Common Ground

WASSAN

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SECOND MULTI-STAKEHOLDER MEETING FOR

ANANDPUR BLOCK DEVELOPMENT PLAN

Prepared by

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SECOND MULTI-STAKEHOLDER MEETING FOR

ANANDPUR BLOCK DEVELOPMENT PLAN

*The second multi-stakeholder meeting, held on August 20, 2025, at the Forest Guest House in Anandpur, aimed to develop a **comprehensive Anandpur block development plan.***

WORKSHOP OBJECTIVE

The workshop's goal is to unite diverse **Anandpur stakeholders** for **collaborative planning** by focusing on **participatory resource mapping**, analyzing the **livelihood ecosystem**, and pinpointing **critical issues and opportunities**. This approach aims to guarantee **inclusive and sustainable development** in Anandpur Block.

> **LOCATION:**
>
> DAK BANGLA, FOREST GUEST HOUSE, ANANDPUR, WEST SINGHBHUM, JHARKHAND

PARTICIPANTS

A diverse group of **41 members from Anandpur** participated in the vibrant workshop. The attendees included: (a) Local leaders and officials: **Village Munda** and **JSLPS officials**, (b) Community members and farmers: **VLF members**, **FPO members**, a **retired teacher**, and **community farmers** from seven Panchayats, (c) Frontline workers: **Jal Saiya**, **Bagwani Sakhi**, and **Pashu Sakhi**, (d) Organizational representatives: Members from **LEADS**, **PREJHA**, **Aspire**, and the facilitating organization, **WASSAN**.

This second meeting, facilitated by WASSAN, built upon discussions that began during the very first multi-stakeholder meeting on **January 8, 2025**. That initial meeting was organized to gather participants to discuss emerging issues and potential solutions in Anandpur.

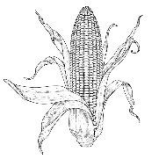
Introduction & the Forgotten Food

Foods missed by the Anandpur Community: A Categorized Overview

The following is a structured list of foods that the **Anandpur community** misses because of their **unavailability, insufficient cultivation, or environmental challenges**. These forgotten foods were categorized for clarity into **Grains and Millets, Vegetables and Greens, Mushrooms, Fruits, Nuts and Seeds, and Other.**

Grains and Millets	Vegetables and Greens	Mushrooms	Fruits	Nuts and Seeds
Madua (Finger Millet): Low cultivated in Anandpur in the last few years.	**Saag (Leafy Vegetable)**: Mentioned by a few farmers as something they miss.	**Paddy Mushroom**: One SHG farmer mentioned missing it after failing to grow it.	**Mango**: Community craves more varieties of mango.	**Chironji**: Low production last year; some available this year but still missed.
Gangai, Jowar (Sorghum): Not available this year.	**Drumsticks**: Not available year-round due to the absence of perennial drumstick trees.	**Sand Mushrooms**: Did not germinate this year due to continuous rainfall requiring sunlight.	***Jhilhur,* Forest Fruit, Red in Color**: Not seen in forests these days.	**Rugra**: Not available in Anandpur market for the past two years.
Kodo Millet: Not available in Anandpur. **Gundli (Little Millet)**: Not available these days.	**Kudrum (Roselle)**: Missed, especially in the form of chutney.	**Jamun Chattu**: No longer available in Anandpur.	**Kendu**: Not available this year. **Awla (Indian Gooseberry)**: Missed, no longer available.	**Other** **Kusum Flower**: Did not come this year, missed by the community.
Maize: Damaged this year, because of continuous heavy rainfall. **Goda Dhan (Desi- variety Upland Rice)**: Missed by the community, not available.		**Chattu (General Mushrooms)**: Not enough mushrooms grown in Anandpur.	**Pomegranate, Oranges & Grapes**: Not available in Anandpur, and is expensive in the market.	**Mahua (Boiled Mahua)**: No longer available.



