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## Forest and Revenue

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#### Abstract

Social Forestry now becomes a common work for all government in all nations. Its effects found not only on human being but also on every parts of the society. This programme not only provides food, fodder, shelter for people but also a bulk amount of revenue to the government as well as to general public.

**Keywords:** Social forestry role in earning opportunities, increase economic condition, forest resource preserved through public awareness

#### Introduction

Social forestry has come up as a vital component of Indian forestry during the last two decades. Its principal aim is to raising plantation of fuel wood, fodder and grasses. Forestry has also influenced on employment. Increasing unemployment problem can be overcome by increasing forestry.

#### Objectives of the Study

Keeping in view the growing development of social forestry for supplying food, fodder, firewood, raw material, etc. Arrangement should be made for adequate supply of these items. It requires scientific analysis of the problem so that the resources available from forestry can be utilized efficiently. The other important points to be consider is the livelihood hood of the poor community who lives surroundings the forest, the poorest if the poor people.

The primary objective of the research is to make a study of the impact of social forestry in West Bengal with special reference to the district of North 24- Parganas. For this purpose the study specially aims act:

- a) To study the overall objectives of the social forestry.
- b) To study the various components of social forestry.
- c) To study the several important issue to the programme.
- d) To study the achievements under the programme.
- e) To find out the various problems.
- f) To suggest ways for improving the implementations of the programme for better result.

#### Research Methodology

The study is partly exploratory and partly descriptive. It is based on both primary and secondary data. The primary data have been collected in the district of North 24 Parganas through the multi-stage stratified samples techniques.

The secondary data have been collected from different sources like reports and brochures of the department of forest, West Bengal, state forest report directorates of forest, government of West Bengal. Reports published By the Indian Statistical Institute (ISI). Apart from these we have interviewed officials of divisional forest office north 24 parganas and a few field staff who are engaged I afforestation. We have visited a few selected blocks for a spot idea what is being done for the development of social forestry. We have also visited some selected villages where social forestry is being done for the betterment of village people. The collected data have been tabulated and analyzed using accounting and simple statistical tools. Social forestry is carried out more or less each of the 20 districts in West Bengal. However

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total geographical area of North 24 Parganas is 3977 sq.km. And 9<sup>th</sup> in size, out of these 43 sq.km. Is only under Recorded Forest Area. As a result we can say that percentage of recorded farm area of North 24 Parganas is 1.08%.

There are five sub-division in North 24 Parganas viz. Bongaon, Basirhat, Barrackpur, Barasat and Bidhannagar. These sub- divisions area divided into 22 community developments block(CDBS) and CDBS area divided into 200 gram Panchayet (GP) and 2942 villages.

**Table1:**Sub-divisions and Community Development Blocks in North 24 Parganas

Sub-division	CDB	No. of CDB
Bongaon	Bongaon, Bagdah, Gaighata	03
Barasat	Barasat-I, Barasat-II, Habra-I, Habra-II, Amadanga, Deganga, Rajarhart	07
Basirhart	Basirhart-I, Basirhart- II, Baduria, Haroa, Minakhann, Swarupnagar, Hasnabad, Hingalganj, Sandehkhali- I, Sandeshkhali-II	10
Barrackpur	Barrackpur-I, Barrackpur-II	02
*Bidhannagar	-----	00
Total		22

\*There is no CDB under Bidhannagar sub-division

Source: Panchayat Mala, Published by Govt. of West Bengal

3 sub-divisions (Barasat, Basirhat, Barrackpur) have been selected as an area of field survey. In the second stage one community development block (CDB) from each of the three sub-division i.e., 3 CDB have been randomly selected. Thereafter, one G P (Social Forestry Based) has been selected from each of three CDB i.e. 3 G P have been selected and four villages has been selected from each of the 3 G.P, as a result 4 villages from each of three sub-division i.e.12 villages in total have been selected for survey.

**Discussion**

Social forestry has a great importance in the growth of national economy. It focuses on the industry, trade etc. Output from forest has rapidly gone down over a last number of years. During the post-independence period, India has made considerable progress in diversifying the commodity composition of its exports, and today we have trade relation with an increasing large number of countries. But due to over exploitation of forest product the share of export gradually decreased over a complete of years. The export around wood should be stopped to encourage the domestic wood based industries.

The revenue of the forest Directorate, Govt. of West Bengal, is generated through the sale of forest products, tariffs and royalties, rents, taxes, leases, fees and other charges. During the year 2013-14, total revenue earned was Rs.5,044.88 lakhs. The maximum revenue (of Rs.1586.11 lakhs) was generated by the Buxa Tiger Reserve. During the year 2013-14, the Directorate has spent an amount of Rs.18, 378.79 lakhs for development of forest and allied activities under different schemes. Rs15, 141.14 lakhs were spent in non-plan Rs.1, 944.38 lakhs under states plan, and Rs 2,243.27 lakhs under different schemes like CSS/CS, states plan committed and Non Plan development etc.

