



ANNUAL REPORT

2025-26



Centre for People's Forestry
Rights | Livelihoods | Conservation

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Discussion with Sri. Mandha Makarand, Project Officer, ITDA Utnoor, on promoting horticulture plantations and enhancing livelihood opportunities for tribal communities



Launch of the book “Multi-Disciplinary Studies of the Deccan Tribes” by Sri. EAS Sarma, Former Secretary to the Government of India in the Ministries of Power & Finance and Dr. VNKV Sastry, Social Anthropologist, authored by Dr. Urmila Pingle, CPF Trustee, at the University of Hyderabad

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Interacted with Sri. Ganga Sodi, Special Development Chairman of ITDA, Malkangiri District, Odisha and briefed him on the CPF interventions being implemented in Malkangiri District



Interaction with Shri Harsh Malhotra, Hon'ble Union Minister of State for Road Transport and Highways, during the Aspirational District and Block-Level Review Meeting, where we briefed him on the CPF's interventions in the presence of Sri Venkatesh Dhotre, District Collector, and Sri Deepek Tewari, Additional Collector, Kumuram Bheem Asifabad District.

I. ABOUT CPF

Who we are?

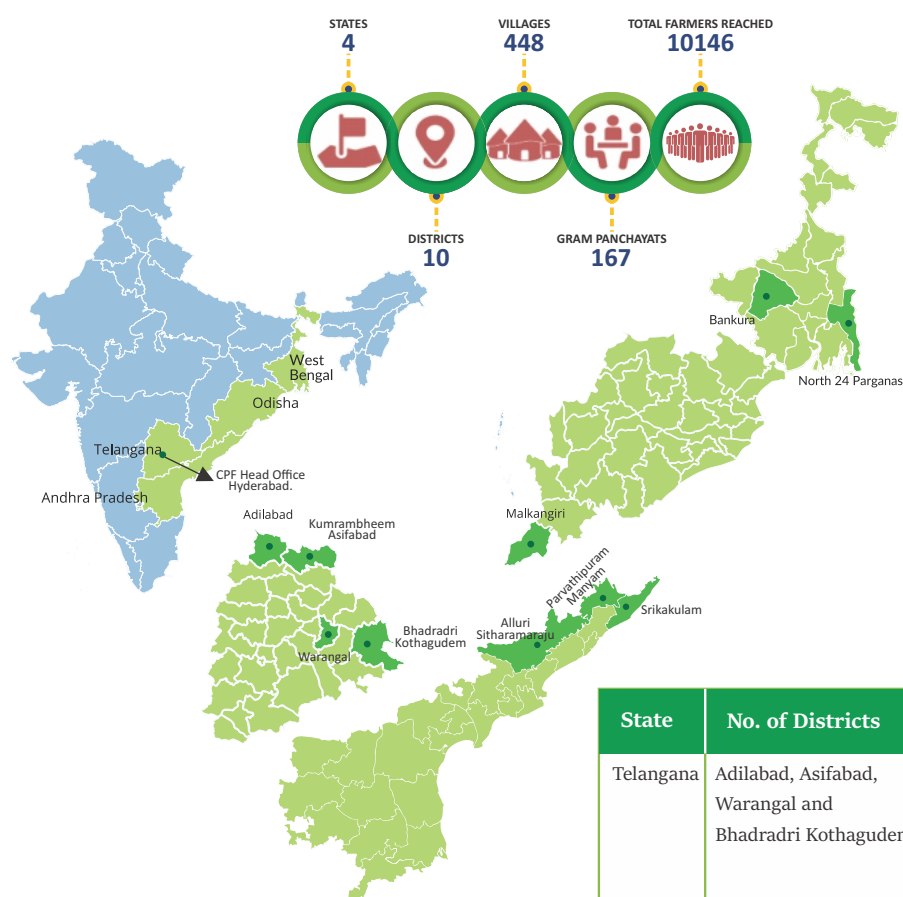
In the backdrop of Forest Policy 1988, paving the way for communities' participation in forest conservation and management, a dedicated institution to promote this agenda Centre for People's Forestry (CPF) was initiated in 2002.

Vision  Marginalized group (Women, Tribal, and Dalits) from the forest and rural communities sustainably manage resources, conserving biodiversity and securing livelihoods

Mission  Building capacities, diversifying skills, and enhancing livelihoods for marginalized forest and rural communities.



Operational Areas



State	No. of Districts	Blocks	Gram Panchayat	No. of Villages
Telangana	Adilabad, Asifabad, Warangal and Bhadradi Kothagudem	8	64+9+30+40 (143)	- Adilabad – 146 - Asifabad – 18 - Warangal – 67 - Bhadradi Kothagudem – 40 - Total – 271 Villages
Andhra Pradesh	Alluri Sitharamaraju (ASR), Parvathipuram Manyam, Srikakulam	2+2+1 (5)	4+8+1 (13)	- ASR – 25 - Manyam – 25 - Srikakulam-55 - Total – 105 Villages
West Bengal	Bankura and North 24 Parganas	3	7	- Bankura – 35 - North 24 Parganas – 12 - Total – 47 Villages
Odisha	Malkangiri	1	4	Malkangiri – 25
4 States	10 Districts	17	167	448 Villages



434 Community Institutions
(Adivasi Farmers Centres, Village Coordination Groups, Learning Groups)
strengthened with 8880 farmers



9,000 farmers adopted agroecological farming practices and cultivated food crops
5,070 acres with crop diversification, replacing cotton and rice with food crops
8,580 acres with mixed cropping, integrating cotton with pulses and millets
7,375 farmers adopted Better Cotton practices



Access to Individual Entitlements 1618
Community Needs 150
Forest Rights Committees reconstituted - 19
Recognition of Forest Rights / IFR - 103
CFR Management Plans - 6



Improved groundwater, controlled erosion and brought 1235 acres under Rabi cultivation through 507 Soil & Moisture Conservation Structures (SMCs) and through convergence with MGNREGS
450 Ha of cultivable land under Rabi Cultivation

II. FOREST COMMUNITIES PROGRAMME

1. Rights and Entitlements

During 2025-26, the Centre for People's Forestry (CPF) worked for the rights and entitlements of tribal and forest-dependent communities across Andhra Pradesh, Telangana, Odisha and West Bengal. By strengthening community institutions, facilitating the implementation of the Forest Rights Act (FRA), 2006, and improving convergence with government departments, CPF enabled communities to access constitutional rights, welfare schemes and public services.

A total of 2,685 tribal and forest-dependent households were supported through 179 Adivasi Farmer Centres (AFCs), complemented by Gram Sabhas, Forest Rights Committees (FRCs), Community Forest Rights Management Committees (CFRMCs), Gender, Labour and Child Labour Prevention Committees.

Strengthening Community Institutions

CPF strengthened grassroots institutions to improve community leadership, participatory governance and access to government programmes.

Institution	Progress
Community Leaders Trained	179
Households reached	2,685
Awareness programmes on Entitlement & Schemes	167
Interface meetings with government departments	4
Gender Committees	78
Labour Committees	78
Child Labour Prevention Committees	78



These institutions served as platforms for planning, collective action, government convergence and strengthening the participation of women and community leaders.

Community Needs & Entitlements

CPF facilitated access to community infrastructure and development programmes through convergence with government departments.



Category	Applications	Sanctioned
Road infrastructure	76	38
Drinking water facilities	42	14
Schools & Anganwadi infrastructure	43	17
Community buildings	21	5
Drainage & sanitation	14	6
Street lighting & electrification	22	5
Village Ponds, Playgrounds, Community Facilities	11	0
Livelihood promotion & community development	82	65
Total	311	150

Leverage amount Rs. 3.30 Crores

Individual Rights & Entitlements

CPF enabled vulnerable households to access employment, social protection, livelihood support and essential public services.

Category	Applications	Sanctioned
MGNREGS Job Cards	1307	425
Social Security Schemes (Pensions, Lakhir Bhandar)	154	26
Food Security Schemes (Ration Cards, Anthyodaya)	872	633
Identity Documents (Aadhar, SC,ST Certificates)	109	47
Farmer Welfare Schemes (Rythubandhu, Krishak Bandhu, Khadyosathi, Bhumihin Khetmajur)	87	27
Housing Schemes (Bangla Awas Yojana, PM Awas Yojana)	4	0
Livelihood Promotion (Poultry, Mushroom cultivation)	341	333
Other Government Schemes (Ration Cards, Swasthya Sathi, Insurance)	328	127
Total	3202	1618



Women's Self-Help Group, received seed money of ₹10,000 from the Agriculture Department in the presence of Shri Narsing Madkami, MLA, Malkangiri; Shri Mangu Khilla, MLA, Chitrakonda; the Chief District Agriculture Officer, Malkangiri and the Deputy Director of Horticulture, Malkangiri, Odisha

When Rights Finally Reached Manisha

How CPF helped a tribal family turn a long-denied entitlement into hope for the future.

There are no signboards leading to Purnapani Chhota Tung, a remote Santhal tribal settlement in Ranibandh Block of Bankura district, West Bengal. Here, forests sustain families when crops fail, hospitals are hours away and government offices feel even farther. Poverty is not merely about low income—it is the daily struggle to survive.

For 35-year-old Manju Tantubai, every day begins before sunrise. She cooks, fetches water, tends goats, hens and a small kitchen garden before turning to the responsibility that defines her life—caring for her five-year-old daughter, Manisha, who lives with cerebral palsy. Since infancy, Manisha has been unable to walk or stand without support. Doctors told the family that while therapy could improve her condition, there was no cure. From that day, Manju's life became centred on carrying, feeding and caring for her daughter.

The family's struggles deepened when Manju's husband, Madhusudan, a migrant construction worker, was diagnosed with a serious liver disease. Medical expenses forced the family to sell their two cows and mortgage their small piece of land. Today, their mud house, a few goats, hens, a tiny kitchen garden and the surrounding forest remain their only means of survival.

Yet poverty was only one challenge. Although Manisha was eligible for government disability benefits, the family had never managed to obtain a disability certificate. In remote villages, information about government schemes rarely reaches those who need it most. Even when families know about their rights, repeated visits to hospitals and government offices demand time, money and documentation that many simply cannot afford.



Everything began to change during a community awareness programme organised by the Centre for People's Forestry (CPF). It was there that Manju first learnt that a disability certificate could open the door to disability pension, healthcare support and educational assistance for her daughter. More importantly, CPF helped her understand that these were not favours—they were rights.

Determined not to lose another opportunity, Manju travelled to the disability certification camp at Khatra Sub-

divisional Hospital, carrying her daughter while accompanying her seriously ill husband. After waiting for hours among hundreds of applicants, the camp closed before her turn arrived. Many families returned home disappointed. Manju refused to. She waited, requested and persisted—not because she sought charity, but because she was claiming a right already guaranteed to her daughter.

Recognising the family's circumstances, CPF field staff coordinated with the concerned authorities, facilitated a preliminary medical assessment, ensured referral to a child specialist and persistently followed up with the health system. Their efforts resulted in Manisha being officially assessed and certified with 70 per cent permanent disability. A month later, the disability certificate reached the family's home.

Nothing miraculous happened that day. Manisha did not suddenly begin to walk. Madhusudan's illness did not disappear. The mortgaged land was not returned. Poverty did not leave the family. But something fundamental changed. For the first time, the State formally recognised Manisha's disability and her right to support. The certificate opened access to disability pension, healthcare assistance and educational benefits—entitlements that had always existed but had remained beyond the family's reach. Today, Manisha can sit independently for short periods, and doctors remain hopeful that regular therapy will continue to improve her condition. For Manju, that hope means everything.

Manju's story is not simply about a mother's determination. Mothers across the country make extraordinary sacrifices for their children every day. The difference here was that CPF became the bridge between a vulnerable tribal family and the public systems created to support them. By raising awareness, facilitating access, coordinating with institutions and ensuring persistent follow-up, CPF helped transform a constitutional entitlement into a lived reality.

This story is therefore not just about one disability certificate. It is about restoring dignity through access to rights. It reminds us that meaningful development is not only about creating new schemes, but about ensuring that the most vulnerable citizens can reach the systems already designed for them.

When we look at Manju Tantubai, we see more than a mother carrying her daughter. We see a family that refused to surrender to exclusion, and a reminder that the true measure of a democracy lies not in the number of welfare programmes it announces, but in whether its most vulnerable citizens can access them with dignity. Sometimes, all it takes to change a family's future is ensuring that rights finally reach the people to whom they have always belonged.



