



21st Annual Meeting

6th August 2023

The 21st Annual Meeting was held on 6th August 2023 at the ST Ann's Campus meeting hall, Secunderabad.

Chair : Ms. B Girija Devi, Director, CPF.

Welcome

CPF Staff Members and participants were cordially welcomed by Mr. Poorna Chander, the SPO-HR & Documentation. Later, the Sarpanch of the Gram Panchayat, Mr. Gabbada Chittibabu, Kujjeli Gram Panchayat, Paderu Mandal, Alluri Seetharamaraju District, Andhra Pradesh, Mr. Chinnam Raju, (Sarpanch), Komaram Bhima District, Telangana and Ms. Girijadevi, Director, CPF was invited on the stage.

Before starting the meeting, 2-minute silence was observed for the founders Ms. Suryakumari (Late) madam, then he requested to Ms. Girija Devi madam to chair the meeting and conduct the proceedings.

Introduction:

All the participants of the meeting were introduced personally.

Presentations:

Mr. Satyanarayana, SPO, said that our CPF organization is working in different locations and it is working in all 4 states. In each area, we program in a unique and innovative manner. It has been said that we should adopt whatever is running well in any location and provide services to our stakeholders.

Mr. Srinivasulu, SPO, made a presentation about Rights & Entitlements. After that, Chandrakant, the program officer, made a presentation in Hindi.

Ms. B Girijadevi, Director, CPF, Talking about forest laws, madam said that many NGOs are working on these forest laws, CPF is also one of them. She said that most of the forest lands are under the jurisdiction of the Forest Department, and the tribals, who believe in the forest for eternity, have lost their right to the forest. In this order, as a result of the struggles of some NGOs and public associations, the Unprivileged Rights Act-2006 was passed, and according to this Act, CPF and other CSOs are working to provide land rights to each and every tribal family. But CSOs have some limitations, so locally elected gram panchayat sarpanches, ward members and tribal leaders have to fight together and claim your rights yourself.

The director emphasized the need for comprehensive research to back our accomplishments rather than merely claiming success. To substantiate our efforts,

quantification is essential. The staff must approach this task with careful attention and seriousness. Accurate and consistent data is imperative, leaving no room for discrepancies. CPF must uphold the integrity of genuine data. Addressing the need for better data management within the organization, the CPF should take note of the true impact of their work. Every team member and CFF representatives assumes a leadership role within the community. While the business-class and middle-class income has seen an increase, the same cannot be said for the farmers. The shared mission of all of us should be to enhance incomes of tribal farmers through promoting sustainable natural resource management and livelihoods and ensure food security of tribal communities through seed preservation for tribal communities. In the backdrop of the Forest Conservation Act amendments, it is crucial that the community deliberates these changes at the village level.

The responsibility falls on VCG leaders and the CPF team to facilitate these discussions. The Adivasi education project ought to be seamlessly integrated into all initiatives, with a focus on preserving their culture and languages that are gradually fading. Acquiring knowledge about Adivasi culture is vital, and this understanding should be propagated through the TFSCs and VCGs. Integrating Adivasi culture into daily office routines is a necessity; neglecting this could render projects ineffective in impacting Tribal communities. It's important to recognize that our focus lies on Tribal development, distinct from rural development. To this end, a comprehensive grasp of relevant acts, policies, and plans is essential. The compilation of a comprehensive database encompassing community data related to tribal and forest scheme implementation is necessary. Sharing this information with communities, the government, and other civil society organizations is crucial for the success of our initiatives.

Mr. Lokesh, SPO, said that VCGs have been set up at village level to solve individual & community problems. Petitions are made to the government through these VCGs. Most of the petitions were filed in Adilabad district, and petitions were also filed in Paderu, Srikakulam and Odisha. He said that petitions are also being put in welfare schemes and efforts are being made to get them to the beneficiaries.

Contributions & Challenges:

The coming of Secretariat system in Andhra Pradesh has made it easier to file petitions through most of the VCGs. But common problems are not being solved. It is sad that the villagers are not cooperating at the village level, not many people are attending our box meetings, very few people are attending.

