SAFE leads the Biorights’ way for Wetland ‘Dora Beel’, Assam, and it’s ‘Indigenous People’

Biorights assures a win-win situation for the wetland community and ecosystem. SAFE for a decade now is practicing Biorights as a pro-poor intervention, both in rural and urban sectors that are adaptive and can downscale climate impacts. Biorights continues to sustain the livelihoods of marginalized indigenous people through sustainable livelihood alternatives under further mainstreaming them in the upcoming ‘Carbon-Economy’.

Dora Beel is one such important wetland located in Assam, Kamrup district, which remains about 4 feet deep for 6 months and dry for next 6 months facing the brunt of changing climate. Understanding the current challenges and thereby to mitigate the adverse effects of climate change on Dora Beel, SAFE team with the seven villages of indigenous ‘fishermen’ group launches community conservation program under the concept of Biorights on International Day of World’s Indigenous People, on 9th August 2016.

Dora bill is inhabited by small group of people belonging to indigenous community spread in seven villages. SAFE with partnership and participation of community is commencing capacity building trainings for improved fish raring, financial inclusion of women and micro-insurance to encourage allied ecotourism services to be undertaken towards community development. This initiative is supported by NABARD, Guwahati and Central Inland Fisheries Institute, CIFRI in Guwahati.

A group of fishermen representing each village is participating in the exposure visit to East Kolkata Wetlands, EKW to better understand the concept of alternative livelihood and gain understanding of the already implemented ‘Biorights’ project by SAFE in EKW, Kolkata. In year 2011, SAFE received Earth Care Award for Biorights program.

The community suffers acute drinking water and sanitation crisis; this remains the focus of concern, and SAFE has already implemented solar powered water treatment plants and integrated model of bio-sanitation units for 12000 poor people in Kolkata and North east, and is working out the same for the indigenous community of Dora Bill.

Mr. Ananda Ghosh and Mr. Manash Das, from SAFE will lead the forefront programs with community for conservation of Dora bill.