

ASIA FOREST NETWORK

Community Forest Management Support
Project 2000 for Southeast Asia

COMMUNITY-BASED NATURAL REGENERATION
WORKSHOP PROCEEDINGS

REGIONAL FIELD WORKSHOP
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COMMUNITY FOREST MANAGEMENT SUPPORT PROJECT 2000 FOR SOUTHEAST ASIA

The Community Forest Management Support Project 2000 for Southeast Asia (CFMSP-SEA), is a project facilitated by Asia Forest Network (AFN) in conjunction with Community Forestry International (CFI) with financing from the European Commission and USAID through its East Asia and Pacific Environmental Initiative (EAPEI). The views expressed herein should in no way be taken to reflect the official opinion of any of the funding agencies.

Since its initiation in March 2001, CFMSP-SEA has made rapid progress in establishing an organizational infrastructure and initiating project activities. CFMSP-SEA facilitates the development and implementation of community-based forest management (CFM) policies and programs in five participating Southeast Asian countries from its regional hub office in Tagbilaran City, on the Island of Bohol in the Philippines. CFMSP-SEA supports country partner groups directly through the provision of technical assistance, training activities, small grants, and publications support. The program also promotes regional exchange and the sharing of CFM experiences through annual regional meetings and regional field workshops, and numerous cross-visits. Participating countries are Cambodia, Indonesia, Philippines, Thailand, and Vietnam.

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ASIA FOREST NETWORK

COMMUNITY-BASED NATURAL REGENERATION



Workshop Proceedings

FOREWORD

After over a century of state administration of Asia's forest lands, many nations are exploring how to partner with rural communities in an effort to restore and protect these valuable ecosystems. Over the past decade, the Andhra Pradesh Forest Department (APFD) has been pioneering this historic transition in forest management. Over this period, some 6,000 villages have been engaged in an effort to develop a statewide Joint Forest Management program. The Asia Forest Network and Community Forestry International felt that the APFD experience would be of interest to Southeast Asian forestry officials and planners who are implementing similar participatory forest management strategies in their own countries.

Such management transitions are complex, long-term processes that involve trial and error, as well as adaptation. Recognizing the nature of shifts in forest stewardship traditions that involve thousands of villages and millions of hectares of land, the exchange visit did not assume that the Andhra experience would be a model for replication in Southeast Asian nations, but rather an example of the strategies, problems, and solutions that communities, governments, and foresters face as such transitions take place. Given the diverse socio-economic and environmental contexts found across the Asia region, direct transference of other national experiences is difficult, if not impossible, to envision, however strategies for addressing generic problems associated with forest management transitions are transferable, and it is these experiences that the visit attempted to highlight.

A fundamental message emerging from the visit was that the movement from state run conventional industrial and custodial forestry, to joint forest management, and further to more autonomous community forest management, is being undertaken and actively encouraged by the Andhra Pradesh Forest Department. This process has tremendous political support from State leaders, as well as the strong endorsement of senior forestry officers. On the ground, it is generally being well received by field staff and by forest-dependent communities. While difficult problems are being encountered during the course of implementation, progress towards a new form of community-based forest management is demonstrably present. The Southeast Asian foresters who participated in the exchange were impressed that an agency the size and complexity of the APFD have committed themselves to this transition.

This report provides a brief overview of some of the experiences of the APFD and of the rural people of Andhra Pradesh that the Southeast Asian visitors reviewed during the course of the exchange. The report also chronicles some of the issues and questions raised by the visitors during their meetings with local people and forestry officials.

-Mark Poffenberger
AFN Regional Director

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The second regional field workshop held as part of the Community Forest Management Support Project for Southeast Asia was made possible through the generosity of many individuals and organizations. It is those who participate and share their learning with others throughout the region that help to create the dynamism and success of this endeavor. Asia Forest Network (AFN) and Community Forestry International (CFI) would like to thank all of the individuals and institutions that contributed to the success of the Asia regional exchange meeting in Andhra Pradesh, India that was held from March 19th through 22, 2002. We are especially grateful to the Andhra Pradesh Forest Department that co-hosted the visit of the senior Southeast Asia forestry professionals. Mr. K. Subha Rao, past Principle Chief Conservator of Forests, and his staff, were most gracious hosts during the course of the visit. Mr. Ramesh Kalaghatgi, Conservator of Forests of the APFD, also generously shared his time and experience with the group.

