

Vision, Mission and Guidelines of Functioning
Jangalmahal Development Cluster Forum
(A Network of like-minded CSOs working in Jangalmahal)
Network/forum formed in August 2018

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Vision:

A just and prosperous society in harmony with nature at Jangalmahal of West Bengal.

Enhanced sense of agency¹ and self esteem of the marginalized sections of the society. Community living in harmony with nature - safeguarding & rejuvenating natural resources thereby increasing their carrying capacity. Self sustaining community governed organisations enhancing societal development. Healthy & educated communities, especially the women & the children.

Mission:

Setting up illustrious examples of equitable and sustainable growth in villages across Jangalmahal through concerted civil society action

Means:

- Coming together of likeminded civil society organizations and working hand in hand
- Impacting multidimensional poverty by using each other's expertise and sourcing external resources as required.
- Orchestrating a web of partners (*Panchayati Raj* institutions, Government, research organisations, financial institutions, market actors & other stakeholders) to influence & impact the larger ecosystem
- Creating robust community organisations of the marginalized communities
- Enhancing knowledge, skills and confidence of the community and facilitating their sense of solidarity
- Helping community and the CBOs for optimal utilization of natural resources to conserve and restore the ecosystem and ecology.
- Eliminating hunger and malnutrition
- Preventing water and sanitation related diseases
- Promoting vocational training and education to enhance employability and create self-employment opportunities for individuals as well as groups
- Nurturing entrepreneurship of individuals and groups
- Popularizing the use of renewable energies and intermediate technologies for value addition of commodities in the local area, their storage and transport
- Developing a repository for information generation and exchange (documentation, exchange of information through referral, question & answer services, etc)
- Enabling the CBOs and their members to demand, access and utilize their rights and entitlements which are enshrined in our constitution

¹ "Agency" is the human capability to influence one's functioning and the course of events by one's actions

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- Facilitating the creation of basic infrastructure facilities (irrigation, drinking water, road, electricity, school, hospital, market, etc.)
- Innovation, incubation, and piloting of agriculture & allied, NTFP, off-farm and non-farm enterprises to enhance income especially of the landless and the smallholders.
- Enabling community to ground robust, climate resilient & sustainable livelihood initiatives & scale them up.
- Improving the quality human resources and nurturing through appropriate systems
- Facilitating dialogue among CBOs as well as between CBOs and external stakeholders
- Creating channels for action, research & dissemination of eco-friendly knowledge.
- Building a humane relationship between people, animals and the flora
- Creating a supportive ecosystem & a prosperous society where the community will feel proud to live in

Values:

- **Integrity:** The member-partners of the network have an organization culture centered on ethics & they display the value of integrity of the highest standard.
- **Transparency, Commitment & Accountability:** The member-partners are open to truthfully share about their actual stance, belief, and actions with other partners. Each partner is accountable & committed to shoulder responsibilities & adhere to the decisions jointly made by the network. There is commitment to the cause around which this network has been formed.
- **Trust:** There is a conducive environment for trusting each other and display of mutual confidence. A climate of mutual respect exists between network member-partners and also between them and the communities.
- **Equity:** All member-partners in the network has equal space, opportunity and freedom of expression.
- **Empathy:** Partners engage with empathy to understand each other (Vision, Mission, perspectives, engagement processes, work and relevance in development) & develop clarity and processes to espouse the spirit of partnership. They establish partnership as a value.
- **Collaboration:** Member-partners create space for exchanging experiences, understanding philosophies behind, genesis of organisation, journey, struggles, and implications for the future. They define and delineate concrete challenges to be addressed within a definite timeframe. They appreciate the skills, competencies, strengths and weaknesses of each other; outline the areas of interdependences, and identify the skills and competencies to be improved. A regular system is established to review the collaboration and to encourage each other to be excited in this collaborative engagement. Achievements are appreciated and areas for further improvement, acknowledged.
- **Innovation:** Member-partners encourage each other to have out-of-the-box thinking, innovate processes & solutions (both in their organizational culture & community engagement at the grassroots) & share the outcomes with each other upholding the spirit of mutual learning.

