

**FORESTRY FOR PEOPLE? OR PEOPLES' FORESTRY?
A FORESTRY PLAN FOR PURA**

1. Problems of Forestry

- o High "infant mortality" of plants due to grazing
- o High cost of several silvicultural activities (land preparation, transplanting, etc.)
- o Reduction of species diversity due to monoculture or quasi-monoculture
- o Inability to secure people's involvement & participation
- o "Common" lands disappearing due to soil erosion, encroachment and "take-over" by Forest Department (FD)

2. Ingredients for Satisfactory Solution

2.1. Guarding

- o Each household cannot guard because of opportunity cost of its time
- o Each household cannot pay for guarding because they cannot afford the expense
- o Only community or external agency can pay for guarding
- o But external agency cannot have the same vested interest in effective guarding

2.2. "Shramdhan" for expensive silvicultural activities

- o "Bearing and raising" plants (land preparation, transplanting, tending, etc.) cannot be paid for! It must be done voluntarily by people
- o Mothers bear and raise children "free" because they have complete rights over their children -- up to a point!
- o They have been programmed by evolution to bear and raise children -- they are rewarded with love and returns from their children
- o To ensure that "bearing and raising" plants is done voluntarily by people, they must be assured rights over the plant and its products, and returns from their efforts
- o Hence, shramdhan must lead to rights over the plant and to sama which is better than dhana, beda and danda

2.3. Species diversity for multi-purpose forestry

- o Forestry planners, funders (WB) and authorities (FD) invariably design forestry programmes to deliver a single output (fuel or feedstock or fuel)
- o In contrast, villages look to forests for a number of outputs -- fuel, fodder, oils, fruit, medicines, structural members (poles)
- o No monoculture can deliver these variety of outputs; people's need-oriented forestry must be multi-species

- o Choice of species must be appropriate to needs
- o Selection and propagation of species by people is a standard marketing problem to be tackled by standard marketing approach -- market survey, pilot production, test marketing, consumer feedback, mass production, quality control, distribution, after-sales service, etc,

2.4. People (particularly women) main actors

- o Forestry programmes tend to look upon people as "consumers" of forest products (say, fuel)
- o But, forestry programmes must also look upon people as "producers" of forest products (say, fuel)
- o Hence, people must play the "star" role in raising plants with all the other actors being a "supporting cast"
- o Restoration of "common" lands to local community control which is our traditional system of looking after common lands
- o Local community control is superior to
 - o government (i.e., bureaucratic) control that ignores people's needs and encourages corruption
 - o privatization because the market tends to ignore equity, long-term interests and the environment

2.5. Protection and upgradation of common lands

- o Prevention of encroachment by community monitoring and policing
- o Restoration of fertility of land through appropriate plant cover

3. Elements of Pura People's Forestry Solution

- o Restoration of "common" lands to local community control, i.e., the control of the (Gram Vikas Sabha)
- o The common land (less a portion dedicated to common requirements such as roads, farm ponds, etc.) is allocated to all the households according to the number of persons (adults) in their households
- o Households raise seedlings for which they are paid by the community (Gram Vikas Sabha) on a piece rate, i.e., per seedling
- o Shramdhan for land preparation, transplanting, tending, etc.
- o Community (Gram Vikas Sabha) pays for guarding of the plants of all the households
- o The Community (Gram Vikas Sabha) takes a bank loan to pay for the guarding of plants and 25% of the cost of raising of seedlings
- o In return for Shramdhan, households own and have complete rights over their plants raised by them in the land allocated to them and to the products of these

- plants -- these rights are recorded in "plant pattas".
- o However, households have to repay the Gram Vikas Sabha for guarding, etc., by giving 50% of the fuelwood from their plants to the Gram Vikas Sabha
- o Households have the right to sell their share of the fuelwood that they grow in the market
- o The households have no rights over the land that is allocated to them
- o The objective is need-oriented multi-purpose forestry with species diversity to deliver a number of outputs -- fuel, fodder, oils, fruit, medicines, structural members (poles)
- o Selection of species must be done by people via standard marketing approach -- market survey, pilot production, test marketing, consumer feedback, mass production, quality control, distribution, etc,
- o The people (particularly women) as "consumers-cum-producers" and local community organization are the main actors with all the other actors (Revenue Department, Forest Department, banks, scientists) being a "supporting cast"
- o Prevention of encroachment by community monitoring and policing by the (Gram Vikas Sabha)
- o Restoration of fertility of land through appropriate plant cover

4. Steps to Pura's Peoples' Forestry

- o Revenue Department transfers control over common land to Gram Vikas Sabha
- o GVS allocates land for biomass production to households
- o GVS fences the land and protects it from encroachment
- o KSCST makes available seeds to the GVS
- o GVS makes available seeds to households
- o Households raise seedlings of their choice
- o FD provides 75% of the cost of purchasing seedlings from the households to the GVS as a loan
- o GVS takes forestry loan from Bank to pay for guarding and 25% of the cost of purchasing seedlings from the households
- o GVS pays households for raising seedlings after the seedlings are transplanted
- o GVS employs guards to protect saplings from grazing
- o When trees start yielding (after 6 years), households harvest the fuelwood, etc. and give 50 % of the yield to the GVS
- o GVS starts repaying the loan to the bank after 6 years out of the share of the yield given to it by the households

5. Transactions between Actors

5.1. Bank and GVS

Bank gives to the GVS a loan to cover the costs of guarding the forest and to pay the GVS's share (25%) of the cost of purchasing the seedlings from the households.

GVS repays the bank loan at 11% over 10 years after a moratorium of 6 years.

5.2. FD and GVS

FD gives to the GVS a grant to pay the FD's share (75%) of the cost of purchasing the seedlings from the households.

GVS "repays" the FD by growing for it a forest at a much lower cost than the FD would have paid if it had tried to grow the forest itself.

5.3. GVS and Households

GVS Bank gives to the GVS a loan to cover the costs of guarding the forest and to pay the GVS's share (25%) of the cost of purchasing the seedlings from the households.

GVS repays the bank loan at 11% over 10 years after a moratorium of 6 years.

5.4. FD and GVS

Costs and Benefits to Actors
Organization & Management
Failure Modes & Precautions