

# Community Based, Resources Dependent Livelihood: A Case Study at Kodikulam Village, Madurai East, Tamilnadu

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**Abstract:** While the new global environmental governance status is transforming and the world leaders are trying to rank polluters and disowning their responsibilities of global level cleaning operations, our study revealed that grassroots level communities without any influence from the above, continue their efforts that mitigate local climate changes that affect their daily life. Global governance has no significant impact on their livelihood strategies and struggles for acquiring their daily bread.

**Keywords:** Global Environmental Governance, Polluters, Grass Root Level, Communities,

## 1. Introduction

This work conducted at Kodikulam for two years with 700 people in the village presents the results as elements for universal narratives. As discussed by Annika et al (2017) it is explored that what future changes the Kodikulam region economically, environmentally and socially within one to two generations, and perspectives of local and regional actors to bring chronicles about global change.

Natural resources management is a vital part of the Indian society. Such managerial practices has evolved from communities that are closely associated with environment, giving rise to recurring practices for the better utilization and conservation of the bioresources. This field based study conducted at Kodikulam village, Madurai, Tamilnadu (2014-

2016) highlights the importance of traditional knowledge in self-organization of resources ownership, maintenance, management and protection. Even in limited land availability Kodikulam village is self-sufficient in food production, by its higher level productivity and other supplementary activities. The people of Kodikulam are rich in indigenous knowledge and are capable of obtaining all necessary requirements from available resources is explained in the table 1 and typical landscape utilization is illustrated in figure 1. Similar to the work of Padmavathy et al (2017), the present study focuses on a community that is able to contribute significantly to natural landscapes, with sustainable development that enhances the livelihood security and ensures the quality of life.

**Table 1:** Indicating landscapes and best possible utilization out of it

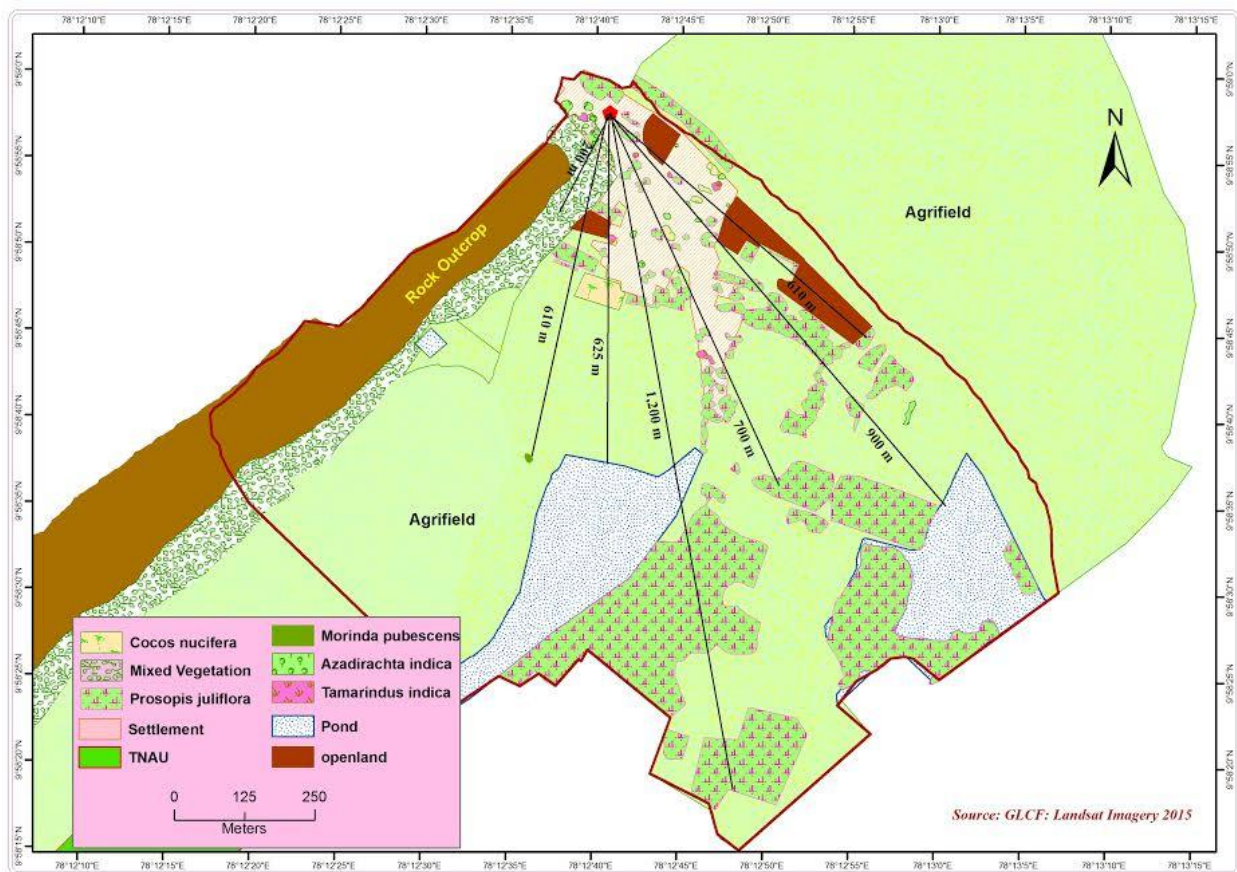
Landscape		Names of the User groups involved	Area (in hectares)	Percentage of people involved	Resources available	Average distance travelled for the landscape
Level 1 Build up land (settlement area)	Level 2 Residential area Commercial and services Other build up land roads	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Cockfight Promoters(Local Breed)</li> <li>Non Wood Product Contractors</li> <li>Compost and Manure Producers</li> <li>Small scale gardeners</li> <li>Medicinal Plant Traders</li> </ul>		4% 26% 32% 24% 14%	Tamarind trees Livestock	
Agricultural land	Crop land and pasture nurseries	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Farmers (landlords)</li> <li>Agricultural laborers (landless laborers)</li> <li>Mushroom Gatherers</li> </ul>		3% 88% 9%	Fodder Mushrooms	
Range land	Herb, shrub and brush rangeland	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Palm Craftsmen</li> <li>Fodder Cultivators</li> <li>Fuel Wood gatherers</li> <li>Medicinal Plants collectors</li> <li>Insect Gatherers (Food and Feed)</li> </ul>		23% 27% 30% 15% 5%	Palm trees Fodder Fuel wood trees Insects Medicinal plants	
Forest land	Deciduous forest land	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Fuel Wood gatherers</li> <li>Fodder Cultivators</li> <li>Carpenters</li> </ul>		30% 27% 3%	Palm trees Fodder Fuel wood trees	

