

ANNUAL REPORT 2021-22



Centre for People's Forestry
Rights | Livelihoods | Conservation

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Published by : Centre for People's Forestry, Secunderabad
Report Preparation : Mr. Michael Islary, Mr. Lokesh,
Mr. Poorna Chander & Mr. Naresh
Guidance & Editing : B. Girija Devi
Design, Layout & Printing : Dhruti Design
Contact : **Centre for People's Forestry**
12-13-483/39, Street No.14, Lane 6
Nagarjunanagar Colony, Tarnaka
Secunderabad -5000 17, Telangana, India
Ph : +91-40-27154484
www.cpf.in / info@cpf.in



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ABOUT THE ORGANISATION

About CPF

Centre for People's Forestry (CPF) is a Civil Society Organisation that works for the development of forest, rural, and other resource poor communities. We focus on capacity building and policy advocacy to improve the quality of life and strengthen the livelihoods of the underprivileged.

Our Approach

We follow a constructive, critical and collaborative approach for all of our project activities. We work with other NGOs, Community Based Organisations and with Government to deliver best of community services.

Our Values

Our core values are Participation, Transparency, Accountability, Equity & Equality. By putting our values system at the forefront of all of our works, we strive & commit towards social development that is just & inclusive.

Vision

The marginalised sections (Women, Tribals & Dalits) among forest and rural communities will manage and utilise forest and other resources sustainably, with due regard to conservation of biodiversity and attain livelihood security.

Mission

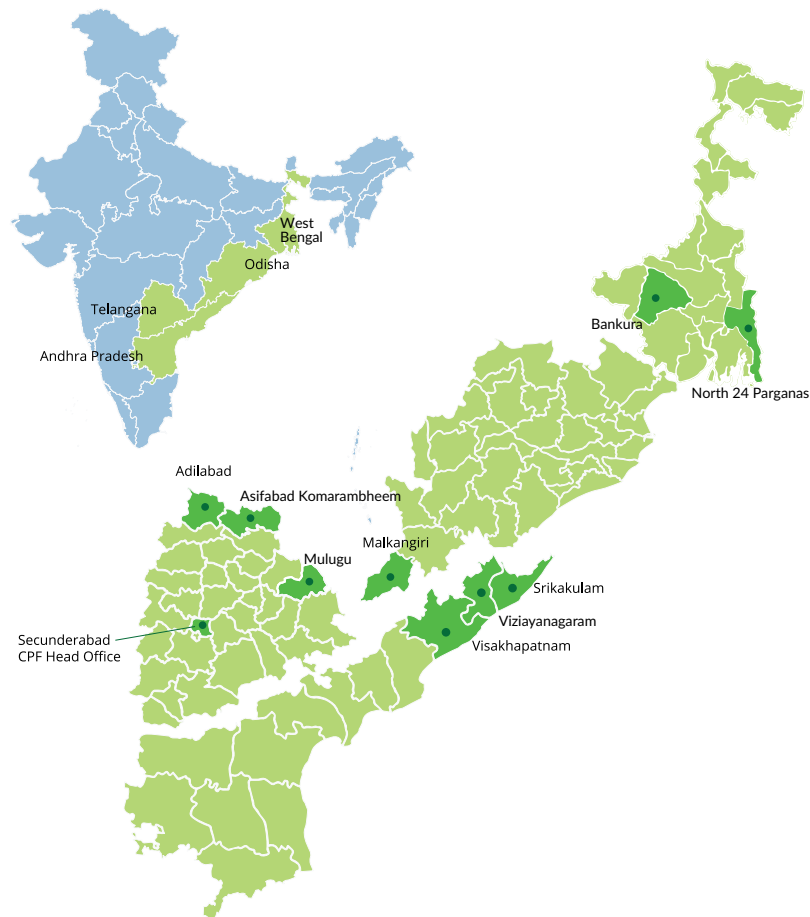
Promoting capacities, diversifying skills and enhancing livelihood security of the marginalised sections among the forest and rural communities.



Operational Area

- In Andhra Pradesh, we are working in Srikakulam & Vishakhapatnam districts covering 96 villages.
- In Telangana, CPF is working in Adilabad & Asifabad districts covering 173 villages.
- In Odisha, CPF is working in 26 villages of Malkangiri districts.
- In West Bengal, CPF has initiated its work in 37 villages of Bankura & 24 North Parganas.

*Additional operational areas:
Facilitation of CFR Claim
submission and Management
Plan preparation is being
done in 1770 villages in 6
districts of 3 states.*



We believe that the claim to Conservation, Control and Management of the forest resources belongs to the forest dependent / dwelling communities and their livelihoods should be the primary concern of all forestry programmes

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 upto December 2025

2021 : Internal Complaints Committee was re-constituted with Ms. Gita Goti as a third-party member

2022 : Tax exemption recognition under section 80 G of the Income Tax Act, 1961

2022 : 12A & 80G Renewed upto March 2026



MAHILA SHAKTI PURASKAR-2022

It is our immense pleasure to share that as CPF is celebrating its 20th Anniversary, Dr. D. Suryakumari, former Director, Centre for People's Forestry was also conferred with Mahila Shakti Puraskar on 7th March, 2022 by Matrubbhoomi Foundation to coincide with International Women's Day by Dr. Tamlisai Soundararajan, Hon'ble Governor of Telangana. The award was in recognition of her efforts in establishing and sustaining an Institution for Conservation of Nature since 2002.

While fostering multi stakeholder collaborations she could bridge the implementation gaps in the policies and programs for tribals and other resource poor communities. Her meticulous research helped in formulating policy changes for improving the living standards of tribals while serving as a member in various committees (Green India Mission, Compensatory Afforestation Fund Management and Planning Authority (CAMPA), Institute of Wood Science and Technology (ISWT) and others.









MAJOR ACCOMPLISHMENTS (APRIL 2021 TO MARCH 2022)

FOREST COMMUNITIES PROGRAMME

1. Rights and Entitlements
2. Action Research and Policy Advocacy
3. Participatory SNRM and Livelihoods
4. Adaptation to Climate Change

Key accomplishments of Forest Communities Programme are highlighted:

	332 Operational Villages	14338 Persons mobilized and vaccinated for Covid-19	
1016 Community Forest Rights (CFR) claims were submitted to SDLC			216 Tribal Farmers Service Center (TFSC)s formed
	262 Management Plans were prepared and approved by Gramsabha	8117 Farmers practicing Agro-ecological farming and crop diversity	
216 Village Coordination Group (VGC)s for accessing entitlements			8773 Acres under Agro Ecological farming
	1890 Out of 1890 petitions filled for community and individual needs, 465 petitions were sanctioned	330 Tribal farmers taken up horticulture	

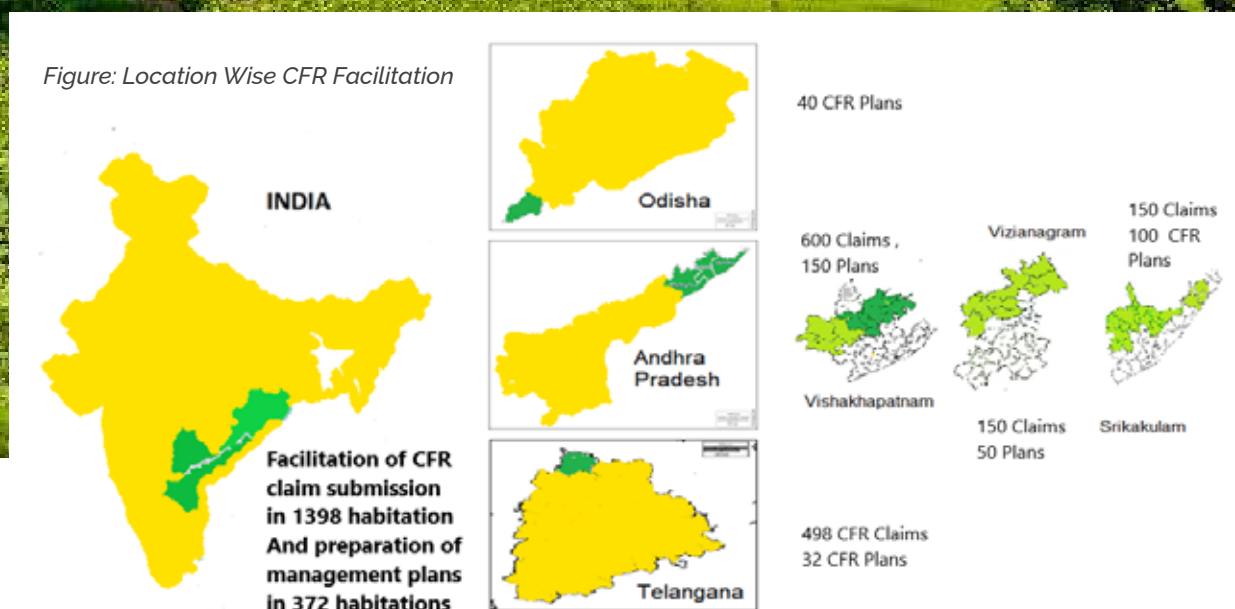
Rs. 4.36 crores were the grants received from donors and Rs. 1.25 crores were leveraged from various Government Departments like Animal Husbandry, Horticulture, Agriculture, Rural Water Supply, Forest Department and Rural Development, Education Departments.