During the field visit to Adilabad District, the community of Behroonguda hosted the visitors. The community members welcomed the Southeast Asian foresters and told them of their efforts over the past ten years to restore the degraded teak and dry deciduous forests of the area. The visiting team also appreciated the opportunity to meet with Dr. Navin Mittal and Mr. B. Nagnath of the Inter-Tribal Development Agency, that has been actively supporting the organization of village-based Self Help Groups throughout the district. Thanks are also due to Mr. Emmanuel D'Silva, who was instrumental in organizing the exchange and acting as a resource person to the group throughout the visit, and to Mr. Peter Walpole for his guiding thoughts.

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-Mark Poffenberger
AFN Regional Director

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Figure 1 Map of Behroonguda, Adilabad District, Andhra Pradesh, India

PART 1: INTRODUCTION

The goal of the second regional field workshop was to create an opportunity for participants in the Community Forest Management Support Project 2000 for Southeast Asia (CFMSP-SEA) from Southeast Asian forestry agencies to examine the experience of the Andhra State Forest Department (APFD) in developing policies and field strategies to support community-based natural regeneration. Eight of the nine participants in this regional field meeting are responsible for developing community-based reforestation programs in their nation's national forestry agency. Community-based assisted natural restoration can be an attractive strategy, as its costs is often far less than plantation establishment, while providing superior bio-diversity and hydrological benefits. Community involvement in facilitating natural regeneration can strengthen local resource management capacities, reducing the need for ongoing state subsidies.

The objective of the workshop was to allow professional forest planners and administrators involved with reforestation projects in Southeast Asia to examine the Indian experience with community based natural regeneration as a low cost approach to forest restoration. The visit was designed to provide participants with an opportunity to review policy and field operational strategies that allow district and sub-district level foresters to rapidly assess ecological and social opportunities for initiating regeneration projects. Visitors also examined the experiences of women-run credit and loan associations that are effectively serving to manage income from community-forestry activities and provide start-up capital for household enterprises.

This visit was designed to allow participants to meet with both senior forest department officers and field staff to discuss how their policies and practices are changing to engage communities as co-managers of degraded forests. The group reviewed the state reforestation strategy in the capital city of Hyderabad, and then travelled 5 hours by train to spend the next two days with communities and field foresters in Behroonguda Village and the surrounding area. Based in the town of Mancherial, the participants met with local forestry field staff, village groups, and community leaders to explore how village-based forest protection and assisted natural regeneration is restoring forest ecosystems in the area. The field visits showed how communities are generating income through non-timber forest products as well as timber management. The group discussed how the forest division is being transferred from strict state control to joint management over the past decade. The visitors also reviewed how forest departments, local government, communities, emerging FPC federations, and community credit and loan associations are interacting to form a new institutional framework for forest and watershed management in the region. The visit concluded with a roundtable discussion regarding the relevance of India's experience with community-based assisted natural regeneration for Southeast Asian nations.

Background of Community Forestry in Andhra Pradesh

In the Indian state of Andhra Pradesh, a low cost, rapid forest restoration strategy is being developed relying on community management groups. The Andhra experience was deemed important, as over 6000 villages across the state have been involved with restoring largely degraded natural forests through a combination of protection and appropriate silvicultural and soil conservation practices. Closure of degraded forests by forest protection committees is facilitating the coppice and seed based regeneration of nearly 1.6 million hectares of badly degraded state forest land. Costs average only 5 to 10 percent of that required for plantation establishment and natural re-growth is faster, yielding many non-timber forest products. In both the wet and dry deciduous forests, community enforcement of self-imposed bans on grazing and cutting allow one meter high scrub-lands to transition into young secondary closed canopy forests with 5 to 10 meters within a period of five years.

The Union Government and Indian state forestry agencies have made significant commitments to transforming public forest management systems throughout the 1990s. Most Indian states have passed Joint Forest Management policies and initiated supportive programs. Many states have received external development assistance from the World Bank, JBIC, DFID, the EC and other agencies to pursue community-oriented forest programs. One of the largest JFM programs has emerged in the state of Andhra Pradesh. Over the past ten years (1993-2002), the APFD has made significant progress in transforming its forestry sector from one characterized by commercial timber extraction, and custodial and policing practices to joint management, with an intention to even more autonomous community forest management over the next six years.

