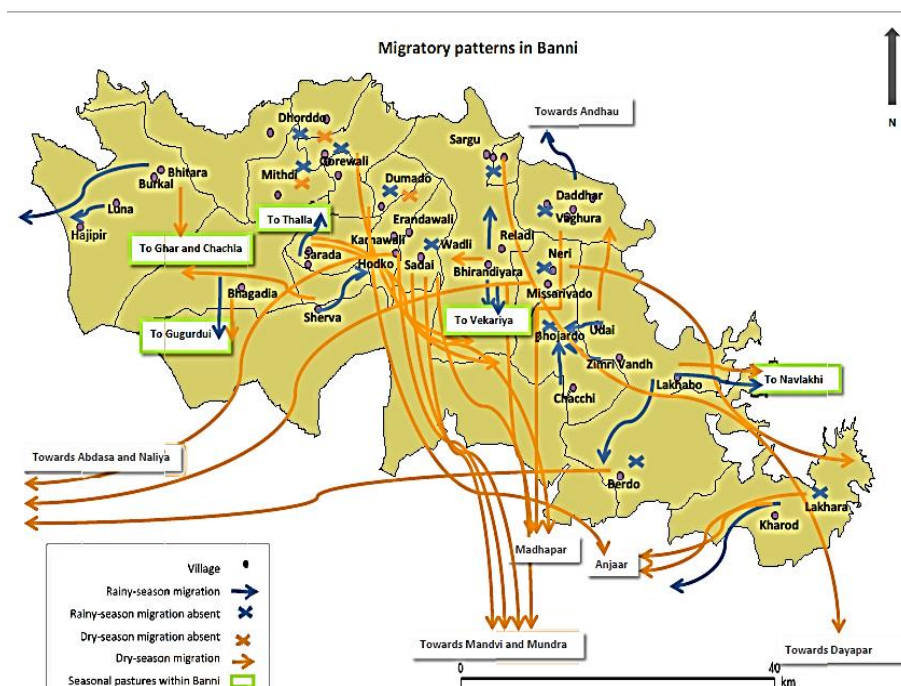
**Key Issues and Concerns Raised by the Participants on 17th January-Day 1**

At the end of the discussion participants shared some of the key issues and concerns out of the sharing in the Day 1, are as follows;

- What should be the role of Gram Sabha in mapping?
- How and what kinds of information to be used as base maps?
- How to identify teams/people for mapping? And who should be involved in hamlet level FRCs and OTFDs
- How to prepare a FAQs with examples for resource rights mapping?
- How to prepare a list of documents required for each state or index for resource rights mapping?
- How to spread awareness about the good practices with reference to resource rights mapping? Like – Gadchiroli and Narmada
- What should be the role of SDLC/DLC in facilitating mapping process and what is appropriate level when they should intervene i.e. sketch map process or later,
- whose involvement within govt considered to be essential i.e. revenue/ forest/ tribal dept.
- What is the role of different departments where case studies of different states need to be highlighted?
- Whether engaging Forest dept as resource not in control of the process
- How to create Record of resource rights?

DAY 2: 18th JANUARY 2016

## Conversion of Forest Village

*Swarup Saha, Uttar Banga Van-Jan Shromojivi - West Bengal*

West Bengal has been a state where conversion of forest villages into revenue village has drawn attention of many persons concerned to FRA. As report shared by Mr. Swarup, 270 forest villages or fix demand holding are there which should be converted to into revenue villages and issuance of titles in these settlements should be properly done by involving villages and not by the department without village people's consent/ documentation. The process they have followed is in a snapshot below;

- Committees consisting of 15 – 20 members of GS for Community forest governance for sustainable resource use were formed inmost of the areas and also Management plan according to each village has been prepared
- Documentation of these villages sent to the govt after resolution form the GS in which elders provided support
- GS members demarcate the boundaries themselves
- In Kashiam division Gram Sabha took map from FD and demarcated their boundaries
- In Korabari people have shown CFR area according to Google imagery
- Individual bank accounts opened in each GS