Community Forest Resource Rights (CFRs)

Conferring tenure rights on forest land to the Adivasis and other forest dwellers not only secures their right to live but also empowers them to strengthen their livelihoods and effectively conserve forest resources. In this respect, CPF has been working on securing the Community Forest Resource (CFR) rights since its inception through provisions granted under Joint Forest Management (JFM) and Forest Rights Act (FRA). So far, the experience has been that though Individual Forest Rights (IFRs) have been granted but Community Forest Rights (CFRs) is yet to be given due to lack of political will and lack of awareness among the communities.

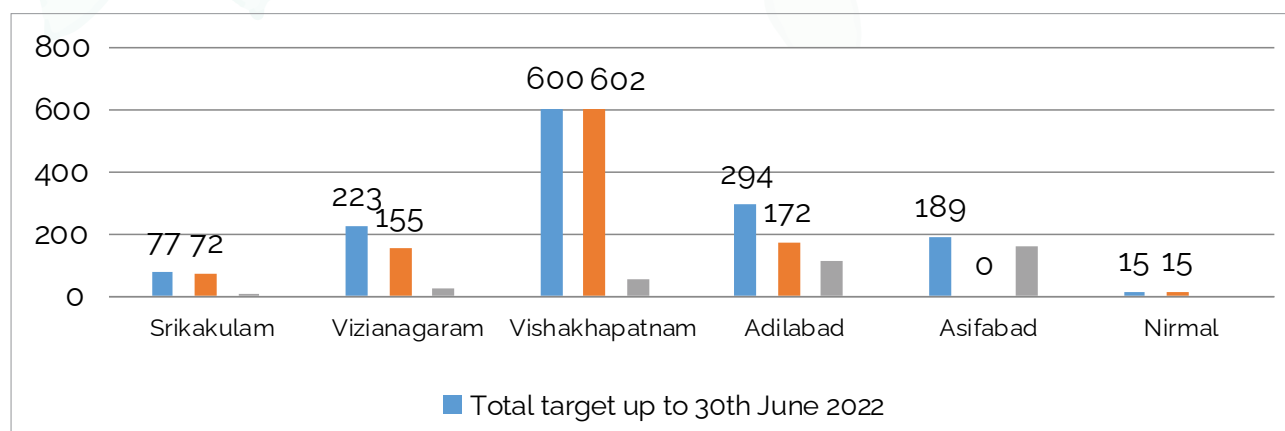
CPF planned to undertake 1398 claims across four districts in both Andhra Pradesh and Telangana (Srikakulam-150, Vizianagaram-150, Visakhapatnam - 600 and Adilabad-498).

CPF has facilitated CFR claim process in 988 villages up to March 2022. The claims for the 410 villages are going to be completed by the end of August 2022. The following table highlights the status and progress of CFR claims across our project locations in Andhra Pradesh and Telangana.



¹Since 2007, CPF facilitated Recognition of Forest Rights under RoFR act (2006). Around 9460 forest dependent and dwelling households received IFR (Individual Forest Rights) title for the agriculture land (20045 acres) in the forest area of Andhra Pradesh, Telangana and Odisha.

Status of CFR Status Claims



Districs	No. of Villages	Forest Extent in Acres	Bamboo Extent in Acres	Biodiversity & Traditional Knowledge Exentl in zAcres	Other Traditional Rights Extent in Acres
Adilabad	160	28,692	72	7,714	612.77
Vishakapatnam	601	2,19,191.06	3,084.98	51,006.65	1,703.79
Vizianagaram	104	18,986.21	446	6,430.18	473-45
Srikaulam	123	38,734	952	8,016	257-44
Total	988	3,05,603.27	5,204.98	n.166.83	3,047.455

As bamboo is available in large quantities (3,084.98 acres of land) in Vishakapatnam district, there's a potential for market linkages and value addition. Similarly, there's a potential for promoting traditional medicines.

Status and progress of CFR Management Plans

ITDAs	Target CFR plan	Total Plans approved in Gram Sabha	Plan Preparation in progress
Seethampeta (Srikakulam)	100	45	55
Parvatipuram (Vizianagaram)	37	20	17
Paderu (Vishakapatnam)	175	137	38
Utnoor (Adilabad)	32	28	04
Malkangiri (Malkangiri)	40	32	08
Total	384	262	122





B. Entitlements

The Constitution of India provides certain rights and privileges for the all-round development of its citizens. However, for Tribals and other marginalized communities, many of these rights are neither exercised nor are enjoyed by them due to several reasons. To bridge the gap, the CPF initiated the Village Coordination Groups (VCGs) to ensure that communities get the benefits out of the developmental schemes meant for them. Currently, the VCGs are effectively working across our project locations in Andhra Pradesh, Odisha and Telangana, respectively. The members of the VCGs discuss about pressing issues that needs to be addressed and file petitions to the concerned authorities. The VCGs take up various issues under Social Security, Agriculture, Education and Health and Sanitation, respectively.

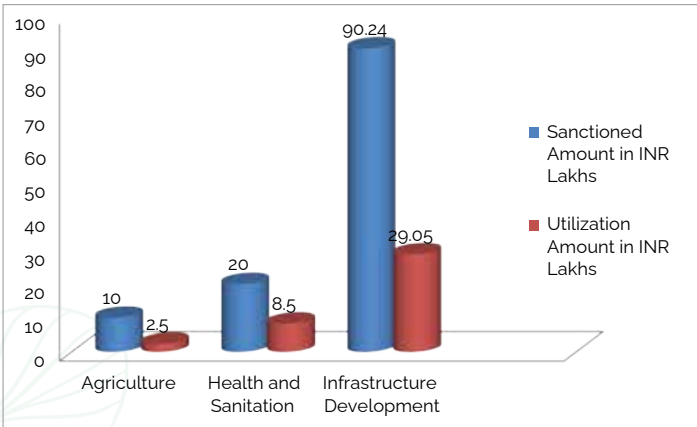
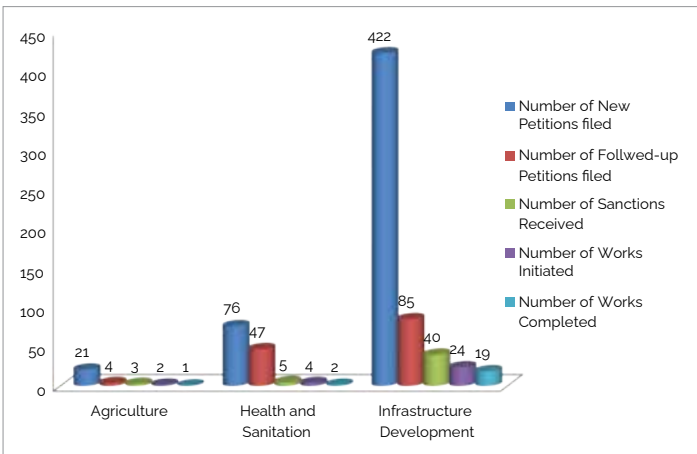
VCG formation is completed in 216 habitations. Further, 157 habitations have Bank/Post Office Accounts and the remaining 59 VCGs have submitted their applications. Trainings are provided on VCGs roles and responsibilities, on government schemes and entitlements and preparation, submission and follow-up of VCG petitions. VCG monthly meetings are being conducted for timely identification and resolution of the various individual and community issues in the villages.

