



## **Minutes of Technical Validation Workshop**

**4<sup>th</sup> August 2015 at Hotel Suryansh, Bhubaneswar**



## **Gender Equitable Land Governance Study in Odisha**

**The World Bank,  
New Delhi**

**Centre for Land Governance,  
Natural Resource Management  
Consultants India Pvt. Ltd.,  
Bhubaneswar**

## **1. Overview and Objective of workshop**

### **1.1 Background**

Women's equitable and secure access to land and productive resources is a vital link between food security, sustainable resource management, peace and security, and consequently the reduction of poverty. In recent years, there have been increased advocacy at the global forums on the need of harmonising and formalising land resource for the most equitable and sustainable use in terms of economic, environmental and social desires. FAO's Voluntary Guidelines on the Responsible Governance of Tenure of land, Fisheries and Forests, (VGGT) intends to ensure that women and men participate equally in their relationships to land, through both formal institutions and informal arrangements for land administration and management. (FAO, 2012 and UN, 2014).

World Bank supports implementation of VGGT, by promoting initiatives to better clarify and secure the property rights around natural resources with due attention to the recognition of rights of women and those of indigenous peoples and enhance the transparency of the adjudication and transaction processes related to these rights. In Odisha, this study is covered under Bank's activity 'review and compilation of global lessons learned and good practices', with focus on experiences around women rights around homestead land.

Odisha has pioneered gender sensitive approach to land governance with certain policy provisions for joint titling of land especially around homestead land distributions and enabling more institutional participation of women through specific reservations in land governing institutions.

With support of the World Bank, NR Management Consultants India Pvt. Ltd., Bhubaneswar has taken up a study to review and compile the efforts of the state towards gender equitable land governance, to document the best practices and challenges and suggest recommendations for suitable orientations in policy, institutional arrangements as well as outline capacity building gaps and strategies to broaden and deepen engagements around gender equitable land governance.

### **1.2 Overview and Objective**

As part of the study, a Technical Validation workshop was held on 04<sup>th</sup> August 2015 at Hotel Suryansh, Bhubaneswar. The objective of the workshop was to share salient findings on processes and progress made around gender equitable land tenure arrangements, best practices and challenges along with ground-happenings and post-land rights situations captured through community and stakeholders opinions and also exploring options through consultation for capacity enhancement of the existing institutional framework for a more equitable gender land governance vis-à-vis VGGT in Odisha.

### **1.3 Attendees**

More than 50 participants from the State Govt. Departments viz. RDM Department, Housing & Urban Development department, NIC, SC ST Development Department, Academia, consultants and civil society representatives involved in land rights work in Odisha including LGAF think tanks participated in the workshop. The list of participants is annexed (Annexure-ii).

## **2. Inaugural session**

The workshop was inaugurated by Mr G C Pati, IAS, Chief Secretary, Government of Odisha in presence of Dr T Haque, Chairman, CSD, New Delhi and Advisor, GELG study, Mr Aurobindo Behera, IAS (Retd.), Ex-Member, Board of Revenue, Ms Sashiprava Bindhani, State information Commissioner, Mr Satya Mishra, The World Bank, Mr Sudarshan Panda, Joint Secretary, Revenue &

Disaster Management department, Government of Odisha and Mr Pranab Ranjan Choudhury, Coordinator, GELG study.

### **2.1 Welcome address and briefing on the workshop by Dr T Haque**

Dr T Haque, Advisor, GELG study, welcoming the delegates to the workshop, briefed the study objectives in line of FAO's VGGT. He emphasized the need of concerted effort by both state and non-state actors to make the land governance process in Odisha inclusive and gender equitable. Highlighting the key findings of the GELG study in Odisha, he pointed out that women holding only 3.3% of total land holdings in the state are a matter of concern. He suggested the state to address such gender inequity issues around land to reduce poverty and social insecurity in the state. Institutional challenges and technological gaps in land governance system of Odisha, he felt, should be improved in the state and urged the government to act upon the recommendations of the study.