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- Kodalgosti GS – sketched map – when wanted to submitted to SDLC, it rejected the same because it was manually drawn – measured from the revenue officer and then SDLC accepted but currently there is no news about the same
- Everybody from the village participates where children once went to collect leaves of different plant species,they tried to identify the species and trying to prepare an inventory.
- 200 GS in 3 districts have claimed CFR rights where the land maps are still under consideration
- FD  and Revenue dept collaborate and try to bring down the area given under CFR

Sharing some of the cases in this process, Mr Swarup said though there 94 villages (69 in Alipurdar and 25 in Jalpaiguri) to be converted into revenue village in 2014, some of them are already covered under the Act whereas there are many other forest villages which are not included in the list of conversion. In one of such village, FD had clear coupe felling in the working plan on 32 ha of forest land for which they asked for a letter of consent from the Gram Sabha but the Gram Sabha denied for the permission to do so as there were well grown tress. IFR Titles are distributed by the CM where Land User Certificate (LUC) was provided without converting the status of forest land to revenue land in 2011. But the right holders are mostly the tribes whereas there are OTFDs who have been deprived. The distribution of titles is a political move before the state election. In Buxa tiger reserve, people are displaced from the core area.

**M.A, Climate Change and Sustainability Studies, TISS**

Gondia Rural Fieldwork Experience and Observations

The students from the department of climate change and sustainability studies shared their experiences from the field where TISS has been working on FRA on a pilot basis. Some of the observations are stated below;

- FRC formation, representation in the committees is not inclusive
- Technology without perspective may be dangerous to show a huge picture to the people for their benefits
- Class, caste and gender disparity and heterogeneity among village groups dominate the decision making process
- NGO and activists play a major role but sometime impose their ideas without the consent of local people
- Navegaon NP,displaced people have not been given titles and seen as outsiders by the villages where the displaced people are settled now
- Nagzira Tiger Reserve area increased but no public meetings or provisions for the same has happned whereas buffer zone is proposed without people's consent
- Nomadic from Chhatisgarh came to these regions whereas their rights are not considered
- In Chhatisgarh border area issues of conflicts is there not only with neighbouring villages but also with neighbouring states, needs to be addressed.

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**Manoj and Tanuja, Vasundhara - Odisha**

Two members from Vasundhara working directly with communities in Similipal, Mayurnhanj shared their experiences on FRA initiatives in the district.

- Women participation in FRCs  has been a major achievement in Mayurbhanj where in some committees both thePresident and Secretary are women
- In the Mapping process women have participated  except for dense forests where there are difficult terrains to transects
- CFR management committee formed in those villages where CFR rights are recognized and communities are holding Gram Sabha meetings every month
- In Simplipal Tiger Reserve after getting rights people are using the authority to sell their forest produces by moving across the FD check gates which was a day dream ealier.
- Technology has played a major role in addressing overlapping of customary boundaries where such issues has been resolved using the GIS technology

## Application of Smartphone and web in mapping of community forest area

*Bibhor Deo, Vasundhara - Odisha*

Mr. Bibhore from Vasundhara shared the process of mapping of CFR areas by using a mobile device based on an android application which has been piloted in Mayurbhanj and Nayagarh. The application has been specifically developed for the mapping of the community forest land which will be loaded on a Smartphone. The application is developed to bridge the technology gap and would more interactive, participatory and transparent. The control and understanding on the mapping process will remain with the gram sabhas to ensure more transparency. The special feature of this application will be store all the background layers/maps (Cadastral, Toposheet, Google Imagery) from a backend server along with very simple tools to perform the mapping process even by a common man. It will also automatically transmit database from the device to the backend server where all the information pertaining the mapping process will be stored and automated final CFR maps will be generated as and when required. Apart from that the backend server will provide the users with a update of status in mapping to keep track of the progress. This has been tried and tested on Moto G - 3 m accuracy, Lenovo A8 - 3 m accuracy. After the database is sent to backend server, KML file can be downloaded and the user easily can check the maps with the help of Google earth. Gagan satellite system made by Airport Authority of India will provide 1 m accuracy when fully operationalized which can be for IFR land mapping. The study has

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been conducted jointly by Vasundhara, Geolysis Pvt. Ltd. and Natural Resource Management Consultants.

