Indigenous people got Forest Land Rights

Forest Right Act 2006 recognize and vest the forest rights and occupation in forest land in forest dwelling Schedule Tribes and other traditional forest dwellers who have been residing in the such forests for generations but whose rights could not be recorded.

To secure territorial rights for Indigenous Peoples people belonging to Bhila and Garasia tribe, dwelling in forest area of Udaipur, individual land rights were provided to them under the Forest Right Act (FRA) 2006. Prayatna Samiti aware people of the Act and mobilized them to form Van Adhikar Samiti (15 member committee recognized by Gram Sabha) which were further oriented and trained to facilitate people in approaching Panchayat to claim their land rights. 751 households out of 1,400 in 30 villages got Van Bhoomi Adikar Patra (Forest Land Right Letter) from district body over 563.25 ha land area. The land is used for agriculture and other farm based livelihoods. Claim over 1,065 ha for Community Forest Right is still pending at district level. The right helps people to collect minor forest produce from the forest land.

Programme highlights

Problem & Challenges

- Limited crop cultivation area; limited livelihood options
- No rights over forest land for indigenous people.

Role of Prayatna Samiti

- Facilitating Van Adhikar Samiti formation under FRA.
- Training of Samiti on application filling and decision making at bottom level.
- People’s awareness on FRA.

Forest Land Right allotment steps

1. FRA claim applied by applicant through Van Adikar Samiti
2. FRA application scrutinized and forwarded to village Panchayat
3. Panchayat scrutinize and forwards to Block
4. Block scrutinize and forwards to District Magistrate office
5. District Magistrate office issues Van Bhoomi Adikar Patra to applicant

For any incomplete information or queries scrutinizing committees may send a letter to the applicant to fulfill the requirement.

Results

- 751 households issued Forest Land Rights over 563.25 ha with an average of 0.75 ha per household.
- People using land for agriculture and other farm based livelihoods.