

***REPORT PREPARED & SUBMITTED  
TO HOST COUNTRY***



**WORKSHOP REPORT**



***National Workshop to “Promote The  
Implementation Of ITTO Guidelines for the  
Restoration, Management and Rehabilitation of  
Degraded and Secondary Tropical Forest in India.***

***22 – 25th August, 2006***

**Savera Hotel Limited,**  
**Chennai, India.**

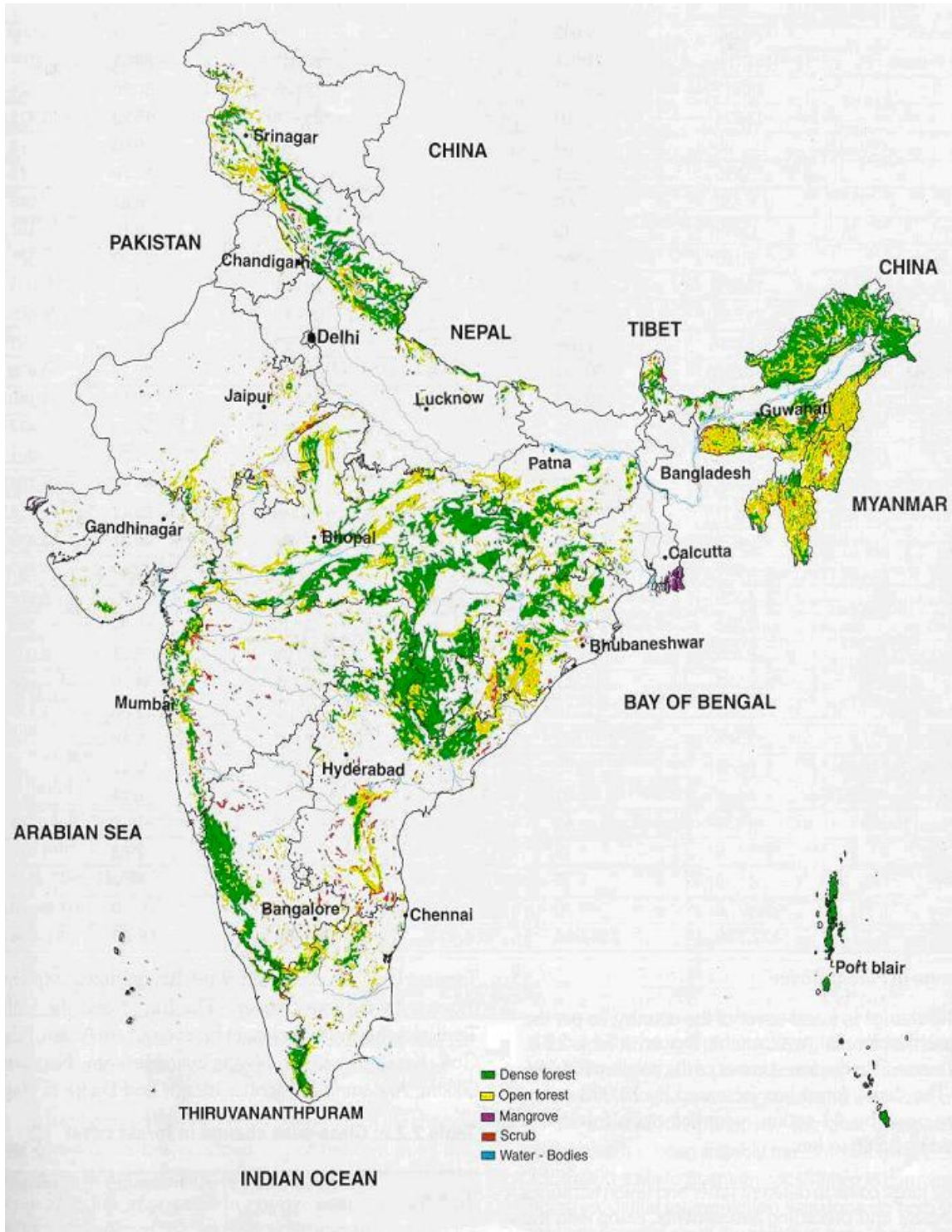
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## ACRONYMS

ANR	Assisted Natural Regeneration
AOFFP	Area Oriented Fuel Wood & Fodder Projects
CIFOR	Center for International Forestry Research
EC	Executive Committee
EGDP	Eastern Ghat Development Project
EFP	Extension Forestry Project
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
FFP	Farm Forestry Project.
FLR	Forest Landscape Restoration
GIS	Geographic Information Systems
GPFLR	Global Partnership on Forest Landscape Restoration
ICDP	Integrated Conservation and Development Project
IFFP	Interface Forestry Project
ITTO	International Tropical Timber Organization
IUCN	World Conservation Union
JBIC	Japanese Bank International Co-Operation
JFM	Joint Forest Management
JFMC	Joint Forest Management Committee
M&E	Monitoring & Evaluation
MFP	Minor Forest Produce
MIS	Management Information System
MOU	Memorandum of Understanding
NPPF	Non-Timber Produce Project
PLA	Participatory Learning & Action
PRA	Participatory Rural Appraisal
SFP	Social Forestry Project
SHG	Self Help Group
TAP	Tamil Nadu Afforestation Project
TNADP	Tamil Nadu Agricultural Department Project
NGO	Non-governmental organization
VA	Voluntary Organization
VFC	Village Forest Council
WGDP	Western Ghat Development Project
WWF	World Wide Fund for Nature

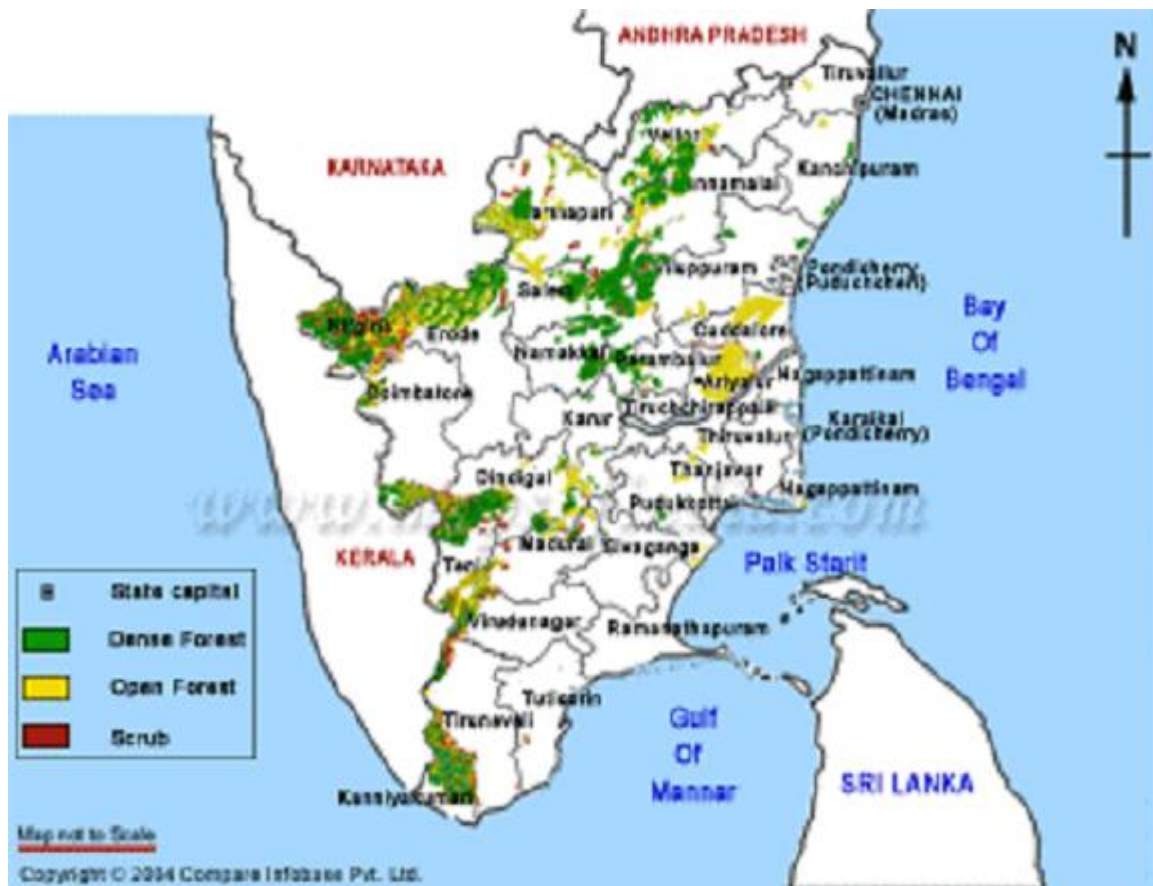
## Distribution of Forest Cover in India



## Comparison of Forest Cover From 1987 – 2003

Comparison of Forest Cover from 1987 to 2003									
State/UT	1987	1989	1991	1993	1995	1997	1999	2001	2003
	Forest cover	Forest cover	Forest cover	Forest cover	Forest cover	Forest cover	Forest cover	Forest cover	Forest cover
Andhra Pradesh	49,573	47,290	47,290	47,256	47,112	43,290	44,229	44,637	44,419
Andhra Pradesh	64,132	69,002	68,757	68,661	68,621	68,602	68,847	68,045	68,019
Assam	25,160	24,832	24,751	24,508	24,061	23,824	23,688	27,714	27,826
Bihar	28,482	26,668	36,668	26,587	26,561	4,832	4,830	5,720	5,558
Jharkhand	-	-	-	-	-	21,692	21,644	22,637	22,716
Delhi	15	22	22	22	26	26	88	111	170
Goa	1,240	1,255	1,255	1,250	1,250	1,252	1,251	2,095	2,156
Gujarat	11,991	11,921	11,907	12,044	12,320	12,578	12,965	15,152	14,946
Haryana	513	513	513	513	603	604	964	1,754	1,517
Himachal Pradesh	12,480	12,480	12,480	12,502	12,501	12,521	13,082	14,360	14,353
Jammu & Kashmir	20,905	20,449	20,449	20,443	20,433	20,440	20,441	21,237	21,267
Karnataka	32,268	32,104	32,199	32,343	32,382	32,403	32,467	36,991	36,449
Kerala	10,292	10,292	10,292	10,336	10,336	10,334	10,323	15,560	15,577
Madhya Pradesh	130,099	135,541	135,541	135,396	135,164	74,760	75,137	77,265	76,429
Chhattisgarh	-	-	-	-	-	56,435	56,693	56,448	55,998
Maharashtra	45,616	44,044	44,044	43,859	43,843	46,143	46,672	47,482	46,865
Manipur	17,475	17,685	17,685	17,621	17,558	17,418	17,384	16,926	17,219
Meghalaya	16,466	15,645	15,875	15,769	15,714	15,657	15,633	15,584	16,839
Mizoram	19,086	18,170	18,853	18,697	18,576	18,775	18,338	17,494	18,430
Nagaland	14,394	14,399	14,321	14,348	14,291	14,221	14,164	13,345	13,609
Orissa	53,253	47,227	47,205	47,145	47,107	46,941	47,033	48,838	48,366
Punjab	943	1,338	1,343	1,343	1,342	1,387	1,412	2,432	1,580
Rajasthan	12,758	12,884	12,889	13,099	13,280	13,353	13,871	16,367	15,826
Sikkim	2,756	3,041	3,041	3,119	3,127	3,129	3,118	3,193	3,262
Tamil Nadu	17,472	16,992	16,992	17,005	17,045	17,064	17,078	21,482	22,643
Tripura	5,953	5,535	5,535	5,538	5,538	5,546	5,745	7,065	8,093
Uttar Pradesh	31,226	33,627	33,609	33,961	33,986	10,751	10,756	13,746	14,118
Uttaranchal	-	-	-	-	-	23,243	23,260	23,938	24,465
West Bengal	8,432	8,015	8,015	8,186	8,276	8,349	8,362	10,693	12,343
Andaman & Nicobar Islands	7,601	7,622	7,622	7,624	7,615	7,613	7,606	6,930	6,964
Chandigarh	2	5	5	5	7	7	7	9	15
Daad & Nagar Haveli	238	206	206	206	204	204	202	219	225
Daman & Diu	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	6	8.34
Lakshadweep	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	27	23
Pondicherry	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	36	40
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>648,819</b>	<b>638,804</b>	<b>639,364</b>	<b>639,368</b>	<b>638,879</b>	<b>633,397</b>	<b>637,293</b>	<b>675,538</b>	<b>678,333</b>
<b>Percent (%)</b>	<b>19.49</b>	<b>19.43</b>	<b>19.45</b>	<b>19.45</b>	<b>19.43</b>	<b>19.27</b>	<b>19.39</b>	<b>20.55</b>	<b>20.64</b>

## Distribution of Forest Cover in Tamil Nadu



## **Background to the Workshop**

The government of India Ministry of Environment and Forest decided to organize a national level workshop to promote the implementation of International Tropical Timber Organization (ITTO) Guidelines for the Restoration, Management & Rehabilitation of Degraded & Secondary Tropical Forest & Forest Landscape Restoration in India. It has been decided to entrust the work of organizing this national workshop to Forest Department Agency Chennai, under the supervision of State Forest Department Tamil Nadu.

