

ANNUAL REPORT 2022-23



Centre for People's Forestry
Rights | Livelihoods | Conservation

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Release of Souvenir on the occasion of 20th Anniversary



Felicitation to Founder Director Dr. D. Suryakumari by Dr. K. Kameswara Rao & Sri MV Sastri



Dr. Sheela Prasad



Dr. NH Ravindranath



**Dr. P. Mallikharjuna Rao, IFS
(Retd)**



Sri Srinivas Goud

FOREWORD

It was a joyful and tumultuous year in the trajectory of the Centre People's Forestry journey this year. CPF celebrated its 20th Anniversary Celebrations on August 6th 2022 amidst the presence of its Mentors, Trustees, Friends, solidarity institutions of Centre for World Solidarity, partners organisations of CPF and other Civil Society organisations representatives. It was a time to honor the visionary efforts of our Founding Director, Dr. D. Suryakumari, in establishing an institution dedicated to Forestry conservation alongside the communities it serves. Sri. MV Sastri garu, Prof. K. Kameswara Rao, Prof. NH Ravindranath, Dr. Sheela Prasad, Dr. P. Mallikharjuna Rao, IFS Retd. & Sri Srinivas Goud felicitated her on this special occasion.

And then came the shocking news about the deteriorating health situation of Suryakumari garu and we lost her on 11th December, 2022. A memorial meeting was organized on 21st January to share their grief and condolences and pay tributes to Dr. Suryakumari by her friends, family members and colleagues. Their presence and messages gave reassurance to the team to cope up with the void created and rededicate ourselves to the mission of Centre for People's Forestry.

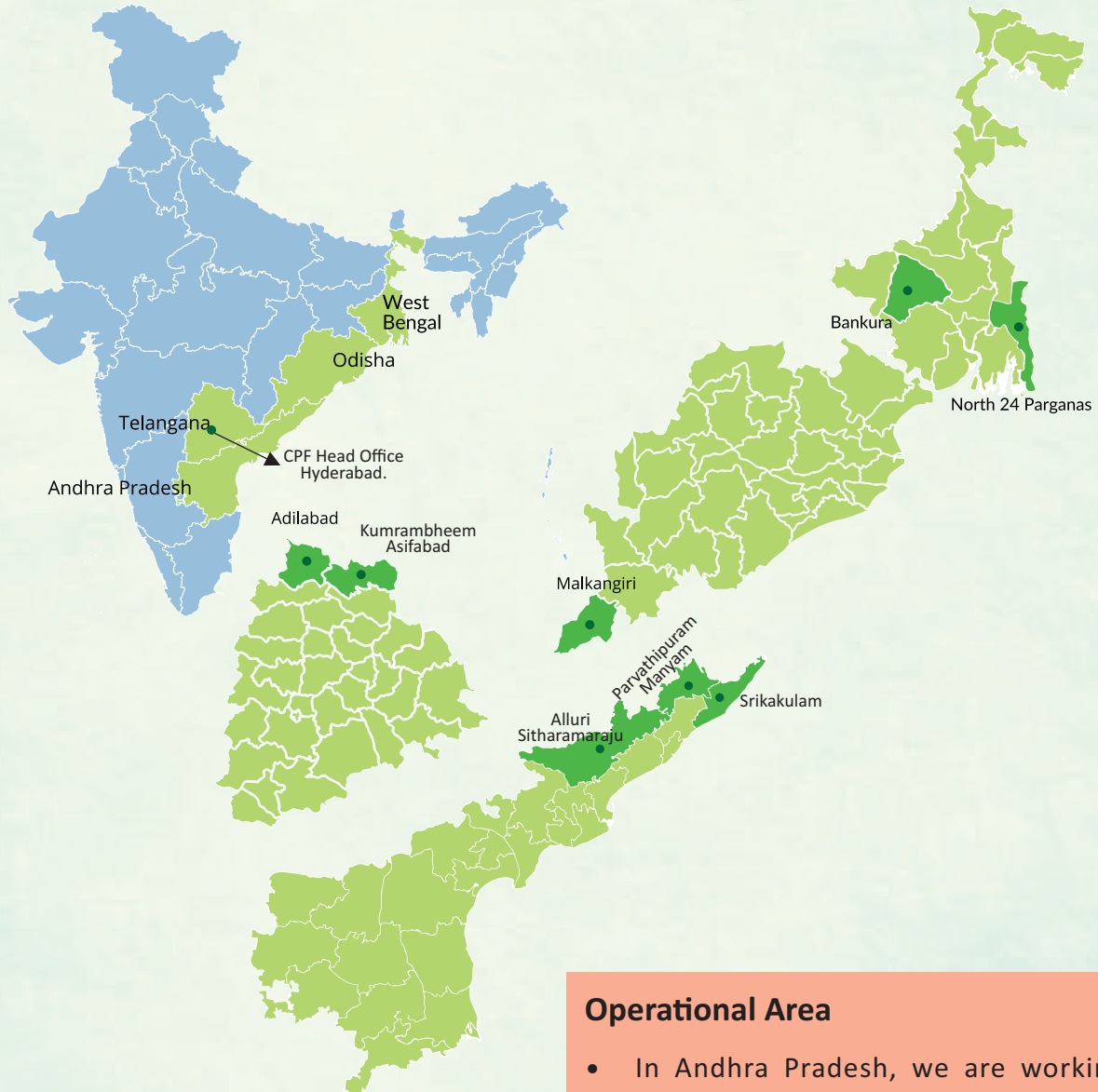
Meanwhile the evaluation of Azim Premji Philanthropic Initiatives and Bread for the World supported projects were initiated along with the regular program/project implementations. CPF work in shifting the farmers towards diversified crops from mono cropping through these projects had a visible impact at the community level. 7069 farmers shifted from mono cropping to diversified crops, ensuring food security at the household level and promoting agro-ecological practices enhancing soil fertility. Working with Tribal Welfare Department and Bharat Rural Livelihoods Foundation on facilitating CFR claims in 42 habitations of Tiryani Mandal gave positive impetus to the team in taking forward the agenda of Community Forest Management at the community level and with government.

CPF has evolved as a horizontal institution, imbibing the values of transparency and accountability and with established structures and systems in place under the able leadership of Dr. Suryakumari. With two decades of experience gained in working with forest communities CPF needs to strategize how best it can take forward its mission with the changes in the external environment. Under the able guidance of our Trustees and well experienced team I am positive that CPF will take that leap forward.

B Girija Devi
Director

I. 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.



Operational Area

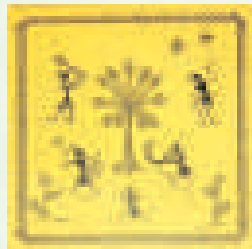
- In Andhra Pradesh, we are working in Srikakulam, Parvathipuram Manyam & Alluri Sitharamaraju districts covering 96 villages.
- In Telangana, CPF is working in Adilabad & Kumrambheem Asifabad districts covering 173 villages.
- In Odisha, CPF is working in 26 villages of Malkangiri districts.
- In West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



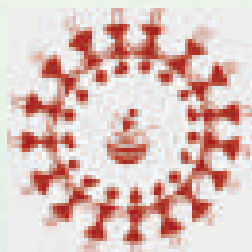
CPF strives to emancipate forest dwelling and resource-poor communities by ensuring their rights and sustainable management of natural resources.



CPF's key interventions focus on capacitating community-based institutions (Village Coordination Groups and Tribal Farmers Service Centres) for engaging with government institutions in accessing entitlements, promoting sustainable livelihoods and conservation.



CPF works with local NGOs, community-based organizations (CBOs), and government agencies at state and national levels. This cooperative approach ensures effective implementation and service delivery to the communities.



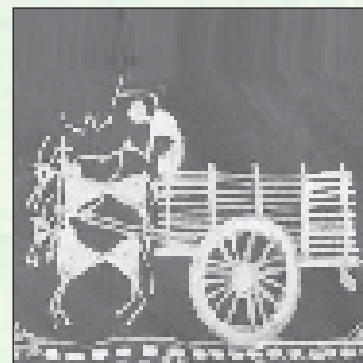
Before interventions, CPF conducts action research to understand the situation and identify gaps. Transparency in all its activities fosters support from the government, NGOs, and academic institutions.

Mission

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

FOREST COMMUNITIES PROGRAMME

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



II. MAJOR ACCOMPLISHMENTS

1. Rights and Entitlements

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. CPF was able to secure 9460 Individual Forest Rights (IFR) titles in its project locations, but accessing CFR is becoming a challenge due to lack of political will and limited awareness among the communities.



Community Forest Resource Rights

To empower the rights of tribal communities over forest resources, the Tribal Welfare Department (TWD) Telangana in collaboration with the Bharat Rural Livelihood Foundation (BRLF) and CPF had initiated a pilot project on claims over Community Forest Resources (CFR).



Tiryani Mandal, a forested region of Asifabad district was selected as part of the claim process. 42 habitations (1733 households) spread across 16 Gram Panchayats of the Mandal and the predominant tribal groups are Gonds and Kolams in this mandal.

Forest Rights Committees (FRCs) were formed in 42 habitations. Door to door campaign, youth rallies and kala jatha were undertaken to create awareness on CFR to the communities. To assess the community resources, participatory rural appraisals (PRAs) were conducted in all habitations. GPS mapping of forest resources was done with the technical support of Ashoka Trust for Research in Ecology & Environment (ATREE).



Submission of CFR Claims to
Smt. Chahal Vajpayee, IAS, Addl. Collector, Asifabad.

During the claim process preparation, the team encountered several challenges that hindered the progress of the work. The officials were reluctant to attend joint verification meetings despite repeated requests. The geographical terrain of Tiryani was less conducive for GPS mapping. Further, at the time of submission, there was non-cooperation from concerned officials.

Despite the challenges faced, documents for community claims over 14771 acres of forest area was prepared and submitted to the Sub-Divisional Level Committee, Asifabad and ITDA, Utnoor.

Exposure Visit on Community Forest Rights and Forest Management in Maharashtra



Panchgaon (Gondpipri Taluk, Chandapur District), Menda (Lekha panchayat, Dhanora Taluk Gadchiroli Districts) villages in Maharashtra have become role models for effectively conserving and managing their forests by getting Community Forest Rights. To understand how they claimed community forest rights and are managing forests, an exposure visit was organized for members of Forest Rights Committee, and elected representatives of PRIs from Bela, Gadiguda, Utnoor and Tiryani Mandals of Adilabad and Asifabad districts on 11th to 12th February 2023 by Centre for People's Forestry.

In Panchgaon, a forest fringe village with 60 HHs belonging to a mixed community of Gonds and Kunbis, the struggle for CFR claims started in 2009. People in the village would migrate for wage labour in neighbouring villages/towns due to distress situation. With the support of Paryavaran Mitra, they submitted CFR claims for 1006 hectares. The Forest Department tried to prove their claims wrong in several ways. They resorted to Dharna and cases were booked against the communities and finally with the intervention of Chief Minister they got their claims in 2012.



An inclusive community-based forest management plan

After receiving CFR titles, the Gram Sabha met about 180 times to develop their roles and responsibilities as holders of CFR rights. The entire village formulated 115-odd regulations for its CFR. It was also mandatory for at least one member from every household to attend the Gram Sabha meeting; else a penalty of Rs 50 would be imposed. The Gram Sabha has also reserved 34 ha of best-preserved wildlife-rich natural forest called Panchgaon sanctuary. The sanctuary is also a source of perennial streams. In order to protect their forest resources, voluntary patrolling of forests has been mandated.

