



Centre for People's Forestry 24th ANNUAL MEETING

6th August 2026, St. Ann's Generalate, Tarnaka, Secunderabad

The Centre for People's Forestry (CPF) organised its 24th Annual Meeting and Annual Day Celebration on 6 August 2026 at St. Ann's Generalate, Tarnaka, Secunderabad, Hyderabad. The programme brought together CPF staff members, project teams, community leaders, farmers, volunteers, elected representatives and other community stakeholders from the organisation's operational areas across Telangana, Andhra Pradesh, Odisha and West Bengal.

The programme provided an opportunity to review the progress and achievements of different projects, reflect on organisational priorities and learning, recognise the contributions of staff and community members, and celebrate CPF's 24-year journey.



Welcome Address

Mr. Poorna Chander, Senior Programme Officer & HR, warmly welcomed CPF staff members, community leaders, best-performing farmers and elected representatives to CPF's 24th Annual Meeting and Annual Day celebrations. He expressed his gratitude to all guests and participants for joining the occasion and contributing to the programme.

Ms. B. Girija Devi, Director, CPF, welcomed all participants and provided an overview of CPF's vision, its work with tribal communities, workplace values, discipline, mutual learning, attitude, organisational development and village development. She emphasised the importance of understanding the needs of tribal communities, continuously learning and adopting new approaches, and working towards improving the economic well-being of tribal communities. She also highlighted the importance of collective responsibility in carrying forward CPF's vision and strengthening its work at the grassroots level.





Project Presentation by All Project Incharges:



Food Security and Conservation Project: Presented by Programme Officer (PO) Mr. Shahrukh, focuses on crop diversification, access to entitlements, gender inclusion, and the promotion of mixed cropping and pulse cultivation. The project established demonstration plots, organized farmer exposure visits, and promoted the preparation and use of botanical pesticides. Farm equipment was also distributed to support farmers in improving agricultural practices. More than 400 farmers have benefited from the project through various training and awareness programmes. In addition, water

irrigation facilities and Soil & Moisture Conservation (SMC) structures were developed to strengthen sustainable agriculture and improve farmers' resilience.

Senior Programme Officer Mr. K. Satyanarayana highlighted CPF's commitment to working with tribal farmers and promoting the organisation's vision among rural communities. He emphasised the importance of strengthening the connection between organisational objectives and community-level action.



Presentation on Focused Development Project: Presented by P.Os' Mr. Neeraj and Mr. Krishna, highlighted various initiatives aimed at enhancing the incomes and livelihoods of tribal farmers. The activities covered 40 farms across approximately 25,000 acres, benefiting around 4,000 farmers. The BRIP Project Management Unit supported implementation, with QGIS applications introduced for planning and mapping. Integrated Farming Systems (IFS) were established, including farm ponds, multi-cropping, and agroforestry. The project also developed 240 nutrition gardens, prepared Water Resource and Activity Maps, and implemented

Community Lift Irrigation initiatives to improve water access and strengthen sustainable farming.

Presentation on the Better Cotton Project:

Delivered by POs Mr. Sudarshan and Mr. Uday Kumar, highlighted the key project activities, livelihood initiatives, demonstration plots, and major achievements. The team also highlighted the promotion of sustainable cotton cultivation, adoption of Better Cotton practices, capacity-building and awareness programmes for farmers, and efforts to reduce the use of chemical inputs. The project emphasized improved soil health, efficient water management, crop diversification, and strengthening farmers' knowledge and skills for sustainable livelihoods.



Support was also provided for preserving and promoting traditional musical instruments and cultural practices.

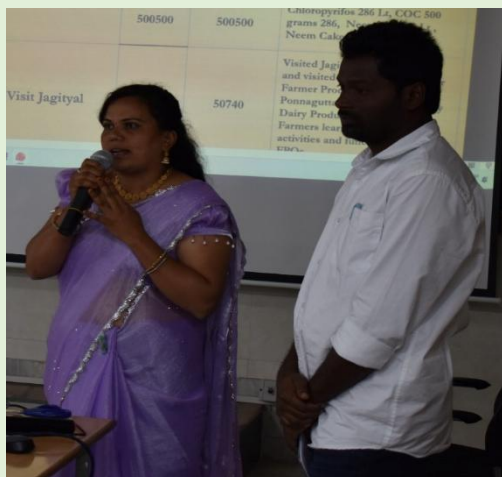
Presentation on Adivasi Livelihoods Project:

Presented by POs Mr. Lakshmana Rao, Mr. Hemanth Kumar and Mr. Nitya Mallick, highlighted key initiatives including strengthening BRC Committees and forming 25 ACC Committees. Seeds were distributed to farmers covering 800 acres, while community drinking water tanks were established to improve access to safe water.

Presentation on the Adivasi Livelihoods and Social Security Project:

presented by SPO Mr. Avijit Paul and Project Coordinators Mr. Asish Kumar and Mr. Arun Maity, highlighted interventions aimed at strengthening the livelihoods and social security of tribal and other vulnerable communities. Sixteen YCGs are functioning under the project, while 1,273 farmers have adopted sustainable agricultural practices covering 49 acres. The project also supported 135 duck-rearing units as part of livelihood diversification and income-generation opportunities for vulnerable households.





Presentation on the TDF Project: Presented by PO Ms. Kavitha and PC Mr. Mahendar, highlighted KVK convergence activities and the introduction of Farmer Producer Organization (FPO) initiatives to strengthen farmer capacities, improve access to technical support, and enhance collective marketing and livelihood opportunities.