When A Village Refused To Drink Fear

In the world's largest democracy, access to safe drinking water should never become a test of human endurance.

Yet, for nearly two years, a small tribal community in the river islands of North 24 Parganas struggled for this basic right—until CPF helped transform collective action into lasting change.

Water surrounds Joygopalpur Amtali Hatkhola Para, a small tribal hamlet under Manipur Gram Panchayat in Sandeshkhali-II Block of North 24 Parganas. Rivers, canals and tidal creeks encircle the village, yet none of this water is safe to drink. Salinity and arsenic contamination left nearly 55 tribal households searching every day for a single bucket of safe drinking water. Living on an island surrounded by water, yet unable to drink it, became one of the village's harshest realities.

For years, the community depended on only two public tube wells. Both repeatedly broke down and, by the summer of 2024, had stopped functioning completely. Women walked longer distances carrying heavy buckets, children accompanied them before school and elderly villagers waited for neighbours to bring water home. With no public source left, every household was forced to depend on a privately owned agricultural submersible pump that had no filtration, no regular water quality testing and no assurance that the water was safe. Yet there was no alternative.

"We knew the water was unsafe. We knew about arsenic. But what choice did we have? Children cannot survive without water," recalls Chandana Sardar.

The villagers did what responsible citizens are expected to do. Applications were submitted, meetings were held and government offices were visited repeatedly. Weeks turned into months and months into years. Apart from a temporary emergency supply of about 20 litres of drinking water per household, three days a week, little changed. The community had almost begun to accept that unsafe water was simply their fate.

Instead of giving up, the village chose another path. With support from the Centre for People's Forestry (CPF), the Village Coordination Group (VCG) evolved into a platform for collective leadership. CPF did not arrive with drilling machines or pipelines. It began by strengthening community awareness, helping villagers understand that access to safe drinking water was not a favour but a right. Village meetings became spaces where people learnt about government responsibilities, prepared petitions, documented every follow-up and collectively approached the Panchayat and later the Block Development Officer. Women, who carried the daily burden of fetching water, emerged as strong leaders of this process, while the entire community stood together in demanding a lasting solution.





The struggle continued for nearly two years before the breakthrough finally came. The administration approved the proposal and installed a submersible-based filtered drinking water system, built at a cost of 3,48,842.

Today, clean drinking water flows where fear once did. Children no longer begin their mornings drinking water their parents quietly feared. Women no longer depend on an irrigation pump never meant for human consumption. But perhaps the greatest transformation cannot be measured in litres of water alone.

The Village Coordination Group became far more than a village committee. It became proof that informed and organised communities can engage constructively with public institutions and secure their rights. Villagers who had once believed that submitting an application was the end of their responsibility discovered the importance of persistence, collective representation and continuous follow-up. As VCG member Nirmal Sardar reflects: "Earlier we believed that once an application was submitted, our responsibility ended there. Through the Village Coordination Group we learnt that government offices also need communities that continue asking, following up and standing together."

The story of Joygopalpur Amtali Hatkhola Para is therefore about much more than restoring a drinking water source. It is about restoring people's faith in the strength of collective action. CPF's contribution was not merely facilitating a water infrastructure project; it was helping a vulnerable tribal community organise itself, understand its rights and confidently engage with public systems until those rights became reality.

Today, every bucket of clean drinking water drawn from this system reminds the village that sustainable development begins long before the first brick is laid. It begins when communities discover that they are not powerless. The real legacy of this journey is not only the water system standing in the village today—it is the confidence that collective action, supported by informed facilitation, can transform basic rights into lasting change.



Every Drop Has A Story

How tribal communities in Seethampeta transformed water scarcity into community resilience through collective action.

By the time the sun rose over the forested hills of Seethampeta in Andhra Pradesh, the day's hardest task had already begun. Women walked along narrow forest paths carrying empty pots, children often accompanied them instead of going to school, and elderly family members waited anxiously at home. Although surrounded by hills, forests and natural springs, tribal villages such as Gadidapai, Jayapuram Guda and Polla Colony faced severe drinking water shortages every summer as traditional water sources gradually weakened. What appeared to be a local problem reflected a much larger challenge of water security across India's tribal regions.



The turning point came not through a large engineering project, but through collective community action. Under the Bread for the World (BftW)-supported programme, implemented by the Centre for People's Forestry (CPF), villagers began rediscovering and protecting the natural spring sources that had sustained their ancestors for generations. Rather than depending entirely on external solutions, communities themselves planned, contributed labour through Shramdan, revived abandoned springs, repaired damaged water systems, constructed spring collection structures, laid pipelines and restored storage tanks. CPF provided technical facilitation, while the community became the driving force behind implementation.

In Gadidapai, where a government-installed solar borewell could no longer meet household needs, villagers revived a nearby hill spring by constructing a cement-ring collection structure, rebuilding the storage platform and installing a new water tank. Today, 55 tribal households enjoy year-round access to water for drinking, bathing and household use. "Earlier we worried every day whether there would be enough water even for our guests. Today, that fear has disappeared," recalls a tribal farmer.

In Jayapuram Guda, the community transformed an overlooked spring known locally as Bodda Chettu Oota into a reliable water source by connecting it to a previously non-functional 5,000-litre storage tank. The revived system now provides safe water to 67 households, while reducing the burden on women and ensuring children spend more time in school than searching for water.

A 68-year-old tribal woman reflects, "The greatest change is not only that water comes to our homes. Our children no longer have to carry the burden that adults struggled with."



Perhaps the most remarkable transformation took place in Polla Colony. A gravity-based water supply system that had remained non-functional for more than a decade was brought back to life after CPF and the villagers identified a new spring source at Deyyala Gedda Oota. Through community labour, spring protection structures, retaining walls and new pipelines were constructed across difficult terrain, restoring reliable water access to 66 households.

For the villagers, however, the greatest achievement is not the infrastructure itself but the sense of ownership it created. "Because we built this together, we will protect it together. This water source belongs to all of us and to future generations," says a community member.

With an investment of only 95,000, the initiative has improved reliable water access for 188 tribal households, benefiting nearly 800 people across the three villages. Yet its real success cannot be measured only in numbers. It lies in reducing the daily burden on women and children, improving hygiene and health, strengthening climate resilience and, above all, demonstrating that sustainable development is strongest when communities themselves become custodians of change.

Across many development programmes, infrastructure often deteriorates once external support ends. In Seethampeta, the story is different. The villagers who carried stones, dug trenches, protected springs and laid pipelines now regard these assets as their own. That sense of ownership is perhaps the greatest guarantee of sustainability.

The story of Seethampeta is therefore about much more than water. It is about dignity restored, resilience strengthened and hope flowing once again. It reminds us that lasting development is not created by infrastructure alone—it emerges when communities and institutions work together, transforming local resources into shared prosperity, one drop at a time.



Community Forest Rights & Governance

CPF teams across all operational states have actively engaged in CSO forums, Tribal Organisations, and Tribal Welfare Department meetings to press for effective implementation of the Forest Rights Act (FRA), particularly Community Forest Rights (CFR). Through these efforts, CPF is steadily re-establishing its role as a key advocate for community forest governance. In Telangana through Community Forest Rights working group and Chenchu Solidarity Forum concerns regarding the pending claims of Community Forest Rights were brought to the notice of government officials and Hon'ble Governor. In West Bengal CPF in collaboration with Disha and Bharat Rural Livelihoods Foundation is working towards implementation of CFR claims.

At the national level, the Ministry of Tribal Affairs (MoTA) has initiated FRA cells in several states, including Odisha and Andhra Pradesh, where CPF operates. In Andhra Pradesh, FRA cells, in collaboration with the PMU for entitlements, are addressing critical issues such as corrections in IFR titles and ensuring linkages with Rythu Bharosa.

MoTA is also supporting CFR implementation through Article 275(1) grants, Special Central Assistance (SCA) to the Tribal Sub-Scheme (TSS), and targeted schemes for Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups (PVTGs). Typically, CFR management grants range between Rs.25-30 lakh per village, depending on the extent of forest land recognized and the approved micro plan.

Despite CPF's sustained advocacy with Tribal Welfare Departments and FRA cells, progress in initiating CFR management plans has been limited. In Odisha, however, CPF facilitated the preparation of CFR management plans in Urmaguda and Jabanpalli villages, marking an important step toward community-led forest governance.



Submission of the Community Forest Rights (CFR) claim to Shri Yuvraj Marmat, IAS, In-charge Project Officer, ITDA, Uttoor, Adilabad

CPF made our first foot print on FRA in West Bengal

35 tribal households in Sutan village, Ranibandh Block of Bankura district, received the titles of IFR claims recognised under the Revenue records also. Although they had received IFR title documents in 2011/12, they were unable to obtain the revenue records due to administrative apathy, not knowing the procedures well. In a few cases, they gave money to brokers who swindled their hard earned money.

With CPF facilitation applications for land records were submitted in September 2025. A continuous follow up was done. The present Block Revenue Officer is supportive and has extended his cooperation. Altogether 65 applications were submitted, and the remaining titles are currently under enquiry.



National Consultative Workshop on FRA 2006, CPF Trustee Sri. Sanjay Upadhyay as a Panelist and CPF Director Ms. B. Girija Devi at New Delhi, conducted by Ministry of Tribal Affairs (MOTA)

Exposure Visit to Wasadamkta Village, Chandrapur

In April 2012, the small village of Wasadamkta in Nagbhid Block, Chandrapur district, Maharashtra received its Community Forest Rights (CFR) title over 369 hectares of forest land spread across seven survey numbers. With just 82 households, nearly 40 percent belonging to Scheduled Tribes, the community embarked on a journey of collective forest management that has transformed their lives.

Through the Gram Sabha, villagers prepared a threeyear management plan worth Rs.12 crores, converging government schemes like MGNREGA, which sanctioned 5 crores. This enabled largescale plantation activities with 11 varieties of saplings — mango, jamun, tendu, mahua, and charoli — ensuring both forest restoration and diversified income streams.

The community also developed bamboobased livelihoods, generating nearly Rs.5 lakhs annually, while women's groups took the lead in plantation and maintenance work, earning Rs.312 per day. Their active participation not only strengthened community institutions but also reduced migration for lowwage labour. Each household contributes 200 annually toward village development, reinforcing the spirit of ownership and sustainability. For the FRC members and other tribal community members from Adilabad district who visited this story was a living example of how communityled forest management can secure rights, generate livelihoods, and build resilience.



2. Action Research And Policy Advocacy

Impact of High-Density Planting System and Reduced Pesticide Use in BCI Project locations

Under the BCI project, a field-level study was conducted in the Narsampet, Warangal District and Uttoor, Adilabad Districts of Telangana project locations to assess the impact of the High-Density Planting System (HDPS) and the reduction in chemical pesticide use. The study covered 20 HDPS plots involving 20 farmers across 20 acres, and 66 demonstration plots involving 66 farmers across 66 acres.

Data was collected from these plots during January–February 2026. The data shows that the HDPS system resulted in a 30% increase in crop productivity compared to conventional farming practices from the previous year, reflecting improved resource-use efficiency and better agronomic management. (Data source: Result Indicator Report and Adoption Data)

Simultaneously, a marked 40–60% reduction in chemical pesticide use was observed, indicating a successful transition toward integrated pest management and reduced dependency on synthetic inputs.

At project inception, a baseline survey was conducted, which revealed that 90% of cotton farming was chemical-intensive, with farmers using highly hazardous pesticides such as Monocrotophos, Lambda-cyhalothrin, paraquat dichloride, and glyphosate, among others. Farmers were made aware of the impact of these pesticides on soil and their own health. Through demonstration plots and Learning Groups, awareness of Non-Pesticide Management (NPM) and Integrated Pest Management (IPM) was created, and farmers were encouraged to adopt practices such as applying vermicompost and farmyard manure, and using pheromone traps, sticky traps, Neemastram, and Agnihastram.

These findings are closely linked to a key limitation in how pesticide use is conventionally measured: counting litres of pesticide sprayed does not capture harm — a small amount of a very dangerous chemical can hurt farmers, soil, water, and bees more than a large amount of a mild one. To address this, toxicity-weighted score (Pesticide Toxicity Load) was developed. It combines two elements: a government reference list (CIBRC – Central Insecticides Board & Registration Committee) of pesticides cross-checked against toxicity ratings (LD_{50} , simplified into a “Toxicity Load Index,” or TLI), and field records of pesticide use collected from a pilot sample of 20 farmers across 2 districts.

