

1 Need:

The Scheduled Tribes and Other Traditional Forest Dwellers (Recognition of Forest Rights) Act, 2006, popularly known as the Forests Rights Act (FRA), was enacted in 2007 to correct the 'historic injustice done to forest-dwelling communities'. Broadly speaking, this Act recognizes and vests individual forest-dwellers with forest rights to live in and cultivate forest land that was occupied before 13 Dec 2005 and grants community forest rights to manage, protect, regenerate the forest under section 3(1)(i) and to own and dispose minor forest products from forests where they had traditional access. The implementation of this Act has thrown up a number of issues, ranging from concerns about how committees have been constituted and about high rates of claim rejections and to how exactly forest governance would take place after community forest rights are recognized. There is a need to disseminate knowledge about the provisions of the FRA among the officers dealing with FRA so that the provisions of the FRA are enforced in letter and spirit which would contribute towards empowerment of the tribes.

2. Objectives:

1. Understand the historical process of tribes and forest linkages and centralized forest policy
2. Enunciate the provisions of FRA and rules for effective implementation
3. Appreciate the necessity of changing forest governance framework

3. Broad areas of Contents:

Tribals and Forest, Self-Governance through PESA and FRA, FRA: Process and institutions, Individual Forest Rights, Community Forest Rights, Implementation of Development Projects, Implementation for Special Groups, Protected Areas and Critical Wildlife Habitats, Structure of Forest Governance, Enhancing Livelihoods through NTFPs and Convergence of Development Programmes for STs and OTFDs.

4. Training Methods:

Lecture-cum-discussion, group and panel discussions, audio-visuals and Field-work