

# A Draft Study Report

on

## **The Implications of Forest Right Act in the context of sustainability of forest resources and rights of community**

**Study by: Forest Area Network, Kendujhar and SPWD, New Delhi**

**Period: May to October 2010**

### **1. Context:**

Forests use to play a vital role in the lifeline of tribals and other communities living in forest surrounding. Tribals are inseparable from forest as it has been their habitat, habitation and none- the-less source of living and self-occupation. In referring to Kendujhar, the 3<sup>rd</sup> largest tribal district of Orissa state and former princely-state, the Timber exploitation by ex-state rulers, subsequent reservation of this natural resource in favour of the state with introduction of the Indian Forest Act, 1927, Forest Conservation Act 1980 and other related Acts of Wild Life Protection Act and Bio-diversity Act made the life of the tribal communities vulnerable. National Forest Policy as introduced in 1988 made a shift in the approach as it recognised community participation through JFM and particularly, strengthening of VSSs, which was primarily aimed at forest conservation with a lot of autonomy retained by the state. Community just got simple right over MFPS (Minor forest Produces) and any registered VSS can be scrapped on the ground of non-performance report by the DFO. Thus, it was a series complicated scenario that squeezed the habitation and livelihood coping of forest dwellers.

Forest Right Act, 2006 with its rules notified since January, 2008 legitimizes the rights of people for habitation, self-occupation and meeting livelihood needs by the by developing mechanism for conservation and sustainable use of this natural resource along with protection of wild lives, and management of water bodies. Where people and civil societies see as paradigm shift in approach in recognizing the due rights of so far neglected sections, in reality the recognition has been limited to allotment of small patch of land to poor tribes and traditional forest dwellers. Many questions still remain unresolved about the community right over the stretches of forest area where it has traditional and customary access so that there could be semblance between community life and forest resources including sustainable use of the latter.

### **2. Background of FAN (Forest Area Network):**

FAN was emerged in the year 2006 as a network of Civil Society Organizations, particularly grass-roots NGOs, engaged in righteous approach to community stake over natural resources – in specific forest – for its protection, preservation, so that community could

exercise their traditional livelihood coping and as well as maintaining sustainable use of the natural resources.

In totality forest is having a special significance in lifeline of tribals and others living in forest surrounding. Assuming the much need of tribal mainstreaming through increasing livelihood coping and continuing traditional/ customary right over the natural resources, the network played a key role with support mobilized from DFID under OCSPP. The programme was implemented in select 160 vulnerable and forest surrounding villages of Keonjhar comprising 4 blocks with participation of 14 local NGOs. Some interesting dimensions emerged where traditionally existent FPCs (Jungle Suraksha Samitis) and VSSs as formed under JFM started claiming their traditional rights of access, control and sustainable use of resources. With the convergence of Network and CBO approach, building and promoting community based organizations were taken up steadfastly so as to make people more responsive. Thus, continuous interaction and sensitization process helped people to come forward to preserve common property resources, particularly forest to reinforce their natural right. With a series of process as involved, the CBOs and Civil Societies were able to take forward forest issue larger way and help address some of the long standing obnoxious principles of JFM agenda so that it could benefit them legally.

In other side a forward linkage is much in need to sustain the effort as the area succumbs huge loss due to lack of marketing link for minor forest produces or poor procurement strategy by concerned agencies, with minimal role played by GPS as ascribed under PESA. Primitive tribes of Juang, Bhuyan and many other indigenous tribal communities are worst sufferers.

The entire effort of FAN has been on a rights based perspective. Similarly, attempt is equally focused on protecting natural resources for sustainable ecological and livelihood system.

### **3. Introduction to the District:**

Kendujhar is distinctly placed in the socio-political profile of the Odisha state being 3<sup>rd</sup> largest tribal district of the state and home to 16 different indigenous tribes including PTGs (Primitive Tribal Groups) of Juang and Paudi Bhuyan. Principal tribes, as majorly found constitute Bathudi, Bhuyan/ Paudi Bhuyan, Bhumij, Gond, Saunti, Ho, Juang, Kharwar, Kisan, Kolha, Kora, Munda, Oraon, Santal, Saora and Sabar. Juang and Paudi Bhuyan are autochthonous of Gonasika hills and Bhuyan Pidh found to have emerged from the region having a pre-agricultural way of life linked to shifting cultivation.

