

# INFORM

Information e-bulletin on Participatory Forest Management



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## RUPFOR

**Resource Unit for Participatory Forestry**  
**Winrock International India**  
[www.winrockindia.org](http://www.winrockindia.org)

We are pleased to present the third issue of *Inform* to our readers. In our last issue we had reported that the area under JFM has reached 11.62 million hectares or over 15 % of country's forest lands. This figure has now been revised and it is now estimated that the total area under JFM is around 14.25 million hectares. There are presently 62, 890 JFM Committees across the country. Within a span of a decade, JFM has spread from a small experiment to one of the key forest management strategies practised in the country. In fact, area under JFM is now comparable to the area under national parks and sanctuaries (15.60 million hectares).

However, one needs to treat these figures with caution, as there has been no independent assessment of these official claims. It is worth noting that nearly two-thirds of the area under JFM is reported from just two states - Andhra Pradesh and the undivided Madhya Pradesh - both of which till recently had large World Bank assisted forestry projects.

It is likely that many of the reported JFM Committees might be existing merely on paper. More importantly, there have been reports suggesting that at several places, field implementation of JFM is at considerable variance from its *stated* philosophy and objectives.

While there is anecdotal evidence regarding positive as well as adverse impacts of JFM, there is a need for an independent assessment of the entire JFM programme. This has become even important in view of the proposed National Afforestation Programme of the National Afforestation and Eco development Board, through which JFM activities will be funded on a large scale directly by the Central Government.

In the past decade JFM has gone through two broad phases: pilot phase (early nineties) and expansion phase (mid nineties to present). Now JFM is entering the crucial institutionalisation phase. As several externally assisted projects are ending and the government is planning to step up its own support for JFM, the future direction of JFM will depend on how the National Afforestation Programme is implemented.

**Sushil Saigal, Coordinator, RUPFOR**  
**Mamta Borgoyary, Editor, RUPFOR**

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## HEADLINES

### (Current news on participatory forestry)

- **JFM - Based National Afforestation Program to be Launched in the Xth Plan**

The National Afforestation and Eco development Board (NAEB) has prepared a proposal for the ambitious National Afforestation Program (NAP) to be implemented from the Xth Five - Year Plan. NAP will be a central sector scheme to be implemented through the Forest Development Agencies (FDAs) that are being created in Territorial and Wildlife Divisions. All existing schemes of NAEB are to be merged into NAP.

The FDAs, which are federations of JFM Committees, are to be registered as Societies with the local Conservator of Forests as its Chairman and the Divisional Forest Officer as Member-Secretary cum Chief Executive Officer. The FDAs will receive direct funding from the NAEB. The focus of the scheme will be on JFM and its main targets are 1,73,000 forest fringe villages. The average area to be taken up in each FDA will be around 25 hectares at an average cost of around Rs. 22,500 per hectare.

- **International Conference on Community Forestry held in Chiang Mai, Thailand**

An international conference on community forestry titled "Advancing Community Forestry: Innovations and Experiences" was held in Chiang Mai, Thailand from 25 -28 September, 2001. It was jointly organised by RECOFTC, FAO, ICRAF, IUCN and SMRP and attended by over 250 participants from mainly South-east and South Asian countries.

For further information look up [www.recoftc.org](http://www.recoftc.org) and [www.mekonginfo.org](http://www.mekonginfo.org)

- **"Samavesha" of Village Forest Committees in Uttara Kannada District**

A large "samavesha" or gathering of Village Forest Committee (VFC) members took place in Sirsi town of Uttara Kannada district on 24<sup>th</sup> September 2001. About 1500 VFC members participated in the "samavesha", of which nearly 400 were women. The members stressed upon continuing government support to the JFM programme. Later in the day, a procession was organised to the Assistant Commissioner's office to submit a memorandum on the same to the Chief Minister of Karnataka. The local Conservator of Forests and the local MLA of the area addressed the gathering and assured the VFC members of their continued support in securing government assistance for the programme. It is noteworthy that the JFM programme in Uttar Kannada was till recently supported under a DFID project.

