

SUMMARY REPORT ON CO-CREATION CONCLAVE 2.0



1st October, 2024
Bloom Hotel, Ranchi



INTRODUCTION

The Co-Creation Conclave 2.0 on Just Transition in Jharkhand served as an essential platform for bringing together a diverse set of stakeholders from across the state. With over 30 participants representing 23 organisations, the conclave marked a significant step towards building a unified approach to Just Transition in the state and region. After the successful event in May 2024, where the major thematic areas were identified and discussed, this follow up conclave was a deep dive into the ideas that emerged in the previous edition. The discussions focused on identifying actionable steps to ensure that local communities, particularly those affected by mining activities, are at the forefront of the transition process. Participants worked collaboratively to outline plans for alternate livelihood sources or economic diversification, including on-farm and off-farm activities, skill-building initiatives, and strengthening local organisations like CBOs and CSOs. Participants also highlighted the role of the conference of panchayats (COP) in spreading awareness on climate change at the grassroots level and motivating local leaders to start the dialogue. It was encouraging to see organisations from the collective volunteer to chair and host the next 3 meetings. This gathering fostered an environment of shared responsibility and opened pathways for deeper collaboration between grassroot organisations, government bodies, and other key stakeholders, aimed at ensuring an inclusive and climate-resilient Jharkhand. From the discussions, six major priorities were identified to take forward for enabling a just transition across a climate-resilient Jharkhand.

RECAP OF THE FIRST CO-CREATION CONCLAVE

Munna Jha from Asar started the address by setting the context for session 1, giving a short recap around the discussion pointers of the last co-creation conclave. He highlighted the agenda for the meeting, 'to pave way for people/community-centric just transition in Jharkhand'. Gulab Chandra of Damodar Bachao Abhiyaan talked about climate justice and just transition in the context of Jharkhand. He presented his thoughts on coal-dependent livelihoods in the state and achieving a just transition, while preserving local culture and ecosystem. He talked about the importance of a collective effort from the participating CSO/NGO in the geographies where they are active in delivering a just transition. Further, Vishwajeet and Manish conducted the session. They took the discussion forward by providing a detailed recap of the first edition of the co-creation conclave.

The first edition of the Co-Creation Conclave, held in May 2024, was a first of its kind in India, bringing together community-level organisations, NGOs/CSOs, and local representatives to discuss issues relevant to the just transition in Jharkhand. Key topics such as climate change, livelihoods, health, gender, culture, and forest rights were at the forefront, with discussions focused on how these areas intersect with the concept of just transition in the region. Practitioners and experts, including Sandeep Pai, shared global insights and best practices, while a panel discussion emphasized that sustainable transitions must be community-driven. This dialogue led to the identification of essential components like livelihoods security, health and well-being, gender, tribal rights, and the role of corporates and CSR in just transition.

The conclave also highlighted the importance of information, education, and communication (IEC) materials to ensure that discussions around just transition reach grassroots communities. A significant part of the conversation revolved around alternative economic opportunities, with participants identifying various options for diversification. Agreement was reached on involving women-led institutions, such as SHGs, in decision-making processes. Four critical perspectives for planning just transition interventions were identified: climate resilience, ecology, migration, and gender. Major themes from the event included institutional engagement, the creation of a CSO/CBO platform for collaboration, economic and livelihood diversification through pilot initiatives, and skill building for workers whose livelihoods are impacted by the transition process.



1st Co-creation Conclave

PANEL DISCUSSION

After the recap of the previous meeting, the current discussion shifted towards the central agenda: transforming the ideas generated into an actionable plan to implement interventions on the ground. A panel comprising Krishnakant from Abhivyakti Foundation, Paromita from Gramvaani, Shekhar from Samvaad, and Vivek from Common Ground provided a brief summary of the previous discussions and set the tone for the meeting. They highlighted key issues relevant to just transition in Jharkhand and emphasized the importance of community-driven solutions.

