

Keystone



VRDP



TPFLR



CIO



Samanvaya



Press Note

Chennai, 3 June 2017

‘Workshop on Forest Rights Act & Tribal Livelihoods in Tamil Nadu’ held in Chennai

- Close to 100 Tribal leaders, Community leaders and NGOs Participated ●
- FRA Advocacy Group Formed To Monitor and Support Implementation ●

‘Workshop on Forest Right Act and Tribal Livelihoods in Tamil Nadu’ was held today (1 June 2017) at Chennai. The workshop was hosted by Keystone - Kotagiri, Village Reconstruction and Development Project (VRDP) – Salem & Tamil Nadu People’s Forum for Land Right (TPLFR).

Following resolutions were taken in the meeting

1. That the Tribal coalition will wait till the 15th of August before they launch a state wide movement towards pressurizing the government to take action on FRA. The coalition expects the government to distribute all the 2551 title by then.
2. The coalition demand that the FRA is implemented in its spirit and ensure no rights or process are abrogated at any level and by any department.
3. Formally acknowledge and allow NGOs and other civil society organisations in the implementation of the FRA in partnership with the government in training and monitoring the implementation.
4. Ministry should ensure proper reasons are communicated to the claimant for rejection of their application as prescribed by the act.
5. Department should create a special grievance cell to address the issues faced by Tribals.
6. Department to publish the work taken by the ministry in the website on a monthly basis. Information to include claims at various levels, details of the members at FRC, SDLC, DLC and the state monitory committee for the FRA.
7. Tribal leaders will continue to facilitate more applications from the tribal communities in ensuring that as many tribals whose life and livelihood depend on the forests in the state get entitlements to the land.
8. The tribal leaders also resolved that they will bring as many young people and women into the decision making process as it is the women who are primarily affected due to restrictions in forest use.
9. The tribal leaders also agreed and resolved to create districtwise awareness plans and programmes that will ensure better understanding and more clarity among the departments involved, viz., tribal welfare, forest and revenue apart from the tribal groups themselves.
10. The NGOs facilitating the process also agreed to create a joint secretariat in Chennai that will help with advocacy efforts, enable knowledge sharing among the various groups and keep everyone updated on the FRA implementation status in the state.
11. It was also resolved to meet once in every three months to share information and monitor the progress

Contact

Keystone



VRDP



TPFLR



CIO



Samanvaya