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- **Notification issued on "Himachal Pradesh Participatory Forest Management Regulation 2001"**

The government of Himachal Pradesh issued the "Himachal Pradesh Forest Management Regulation 2001" vide notification no Fts.II (B) 15-10/87. As per the notification issued, any government forest and government land including common land may be brought under participatory forest management, based on an application made to the Divisional Forest Officer signed by at least 50% of the voters of a gram panchayat ward. In accordance with the wider objectives and plans of government for sustainable forest management, the selected area shall be managed jointly by the Village Forest Development Society and the Forest Department.

There shall normally be one Society for a gram panchayat ward and where the ward is not compact and the hamlets within it do not have common land or common rights and concessions, more than one Society may also be formed for each cluster of hamlets. The regulation entitles the Society to some benefits of ntfp collection and a share in the sale proceeds of all intermediate harvests, subject to protection of forest and plantations for at least three years from the date of agreement. The Society will also be allowed to expand the area after a period of five years. After twenty years from the date of agreement, 75% of the net sale proceeds from the selected area shall be put into the accounts of the Society and the remaining 25%, shall go to the concerned gram panchayat. The notification also mentions that at least 40% of the net sale proceed should be utilised on forest regeneration activities, including soil and water conservation.

- **Changes in Eastern region JFM Sub Network**

The Vidyasagar University, West Bengal with the assistance of an advisory committee will now function as the zonal JFM support coordinator for the eastern region network on JFM.

To join the network, contact Dr. Ajit Banerjee, 9 Greek Church Row Extension, Kolkata, 700026, email: [akbcial@yahoo.com](mailto:akbcial@yahoo.com)

- **Forest Certification makes a debut in India**

Forest Certification - the process of ensuring that the forest products are obtained from sustainably managed forests - has made a debut in India. Teddy Exports, a business firm exporting wooden body-massagers to the Body Shop, UK, has started the process of getting its products certified by an independent agency. The firm is getting its raw material - wood - from tank foreshore plantations near Madurai, Tamil Nadu, which were raised under the social forestry programme.

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## REPORT

**Summary of the "Report of the task force on greening India for livelihood security and sustainable development", Planning Commission, Government of India, July 2001**

**(Summarised by Mamta Borgoyary)**

Sustainable management of natural resources is vital for the future of food, livelihood and environmental security of any country. It is now widely accepted that integration of environmental issues with strategies of poverty alleviation is essential for attaining sustainable development pattern.

This report, prepared by the task force, Planning Commission, is a comprehensive strategy and action plan of ten years for greening the country by bringing one third of the total geographical area under forest/tree cover.

### **Greening efforts in India**

India is one of the leading countries to recognise the contribution of forestry towards ecological stability and for people centred sustainable growth. As a result of various efforts at the national

and the state level, the national forest cover has increased by 3896 Sq.Km since 1997 (FSI, 1999). The various efforts made at the national level include:

- Amendment of the Constitution of India to include forestry under concurrent list. Including protection and improving natural environment as one of the fundamental duties.
- Amendment of the Constitution of India authorising panchayats and urban local bodies to promote social forestry and urban forestry and tree plantation on vacant land.
- Adoption of the National Forest Policy 1988.
- Adoption of National Agriculture Policy 2000, which besides other objectives promotes agroforestry and social forestry as important requisites for maintenance of ecological balance.
- Creation of National Wasteland Development Board to afforest 5 million hectare of wasteland every year.
- Implementation of externally aided social forestry projects.
- Initiation and promotion of Joint Forest Management in almost all the states. So far 44,943 JFM committees have been formed covering an area of about 11,629 ha of degraded forest land.
- Promotion of Woodbased industries and increased R&D efforts to promote agroforestry on farmlands.
- Private forestry development encouraged through various legal and policy measures.