## Concluding Session: Major Issues and Concern

### Role of Gram Sabha (GS)

There are different practices followed in different states and within the states also as far as the constitution of Gram Sabha is concerned. In some areas, there is GS for the Panchayats, some cases at the revenue village level and in some cases at the hamlet level. The participants are of the opinion that Panchayat level GS are illegal – village is the minimal unit. Village level GS can be appropriate to address the concerns of people with reference to the use and management of forest land and resources are concerned. Though suggestions were made to constitute GS even at the hamlet level as in many cases hamlets exist far from the revenue village, it was agreed by the participants that village is the minimal unit but in certain cases it can be at the hamlet level depending on the conditions and contexts for each states/regions. There are diverse communities residing in the country. There should be no obstructions and no compulsion at what level GS should be constituted. Where the villages are totally diverse (adivasis, upper castes). Adisavis can have their own GS. We should not be rigid. People who facilitate can make their own strategies depending on the conditions and contexts of the villages.

Second, it is important to ensure that the role of GS in resource mapping is more democratic and participatory, more importantly information should reach to people of each hamlet about the process and how and who all need to be available. It is equally important to ensure that the nomadic tribes and PVTG's rights and their representation takes place both in the process and resource mapping. In addition to the number required for the GS or forest rights committee, representation from all communities should be made and the decision-making process should not be appropriated by a few sections of the village.

Third, GS in revenue village should ensure that conflicts with neighbouring villages are settled through dialogue and discussion and by identifying their traditional and customary rights. Access to resource and management is overlapping.

How and where to start the resource rights mapping process?

Diverse maps and strategies have been empolyed for forest resource rights mapping. This also came during discussion from each state represenatives. The participants however feel that any kind of resource rights mapping should start from the GS. So need to decide how

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to engage and mobilise the members of GS in order to develop maps and understand different maps available from government departments. It is the question of accountability, how to decentralise the accountability. The best practices of resource mapping in other areas (Gadhchoroli, Mayurbhanj, Kandhmal) should be discussed with village people. Using different methods such as booklets, mobile vans, fliers, local media (translation of documents into local language), having one map to show the CFR land can be shared with local people. Identify teams within the village to whom these strategies should reach – should know the boundary of forest area and social structure of the village who are dependent on forest resources. Poster/ Wall painting can also be used to create awarenss among people about the FRA.

The process should take into account the views of elderly people and involve all the diverse groups from all the hamlets while making the sketch maps. Hamlet wise resource map to be made as in some cases people from each hamlet go to different forest areas. Facilitating teams – women, elderly, dependent (MFP collectors) can play an important role as they have experience and regularly use forest. In case if there are groups/NGOs from outside the village involved in facilitating the resource mapping rights should list all the traditional boundaries and inventory in local language. The groups/NGOs from outside the village involved in facilitating the resource mapping rights should not go with a checklist and make it mandatory for resource mapping rather should allow and encourage the communities to prepare their own list of legends and customary user rights.

Mapping has to be done according to the legal procedures of the government. Boundaries are fluid, are no fixed. Sketch map be treated as defensive tool. Old records of boundaries (traditional) to demarcate their present boundaries (use areas of forests) should be identified and compilation of old records can be done to make the resource rights mapping process easier.

## Base Maps Required for Resource Rights Mapping

To prepare the sketch map by the villages, the base maps/documents such as Nistar Patrak, forest toposheets, cadasteral maps, satelite maps, working plans of the forest department, other plan documents and records available in each district/state should be collected. The environment/forest groups/NGOs/institutes working on such issues can play an important role in facilitating and getting these maps from various sources. The GS can be trained how to read and interpret these maps to avoid any kind of overlapping of resource rights mapping in the beginning stage.

## Use of Technology (GPS, GIS)

On the question of whether technology is really required or not, it was felt by the participants that though sketch map based on the knowledge of local people should be the starting point, use of other technical tools such as GPS can also be encouraged to speed up the process. The village community members can be trained how to use and store information which can later be used for claim submission and micro-plan preparation. Anykind of use of technology, however, should not bypass the knowledge of local people and effort should be made to validate resource mapping through technology with local

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community.

