CRISP
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Centre for Research in Schemes and Policies

Monthly Updates- October 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

- Engaged with the department to facilitate the issuance of the official letter for initiating the pilot.
- The letter is now in the Minister Madam's office.

Odisha

- Engaged at the state level for capacity building of block PESA coordinators.

Way Forward

Jharkhand

- Initiate the pilot and begin the planned activities once the letter is received.

Odisha

- Planning the pilots for the regenerative farming by linking it to the BLESS project in selected two blocks.