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Bappaditya Sahoo
Jogamaya Devi College
92 S P Mukherjee Road
Kolkata, India

Social Forestry and Industry

Bappaditya Sahoo

Abstract

Social Forestry now becomes a common work for all civilization in all nations. Its effects found not only on human being but also on every part of the society. This programme not only provides food, fodder, shelter for people but also a huge amount of revenue to the government. Social forestry also effects on the climatic condition of the local area. Social forestry boosts up the socio-economic condition of the country by establishing small and large scale industries.

Keywords: Social forestry provide revenue by set up wood based industries and eliminate unemployment

Introduction

In order to improve the economic condition of the people living below the grinding poverty line, the pattern of planning will have to be changed. Investment in heavy industry, while a must in the vital sectors of economic like defense cannot solve the problem of poverty prevailing in our country. The living example is of Bihar which is one of the most highly industrialized states in country and yet one of the poorest. The possible solution to removal of poverty of creating wealth in villages themselves for starting a chain of cottage industries. In fact, way back in 1956 the author (Tiwari, 1956) emphasized the need for the scheme of afforestation in the second five years plan for raising the standard of living of the poorest class of our society. It was further mentioned that creation of forest will amount to creation of wealth which will have no depreciation as opposed to other schemes of development such as factories, dams, etc. As will be seen from this treatise that such a wealth in the form of establishing small blocks of forest of useful trees species on unproductive land is quite possible. The leaf fodder, fruits, seed, gum, timber from the trees can provide raw materials for variety of cottage industry.

Social forestry has become up as a vital component of Indian forestry during the last two decades. Its principal aim is to divert the pressure away from traditional forest area by raising plantation of fuel wood, fodder and grasses.

Objectives of the Study

The primary objectives of the study are to give focus on the forest industry that is literally depends on social forestry. Several cottage industries have been growing up across the forest areas where a large number of people are engage. People collect there provisions from this industries. Unless and until we save the forest we cannot achieve our target.

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 is engaged I afforestation. We have visited a few selected blocks for a spot idea

Correspondence:
Bappaditya Sahoo
Jogamaya Devi College
92 S P Mukherjee Road
Kolkata, India

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 total geographical area of North 24 parganas is 3977 sq.km. And 9th 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.

Discussion and Conclusion

West Bengal is one of the important states in India, situated on the eastern parts of the country and is one of the banks of the Bay of Bengal. The state of West Bengal consists of 19 districts and north 24 parganas is one of them.

North 24- parganas derives its name number of revenue districts ceded to the British East India Company in 1757 by the Nawab of Bengal. North 24 parganas had emerged as a separate district on the day of March 1986, bifurcating the erstwhile 24 parganas district. It lies between 22,11,6 and 23,1,2 north latitude sand between 88,20 and 5 east parganas. This is bounded by Nadia district and Bangladesh in the east and cover an area of 4094sq.km.

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, fuelwood, 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.

The primary object of the present field work has been to make a study on the problems of social forestry in West Bengal through a case study in the district of North 24 parganas. As the problems are closely linked with various sectors, the study has made an attempt to identify many such problems that have ultimately lead to the financial foresters and the people live surrounding the forest. Government has been trying to resolve these problems so that income of poor men community will increase and to improve the economic condition of that people.

Social forestry plays a pivotal role in national economy. Its potential as foods supplier, fuelwood, fodder, capacity to generate employment an improve national economy thought export earning was not realized earlier. After Independence, special emphasis was given to forest department. It is very difficult to achieve socio economic development of poor man community, provide rural employment and derive financial strength through earning foreign exchange to achieve this goal appropriate measures on the part of government may be taken update national policy.

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:-

- To carry out a need-based time –bound programme of

afforestation with special emphasis on commercial wood and development on all degraded and denuded lands / forests.

- Afforestation to be made in abandoned Jhum lands areas, and also unutilized land under state government or private ownership for creating green belts environments.
- Linear strip plantation of fast growing trees on side of public roads, river banks, irrigation, cannels, 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
- 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.
- 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.
- 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 people's participations at all levels.
- Incentives in the form of subsidy in electric cost, acquisition of land and the help of local administration.
- 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.
- Communication network to be improved from top to bottom officials and staff for preventing woods smugglings.

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