Guidelines of Functioning:

- 1 Member-partners meet regularly; at least once in every quarter.
- 2 The meeting starts with approval of the minutes of the previous meeting.
- 3 "Action taken report" is placed before the meeting and the actions are discussed

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- 4 At the end of each meeting, the dates for the next meeting & the venue are discussed & agreed upon.
- 5 The minutes of each meeting are captured in detail & sent to all member-partners of the network.
- 6 Two persons are responsible for convening the meeting. Among them, one is the host of the meeting and the other is from another partner organization, chosen through mutual consent in the previous meeting. They are responsible for planning and designing of the meeting. The broad contours of the agenda is set in the previous meeting. The two responsible persons can add, modify or detail out the agenda, depending on need. Agenda and the minutes are circulated by the secretariat. One from the host organization and the other assigned by the secretariat co-facilitate the meeting.
- 7 Inclusion of member-partners:
 - a) Organizations which have at least 5 years' experience of working in *Jangalmahal*.
 - b) People's Organizations (POs) like SHGs, CBOs can also be included if they are working not only for their own members but also for others in the community in *Jangalmahal*.
- 8 Academic, research and extension institutions (like KVK), donor organizations etc. are invited in the meetings as special invitees, patrons, guests etc. on various occasions but they are not member-partners.
- 9 A member-partner may be requested to exclude itself if:
 - a) It did not attend 3 consecutive meetings;
 - b) It withdrew their activities from Jangalmahal area;
 - c) it has been established by a final judgment or a final administrative decision that the member-partner is guilty of grave professional misconduct by having violated applicable laws or regulations or ethical standards, or by having engaged in any wrongful conduct which denotes a wrongful intent or gross negligence;
 - d) it did not share information as has been decided in a meeting of the network, even after reminders.
- 10 Member-partners intimate the secretariat about who will represent the organization as member. In case he/she is unable to attend the meeting, the nomination of alternative person is informed through mail to secretariat beforehand.
- 11 The network has restricted the number of member-partner organizations to 20 till further decision is made. Inclusion of new members is decided unanimously in a meeting following rules as in point 7.
- 12 Annual membership fees per organization is Rs 1,000/- . The amount is to be paid to DRCSC in the beginning of each financial year i.e. in the month of April. The secretariat decides how to spend this money.
- 13 The network accepts any donation considering ethics, laws, values etc. It may be from national or foreign donor. In case of international donation, DCF accepts it after fulfillment of legal criteria for foreign donation.
- 14 Financial contributions from member-partners in addition to membership fees is encouraged and gratefully accepted.
- 15 Till further decided, the secretariat of this network comprises of Dr. Bibekananda Sanyal (LKP), Mr. Sujit Mitra (DRCSC) & Mr. Arnab Chakraborty (PRADAN). Mr. Sujit Mitra, acts as the convener.

List of member-partners

Sl. No.	Organisation and address	Represented by	Contact details
1	Professional Assistance for Development Action (PRADAN), 132, Kabi Nabin Sen Road, Chitagaon Colony, Kazi Para, Nagerbazar, Kolkata 700028	Mr. Arnab Chakraborty Mr. Alak Jana	9002033422 8017612771
2	Development Research Communication and Services Centre (DRCSC), 58A, Dharmatola Road, Bosepukur, Kasba Kolkata 700042	Mr. Ardhendu Sekhar Chatterjee Mr. Sujit Kumar Mitra	9830073241 9432013135
3	Loka Kalyan Parishad (LKP) 28/8, Library Road, Kalighat, Kolkata – 700026	Dr. Bibekananda Sanyal	8420665450
4	Gramin Vikash Trust (GVT) Pani Jahaj kothi, 212, Kanke Rd, Ranchi, Jharkhand 834008	Mr. Subrata Sarkar	9083257313
5	Tagore Society for Rural Development (TSRD) 46 B, Shri Aurobindo Sarani Rd, Darjipara, Shobhabazar, Kolkata 700005, West Bengal	Mr. Nandala Baksi	9431762446/ 8084165829
6	Rural Development Association (RDA) Mirzabazar; Dist: West Medinipur, Pin Code- 721101	Ms. Nandini Basu	9775501643
7	Shamayita Math Amarkan Ranbahal Rd, Ranbahal, West Bengal 722133	Mother Rishi Riddha Anahata	9434108389
8	PRASARI 17 B, Shyama Pally, Bapuji Nagar, Jadavpur, Kolkata, West Bengal 700092	Mr. Saikat Pal	9830807100
9	Vikramshila Education Resource Society (VERS) 256 B, Prince Anwar Shah Road, Lake Gardens, Kolkata 700045, West Bengal	Mr. Atanu Sain	9831729986
10	Child in Need Institute (CINI) Daulatpur, P.O. Pailan Via Joka, 24 Parganas (S), Pin – 700 104, West Bengal, India	Ms. Sreeparna Ghosh Mukherjee	9830618595