The task force report has identified several strategies to enable greening one third of the country's land cover. Some of the important ones are summarised below:

### **Strategy for successful implementation of JFM**

The report has identified the following essential conditions to ensure successful implementation of JFM in the country:

- Suitable forest patches to be entrusted to well defined user groups with transparent Memorandum of Understanding on the roles and responsibilities of the committee and the Forest Department.
- Assured security of tenure and access to benefits.
- Appropriate silvicultural practices followed for management of JFM forests. Stakeholders to have a voice in decision-making.
- Legal back up to JFM committees.
- Appropriate institutional and financial mechanisms.
- JFM committees to collaborate with industries for sale of JFM produce.
- Detailed projects to be prepared for assistance under Rural Infrastructure Development Fund (RIDF) of NABARD.
- 'Food for Work' schemes to be launched to ensure food accessibility and employment generation for JFM members.
- Setting up Forest Development Agencies (FDAs) as federations of JFM committees for timely flow of funds, decentralisation and integrated rural development.

### **Strategy for agroforestry development**

The report recommends the following to promote agroforestry:

- Commercial agroforestry to be practised in areas where irrigation is available.
- High tech modern nurseries to be established on catchment area basis.
- Agroforestry to be tried in rainfed areas to provide additional income as well as complement agriculture.

- Elite clones of important agroforestry species to be developed for different edaphic and climatic zones. Corporate sector to assist in R &D activities.
- New research, new product development, new quality designs and quality standards to be developed for downstream processing.
- Market information system to be developed.
- Restrictions on felling of trees, logging, transport and marketing of forest produce to be removed.
- Establish agroforestry boards and marketing federations.

#### **Target for greening programme**

- 15 m ha of degraded forest land to be covered under JFM.
- 10 m ha of irrigated area to be brought under commercial agroforestry.
- 18 m ha of rainfed area to be brought under subsistence agroforestry.

#### **Institutional Mechanisms**

In order to carry out the gigantic task of greening India by the year 2011, a Green India Authority will be set up in the Planning Commission. The Authority will be responsible for the coordination, monitoring and evaluation of the programme. The Authority will also operate the Green India Fund to be created. Besides, some other recommendations have also been made:

- Two separate departments- Department of Forest and Department of Environment to be created within the Ministry of Environment and Forests.
- National Afforestation and Eco development Board to be abolished and its schemes to be transferred to the proposed Department of Forests.
- National Research Centre for Agroforestry, Jhansi to be upgraded to a national level institute. It will provide research and technological support for agroforestry in rainfed areas
- Centre for Social Forestry and Eco- rehabilitation, Allahabad, to be upgraded to a national level institute.
- Forest Research Institute Dehradun and Institute of Wood Science and Technology, Bangalore should carry out forest product research on priority basis and promote quality standards.
- Indian Institute of Forest Management, Bhopal and Indian Council of Forestry Research and Education, Dehradun to carry out socio-economic and marketing research.
- Department of Biotechnology to identify elite clones of important agroforestry species.
- Separate cell for agroforestry/JFM to be created in NABARD
- Hundred NGOs possessing land and other infrastructure facilities to be identified for mass production of seedling and for other external facilities.

#### **Financial Requirements**

The task force has identified the total financial requirement of the greening programme to be in the tune of Rs 48000 crores for the plan period of ten years, which amounts to Rs 4800 crores annually, against the existing availability of Rs 1615 crores per anum.

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**(Interesting/ emerging issues on participatory forestry)**

**Joint Forest Management: A Decade and Beyond**

**(Abridged version of the original paper presented by Sushil Saigal, at a workshop in Institute of Economic Growth, Sept 2001)**

**Introduction**

The growing depletion of forest resources and the increasing deforestation, led to the realisation that active and willing participation of the forest fringe communities is necessary for any forest regeneration programme to succeed. It was also realised that village communities would have little incentive to participate unless they benefit directly and have sufficient authority to be effective. Therefore a new strategy, called Joint Forest Management or JFM, was adopted to protect and regenerate degraded forests.

**Current Status**

Over the past decade, the JFM programme has spread in the country and over 18 percent of the country's forest land have been brought under JFM. In absolute terms, the area under JFM is now more than 14 million hectares and 62,890 JFM groups are involved.