### **2.2 Address by World Bank Representative Mr Satya Misha**

Mr Satya Mishra, the representative from the World Bank underlined the importance of Gender Equitable Land Governance in global context, which is now being implemented in 40 countries across the globe. He elaborated the implications of gender equitable land governance on human capital, social security, secure and sustainable livelihood, poverty reduction, children's education, fair participation and economic productivity. Highlighting the study findings and recommendation, he suggested to identify the actual landless and vulnerable women groups by making the identification process more inclusive. There is also need to see "how women members can be equally benefited from rehabilitation and resettlement act", he felt.

### **2.3 Address by Guest of Honour, Ms Shashiprava Bindhhani**

Ms Bindhani, State Information Commissioner, Odisha focused on civil society participation to make the governance process effective and meaningful. She mentioned that the study recommendations are directive and can better guide the state for giving justice to women. While, women with no land documents in their name face more challenges and threats, she was surprised, why so less number of women are demanding the benefits of the Hindu Succession (Amendment) Act, 2005. Pointing to the entrenched patriarchy in the state, she raised concerns about the fact that women, were not able to exercise their land rights due to socio-cultural reasons, while state seems to be yet not fully ready to wear a gender equitable lens. Access to land information viz. relevant land laws and schemes and services, are very poor in rural and tribal areas, and must be improved, she felt, while highlighting the need of making information and service delivery to women to more accountable. She suggested the RDM department to examine the study recommendations and act upon these to improve the situation of women in the state.

### **2.4 Address by Chief Guest Mr G C Pati, IAS, Chief Secretary, Govt. of Odisha**

Inaugurating the workshop Mr Pati acknowledged the importance of gender equitable land governance for the state. He thanked the World Bank and the study team of NRMCC, Bhubaneswar, for the analytical findings as well as for the key recommendations to the state government to better associate women in the process of development. Reiterating the importance of Women's secure land right for inclusive growth of the state, he cautioned that sustainable and inclusive development

can never be achieved without addressing the land ownership rights of women, who constitute 50% of the population. As Odisha has only 3.3% of land holdings in the name of women, he felt that it is very important for the state to work on enhancing this number. The skewed nature of land ownership can adversely affect agricultural growth, which is the mainstay of our economy. The current provision of providing joint patta to the landless under Vsundhara is a landmark initiative and can rectify the skewed pattern of land holding. Under the 'Housing for all' mission of Government of India, the landless and homestead less can be provided housing support. The state has also made special reservation for women in PRI institutions to increase their participation at the grass root level governance. However, there is need of more steps to increase participation of women at levels of land governance especially at the grass root level revenue offices.

He assured that the state will thoroughly examine the recommendations of this study and will take adequate actions to improve the situation of women around land governance as well to accelerate the process of women empowerment. He suggested participants discuss the recommendations and delineate action points to enable State to act expeditiously.

### **2.5 Presidential address by Dr Aurobindo Behera, IAS (Retd.), Member, Board of Revenue**

Following the remarks by Chief Secretary, Mr Behera explained the importance of the study findings for a state like Odisha and thanked the Chief Secretary for his support to this cause. Considering the fact that women play a vital role in the entire agricultural process than that of men, there is high need of removing disparities, inequalities and discrimination around entitlements and institutional participation, he felt. He recalled that Odisha had done many good works in land entitlements and allotments and had a good track record of land governance and administration. He was encouraged to see that more number of individuals and civil society organizations are coming forward to take part in the land governance process. However, there is a need of continuous support from the World Bank and other such donors, good political will and self-initiatives by the bureaucracy, to ensure good land governance in the state, he underlined. Highlighting the important role of information dissemination to achieve the goal of gender equitable land governance, he was happy to note that present the state information commission has a woman member Ms Bindhani, who happens to be the first women to occupy the position. He also mentioned that by appointing women in the top positions like State information Commissioner and Principal Secretary, Revenue & Disaster Management department, the state government has now given signals about its seriousness of the welfare and development of women in the state.



In Odisha, only 3.3% of total land holdings are owned by women. The state needs to address gender inequity issues around land governance to reduce poverty and social insecurity in the state

**Dr T Haque, Advisor, Gender Equitable Land Governance Study**



Women's secure land right is very important for inclusive and sustainable growth of the state. The skewed nature of land ownership can adversely affect agricultural growth which is the mainstay of our economy. Though Odisha has taken measures in the past to safeguard the land rights of women, more seems to be required do to ensure women's equitable access and participation around land governance. GOO will examine the study recommendations to improve the situation.