## How, when and what level to engage with SDLC/ DLC/SLMC?

Representatives from different states shared diverse opinions as far as the role and responsibilities of different authorities involved in FRA process are concerned. Most of the participants expressed their concern that the government authorities have not been cooperative and delaying the process in recognising claims. It is also found in some states/regions the claims submitted by the other traditional forest dwellers have not been taken seriously and dumped into dustbin. Notwithstanding these concerns, it is felt that we need to engage with the authorities in every stage and our strategies should vary from region to region. We cannot completely ingore their role which might delay the process so depending on the leadership at the district level and the kind of interest it shows we need to have different strategies and these strategies need to be multi-pronged ranging from discussion with revenue inspector at the village to discussion with district collector and forest officers and local political leaders??? There are also different arrangements to process the claims submitted by the local people. For example-Welfare officer at the block level in Odisha-facilitating and coordinating with other departments to speed up the process of claims submitted by GS and FRA cell at the district level. Such kind of institutional arrangement can be exploited to make the FRA implementation more effective.

It is equally important to organise meeting, training and capacity building programs for sub-divisional and district level officers engaged in the process of forest rights claim recognition.

## Follow Up-TISS-Vasundhara

- Proceeding of the workshop will be shared with all participants for their comments and feedback
- Based on the comments, the proceeding will be revised and then will be sent to other groups/NGOs/Institutes working on resource mapping exercise for their sugggestion
- A consolidated draft will be prepared and send to the MoTA
- State representatives to be contacted to prepare an index regarding base maps and documents they have used
- List of PMRDF working in different districts will be sent to all
- TISS Students can be contacted for documentation of resource rights mapping and process followed in different states

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# Annexure I

## Presentation wise Questions and Answers

**Community Forest Resource Rights**

*Bibhore Deo, Vasundhara, Odisha*

Q1: Which map to use for the resource mapping process? Revenue or cadastral map? Base map?

A: Best to use map sketched by villagers, made properly as it will capture resource use best. It needs to be supplemented with Forest maps. Base map can be google imageries, forest toposheet. Start with Cadastral and toposheet, the SDLC has to provide this free of cost to GS – even other information.

Q2: Govt does not provide maps, even though it is supposed to – even after DCF to PCCF's letter – It is difficult for villagers to identify/ visualise and make sketch. Even for neighbouring villages to ensure no conflict.

A: Have not faced such issues in Odisha – people are well aware of their major traditional boundaries and their details.

Q3: The success of this example is because of a good and involved SDLC and FRA cell. Other places where this is not the case, what can be the solution? FD objects especially in Reserve areas
Q4: Is FRA clear on who are the stakeholders in mapping process? And how to convince them?

A: GS, SDLC, DLC, FD, Revenue department, village elders, traditional leaders
Comment: People who have customary access will know better – practically may not be the case

Q5: If the govt. is not involved in the mapping process from the beginning, is there a chance that they will reject it at a later stage?

A: Involving at an early stage is beneficial - especially Panchayat, Revenue dept etc. – Mayurbhanj, 137 newly appointed Revenuw officers – post training programmes – Since tiger reserve, objected by FD – Revenue administration much assertive

Q6: SDLC involvement in Jharkhand not there. How can that overcome? Co-ordination/ facilitation at the block level?

A: Dedicated staff for involvement, and pilot study before taking off work, to identify possible roadblocks. Welfare extension officer (WEO) - who needs to be trained – block level (TD frontline officer). COMMENT: If SDLC not cooperative, whatever FD uses, use that maps as the base map – list down all the traditional landmarks in local language -

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make sketch map

Q8: Is this implementation uniform throughout Odisha? State/ block?