Panchgaon has not received any external funding for its CFR initiatives till date. On an average, every household in the village is earning at least 1 lakh per annum.

After the exposure visit farmers and especially the elected representative got motivated and became determined to claim CFR in their respective villages.

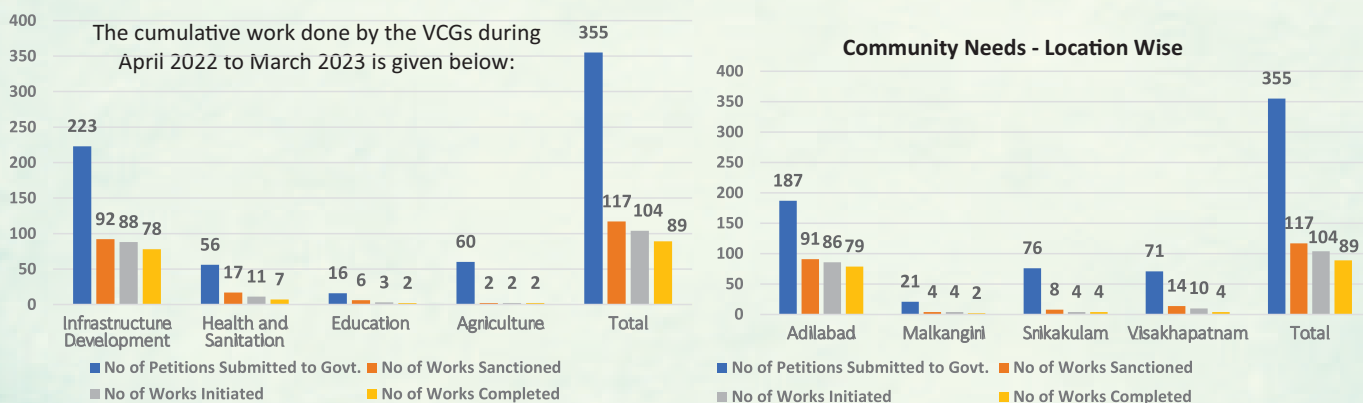
Entitlements:

CPF works for empowering the tribal communities by facilitating in accessing their entitlements through the establishment and strengthening of Village Coordination Groups (VCGs) in all the project villages. VCGs and their leaders are being capacitated in availing the entitlements. 37 VCGs were initiated in West Bengal in this year and 216 VCGs are operational in other project locations.

Trainings to VCG Members

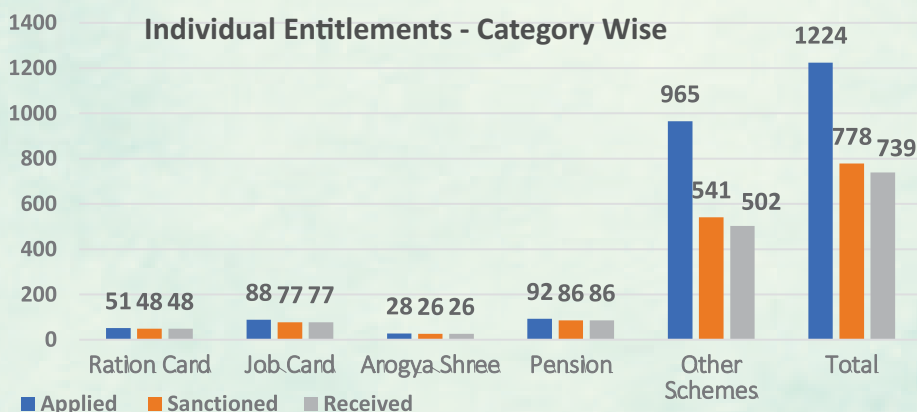
VCGs conduct monthly meetings to identify individual and community needs and discuss about the strategies for resolving the issues with government departments. They follow-up with the government officials and Panchayati Raj Institution (PRI) representatives regarding the sanctions and works progress.

CPF organized 53 trainings to 923 VCG members, out of which 580 were male and 343 were female. These trainings aimed to equip VCG leaders and Community Field Facilitators (CFFs) with the necessary knowledge and skills to write petitions and understand the government service delivery system. With increased knowledge and skills, VCG leaders were able to advocate for their communities, access government resources, and promote welfare and development of their villages. Continued support and reinforcement of such training initiatives have further enhanced effectiveness of VCG members in project areas.



The number of petitions submitted across all the locations is highest for infrastructure development.

The total sanctioned and utilized amount by government for community needs is Rs. 3.47 crores and utilized amount is Rs. 2.82 crores.



Overcoming Drainage Challenges in Mamidijola Village, Srikakulam, Andhra Pradesh

Mamidijola Village (Lokonda Gram Panchayat, Hiramandalam Mandal of Srikakulam District) is home to 47 households with predominantly the Savara (PVTG) community. Agriculture serves as the primary source of income, supplemented by the collection of Non-Timber Forest Produce (NTFP) such as Amla, Tamarind, Mango, Hill Broom, and Cashew.

In Mamidijola Village, the absence of basic facilities like roads, drinking water, and drainage have been longstanding issues. Due to illiteracy and a lack of awareness about application procedures, the villagers struggled to navigate the system. As PVTG Tribe, they were hesitant to approach government officials. The village faced severe health and sanitation problems due to the absence of proper drainage. Sewage overflowed on the streets and leakages in drinking water pipes made the streets unhygienic resulting in health issues. Complaints made to the officials remained unanswered, exacerbating the situation



Drainage work Under Progress

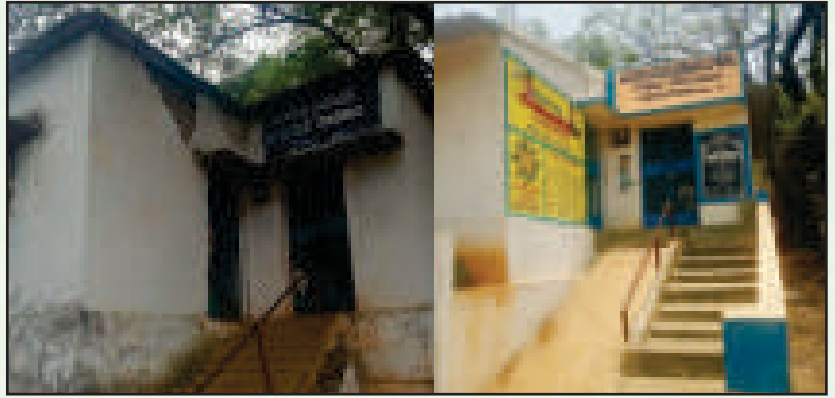
CPF facilitated the VCG members in writing petitions and submitting them to the relevant departments and the Integrated Tribal Development Agency (ITDA).

The ITDA sanctioned a budget of 3.5 Lakhs. The VCG members of Mamidijola Village have successfully resolved the village's major drainage problem. By overcoming knowledge barriers, hesitation, and handling unresponsive government officials, VCG members could bring tangible improvements in the quality of life for the villagers of Mamidijola.

Renovating Primary School in Kottabu Village, Alluri Sitharamaraju District, A.P.

Children from two villages namely Kottabu and Kuridimetta attend this primary school in Kottabu (Gabbangi Gram Panchayat, Paderu Mandal of Alluri Sitharamaraju District).

The school building was in dilapidated condition with walls and roofs crumbling and without sanitation facilities posed risk to the safety and well-being of the



students. As a consequence, children have been forced to study under an inadequate learning environment. The problem got compounded with the absence of regular teachers.

The Village Coordination Group (VCG) initially gave the petition to Gram Panchayat functionaries and later the VCG members pursued the matter and submitted their petition finally to the District Collector in June 2022.

The Collector immediately addressed the issue and allocated 1.50 lakh rupees towards the repair of the school building. The Mandal Parishad Development Officer (MPDO) allocated an equal amount. The prompt response from the Collector was heartily welcomed by the community.

The repair and renovation of the school building brought about a spacious learning environment having a positive impact on the children. Post renovation of the school, the posting of a dedicated teacher led to the increase in student attendance which was appreciated by the villagers.

"We are happy to see our school building getting repaired and renovated, thanks to the efforts of our VCG. The continuous and persistent efforts of the VCG members have paid off, and now our children have a safe and improved learning environment", said Radhakrishna, a villager of Kottabu village.

Drinking Water Problem Solved in Ambalagandi Village, Srikakulam, Andhra Pradesh

Ambalagandi village under Titukupai Panchayat of Srikakulam district in Andhra Pradesh, consists of 45 households. The only source of water available in this village is to draw water from two tube wells which also becomes redundant during the summer and rainy months. During the summer, both the wells dry up due to rise in temperature. Similarly, in rainy season, the water gets muddied due to the intrusion of surface water run-off from nearby hillocks filled with sand and pebbles. As a result, the villagers are forced to draw water from Kumbi & Dasugummadi villages which are 5 km away from this village.

In one of the Village Coordination Group (VCG) meetings, the members identified and prioritized the drinking water problem as a pressing issue of the village. A decision was made by the VCG members and a

petition was submitted to the Project Officer ITDA Seetampeta for drinking water on 16th May 2022.



Based on the petition submitted, government officials visited the village on 15th June 2022 and took stock of the drinking water problem and they sanctioned a water pipe connection to the village with a budget of Rs. 4 lakhs. The villagers supported by laying water pipelines and completed the water pipe connection to the village that brought joy and contentment to all.

2. Action Research and Policy Advocacy

CPF carries out Participatory Action Research for analysis of forestry related policies and practices, livelihood enhancement needs 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.. The learnings from these studies are used for mid-level corrections in the projects being implemented.

During the reporting period, action research studies were undertaken to assess the Implementation of the Mission Bhagiratha Scheme and Sustainability of Community Institutions (TFSCs and VCGs) initiated by CPF.

The Mission Bhagiratha Scheme study was undertaken in Adilabad project villages. Data was collected from 473 households (5 HHs in each village randomly) in 87 villages of Uttoor, Bela & Gadiguda Mandals.

The second action research study was conducted to assess how TFSCs & VCGs are functioning. The study used multiple approaches to collect information – survey, field observations and reports from 64 TFSCs & 76 VCGs from project locations. The report is under preparation.



3. Participatory SNRM and Livelihoods



Ensuring the well-being and livelihood security of the communities in forest fringe villages is intrinsically tied to the sustainable management of our precious natural resources. When we manage our natural resources in a responsible and sustainable manner, we create a harmonious relationship between thriving ecosystems and thriving communities. CPF has focused its efforts on this critical aspect.

CPF has been actively engaged in two primary areas: the promotion of agro-ecological practices, the restoration of local tanks through desiltation and agro-forestry activities. By clearing sediment from tanks, it will not only enhance their water-holding capacity but also support irrigation and create new opportunities for agricultural growth. Simultaneously, agro-forestry initiatives allow communities to cultivate crops alongside strategically planted trees, fostering a symbiotic relationship between agriculture and forestry, thereby bolstering both ecological and economic stability.

Tribal Farmer Service Centre (TFSC)

CPF is working for promoting SNRM and livelihoods through community-based organizations like Tribal Farmer Service Centre (TFSC), Water User Groups, Maawadi and Small Farmer Groups.

Through formation of small groups, creating representative committee, and promoting gender inclusivity, TFSCs are enabling the transfer of knowledge and resources for sustainable farming

practices to farmers. TFSCs are contributing to the shift from mono crop to diversified crops through agro-ecological practices, restoration and revival of SMC structures, Farmer Field School (FFS) and seed bank establishments led to the food security at the household level and increase in yield and fertility of soil. In the process, it is paving way for preserving their cultural heritage and traditional wisdom.

