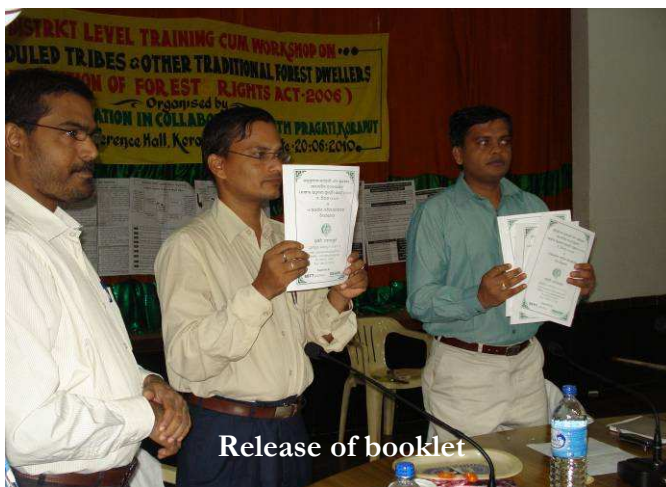


## DISTRICT LEVEL TRAINING CUM WORKSHOP ON FOREST RIGHTS ACT 2006

District administration, Koraput in collaboration with Pragati, Koraput has organized a District Level Training cum Workshop on “Scheduled Tribes and other Traditional Forest Dwellers (Recognition) of Forest Rights Act 2006” on 20<sup>th</sup> June 2010 in DNK, Conference hall, Koraput. Sri Rajesh Prabhakar Patil, District Collector, Koraput inaugurated the workshop by lighting lamps. The participants in the workshop included PA, ITDA, Koraput & Jeypore, Sub Collectors Koraput & Jeypore, ADWOs, Koraput & Jeypore, RIs, forest dept. officials, WEOs, NGO representatives and leaders of District Forest Federation. Mr. Y. Giri Rao of Vasundhara, Bhubaneswar participated as resource person.



Sri Manoj Kumar Nayak, PA, ITDA, Koraput in his welcome address said that Koraput District is leading in second position in the state with regard to submission of individual claims and the District administration is continuing its initiatives to reach out to the people who are left behind and also for facilitation of community claims under FRA.



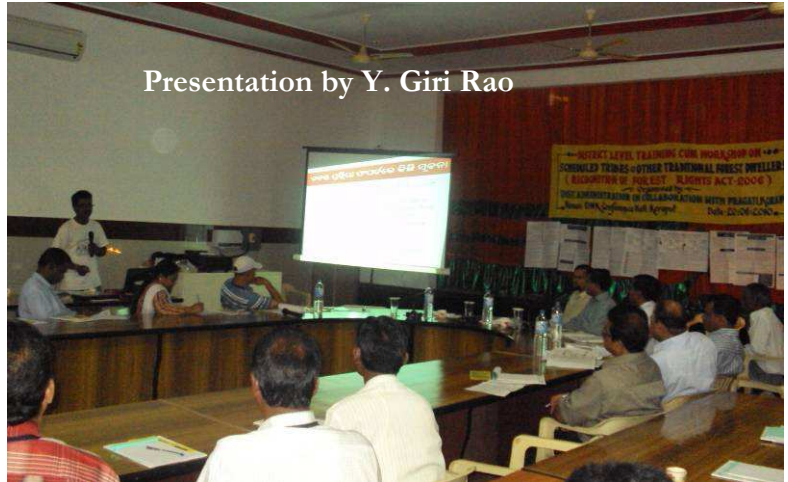
An Odiya **booklet** prepared by Pragati containing Forest Rights Act 2006 & Rules 2007 along with the Govt. circulars for implementation of the Act & a **leaflet** on Community Forest Rights prepared by Koraput Jilla Banabasi Sangha were released on the occasion by the District Collector and circulated among all the participants.

Addressing the audience the District Collector said that Koraput District has made good progress in facilitating submission and settlement of individual claims and he thanked the officials and NGOs for their cooperation in the process. But the task is not yet complete and will continue till the last man gets his claim. The District administration will be making a time bound plan to expedite the process and a database of claims submitted and claims settled will be made RI circle wise. He asked the officials present to be proactive and make honest efforts for proper implementation of the Act so that the poor people get justice and their livelihood can be secured. He also said that land development and plantation activities will be taken up in the lands so that the people can get more earning from their land in future and till now more than 17,000 applications have been submitted for activities like land development, plantation and farm pond.

There is very little progress with regard to submission and settlement of community claims and henceforth the District administration will be giving more focus on community claims. It should be a duty of officials concerned to ensure that community claims are



The District Collector clarified all the issues raised by the participants. He said that traditional forest dwellers have also rights under the Act but there is need of recording evidence of 75 years which has created some problem in settling their claims. The District administration will soon start the process of taking up the claims of traditional forest dwellers which is at tehsil/block /RI level. The Act is also loud and clear that people claim their rights even for reserve forest areas and the forest department cannot reject their claims. If necessary the district administration will also make arrangements for campaign approach for verification in Kundra and Boipariguda blocks. In his response to the concern of officials of Narayanpatna the District Collector said that there is no need of protection if we are working for real cause of people and urged that in spite of all obstacles we have to continue our work for the benefit of community.



Mr. Y. Giri Rao made a comprehensive presentation on process of submission of claims which also included clarification on the issues raised by the participants. He said that all the Govt. circulars should be with the WEOs so that they can be aware and able to execute their roles properly.

In the open house discussion that followed the participants were clear about the issues which they raised in the beginning. The Sub Collectors agreed that initiatives will be taken up to convert forest villages into revenue villages through adopting proper procedure and steps will be taken to form FRCs in those villages. It was also decided that the WEOs and RIs should coordinate with forest dept officials for joint inquiry. In case of lands other than forest lands where the community have raised plantations and created forests on their own initiative (For example - In Chanabada village of Dashmanthpur block people have planted trees and raised forests but their claim has been rejected on the ground that the land is not forest land as per the records), the concerned officials will make a note in their remarks during inquiry so that community will be able to get their rights under the Act.

Sri Janardana Nanda, ADWO, Koraput extended vote of thanks to all the participants with an appeal to the officials to come together and work in a collaborative manner for proper implementation of the Act in the District.

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