

“Sustainable Tribal Development; A Perspective Program in India”

A Joint Program of CARE India, Bhubaneswar and XIMB

Introduction

Tribal people over the years have become the most disadvantaged, exploited and the neglected lot in our society. Primarily they live in the forests and are considered as the most backward and undeveloped. Their identity is in grave danger, since the forest cover in the country has drastically been reduced causing unnatural damage to the Environment and forests they were living in. Many of the sub-tribes have gone in the oblivion. Unfortunately the forests conservation laws did not support them and denied them even a small share from the forests. So they became unnatural intruders to their own home land. That has happened in many parts of the country. The Joint Forests Management (JFM) in course of time has tried to give them a new lease of life by involving them in forests protection activities, but the outreach has been seriously limited.

In connection with this, many of the Development Actors have tried and made efforts to do something substantially for the tribal development in their own way. All of that made little progress and have contributed further in alienating them than addressing most of their basic problems. Many of the tribal community have lost their land and forests rights. Many of them have become virtual labourers in their own land. A very few of the development actors could succeed in bring any comprehensive and sustainable development. The tribal basically stand averse to the modern life styles and hardly willing to change until and unless they encounter a very strong social mobilization and conscientisation or participate fully in planning their own development perspectives. Even in the present days they are abided by their socio-cultural milieu and long cherished traditional values and practices. **PESA**-Panchayat Extension to Tribal Areas in 1996 took cognizance of all the above and created the scope for bringing a sea change in the tribal life. PESA came as a boon, if it is implemented in true spirit of the act. Hence the need of the hour is to try with sincere efforts on the part of Government and other development organizations to help improve the quality of their life and bring about sustainable development. All that would further require a number of proactive and participative measures to counter the bottle-necks the tribal face and yield expected results which is being intended through this program.

Objectives

- To sensitise the participants to the stark reality of the prevailing tribal situation in India and focus on different development impacts in tribal life.
- To cross-fertilise their ideas through a number of learning & sharing on the success and failures of tribal development efforts in the country.
- To enable them to identify, analyse and accelerate a comprehensive and sustainable tribal development by formulating a perspective program to address the key issues and development challenges the tribal community faces.

Coverage

- The Tribal situation in India; A Historical Perspective-An overview.
- Problems & Prospects of Tribal Development in India.
- Sharing Past Experiences on Tribal culture; and its socio, economic and political Milieu; A Reality Check
- The occupational patterns of tribal life Vrs the Changing time and Climate change affecting their lives and major Livelihoods.

- Symbiotic relationship of tribals with the Forests.
- Tribal land alienation, health and education and the tribal unrest with extremist activities; A SWOT Analysis on the key Issues and Challenges.
- The Ministry of Tribal Affairs and its Mandates.
- Need and Relevance of a Baseline study and launching a Micro Plan.
- Navigating to the future and formulating a strategic action plan for sustainable tribal development.

Methodology

The Approach to training will be out and out participatory. However, there will be a few conceptual sessions coupled with case analysis and field exposure to some successful cases. It will also include multi-media use with display of best practices across the country and the Globe.

Expected Outcomes

- Participants developed a critical understanding of tribal situation in India.
- Participants found what worked and what did not and how to replicate the best practices in relation to tribal community development.
- They formulated appropriate action plans in view of launching a more comprehensive and sustainable tribal development.

Expected Participants

Managers/Officers/Executives/Practitioners involved with tribal development representing Govt., NGO, CBO, Panchayati Raj or Corporate houses.

Programme Director

Mr. Basant Mohanty

Duration

3 days: November 23-25, 2009

Venue

Bhubaneswar