



NTFP
(Non-Timber Forest Produce)
Gatherers' Self-Help
Cooperative, Mayurbhanj,
Odisha

Enterprise Name	Taras, Banani, Nabajyoti, Subhamay and Jagatjyoti
Institutional Structure	Two-tier structure with primary cooperatives as members of a federation
Geographic Area	50 villages of Mayurbhanj district, Odisha
Year of Formation	2012
Commodities	Sal leaves & Sabai grass
Current Membership	1075
Promoting Partner	Society for Peoples' Awareness and Rural Development Action (SPARDA)
Per Member Income	Rs. 29,000
Expected Turnover by 3rd Year	Rs. 102.2 lakhs

The district of Mayurbhanj has thick forest coverage with abundance of commercial forest produce such as Sal leaves, Sabai grass, Mahua, Chironjee and other non-timber forest produce. The area is marked by poverty and backwardness with subsistence farming and forest produce trade being the main sources of livelihood. This area is predominantly tribal (42%) with a low literacy rate of 52%.

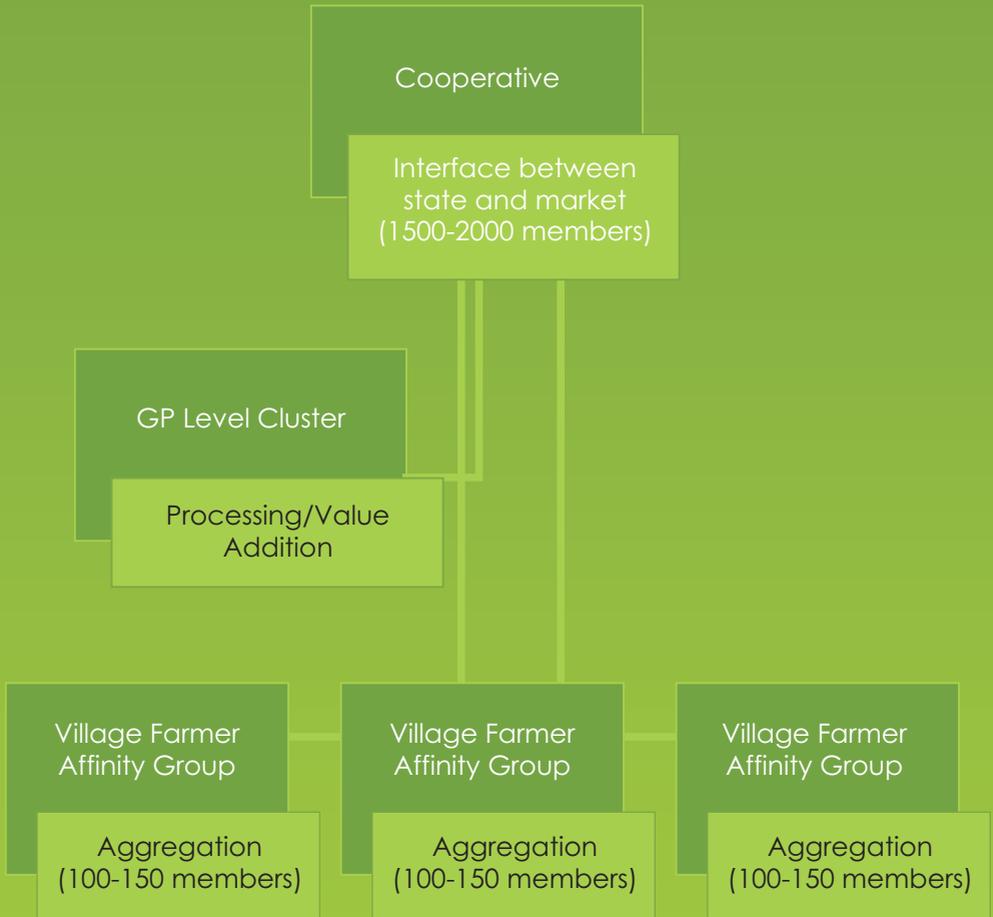
Despite presence of markets, these tribals have not been able to get a fair price. This is due to:

- Non-scientific extraction of NTFP
- Lack of knowledge of sustainable harvesting and storage practices
- Lack of market information and excessive dependence on intermediaries

Society for Peoples' Awareness and Rural Development Action (SPARDA), founded in 1990, is an NGO based in Mayurbhanj that has been consistently working on tribal related issues. In 2010, SPARDA decided to promote 5 self-help cooperatives of tribals from 50 villages of Morada and Sulipada blocks in Mayurbhanj district.

These 5 primary cooperatives will be formed into federation to take advantage of scale economics such as processing, better bargaining power and to access wider markets . Since 2011, ALC India has been providing technical and human resource support to SPARDA for setting up these tribal self-help cooperatives.

Model of Cooperative



In promoting these self-help cooperatives, the project aims to establish an alternative to intermediaries and ensure better returns to the tribals for their commodities.

The current average earning per member is Rs. 29,000 per annum. In the next 3 years, the cooperatives will have 3,000 members. With business expansion and establishment of value addition units, the members' income will increase by a minimum of 2 times of the current income. The cooperatives are also planning to provide saving and credit facilities apart from procurement of commodities from members.

