



Reimagining and reviving community and individual sovereignty actions of circular living for Climate Resilient Development Pathway

The Wicked Challenge

Unplanned human activities and climate change have led to degraded soil and reduced water availability in tribal and hilly regions, threatening both livelihoods and ecological balance.

BUT

Reviving indigenous tribal practices rooted in agroecology offers a regenerative path to restore soil health and water-use efficiency, while building community resilience to climate change.

Common agreement

- **Critique of market-driven development:** Concerns about how markets are displacing community-based practices and sovereignty.
- **Failure of PESA implementation:** Despite being a landmark legislation, it has failed on the ground.
- **Importance of community-led solutions:** Solutions rooted in local governance and traditions (like Gram Swaraj) are more effective for climate resilience.
- **Disillusionment with carbon credits:** The mechanism was viewed as externally driven and not benefiting communities.



Speaker
Sreejan Dutta
Manager - Venture
Philanthropy, LGT Wealth
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Local community sovereignty in climate action is important

Converting commercial forests into protective forests is a good strategy - tribal-inhabited areas have more intact forest cover

Carbon credit systems are ineffective for local communities

Philanthropists should listen to communities and their ground-based learning



Speaker
Gangabhai Paikra
President, Chaupal Gramin
Vikas Prashikshan Sansthan

The increasing market-dependence in tribal societies is worrisome, resulting in excessive buying, debt, stress and eventual loss of land.

Climate change impacts on tribal life is concerning

Gram Swaraj (village self-rule) as an alternative framework for life



Moderator
Biraj Patnaik
Executive Director,
National Foundation of
India

PESA Act's implementation needs to be re-looked.

Its original goals have been diluted by vested interests

Potential Solution



Strengthen Implementation of PESA Act



Promote Gram Swaraj as a Climate Action Model



Transition from Commercial to Protective Forests



Redesign Climate Finance to Reward Local Custodians



Foster Ground-Up Philanthropy and Partnerships