Krishnakant focused on hunger, malnutrition, and the decline of natural resources and health in Jharkhand. He proposed a food system approach that includes traditional knowledge, local culture, and practices. He stressed that discussions around just transition should begin at the block and district levels to create a sense of ownership within communities and encourage institution-building. He pointed out that interventions in coal mining areas should focus on CSR-funded initiatives to restore overburden dumping sites. Since the degraded land in mining areas limits agricultural training opportunities, market-linked skill development for youth is critical. Krishnakant also advocated for an integrated plan involving forest products, government schemes, and CSR interventions. Additionally, he recommended consensus mapping of the community before implementing any intervention. Paromita echoed this sentiment, emphasizing the importance of local ideas, narratives, and a participatory approach, while highlighting the critical role of gender and health in just transition. She stressed the need to involve women and women-led institutions in decision-making processes, as they are central to household and community dynamics.

Vivek focused on the need to create a collaborative action plan that addresses challenges identified in previous discussions. He underscored the role of CSOs/NGOs as

facilitators, emphasizing that the primary responsibility lies with the government, particularly at the panchayat level, where interventions in Jharkhand have been lacking compared to states like Kerala. Vivek also highlighted the importance of holding panchayats accountable and conducting stakeholder and resource mapping at the block level to inform interventions. He reiterated the need for women's voices to be included in local decision-making. Shekhar added that renewable energy and conservation should be part of the action plan, though he cautioned that large-scale renewable energy projects often exclude the community. He emphasized that solutions must be sustainable and locally derived, criticizing market-linked skill development as unsustainable and capitalist in nature. Shekhar also noted the ongoing injustices related to poverty and food security, advocating for community ownership of interventions and the introduction of modern agricultural technologies to combat climate change. Both Vivek and Shekhar agreed that the action plan must clearly allocate responsibilities among stakeholders, ensuring accountability and inclusion.



Panel Discussion on the themes that emerged from Co-Creation Conclave 1.0

EXPECTED OBJECTIVES OF THE CONCLAVE FROM THE AUDIENCE:

A session to facilitate the exchange of introduction among the participants was conducted. A few of the participants were attending the meeting for the first time. Along with the introduction, the participants also gave their feedback on their expectations of the action plan that must be formulated, and the discussions held during the previous sessions.

The major outcomes of the introduction-cum feedback session were;

- A draft action plan should be developed as soon as possible and within the next 6 months a working plan should be finalized.
- Post 6 months, the participants should be able to share their part of the work that they did as part of the action plan.
- Collective planning by participating CSO/NGO is needed to finalize the action plan and the interventions, and inclusion of community and elected representatives in the planning process.
- Developing IEC materials and collaterals to start sensitizing and making the community aware of the concept of just transition.
- Compilation of the works and case studies in the form of a compendium of grassroots level CSOs/NGOs that have been working around just transition, alternate livelihoods, forest rights and climate change.



Expected objectives 1



Expected objectives 2

PLENARY DISCUSSION AND CONSOLIDATED ACTION PLANS FROM THE GROUPS

Participants were split into 4 breakout groups, the criteria being that no two individuals from the same organisation would be in the same group. The groups conducted discussions on three thematic areas, Livelihoods, CBO Platform and Capacity Building. The discussion concentrated mainly on the interventions that would be taken up via an action plan around these themes, keeping in mind the regional specification, time frame and organisation-wise responsibility allocation. Major pointers that emerged from the group discussion are:

1. LIVELIHOODS

To work towards achieving a just transition in Jharkhand, the priority should be towards creating alternate livelihood options for communities, especially for those communities that reside in and around coal mines, and those who are directly dependent on coal for their livelihood.

