## Serving the poor in Odisha Giridhari Patra Fellowship (*Jeevan Mati Seva and Suraksha Samiti*)

IFA started supporting Giridhari about 10 years ago when some of us while visiting the Niyamgiri hills area in Odisha, were stuck by his abiding commitment to helping these tribal communities. His work is a mixture of direct help and empowerment performed through the organization that he has put together. *JMSSS* is active in helping people secure land rights as well as in opposing destructive land mining in their area. But Giridhari spends equal amount of energy in directly helping people in need. For this, in addition to his Fellowship funds, he solicits donations from wherever he can. This was particularly evident during the pandemic when he and his organization did a yeoman's job in providing rations, medicines and other help for their community.



Giridhari and others from JMSSS distributing rations during the pandemic



Giridhari In the collector's office after applying for land title for 13 community members



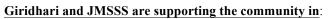
Preparing list of needy people to provide to the District Collector for appropriate action



Setting an example by donating blood. Got 68 people to donate blood in two settings



Taking medical workers to the community



- Action against tree cutting by informing the forest dept.
- Campaign for community right to natural resources (Jal, Jangal, Jameen)
- Opposing mining in the Niyamgiri hills
- Obtaining pattas (land titles) including <u>Pehle Patta baad mein Vote</u> campaign

Seeking out the sick for direct help

as well as getting state's help



Providing help with cremation during the pandemic