Keonjhar – the former princely state –with its merger with the state of Orissa in 1948, was formed into a district. It is bounded by Jharkhand state to its north and uniquely encircled by the districts of Mayurbhanj, Bhadrakh, Jajpur, Dhenkanal, Angul and Sundargarh. The district has close proximity with 2 other major tribal districts of Mayurbhanj and

Sundargarh. Wide ranges of lofty hills and dense forests form the boundary between Kendujhar and neighbouring districts of Dhenkanal, Angul and Sundargarh.

Topographically Keonjhar can be classified into two distinct parts, one – lower Keonjhar comprising a region of valleys and low lands and two- upper Keonjhar comprising stretch of mountainous highlands and sub-mountainous regions. Uniquely many mountains have extensive table lands on their summits fit both for pasture and cultivation.

District is rich mineral resources with vast deposits of iron, manganese and chrome ores.

#### 4. A profile of the district:

- Subdivisions: 3
- Tahasils: 8
- Blocks: 13
- GPs: 286
- Villages: Inhabited: 2069 Un-inhabited: 53 Total: 2122
- Households: 326784 (2001 Census)
- Population (2001 Census): 1561990 ST: 695141(44.50%) SC:181488 (11.62%)
- Projected Population(2010): 1753000 (Taking 16.83% decadal growth rate)
- Literacy: 59.24 ST: 40.30%
- Total Geographical Area: 8303 Sq km
- Forest Area: 3097.18 Sq km (37.29% of total area)
- Rainfall (normal) 1534.5 mm
- Temperature Minimum 0c Maximum 42c
- Temperature 2007(recorded) Minimum 7.9c Maximum 41.5c

Mineral and Mines: (Majorly found in Joda, Banspal and Harichandanpur): as on 2006-07

Mines	No.	Area(Hec)
1.Chromite	2	186.32
2. Iron ores	62	21128.54
3. Manganese	10	1716.79
4. Prophyllite	2	147.48
5 Prophyllite and quartzite	5	157.94
6. Quartz and Quartzite	2	22.33
7. Serpentinite	2	187.03
<b>Total</b>	<b>84</b>	<b>23546.46</b>

❖ Keondujjhar stands first in the state having 62 iron ore mines out of 105 in Orissa

- ❖ Output 47474 thousand MT and export 12213 thousand MT.
- ❖ Neighbouring Sundargarh comes second in the state with 81 mines in total
- ❖ Kendujhar records highest in the state in terms of mining activities are on and forest land diverted for the purpose

**Fact sheet on forest land diversion:**

Under the provisions of the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980, on the request of the concerned State/UT Governments, the Union Government has diverted forestland for lease allowing mining activities. Since the enactment of the Act, Orissa has got approval of 119 mines (25.10.80 to 31.12.2004) having 13996.37 hectares of land diverted and 1.1.2005 to 27.11.2009 has got approval of 20 more mines with 1278.46 hectares of land diverted. Orissa comes second after Andhra Pradesh and in terms of area it accounts for 15.14% of total forest land of 100871.32 hectares diverted in the country.