Community Entitlements through VCG Efforts

Community works petitions were filed for:

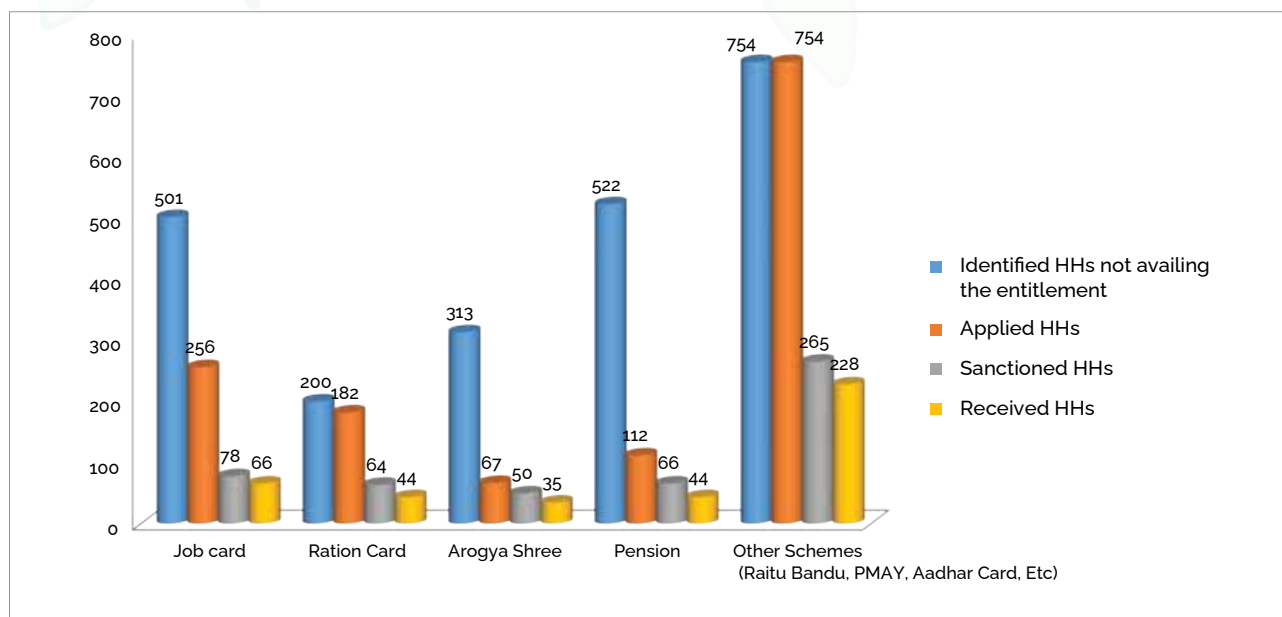
Health and Sanitation :	Anganwadi and school buildings repair and constructions, drinking water facilities, drainage facility and others
Infrastructural development :	CC roads, gravel roads, community halls, school building repairs and others.
Agriculture :	Cattle troughs, Farm Equipment and others.

VCG Petitions and Sanction details Indicator wise: October 2021- March 2022



Petition to the Adilabad collector for CC Road construction

Individual Entitlements through VCG



Individual based petitions were filed for the following needs:

MGNREGA - Job Card, Ration Card, Arogya Shree, Pensions (Old age/Widow/Differently Abled) and other Schemes.

Adivasi Education Project

Adivasi Education Project aim is to enable the Adivasi Communities to preserve their traditions from the exigencies of the dominant culture. Adivasi communities are self-reliant and governed by customary practices. The culture and values of Adivasi communities are closely linked with forest and nature which are non-exploitative and sustainable.

The oral culture of Adivasis transmitted through its stories, dance, music and its values are facing threat due to migration of younger generation to towns/cities. Two positive factors have reversed this trend. Firstly, Covid 19 pandemic has made people to examine urban life and its consequences, and also appreciate the traditional health systems and rural life. Secondly, the digital technology and social media has paved way for tribal youth to share their culture, ways of living to the larger world through social media in their own "voices". Children and youth are getting drawn to their culture and this needs to be strengthened.

Centre for People's Forestry is working in three villages of Paderu – Kujjeli, Ramulaputtu, D Modaputtu while intervening with teachers and students of Anganwadis (3), Primary Schools (3), Secondary Schools (1) and with special focus on youth in the communities.

District & State	Block	Villages	No of Households	Adivasi Communities
Visakapatnam, Andhra Pradesh	Paderu	Kujjeli	109	Bagata, Valmiki, Kondadora, Nookadora, Kammara
		Ramulaputtu	77	Bagata, Kondadora, Goudu
		D Modaputtu	72	Nookadora, Kondadora
1 District	1 Block	3 Villages	258	6 Adivasi Communities

Through this project it is being aimed to:

- Document and develop resource material on tribal culture, knowledge and values (in association with village elders and others and tribal resource persons/ groups).
- Work with Anganwadi, Primary and Secondary school children about their tribal culture and values.
- Engage with village youth on tribal culture and values.
- Facilitate to organize Tribal festivals, rituals and cultural events.



Adivasi Cultural Event

CPF organized an Adivasi Cultural Event in Ramulaputtu village on 16 January 2022 to celebrate *Pedda pandaga* (big festival) *Konda devata pandaga* (mother hill festival), *Yeddula pandaga* (bullock festival). Sarpanch and MPTC of Kujjali Panchayat and village elders attended the event as the Chief Guests. Bagata, Nooka Dora and Konda Dora are the predominant Adivasi communities. In the month of January, these Adivasi communities share agriculture and other NTFP produce with other families in their respective villages. The village youth, children celebrate with dances like Dimsa, Kolatam, Ser Budiya. They decorate /paint their houses with naturally available materials.

Other activities that were undertaken as part of the Adivasi Education Project:

- Documentation of tribal culture, knowledge and values to develop educational resource material.
- Organized field level meeting with tribal resource persons, tribal elders and other partners to develop resource material on tribal culture and traditions.
- Weekly sessions with anganwadi, primary and tribal welfare school children on tribal culture, festivals and traditions.
- Monthly sessions with tribal elders, youth and women on tribal culture, traditions and way of life.
- Knowledge dissemination about tribal culture, festivals, traditions and lifestyle to tribal elders, women, youth, children, government officials and other stakeholders.



Drinking Water at Door Steps

The Kothassmanugu village is one among the five tribal villages of Savarasidhamanugu Gram Panchayat. The tribal households mainly cultivate food crops like paddy, pulses and millets. Earlier, the villagers were living in hill top villages but later moved down the hills. There are nearly fifty households in the village but they were depending only on one well for drinking, domestic use and cattle. However, it dries up in summer resulting in scarcity of water. The well was also nearly 2 km away from village. With the facilitation of CPF, the VCG (village coordination group) submitted a petition to the Integrated Tribal Development Agency (ITDA). The ITDA through the Integrated Watershed Management Program (IWMP) sanctioned an overhead tank with a tap to store the gravity water at BONNI hill range one among the five Savarasidhamanugu panchayat villages. Yet, the drinking water problem for the villages was not solved fully as they had to walk nearly 1400m to collect the water from hills.

The Centre for People Forestry team intervened and allocated the water pipelines to connect with the overhead tank and laid down the pipeline down the hill up to the household level connecting villages of Kothassmanugu along with Eguvassmanugu and Chinna Kinga villages. To this water pipeline they fitted a tap at an interval of every four households. In this way, the people got drinking water at their doorsteps.



02 Action Research and Policy Advocacy

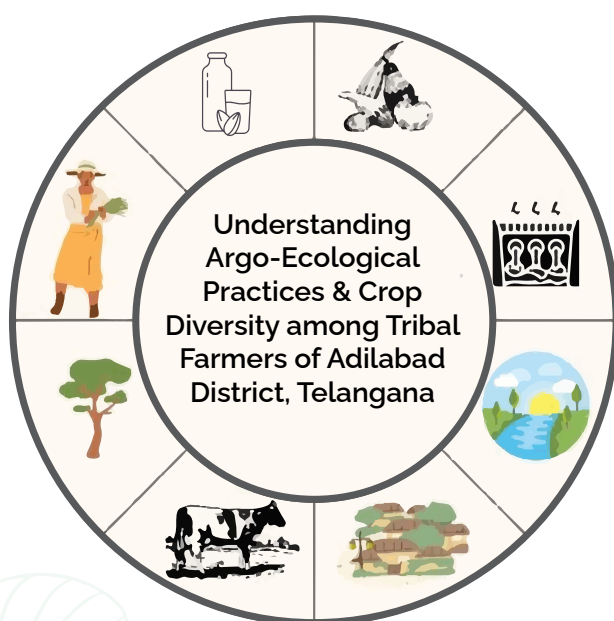
Since inception, CPF has been regularly carrying out Participatory Action Research for analysis of forestry related policies and practices, livelihood enhancement needs and opportunities and biodiversity. The results are used for policy advocacy and for formulating appropriate interventions.

