

Forest Biodiversity Registers

A Hand Book

June 2002

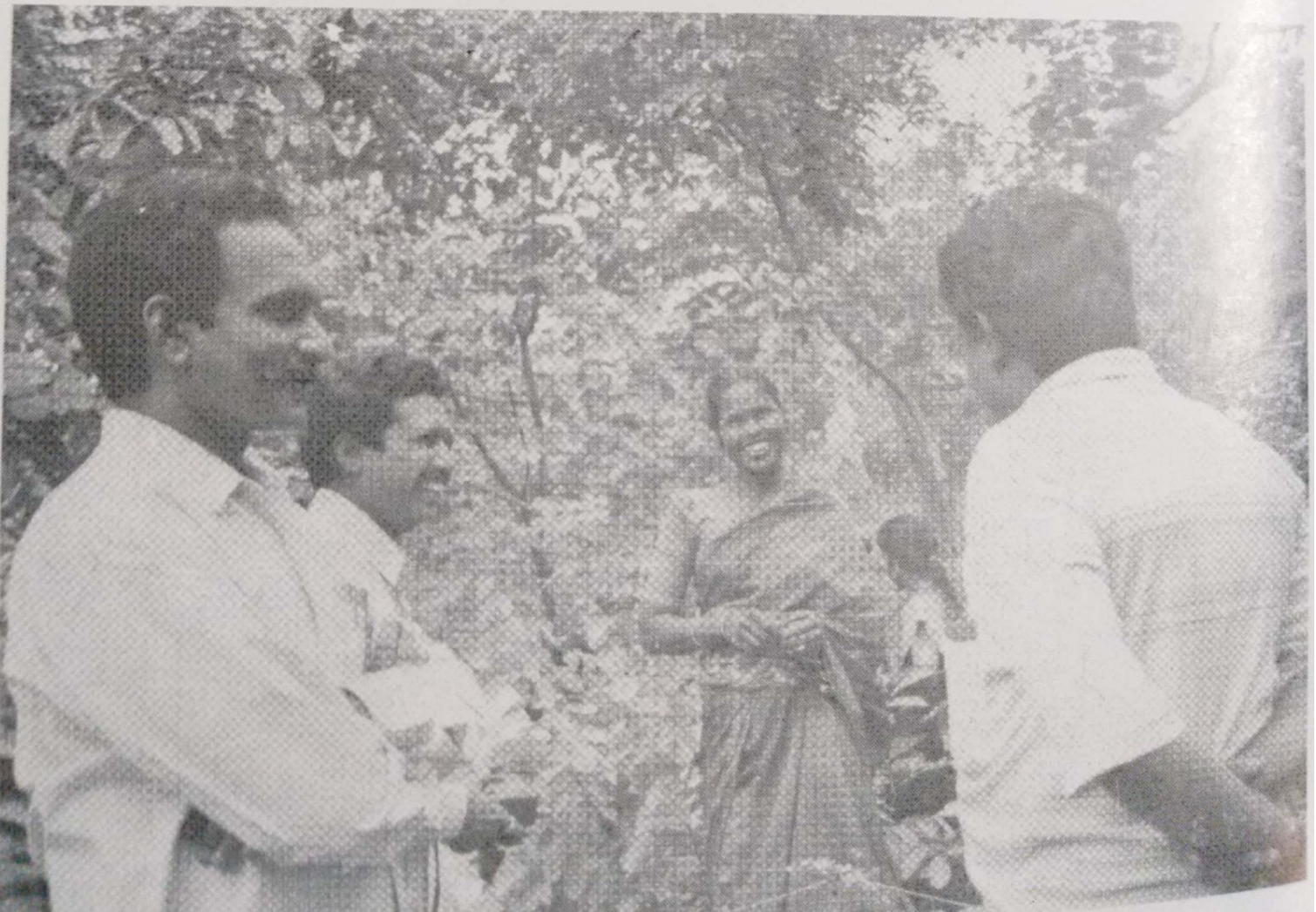


G.Srinivas

Centre for People's Forestry



Quadrates study in Punyagiri VSS



Forest Biodiversity Registers - A Hand Book

Written by : G.Srinivas

First Published by : C.W.S
June 2002

Reprint by : C.P.F
July 2004

Copies : 500

Cover design, Layout &
Printed at : Suhas Print Media, SRT-19,
Vidya Nagar, Hyderabad - 500 044
Ph: 040 - 7679213, 31030254



CENTRE FOR PEOPLE'S FORESTRY

Centre for People's Forestry (CPF) is a national level voluntary organization presently working in Andhra Pradesh with Secunderabad as its headquarters with a network of NGOs and forest dependent user groups; striving for equity concerns in forestry sector. In its endeavour to strengthen VSS networks at local and state levels, CPF collects and disseminates information related to livelihoods and forestry. It holds consultations with bureaucracy, voluntary organizations and the community and lobbies with the Government for pro-people policies and advocates for sustainable livelihoods through forestry.

