

MOST IMMEDIATE

No.F.23011/26/2012-FRA(Pt.)

Government of India
Ministry of Tribal Affairs

R.No. F-280, August Kranti Bhawan,
Bhikaji Cama Place, New Delhi-110066

Dated: 20th November 2015

To

The Principal Secretaries/Secretaries of 10 State Governments)
(States of Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand, West Bengal, Andhra Pradesh, Kerala, Karnataka,
Rajasthan, Gujarat, Himachal Pradesh, Tripura, Maharashtra and Madhya Pradesh)

Subject: Exposure visit to Odisha for cross-learning and exposure to good practices
pertaining to management of Community Forest Resources recognized under
FRA, 2006

Sir,

As you are aware, the Ministry of Tribal Affairs has been emphasizing for effective implementation of Forest Rights Act, 2006. While the progress has been made in recognition of individual rights, the recognition of Community rights, specially the Community Forest Resource (CFR) rights has been low. Further, wherever Community and CFR rights have been recognized, post rights management and conservation mechanisms have to be put in place in collaboration with local administration and the Gram Sabhas.

2. Towards this end Odisha is one of the States, where systematic process has been adopted for implementation by bringing together various stakeholders involved in the implementation of the Act and progress has been made in recognition of both Individual and Community rights. Ministry of Tribal Affairs has also recognized the SCSTRTI, Bhubaneswar as the National Resource Centre on FRA which has been rendering technical support to the State of Odisha and to other States in training and assistance in implementation of the Forest Rights Act.

3. The experience of many States points to the fact that proper training and exposure to the field level officials including DLC and SDLC members led in fast tracking the FRA implementation process at the district and below levels. Further, during the monitoring meetings with the States, the need for training has been strongly highlighted.

4. Therefore, a 3- day traveling seminar to Odisha is being organized from 2nd - 5th December, 2015 in coordination with National Resource Centre, Bhubaneswar and in partnership with UNDP. The objective of the traveling seminar is to build the capacity of Government functionaries directly engaged at the field level implementation on the issues related to post rights recognition phase with focus on management and governance of community forest resource. This would also help in building clarity in terms of constitution of CFR management committee by the Gram Sabha along with role

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and responsibilities for management and conservation of forest resources. The various institutional mechanisms and convergence needed through administrative support will also be deliberated upon. Further the conservation and management plans prepared by Gram Sabha in collaboration with forest department will also be shared with the participants.

5. It is, therefore, requested that 3-4 district and block level officials from your State who are engaged at field level implementation of FRA including members of DLC and SDLC be nominated for the exposure visit to Odisha and intimated to us with a copy to NRC, SCSTRTI, Odisha and UNDP.

6. The detailed schedule will be shared shortly. The expenditure in terms of boarding, lodging and local travel of the nominated participants will be met by UNDP from the MoTA-UNDP project 'Strengthening national capacities in tribal areas'.

Yours faithfully,



(Roopak Chaudhuri)

Deputy Secretary to the Government of India

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- Copy to: 1. Director, SCSTRTI, Bhubaneswar, Unit - VIII. CRPF Square. Nayapalli, Bhubaneswar-751003
2. Sushil Chaudhary, UNDP, 55 Lodi Estate, New Delhi 110 003.
3. PPS to JS(A) – for kind information please.

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