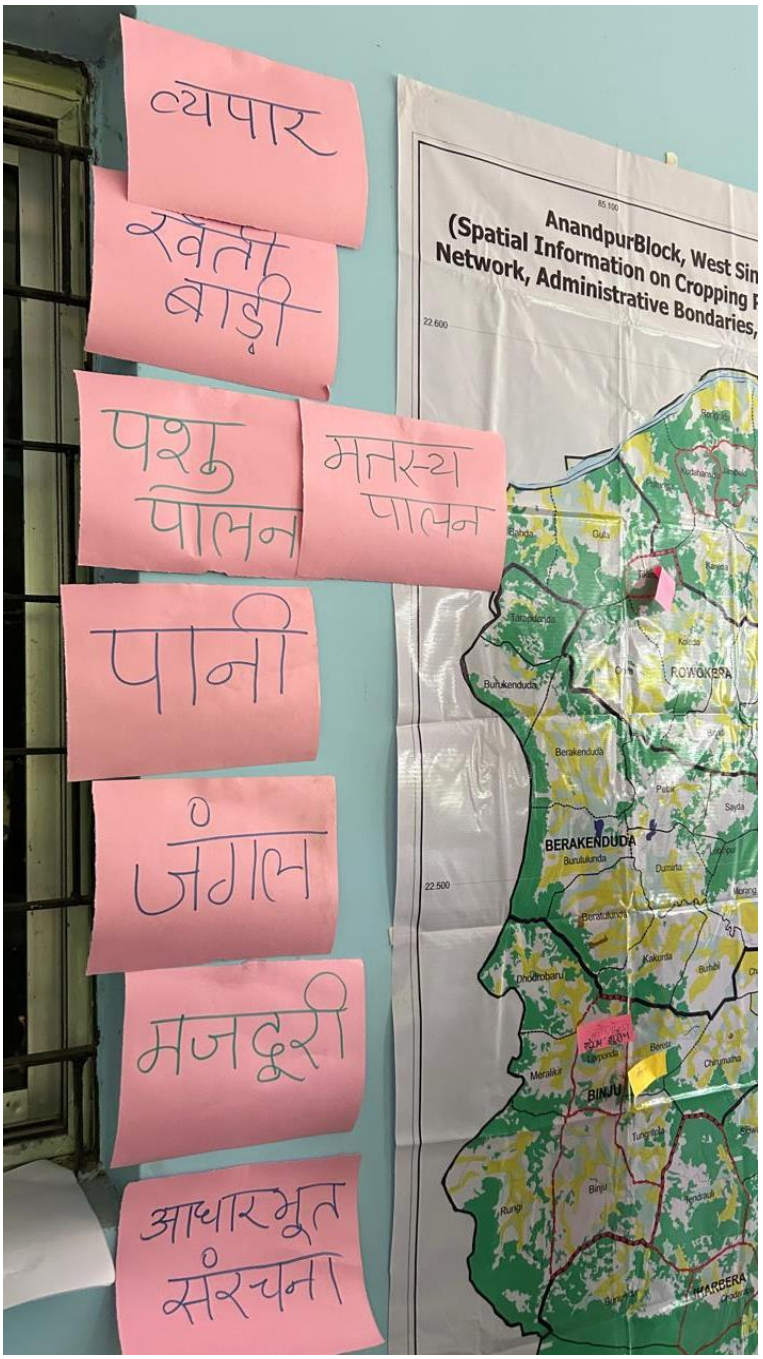
Reviewing the Anandpur Block Map

The report highlights the **interactive session** where villagers gathered around the **Block Map of Anandpur**. With clear interest, participants traced the roads—both paved and rough *kaccha* tracks—leading to their respective villages and familiar places. They excitedly pointed out and searched for their **own homes and fields**. The engagement was high, with community members taking photos of the map and many requesting a copy to share. The map itself provided **spatial information** on cropping patterns, drainage network, administrative boundaries, and proposed villages.

SESSION 1

BASIS OF LIFE & LIVELIHOOD IN ANANDPUR

- WATER
- FOREST
- AGRICULTURE
- LIVESTOCK & ANIMAL
- LABOUR
- SMALL BUSINESSES
- LAND INFRASTRUCTURE



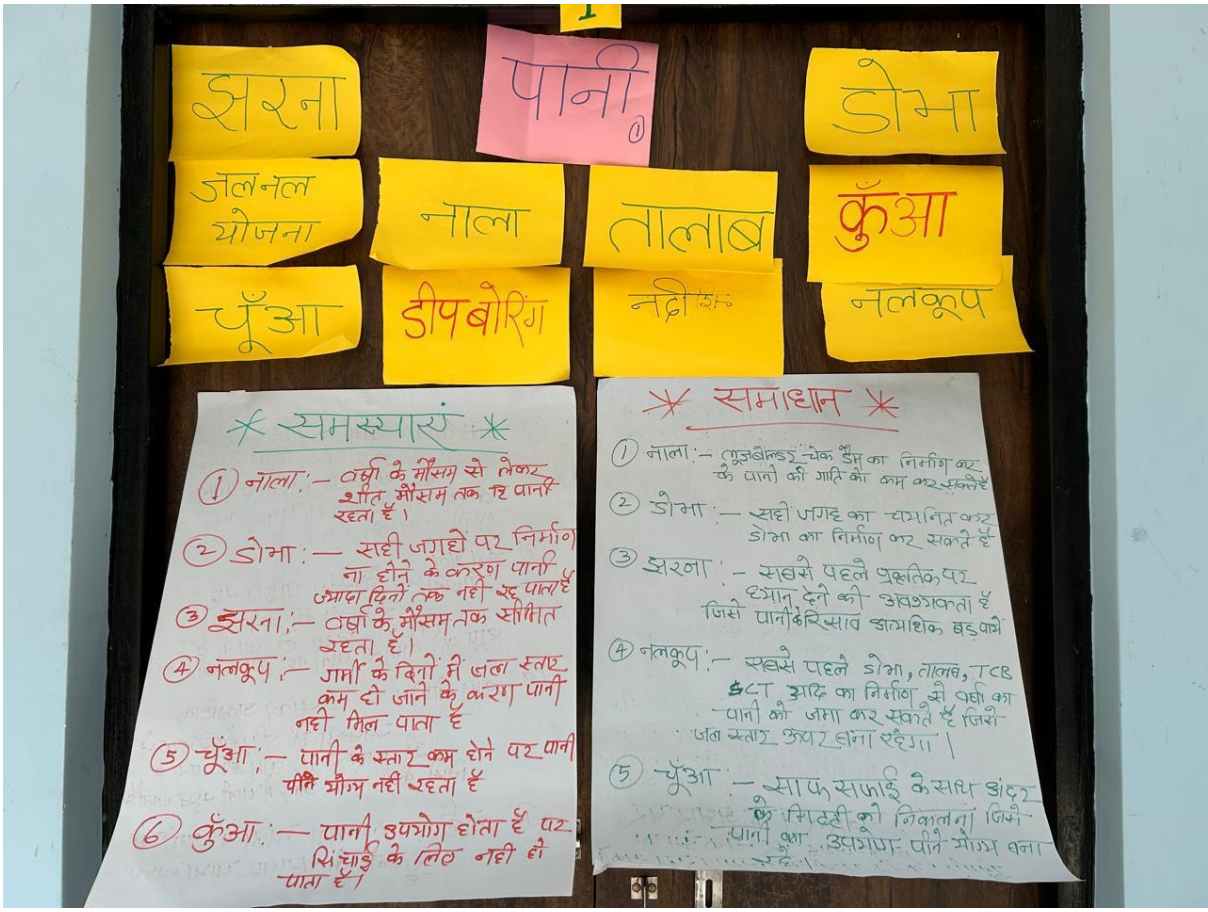
In Anandpur Block of West Singhbhum, Jharkhand, a region dominated by Ho and other Scheduled Tribe communities, life depends on simple yet vital resources, as shared by the locals themselves. Agriculture is the heart of their existence, with most families growing paddy, maize, oilseeds and millets on small plots of land, relying on rain to feed their crops. Livestock, like goats, chickens, and bullocks, supports them with farm operations, provides meat and eggs, and extra income.