PART II: WORKSHOP HIGHLIGHTS

Day 1: Goals for the Regional Field Workshop and Agenda

On the first day of the Regional Field Workshop, in order to assess the Andhra Pradesh experience, the participants were asked to consider a number of questions including:

- 3 · How is the Indian experience relevant for my country?
- 3 · How can I draw on this experience in my work?
- 3 · What aspects of Indian policy and JFM programs could be adapted to my context?
- 3 · Are there opportunities for community-based forest restoration in my country?

While India has its own distinctive political system, cultural communities, and ecological environments that differ from that of the participants, the group noted a number of similarities. These included forestry agencies that are undergoing change, both in terms of staffing orientation, as well as in a changing emphasis from commercial timber production to multi-purpose forest management. As in Southeast Asia, forestry professionals are dealing with a wide range of actors and stakeholders including development agencies, politicians, local governments, community groups, NGOs, and others. There was a strong sense that many forest departments throughout Asia are undergoing important transitions in their approach to public lands management and that regional exchanges provide opportunities to share experiences, both in terms of success and failures. The five day visit combined a mix of activities including AFN team meetings, dialogues with APFD senior staff and field officers, meetings with community forest management groups, forest walks, and discussions with NGOs and research staff.

Participant Goals for the Workshop

Cambodia

Chea Sam Ang and Ly Chou Beang were interested in examining how India and Andhra Pradesh have approached the development of CFM policy. Cambodia is in the process of developing CFM guidelines. They were also interested in how benefit sharing agreements are being worked out between communities and outsiders, including neighboring communities, as well as the framework of rules that guide agreements between the forest department and community management groups. Finally, they wanted to know more about the experience of the Andhra Pradesh Forest Department in working with the World Bank under Phase I of the forestry sector loan.

Indonesia

Mr. Sutrisno and Mr. Laurel Heydir noted that CBFM was still in its infancy in Indonesia, and consequently India's early experience in establishing national and state level programs was of interest. Mr. Sutrisno noted that over 140 million hectares of forest land has been under the control of Indonesia's Central Government until the recent decentralization policy was passed in 1998. This has created a chaotic situation in many districts and the question is how to deal with it. He was interested in how the Andhra Pradesh Forest Department was dealing with its own decentralization policy and what conflicts were emerging between communities, local governments, and forest departments.

Philippines

Teresa Aquino noted that her Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) had been implementing CBFM as a national strategy since the mid-1990s. She was interested in what steps Indian national and state governments were making to ensure participatory forest management programs were sustainable. She was also intrigued by the Indian experience with women-managed self-help groups.

Thailand

Chaleo Kanjan and Udhai Thongmee are both from the Watershed Division of the Royal Forest Department (RFD). Thailand is in the final stages of approving a new community forestry bill. The Thai participants wanted to learn more regarding how the Andhra Forest Department was implementing its JFM/CFM policies and the role the forest department was playing. Khun Udhai was also interested in the impact of JFM/CFM on the hydrological function of the watersheds, how the programs were affecting community-forester relationships, and the impact of the new policies in protected areas.

Vietnam

Nguyen Hai Nam and Nguyen Hui Quan are both members of the National Working Group on Community Forest Management and of the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development. They noted that Vietnam is still in an early stage of CFM development, both in terms of national policy formulation and program development. They wanted to learn more regarding Indian approaches to operationalizing JFM, both in mobilizing and organizing communities and building their capacity to manage public forest lands. Specific topical interests including technical aspects and silvicultural treatments used to assist natural regeneration, benefit sharing arrangements that ensure equity, and strategies to enhance forest productivity and address food security concerns. The Vietnamese participants were also interested in ways to ensure the sustainability of CFM after projects terminate and build support for CFM policies among senior government officials.

Exchange with the Andhra Pradesh Forest Department

The CFMSP-SEA delegation was welcomed by Mr. Subba Rao, Principle Chief Conservator of Forests for the Andhra Pradesh Forest Department. Mr. Subba Rao invited the group to participate in a satellite conference with all of the forest districts in the state to review the current state of Joint Forest Management. The satellite conferencing system was established to allow district forest officers to communicate program developments with the head office, without having to travel hundreds of kilometers to Hyderabad. The system allows for simultaneous transmission between the center and local offices to coordinate program implementation and monitoring.