The PTL (Pesticide Toxicity Load) was calculated by multiplying the toxicity factor ($1/LD_{50}$) of each active ingredient by the amount used per litre of spray solution, and then adding the values to obtain the total PTL. This resulted in a baseline PTL value of 0.124, which is currently recorded in the Impact & Outcome Plan and will be reassessed in 2027–2028.

Based on the above results, the BCI programme has placed greater focus on interventions such as vermicompost and the use of botanicals among farmers.

PTL = toxicity-weighted pesticide score • LD_{50} = lab measure of lethal dose (lower = more toxic) • TLI = standardised toxicity ranking • CIBRC = India's pesticide regulator • Project Unit = a CPF field area (e.g. Adilabad, Warangal) • Baseline = the starting number against which progress is measured.



Adoption of High-Density Planting System (HDPS) in Cotton

Soyam Krishna, a smallholder farmer from Pataguda village in Uttoor mandal, Adilabad district, cultivated cotton on his 3-acre land using traditional practices. Despite investing heavily in fertilizers and pesticides, his yields remained modest at 6–8 quintals per acre, leaving him with low net returns. His journey took a new turn when the CPF organization, under the Better Cotton Initiative, introduced improved agronomic practices in the village. Field Facilitator Mr. Rajaram guided Krishna through the High-Density Planting System (HDPS), encouraging him to adopt better spacing, compost application, and need-based pesticide use. Though initially hesitant due to seed costs, Krishna embraced HDPS with continuous support through trainings, meetings, and exposure visits.

The transformation was remarkable. His yield doubled to 12 quintals per acre, input costs reduced significantly, and profitability improved. Beyond financial gains, Krishna acquired knowledge of sustainable farming methods and became a role model for fellow farmers. His success inspired others in the village to adopt HDPS, creating a ripple effect of innovation and sustainability.

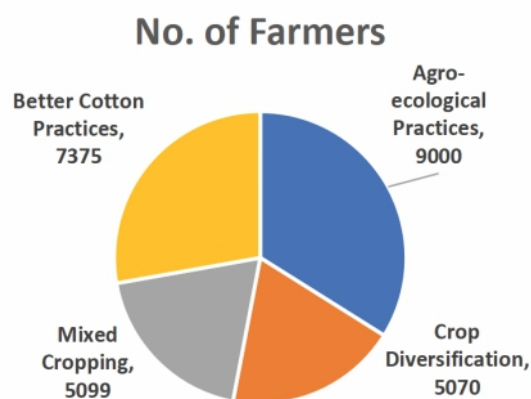
Krishna's story demonstrates how the right guidance, modern practices, and farmer determination can turn challenges into opportunities. HDPS not only enhanced productivity and income but also promoted sustainable agriculture, proving that smallholder farmers can achieve prosperity while protecting the environment.



3. Participatory SNRM & Livelihoods

1. Sustainable Agriculture and Agroecological Farming

For tribal and forest-dependent communities, livelihoods and food security are largely dependent on natural resources. Guided by this understanding, the Centre for People's Forestry (CPF) continued to promote Sustainable Natural Resource Management (SNRM) as an integrated approach that strengthens ecological sustainability while enhancing agricultural productivity, climate resilience and diversified livelihood opportunities with 9000 farmers across Andhra Pradesh, Telangana, Odisha and West Bengal



CPF promoted agroecological farming, soil, water and biodiversity conservation, Integrated Farming Systems (IFS), eco - enterprises and value-chain development through Adivasi Farmer Centers (AFCs), Learning Groups (LGs), Farmer Producer Groups (FPGs), and other village-level committees.

CPF promoted agroecological farming practices among over 9,000 farmers across project locations in Andhra Pradesh, Telangana, Odisha, and West Bengal. The programme facilitated 5,070 farmers to adopt crop diversification, bringing 5,070 acres under food crops replacing cotton, 3000 farmers cultivating food crops including millets and pulses. While 5,099 farmers adopted mixed cropping across 8,580 acres, intercropping cotton with food legumes, millets, and other food crops. In addition, 7,375 farmers adopted Better Cotton practices, contributing to improved soil health, enhanced biodiversity, reduced cultivation costs, and increased resilience to climate variability.

A total of 2,313 farmers received agricultural inputs, including food crop seeds, fodder seeds, native NTFP species, fruit saplings, green manure, and organic fertilisers. To demonstrate improved farming practices, **299 demonstration plots** covering 240.40 acres were established, showcasing crop diversification, mixed cropping, HDPS cotton, millets, pulses, vegetables and horticultural crops.



Farmer Field School (FFS)

Farmers capacities were enhanced on Soil testing, land preparation, SMC works, Sowing methodologies, seed treatment, Preparation of bio-pesticides and bio-fertilizers, crop diversification, mixed cropping, better cotton practices, and Post-harvesting practices and seed storage through 809 Farmer Field School (FFS) sessions benefiting over 11,600 farmers.

2,643 soil samples were collected and tested to promote scientific nutrient management and improve soil fertility. Soil testing reports are being shared with farmers, enabling them to adopt appropriate nutrient management practices and improve soil health. Based on the soil sample test results, deficiencies in organic carbon, nitrogen, and phosphorus were identified. To address these deficiencies, the application of vermicompost, farmyard manure (FYM), and silt was recommended to improve soil fertility and nutrient status.



Promotion of Bio-fertilisers and Bio-pesticides

CPF promoted the adoption of bio-fertilisers and bio-pesticides to reduce dependence on chemical inputs, improve soil health, and strengthen climate-resilient agriculture. Farmers were trained in the preparation and application of organic formulations such as Jeevamrutham, Ghanajeevamrutham, Neemastra, Agneyastra, Trichoderma, and other locally available bio-inputs through demonstration plots, Farmer Field Schools and training programmes.



Natural farming was strengthened through the establishment of 386 vermicompost units, including 332 mobile vermicompost beds, across the project locations. Of these, 134 were established in Adilabad and 60 in Warangal (Telangana), 30 in Bankura (West Bengal), 26 in Parvathipuram Manyam and 26 in Alluri Sitharama Raju (Andhra Pradesh), and 26 in Malkangiri (Odisha). Together, these units produced more than 134,000 kg of vermicompost, applied 77,000 kg of vermicompost at the recommended rate of 300 kg per acre across 256 acres, improving soil fertility, enhancing soil organic matter, and reducing dependence on chemical fertilizers.

In addition, 33,400 kg of vermicompost was sold to 340 farmers at Rs.8 per kg, generating a total income of Rs.272,000 for the producer groups. The initiative not only promoted the adoption of natural farming practices but also created a sustainable village-level bio-input enterprise, reducing cultivation costs while strengthening local livelihoods and the long-term sustainability of agroecological farming systems.

Across the project locations, 3496 farmers (4048 acres) adopted bio-fertilisers, including the use of vermicompost, farmyard manure and organic nutrient formulations to improve soil fertility, while 3,619 farmers adopted bio-pesticides such as Neemastra and Agneyastra for eco-friendly pest management.

Additionally, 1,585 farmers adopted sticky traps and pheromone traps as integrated pest management (IPM) measures and 1,000 farmers adopted Trichoderma seed treatment to improve seed health and crop establishment.

Bio-Resource Centres (BRCs)

CPF established and strengthened 16 Bio-Resource Centres (BRCs) across its project locations to serve as village-level hubs for promoting agroecological farming practices and the production of bio-inputs. Of these, 14 BRCs were established in Telangana (11 in Adilabad (9 Solar based), 1 in Warangal, and 2 in Bhadrachalam) and 2 in Andhra Pradesh (1 each in Parvathipuram Manyam and ASR districts).

These units ensured timely and affordable access to bio-pesticides such as Jeevamrutham for farmers within the villages while supplying neighbouring farmers, thereby promoting the wider adoption of organic and agroecological farming practices. Managed primarily by women farmers, the BRCs are promoting livelihood opportunities, local enterprises and enhancing the availability of eco-friendly agricultural inputs.

One Bio-Resource Centre (BRC) unit has the capacity to produce 14,400 litres of bio-inputs annually through 36 production cycles, with an output of 400 litres per cycle. This production is sufficient to cover 288 acres at the recommended application rate of 50 litres per acre.

A total of 10,200 litres of Jeevamrutham was produced through 16 Bio-Resource Centres (BRCs) and applied by 340 farmers across 450 acres of agricultural land. The community-managed production and distribution of this bio-input generated a net income of Rs. 36,000, strengthening the financial sustainability of the Adivasi Farmer Centres (AFCs) while improving farmers' access to affordable, eco-friendly inputs.

The widespread adoption of these agroecological practices contributed to a 20–30% reduction in pest damage, 15% reduction in cultivation costs, improved soil health, and reduced dependence on synthetic pesticides and fertilisers. A survey was conducted with a 5% sample size, covering 1250 farmers.



Beyond Compost: How Tribal Women Became the Missing Link in Sustainable Farming

Who Supplies Organic Farming? Tribal Women Found the Answer.

Gadiguda Mandal | Adilabad District | Telangana

Organic farming begins long before a seed is sown. It begins with one simple question: Who will supply the organic fertiliser? In many tribal villages, farmers were eager to reduce their dependence on chemical fertilisers, but quality organic manure was neither readily available nor produced locally. Recognising this missing link, the Centre for People's Forestry (CPF), with support from the Azim Premji Foundation (APF), transformed a farming challenge into a women-led rural enterprise.



Working across 36 tribal habitations covering 2,321 households in Gadiguda Mandal, CPF first focused on changing farmers' perceptions. Through village-level awareness campaigns and practical demonstrations, communities learned how vermicompost could restore soil fertility, improve moisture retention, enhance crop productivity and reduce cultivation costs. To encourage adoption, CPF established 18 permanent vermi-beds and 28 mobile vermicompost units, enabling 46 farmers to produce organic manure using locally available resources. As more farmers experienced healthier soils and better crop performance, demand for vermicompost steadily increased.

Rather than meeting this growing demand through external suppliers, CPF chose a more sustainable solution—building local entrepreneurs. Four tribal women from Dhaba-K, Loddiguda and Maregaon stepped forward to establish vermicompost enterprises. They received training not only in compost production, but also in packaging, branding, marketing and enterprise management. The programme further supported them with packaging materials, weighing machines, branding, sealing equipment and working capital, enabling them to supply farmers with a professionally packaged product.

The results demonstrate the potential of this approach. Jaobade Devathabai prepared 110 bags, while Nayam Janabhai produced 35 bags of vermicompost for sale. Together, the women produced 145 bags (3,875 kilograms) of organic fertiliser, creating a dependable local supply for farmers while generating a new source of income for their own households.

What makes this initiative remarkable is that it goes far beyond compost production. It has created a community-owned supply chain where tribal women are no longer only cultivators—they are suppliers, entrepreneurs and partners in sustainable agriculture. Farmers who once relied on costly chemical fertilisers from outside the village are increasingly purchasing organic manure produced within their own communities.



By creating local enterprises instead of temporary project support, CPF has shown that sustainable agriculture depends not only on changing farming practices but also on building the local systems that make those practices possible. The initiative has strengthened soil health, generated rural livelihoods and positioned tribal women as the missing link connecting organic farming with long-term sustainability. When villages produce the inputs they need, sustainable agriculture stops being a project—and becomes a community-owned system.

Community Institutions and Agricultural Services

CPF strengthened community institutions by supporting 179 Adivasi Farmer Centres (AFCs) with a total of 2,685 committee members. To enhance access to farm mechanization and improve service delivery, farm implements (Power Sprayer, Battery Sprayer, Water Pumpset, Sprayer, Drums, Weeder) were provided to 99 AFCs established across 99 villages, including 31 in Adilabad (Telangana), 25 in Bankura (West Bengal), 28 in Parvathipuram Manyam and Alluri Sitharama Raju districts (Andhra Pradesh), and 15 in Malkangiri (Odisha), enabling 2,498 farmers to access agricultural equipment through community hiring services. As a result, 76 AFCs generated a cumulative income of Rs. 93,440 through equipment rental services, contributing to the financial sustainability of the centres while improving farmers' access to timely and affordable farm machinery.

The programme also established 31 Community Seed Banks (15 in Parvathipuram Manyam and Alluri Sitharama Raju Districts of Andhra Pradesh and Malkangiri district of Odisha, 12 in Bankura district of West Bengal and 4 in Bhadrachalam district of Telangana), strengthening indigenous seed conservation and reducing farmers' dependence on external seed markets.