The land they live on is precious, used for farming and homes, passed down through generations. Water from streams and ponds is essential for crops and daily needs, though dry seasons make it scarce. Forests around them provide wood, mahua flowers, chironji and tendu leaves, which people collect to eat or sell. Small businesses, like selling goods at weekly markets, help families earn a little more. Schools, Anganwadi centers for young children, and basic health clinics are important for learning and staying healthy, but they're often limited.

As one villager said, **"Our life is tied to the land and forest, but we need better water facilities and schools to live well".**

SESSION 2

ISSUES AND OPPORTUNITIES WITH RESOURCES THAT SUPPORTS LIFE IN ANANDPUR



■ WATER

TYPES OF WATER BODIES / SOURCES IN ANANDPUR

Drain	Canal	Dobha (Pond)	Spring / Waterfall	River
Chua (Shallow Well)	Well	Talab (Pond)	Deep Boring	Casting Pipes (Nal Jal Yojna)

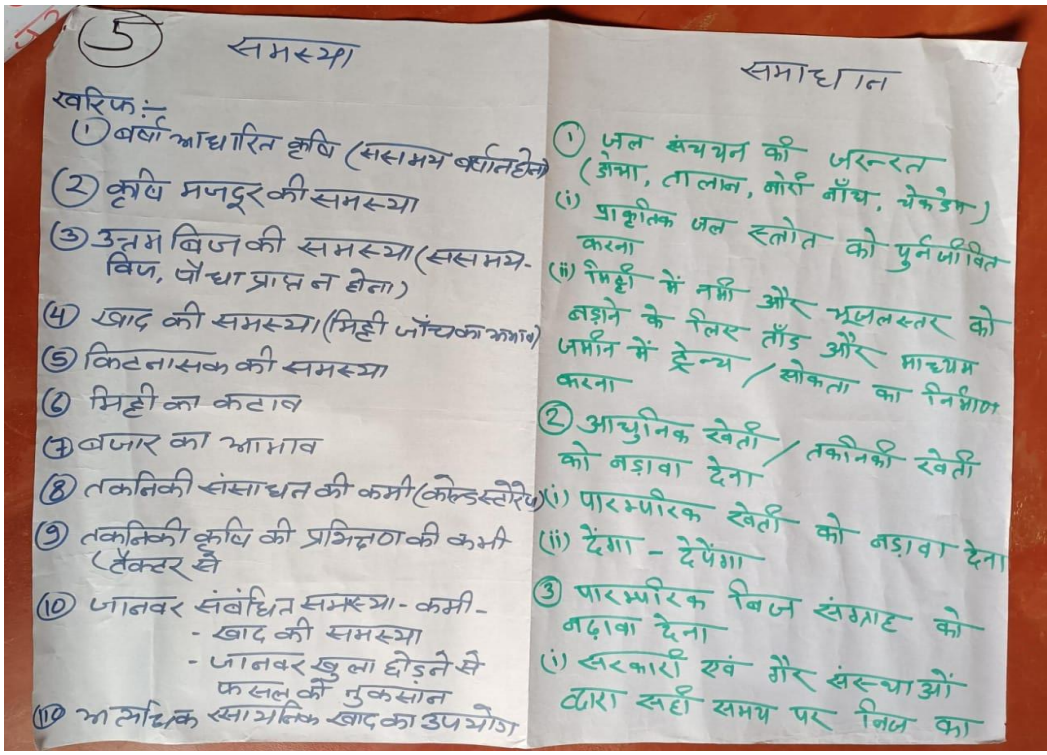
Challenges

- **Drain/Canal:** Water is available only from the rainy season to Winter.
- **Pond/Dobha:** Due to construction in unsuitable locations, water does not stay for long.
- **Spring/Waterfall:** Limited to the rainy season.
- **Handpump/Tubewell:** Water is unavailable in summer due to the water level dropping.
- **Chua (Shallow Well):** Water becomes unfit for drinking when the water level decreases.
- **Well:** Water is used, but it is insufficient for irrigation.
- **Pond/Talab:** In summer, some dry up completely, while others have very little water.
- **Deep Boring:** Due to their large numbers, the water level drops, causing wells and ponds to dry up.
- **River:** Almost dries up in summer.
- **Water Supply Scheme (Casing Pipe):** If the casing pipe is not installed properly, it gets damaged internally, leading to water leakage and wastage.