Action research helps in engaging with the emerging issues in the project and gain an understanding for better implementation in the field. In this context, CPF continuously undertook action research on issues related to forest, livelihoods and biodiversity conservation, among others. The learnings from these studies are then used for policy advocacy and for formulating ground interventions.

Studies incepted currently:

I. Understanding Agro-Ecological Practices & Crop Diversity Among Tribal Farmers of Adilabad District, Telangana:

This action research tries to understand the reasons behind why some tribal farmers are adopting agro-ecological practices and crop diversity. What are the alternative approaches that promotes sustainable agricultural practices? Further, what are the roles and capacities of community institutions in promoting agro-ecological practices and crop diversity?



The study would employ observation method wherein both the controlled (practicing agro-ecology & crop diversity) as well as non-controlled (not practicing agro-ecology & crop diversity) groups would be observed.

The study is based on the following hypothesis:

- Older generations are willing to adopt agro-ecological practices.
- Women are interested in adopting agro-ecological practices but are not in a position of decision making.
- Middle aged farmers are keen to continue with cotton farming as it fetches more income.
- Younger farmers are rather interested to shift to agro-ecological practices.

II. Effectiveness and Sustainability of Community Institutions – TFSCs & VCGs:

Forming and promoting community institutions such as the Tribal Farmers Support Centers (TFSCs) and Village Coordination Groups (VCGs) is one of the major components of CPFs work. It is through these institutions that CPF carries out its interventions across the project locations. Given CPFs guidance and support, these community institutions have delivered services to their community which is reflected through the number of petitions being sanctioned to cite an example.

However, what is not known is what happens to these institutions once CPF shifts its focus to the newer institutions? Are these institutions capable enough to take decisions independently without or with less monitoring? It is, therefore, pertinent that action research is being carried out to understand the functioning of the older community institutions. The results will help us in comprehending the strengths, weakness and challenges of these institutions that are crucial for community development in CPFs project locations.

03 Participatory SNRM and Livelihoods

The livelihood security of the people living in and around forests depends on sustainable management of natural resources and CPF has concentrated its interventions on this crucial aspect. There is a direct link between the quality of a forest or natural resource managed on a sustainable basis and the sustainability of livelihoods of the community. To promote natural resources, undertook desiltation of tanks and agro-forestry activities. Various income generation activities were taken up to promote livelihoods.

A. Formation of Tribal Farmers Service Centres (TFSCs)

The TFSCs are formed to transfer the knowledge on agro-ecological practices and crop diversity through farmer field schools, demo plots, exposure visits, audio-visuals and print materials. TFSCs are formed in 86 Adivasi habitations. In total, 216 habitations have TFSCs. Out of which, 177 habitations have TFSC Bank/Post Office Accounts.

Trainings were provided on roles and responsibilities for 1153 TFSC members (Female - 466, Male - 687) on agro-ecological practices, crop diversification, seed bank establishment, and watershed activities. TFSC monthly meetings are being conducted in all the habitations for follow-up on agro-ecological practices and crop diversification.

B. Procurement of Farm Machineries

- Farm equipment were procured by TFSCs with 90% from the project cost and 10% from the community contribution. The farmers are encouraged to use the farm equipment available at TFSCs on rental basis on minimal charges. Sprayers and weeders were on high demand in Srikakulam, Adilabad and Malkangiri. Whereas, Pulverizer and Turmeric Boiling Tubs were on high demand in Vishakhapatnam. Equipment's were rented on an average of 15-20 days during the agricultural season.



- By renting the agricultural equipment's, a total of Rs. 93787 was collected from 163 TFSCs which will be used for maintenance of the existing agricultural implements.
- In the 86 newly established TFSCs, farm equipment's were procured that includes 111 Power Sprayers, 36 Ploughs, 47 Tarpaulin sheets, 8 Hammers, 14 Plastic Drums and 15 power Weeders.

C. Capacity Building

Building the capacities of the tribal farmers is the core objective of CPF to enhance their knowledge and build leadership to negotiate with various functionaries of the government department.

- During this period, TFSC members were trained on different activities such as agro-ecological practices (611 members), delivering their roles and responsibilities (587 members) and 493 members on submission and follow-up of petitions.
- Conducted training and awareness program by horticulture scientists of KVK-Bellampalli on management practices of Mango and Guava plantation.
- Organized exposure visits to Hyderabad and Mulugu of Siddipet district for a training on all agriculture crops for two days with the convergence of KVK-Bellampalli. Around 25 farmers participated in the exposure trip.
- As part of livelihood promotion, we have facilitated distribution of milch animals to 35 farmers (Single women & those having less than 1 acre of land) at the cost of 14.30 lakhs. Also, conducted veterinary camp in project locations through convergence of Veterinary Department.



D. Convergence with Government Departments / Technical Institutions

The following activities were done in collaboration with KVK-Bellampalli.

- CPF has distributed vegetable mini kit to 160 farmers which consists 10 variety of vegetable seeds at a cost of Rs. 48000/- (160*300).
- Distributed Bengal gram and Sesame seeds to 85 farmers.
- Further, facilitated flour mills to 4 project villages at a cost of Rs.1,20,000/- (4*30000).
- CPF collaborated with scientists from KVK and ARS to train the farmers and provide technical inputs for crop management.
- An exposure visit was organized for 64 farmers from 24 villages in KVK. The farmers were exposed to new cropping patterns and techniques which resulted in positive results.
- The ARS scientists visited CPFs project plots and gave appropriate recommendations.



E. Agro-Forestry Activities

- 362 farmers having 382 hectares were identified to implement agro-forestry activities on their farmlands. In 200 hectares of land covering 52 villages, mango, teak, pomegranates and lemon saplings were planted under the project.
- 52 regenerative agriculture demonstration plots with border crops, along with intercropping and agro-forestry plantations was undertaken. Application of organic fertilizers was promoted to increase the soil organic carbon.
- 5000 bamboo saplings were planted on degraded lands at Inchemchervupally village. 4000 timber saplings were planted in the community lands of Vaikuntadhamas. Besides these, 210 fruit and timber saplings were planted at Incherla Vaikunta dhamas.
- Plantations were carried out on common degraded and riparian lands covering an area of 30 acres. Total 9210 saplings such as mango, custard apple and neem were planted.

F. Water Resource Development

Water resource activities	Number of Units	Amount incurred in INR			Benefits
		Project Grant	Community Contribution	Total	
Digging of Open Wells	20	1,80,000	3,20,000	5,00,000	These water activities are undertaken to support the farmers in their orchards & inter-crop cultivation.
Water Troughs	210	3,02,400	75,600	3,78,000	
Diesel Engines	10	--	--	3,50,000	
Water Carrying Pipes	3120 (RMTS)	--	--	4,17,916	

G. Water User Groups

378 Water User Groups were revived in Adilabad and Srikakulam districts. In other project locations also, they are being revived. As part of water user groups, 18 trainings were conducted in 17 habitations where 548 farmers were given training on repair and maintenance of watershed structures.



H. Tank Desilting and Water Conservation

As part of Soil and Moisture Conservation (SMC) work, CPF undertook desilting to enable collection and storage of water for agriculture and the effective utilization of silt as a soil amendment in agricultural lands.



Farmers able to fish after desilting



Farmers carrying the silt removed from water tanks to their farmlands.



Water being stored to its full capacity at Khattagudda water tank post its desilting

In the project area there were five percolation tanks which were desilted with the help of machines. The silted soil removed was transported to project plots to increase the soil fertility.