**G C Pati, IAS, Chief Secretary, Government of Odisha**



Women play a vital role in the entire agricultural process than that of men. It is important to remove disparities inequalities and discrimination around entitlements and institutional participation. There is need of continuous support from the World Bank, good political will, self-initiatives by the bureaucracy and participation of Civil Society for ensuring gender equitable land governance in the state

**Dr Aurobindo Behera, IAS (Retd.), Member, Board of Revenue**



Women with no land documents in their name face more challenges and threats. Access to land related information is highly constrained for rural and tribal women, and must be improved. There is need of civil society engagement in land based programmes.

**Shshiprava Bindhani, State Information Commissioner**



Gender equitable land governance has positive implication on human capital, social security, secure and sustainable livelihood, poverty reduction, children's education, fair participation and economic productivity. It is important to identify the actual landless and vulnerable women groups by making the process more inclusive.

**Satya Mishra, The World Bank**

## **2.6 Vote of Thanks by Mr Pranab Ranjan Choudhury, Coordinator, GELG Study**

Mr Choudhury thanked the Chief Secretary for his inspiring participation in the workshop and for his assurance to examine and act on the recommendations. He also conveyed thanks to other guests in the dais as well as participants for making the inaugural session meaningful. He requested all the participants to join in the technical session.

### 3. Technical session

#### 3.1 Study Presentation by Mr Pranab Ranjan Choudhury

Mr Choudhury made a presentation of the study covering study background, methodology and salient findings from field research as well as from peer group consultation and secondary research. He then discussed the key recommendations around policy, institutional as well as for enhancing land rights in the context of gender equitable land governance. Following were the key insights of the presentation.



Mr P R Choudhury presenting the study findings

##### 3.1.1 Present situation of women's land rights in Odisha

- In Odisha one fourth of the records (26.5%) seems to be in the name of women (either singly – 9.3% or jointly-17.2%) as per the analysis of the land records of the for 4 districts, maintained at the online portal Bhulekh
- As per Agricultural Census, 2011, however, only 3.3% of holdings are possessed by female in the state, in comparison to 12.8% for that of the country. ST women have comparatively more area and number of holdings in their name. Land holding area of women however remains less than male, under all social categories, and also less than country average. In term of Women Land Rights, Tribal region were better than coastal.
- 12% state households are female headed, 40% of which are landless (423,212 numbers) deriving major part of their income from manual labour (SECC, 2011).

##### 3.1.2 Insights from Field study conducted in 6 districts

- Two-third of women perceived secure land rights as an Insurance and Security against threats of illegal possession, displacement and future landlessness etc., followed by 45 % who felt land right is key to livelihood, while 7% viewed land right as a mean to access credit.
- ST women found to have better awareness about land grant schemes; awareness among married women better than single women.
- Three out of four homestead parcels allotted were jointly titled, where 12% were in the name of women and 14% were only men.
- In comparison to provision of allotment of land up to 10 decimal for homestead plots, the average size of homestead holdings for men was about 2.3 decimals, the same for women was 2 decimals and for joint titles, the size was less than 2 decimals.
- While as per Vasundhara guideline, homestead land must be allotted as per OGLS Act, in the field, most allotments have been made, following OPLE Rules, mainly for relative easiness in allotment and better control in case of later and also to avoid lengthy process and hierarchical channels required for OGLS.
- Most single women beneficiaries were found to not in possession of the land allotted to them through this OPLE route

- Single women have been found to be mostly the victims of non-possession (42%), in comparison to married women (18%) Unsuitable location of land (30%) and no demarcation of boundary (30%) seem to be major cause of non-possession of land allotted to women.
- In case of FRA, possession rate is quite high (91%) because of the involvement of village level PRIs in the land identification and allotment process.
- There is poor awareness among women about inheritance/mutation and partition of land and reasons for lack of inheritance of paternal property were attributed to custom and social practices (40%), smaller parcel size or no land from paternal side (52%), taking of share through dowry (15%) and bad relationship with brothers (8%) as major causes.
- A little more than a third of women respondents told about accessing revenue offices for different works; tribal districts show better accessibility. More than two third of women felt that presence of women staff in revenue offices would make it more accessible.
- Secure land rights for deserted or divorced women have led to improving the family relations, remarriage of widow, marriage of unmarried women and as a backup support for disabled women.
- Any decision on land was found to be taken either jointly (in case of married women) or by self (in case of single women).
- Free legal aid provision under Legal Services Authority Act was non-functional, both in terms of use and access by the women. Almost none (3%) of the women respondents seem to have heard of legal aid service and functioning of Lok Adalats at Taluk and District level.