Possible Solutions

- **Drain/Canal:** Constructing loose boulder check dams can reduce the speed of water flow.
- **Pond/Dobha:** Ponds can be constructed by selecting appropriate locations.
- **Spring/Waterfall:** First, attention should be given to natural resources to prevent excessive water leakage.
- **Tubewell:** By constructing ponds, tanks, TCB, SCT, etc., rainwater can be conserved, which will help maintain a higher water level.
- **Chua (Shallow Well):** Regular cleaning and removal of internal soil can make the water potable.
- **Well:** Protecting more trees and plants and conserving water nearby can help raise the water level.
- **Pond/Talab:** Regular maintenance and repair of ponds should be carried out from time to time.
- **Water Supply Scheme:** Casing pipes should be installed properly, and water should be used as per need.
- **Deep Boring:** Keeping future generations in mind, deep boring should be limited to maintaining the water level.
- **River:** Constructing dams at necessary locations can help store water.

■ AGRICULTURE



Types of Farming in Anandpur

- **According to Season**
  - **Kharif**: Paddy, maize, urad (black gram), sesame, lachi (finger millet), nagni (foxtail millet).
  - **Rabi**: Maize, lachi, nagni, oilseeds.
  - **Zaid**: Maize, vegetables, cucumber, watermelon.

- **According to Land Slope**
  - **Upland (Tand)**: Coarse grains.
  - **Midland (Medium Land)**: Chickpea, pulses.

- **Lowland**: Paddy, vegetables.

Challenges

Kharif Crops

- Farming is entirely dependent on rainfall. Lack of timely rain leads to issues with agricultural labor.
- Shortage of improved seeds (only local seeds are used).
- Lack of soil testing and awareness about it.
- Shortage of fertilizers.
- High cost of seeds.
- Market-related difficulties.
- Lack of technical advice (e.g., cold storage, resources, etc.).
- Lack of technical agricultural training.
- Problems related to animals – damage to crops.
- Crops were destroyed due to open grazing by animals.
- Excessive use of chemicals.