The workshop was held on 22 – 25<sup>th</sup> August 2006 in Savera Hotel Limited, Chennai– 14. There were 23 Participants including NGO's and Private Sector, Directly involved in formation & implementation of the policies & strategies pertaining to the above subject.

The actual expenditure on this workshop is US \$ (To be filled by the host Country). The International Tropical Timber Organization (ITTO) had transferred this payment through (To be filled by the host Country) bank to meet the expenses regarding the said National Workshop.

In addition, IUCN allotted an amount of US \$2000 in its budget as fees for the National / Local training specialist Thiru. A. Rehmath Ali. This is in addition to the US \$ 20000 that ITTO provided for this Workshop.

The International training expert identified by ITTO & IUCN for the said workshop, is Mr. Sandeep Sengupta, Project Officer, IUCN Forest Conservation Programme.

## **Background to the Workshop Theme\***

The ITTO *Guidelines for the Restoration, Management and Rehabilitation of Degraded and Secondary Tropical Forests* was published in 2002, after its approval by the ITTO's Council. Consistent with this Decision, Six sub-regional workshops were organized in the three tropical regions involving the participation of all ITTO producer member countries in order to promote the understanding of the Guidelines, provide feedback and encourage further regional or country level initiatives in this area.

In November 2003, the Council approved the ITTO Biennial Work Program for the year 2004-2005. This work program prescribed two specific actions in connection with the Guidelines: (i) the organization of 9 national workshops to further promote the implementation of the Guidelines, and (ii) the development, in close collaboration with other organizations, of technical manuals on forest landscape restoration.

Within this context, a reader / manual on forest landscape restoration was developed in collaboration with several institutions including IUCN, CIFOR, WWF International, Interco operation (Switzerland) and the University of Queensland (Australia).

The reader, titled *Restoring Forest Landscapes. An Introduction to the Art and Science of Forest Landscape Restoration*, deals, with specific aspects related to forest landscape restoration in a user-friendly manner and is illustrated with examples.

With support from IUCN, Nine (9) national workshops were prepared to further support the dissemination of the Guidelines, the Manual and the concept and implementation activities of FLR. In Latin America, 3 workshops were carried out in March, 2006 in Mexico, Guyana, Guatemala & 1 in India during August 2006.

\* Taken from manual for National Workshops on ITTO Guidelines for the restoration, Management and Rehabilitation of Degraded and Secondary Tropical Forests. IUCN Forest Conservation Programme in collaboration with Intercooperation.

## **OBJECTIVES AND EXPECTED OUTCOMES**

Through a collaborative effort between ITTO and IUCN, the following specific objectives and expected outcomes were set out for the workshops:

### **Specific Objectives:**

To gain a shared understanding of the state of forests in India and to introduce key concepts of FLR;

To understand the current status of FLR in India, the constraints faced by key stakeholders in applying FLR and what their needs are;

Introduce the ITTO Restoration Guidelines and the ITTO/IUCN Manual on FLR;

Increase understanding of FLR by participating in a field trip;

Provide feedback on ITTO guidelines and manual and formulating ideas for practical level FLR implementation in India;

Prepare an Action Plan for FLR implementation in India.

### **Expectations as listed by the participants:**

- Explore the models adopted in other countries for successful restoration of degraded forest lands
- To evolve a relevant and practical model for Indian context for restoration and sustained management of degraded forest lands and to evolve an appropriate policy framework relevant the implementation of FLR in India
- Exploring ways to integrate forest based industries in the FLR programme.
- How effectively issues related to livelihood, social security and Ecological Integrity is addressed and implemented through futuristic strategies
- To get acquainted with the new approach for restoration, management and rehabilitation of degraded secondary forests in India
- To get a clear conceptual understanding of FLR
- To get exposed to the concept of ITTO guidelines on restoration and rehabilitation of Tropical forests and success stories elsewhere in the world
- Evolving suitable Guidelines for FLR/Watershed restoration

- Getting an idea on the procedure for applying for ITTO pilot projects
- Involvement of all stakeholders in the FLR guideline development process
- Training and capacity building of stakeholders involved in FLR implementation
- To ascertain how best the issues relating to degradation of wildlife habitats are being addressed by the guidelines prepared by ITTO
- How FLR can be helpful in speeding up the process of natural restoration process of forests.
- How can we address the concern of forest fringe villages regarding empowerment and capacity development to win their confidence for the betterment of forest
- How the social values of forests be included and recognized in the afforestation programmes
- Interaction with officers working on different posts in the different states coming for the workshop.
- How best the land use pattern is documented which will provide the basis for classification on which rehabilitation and restoration of forest cover in degraded lands.
- To know about the various approaches/schemes available in different parts of the country
- To know how restoration extent can be quantified for a better assessment

### **Selection of participants**

1. Shri. P.S. Rao, I.F.S,  
Chief Conservator of Forests (Research), Andhra Pradesh - Forest Department
2. Shri. R. Seenivasan, Manager, TNPL, Karur (NGO)
3. Dr. C.N. Pandey, Director, IPIRTI, Bangalore
4. Dr. R. Udhayakumar, Dean, AGRI, Gandhigram

5. Dr. Bipin Behari, I.F.S., Deputy Inspector General of Forests, New Delhi
6. Shri. Sanjay Joshie, Team Leader, Foundation for Ecological Security, Rajasthan
7. Shri. A.K. Joshi IFS., Assistant Inspector General of Forests, New Delhi
8. Shri. Kishal Giridhar, I.F.S., FRLHT, Bangalore
9. Shri. S.S. Bist, I.F.S., Additional Principal Chief Conservator of Forests, West Bengal
10. Shri S D Sontakke IFS., Chief Conservator of Forests, Maharashtra State, Nagpur
11. Shri. Rajiv kumar Tamta, I.F.S., Chief Conservator of Forests (JFM), Chattisgarh
12. Shri. K.S. Sethi, I.F.S., TERI, New Delhi
13. Dr. J.A. Khan, I.F.S, Chief Conservator of Forests (WP), Gujarat
14. Shri. Balachandra Hedge, SIRSI, Karnataka
15. Shri. K.S.S.V.P. Reddy, I.F.S., Additional Director, Department of Environment, Chennai
16. Dr. M.G. Rao IFS., Dean, Forest College, Mettupalayam
17. Shri. S. Kalyanasundaram, I.F.S., District Forest Officer, Tiruvallur - Tamilnadu
18. Shri. Ouseph IFS., Chief Conservator of Forests, Tiruvananthapuram
19. Dr Dilipkumar IFS., Additional Principal Chief Conservator of Forests, Karnataka
20. Shri. Bheda, NGO, Chennai
21. Shri. B. SUGirtharaj Koilpillai, District Forest Officer, Energy Wood Division, Chengalpattu - Tamilnadu
22. Shri. Iqbal Basha, I.F.S., Divisional Forest Officer, Social Forestry Division, Chengalpattu - Tamilnadu
23. Shri. P. Jayabalan, Assistant Conservator of Forests O/O the Conservator of Forests, Chennai Circle, Chennai - Tamilnadu

## **Structure of Workshop**

The National level workshop was held from 22 – 25 August 2006 in Chennai TamilNadu India, with one day i.e August 24 slated for the field visit. The agenda for the workshop was done in collaboration with International Facilitator, from IUCN Mr. Sandeep Sengupta & the ITTO. There were opening & closing sessions which were well attended by the relevant stakeholders like Forest Department Officials, NGO's, Industrial Enterprenals & media representatives.

The workshop was proposed to be interactive & practical and all activities in the sessions were geared up to meet the objectives. To this end, in the plenary sessions, following presentations by the International Facilitator and the National Facilitator, the participants were organized into working groups & performed the tasks allocated in these three smaller groups. The groups would then report to plenary on the funding of their group. The arrangements allowed for the full participation of each participant, and further accommodated extensive discussions on each area examined under the workshop theme. The field visit was planned to give a general overview of the relevant activities that India in general and TamilNadu in particular have so far implemented Joint Forest Management (JFM), which closely relate to the theme of the workshop.

**Agenda for the workshop is attached below:**

**(22 August) Day 1**

Time	Activity
9.30 am – 10.30 am	Registration of Participation
10.30 am – 12.00 pm	Inaugural session
12.00 pm – 12.30 pm	<b>High Tea</b>
12.30 pm – 13.00 pm	Introduction of all workshop participants
13.00 pm – 13.30 pm	5 minute film on FLR  Introduction to workshop background & objectives  By Sandeep SenGupta, International Facilitator,  IUCN
13.30 pm – 14.00 pm	<b>Lunch</b>
14.30 pm – 15.00 pm	Overview of Forest in India – Current status,  functions, issues & challenges by Dr. Kondas,  Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (Retd.) Tamil  Nadu
15.00 pm – 16.00 pm	Formation of 3 break-out groups to discuss, based on  the participants own experiences, the following:  <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Key problems / Challenges facing the forest sector in India.</li> <li>• Direct &amp; underlying causes of these problem</li></ul>

	and
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• What are the possible solutions</li> </ul>
16.00 pm – 16.15 pm	<b>Tea/Coffee Break</b>
16.15 pm – 17.00 pm	Report back by the 3 groups to Plenary
17.00 pm – 17.30 pm	Plenary discussion / Q&A on Forest in India
17.30 pm – 17.45 pm	Wrap up & evaluation of Day 1.

