

Dear All

Himalaya Niti Abhiyan has resolved on 22th June on this issue and had already written to Minister MOTA Gol, Cm of HP and Jai Ram Ramesh. You have initiated good step and we endorse this petition. Copy of resolution passed by HNA is below.

Guman Singh

Resolution on CAF

Resolution on CAMPA Bill.

It is resolute by the seminar on 22nd June 2016 at Balichowki that the current CAMPA Bill 2016 completely opposite to the forest right act 2006, in which the power to conserve and managing of forest is conferred with the communities. The section “5” of FRA and section 4(e) of the amended rules 2012 clearly define the powers and roles of the Gram Sabhas in conserving and managing of the forest. Furthermore the act also empower the Gram Sabha to prepare the forest working plan and inclusion of same with the forest working plan is essential component.

The CAMPA bill entirely ignoring the provisions and power conferred under forest right act to the Gram Sabha's and giving unjustified spaces and powers to forest bureaucracy and officials, further more the Bill also rejecting the consent of Gram Sbaha's on plantation under CAMPA thus overlook the ownership and rights to conserve and management of forest as per the FRA thus CAMPA bill is completely contradictory to the FRA 2006.

According to a recent study by RRI, almost half of the forest land in India should be recognized as being under Gram Sabha jurisdiction as a result of the Forest Rights Act. Almost all the degraded forest lands would come under Gram Sabha Jurisdiction, as these lands are closer to human habitations. Thus any effort to restore these forests or afforest these lands will require the consent and support of Gram Sabhas. This is precisely the reason that an amendment was introduced in the Rajya Sabha to ensure that any afforestation activity is only undertaken with the consent of the Gram Sabha.

In addition to this there are enough forest areas developed by the communities better than the forest department and even the survival of plantation in association with the communities is much higher than the plantation done exclusively by the forest bureaucracy. For example, in the decade of 2003-2013, official records show that 19.4 mha. of afforestation has been carried out. However, the country's forest cover has barely increased which raises questions about the efficacy of the massive afforestation effort.

We strongly recommend that the CAMPA funds must be transfer to the gram sabha's (under FRA) communities for preparing their forest working plan, afforestation and protection with the liberties to grow mixed forest not only planting the tree. Mixed forest here refer to as a composition of grass, climber, bushes, shrubs, herbs, fruit plants, timber plants, creepers, dry fruit plants etc. in addition to this the funds may be utilized for the development of geo-sensing monitoring tools. Forest bureaucracy has a very vital role of technical input and their technical input must be ensured in the bill.

Regards

Guman Singh
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