### **3.1.2 Achievements & Enabling provisions for women's land rights**

- The state has achieved remarkably in providing 6.5 lakh land titles for homestead purpose through mostly joint titles with an additional recognition of rights of 3.4 lakh forest dwellers for cultivation purpose.
- Through CRP (Community Resource Person) Initiatives, 93% of homestead and farmland titles distributed were jointly titled, and 2.5% went to women-headed households
- The state's initiative around Women Support Centres (WSCs) helped in identifying 1.74 lakh single women identified by 76 WSCs. More than 2300 pattas have been distributed among the vulnerable women especially single women through WSCs.
- The state has made some enabling provisions for women's land rights at policy level such as circular for Joint titling, Odisha State Policy for Girls and Women, 2014, provision of 40% Bhoodan land to be distributed among women under etc.
- The state's enabling provisions in institutional arrangements around women's land rights include recruitment of women RI and ARI, women Tehsildars in Position, 76 Women Support Centers, and Innovations around Institutional Partnerships with CSOs and peer Influence.
- Best practices in regard to gender equitable land governance in the state were Women Support Centers with Landesa and Action Aid, Samvabhana around FRA in Kandhamal by Vasundhara, Women SHG land leasing in Rayagada by PRADAN, Land Literacy Program of Landesa with Care India and OWDM in 163 villages of 11 blocks.

### **3.1.3 Gaps and Challenges**

- The technical gaps included lack of practice of recording gender disaggregated data in land records and also in online portal, Bhulekh and also in court cases; lack of incentive systems for land registration in the name of women; limited coherence and linkage between different data sources around landlessness and lack of engendering in media and almost no focus on gender-audit.

- Gender equitable land governance is a challenging task for the state given poor awareness among women, lack of clear definition of single woman, HSA limitation in Tribal areas and limited documentation of customary practices, poor implementation of HSA Provisions, huge number of disputes regarding women's land and property rights pending before the courts, data deficit, limited gender-access to dispute redressal etc.
- Entrenched patriarchy & Social Bias, resource constraints, system Inertia, capacity gap and work fatigue are the major supply side gaps within state's revenue department

### 3.14. Study recommendations

The details of study recommendations agreed by all the participants are provided in the Recommendation section.

#### 4. Discussions and remarks on study findings

**Chair- Mr Biswar Nayak, Retired Special Secretary, SC ST Development Dept and Secretary, Board of Revenue**

**Co-Chair- Dr S K Srivastava, Director, ICAR-Central Institute for women in Agriculture.**

Discussion threads were around

##### 4.1 Application of Hindu Succession Act among tribal

- The application of Hindu Succession Act in tribal areas needs attention. As per clause 25 of Hindu Succession (Amendment) Act, 2005 it is not statutory and can be applicable among tribal, if Government of India can change it through a notification. As all other acts such as OLR, Ceiling Act, Odisha Tenancy Act, 1913 are applicable to tribal of the state, Hindu Succession Act should also be made equally applicable, opined some participants. There is also an order that wherever tribal show interest, HSA, 2005 shall be applicable.
- Another view point was that as tribal are governed by customs and are not Hindu, the provisions of Hindu Succession Act cannot be imposed on them. Tribal are also not aware of Hindu Succession Act (Amendment) Act, 2005.
- Inheritance of land by tribal women is subjected to socio-cultural dynamics. In case of dongria Kondha, daughters do not get any rights until marriage. Where there is polygamy, the second wife gets little share of land.
- There is need of sensitization on gender differences in access and control over land resources and also empowering tribal women to exercise their rights. Always customary practices are not discriminatory on ground of sex, there are also a few progressive customs. There is need of documenting these customary practices of different communities for enabling more informed dialogue and policy decision.



