

# " We have our Government in Delhi and Mumbai ; But in our village, We ourselves are the Government '

# About our village...

- All the decisions pertaining to our village are taken by us, all the adult men and women in the village, collectively through consensus
- Every person contributes 10% of his/her income in cash to Village Fund
- Each family contributes 2.5% of its produce in the Grain Bank

- Village is involved in Joint Forest Management Programme from 1992. Protecting 1809.61 hectares of forest, within 5 compartments
- Members from 4 families do the forest patrolling every day and record the observations
- Gramsabha vested with Community Forest Right over 1809.61 hectares under Forest Rights Act on 28<sup>th</sup> August 2009
- 80% households use Deenbandhu biogas plant for clean cooking

- A women's Self-help group is running Fair Price Shop and has applied for Kerosene license
- A women's SHG is managing 'Gitti Khadan' and Brick production
- SHG of youth is involved in nondestructive honey collection. Recently started a full fledged Honey Processing Unit
- Youth SHG has taken up Bamboo Value addition activity. Various machines and tools are being used for quality production

- Gramsabha has established Computer training centre with audio-visual aids through its 'Village Fund'
- Youth SHG is acquiring technical skills to become 'Barefoot Engineers' to implement MNREGA through Gramsabha
- A team is trained in Video shooting, script writing, editing etc. Made short clips on Honey, Bamboo Struggle

### Community Forest Rights' Title (Record of Rights)

<u>भारत सरकार</u> जमाती कार्य मंत्रालय अनुसूचित जमाती व इतर पारंपारिक वन निवासी (वन हक्क मान्य करणे) अधिनियम २००६, नियम, २००८ सामुहिक वन हक्कांचे हक्क जोडपत्र - तीन (पहा नियम- ८ (ज ))			
		जिल्हा प्रकरण क्रमांक. १९०० /०९	
<ol> <li>सामुहिक वन हक्कधारकाचे नांव/ धारकांची नांव</li> </ol>	वे :-	श्री. बिरजू जोगी तोफा व इतर गावकरी गांव समाज (लेखा) (मेंढा)	
२. गांव/ ग्रामसभा	-	मु.पो. (लेखा) (मेंढा)	
३. ग्रामपंचायत	:-	लेखा	
४. तहसिल/ तालुका	:-	धानोरा	
५. जिल्हा	:-	गडचिरोली	
६. अनुसूचित जमाती आहे की,/ इतर पारंपारिक वन निवासी आहे	;-	अनुसूचित जमाती	
७. सामुहिक हक्कांचे स्वरुप	:-	गांव समाजाचे दाव्यातील बाब क्र.१ ,२,३,४,५, ६, प्रमाणे निस्तार हक्क व इतर वरील नियमाप्रमाणे लागू असलेले हक्क)	
८.शर्ती काही असल्यास	:-	शासनाचे नियमाप्रमाणे	
९. रुढी प्राप्त सीमांसह/किंवा खसरा/खंड क्र. यासह ठळक सीमांचिन्हे दर्शावून केलेले सीमांचे वर्णन.	:-	आराजी. १८०९.६१ हेक्टर कंपा.नं. सर्वे नं. ४६८,४६९, ४७०,४७१,५११	

#### सामूहिक वन हक्क धारकांचे नांव (धारकांची नांवे)

- मौजा ( लेखा ) मेंढा येथील समस्त नागरीक
- २. निस्तार पत्रकातील तरतुदी नुसार नसेच गौण वनोस्पती.
- 3. कायदेशिर हक्कांना मान्यता देण्यांत येते.
- ४. दाव्यातील १,२,३,४,५, ६, प्रमाणे निस्तार हक्क व इतर सर्व हक्क मान्य.