The initiative benefited 793 farmers by ensuring timely access to quality seeds, reducing dependence on external seed markets, and enhancing household seed security. Seed banks generated an income of Rs. 33,000 through the sale of Paddy, Millets, Pulses, Jowar, Moringa and Vegetables seeds. Additionally, 343 farmers preserved traditional paddy and mustard seed varieties, strengthening community seed sovereignty, conserving indigenous agrobiodiversity, and improving the resilience of local farming systems to climate



2. Natural Resource Management and Climate Resilience

Natural Resource Management interventions focused on water resource development, through soil and moisture conservation measures, springshed management and forest restoration. Through convergence with MGNREGS and other government programmes, 353 new Soil and Moisture Conservation (SMC) structures, 72 repair & maintenance of SMC structures and 82 forest restoration works were completed in Adilabad district of Telangana, bringing nearly 857 acres under improved Rabi cultivation while strengthening groundwater recharge and reducing soil erosion.

New SMC Works carried out

Type of SMC Works	No. of SMC Works achieved	Cultivable land increased after SMC works in Rabi
Earthen Bunding	146	365
RFD	84	210
Gabions	36	90
MPT Desilting	02	24
Farm Pounds	85	168
Total	353	875



Repair and Maintenance of SMC Structures

SMC Works	No. of SMC Works	Land under cultivation before SMC works in Rabi	Increase in cultivable land after SMC works in Rabi (Acres)
LBS	41	0	41
RFD	7	0	18
Check dam Desilting	24	96	252
Total	72	96	311

A total of 72 Soil and Moisture Conservation (SMC) structures were restored through repair and maintenance, improving soil moisture retention and water availability across approximately 311 acres of agricultural land. The restored structures enhanced irrigation support, reduced soil erosion, improved crop productivity and extended the functional life of existing water conservation assets, contributing to sustainable natural resource management.



SMC works in Forest

Type of SMC Works	No. of SMC Works	Rabi cultivation at baseline	Increase in Rabi cultivated area after SMC works (Acres)
LBS	37	0	37
RFD	9	0	22
Check dam Desilting	1	3	8
SLT	35	0	140 plants conserved
Total	82	3	67

Bringing nearly 67 acres under improved Rabi cultivation while strengthening groundwater recharge and reducing soil erosion and 140 plants conserved.

Spring Sheds

Spring Shed management was implemented in three villages of Seethampeta mandal, Parvathipuram district, Andhra Pradesh, benefiting 188 households for drinking water, while watershed restoration activities included the desilting of 3 ponds, installation of one submersible irrigation system, and restoration of irrigation infrastructure benefiting 67 households across 49 acres of agriculture fields. The project contributed Rs. 569,305, while the community contributed Rs. 112,786 through cash and local resources, demonstrating strong community participation and ownership of the initiative.

CPF promoted climate-resilient irrigation through the construction of two Diversion Based Irrigation (DBI) structures in Bhadrachalam district of Telangana, enabling the efficient diversion and utilization of surface water for agriculture. The completed civil works expanded assured irrigation to 80 acres, directly benefiting 40 farming households. By improving access to reliable irrigation, the intervention reduced dependence on erratic rainfall, enhanced cropping intensity and productivity, and enabled farmers to cultivate crops more sustainably.



3. Biodiversity Conservation and Ecological Restoration

CPF promoted biodiversity conservation through agroforestry, native species plantation, herbal gardens, and ecological restoration initiatives. A total of 4,550 native saplings were planted across 43.25 acres of common lands and 12 Individual Forest Rights (IFR) title lands in 30 villages. The plantations included 2,050 saplings in Adilabad (Telangana), 1,500 in Parvathipuram Manyam (Andhra Pradesh) and 1,000 in Malkangiri (Odisha). The survival percentage is estimated at around 30–40%. The initiative will contribute to the restoration of degraded landscapes, improved green cover and biodiversity, strengthened ecosystem services, and enhanced the long-term climate resilience of forest-dependent communities. In addition, 4210 seed balls were broadcast across 53 acres of common lands and forest areas in 34 villages, accelerating natural regeneration, improving green cover, and supporting the revival of native flora.

The programme established 8 herbal gardens, promoted agroforestry, and strengthened ecological restoration through plantation of indigenous species including Mahua, Neem, Pongamia, Sal, Amla and Custard Apple.



4. Nutrition Security

Nutrition-sensitive agriculture was promoted through household kitchen gardens and institutional nutrition gardens. A total of 1587 women established kitchen gardens (635 in Bankura district of West Bengal, 450 in Andhra Pradesh, 222 in Odisha and 280 in Bhadrachalam district of Telangana), cultivating diverse vegetables like Ridge gourd, Okra, Carrot, Cabbage, Tomato, Chilli, Brinjal, Coriander, Bottle gourd, Beans, leafy vegetables etc., that significantly improved household nutrition and dietary diversity. A total of 730 kitchen garden kits were distributed to both men and women farmers across Adilabad and Warangal districts under the Better Cotton Initiative (BCI) project. On average, each kitchen garden yielded 30–40 kg of okra, 20–25 kg of brinjal, 15–20 kg of bottle gourd, Carrot - 10 kg, Okra - 7 kg, Beans - 15 kg, Coriander - 2 kg, Bottle Guard - 15 kg, Spinach - 5 kg and 60–70 kg of tomatoes.

Additionally, nutrition gardens were established in 7 schools and 9 Anganwadi Centres, promoting nutrition education and improving access to fresh vegetables for children.

Around 800 women are earning an average monthly income of Rs. 3,500 per household through the sale of surplus vegetables after meeting their household consumption needs. The intervention has not only improved household nutritional security through regular access to fresh vegetables but has also created a reliable source of supplementary income, strengthened livelihood resilience and reducing expenditure on food.



5. Integrated Farming Systems and Livelihood Diversification

Integrated Farming Systems (IFS) promoted diversified livelihoods through fisheries, poultry, vegetable cultivation, fodder development, Azolla production, agroforestry and farm pond bund plantations.

Pisciculture

CPF promoted pisciculture as a sustainable livelihood intervention to enhance household incomes, improve nutritional security, and ensure the productive use of community water resources through both individual and community-based aquaculture models. Across its programmes, a total of 49,800 fish fingerlings were distributed and stocked, benefiting 196 farmers and community members.

Of the total, 34,500 Bangartiga, Katla, and Rohu fingerlings were stocked in 10 community ponds across 10 villages in Gadiguda and Bela mandals of Adilabad district, Telangana, benefiting 120 community members. The intervention was implemented through convergence with the Department of Fisheries, leveraging Rs.100,000.

To strengthen Integrated Farming Systems (IFS), 12,800 fingerlings along with fish feed were provided to 16 farmers for stocking in 16 farm ponds in Dummugudem and Cherla mandals of Bhadrachalam district, Telangana. In addition, 60,000 fingerlings were stocked in eight community ponds, benefiting 160 farmers through convergence with the Department of Fisheries and ITDA in the Adilabad and Warangal project locations of Telangana.

A total of 1,636 kgs of fish was harvested from five community ponds, of which 1,061 kg was consumed by community members, significantly improving access to nutritious food. The remaining 575 kgs was sold, generating a total income of Rs. 86,250 (at Rs. 150 per kg). The intervention enabled participating households to earn an average supplementary income of approximately Rs. 1,500 per individual while strengthening community-managed livelihood systems.

Fish harvesting is yet to be completed in the remaining nine community ponds and 16 individual ponds, which is expected to further enhance household incomes and food security.



Poultry

Poultry support reached 16 households through the distribution of 1,600 improved poultry chicks, creating opportunities for an estimated income of Rs.33,000–36,000 per production cycle. 9 Poultry sheds were distributed to 9 vulnerable/single women.

Fodder plantations covering 16 acres, Azolla production units, vegetable cultivation around farm ponds, and bund plantations further diversified farm income while improving livestock productivity and household nutrition.

Women were also supported through NTFP value addition, vermicompost enterprises and Bio-Resource Centres, creating sustainable livelihood opportunities based on locally available natural resources.



Bund Plantation and Vegetable Cultivation

Promoted bund plantation and vegetable cultivation to strengthen livelihood diversification, improve household nutrition, and enhance climate resilience.

Bund plantation was undertaken in Bhadrachalam district of Telangana around 16 farm ponds covering 30 acres, benefiting 16 farmers. Fruit and multipurpose species such as guava, sapota, papaya, moringa, banana, and coconut were planted on the pond bunds to optimize the use of available land. These plantations are expected to provide long-term income, improve household nutrition, enhance biodiversity, and strengthen the sustainability of farming systems.



In Adilabad and Warangal districts of Telangana, 100 farmers established integrated bund plantations with a combination of fruit and vegetable species through convergence with the Department of Horticulture. In addition, block plantations were developed on 20 acres of common land at two locations, with support from the Departments of Horticulture and Forest. Species such as Sarvi, Pongamia, Bamboo, and Subabul were planted to improve green cover, restore common lands, and generate future livelihood opportunities.

Vegetable cultivation was also promoted as an integral component of the IFS model in Bhadrachalam district of Telangana. A total of 16 farmers cultivated vegetables over 5 acres, growing crops such as brinjal, okra (bhendi), tomato, cucumber, and leafy vegetables using farm pond irrigation, drip irrigation, and organic inputs. The intervention improved year-round access to nutritious vegetables while creating a regular source of household income.

The integrated promotion of bund plantations and vegetable cultivation has strengthened household food and nutritional security while creating additional livelihood opportunities. Besides meeting their family's vegetable requirements, farmers marketed surplus produce in local markets, earning up to 1,000 per week as additional income.

The fruit and multipurpose plantations established on pond bunds are expected to provide sustainable long-term returns, diversify farm income, improve efficient land use, and enhance the resilience of farming systems against climate variability.



NTFP Value Addition and Livelihood Promotion

To strengthen livelihoods and enhance income opportunities from Non-Timber Forest Produce (NTFP), CPF implemented a series of capacity-building and enterprise development initiatives under the Better Cotton Initiative (BCI) project in Adilabad and Warangal districts of Telangana.

A total of 100 farmers successfully completed training on Amla value addition. Additionally, 45 women received hands-on training in the value addition of Amla and Mahua, equipping them with practical skills for processing and marketing forest produce. As a result of the training, 15 out of the targeted 50 farmers (30%) adopted improved Amla value addition practices.

To promote alternative livelihoods among vulnerable households, CPF supported the establishment of 50 microenterprises benefiting 100 vulnerable and single women by providing livelihood assets such as roti/chapati-making units, tea stalls, health drink stalls, tailoring machines, printers, nursery trays, weighing machines, tables, Poultry sheds, Mixer grinder and baskets. These enterprises created opportunities for income diversification and strengthened women's economic independence.

Overall, 1,454 women (86% of the target of 1,700) were trained on alternative livelihood practices and enterprise development. In addition, 3,000 landless cotton workers were sensitized on labour rights, livelihood opportunities, and social entitlements, enhancing their awareness and access to sustainable livelihood options.

The combined efforts contributed to livelihood diversification, strengthened household incomes, promoted women's economic empowerment, and reduced dependence on seasonal wage labour.



From Forest to Market: How One Tribal Woman Sparked a Mahua Enterprise



Gadiguda & Bela Mandals | Adilabad District

For generations, tribal families in Gadiguda and Bela mandals collected Mahua flowers from nearby forests. Rich in nutritional, cultural and economic value, the flowers were almost always sold in their raw form for barely Rs.60 per kilogram, leaving little income for the collectors who depended on them.

CPF, with support from the Azim Premji Foundation, saw a different opportunity—not in collecting more Mahua, but in adding value to what the community already had.

Instead of treating Mahua as a low-value forest produce, the programme reimagined it as the foundation for tribal women-led enterprises.

The transformation began with Kodapa Laxmi, a former CPF volunteer who found herself unemployed after the completion of an earlier project. Rather than migrating in search of work, she chose to build a livelihood within her own village by experimenting with Mahua-based food products. Recognising her determination, CPF connected her with entrepreneurship and food-processing training through Krishi Vigyan Kendra (KVK), provided 5,000 as seed support, facilitated mentoring through WE-Hub, supported Udyam Registration, and helped strengthen product branding, packaging and market access.

The results were remarkable. Laxmi developed nutritious Mahua Laddus and later introduced Mahua Energy Balls blended with honey. Her products earned recognition at the YESummit, while participation in the Rashtrapati Nilayam Exhibition generated 10,000 in sales in a single day, demonstrating that traditional forest foods could successfully compete in modern markets when supported with innovation and entrepreneurship.