**Table 1: Status of JFM in India (as on June 1, 2001)**

| S. No. | State             | No. of JFM Committees | Area under JFM (ha.)  |
|--------|-------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| 1      | Andhra Pradesh    | 7,606                 | 16,79,084.00          |
| 2      | Arunachal Pradesh | 13                    | 5,810.00              |
| 3      | Assam             | 245                   | 6,970.00              |
| 4      | Bihar             | 296                   | 5,04,602.50           |
| 5      | Chattisgarh       | 6,412                 | 33,91,305.31          |
| 6      | Goa               | 26                    | 13,000.00             |
| 7      | Gujarat           | 1,237                 | 1,38,015.19           |
| 8      | Haryana           | 471                   | 65,852.42             |
| 9      | Himachal Pradesh  | 914                   | 1,11,247.20           |
| 10     | Jammu & Kashmir   | 1,895                 | 79,546.00             |
| 11     | Jharkhand         | 1,379                 | 4,30,463.00           |
| 12     | Karnataka         | 2,620                 | 1,85,000.00           |
| 13     | Kerala            | 32                    | 4,994.70              |
| 14     | Madhya Pradesh    | 9,203                 | 41,25,837.00          |
| 15     | Maharashtra       | 2,153                 | 6,86,688.00           |
| 16     | Manipur           | 58                    | 10,500.00             |
| 17     | Mizoram           | 129                   | 12,740.00             |
| 18     | Nagaland          | 55                    | 1,50,000.00           |
| 19     | Orissa            | 12,317                | 7,83,467.00           |
| 20     | Punjab            | 188                   | 97,193.40             |
| 21     | Rajasthan         | 3,042                 | 3,09,336.00           |
| 22     | Sikkim            | 158                   | 600.00                |
| 23     | Tamil Nadu        | 799                   | 2,99,389.00           |
| 24     | Tripura           | 160                   | 23,476.79             |
| 25     | Uttar Pradesh     | 502                   | 45,025.44             |
| 26     | Uttranchal        | 7,435                 | 6,06,608.00           |
| 27     | West Bengal       | 3,545                 | 4,88,095.00           |
|        | <b>Total</b>      | <b>62,890</b>         | <b>1,42,54,845.95</b> |

## **Impacts**

The JFM programme has led to several positive impacts. The major ones are briefly discussed:

*Change in attitude and relationship* - One of the key achievements as mentioned in the End-of-Project Review Report of the DFID supported JFM project in Kullu and Mandi districts of Himachal Pradesh is the observed change in attitudes of local communities and forest officials towards each other and forests. Similar change in the attitude has been reported in several other states, i.e. in Andhra Pradesh (Rangachari and Mukherjee 2000), Maharashtra, (case study of Buldhana Division in Maharashtra), in Rajasthan (Ghose 2001), etc. The large number of training and orientation exercises carried out in different states (especially where JFM is/was supported under an externally assisted project) have also helped in the process.

*Improvement in the condition of forest* - There is evidence from several location specific scientific studies that the programme has resulted in the improvement in the condition of the forests. For e.g., declining incidents of illicit felling has been reported in Buldhana Division after the JFM programme was initiated in 1996-97 (Jha 2001a). Another study carried out by the Andhra Pradesh Forest Department indicated that between 1996 and 1999, while dense and open forest has increased by 18 % and 22 % respectively, scrub and other forests has reduced by 18 % (Mukherjee 2001).

*Reduction in encroachment* - In several areas, introduction of JFM has resulted in reduction in area under encroachment and fall in the rate of fresh encroachment. For instance, in Andhra Pradesh, nearly 12 % of the encroached land (38,158 hectares) has reportedly been vacated after the initiation of the JFM programme (Mukherjee 2001). Similar reduction in encroachment has also been reported from Maharashtra (Jha 2001a)

*Increase in income* - Several externally assisted projects laid emphasis on employment generation and creation of productive community assets as part of the entry point or development activities. For instance, it is estimated that over 4 crore person days of work was created through JFM related activities during the six years (1994-2000) Andhra Pradesh Forestry Project was operational (Mukherjee 2001). In Maharashtra, a sum of Rs. 9.73 lacs has been spent on the microplan of each FPC constituted under the World Bank assisted project (Jha 2001). In a few states such as West Bengal, FPCs have started earning income through intermediate and final harvests. In South West Bengal, it is estimated that each FPC has received about Rs. 70,000 on an average.