Mr. Ramesh Kalaghatgi, Conservator of Forests briefed the team on the history of Joint Forest Management (JFM) in Andhra Pradesh. A decade ago, the forests were viewed as the exclusive property of the Forest Department. The 1988 Forest Policy began to shift this perspective as it moved the emphasis from commercial and revenue focuses to environmental services and benefits for local people. Mr. Kalaghatgi noted that in Andhra Pradesh, JFM had become a people's movement in conserving forest resources. With 275,000 sq. kms. of land, 23 percent is designated forest land, yet only one quarter of the forest lands possess 40 percent canopy cover of more. In past decades, forests have been under intense pressure from illegal felling, fire, animal grazing, encroachments, and other disturbances.

JFM was adopted as a strategy for improvement and development of degraded forest lands in Andhra Pradesh when the first state government JFM policy was passed in August 1992. In November 1993, a modified policy was enacted to extend further authority to forest dependent communities. In 1994, the state JFM program was expanded with the launching of the World Bank support AP Forestry Project. As the JFM program received a warm reception from rural communities, the Chief Minister also took personal interest in the program, giving it further momentum.

Between 1995 and 2001, the number of community based forest protection committees (VSS) increased from 171 to 6602. These VSS currently manage an estimated 1,660,000 hectares, or approximately 26 percent of AP's state forest lands. Satellite imagery taken between 1996 and 1998 indicate a clear increase in dense forest, largely resulting from assisted natural regeneration facilitated through community protection. An estimated 1.3 million people, including 600,000 women are involved in the program.

Aside from the World Bank financed AP Forestry Project, six other state and national schemes are involved in financing the formation of FPC/VSS and investing in forest land rehabilitation. The assisted natural regeneration of degraded forest areas relies on a number of technical strategies for accelerating reforestation through coppice growth and seedlings, as well as soil and water conservation. Average costs per hectare under the AP Forestry Project are approximately \$208 (Rs. 10,000). Considerable stress has been placed on the dissemination of new planting materials, including clonal varieties that are produced at 60 nurseries around the state.

Over 250 non-government organizations have played an important role in fostering the development of the JFM program in AP. NGO assistance to FPC/VSS includes the formation of community organizations, micro plan preparation, and training. NGOs also act as a bridge between the communities and the forest department. Women, as primary forest users, are a key element in the JFM program. In tandem with the

JFM program, some 1144 thrift groups have been constituted. Acting as sources of micro-credit within their communities, these women-administered institutions have decreased rural reliance on money lenders.

While much has been achieved in Andhra Pradesh through the JFM program, many serious questions remain. One of the biggest questions facing the JFM program in AP is the sustainability of the FPC/VSS. In order to stimulate the expansion of JFM groups in the state, communities were provided wages to carry out assisted natural regeneration treatments with funds from the World Bank AP Forestry Project and other government schemes. As the first phase of the project ended in 2000, reports came in from the field that many of the FPC/VSS had become inactive as a result of the end of funding. While a second phase project is now being negotiated, the Forest Department remains committed to finding ways to sustain community forestry efforts in the future. Still, the APFD senior staff remain concerned over sustaining the financing for the JFM and CFM initiatives. As Mr. Kishan, the Divisional Forest Officer from Nirmal noted, AP currently pays over \$800 million annually for interest due on World Bank loans. The first AP Forestry loan was for \$73 million, while the second loan will be approximately \$125 million and only cover 14 of the state's 23 districts. Many APFD officers noted that this level of external subsidy for the forestry sector will not be sustainable, so alternative sources of finance for forest management need to be found, especially to support poor rural communities.

One of the most promising alternatives for sustainable financing would be internal funding. This has started to emerge in a few FPC/VSS in the state, including the one in Behroonguda, the subject of the AFN field visit. An internal financing system depends on the community generating sufficient revenues from its forest management system to pay for necessary labor and materials needed for silvicultural operations. The next section provides a brief description of the Behroonguda experience as presented to the CFMSP-SEA workshop participants when they visited Behroonguda.

