

13th Annual Meeting- 6th August 2015

The 13th Annual Meeting of Centre for People's Forestry (CPF), brought all the CPF network partners on a single platform. The meeting took place at St. Ann's Generalate, Tarnaka, Secunderabad on 6th August, 2015.

It was a milieu of celebration by the Forest dwelling communities at the onset of the CPF Annual Day Celebration marking the 13th year of its formation. Community representatives from all the CPF project locations from the three states of Telangana, Andhra Pradesh and Odisha participated with full vigour. A total of 91 representatives participated in the meeting from Adilabad - Telangana, Nellore, Visakhapatnam & Srikakulam from Andhra Pradesh and Malkangiri from Odisha.

Participants Profile

Stakeholders	Number of participants
NGOs	9
Vanasamakhyas	6
Trustees & staff of CPF	26
Community Representatives (including field facilitators)	50
Total	91

Session I -Welcome Address

The event began with the arrival of the Director, Dr Suryakumari. The members on the dias were the Joint Director as chair and CPF partner NGOs Samyogita - Mr. Jayaraju and Gramabhyudaya - Mr. Trinadha Rao as co chair. Managing Trustee Dr. Urmila Pingle was welcomed and thanked for her presence in the Annual Day event. A round of self introduction by all the participants started as an ice breaking exercise to know and bond with each other.

Dr. Suryakumari addressed the participants – community members, CFFs, Project coordinators and all CPF field staff from all the project locations, and head quarter team.

Session 2- Annual Program Presentation- 2014-15

Mr. Jayaraju invited the CPF team to make **Annual Program Presentation- 2014-15** of all the CPF sectors/verticals.

1. Forest Rights & Tenure Security- made by Mr. Srinivas
2. Capacity Building- Mr. Tirupathi Rao

Dr. Urmila asked whether the kitchen gardens that are being propagated under CHELE-II Project for 636 farmers from 41 villages, are being monitored. Mr. Edayya from Hanumapuram village from the CHELE project area presented the details on the initiative undertaken in the project for creating awareness and capacity enhancement for planting vegetables and the importance of vegetable cultivation for better nutrition. He further stated that the Chenchu community understands the benefit now and are adopting to vegetable cultivation in their kitchen gardens. They are also selling it in the market thus increasing their incomes. But they face the challenge of regular water availability for their kitchen gardens as they are rainfed. It was suggested by Dr. Pingle that waste water can be diverted to the kitchen garden for better management.

3. Action Research and Advocacy- The FRA program presentation was made by Mr. D. Srinivasulu, livelihoods by – Mr. Suresh & Health education by – Mr. Dileep Rathod.

Dr. Urmila raised the question on the status of new establishment of anganwadi centres in Visakhapatnam. In response to that, Mr. Trinadha Rao informed that 2 centres have opened and working as per norms.

Dr. Urmila stated that community institution is an important component and need to be strengthened to ensure sustainability of the interventions. She asked as to how much of project resources are being utilised for the issue. Mr. Trinadha Rao stated that community and Community Based Organisations are important stakeholders and they are capacitated to undertake all initiatives to ensure sustainability post project.

4. SNRM and Livelihoods – ppt presented by Mr. Vijay Kumar

In IWMP Dr. Urmila asked the bifurcation of the activities. Ruchi and Satya explained that the project design process, where the budget is allocated according to activities and has a % allocated for each component, under IWMP- NRM 56%,PSI 13%, I &CB 4%, consolidation 3%, DPR1%, EPA 4%, LH 10% and 8% as Administration cost.

On the question of making payment- the Water User Committee validates it, the PO IWRMP in Adilabad approves and the payments are made online. The Watershed Development Community gets 5% for maintenance of the structure. The sarpanch and one member of the user group is a joint member for bank operation. Water user group are trained for maintenance of the structure.

