



FGLG India Work Plan

Action Table

January 2011 – December 2011

| Output no. | Activities | Who | When | How |
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| 1. | Forest Rights and Small Forest Enterprise | | Jan-December 2011 | |
| 1A | <p><i>Forest Rights Act (FRA) status of implementation</i></p> <p>A consolidation of the work of year one including policy briefs - FRA status in three states of Madhya Pradesh, Chhatisgarh and Jharkhand which forms a contiguous forest-tribal zone where forests based livelihoods are crucial and forest dependence is high along with high population of tribal communities. These are crucial test case for forests rights act implementation and apart from helping communities in these states, the results is a good indicator that may be presented to the Ministry of Tribal Affairs (MoTA) which is the nodal Ministry for implementing the Forest Rights Act. Some of the specific thematic focus areas of inquiry include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PA governance and FRA synergies • Existing participatory approaches and potential conflict with FRA. <p>There is a direct link with the Ministry of Tribal Affairs as well as the State Government Tribal Welfare departments that have been built over last few years and these governance connections will be utilized to communicate the findings. Apart from that there are numerous</p> | SU | | <p>Publication as Policy Briefs on key issues emerging in implementation of FRA and on specific themes as outlined in the proposal on Protected Area governance and FRA synergies and Existing Participatory approaches and methods to overcome potential conflicts with FRA.</p> <p>We may be calling the Secretary MoTA or the joint Secretary MoTA as special invitees to release these publications.</p> |

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| | opportunities in the states as well as the centre where the implementations results are being discussed. The results may be fed into such events for better decision making and improving the process of implementation of FRA. | | | |
| 1B | <p><i>Strengthen Community Forest Management (CFM) through recognition of rights</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Policy briefs in context of Community Forest Management, Forest Rights Act (FRA), (Provisions of Panchayats Extension to Scheduled Areas) Act, 1996 (PESA) and Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Degradation (REDD) <p>The production of the policy brief on CFM precedes a number of processes; desk analysis of FRA, PESA and REDD provisions, field survey on current situation of forest protection, series of meetings with district forestry federations at least in four districts. The basic objective of the current thematic intervention is to utilize the opportunities created by FRA and PESA to advocate for legal recognition for CFM groups within the existing laws guiding forest protection and management. The policy brief will critically analyse the scopes and opportunities provided by FRA and PESA and engage policy makers, especially foresters, into a discussion where fresh guidelines on participatory forest management (PFM) are considered/introduced that is compatible to FRA, etc. Besides, the objective of such analysis that would be encapsulated in a number of policy briefs is also to debate the new institutional mechanism clearly emerging post FRA in the community forest management context when the classical JFM is gradually losing ground and becoming redundant. Moreover, this exercise will also initiate a process of bringing in amendments to a number of archaic forest management legislations.</p> | SP | March-October 2011 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Field work, Local workshops, Dialogues The target for the policy briefs would be policy makers – political and executive, research institutions, NGOs, donors and forestry support organizations at the national, state and sub-state level. |
| 1C | <i>Strengthen community based institutions to run Non Timber Forest Product (NTFP)</i> | PB | Jan-December 2011 | Review of activities in Forest Department |

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| | <p><i>enterprises in three states</i></p> <p>NTFP trade and business was very much informal and unorganized in India for long time whereas recently it has become an important area of concern for the government and for the civil society organization. FGLG India is trying to understand the role and responsibilities played by different formal and informal institutes in selected three states (Chhattisgarh, Orissa and Uttrakhand) for promotion of enterprises including role of rural banks. How the partnership among different organization can boost the sector trade more transparent and vibrant for local peoples benefit</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • FGLG- India group's technical support will enable state level formal organization like Chhattisgarh Minor Forest Product Federation (CGMFPF), Uttrakhand Forest Development Corporation (UFDC), Orissa Forest Development Corporation (OFDC), etc. and informal organization (Self Help Groups (SHGs), NGOs, primary cooperative societies etc.). • MoEF and identified states will get immediate benefit of their decision making for better policy implementation from such study feedback for NTFP related issues in reference to FRA and PESA provision, Minimum Support Price (MSP), issues including support and organized initiative in very poor tribal areas where Left Wing Extremism (LWE) is active. • Key questions that will be taken up are: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Simple form of Institution - Coordination in NTFP Trade - FRA Provision - Scope in LWE area with selected NTFP based enterprise with Central Government supported fund • The NTFP work will also feed into the Forest Connect Initiative (anchored by IIED) to learn from and contribute to the global experiences of small forest enterprises. | | | <p>promoted initiatives in three States active in NTFP front and Develop one publication for all stakeholders.</p> <p>Providing necessary Feedback to Ministry of Environment and Forest (MoEF) and MOTA officials in strategic meetings on the basis of review study.</p> <p>Develop few (2-3) press report with fact in Left Wing Extremism affected areas and scope of NTFP enterprise</p> <p>One policy brief for institutional coordination model with formal, informal and supporting organization (cooperatives, rural bank etc.)</p> |
| 2A | <i>Legitimate Forest Products</i> | SS | | |

