

Centre for Science and Environment (CSE), New Delhi and
Media Unity for Freedom of Press (MUFP), Odisha

**Fellowship Media Briefing Workshop on
The Forest Rights Act (FRA)**



**March 4-5, 2011
Room 1, Red Cross Bhawan, Unit IX
Bhubaneswar-22, Odisha**

Day 1: Friday, March 4, 2011

9.30 am: **Registration**

Papia Samajdar, CSE

9.50-10.00 am: **Welcome address**

Prasanta Patnaik and Rabi Das, senior journalists and MUFP members

10.00-11.00 am: **The Forest Rights Act -- an overview** (with special focus on settlement of individual rights, minor forest produce (MFP), community rights and PESA)

Speaker: Richard Mahapatra, CSE

11.00-11.15 am: *Tea*

11.15 am-12.00 noon: **The FRA, its background and its implications** (including land acquisition and prior informed consent)

Panelists: Sanjay Upadhyaya, advocate, Supreme Court of India and managing partner, Enviro Legal Defence Firm, New Delhi; Mohan Hirabai Hiralal, Vrikshamitra, Chandrapur, Maharashtra

Moderator: Prafulla Das (The Hindu), MUFP member

12.00 noon-12.45 pm: **Special areas and FRA**

Panelists: C R Bijoy, tribal rights activist, Coimbatore; Y Giri Rao, Vasundhara, Bhubaneswar

Moderator: Sampad Mahapatra (NDTV), MUFP member

12.45-1.30 pm: **Land acquisition and FRA**

Panelists: *R Sridhar, Environics Trust, New Delhi; Arvind Behera, secretary, forests, government of Odisha; Santosh Sarangi, secretary / Sanjeev Chaddha, director, department of tribal development, Odisha; Debojit Sarangi, Living Farms, Odisha*

Moderator: *Prasanta Patnaik*

1.30-2.30 pm: *Lunch*

2.30-3.30 pm: **Panel discussion: Perspectives on FRA**

Panelists: *S N Patro, revenue minister, Odisha; Rabi Das*

Moderator: *Richard Mahapatra*

3.30-5.00 pm: **Testimonies from states**

- *Madhya Pradesh and Chhattisgarh: Vishal Nayak, Samarthan, Bhopal*
- *Odisha: Naresh Jena, Odisha Jungle Manch, Odisha,*
- *Maharashtra: Mohan Hirabai Hiralal*

Moderator: *Sudhir Patnaik (Samadrushti), MUFP member*

5.00-5.15 pm: *Tea*

5.15-6.30 pm: **Panel discussion: Bamboo, tree or grass?**

Panelists: *Mohan Hirabai Hiralal; Y Giri Rao*

Moderator: *Richard Mahapatra*

Day 2: Saturday, March 5, 2011

Field trip to Koska village in Nayagarh district: Located around 90 km from Bhubaneswar, Koska has a 40-year-long history of community forestry, and has struggled a lot to claim community forest rights under FRA.

Trip coordinator: *Prabhat Mishra, RCDC, Odisha*