आम्ही खालील सही करणारे महाराष्ट्र शासन यांच्यासाठी व त्यांच्या वतीने, सामूहिक वनहक्कांच्या उपरोल्लिखित धारकांना शिर्षकात उल्लेखिल्याप्रमाणे वनहक्क कायम करण्यासाठी आमच्या स्वाक्षऱ्या करीत आहोत. निस्तार पत्रकात नमूद असलेले ख.नं. पूर्नर मोजणी नंतर बदलले असल्याने नवीन सर्व्हे नंबर नुसार ते लागु होतील. ज्या जमिनी पूर्वी वाटप झाल्या य आता वैयक्तिक वन हक्क देण्यात येत आहे त्या वगळून उर्वरीत जमिनीवर सामुहिक हक्क लागु राहतील्य

विभागीय वन अधिकारी/उप वन संरक्षक गडविरोली

2 8 AUG 2009

जिल्हाधिकारी/ उपायुक्त

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प्रप्पर आयुक्त आदिवासी विकास विभाग,

नागपूर

### Record of Rights handed over to Gramsabha by Hon.Governor S. C. Jameer on 15<sup>th</sup> December 2009



# अखेर ६२ वर्षांनी लेखामेंढावासीयांचा जंगलावरील सामुदायिक दावा मान्य

गडचिरोली ठरला देशातील पहिला जिल्हा 💠 ४८० गावकऱ्यांच्या जिद्दीचा विजय 🛛 विलालेबाव पहे. वर्ष व्यान के वार हेव

### Using new Tribal Act, two Maharashtra villages get community rights to forest

VIVEK DESHPANDE NAGPUR, ALXIUST 16

IN what is possibly a first in the country, two tribal villages in Maharashtra's Gadchiroli district have successfully claimed community rights over the forest around their villages under the new tribal Act, The Scheduled Tribes and Other Traditional Forest Dwellers (Recognition of Forest Right) Act.

Gadchiroli district guardian minister Ramesh Bang, in his Indepen-dence Day address, declared the de-

This is the first such decision in the country and we are extremely happy that the Collector and Bang took active lead in making this a reality," said tribal activist Mohan Hirabai Hiralal, From now on, Mendha-Lekha and Marda will have legal rights to manage and utilise about 1,800 and 880 hectares of forests respectively.

Will the government leave the forests to the good sense of the communities which may not always be the case? "That is how forests have traditionally survived," said Colles



Mendha-Lekha gets rights to 1800 hectares

### A Republican Paradise: Mendha

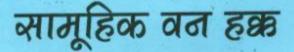


### Manual developed in Mendha for claiming Community Forest Rights

भारत सरकार आदिवासी मंत्रालयाचा कायदा

अनुसूचित जमाती व इतर पारंपारिक वन निवासी (वन हक्क मान्य करणे) अधिनियम २००६ व नियम २००८

मधील



तरतदींच्या अंमलबजावणी करीता

- मार्गदर्शिका ७

- प्रकाशक -**वृक्षमित्र** चंद्रपूर - गडचिरोली

लेखन / संपादन मोहन हिराबाई हिरालाल, सुबोध कुलकर्णी

#### -: संपर्क :-

मोहन हिराबाई हिरालाल	(वृक्षमित्र)	मो. नं. 9422835234
वेवाजी नवलू तोफा	(वृक्षमित्र)	मो. न. 9421734018
सुबोध कुलकर्णी	(ज्ञान प्रबोधिनी)	मो. नं. 9422907330
नितीन बारसिंगे	(वेघ)	मो. न. 9423122954

(आर्थिक सहयोग : स्विसओड इंडिया, पुणे)

सप्टेंबर २०१०, प्रती ५००.

Case study of Successful Community Rights' claim process evolved in Mendha documented by NCAS for replication at National level

बोलती पुस्तिक

कहाणी यशस्ती सामूहिक तनहक्क दाव्यांची मेब (लेखा) व माख भावांची

लता प्रतिमा मधुकर

अनुसूचित जमाती च इतर पांपपारिक यन नियामी (बन हक्कांची मान्यता) अधिनियम २००९ आणि नियम २००८ नुसार केलेल्या मेदा (लेखा) च मारदा गावातील सामूहिक चनहरूक दाखांच्या प्रक्रियेचा दरसप्रेयज्ञ

# **Process of Exercising Community Rights**

- ✓ Community Rights recognised on 14<sup>th</sup> August 2009
- ✓ Record of Rights prepared on 28<sup>th</sup> August 2009
- ✓ Title handed over to Gramsabha on 15<sup>th</sup> Dec. 2009
- To exercise ownership right over Minor Forest Produce, Village wrote first letter regarding bamboo harvesting on 18<sup>th</sup> Jan.2010 and met all officials
- ✓ No response…bamboo season ended!
- ✓ Then several communications...
- GS received first letter from DCF on 3<sup>rd</sup> Feb.2011 which denies rights
- ✓ GS established right on 15<sup>th</sup> Feb.2011 by cutting and selling bamboos. Gadchiroli MLA began purchase by paying Rs.25/- and asked for Transit Pass. Several others followed...