*Involvement of NGOs* - The JFM programme has led to considerably greater involvement of NGOs in the forestry sector although there is significant variation from state to state. While there is very limited NGO participation in states like Himachal Pradesh and West Bengal, over 250 NGOs are involved in the JFM programme in Andhra Pradesh.

## **Key Issues**

There are a number of issues that need attention before the JFM programme can be institutionalised in the country. Some of the major ones are discussed in the section.

*Conflicts* - At several places, JFM has resulted in increased inter and intra-community conflicts, often leading to physical violence. Intra-community conflicts mainly emanate from inequitable



distribution of costs and benefits of JFM among different subgroups (class, caste, gender etc.) within the community (PUDR 2001). There are reports of *begari* and other conflicts from the famous Harda Division also (Diwan, Sarin and Sundar 2001).

Inter-community conflicts over boundaries and access rights have increased as traditional (and even formal) access rights of different groups have not been taken into account while initiating JFM. Several conflicts of this nature have been reported from Jammu and Kashmir, Himachal Pradesh and Rajasthan.

So far, there have been limited attempts to address these issues. The new guidelines issued by the Ministry of Environment and Forest (MoEF) take cognisance of this problem and suggest formation of multi-stakeholder working groups. While such groups already exist in some states, their performance is far from satisfactory.

*Transparency* - There is an urgent need to increase transparency at the field level, especially in areas where large amounts of funds are being provided for JFM through special projects.

*Traditional/existing institutions* - The issue of recognising the traditional forest protection communities (without destroying them by making them conform to a rigid framework) hasn't been resolved as yet. In some cases, formalisation of existing self-initiated groups has led to severe problems. The new JFM guidelines issued by the MoEF in 2000 do emphasise on the need for "identifying, recognising and registering" these groups but do not offer any practical tips as to how to go about it. Apart from self-initiated groups, JFM is also being extended to existing formal institutions such as *Van Panchayats* in Uttaranchal. This has resulted in considerable confusion at the field level and many have questioned the wisdom of such a move.

*JFM in dense forests and protected areas* - Although the new guidelines issued by the MoEF mention that JFM should be extended to good forest areas, these also put a limit of 100 hectares on area and 20 % on share in revenue from final harvest. Moreover, JFM is not applicable to protected areas. The current law governing protected areas *viz.* the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972, does not offer any space for local communities' participation in the management of protected areas. Although efforts are on to amend it and introduce new categories of protected areas such as "community reserves",<sup>1</sup> the proposed amendments do not tackle the issue of involving the village communities in the protection and management of existing protected areas. The process of declaring an area as protected is still arbitrary and there is a need for greater transparency and participation in settling of rights (Pathak and Kothari 1998).

*Project related issues* - In most states, JFM activities are being financed through externally assisted projects. The JFM is either mainly restricted to the project areas or if it is extended to other areas, there is often considerable disparity in the resources available for the FPCs in project and non- project areas. The other major issue is sustainability of the programme after the close of the project and stoppage of funding.

*NTFP related policies* - Most of the commercially valuable NTFPs are not shared with the communities even under JFM e.g. *tendu* leaves (*Diospyros melanoxylon*) and gum in Rajasthan; resin in Jammu and Kashmir, Himachal Pradesh and Uttaranchal; and *sal* seeds and *tendu* leaves in West Bengal. There are also a number of restrictions on value addition and marketing. The potential of enhancing the income of the FPCs through these NTFPs can be seen from the case of Andhra Pradesh, which decided to share 50 % of the net revenue from *tendu* leaves with the FPC (G.O. Ms No. 66 dated 4<sup>th</sup> May 1999). After this order 1,444 FPCs have received Rs.

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<sup>1</sup> A draft amendment to this law seeks to introduce two new categories of protected areas, *viz.*, "conservation reserves" to provide buffers or corridors to existing protected areas, and "community reserves" declared on the recommendation of a community or individuals seeking legal sanction and recognition to areas that they wish to protect. In both cases, local communities are to be represented on advisory committees for management.

