

CLINCHING NTFP DEAL

Introduction

This is the story of how Communities from Kalahandi dist obtained profitable incomes from their NTFP trade activity of Kendu leaf and Bamboo associated with Seba jagat of Odisha.

How it Happened

There were communities surviving in Jamuguda village on sale of Kendu leaf and Bamboo that was not profitable being exploited by the middlemen. A workable plan from Jamuguda village was developed after due approval from Village Gram Sabha. Under FRA, they had applied for transit permission to sell outside their local area which was turned down by the Forest dept.

They then approached the state bureaucracy for transit approval, that was quite proactive and supportive of the cause of the Tribal communities, which was granted to them. On realizing the outcome, the Forest dept approached the communities to jointly carry out the trade which the Grama Sabha had turned down and decided to trade on their own in a systematic manner.



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From 2016 onwards, 16 villages of Barabandha and Dudkaranja GPs have joined hands for Kendu leaf and bamboo marketing. Now, 120 Gram Sabha from 5 blocks (M Rampur, Golamunda, Junagarh, Koksara and Jaipatna) have joined hands in the NTFP trade process.

They have diligently followed a collaborative process of selecting 4 members (2 male and 2 female) from each Gram Sabha to a Block level Gram Sabha and from each Block level Gram Sabha 5 members will be selected for Kalahandi Gram Mahasangha (at dist level). Rate for each NTFP and the Buyer will be decided in the presence of all the members, following the due process. The buyer thus selected will pay Rs 1 lakh to each Gram Sabha in advance. Payment for the produce thus procured will be made once in every three days depending upon the quantity procured. From such payment made by the buyer, 80% is immediately paid to the community, 17-18% is paid to the Village Panchayat out of which 50% is used for village development and remaining 50% for exigencies. The remaining 2-3% is paid to the Dist Mahasangha for administrative purposes.

Conclusion

From the happenings it is clear that the informed Collaborative action has happened at a local level where all the interested communities had come together, to address a burning issue, bringing all related actors on to a common platform and achieved an ecologically sustainable economic activity for the betterment of tribal communities. A win win situation.



SCAN THE CODE
TO READ THE STORY