

Livelihood Rights through Forestry

(Women, Tribal, Dalit and other resource poor)



CPF ANNUAL REPORT - 2003-04



Livelihood Rights through Forestry

(Women, Tribal, Dalit and other resource poor)

Annual Report

(7-8-2003 to 31-7-2004)

Centre for People's Forestry

12-13-445, Street No.1, Tarnaka, Secunderabad-17.

Ph: 040-27014494, 040-27016038

CONTENTS

	Page
Overview 2003-04	
1. About the Organisation	1
2. Projects at CPF	4
➤ Network Programme with NGOs	
➤ Regional Resource Centres for People's Forestry	
➤ Vanasamakhya	
➤ Collaborative work with other agencies	
3. Initiatives in specialized areas of Forestry	10
4. Financial Section	12
5. Activity Register 2003-04	25
6. CPF information bank	30
7. Acronyms	34

Overview 2003-04

Centre for People's Forestry completes two years as on 6th August 2004. However, Year 2003-04 is the first completed year in the true sense as it coincides with the receipt of support from NOVIB. Complying with the statutory and legal requirements, adapting/developing systems and structures for the functioning of the organization on the one hand and establishing rapport/linkages/contacts with other agencies - both Government and Non Governmental on the other constituted the process of grounding CPF as an independent organization.

Extending support to - partner NGOs in the network programme and Vanasamakhyas at State as well as local levels through three projects and taking up several small but important collaborative initiatives with other agencies constitute the work carried out during the year.

On the whole, the year may be described as a satisfactory and fruitful one as not only the proposed activities were completed successfully but some additional activities could also be taken up.

While the detailed reporting of various activities carried out during the year is presented in the pages that follow, some salient features are highlighted as under:

1. **Facilitation support to Partner NGOs from the CFM project of Forest Department in the WB project districts** - To see that the partner NGOs get the facilitation support from the CFM project budget, as we have shown that as part of our project budget. Efforts made by CPF at head office level as well as at field level and the pursuing efforts by the partner NGOs at the local level, yielded positive results to a great extent. However, owing to the attitudes of local officials and the prevailing relationship between the NGOs and the forest officials some of the partner NGOs could not get the complete support at some places and could get from a later date at other places. The analysis in the financial section reflects the overall picture. Complete details are available with CPF. We intend to place on record our appreciation about - the PCCF, the concerned senior officials at the head office and the concerned officials in the field, who readily and whole heartedly extended support in this regard and look forward to the same kind of cooperation in future.
2. **Annual Partner's meeting 2003 & follow up work** - An action plan was prepared during the meeting in August 2003 where in the work to be carried out by CPF, State Vanasamakhyas, Vanasamakhyas desk of CPF, partner NGOs and local Vanasamakhyas are collectively identified. CPF, State Vanasamakhyas and Vanasamakhyas desk - could successfully complete all the tasks that are assigned by the forum and the status at partner NGO level and local Vanasamakhyas level will be reviewed during the meeting of 2004. As per the reports we receive from time to time, most of them have complied with what they have agreed to in the last meeting. For those who could not complete, the constraints will be identified and required support will be extended by the network programme.

The Senior Forest officials who participated in the discussions during last year's meeting have all issued required circulars (Eg - regarding FDA, C-fee procedure) marking a copy to CPF. This enabled CPF to share the information widely with partner NGOs and local Vanasamakhyas so that they could pursue locally. CPF compiled the information regarding the status of implementation of CFM GO from 615 VSSs and shared the same with the PCCF, concerned senior officials at head office, the Conservators of Forests and to the concerned Divisional Forest Officers (where our partner NGOs are working). Subsequent information received from field makes us believe that such exercise yields positive results. Hence we propose to continue the practice hereafter.

3. **Impact of Action Research and Stakeholder consultations** - Action research and subsequent stakeholder consultations in respect of NTFP resulted in enhancing our own understanding as well as improvement in the attitude of GCC field level officials on the one hand and paved way for a regular interaction between the stakeholders at the field level on the other. While the forest officials, GCC officials, NGOs and NTFP collectors could develop a working relationship, the officials of VELUGU still need to be integrated into the process. The consultations have lead to the next stage in Bhadrachalam division, wherein collective monitoring was taken up by the stakeholders resulting in encouraging outcome. The process will be taken forward in Bhadrachalam and the Bhadrachalam kind of effort will be extended to other areas.

Action research on bamboo and the publication brought out last year proved useful as the Forest Department acted positively on a request made by us based on the recommendations of the study. Thus, required trainings were organized to the members of 490 VSSs where bamboo is available at the Department's Rajahmundry training centre. Mr.Dandasi, the VSS president of Kittalapadu VSS and Mr.Jayaraju of Samyogita who have carried out the field study were invited as resource persons to all the training programmes.

In case of beedi leaf, when the field study is completed and a draft report is shared with all concerned, the Forest Department not only extended financial support to the subsequent stakeholder consultation meeting but also the concerned senior officials participated in the meeting and enriched the discussions with their experience and concern for the beedi leaf collectors. The issue that the incentive from the beedi leaf revenue was not released to the VSSs as promised, for the year 2002-03 has come out in the study and the FD officials clarified in the meeting that the State Finance Ministry was expressing some reservations. This information helped CPF and the State Vanasamakhyas to make a representation to the Principal Secretary who shared the concern and promised to do the needful.

4. **Reservations on GO 78** - GOMS 78, EFST (For III) dt.17-10-2003 issued in respect of convergence of VELUGU Project and CFM, raised concerns among all. CPF took initiative and communicated the apprehensions/reservations in respect of that GO to the Principal Secretary. The Principal Secretary invited CPF for discussions along with the CEO VELUGU, wherein it has been agreed that care will be taken that the points which are not acceptable to VSSs will not be pursued. Later, it was learnt from the field that VSS's views are being respected.

The untiring efforts and the team spirit demonstrated by partner NGOs and Vanasamakhyas representatives on the one hand and the enthusiastic and whole hearted support extended by the Board of Trustees, members of the Advisory committees, colleagues at Centre for World Solidarity, Andhra Pradesh Forest Department, Girijan Cooperative Corporation, AP NGO committee on PFM and all other concerned organizations and individuals - contributed to the accomplishments achieved during the year.

We thank one and all!

CPF Team
31st July 2004

Please contact CPF for copies
040-27154484