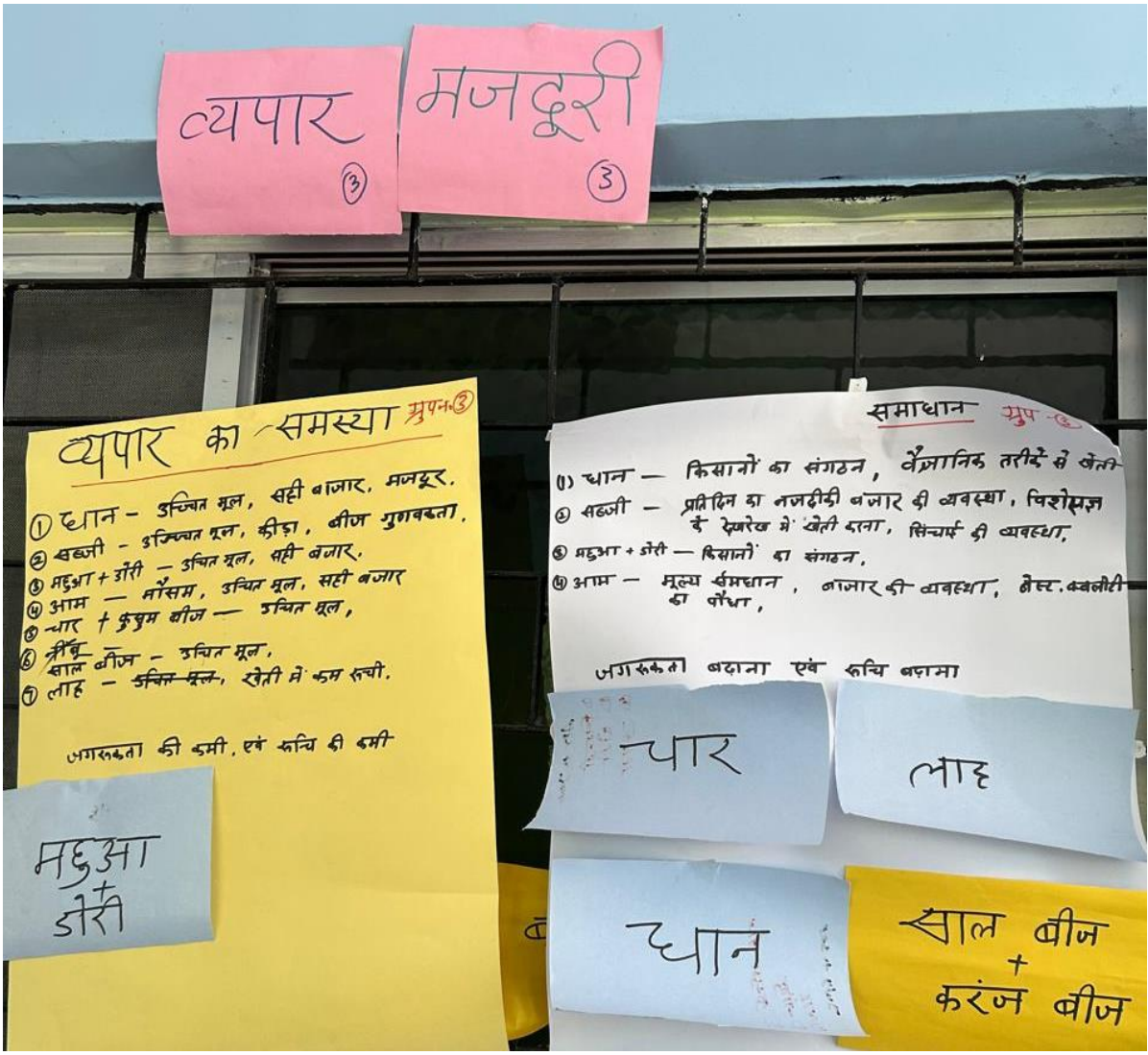
Rabi and Zaid Crops

- Water scarcity.
- Crop damage is due to animals being left to graze freely.

Possible Solutions

- Need for water conservation (canals, ponds, check dams, reservoirs, etc.).
- Revival of natural water sources.
- Construction of trenches/soak pits in upland and midland areas to retain soil moisture and raise groundwater levels.
- Promoting modern technical farming methods.
- Encouraging traditional farming practices.
- Promoting the conservation of traditional seeds (e.g., Dengi-Depengi).
- Ensuring timely availability of seeds through government and non-government organizations and activating agricultural committees.
- Promoting the use and production of organic fertilizers and medicines.
- Establishing marketing systems through production groups and FPOs (Farmer Producer Organizations).
- Connecting farmers with production groups and FPOs.
- Providing facilities to farmers through production groups and FPOs.
- Collaborating with government and non-government organizations.
- Grazing animals under control to prevent crop damage.

■ LABOUR AND BUSINESS



Problems

- **Paddy:** Not getting fair prices, lack of proper market availability, shortage of labor.
- **Vegetables:** Not getting fair prices, pest infestation, lack of quality seeds.
- **Mahua and Dori:** Not getting fair prices, lack of proper market availability.
- **Mango:** Affected by weather, not getting fair prices, lack of proper market availability.
- **Chironji and Kusum:** Not getting fair prices, lack of proper market availability.
- **Sal Seed:** Not getting fair prices.
- **Lac:** Lack of interest among farmers in lac cultivation.

Possible Solutions

- **Paddy:** Forming farmer organizations, adopting scientific farming methods.
- **Vegetables:** Arranging daily sales in nearby markets, ensuring irrigation facilities.
- **Mahua and Dori:** Forming farmer organizations, collective selling.
- **Mango and Other Fruits:** Establishing proper market systems, using quality saplings, raising awareness among farmers.
- **Chironji, Kusum, and Sal Seed:** Arranging collective selling, organizing to ensure fair prices.
- **Lac:** Raising awareness among farmers, providing training and market facilities.

FOREST AND NON-TIMBER FOREST PRODUCTS

As per community members, forests in the region are categorized into three types: Reserve Forest (demarcated by the forest department, covering approximately 50% of each village's forest area), Community Forest (recognized by elder community members, demarcated, primarily used as pastureland or uncultivated land, making up about 30% of each village's forest area), and Private Forest Land (locally known as raiyati zameen, owned by individual families with documented demarcation, constituting around 20% of the total forest area). The Anandpur forest supports a diverse ecosystem with monkeys, wild boars, rabbits, deer, wild chickens, peacocks, jackals, elephants, wild cats, and rare bears.

