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Now, tribal youths to further FRA cause

BHUBANESWAR: Now tribal youth ambassadors can take up the cause of land patta distribution and other provisions under the Forest Rights Act (FRA) to new heights.

To create more awareness on FRA these youth ambassadors would not only act as catalysts, but in future days they can be changing agents for the primitive tribal groups (PTGs) in implementing other welfare programmes implemented by the State Government. Participating at a workshop on betterment of Dongria Kandha through the active support of these youth ambassadors here today at SC, ST Research and Training Institute (SCSTRTI), many educated youths of the community felt that after their experience gathering they can return to their villages to educate more people on FRA.

Suresh Kumar Wadaka, a Plus Two passout from Khambeshi village and Sahadev Kadraka, a graduate of Khajuri village in Bissam Katak said even today majority of the community members have no idea on the Act.

They translated the proceedings and talks at the seminar in their own 'Kuvi' dialect. Jitu Jakesia, an MBA from the community, also took active part during the discussion. Earlier, the Lanjia Soura community members were given a briefing on FRA at SCSTRTI. Later other PTGs would be included in the process, said activists of Vasundhara, which conducted the event today.

Sankarshan Sahoo, Special Officer, Dongria Kandha Development Agency, said in Rayagada district 2,010 Dongria Kandhas have applied for land under FRA out of 9,000 population. However, 134 pattas have been handed over so far, he informed.

Language is a problem for making the tribal people and PTGs understand the provisions of FRA but the State has taken a lead in the country to initiate translation of the FRA in 10 major tribal languages, said Director SCSTRTI, AB Ota.

An orientation training programme on 'Sustainable agricultural development' for selected tribal beneficiaries of ITDAs and micro projects was also organised at the institute.

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