212 TFSCs are functioning across project locations and in West Bengal 27 TFSCs were initiated during the reporting period.

Farm Implements through TFSCs

By offering farm implements on a rental basis, TFSCs have equipped farmers with the tools necessary to enhance the productivity and efficiency by ensuring sustainable farming practices. TFSCs introduced a range of farm implements like Power Weeder, Battery Sprayer, Taiwan Sprayer, Bullock Daruva, Mango Branches Cutter etc.

The TFSCs have been inclusive towards the needs of the small-scale farmers by renting out the equipment



to them who otherwise can't afford to purchase the expensive modern equipment to enhance their agricultural practices.

The TFSCs have collected a sum of Rs. 131,928 through its equipment rental services from 195 TFSCs. A total of 3,731 farmers have utilized the available equipment, indicating a strong demand and interest in adopting modern agricultural practices.

Promoting Seed Banks

45 seed banks were initiated to conserve food crops and preserve traditional knowledge of seed storage. CPF conducted 52 training sessions for 1698 farmers across the project locations, focusing on seed collection, storage techniques, and the importance of preserving diverse varieties of indigenous seeds. A total of 4532 kg of seeds of Red Gram, Black Gram, Green gram, Jowar, Ragi, Foxtail Millets, Kala Jeera black paddy etc. were collected through the contribution of 4930 farmers. The seeds were sun



dried, cleaned and graded to ensure their viability and longevity during storage.

Traditional seed storage techniques, such as storing seeds in earthen pots and bamboo-made containers were adopted and natural preservatives like Neem leaves and cow dung ashes were used to protect the seeds from pests and diseases. Seed banks ensured easy access of seeds to farmers and promote seed and knowledge exchange within the community. To further enhance the seed conservation efforts, CPF is actively collaborating with agricultural research institutions like KVK and ARS, among others.

Sustainable Agriculture and Food Security

Promoting agricultural diversity is crucial in ensuring food security. By prioritizing the distribution of indigenous/local varieties and supporting vegetable cultivation, CPF has made a positive impact on farmers' lives and livelihoods.

CPF procured resilient seeds of pulses, millets, cereals and vegetables from Regional Agricultural Research Stations (RARS), Krishi Vigyan Kendras (KVKs), Farmer Producer Organizations (FPOs) and progressive farmers across our project locations. During the agricultural seasons of Kharif 2022 and Rabi 2022 CPF provided these high-quality seeds to farmers in the project area. A total of 5684 farmers benefitted from this seed distribution initiative. The total quantity of seeds distributed to farmers amounted to 21,520 kg. In addition to promoting legumes, CPF also focused on enhancing vegetable cultivation and encouraging the cultivation of cereals and millets, which are essential components of a diversified and nutritious diet.



Farmer Field School (FFS)

CPF conducted 241 FFS sessions, with a total of 3,733 farmers participating actively. The impact of the FFS program has been significant, with farmers gaining valuable knowledge and practical skills, leading to improved sustainability, increased crop yields, and enhanced income. Farmers have gained valuable insights into Soil testing, land preparation, Watershed treatments.



Establishment of Demonstration Plots

CPF has undertaken a significant initiative to establish demonstration plots with progressive farmers across project locations in Andhra Pradesh, Telangana, Odisha, and West Bengal. These demonstration plots serve as practical examples of agro-ecological practices and crop diversification, with the primary objective of encouraging other farmers to adopt sustainable farming methods. The demonstration plots closely align with the principles taught in the Farmer Field School (FFS) activities, and CPF actively monitors the crop health and yield throughout the growing season.



Soil Testing:

300 soil samples covering 1500 acres in Bela and Gadiguda Mandals of Adilabad district were sent for soil test to KVK (Adilabad, Telangana). The results showed that both the Mandals have clay loam soil textures with similar fertilizer recommendations for cultivation. The soil test reports for Bela and Gadiguda mandals in project locations reveal a slightly acidic pH and medium to low organic carbon content in both areas. These variations may necessitate different strategies for managing soil pH and organic matter to optimize yield in each region.

121 Soil Sample Test results covering 300 acres of land from Bankura, West Bengal showed that soil samples were acidic and appropriate suggestions given by KVK are being followed to increase soil fertility.



Enhancing Soil Fertility

The vermicompost and silt application plays an important role in improving the soil fertility. In Adilabad, CPF has facilitated the construction of 30 permanent structures of vermicompost units and 30 mobile units and renovated 10 vermicompost units which yielded 30,000 kgs of vermicompost. 888 farmers were provided with 240 kgs of vermicompost to each farmer worth Rs. 14,91,840/ with farmer contribution of Rs. 2,66,400/-. 620 farmers were provided with silt application of 10 cubic meters per farmer worth Rs. 16,10,000/- with farmer contribution of Rs.3,70,000/-. 1508 farmers were provided with vermicompost and silt application leading to increase in soil fertility in 1508 acres.



SMC Structures Repair and Maintenance

The watershed management initiative is aimed to educate and involve local communities in the identification, construction, and maintenance of watershed structures in agricultural lands. 67 trainings were conducted for 1,711 farmers and members of User Groups (UG). CPF facilitated the repair and renovation of 15 LBS, 17 RFD were renovated and 3 check dams desilted through community participation. These efforts led to treatment of 114.38 cubic meters of land through Sramdan amounting to Rs. 99,207. These endeavours resulted in 136 acres of land being brought under irrigation, increase in vegetation, groundwater recharge. Further, it improved water availability for domestic cattle.



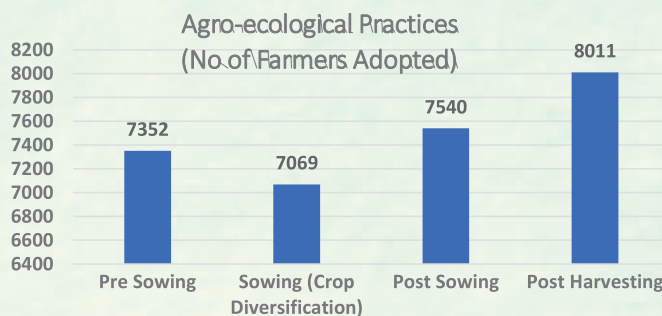
Agro-ecological Practices:

CPF promotes eight agro-ecological practices such as land levelling, soil testing, SMC works, seed treatment, crop diversification, weeding, organic fertilizers, organic pesticides, seed grading & storage . TFSCs play a vital role in empowering farmers through input seed support and training on agro-ecological practices leads to adoption of crop diversification among farmers. CPF focuses on inclusivity and empowering female farmers for a more sustainable agricultural landscape. These interventions have positively impacted tribal farmers, enabling them to adopt agroecological practices and crop diversification.

CPF's efforts have also been recognized by government and other CSOs enhancing convergence and collaborations to support farmers.

Crop Diversification:

Monocropping is predominantly practiced by farmers across all the project locations such as cotton in Adilabad and paddy in Malkangiri and Bankura. CPF is promoting food crop diversification among farmers in all project locations to ensure food and nutrition security. 7,069 farmers have adopted crop diversification (Pulses, Millets, Cereals and Vegetables) during Kharif and Rabi seasons in 2022-23.



The graph illustrates the number of farmers adopting different stages of agro-ecological practices: pre-sowing (7,352), sowing (7,069), post-sowing (7,540) and post-harvest (8,011).

Line Sowing vs Dibbling for Green gram Cultivation

This case study examines and compares the cultivation practices and outcomes of two farmers, Hussain Soyam and Ade Ganesh from Sonkhas village, Bela Mandal who grew green gram using different sowing methods that is line sowing and dibbling. The study aims to analyse the impact of sowing method on plant growth, seed requirement, and yield.

Hussain Soyam adopted line sowing for his green gram cultivation. Line sowing involves planting seeds in rows, typically spaced at regular intervals.

Whereas Ade Ganesh opted for dibbling method. Dibbling refers to the process of creating small holes with stick in the soil and placing seeds individually in these holes. This method provides each plant with sufficient space and light for optimal growth. Both Hussain Soyam and Ade Ganesh used 1 kg of seed.

Comparison:

In line sowing, the plants were crowded due to the closer spacing, which limited their access to space and light. As a result, the plants faced increased

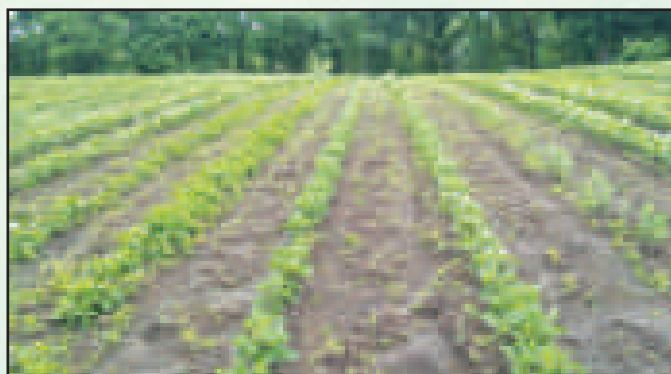
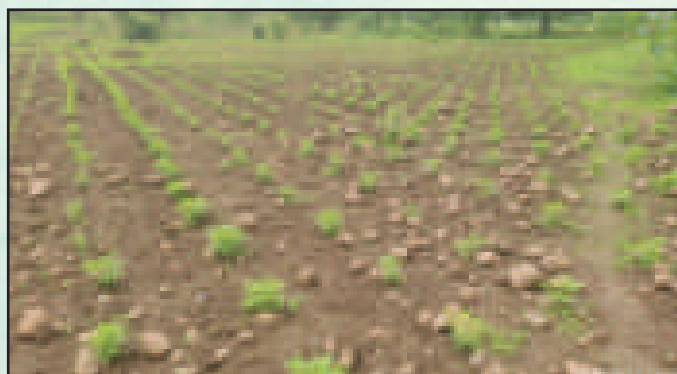
competition for resources, potentially leading to stunted growth. On the other hand, dibbling allowed each plant to have ample space and access to light, which facilitated better growth and development.

Seed Requirement:

Dibbling requires more area coverage compared to line sowing due to the spacing between plants. As a result, Ade Ganesh needed relatively fewer seeds to cover the same area as Hussain Soyam, who used line sowing. This suggests that dibbling can be a more efficient method in terms of seed utilization.

Yield:

The yield obtained by the two farmers differed significantly. Ade Ganesh, using dibbling, achieved a yield of 50 kg of green gram from his 1 kg of seeds. On the other hand, Hussain Soyam, using line sowing, obtained a yield of 30 kg from the same quantity of seed. The increased yield in the dibbling method can be attributed to better plant growth, enhanced access to light and resources, and reduced competition among plants.



Restoration of Check Dam in Gadiguda, Adilabad, Telangana

A check dam was constructed in Gadiguda under the Integrated Watershed Management Program (IWMP) by CPF in 2011 that served as important source of water for Gadiguda and Admeyan villages. Over the years, the check dam was filled with silt that posed challenges for the communities. CPF collaborated with farmers from both the villages to address the issue.

Through discussion, the members of TFSCs and VCGs decided to undertake Sramdan for desilting the check dam. 35 farmers participated in the desilting of the check dam and with community

contribution of Rs. 2200/- and they used a JCB machinery for desilting work.