- **Situational Analysis:** Situational analysis will be done with mining-affected families, and Gramvaani can take the lead in this domain. The analysis can take one to two months, focusing on conducting household surveys and using Participatory Rural Appraisal (PRA) methods. The goal is to build a comprehensive database that will provide evidence for future planning and interventions.
- **Community Sensitization:** Vanvasi Vikas Ashram has expertise in community sensitization. Its current efforts with the ongoing objective of raising awareness among local communities are remarkable. This will involve engagement activities aimed at increasing community participation and fostering a sense of ownership over development initiatives.
- **Formation and Strengthening of Community-Based Organisations (CBOs):** Over the next four months, the focus can be directed on forming and strengthening CBOs. The aim is to enhance community participation and build capacity at the grassroots level. Activities will include mapping existing groups, conducting awareness campaigns, and facilitating capacity-building sessions, which will enable communities to take an active role in the transition process.
- **Skill Building and Entrepreneurship Development (EDP):** Lahanti and other supporting organisations have expertise and can lead skill-building and EDP activities, which are expected to span 4 to 12 months. The focus will be on agroforestry and other agricultural practices, as well as small enterprises such as Non-Timber Forest Products (NTFP), cage farming, and millet processing. These activities will provide sustainable livelihood options and support economic diversification in the region.
- **On-Farm Activities:** On-farm initiatives will primarily focus on promoting millet cultivation, medicinal plantations, integrated farming systems, and orchard development. In the Agrarian sector, efforts will emphasize the use of solar energy, biogas systems, water conservation practices, Vadi promotion, and ecotourism to boost local economies and build climate resilience.
- **Off-Farm Activities:** Off-farm initiatives will centre around livestock rearing, bamboo plantation, hand-crafted artefacts, and kitchen gardening. Additionally, value addition to NTFPs will be a priority, with Jharkhand Grameen Vikas Trust providing market linkages, and DBA supporting value addition efforts, especially in millet and NTFP processing.

- **Funding Sources:** Available funds for these activities will be sourced from CSR funds, the District Mineral Foundation Trust (DMFT), contributions from philanthropists, and Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRIs). These diverse funding sources will ensure the sustainability and scalability of these initiatives.

2. CBO/CSO PLATFORM BUILDING

The goal is to establish a robust state-level network of CSOs and CBOs to promote collaboration, knowledge sharing, and joint action on thematic areas like climate resilience, sustainable livelihoods, and Just Transition.

- **Network Formation:** The network will be based on key themes such as climate resilience and sustainable livelihoods. Expert mapping and profiling will help onboard subject matter experts, who will provide guidance and knowledge to support the network's objectives.
- **Marketing and Branding Support:** Marketing and branding support will be provided to strengthen Farmer Producer Organisations (FPOs) and cooperatives, ensuring that products from these initiatives gain market visibility. Jharkhand Grameen Vikas Trust can assist in market linkages, offering critical handholding support to ensure long-term economic sustainability.
- **Knowledge Sharing and Capacity Building:** Resource materials, training modules, and joint proposals will be developed to foster knowledge sharing among network partners. PHIA can lead efforts on convergence, mapping, and skill training, while Lahanti can assist in creating IEC materials to support awareness campaigns.
- **Coordination with Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRIs):** Coordination with PRIs will involve orienting CBOs on scheme integration in Gram Panchayat Development Plans (GPDPs). This will help ensure that government schemes are effectively utilized, contributing to inclusivity, community development, and resource mobilization.

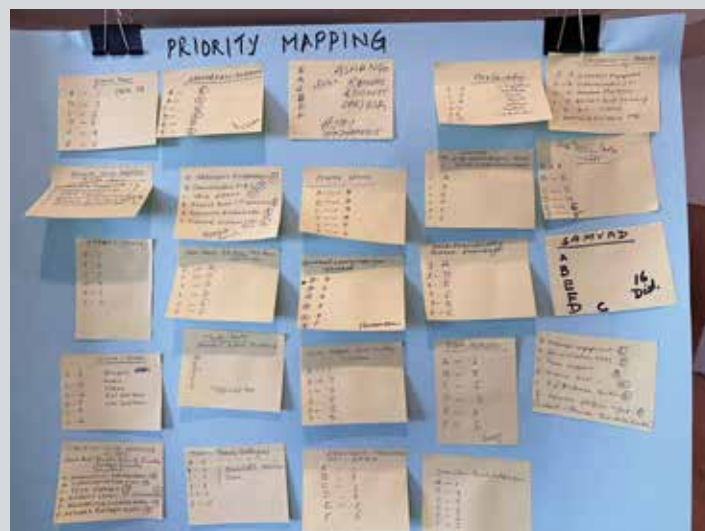
3. CAPACITY BUILDING

The capacity-building strategy aims to empower all stakeholders through skill development, financial literacy, climate awareness, and knowledge of government schemes.