Day 2: Visit to Field Site at Behroonguda

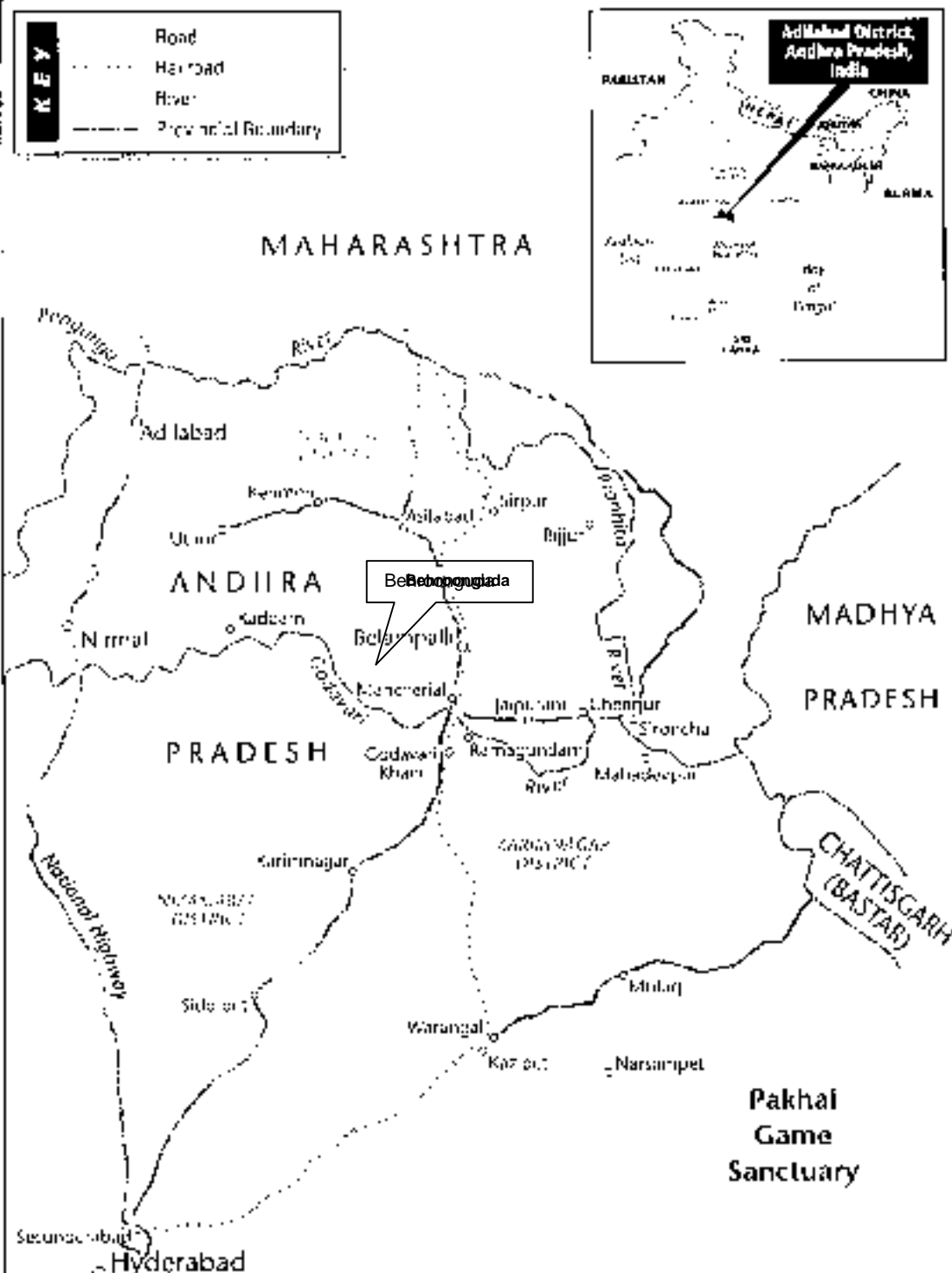
On the second day of the workshop the group traveled by road from Hyderabad to Behroonguda village to meet with the local forest protection committee. Located 240 kilometers north of Hyderabad, Behroonguda is located in Adilabad District, one of the poorest parts of the state with a large tribal population. Mr. Emmanuel D'Silva, a long time associate of AFN, has been conducting research in the area over the past three years and briefed the group on conditions in the area.

Behroonguda is one of the 77,000 hamlets and villages in the state of Andhra Pradesh, India (see Figure 1). Fifty seven of the ninety seven families in Behroonguda are Gonds. The others are Nayakpods, although the government of Andhra Pradesh officially recognizes the Nayakpod tribe as part of the Gonds. No aboriginal group in India has attained greater political prominence in recent centuries than the Gond. They are numerically the most populous tribe of India. According to the anthropological surveys of India done in 1981, they numbered 7.39 million throughout the country, with 1.69 million in Andhra Pradesh. The character of a Gond village (*nar*) as a social unit was shaped at a time when land was plentiful in relation to the population. While there is no such thing as a typical Gond village, a few common characteristics still prevail. There is a secular headman (*patla/patel*), village council (*punch*), religious priest (*devari*) and two spiritual guardians of the village (*akipen and shivamarke*). Traditionally, Gonds are free to move from one Gond village to another so long as they are accepted by the new *patla*. The mobility has now been greatly limited by the scarcity of cultivable land. The Gonds have a rich tradition of participation in village affairs, both religious and secular. Residents have an obligation to attend the sittings of village *punch*, help the *patla* or *patel* to implement the decisions of the council, and contribute appropriate quantities of foodstuffs required for offerings to the gods.