Rather than allowing the success to remain an individual achievement, CPF transformed it into a community movement. Laxmi herself became a mentor, sharing her experience during village awareness programmes and cluster-level trainings. Four Women's Self-Help Groups across Gadiguda and Bela mandals received practical training in Mahua processing, food safety, packaging and enterprise development, along with seed support and market linkages. Today, 25 tribal women are processing, packaging and marketing Mahua products, with each group already generating sales of up to 10,000.

More importantly, the initiative has changed how the community views its forests. Mahua is no longer seen merely as a seasonal forest product—it has become the basis of local entrepreneurship, women's leadership and sustainable livelihoods. By helping tribal women move from selling raw produce to marketing branded value-added products, CPF has demonstrated that lasting livelihood transformation begins not with external resources, but by unlocking the hidden value of local knowledge and natural assets.

A forest flower that once earned 60 per kilogram is now creating enterprises, confidence and new opportunities for tribal women—proving that the greatest value often lies not in the resource itself, but in what communities can create from it.



WHAT THE FOREST KNEW LONG AGO

How CPF supported tribal women in Malkangiri turn a familiar forest food into a source of income, confidence, and opportunity



In the forested hills of Malkangiri, mushrooms are not new. Long before mushrooms appeared on restaurant menus, supermarket shelves, online food delivery platforms, and health-conscious diet plans, tribal communities living close to forests knew their value.

For generations, forest-dependent tribal communities have shared a close relationship with the forests that surround them. Beyond providing fuel, fodder, and livelihood resources, forests have also served as an important source of food. During the monsoon season, many tribal families traditionally collected naturally growing mushrooms from nearby forests as part of their Non-Timber Forest Produce (NTFP). These seasonal mushrooms were gathered freely from nature and formed a valued part of household diets.

Today, the same mushroom is viewed very differently. Doctors often recommend it as a nutritious food for recovering patients. Nutritionists praise it for being rich in protein, vitamins, minerals, and dietary fibre. Restaurants serve mushroom dishes as premium starters and breakfast options. Across cities, health-conscious consumers willingly pay high prices for what is now considered a superfood.

Yet there is a striking irony. Many of the tribal families who have known and consumed mushrooms for generations have rarely benefited from the growing market demand surrounding this valuable food. That reality is slowly beginning to change in Pramila Padar, a remote tribal village nestled amidst the forests and undulating hills of Malkangiri district in Odisha.

Life Beyond the Paddy Season

Like most families in the village, the women of Shree Maa Self-Help Group depended largely on seasonal agriculture. The paddy season brought activity to the fields and income to households. But once the harvest was over, uncertainty returned. Employment opportunities became scarce.

Many families depended on daily wage labour to bridge the gap between agricultural seasons. For women, opportunities to earn independently within the village were particularly limited. Every year, the same question resurfaced: 'What can we do when the fields fall silent?'

A member of the group recalled: "After the paddy season, income becomes uncertain. We wanted to contribute more to our families, but there were very few opportunities available nearby." It was during this period of uncertainty that a new possibility emerged. Not from outside the community. But from something the community already understood. Mushrooms.

From Traditional Knowledge to Modern Enterprise

During an AFC meeting facilitated under the Bread for the World (BftW)-supported programme, CPF field staff engaged with community members to identify livelihood opportunities that could be managed by women using locally available resources. The discussions led to the selection of Shree Maa Self-Help Group for a mushroom cultivation initiative.

Recognising that traditional familiarity alone would not guarantee commercial success, CPF connected the women with scientists from Krishi Vigyan Kendra (KVK), who provided practical training and demonstrations on scientific mushroom cultivation. The women learned how to prepare mushroom beds, manage moisture levels, monitor growth, and harvest the produce properly.

For many participants, it was their first experience with organised cultivation techniques. Initially, there was hesitation. Would the mushrooms grow? Would buyers be interested? Could this really become a source of income?



CPF's field team remained closely involved throughout the process, providing regular handholding support and technical guidance whenever challenges emerged. Slowly, uncertainty began to give way to confidence.

Inside a modest 10-by-10-feet cultivation space, the women carefully prepared 35 mushroom beds. Day after day, they monitored the conditions and applied the lessons they had learned during training. Then one morning, the first signs of success appeared. Tiny clusters of mushrooms began emerging from the beds. What had started as an experiment was becoming a livelihood opportunity.

The women watched with excitement as the mushrooms continued to grow. Neighbours stopped by to see the progress. Family members became curious. The anticipation grew with every passing day. A tribal woman shared: "When we saw the mushrooms growing for the first time, we felt proud. It showed us that we could learn something new and make it successful."

The Harvest That Changed Perspectives

The group successfully cultivated mushrooms from 35 production beds and harvested approximately 18 kilograms of fresh mushrooms. The produce was sold in the local market at around 250 per kilogram, generating nearly 4,500 in revenue. For many readers, 4,500 may not sound extraordinary. But in Pramila Padar, the significance was far greater than the amount itself.

It was the group's first income from a completely new enterprise. It proved that women could generate income without leaving the village. It demonstrated that a small space and limited investment could create economic value. Most importantly, it encouraged the women to think differently about their future. A community member reflected: "The income was important, but the biggest change was our confidence. We realised that we can earn from something we produce ourselves."

The success of the initiative also attracted institutional support. Through assistance from the Horticulture Department, each participating member received an incentive of 7,000, while 8,000 was credited to the SHG account, further strengthening the group's financial position.



More Than an Income Activity

The true impact of the initiative extends beyond earnings. The women gained technical skills. They learned production and management practices. They developed confidence in handling a new enterprise. They reduced dependence on seasonal wage labour. And they began viewing themselves not merely as labourers, but as entrepreneurs.

The initiative also demonstrated that sustainable livelihood opportunities can emerge from resources and knowledge that already exist within communities. By combining traditional familiarity with scientific cultivation practices, the women transformed a seasonal forest food into a year-round economic opportunity.

Growing Confidence, Growing Possibilities

Today, the mushroom beds in Pramila Padar represent much more than a livelihood activity. They represent possibility. Through the support of Bread for the World and the dedicated facilitation of CPF's grassroots team, tribal women who once faced months of uncertainty after the paddy season have begun building an additional source of income closer to home.

The mushrooms harvested from the beds were sold within days. The earnings were eventually spent. But something more valuable remains: Knowledge, Confidence, Skills. And the belief that opportunities do not always arrive from outside. Sometimes they grow from seeds of possibility that already exist within a community.

In the forested hills of Malkangiri, a traditional forest food is now helping tribal women write a new chapter in their livelihood journey and that may be the most valuable harvest of all.



6. Capacity Building, Community Awareness and Knowledge Sharing

CPF strengthened community capacities through extensive training, awareness and learning programmes. Overall, the programme organised more than 850 capacity-building events, including 673 Farmer Field Schools, 62 formal training programmes, 34 awareness programmes, 11 exposure visits, workshops, village meetings, theatre workshops and Focus Group Discussions.



7. Exposure Visits

Exposure Visits on Agroecological Practices

During the reporting period, two exposure visits on agroecological practices were organized, benefiting 56 farmers. The visits were conducted at two renowned institutions—Shyamahita Math and Development Research Communication and Services Centre (DRCSC)—to provide farmers with first-hand exposure to successful agroecological models and sustainable farming innovations.



The exposure visits enabled farmers to observe and interact directly with experienced practitioners, enhancing their practical understanding of climate-resilient and sustainable agriculture. Participants learned about a wide range of agroecological practices, including triple-layer farming systems, scientific goat shed management, preparation and

application of bio-fertilizers and bio-pesticides, community seed banks for indigenous seed conservation, and integrated farming systems that optimize the use of on-farm resources.

Exposure Visit to Krishna Sudha Academy (KSA), Nuziveedu, Vijayawada, Krishna District.

Two exposure visits were organized to Krishna Sudha Academy (KSA), Nuziveedu, involving 20 farmers. The visits provided practical exposure to soil health management, preparation of botanical formulations, Bio-Resource Centre (BRC) operations, crop diversification practices, and soil testing laboratory procedures, enhancing farmers' knowledge and skills in sustainable and agroecological farming practices.

Exposure visit to M.S. Swaminathan Research Foundation (MSSRF)

Background and Purpose

As part of the Adivasi Livelihood Project, an exposure visit was organised to the M.S. Swaminathan Research Foundation (MSSRF), Jeypore, Koraput, on 28 October 2025. A total of 26 farmers, including 7 women and 19 men, accompanied by 4 CPF staff members, participated in the visit. The purpose was to provide practical exposure to sustainable agriculture, indigenous crop and seed conservation, traditional paddy varieties, and medicinal plants of importance to tribal communities.

Key Learning and Exposure

- **Nutrition Garden:** Participants observed diverse crops cultivated through eco-friendly practices and learned about garden planning, crop selection, and seasonal management.
- **Indigenous Seed Bank:** Farmers observed the preservation and management of more than 250 indigenous seed varieties and learned about traditional seed conservation and crop diversity
- **Paddy Trial Farm:** Participants observed more than 70 traditional paddy varieties and learned about varietal characteristics, yield potential, and adaptation to local conditions.
- **Medicinal Plant Block:** Farmers observed herbal and medicinal plants and learned about their traditional and cultural significance among Koya, Bonda, Didayi, and Paraja communities.



8. Revival of Indigenous Culture and Traditional Knowledge

CPF implemented a community-led initiative to preserve and promote the cultural heritage of Adivasi communities in Paderu and Dumbriguda Mandals by documenting indigenous knowledge and encouraging intergenerational learning. Through discussions with village elders, women, youth, traditional leaders, and cultural practitioners, CPF documented traditional songs, oral histories, Dhimsa and Gumpa dances, festivals, marriage customs, Podu cultivation, indigenous food systems, traditional healthcare, customary governance, and the close relationship between forests, biodiversity, and Adivasi identity.



This knowledge informed participatory theatre workshops where experienced community theatre activists and local participants developed songs and performances on forest conservation, biodiversity, water resources, IFR,



CFR, traditional livelihoods, and indigenous food systems. These performances were presented in schools, villages, and community festivals, strengthening cultural identity and environmental awareness among children and youth.

The initiative enhanced community pride, revived interest in traditional art forms, and promoted knowledge transfer between generations. Overall, the programme engaged 235 participants through 9 Focus

Group Discussions, 255 participants (148 men and 107 women) through 3 theatre workshops, distributed 12 traditional musical instrument sets to 4 Self-Help Groups (SHGs) and 20 youth groups, benefiting 40 women and 32 youth members, organised 3 community cultural festivals with 516 community members (199 men and 317 women), and conducted one cultural learning workshop involving 67 participants (34 men and 33 women).

To promote traditional healthcare practices, biodiversity conservation, and the preservation of Adivasi cultural heritage, the Centre for People's Forestry (CPF) established eight Herbal Gardens, benefiting eight community members (7 men and 1 woman) in Alluri Seetharamaraju District. These gardens serve as community-based learning spaces for conserving indigenous medicinal plant species,



encouraging the sustainable use of herbal resources, and revitalising traditional healthcare practices. Traditional healers, village elders, and other knowledgeable community members played a central role in identifying medicinal plants, documenting their therapeutic uses, and transferring ethnomedicinal knowledge to younger generations, thereby safeguarding valuable indigenous knowledge systems.

CPF also strengthened the Adivasi Cultural and Ecotourism Centre as a community platform for preserving and promoting Adivasi traditions, indigenous arts, crafts, music, dance, traditional food systems, biodiversity conservation, and sustainable livelihoods. The Centre hosted cultural exhibitions, knowledge-sharing sessions, community interactions, and awareness programmes, providing opportunities for students, researchers, visitors, and local communities to learn about and appreciate Adivasi heritage.

In addition, CPF actively participated in cultural festivals, exhibitions, workshops, and awareness programmes organised by government departments and civil society organisations, showcasing Dhimsa dance, indigenous healthcare practices, millet-based food systems, forest-based livelihoods, and biodiversity conservation initiatives. These engagements strengthened collaboration with partner organisations, increased public awareness of Adivasi culture, and created wider recognition of indigenous knowledge and traditional practices.

As a result, the initiative enhanced community pride, encouraged younger generations to preserve and practise traditional knowledge, promoted the conservation of medicinal plant diversity, strengthened the recognition of indigenous knowledge systems, and reinforced the role of Adivasi culture in advancing sustainable development, biodiversity conservation, and community resilience



4. Adaptation to Climate Change

Climate change continues to pose significant challenges to the livelihoods of tribal and rural communities through erratic rainfall, rising temperatures, declining biodiversity and increasing pressure on natural resources.

