

# *LIVELIHOODS THROUGH* **FOREST CONSERVATION**

## *Introduction*

The majority livelihoods of people living among the forests are dependent on the health (protection, conservation and Promotion) of Forests. In one such visit to Sundar Pahar, in Karma Tanda Panchayat Office, the community were made to realise in an open discussion during their one-day Panchayat meeting.

## *How it Progressed*

A one day discussion was organized by the Badlao Foundation with the communities of Karma tanda panchayat and other village panchayaths of Sundar Pahar Block in the Panchayat office under the chairmanship of the Mukhiya, to discuss pressing issues like “CFR issues, NTFP based livelihood issues, Irrigation resources and Other infrastructure developments”.

The follow up on the CFR claims were discussed.

Value addition of NTFP, like Sal Leaf Plate making enterprise.

Ample availability of irrigation water for cultivation, drinking water for human beings and for animals.

These issues were discussed in detail with the communities, pressing home the point that all these are possible only when the Forests are protected, conserved and promoted diligently. During the discussion, a youth pursuing his Post Graduation had expressed his feeling that the damage to the ecosystem is the result of Lack of knowledge/ awareness of the importance of the healthy Vegetative cover, unchecked destruction of forests for personal need/greed/ gain without restoration. He expressed that if the communities are made to realise the issues, positive results can be achieved. The communities too expressed similar sentiments.

## Conclusion

The Landscape partners are already engaged with the communities on the matters of Forests and related activities for their Rights as natives of the Forests, NTFP based Livelihoods, Irrigation for farming, water for personal and animal consumption etc, with occasional spark of educated, talented and committed youth to make the change. It only needs hand holding, and guiding to scale.



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