

Please find the news today covered in the Odiya daily Prameya.

The news reports that illegal plantation over cultivable land is being massively carried out in the Turekela and Khaprakhol Block in Bolangir District. Even Plantation is being done over the Paddy and cotton grown land. On 14<sup>th</sup> July 5 persons of village Jhankaripali of Khaprakhol block i.e Dibakar Majhi, Pabitra Majhi, Pitabash Makji Mohan Suna and Umakanta Makji were arrested by the Lathore Forest Range Officer and were forwarded to the Patanagarh Police Station. They have been released on bail by spending around 10,000/- rupees which the whole community people have collectively contributed. The Forest Department with the help of the revenue village Kurlumal has done the plantation. Likewise Plantation has been done in the paddy land where IFR titles have been issued in the forest/ un-surveyed village Kuimunda by the Forest Department with the help of the VSS and revenue village Bharwamunda. In this village plantation has been done in all the paddy land even in the house site. In the Turekela block too plantation has been done in the cultivable land in the forest village/ un-surveyed village Ganjaguda.

Plantations has been done over forest land claimed under FRA and even on the forest land where titles have been issued. Plantation has been done both in the cultivable land of tribal and non tribal. We (CSD, Odisha) have been to the plantation area and have talk to the people and also met with the concerned forest officials and raised the issues. The local Adivasi Kalyan Sangh is also protesting against the plantation and has complained against the DFO. We have also appraised the SLMC on this illegal Plantation programme.

One of the major issues identified in the district for non recognition of community forest rights in the last 7 years have been the negative role being played by Forest Department which is using the VSS is discouraging the Gram Sabha to file CFR claim.

For your information as per the latest 2011 Census, there are 414749(rural-144299 and urban 7911) households in the Bolangir district and the total population of the district is 610382 (male-301962 and female 308420). While the scheduled caste population constitutes 13.46% of the total population the scheduled tribe constitutes 33.80%.

The total geographical area of the district is 6575 Sq Km(1624025acres). Out of the total district geographical areas, 75.44% is revenue land(other than revenue forest land) and only 24.56 % of the total area is forest land. The forest area of the district is 398865.48 acres which is 24.56 percent of the total geographical area of the district. Out of 398865.48 acres total of forest land, 108193.41 acres constituting 27.13 per cent of the total forest areas are categorized as Revenue Forest Land while 273137.45 constituting 68.48% acres are under the State Forest Department and rest 17534.53 acres constituting 4.40% are DLC land.

As per the FRA Implementation Status report produced by the SLMC till 31<sup>st</sup> May 2015, there are 1763 revenue villages in Bolangir District. While there hundreds of forest and un -surveyed villages in the district, the census report 2001has identified only 1 forest villages/un surveyed villages in the district.

By 31<sup>st</sup> May 2015, 8784 IFR claims have been field at the Gram Sabha level out of which only 1960 IFR titles over 6114 acres have been issued. While claims of St and OTFDs have been verified in the ground, titles have been issued to only STs. In many cases, titles IFR titles have been haphazardly. Besides, 1951 IFR claims , 2225 IFR Claims and 2 IFR claims have been shown to be illegally rejected by Gram Sabha, SDLC and DLC respectively.

As per the 31<sup>st</sup> May report of the SLMC, only 87 CFR claims has been filed. However, in March 2015 the SLMC had reported that in Bolangir district in total 251 CFR claims (138 in B form and 113 in C from ) have been filed and 7 CFR titles have been issued.

Also please see some of the photographs of the Plantation done in the Paddy land.

Regards,

Moderator  
CSD,Odisha

