

COMMUNITY FOREST RIGHT ENTITLEMENT-THE COMMUNITY OF SURJULA BEGINS OWNERSHIP



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The Forest Right Act,2006(FRA) was legislated by the parliament of India to recognize the rights of traditional forest dwellers(the adivasi) and other non traditional forest dwellers on the forest land and the natural resources. These rights, among others, included ownership, protection, regeneration and management of forest land and it's already in possession of the forest dwellers prior to December 13,

2005. The aim of the act was to promote democratic governance of forest and forest resources by local and forest dwelling communities.

Forest Right Act was enacted to minimize the historical injustice done towards the forest dwellers ever since the British colonization started in India prior to independence. British colonial had enacted the Forest Rights Act 1927 to control over the forest and its resources through the forest department depriving the millions of forest dwellers rights and even their livelihoods. Hence mass movement and struggles took place for decade and decades for the justice of forest dwellers. At last the Government of India enacted the forest right act 2006 to end up the historical injustice of the forest dwellers communities. After the enactment of act state government started to implement under the guidance of Ministry of Tribal Affairs (MOT) which is the nodal agency at the central govt. Chhattisgarh, which is one of the states of India, started to implement on the forest right act. Gram sabha Surajula of district Jashpur, Chhattisgarh has received community forest entitlement in the recent month.

Village Surajula is situated in the remote area of the Block – Manora, State-Chhattisgarh, Dist-Jashpur, and Country-India. This village is fully covered by the forests and hills. There are approximately 179 households having approximate population of 948. This village consists of tribal communities namely Oraon, Nagesia, Yadav, Lohar, Das and Pahari Korwa, (one of the Primarily Vulnerable Tribal Groups (PVTGs) of Chhattisgarh state of India). Primarily the community members are depended in agriculture, forest produces and they are doing Shifting cultivation. Community members are also taking more interest on agriculture for the livelihoods along with the forest produces. For agriculture, community members are adopting

traditional cultivations, bio-fertilizers, protection and promotion of traditional seeds and other resources of forest and nature. People store grain for cultivation. Some buy the seeds in markets at the sowing time; get seed from lamps (Panchayat seed bank).

VILLAGE TEMPLE

Adivasi Mahila Maha Sangh facilitated the communities about the forest right act and its various provisions to empower and to claim for their individual and community forest entitlement. Through the support of



AMMS the community members started the process of claiming for the entitlement, meantime regularly meetings, trainings, GPS Mapping, documentation, filling up of claim form, submission and follow up taken place at regular basis.



VILLAGE SACRED PLACE

Advocacy and networking had been done with the concerned department and like-minded networks at last the hard work of communities brought the good result in form of Community Forest rights entitlement. The

Chhattisgarh Government issued the entitlement under forest right act for grazing 15.00 hector, for NTFP 20.00 hector, Cremation 0.400 hector and for fire wood 10.00 hector. But the entitlement is not up to the expectation or as per the provision of the forest right act 2006. The most important right, the right over natural resource its management, protection and promotion has been denied or restricted. Hence

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Grazing 15.00 hector

