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STRC-GUG Jurisdiction

- * Gadchiroli District
- * Chandrapur District
(Maharashtra, India)



**Science & Technology Resource Centre
Gondwana University, Gadchiroli**

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Communities and Conservation; An overview of Community Conserved Areas (CCAs) of Central India

Indigenous and Community Conserved Areas (ICCAs) are defined as: *"Natural and modified ecosystems including significant biodiversity, ecological services and cultural values voluntarily conserved by indigenous and local communities through customary laws or other effective means."*

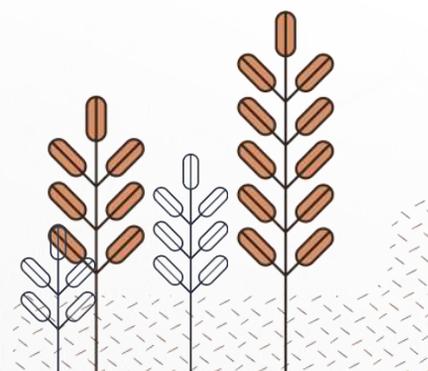
Rural communities in India and elsewhere have played a critical role in conservation of a variety of natural environments and species since ages. Their understanding of the conservation values originates from their close association with their landscape owing to various economic, cultural, spiritual or aesthetic reasons. There are a large number of sacred forests, wetlands, village lakes, catchment forests, rivers and coastal stretches, marine areas, etc. in India that are being protected and conserved by the local communities. These communities have been conserving these areas even before modern day biodiversity conservation practices came into being and the government took up a dominant role in the conservation of forests and other natural areas.

Modern day conservation is primarily based on the concept of Protected Areas (PAs) such as National Parks, Wildlife Sanctuaries, etc. covering around 4.9% of the total geographical area of our country. Though substantial, the PAs in India are still discrete and isolated patches of forests and other ecosystems managed exclusively for wildlife and/ or biodiversity conservation. In addition, there are large numbers of areas rich in biodiversity which are outside the domain of PAs and are protected and managed by the communities in those areas. These Community Conserved Areas (CCAs) such as sacred groves, community forests, private interspersed forests in tea, coffee and cardamom gardens and other production landscapes, farm lands, wastelands, wetlands, coastal habitats, etc. have varied tenurial status as well.

The Ministry of Environment and Forest in India had formed a committee for looking into the Management and Funding of CCAs in 2009, which in its draft report recognized the importance of such habitats as corridors for wildlife between PAs, thus ensuring connectivity in the landscape. India's wildlife Action Plan (2002-16) also provides for protection of wildlife in multiple use areas including CCAs. The Central Government of India has consequently acknowledged the existence of these community driven conservation efforts, and has decided to support such efforts through technical and financial support. This effort by the GoI recognizes the fact that substantial biodiversity exists outside the Protected Areas which are being conserved by various communities for long and it now intends to support such community initiatives and practices in order to mainstream them into the conservation efforts by Government. We can find many such examples in the Vidarbha region of Maharashtra too.

The primary aim should be to support and strengthen the capacity of communities in conserving or managing the CCAs in a sustainable manner and to derive equitable benefit from the sharing of traditional knowledge. A parallel goal is to develop and apply strategies that will bring recognition to community led conservation initiatives and mainstream such efforts in the broader policy framework in respective states and at the national level. The first step in this direction is to identify such community initiatives across the state, map them and collect basic information on them. There have been such efforts made in central India, especially Odisha and Madhya Pradesh.

The Author heads the Science & Technology Resource Centre and was leading the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) implemented project 'Natural Resource Conservation outside Protected Areas' in partnership with the Ministry of Environment and Forests (MoEF), Government of India in Odisha during the 2010-13 period.



Implementation of Livelihood Enhancement Programs (Aquaculture, Bamboo & Agriculture)

As part of the currently ongoing livelihood programs such as; Paddy Productivity Enhancement (PPE) and Vegetable Farming, STRC has initiated Mobile Demonstration Unit (MDU) based technology awareness sessions and periodic field monitoring to ensure smooth implementation. STRC has envisaged to bring 100 paddy/ vegetable farmers on board this season to demonstrate and disseminate advance agronomy Package of Practice (Saguna Rice Technology).

Under the jointly implemented Aquaculture project by STRC and MAFSU, installation of two Portable Carp Hatcheries at the project sites (Korchi and Kurkheda) have been completed. Efforts are on to constitute two Fish-farmers' Interest Groups (FIGs) with 25 members each around each of these hatcheries.