Trees, plants, Fruits & Flowers Found in Forests of Anandpur

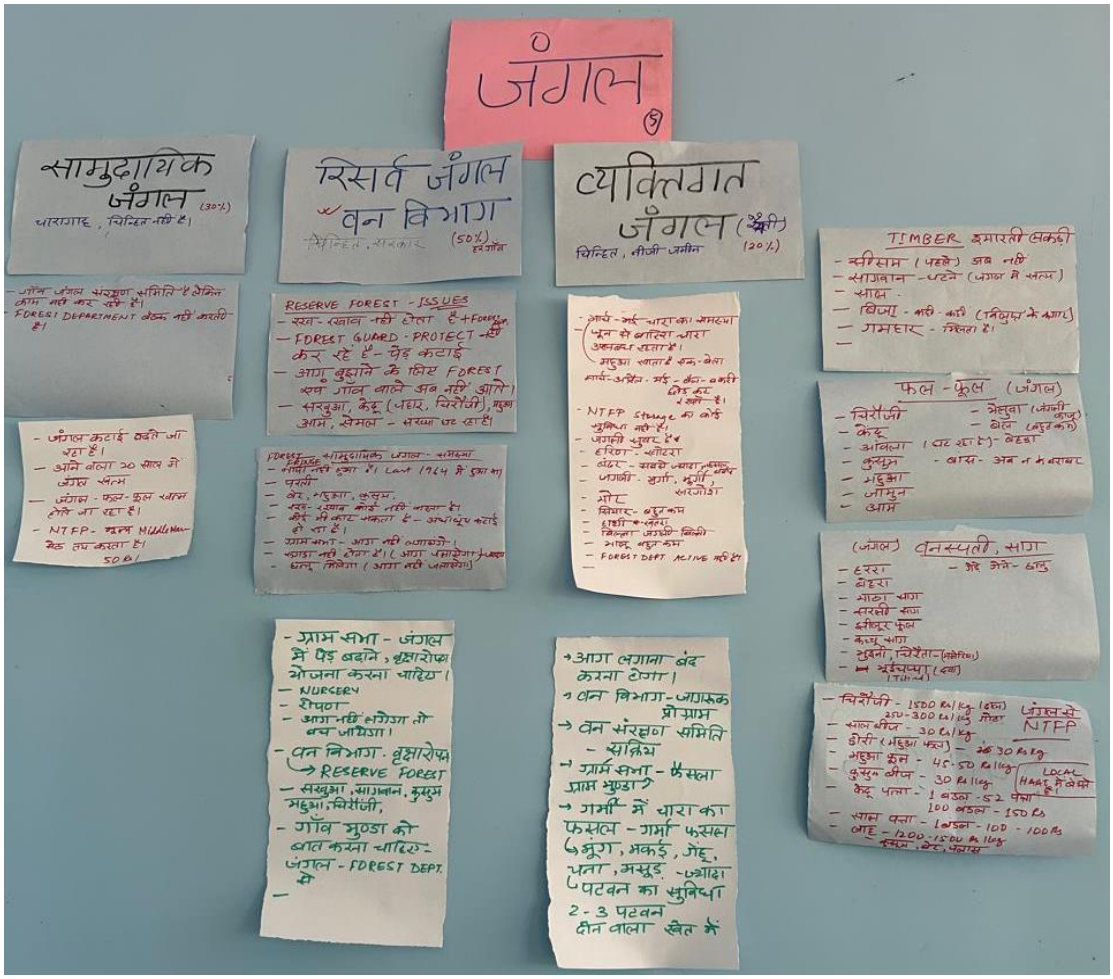
- **Leafy vegetables (Saag)**
  - Mattha Saag, Sarli Saag, Jheelur Phool, Kachhu Saag,Gede Gene (mushroom)
- **Medicinal Plants**
  - Harra, Baheda, Bhuini - Chirota (used for malaria treatment), Bhuichappa (useful for typhoid)
- **Timber**
  - Sisam (Very less in number now), Sagwan, Decreasing, Sal, Bijja - Almost extinct, Gamhar
- **Fruit Trees and Flowers**
  - Chironji, Kendu, Awla, Kusum, Mahua, Jamun, Mango, Bheluwa (Wild Kaju), Bel (Woodapple), Bamboo

Challenges

- The number of Sakhuwa (Sal), Kendu, Chahar, Chironji, Mahua, Mango & Semal is decreasing in the forest.
- Incidents of forest fires.
- Not getting fair prices for non-timber forest products (NTFP).
- Lack of active participation at the village level in conservation and management.
- Fodder Crisis - From March to May.
- No storage for NTFP produce.
- Reserve Forest is not maintained by the forest department.
- Forest Guards are not prevailing for forest destruction.
- No management or conservation of community forests.
- Deforestation is increasing.
- In the next 20 years, there might be no forest.
- The food from the forest is less and less these days.
- The Forest Department doesn't sit with villagers anymore.

Solutions

- Collective decision-making in village assemblies led by the village head (Munda).
- Promoting alternative crops during summer (e.g., maize, moong, wheat, chickpea, lentil) with adequate irrigation arrangements (3–4 irrigation cycles for fields with two crops).
- Development of Community Nursery
- Plan for afforestation in Gram Sabha
- Stop setting fires in the forest.
- Regular awareness programs by the forest department.
- Making the forest conservation committee active.
- Village Munda to deal with forest dept.
- Forest department should engage in afforestation work - must plant native trees



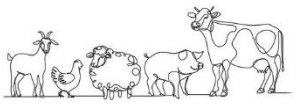
NTFP Obtained from Forests & Its Market in Anandpur

1	**Sal Seed:** ₹30/kg	5	**Tendu Leaf:** 1 bundle (52 leaves), 100 bundles – ₹150
2	**Dori (Mahua Fruit):** ₹30/kg	6	**Chironji:** Dal (₹1500/kg), Gota (₹250–300/kg)
3	**Mahua Flower:** ₹45–50/kg	7	**Sal Leaf:** 1 bundle – ₹100
4	**Kusum Seed:** ₹30/kg	8	**Lac:** ₹1200–1500/kg (from trees: Kusum, Ber, Palash)