Key Achievements in Climate Change Adaptation

- Promoted 16 agroforestry models across Paderu, Alluri Sitharama Raju (ASR) District, Andhra Pradesh; Cherla and Dummugudem, Bhadradri Kothagudem District, Telangana; and Korukonda, Malkangiri District, Odisha, covering 16.3 acres. The models integrated fruit-bearing, multipurpose, and indigenous tree species with agricultural crops to enhance climate resilience, strengthen biodiversity, and improve livelihood security.



District & State	Location	Area Established (Acres)	Agroforestry Species Integrated
Alluri Sitharama Raju (ASR) District, Andhra Pradesh	Paderu	4.3	Mango, Coffee, Pepper, Banana, Sapota, Amla, Jamun, Mahua, Custard Apple and Soapnut
Malkangiri District, Odisha	Korukonda	6.0	Guava, Jackfruit, Jamun, Lemon, Orange, Tamarind, Amla, Pomegranate and Coconut
Bhadradri Kothagudem District, Telangana	Cherla & Dummugudem	6.0	Banana, Papaya, Coconut, Lemon, Sapota and Moringa
		16.3	

- Planted over 6,300 native NTFP and horticultural saplings across Individual Forest Rights (IFR) lands, community lands and farmlands in Parvathipuram Manyam district of Andhra Pradesh and Malkangiri District of Odisha, contributing to biodiversity conservation, ecological restoration and carbon sequestration.



- Broadcasted more than 5,200 seed balls and 52.5 kg of indigenous tree seeds to accelerate natural regeneration of degraded landscapes and enhance green cover.
- Undertook Climate Risk Assessments and Community Climate Adaptation Planning in 25 villages, enabling communities to identify local climate vulnerabilities and develop locally appropriate adaptation strategies.
- 16 Integrated Farming System (IFS) models incorporating bund plantation, vegetable cultivation, poultry and pisciculture were established in Bhadradri Kothagudem district, Telangana. The initiative also promoted indigenous crop cultivation and climate-resilient horticulture to strengthen livelihood diversification, and improving the adaptive capacity of farming families to climate variability.
- 8 Adivasi Cultural and Food Festivals were organised across Adilabad district (1) in Telangana, Alluri Sitharama Raju (ASR) district (5) in Andhra Pradesh and Malkangiri district (2) in Odisha, engaging 547 participants from 20 villages. The festivals promoted the revival of traditional food systems, indigenous crops, and biodiversity conservation practices while strengthening cultural identity, intergenerational knowledge sharing, and community awareness of sustainable food and farming traditions.

Convergence with Government

- Leveraged Rs.5.79 crores through convergence with government departments to support climate-resilient agriculture, agroforestry, water resource development, rural infrastructure and sustainable livelihood initiatives. Strengthened partnerships with ITDA, Agriculture, Horticulture, Forest, Fisheries, MGNREGS, Panchayati Raj Institutions and Krishi Vigyan Kendras (KVKs), expanding technical support and public investment for community-led climate adaptation.



Growing More Than Mangoes

How one acre of orchard became a family's pathway to financial security.

For years, every farming season brought the same question to Madavi Yamuna Bai of Mandaguda village in Tiryani Mandal, Kumuram Bheem Asifabad district: "Will this year's crop be enough?" Owning about five acres of land, her family depended almost entirely on traditional crops such as cotton, red gram and green gram. But changing weather patterns, rising cultivation costs and falling cotton prices steadily reduced their earnings. Every failed crop meant another season of uncertainty, making it increasingly difficult to meet household expenses or plan for the future.

Everything began to change in 2020-21 when the Centre for People's Forestry, with financial support from NABARD, introduced the Maa Thota Horticulture Programme in her village. Through training on orchard development, natural farming, water management and sustainable agriculture, Yamuna Bai saw an opportunity to shift from seasonal uncertainty to long-term livelihood security.

With technical guidance from CPF, she converted one acre of her land into a mixed orchard by planting 42 mango trees and 28 guava plants. Like many first-generation orchard growers, she initially had doubts. Fruit trees take years to produce returns, and waiting itself can become a financial burden for small farmers. To bridge this gap, CPF encouraged her to cultivate green gram as an intercrop between the young trees. The strategy proved invaluable. During the orchard's establishment period, the intercrop generated an average income of 10,000 every year, contributing nearly 50,000 over five years. This income helped meet household expenses, maintain the orchard and support her children's needs while she waited for the trees to mature. The patience paid off. By 2025, the mango orchard began producing fruits. Although the first harvest was modest, it generated around 15,000. This season, Yamuna Bai has taken another important step by selling her naturally grown mangoes directly to consumers in the Tiryani weekly market, where they are receiving encouraging demand at around 100 per kilogram. She now expects to earn nearly 40,000 from mango sales this year alone. By adopting natural farming practices and avoiding unnecessary chemical use, she has improved fruit quality, gained consumer trust and eliminated middlemen, enabling her to secure better prices.

Today, Yamuna Bai's greatest achievement is not simply earning more income. It is the confidence that comes from knowing her livelihood no longer depends entirely on one seasonal crop. What was once a farm vulnerable to fluctuating cotton prices has become a diversified farming system capable of generating regular and sustainable returns. Reflecting on her journey, Yamuna Bai says: "Earlier we faced many losses in cotton farming. Now, because of the orchard, we are getting income every year. Our family life has improved. We are thankful to NABARD and CPF for their support."

Her story demonstrates that meaningful agricultural transformation does not always require expanding



landholdings. Sometimes it begins by using the same land differently. Through the Maa Thota Programme, CPF and NABARD helped one farmer move beyond the uncertainty of seasonal agriculture towards a livelihood built on diversification, natural farming and direct market access. Today, Yamuna Bai's orchard is doing more than producing mangoes—it is growing confidence, financial security and a future that becomes stronger with every passing season.



III. STAFF TRAININGS AND EXPOSURE VISITS

- Workshop on BRC Unit Establishment, 8th to 10th April 2025, at Krishna Sudha Academy Kondaparva, Vijayawada, Andhra Pradesh
- Regenerative Agriculture Workshop, 3rd and 4th June 2025, at Bengaluru
- Workshop on Forest Rights Act Implementation, 5th June 2026 at Tribal Welfare Department, Vijayawada
- Training to Field Facilitators on Communication Skills, 12th to 14th August 2025, Anand, Gujarat
- Training on agro-ecological practices, entitlements and community forest rights, 22nd August 2025 at Adilabad
- Five-day foundational course on organic and natural farming systems, 19th to 23rd August 2025, at Krishna Sudha Academy, Kondaparva, Vijayawada, Andhra Pradesh
- Training on GIS Mapping of villages, 3rd to 5th September 2025 at Gadiguda, Adilabad
- Training on Crop Mapping, 11th September, 2025 at Gangadevipally, Warangal.
- Workshop on FRA, 18th September 2025 at Visakhapatnam
- Work Shop on PACDR, 6th to 10th October 2025 at Paderu, ASR District, Andhra Pradesh
- Training on GIS and Remote Sensing, 5th to 7th November 2025 at WOTR, Pune
- Workshop on The Watershed Management Programme, 11th & 12th November 2025 at Vijayawada, Andhra Pradesh
- Workshop on Social Impact, 11th to 13th November, 2025 at Nagpur
- SAMANVAY - Capacity-Building Initiative (Exposure Visit), 13th to 16th November 2025 at Chandrapur, Maharashtra
- Exposure Visit on Agroecological Farming & Agroforestry Practices, Native and NTFP conservation Practices, 28th November, 2025 at Swaminathan Research Foundation, Jeypore, Koraput & Asha Kiran Society, Lamtaput, Koraput
- Training on Community Mobilization, 2nd & 3rd January 2026 at KVK Adilabad



- Training on The Forest Rights Act, 2006: A Living Instrument of Justice and Conservation by Sri. Sanjay Upadhyay, CPF Trustee, for CPF staff on 3rd January 2026
- Facilitation of Women Farmer Stall at Rashtrapati Nilayam, Hyderabad, 8th January 2026
- Training-cum-Awareness Programme on Community Forest Rights (CFR) under FRA, 12th January 2026, Adilabad
- Training on Gender Mainstreaming, 19th to 21st January 2026 at MANAGE, Hyderabad
- All-India Forum of Forest Rights Struggle (AIFFRS), 23rd & 24th January 2026, at Ranchi, Jharkhand
- Prevention of Sexual Harassment, 30th January 2026 at Hyderabad
- Workshop on Adaptation to Climate Change, 3rd & 4th February 2026 at Vivanta, Pune
- GIS Remote sensing Phase 2 training, 5th & 6th February 2026, WOTR, Pune
- Workshop on Soil Health Management and Climate Resilience, 11th & 12th February 2026, Ahmedabad
- Workshop on Forest Right Act, 17th to 19th February 2026 at Khatra, Bankura, West Bengal
- Bio-control agent refresher training, 24th to 27th February 2026 at AAU, Gujarat
- Internal Exposure Visit - Promoting Sustainable Agriculture & Farmer Learning, 7th April 2026, G.R. Nagar and Laxetipet villages, Utnoor, Adilabad
- Exposure Visit to Chandrapur District, Maharashtra: Learning Experience for Farmers in Wasadamakta and Kirmitti Villages, Nagbhid Block, 15th & 16th April 2026
- Training on Livelihood Generation, 18th April 2026 in Adilabad



IV. ONGOING PROJECTS

BRLF-HDFC: Improving the lives and livelihoods of marginal farmers in Jharkhand and Telangana through sustainable practices in integrated natural resource management and climate-resilient agriculture interventions.

No. of Villages – 40, Project Period: July 2025 to March 2028, Budget: 4.47 Crores

GIF-BCI: Better Cotton Initiatives in Adilabad and Warangal districts of Telangana

No. of villages-134, Project Period: April 2024 to March 2027, Budget: 5.45 Crores

BftW: “Ecological and agricultural restoration for food security and climate adaptation amongst Adivasi (Indigenous) Communities in 4 districts across 3 states of India.”

No. of Villages – 130; Project Period: April 2024 to March 2027, Budget: 6.5 Crores

APPI: Enhancing and sustaining returns from agriculture and enabling access to entitlements for tribal communities (Gond, Kolam (PVTG), Naikpod) in Telangana

No. of Villages - 79; Project Period: September 2023 to August 2026, Budget: 4.62 Crores

SPF: Support tribal and other vulnerable communities to improve their livelihoods and social security in West Bengal

No. of Villages – 47; Project Period: January 2026 to December 2029, Budget: 4.35 Crores

NABARD – Formation and Promotion of Tribal Farmer Producer Organization in Tiryani Mandal, Asifabad District, Telangana,

No. of Villages – 18; Project Period: May 2026 to April 2031; Budget Rs. 38 Lakhs

V. STATUTORY AND LEGAL COMPLIANCES

2002 : CPF registered under Indian Trust Act 1882 on 6th August, 2002

2003 : Registration under 12A (a) of the I.T. Act, 1961

2006 : Registration under Foreign Contribution Regulation Act (FCRA), 1976

2021 : FCRA renewed up to December 2026

2021 - CPF has anti sexual harassment policy and with ICC in place

2022 : 80 G renewed up to March 2031

12A renewed up to March 2036

VI. RESOURCE AGENCIES

	 SWISS PHILANTHROPY Foundation	Bread for the World (BfdW) 
 Azim Premji Philanthropic Initiatives	 BRLF BHARAT RURAL LIVELIHOODS FOUNDATION	NABARD  NATIONAL BANK FOR AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT

VII. FINANCE



SAMPATH & RAMESH

CHARTERED ACCOUNTANTS

(Regd. No. (FRN) 005947S)

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

To
The Managing Trustee
CENTRE FOR PEOPLE'S FORESTRY
SECUNDERABAD.

Report on the Financial Statements:

We have audited accompanying **CONSOLIDATED** financial statements of CENTRE FOR PEOPLE'S FORESTRY ("the Trust") H. No. 12-13-483/39, 1st Floor, Lane 6, Street No.14, Nagarjuna Nagar, Colony, Tarnaka, Secunderabad -500017 Telangana which comprise Balance Sheet as at 31st March 2026 and annexed Income & Expenditure Account and Receipts & Payments Account for the year ended, and a summary of significant accounting policies and other explanatory information.

