

MINISTER FOREST & ENVIRONMENT JHARKHAND

Message

Natural resource management is expected to play a key role in the development of Jharkhand in the years to come. The government stands committed, to bring about a new ethos of people-centered, growth-oriented governance in the state. Forests resources constitute a critical lifeline for poor forest dwellers by providing them sustenance and livelihood. Therefore the government is trying to achieve maximum benefits to the poorest sections of the society living in the vicinity of the forest resources through the Joint Forest Management (JFM) of invaluable forest resources of the Jharkhand State .

The effective management of the Joint forest management programme needs a concise and comprehensive information base of the forest resources at grassroots level, for an institutional approach to the goals of sustainable development by the planners, policy makers and forest managers.

The Forest Resources Survey 2006 report of Bokaro Forest Division, has attempted to bring out a broad and comprehensive details of forests resources available in various strata i.e. from the lowest units of villages/ PF to the forest Division level in an ecological and socio-economic context which will be of interest to various executing agencies of development at grassroots level, policymakers as well as researchers & scholars. I congratulate the Forest department on this useful effort.

Harinarayan Rai

DEPARTMENT OF FOREST, JHARKHAND

Foreword

It is now widely accepted that the future of food, health and livelihood security depends upon the attention paid to the proper management of natural resources vis a vis much needed financial investments in the forestry sector. The term 'management' in the context of natural resources involves concurrent attention to conservation, sustainable use and equitable sharing of benefits. Unfortunately, the available information on natural resources, particularly at grassroots level, is missing or if available at all, is weak in relation to the linkages between management and the livelihood security of the poor. Attention must also be paid to the livelihood needs of the community, such as availability of grazing land for livestock. The development of forests has to be through the development of people.

Forestry information system evolved in India, concurrently with the advent of scientific forestry management. As Forest Department began to meticulously plan and organise forestry operations, a uniform pattern in maintenance of records pertaining to various forestry operations came into vogue. The data generated was authentic and found a very important input in Resource Management and Planning. A system of regular and periodic recording and transmission of information to Division, Circle and State headquarters became a standard practice in the administration process of all forest departments in the country. The collection, compilation of information and its transmission to higher level constituted an effective information system for forestry. The information gathering system deteriorated with time as much importance was not given to this activity as it deserved.

The need of information base on the forest resources and on the closely associated Socio-economic variables are an integral part of appropriate analysis of the people & the associated forestry situation, making sound decisions on development plan/programme in forestry as well as taking realistic policy decision and accordingly the commensurate investments in forestry sector of Jharkhand.

The Forests Resources Circle is entrusted with the task of collection, collation, analysis and compilation of information pertaining to forests resources and allied subjects from the State, for use in Forest resource management & planning. The present report by Forests Resources Circle Jharkhand is a step in the direction of filling these voids of scientific information in the Jharkhand forestry sector. Taking the case of Bokaro Forest Division, the report have analyzed, both in a historical and a contemporary perspective, the forests resources of Bokaro along with the people living in and around these forests. Forests are facing increasing anthropogenic pressures, which are now amenable to solutions because of the establishment of JFM Committees and this shall require in future micro-level studies for which this report is a pre-cursor.

I hope this Report will be a reference not only for practising foresters but can also guide non-government organisations, cooperatives, private agencies, students and farmers. It, therefore, gives me great pleasure in placing this Report before a wider audience.

R.K. Zutshi

PCCF

Forest Department Jharkhand

PREFACE

Jharkhand is synonymous with Forests and the forests of the district of West Singhbhum have a special place not only in the state, but also in the country. The life of the people has been much more closely associated with the Forests. There has been an ever increasing pressure on the forest resources of the district due to the mining of various important mineral resources found in the district. The Government is committed to keep one third of the land under forests and tree cover as per the National Forest Policy, 1988. The conservation of forests includes preservation, maintenance, sustainable utilization, restoration and enhancement; for maintaining sustainable economic development, ecological balance, and environmental stability. The Jharkhand Forest Department is committed to the objectives of the National Forest Policy.

The role of Forest Survey and Data Base generation has been described in the National Forest Policy - "inadequacy of data regarding forest resources is a matter of concern because this creates a false sense of complacency. Priority needs to be accorded to completing the survey of forest resources on scientific lines and updating the information. For this purpose, periodic collection, collation and publication of reliable data on relevant aspects of forest management need to be improved with recourse to the modern technologies and equipments."

Forest Managers, planners and policy makers need information about availability of resources from forest areas. Forests Resources Survey Circle under the Ministry of Environment & Forests, Government of Jharkhand, is mandated to carry out the Forests Resources Survey of each Territorial Forest Divisions of the State and thereby provide the essential data and information for better planning and management of the State's forests resources; as envisaged in the objectives of National Forest Policy, 1988 of India. In addition to that, the Forests Resources Survey is mandatory for preparation of working Plans of each forest division for management and working prescriptions of forestry activities; in accordance to National Working Plan code. Forest Resources are vast and varied; and are dependent on many interplaying factors, which include the wide variety of Natural Forest resources, Plantations, Medicinal Plants and Non wood Forest Resources itself, Forest Soil resources at various sites, and in present context the crucial Socio-economic variables. Chaibasa South Division's Forests Resources Survey 2006 report is based on 0.3% sample data collected in past year. It gives a broad picture of species wise and girth wise number and volume of growing stock, general crop composition and related observation in accordance of the National working plan code.

The Report comprises three Volumes providing a wealth of information on the people, and all natural resources, statistics and spatial information and the Forests Resources in the Forest division and the district. The introductory chapter of the report presents a brief account of the people, and the natural & man made resources interdependent on the forests of the district.

The most part of grid data collection and analysis was completed by Shri A.B. Singh, the then Divisional Forest officer of erstwhile Forests Resources Division under the guidance of Dr. A.K. Malhotra the then CCF (development) and S/Shri Dharendra Kumar, the then Conservator of Forests Working plan Ranchi. The report has been prepared under the guidance and support received from Shri R.K. Zutshi PCCF Jharkhand, Dr. A.K. Malhotra APCCF Working plan, Research, JFM & Monitoring, Shri A.K. Mishra, IFS, Chief Conservator of Forests (Working Plan and Research). I would also like to place on record the sincere efforts made by the Range Officers S/Shri Rajesh Kumar, Subhash Chandra Sinku, Vijay Kumar Choudhary and Umesh Kumar Singh; and Draftsman Shri Gabriel Kujur and other Forests Resources Survey Circle officials involved in preparation of this report. I would also like to acknowledge the contribution of the Director Jharkhand Space Application Center and Dr. A.N. Sinha ATI, Ranchi for their help in providing information pertaining to this report.

Ashish Rawat, IFS
Conservator of Forests