Through the collective efforts of communities from two villages, the desilting process was successfully completed, restoring the check dam's capacity and ensuring efficient water flow. This had a significant impact on the communities providing water supply for domestic as well as agricultural activities.

The restoration of the check dam has improved the storage capacity by storing 8 lakh litres of water, thereby, providing constant source of water for irrigation during summer months. It has helped in recharging of ground water and prevent soil erosion. The checkdam in Gadiguda now provides farmers with irrigation to 40 acres of land boosting agricultural productivity and development. The restoration of the check dam has a positive impact on agriculture and soil conservation in the area.



Empowering Farmers through Community Seed Bank in Kavasiguda, Malkangiri, Odisha



Kavasiguda Village is located in the Telrai Gram Panchayat of Malkangiri district, Odisha. Kavasiguda has been experiencing a decline in agricultural productivity due to changing climatic conditions. This resulted in men migrating to other areas in search of employment opportunities, leaving the burden of farming on women, who had to cope with increased responsibilities. In addition, the lack of access to quality seeds further compounded the challenges faced by the community, putting the sustainability of farming practices at risk. TFSC was formed in the village and regular monthly meetings were held to address the issues in agriculture, fostering trust and collaboration between the farmers. A major issue was identified as the lack of quality seeds with the farmers and their dependence on the external vendors and middlemen for seeds, losing out the indigenous and local varieties of seeds.

The intervention began with capacity-building and awareness programs to the farmers about the importance of the seed bank initiative. Initially, the farmers were provided with quality local seeds through TFSC, with the condition that they would return the seeds after the crop harvest for continuous replenishment.

The establishment of the seed bank had a significant positive impact on the community of Kavasiguda Village.



Farmers were highly satisfied with the process and willingly contributed different varieties of seeds for the seed bank. The seed bank now boasts a diverse collection of seeds, including Finger Millet, Horse gram, Black gram, Black paddy, Green gram, Maize, Beans Cowpea, and Bottle gourd. These seeds are readily accessible to all farmers in the village, ensuring a consistent supply of high-quality seeds for cultivation during the upcoming seasons. Currently, the seed bank holds an impressive 600 kg of seeds, further enhancing the resilience of the farming community.

Agroecological Practices & Crop diversification - Pedda Gangapur Village, Adilabad, Telangana

Chandraya owns 3 acres of land in Pedda Gangapur Village, Utnoor Mandal, Adilabad District, Telangana. Farmers in this village have shifted to cotton cultivation for economic sustenance like other farmers in this region. This has often led to financial difficulties for the farmers, with high input costs and limited returns.

Chandraya persisted with cotton cultivation for the past 4 years with the hope of achieving higher yields and income. This led to excessive use of fertilizers and substantial borrowing to sustain the high investment costs associated with cotton farming.

Crop cultivation details in the year 2021

Sl no.	Crop	Area (in Acre)	Expenditure (in INR)	Production in quintals	Rate per quintal (in INR)	Income (in INR)	Loss (in INR)
1.	Cotton	3	140000	7	6500	45000	95000

Chandraya faced financial difficulties due to the expenses incurred in cotton cultivation, which resulted in an inability to repay loans and meet his farming expenses. Consequently, he had to give up farming and hand



over his land to his brother. Chandraya resorted to working at a Seeds and Fertilizers shop, earning a meagre income of Rs 4500 per month, which was insufficient to support his family. Despite working long hours, he struggled to pay off his debts.

Seeking a way out of his predicament, Chandraya collaborated with CPF to bring a change in the village as a Community Facilitator Farmer (CFF) in the Gangapur

cluster in 2022. He received training on agroecological methods and crop diversification. As a CFF, Chandraya actively engaged with fellow farmers, educating them about alternative agricultural practices and motivating them to adopt different crops. Encouraged by the program, Chandraya decided to resume farming on his 3-acre land, utilizing the support and knowledge gained from the CPF.

Embracing agroecological practices, Chandraya cultivated 11 types of food crops on his land, employing organic solutions, infusions, and self-prepared vermicompost with minimal investment costs. Impressed by his success, the Wildlife Conservation Society provided him with mango plants and a mobile vermicompost bed as recognition of his dedication and profitable results.

By diligently managing his farm using organic methods and diversifying his crops, Chandraya achieved significant profits. He prepared vermicompost fertilizer by filling the mobile vermicompost bed with manure and sewage from his cattle, resulting in the production of 54 bags (40 kgs each) over a span of 3 months. This generated an income of Rs 18,900/-. Additionally, Chandraya constructed 2 permanent vermicompost units earning an income of Rs 15,000/-



Current Situation: Total 11 types of food crops are cultivated in 3 acres of land

S. no.	Crop	Area (Acre)	Expenditure (Rs.)	Production (in quintals)	Rate per quintals (Rs.)	Income (Rs.)	Profit (Rs.)
1.	Green gram	0.10	200	80 kgs	6500	5200	5000
2.	Black gram	0.10	300	200 kgs	6000	12000	11700
	Maize	0.10	200	100 kgs	3400	3400	3200
3.	Jower	0.10	300	200 kgs	3000	6000	5700
4.	Tomato	0.10	400	160 kgs	4000	6400	6000
5.	Brinjal	0.10	550	300 kgs	3000	9000	8460
6.	Black Eyed Pea	0.10	250	140 kgs	6000	8400	8150
7.	Methi	0.10	300	250*10/- kattalu	2500	2500	2200
8.	Coriander	0.10	300	140*10 kattalu	1400	1400	1100
9.	Red Gram	0.10	300	200 kgs	8000	16000	15700
10.	Foxtail Millet	0.10	200	80 kgs	8000	6400	6200
11.	Watermelon	0.10	200	100 kgs	5000	5000	4800
			3500			81700	78210

With the combined income from vermicompost and food crops, Chandraya successfully paid off all his debts. He has become an inspiration for farmers in surrounding villages, offering advice on organic cultivation, and showcasing the benefits of multi-food crop cultivation in a limited space and at a reduced cost.

His success story serves as an inspiration for other farmers in the area, demonstrating the viability of agroecological practices and the potential for sustainable livelihoods.

Minor Irrigation in Waroor Village, Adilabad, Telangana

The Waroor village, located in the Bela mandal of Adilabad district, heavily relies on agriculture as its primary economic activity. The village's minor irrigation tank plays a vital role in supplying water for agricultural purposes. However, over time, the tank had accumulated silt, leading to a decrease in its storage capacity and affecting its effectiveness in water management.

To address this issue, members of the Tribal Farmer Service Centre (TFSC) and CPF, Adilabad took the initiative to undertake a desilting program. The primary objective was to restore the tank's capacity by removing the accumulated silt. The TFSC members then transported the excavated silt to nearby agricultural fields of Adivasi farmers, where it was utilized as organic fertilizer.



As a result of the desilting program, a total area of 2053 cubic meters was desilted from the tank. This restoration led to an approximate water storage capacity of 20,53,000 liters. By improving the tank's capacity, the initiative has significantly contributed to enhancing water availability for agricultural activities in the Waroor village. The utilization of the excavated silt as organic fertilizer benefits the local Adivasi farmers, promoting sustainable farming practices and soil fertility. Moreover, the successful implementation of the desilting program demonstrates the positive impact of community-led initiatives in water resource management and agricultural development in the region.

4. Adaptation to Climate Change

Climate change is posing significant threats to forests and the communities living in and around them. The adverse weather patterns in both forested and plain areas are affecting crop survival and reducing crop yields over time. To address this issue, CPF has been actively promoting climate resilient agricultural practices and other adaptation measures in its project villages. These initiatives aim to minimize the threats posed by climate change to both communities and forests, safeguarding their livelihoods in the process.

Building Resilience through Horticulture

The horticulture plantation MAWADI Program supported by NABARD is implemented in 18 villages of Tiryani Mandal in Asifabad district. 406 tribal farmers belonging Gonds and Kolams are involved wherein each farmer is facilitated with WADI plantations in 406 acres of land. 76 acres of WADI plantations have been carried out by planting mango and guava as main plantation and Custard apple and teak as border plantation.

To promote and increase nutrition amongst the farmers, intercropping of food crops like green gram, tomato, chillies, brinjal and okra were grown. 3 open wells were constructed and connected with 10 diesel engines, 76 water troughs and 20 water drums were supplied for critical irrigation. 15 milch animals were given to poor/landless / single women headed households. However, lack of water availability and fodder scarcity for cattle are posing challenges. Trainings on additional livelihood activities such as bamboo artefacts making were also provided to the farmers.

Carbon Credits

Carbon credits is a mechanism to offset the carbon and greenhouse gas emissions through incentivising the farmers and communities for climate adaptation activities such as agro-forestry, horticulture etc., CPF in collaboration with Veda Climate Change Solutions Ltd., is implementing a pilot project on carbon credits in 58 villages covering 500 hectares of horticulture and agro-forestry plantations in Mulugu and Asifabad districts of Telangana. Awareness meetings were conducted to appraise the farmers on Carbon credits followed by baseline survey and GPS trainings.

The Ground Truthing (GT) plotting has been done covering 291 hectares and the remaining work will be completed in the next few months.



Adivasi Education Project

The Adivasi Education Project aims to preserve, celebrate and disseminate the values of tribal culture and traditions and highlight their intrinsic relationship with forests and natural resources. The project aims to engage tribal elders, youth, women and children in particular, in initiating a dialogue within the communities on the role of tribal culture in shaping their values and worldview. It also aims to promote their cultural practices in conserving their forests and natural resources in the emerging context of climate change.

The project's main focus is to document, develop and disseminate resource material on tribal culture, knowledge and traditions. Tribal elders, young men and women, tribal artists, crafts persons and herbal practitioners are being engaged to develop the resource material. It is also being done through theatre workshops for tribal youth, trainings for tribal herbal medicinal practitioners, gram panchayat level workshops for tribal elders and women. The project particularly focuses on engaging with tribal children through games and activities for dissemination of knowledge on tribal culture, festivals, foods and food crops, native flowers, fruits, tubers and other flora and fauna.

PROJECT LOCATION DETAILS

District & State	Block	No of Gram Panchayats	No of Villages	Adivasi Communities
Alluri Sitaramaraju District, Andhra Pradesh	Paderu	5	35	Konda Dora, Bhagata, Kodu (PVTG), Goudu, Valmiki, Nooka Dora
1 District	1 Block	5 GPs	35 Villages	6 Adivasi Communities



Adivasi Cultural Event

CPF organized an Adivasi Cultural Event in D Modaputtu village in Paderu, Alluri Sitaramaraju district on 15 September 2022 to celebrate Adivasi Culture and Traditions. Sarpanch and MPTC of Kujjeli Gram Panchayat, Government School Head Master and village elders attended the event as chief guests. The village youth, children, women and men all actively participated in the event with singing tribal songs, performing Dimsa dance, enacting a theatre play on tribal culture and lifestyle and conservation of their forest and natural resources. The women of the village have prepared all kinds of tribal foods and served to all the villagers as a celebration of their foods. The youth have made rangolis symbolising their tribal lifestyle and their symbiosis with forest. The government school children also participated in the cultural event by writing essays on tribal festivals, culture and lifestyle.



The village youth displayed various forest foods, flowers, tubers, medicinal products from their forests and displayed them along with their incredibly diverse food crops. The event ended with a positive energy and engaging discussion on protecting tribal culture and traditions, celebrating tribal festivals and conserving precious forest and natural resources.