A: There are places, especially where there is mining, where the implementation is slower and not necessarily uniform. Comment: All power with GS, no compulsory physical verification. But this can result in problems and wrong recording of rights. We do it so that this is avoided.  Need is for GS members are not educated in the GPS/ GIS tech. By training govt. officials and not GS members, we are weakening the power of the GS. This will continue the dependency of villagers on govt. COMMENT: GS is powerful, but the reality is that they are not functional, not powerful. The rules clearly state that physical verification is to be done by FRC in the presence of stakeholders including depts. – this is the only place where they can place objections. What happens is that they don't come and then create problems later. What is happening is illegal. Like in Jharkhand, they themselves on their own do and change it, which is wrong. On the question of which map to use – this is not a simple decision – the FD will have maps with their boundaries – the Act talks about the dictionary definition of forests – then if you take Godavarman's definition – sacred forests like in Haryana (not considered under Revenue or under Godavarman's definition) – we need to take maps where all these things can be captured and be well aware of the same. Another problem is that the nodal agency TD is understaffed and not powerful – thus district administration needs to be involved like that in Gadchiroli.

*Devjit Nandi, Navrachna, Chhattisgarh*

Q1: Can you elaborate on the process of sketch mapping since one spoke how important it is to mark traditional boundaries?

Answer: People are aware of traditional boundaries. Mapped with women, elders using natural landmarks – ¾ FRC members

Q2: You mentioned about conditional titles given – is that a result of conditions during claiming process? That is the case in Gondia, despite not being filed for any specific purpose. Can you challenge the titles? Processing of claim can be done again? FD claims only the mentioned can be done and nothing else – whether can we go back to SDLC?

Answer: Tushar: Amendment rules has a new format – FORM C (September 2012 Rules Annexure). In the title format it specifies that no conditions are being imposed on community forest resource rights. So any such condition is illegal. If titles given before this, then this can also be challenged at district administration or SDLC – Gadchiroli had the same issue, they challenged at district level

Q3: Kamal Murari: Whether the mapped area is demarcated or what rights are specified?

Answer: Traditional areas and boundaries are marked

Q: Madhu Sarin: What can be done to implement the law on compulsion such that the resources are managed and conserved sustainably?

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*Aruna Tirkey and Birender Singh, JVAM, Jharkhand*

Q1: Geetanjoy: JFMCs to be recognised as FRCs – Can committees which are not effective, can they be dismantled? How will the dept react to this? How can committees which are being encouraged be tackled in future? What can be GS's role? In Plantation/ funding activities?

Answers: Most JFMCs are defunct, 80% do not even exist. Planning should be through alternate depts. – JFMCs too oppose FD – Distribute Medicinal plant seeds – Naxalite areas, FD doesn't go – even if present, they are not empowered

Q2: Bibhor: Van Mitra – how many times are they paid, if more than 2 GS meetings are held in the process?

Answer: Since the Van Mitra are from the same Panchayat, they are told from the start that this is for the benefit of your own village – they are still given 250+250 and not more than 2 GS. COMMENT 3: Giri: CSO's funding for the process – State now provides money – SDLC given responsibility for handholding support for GS – SCP to TSP - Money allotted (10%) Article 275 in 5th Schedule states for FRA facilitation COMMENT 4: Aruna: After May 2015, the process graph has jumped- pressure from govt./ comparison with other states data – sensitisation of the Govt. officials – VanMitra received that State Allotment – show us 2000 claims and take money from us – money transferred without any accountability even to single individual organisations.

*Subhas & Pradeep, Kalpabriksha, Maharasthra*

Q1: Bibhor: Why discussion with other villagers was done after mapping?

Answer: There have not been any conflicts regarding boundaries faced, as political and traditional boundaries overlap -

Q2: Bibhor: Toposheets have technical language – how do people relate to that? How did you explain? Is area defined?

Answer: Team moved around with villagers and map, and marked on toposheet – boundary wise transect walk and markings – physical boundaries and physiographic features. FD compartment boundaries – not necessary one whole is one village – it gets divided – better to look at the customary boundary of the village – the amount that people use and availability of the forest is seen and not focused on accessibility

Q3: Subrat: Please elaborate your claim that traditional and political/ legal boundaries overlap?

Answer: Forest boundaries may vary but these don't – revenue boundary as same as the villagers sketched – old maps used in some places.

