

Role of Government in Social Forestry

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Abstract: *Social Forestry now become a common work for all government in all civilized country. Its effects found not only on human being but also on every section of the society. Government should take necessary actions to do success social forestry programme. This programme not only provide food ,fodder, shelter for people but also a bulk amount of revenue to the government. Social forestry also effects on the climatic condition of the local area. Social forestry boost up the socio-economic condition of the country. So, government play an important role in social forestry.*

Keywords: Government role in afforestation, revenue generation, economic development and increase in public awareness.

1. Introduction

Man is the greatest and powerful inhabitant of this green habitat . Man has realized that in order to sustain his existence on this earth he has to preserve its natural and ecological balance The West Bengal government regularly organizes afforestation programmes that immediately help in maintaining the perfect equilibrium between man and nature.

The state west Bengal with area of 88752sq.km is one of the smaller states in Indian union. The total forest cover of the state is 13.5% of the total geographical area. The state forest cover not small in size but its distribution, quality and productivity are not uniform also 09% of the total geographical state is under actual forest cover Considering this situation, the forest Department of the Government of West Bengal launched a social Forestry Program with the assistance from World Bank in 1981.The present study in an overview of the role of government in social forestry.

2. 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 of the poor community who lives surroundings the forest, the poorest of the poor people.

The primary objective of the research is to make a study of the role of West Bengal Government in social forestry. The study specially aims at:

- To study the overall objectives of the social forestry.
- To study the various components of social forestry.
- To study the several important issue to the programme.
- To study the acheivements under the programme .
- To find out the various problems.
- To study the steps taken by the government for solving the problems.

3. 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 repots 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 this we have interviewed officials of divisional forest office north 24 parganas and a few selected blocks for a spot idea what is been 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.

4. Suggestions and Conclusion

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 and 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, fuel wood, 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:-

- Afforestation to be made in abandoned Jhum lands and mind areas, and also utilized land under state government

or private ownership for creating green belts environments.

- Linear strip plantation of fast growing species 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
- 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 gross route level.
- Proper training arrangement should be there at all levels of staff.
- 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 up to a certain limit and beyond that limit supply should be priced.
- Wild life week etc. may be observed.
- There is need for setting up a fore 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 of 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 prgramme 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 I 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.
- Communication network to be improved from top to bottom officials and staff for preventing woods smugglings.
- To fill up all sanctioned but vacant post of staff and official as early as possible to expedite social forestry programme.

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