**5. A profile of the Area of study**

**List of Select Blocks of Study:**

Block	Population	Total No of ST	Total no of SC	ST%	SC%
Banspal	85845	67215	3817	78.29	4.44
Champua	100485	45419	8650	45.19	8.60
Ghatgaon	102117	63618	5834	62.29	5.71
Harichandanpur	122362	66779	8848	54.57	7.23
Jhumpura	97725	48112	6427	49.23	6.57
Patna	92513	47752	6825	51.61	7.37
Telkoi	86498	44518	9452	51.46	10.92

**Classification of the district's forest:**

1. Reserved forest:	1834.09 sq km
2. Demarcated protected forest:	273.64 sq km
3. Un-demarcated forest:	220.79 sq km
4. Unclassified forest:	0.26 sq km
5. Other forest:	768.40 sq km
<b>Total</b>	<b>3097.18 sq km</b> (37.29% of the geographical area of the district)

**Forest Area of Select Blocks of Study: (Excluding reserved forest):**

Sl. No.	Block	Forest Area In Hec	Permanent Pasture/ Grazing In Hec	Current fallows In Hec
1	Banspal	56812 *	924	3290
2	Champua	3341	1144	4750

3	Ghatgaon	8390	1805	7457
4	Harichandanpur	29066 *	1744	5247
5	Jhumpura	13758	2401	2075
6	Patna	4797	1382	7948
7	Telkoi	19913 *	2097	4556
Total	Keonjhar	172138 Hec	23084	59255

### **FRA implementation status in Orissa as on 31<sup>st</sup> August 2010**

- No. of claims filed at Gram Sabha level 3,89,772 (3,87,800 individual and 1,972 community)
- No. of claims recommended by Gram Sabha to SDLC 3,15,471(3,14,407 individual and 1,064 community)
- No. of claims recommended by SDLC to DLC 2,26,093 (2,25,490 individual and 603 community)
- No. of claims approved by DLC for title 2,16,775 (2,16,235 individual and 540 community)
- Number of titles distributed 2,02,729 (2,02,266 individual and 463 community)
- Extent of forest land for which title deeds issued (in acres) 3,01,629.06 for 1,69,897 tiles
- No. of claims rejected 96,410 (95,293 individual and 1,117 community)

### **FRA implementation status as on 31<sup>st</sup> September 2010**

Kendujhar district:

No of villages: 2039      Covered villages: 1617

Claims	Individual	Community
No of claims received by FRCs	41797	275
No Claims recommended by GS and sent to SDLC	23424	248
No of Claims approved by SDLC and sent to DLC	20589	193
No of Claims approved by DLC for title	20589	113
No of certificates of titles distributed	20589	193
Extent of forest land for which title deeds issued (in acres)	21871.37	5460.35
No of certificates of titles distributed to PTG	3808	14
Extent of forest land for which title deeds issued to PTGs (in acres)	5129.19	234.29
Total No of claims rejected	9792	39
	24.48%	14.18%

**Orissa:**

No of villages: 47840 Covered villages: 17020

Claims	Individual	Community
No of claims received by FRCs	438046	2648
No Claims recommended by GS and sent to SDLC	321590	1156
No of Claims approved by SDLC and sent to DLC	233299	676
No of Claims approved by DLC for title	226673	627
No of certificates of titles distributed	216534	510
Extent of forest land for which title deeds issued (in acres)	323484.22	44631.47
No of certificates of titles distributed to PTG	15716	29
Extent of forest land for which title deeds issued to PTGs (in acres)	23952.77	15072
Total No of claims rejected	98065	440

22.38%

16.61%

**6. Historical Journey and Region Characteristics of Keonjhar:**

According to local tradition the earliest Bhanja king of Kendujhar formed his capital at place Yotipur named after him and later shifted to a more centralized place near a perennial spring (jhara or jhar) which originated from the root of a Kendu (ebony) tree. The name of ex-state of Kendujhar was corrupted into Keonjhar. This place was made the headquarters of Bhanja rulers during 12<sup>th</sup> century.

In early history it was probably part of old Khijjinga territory with headquarter at Khijjinga Kota (identified with modern Khichhing) – a separate state existent some time during first half of 12<sup>th</sup> century. Then state of Kendujhar comprised only northern half of modern district. During latter part of 15<sup>th</sup> century southern half was occupied by King Govind Bhanj and the territory extended from Singhbhum (now Jharkhand) in the north to Sukinda (Jajpur) and Dhenkanal in South and from Mayurbhanj in east to the borders of Pallahara (Angul) and Bonai (Sundargarh) in west. Tillo and Jujhpada areas were purchased from Zamindar of Kantajhari by Pratap Balabhadra Bhanja (1764-1792). The annexation was recognized as part of Kendujahr in the Sanand granted by East India Company in 1804. Since then no territorial changes took place till its merger with province of Orissa. In 1948 both areas were transferred to Baleswar (now Bhadrak) and Cuttack (now Jajpur) respectively, while a number of villages of Ambo group were added to Kendujahr district.