## **(23 August) Day 2**

Time	Activity
8.30 am – 08.45 am	Recap of Day 1 & explaining objective of Day 2
08.45 am – 09.30 am	Introduction to the concepts & practice of FLR by Sandeep Sengupta, IUCN
09.30 am – 10.00 am	Current Status of FLR in India – overview of previous / ongoing forest restoration initiatives at national and state – level by Rehmath Ali, National Facilitator
10.00 am – 10.30 am	Plenary discussions/ Q&A on forest restoration activities in India and how they relate to FLR
10.30 am – 10.45 am	<b>Tea / Coffee</b>

<p>10.45 am – 11.00 am</p>	<p>Presentation of guidance material available from ITTO and IUCN to help FLR implementation in India (1) ITTO Restoration Guidelines &amp; (2) ITTO / IUCN Manual on FLR</p>
<p>11.00 am – 13.00 pm</p>	<p>Group work in 3 break-out groups on :</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Identifying stakeholders, constraints &amp; needs for FLR implementation in India</li> <li>• Reviewing, discussing &amp; providing feedback on the ITTO, Restoration Guidelines and ITTO/IUCN Manual on FLR</li> </ul>
<p>13.00 pm – 14.00 pm</p>	<p><b>Lunch</b></p>
<p>14.00 pm – 15.30 pm</p>	<p>Group work continued</p>
<p>15.30 pm – 15.45 pm</p>	<p><b>Tea/Coffee Break</b></p>
<p>15.45 pm – 16.45 pm</p>	<p>Groups report back to Plenary</p>
<p>16.45 pm – 17.15 pm</p>	<p>Introduction to the field trip site, Formation of 3 field work &amp; instructions given for field visit, description of logistics for the field trip.</p>
<p>17.15 pm – 17.30 pm</p>	<p>Wrap up &amp; evaluation of Day 2.</p>

### **(24 August) Day 3**

Time	Activity
8.00 am – 10.00 am	Travel to field site
10.00 am – 13.30 pm	Groups work in the field in 3 groups
13.30 pm – 14.00 pm	<b>Packed lunch</b>
14.00 pm – 16.00 pm	Cultural visit @ Mahabalipuram
16.00 pm – 18.00 pm	Travel back to hotel
18.00 pm – 18.15 pm	<b>Tea</b>
18.15 pm – 18.30 pm	Wrap up & Evaluation of Day 3
Evening – 10.00 am on Day	Groups prepare their PowerPoint presentations

### **(25 August) Day 4**

Time	Activity
10.00 am – 10.15 am	Recap of Days 1, 2 & 3 and explaining objective of day 4
10.15 am – 11.15 am	Report back from the field trip groups to plenary
11.15 am – 11.30 am	<b>Tea/Coffee</b>
11.30 am – 13.00 pm	Group/plenary discussion on :  a) Need for an India- specific manuals for FLR and what its structure, format and content should be?

	b) Brainstorming ideas for potential FLR projects in the country
13.00 pm – 14.00 pm	<b>Lunch</b>
14.00 pm – 15.00 pm	Next steps for FLR implementation in the country
15.00 pm – 15.30 pm	Overview of ITTO project formulation process
15.30 pm – 15.45 pm	<b>Tea/ Coffee</b>
15.45 pm – 16.00 pm	How to get involved – Presentation of the Global Partnership on Forest Landscape Restoration (GPFLR)
16.00 pm – 16.30 pm	Overall Evaluation of Workshop
16.30 pm – 17.30 pm	Workshop conclusion, Distribution of certificates, Vote of thanks.

## **DAY 1**

**22<sup>nd</sup> AUGUST 2006**

The workshop began at 1.00 pm. after the inaugural session with a brief self-introduction by the participants. Thiru. Sandeep Sengupta exhibited optimism in the emergence of a very different perspective from the discussion that was to follow. In order to get a feel of the workshop, a short film on Forest Landscape Restoration (FLR) developed by the IUCN forest conservation programme was shown. The film listed out the various roles played by the forests with vital statistics. Of the world's total forest cover, 64 % has been notified as fragmented yet they contribute significantly to the livelihood of over 90% of the 1.2 billion people living in extreme poverty. Forest Landscape Restoration (FLR) proposes a range of solutions to mitigate deforestation and to restore secondary forests by involving various stakeholders including the local communities. The film also cited examples of how policy change could bring about a positive change. It concluded on a positive note that FLR is the most appropriate method whereby both the people and nature can benefit.

Thiru Sandeep Sengupta then gave a detailed background of the workshop. He explained how deforestation and forest degradation altered much of world's tropical forests. He highlighted the point that only 42% of the remaining forests in the tropical region are found as continuous tracts. In response to this, ITTO guidelines were developed by ITTO and regional workshops were conducted in 2003 to familiarize member countries on FLR. In November 2003, the 31<sup>st</sup> session decided to organize 9 workshops by ITTO,

IUCN and host country government. It also decided to develop a technical manual on FLR.

**OBJECTIVES OF THE WORKSHOP:**

- To assess the usefulness of the ITTO guidelines hereby developed
- It is expected that these workshops would catalyze the restoration activities
- Gain a common understanding of the State of Forests in India
- Understanding the main concepts of FLR
- Explore how FLR relates to the Indian Scenario
- Provide valuable feedback to IUCN and ITTO on the existing guidelines and the ITTO/IUCN manuals
- To identify the various factors required for the effective implementation of FLR in India

**OBJECTIVES FOR DAY 1:**

- Develop an understanding of current state of Forests in India
- List out the role of forests
- Assess the key problems and challenges faced
- Propose possible solution to the problems

Following this, the group dispersed for lunch.

## **POST LUNCH SESSION**

**(3.00 pm. onwards)**

The post lunch session began with the presentation of Dr. Kondas on the Current Status, Functions, Issues and Challenges faced by forests in India. The summary of his presentation is as follows:

Forests do not fall completely under the domain of forest officers. For the rehabilitation to be successful all round support from various agencies such as foresters, forest based industries, funding agencies and above all, the support of the local community is essential. It also requires a great deal of political will. He dealt in detail on Mining and Rehabilitation. Coal mining accounts to 80% of the total mined area whereas only 0.47 million hectares of the total 324 million hectares is mined for metals and minerals. Of this, mining for iron-ore is done in 78,238 hectares and Bauxite in 26,531 hectares. Andhra Pradesh tops the state-wise list of heavily mined states while mining in Tamil Nadu is comparatively little. He also emphasized that great care has to be exerted while handling mining issue. The mining lobby is quite powerful and can influence policies at the highest level. For instance, if the US denies Plutonium to India, India may turn towards the Uranium deposits in Jharkand to meet the various nuclear needs.

Building of dams may cause unnatural patterns of Silt deposition thereby negatively affecting the livelihood of the local community. In addition to protecting important habitat specific areas like Hotspots, Heritage sites, Wildlife roaming ranges of Flagship animals, the forest department is also expected to nullify the conflicts arising often due to clash of interests between the local community and the Department.

The mining industry in Brazil has evolved with an appreciable extent of sensitiveness towards Environmental Issues in the past 75 years while the Indian mining industries are yet to demonstrate any such kind of sensitiveness. It is often reiterated that mined areas should not be afforested with weeds such as *Acacia auriculiformis* as it may lead to loss of biodiversity. However, case studies contradict this belief. These species provide cover to the native species thereby, facilitating the reappearance of native species as observed in a degraded Shola forest rehabilitated by planting *Eucalyptus* spp. Though it is said that forests conserve soil and water, it is the litter, which really does conserve. With the UN predicting that the next world war would be fought over water rights, importance has to be accorded to water issues. Rising population aggravates water problem in remote villages. This can be sorted out effectively by implementing Micro watershed programmes, which are proven to be highly effective. He concluded by supporting this claim with the example of Maharashtra where such programmes are highly successful.

**This was followed by a thought provoking discussion.**

Q: Why should not the Micro watershed Development activities be implemented through National Rural Employment Guarantee Act?

A: There has to be a political will to achieve this.

Q: Apart from political will, a good deal of understanding between various departments can see this happen.

A: This idea is already under consideration by the MoEF

Q: FLR integrates various stakeholders, is this possible when the recent populist sentiments rising in India such as the Tribal Bill trying to fragment the existing forests.

A: This is one important question facing the whole country. But it has always been proved that unilateral discussions do not yield any positive results.

Thiru Sandeep Sengupta then wanted the floor to group into three and discusses the three broad topics viz.,

- Key problems / Challenges facing forestry sector in India
- Direct and underlying causes for the above problems
- Possible solutions for the problems discussed.

The floor was grouped into three on random basis and each group held separate discussions. The floor regrouped after tea at 5.00 pm. when each group presented the outcomes of their discussions.

## **GROUP I**

Presented by Thiru J. K. Sharma

### **KEY PROBLEMS FACED:**

- Population Pressure
- Grazing
- Encroachments
- Forest fire
- Removal of Timber and Litter
- Illegal cultivation
- Invasive alien species
- Lack of awareness
- Overexploitation of NWFP
- Societal illiteracy on Forests
- Soil degradation
- Lack of Financial resources
- Improper/ Non-implementation of Working plans
- Less importance to forestry sector
- Loss of Biodiversity
- Poor natural regeneration

### **DIRECT AND UNDERLYING CAUSES:**

- Poverty, illiteracy
- Gap in demand and supply

- Lack of political will
- Over dependency of people on forests
- No demarcation of forest areas
- Non-promotion of NWFP marketing
- Poor documentation of Database in forestry and wildlife
- Ageing of frontline staff in Forest Departments and non-recruitment policy

**POSSIBLE SOLUTIONS:**

- Preparation of Microplans after PRA's with villagers
- Development of Forest Data Management systems
- Proper survey and Demarcation of forest areas
- Development and strengthening of Marketing mechanisms for timber and NTFP's
- Adequate allocation of Funds to forestry sector
- Recruitment of Frontline staff
- Meeting the demand of people alternatively to reduce dependency
- Rehabilitation of degraded lands with People's participation
- Standardizing harvesting methods for NWFP
- Meet demand for timber from Non-forested area
- Enrichment planting and tree improvement to increase productivity
- Funding of projects by International Organizations for Rehabilitation and Restoration of Forests

## **GROUP II**

**Presented by Thiru. M. G. Rao**

### **PROBLEMS FACED:**

- Degradation
  - Overgrazing
  - Fire
  - Forest produce- Over harvestation
  - Encroachment
- Fragmentation
  - Diversion of forest lands
  - Mining
  - Irrigation Projects
  - Non-forest activities
- Porosity
  - Encroachments

Apart from Political, Institutional and Administrative problems, problems such as low priority, low allocation of funds and inappropriate rules are also faced. Technological problems such as lack of good research and development, sectoral and integrated approach also exists.

### **SOLUTIONS:**

- Creating awareness
- Bio-regional economic committees

- Forming Federations
- Tie-up with traders
- Adequate infrastructure
- Proper land-use planning
- Multistakeholder policies
- Allocation of adequate funds
- Strengthening forest department
- Betterment of community livelihood

## **GROUP III**

**Presented by Thiru K.S.Sethi**

### **KEY PROBLEMS:**

- Rapid forest degradation
  - Population pressure
  - Grazing
  - Felling of Trees
  - Fragmentation
  - Fire
- Forest department being poorly equipped
  - Low priority sector
  - Poor infrastructure
  - Lack of knowledge
- Competing land uses
  - Diversion of forest lands
- Law and order situation
  - Alienation of local community (Naxalism increases with increase in forest cover)
- Afforestation of degraded sites
  - Lack of R & D
  - Lack of Funds
- Lack of transparency

➤ Corruption

- Stringent forest rules

**SOLUTIONS:**

- Long term vision
- Continuity of funding
- Greater R & D
- Integrated approach
- Policy initiatives in wood based industries and for grazing
- Encouraging trees outside the forests
- Sustainable development
- Attitudinal change in all levels
- Strengthening forest departments

**This was followed by a lively discussion.**

Q: How is Naxalism very high in regions of high forest cover?

Mr. Sethi: North East is very rich in forest cover at the same time there are lot of terrorists' organizations also. This is partly due to alienation of local community.

Q: The landscape also favours terrorism

Mr. Sethi: In Punjab there is no forest but terrorism prevails

Q: Sathyamangalam in Tamil Nadu is infested by terrorists

Q: People have an impression that Forest Department is antidevelopment

Mr. Sethi: Infact, there is no other department working in areas where Forest Department works

Q: Wherever forests and tribals exist poverty is high. This is because they do not have access to resources.