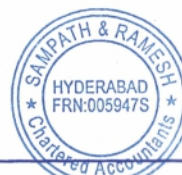
Management's Responsibility for the Financial Statements:

Management is responsible for the preparation of these financial statements in accordance with the Trust Act and accounting principles generally accepted in India. This responsibility includes the design, implementation and maintenance of internal control relevant to the preparation and presentation of the financial statements that give a true and fair view and are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

Auditor's Responsibility:

Our responsibility is to express an opinion on these financial statements based on our audit. We conducted our audit in accordance *with the Standards on Auditing issued by the Institute of Chartered Accountants of India*. Those Standards require that we comply with ethical requirements and plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements are free from material misstatement.

An audit involves performing procedures to obtain audit evidence about the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. The procedures selected depend on the auditor's judgment, including the assessment of the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error. In making those risk assessments, the auditor considers internal control relevant to the Trust preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances. An audit also includes evaluating the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of the accounting estimates made by management, as well as evaluating the overall presentation of the financial statements.



101A, Sidhartha Harini Apartments, Besides DBR Mills, Lower Tank Bund Road, Hyderabad - 500 080.

Landline : 9100515906, 040-27617319 Email : sampathandramesh@yahoo.com

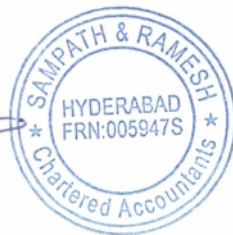
We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our audit opinion.

Opinion:

In our opinion and to the best of our information and according to the explanations given to us, the financial statements give the information required by *the Trust Act* in the manner so required and give a true and fair view in conformity with the accounting principles generally accepted in India:

- (a) in the case of the Balance Sheet, of the state of affairs of the *Trust as at 31st March 2026*;
- (b) in the case of the Income & Expenditure Account of the *excess of income over expenditure for the year ended on that date*.
- (c) In the case of Receipts & Payments Account, of the cash Flows for the period ended on that date.

For SAMPATH & RAMESH
Chartered Accountants
(FRN 005947S)



(CA. KRISHNA REDDY. A)
Partner M.No:204755
UDIN:

Place: Hyderabad.

Date: 29.07.2026

CENTRE FOR PEOPLE'S FORESTRY
H.No.12-13-483/39, Street No.14, Tarnaka, Secunderabad - 500 017



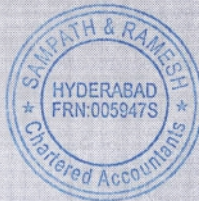
CONSOLIDATED BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31.03.2026

PARTICULARS	Schedule	AS ON	AS ON
	No	31.03.2026	31.03.2025
		(₹)	(₹)
SOURCE OF FUNDS:			
Corpus Fund			
Reserves & Surplus	1	4,000	4,000
Specific Reserves			
Core fund	2	3,34,03,670	1,06,45,679
	3	23,00,000	23,00,000
		3,57,07,670	1,29,49,679
APPLICATION OF FUNDS			
Fixed Assets:			
Gross Block	4		
Less: Depreciation		26,71,139	30,67,683
Write off		6,30,943	7,49,294
Net Block			
		20,40,195	23,18,389
Current Assets, Loans & Advances			
Deposits and Advances	5	9,31,125	11,94,574
Cash and Bank Balances	6	3,50,80,918	89,34,459
		3,60,12,043	1,01,29,033
Less: Current Liabilities & Provisions			
Current Liabilities	7	23,44,568	17,97,743
Net Current Assets		3,36,67,475	83,31,290
		3,57,07,670	1,06,49,679

As per our report of even date attached
for **SAMPATH & RAMESH**
Chartered Accountants
FRNo.005947S

for **CENTRE FOR PEOPLE'S FORESTRY**

(A.KRISHNA REDDY)
Partner
M.No: 204755
PLACE : HYDERABAD
DATE : 29.07.2026

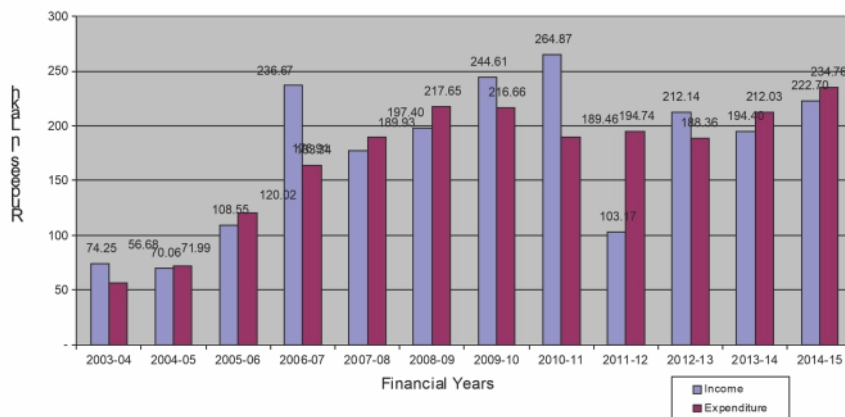


(B.GIRIJA DEVI)
Director

(DR.K.KAMESWARA RAO)
Managing Trustee

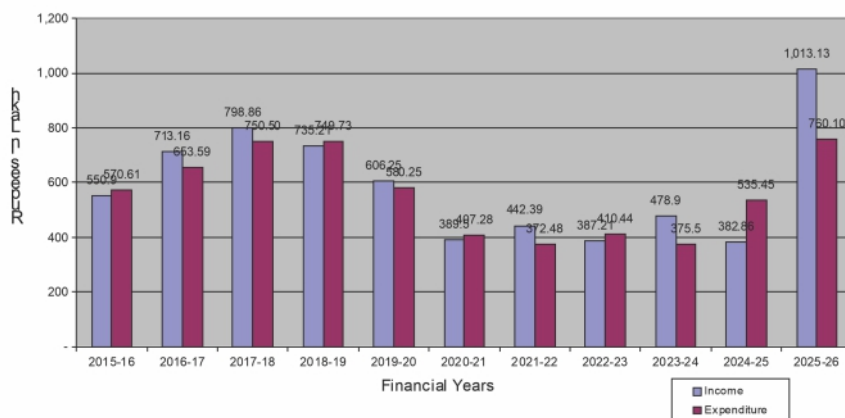


Income & Expenditure from the F.Y.2003- 04 to 2014-15

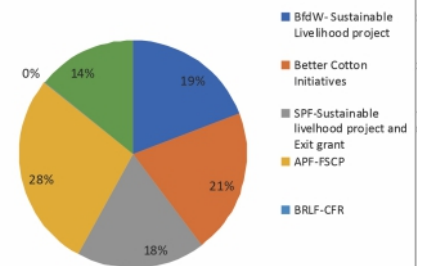


Note: In FY 2006-07 Fund received Rs. 54.50 lakh for flood relief activity. Hence in this year fund received Rs. 236.67 lacs

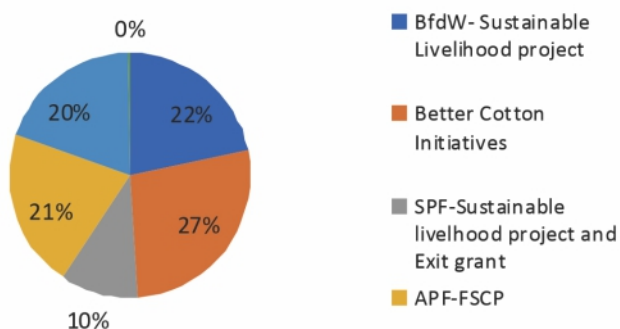
Income & Expenditure from the F.Y.2015-16 to 2025-26



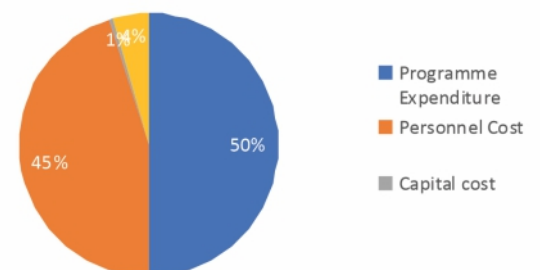
Receipts during April 2025 to March 2026



Payments during April 2025 to March 2026



EXPENDITURE ANALYSIS FOR APRIL 2025 TO MARCH 2026



VIII. CPF TEAM

Head Office - Hyderabad, Telangana

Ms. B. Girija Devi	Ms. G. Shylaja
Mr. V. Balraj Gupta	Ms. R. Jhansi Rani
Mr. E. Poorna Chander	Ms. V. Poojitha
Ms. Likhita Sriram	Mr. J. Bhaskar
Dr. Susmita Sarkar	Ms. U. Rama

Field Office - Seethampeta, Parvathipuram Manyam District, Andhra Pradesh

Mr. G. Hemanth Kumar	Mr. D. Sai Nitheesh
Mr. N. Santosh	Mr. A. Vinith Kumar
Mr. S. Anil	Mr. A. Vijay
Mr. A. Syamala Rao	Mr. M. Simhachalam
Mr. B. Kamesh	

Field Office - Dumriguda, Alluri Sitharamaraju District, Andhra Pradesh

Mr. P. Lakshmana Rao	Mr. M. Sasikumar
Ms. A. Nagamani	Ms. B. Lakshmi
Ms. S. Kamala	Ms. V. Malathi

Field Office - Adilabad District, Telangana

Mr. K. Satyanarayana	Mr. K. Ravinder
Mr. Dileep Rathod	Mr. Nyaneshwar
Mr. Md. Abdul Razzaq	Ms. T. Akhila
Mr. Sharukh Khan	Ms. S. Pooja
Ms. D. Kavitha	Mr. S. Saikumar
Ms. B. Pranitha	Mr. H. Sheku
Ms. A. Aruna	Mr. A. Bhagavandlu
Ms. S. Seematai	Ms. T. Shivani
Mr. HK Jaggerao	Ms. K. Anasuya
Mr. M. Vittal	Mr. J. Sriram
Mr. C. Suresh	Mr. G. Bramhanandam
Mr. B. Ravikanth	Mr. A. Sachin
Mr. M. Bheemrao	Mr. W. Akshay Kumar

Field Office - Uttoor, Adilabad district, Telangana

Mr. Praveen Kumar	Mr. G. Srikanth
Mr. J. Sudarshan	Mr. T. Thirumalesh
Ms. M. Alivelu Mangamma	Mr. P. Rajaram
Ms. B. Srinidhi	Ms. A. Nikitha
Ms. M. Rathnamala	Ms. B. Suvarna
Ms. M. Suguna	Ms. B. Navanitha
Ms. J. Nikhitha	Ms. S. Aravind
Ms. M. Archana	Ms. K. Saipadma
Mr. K. Shankar	Ms. Ch. Shivani
Mr. C. Gangaram	

Field Office - Tiryani, Kumrambheem Asifabad district, Telangana

Mr. B. Mahender
Mr. C. Santosh

Field Office - Narsampet, Warangal District, Telangana

Ms. R. Aravindarao	Ms. L. Supriya
Mr. S. Sandeep	Ms. J. Priyanka
Ms. S. Soundarya	Ms. B. Vinoda
Ms. Y. Shravani	Ms. M. Swaroopa
Mr. K. Ganesh	Mr. B. Veeranna
Ms. D. Shruthi	Mr. B. Ramesh
Mr. K. Santhosh	Mr. A. Shivaraju
Mr. T. Sandeep	Mr. B. Nithish Kumar
Mr. G. Thirupathi	Mr. B. Kheeru
Mr. J. Eerya	Mr. K. Kumara Swamy
Mr. P. Raju	

Field Office - Cherla and Dummugudem, Bhadradri Kothagudem district, Telangana

Mr. N. Krishna	Mr. N. Veeraswamy
Mr. G. Akhilesh	Mr. S. Durgarao
Mr. A. Sunil Kumar	Mr. T. Mounika
Mr. B. Ramesh	Mr. Y. Vithesh
Mr. J. Jayasimha	Mr. N. Saibabu
Mr. Jaganmohan Rao	

Field Office - Korukonda, Malkangiri district, Odisha

Mr. Nitya Mallick
Mr. Sourav Mandal
Mr. Abhay Howladar
Mr. Manoj Kumar Satapathy
Mr. Sukadev Jarel
Ms. Heena Debnath

Field Office - Khatra, Bankura district, West Bengal

Mr. Avijit Paul
Mr. Sailen Paramanik
Ms. Shreyasi Sengupt
Mr. Arun Maity
Mr. Rahidul Islam Khan
Mr. Asishkumar Janaa

IX. BOARD OF TRUSTEES



Dr. Kameswara Rao (Managing Trustee since 2017) holds a Ph.D in Environmental Science and retired as Professor of Environmental Sciences in Andhra University.

