JOINT FOREST MANAGEMENT (JFM) IN ANDRA PRADESH, INDIA

 Visakhapatnam Forest Circle in 3 districts of India's Andhra Pradesh State along the State's North Coast



Joint Forest Management and Community Livelihoods

- India is actively implementing a model of community-based forest management in the public forest estate on reserved and protected forest areas and in the environs of areas designated as biological protected areas.
- The model is becoming increasingly participatory with greater rights over forests being extended to participating villages and village committees.
- This has important implications for development in tribal communities in select forest areas

How much forest is under Joint Management in India

- From a pilot experiment in a community of West Bengal state, JFM has burgeoned into an alternative model of forest conservation in more than 11 million hectares of public forest lands, organizing more than 65,000 village forest committees (VSS).
- Some states, such as Andra Pradesh, have expanded to model to significant areas of the forest lands and handed over forest product rights and local control to VSS in tribal and non-tribal areas.

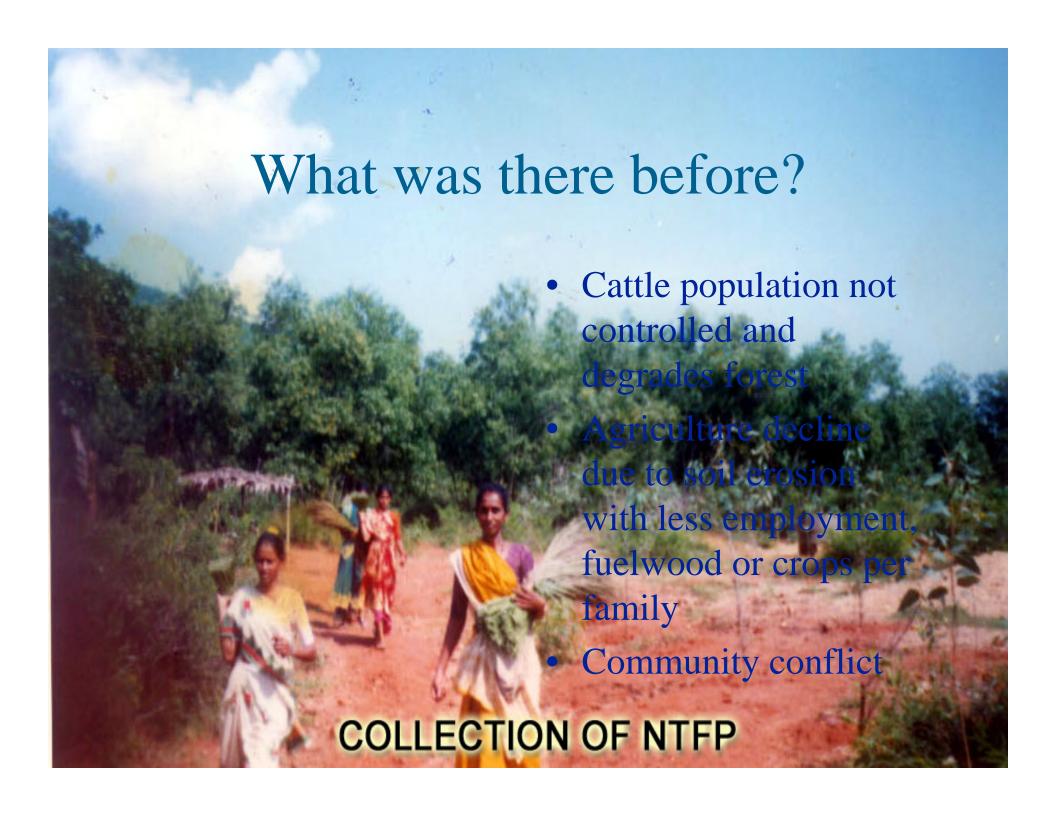


Joint Forest Management





- Past strategies failed to reduce deforestation
- Govt. shifts Forest
 Management and
 Conservation Strategy
 and policy to people's
 participation
- Integrated NRM and poverty strategy



Approach for making the Shift

- Create confidence people with FD
- Start participatory management
- Inject financing
- Build capacity for self-help and action
- Create information for planning resource use
- Integrated understanding of local livelihoods and local interests



REBAKA V.S.S FORESTRY DEVELOPMENT

Recognizing the past strategies that have not yielded desired results, to reduce the pace of forest degradation, the Government have shifted the Forest Management and Conservation strategy and policy to rehabilitate and protect the degraded forests through people's participation, attaching more importance to the welfare of people by involving them in the process of planning, implementation and management of the Natural Resources with an ultimate objective of poverty alleviation and Ecological and Environmental Development.

I JFM - ACHIEVEMENTS

Joint Forest Management commenced in 1993-94.

Total Forest area – 6,56,943 ha.

Percentage of forests – 28%

Total degraded area identified – 2,93,422 ha.

Percentage of degraded area – 40%

Area brought under JFM – 1.93,590 ha.