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		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Palm Craftsmen</li> <li>• Hunters(Game Animals)</li> <li>• Insect Gathers (Food and Feed)</li> <li>• Medicinal Plants / Wild fruit Collectors</li> </ul>	23% 4% 3% 10%	Insects Medicinal plants Small birds and animals Wild fruits
Out crop(hill or mountain region)	-	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Honey Gathers</li> <li>• Hunters</li> <li>• (Game Animals)</li> </ul>	56% 44%	Honey combs  Small birds and animals
Fallow land	-	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Fodder Cultivators</li> <li>• Fuel Wood gatherers</li> <li>• Medicinal Plants collectors</li> <li>• Insect Gathers (Food and Feed)</li> </ul>	27% 0% 15% 5%	Fodder Fuel wood trees Insects Medicinal plants
Water	Streams Canals tanks	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Fishing community</li> <li>• Mushroom Gathers</li> <li>• Insect Gathers (Food and Feed)</li> </ul>		Fishes Mushrooms Insects



**Figure 1:** Depicting the landscape mapping of Kodikulam site

Government proposes many offers for rural based living people. But as far as their expenditures are concerned their dependency on resources are high than the other deals of the government (for instance, one kg of LPG (Rs.450) is equivalent to 7 Kilograms of fuel wood (free)). Similar study conducted by Udmale (2014) in Maharashtra state recommended the government to give special attention to local people’s perception while designing and formulating policies for increasing community resilience towards the future varying climatic events. Over generations the local community of Kodikulam had developed locally adapted, location specific traditional and indigenous practices that paves way for self-administration, community livelihood, food security and conservation of natural resources.

Kodikulam stands as an example of great significance for economic stability, ecological resiliency, managerial skills even in extreme weather and climatic conditions. Ostrom (1996) defines the theory of co-production mentioning that there is no remark of village governance or local governance, which is the only governance that has an impact directly on the lives of most people. Hence establishing local level research and effective employment of traditional knowledge would act as a basement for self-reliant development that would enhance the national food security in the face of climatic variability.

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Using low technology and with limited landscape, strategies and coping mechanism using alternate occupations,

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