

Executive Summary of the project

Supported by Oxfam India, 2012-2013

The project “**Strengthening of community forest resource management rights under FRA -in reference to Nabarangpur, Odisha**” was of one year duration, with goal to strengthen the community rights and community forest resource management right under FRA in ten hamlets of Umerkote and Jharigaon block of Nabarangpur district, Odisha.

The main objectives were:

- ✓ Develop baseline to assess the potential of project habitations for CFRe model development.
- ✓ Facilitating CFR claim submission in selected habitations.
- ✓ Developing CFRe management models in selected habitations, realising convergence with the govt programmes and departments.
- ✓ Conduct research study on “To understand the existing policy level gaps in implementation of FRA, 2006 with focus on CFR (t) and CFRe.”
- ✓ Networking with other local NGOs/CBOs to lobby for strengthening for CFR and constant uptake of advocacy opportunities.

The CFR process was initiated in all the project location with initial activities of awareness generations on community entitlements under FRA, meeting with Gram sabha and discussing the FRA section 3 (1) I in particular. 10 FRC were formed in all the selected habitation to facilitate the CFRe claim submission and claim was submitted for the same.

For awareness on CFRe Managing committee on management of CFRe, a capacity building programme was conducted in all project habitation. To follow up three more meeting was conducted in two blocks. Six hamlets were identified for CFRe management plan. CFRe management committee was constituted in all 6 identified habitations. A common Plan was prepared and approved in gram sabha for those six habitations.

The research study to identify the gaps in existing policy frame work to ensure sustainability of CFR and is completed and a policy brief have been prepared based on its findings.

A local level network has been formed by partner NGO's to campaign for CFR (With emphasis on Forest right for OTFD) and CPF was also actively involved in it. About **500 villages** are part of this network. Few meeting have been organized in different parts of the district to mobilize the common people for the habitation right and to recognize the right for OTFD. **Letter campaign**, regarding CFR has been initiated. It has been completed in **200 villages**. From each village a letter was sent to chief minister with a copy to SDLC/ DLC and district collector and DFO to foster the CFR implementation in the district. To follow up two **block level, and one district level consultation** have been organized among all stake holders along with govt officials, to discuss and identify the reason behind for lesser number of CFR titles distribution in the district. (32 titles have been distributed in under section 3(1) (i) and 16 titles under section 3 (2). Most of the issued titles are not with villagers, it's still with government officials, waiting to be distributed. **A trigger film** on CFR has been documented for the purpose of advocacy.