Mr. Sethi: Very often the Forest Department is the only employment provider in terrorist affected forest areas

Q: The seeds used by the Forest Department are not up to mark. Improved stock and improvised technologies have to be made available

Q: With the increase in Naxal activity no other department is ready to carry out activities in our forests

Q: In Kerala, a Forest Seed Centre has been established which processes and certifies the seeds

Q: Lack of Funds was a common factor listed by all three groups. The budget allocation towards forestry was less than 1% except in the 10<sup>th</sup> five-year plan. While certain areas have received good funds, certain other areas have not. So are we right in making a sweeping comment that funds are not available

Dr. Bipin Behari: There is no state that has allotted more than 1 % towards forestry in the last five years. National allocation in planning commission towards forestry is also the same

**The session ended at 6 pm.**

## **DAY 2**

**23<sup>rd</sup> AUGUST 2006**

The second day of the workshop started at 9.00 am. It began with a brief evaluation of the previous day by Thiru Sandeep Sengupta. He then mentioned about the Objectives for the Day 2. They are as follows:

### **OBJECTIVES OF THE DAY 2:**

- To introduce the key concepts of FLR
- To understand the current status of forest restoration activities in India
- To discuss the methods of implementation of FLR in India
- To identify the stakeholders involved and constraints
- To gain understanding of the ITTO guidelines and FLR manual
- Planning for field trip

This was followed by a presentation on Concepts of FLR by Thiru Sandeep Sengupta.

FLR is a process that aims to regain ecological integrity and enhance human well being in deforested or degraded forest landscape. FLR is a pragmatic approach based on reality with a practical sense. It does not aim to restore forests to their pristine state since it is practically difficult. FLR can be applied not only to degraded forest lands but also to degraded primary and secondary forests or even agricultural land. FLR in effect is a collaborative participatory process involving all key stakeholders. It is a learning process, which believes in adaptive management since landscapes are prone to change. FLR brings people together to identify, negotiate and implement forestry practices so as

to strike a balance between community livelihood and forest restoration. Thiru Sengupta then went on to elaborate the key elements of FLR.

- **FLR focuses on restoring forest functionality.** The services available from the forests tend to decrease with increase in the extent of degradation and finally it comes to near nil. FLR tries to create a functional landscape mosaic. Its main aim is to restore the forest functions and not the forest cover. FLR aims at having a configuration so as to achieving this.
- A **landscape** is a continuous area of land intermediate in size between an eco-region and a site, with a specific set of ecological, cultural and socio-economic characteristics that are different from the neighbours. Different stakeholders view landscapes in different ways. Once the land use required from a landscape is decided, the outlook of the landscape can be designed. FLR aims at restoring various landscape functionality such as Stability, Functional flexibility and Ecosystem integrity.
- FLR believes in the **involvement of local stakeholders in planning and management decision-making.** For example, while conservation programmes for Panda are being implemented in China, provisions are made in such a way that the project meets the needs of the local communities like firewood
- FLR accepts the existence of **Trade-offs.** It believes that it is near impossible to maximize all options at the site level; It might not be possible to meet every expectations of all stakeholders
- FLR applies the principle of **double-filter** in all its activities. The essence of this principle is that the enhanced ecological integrity and human well being cannot be

traded off against each other. At the site level trade-offs may exist but at the landscape level it is essential that the objective is met

- Neither the solutions to complex land use problems nor the outcome of the particular course of an action can be predicted accurately. Hence, FLR stresses on the importance of **adaptive management**
- FLR recognizes that restoration is a complex challenge. Single solution approaches may not provide the flexibility required. Hence, FLR offers a **package of tools**
- **FLR** requires supportive local legal framework. It can't be implemented by technical solutions alone. Therefore, a policy framework is very essential for the long term implementation of FLR

Thiru Sengupta then narrated a few cases where landscape restoration has been effectively done. In Tanzania, a series of ill-defined policies were introduced resulting in the felling of native Acacia forests. No kind of conventional afforestation schemes including plantations worked. Erosion of resources resulted in large-scale migration till 1986 when an NGO initiated discussion with the people. This threw light on the various underlying causes that led to deforestation. The management of these landscapes was then handed over to the native people and restoration was done in the traditional way, which has yielded positive results.

The best example of practical application of FLR comes from Kenya where a degraded limestone quarry has been rehabilitated. *Casuarina* was used as a nursing species, which supported the growth of local species. The *Casuarina* was then removed and in the place of the limestone quarry today exists the Bamburi Nature Trail.

In Sabah of Malaysia, expanding oil palm plantations caused severe deforestation. This led to increase in damages during floods, which in turn affected the oil palm plantations. Later, a discussion was initiated with the oil palm owners who agreed to restore the secondary forests all along the riverbank. This was possible only because of the acceptance of a trade-off. The oil palm owners had to lose some of the areas under cultivation. While the advantage gained was the minimal damage during floods.

He also explained how in Costa Rica successful agroforestry has been implemented in Coffee plantations. This was followed by an elaborate discussion.

Q: India already has a similar programme in JFM. Are we proposing a simple terminology change because JFM is already been looking into some of the matters discussed under FLR?

A: JFM is completely compatible with FLR. But FLR proposes additional new elements such as the existence of trade-offs and the principle of double-filter

Q: For the past hundred years we had been excluding local people from conservation and the trend is reversing only now. How does FLR fit into landscapes such as National Parks, which are governed by separate policies and rules?

A: The Objective of the workshop is to see how relevant the FLR is to India and to explore various ways by which it can be adapted to the Indian context

Q: Why do you call it as FLR while it is all about co-existence?

A: The basic idea is that landscapes, which were once forests, have now been altered and FLR wants it to be restored to some extent

Q: We have been trying to wean people away from forests through programmes such as watershed but FLR speaks about including people in all levels. It has to be understood that degradation happens because of forest utilization beyond the carrying capacity

A: FLR acknowledges that trade-offs do exist and land stakeholders have to be taken into confidence. In fact, there is no harm in calling FLR as watershed or anything else as long as it complies with the spirit of FLR.

Q: There is a contradiction in the application of the terminology FLR. Unless there is a strong land use policy, FLR cannot be well achieved. The land use has to be decided on the basis of the lands' intrinsic quality and not on the basis of what use the people want it to be put in to.

A: FLR believes that trade-off can exist in local level. But in landscape level the overall objective has to be met.

Q: Urbanization expands because it is the stakeholders who define the land use. This is not based on the idea of what the land is fit for. As a result vast land areas in city like Bangalore are being put into non-traditional uses such as industries.

Q: Population explosion alone is not the problem in India. Poverty alleviation measures that were implemented are also reasons for degradation. To alleviate poverty monocultures were raised which benefited not the poor people but the industries. It is not that India lacks the technical expertise required. Are we going to focus on the village as the nucleus of FLR or a forest as the nucleus of FLR?

A: FLR is a flexible package. Hence, the needs and expectations of the local people can be met. If we can manage to meet the ecosystem needs as well as the livelihood needs then it meets the qualities set by FLR

Q: Landscape as a term is not well defined. It is the purpose for which the land can be useful and not the use expected from the land. All land types are not fit for all type of activities. Can the land be put into any use that the stakeholders feel? Is there really such flexibility?

A: I think they are trying to convey the message that different countries can have different ways to implement FLR. FLR is in fact a loose framework, which can very well be used, in the Indian context

Q: The problem emanates from the village. Hence, the village has to be considered as the nucleus of FLR. It has to be implemented in such a way that the needs of the village can be met from a buffer area so that the forest can be spared.

*Note: Q stands for questions/interactions from the floor while A stands for responses from the facilitator.*

The discussion came to an end at 10.20 am. Which was followed by a brief presentation by Thiru Rehmath Ali on current status of FLR in India and an overview of the ongoing afforestation programmes in Tamil Nadu?

**Key Points of the Presentation :**

- The National Forest Policy of 1978 envisages involving local people in developing forests. The Ministry of Environment and Forests issued guidelines in 1990 to involve local people in the protection of forests
- Till today 22 states in India have issued guidelines for Joint Forest Management (JFM). Tamil Nadu is one among them
- Tamil Nadu Afforestation Programme (TAP) and Area Oriented Fuel Wood and Fodder Project (AOFFP) are some of the JFM projects implemented in India

- The main objectives of TAP are Massive tree plantation, Improve productivity of Forests and motivate people to grow more trees
- JFM provides employment to the local people in forestry operations like Nursery raising, Preparatory works, Transplantation, Cultural operations etc.
- The total forest area of Tamil Nadu is about 22,845 sq.km. This forms about 17.4% of the total geographic area of Tamil Nadu. There are about 3072 villages abutting the forests in Tamil Nadu and more than a lakh of villagers have been estimated to enter the forests every day to meet their requirements in way or the other
- As per the forest cover report of Forest Survey of India, open forests with a crown density of 10-40% in Tamil Nadu is 8327 sq.km.
- Annually about 700000 tonnes of fire wood, 32,000 tonnes of small timber and 25,000 tonnes of fodder and green manure are removed from forests every year which results in another 25,000 hectares of forests getting further degraded
- Out of the 7000 sq.km of the degraded forests nearly 3500 sq.km is being reforested and restored back to health with full participation of villages in the form of JFM
- JFM is for the eco-restoration of degraded forests by involving local community. More than 3.5 lakh hectares of forest lands have been restored through JFM in the state and 1000 villages have been benefited by the socio-economic package offered by JFM

- Sharing the sustainable benefits from the degraded forests, government lands and community lands lying within the management limit with the Village Forest Council is the most important component of JFM
- JFM imparts alternate employment training to the members of Self Help Groups (SHG) so as to reduce forest dependency. People are trained in Tailoring, Coir making, Weaving, Poultry, Bee keeping etc. They are also supported with soft loans to take up alternate employment

Thiru Rehmath Ali concluded by explaining the constitution of state and district level JFM committees and their functions.

The summary of the discussions followed are given below:

Q: Forest Department works towards the restoration of degraded forests. But its stand is always mistaken as anti-development. That is why the Forest Department (FD) believes in the integration of people with the projects. The need of the hour is to explore ways of delineating the various components of the landscape in the ground level

A: The term FLR came into being only in recent times but its activities are predated. Different parts of forest restoration activities were undertaken in different parts of the world but in different name. FLR is only trying to put the various successful restoration practices in a single package. In FLR the boundary of the landscape is fixed on the basis of the objective.

Q: Everybody says that alienation of local people should change. In Tamil Nadu let us see how JFM can be modified so as to fit into FLR

A: FLR is flexible but anything that goes against the idea of double-filter is not acceptable

The participants were requested to list down their expectations from the workshop in a paper. Summary of the expectations listed is given below.

- Explore the models adopted in other countries for successful restoration of degraded forest lands
- To evolve a relevant and practical model for Indian context for restoration and sustained management of degraded forest lands and to evolve an appropriate policy framework relevant the implementation of FLR in India
- Exploring ways to integrate forest based industries in the FLR programme.
- How effectively issues related to livelihood, social security and Ecological Integrity is addressed and implemented through futuristic strategies
- To get acquainted with the new approach for restoration, management and rehabilitation of degraded secondary forests in India
- To get a clear conceptual understanding of FLR
- To get exposed to the concept of ITTO guidelines on restoration and rehabilitation of Tropical forests and success stories elsewhere in the world
- Evolving suitable Guidelines for FLR/Watershed restoration
- Getting an idea on the procedure for applying for ITTO pilot projects
- Involvement of all stakeholders in the FLR guideline development process
- Training and capacity building of stakeholders involved in FLR implementation
- To ascertain how best the issues relating to degradation of wildlife habitats are being addressed by the guidelines prepared by ITTO
- How FLR can be helpful in speeding up the process of natural restoration process of forests.
- How can we address the concern of forest fringe villages regarding empowerment and capacity development to win their confidence for the betterment of forest
- How the social values of forests be included and recognized in the afforestation programmes

- Interaction with officers working on different posts in the different states coming for the workshop.
- How best the land use pattern is documented which will provide the basis for classification on which rehabilitation and restoration of forest cover in degraded lands.
- To know about the various approaches/schemes available in different parts of the country
- To know how restoration extent can be quantified for a better assessment

The house then dispersed for tea at 11.00 am.