Kendujhar district can be classified into 3 agro-climatic regions:

- Plain regions of Baitarani river belt – Mainly Anandpur subdivision – the soil type is alluvial
- Hilly region of Bhuyan Pirh: The region comprises of Banspal, Harichandanpur and Telkoi of Kendujhar subdivision and Joda area of Champua subdivision – Area is marked by undulated topography intercepted with mountains. Soil type is red laterite with high iron content.
- Sub-mountainous regions of the western and northern part. This region comprises of Champua and Jhumpura of Champua subdivision, and Kendujhargarh, Ghatgaon, Patna and Saharapada of Kendujhar subdivision. Region is less mountainous, but hilly with gradual slopy terrain subject to soil erosion. Valley pockets have deeper soil and fertile patches

## 7. Tribals and Forest Rights in Keonjhar:

7.1 The Constitution of India under Article 342 deems some communities as Scheduled Tribes (STs). An often used criterion is based on attributes such as:

- Geographical isolation - they live in cloistered, exclusive, remote and inhospitable areas such as hills and forests.
- Backwardness - their livelihood is based on primitive agriculture, a low-value closed economy with a low level of technology that leads to their poverty. They have low levels of literacy and health.
- Distinctive culture, language and religion – communities have developed their own distinctive culture, language and religion.
- Shyness of contact – they have a marginal degree of contact with other cultures and people.

Orissa houses largest number of tribes among the states of India. Among 437 tribes listed in the country, 62 different tribes inhabit the state constituting 23% of state population. Linguistically the tribes of Orissa are broadly classified into 3 categories viz.

- ⇒ Indo-Aryan language family
- ⇒ Austric language family
- ⇒ Dravidian language family

In Kendujhar district there is presence of 16 principal tribes of out of 46 types listed, these groups belong to 2 language families of Indo Aryan and Austric families. Dravidian language families are concentrated in the southern pockets of the state.

The Indo-Aryan family in the district includes Bathudi, Bhuyan/ Paudi Bhuyan (acculturated), Bhumij, Gond, Saunti and Sabara

The Austric language family includes Ho, Juang, Kharwar, Kisan, Kolha, Kora, Munda, Oraon, Santal and Saora.

The tribes of though belong to different linguistic divisions, yet they have lots of socio-cultural similarities between them. These commonalities signify homogeneity of their cultures and together they characterise the notion or concept of tribalism. Tribal societies share certain common characteristics and by these they are distinguished from complex or advanced societies. Hence tribal societies manifest such cultural features which signify a primitive level in socio political parameters.

## 7.2 Habitat:

A major portion of the tribal habitat is hilly and forested. Tribal villages are generally found in areas away from the alluvial plains close to rivers. Most villages are relatively uniethnic in composition, and smaller in size.

Primitive tribes are concentrated in heavily forested areas that combine inaccessibility with limited political or economic significance. Historically, the economy of these tribes was subsistence agriculture or hunting and gathering. Tribal members traded with outsiders for the few necessities they lacked, such as salt and rice.

## 7.3 Economy:

Tribal economy is characterised as subsistence oriented. The subsistence economy is based mainly on collecting, hunting and fishing or a combination of hunting and collecting with shifting cultivation (e.g., the Juang, Paudi, Bhuyan). Even the so-called plough using agricultural tribes do often, wherever scope is available, supplement their economy with hunting and collecting. Subsistence economy is characterised by simple technology, simple division of labour, small-scale units of production and no investment of capital. The social unit of production, distribution and consumption is limited to the family and lineage. Subsistence economy is imposed by circumstances which are beyond the control of human beings, poverty of the physical environment, ignorance of efficient technique of exploiting natural resources and lack of capital for investment. It also implies existence of barter and lack of trade.