■ LIVESTOCK

Types of Livestock, Birds reared in Anandpur

- Poultry, Sheep, Goat & Sheep, Cow, Buffalo, Fish, Pig, Duck



Challenges

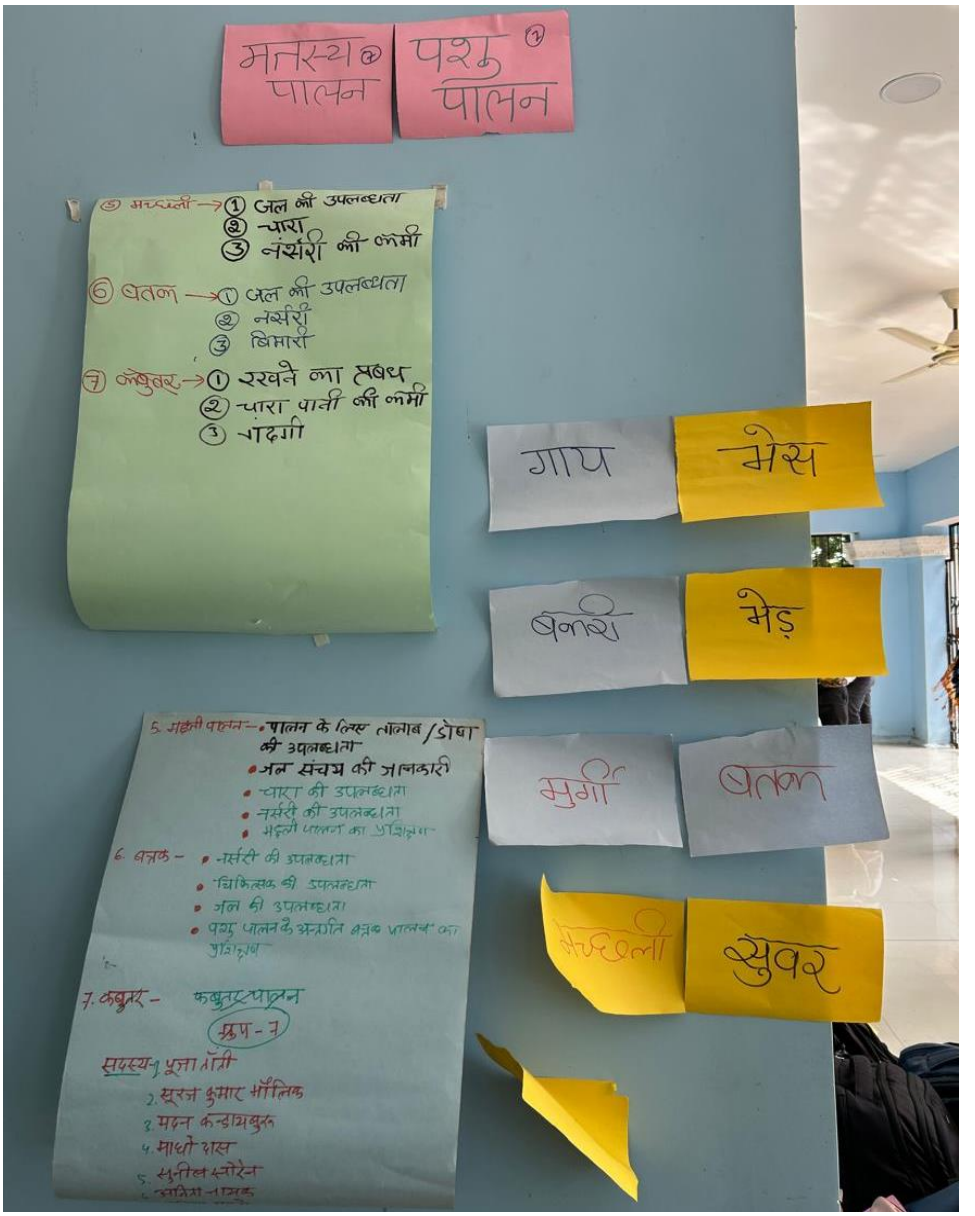
- **Poultry:** Disease issues (e.g., smallpox, Simar Phul), lack of cleanliness, absence of proper poultry sheds.
- **Goat/Sheep:** Shortage of fodder, infectious diseases, lack of proper sheds and cleanliness, limited market availability.
- **Cow/Buffalo:** Diseases, lack of training for milk production, issues with cowsheds and cleanliness, use of modern equipment like tractors.
- **Pig:** Skin diseases in summer, lack of proper pig sheds.
- **Fish:** Water scarcity, lack of fodder and nursery facilities.
- **Duck:** Water scarcity, lack of nursery facilities, and disease issues.
- **Pigeon:** Lack of proper housing arrangements, issues with fodder and water, unclean/unsanitary conditions.

Possible Interventions

- **Poultry:**

- Availability of veterinarians for disease prevention.
- Providing facilities to animal health workers under ongoing village schemes.
- Availability of poultry sheds for farming (broiler, fighter cock/hen, egg production, etc.).
- Training arrangements before starting poultry farming.

