

Successful restoration of degraded forest through Participatory Forest Mangement in Kiraipada village, Dahanu Forest division, Palghar district

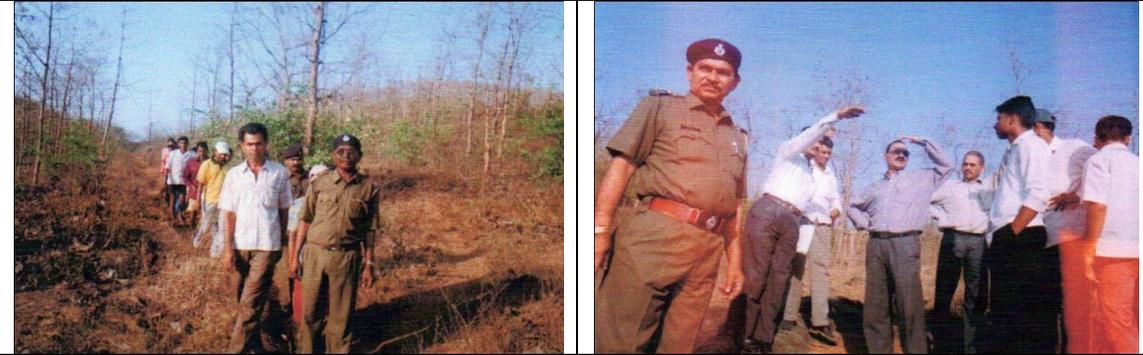
Kiraipada is a group of five small padas and is about 29 km from Palghar. It comes under the Gram Panchayath of Jalsar. The village comes in Saphala Range of Dahanu forest division.

This village is having forest area of 279.119 ha. Before 1992, the forest was totally degraded due to illicit cutting. There was tremendous pressure on these forests from adjoining villages. In 1994, the Joint Forest Management Committee (JFMC) was formed and the villagers of Kiraipada with the help of forest department started protecting the forest. They prepared the microplan for the management of forest with the active involvement of people. The journey was not easy for the people of Kiraipada in protecting their forests. They did singling of natural teak coppice through shramadan and protected it from illicit cutting and forest fire. In the process of forest protection, the villagers faced many false cases filed by the illicit cutters and people from adjoining villages but they faced all the hurdles successfully. This struggle made the people of Kiraipada stronger in their forest protection work and feels proud about their forests. As a result, today Kiraipada village is surrounded by lush green forest cover and looks like a green island in the surrounding area.

In the year 2000-01, 15 ha plantation was raised through JFMC. Because of the keen interest and efforts of the villagers, it has become a successful plantation. The JFMC prepare the time table of patrolling and accordingly the protection teams voluntarily do the patrolling. If any problem arises, then all villagers with the help of forest department take appropriate action. Because of this kind of participatory approach, the density of forest has gradually increased in the whole area and presently the density of the crop is above 0.8. The forest is predominantly of teak with average tree diameter of 80-100 cm. Other tree species present in the area are Ain, Biba, Khair, Bor, Siras, Shivan, etc.

The village has got second prize of Santh Tukaram Vangram Yojana at district level in the year 2007-08. The dense forests of Kiraipada village are the result of participatory forest management and the villagers are proud of their efforts and their forest.

Kiraipada Forests in 2007



Kiraipada Forests in 2014



This year 50 LPG connections have been distributed to the villagers. The following works have been planned by the villagers who will be implemented in 2015-16 through Joint Forest management programme;

- Soil and moisture conservation activity in the forest area.
- Raising a nursery of fruit plants through mahila bachath ghat.
- Installing Sakhi Chula (Improved chullaha) in all the houses to reduce the demand of firewood at the village level.