In 1990, the Gonds of Behroonguda formed themselves into a forest protection group, but the state government did not officially recognize their efforts until 1993. In 1998, five years after the recognition of the committee—referred to as *vana samarakshana samithi* or VSS—Behroonguda residents began to derive usufruct benefits from the forest. The case study documents the efforts of the villagers, the costs they have borne and the benefits they have derived from protecting 500 hectares of degraded forest allotted to them as part of the joint forest management (JFM) in Andhra Pradesh. The VSS is widely regarded as being successful. When government project support was terminated in 2000, Behroonguda passed the test of sustainability when in 2001 it used its own financial resources to continue silvicultural and conservation

Figure 1

ADILABAD DISTRICT, ANDHRA PRADESH



activities. Many neighbouring hamlets discontinued forest protection that year when external funds ceased to flow.

At the beginning of the field visit, the founding head of the VSS, Mr. Pendram Ramu, related this brief history of the community's forest management history.

“The year was 1990. There was no timber, no firewood. Our livelihood was threatened. We gathered one day and resolved to protect the forest at any cost and take whatever steps were needed to rejuvenate the forest.” In 1993, timber thieves from the neighbouring villages had not taken kindly to the formation of a committee to protect the forest and had waged war against the Behroonguda inhabitants. In one battle, the thieves came armed with chili powder (to blind the villagers into submission) and the bone of a camel (to scare them with voodoo). However, the local residents lay in wait and thrashed the intruders. Peace returned to the forest of Behroonguda; however, one person died in the skirmish. The captured trophy (a camel bone) has become a symbol of past struggles and is now displayed prominently at important village meetings for good omen.”

Another landmark event for Behroonguda was the official recognition given to the village committee by the Forest Department. The villagers elected a managing committee on 18 May 1993 headed by a female president, Gouribai, with 50% representation to women. The forest department formally recognized the village's forest protection committee, or VSS, on 23 May 1993. Behroonguda became the first VSS in AP to win official recognition.

Events moved swiftly thereafter. In October 1993, a participatory rural appraisal (PRA) was conducted with the villagers by the Forest Department. Two NGOs and an academic helped. The exercise included social mapping, matrix ranking of trees, forest transects, and seasonality charts. The results were summarized in the microplan—a plan of action—prepared for the village. The plan identified areas of degraded forest in Behroonguda for silvicultural treatment, beginning with 25 hectares in 1994 and ending with 250 hectares in 2004. In practice, the highly motivated villagers achieved the target by 1997, so the treatment area was enhanced to 500 hectares. By 1998, 325 hectares were treated and the balance by 2000.

The treatment cycle begins in April and involves cleaning the stool or stump of the older tree by cutting at an angle approximately 10 cm above the ground. In July, with the monsoon rain the first flush of coppice growth emerges, and enrichment planting is done in gap areas. In August, weaker shoots are cut from each stool, leaving one to two remaining shoots. In December and January, water-harvesting work is undertaken including gully plugs and check dams in ravines.

By 1998, Behroonguda achieved another important milestone. The VSS became the first committee in the state to obtain the fruits of protection: Rs. 359,500 (US\$ 9460) in income came from the sale of teak poles from the forest. In all, 3198 poles were thinned in 100 of the 250 hectares, representing a harvest of just 3.75% of the resource in those 100 hectares. The off-take from the forest is not only sustainable, but extremely conservative. For a good growth of teak in the natural forests of Behroonguda, silviculturists had recommended a 20% removal in year 6 and 15% of the balance in year 15. In Behroonguda, this amounted to removing 173 trees per hectare in the first thinning, but the VSS members decided to cut only 30. While less-than-optimum cutting reduced the commercial value of teak, it did no ecological damage to the forest.

For Behroongudans tending their neighbouring forest, money is not the main motive. “Our aim is not to harvest trees for the sake of money,” explained Pendram Ramu, the president of the VSS. “Our goal is to improve the health of the forest. It is because of protection the forest has regenerated.” Equating the health of the forest with the wealth of the village provides a Gond perspective of life.