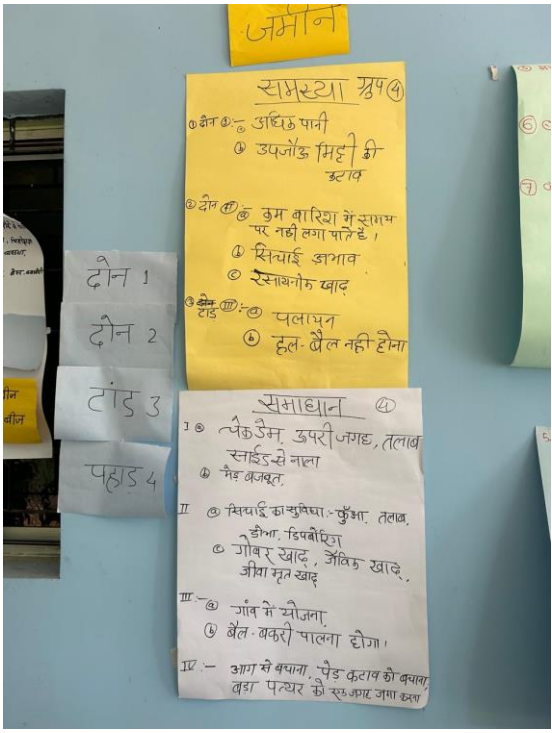
- **Goat/Sheep Farming:**
- Availability of veterinarians for disease control and treatment.
- Provision of sheds for goats/sheep.
- Arrangement of proper fodder and nutrition.
- Training for rearing.
- Ensuring market availability.
- **Cow/Buffalo Farming:**
- Availability of veterinarians for disease management.
- Training for profitable purposes (milk production, processing).
- **Pig Farming:**
- Availability of veterinarians for disease treatment.
- Emphasis on cleanliness during rearing.
- Construction of proper sheds.
- Access to markets and marketing training.
- **Fish Farming:**
- Availability of ponds/dobhas and knowledge of water conservation.
- Availability of fodder.
- Provision of nursery facilities (seed availability centers).
- Training for fish farming.
- **Duck Farming:**
- Availability of nursery facilities.
- Access to veterinarians.
- Adequate water availability.
- Training related to duck farming.



■ LAND INFRASTRUCTURE

- Lowland (Don 1), Midland (Don 2), Upland (Tand) and Hills

Challenges



■ **Don 1**

1) Access Water and 2) Erosion of fertile soil

■ **Don 2**

1) Due to less rainfall, crops cannot be planted on time, 2) lack of irrigation, 3) Usage of Chemical fertiliser

■ **TAnD**

1) Migration, 2) Difficult to till because of less and less Hal & Bullock

■ **Hills & Forest**

Possible Interventions

■ **Don 1**

1) Check dam in upper land, Pond and drain from the side

2) Strong Bunds

■ **Don 2**

1) Irrigation facility - well, pond, dobha, deepboring

2) Cowdung manure, Organic manure, Jeevamrit

■ **Tand**

1) Planning in the village

2) Revive livestock and based agriculture

■ **Hills & Forest**

1) Fire prevention, tree cutting prevention, large stone collection

Decisions Taken and Responsibilities

Following a detailed discussion, the following decisions were made:

Formation of Multi-Stakeholder Landscape Platform

The platform will be established to integrate NGOs, CBOs, and relevant government departments working in Anandpur Block. Its aim will be to collaborate with local communities and institutions to achieve the Anandpur Landscape Vision.

- **Responsibility:** All stakeholders.

Development of Landscape Plan

The Multi-Stakeholder Landscape Platform will create short-term (1-2 years) and long-term (5 years) vision and plans with clear outputs and outcomes for Anandpur Landscape, in consultation with government departments and the community.

- **Responsibility:** WASSAN.

Conclusion of the Second Multi-Stakeholder Meeting for Anandpur Block Development Plan

The second multi-stakeholder meeting successfully brought together diverse community members and organizational representatives to collaboratively plan for the **inclusive and sustainable development of Anandpur Block**.

The intensive workshop identified and documented critical challenges and opportunities across all key livelihood sectors:

- **Water**: Significant challenges include the seasonal availability of water in sources like drains/canals and springs , and reduced water levels in handpumps/tubewells during summer. Solutions prioritize **water conservation** through structures like check dams and tanks to maintain higher groundwater levels.
- **Agriculture**: Farmers face extreme reliance on rainfall, shortages of improved seeds and fertilizers, and lack of technical training. Solutions emphasize **reviving natural water sources**, promoting **modern technical farming**, and fostering the **conservation of traditional seeds**.
- **Labour and Business**: The primary concern is the inability to secure **fair prices** and **proper market availability** for products like Paddy, Mahua, Mango, and Chironji. The strategy involves forming **farmer organizations** and implementing **collective selling** and scientific farming methods.
- **Forest**: Issues include the **decreasing numbers of key trees** (Sal, Kendu, Mahua) and increased **deforestation and forest fires**. Solutions center on collective decision-making, afforestation using **native trees**, and activating **forest conservation committees**.
- **Livestock**: Challenges across all livestock (Poultry, Goat/Sheep, Pig) are dominated by **disease issues**, **fodder shortage**, and the **lack of proper sheds**. Interventions focus on improving the **availability of veterinarians**, providing **proper housing and nutrition**, and arranging **training**.

The meeting concluded with two key decisions to formalize the planning process:

1. **Formation of a Multi-Stakeholder Landscape Platform**: To integrate NGOs, CBOs, and government departments to collaboratively achieve the Anandpur Landscape Vision.
2. **Development of a Landscape Plan**: WASSAN was assigned the responsibility of creating short-term (1–2 years) and long-term (5 years) plans in consultation with the community and government.

This meeting successfully mapped the existing livelihood ecosystem, providing a solid foundation for WASSAN and all stakeholders to move forward in designing targeted, effective, and community-driven development interventions.