4.97 crores as their share in the income. It has been reported that after this order 247 FPCs in Khammam district and 59 FPCs in Adilabad district have adequate income to sustain the JFM programme in the future (Mukherjee 2001).

*Adaptive silviculture* - Under JFM, diverse needs of the community members for different products and services have to be managed from a relatively small area. There is currently very limited understanding of management options for managing a forest patch for multiple (and often competing) needs. Very little is known about species that have limited commercial value but provide important subsistence products for the communities. There is a need for concerted research to develop viable management models for JFM.

*Marketing* - Marketing is emerging as one of the most critical areas in JFM. There are problems in both the pioneering states - West Bengal and Haryana - on this front. In West Bengal, regular harvesting started in 1995-96 but only a small area could be harvested as there was limited market for the products coming out of JFM forests *viz.* cogging sleepers, poles and posts. In Haryana, the price of *bhabbar* has registered a sharp decline in recent years. Several FPCs in Yamuna Nagar haven't been able to auction their produce as Ballarpur Industries Limited - the largest buyer - has changed the technology of its plant and doesn't need *bhabbar* in large quantities any longer. Withdrawal of excise concessions on *bhabbar* have made it further unattractive to the company (Saigal, Arora and Rizvi 2001).

There is an urgent need to re-examine the assumption that there is large unsatisfied demand to all forest produce and thus all the produce can be sold. While deciding the product mix from the JFM forests, marketing angle needs to be kept in mind.

*Involvement of corporate sector* - While some companies are assisting in the JFM programme (e.g. Tata Electric Company, IPCL and Uttam Steel Limited in Maharashtra and TVS-Suzuki in Tamil Nadu), their involvement has so far been marginal and mainly in the nature of charity or public relations exercise (e.g. Tata Electric company has built some WCs in FPCs while Uttam Steel Limited has provided a steel pipe to Khalapur FPC in Raigarh district). The only state where the involvement of corporate sector has been sought on a meaningful scale in order to sustain the JFM programme is Andhra Pradesh. Though there has been initial problems in terms of protests and resistance from the NGO sector

*Legal issues* - Except a handful of states (such as Jammu and Kashmir, Uttar Pradesh, Rajasthan and Himachal Pradesh- Andhra Pradesh is likely to follow suit soon), JFM programme is based on administrative orders than can be withdrawn or changed at any time. The FPC is also merely registered (as against registration as a Society, Trust etc.) with the Forest Department in most states, which has no legal standing. This lack of adequate legal cover for JFM creates several problems.

*Links with panchayats* - One of the key challenges facing JFM today is its link with the *Panchayati Raj Institutions* (PRIs). The PRIs have got a constitutional mandate after the passage of the Constitution (Seventy-third) Amendment Act, 1992. As the objectives of the two institutions (FPCs and PRIs) overlap, there is a need to develop linkages between the two.

### **The Way Ahead**

First of all, there is a need to put in place a monitoring and evaluation system to assess the ecological, social and economic impact of the programme. Some progress in this direction has

been made after the establishment of the JFM Monitoring Cell in the MoEF after extending the scope of the existing Forest Fire Division. A JFM monitoring format has been developed and sent to all the State Forest Departments. There is also need to develop a macro perspective of JFM. Innovative mechanisms to strengthen the programme are being tried in different states. There is a need to promote interstate learning on these issues.

In recent months, Clean Development Mechanism or CDM activities have also been cited as a potential source of funding for JFM (Ravindranath 2001). If JFM is found to be an eligible activity under Article 12 of Kyoto protocol, new funding can become available. The Central Government is also working on a central JFM scheme. This scheme is proposed to be implemented through newly created Forest Development Agencies, which are federations of FPCs. While this scheme would reduce the dependence on external funding sources and help in integrating JFM into the regular working of the Forest Departments, the future direction that JFM takes in this country will very much depend on the way this scheme is implemented in the field.

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## PROFILE

**(Profiles of organisations/institutions/individuals with innovative contributions to participatory forestry)**

### **Regional Community Forestry Training Centre for Asia and the Pacific, (RECOFTC)**

**Kasetsart University, PO Box 1111, Bangkok 10903, Thailand**

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**Website: <http://www.recoftc.org>**

The Regional Community Forestry Training Centre for Asia and the Pacific (RECOFTC) was founded in 1987 in Bangkok to cater to the requirements of the emerging community forestry programs in the region.