The workshop participants were impressed by the commitment of community members, especially the women, to protect the forests. They asked many questions to the villagers regarding their technical operations and were surprised by their knowledge of silviculture and their selective felling systems. The community, in turn, was pleased to share their experience with visitors from neighboring countries and wanted to learn more regarding conditions in their countries. There was special interest in this tribal community regarding the ways ethnic minorities in other countries were involved in forest management.

Day 3: Visit to Degraded Forest Treatment Areas

The team visited a series of sites on that had previously been deforested, but had been regenerated by communities. The primary objective of the visit was to assess different technical strategies that have been implemented by the villagers to raise the economic productivity of the land. The group visited forest protection committees (FPCs) in Kommuguda, Dosatnagar, and Kawal.

Kommuguda

Forty Gond tribal households formed the FPC in Kommuguda in 1977 with support from the AP Forestry Sector project. Under the program, villagers established tree plantations on deforested forest lands that had been logged in 1981 and used for shifting cultivation (podu) since 1988. Farmers grew sorghum and cow peas on the land. The Kommuguda FPC planted 3 hectares of podu land with *Sizium Cumini* (Jamun) and 2 hectares with a clonal eucalyptus. Preparation of the land and cost of the Jamun seedlings was \$80 per hectare, while the costs of each hectare of Eucalyptus was \$180. The villagers estimate they will be able to harvest 5000 kgs. per hectare after the jamun trees begin fruiting valued at between \$1000 to \$2000 annually (Rs. 50,000 to Rs. 100,000). The Eucalyptus had reached a dbh of 50 cm after only five years and was scheduled for harvest after two additional years. At that time, the community anticipated receiving US\$1000 (Rs. 50,000) per hectare. The villagers estimated that the new forestry systems would generate at least ten times the income they received from growing sorghum (Rs.5000 per hectare per year).

Dosatnagar

The next stop was at Dosatnagar, where a mixed teak and bamboo forest had once flowered in 1992. After flowering, bamboo dies out if the new seedlings fail to establish themselves. Ground fires and grazing threatened to suppress the natural regeneration of the bamboo, so the community formed a FPC/VSS to restore the bamboo in 1995. In addition to protection, in 1997 the community began treating the bamboo by mounding earth around the regenerating bamboo clumps and digging water pits next to the plant. The cost of the treatment was \$75 per hectare (Rs. 3600). Protection in the area has generally been good and the bamboo is regenerating well, though the outsiders continue to set ground fires in the dry season to stimulate *tendu* leaf growth, however, this has a negative impact on regeneration damaging young seedlings.

Bamboo production potential is promising. The bamboo should be ready to harvest next year, 7 years after germination, with each clump yielding approximately 10 poles per hectare annually. With 500 clumps per hectare, the annual production of 5000 poles with a local market price of US \$ 0.60 (Rs.30) should generate \$3000 (Rs.150, 000) per hectare each year. This represents a major source of income for the Dosatnagar FPC/VSS.

Visit to the Kawal Wilderness Center

Kawal Wild Life Sanctuary is located in Adilabad District and is one of many protected areas in AP and the home of an estimated 10 tigers and 15 to 20 panthers, as well as sloth bear, wolf, sambar, blue bull, primates, birds, and reptiles. As in most of India's protected areas, Kawal has many resident communities, predominantly tribal peoples. India has stricter regulations regarding community use in protected areas and consequently, a special Eco-Development Program was established to support communities in such areas.

Day 4: Visit to the Dulapalli GIS and JFM Training Center, APFD

On the last day of the workshop, the CFMSP-SEA participants visited the Andhra Pradesh Forest Academy at Dulapalli. To date, the Dulapalli Academy has trained over 7000 persons in MIS, GIS, nursery techniques, project management JFM, monitoring and evaluation, and other fields. Trainees are drawn from the forest department, NGOs, and other government agencies. The workshop participants were especially interested in the GIS applications for the community forestry program, as APFD was able to track vegetation change in each beat (5000 hectare area) based on remotely sensed images.

PART III: WORKSHOP LEARNINGS

In wrapping up the Regional Workshop, the participants were asked to reflect on a number of questions:

- €# What did you find of interest in the Andhra Pradesh approach to community forest management?
- €# What aspects of the Indian experience are most applicable in your country?
- €# What follow-up steps will you take to follow-up on the Indian experience?

