



Forest Returns & Benefit Sharing

An independent study on Community
Forest Management in Andhra Pradesh

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Centre for People's Forestry



About CPF

Centre for People's Forestry is a professional NGO working in community forestry in the States of Andhra Pradesh, Orissa and Jharkhand, India. It was registered as a Public Trust in 2002, prior to which it belonged to the JFM wing of Centre for World Solidarity. It works for the rights and livelihoods of forest dependent communities with due regard to conservation. It believes that the claim to conservation, control and management of the forest resources belong to the forest dwelling and dependent communities and their livelihoods should be the primary concern of all forestry programmes.

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Introduction

In Andhra Pradesh, the Joint Forest Management (JFM) programme initiated in 1992 was transformed to Community Forest Management (CFM) in 2002 vide G.O.M.S number 13 Dt 12-02-2002. In response to the demand, seeking clarification on the modalities of benefit sharing, by the NGOs and the VSSs⁴ associated actively with the World Bank supported project, an extensive consultation was taken up by the AP Forest Department (facilitated by NGOs) at range and division levels, culminating at the State level. The outcome of the consultation resulted in an amendment to the GO issued on 12-01-2004, where the entitlements from forest return and benefit sharing mechanism was elaborately explained.



Provisions related to the CFM GO (as amended in 2004) on entitlement and benefit sharing

1. Entitlements from Forest Returns:
 - a. All Non-timber Forest Produce.
 - b. All Intermediate yielding obtained from silvicultural operations in natural forests;
 - c. All timber and bamboo (including yield from bamboo plantations) harvested from the forest managed by them except in case of plantations;
 - d. In case of plantations within VSS area, entitlement from yield harvested (including yield from thinning) in the first rotation shall be proportionate to period of management of the plantation by the VSS.
 - e. All the timber obtained from second and subsequent rotations of all plantations.
 - f. All silvicultural operations including harvesting will be carried out in accordance with the silvicultural principles laid down in the respective Working Plans and schedule detailed in respective micro plans of the Vana Samrakshana Samithi.
 - g. 100% of net profit from sale of beedi leaf.

¹ This study was carried out as part of the projects supported by the resource agencies Oxfam India and AEI

² Dr. Suryakumari (Director, CPF) is also a member of FGLG India (<http://fglgindia.org/>)

³ Centre for People's Forestry (CPF) – CPF has been associated with the JCFM programme in the State since 1996 and contributed to the process of its evolution at policy and implementation levels. For more details please visit www.cpf.in

⁴ VSS- Vana Samrakshana Samithis are the village level forest protection groups formed by the Forest Department. These groups are then allotted a part of the Reserve Forest under an MOU with the State Forest Department, for protection and management. In return there are pronouncements for sharing benefits with these communities. In Andhra Pradesh so far there are more than 8000 VSSs looking after an extent of 16 lakh ha (25% of the State forest) of forest. World Bank supported APCFM project (2003 -2010) provided funding for VSS activities to 5000 VSSs and the rest are being supported by State and Central Government schemes.

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