### A large debate over bamboo started all over the country

जयराम रमेश JAIRAM RAMESH

My dear Kiran

राज्य मंत्री (स्वतंत्र प्रभार) पर्यावरण एवं वन भारत सरकार नई दिल्ली–110003 ENVIRONMENT & FORESTS GOVERNMENT OF INDIA NEW DELHI - 110 003 21st March 2011

Sub: Declaration and treatment of Bamboo as Minor Forest

The FRA, 2006 also defines minor forest produce as including "all nontimber forest produce of plant origin **including bamboo** ...and the like". In the light of these legal provisions, and the significance of bamboo in the lives and livelihoods of many communities, you are requested to direct the State Forest Departments to treat bamboo as a Minor Forest Produce and respect the rights accrued to communities as per the FRA, 2006.

#### Next steps for State Government:

The acceptance of bamboo as MFP has many consequences for the state government and the forest administration. These are identified below:

- a. Areas where rights to Community Forest Resource are recognized and vested under FRA, 2006:
  - **Gram Sabha will issue transit passes:** The Forest Departments must give the Gram Sabha the right to issue transit passes for bamboo as minor forest produce in areas designated as community forest resources (declared under 1.

Yours sincerely avan amach (Jairam Ramesh)



नगल उत्पादनातून वगळल्या

हमारी कोशिश है कि हम, भूमि अधिकारों के साथ गौण वनोपज जैसे - बॉस, ठूंठ, आंवला, बेडा, शहद, लाख, मोम, तेंदू पत्ते इत्यादि, के सामुदायिक अधिकारों की और विशेष ध्यान देवें, क्योंकि आदिवासियों के जीवन में इसका एक विशेष महत्व है। मेरे स्थानीय आदिवासी क्षेत्रों में तो, आदिवासी परिवारों की 50-60 प्रतिशत आजीविका इसी पर निर्भर है। कांतिलाल भूरिया

#### Forest titles only on paper

Officials deny tribal village its forest management rights

APARNA PALLAM NACOU

MENDINA LEXERA IN Gadchiroli district of Maharashtra was one of the first two villages in India to claim community ownership over its forests last December. Six months after they got their forest titles. the tribal villagers find bureaucratic hurdles are hampering their powers under the Forest Bights Act of 2006.



resident. "Nistaar has never been a department's plans under the new la peoblem. What we have not is manage-Dharankar said villasers could erenar



And finally....Bamboo liberated!

On 27<sup>th</sup> April 2011 Hon. Jairam Ramesh, CM Prithwiraj Chauhan arrived in Mendha and handed over Transit Pass Book to Gramsabha

 Very Few days left for harvesting... Village geared up, mobilised resources and completed harvesting of 90,000 bamboos

- Gramsabha made turnover of Rs.22 Lakhs, while villagers earned Rs.8 Lakhs in the form of labour charges. Long Bamboo sold at the rate of Rs.23/- for each piece
- In 2011-12 Gramsabha has started process for Inviting Tenders to get competitive price



Business Standard 25 Apr 11

### जयराम रमेश व कामत यांची परस्पर विरोधी विधाने वन्द्रज्ञ कार्यातनुष्का जंदर्गानी

PERTARN'S figurerscore Work after केत परहलादनाम भीधकार राष्ट्रील को माली, या बुखाया कहीना पात्रीकाल कोजी जापराम रवेल ज केटीक पूर्व राज्यमध्ये पुरूषणम् काम्या भवेती urous taine farer inouri गावन नांगोवाण प्रतासकीर वर्षुत सुना eneuter.vert and