When the house regrouped at 11.20 am. Thiru Sengupta discussed in detail about the topics under which group discussions for the day had to be carried out. The broad topics for discussions were as follows:

## **GROUP WORK (Day 2)**

1. Discuss the applicability of FLR in India and how it can be implemented (60 minutes)
  - Who are the key stakeholders for FLR implementation in India?
  - What are the main constraints in this?
  - What are the main needs?
2. Review the ITTO Guidelines and FLR Manual (15-20 Minutes for guidelines, 45-60 minutes for Manual)
3. Discuss and provide feedback on the ITTO Guidelines and FLR Manual (60 Minutes)

- Discuss their perspective strengths and weaknesses in terms of structure, content, format and usefulness
- What is missing, what can be improved?
- Your thoughts on if they offer sufficient guidance for implementation in India, and if additional national/ context-specific guidelines are needed

After this Thiru Sengupta gave a broad outline of the ITTO Guidelines and the FLR Manual. He explained the rationale behind the development of the guidelines, its structure, key messages and limiting factors. Following this the floor was grouped into three on random basis and the groups proceeded with their discussions.

Lunch was served at 1.30 pm. and the house regrouped at 2.30 pm.

## **POST LUNCH SESSION**

**(2.30 pm. onwards)**

The groups continued with their discussions and the floor regrouped at 4.30 pm. after tea.

Two groups presented a detailed report on the outcome of the deliberations carried out while the report of the third group was not available

## **GROUP I**

**Dr. M.G. Rao (4.40 pm.)**

### **KEY STAKEHOLDERS:**

- People/village/rural
- Govt. organizations including Forest Department

- NGO's
- Panchayat Raj institutions, VFC's
- Village level committees
- Industries
- Research Institutions

**MAIN CONSTRAINTS:**

- Absence of land use policies
- Poor data bank of land records
- Ownership dispute with respect to land holdings
- Lack of well defined infrastructure for project implementation
- Overlapping projects: Most landscapes have several ongoing projects
- Clash of interests between VFC's, Forest Department, Political organizations, etc
- Lack of statutory support
- Lack of political support
- Lack of trust between the various stakeholders
- Heterogeneous beneficiaries: The beneficiaries may be of heterogeneous nature by income and several other factors. How best can FLR balance it?
- Lack of Technical support
- Lack of financial resources
- Cultural constraints
- Problems in Benefit sharing
- Transparency
- Lack of trained man power

- Felling guidelines, transit route availability and permit granting mechanisms
- Lack of marketing opportunities
- Gender issues

**NEEDS:**

- Holistic approach
- Long term strategy
- Monitoring and inventory
- Financial resources
- Technological inputs
- Sharing of knowledge with other countries
- Utilization of modern technologies such as GPS
- Multidisciplinary team

**ITTO GUIDELINES- STRENGTH:**

- Well drafted

**ITTO GUIDELINES- WEAKNESS:**

- No case study
- No preliminary studies in India has been done
- Package of practices for India not given
- Treatment plans for problematic areas such as mines
- Value addition/post harvest technologies
- Public-private partnership
- Multistakeholder partnership for traditional resources mobilization
- Ownership patterns not described

- Soil and water conservation issues not dealt with. Enhancing of water resources is not emphasized
- Role of developed/industrialized nations not defined.
- Modified guidelines necessary for India

**COMMENTS ON MANUAL:**

- Need separate manuals for different ecosystems
- The manual is more like a guide.

## **GROUP II**

**Thiru K. S. Sethi (5.20 pm.)**

### **KEY STAKEHOLDERS:**

- More focus should be given for local communities
- Land use policy essential
- Benchmark for the team “restoring to original” productivity
- Issues related to FLR strategy; FLR can be taken up in India only when compatible with existing rule
- FLR should be taken up at the regional level

### **Key Stakeholders:**

- Local community important
- Ministry of Environment and Forests (MoEF)
- State Forest Department
- NGO
- Civil Societies
- Research and Educational Institutions
- Industries involving People Participatory Programme

### **CONSTRAINTS:**

- Lack of capacity in Forest Department in terms of social mobilization
- Lack of infrastructure in State Forest Departments
- Target oriented approach to follow the process oriented approach
- Multiplicity of programmes and projects; FLR should be just another one
- Law and order situation

- Lack of resources especially in State Forest Departments
- Timely allocation of resources
- No continuity between plan and execution
- Lack of interdepartmental co-ordination

### **NEEDS:**

- Resources and their timely allocation
- Need for incorporating FLR in National and other plans/Policies
- Transparency
- Attitudinal change required in State Forest Departments
- Legal and policy framework should support FLR
- Updating of infrastructure in State Forest Departments
- Clear mandate has to be given to State Forest Departments, the role of various other departments in FLR have to be clearly defined
- There should be sustainable returns which would help in giving realistic projections that would convince the community
- Adequate Database

### **REVIEW OF ITTO GUIDELINES:**

- Lack of clarity of definitions from the Indian perspective
- Lot of discrepancies
  - On page 33, Principle (2)... How do we support rural livelihood without addressing the access of the community to resources?
  - On page 26, 6<sup>th</sup> Para, 6<sup>th</sup> line: It is said that significant financial inputs are required which is contradictory to the previous statements that it has to be cost effective

➤ On page 19, it is said that local seedlings might be cheaper than the other which is always not true to the Indian context

- Adequate attention is not given to ground cover management which is essential from the community point of view
- The baseline for determining goods and services is not clear
- Has not given any attention to canopy management specially ground management, necessary for livelihoods
- Principle 16 Page 39 causes of degradation should be eliminated. These causes can only be managed and not eliminated
- Paradigm shift from flagship species management to other species that may be important from the community point of view
- Principle 15, Article 52, Page 38, consistent with land use policy - But we don't have a land use policy. National level adaptation of guidelines required

**FLR MANUAL:**

- It is only an essential reading material and not a manual, it does not meet the standard required for manual, should we go for a manual which serves its purpose?

Thiru Sengupta said that it is essential to preface all the comments received. He also said that the manual is only a bridging document and FLR is not a project but a principle. FLR lays emphasis on negotiations because of the low success stories of top down approach. This was followed to review the Day's Objective. After which, Thiru Sengupta explained the floor about the Objectives of the Field Trip to be followed on Day 3.

He recommended the group activities to be followed in the Field Trip, which are as follows:

- Draw and describe the visited landscape and its land use components
- Who are the Key Stakeholders in the landscape visited?
- What are the causes that have driven degradation or restoration in the visited landscape?
- List the innovative land-use practice that have been observed if any during the field trip; to take photograph if possible
- Land use practices innovative which will cover visioning exercises:
  - How the landscape will look 5 years from now?
  - How the landscape will look 20 years from now?
- What site-level interventions would you suggest to improve the overall situation in the landscape visited? How will you manage the trade-offs seen in the area keeping the double-filter in mind?
- Monitoring and evaluation

**OFF-SITE DISCUSSIONS:**

- What has been observed and learnt in the field trip?
- Do you think FLR requires clarification?
- How useful did you find the ITTO guidelines and FLR Manual in the context of the field visit?
- Does India require one? Are they enough to get FLR started on the ground in India?

After these detailed explanations about the Field trip activities and Objectives for Day 3, it was followed by a Power Point presentation of the projects undertaken in Tamil Nadu with special reference to Acharapakkam area in Madurantakam range by Thiru Kalyana Sundaram at 5.45 pm. This is the area proposed for the Field Trip.

Acharapakkam, which is in the South of Chennai, is the oldest Village under the Tamil Nadu Afforestation Programme (TAP) – 1997-98. It comes under the Reserved Forests. The land was totally barren when taken. It is on National Highways. This had more than 25 medicinal plants. The project was taken up here, as the approach was easier and that the ideas could be easily implemented. In the first year 290 hectares of the Reserved Forests were worked out and in the second year 50 hectares of Community land was taken up for the study.

Acharapakkam comes in the Madurantakam Range. The project was carried out in Specific Hamlets in Gandhi Nagar, Kasturi Nagar and Tribal group houses, which constituted a total of 269 populations.

#### **OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES CARRIED OUT IN VILLAGE:**

- Awareness Programme
- Participatory Rural Appraisal
- VFC formation
- Micro plan preparation in consultancy with people
- Self Help Groups (SHG) which help income generation activities
- Reviving Old Tradition by giving training in milking cows, weaving etc
- Women SHG (TAP) are given upto 10 lakhs for group activities
- Giving Loans and training imparted to SHG which are recovered through VFCs – community asset

- Tribal houses repaired
- Drinking water facility assured by means of Borewell
- Confidence gained by constructing new buildings, repairing school buildings, providing proper toilet facilities
- A total of 97,000 seedlings of natural species like *Syzygium cumini*, *Terminalia arjuna*, *Holoptelea integrifolia* and *Terminalia bellirica* were carried out
- Besides the planted seedlings, other natural species are also taken up
- Percolation ponds and check dams constructed
- Benefit sharing followed
- To reduce grazing pressure on forests, stylo grass is grown on pond beds etc.

#### **IMPACT OF PROGRAMME ON THE FOREST IN LAST 8 YEARS:**

- No forest fire in the last 8 years
- Money to be given to forest guards is now given to VFCs
- Grazing has come down to a maximum extent
- Collection of fuel wood has come down since most of the villagers have switched over to Kerosene and gas stoves
- Natural regeneration has picked up, survival percentage is more in planted areas
- No water problem

#### **Indicators for sustainability:**

- High Level of awareness created

The day's session came to an end at around 6.00 pm.