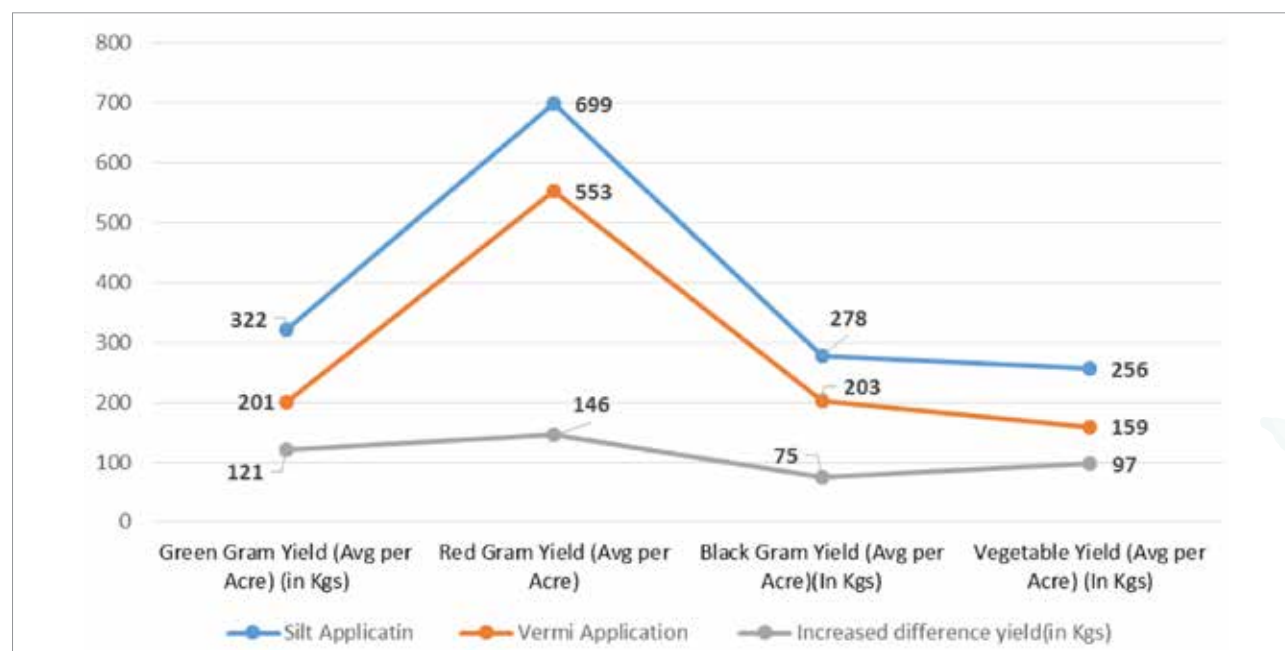
After removal of soil, water storage capacities of tanks have increased and water remains in tanks and sustains throughout the summer.

Location	Area (meter cube)	Water Availability (before desilting)	Increased Water Storage Capacity (Area in meter cube)	Water Availability (after desilting)
Shivnara	25000	March End	800	Till onset of Rainy Season
Kattaguda	96000	March End	1800	
Sedwai	30000	March End	500	
Waroor	330000	December End	1000	
Sonkhas	165000	March End	1200	
Total	646000		5300	

Prior to CPFs intervention, desilting of tanks happened through government's intervention but silted soils were never applied on farmlands by marginal farmers. Post CPFs intervention in project plots, farmers have observed that the quality of the crop has increased. Many farmers came forward for silt application in their farm plots with contributions from their side.

The silted soil removed from the tanks are applied to farm fields which has increased the soil fertility. The following graph highlights the difference.

Silt application has given more yield to the Adivasi farmers.



I. Better Cotton Initiatives (BCI)

Details of 70% of farmers as well as soil samples from 52 villages were collected. The soil samples collected are then sent for testing. 500 new farmers were identified to initiate BCI activities in the field. Further, several activities such as establishment of village wise 52 Regenerative Agriculture demonstration plots, awareness on eradication of child labour and minimum wages, among others were also carried out. Further, Learner Groups (LGs) training programs were also conducted with all the LGs.



No more Cheating in weightage!

Bonni village comprises of 22 households whose main source of income is NTFP products like Mangoes, Turmeric, Jackfruit, Cashew, Tamarind and Soap nuts. They also cultivate pulses and millets in the Individual Forest Rights (IFR) land received through Forest Rights Act (2006). They sold their produce in the shandies of Parlakhimudi.

Centre for People's Forestry established Tribal Farmer Service Centre and through project and farmers contribution they purchased the necessary equipments. They wanted to purchase a weighing machine as they were getting cheated by the traders/middlemen. Therefore, they decided to purchase the electronic weighing machine which costs 8,700/- and Rs 20 was taken as a service charge for using weighing machine.

During the Covid pandemic, it was difficult for farmers to sell the produce as shandies were shut down. The traders started to buy the produce from the village. The TFSC committee farmers not only decided the price for the products but also started weighing the produce with the weighing machine at TFSC.



When communities own up the watersheds

The principle of watershed development is "Make running rain water walk, make walking water crawl, make crawling water stop and make stopped water infiltrate." Watershed Development can be transformative if people understand these principles and work collectively to conserve water. When rainfall is abundant, it washes out top fertile soil causing soil erosion and when rain fall is low, crops die due to low moisture. CPF team discussed with Water user groups and Village Coordination Group members of Ganeshpur village about building SMC structure with "shramdan". Based on this principle, villagers participated in the repairing of SMC structure that have been built on different structures over cultivable land, non-cultivable land and minor streams. So it was observed that informed by science and motivated by the desire for a change barren and parched land became fertile. The divisions based on caste, gender, class and politics got dissolved and villagers came together to work for water.

Building LBS:

LBS (Loose Bolder Structure) is important structure for conservation of soil and water. The prime location for LBS is to build it before every check dam to stop it from logging with soil. The farmers gathered with Tikas, Phawda and Ghamella the equipment required for building LBS. CPF team marked the map of LBS with lime & technical officer guided people to build LBS. They were guided about MGNREGA scheme and their procedures. The farmers from other villages came and saw the structures constructed and sought support of CPF team for trainings on SMC structures and building and repair.

Trainings and Repair of SMC structures

CPF conducted 24 trainings in 29 villages and trained 741 farmers about SMC structure repair and maintenance

- 38 LBS, 6 RFD, repaired through community participation
- Two check dam desilting is done by community participation
- Total Area : 132.12 m3 ; Total Amount : 1,01,071



04 Adaptation to Climate Change

It was clear that climate change would impact forests and the communities living in forests. CPF has been promoting Climate resilient agriculture and other adaptation practices in its project villages. The temperature in the forest areas is also increasing along with plain areas. The increased gradual temperature year by year is affecting the survival of the crops and yield in quantity. To minimize this issue, climate resilient agro ecological practices and SMC works in watershed approach are being promoted, which are narrated in SNRM section of this report. The details of these activities are summarised below in this section.

To prevent the threats of climate change to communities as well as the forests, it is critical that we promote climate resilient agriculture and adopt other climate mitigation measures. In this regard, the CPF has undertaken various activities that are climate friendly as well as strengthens the livelihoods of the farmers.

A. Promoting Agro-Ecological practices in Farming:

- 129 Farmer Field Schools (FFS) were conducted in 77 villages where 2694 farmers participated from 168 villages.
- A total of 6173 farmers were encouraged and supported to cultivate multiple crops in at least in 1 acre of farm land.
- A total of 937 (522 female and 415 males) members of the TFSC were trained on identification of the existing soil moisture and conservation structures in their farm fields.

B. Promotion and Establishment of Seed Banks

The project team visited Sanjeevani, LAYA, SMILE, JAIBIK SRI Farmers Producer Company Private Ltd. Koraput, Bapuji Rural Enlightenment Development Society (BREDS), Agriculture Research Station (ARS) and Dr. YSR Agri Testing Lab, Araku Valley to gain preliminary understanding of how seed banks can be established. Later 8 trainings were conducted to farmers (593). In these trainings, the members of the TFSC were informed about the importance of preserving traditional seeds. During the training program, 80 TFSCs made resolutions to establish seed banks.

Seed Name	No of Farmers contributed to Seed Bank	Quantity (Kgs)
Red Gram	408	816
Green Gram	241	482
Black Gram	81	162
Sorghum	79	158
Pearl Millet	10	10
Black Paddy	106	345
Finger Millets	97	113
Total Farmers	1022	2086





In Kalimela block of Malkangiri district, Odisha, the team has collected 44 varieties of indigenous seeds - rice, millets, pulses and vegetables. Across our project locations, CPF is encouraging farmers to preserve indigenous variety of seeds of various crops. CPF is planning to publish a separate booklet on indigenous seeds and its cropping patterns.



