

# **Livelihood Enhancement through Adda Leaf Plate Making Activity in Visakhapatnam Forest Circle**



**V. Balraj Gupta**



**Centre for People's Forestry**

**Livelihood Enhancement through Adda Leaf Plate Making  
in Visakhapatnam Forest Circle**

# **Impact Report**

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**Centre for People's Forestry**

**About us**

Centre for People's Forestry (CPF) is a National level Professional NGO, registered as a public trust in 2002, working for the forest dependent and dwelling communities. It is a non-profit, non-political and secular organisation working for the development of people in India, especially the deprived and marginalised sections irrespective of religion, race, caste or creed.

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# Contents

Acronyms .....	4
1 Introduction .....	5
1.1 Project Brief .....	5
2 Study .....	7
2.1 Methodology .....	7
3 Findings .....	7
4 Other impacts of the project .....	10

## Annexure

1. List of trained VSSs in Visakhapatnam district .....	12
2. Impact study format .....	21
3. List of NGOs Participated in the Project .....	22

## Figures

1. Status of women pursuing activity after training .....	8
2. Amount earned by 286 women through stitching .....	8
3. Percentage of income of 286 households from different source in the year 2007-08 .....	10

## Table

1. Status of women pursuing activity after training .....	8
2. Income received by 286 women through stitching .....	9
3. Income details of 286 households from different source in the year 2007-08 .....	10

## 1. Introduction

"Addaku" (*Bauhinia Vahli*) is available in plenty in Visakhapatnam forest circle and is one of the major sources of income for about 50,000 tribal leaf collectors living in the hilly regions of the forest circle. It was observed that the people who get a wage of Rs.20 a day, prefer to opt out from adda leaf collection owing to the physical and mental strain involved in the activity. The tribal men and women who reside in the regions are usually completely engaged during the period from April to July, as collection of leaves is intense during these months.

In the adjacent plains, thousands of women, (numbering around 50,000), belonging to the poorer sections of BC, and OC community (who are otherwise not allowed to go outside home for wage work due to cultural restrictions) depend on leaf plate making activity as a supplementary household income throughout the year.

The tribal women of the hilly regions were not into leaf plate making activity in a systematic way, though attempts had been made by Girijan Cooperative Corporation (GCC), Integrated Tribal Development Authority (ITDA) and Forest Department (FD) to train them in plate making. In the absence of a well-established forward market linkage, the women were not enthusiastic to pursue the activity. This was often perceived as "lack of interest among the tribal women."

Identifying the issues related to Adda leaf activity and tribals, Centre for People's Forestry (CPF) conducted few multi stakeholders' consultations which paved the way for a collaborative project in early 2005<sup>1</sup>.

### 1.1. Project Brief

The project titled "Livelihood Enhancement through Adda Leaf Plate Making Activity in Visakhapatnam Forest Circle" was a collaborative initiative of CPF, APFD, GCC, Regional Resource Centre—Coastal (RRC-C) of CPF and the local NGOs. Care was taken to draw the roles and responsibilities of each of the agency clearly as given in the successive paragraphs.

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<sup>1</sup> To learn more of it, please refer the process document: "Turning a New leaf: the story of adda leaf-based livelihood enhancement programme", brought out by CPF in August 2008

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