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वांच पंडल गहांच्यते से विवरणका लेखा आहेत. आहेब् तो इण्यास यानाइल्याआह विषयानुसार भारतन्त्री किसल क्यांगी पायुची आहे भी रुवत का संजेत केंगल भाग जयगय रमेल जांनी आहेदणाई

राज्या कामत यांचे प्रकारणयंत्रे ज रमेल यांचे मुख्यमध्यांच बाउवावेले बज व वानकाना कामगा कामगत समितना गराधिगोली म दूर्गम आहित्यको गणात प्रत्ना संवद्यनाहत (भाषना प्रतीतन structure eliceum area ant araran accession organist safera ल्यारताः असल्यामुळे कारवत् होण्याचे शकांत अप्रायने वात्यको सार्वसात राष्ट्रावेवक व्यक्त वात्यको सार्वसात राष्ट्रावेवक व्यक्त वात्रा, सार्व सार्वित्राव्यापुळे अवस वात्री, सार्व सार्वितात्यापुळे अवस साम्यांगक कालक प्राण सावना पूचा एक नवा गणाया प्रमान आहे. गुण्डाम कामन हे केंद्र सरकारमधील जवाकटा य लोह यंत्रे आहे. त्यंची अधिकाण्डची साम् येत य कायसाध्या

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क्वालाव 🛛 ग्रामसभेत एकमताने ठराव याने कार को प्राप्तिय प्राप्तिय स्थला रेण्डील को ----रोग गणने अहे. जनम मेन १ रह मा महार को प्रजार प्रवेश प्रकार प्रत के बहु हे की 🛢 प्रशासकीय येत्रणा हादाली

बांब विक्रीची परवानगी देणार असाल तरच या

जयराम रमेज्ञ व मुख्यमंत्री २७ एप्रिलला लेखामेंठ्यात

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UNION Environment and Forest Minister Jairam Ramesh, who will visit Mendha-Lekha village in Gadchiroli on April 27 is expected to make some "important" announcements, one of them pertaining to the much-disputed minor forest produce (MFP) bamboo. The village, however, hasn't yet been offi-

### Jairam visit: Village says no passes, no programme press that as the detailed programme of the visit hasn't yet arthed, he can't say if TPs are going

to be distributed. TPs are required by villagers to transport and sell bamboo but the issue has been hanging fire as the Maharashtra Forest Department has not taken a decision despite demands from the villagers.

try to get community rights over

As reported earlier, Ramesh

necessary under Bombay Forest Rules. We have to be sure about all the aspects before TPs are ziven.

Subodh Kulkarni, an activist inected with Mendha, said "While the media is speculating about the TP issue, the village doesn't know anything. If the gram sabha has been considered as the ultimate arbiter of issues related to the village, why shouldn't it be informed about

27 अप्रैल को मेंढाटोला में दूसरी बार लिखा जाएगा इतिहास

बांबू विक्रीची परवाना पुस्तिका आज समारंभपूर्वक देणार भावना व कार्य जा अर्थना कार्यना अर्थना त्येत प्रवेद मुख्यतंत्र प्रवेत करता वध्य हे ताव्य र्णवाली आहेत. एमचे कांजने प्रयासको करू राज्यपुर्वता सेवावंक पुरिता पेणसे लेके जनवारे व भी मन्द्रमं स्वतं ही, म्ये किर्णना के कार नागते किनेग डापेली ही प्रोई प्रीत्यकारी गराच केना महत्व राज्यात्रकाल जीवर्तका विकोच बाल पार्वकाळे बटीकोलेचे निवस्तिकाले अनुस पाले पाने एक केरब आवेतित केले. य केरकेल रावन मुग्रा कालंग्राह ए के जेले बावे ब्रोलेग्रा

लेखामेढा ग्रामसभेपुढे अखेर प्रशासन नमले आदिवासी होणार जंगलाचे मालक 📕 जयराम रमेत्रा व मुख्यमंत्री येणार





The first village in the coun-JAIRAM RAMESH forest under the Forest Rights Act बांस को मिलेगी वन विभाग से मुक्ति had written to state governments

केंद्रीय पर्यावरण मंत्री

जयराज रजेश मुख्यानंत्री

पृश्वीराज चौहान की

उपरियति में करेंने

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### महाराष्ट्र शासन ा वन उपज दर्जाप्रदान कार्यक्रम

केंद्र व राज्य शासनाचे संयुक्त विद्यमाने बांबुला गौण वन उपजाचा दर्जा देवून तद अनुषंगिक वन हक्क प्रदान करण्याचा कार्यक्रम दिनांक २७ एप्रिल, २०११ रोजी मौजा लेखामेंढा ता. धानोरा येथे सकाळी ११. ०० वाजता खालील मान्यवरांच्या उपस्थितीत आयोजित केलेला आहे.

