

Note on the FGLG India Project

Dr.D.Suryakumari, Director

1. Title of the Project: FGLG India – Social Justice in Forestry, Phase II
2. Project status: Completed. (August 2007 to April 2009)
3. Budget allocated: INR 3, 65,000/-; There is no unspent balance.
4. Date of last report: December 2008
5. Period covered by current report: January to April 2009
6. Brief of the project/part as envisaged in the proposal document (can be the same for all reports) along with objectives:

The second Phase of FGLG India project work was focused on – Tracking FRA implementation, pursuing the work of Phase I on NTFP based micro enterprises, lok vaniki initiative in MP and study of tree grower's cooperatives in Rajasthan. CPF agreed to work on – tracking FRA implementation and contribute to the follow up work of phase I on NTFP. The fund received from FGLG India project, is used to track, FRA implementation in one forest range (VR Puram of Bhadrachalam South division) and to organize one State level consultation meeting.

Other active members in FGLG India team, who carried out some work are – Mr.Sanjay Upadhyay (CFR study), Mr.Sanjoy Patnaik (FRA tracking in Orissa), Mr.Sushil Saigal (consultation with tree grower's cooperatives in Rajasthan) and Dr.Prodyut Bhattacharya (FRA tracking in MP and lokvaniki initiative).

7. Progress till last report (to be brief):

CPF along with the local NGO, ASDS facilitated the process of submission of claims by the eligible persons for individual titles (2973), and community titles (219) in VR Puram forest range of Bhadrachalam south division. Required capacity building and follow up guidance were provided by CPF along with formats for reporting.

8. ***Progress during the current reporting period:***

The local NGO encouraged the concerned people to send representations to the High court and concerned Government officials appealing to take measures to hasten the process of awarding the titles.

CPF organized one State level consultation meeting on 7th March (brief on the meeting is presented under agenda item), involving the members of FGLG India. The updated information on the status of the claims and the perceptions of the community about the Act and the implementation process and other such details

have been collected and shared with Mr.Sanjay Upadhyay as input to the study carried out by him.

On NTFP based micro enterprises, CPF continued its work using budgets from other projects. Such information was shared with the FGLG India project.

9. Accomplishments that deserve special mention and documentation, if any:

The AP High Court has given permission to the GOAP (on 1st May) for issuance of titles. First set of distribution of titles took place in Hyderabad on 8th June by the Chief Minister. The field area has to be revisited and the current status and the entire process need to be documented in few villages.

In the current Phase of OxfamNovib/OxfamIndia project, CPF has been tracking this process and also proposes to take up follow up work.

10. Status of mainstreaming Gender and HIV concerns:

The prescribed formats for issuance of titles (as per the rules of the Act) have provision for inclusion of spouse's name in the title. Some titles have to be looked into, whether this is complied with.

NEXT PHASE: 2009-13

It has been informed that IIED could mobilize resources from the EC for the next phase of FGLG international project. The period of this project is from 2009 to 2013. A two day planning meeting was held at Bhopal by the Convenor to discuss about FGLG India work plan. FGLG India team members have identified the themes of interest and also have discussed about the operation of the group to be more effective. Some of the group members have agreed to take up the responsibility of nodal person for that specific thematic group. This way of working is different from the previous type, where State wise responsibilities were shared. The table below shows the persons and the theme to which they would act as nodal person.

S.No	Name of the person	Theme
1	Dr.D.Suryakumari	REDD related work
2	Mr.Sanjay Upadhyay	FRA
3	Mr.Sanjoy Patnaik	Investments into community institutions
4	Mr.Sushil Saigal & Mr.RC Sharma	Trade of forest products (imports)
5	Mr.Ajit Banerji	CFM-Orissa
6	Dr.Prodyut Bhattacharya	NTFP and medicinal plants

Budget for the FGLG India work is around INR 20, 000, 00/per year. Allocation for work of different thematic areas has not yet been done. Whatever be the amount available from the project budget, concerned thematic nodal persons may leverage fund from outside also for carrying out the work they intend to do under the specific theme.