

JOINT FOREST MANAGEMENT DEVELOPMENT IN NANDED DISTRICT



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Research paper

Forest management is the practical application of science, technology and economics to a forest estate for production of certain results. Primary objectives of good forest management are to provide maximum benefit to the greatest number of people for all time. The benefit may be direct or indirect, annual or periodic, but they must be available for future generations and the quality and quantity of benefit should not go down except for brief period in keeping with the management policies. Joint Forest Management is a dynamic process to be applied for the management of forests, stressing upon attitudinal change among the stakeholders along with association of local communities in management, promoting collective decision-making, right from the planning stage to the stage of fair and equitable distribution of usufructs, to ensure sustainable development of forests. In short, Joint Forest Management is an approach to achieve sustainability by involving the village communities and voluntary organization.

STUDY AREA The present study has been made during 1996 to 2005 in Nanded district. Nanded is the important forest covered district in Marathwada region of Maharashtra state. Southern and northern part of the district lie in the Godavari and Penganga river basins respectively. The district has extended from 18°15' to 19°55' north latitude and 77°7' to 78°15' east longitude. The total geographical area of Nanded district is 10,760 sq. km that is 3.41% of the total area of the state. The district has 16 talukas. Out of these, five talukas viz. Hadgaon, Kinwat, Mahur, Bhokar and Mukhed have been selected for the study, because it

has more than 80% of the forest cover of the district. Forest cover in Nanded district is 11.92% of the total geographical areas and out of this 39.34% of forest cover is in Kinwat tahasil.

The climate in the district is hot and dry, except the Monsoon season. Mean maximum temperature is 42°C. The maximum recorded temperature is 46°C and minimum is 12°C. There use to be cold waves in the month of December. The average rainfall in the district is about 897.8 mm (35.34 inches). The climate in the district is favorable for forest development and sufficient rain fall for forest growth. Population of Nanded district, according to the census of 2001, was 28,76,259. The rate of growth of population during 1991-2001, was 23.42% and in 1981 to 1991 was 33.32%. The decrease in the growth rate in 1991 to 2001 is 9.79 %

OBJECTIVES

1) To study the profile of forest-dwellers in Nanded districts. 2) To understand participation of forest-dwellers in Joint Forest Management. 3) To know the expectations of forest-dwellers.

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY—The study is based on primary data. The primary information has been collected from forest dependent respondents in the district with the help of questionnaire. The study has been conducted in 45 villages of five talukas of the district.

PROFILE OF FOREST DWELLERS IN THE STUDY AREA — A brief profile of forest dwellers in the area under study has given to provide support to the discussion based on interview of forest dwellers. The detailed profile of the forest dwellers in the area

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Table no. 1.1 Distribution of Forest Dwellers according to their Age, Caste, Occupation, Size of Family, Working Condition

Sr.No.Particulars	Bhokar	Hadgaon	Kinwat	Mahur	Mukhed	Total
1. Age						
Up to 30 Years	8	6	19	3	Nil	36 (14.23)
31 to 40 Years	13	6	41	21	6	87 (34.39)
41 to 50 Years	10	12	27	15	4	68 (26.88)
51 to 60 Years	10	8	14	14	16	62 (24.50)
Total	41	32	101	53	26	253 (100)
Average	38.82	40.41	37.09	42.45	49.35	40.17
2. Caste						
Adivasi	19	17	55	23	Nil	114 (45.06)
Bouddha and Matang	3	13	14	3	16	49 (19.37)
Banjara and Vanjari	11	1	16	17	5	50 (19.76)
Others	8	1	16	10	5	40 (15.81)
Total	41	32	101	53	26	253 (100)
3. Occupation						
A) Primary						
Agriculture	22(53.66)	12(37.50)	48 (47.53)	25 (47.17)	6 (23.08)	113 (44.66)
Animal Husbandry	Nil	Nil	1 (0.99)	Nil	Nil	1 (0.40)
Forest product	8 (19.51)	3(9.38)	5 (4.95)	2 (3.77)	3 (11.54)	21(8.30)
Wages	11 (26.83)	17(53.12)	47 (46.53)	26 (49.06)	17(65.38)	118 (46.64)
Total	41	32	101	53	26	253(100)
B) Secondary						
Agriculture	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	1 (3.85)	1 (0.40)
Animal Husbandry	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	1 (3.85)	1 (0.40)
Forest Product	30(73.17)	28 (87.50)	95 (94.06)	52 (98.11)	23(88.46)	228 (90.12)
Wages	5 (12.20)	1 (3.13)	1 (0.99)	1(1.89)	Nil	8 (3.16)
No secondary work	6 (14.63)	3 (9.37)	5 (4.95)	Nil	1 (3.84)	15 (5.92)
Total	41	32	101	53	26	253 (100)
4. Size of Family						
1 to 3 Members	21	23	81	36	11	172 (67.98)
4 to 7 Members	19	8	19	17	13	76 (30.04)
8 to 10 Members	1	1	1	Nil	2	5(1.98)
Total	41	32	101	53	26	253 (100)
Average	3.79	3.09	2.73	3.12	4.29	3.19
5. Working Condition						
Working	34 (82.93)	24(75)	93 (92.08)	44 (83.02)	14 (53.85)	209 (82.60)
Non-Working	7 (17.07)	8 (25)	8 (7.92)	9 (16.98)	12 (46.15)	44 (17.40)
Total	41	32	101	53	26	253 (100)