As per the mandate of Bamboo Crafts and Livelihood, STRC is presently engaged in developing a cadre of bamboo artisans across Gadchiroli district. The prime focus is on recognising artisans by issuing them 'PEHCHAN card' (an initiative of DC Handicraft, Ministry of Textile). STRC is engaged in collection of artisan data of traditional communities.



Field exercise in Technology Need Assessment for BBA Forest Management Students (Model Degree College, Gondwana University, Gadchiroli)

STRC organised a Technology Need Assessment exercise for BBA-Forest Management students of Model Degree College, Gondwana University Gadchiroli, as part of their field exposure. The 3-day exercise conducted across 7 villages around Gadchiroli was mainly centred around Natural Resource Mapping, including major forest produce, water bodies, paddy lands etc. Students and faculties participated in this exercise.



Development of Digital Database using Q-GIS

With a view of consolidating the project beneficiary information under various projects, STRC is using Quantum Geographical Information System (Q-GIS)-*Open-Source Spatial Analysis Software*, to collect and consolidate field data. As part of this initiative, a one-day training program was organised for STRC Local Resource Persons (LRPs) to make them familiar with the field application of Q-GIS. Data collection is currently underway.

Potgaon Village , Wadsa Block

Goatry and poultry farm work process

One-Day workshop on Advanced Vegetable Farming

Science and Technology Resource Centre, Gondwana University, Gadchiroli (STRC-GUG) has been working on dissemination of Good Agricultural Practices (GAP) under its farm productivity enhancement initiatives. In an effort to engage with farmers from various blocks in Gadchiroli district, a One-Day Workshop was organised on 30th May 2022, at Rajgata chek (*a village near Jepra, 15 km away from Gadchiroli*) to apprise the 30 participating farmers on the importance of Good Agricultural Practices (GAP) in vegetable farming.

Subject Matter Specialist from Krushi Vgyan Kendra (KVK), Sonapur Shri. Suchit Lakade and Junior Scientific Officer-STRC Ms. Kajal Khevale stressed on the importance of employing GAP in vegetable cultivation for higher productivity leading to enhanced income for the local vegetable farmers and encouraged them to adopt these new methods of cultivation.



Glimpse of the Month



High Quality Seeds being distributed to Vegetable Farmers at Kharpundi (Gadchiroli Block)



Community Interaction to understand Agricultural concerns of Ramala village (Armori Block)



Interactive Technical Sessions on Paddy Productivity Enhancement through SRT (Chamorshi Block)

Kusum (*Schleichera oleosa* (Lour.) Oken)

Schleichera oleosa, commonly known as Ceylon Oak and 'Kusum' in India is a large deciduous tree found across south-east Asia and in the Indian subcontinent. Very common in Central India, *Kusum* has a lot of commercial and medicinal importance.

As the name *Oleosa* (*Oleos means oil*) suggest, the plant seeds contains high amount of edible oil which is used for cooking and also as hair oil. It has a lot of commercial value. The bark of the *Kusum* tree is used to treat multiple skin infections and other ailments by the forest fringed communities. The fruits are a great source of Vitamin C, Zinc, Iron and other trace minerals and is a popular summer fruit. Similarly, the leaves of the *Kusum* plant are used to prepare plates and bowls. Along with all the benefits derived from its uses, *Schleichera oleosa*, is great host plant for Lac cultivation.



Vernacular name

English - Ceylon Oak

Hindi / Marathi - Kusum

Gondi (Local Language) – Kojub



STRC Assistance for S & T Application Scheme



This scheme presents an unique opportunity for R & D inclined short term, small grant for relevant, applicable research projects to support STRC mandate and to help create an R & D eco-system

Nature of Projects Under the Scheme



- 01 S & T Studies and Surveys
- 02 Location Specific Research & Innovative Technology Development
- 03 Pilot Scale Demonstration Project
- 04 Replication of Successful Models
- 05 Joint Programs
- 06 Awareness and Trainings
- 07 Projects with Students Participation

Who Can Apply?



Ph.D. Scholars, Researchers, Faculties, Master Students, NGOs and Exceptionally Relevant R & D based Proposals from Independent Individuals/ Institutes

Project Duration



Up to 6 Months

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How to Apply ?



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Assess the Proposal Relevance



Draft the Pre-Proposal in the Prescribed Format



Submit Your Pre-Proposal

Please Visit the Website for Scheme Details and Proposal Format www.strc.org.in

Contact Details : 8788874282 / 9748011986 strc.academic@gmail.com,
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Science & Technology Resource Centre
Gondwana University, Gadchiroli

Applications are
invited throughout
the Year