

**Participatory Learning Exercises on Forest Rights Act (FRA) 2006**  
**West Bengal Jana Shramajibi Mancha**

This PLE format is designed to gather insights into the perceptions and impacts of the Forest Rights Act 2006 on the livelihoods of people in and around forest areas, West Bengal.

The FRA 2006 was enacted to recognize the rights of forest-dwelling communities over land and resources. This survey focuses on how well these rights are understood and how they influence agricultural and fishing activities, income, and overall livelihood. The data collected will be used to assess the effectiveness of the Act and identify areas for improvement in its implementation. Your responses are crucial for understanding the ground realities and ensuring that the benefits of the FRA 2006 reach the intended beneficiaries. Thank you for your participation.

Please ensure to collect responses in a respectful and confidential manner, preserving the anonymity of the participants.

**Objective:** The purpose of this questionnaire is to understand the perception of the Forest Rights Act 2006 among the local community. Additionally, it aims to assess the correlation of FRA 2006 with their livelihood and income-generating activities.

**Section 1: Demographic Information**

- a) Name:
- b) Age:
- c) Gender:
- d) Occupation:
- e) Farmer
- f) Fisherman
- g) Both
- h) Other (please specify)
- i) Education Level:
- j) No formal education
- k) Primary
- l) Secondary
- m) Higher Secondary
- n) Graduate
- o) Size of Landholding (in acres):
- p) Less than 1 acre

- q) 1-2 acres
- r) 2-5 acres
- s) More than 5 acres
- t) Type of Housing:
- u) Kuccha (Mud)
- v) Pucca (Concrete)
- w) Mixed

## **Section 2: Awareness and understanding of FRA 2006**

Are you aware of the Forest Rights Act 2006?

- a) Yes
- b) No

If yes, how did you come to know about FRA 2006?

- a) Government officials
- b) NGOs
- c) Community meetings
- d) Media (TV, Radio, Newspapers)
- e) Others (please specify)

Do you understand the rights provided under FRA 2006?

- a) Yes, fully
- b) Yes, partially
- c) No

Have you attended any awareness programs or training sessions on FRA 2006?

- a) Yes
- b) No

## **Section 3: Perception of FRA 2006**

Do you think FRA 2006 has benefited the local community?

- a) Yes
- b) No
- c) Not sure

How has FRA 2006 impacted your personal livelihood?

- a) Positively
- b) Negatively
- c) No impact

In what ways has FRA 2006 benefited you? (Select all that apply)

- a) Access to forest land for agriculture
- b) Access to forest resources (e.g., wood, fruits)
- c) Legal recognition of land rights
- d) Increased income
- e) Others (please specify)

Have you faced any challenges or issues with the implementation of FRA 2006?

- a) Yes
- b) No

If yes, please specify the challenges:

- a) Bureaucratic hurdles
- b) Lack of awareness
- c) Conflicts with forest officials
- d) Others (please specify)

#### **Section 4: Correlation with Livelihood and Income**

Has FRA 2006 affected your agricultural practices?

- a) Yes
- b) No
- c) Not sure

If yes, how has it affected your agricultural practices?

- a) Increased land for cultivation
- b) Better crop yields
- c) Access to new farming techniques
- d) Others (please specify)

Has FRA 2006 provided opportunities for additional income-generating activities?

- a) Yes
- b) No

If yes, what type of activities? (Select all that apply)

- a) Collection and sale of forest produce
- b) Agro-forestry
- c) Eco-tourism
- d) Others (please specify)

How has your income changed since the implementation of FRA 2006?

- a) Increased significantly
- b) Increased moderately
- c) No change
- d) Decreased

Do you think the benefits of FRA 2006 are sustainable in the long term?

- a) Yes
- b) No
- c) Not sure

#### **Section 4: Non-Timber Forest Products (NTFPs)**

Do you collect non-timber forest products (NTFPs) as part of your livelihood?

- a) Yes
- b) No

If yes, which NTFPs do you collect? (Select all that apply)

- a) Honey
- b) Estuarine fish
- c) Crabs
- d) Molluscs
- e) Prawn fingerlings
- f) Others (please specify)

*[Bamboo – Used for construction, handicrafts, and as a raw material for paper.*

*Cane – Widely used for furniture, baskets, and other craft products.*

*Sal Leaves – Collected for making plates, bowls, and packaging material.*

*Tendu Leaves – Primarily used in the beedi (local cigarette) industry*

*Lac – Resin secreted by insects, used in varnishes, dyes, and cosmetic products.*

*Mahua Flowers and Seeds – Used to make local liquor, oil, and dry sweet products.*

*Kendu Fruit – Edible fruit used locally, also processed for medicinal use.*

*Neem – Leaves, seeds, and bark are collected for medicinal purposes and biopesticide production.*

*Siali Leaves – Used for making plates and other utility items.*

*Wild Mushrooms – Harvested seasonally, used in local cuisines and for sale in nearby markets.*

*Medicinal Plants – Several species such as Amla (Indian Gooseberry), Haritaki, Bahera, and Ashwagandha are collected for traditional medicine.*

*Turmeric and Ginger (Wild varieties) – Sometimes harvested in forest regions.*

*Roselle (Gongura) – Used for its leaves in culinary applications and pickles.*

*Wild Fruits – Various wild fruits like Ber (Indian Jujube), Jamun, and Mango are collected for local consumption and sale.]*

How important are NTFPs to your overall income?

- a) Very important
- b) Moderately important
- c) Slightly important
- d) Not important

Has FRA 2006 affected your access to NTFPs?

- a) Yes
- b) No
- c) Not sure

If yes, how has it affected your access to NTFPs?

- a) Increased access
- b) Decreased access
- c) No change

Are there any challenges in collecting NTFPs? (Select all that apply)

- a) Seasonal restrictions
- b) Conflicts with forest officials
- c) Environmental changes
- d) Market access
- e) Others (please specify)

Do you receive any support or training for sustainable collection of NTFPs?

- a) Yes
- b) No

If yes, who provides the support or training?

- a) Government agencies
- b) NGOs
- c) Community groups
- d) Others (please specify)

**Section 5: Suggestions and Feedback**

What are your suggestions for improving the implementation of FRA 2006?

**Any additional comments or feedback:**