understudy consist of the age, caste, occupation, size of family, and working condition

I) Age:-The table no.1.1 reveals that the average age of forest-dwellers in Kinwat taluka is 37.09 years. The average age of forest-dwellers in Mukhed taluka of the area under study is 49.35 years. The researcher has noticed the highest average age in Mukhed taluka and the lowest in Kinwat taluka.

II) Caste:-The table shows that 114 (45.06%) of forest-dwellers area belonging to the Adivasi

Community, 40 (15.81) forest-dwellers are from other casts like Maratha, Mali and Lingayat. Adivasi is found as a dominant community of forest-dwellers. The highest number of forest-dwellers (55) 48.25% are belonging to the Adivasi Community in Kinwat taluka of the area under study. Mukhed taluka has not noticed even single forest-dwellers from Adivasi community.

III) Occupation :-In the table, it is noticed that Bhokar taluka of the area under study noticed 8 (19.51%) of forest-dwellers engaged in forest activity

Table 1.2 Participation Statuses of Forest-Dwellers in Forest Management

Sr.No.	Particulars	Bhokar	Hadgaon	Kinwat	Mahur	Mukhed	Total
1.	Forest Management						
	By Forest Dept. Itself	13 (31.71)	24 (75)	40 (39.60)	53 (100)	26 (100)	156(61.66)
	By Forest Management Committees	28 (38.29)	8(25)	61 (60.40)	Nil	Nil	97(38.34)
	Total	41	32	101	53	26	253 (100)
2.	Membership of the Committee						
	Yes	Nil	Nil	4 (6.56)	N/A	N/A	4 (4.12%)
	No	28 (100)	8(100)	57 (93.44.)	N/A	N/A	(95.88)
	Total	28	8	61	Nil	Nil	97(100)
3.	Role as a Member						
	Active Member	N/A	N/A	Nil	N/A	N/A	Nil
	Nominal member	N/A	N/A	4 (100)	N/A	N/A	4 (100)
	Total	Nil	Nil	4	Nil	Nil	4(100)
4.	Reasons for Non-Membership						
	Unwillingness	1	Nil	3	N/A	N/A	4 (4.30)
	Forest dept. did not allow	16	7	40	N/A	N/A	63 (67.74)
	Both the reasons	11	1	14	N/A	N/A	26 (27.96)
	Total	28	8	57	Nil	Nil	93(100)
5.	Benefits as a Members						
	Contribution in forest product collection	N/A	N/A	Nil	N/A	N/A	Nil
	Participation in committees' process	N/A	N/A	Nil	N/A	N/A	Nil
	No benefits	N/A	N/A	4	N/A	N/A	4 (100)
	Total	Nil	Nil	4	Nil	Nil	4(100)

Source : Data computed by author

Note : Figures in parentheses indicates percentages.

as their primary occupation, the highest percentage of forest-dwellers engaged in forest activity as their primary occupation are found in this taluka. The forest-dwellers are lowest in number 2 (3.77%) working in forest as primary occupation are in Mahur taluka. It is also noticed that the forest activity is found secondary occupation of 52 (98.11%) of forest-dwellers in Mahur taluka with highest percentage in the area under study whereas the percentage is found lowest 30 (73.17%) in Bhokar taluka. The 21 (18.3%) number of forest-dwellers are engaged in forest activity as their primary occupation and 228 (90.12%) of forest-dwellers are working in the forest as their secondary occupation.

IV) Family size:-The smallest size of family, 2.73 members were found in Kinwat taluka and the largest size of family, 4.29 members found in Mukhed taluka of the area understudy.

V) Working condition of forest-dwellers:- Out of

253 forest-dwellers families, 209 (82.60%) of forest-dwellers were in working condition and 44 (17.4%) of forest-dwellers were in non-working condition.