Empowering Adivasi Youth: Theatre Workshop on Tribal Cultural Preservation

CPF organized a three-day Theatre Workshop in Paderu, Alluri Sitaramaraju district from 27 to 29 March 2023 for 40 tribal youth to enhance their self-confidence and interpersonal skills and hone their theatre skills for organizing street plays and events to promote tribal culture, lifestyle and traditions. The workshop shed light on the importance of tribal cultural and lifestyle, emphasizing their relationship with forest and natural resource conservation through the use of enthusiastic songs and plays. Mr. Shanta Rao, theatre activist who is the resource person for the workshop effectively conveyed these messages to the tribal youth.

It was observed that there was a noticeable change in the body language and articulation amongst the youth who participated in the workshop. This approach might prove effective in promoting and preserving tribal culture and traditions. We can empower tribal youth to preserve cultural heritage and address the challenges faced by tribal communities and promote their rich cultural legacy.



Ms. Ongeli Sasi Kumari, a young tribal woman from the Bhagata community of Kujjeli village said "I attended the Theatre Workshop on Tribal Culture and Traditions, and it was truly transformative. Through performing arts I got a closure look of our Adivasi lifestyle and heritage. Witnessing the active involvement of tribal youth and their passion for preserving our traditions was truly inspiring. Now, I understand the real significance of songs and plays in promoting our cultural heritage and addressing issues like resource exploitation. I am determined to utilize these creative mediums to raise awareness and ensure the conservation of our tribal culture and traditions, our forests, natural resources, and agricultural lands. The theatre workshop was invaluable in empowering our tribal youth and safeguarding our rich cultural legacy."

Other activities undertaken as part of the Adivasi Education Project:

- Prepared Session plan on Adivasi Culture and Traditions for our project area village Schools.
- Organized four-day Residential training to 20 tribal herbal practitioners on Herbal Medicinal Practices in collaboration with Vanantaram, Addateegala.
- Conducted theatre workshop to 40 tribal youth on Adivasi culture and traditions by theatre activist Mr. Shantarao
- Provided orientation training to 80 Adivasi artists of 8 Adivasi Kalajataras of covering all 35 Villages to promote tribal musical equipment (Dappulu, Thudumu, Kiridi, Gilakalu, Chekulu) in Tribal Cultural Events & Festivals.
- Conducted 5 gram panchayat level workshops with traditional healers, village elders, youth and women to initiate knowledge sharing among project communities in the project villages.

IV. STATE REPORTS

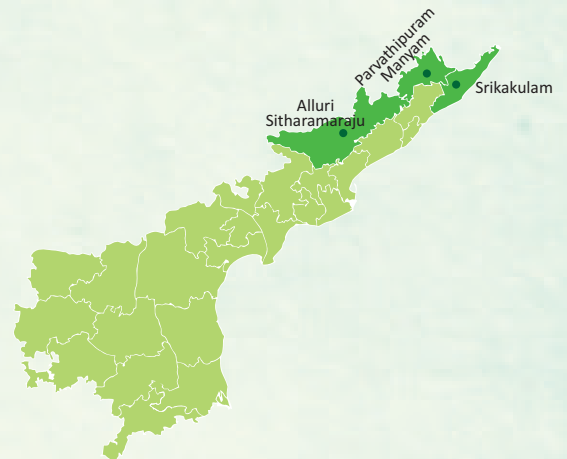
Andhra Pradesh

Districts: Srikakulam , Parvathipuram Manyam & Alluri Sitharamaraju

No. of Mandals: 4 (Paderu, Pathapatnam, Hiramandalam and Seetampeta)

No. of Villages: 77

Tribal Communities: Kodu (PVTG), Savara (PVTG), Bhagata, Valmiki, Konda Dora & Nooka Dora



CPF's work is majorly focused on reviving the natural farming practices of tribal communities through promoting agro-ecological practices and crop diversification. Through the "Adivasi Livelihood Project", CPF is working with tribal farmers of these regions encouraging them to grow millets, cereals, pulses and vegetables by adopting the agro-ecological practices through establishing and strengthening of Tribal Farmer Service Centres (TFSCs). CPF's work is also focused on the facilitation of individual and community needs through establishment and strengthening of Village Coordination Groups (VCGs).

Impact at a glance

- 427 Individual petitions and 22 community petitions sanctioned
- 77 TFSC and VCG institution strengthened
- 1088 acres of agricultural land converted to diversified food crops

Agro-ecological Practices

- 92 Farmer Field Schools (1323 farmers) conducted on agro-ecological practices.
- 11 trainings (711 TFSC members) conducted on institution building and roles and responsibilities.
- 11 trainings (824 farmers) conducted on Seed Bank Establishment & Maintenance
- 5 trainings (337 farmers) conducted on repair and maintenance of watershed structures.
- 36 tribal habitations provided with farm implements (Weighing Machines, Flour Mills, etc) through TFSCs
- 1088 farmers enabled to adopt agro-ecological practices in four stages - pre-sowing, sowing, post-sowing and post harvesting.
- 2028 farmers were provided with quality seeds of Millets, Cereals, Pulses and Vegetables.
- 11 Demonstration Plots established to promote agro-ecological practices
- 77 TFSCs are supported and strengthened covering 2720 farmers.
- 15 Community Seed Banks established covering 65 tribal habitations enabling storage of 960 kgs of Millets & Pulses.

Entitlements

- 77 VCGs are supported and strengthened covering 2960 households.
- 15 VCG trainings conducted for 481 VCG members on accessing government schemes & entitlements.
- 22 community needs got sanctioned for INR 1.12 crore under Infrastructure Development, Education, Health and Sanitation.
- 427 households were enabled to get individual needs sanctioned under welfare and social security schemes.

Convergence:

No. of Farmers	Particulars	Department / District
115	1150 kgs of Kidney Bean Seeds (10 kg /farmer)	Raithu Bharosa Kendras / Alluri Sitharamaraju
74	740 Cashew saplings (70 saplings/farmer)	MGNREGS / Srikakulam
12	200 hill broom saplings	ITDA, Seetampeta / Srikakulam
15	300 papaya saplings	Krishi Vignana Kendra (KVK) / Srikakulam
18	540 kgs of Paddy Seeds (30 kg /farmer)	Raithu Bharosa Kendras / Alluri Sitharamaraju

Kuridiemetta Village, Paderu – Getting connected with Road

Kuridiemetta, a serene hamlet situated in Alluri Sitarama Raju District's Paderu Block, is home to 30 households belonging to the Nooka Dora tribe. The village, nestled amidst nature's tranquillity, has preserved its charm and natural beauty resulting in the community developing strong bonds and relies on each other for support. As it is 7-8 kms away from the main road, it posed challenges for transportation and accessibility for the community.

The mud road of the Kuridiemetta village was in a deteriorated state, filled with deep potholes. Vehicles struggled to navigate the treacherous terrain, and the rainy season exacerbated the road's condition, making travel extremely difficult. The community faced transportation challenges, hindering their access to essential services and opportunities.



The Village Coordination Group (VCG) established in the village through CPF continuously pursued this road connectivity issue with the government officials. After multiple applications, the persistent efforts of the VCG members paid off in the month of June 2022 when the villagers through VCG submitted the petition to District Collector through Spandana program, and the CC road was finally

sanctioned. Construction of the CC road was completed by the end of 2022, bringing immense joy and satisfaction to the entire community.

Ms. Boyini Bullammi, VCG President stated, "*The new road has opened up opportunities for us. It has made traveling easier and safer, allowing us to access essential services and connect with other communities.*"

Promoting Food Crop Diversification to Ensure Food and Nutrition Security

Burjuguda Village, Srikakulam Burjuguda is a village of Shobha Gram Panchayat, Srikakulam district. There are 23 households in the village. The main income sources are NTFP collection (Amla, turmeric, jack fruit, tamarind, soap nut, etc) and cultivation on pulses and millets on the IFR lands.

In these tribal villages, the farmers have both revenue and IFR lands. Cultivation in IFR lands require heavy manual labour and continuous protection of crops from wild animals. As the traditional practices of work sharing among tribal families for agricultural practices was lost with changing times, it is becoming increasingly difficult for the families to manage their farming activities. This has led to farmers confining to single crops on their IFR lands or leaving their land uncultivated. Even on revenue lands farmers are cultivating monocrop paddy in kharif and the land is left unused in rabi season. Most of the villagers go for daily wage labour in MGNREGS and in recent years youth of the village are migrating to cities.

S. Venkatrao is a TFSC member and does different jobs like Tailoring and Masonry work to earn extra income. He got motivated on natural farming after

attending the trainings conducted through TFSC and started diversifying to multiple crops in the kharif season. Through TFSC he received seed support and also gained knowledge on preparation of organic fertilisers & pesticides with facilitation from CPF. After talking suggestions from the TFSC, he cultivated vegetable crops Okra, Ridge gourd and Pumpkin on 10 cent land, Red gram on 30 cent land and Jowar Millet on 1 acre of his IFR land and paddy on 50 cents of his revenue land.

After adopting agro-ecological practices and crop diversification with support from TFSC, he was selected as a leader for Vandan Vikas Kendram (VDVK). It is a platform where the farmers can sell their produce at a better price than shandie market. From mono-cropping his income is around 27,000/-. After cultivating multi-crops like cereals, pulses, millet and vegetables, his income increased to 37,100/-. He is also selected as Community Resorce Person for APCNF program to train the farmers on natural farming in the Sobha cluster. He expressed his happiness for getting support and facilitation from CPF through TFSC in his journey to revive and adopt the natural farming through agro-ecological practices and crop diversification.



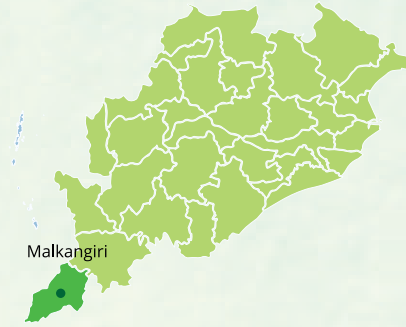
Odisha

Districts: Malkangiri

No. of Mandals: 1 (Kalimela)

No. of Villages: 26

Tribal Communities: Koya and Paraja



Farmers in Malkangiri are engaged in cost intensive paddy and groundnut farming, leading to soil degradation and distress amongst the farmers. To address these issues, CPF launched Adivasi Livelihood Project in Malkangiri district. The primary objective was to shift farmers from paddy to pulses, millets and cereals, promoting sustainable practices and healthy farm outputs. CPF also strengthened community institutions through Tribal Farmer Service Centres (TFSC) to facilitate collective resource sharing (farm implements, seeds etc.,) among farmers. Village Coordination Groups (VCGs) were also formed to facilitate communities in resolving the individual and community needs.

Impact at Glance

- 63 Individual petitions and 4 community petitions sanctioned
- 26 TFSC and VCG institution strengthened
- 855 acres of agricultural land converted from monocrop cultivation of paddy to diversified food crops.



Agro-ecological Practices

- 626 farmers were provided with 5940 kgs of Millets, Cereals, Pulses and Vegetables seeds
- 12 Seed Banks established covering 26 villages stored 1850 kgs of Pulses, Millets and Cereals.
- 2 NPM shop has established
- 11 Farmer Field Schools (FFS) trainings conducted for 645 farmers on agro-ecological practices.
- 2 trainings (73 farmers) were conducted on watershed structures repair and renovation
- 14 tribal habitations provided with farm implements (Drum, Sped, Sprayers, Crowbar, Pikas, Gamla, Sovel, Pumpset, etc) through TFSCs.
- 7 Demonstration Plots established to promote agro-ecological practices
- 12 Community Seed Banks were established covering 26 tribal habitations enabling storage of 1850 kgs of Millets, Cereals & Pulses.