Action Research and policy Advocacy:

Mr. Michael SPO, gave a presentation on Action Research and Policy Advocacy. He said that through research at the group level, we are trying to identify the challenges faced as part of the project implementation and ensure that the project is implemented properly. He said that as part of this research study, we are conducting this program with the aim of finding out what results have been achieved by VCGs & TFSC societies and doing the same elsewhere.

Food Security:

Mr. Satyanarayana SPO, gave a presentation on Sustainable Natural Resources Management & Livelihoods. He said that measures should be taken to ensure that Adaptation of crop diversification is done, currently food is decreasing a lot, and in this order, CPF has focused on food security. The service programs provided to farmers through TFSCs were explained.

Agro ecological practices by farmers kharif -2022:

Mr. Sharang, TCO, said that as part of kharif-2022, seeds are distributed to farmers, seed banks are set up to distribute seeds to farmers, FFS are organized and awareness and training programs are being conducted for farmers. He also said that crop yield increased by applying vermi compost and silt and increasing soil fertility. The director said that it is good to check how the work is going on in this order.

Adaptation to Climate Change:

Mr. Chandrakant, PO explained about the TDF project and the enhanced incomes that project brought to the project farmers through promoting of horticulture plantations. He explained that the species were selected in such a way in the plantations such that they provide income to farmers in all 12 months. He also explained about the Carbon Credits Project which is being done in Pilot basis and the challenges being faced in GT Plotting and the lack of clarity in the carbon pricing and the incomes that farmers would get out of the carbon credits generated from their plantations.

Model Villages:

Mr. Srinivasulu, SPO said that in all the locations each village has been selected as a model village. He said that efforts are being made to provide all the facilities in these villages.

Adivaisi Education Project:

Mr. Gasinaidu, TCO explained about the programs implemented as part of the Adivasi Education Project. Also, a brief explanation was given about the festivals, culture and traditions of the adivasis.

Mr. Bhaskara Rao PC explained about the programs implemented as part of Adivasi Education Project including Adivasi Culture Events, Theater Workshops were shared. Also explained about case study for some years when the Kothabu Primary School building fell down and children were in a situation where there was no opportunity to go to school and study, petitions were put through VCG, and the Kothabu Primary School building was constructed with the cooperation of the District Collector, MPDO and MEO, Paderu and about the efforts made to solve the problem.

Case Studies:

Ms. Niharika, PC, Srikakulam, explained the Health & Sanitation case study solved by VCG.

Mr. Nityamallik, PO, Malkangiri, explained about Climate resilience empowering farmers through Establishment of Community Seed Bank case study was explained.

Mr. Shilen, PO, Bhankura explained about the case study of water body renovation and the benefit incurred for the surrounding 4-5 villages for the farmers due to the intervention.

Ms. Manga, PC, Uttoor, Agroecological practices and Crop Diversification Explained through case study how a farmer named Chandraya planted food crops in his crop field and achieved initial yield.

Staff Trainings & Exposure Visits:

Mr. Poorna Chander, SPO, has shared about the different trainings the staff has undergone in both offline and online modes in the year 2022-23 and also the different exposure visits done by the various government and CSO officials to CPF Project location in the reporting period.

21st Annual Day

Date: 06.08.2023

Venue: St. Ann's Generalate, Tarnaka, Secunderabad

Time: 02:20 PM - 05:20 PM

The meeting commenced with Director Girija Madam inviting Shri MV Shastri Garu, Dr. Kameshwar Rao Garu, and community leaders to the dais.

Dr. Kameshwar Rao Garu extended his wishes on the 21st Annual Day of CPF. He acknowledged that it is the first anniversary without Dr. Surya Kumari Garu (Former Director of CPF), who worked hard for organization. He expressed gratitude to Shri MV Shastri Garu for supporting CPF for the past 21 years. Dr. Kameshwar Rao Garu then requested Shri MV Shastri Garu to release the Annual Report 2022-23 of CPF for the year 2022-23.