Mr B Nayak and Dr S K Srivatsava chairing the technical session



#### **4.2 Allotment of land under OGLS and OPLE**

- Allotment of land under OGLS is a lengthy process with so many procedural steps, often involving tedious hierarchical approvals. In contrast, OPLE is found to be easier by Tehsildars as regularization of encroachments are mostly under their purview. Therefore in most homestead allotment, this easier and safer route has been adopted for allotting land to the landless.
- There is a psychology that those who are in possession over land shall be allotted land. Moreover, there is politics and other factors in OPLE allotment as well.

#### **4.3 Awareness among women about HSA in urban areas**

- In urban areas also, women are less aware about provisions of policies and acts around women rights including the provisions of Hindu Succession (Amendment) Act, 2005, felt many participants. Therefore a pro-active awareness drive is required to educate women around land rights.

#### **4.4 Institutional presence and participation of women**

- There were differences of opinions regarding effectiveness of Women RIs in land governance in general and in ensuring gender equitable land governance in particular. However, field experiences as well as a majority felt that they have brought in substantial change in revenue administration, particularly making it more accessible and sober and less corrupted. Presence of women Tehsiladars, were also encouraging easy and free accessibility to Tehsil offices both by men and women.
- Civil Society partnership, particularly around CRP and WSC, have also made RDM department more accessible to women and helped them to make more gender-sensitive service delivery.
- Community based institutions have greater role in land governance process, though their formal participation, is absent in present institutional arrangement, neither its being advocated for, particularly with RDM Department. SHGs and other grass root level committees such as Watershed/irrigation committees, VSS etc. however, have demonstrated their potential in addressing land tenure issues more equitably and there are required to be integrated to take up the gender equitable governance issues at the village level for better changes, was recommended by many participants.

#### **4.5 Information availability and access**

- There is a need to see how best we can manage land governance information system. Initially Bhulekh started with the RoRs available in tehsils and the access is limited to a single browser. It has been upgraded now and public can access to RoRs using other browsers as well. Following directives from Department of Land Resources, GoI, gender 'attribute' is now being added, but will be applicable in prospective effect. Plan to link Adhar cards are also there. While the need to maintain gender disaggregated land records, was endorsed by all, how and by what time it would be operational, was not clear. GOO requires to develop a strategic plan with a time line to act urgently on this, was strongly felt.
- Data warehousing, menu-driven data mining concepts need attention for good land governance in the state.
- A need of a website with information on land laws, schemes and statistics regularly updated and maintained with current news, reports, case studies etc. was recommended to facilitate flow of information to the public.

#### 4.6 Land rights of women in mining affected areas of Odisha

- As Odisha has more mining areas with issues of displacement, there is a need to see how women are getting affected from mining and what process and mechanism need to be set up for safeguarding their rights and interests.

#### 4.7 Amendment of land acts as per 73rd and 74th Constitutional amendment

- As per these constitutional amendments, all the land laws should have been amended within 1 year. However, the state has yet to make amendments in line with the provisions under 73<sup>rd</sup> and 74<sup>th</sup> constitutional amendments. Further, all land laws shall be consonant to PESA in the scheduled areas.
- As per OLR, 1960, village committees are there and consultation with Gram Sabha is also mandatory. However, the role of gram sabha is passive with only provision of providing information to gram sabha.

#### 4.8 Women Land Rights and Hindu Succession (Amendment) Act, 2005

- After 2005 amendment to Hindu Succession Act, daughters have become coparceners over parent's property. It is high time for Government to bring a notification or circular inviting daughters to record their land in RoRs. The RoRs need to be updated or corrected by Government in a specific period of time.
- When a women dies without a will, the property of the women is usually get inherited by husband's heirs denying the women's parental heir to inherit. As per section 16 of HSA, 2005, however, if the property has been inherited by women from her parents then only the parent's heir inheritance rights.



Dr P K Chaulia, Ex-Collector, Boudh sharing his thoughts in the discussion session



Prof G B Nath keeping his views on GELG study

## 5 Recommendations and action points

**Chair: Prof. Mamata Swain, Ravenshaw University, Odisha**

**Co-chair: Mr Sudarshan Panda, Joint Secretary, Revenue & Disaster Management Department, Gov. of Odisha**

Prof Swain in her introductory remark spoke about the importance of women's equitable access to land and other natural resources. She mentioned that 95% of land owned by small and marginal

farmers and out of this 86% are owned by marginal farmers with holding size less than 2.5 acre. The average land holding size has been reduced to 1 acre.