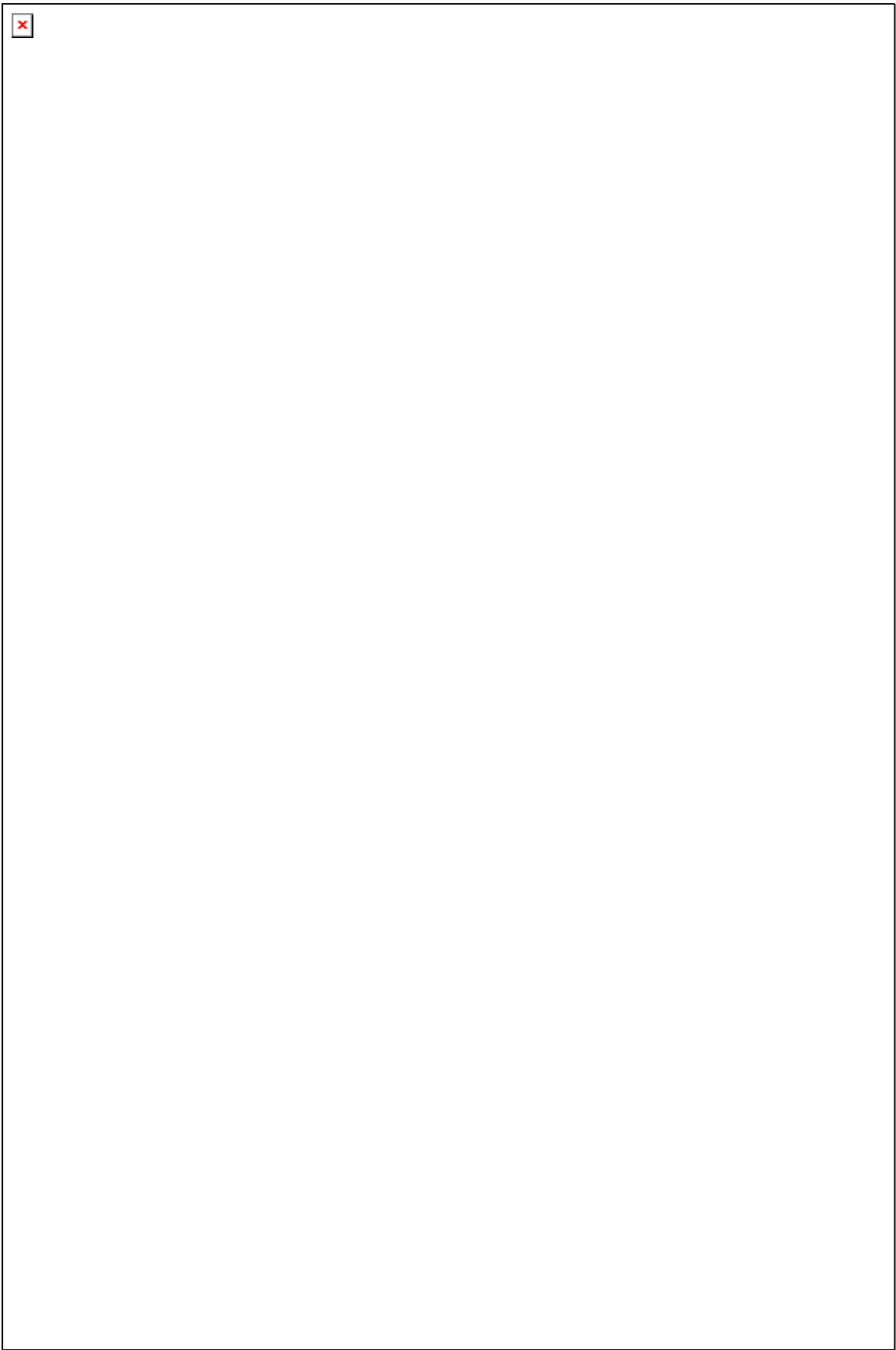
## **DAY 3**

**24<sup>th</sup> AUGUST 2006**

### **Field visit to Acharapakkam village.**

#### **Field Visit**

The TamilNadu Forest department had organized field trip on 24 August 2006 was designed to give the participants an overview of the relevant activities which were undertaken in India i.e. Joint Forest Management (JFM) closely relevant to theme of the workshop. The objective of the field visit was to give the participants, a practical overview of restoration and rehabilitation works done and to interpret the reader/ manual on FLR (yet to introduce) in the contest of these areas. The area identified for the visit was Acharapakkam reserve forest under TamilNadu Afforestation programme (TAP).





## **Achrapakkam JFM village**

Achrapakkam Reserved Forests was severely degraded due to heavy biotic interference by the villagers abutting the forests through head load removals, overgrazing and forest fire for the last several years. This Forest faced severe problems from ecological, hydrological, socio-economic and technological aspects and it was addressed through the project intervention from the year 1997.

### **Village Profile**

1. Name of the Range	:	Madurantakam Range (Social Forestry)
2. Name of the TAP Village	:	Achrapakkam
3. Year of TAP implementation	:	1997- 1998
4. Project Area	:	Project area includes following hamlets: 1) Gandhi Nagar 2) Kasthuri Nagar 3) Tribal Group Houses
5. Name of the District	:	Kancheepuram
6. Total No. of households	:	269
<b><u>Population of Buffer area</u></b>	:	<b>1245 (as on January 2005)</b>

1. Male	:	624
2. Female	:	621
3. Total population	:	<b>1245</b>

### **Occupational Structure:**

SL. No	Occupation	House Holds	Remarks
1.	Agriculturist	54	APL
2.	Govt. Employee	1	APL
3.	Factory Workers, Merchants, Traders, Self employed in various trades.	145	APL
4.	Labourers (including forest dependents)	69	BPL
	Total	269	

APL – Above Poverty Line; BPL – Below Poverty Line

### **WATERSHED DETAILS**

Watershed : 6. Acharapakkam

Sub watershed : a. Sirukalathur sub watershed  
b. Negumbai sub watershed

Micro watershed : 4C2 D6 b2 al -12. 675 sq kms.

It includes: Tenpakkam, Ammanabakkam  
Acharapakkam & Ravattanallur.

4C2 D6 b3 al - 2.75 sq.kms.

It includes Peremperkandigai, Sitapuram  
and Thimmapuram.

## **CRITERIA FOR SELECTION OF THIS WATERSHED**

The RF has become totally barren without much vegetation which caused heavy soil-erosion and thereby creating water problem and affecting the Agri-practices.

This Acharapakkam RF was having fairly good biodiversity with more than 25 species of medicinal plants which were regularly used by the local people. These plants were at the verge of becoming endangered. The villagers also requested that, the area should be tackled immediately and gave a resolution through the panchayat on 15.1.97. As this RF is situated abutting to the National Highways, priority has been given to this watershed in the first year of TAP programme.

### **OBJECTIVES**

- Creating awareness and motivating the villagers to adopt and create tree based resources for their livelihood and owning responsibility for future management Through Village Forest Council (VFC)
- Protect the select watershed from the biotic pressure through people participation And increase the tree cover through artificial regeneration.
- Carrying out poverty alleviation programmes to wean away the forest dependents through alternate income generation activities (AIG).
- Adopting suitable soil and moisture conservation works in the selected watershed and harness maximum rain water and thereby improving the Natural regeneration as well as the Agricultural practices of abutting areas.
- Involving the line departments in the village development programmes and thereby improving the standard of life.

## **ACTIVITIES CARRIED OUT IN THE VILLAGE**

### **Awareness Programme**

Awareness about the need for conservation of forests and participatory forest management was done by the Forest staff and NGO during April- May '97.

### **PRA Exercises**

PRA (Participatory Rural Appraisal) exercise was conducted on 17.5 .1997. Forest Department staff and the NGO (REEDS, Madurantakam) conducted this exercise. The local population was engaged itself fully in this exercise. They identified and planned the developmental activities and helped in the preparation of micro plan for the implementation in the selected watershed.

### **VFC Formation**

Village Forest Council was formed in this village by enrolling one male and one female member from each household living in the village by collecting a nominal fee as membership fee (Rs.1/- for SC/ST and Rs.2/- for others).

This VFC has been registered during 2003 (18/ 2003) under TamilNadu Societies Registration Act 1975.

### **Structure of Village Forest Council**

Date of VFC members	:	17.5.1997
No. of VFC members	:	335 (Male 167, Female 168)
No. of E.C. members	:	7 (Male 3, Female 4)
Name of the VFC President	:	Thiru. Pattabi,
Banking details	:	2023/ Village Co-operative Bank, Acharapakkam
Balance amount as on date	:	Rs. 45222/- (as on June 2006)

### **Micro plan preparation**

Micro-plan, a basic document which prescribes various activities, responsibilities, roles, benefit sharing etc., was prepared in consultation with the VFC and accordance with the site requirement.

### **Camps and trainings**

Siddha camp was conducted at Acharapakkam on 20.12.2002.

Veterinary camp was conducted on 18.2.2003.

Training to Women Self Help Groups on rearing of milch animals etc @ Kattupakkam TamilNadu University for Veterinary University and Animal Science (TANUVAS) on 24.6.2003 and 28.4.2006.

Training has been imparted to the Women Self Help Groups on Vermiculture, Smokeless chula, Apiculture and Medicinal plants at Chengalpattu Forest Extension center by the Experts on 25.3 .2003.

### **Forest dependents identification**

In order to provide alternate income generation activities, the forest dependents were identified with the help of the VFC & NGO. Priority was given to the fuel wood collectors and Goat graziers.

### **Income generation activities introduced in the village**

1. Rearing milch animals 2. Tailoring 3. Coir making 4. Embroidery 5. Wire Basket making 6. Cycle shop 7. Paving mosaic flooring 8. Rabbit and pigeon rearing 9. Petty shop 10. Toy making, 11. Candle making 12. Selling of cloth bits 13. Running Fertilizer shop.

*(Expect a few activities like Toy making, candle making and Rabbit rearing all other activities are continuing)*

## **Women Empowerment**

In Tamilnadu the rural economy is in the hands of women folk. Women empowerment leads to the rural development. Hence forming WSHGs in tune with Tamil Nadu Corporation for development of women has been identified as thrust area under TAP.

In the selected hamlets, 4 WSHGs were already functioning and two new WSHGs were formed by the Forest Department in 2001.

## **Field activities**

Before taking up regular afforestation programme, the zones were marked. In order to minimize the velocity of rain water and to bind the soil, contour walls were constructed with rough stone dry packing, besides planting Agave as vegetative wall at regular intervals. During the first year (1997-98), a total extent of 290 ha. have been tackled under 4 zones. A total number of 97000 seedlings have been planted as per the norms prescribed in the project.

## **Composition of species**

Naval (*Syzygium cuminii*) - 5000, Avi (*Holoptelea integrifolia*) - 5000, Nelli (*Emblica officinalis*) - 5000 Neennaruthu (*Terminalia mjuna*) - 5000, Illuppai (*Bassia latifolia*) - 5000, Thani (*Terminalia bellerica*) - 5000, Acacia species - 67000 (Kodaivelan, Velvel, Parambai etc.,)= Total – 97000.

During second year, (1998-99) under water augmentation component, a total extent of 50 ha. have been covered by planting 25000 seedlings.

## **Maintenance**

The planted seedlings were maintained for the subsequent two years by carrying out weeding, soil working and replacing the causality.

### **Establishment of “Tree arboretum” in Water augmentation zone (Bit 1) 14 Ha:**

During 1998-99 (II year) a small piece of Buffer land abutting the RF was tackled under water augmentation component. Since the area was devoid of topsoil, left with only murram soil due to heavy soil erosion, special efforts were taken to afforest this area. One m<sup>3</sup> pits were dug out in this area and the pits were filled with imported good red soil along with farm yard manure. In order to maintain this plot as tree arboretum a total number of 55 tree species of timber and non-timber value have been assembled here. The seedlings have grown in to trees.

### **SOIL AND MOISTURE CONSERVATION**

Dry packed contour stone walls have been constructed at regular intervals. Agave bulbils have been planted along the contours in a staggered manner.

A total number of 8 masonry check walls have been constructed along the boundary of the hills in order to arrest the soil erosion and percolate more rain water in the watershed. Three percolation ponds have been formed in the buffer area in order to recharge the ground water and also for domestic purposes.

Semi circular bunds were constructed on the lower side of each plant as insitu soil and moisture conservation.

Due to construction of the above structures the ground water table has increased tremendously in the private open wells which give high scope for agriculture and in turn it has increased agriculture employment in this village. These wells are being monitored continuously. Even in the prolonged drought conditions prevailing in the last 2 years these hamlets are self sufficient as far as drinking water is concerned.

### **The performance of the Species**

In the lower zone *Accacia ferruf!enea* (Parambai) and *Accacia leucovholea* (velvel) has established well and grown to a height of more than 4 meters at the foot hills. The

survival percentage is about 75%

In the middle zone and upper zone besides this Acacia species *Wrightia tinctoria* (Veppalai) *Pterocarpus marsupium* (Vengai) and *Azadirata indica* (Neem) have established well with a survival percentage of about 60%.

### **Natural Regeneration**

Besides the planted seedlings the existing root stocks in the treated area have come up well due to protection and availability of more moisture due to soil & moisture conservation works.

The following species have established well in the project area

*Cassia auriculata, Bauhinia retusa, Pterocarpus marsupium, Erythrina variegata, Azadirachita indica, Bauhinia racemosa, Acacia leucopholea, Acaciachundra, Randia dumetorum, Canthium parvijlorum, IYanilkara hexandra, Wrightia tinctoria, Ficus glomerata, Phoenix pusilla, Dichrostachys cinerea.*

The populations of small animals such as Jackal, Fox, Toddy cat, Civet cat, Porcupine, Wild boar have considerably increased. The populations of small birds such as Owl, Koel, Wood pecker, spotted dove, have also increased. The populations of snakes and reptiles have multiplied considerably. With the increase in flowering plants the populations of butterfly and insect

S has also increased.