Remarks / Suggestions by Director

Following the project presentations, Ms. Girija Devi, Director, CPF, shared her observations and suggestions. She expressed concern over the excessive use of chemical fertilisers and pesticides and highlighted their adverse impact on soil health and the environment. She emphasised

the need to reduce chemical inputs, promote appropriate fertiliser use and encourage sustainable agricultural practices.

She further stressed the importance of continuing support for community entitlements and strengthening local institutions. The establishment of nine BRC Centres was highlighted as a positive step towards promoting bio-inputs and reducing dependence on chemical inputs. She also emphasised that women should be empowered, treated with dignity and respect, and encouraged to take leadership roles. Strengthening women's leadership and meaningful community participation, she noted, should remain important priorities for CPF.



24th ANNUAL DAY EVENT

Welcome

A warm and hearty welcome was extended by CPF Director Ms. Girija Devi to CPF Trustee Dr. Urmila Pingle, CWS Honorary Convenor Sri. M. V. Sastri garu, WASSAN Foundation Director Sri. M. V. Ramachandrudu garu, staff, and community members on the occasion of CPF's 24th Annual Day. The dignitaries were invited to the dais and requested to share their messages and reflections on the occasion.



Message by CPF Trustee Dr. Urmila Pingle

She recalled the contribution of CPF's Founder Director Late Dr. Suryakumari, highlighting her dedication, determination and significant contribution to the development of the organisation. She recalled her persistent engagement with the Forest Department and her commitment to the organisation's vision and work.

Dr. Pingle reflected on CPF's contributions over the past 24 years and the priorities for the coming 25th year. She emphasised the importance of documenting and highlighting the significant contributions and achievements made during CPF's journey. She also suggested documenting the voices, experiences and contributions of communities through a publication that could showcase CPF's journey and impact from the perspective of the people with whom it works. She encouraged active participation and collaboration from all stakeholders to make CPF's 25th year more meaningful and impactful.

Release of Annual Report 2025-26 and Booklet on Case Stories

- Annual Report 2025-26 released by Sri. Sastri Garu, CWS Honorary Convenor
- Booklet on Case Stories of West Bengal released by CPF Trustee Dr. Urmila Pingle



CPF's Overview Presentation: CPF Director Ms. Girija Devi presented an overview of CPF's projects, proposals, key achievements, major interventions and future priorities. She highlighted the organization's overall progress and key learnings across different programmes.

Finance Presentation: Finance Officer Mr. Balraj Gupta presented the annual budget, expenditure details, and overall financial performance of the organization, highlighting the effective utilization of financial resources.

Messages by Guests:

Sri. Sastri Garu, Centre for World Solidarity (CWS) Honorary Convenor

The organization's excellent work, which has gone beyond expectations, was highly appreciated. The guidance and support provided by CPF Managing Trustee Dr. Kameswara Rao were also acknowledged. The importance of strengthening collaboration with organizations such as WASSAN, CSA, and CWS was emphasized to enhance collective impact. The organization's strong commitment to community development was appreciated and everyone was encouraged to continue working with dedication and renewed energy for the future, without delay. The message was to hold on to the spirit, forget yesterday and think positively about tomorrow, while continuing to move forward with commitment and hope.



Sri. M. V. Ramachandrudu, Director, WASSAN Foundation

Appreciated CPF's culture of transparency and congratulated all project teams for their efforts, particularly the achievement of BCI certification. He appreciated CPF's rights-based approach and the BRC initiative for reducing the use of chemical fertilizers. He noted that effective utilization of resources remains a key challenge. He suggested collaborating with WASSAN to strengthen FPOs, as many are facing operational and emerging challenges. He emphasized the need to develop better systems and streamline processes through joint efforts between WASSAN and CPF for more effective and sustainable functioning of FPOs.

Ms. Poorna Chandrika, MARI: She shared her experience of observing CPF's activities and appreciated the organization's efforts. She congratulated the entire CPF team for their dedication and achievements.

Ms. Madhavi, CWS: She congratulated all the project teams for their efforts and appreciated their commitment towards implementing various initiatives.

Mr. Bakkareddy, WASSAN: He appreciated the collective efforts of all the NGOs and acknowledged their contributions towards addressing key aspects of tribal development through their various initiatives and interventions.

Honouring Community Members:

Staff members, community leaders, best-performing farmers, and elected representatives were honoured by Dr. Urmila Pingle, Sri. M. V. Sastri garu, Sri. M. V. Ramachandrudu garu and CPF Director Ms. Girija Dev in recognition of their valuable contributions and dedicated efforts towards the effective implementation of ongoing projects across various locations in Andhra Pradesh, Telangana, Odisha, and West Bengal.



Vote of Thanks:

The programme concluded with a vote of thanks delivered by SPO Mr. Avijit Paul, who expressed sincere gratitude to Dr. Urmila Pingle, CPF Trustee; Sri M. V. Sastri, Honorary Convenor, CWS; Sri M. V. Ramachandrudu, Director, WASSAN Foundation; staff members; community leaders; farmers; elected representatives; and all participants for their valuable presence and support.

He appreciated the collective efforts of the project teams, field staff and community members in making the 24th Annual Meeting and Annual Day celebration successful. He also acknowledged the contribution of everyone involved in the planning, coordination and execution of the programme and expressed gratitude to all guests and partners for their encouragement and continued support to CPF.

The 24th Annual Meeting and Annual Day celebration concluded with a collective group photograph, bringing together CPF staff, community representatives, farmers, elected representatives and guests from across the organisation's operational states. The photograph symbolised not only the completion of another year, but also the collective spirit and solidarity that continue to strengthen CPF's journey towards its 25th year.