स्थल- लेखामेंढा ता. धानोरा जि. गडचिरोली दिनांक - २७ एप्रिल २०११ ्वेळ :- सकाळी ११.०० वाजता



मा. ना. श्री. जबरामजी रमेश राज्यमधी (रवसंत्र प्रभार) वन व पर्यावरण, भारत सरकार

कार्यक्रमाचे उद्धाटक



कार्यक्रमाचे भच्यस

ना. श्री. पृथ्वीराजजी चव्हाण मुख्यमंत्री, महाराष्ट्र राज्य



बांबू वन कायद्यातून मुक्त

विल्लीतील सरकार आले गल्लीत!

pril

प्रमुख उपस्थिती

मा. ना. श्री. आर. आर. पार्टील

गृहमंत्री, महाराष्ट्र राज्य, तथा, पालकमंत्री गडविरोली जिल्हा

आजादी मेंढा झाले 'पिपली' लाईव्ह : शीएम

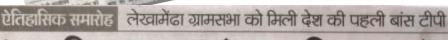
बांस आधारित जयराम के हाशो ভয়ান নিৰ্মাল रीपी का वितरण 18

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#### प्रमुख घोषणाए

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बतान कर कही हार जा भाषानुष जे ते जा हो है? आदि प्रधाने के भय तथा राज्य अनीय कर विश्वन के वे हैं। यह भग पंग अधिवारी आयो



Bamboo liberation day

देशातील

### Labour payment by Gramsabha

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### Bamboo Bill

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### Gramsabha's Tax Registration



## Transit Pass issued by Gramsabha





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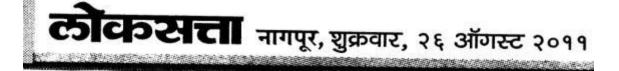
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### Gramsabha PAN Card



# By the People, For the People...



### NOTICE-INVITING TENDER GRAM SABHA MENDHA (LEKHA)

NOTICE-INVITING TENDER FOR THE ADVANCE SALE OF BAMBOOS TO BE EXTRACTED FROM COMPARTMENT NO. 470 & 468 OF MENDHA AND BORIA BAMBOO FELLING SERIES RESPECTIVELY OF SOUTH DHANORA RANGE, GAD-CHIROLI FOREST DIVISION OF MAHARASHTRA STATE.

- As per the resolution no. 3 Dated 15.08.2011 passed in the meeting of Gram Sabha Mendha (Lekha) and Pursuant to The Scheduled Tribes and Other Traditional Forest Dwellers (Recognition of Forest Rights) Act, 2006 and the rules made there under Sealed Tenders in the prescribed tender form are invited by the Gram Sabha Mendha (Lekha) as per terms and condition of Tender for the advance sale of bamboos to be extracted from compartments No. 470 & 468 of Mendha and Boria felling series respetively of South Dhanora Range of Gadchiroli Division, M.S.
- 2. A blank tender in the prescribed form and other documents relating thereto will be available in the office of the Gram Sabha from 06.09.2011 to 12.09.2011 from 11.00 AM to 5.00 P.M. on all working days on payment of Rs. 2000/- (Rupees Two Thousand only) in cash which amount shall not be refunded under any circumstances. Form of tender and other documents relating there to are non transferable.
- 3. Tender in the prescribed form duly filled in signed and completed in all respect and accompanied by <u>carnest money amount</u> equivalent to 10% (Ten Percent) of the total purchase price offered by the tenderer for the purchase of cut and collected bamboos for which the tender has been submitted should be forwarded by registered post with A.D. in the sealed envelope superscribed with the following words and should reach at the under mentioned address before 14.00 hours on Dt. 14.09.2011:-

#### \* TENDER FOR THE ADVANCE SALE OF BAMBOOS AS PER NOTICE-INVITING TENDER BY GRAM SABHA MENDHA (LEKHA)'

or should be dropped in the sealed box kept for the purpose in the office of the Gram Sabha at Mendha (Lekha) on date 14.09.2011 from 10.00 to 14.00 hours. The tenders will be opened in the office of the Gram Sabha on same day at 15.00 hrs in the presence of the tenderer or their representative who may be present at that time.