### **MONITORING AND EVALUATION**

The entire work both in me village and field were closely monitored by the VFC/EC members. The VFC President was present in the field during the planting programme. To facilitate the monitoring, each zone was divided into small blocks of 2 to 5 ha. The activities carried out in each block was checked by the external team

The Directorate of Evaluation and Appraisal (DEAR) staff (GoTN) evaluate this village' on 5.8.2004. The team made 100% checking of all the works beside interacting 'with the villagers. The team informed that they are extremely satisfactory about the performance.

### **Impact of The Programme In The Village**

#### **High level of awareness created**

The people of the hamlets realizing the importance of the forest wealth, protecting and promoting the Afforestation activities. The eight year old plantations with more than 70% survival and the regeneration of natural vegetation have helped the forest to cover up

#### **Hydrological Security**

The villagers themselves agreed that due to the construction of 3 percolation ponds and 8 checkdams, the water table has increased in the adjacent wells and it helps in the agricultural practices. Further the erection of bore wells and construction of OHT made water security in the hamlets.

#### **Livelihood security**

The progress of two women Self Help Groups are in the expected direction. The women members are having sustained income through their alternate income generation activity. The repaying capacity is good. Most of them are rearing milch animals which are having ensured marketing and used as nutritive food by the people.

The forest dependents and the downtrodden people have been engaged more than 00zen alternate income .generation activities and most of the activities are sustained.

#### **Improvements in the quality of life**

The community assets created in the village such as bitumen roads, dinking water facilities, reading room, maintenance of school buildings and Anganwadis with furniture have improved their quality of life.

## **Establishment of Local Institution**

### **E on for Self Management**

Regular VFC meetings, good rate of loan recovery, continuous good performance of income generation activities are the good sign for the development of local people institution for future management.

### **Benefit sharing**

The villagers started collecting Neem and Pongan seeds and Naval fruits from the tackled area in a small way. The stylo grasses from the water augmentation area are cut by the villagers in the Seasons. These benefits are going to be shared in an organized manner in the near future.

### **Impact of the programme on the Forest**

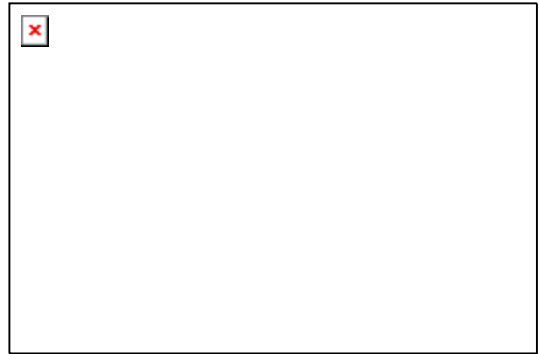
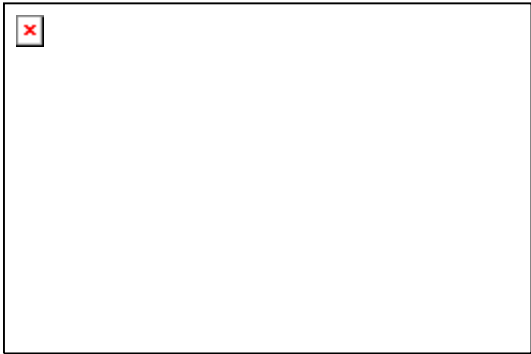
1. There is no forest fire in the forest area for the last 8 years.
2. The grazing incidence has comedown drastically.
3. Fuel collection also has comedown drastically. Most of the houses switched over to kerosene and gas stoves.
4. The natural regeneration has picked up well in the TAP areas.
5. The survival percentage of the planted areas is more than 70 %.
6. The water table and the soil conditions have improved.

### **Indicators for sustainability**

- High level of awareness creation in the village.
- Regular meetings conducted by VFC.
- Rotation of VFC money to the VFC members. .
- Good Loan Recovery.
- Sustained income generation activities by the forest dependents.
- Significance contribution by the Line departments for village development.

- Urbanization - Improved transport/Communication facilities: Alternate fuel in the form of Kerosene and Gas.
- Drinking water security
- The benefits going to be accrued in the near future from the watershed.
- Last but not the Least
- the improved educational facilities.

**FIELD VISIT :**



# **DAY 4**

**25<sup>th</sup> AUGUST 2006**

The workshop began at 9.30 am. Daily evaluation sheets were given to the participants.

Following this, there was a recap of days 1,2 and 3.

Thiru Sengupta then briefed the participants on the objectives of the day 4. Objectives set for the day were,

- Groups of day 3 will work on the tasks assigned for day 3 and present their results
- Discuss in detail if a specific FLR manual is required for India and its contents
- Ideas and steps required for FLR implementation in India
- Introducing the ITTO project cycle and proposal formulation process
- Presenting the global partnership on FLR
- Workshop evaluation

The participants were grouped into two and were requested to work on the tasks given.

They were asked to report their presentations after one hour. The groups reconvened at 10.45 am. again.

The following were the observations and discussions made by the **Group I** based on their Field Visit on Day 3 which was presented by Thiru. K.S. Sethi

## **GROUP I**

### **What do you feel you have learnt the most on FLR from your field visit?**

- Ecological restoration of the area visited has been taken care by the project interventions to a large extent
- The Group I felt that the Forest Landscape Restoration (FLR) was not practiced in the field and still there was some scope for improvement in forestry development and at community level
- Integrated approach from other departments were missing
- Focus on soil and moisture conservation required to be strengthened
- Eco-tourism should have been developed
- Clear objective of any plantation should have been ascertained as communal land. There were 59 spp. planted as vegetation cover. A mechanism that could serve as an employment with sustainable income should have been one of the objectives, for example – Mango Orchard Plantation if planted would have been a good source of income or for that matter any other fruits
- In the selection of the species, community was not involved. They wanted more NTFPs. Group felt that villagers should have informed choice of species
- Women empowerment was definitely more visible; their interest was largely in community development but not towards forestry, which has to be stressed upon in future

- It was observed that the involvement of the men folk on the day of field visit was quite less
- Financial support by external agencies were less
- Illicit felling of *Chloroxylon* was still going on; This shows that social fencing process is not complete
- Shift from goat rearing to Milch cattle and stall feeding observed
- Poor resource base of forests to be improved to improve the community above the poverty line
- No transparency felt
- The group felt that no private lands were visited hence, could not get adequate information on land tenure, access, information on formalized agreements, legal duties, MoU's and how sustainable they are, the responsibilities of all parties
- There should be a stress on community view on the use of community land
- Sustainable income from the land was required
- Local elected representatives could have been involved more; Must work out many options if FLR has to be implemented
- FLR should ensure involvement of other supporting professionals and experts from different line departments to implement it

### **DOES FLR NEED FURTHER CLARIFICATION**

- Whether legal roles and responsibilities will be formalized?
- What will be the common platform for bringing all the departments together?

- What will be the mechanism for interdepartmental co-ordination?
- Tangible and Intangible benefits should be clearly listed
- How to sustain the long-term interest of the community?
- Whether there is any scope?

### **ITTO MANUAL AND GUIDELINES IN TERMS OF FIELD VISIT:**

- Are they enough to get the FLR started on the ground?
- Manual has to be improvised
- Several ITTO guidelines clearly did not appear to be applicable on the field, some were manageable but not relevant
- Are they adequately adopted now?
- Do we require a Manual, which is essential in the Indian perspective in the structure, content and format?
- Manual structure should have site- specific management strategies
- The structure should stress upon the detailed description of Forests, Forests of our country, History and how they evolved and the challenges that faced the forestry cases in India etc...
- How FLR can address these strategies?
- Vegetative patches of land should include specific water bodies
- Manual should have good illustrations
- Manual should also clarify the conflict between the India Specific rules etc
- Manual should build upon several points by learning more from the previous projects and case studies
- Adequate attention to be given to cover all the sociological aspects in addition to the technical

The following were the observations and discussions made by the **Group II** based on their Field Visit on Day 3 which was presented by Thiru Dilip Kumar.

## **GROUP II**

### **CAUSES:**

- Grazing, charcoal preparation

### **OBSERVATION:**

- Milch cows has reduced grazing pressure on the forest
- Removal of fuel wood is less since most of the houses have biogas or kerosene stoves; the local people are now looking forward for LPG. Shift towards LPG should be encouraged so that the pressure on the forests is off
- The overall impression gained is that the local people do not view their forest as a source of income
- The plantation looks like a biological park. Being situated on the highway it can be developed into a picnic spot in the future
- The villagers realize that afforestation activities undertaken has led to the improvement in the quality of air and land
- The most important benefit derived from the project is a remarkable improvement in the water level
- Forestry does not seem to be a livelihood activity as the community is mainly agriculture based. No head loads of fuel wood removal was observed which is a positive sign

### **PEOPLE'S PARTICIPATION:**

- Forest issues cannot be addressed in isolation because there are various factors responsible for forest degradation. The forest department has done a multidisciplinary job, which has yielded good results. Empowerment of the villagers especially the women folk through schemes such as SHGs has helped in reducing forest dependence
- Non-forest income issues must be addressed so as to attract the interest of the people. The Tamil Nadu Forest Department has done a commendable job in this and has to be congratulated
- Sustainability of such projects has to be addressed in FLR type of interventions
- FLR type of projects require continuity at the Staff level. When one official is transferred, his/her successor has to carry on with the project
- Awareness camps have to be conducted for the staff and the community in local languages. This will help in building up a bottom-up approach
- For successful project implementation, continuous support from other departments are essential
- Continuous discussions and monitoring are required to sustain the interest generated
- Participation in afforestation and restoration related activities come with cost-tag for the community. This has to be recognized in the form of compensations for the effort put in.

## **ITTO GUIDELINES:**

- ITTO guidelines is okay at the outlook
- A highly simplified, user-friendly manual is required. The guidelines developed for JFM can also be incorporated into the FLR Manual
- Projects that have been already implemented and relevant to the concept of FLR should also be integrated.

The presentations came to an end at 11.40 am. This was followed by a highly interactive discussion session. The discussions carried out are summarized below:

Q: It would be better if Thiru Sandeep can give his presentation on Global partnership so that it can help us in discussing more effectively

Q: Let us go for the sequence stated before than jumping into the next

Q: The role of Forest Department has to be 25% and that of other departments 75% in such kind of sociology oriented projects. How are we going to integrate the various departments?

Q: Though we don't follow this terminology in India we do have similar programmes implemented. Why don't we try to interpret FLR in the Indian context i.e. ITTO guidelines and manual have to be customized so as to fit into the Indian context by encapsulating existing/ previous experiences in forest development activity.

Q: Preparation of manual and guidelines for India requires extensive consultation with the stakeholders. The MoEF would be the right agency to do that. This consultation process can also discuss about achieving co-ordination between various departments.

Q: Let us remodel the existing rehabilitation activities so as to fit into the concept of FLR

A: Can anybody come up with a few areas where this sort of activities can be piloted?

Q: Let us carry out state-wise consultation process in-depth. This will give us the places where such activities can be taken up and also existing activities to which the principles of FLR can be incorporated.

Q: Now we know that FLR can be incorporated into the existing rehabilitation processes. Do we really need pilot projects, as this is not an entirely new process? Won't it be better for us to implement the project straightaway than go in for pilot projects?

