China’s Collective Forests
An Overview

China National Forestry Economic and Development Research Center (FEDRC)

MIAO Guangping

mikebj312@263.net
miao2000@forestry.gov.cn
Introduction

- Purposes
  - Elevate public understanding of the collective forest (CF) sector
  - Encourage greater understanding of the potential to contribute to sustainable development and better forest management
Framework

1. Development History of Collective Forests
2. Forestry Ownership
3. Management Model
4. Distribution
5. Main Products and their Contribution
6. Township Forestry Processing Enterprises
7. Policies and Programs Occurring in CFs
8. Conclusions and Issues to Be Further Studied
Development History of Collective Forests

- Formation of Collective Forests
  - Rural Cooperatives Campaign (in 1953)

- Development of Collective Forests
  - Agricultural households’ responsibility system (1978)
  - Forestry “three fix” policy (in 1981):
    - CFs allocated to individuals and households as self-keeping plots and responsibility mountains
Forestry ownership

Forestry ownership in China

State-owned forestry
- State-owned forest enterprises
- State-owned forest farms

Collective forestry
- Collective forest farms
- Individual forests or woods

Generally:
- Property rights of CF = legitimate rights of occupation, utilization, benefit and disposal over the forests, woods and forestland

For Forestland:
- owned by collectives

For Forests/woods or trees:
- owned by either collectives or individuals
Management models of Collective Forests

During the development of CFs, various management models were created to CF land:

- contract or lease (self-keeping plots or responsibility mountains)
- share-holding cooperatives, and
- share-holding

So far, there is no data on representative percentage of each management model, or its production output.
Distribution of Collective Forests

According to the 5th forest inventory (1994-1998), CF total area is 89.75 million hectares, accounting for 58.4% of the nation’s total forest area.
Collective forest area is greater in the south and east than in north and west.
The CF area in these top 10 provinces is 67 million ha, making up 75% of the total CF area.
16 provinces have greater than 80% of their forests designated collective forests

9 provinces above 90%
7 provinces 80-89%
2 provinces 70-79%
Contribution of Collective Forest Products

- In China, 69% of its area is mountains and highlands. It’s here that 56% of the total population (1.3 billion) lives.
  - CFs provide products for farmers’ livelihoods, including timber, fuelwood, fruits, and vegetables
  - CFs provide job opportunities
  - Development of eco-tourism & a flower industry - New industries developed for rural areas

CFs play an important role in increasing rural economic development and contributing to farmers’ income shown in the following data:
Collective forest products

In 2002, 81.3% (6.32 million ha) of plantations in China were collectives.

46.3% (20.52 million m³) of the total national timber production was from collective forests.
Sources of Timber Production

- **State-owned**
- **Collective & individual**

- 1997: 57.6%, 40.7%
- 1998: 56.8%, 41.5%
- 1999: 55.0%, 43.5%
- 2000: 52.2%, 46.1%
- 2001: 53.5%, 44.7%
- 2002: 52.0%, 46.3%
Fuelwood production

![Graph showing fuelwood production and its percentage of total timber production from 1997 to 2002.]

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Million Cubic Meter</th>
<th>Fuelwood as percentage of total timber production</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1997</td>
<td>4.59</td>
<td>7.2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1998</td>
<td>4.10</td>
<td>6.9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1999</td>
<td>3.88</td>
<td>6.4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2000</td>
<td>3.28</td>
<td>6.9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2001</td>
<td>3.55</td>
<td>7.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2002</td>
<td>3.09</td>
<td>7.0%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Output of non-wood forest products from CFs in 10 southern provinces

- **Oil-tea camellia seeds**: National Production 853 million Kg, 10 Southern Provinces Production 830, 97% distribution.
- **Dries bamboo shoots**: National Production 482, 10 Southern Provinces Production 450, 93% distribution.
- **Resin**: National Production 567, 10 Southern Provinces Production 500, 88% distribution.
- **Palm sheets**: National Production 59, 10 Southern Provinces Production 37, 64% distribution.
- **Chinese tallow tree seeds**: National Production 36, 10 Southern Provinces Production 18, 61% distribution.

National Production vs. 10 Southern Provinces Production percentage (%).
Township Forest Processing Enterprises (TFPEs)

- There is no data on the numbers, types, production volume or value of CF enterprises. The only available data are on TFPEs.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>TPEs</th>
<th>TFPEs</th>
<th>Proportion</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Number of enterprises (1,000):</td>
<td>33.26</td>
<td>8.12</td>
<td>24.41%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of employees (million):</td>
<td>5.08</td>
<td>1.31</td>
<td>25.81%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Production value (billion US$):</td>
<td>132.0</td>
<td>25.4</td>
<td>19.22%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
TFPEs Compared with Township Processing Enterprises (1996-2002)

Enterprise number (1,000)


Township processing enterprises
Township forestry processing enterprises

%
Employment at TFPEs and Township Processing Enterprises (1996-2002)
Production value of TFPEs and Township Processing Enterprises

US$ 1 = 8.28 RMB
Policies & programs affecting CFs

- Natural Forest Protection Program (NFPP) - logging ban
- Forest Ecosystem Compensation Policy (FECP)
- Harvest quota policy
- Grain for green program
Natural Forest Protection Program

- NFPP covers 17 provinces and is to last from 2000 to 2010. Its main activities include:
  - natural forest logging ban + improved management + artificial plantation + aerial seeding + mountain closure
- About US$12 billion was budgeted for NFPP, with a forest area of 72.9 million ha,
  - 26.8 million ha of collective forest area (36.8%)
Launched in 2001, 11 provinces--
660 counties and 24 Natural Reserves

Forest area: 13.33 million ha

Collective Forest: 8.55 million (64.12%)

Payments within FECP:
US$ 9 per ha

The amount of the fund:
US$ 120.7 million per year
Conclusions & Issues to Be Further Studied

- There exists a lack of nationwide or provincial data on many aspects of collective forests
- Farmers’ property rights and interests to collective forests should be protected
- How do collective forests develop poverty-stricken areas
- The potential of collective forests, forest products and related industries
Thank you!