

Monthly Updates- May 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

- The file for approval in the JSLPS office due to the vacancy of CEO for the last one month. The new CEO, JSLPS took charge from June 1st 2026.
- A Fellow for Jharkhand has been assigned for the project.
- A Gantt chart with work and activity flow has been prepared for the project.

Odisha

- Development of the project action plan is underway, alongside scoping of the target population and pilot geography. A literature review is also being conducted to inform project design and implementation.

Way Forward

Jharkhand

- Getting the final executive letter of approval from JSLPS for the project.
- Finalisation of pilot areas.
- Approval of the action plan from the CEO, JSLPS.

Odisha

- Appointment of State Fellow to coordinate activities across the State.
- Finalisation of the Action Plan for consolidating activities.