Q: We should have a set of pilot level studies in the state levels at different agro climatic conditions so that good models can be developed. There are tropical, subtropical and temperate forests in India where the problem of deforestation exists. The Ministry can look into this factor also before developing the guidelines. Moreover, this workshop alone is not adequate since not all states are represented.

A: FLR is not limited to tropical countries alone. For example, it has been undertaken in United Kingdom where the natural forests were replaced with monocultures.

Q: It should be seen that the development aimed at is sustainable. Workshops involving people from other departments should be conducted.

Q: A Land use policy should be developed and followed. MoEF or ITTO should be involved in giving adequate exposure to the field staff. The pilot study should be of good quality.

Q: It is very important to win the confidence of people and this factor should be emphasized in the guidelines. There should be a synergy between the JFM committee and the local agencies such as Gram Sabha/Panchayat. Forest department should be made the nodal agency for all programmes carried out in the forest area. Not much emphasis laid on water conservation. Forests being the source of water more emphasis should be given.

A: Aspects such as water conservation missing in the guidelines will be incorporated in the guidelines that shall be developed for India. A watershed project is the right scheme to incorporate FLR. What kind of assistance is expected from ITTO for preparing the FLR?

Q: Funding is one major assistance required. Are there any preconditions for funding?

Q: The floor would like to know what is the mandate of ITTO in the context of FLR and the idea behind its promotion. Should we really include agroforestry in it?

A: Thiru Joshi will be explaining the mandate of ITTO in detail. ITTO is mainly concerned about the restoration of forest landscape. According to the FAO report of 2005 in 70% of the countries, area under agriculture is expanding at the cost of forests and in many places forests are restricted into islands. ITTO believes that tree growth should not be on forest land alone. Reality will not permit us to have miles and miles of forests altogether. Today, we have only patches of forests remaining. FLR looks forward to have connectivity between various systems. Hence, agroforestry is included to cover the wider village landscape.

Q: If we direct degraded forests for FLR implementation how can we achieve 33% forest cover?

A: The basic idea of FLR is to have forests in agricultural land and not agroforestry in forest lands

Q: Apart from funds we require cross country experiences and building up the quality of manpower of different departments as well as local governing bodies like the Panchayat. That is technical training has to be imparted.

Q: We have landscapes shared by different countries. How better can FLR be in achieving co-ordination between countries especially in cases where hostile neighbours are involved?

A: ITTO also looks into trans-boundary conservation where co-ordination between the countries involved is achievable

Q: Fund requirements for FLR implementation would be quite high. In fact, it requires many times more of manpower and funds than the existing similar projects. What is the time frame for FLR implementation? These projects may not prove cost-effective immediately. The returns might be available after quite a long period of time, in some cases it may happen after 15 or 20 years. Certain landscapes like those in Rajasthan and Gujarat may not support tree cover but may support grasses and shrubs. Same is the case in mangroves where returns such as NTFP's may not be immediate and adequately rewarding.

A: The idea of the workshop is to explore the ways where the participants can go back to their respective state and see how best the FLR principles can be incorporated into existing schemes. Sustainability does not have timeframe. Because landscapes change on the basis of changing societal needs. FLR aims at tracking these changes and implementing corrective measures.

A: Capacity building programmes on FLR and dissemination of information can be undertaken by ITTO. ITTO should also have small-grants programme so that certain principles of FLR can be tested.

This was followed by a Power Point presentation on ITTO – An Introduction to Project Formulation by Thiru A.K. Joshi. He explained in detail about the ITTO mandate and a brief history of its setting up. The chief objective of ITTO is to promote sustainable development through forest products, trade, conservation and best-practice forest management. At present there are 59 member governments, which are divided into Consumer countries and Producer countries. Consumer countries are those countries such as China and Japan that largely import timber and Producer countries are those

countries who provide timber or have a good quantity of original forests left in them (1994 agreement). India is classified as a producer country though it imports a significant quantity of timber. This is because India meets the criteria fixed by the 1994 agreement. Thiru Joshi then explained the ITTO Project Cycle Formulation method. The project has to be formulated in accordance to the “ITTO Manual for Project Formulation”. The project has to be submitted through the National Focal Point (NFP) of the concerned government. An expert panel that is reconstituted once in two years then scrutinizes the project. If the expert panel feels that the project proposal has to be revised or improvised then revision of proposal has to be done which is permitted only twice. Once examined by the relevant committee it is then submitted to ITTC along with the recommendations of the council. At the council a donor country agrees to sponsor the project through ITTO. The project is then implemented and the results are disseminated. For a proposal to be accepted it is essential that the proposal comply with the ITTO project formulation method and its idea should be relevant to ITTO’s concepts. The project format under the four different titles viz., **Context, Project, Operational arrangements, The Tropical Timber Framework** and Annexes.

Thiru Joshi ended his presentation by informing the house that ITTO’s diagnostic mission team will be visiting India soon and looks into the problems hindering sustainable timber production and submits its recommendations to the Government of India.

Thiru Irulandi, CCF then thanked the house members for extending co-operation. The house then dispersed for lunch.

## **POST LUNCH SESSION**

(2.30 pm. onwards)

The Post Lunch Session began with a presentation on **Global Partnership on FLR** by Thiru Sandeep Sengupta. The presentation traced the evolution of the Global initiative on FLR, which was due to growing consensus that FLR has been happening in various names in different parts of the world. This aims at moving the International Forest Community constructively from dialogue to action. Institutions such as IUCN, ITTO, WWF, CCFOR, FAO, El Salvador etc. and countries such as Japan, Kenya, China, US, UK etc. are partners in this initiative. The partners can contribute by aligning themselves with FLR and co-ordinating their activities in addition to contributing time, advise or finance towards the initiative. The partner in turn gains an increased profile and builds a culture of success. The partner is also eligible for availing technical expertise from the partnership. Various national and regional workshops have been conducted in addition to the many field projects. A demonstration portfolio of analytical materials was developed and also a website with case studies. Activities undertaken so far have resulted in greater understanding of FLR and in the initiation of projects to operationalise FLR in various countries. FLR in the current phase focuses on “Learning” and “Adaptation” in addition to catalyzing and networking. Thiru Sengupta listed 18 sites of learning that have been networked. India can actively participate by hosting workshops, consulting a national working group/committee for formally joining the Global Partnership on FLR. It can also incorporate the ITTO guidelines and FLR principles in ongoing restoration projects. In addition to this India can contribute to Global Network of FLR learning sites and develop and implement new FLR projects.

The floor was then opened for discussion.

Q: What is the role of ITTO in Trade?

A: The Committee on Forestry Industry and Committee on Marketing Intelligence are the two committees of ITTO that look into trade related aspects of forest products.

Q: If ITTO happens to bring pressure on member countries to stop illegal logging, it will affect the local communities that depend on it for livelihood. The developing countries have to compensate this.

A: ITTO is ready for this and discussions are going on with projects, which can help the local community in this matter

Q: Japan and China are the countries where illegally logged products such as Red Sanders end up. Can ITTO pressurize these Governments to prevent this?

A: ITTO can only issue guidelines but because of ITTO intervention certain species have been put in negative trade list. It is the ITTC, which is made up of member governments that decides and not the ITTO.

Daily Evaluation Sheets were filled in and the technical session of workshop came to an end at 3 pm. Certificates were distributed by Thiru Dilip Kumar.

Tea was served and the house reassembled after 4.00 pm. for the feed back session.

### **FEED BACKS RECEIVED:**

- The Workshop materials should have been circulated earlier
- The presentation of Thiru Joshi on the mandate of ITTO should have been done earlier to get a good idea of ITTO
- Representation should be given to all stakeholders
- Participation from the Industrial sector should have been more.

Thiru Sandeep Sengupta then expressed thanks on behalf of IUCN to the participants. Thiru. P.S. Rao also thanked the organizers for an interactive seminar. The workshop came to an end with Thiru Joshi formally proposing the Vote of Thanks. He exuded confidence that FLR being prepared for India will come out good.

The workshop closed at around 4.00 pm

## **Recommendations**

The participants are of the view that the following are imperative to be considered.

1. ITTO – IUCN may evolve a pilot programme for implementing FLR in India.
2. Adequate funding required for implementing FLR.
3. FLR may be India basic.
4. ITTO guidelines may be replaced with ITTO manual.
5. Concept of FLR may linked with existing programmes JFM/ FDA.
6. Guidelines may be incorporated into Ministry's other guidelines Eg : National Afforestation Programme, Greening India etc.,
7. Training and capacity building especially at field level staff.
8. Outreach / dissemination of FLR through regular workshops.
9. Industry.
10. Technological innovation (Technology)
11. Regional workshops

## **Participants Evaluation**

Participants evaluated the workshop at the end each day, to determine how they find the delivery of the workshop, presentations & working group sessions, understanding of technical aspects of the workshop and overall clarity. It was found that throughout the evaluation there were positive results. The understanding of the technical areas, increased as the workshop progressed on the last day of the workshop; the participants were evaluated on various technical areas of FLR. The participants gave their views and recommendations, how best FLR can be implemented in India.

## **Workshop Closure**

The workshop came to a close with the distribution of workshop certificates to the participants by Thiru Dilip Kumar. Tea was served and the house reassembled after 4.00 pm. for the feed back session.

Thiru Sandeep Sengupta then expressed thanks on behalf of IUCN to the participants.

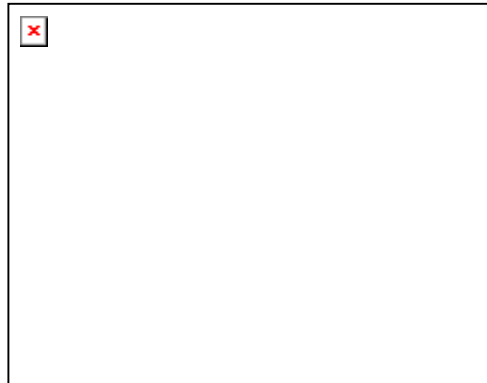
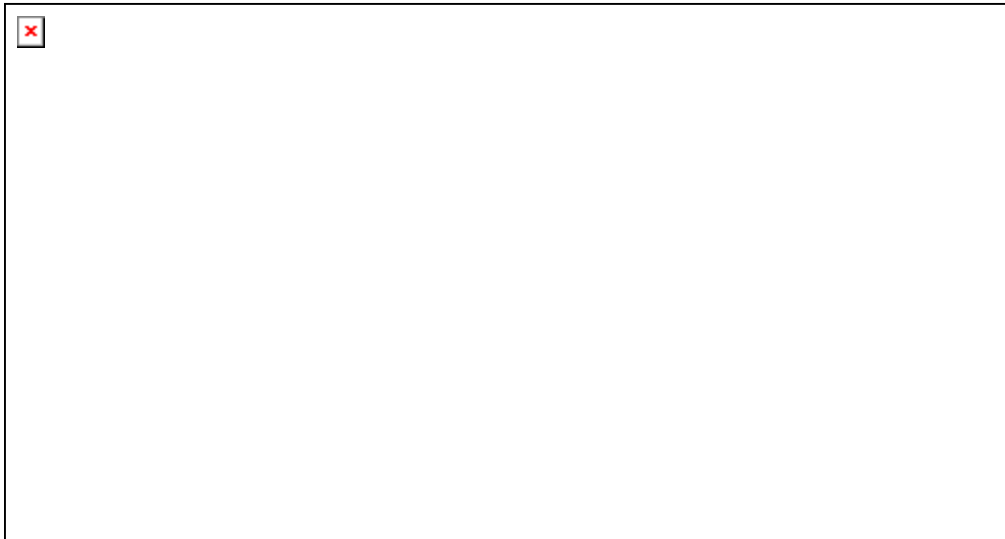
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## **Budget Analysis**

**[Expenditure details statement to be provided by the host Country](#)**

# Annexes

## Inaugural Day Photos



## Closure Day Photos