No. of Forest Protection committees formed = 1509

People involved – 122064

Male 65,908, Female 56,156

The scheduled tribe population involved in JFM. 90% - 96,624

Mandays generating 1,53,90,345 (15 Millions)

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History of Transition



- Slow start 94-96
- Active participation 96-97 and planning
- Microplans and inventory
- Restoration and regeneration with useful species
- Effective SMC works in the watershed
- Community protection



- Initial slow start up--199396
- Active participation from 96-76 with microplans and inventories linked to working plans of forests
- Forest extension and baseline surveys document transition and product flow (NTFP)
- Activities include:]

 tending viable root stock
 for forest regeneration
 gap area planting
 soil and moisture
 conservation works in
- participatory forest protection

watershed

DEEPENING THE TANK BY COMMUNITY

V Some Reasons for success:-

- 1. Credit goes to Hon'ble CM of AP., <u>Sri N. Chandrababu Naidu</u>. His relentless and constant efforts of persuasion has changed the mind set of officials as well as people.
- 2. GREAT COMMITMENT AND POLITICAL WILL.
- 3. World Bank's Mid term appraisal indications
- 4. Sincerity and dedication of Forest Officials
- 5. Frequent meetings and interactions
- 6. Awareness buildings through campaigns.
- 7. Capacity building though proper trainings.
- 8. Positive Press role / Coverage on SUCCESS STORIES
- 9. Frequent field inspections and guidance of senior officers.
- 10. Timely solving the <u>funds problems</u>.
- 11. Proper action plans and Micro planning.
- 12. Methodical Baseline exercise.
- 13. Exposure visits
- 14. Encouragement by CM. by direct Access to VSS. Presidents
- 15. State Govt. G.O. to give 100% usufruct to VSS.
- 16. 50% C. fees goes to VSS.
- 17. ENTRY POINT Activity.

VI <u>IMPACT OF JFM PROGRAM-</u>

- Social and environmental impact.
 - » Empowerment of people Poor people educated on environment & ecology issues.
 - » Awareness building ACHIEVED.
 - » Capacity building VSS FORMATION A POSITIVE CHANGE.
 - » Issues discussed, resolved in forums.
 - » Self help group Federations





• Tribal Development:-

- Committees empowered and implemented 30 million rupees of activities (US\$ = 49 rupees)
- Drinking water facilities provided to 1875 families
- Horticulture started 4500 tribal farms
- Tree planting on 2700 has. of private farms
- Group enterprises and economic returns from use of forest products and services

• Complementary investments:-

- 15 million rupees of investments (US\$ = 49 rupees)
- Approach roads formed, Accessibility increased
- Community halls utilized as schools buildings
- Protected water facility in some villages.

• Non-conventional energy development:-

- 45,000 smokeless woodstoves give a <u>30-35% fuel savings</u>.
- 400 Biogas plants to tribals Integration of over all schemes.

• Children Education and Welfare:-

- No school dropouts in VSS villages.
- Health & hygien improvements.
 - » Malaria eradication in tribal areas.
 - » FAMILY WELFARE
- Wage employment:-
 - <u>120 to 180</u> days employment in an year though forestry operations.
 - Reduction of migration in tribal areas
 - Vegetation status Improved.
 - National Remote Sensing Agency (NRSA) data reveals
 14 to 15 % increase in <u>vegetation</u>
 - Pole crop 2000 poles per ha.

• Natural Regeneration:-

- NTFP INCREASED @ 2000 T0 5000 per ha.
- Sappiling crop 6 to 10 Mts. Heights.
- <u>Bamboo</u> rejuvenating in <u>50,000</u> ha. on protection and cultural operations.
- In <u>32 samithies</u> bamboo harvesting commenced Rs. <u>16.0 lakhs</u> obtained.
- Reappearance of rare species on protection <u>Cycas</u>, <u>Gloriosa superba</u>,
 Asptragus etc. & Medicinal plants

<u>NTFP:-</u> Tremendous increase in certain products like <u>Gumkaria</u>, <u>Myrabylons</u>, <u>brooms</u>, <u>grasses</u>, <u>Adda leaf</u> etc. <u>200%</u> to <u>600%</u> increased.

Watershed development:-

- 49.82 lakhs of cubic meters of earth works, (trenches) completed under Neeru Meeru up to 3rd phase.
- <u>123</u> Check dams constructed.
- 244 Percolation tanks.
- 31171 Rock fill dams constructed.
- Drinking water facilities improved. More then 1,000 dried up wells were rejuvenated.
- Ground water recharge. 1 to 2 meters general increase in water column.
- Agricultural production enhanced. Nearly <u>7,000</u> ha. of new area brought <u>under cultivation</u>.
- Crop pattern has been changed, where dry crops were grown earlier, now paddy is grown. Income per ha. has been enhanced from Rs.1500/- to 7,500.
- More than 55,000 small and marginal farmers are benefited.
- People's <u>living standards improved</u>
- Fodder improved
- More than 10,000 ha. of waste land has been treated.

CONCLUSION



"The <u>Success</u> depends on <u>effective</u>
participatory approach (HRD) with timely
corrective steps taken. The <u>efforts</u> must be
<u>sustainable</u> to reach sustainable
<u>development</u> to attack <u>rural</u> <u>poverty</u> through
<u>natural resource</u> management"