Entitlements

- 4 community needs got sanctioned for INR 14 lakhs under Infrastructure Development and Health & Sanitation.
- 60 households were enabled to get individual needs sanctioned under welfare and social security schemes.

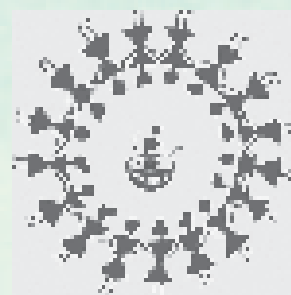


Major Achievement

After two years of protracted negotiations with PO-ITDA and Block Development Office, 1 Black Paddy processing unit was established at a cost of Rs. 7 lakhs under the State Sub-Plan scheme.

Convergence:

No. of Farmers	Particulars	Department / District
418	Maize Seed	ITDA & Agriculture dept / Malkangiri
74	Mango, Jackfruit, Lemon and Papaya horticulture plantations	Horticulture Dept.
10	25 Acre cashew plantation (100 plants per farmer)	ITDA
200	Vermi compost (5 bags per farmer)	ITDA
10	Incentive for Ragi line sowing @ Rs. 250/- per farmer	Agriculture dept.
82	Support for farming @ Rs. 2000/- per farmer	PM Kisan



A Champion Farmer and Leader Muta Sodi



My name is Muta Sodi (40), born to Kaya tribal farmers in Telerai village, Kalimela block of Malkangiri district. My parents were keen about my education. I graduated from Kalimela Government College in 2010 and proud to share that I am first graduate from my family. I am associated with CPF since it began its operations in our village in 2017. I was member of the Tribal Farmer Service Centre (TSFC) and I was chosen as Secretary for the Village Co-ordination Group (VCG) and I gained a lot due to these institutions.

I used to help my father in his farm work especially during holidays while I was studying. Later I became full time farmer as I could not get any jobs. My father cultivated paddy, maize, millet, finger millet, vegetables. Harvested crops were used for household consumption majorly and we could sell little produce in the markets and our incomes were very low. I was keen to change this situation. We have 2.5 acres of IFR land. After undergoing trainings conducted by CPF for farmers, I understood that Integrated farming reaps maximum benefits. I have gone for exposure visit to Swaminathan Foundation, Jeypore, Koraput organized by Horticulture Department and CPF. I have learnt how to make Vermi-compost and also. Presently we grow 12 types of crops in our fields. I am earning more than 1 lakh income because of this. Many farmers from my village and neighbouring village come and visit my farm.



Impact From 2.5 acres of IFR land I could earn Rs. 1 lakh by growing 12 types of crops by following agro-ecological practices.

Land (decimals)	Crop	Yield (kgs)	Price (in Rs per Kg)	Total (Rs.)
30	Green gram	150	80	12000
20	Black gram	100	90	9000
30	Maize	1200	5	6000
10	Ragi	70	30	2100
30	Black rice	200	32	6400
10	Tomato	200	20	4000
	Lady's Finger	40	40	1600
	Chili	50	300	15000
	Brinjal	200	40	8000
	Potato	300	20	6000
20	Cashew nuts	50	100	5000
40	Ground nuts	400	60	24000
				99,100

Working as VCG Secretary, I worked relentlessly for the development of our village. We could get Black paddy processing Unit, Paddy threshing yards, a playground for the village and school kitchen room and similar other works. Because of this I was selected as Sarpanch twice by our villagers in 2017 and 2022.

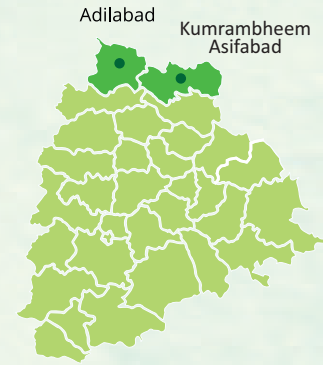
Telangana

Districts: Adilabad and Kumrambheem Asifabad

No. of Mandals: 4 (Gadiguda, Bela, Utnoor and Tiryani)

No. of Villages: 163

Tribal Communities: Kolam (PVTG), Gond, Pradhan, Naikpod and Lambada



Farmers in Adilabad and Asifabad are engaged in chemical intensive cotton farming resulting in debt traps, shortage of nutritious food and soil degradation. To overcome these issues, CPF initiated the Food Security and Conservation Project, Adivasi Livelihood Project and Integrated Horticulture Project in Adilabad and Asifabad districts respectively. The primary objective was to shift farmers from mono cotton cultivation to crop diversification by cultivating pulses and cereals through regenerative agricultural approach. Intercropping of mango plants with vegetable crops was also promoted to enhance the livelihoods of farmers.

Strengthening of community institutions like the TFSCs and VCGs is a continuous process at CPF. TFSCs facilitate collective learning and resource sharing among farmers. Whereas, VCGs were established to address community-level challenges through regular dialogue and interface with elected representatives and officials to find solutions to their pressing needs. Strengthening of community institutions and collaborating with government are vital steps towards securing social security schemes and improving the overall well-being of farmers in the region.

The organization also facilitated in submitting CFR claims of 42 villages in Tiryani Mandal, Asifabad.

Impact at a Glance

- 288 Individual and 91 Community petitions were sanctioned.
- 110 TFSCs and VCGs were strengthened.
- 2432 acres of agricultural land converted from mono crop cotton to diversified food crops.
- 15 LBS, 17 RFD were renovated and three check dams desilted through community participation. These efforts led to treatment of 114.38 cubic meters of land through "Sramdan" amounting to Rs. 99,207. 136 Acres of land brought under irrigation and leading to increase in vegetation.

Agro-Ecological Practices

- 620 farmers applied silt on their 1 acre of land and the total cost of silt application is Rs. 16,10,000/-.
- 888 farmers were provided with 240 kgs of vermicompost per farmer at a total cost of Rs. 14,91,840/-
- 15 Seed Banks were established and 1085 kgs of Pulses and Cereals were stored in 15 villages.
- 9 NPM shops were set up to make biopesticide and fertilizers readily available to the farmers.

Entitlements

- 288 households/ individual petitions were sanctioned under welfare and social security schemes.
- 91 community needs petitions were sanctioned for INR 2.19 crores under Infrastructure Development, Education and Health & Sanitation.
- 653 members have been trained on submitting petitions and negotiating with government officials.

Convergence:

No. of Farmers	Particulars	Department / District
110 farmers / 7 TFSCs	Farm implements - Seed drillers-15, sprayers-45, cotton stick removal-70 and mobile vermibeds -40 worth Rs. 5.2 lakhs.	KVK Adilabad
476	Seed – Redgram and Bengal gram	KVK Adilabad
67	Mango and other Horticulture plantation	Wildlife Conservation Society
12	12 sprinkle sets worth Rs. 2.4 lakhs	SC/ST Sub-plan scheme
3	12 Goats	KVK Bellampally.

Mitigating Red gram Wilt with Beejamrutatham

Farmer Ade Ganesh from Sonkhas village has five acres of land, in which he grows cotton and Red gram. In Red gram wilting has become a major problem affecting 60-80% of his crop. The reason behind wilting is a fungus called *Fusarium udum*. Once plants get infected with fungus, leaves initially becomes pale, lose their turgidity, droop down and finally results in large scale withering. Gradual or sudden wilting from bottom to top is observed. Entire plant wilts or dies within a few days.



The favorable condition for fungus to grow is low temperature and high humidity. The disease occurs in winter season when Red Gram is at fruition stage. Repeating same crop also results in the fungus growth. The absence of predator fungus like *Trichoderma Viride* is also major problem in chemically fertilized field. Due to heavy use of chemical insecticide and pesticides, microflora of soil is reduced drastically and that's impacts overall health of soil.

The soil borne diseases can be prevented by seed treatments before sowing. Beejamrutatham hold great potency to prevent such diseases and protect the plants form wilting. The optimum pH for fungus to grow is 4.5 i.e. fungus growth is slightly high in acidic environments. While preparation of Beejamrutatham, calcium carbonate is added which make Beejamrutatham basic in nature. When applied to seed it prevents soil-borne diseases such as wilt. Also Beejamrutatham contains beneficial microorganisms.

With the intervention of CPF, Ganesh has planted WRG97 variety of Red Gram. He has followed agro ecological practices. He applied Beejamrutatham and also Jivamrutam. No chemical fertilizers were used.

The impact of Beejamrutatham was quite visible. After its use no wilting was seen in Red Gram field. The growth of plants is vigorous and fruit density is high. Ganesh has sown other variety of Red Gram and applied chemical fertilizer and insecticides in other area. Almost 80 % of chemically fertilized field is dried due to wilting but not in the fields where WRG97 variety was used and agro-ecological practices were followed.

Rural Connectivity through Mini Bridge Construction at Kummarikunta, Adilabad

Kummarikunta village of Dongachintala Gram Panchayat, situated in the Utnoor Mandal, is home to 62 Kolam PVTG families. A stream runs through the village but due to lack of proper bridge, the villagers are having difficulty in traveling to Utnoor. In the absence of proper road connectivity and transportation facilities, auto drivers exploit the villagers by charging exorbitant auto fares.

Despite several complaints made to the Gram Panchayat, no action was taken by the officials.

CPF team guided the VCG members to take up the matter with the PO ITDA Utnoor, they appraised the officials of ITDA leading to sanctioning of Rs. 12 lakhs for the construction of a mini-bridge. The villagers got immensely relieved with the sanctioning of the mini-bridge to their village as they can now commute safely.

The determination of the villagers, combined with the support of CPF and VCG committees, led to a significant improvement in the quality of life for the residents. The bridge not only eases commuting challenges but also boosts economic activities, paving the way for a more prosperous and connected future for the village.