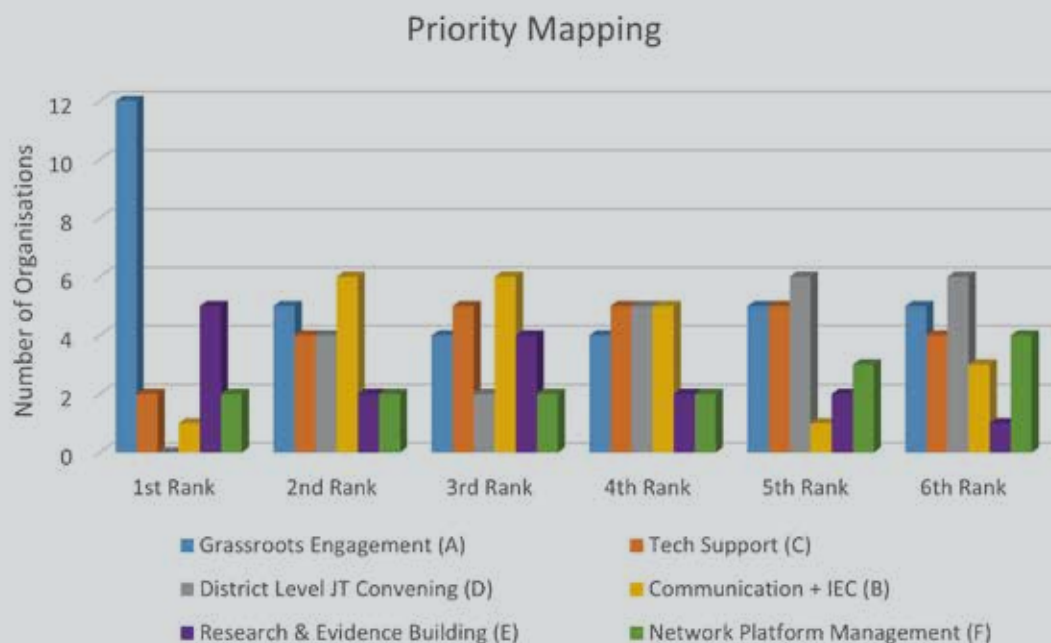
- **Skill and Knowledge Development:** Focus areas for training include financial literacy, climate change awareness, just transition, and understanding constitutional rights. Green skills, such as climate-resilient livelihood practices, will also be emphasized, ensuring stakeholders are equipped to tackle future challenges.
- **IEC Development and Awareness:** Lahanti will help in developing IEC materials in the Santhali language for awareness generation, focusing on government schemes, climate change, and just transition. These resources will be disseminated at the grassroots level to ensure widespread understanding and engagement.
- **Training and Advocacy:** Training sessions will be held on topics such as advocacy, digital communication, and entrepreneurship development (EDP). To maintain continuous engagement and learning, monthly online meetings and quarterly physical meetings will be scheduled.
- **Consortium for Capacity Building:** A consortium will be established to coordinate ongoing training programs on advocacy, green skills, and digital communication. This consortium will ensure that stakeholders are consistently updated and trained on emerging challenges and opportunities related to just transition and climate resilience.

PRIORITY MAPPING

A Priority Mapping exercise was also conducted in the session; 6 themes were to be ranked by the participants. The idea behind the ranking exercise was to list the thematic intervention as per the importance and which thematic intervention should be taken up on priority. The themes were, (a) Grassroots engagement, (b) Technical support, (c) District level JT convening, (d) Communication + IEC, (e) Research and evidence building, and (f) Network platform management. The priority for 12 organisations was grassroots engagement, followed by technical support and district-level convening for just transition. Below is the count of how many organisations ranked each of the six priorities as their first, second, third, fourth, fifth, and sixth priorities out of the 23 organisations



Priority mapping exercise



GLIMPSES FROM THE EVENTS



Presentation by Groups

LEVEL 1 MOO			
OFF-FARM		ON-FARM	
Activity	Region	Time	Roles
i) Situation Analysis	500 directly mining affected families	0-1 month	4-5 tech support for S.A
ii) Sensitization		Contd.	3 awareness
iii) Formation & strengthening of CBOs/groups		0-4 months	MIS BVA process engaged & implementation
iv) Skill building & EDP training/Agro-party etc.		4-12 month	Sensitization 3 MMS DO 9 BSK HB, Loket
v) Convergence / linkages		DO	Sensitization

Presentation by Groups



Group exercise





Group picture of the participants Co-Creation Conclave 2.0