- 4. Purchase rate exclusive of taxes will be quoted for the bamboos. The act of tendering shall be deemed to be unreserved acceptance of all the terms and conditions of the Tender Inviting Notice & Conditions of Tender and contract and form of Agreement.
- The Right to accept or reject any tender without assigning any reason thereof is reserved by the Gram Sabha.
- For any further information please contact:- Shri Devaji Navalu Tofa, At Mendha (Lekha) or on Cell No. 09421734018 or Shri Mohan Hirabai Hiralal on Cell No. 09422835234 or Shri Subodh Kulkarni on Cell No. 09422907330.

Date:- 22.08.2011	P
Place:- Mendha (Lekha)	<ul> <li>For and on behalf of the</li> </ul>
	Gram Sabha Mendha (Lekha)
	Post Heti, Taluka Dhanora, Dist. Gadchiroli (M.S.)
	Pin Code- 442 606

# Future Projects Envisaged...

- To adopt relevant nursery techniques for commercial cultivation of various species of bamboos that are technically compatible as the raw material for housing, furniture and other articles
- To promote technology of post-harvest treatment of bamboo to enhance its shelf life i.e. saving it from fungi, bacteria, insect borers and rot
- To arrange skill development trainings of bamboo cultivation, post-harvest process, value addition and market promotion for sustainable livelihood
- To transform 'Gotul' into a Community owned 'Vibrant Experiential Learning Centre' equipped with modern tools and methodologies, open for all the people!

# **Our Submission...**

- For all the other villages in Gadchiroli district, Zilha Parishad and Revenue Dept. should own the responsibility of preparing the CFR claims through a time-bound campaign.
- In case of all villages other than Mendha(Lekha) and Marda, illegal terms & conditions are mentioned in the Record of Rights (Title) which contravenes the provisions and basic objectives of the Act and rules. Immediate action should be taken to remove the same to gain confidence and trust of the people in such disturbed areas. Any authority denying the rights should be punished as per the Act.
- Gramsabha, vested with CFR should be given status of "Village Bio-Diversity Management Committee" (VBMC)" under Sec.41 of the 'Bio-Diversity Act, 2002'. The capacity building of this VBMC shall be done to prepare People's Biodiversity Register (PBR) and use it in the planning process.

- Gramsabha (GS) should be empowered by providing financial assistance and appropriate training for preparing 'Integrated Watershed Development Programme' and implement the same on priority under NREGA and MREGS.
  - A team of youths selected by GS should be given technical training for preparation of work designs & budget estimates; getting them sanctioned by the authority and then implementation under NREGA and MREGS. GS should be granted with 5% amount of the total sanctioned budget directly for this activity.

In the section 9(b) of the GR about Joint Forest Management Programme of the Govt. it has been mentioned clearly that- "50% of the total amount gained from the auction of forest produce (Excl.the amt of Sales Tax, Forest Development tax and Income Tax) will be transferred in cash to the respective JFMC of the village."

Mendha(Lekha) and many other villages in Gadchiroli are actively participating in the programme from 1992 till date and eligible for this share as certified by the Forest Department. JFMC's have not been shown a Statement of Accounts ever. his long pending amount should be immediately released to the respected JFMC's to gain trust amongst the communities.

- Villages which have been vested Community Right, should be given training and necessary working capital support for Bamboo cutting activity and other MFP collection, processing and marketing. Minimum support price (MSP) mechanism should be developed. All the procedural documents such as Transit Pass Book (TP) should be provided to Gramsabha. This will build trust that the Acts and Laws for the people are not only on paper.
- Voluntary Organisations and Individuals supporting the Gramsabhas should be involved officially in all the district level committees and meetings.