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Q4: Subrat: Elaborate on the conflicts faced and how they are resolved.

Answer: Only as facilitator work, nothing else, leave the decision on the GS

Q5: In this entire how are the boundaries finally drawn?

Answer: There are guidelines for this – once title is granted, the boundaries are redrawn and a map is handed over with RoR. Comment: Bibhor: After mapping, overlapped the layers – sent noticed to the villagers where overlapping was seen. Comment: Giri: Western Maharashtra Reserve forests inside village, Orissa outside – mention longitude and latitude of their traditional boundaries – you already have a sketch map – final map is with RoR correction – communities will have sketch map, GPS maps and RoR corrected map finally. Comment: Mahesh Raut: When you are making CFR maps – both GS of neighbouring villages then they should sit and take decisions –also that administration should not be  given upper hand but they should be taken into consideration – like Gadchiroli where 1000 villages have CFR – mapping becomes much more significant – people are collaborating with different organisations – much of the mapping done by administration –Gaav namuna form(1) –Area taken and titles distributed – boundaries couldn't be defined – now doing post CFR mapping – admin should re- survey and give new numbers – numbers may increase – hence, should not involve authorities in conflict resolution until GS talks fail and in places like Gadchiroli, where 1000 titles are filed, there need of the hour for post CFR issues – is mapping.

**Habitat Rights**

*Premanand Panda and Subrat Nayak, Vasundhara, Odisha*

Q1: Asavari: There are mixed community villages – most are left out – rights are already processed – how do you go with the same? And dept. in campaign mode to give Hab rights (Hetrogenous villages- PVGTS in such scenario)

Answer: In same village if there are 3 different communities like for example in case of Hill Khadia PVTG the situation was sorted out with the help of district administrationas well the traditional leaders – they can claim separately – one village does not mean only one CFR right or habitat rights – different communities can claim for different their pre-existing rights – and conflicts can be addressed in GS.

Baiga chak is a created Habitat – British created this to restrict Baiga to do 'bewar' cultivation – in the beginning Baiga chak had only 5 villages, but the actual habitat of Baiga is spread across the maikal range which covers 9 districts of Chhattisgarh and Madhya Pradesh

Comment: Panda: Concept of time and space should be taken into consideration

Q2: Birender: Large range communities, which cover more than 1 SDLC/DLC (Virodh community)
Answer: Panda: If GS understands the demand for habitat rights. Comment: How does the Dist. Administration distribute rights?

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2 SLMCs cannot sit together and make decisions – Madhu Sarin suggested how many Baiga communities there and then can be decided village wise

*Amitha Bachan, Hornbill Foundation, Kerala*

Q1: What are the mplications of Habitat rights on timber production and ownership once granted? Claims not saying anything about timber or left open?

Answer: Panda: Let department ask the community. Ownership rights with the communities
Answer: Subrat: 1. Tribals do not perceive timber as a commercial product. 2. This is changing with increasing dependence on money due to restrictions on livelihood – market pushing its way into their habitat – once title is received, people have the right to obstruct the FD for timber. 3. Timber as source of fuelwood. 4. Sustainable extraction.

Amitha: In Kerala, people do not recognise timber as commercial because it is FD's ownership. They do not want to grow Teak because the FD will fell and take it – talking about eco restoration (especially looking at the monoculture plantations) – conservation part of MFP's – Tribals cut only mature bamboo and the non tribals cut all of it – Tribals claim that if we cut bamboo, then it can't be restored for the next year as well as there won't be any elephant riding into the crops as fodder will be available for them – where is the problem? Where money matters fall

Q2. Devjit: How to address Habitat rights among sub tribes?

Answer: Addressed in the presentation – conflict will arise only when there is no understanding. If they are sharing, then that should continue. Comment: Tushar: Orissa example from Paudi bhuniya – POSCO mining area – wherever they are organised, they will claim under the village CFR claims – Habitat rights under the CFR for that particular time – later they can come together – get organised and then claim for Habitat rights – another example is Niyamgiri – Dongria Kondh tribe.