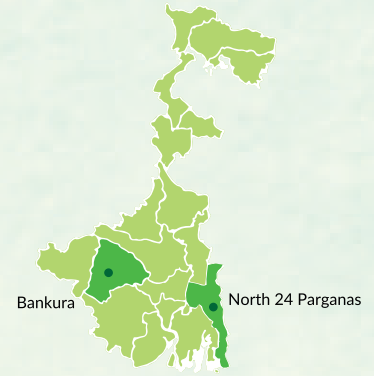
West Bengal

Districts: Bankura & North 24 Parganas

No. of Blocks: 2 (Ranibandh & Sandeshkhali 1)

No. of Villages: 37

Tribal Communities: Santhals

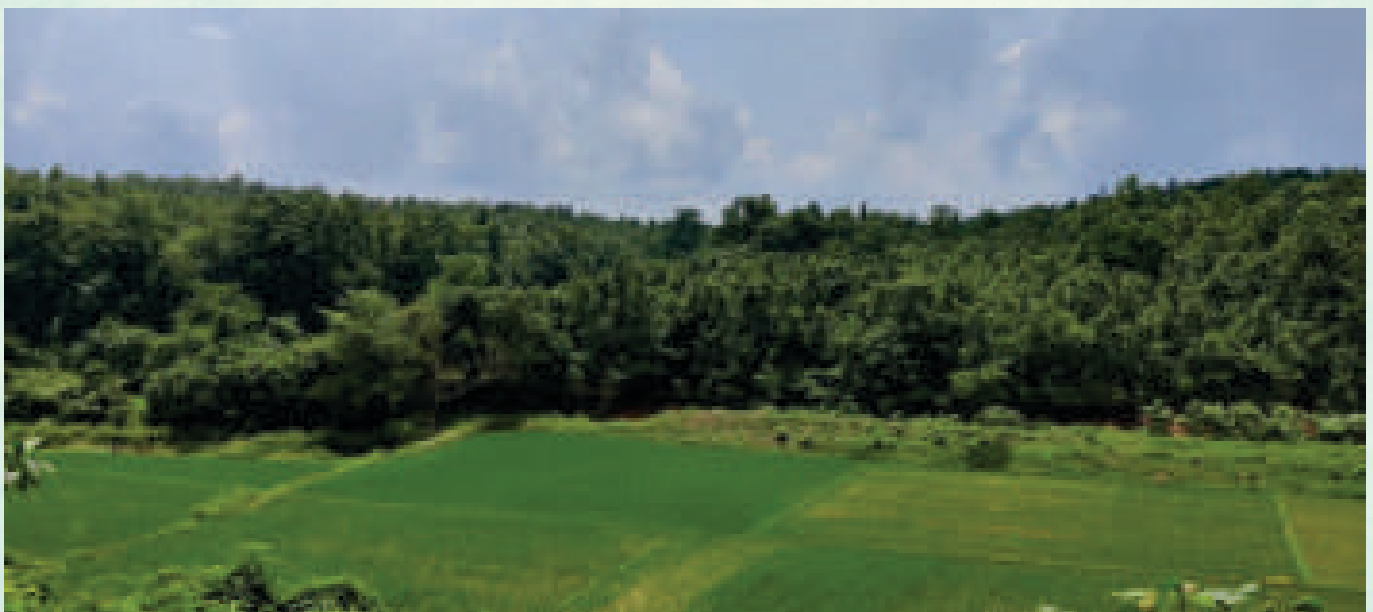


In 2022, CPF initiated its work in West Bengal to work with tribal and other vulnerable communities to improve their livelihoods and social security. In Bengal, CPF is working in 25 villages of Ranibandh Block in Bankura District and 12 villages of Sandeshkhali Block in North 24 Parganas.

During this period, the team has completed a baseline survey, formed Tribal Farmer Service Centres (TFSCs) and Village Coordination Groups (VCGs), conducted awareness programs on agro-ecological practices and sustainable harvesting of Non-Timber Forest Produce (NTFP), renovation of water body, filing petitions for social security programs and conducting soil sample tests, among others.

Baseline Survey:

- The baseline survey was started on 10th July 2022 and concluded on 12nd October 2022 covering 3150 households spread across 25 villages and three Gram Panchayats (Barikul, Ranibandh and Rautora) of Ranibandh Development Block in Bankura District.
- 70 per cent of the project farmers belongs to the ST population with majority of them belong to Santhali tribe and on an average holds 1 acre of land.
- 95 per cent of the households are engaged in mono-crop cultivation (paddy) and majority of the farmers use chemical fertilizers along with cow dung manure to some extent.
- 70% of the households are collecting NTFPs (Sal leaves, Mahua and Kendu leaves). Out of 3 NTFPs being collected value addition is being done only to Sal leaves. 26 per cent of collectors are converting them into plate.



Capacity Building and Strengthening of Community Institutions

- 28 TFSCs have been formed with a total of 327 members out of which 190 are Male and 137 are Female. TFSC members have been trained at the cluster level on roles and responsibilities, book keeping and account maintenance.
- 21 VCGs have been formed with a total of 228 members out of which 95 are Male and 133 are Female. The purpose is to facilitate in accessing social security entitlements and provide community support. VCGs also provide awareness on various government schemes.
- 8 Awareness Orientation Trainings conducted with Project Communities on availing Government Services and Entitlements.
- 2 petitions have been submitted in Sandeshkhali Block for old age pensions and caste certificates.

Promoting Agro-Ecological Practices

- Demonstration plots were established with input costs given to farmers covering seeds & vermi-compost and Kitchen Gardening was promoted.
- 8 Farmer's Field schools were conducted to train farmers on agroecological practices such as Land Preparation, Soil Test, Seed Treatment, and Method of Showing.
- 90 farmers were given pulses and green grams for plantation and 35 farmers have been provided with various leafy vegetable seeds to promote kitchen garden for nutritional benefits.
- 6 Pumpkin Demo Plots have been provided to the progressive farmers.
- Soil Samples of 121 Farmers were collected for testing and the results showed that most of the soil samples have high acidic content.
- Desiltation of a water body in Parashya village has benefited more than 150 farmers in five villages - Parashya, Purnapani chota tung, Singlahar, Ratanpur and Kestapur, covering about 100 acres of land. Besides agricultural activities, the water is being used for domestic needs such as feeding the livestock, bathing and cleaning.
- The total cost of the desiltation work was Rs. 160200 out of which Rs. 11500 was direct monetary contribution from the community and Rs. 10,200 was a non-monetary contribution of the community through shramdan and labour work. The rest of the cost was covered through the project budget.



Water for irrigation unites communities in Parashya Village, Bankura, West Bengal

Centre for People's Forestry initiated its operations in 2022 in Parashya village (Barikul Panchayat, Rani bandh block, Bankura District) to promote crop diversification, natural resource management and enhance livelihoods. Santhals are the predominant tribal community amongst the 57 households in this village. They are dependent on rainfed agriculture and forests for their sustenance.

CPF team discussed with them about promoting water resources. It was brought to their notice about one spring stream from forest which got dried due to heavy silt deposited at a culvert and bund created to restore water around 2010. If this silt is removed, it would not only increase the land under irrigation but also make water and fodder available to cattle.

There was a hitch. The removal of silt would benefit other 4 villages - Purnapani chota tung, Singhlahar, Ratanpur, and Kestapur down the stream which are not operational villages of CPF. The Tribal Farmers Service Centre committee leaders held discussions with those village people for Desiltation and they agreed for contribution both in cash and kind.

The pond was 370 feet in length and 80 feet in width. In total, 112000 cubic feet of soil was excavated with the help of a JCB and tractor at 5 feet depth. The total cost of the desiltation work was Rs. 160200. Out of which Rs. 11500 was contributed by community in cash and around Rs. 10,200 was contributed in kind through labour work. The rest of the cost was covered through the project budget.

The water coming from the forest hills is being stored fully now and is being used for domestic purposes along with the irrigation facility of the farmers.

More than 150 farmers from 5 villages are able to cultivate the crops in 300 bighas (100 acre) With the availability of water, the farmers have started cultivating pumpkin and maize in pre kharif season.

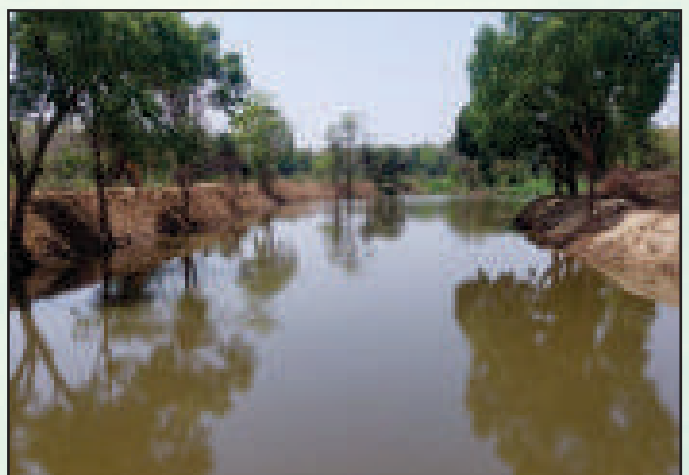
VCG member Rani Hembram stated that, *"Happy to see water in full flow now. Not only for irrigation, now we can bath, feed our livestock from the stream"*.

Falgun Hembram, who's a farmer as well as TFSC member remarked that, *"Such a quality desiltation work wouldn't have been possible without CPF"*.

The desiltation work at Parashya acted as a catalyst for CPF team and for communities to build trust and confidence to work together as partners.



Before Intervention



After Intervention

IV. STAFF TRAININGS AND EXPOSURE VISITS

Trainings Attended by CPF Staff	Govt Officials/ CSOs Visits to Project Locations
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Forest rights dialogue, TISS Mumbai ➤ Fodder Research Institute, Hyderabad ➤ Theory of Change workshop, Kolkata ➤ Tribal Culture, Vishakhapattanam ➤ Trees Outside Forest workshop, Vijaywada ➤ APCNF workshop, Vijaywada ➤ APCNF Workshop, Vijayanagaram ➤ ITDA Exposure visit on watershed Development, Maharashtra ➤ Tribal culture session plan developments, Addataegala ➤ Financial Governance and Board Oversight Function, Hyderabad ➤ Exploring sustainability on Indian Context (Online) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ IAS Trainee Officers' Visit and Interaction Program ➤ ITDA PO Visit and Interaction with farmers ➤ Nirmal District government officials visited at Utnoor ➤ Dream Eklavya CCD and Wild Life Conservation Society visited Utnoor field area ➤ Forest and Endowment Minister, Telangana visited FPO Utnoor ➤ NABARD Trainees visited Thiryani Asifabad



Trainee IAS Officers, visiting Utnoor Field area



PO ITDA interacting with FPO Team, Utnoor



Nirmal District Government Officials visiting project locations

Youth Eco-Feminist Community Action Course

Dhaatri Trust is organizing a 10-month "Youth Eco-Feminist Community Action Course" for Adivasi women from Andhra Pradesh, Telangana, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, and Karnataka. The course aims to provide access to information, resources, and networks (of individuals and organizations) on gender, forest, and land rights. The trainees are provided with Rs. 8000/- as stipend besides full expenses for boarding and lodging being taken care off.

Four tribal young girls from our project villages in Adilabad district, Telangana state, have been selected for the course. The course will commence from 6th August 2023.

Support to communities from CPF team

- Essential commodities provided to tribal communities affected by fire accident in Salpalguda of Tiryani Mandal of Asifabad district, TS
- Installation of pipelines for supply of drinking water from overhead tank in Kotha SS Manugu Village, Pathapatnam, Srikakulam district, AP



PROJECT EVALUATIONS

BftW project Evaluation was conducted during February - March 2023 at Utloor, Paderu, Pathapatnam and Malkangiri project locations across three states

Evaluators : Prof. Rekha Singhal and Mr. MV Ramachandrudu

APPI Projects Evaluation was conducted between 11-13 March 2023 at Adilabad Field Area

Evaluators : Dr. Goppinath Reddy and Dr. Suresh Reddy

Evaluation villages : Chandpelly, Sonkhas and Khandow



V. ONGOING PROJECTS

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 - April 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 -August 2023
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

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

2022 : 12A & 80G renewed upto March 2026

VII. RESOURCE AGENCIES

	<p>Bread for the World (BfdE)</p> 	 <p>VEDA Climate Change Solutions Limited</p>
 <p>Azim Premji Philanthropic Initiatives</p>	 <p>BRLF BREAD FOR THE WORLD LÄRMHÖRER FÜR DIE WELT</p>	 <p>NABARD</p>

INR 3.61 crores were the grants received from donors and INR 3.47 crores were leveraged from various Government Departments like Agriculture, Horticulture, Rural Water Supply, Forest Department and Rural Development, Education Departments.

Reporting On Internal Complaints Committee

During the period (2022-23), Internal Complaints Committee was re-constituted with Ms. Gita Goti as a third-party member. CPF inducted its newly recruited staff (12) on Anti sexual harassment policy CPF also developed a poster on sexual harassment prevention for display in all the field offices. One complaint was brought to the notice of Internal Complaints Committee (ICC) and appropriate action has been taken as per the ICC guidelines.