CPF has established 3 regional resource centres for people's forestry in three geographical regions of Andhra Pradesh (RRC - Coastal at Madugula, Visakhapatnam district, RRC - Telangana at Neradigonda, Adilabad district and RRC - Rayalaseema at Kadapa) and three thematic resource centres (CDCF - Centre for Dalit Concerns in Forestry located in Nellore district, CGCF - Centre for Gender Concerns in Forestry located Visakhapatnam district and ReFFE- Resource Centre for Folk Art Forms in Forestry Education located in Medak district). These Centres are expected to grow into *knowledge providing and livelihoods supporting* centres with equity and equality concerns and undertake their own research to enrich their training and advocacy and lobbying needs.

CPF has promoted a state wide VSS network Vanasamakhya (presently which has membership from 44 forest ranges across the State) to empower the community in advocacy and lobbying issues related to forestry including Biodiversity.

CPF has been actively involved in policy lobbying and advocacy related to Community Forestry, Biodiversity and empowering local communities to document Biodiversity in the form of People's Forest Biodiversity Registers. During 2001-2002 all partners and the VSSs they are associated with were trained in Biodiversity issues including Biological Diversity Bill 2000, convention on Biological Diversity and preparation of peoples Forest Biodiversity Registers. CPF believes in empowering local communities in conservation and management of local Biological diversity resources with their rights clearly spelt out in legislation and honoured in practice.

FOREWORD

CPF & CWS with the intention to take the information on the provisions of the “convention on Biological Diversity” (CBD) to the local communities living in and around Forests and build their capacities in order to equip them to face the challenges posed by TRIPS, Globalization and the subsequent exploitation of forest resources by the market forces are undertaken the task of documenting Biodiversity in the form of FBRs in 34 VSS. This handbook is a result of such effort.

The first step in this direction was made in October 2000 by introducing the subject to the partner NGOs numbering 34 in 10 districts of Andhra Pradesh, who in turn guide around 600 Vana Samrakshana Samithis (VSSs). Regular discussion on the matter in the subsequent meetings with both partner NGOs as well as the VSS representatives paved the way for chalking out a concrete training programme.

The present publication aimed at encouraging Biodiversity documentation by the local community going for a reprint it self demonstrates the viability and necessity of this kind of an effort.

We are thankful to Mr. P.V.Satheesh of DDS; Dr. K. Kameswara Rao of Andhra University and Dr. Ravi Prasad Rao of Srikrishna Devaraya University for their continuous support and guidance.

D. Suryakumari

Centre for Peoples' Forestry

C O N T E N T S

Introduction 01
Steps in FBR preparation 10
Format for Biodiversity Register 13
The FBR Workshops 19
Annexures 22

1. Introduction

1.1 What is Biodiversity?

The word, biodiversity, came into prominence since 1988. However, the definition acceptable to all was finalized in the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), in the UNCED conference at Rio in 1992. As per CBD, Biodiversity is “the variability among living organisms from all sources including, inter alia, terrestrial, marine and other aquatic ecosystems and the ecological complexes of which they are part; this includes diversity within species, between species and of ecosystem”. In a general parlance, Biodiversity is a sum of three sub-systems 1. Genetic diversity (diversity within species), 2. Species diversity (diversity of species, such as among trees, variety of tree species), and the 3. Eco-system.

Genetic diversity - Mango varieties like, Banaganaplle, Neelam, etc.

Species diversity - Different species of trees, animals, insects.

Eco system - The entire ecological system including both living and non-living

1.2 Assessment and Importance of Biodiversity:

The Global Biodiversity Assessment estimated 13.6 million species existing in the world, of which only 1.75 million (13%) are scientifically described (Heywood, 1995). In India, there are 45,000 species of living beings (animals, plants and microorganisms). The question however is, are all these species useful for human beings and is it necessary that they all survive?

Please contact CPF for copies

040-27154484