C. Promoting Crop Diversification:

S. No	Name of the Location	Total Number of farmers Total	Total no of farmers adopting crop diversification in Kharif 2021-22 (4 & 3 Varieties)	
			Total	Percent (%)
1	Adilabad	5141	3151	61%
2	Asifabad	450	250	55%
3	Malkangiri	1426	1073	75%
4	Srikakulam	1310	865	66%
5	Visakhapatnam	1410	1139	80%
Total		9737	6478	66%

Majority of the small and marginal farmers depend on rainfed agriculture, crop diversification has been promoted mainly during Kharif season. Farmers are encouraged to take up 4 varieties of crops (millets, pulses, cereals and vegetables) at least in one acre of land to promote resilience and not depend on single crop.

As part of crop diversification program, 568 farmers were mobilized for cotton crop diversification and motivated to follow agro-ecological practices. CPF is working with 1508 farmers during this Kharif season. Farmers gained that in comparison to cotton, the return on investment (ROI) from project plot was 41% higher. The higher ROI between cotton plot and project plot shows the importance of agro-ecological practices.

Table 1: Expenses and net income by cotton plot and project plot.

	Project Plot	Cotton Plot
TOTAL COST	4282	8700
TOTAL INCOME	7938	12596
NET INCOME	3656	3896
ROI IN %	85	44

D. Seed Distribution

During 2021-22 Kharif and Rabi seasons, quality seeds were provided to farmers as part of promoting crop-diversification in various project locations namely Adilabad, Srikakulam and Malkangiri, respectively. CPF has provided seeds such as Pulses (Red Gram, Black Gram, Green Gram, Bengal Gram), Cereals (Wheat, Maize, Black Paddy), Millets (Sorghum, Peral Millets, Finger Millets) and Vegetables (Tomato, Brinjal).

S. No	Name of the Location	Total number of farmers provided with seeds for crop-diversification		
		Kharif 2021-22	Rabi 2021-22	Total Farmers
1	Adilabad	898	628	1526
2	Asifabad	210	0	210
3	Malkangiri	129	0	129
4	Srikakulam	0	290	290
5	Visakhapatnam	0	0	0
Total		1237	918	2155



E. Enhancing Soil Fertility

To enhance the fertility of the soil, CPF promoted and encouraged farmers to do vermicomposting. As a result, 30 vermicompost units were constructed in project areas which produced 7995 kg of yield. This prompted the farmers to use vermicompost in their agricultural field. Besides this, silt application on farmland is also promoted, the cost of which is partly borne by the farmer and the rest is contribution from project cost.

Table1: Silt & Vermicompost Application on farmland along with costs.

No. of Farmers Applying Silt	Acres of Land	No. of Farmers Applying Vermicompost	Acres of Land	Project Cost (In Rs.)	Farmer's Contribution (In Rs.)	Total
620	620	624	624 (3744 bags)	21,03,520	5,24,200	2627720

F. SMC Structure and Maintenance

Soil Moisture Conservation (SMC) structures play an important role in retaining the soil moisture and prevents rain-water run-off along with top soil that contains nutrients. However, SMC structures needs maintenance from time to time as it withers down due to prolonged use. In this regard, CPF has trained 548 user group members on SMC structure repair and maintenance. So far, 38 Low Bund Structures (LBS), 6 Rock Filled Dam (RFD) structures have been repaired through community participation. 3 Minor Irrigation (MI) tanks and 2 check dams are sanctioned for desilting. Estimation for 31 Percolation Tanks (PT) and 32 check dams have been updated in the system and waiting for sanctions. Further, the SMC structures that needed repair were submitted to APO at Mandal level out of which 3 PT tanks and 2 check dams are sanctioned for desilting at the cost of Rs. 37, 73, 511. 34 percolation tanks were identified for repair/bush cleaning and desilting and are submitted to APO. Two check dam desilting is done by community participation.



G. Soil Testing

Soil health is crucial to agriculture but also to water harvesting. Soil with high levels of organic carbon can retain and hold more water than soil of poor quality. The first step to improve soil health is to test the soil for levels of organic carbon content. Due to its significance, soil testing has been included in the project. A soil testing programme was conducted in the month of March 2022 where 301 soil samples were sent for testing.

The organic carbon and phosphate were found to be medium to high in Gadiguda area whereas, its low to medium in Bela area. The Potassium content is found to be low to medium in Gadiguda area, whereas, its medium to high in Bela area.

As per the recommendation based on soil testing report, we suggested farmers to use fewer chemical fertilizers and in Farmers Field School, trainings were being given on how to prepare Jivamrutam to improve the organic matter.

Communities Shifting to Bio-pesticide

The farmers of Alliguda village were into commercial crops and used chemical fertilizers intensively. This led to degradation of soil with low yield leading to debt among farmers. To address this, CPF has conducted various training and awareness programs through its established Tribal Farmers Services Centre (TFSC).

After CPF team's engagement on bio-pesticide, the farmers got motivated and wanted to utilize the cow dung manure in their own fields. Some farmers in the village decided to prepare vermi-compost from livestock manure and bio-mass without selling it.

31 farmers in the village have arranged tractors by themselves to carry the prepared organic manure and sprayed in to their lands.



The Centre for People's Forestry (CPF) carried out Intensive Vaccination Project (IVP) in Telangana's Adilabad & Asifabad districts. 3 Development blocks were selected – Gadiguda and Utnoor in Adilabad and Tiryani Development Block in Asifabad district, respectively. The vaccination project covering 6 Primary Health Centers (PHCs) across the two districts was initiated on 1st November 2021 and was concluded by 31st May 2022. In total, the vaccination project covered 314 villages across the two districts (270 villages in Adilabad district and 44 villages in Asifabad district).

To implement the project, the CPF recruited 1 – coordinator, 6 – PHC coordinators, 6 – data entry operators, 6 – vaccinators and 118 volunteers/field workers. This team was also supported by the program team working in those blocks.

When CPF began the vaccination drive the number of vaccinated persons were 30% as per the government records. The volunteers were involved in household survey and motivated to receive vaccination. The project team were given a training on COVID-19 vaccination between 29 – 30 October, 2021 at KB Complex, Utnoor, Adilabad.

The strategies adopted for successful drive of vaccination are door to door campaign, organizing vaccination camps in the villages, transportation for vaccination centers, involving village/community elders in the vaccine drive, reaching out to the minority communities (Muslim) in urban areas through youth.

The CPF team made sure to reach out to the people before they left for agricultural works even in those PHCs which are located in remote areas with minimum communication facilities. The staff were also trained on the usage of VAXIT app by the Field Data Administrator (FDA).

Table 2: PHC wise vaccination status at the end of the project period

SNO	PHC Name	Total Eligible population	Dose 1 done	Percent (%)	Dose 2 done	Percent (%)
1	Gadiguda	8017	8017	100	7499	93.54
2	Hasnapur	11674	11591	99.2	10927	93
3	Jhari	9299	9116	98	9116	98
4	Shampur	13014	13012	100	12953	99.53
5	Ginnedhari	6845	6845	100	6845	100
6	Danthanpalli	14694	14403	98.01	14388	97.92
7	Total	63543	62984		61728	





Fear of Vaccine Subsidized with the Motivation of Volunteers

A pregnant woman hailing from Gudipet village under Ginnedhari PHC, Asifabad district died away due to some complication after receiving vaccination. Similarly, another woman fell sick at Pippiri village under Adilabad district post COVID-19 vaccination. These incidents spread fear psychosis amongst women and public in general regarding vaccines. To allay the fears of the people, our field volunteers visited the villages continuously and motivated them to come forward and receive the vaccination. The senior team members took vaccination in front of the villagers which infused confidence in them.

After much cajoling and encouragement, the women came forward and took the vaccines.



Reaching the Unreached

Villages such as Wadgalpur, Keslaguda, Dharmajipet and Chinnakundi, comes under different primary health centers (PHCs) in Adilabad district. However, what's common between them is that all of them are remote border villages. Given the difficulty and remoteness of the terrain, these villages were languishing from want of vaccines and were neglected by both the Telangana and Maharashtra state governments. Nevertheless, CPFs volunteers visited these villages and conducted vaccination drives. It has to be mentioned that to visit one of the villages, the team along with ANM had to walk around 8 km uphill to reach the village.

The team's spirit and determination helped them to reach these remote villages and achieve 100% vaccination much to the jubilation of other colleagues and local government.

Challenges/Lessons Learnt

The year started with the second wave of Covid-19 pandemic but the team continued to work braving the pandemic across the locations as the period was very crucial for our agricultural based activities. Though, some of them were affected with Covid-19 they recovered and resumed back to work.