SAMPATH & RAMESH

CHARTERED ACCOUNTANTS

(Regd. No. (FPA) 0059470)

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") B. No. 12-11-48138, 1st Floor, Lane 8, Street No.14, Nagarjuna Nagar, Colony, Tarnaka, Secunderabad -500017 Telangana which comprise Balance Sheet as at 31st March 2013 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. These 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 these 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.

(Signature)

101B, Sampath Hari's Apartments, Resides 1001 101B, Lane 7th Ward Road Hyderabad - 50.
 Tel: 040 - 82582805, 040 - 27812842 Mobile: 040-27817318
 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 2023*;
- (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 0059478)



(C.A. KRISHNA REDDY,
Partner M.No:204755
UDIN:



Place: Hyderabad.

Date: 02.08.2023

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



CONSOLIDATED BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31.03.2023

PARTICULARS	Schedule	AS ON	AS ON
	No	31.03.2023	31.03.2022
		(₹)	(₹)
SOURCE OF FUNDS:			
Corpus Fund	1	4,000	4,000
Reserves & Surplus			
Specific Reserves	2	1,52,50,837	1,76,87,474
Cont. fund	3	23,00,000	23,00,000
		1,75,54,837	1,99,91,474
APPLICATION OF FUNDS			
Fixed Assets:	4		
Gross Block		23,70,100	22,17,000
Less: Depreciation		5,81,180	2,54,381
Write off			5,52,742
Net Block		17,88,920	14,09,903
Current Assets, Loans & Advances			
Deposits and Advances		7,92,868	21,46,714
Cash and Bank Balances	6	1,64,89,377	1,83,72,519
		1,72,82,245	2,05,19,233
Less: Current Liabilities & Provisions			
Current Liabilities	7	15,16,330	19,37,661
Net Current Assets		1,57,65,915	1,85,81,572
		1,75,54,837	1,99,91,474

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




(A. KRISHNA REDDY)
Partner
M.No: 204735
PLACE : HYDERABAD
DATE : 02.08.2023

for **CENTRE FOR PEOPLE'S FORESTRY**



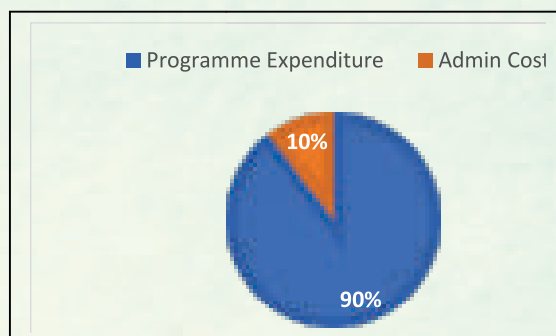

(B. GIRIJA DEVI)
Director

(DR. K. KANESHWARA RAO)
Managing Trustee



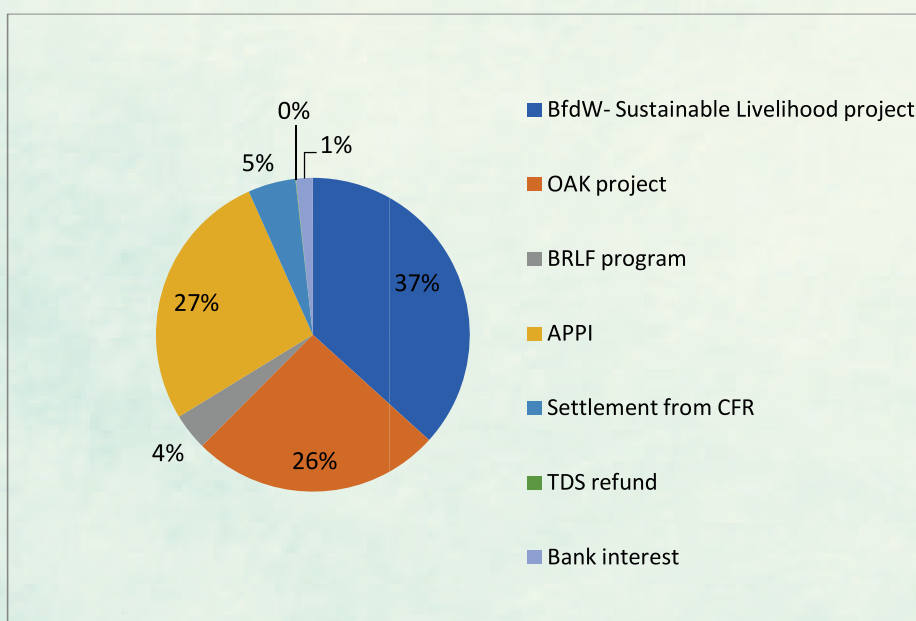
Expenditure analysis for April 2022 to March 2023

Total Expenditure	Amount (Rs.)	%
Programme Expenditure	3,67,37,461	89.51
Admin Cost	43,07,497	10.49
Total	4,10,44,958	100



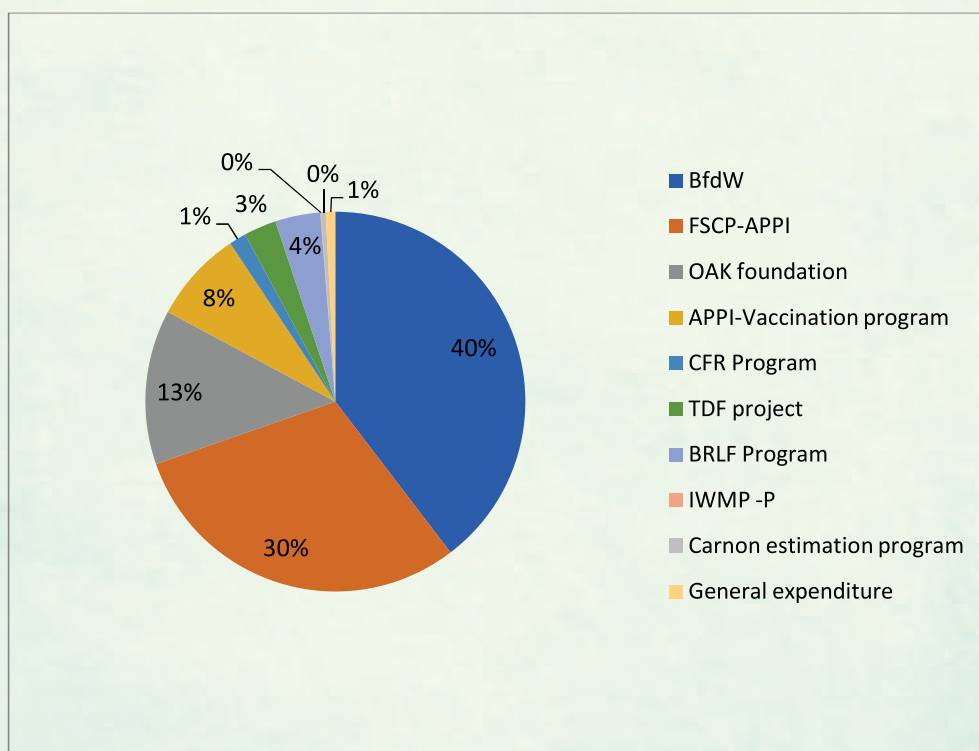
Receipts during April 2022 to March 2023

Particulars	Amount (Rs.)	%
BfdW- Sustainable Livelihood project	1,41,21,160	36.5
OAK project	99,03,676	25.6
BRLF program	14,57,599	3.8
APPI	1,04,04,000	26.9
Settlement from CFR	18,80,614	4.9
TDS refund	30,210	0.1
Bank interest	6,60,490	1.7
Carbon estimation program	2,50,000	0.6
Donations	3,235	0.0
General receipts	12,901	0.0
Total	3,87,23,885	100



Payment during April 2022 to March 2023

Particulars	Amount (₹)	%
BfdW	1,62,62,725	39.6
FSCP-APPI	1,23,32,742	30.0
OAK foundation	54,00,951	13.2
APPI-Vaccination program	32,09,882	7.8
CFR Program	5,97,273	1.5
TDF project	11,36,357	2.8
BRLF Program	15,83,874	3.9
IWMP -P	21,120	0.1
Carbon estimation program	1,69,740	0.4
General expenditure	3,30,294	0.8



IX. CPF Team

Head Office, Hyderabad, Telangana

Ms. B. Girija Devi
Mr. V. Balraj Gupta
Mr. E. Poorna Chander
Mr. D. Srinivasulu
Ms. M. Aparna Malayala
Mr. Michael Islary
Mr. A. Naresh
Mr. J. Bhaskar
Ms. U. Rama

Field Office – Pathapatnam, Srikakulam district, Andhra Pradesh

Mr. N. Santosh
Ms. G. Niharika

Field Office – Paderu, Alluri Sitharamaraju district, Andhra Pradesh

Mr. B. Lokesh
Mr. PV Ramana
Mr. H.Gasinaidu
Mr. S. Bhaskara Rao

Field Office – Adilabad district, Telangana

Mr. K. Satyanarayana
Mr. Dileep Rathod
Mr. Sarang Bahadure
Mr. Praveen Kumar Rathod
Mr. G. Gajanand
Mr. Md. Abdul Razzaq

Field Office – Utnoor, Adilabad district, Telangana

Mr. M. Eswar Reddy
Ms. M. Aivelu Mangamma
Mr. G. Ravikumar

Field Office – Tiryani, Asifabad district, Telangana

Mr. J. Chandrakanth
Mr. B. Mahender
Mr. K. Anil Kumar
Ms. D. Kavitha

Field Office – Malkangiri district, Odisha

Mr. Nitya Mallick
Mr. Erra Podiami
Mr. Manoj Kumar Satapathy

Field Office – Khatra, Bankura district, West Bengal

Mr. Sailen Paramanik
Ms. Shreyasi Sen Gupta
Mr. Arun Maity
Mr. Shubhayukar
Mr. Biswaji Sen
Mr. Rahidul Islam Khan



X. 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) Retd. 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.





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 expertize 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!

Memorial Meeting honoring Late Dr. D. Suryakumari, Founder Director





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. 040-27154484
www.cpf.in | info@cpf.in

FIELD OFFICES :

TELANGANA

Adilabad District

Centre for People's Forestry

H.No. 4-184/3/2, Srinagar Colony, Road No. 4,
Near KCB Garden, Adilabad District- 504001

Utnoor

Centre for People's Forestry

Near Muthoot Finance, IB Chowk, Utnoor,
Adilabad Dist – 504311

Asifabad Kumuram Bheem District

Centre for People's Forestry

H.No. 3-24/1, Saleguda Village, Ginnedhari,
Tiryani Mandal, Kumrambheem Asifabad District-504297

ANDHRA PRADESH

Srikakulam District

Centre for People's Forestry

H.No. 14-98, Antharabha Road, Pathapatnam – 532213,
Srikakulam District.

Alluri Sitharamaraju District

Centre for People's Forestry

Nakkalaputtu, Behind Alluri Sitharamaraju Statue,
Kindangi Post, Paderu, Alluri Sitharamaraju District - 531024

ODISHA

Malkangiri District

Centre for People's Forestry

MPV-35, Road, Netaji Marg, Kalimela-764047,
Malkangiri, Odisha

WEST BENGAL

Bankura District

Centre for People's Forestry

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