*Ramesh Bhatti, Sahjeevan, Gujrat*

Q1: Madhu Sarin: Conversion of the village to revenue village (CM mentioned)

Answer: Clarify the conversion process because there are 16 Panchayats who have submitted claims, other 3 are scared that the status of Protected forests will come and they won't be able to do their activities. What can be the solution to this?

Q1: Geetanjoy: In cases where no IFR only large CFR claims, what happens to landless/ without livestock. Question of Equity and social justice? Any principle that can come into account?

Answer: 95% pastoralists. Rest either craftsmen/ tanners or ST who are engaged in labour, and ALL are landless as it is totally unsurveyed – there are illegal encroachments too. COMMENT: There are no legal rights, but there are effective rights – Community in

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question, also like those in the North East are watchful of each other's welfare, so this is not an issue until private property comes in –privatisation increasing landlessness and poverty – once that comes in, things will change, and we must be careful about the inter dependent relationships. COMMENT: Madhu Sarin: Revenue status must be pursued, for facilities etc, but mapping must be avoided to begin with. COMMENT: Bhatti: People will ask for land for residence and also for cattle sheds, which will depend on number of livestock, leading to inequalities (like in drought conditions – there is no external imbalance until now, when external factors come into picture there will be a need for intervention). COMMENT: Also what happens to the left out 5% also needs to be seen – what is their dependency – agriculture? COMMENT: Gramdan models (Vinoba Bhave - Rajasthan). If revenue villages made first then only 15% of the land will come to people, rest will go to Protected forest (100 animals = 40 acre land for grazing under Gujarat State law). People didn't want this, only FRA – any kind of forest FRA is applicable – make 2 villages as model villages – grass regeneration methods to be worked with Panchayat – First give CFR then give revenue status.

- Conversion has to take through State law hence revenue settlement laws need to be seen. Hence it is not easy.
- Autonomy of the village
- What is the purpose/ use of conversion of the village? Maybe you should not even consider the conversion – what will come first? CFR or Revenue village? Once it comes under revenue village, all this calculation will be done and 15 percent land under CFR

*Swarup Saha, West Bengal*

Q. Madhu Sarin – Explain Farbari case
Comment – the Government claims it is their work but people have already started the required

Q.1 Giri: Conversion of forest villages – help from your organisation
Comment – forest to revenue is the land dept but GS can decide their use area, demarcate the same. Comment  Giri – there is no clarity of conversion of forest to revenue villages – about people's participation in deciding the same. Comment – the work for provisions under revenue is been under the GS. Comment Tushar – People already prepared the map, the same was being challenged by the people to the land records. Comment –GS invested their own money and made the map with the help of amin (one who measures the land) – people went along with the surveyor to the field

Q. Madhu – Conversion of forest into revenue – village total area, individual land, community land, future land use, CPR use – Chhatisgarh has done and N. Bengal
- Sept 29, 2014 – WB govt Land and Land reforms notice for the conversion
- Same notification 17th October 2014 for Jalpaiguri

Q. Any process to be followed?
- Not as such and conversion process still on – P5 map
- The direct influence of forest won't be present
  Madhu Sarin
- Section 3.(1).a – right to occupy forest land – that land cannot be converted –NC

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Saxena
- MoTA guidelines – according to state laws, conversion RoR

Comment-Giri Rao
- Convert villages to revenue villages - equal to revenue land settlement process (tribal dept guidelines)
- No Forest land to be converted to revenue land
- Chhatisgarh govt – Form B2 – particularly for forest land column 13 –status of forest land and beat number to be specified

Comment – we have to look at 3 things differently CFR, IFR and revenue
- Not all land is forest land
- Land converted as per the use of the same
- IFR primarily used for agriculture
- Conditions can be given
- If agricultural land cannot be converted to other type of land

Tushar □ FRA doesn't require de- notification of forest land (need to look)
Bhatti  □ 2100 sq.kms in case of Banni – status can be changed? No

