

Centre for People's Forestry

23rd Annual Meeting

6th August 2025

The **23rd Annual Meeting of the Centre for People's Forestry (CPF)** was held from **10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.**, bringing together staff members and representatives from various project locations to reflect on the organization's progress, exchange experiences, and collectively plan for the way forward.



The programme commenced with a warm welcome, creating an atmosphere of collaboration and shared purpose. Participants introduced themselves, providing an opportunity to build stronger connections and promote interaction among colleagues representing different states and project locations.

A comprehensive presentation on CPF's programme interventions was delivered, highlighting the organization's achievements in promoting forest rights, sustainable natural resource management, agroecological farming, livelihood enhancement, climate resilience, and the strengthening of community-based institutions. The presentation also showcased key milestones achieved during the reporting period, lessons learned from field implementation, and strategic priorities for the coming year.

An interactive plenary session, facilitated by **Ms. Girija Devi, Director, CPF**, enabled participants to engage in meaningful discussions on programme implementation, emerging challenges, and

opportunities for innovation. Staff members shared experiences from the field, exchanged practical solutions, and reflected on approaches to deepen community participation and improve the quality and impact of interventions. The session fostered mutual learning and reinforced the importance of teamwork in achieving CPF's organizational goals.

In their concluding remarks, the **Chair and Co-Chair** acknowledged the dedication and hard work of the staff across all project locations. They appreciated the collective efforts that have contributed to CPF's growth and impact, while encouraging the team to continue working with commitment, innovation, and a shared vision to advance sustainable livelihoods, environmental conservation, and the empowerment of forest-dependent communities.

The Annual Meeting concluded with a group photograph, symbolizing the unity, collaboration, and shared commitment of the CPF family towards building resilient communities and sustainable ecosystems.

23rd Annual Day Celebrations

6th August 2025

The **23rd Annual Day of the Centre for People's Forestry (CPF)** was celebrated on **6th August 2025** at **St. Ann's Generalate, Tarnaka, Secunderabad**, in the presence of trustees, distinguished guests, community representatives, partner organizations, and CPF staff. The event served as an opportunity to celebrate the organization's achievements, recognize community leadership, and reaffirm its commitment to sustainable development and the empowerment of forest-dependent communities.

The programme began with a warm welcome, followed by the inaugural address by **Dr. K. Kameswara Rao**, Managing Trustee of CPF. Reflecting on CPF's journey, he emphasized the organization's consistent efforts in promoting community-led conservation, strengthening local institutions, and enhancing the livelihoods of tribal and rural communities through collaborative partnerships.

During the programme, the **CPF Annual Report 2024–25** was formally released, highlighting the organization's key accomplishments, innovative interventions, and financial performance over the year. An overview of CPF's programmes showcased its expanding work across multiple

states, focusing on sustainable agriculture, forest rights, natural resource management, women's empowerment, and climate-resilient livelihoods.

The gathering was enriched by inspiring messages from **Dr. N. H. Ravindranath**, CPF Trustee, **Sri M. V. Sastri Garu**, Convenor of the Centre for World Solidarity (CWS), and **Dr. V. Rukmini Rao**, Managing Trustee of CWS. They acknowledged CPF's sustained commitment to participatory development and appreciated its role in building resilient communities through rights-based and ecological approaches.



Joining the event virtually as the **Chief Guest, Shri A. S. Dinesh Kumar, IAS**, District Collector of Alluri Sitharama Raju (ASR) District, Andhra Pradesh, commended CPF for its dedicated service to tribal communities and its significant contributions to improving livelihoods through sustainable natural resource management. He appreciated the organization's grassroots approach, particularly its efforts in strengthening community institutions, promoting agroecological farming practices, supporting the implementation of the Forest Rights Act, and fostering community ownership of development initiatives. He also acknowledged CPF's initiatives in preserving and reviving tribal culture, traditions and indigenous knowledge systems, recognizing their importance in strengthening community identity and promoting sustainable development. He encouraged CPF to continue expanding these efforts and assured the administration's support for collaborative initiatives that enhance the socio-economic well-being, cultural heritage, and resilience of tribal communities. A special segment of the programme was dedicated to honouring community leaders whose exemplary leadership and

commitment have played a pivotal role in advancing conservation initiatives, sustainable livelihoods, and collective action in their respective villages. Their recognition reflected CPF's belief that lasting development is driven by empowered and committed communities. In his concluding remarks, he paid tribute to Dr. Sankaran, former Principal Secretary, ITDA, acknowledging his visionary leadership and outstanding contributions to shaping policies for tribal development. He emphasized that Dr. Sankaran's legacy continues to inspire efforts towards the empowerment and holistic development of tribal communities.



The celebration concluded with a heartfelt vote of thanks, expressing gratitude to the guests, trustees, partners, community leaders, staff members, and supporters whose continued encouragement and collaboration have contributed to CPF's growth and impact over the years. The event ended on a note of renewed commitment to strengthening partnerships and expanding CPF's mission of promoting ecological sustainability, social justice, and inclusive rural development.