

11th Annual Partners Meeting – 6th August 2013

Centre for People's Forestry celebrated its 11th Annual Partners Meeting (APM) with enthusiasm as this year, the occasion also coincided with felicitation to Sri M. V. Sastri garu, Honorary Convener, Centre for World Solidarity.

The Annual partner meeting provided a platform for Partner NGOs, Vanasamakhya and Community representatives from various on-going projects, guests from other organizations, officials from forest department, CPF trustees, and staff for discussions, cross learning. The first half of the day engaged in thematic area presentations and community responses; which highlighted the progress made during the financial year 2012-13 in various thematic areas like Forest Rights and Tenure Security, Capacity building and Strengthening of Forest Based Communities, Action Research and Policy Advocacy, Participatory SNRM and Livelihoods and Climate Change, Forest and Carbon. Followed, the partner NGOs Gramabhyudaya, Samyogita, CONARE and CHRD presented their work during this year in tribal villages. Further the meeting has witnessed a change in the composition of participants; the representation of community members was more in numbers.

Community representative 'Ms. G. Jayamma' from Mahanandi, Kurnool district saying "we are benefiting from new mini Anganwadi centre established through project facilitation in my village and 36 children and pregnant women/lactating mothers are accessing the services from new centre".

Another representative 'Mr. V. Venkateshwar Rao' from Nereduvalasa, Visakhapatnam district sharing "I am part of the Polambadi (farmers' field school) and I learn new farming techniques. I am planning to grow 18 variety crops in my one acre land during this Khariff season".

'Mr. T. Mangesh Kumar' from Kobbai, Adilabad district expressing "I visited Ralegaonsiddi as a part of exposure visit and learn watershed concept. I promise that the same experiment will be done in my village and prove the success by motivating all our villagers".



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Eleventh annual day programme was marked by release of CPF ten year report by Mr. B. Somasekhar Reddy, PCCF, AP Forest department, CPF annual report for the period from April 2012 to March 2013 by Mr. Ramesh G. Kalaghatgi, Addl.PCCF, A.P. Forest Department, Farmers' field book of CHELE project by Dr. Urmila Pingle, Managing Trustee, CPF and policy brief on 'community forest right and community forest resource right: status after amendment FRA rules in 2012' by Mr. D. Sudhakar, Addl. PCCF. The overview of programmes as well as finance was shared by Dr.D.Suryakumari, and Mr.Balrajgupta. The foundation day event was nostalgic; guests as well as the participants recalled the value based impressive evolution of CPF during the last 11 years and its commendable contributions in the field of forestry and nurturing Vanasamakhyas as self-reliant.



Key messages: Forest department officials Mr. B. Somasekhar Reddy, PCCF, Mr. Ramesh G. Kalaghatgi, Addl.PCCF and Mr. D. Sudhakar, Addl. PCCF are shared their associations with CPF from World Bank project, Adda leaf project and Tribal Sub-Plan. They expressed that the CPF was contributed a lot in CFM/JFM programme success and CPF made remarkable effort in motivating the government departments especially forest department and succeed in tapping the resources to enhance the income of tribal. Appreciated CPF's work in CHELE project, working with nomadic people like chenchu, moving into far of villages and hoped this development will be sustainable even post project scenario. And also, they wished to continue the same work to empower tribal communities through introducing new technologies to far more remote areas. Agreed the delay in bamboo harvesting permissions and promised that the priority will be given for CPF and Vanasamakhyas locations and suggested to establish linkages to individual FRA title lands with MGNREGS and horticulture program.

Felicitation programme: Sri M.V.Sastri, Honorary Convener-CWS was felicitated to recall his contribution to CPF and civil society movement in the country. Ms. Rukmini Rao, Managing Trustee of CWS, Dr.K.Kameswara Rao, Trustee of CPF, Dr.Gyanaprakasam, Executive Director of CWS, Mr.Ramachandrudu, Director of WASSAN and several others shared the fond memories from their association with Sri. Sastri and appreciated CPF for organizing this event.



About CPF:

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