**Application of Smartphone and web in mapping of community forest area**

*Bibhor Deo and GV Rao, Vasundhara and Geolysis, Odisha*

COMMENT: Giri: No shortcut process when using this application – gender sensitive app - Entire app designed for govt - Need a server
Q1. Piyush - If there is no electricity – how about server and also if there is any mismatch of codes?
Answer and comments –
- No need for net connection on field. No need for server especially in the village
- Specially targeted people can do the mapping ( the selected team of elders, women, youngsters), if handled by someone else
- We can't give number of passwords, hence once when saved and finalised it is considered as authentication
- Form needs to be in vernacular languages
- Cadastral maps of each state haven't been georeferenced

Q1. What if toposheets and cadastral are not consistent? Can a list be made with respect to maps and the other requirements? Conflict with respect to individual…
Comment
- Toposheets available, satellite imageries downloaded from – Bhuvan
- Mapping process to make it legitimate – this map is prepared after the sketch map – state may require some authentication

Comment – Chetan Agarwal –
- When you print the photo, encode the GPS location on the picture itself – easy for authentication for the officials
- Govt authorities if agree then getting background maps – 70 Crores for data – 50 crores (FSI, groundwater data etc.) – integration – start with one state and then continue
- FSI maps can also be integrated

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Comment – Even State can spend money but State anyway doesn't support FRA vividly

Comment – Neelkanth Aher – Rectify to accurate level possible, urban areas – 1m accuracy – testing it since pass 2 years in urban areas – can shift to the reference points – there can be future conflicts

Comment – Subrat – GS without any technical help will be a problem – especially while preparing the map;

Manual fill up of the attribute data

## Annexure II

### Agenda of the Workshop

| Date/Time | Program | |
|---|---|---|
| **DAY - 1 (17th Jan.) Sharing of experience on Methodology and Learning on Mapping of Forest Rights** | | **Concerned Group/Person** |
| **9.30 – 10.00 AM** | Registration of Participants | Vasundhara |
| **10.00-10.15AM** | Introduction to the workshop (Sharing of objective and agenda) | Vasundhara |
| **10.15-10.30AM** | Overview on the Community Forest Rights in India and Key Developments relating to use of technology and mapping under FRA in 2015 (Important Guidelines & Circulars) | Vasundhara |
| **10.30-12.30 PM** | Sharing of  Learning and Methodology adopted by groups under FRA | Participating groups |
| | **Community Right/Community Forest Resource Right** | |
| | Vasundhara, Odisha | Tushar Dash/Bibhore Deo |
| | Navrachna, Chhattisgarh | Devjit Nandi |
| | JVAM, Jharkhand | Sanjay B. Mallik |
| | JVAM, Jharkhand | Birender Kumar |
| | DVV, Jharkhand | Ram Dinesh Singh |
| | Badlao, Jharkhand | Rajesh Yadav |
| | Kalpabriksh, Maharasthra | Neema Pathak |
| | ATREE, Karnatak | Made Gowda |

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| | | |
|---|---|---|
| | TISS,Mumbai | Gitonjoy Sahoo/Sandeep Mahato |
| **12.30-1.30** | **Habitat Rights** | |
| | Vasundhara,Odisha | Dr. P. Panda/Subrat Nayak |
| | BJA, Maharasthra | Mahesh |
| | Hornbill Foundation, Kerala | Dr. Amitha Bachan |
| **1.30-2.15** | Lunch | |
| **2.15-2.45** | **Rights of Pastoralist Communities** | |
| | Sahjeevan,Gujrat | Ramesh Bhatti |
| **2.45-3.15** | **Conversion of Forest Village** | |
| | Nespon/AIFM, West Bengal | Swarup Saha |
| **3.45-4.15** | **Other Crucial Research and Findings on Mapping** | |
| **4.15-5.30** | Consolidation of Key Learning and Issues | |
| **DAY 2 (18th Jan.) Strategy and Action Plan** | | |
| **10.00 - 12.00AM** | Group discussion on Appropriate Methodology | Participating groups |
| **12.00 – 1.30 PM** | Presentation by Groups | Presentation to be facilitated by a panel |
| **1.30-2.15PM** | Lunch | |
| **2.15 – 3.30 PM** | Collective Action and Way Forward | Vasundhara and participating groups |

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