Considering the general features of their (i) eco-system, (ii) traditional economy, (iii) supernatural beliefs and practices, and (iv) recent "impacts of modernization", the tribes of Orissa can be **classified into six types**, such as: (1) Hunting, collecting and gathering type, (2) Cattle-herder type, (3) Simple artisan type, (4) Hill and shifting cultivation type, (5) Settled agriculture type.

Each type has a distinct style of life which could be best understood in the paradigm of nature, man and spirit complex, that is, on the basis of relationship with nature, fellow men and the supernatural.



#### 7.4 Primitive Tribe:

In Orissa 13 tribes have been identified as primitive (out of 75 found in India) among which Juang and Paudi Bhuyan belonging to Kendujhar district have been included during the plan holiday period of 1979-80. Juangs and Paudi Bhuyans inhabiting hilly areas are a people of primitive instinct. Chief instinct is for hunting and craving for unfettered freedom. Juang and Paudi Bhuyan living in the adjoining areas of Juang Pirh and Bhuyan Pirh consider themselves to be the lords of soil and live in a simple fashion. Bhuyan Pirh is confined to Banspal Block and Juang Pirh spreads Banspal, Telkoi and Harichandanpur. Ordinarily, their food habit consists of rice and other food grains boiled into porridge. Handia is also being widely used now-a-days. They tend to be tradition bound, shy and secretive in nature.

Juang or Paudi bhuyan villages are headed by a village headman called Padhan and traditional priest called as Dehury/ Boita. A group of villages are federated into a Pirh (Pidh) which is headed by Sardar. The rule of customary law is followed in all the villages. As such Juang communities have 7 Pirhs. Those who inhabit the traditionally marked pirhs are called Thaniya and those who have migrated to neighbouring district or non-pirh rule areas are called as Bhagudiyas. Thaniyas consider themselves as superior to Bhagudiyas. As there is no clan organization among the tribe as found with many others tribes, the Juangs/ Bhuyans keep marital relationship with Bandhu village (non-agnatic) and no marriage can take place in Kutumba village where agnatic relations live.

Apart from hunting and gathering, shifting cultivation continues to be age old practice of 2 PTGs in which there is unique practice of communal ownership of land. In the primitive practice of shifting cultivation (Locally called as Taila Chas or Kaman Chas or Podu chas), they extensively use hill tops or slopes, which is just below subsistence level. Traditionally, Padhan – the village headman – decides the piece of land to be allotted to each of the families for a period of 2-3 years; then it is left fallow till regains plants regeneration for soil fertility. With change of time there are instances that instead of village headman taking decision, a family can slash and burn patches of land for shifting cultivation depending upon its capacity within identified area of communal access. Thus rotational policy keeps maintaining soil nutrient over a period time. Crop varieties are unique starting from niger, traditional millets like Gangei and kangu, black gram, horse gram, maize, ragi and traditional paddy inter-cropped with some traditionally grown vegetables. Exchange of produces takes place in disposing the grains, millets and pulses from shifting cultivation patches as well as minor forest produces.

## 7.5 Forest Right as enjoyed by people of Keonjhar (A Chronology):

- Prior to 1892 - no semblance of forest conservancy
- 1896 – Introduced disposal of forest produces by Maharaja Dhanurjay Narayan Bhanj
- Prior to this the tenants of ex-state used to get requirement provided they exercised rights:
  - Within a radius of 6.44 KM (4 miles) from home – large village
  - Within a radius of 3.22 KM (2 miles) from home – small hamlet
- Permission was necessary for taking forest produce from forest situated at great distance
- Bhuiyans were free in respect of the area they can jhoom – except some nominal restriction on area limit
- 1906: Dehradun based ranger appointed and deptt placed in organized manner
- 1907: Forest of ex-state of keonjhar came under govt. management and selection of forest for reservation was taken up
- 1908: Atai block was selected and boundaries cut
- 1911-1924: Agency forest officer appointed and reservation work pushed on and completed in 1924
- 1915: Selection and demarcation of the protected forest at the close of settlement in 1915
- In Baula area (Ghati system) contractor purchased the right
- The sleeper operation by the Bengal Timber Trading Company was done in 1910 – 1930. Exploitable girth of the timber was fixed at 1.5 metres (5'), but no limit on number of trees
- Unrestricted felling denuded the forest of large trees and reduced in many instances to pole crops. Deficiency is noticeable
- After 1930 with Moon's plan Reserved forest allotted to 3 working circles
  - High forest working circle
  - Coppice working circle
  - Miscellaneous working circle