During Covid situation, the programmes were continued with the support of audio-visual tools (Mike system, social media, films and others)

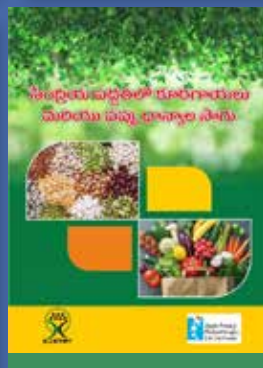
Changing the mindsets of the farmers to shift to agro-ecological practices was a challenge. Due to the positive results among the 520 odd demo plot farmers of the previous year, 1540 farmers came forward to adopt agro-ecological practices this year. It proves that reaching to critical mass is required to make tangible changes.

Despite knowing the risks of working in remote areas and lack of communication facilities in Tiriyani, the absence of proper mitigation measures hampered the implementation process. The organization had to invest a lot of time and resources to bring back the project on track. This year we are hoping that the project will be implemented seamlessly.

Due to the changes in FCRA rules, the program implementation design has been changed and delay in the payments has slowed down the pace of the work. Further, COVID-19 also hampered our work. The reluctance on the part of the officials to accept the claims citing the reasons of no clear directions from higher officials had delayed the claim process.



BOOKLETS & POSTERS





Project Title	Resource Agency	Project Duration
Forest Communities Programme		
Carbon Credits Project	Veda Climate Change Solutions Ltd, ACORN with the support of Rabo Bank	June 2022 onwards
Support Tribal and other vulnerable communities to improve their livelihood and social security	OAK Foundation	April 2022 – March 2026
Strengthening CFR rights implementation in Telangana State" in partnership with Commissioner, TribalWelfare Govt of Telangana, and Bharat Rural Livelihoods Foundation	Bharat Rural Livelihoods Foundation	March 2022 – February 2023
Enhancing and sustaining returns from agriculture and enabling access to government schemes for tribal communities of forest fringe watershed project locations in Adilabad district of Telangana state	Azim Premji Philanthropic Initiatives (APPI)	June 2020 – June 2023
Vaccination Project	Azim Premji Foundation	October 2021 – May 2022
Integrated Tribal Development Programme for Tiryani Mandal of Kumurambheem district Telangana State	National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD)	March 2020 – March 2025
Sustainable livelihoods and empowerment to Adivasi communities in Andhra Pradesh, Telangana and Odisha	Bread for the World (BfdW)	April 2021–March 2024
Empowering Gram Sabha's and Panchayats for accessing and managing forest and common resources in tribal areas of Andhra Pradesh, Telangana and Odisha States	Foundation for Ecological Security (FES)	December 2018 to July 2022
Integrated Watershed Management Programme – Pedda Sunnapuram Mega Watershed	Department of Rural Development –AP	December 2013- March 2022





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 2022 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 2022*;
- (b) in the case of the Income & Expenditure Account of the *excess of expenditure over income 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: 22204755ANUEBR3145

Place: Hyderabad.
Date: 22.07.2022

CENTRE FOR PEOPLE'S FORESTRY
H.No.12-13-483/39, Street No.14, Tarnaka, Secunderabad - 500 017
CONSOLIDATED BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31.03.2022



PARTICULARS	Schedule No	AS ON 31.03.2022	AS ON 31.03.2021
		(₹)	(₹)
SOURCE OF FUNDS:	1	4,000	4,000
Capital Fund	2	1,76,82,474	1,12,49,638
Reserves & Surplus	3	23,00,000	23,00,000
Specific Reserves			
Core Fund		1,99,91,474	1,35,49,638
APPLICATION OF FUNDS	4		
Fixed Assets:		22,17,006	22,33,389
Gross Block		2,54,361	4,10,883
Less: Depreciation		5,52,742	
Write off		14,09,903	18,22,506
Net Block			
Current Assets, Loans & Advances		21,46,714	22,35,960
Deposits and Advances	6	1,83,72,519	1,16,10,097
Cash and Bank Balances		2,05,19,233	1,38,46,057
Less: Current Liabilities & Provisions	7	19,37,661	21,14,925
Current Liabilities		1,85,81,572	1,17,31,132
Net Current Assets		1,99,91,474	1,35,53,638

As per our report of even date attached
for **SAMPATH & RAMESH**
Chartered Accountants
FRNo.0059475

(A.KRISHNA REDDY)
Partner
M.No: 204755
PLACE : HYDERABAD
DATE : 22.07.2022



for **CENTRE FOR PEOPLE'S FORESTRY**

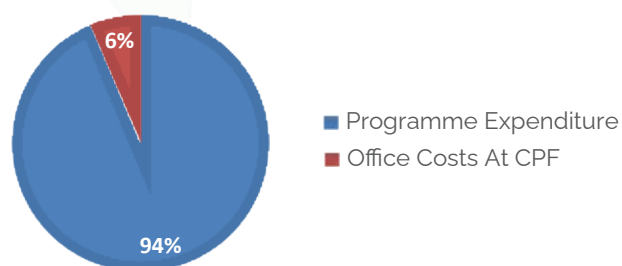
(B.G.L.J.A DEVI)
Director

(DR.K.KAMESWARA RAO)
Managing Trustee



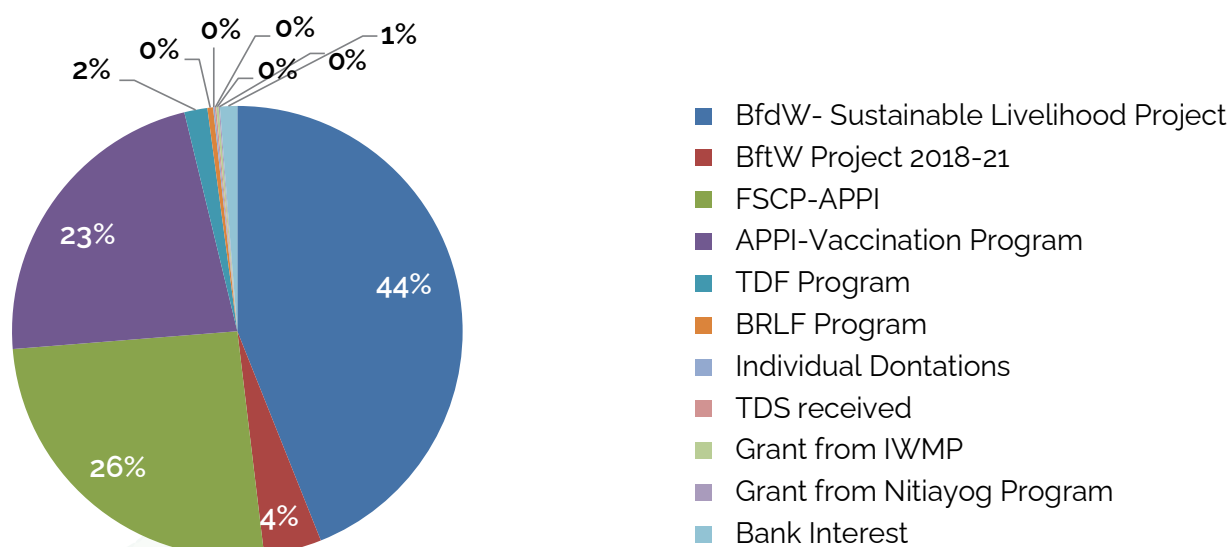
EXPENDITURE ANALYSIS FOR APRIL 2021 TO MARCH 2022

Total Expenditure	Amount (Rs.)
Programme Expenditure	3,49,40,390
Office Costs At CPF	23,48,501
Total	3,72,88,891