**Table No 2:** Revenue from major heads during 2013-14 and 2014-15

Heads	2013-14 Rs. In Lakh	2014-15 Rs. In Lakh
Timber & Polls	2744.16	6734.15
Fire wood	118.64	91.40
Grazing	21.59	0.06

Bamboo	0.31	4.91
MEP	13.79	104.85
Other	1146.39	2211.34
Total	4044.88	9146.71

Sources: State Forest report Govt. of West Bengal

The entire population of the world somehow depends upon forests. However, this dependence is not similar everywhere, while the developed countries are more concerned with climatic change, maintenance of bio-diversity and recreational opportunities, the developing countries primarily depend to get food, fuel wood, fodder for their sustenance. It is very urgent to find out the ways and means to manage sustainably in the face of current pressures and to augment the raw material production.

**Major Findings**

1. In 16 selected divisions the social forestry programme was implemented by the regular officials of the forest Department in addition to their normal workload without any extra staff support. However, in few cases extra staff was sanctioned for implemented of specific schemes.
2. No extension and motivated staff at the grass root level was appointed in forest office whereas in some cases posts are filled up partially.
3. The officials at various levels involved in the programme were not trained in social forestry and there was no permanent arrangement for their training. It was also forest observed that the forest department official did not prefer their posting in social Forestry Organization.
4. The implementation of the programme was affected in some of the cases due to lack of coordination between the Forest Department and block agencies. No follow up action was taken up by the implementing agencies in almost all the cases for getting feedback on implementation through regular field's visits.
5. The size of the selected nurseries was very small, whereas they were required to cover very wide areas in terms of number of villages; some of the selected nurseries covering more than 100 villages each had also work much below capacity.
6. In some of the cases, the beneficiaries under Farm Forestry were in fact big farmers whereas the programme was meant for small marginal farmers.

7. In actual seeding distribution was reported to be more than what was targeted for.
8. Sometimes funds were sanctioned in time whereas in most cases the programme suffered due to late release of fund by the District Rural Development Agencies (DRDA) under social forestry components of National Rural Employment Programme (NREP), Drought Prone area Programme (DPAP) etc.
9. Involvement of voluntary agencies in Social Forestry Programme appeared to be nominal and undoubtedly is a great problem.
10. Strip plantation on public land had yet matures in our state. Some informal arrangements had, however been made in a few districts for sharing of the produce public plantation as and when matured.
11. Out of 200 villages, blocks plantation on public community land were raised in 23 villages only which proves the lack of proper administrative policy.
12. More and more selected beneficiaries reported lowers survival percentage of the seeding due to scarcity of water, browsing of plants by animals, an attack from insects and pests.
13. There was no remarkable achievement in the major source of fuel wood, fodder and small timber for the beneficiaries as they had to travel long distance for collection of fuel wood and fodder.
14. Wages paid under social forestry programme were less than the minimum wages under the Act.
15. Smuggling activities in forest affect the social forestry.

### Conclusion

The study reveals that social forestry suffers from many problems. To overcome most of the problems and for development of social forestry in West Bengal as well as North 24 parganas, some suggestion are put forward:-

- Plantation of fast growing species on side of public roads, river banks, irrigation, canals, etc.
- Implementation of farm forestry programme may be made in the form of rising rows of trees on boundaries of fields and also flowering tree and shrubs mainly to serve as recreation forest for the urban and rural pollution.
- To encourage peoples participation involving women and young people in conservation of forest and environment
- To create environmental awareness celebration of "Vana Mahotsava", "Environment day", additional monitoring incentives may be considered for the official for the proper motivations of staff posted in the social forestry organization. In order to give a thrust to social forestry separate trained staff should be provided at all levels including extension and motivation staff at the grass route level.
- Proper education arrangement should be there at all levels of people.
- The supply of seedlings should be at minimum price in order to prevent the wastage of the same the seeding to small marginal farmers may be supplied free up to a certain limit and beyond that limit supply should be priced.
- There is need for setting up more nurseries in rural areas for wider coverage. For quick and large scale multiplication of seedlings without any impairment in quality, technology innovations should be encouraged.

- Fund for rising of seedlings in the nurseries should be made available well in time.
- The voluntary organization should be strongly associated with the implementation of the program. However, the capabilities of dynamic voluntary organizations should be assists in advance, and they may be encouraged to adopt a group of village for free plantation programme.
- There should be an integrated approach involving all concerned departments related to forest for Coordinated action for successful implementation of social forestry. Targets setting under various components of the programme should be the responsibility of district level committee. The programme at the grass roots should be implemented through block and gram panchayat level committee with peoples participations at all levels.
- Incentives in the form of fertilizers and insecticides should also be distributed free to small marginal farmers and weaker section of the society.
- The system of maintenance of records especially distribution of seedlings etc. needed to be considerably improved.
- Seedlings should be made available at the plantation sides for which more nurseries should be set –up.
- Chowkidar should be engaged for the proper maintenance of plants. There is also need for motivating the villagers through extension work about usefulness of plants and involving school children and local club in plantation programme.
- Unrestricted grazing of animal should be regulated in the village under the supervision of local panchayet.
- Fund should be increased in the government budget for the social forestry programme.
- Tax relief on revenue from forest to be enforced by restricting the tax policy of the government.
- To be prevented would smugglings; local administration should be alert and precaution to be adopted.

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