Located on the campus of Kasetsart University (Bangkok, Thailand), RECOFTC works in close collaboration with partner organizations to actively support community forestry development in the region. In the initial years, RECOFTC focussed on providing training, through a Community Forestry Certificate Course, for people involved in forestry programs. It also provided a forum for discussion of ideas and issues through its annual seminars. However, the emerging developments in the area of community forestry gave rise to the need to adapt to the changing nature in this field, and in response, in 1999, RECOFTC staff commenced an extensive process of reflection and program planning and came up with the following principles and objectives.

#### **RECOFTC Mission Objective**

RECOFTC seeks to promote rural people's participation in the management and development of forests in the Asia Pacific region.

#### **RECOFTC Objectives**

- To build capacity in the region to develop and support community forestry, including capacity training, education, research, policy developments and program implementation.
- To collect, generate, and share relevant knowledge, methods and approaches for community forestry development.
- To support partnerships that strengthen local and national institutions to plan and implement community forestry activities.

The RECOFTC program is divided into the following thematic areas

- Conflict Management in Forest Resource Management
- Forest Resource Development and Extension
- Training Capacity Support
- Products and Markets
- Local Management
- Strengthening National and Rural Support Networks and Policy Analysis
- Education and Curriculum Development
- Community-based Forest Fire Management

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RECOFTC works also through partner organizations to strengthen and support community forestry initiatives in a number of Asian countries, of which the prominent one are in Cambodia, China, Indonesia, Nepal and Thailand.

#### **RECOFTC documentation center**

In 1992, RECOFTC established a documentation center to provide training participants with community forestry related information. The documentation center plays a major role in disseminating FAO and FTTP (Forests Trees and Peoples Program) related documents in the Asia-Pacific Region. Today, the documentation center has evolved into one of the premier information center on community forestry development in the region. It houses more than 5,500 publications, 360 newsletters and journals, 15,040 videos and more than 20 CDs. In addition, the documentation center has begun the task of digitizing much of its information and linking with other forestry information centers in the region.

As part of its mandate to disseminate information on community forestry, RECOFTC also brings out two newsletters: The Asia Pacific Community Forestry Newsletter and the Farmer Field School in Integrated Crop Management Bulletin. These newsletters can also be accessed through their web site.

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## **BOOK REVIEW**

**(Critical reviews of books relevant to participatory forestry)**

**Communities and forest management in South Asia: A regional profile of the working group on community involvement in forest management**

**Edited by: Mark Poffenberger**

**IUCN, September 2000**

**Pages: 161**

**(Contributed by Mamta Borgoyary)**

As part of the regional profile series initiated by Working Group on Community Involvement in Forest Management (WG, CIFM), supported by the World Conservation Union (IUCN), this regional profile focuses on the five South Asian countries of Bangladesh, India, Nepal, Pakistan and Sri Lanka.

Drawing upon the editor's own experience in the region, the report illustrates the changing trend in the forestry sector in South Asia. The report is presented in six broad parts. Part 1 discusses some of the fundamental shifts that have occurred in forest management techniques world-wide. Part II of the report examines the history of the varied forest management techniques in the South Asian region, providing an analysis of how these techniques influence the new directions forest management systems are taking. Part III describes the important forest ecosystems found in South Asia. Each of the country profiles is then discussed in part IV of the report. This section details out the policy changes and the current projects and programs of community involvement in the forestry sector in each of these five countries. Part V presents a selection of case studies from South Asia that reveal some of the diverse contexts in which community forestry is practised in this region. Part VI of the report summarises the challenges and the lessons learnt in community forestry in South Asia.

The report makes an interesting and important contribution in understanding the trend in forest sector reforms in South Asia. It is evident that the importance of maintaining the natural environment is gaining ground in this region. Growing concerns of the rural communities throughout the region over the deterioration of local ecosystems has led to many grassroots environmental movements oriented towards forest conservation. National policies in this region are increasingly endorsing community role in natural resource management. In this context, this report can help understand the reform process and can provide guidance to other countries experimenting with related strategies in forest sector reforms.