Mr Panda briefed about the initiatives of Govt of Odisha around women's land rights. The recently operationalized Land Passbook System has mandatory provision of including the names of both husband and wife in the first page. Similarly as per the R & R policy, 2006, daughters, granddaughters, separated women, divorcee and widows are considered as separate families. He was disappointed to note that 1/3<sup>rd</sup> of women are not in possession of the land allotted to them under different land grant schemes. The department, he felt, should, make a review on this and organize efforts to bring the non-possession issues before concerned District Collectors. He was advised by the delegates to review the information of cases reported under Mo Jami Mo Diha to ensure complete possession.



**Prof Mamata Swain, Ravenshaw University addressing the session**



**Mr S Panda, Joint Secretary, sharing the initiatives of RDM department around women's land rights**

### **5.1 Institutional arrangements and options around GELG**

- Scaling up successful experience of Women Support Centers to all the districts of the state for better identification of single women through engagement of village youths as well as providing social security support through convergence with different schemes such as housing and pension.
- Organization of sensitization camps for capacity building of community as well as grass root level revenue staffs and introduction of a new course on gender and land rights in the training curriculum of Tehsildars, RIs, ARIs and Amins.
- Space needs to be created for participation of NGOs, CBOs and other grass root level institutions for improved awareness about laws/policies or circulars of government on land issues.
- The state government has formulated Odisha State Girls and Women Policy, 2014 with specific focus on improved asset ownership and gender sensitive land institutions through training and sensitization among the revenue staffs about women's land rights. There is an urgent need of now acting on it, with clarity on who, when and how to do.

## **5.2 Reporting of disaggregated data in the Annual Reports**

- The state revenue department needs to segregate the data in the annual revenue reports as well as district reports on achievements under different land grant schemes and status of survey viz. Joint, only men and only women.

## **5.3 Monitoring land allotment process**

- The state government must establish a monitoring mechanism to examine the progress under different schemes in different periods of time and arrange to provide segregated data in its reports and other documents, to help other stakeholders' track the progress.
- These enumerations will be more effective, if identification camps are organized at the grass root level with the engagement of civil society, PRI and other CBOs for better identification of landless and homesteadless households.
- Adding 'Gender' parameter in the Bhulekh database prospectively and taking action to separate 1.4 Crore older land records retrospectively.

## **5.4 Information access and availability**

- Efforts need to be made by the state government to upload all information including reports, case studies, news bulletin etc. in one website.
- The state government in partnership with CSOs should regularly monitor the change in level of awareness among women about land rights.
- Media has important role in information dissemination and in raising awareness. Therefore, print and electronic media platforms are required to be proactively used to enhance land literacy.
- There is need of efforts by the government and NGOs for joint discussion and learning through women land rights network initiative.

## **5.5 Identification of vulnerable women and convergence**

- Immediate executive order by the government to specifically identify single women during the ongoing survey after the revision in annual income of landlessness and homestead less people.
- The Revenue & Disaster Management department should modify the format of the ongoing Landless Enumeration Process survey to segregate single women (with provision to record separately widow, deserted, never married), women headed households and transgender
- The state government shall make relaxations in terms and conditions for getting benefits under social security schemes for the single women in the state
- Converging land allotment process to build synergy and ensure desired livelihoods outcomes as demonstrated in Phailin and WSC experience.

## **5.6 Clear definition of single women**

- The definition of single women shall be clear. In this context, the state government shall refer to the definition quoted in Odisha State Girls and Women Policy, 2014.

### **5.7 Documentation of customary practices around land rights**

- There is a need to organize documentation of customary practices of different communities in regard to women's land rights.

### **5.8 Policy making and legal Issues**

- The existing Acts and Rules are not 'women' and 'single women' friendly. There is a need to review the 'person' definition in OLR Act, 1960. OGLS Act and Rule and OPLE Rule to make it inclusive. Definition of single women has to be clearly indicated in these laws and their land rights prioritized in priority order.
- In case of all new mutation of inheritance cases, Record of Rights needs to be in the name of son(s) and daughter(s).
- The state government is required to come out with a notification to include names of daughters in the RoRs as per the provisions of Hindu Succession (Amendment) Act, 2005.
- There is a need to enhance participation of women stakeholders in the land policymaking process.



