



Intersections between Forest, Pasture Land and Women's Land Rights



Theme/Sub Theme: Impact of Land Tenure Security Interventions

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Women in India, largely, lack secure access, control and ownership over land and natural resources. Women's role, especially tribal and pastoral women's role in accessing, managing and getting benefits from Common Property Resources is reducing. They are the reservoir of traditional knowledge for sustaining the resources, however, they remain invisible in any of the mainstream discourses. Women are not present in any of the policy and decision making structures. The social and cultural norms, high rate of illiteracy and restricted social mobility further adds to the complexities.

Most of the landless Dalit and tribal women, female headed households depends on state government's land allocation programmes and land leasing for access to and control over land. Forest Rights Act, though having progressive provisions, have not been successful to ensure the land titles, rights and entitlements to women. One of the major reasons is that the enforcing bodies including CSOs are not gender sensitive and it is in their interest if and when women abide to stereotypical gender roles and norms.

Thus, the session will discuss the overarching status of women and land rights in India, followed by other panellists focusing on discussing the aspects of commons land, forest land, salt pan workers, fisheries and farmers from women's perspective. The discussion thread would be role of women in abovementioned areas, issues they face and good practices in the respective areas of intervention of the panellists.