FOREST DWELLERS PARTICIPATION IN FOREST MANAGEMENT

In order to evaluate the extent of participation of forest-dwellers in Forest Management, the collected data is given in table no.1.2.

Table 1.2 shows that out of 253 forest-dwellers, 97 (38.34%) have opined that the forest were managed by Joint Forest Management Committee and 156 forest-dwellers (61.66%) are of the view that the forests in the area were managed by the forest department, they were found unaware of their Joint Forest Management. Out of 256 forest-dwellers, 97 (i.e. 38.34%) are of the view that the forests in their area were managed by JFM and only 4 forest-dwellers (i.e. 4.127) were found members of JFM. The success of Joint Forest

Table 1.3 Caste-wise Distribution of Forest-Dwellers according to their Expectations

Sl. No.	Particulars	Adivasi	Brahmin Kshatrij	and Sanyas Yogis	Others	Total
1	Expectations from forest income					
	Don't have on P.F. Collection	162	1	163	163	1 (0.43)
	Guaranteed income with Timely work	70	34	36	8	138 (58.89)
	Basic needs should be met	40	34	34	4	102 (40.71)
	Total	132	69	60	15	252 (100)
2	To avoid obstacles in forest collection					
	Protection from outside attack	31	11	22	163	65 (25.89)
	Forest collection should not be disturbed	7	17	4	1	29 (11.46)
	Insurances should be provided	5	12	1	163	30 (7.98)
	No obstacles	40	51	33	163	157 (64.55)
	Total	83	95	67	1	252 (100)
3	Facilities of Training					
	Conservation and protection of forest	30	28	22	163	30 (11.62)
	Provide some all knowledge of forest	63	34	42	1	138 (57.77)
	Acquire techniques for forest collection	7	11	1	1	20 (30.67)
	Total	100	67	70	3	252 (100)

Source: Data compiled by author. Note: Figures in parentheses indicate percentages.

members like equal distribution of income from forest and allow FDs to take part in decision making.

EXPECTATION OF FOREST DWELLERS

There is a need of providing training to the forest-dwellers to bring awareness among them regarding the activities of JFM. Table 1.3 shows that out of 252, 149 (58.89%) of Forest-Dwellers are of the view that there is no guarantee of income from the forests and the income is insufficient as compared to the time spent in the forests and 103 (40.71%) of Forest-Dwellers have opined that it is highly impossible for them to meet their basic needs out of the income from the forest produce collection. In order to check obstacles in collection of forest produces the researcher has asked question to the respondents with four options as shown in the Table 1.3 Out of total respondents 138 (54.55%) stated that there are no obstacles in the collection of forest produce, and 29 (11.46%) of the respondents are of the view that they have to face illegal restriction in the collection of wood and Non-wood forest Products. Near about all the respondents are of the opinion that there is need of training to out of total respondents, 146 (57.17%) are of the opinion that the training is necessary to have sufficient knowledge of forest development, 27 FDs (10.67%) are of the view that they are in need of training about

Management lies in the active participation of the members, specially the members who are the Forest-dwellers. The primary data shows that out of 4 members nobody is found playing any active role in JFM. To find out reasons for Forest Dwellers unwillingness to be a member, the researcher has collected primary data from forest-dwellers. It is noticed that out of total respondents, 63 (67.74%) are of the view that the forest department does not allow them to be a member of JFM, 4 respondents (4.3%) opined member of JFM. The JFM must provide various benefits to its

the collection of NWFPs, 80 FDs (31.62%) are of the view that they are in need of training about conservation and protection of forest.

CONCLUSION

1) The forest-dwellers belonging to middle ages are highly attracted towards forest activities for their survival, whereas the young generation forest dwellers are not much interested in forest activities. 2) Adivasis are found in highest number dependent on forest. 3) The forest activity is a major source of income of the forest-dwellers in Mahur & Bhokar talukas. The researcher has noticed that all the forest-dwellers are living below the poverty line, thus the forest contributes as a major source of income in order to enhance their quality of life. 4) The average size of family is 3.19 members in the area understudy. 5) The forest-dwellers in working condition are collecting wood and non wood forest products and non-working forest-dwellers help their family in the post collection activities of Non-Wood Forest Products and contributes to the family income. 6) A few forest-dwellers were found member of Joint Forest Management Committee. 7) A rare member plays active role in JFM. 8) Most of the JFM committees are on paper only, there is a need of activity and target oriented actions of JFM to achieve its goal. 9) No benefit is provided in any kind to forest-dwellers as a member of JFM.

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