### Settlements:

- 1803 – first settlement – obviously a rough
- 1881- 1890 settlement Dhanurjay Bhanj raised plough tax to 80 paise, house tax to 40 paise and school cess 12 paise
  - \*1891 open rebellion – Bhuiyan melee led by Dharanidhar against enhancement of tax and forced labour.
  - \*1867 Bhuiyan melee was political in nature, against succession to throne.
- Land settlement initiated in 1889 and completed 1898, further done during 1911-15
- 1977 nistar cess Rs.6.45 for 100 Salia bamboos

Rs.8.60 for 100 Daba bamboos

Rights and concessions in Kendujhar forest during princely rule:-

Nistar cess (aboriginal tribes, landless or poor)

Fire-wood, Grass, Rs.0-12-0 per annum for one headload a day  
Fibre and Leaves: Rs.1-8-0 per annum for one bahangi laod a day

Honey and wax: According to the rates in force

Bamboo: Rs.1-8-0 per annum for one headload a day  
Rs.3-0-0 per annum for one bahangi load aday

Fruits, roots, flowers Aboriginal tribes allowed to remove  
And leaves: free for own consumption

Grazing:

Animals	Tenant's rate per Head	Outsider's rate per head
Cow or bullock	Re.0-2-0	Re.0-4-0
Buffallo	Re.0-4-0	Re.0-8-0
Elephants or Camel	Re.0-8-0	Re.1-0-0
Horse Poney	Re.0-3-0	Re.o-6-0

Firewood: Taken by tenants in exercise of their nistar right  
Timber Taken by contractors on auction sale

## 8. Select Area of study

In order to study into the implications of FRA, 2006; FAN (Forest Area Network) – Keonjhar, as intensively works with 10 NGOs and respective community organizations, has taken 10 select villages on the counts of location, presence of different tribal communities including other forest dwellers and issues/ challenges the communities face. Study has been with a proactive manner that moves with:

- Community consensus
- Collection of primary data based on household and village survey
- Identification of resources, primarily CFR
- Consolidation of information and sharing with community
- Building process for CFR

At the outset well articulated formats of household survey was provided to all partners of the networks with briefing on the key elements of study. After community level sharing in respective villages, the survey was undertaken during the period May and June 2010. It provided basic information on family members, livelihood system, access to health, education and other basic amenities. After cross checking a consolidation was done and

shared with community members. It was a big eye-opener for people to know myriad information and challenges they do come across. Basing on the information, village/ habitation profile was created by taking various references like;

- Sharing with village headman/ traditional chieftains
- Talking to Sardars, Padhans, Dehury/ Boita, Dangua
- Gathering information from local traditional leaders, panchayat heads
- Gathering information from archives, referring history, gazettes, census report, handbooks, statistics, circulars, documents and research papers
- Interaction with revenue and forest officials
- Referring revenue cadastral maps and forest maps

### **Mappings have been done on:**

- Demography
- Topography
- Diet, Livelihood and Economy
- Forest Area: In specific

### **Bio-diversity**

- Animals: Domestic and forest
- Plants: Backyard and forest
- Agriculture: seasons, produces, use and disposal system
- NTFPs: seasons, produces, use and disposal system
- Status on implementation of FRA and process for CFR