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### (List of recent articles, papers and journals in the area of participatory forestry)

#### **BOOKS AND ARTICLES**

- Roshni Kutty and Ashish Kothari, Kalpavriksh 2001      Protected areas in India- a profile.
- Ahmad Tasneem, June 2001      Village forests: a solution to the legal problems involved in joint forest management, *The Indian Forester*, No.6
- T.P Singh et al., June 2001      Resource rehabilitation with rural development ; the new JFM paradigm, *The Indian Forester*, No.6
- R.C. Dhiman, August 2001      Traditional initiatives in participatory forest management: Dodrakwar (Shimla) experience, *The Indian Forester*, No. 8.
- Ravindranath, *et al.*, June 2001      Status of research on participatory forestry: joint forest management and community forestry in India., Indian National Science Academy, New Delhi.
- Centre for World Solidarity, September 2001.      Report on stakeholders consultation on community forest management, Centre for World Solidarity, Secundrabad.
- Sekhsaria Pankaj, September 2001      Deforestation in Andaman and Nicobar: its impact on Onge, *Economic and Political Weekly*, Vol. XXXVI, No 38.
- Planning Commission, Government of India, July 2001      Report of the task force on greening India for livelihood security and sustainable development.
- Ministry of Environment and Forests and Kalpavriksh, June 2001      National biodiversity strategy and action plan- India: proceedings of the mid term national workshop, New Delhi, 13-15 June 2001.
- Sundar et al 2001      Branching out: Joint forest management in India, Oxford University Press, New Delhi

#### **JOURNALS**

- The Common Property Resource Journal      Quarterly publication of the International Association for the study of common property, USA.  
For more information, see [www.iascp.org](http://www.iascp.org)
- JFM Newsletter for Eastern Region, Kolkata      For more information, write to Dr A K Banerjee, 9, Greek Church Row, Extension, Kolkata, 700028

## IN-SITE

(List of participatory forestry related websites)

| Institute/Organisation<br>And website address  | Brief note on the contents of the site   |
|--|--|
| <b>The International Association for the Study of Common Property</b><br><a href="http://www.iascp.org">http://www.iascp.org</a> | The International Association for the Study of Common Property (IASCP), founded in 1989, is a non-profit Association devoted to understanding and improving institutions for the management of environmental resources that are (or could be) held or used collectively by communities in developing or developed countries. The site hosts information on the membership details and a information on CPR digests |
| <b>World's Rainforest Movement</b><br><a href="http://www.wrm.org.uy">http://www.wrm.org.uy</a>                                  | World Rainforest Movement is an international network of citizens' groups of North and South involved in efforts to defend the world's rainforests. The site carries information about its work, its publications and links to other related sites.  |
| <b>Forest Conservation Portal</b><br><a href="http://forests.org/">http://forests.org/</a>                                       | An informative portal on all types of information related to forest conservation.  |

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## LOOKOUT!

(List of upcoming events, workshops, announcements, conferences and training courses)

### CONFERENCES

June 17-21, 2002

Victoria Falls, Zimbabwe

*IASCP conference on " Commons in an age of Globalisation"*

Detailed information on <http://www.indiana.edu/~iascp>

November 21-23, 2001

Indian Institute of Forest Management, Bhopal

Workshop on " Community conserved areas in India: Issues and Options"

For participation contact: Neema Pathak, email: [kvriksh@vsnl.com](mailto:kvriksh@vsnl.com)

November 8-9, 2001

Manesar

World Bank organised "National Meeting on Community Forestry Issues"

Contact: [snarayanan@worldbank.org](mailto:snarayanan@worldbank.org)

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## FEEDBACK

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We welcome you to send us relevant articles/news/events/announcements that you would like to disseminate widely. We are also in the process of starting a working paper series on community forestry; we invite you to send us interesting and innovative papers for consideration for publication under this series. Should you like to unsubscribe, kindly send an empty reply mail with "unsubscribe INFORM" as the subject of the email. You will automatically be removed from our mailing list.

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