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| | <p>India has invested heavily in establishing tree plantations since independence, and especially since 1980s. Some of these plantations are of commercially valuable species such as teak while others are of subsistence-oriented fuelwood and fodder species.</p> <p>The plantation estate should have been the primary source of legitimate forest products in the country. This is, however, not the case as evidenced by increasing imports on one hand and increasing pressure on the remaining natural forests on the other. The need for the plantation estate, both public and private, to meet the country's needs of legitimate forest products is now greater than ever as the primary role of natural forests is increasingly seen as a provider of ecosystem services rather than products such as timber.</p> <p>The key questions that will be explored include:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. What is the extent of tree plantations raised through public investment in the country since independence? 2. What is the broad species-mix of these plantations? 3. What is the actual status of tree plantations? 4. What is the demand of tree and forest products (mainly wood-based products) in the country and what proportion of it is met domestically and what proportion is met through imports? 5. What proportion of the domestic supply comes from plantations? 6. What are the key issues and challenges in meeting the country's need of legitimate forest products (commercial and subsistence) from tree plantations? <p>The following outputs will be produced:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. A short report highlighting the investment made in tree plantations, their current status, and their contribution towards meeting the need of legitimate | | <p>Planning: March-June 2011</p> <p>Study: July-December 2011</p> | <p>Meetings, key information, secondary sources</p> <p>The study will be carried out through analysis of official records and semi-structured interviews with a few key informants. A detailed analysis of the Forest Survey of India's <i>State of Forest</i> reports will be undertaken to understand the contribution of plantations to the country's forest and tree cover.</p> |
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| | <p>forest products in the country. The report will also provide an overview of the current demand of forest products (wood-based) in the country and main sources through which this demand is currently being met.</p> <p>2. A short policy brief highlighting key findings and recommendations.</p> <p>3. A PowerPoint presentation for relevant stakeholders.</p> <p>4. A short piece in media.</p> | | | |
| 3. | <i>Pro poor climate mitigation and adaptation through forestry</i> | SK | May-June 2011 | Consultations, field assessment, workshops |
| 3A | <p><i>Support India's REDD readiness</i> Initiate dialogue on CFM</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Engage stakeholders on forestry and climate change including REDD+ {collaborative proposal} Develop awareness materials in local language Document local consultations Prepare policy briefs Develop a learning platform on climate change * REDD Though, there is no platform on REDD in India currently, FGLG India shall strive to build one through the consultations proposed and the policy brief developed. Implementation of Green India Mission commenced recently (SK was asked to make a presentation on the "Operational strategy for effective implementation of the Mission in a high level meeting held on 28th and 29th April. SK was also nominated as a member on the working group on "Planning Manual and Operational guidelines". It was also informally shared that SK will be nominated on the National Governing Council of the GIM. There will be opportunities to link National REDD initiatives with FGLG work in this regard. <p>It has to be noted that the GIM (Green India Mission) document which started with more Pro REDD inclination is now (the final document) seeing REDD as one of the benefits that can be thought of. This is due to the inputs provided by the civil</p> | SK | September-October 2011 | <p>Consultations, analysis, focus group discussions.</p> <p>It is proposed to have one State level consultation meeting before 30th June; followed by other events as scheduled below:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> At state level: end of June 2011 At division level (3): second week of Sept, 2011 At range level (6 @ two per division): last week of Sept, 2011 Division level workshop reports: end of Sept, 2011 Completion of reports of range and divisional level: 15th October, 2011 Completion of Draft policy brief: end of October, 2011 National level Workshop: second week of November, 2011 Final Policy Brief: End of November, 2011 Dissemination: December, 2011 |

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| | <p>society groups across the country during the consultations held on the draft document.</p> <p>In December 2011 when the Policy brief is ready, other aspects can be taken up in the subsequent period.</p> <p>Sharing our learning with other experts, researchers in India and Internationally working in the field of REDD.</p> | | | |
| 3B | <p>Support better decision making on bio-energy strategies</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Focus on rural energy security • Analyse bio-energy policies and programmes resulting in policy briefs on bio energy issues and challenges • The above will be based on discussion with IIED tentatively in October on Bioenergy | SU | October 2011 | Consultations Analysis FGDs |
| 4. | <p>Other activities: Respond to emerging governance challenges</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Left Wing Extremism and forest governance • PESA, FRA, Joint Forest Management – Connect • Track Green India mission and Compensatory Afforestation, Management and Planning Authority (CAMPA) • Promoting Non Timber Forest Produce cell at Ministry • FGLG-Asia • Fundraising • Organise presentations by thematic experts • Ongoing information and communication within team and externally through FGLG India website etc. | All members | 2011 | Through policy dialogues, blogs, web-discussions, seminars, webinars, strategic meetings, media briefs |

List of Acronyms

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| CAMPA | Compensatory Afforestation, Management and Planning Authority |
| CFM | Community Forest Management |
| CGMFPF | Chhattisgarh Minor Forest Product Federation |
| FGD | Focused Group Discussion |
| FRA | The Scheduled Tribes and Other Traditional Forest Dwellers (Recognition of Forest Rights) Act, 2006 |
| GIM | Green India Mission |
| LWE | Left Wing Extremism |
| MoTA | Ministry of Tribal Affairs |
| NTPF | Non Timber Forest Produce |
| OFDC | Orissa Forest Development Corporation |
| PESA | Provisions of Panchayat (Extension to Scheduled Areas) Act, 1996 |
| REDD | Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation |
| SHG | Self Help Group |
| UFDC | Uttarakhand Forest Development Corporation |

FGLG India team members:

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| PB | Prodyut Bhattacharya |
| SK | Surya Kumari |
| SP | Sanjoy Patnaik |
| SS | Sushil Saigal |
| SU | Sanjay Upadhyay |