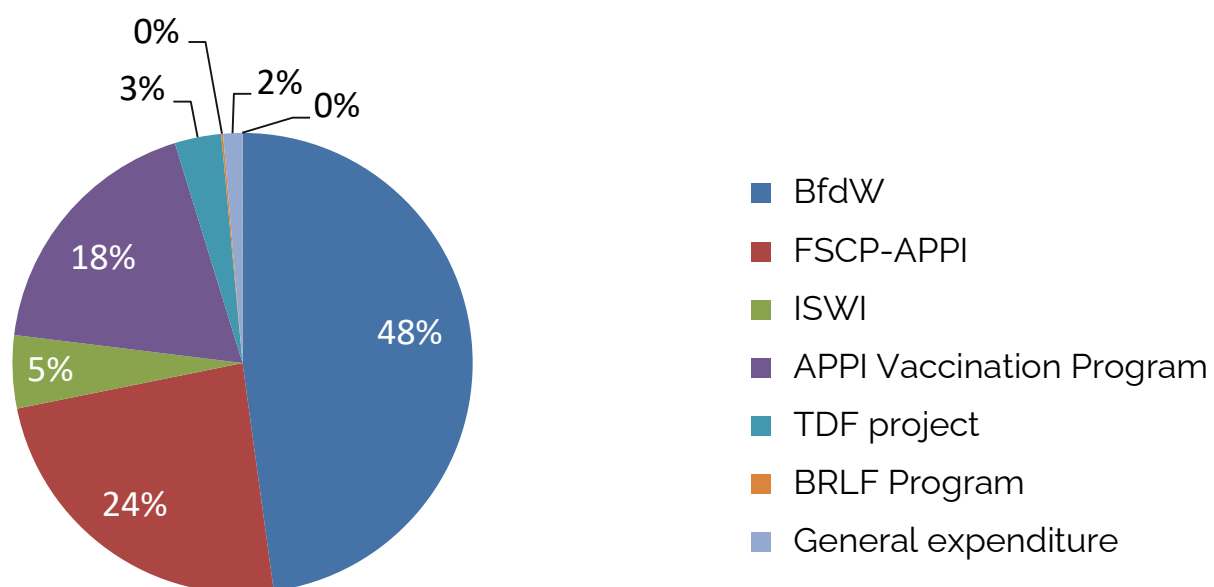
RECEIPTS DURING APRIL 2021 TO MARCH 2022

Particulars	Amount (Rs.)	%
BfdW- Sustainable Livelihood project	1,94,06,667	43.9
BftW project 2018-21	18,28,890	4.1
FSCP-APPI	1,13,21,000	25.6
APPI-Vaccination program	99,23,000	22.4
TDF Program	7,31,000	1.7
BRLF program	1,79,800	0.4
Individual Dontations	51,460	0.1
TDS received	47,990	0.1
Grant from IWMP	75,000	0.2
Grant from Nitiayog program	39,645	0.1
Bank interest	5,45,598	1.2
General receipts	89,846	0.2
Total	4,42,39,896	100



PAYMENTS DURING APRIL 2021 TO MARCH 2022

Particulars	Amount (₹)	%
BfdW	1,78,16,564	47.8
FSCP-APPI	89,37,761	24.0
ISWI	19,07,346	5.1
APPI Vaccination program	68,16,571	18.3
TDF project	12,17,530	3.3
BRLF Program	49,270	0.1
General expenditure	4,95,013	1.3
Donation utilisation	8,760	0.0
Total	3,72,48,815	100.0





FOUNDATION FOR ECOLOGICAL SECURITY



Azim Premji
Philanthropic
Initiatives



Bharat Rural Livelihoods Foundation



NABARD
NATIONAL BANK FOR
AGRICULTURE AND RURAL
DEVELOPMENT



Azim Premji
Foundation



DEPARTMENT OF
RURAL DEVELOPMENT
GOVT. OF AP

VII 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".



Dr. Sheela Prasad (Trustee since 2002) is currently a 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.



Dr. Manmohan Yadav (Trustee since 2005) is Associate Professor of Marketing at Indian Institute of Forest Management (IIFM), Bhopal. He is Marketing Area Chair and Coordinator of the Centre for Sustainable Forest Management & Forest Certification at IIFM. Dr Yadav is a Ph.D. in International Marketing. He has worked in Dairy and Food Industry for ten years. He is in academics for last 24 years, first in a University and now at a National Institute. While working in the Industry, Dr Yadav contributed in development of traditional dairy products and long-life milk processing and packaging system. His academic contributions include publications of research articles in international and national peer reviewed journals, books, teaching cases, conference papers; undertaking research and consulting assignments for international organizations, national and state governments; conducting conferences and capacity building training for professionals in the forestry sector; and teaching courses at PG and Ph.D. level in the area of international business, sustainability, green marketing, sustainable natural resource management and forest certification.

Sanjay Upadhyay (Trustee since 2004), Advocate, Supreme Court of India, is the founder and managing partner of the 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, Land Acquisition law of Afghanistan, 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.



Dr. Suryakumari (Trustee since 2021), a Gold Medalist in M.Sc, with a PhD in Botany and Post-doctoral work to her credit, is the accomplished Founder-Director of Centre for Peoples Forestry since inception in 2002 and has worked in many capacities prior to her current position. She is an expert in social, livelihoods (including micro-enterprises), and policy issues of community-based forest management and has been associated with the communities since 1991 through farm forestry, women's self-help groups, participatory irrigation management, and Joint/Community Forest Management in Andhra Pradesh and Telangana. In her various capacities, she participated in various international meetings, facilitated organisation of training programmes and development of resource materials, and served as member for many of the Government's policy formulation committees (Green India Mission, CAMPA, IWST, and others). She has been a member in few Appraisal and Evaluation missions of donor funded projects. Many reports, papers, publications, Policy briefs, Designing and carrying out participatory action research are included in her work.

Her pioneering efforts of working in critical collaboration mode with Forest Department, and her leadership for several multi stakeholder collaboration initiatives – involving NGOs, Forest Department, Tribal Welfare Department, Girijan Cooperative Corporation and Rural development departments – which helped in overcoming field level bottle necks, were much acclaimed.

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.

Her partner, son and sisters not only provide her emotional support to her public and professional life, they are her hardest critiques too!



Head Office, Hyderabad, Telangana

Ms. B. Girija Devi
Mr. V. Balraj Gupta
Mr. E. Poorna Chander
Ms. Gargi Das
Mr. D. Srinivasulu
Ms. M. Aparna Malayala
Mr. M. Kishore Kumar
Mr. Michael Islary
Mr. A. Naresh
Mr. Md. Khaleel
Mr. Allabakshu Shaik
Ms. G. Shylaja
Mr. Md. Sadiq Pasha
Mr. J. Bhaskar
Ms. U. Rama

Field Office - Pathapatnam, Srikakulam district, Andhra Pradesh

Ms. D. Sairupa
Mr. Y. Durgarao
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Mr. H. Gasinaidu

Field Office - Adilabad district, Telangana

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Field Office - Utnoor, Adilabad district, Telangana

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Mr. J. Chandrakanth
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Field Office- Tiryani, Asifabad district, Telangana

Mr. A. Shekhar
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Field Office - Malkangiri district, Odisha

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Guidance & Editing : B. Girija Devi
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Contact : **Centre for People's Forestry**
12-13-483/39, Street No.14, Lane 6
Nagarjunanagar Colony, Tarnaka
Secunderabad -5000 17, Telangana, India
Ph : +91-40-27154484
www.cpf.in / info@cpf.in





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, Telangana-5000 17
040-27154484 | www.cpf.in | info@cpf.in

PROJECT OFFICES

TELANGANA

ADILABAD DISTRICT

Centre for People's Forestry

4-184/3/2, Srinagar colony, Road No. 4
Near KCB Garden, Adilabad Mandal - 504001

UTNOOR

Centre for People's Forestry

Near Muthoot Finance, IB Chowk, Utnoor
Adilabad Dist - 5043111

MULUGU DISTRICT

Centre for People's Forestry

6-71/C, Main Road, Mulugu Village and Mandal
Mulugu District - 506343

ASIFABAD KOMARAMBHEEM DISTRICT

Centre for People's Forestry

H.No. 3-25/1, Saleguda, Ginnedhari, Tiryani Mandal
Kumrambheem Asifabad District - 504297

ANDHRA PRADESH

SRIKAKULAM DISTRICT

Centre for People's Forestry

4-98 Antharabha Road, Near Delhivery Parcel service
Pathapatnam - 532213, Srikakulam District.

VIZIANAGARAM DISTRICT

Centre for people's Forestry

H.No. 44, YKM Colony, Opp: YTC, Parvathipuram
Vizianagaram - 535501

VISAKHAPATNAM DISTRICT

Centre for people's Forestry

Nakkalaputtu, Near Borra Nagaraju House
Kindangi Post, Paderu, Visakhapatnam Dist-531024

ODISHA

MALKANGIRI DISTRICT

Centre for People's Forestry

Near Electric Office, Podia Road, PO: Kalimela,
Malkangiri, District - 764047

WEST BENGAL

BANKURA DISTRICT

Centre for People's Forestry

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