Jharkhand Jungle
Bachao Andolan

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ROLE OF WOMEN
IN
SUSTAINABLE FOREST
MANAGEMENT
&
GOVERNANCE
Indian Philosophy – about Women

- Prakriti is synonymous of Women
- Woman the knowledge and power to form the first human society that was matri-focal in nature
- She remained more powerful – the Shakti.
- Woman and nature as the status of ‘mother’
Man established his authority in the forest and field as well as at home.

Privatization of land and forest further weakened her; her access to nature was completely stopped.

The belief system her ritual knowledge was condemned as anti-social.

Status of ‘mother’ changed to satisfaction of man’s greed and carnal desire.
Forest and Tribal Society

- LIFE and LIVELIHOOD IS CENTRED IN FOREST
- FOREST BASED SOCIETY
- Traditionally the spiritual, cultural and economic life of the tribe is largely dependent on flora and fauna
Forest and women

- The notion of ‘mother earth’ is at the center of the value system.
- Forest has always been a source of empowerment for women in tribal society.
- In the pre-patriarchal era woman enjoyed special status in society as the discoverer of agriculture and as the healer because of her intimacy with forest. In the patriarchal era too neither the state nor the tribal patriarchy could ever fully alienate her from the forest.
- Forest resources are strictly associated with women.
TRADITIONAL FOREST MANAGEMENT

- Democratic Management
- Cultural bindings
FOREST MANAGEMENT IN PRESENT SCENARIO

- Forest have been denuded indiscriminately by the nexus of the Forest Department, local administration, politicians and industrial houses to the utter suffering of the forest dependent people. It is the law of internal-colonialism that rules the forests, not democracy.
Specific Role of Tribal Women

- Gathering fruit, roots, herbs, firewood...
- To perform rituals, and spiritual activities.
- Agriculture – put out the traditional seeds from grain house
- Build and Take care of home
- Information gathering and transferring to the larger society
Tribal Women Organisation

- Create their own locally adopted and accepted rules for their resources
- Each family of the villages is the member of the organization
- Jointly collection of fire wood. A single person is to be authorized from a family to collect the wood etc from the forest.
Four Pillars of Community Forest Governance

- Village Assembly (Gram Sabha)
- Women’s Cooperative
- Community Forest Committee
- Bal Akara (Children’s Club)
BAL AKARA
Women Cooperative
JOHAR

Presented by,

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