Director Madam presented the CPF annual report and activities. She mentioned the contribution and struggles of Dr. Surya Kumari Madam, who was felicitated on the 20th CPF Annual Day. Director Madam thanked Dr. Kameshwar Rao Garu, Urmila Madam, and other trustees for their support and valuable time.

The focus of CPF's major highlights of activities was explained, including Forest Community Programs, Rights and Entitlements, Action Research and Policy Advocacy,

Participating SNRM and Livelihoods, and Adaptation to Climate Change. The areas where CPF is working were also discussed, including the status of various projects like APPI, NABARD, BFTW, VCCS, BRLF, and Outreach. CPF's efforts have resulted in 7,069 farmers practicing Agro-ecological practices and 500 acres of land brought under irrigation through minor repairs of SMC works by CPF - IWMP in 2010. In VCG, many major Village community issues have been solved with the guidance and support provided by C.P.F to the community members. The Adivasi Culture Education Project is ongoing in Paderu, Andhra Pradesh, where this project's main motive is to

CPF studies on various projects like Mission Bhageeratha, which in many tribal villages haven't reached this project to clear the drinking water issues, through this project C.P.F. team is working further to implement this project to reach the tribal villages and the detailed report will be shared soon

The evaluation of APPI and BFTW projects was completed, with positive feedback from evaluators, who advised on improving seed bank practices.

Director Madam shared details of a meeting with the Commissioner of Tribal Welfare, Telangana, regarding CFR claims.

and

CPF also facilitated internships for three students in Malkangiri District.

A documentary film on FSCP - APPI was created.

Memorial meeting was organized on 21st January 2022 to pay tribute to Dr. Surya Kumari Madam.

It was mentioned that APPI Project was approved (Renewal)

CPF's impact has made Adilabad a hub for CPF, attractive visits from government officials and NGOs. Trainee IAS and NABARD officers also visited CPF projects.

Four tribal girls from the project area were selected out of 12 members for the Youth Eco-Feminist Community Action course supported by Dhaatri Organization.

CPF staff decided to contribute one day's salary to help the community members whose houses had been caught fire accidentally.

Mr. Balraj Garu, the Financial Officer, presented the financial status. CPF received Rs. 3,87,21,296 from donors for FY 2022-23, with total expenditure of Rs. 4,10,44,958 on ongoing projects. CPF established a new office in Bankura, West Bengal and purchased eight laptops and one desktop. The total fixed deposits of CPF amount to Rs. 99,87,000,

and the total assets are worth 32 lakhs. Also shared updates on the income tax returns, FCRA annual returns and project Audit of BFTW project.

Certificates were awarded to the best community leaders and best CFFs. by honourable trustees. Dr. Kameshwar Rao Garu congratulated the awardees and encouraged them to continue their hard work for the community. He suggested instituting annual awards for the best VCG, TFSC, and CPF champions from the next year.

Shri MV Shastri Garu expressed his views on the Forest Convergence Act, which he discussed with Director Girija Madam over the phone. He appreciated Director Girija Madam's dedication to the organization and suggested she would be an excellent replacement for Dr. Surya Kumari Madam. Shri MV Shastri Garu advised the awardees and staff to prioritize their health.

Shri MV Shastri Garu expressed delight at CPF's Adivasi Education Project in Paderu and was pleasantly surprised to learn about CPF's work in West Bengal. He emphasized the importance of CPF's constructive engagement with the government.

The meeting concluded with the guests visiting stalls showcasing seeds and medicinal plants.

Dr. Kameshwar Rao garu has suggested to do documentation of the rare and indigenous varieties of crops and other NTFP produce and maintain Biodiversity registers at the village level.

Director Madam provided suggestions and guidelines to the CPF team for the implementation process of projects, and Balraju Garu made a brief amendment regarding advances and submitting vouchers.

The Vote of thanks was delivered by Poorna Chander, and it was announced that 07.08.2023 (Monday) would be a holiday.



Release of Annual Report 2022-23