### **Issues**

Identification and articulation of issues

- Participating NGOs: 10 NGOs (UAC, RVDO, CEID, PCDC, BCM, RRO, UWAF, FECA, RDS & BAITARANI)
- Blocks: 7 (Telkoi, Banspal, Harichandanpur, Ghatgaon, Jhumpura, Patna & Champua)
- GPs: 10
- Villages/ Hamlets: 10
- Tribal Communities: 7 (PTGs: Paudi Bhuyan, Juang, Other tribes: Munda, Kolha, Santal, Ganda, Saunti)
- OBCs: Gopal, Kurmi(Mahanta), Kamara
- SC: 1
- SC community in 1 village, OBCs in 7 villages, tribals in all 10 villages and exclusive tribals in 3 villages
- Households: 545 (ST:444, SC:05, OBC: 96)

- Population: 2784 (ST:2299, SC:17, OBC: 468)

## 9. Issues/ Challenges

- All the tribal communities as well as others living in forest periphery have large dependence over NTFPs/ MFPs to meet their livelihood need though below subsistence level
- Forest used to be communally owned area where they had traditional rights of access and control
- Forest conservation and many other acts have put them in piquant position: as if alien in their own land
- There is 4576 acres (1830 Hec) of forest land in 10 villages what people see as their habitat and habitation
- 313 households applied out of 414 and 78 households have got titles so far
- Juangs in upper Baitarani express their anguish to return the titles on the ground that allotted land not fit for cultivation and not properly demarcated
- No proper recognition of customary right/ traditional access area
- Palli Sabhas not held in hamlets: Mankadkhalli habitation/ hamlet (People do not know which village they belong to) – The prospects of FRA/ PESA – Naxal experience
- Juang and Bhuiyan tribes practice shifting cultivation that requires a large area to supplement the need – Community right could be only solution to traditional livelihood coping
- Shifting cultivation cannot be seen as complete adverse to forest health – if mining or illegal operation can destroy large tracts, why poor tribes living for generations be blamed for the purpose
- Many flora and fauna species still do survive in shifting patches
- PTGs who have great challenge of nutritional supplement do grow exclusive 8 traditional varieties of short duration paddy seeds called Sathia (Aliakima, Kanichi, Bijaphuli, Haradkhunti) which can survive in hostile condition, may be with poor yield and in spite of high deficit in rainfall this year, there is some yield. Such gene pool should be protected and promoted
- PTGs try survive with minimum, below subsistence level and their resources, access area should not be bartered away with
- Participation of communities in such locations should be recognized.
- Communities in such villages/ habitations should be encouraged for bio-diversity conservation that should be properly compensated through schemes: NREGA (considers Horticultural Plantation, Land development, farm pond)
- Plantation of exotic species as promoted through JFM/ VSSs could alienate the communities further
- Mining operation extending to PTG area could make deep impact on their livelihood

- ❑ In neighbouring area a mining company has started paying nominal amount to communities just to suppress community uprise.
- ❑ Strong anti-industry/ anti-mining sentiments gaining grounds as people see potential threat to their traditional livelihood system (Patna)
- ❑ Though communities gather up to 21 different NTFPs, they suffer a lot due to distress sale and poor market penetration
- ❑ Though sal seeds decontrolled and largely available, no takers for the same
- ❑ Processing of NTFPs could make a potential value addition and more remunerative to community
- ❑ GPs are mandated to play a greater role in fixation of prices for MFPs gathered in own area, still it is invisible due to poor awareness level
- ❑ Area is bio-diversity rich. Done a mapping of 21 NTFPs, 32 plant species, 41 species of animals and 18 streams majority of which are found in shifting cultivation area
- ❑ Further process on to identify the realities and carry forward CFR process.

Note: Study to continue further and suggested guidelines will be completed on the final round of study

1. Characterisation of Keonjhar District
2. Village selection criteria
3. Land and resource use mapping of selected villages
4. Socio-economic data and livelihood profile of the different communities , nature of dependence on land resources in general and forest resources in particular
5. Issues related to FRA in each village based on the above