Partner Presentation on Grassroot Learnings

- Presentation by Samyogita & Gramabhyudaya- on grassroot learnings - the strengthening of community institutions for realization of their work and recognizing them as a vehicle of change through hand holding and support was much appreciated by the Managing Trustee.
- Presentation made by M.A Saleem, CONARE- partner NGO on the CHELLE project – its achievements, success stories and challenges and the way forward.



13th Annual Day Event

The Annual Day event is an important component of the organisation's philosophy of collaboration and participation of all the stakeholders. It is a platform where all bond, learn and share one year of work with the communities. It was marked by the release of CPF Annual Report for the period April 2014 to March 2015 by Sri. M.V. Sastri, Convenor-CWS, a Report- "Impact of Interventions made under Project CHELE (Chenchu Livelihoods Enhancement)" was released by Chenchu community representatives, A policy brief Document – "Status of convergence in IFR title lands in Andhra Pradesh" was released by community members from Odisha and a case study "VSS Members' Welfare and Development Fund (VMWDF)" was released by community representatives from Nellore. Followed by this, the overview of programmes and finance of the year was shared by Dr. Suryakumari, and Ms. Aparna.

Key messages:

Sri. M. V. Sastri, Convenor-CWS- commended the organisation for the work undertaken and congratulated the CPF team, communities and partners as setting up best example for other organisations to replicate. He also appreciated the concept of the Best project award which in future will be instrumental in enhancing the capacities of the teams and enthusiasm to bring in innovation and increased community participation. He also suggested that the organisation should now work on the issue of Climate change and adaptation which is a critical issue to be addressed in the states.

Dr.D.Suryakumari, Director, CPF congratulated all the winning teams, CFFs for their exemplary work amongst the communities and recognised them as the key pillars of the organisation. She invited the communities to the dias for sharing their views, experience of the past one year, which was very encouraging. She assured the gathering of wider participation by govt officials and other key stakeholders in the next annual meeting.

Ms. Ruchi Kukreti Kaushal, SPO, CPF- stated that she was overwhelmed by the enthusiastic participation of all the participants. It is a platform which has proved to be learnings, sharing and bonding for each one of us. She requested for a larger participation by women in the next annual meeting.

Partner NGOs: shared their reflections and observations on the ongoing projects of CPF during the event.

Overall, the foundation day event was very successful with the participation of more community representatives this year. The participants recalled the accomplishments during the year from April 2014 to March 2015 and CPF's commendable contributions in the field of forestry; building the capacities of grass root NGOs, field facilitators and community representatives.

Release of Annual Report, Impact of Interventions made under Project CHELE (Chenchu Livelihoods Enhancement), Status of convergence in IFR title lands in Andhra Pradesh and case study VSS Members' Welfare and Development Fund (VMWDF)



Best Project Awards

Project performance appraisal for the year 2014-15 was held on 30th July, 2015 at ICSSR conference hall, Osmania University. CPF Managing Trustee Dr. Urmila Pingle, Trustee Dr. Kameswara Rao and Director Dr. Suryakumari were the committee members for the selection of the Best Project-2014-15. The committee members reviewed the documents, formats of all ongoing projects during the review. In the process the committee divided all the applications under three categories - IWMP, Donor based and small projects.

The best project awards winners for the year 2014-15 are:

1. **IWMP-Khandow Mega Watershed**, Narnoor Mandal, Adilabad district, Telangana State supported by Rural Development Department.
2. **Donor based Project** – Maa Thota Programme - Tribal Development Fund, Uttoor Mandal, Adilabad district, Telangana State, supported by NABARD
3. **Small Project** – Strengthening the community to manage their rights over the resources under FRA, Malkangiri district, Odisha supported by Oxfam-India.

About CPF:

Centre for People's Forestry is a Civil Society Organisation established in August 2002. CPF works for the rights and livelihoods of forest dependent communities with due regard to conservation. It believes that the claim to conservation, control and management of the resources belong to the forest dwelling and dependent communities and their livelihoods should be the primary concern of all forestry programmes.



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