His professional experience is immense, and includes more than 40 years in teaching, research, and scientific consultations and 10 years in administration. He has more than 62 researches, three books, and 21 technical reports to his credit and has guided 38 scholars for their doctoral degrees. He has been a member of Board of Studies of various universities, and served as guest/visiting faculty at eight different universities. He has

held many other honorary positions previously as a member of the Thematic Expert Group on Wildlife Research, MoEFCC, Kolleru Committee of MoEFCC, World Bank Supervision Mission on APCFM; AP State Pollution Control Board; AP State Wildlife Advisory Board, and currently serves the AP State Expert Appraisal Committee, MoEFCC.

Dr. Urmila Pingle (Trustee since 2005) has a dual degree in Medicine (Osmania Medical College, OU, Hyderabad) and a doctoral degree in Population Genetics/Statistics from Indian Statistical Institute, Calcutta.

She has had more than four decades of research experience involving a diversity of subjects ranging from Public health, nutrition, dietary practices, socio cultural and economic status of a number of tribal populations of Central India. She has published more than 25 papers and published two books on Anthropological aspects of these tribal groups. Her varied research experience led her to be involved in formulating natural resource development policies as well as Tribal development policies in the country. Her involvement with state and Central governments as well as her collaboration and networking with a wide variety of NGOs (Health, Community forestry, Tribal development and Education) helped support and assist them in more successful implementation of policies and programs. She has been consultant for many projects and studies of international and national organisations as well as for governments at state and national level. She has also documented the impact of successful programs that have incorporated a participatory approach that have truly empowered tribal women self her groups in Adilabad district, Telengana state. She was awarded the Indian Council of Medical Research Prize for contributions to “Bio-medical Research in under developed areas, 1989”.



Her close association with Centre for Peoples Forestry (CPF) as a trustee and chairperson over a decade has been an enlightening and a mutually learning experience.



Dr. Sheela Prasad (Trustee since 2002) retired as Professor at Centre for Regional Studies, University of Hyderabad.

She holds a PhD in Geography from Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi. Her research interests include urban & regional geography, health, gender and environment issues. She has a number of research articles & three books to her credit. She has been part of various teaching/research assignments abroad, at University of Nottingham (UK), University of Pittsburgh (USA), Dartmouth College (USA) and National University of Singapore. She is a Member of Ethics Committee in

CDFD, Hyderabad and IIT Hyderabad and a Member of the Women's Complaint Committee of CCMB, Hyderabad. She is a member of the Executive Committee of Anveshi Research Centre for Women, Hyderabad and was on the Board of Mahila Abhirudhi Society & COVA, Hyderabad.

Prof. Manmohan Yadav (Trustee since 2005) is currently working as a Professor of International Business at Indian Institute of Plantation Management (IIPMB), Bengaluru. He is teaching courses on International Marketing Management; Customs, Shipping & Insurance; International Contracts and Trade Laws; Business Research Methods; Soft-Skill Development etc.

Dr. Yadav has been in academia for more than 28 years and worked for more than 9 years in Food & Dairy Processing Industry.



Prior to joining IIPMB, Dr. Yadav worked as Professor of Marketing and Dean at Indian Institute of Forest Management, Bhopal. While at IIFM he made remarkable contributions to the Forestry sector in general, and the Indian Institute of Forest Management in particular, as an educator, researcher, and administrator. In addition to his exceptional academic and research abilities, Dr. Yadav has demonstrated his effectiveness and visionary leadership as an administrator at IIFM. In his capacity as the Dean at IIFM, he has been instrumental in shaping institutional strategies.

Sri. Sanjay Upadhyay (Trustee since 2004), Senior Advocate, Supreme Court of India, is the founder and managing partner of India's first environmental law firm, Enviro Legal Defence Firm. Sanjay has been practicing environment and development law since 1993.



An India Visiting Fellow at the Boalt Hall School of Law, University of California, Berkeley (Fall 1996) and a legal intern to the Earth Justice Legal Defense Fund, San Francisco, a Global Fellow in Marine Policy at the Duke University, North Carolina, he started his professional career at the World Wide Fund for Nature– India at the Centre for Environmental Law.

Sanjay has served as an environmental and development law expert to most well-known international, Multilateral, national and state Institutions including the World Bank, ADB, IUCN, DFID, AFD, FAO, UNDP, IIED, ODI to name a few. He has been in the drafting Committees of several laws in India and abroad including Wildlife Act, Forest Rights Act, Nagaland Biodiversity Rules, the Land Acquisition law of Afghanistan, the Forest Sector Policy of Himachal Pradesh, Medicinal Plant Policies of Arunachal Pradesh and Uttarakhand among others. Sanjay practices in the Supreme Court of India and particularly in the National Green Tribunal.



Dr. N.H. Ravindranath (Trustee since 2005), Professor (Retd.) – Centre for Sustainable Technologies, Indian Institute of Science Bangalore, India.

Areas of Research, Development and Policy Advocacy include: **Climate Change, Forests, Bioenergy and Ecosystem Services.**

Prof. Ravindranath has focused his research, advocacy and publications on various dimensions of Climate Change - Mitigation Assessment, Greenhouse Gas Emissions Inventory in Land Use Sectors, Impact of Climate Change and Vulnerability Assessment in Forest and Agro-ecosystems, Adaptation and Climate Resilience, Forest Ecology, CDM and REDD+ Projects. He has also worked on Bioenergy, Biofuels and Biomass Production, Environmental / Ecosystem Services, and Citizen Science.

- He is an author for several IPCC (Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change) Assessment Reports on Climate Change – WMO and UNEP focusing on mitigation in forest sector.
- He is an author for IPBES (Inter-Governmental Platform on Bio-diversity and Eco-system Services)-Reports.
- He is the Scientific Advisory Panel Member for Global Environmental Outlook (GEO 6)
- He was the Science Technology Advisory Panel (STAP) member of GEF (Global Environmental Facility) for Climate Change Focal Area during 2008 – 2012.
- He is a UNFCCC expert for GHG (Greenhouse Gas) inventory reports submitted to UN.
- He has published 8 books (from Oxford and Cambridge Uni. Press, Kluwer, and Springer Publishers) out of which 4 are on Climate Change.
- He has published over 150 peer reviewed research papers out of which about 60 are on Climate Change.
- He has brought out special issues on Climate Change in Journals such as Current Science, Mitigation and Adaptation Strategies to Global Change.
- He has worked for or advised many State governments on “Assessment of Climate Change Projections, Impacts and Vulnerability”. He also has worked at national level on MGNREGA and climate change.

He is an expert for several World Bank, UN and other bilateral projects related to climate change.

Ms A. Kalamani (Trustee since 2012), Post-graduated in Economics, she did her M.Phil in Micro Level Planning and stood as Topper of the Gandhigram University; Tamil Nadu in 1986. She began her career as an academican and worked in Madurai and Hyderabad colleges for seven years. Later she was attracted by the Development sector and provided her services as Socio-Economist to Netherlands Aided Projects and thereafter to an NGO called 'Action for Integrated Rural Development Society' (AIRDS), Hyderabad for nearly three years. And henceforth she had long association with another NGO called 'Center for World Solidarity' (CWS), headquartered in Hyderabad, for almost 14 years in different capacities from Projects Officer to Joint Executive Director. She then worked for nearly two & half years as Programme Officer-South Asia in 'Inter Church Cooperation' (ICCO) based in New Delhi. Lastly she took up the responsibility as Executive Director in APMAS for seven years. Since 2018, she has been consultant and providing professional services to APMAS, Care&Share Italia and National Rural Livelihood Mission.



She was involved in advancement of women's rights and supported especially women headed organisations and networks to play a vital role in promotion of gender equality and in mainstreaming gender concerns in development programmes. Further involved in governance, HIV and AIDS, democratization and conflict resolution, poverty eradication, children's education, livelihoods programmes specially focusing on women and small landholders, besides projects designing, monitoring and evaluation, and organizational development. She has undertaken many consulting assignments for the international and national NGOs and CSR Foundations.

She has travelled extensively and gained exposure through visits to other countries on official capacities for workshops, seminars and meetings for creating linkages, and mutual learning. She has been on the Boards of AP Mahila Samatha Society, Hyderabad; SACI Waters (South Asia Consortium for Interdisciplinary Water Resources Studies), AP Permaculture Association of India and currently on the Board of APMAS.



Director and Ex-Officio Secretary since 2021

Ms. B. Girija Devi, a Gold Medalist in Master of Social Work, Girija has been a Gender and Development Professional for more than two and half decades in India.

She promotes the cause of the gender justice and child rights passionately but constructively. She has conceptualized, designed and operationalized various gender justice programs with civil society organizations and governments. Institutionalizing support structures to women survivors of violence (Support Centers for Women in Police Stations) and (Sakhi One Stop Centers for Women) in collaboration with the Departments of Police and Women and Child Welfare, Government of Telangana is one of the concrete achievements in her long career.

Beginning, with the rights of street children and adolescent girls, her professional interests expanded into action research on various gender and developmental issues. She monitored and evaluated programs for national and international donor agencies; engaged with Print and Visual Media on the rights of women and children. An engaging gender trainer, she has been involved in training of thousands of personnel in the government and NGOs. As an external member of Internal Complaints Committees of various government departments and NGOs, she has enquired into several cases of sexual harassment of women and has provided expertise on its prevention at work places.

A course in Gender and Economic Policy Analysis from Institute of Social Studies, at Hague, Netherlands and a visit to the US as part of the prestigious International Visitor Leadership Program, as part of International Women's Network provided her global perspectives on Gender Justice and women's leadership in social development.

She loves mentoring the young men and women to work against gender inequality, promoting **women leadership and strengthening the place of civil society organizations.**



**Smt. Gummadi Sandhya Rani, Hon'ble Minister for Tribal Welfare and
Sri. Kandula Durgesh, Hon'ble Minister for Tourism, Culture and Cinematography,
Government of Andhra Pradesh, visited the CPF stall at Araku Chali Utsav 2026, held at Araku Valley**



**Representatives of Civil Society Organisations (CSOs) Met Hon'ble Governor
Sri. Shiv Pratap Shukla on the Implementation of the Forest Rights Act (FRA) in Telangana**



Centre for People's Forestry

Rights | Livelihoods | Conservation

HEAD OFFICE :

Centre for People's Forestry

12-13-483/39, Lane 6, Street No.14,
Nagarjunanagar Colony, Tarnaka
Secunderabad- 5000 17. Telangana
040-27154484, www.cpf.in | info@cpf.in

FIELD OFFICES :

Telangana - Adilabad, Kumuram Bheem Asifabad, Warangal and Bhadradri Kothagudem Districts

Adilabad District,

H.No. 1-1-45/B/53, Housing Board colony,
Adilabad district - 504001,

H.No.14-339/1, Back side of Rajsthani Sweet House,
Main Road Old Uttoor,
Adilabad District-504311,

Kumuram Bheem Asifabad District

H. No. 3 -23/1, Bheemaram Village,
Tiryan Mandal, Kumrambheem Asifabad - 504297.

Warangal District

H.No: 18-266/5-4, Malki Sri Children Hospital,
Nekkonda Road, Narsampet Town, Warangal - 506132.

Bhadradri Kothagudem District

H.No. 3/129/A, Raghu Theatre Road, Cherla Village
and Mandal, Bhadradri Kothagudem - 507133.

H.No. 6-112, Dummugudem Village, Bhadradri
Kothagudem Mandal and District - 507137.

ANDHRA PRADESH

Parvathipuram Manyam and Alluri Sitharamaraju
Districts

Parvathipuram Manyam District

Opposite ITDA, Seethampeta,
Parvathipuram Manyam district -532443.
Andhra Pradesh.

Alluri Sitharamaraju District

Beside Mahatma Gandhi Statue,
Hukumpeta Post & Mandal, Alluri Sitharamaraju,
District, Andhra Pradesh - 531077

ODISHA

Odisha - Malkangiri District
At / Post - Main Road, Korukonda, Near Bust Stand,
Opp. LAMPCS (Mini Bank) - 764045,
Malkangiri, Odisha

WEST BENGAL

Bankura District
Khatra, Para-Joldobra, Near 9 Star Club,
Bankura District-722140