

Monthly Updates- July 2026

Empowering Tribal Economies through Regenerative Natural Agriculture and Livelihoods (ETERNAL)

Overview

Project ETERNAL is being implemented across Odisha and Jharkhand in partnership with The Gates Foundation. The project works to unlock the economic potential of tribal communities by strengthening regenerative natural agriculture, diversifying livelihoods, and building community ownership over natural resources, while preserving indigenous knowledge and cultural identity. Operating at no cost to state governments, CRISP functions as a systems-reform partner, providing technical guidance and field support, with state ownership central to the design.

Project Goal

The objective is to catalyse a nature-based economic resurgence of tribal communities in Odisha and Jharkhand, rooted in sustainable livelihoods, dignity, and local ownership. Despite rich natural resources and deep indigenous ecological knowledge, tribal households in both states continue to face livelihood vulnerabilities and persistent poverty. ETERNAL seeks to address this by leveraging two landmark legislations, the Forest Rights Act (FRA) and the Panchayats (Extension to Scheduled Areas) Act (PESA), to secure and activate community rights, and by building economic systems around regenerative agriculture, Non-Timber Forest Produce, and women-led enterprise.

Key Pillars



Strengthening the implementation of PESA and FRA at the village level



Promoting low-input, chemical-free farming and revive natural agriculture



Enhancing NTFP-based livelihoods



Strengthening SHGs and producer groups/womens collectives



Value Addition & Market Access

Progress this Month

Jharkhand

- Prepared the project action plan, outlining key activities, timelines, and implementation strategy.
- Liaised with the concerned department to identify and discuss potential pilot areas for project implementation.
- The file has been approved by the department. The formal communication letter is being drafted currently.
- The pilot locations have been identified in consultation with the department.
- Incorporated the proposed revisions to the project budget and finalized the budget for implementation.

Odisha

- The project proposal has been developed, incorporating the project objectives, implementation strategy, and key deliverables. Following a thorough review, the proposal has received approval from the mentors.
- Liaison and coordination with relevant departments and stakeholders are currently underway. The proposal will be submitted to the Mission Shakti Department upon completion of the signing process and the streamlining of the BLESS project.

Way Forward

Jharkhand

- Obtain the formal approval letter for the project and share it with the stakeholders in the chosen pilot areas.
- Visit the pilot areas to build rapport with the stakeholders.

Odisha

- A field visit has been planned to identify potential project villages and suitable Community Resource Persons (CRPs). The visit will be undertaken once the weather conditions (heavy rainfall due to deep depression) improve to ensure effective field assessment and stakeholder engagement.