**Mr P Panda, Technical Director, NIC highlighting the role of technology in GELG and future plan of NIC**



**Mr S Mohanty and Mr A Mishra, Legal Experts elaborating the legal bottlenecks around GELG**

In his concluding remark on study recommendations, Mr Panda thanked all the delegates for useful suggestions. He informed that from this year onwards, the state government will incorporate a new course on gender and land rights during training programmes for RIs, ARIs and Amins. The state government will take immediate action to make provisions for including the names of all legal heirs in the RoRs. He assured that revenue department would thoroughly examine the non-possession issues and take steps to ensure complete possession of allotted lands. He further added that other recommendations would be examined and discussed with the Principal Secretary, Revenue & Disaster Management Department, Govt. of Odisha for necessary actions.

## **5. Vote of Thanks**

Mr Pranab Ranjan Choudhury offered vote of thanks to all the delegates for their participation and meaningful deliberations. He also thanked media representatives and hotel staffs for their support and cooperation towards the programme.

## **Annexure I: Coverage of the Event in Media**



[Only 3.3% of land in Odisha owned by women, says World Bank study](#)

Odisha Sun Times - 9 hours ago

Despite numerous efforts towards protecting the rights of women through pioneering state policy and programmes, women continue to be discriminated with regard to access and control over land in Odisha. land to women. A recent World Bank study on ...



[Odisha needs gender equitable land governance -recommends recent World Bank Study](#)

[Orissadiary.com](#) - 11 hours ago

Report by Odisha Diary bureau, Bhubaneswar: Despite numerous efforts towards protecting rights of women through pioneering state policy and programmes, women continue to be discriminated with regard to access and control over land. A recent World ...



[Odisha needs gender equitable land governance](#)

OdishaChannel - 22 hours ago

Bhubaneswar, Aug 4: Odisha needs gender equitable land governance, according to a recent World Bank study. Despite numerous efforts towards protecting rights of women through pioneering state policy and programmes, women continue to be ...

<http://www.dailypioneer.com/state-editions/bhubaneswar/land-ownership-fair-sex-far-discriminated-in-odisha.html>

<http://www.newindianexpress.com/states/odisha/Only-3.3-pc-Land-Owned-by-Women-Study/2015/08/06/article2960007.ece>

<http://landportal.info/news/2015/08/odisha-needs-gender-equitable-land-governance>

<http://aboutorissa.com/blog/odisha-needs-gender-equitable-land-governance-recommends-recent-world-bank-study-orissadiary-com>

<http://indialocalnews.in/2015/08/05/odisha-needs-gender-equitable-land-governance-recommends-recent-world-bank-study/>

[http://www.odishanow.in/story.aspx?s\\_id=14927](http://www.odishanow.in/story.aspx?s_id=14927)

<http://www.dailypioneer.com/state-editions/bhubaneswar/land-ownership-fair-sex-far-discriminated-in-odisha.html>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Lzu7sm0PwPE>



## Annexure-II: Participant list

Sl. No	Name	Position	Email-Id	Contact No
1.	Shri G C Pati, IAS	Chief Secretary, Govt. of Odisha		
2.	Aurobindo Behera, IAS (Retd.)	Member Board of Revenue	aurobindo52@gmail.com	9437036740
3.	Dr T Haque	Advisor, GELG Study	drt.haque@gmail.com	9818383200
4.	Satya Mishra	World Bank	smishra@worldbank.org	9958200352
5.	Sashiprava Bindhani	State Information Commissioner	bindhani.sashi@gmail.com	7873815658
6.	Pranab Ranjan Choudhury	NRMC	pranabrc@nrmcindia.co.in	9438200114
7.	Biswara Nayak,	Retd Spl Secy, SC ST Development Dept and Secy, Board of Revenue (Retd)	biswar_nayak@yahoo.com	9437015869
8.	Deepak Mishra	Baitarini initiative		9437100182
9.	Sudarsan Panda	Joint Secretary, RDM Dept.	Panda.sudarshan1964@gmail.com	9437237562
10	Dr P K Chaulia	Ex-Collector, Boudh	pkchaulia@yahoo.co.uk	9437119476
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