Cambodia

Chea Sam Ang noted that he was impressed by the management structure of the Andhra Pradesh Forest Department and the role people play in the protection of the forest. He was especially interested in the ways that each forest officer holds responsibility for a defined territory, has specialized knowledge of the area, and develops personal relationships with the local communities. The Cambodians were also impressed that the forestry field staff had been able to train communities in silvicultural practices for assisted natural regeneration. “In Cambodia, some provincial forest department staff do not believe that natural regeneration can deliver sufficient revenues to the government. We need to convince them and promote assisted natural regeneration at the provincial level. Village forest management committees could be developed in our country and have great potential.”

The Cambodian participants noted that they felt the strategies used by the Andhra Pradesh Forest Department to organize field staff for CFM and to manage and regenerate degraded forests had special relevance in their country. They believed the process of village committee development was particularly useful.

Chea Sam Ang and Ly Chou Beang noted that after returning home they would focus on the identification of areas that have degraded dry deciduous forests and semi-degraded forests in Takeo, Svay Rieng, Kompong Thom, Kompong Chhnang, Kratie, Stung Treng, and Mondulkiri Provinces. They believe that community-based natural forest regeneration would be most effective in areas with degraded forests with high population densities and that a combination of local participation and protection will lead to forest regeneration, if combined with tree improvement and enrichment planting. They are interested in adapting some of the social and vegetation field inventory (manual GIS) techniques used in India for application in Cambodia.

Indonesia

Pak Sutrisno noted that he was impressed by the leadership of the Behroonguda Forest Protection Committees (FPC/VSS) and their democratic and transparent mode of operation. “How do we facilitate the emergence of democratically elected leadership.” “This is a key requirement for the success of community forest management.” “In Indonesia, we can also work with traditional community institutions, like adat institutions.” At the same time, Pak Sutrisno noted that he was impressed by the capacity of Indian field level foresters to work with communities. “In Indonesia, we need to increase the capacity and authority of Indonesia forest and field staff like range officers.” Laurel Heydir noted that an important aspect of any country’s success was the formulation of an enabling bundle of rights and responsibilities that provided each community with strong tenure security.

After returning to Indonesia, Pak Sutrisno noted that he wanted to follow-up by studying the developments in Wonosobo, Central Java where communities are reforesting degraded forest lands that had been under the authority of the State Forest Corporation. He was also interested in starting a series of pilot project in the Outer Islands that could develop partnerships between rural communities and the provincial forest departments (Dinas Kehutanan). “The community level is key and it must be our starting point.”

Philippines

Tess Aquino noted that she was very impressed with the Self-Help Groups (SHGs) in Andhra Pradesh. She noted these groups seemed to have an appropriate size of 10 to 15 members, allowing them to be comprised only of individuals who had a strong motive to participate. The transfer of development funds directly to

the groups for project implementation was also a very effective way to empower the SHGs with new financial resources, while creating local centers of capacity for implementing and sustaining development investments.

Tess felt that the Andhra experience with SHGs had direct relevance in the Philippines, where such bodies could contribute to CBFM strategies. She was interested in the effective partnerships that were being formed in India between Forest Protection Committees (FPC/VSS) and the AP Forest Department. She was also impressed by the role of the Inter Tribal Development Agency and feels that the National Commission on Indigenous Peoples in the Philippines might learn from exchanges with the ITDA. She also believes that assisted natural regeneration could be integrated more broadly into the DENR strategies and would like to explore the application of coppice-oriented silvicultural treatments. Finally, she found efforts in Andhra Pradesh to promote transparency and good governance in CFM programs were impressive and similar efforts are required in the Philippines.

In terms of follow-up in the Philippines, Tess had a number of ideas. These included including improving DENR extension services and revitalizing CBFM technical centers.

Thailand

Udhai Thongmee and Chaleo Kanjan found a number of similarities between the Thai and Indian experience with community forest management. Both countries are moving from an emphasis on commercial forest management to approaches that stress conservation. In both nations, decentralization and CFM bills are shaping the forest policy environment. In India, however, forest officers still have a strong presence on the ground. They noted the changing roles that foresters in both countries are playing including conservators, supervisors, negotiators, facilitators, and sources of technical information.

The Thai team was impressed with the FPC/VSS that they visited, both in terms of how they are organized, the ways roles and duties are defined, and management and decision-making conducted. “The VSS are very interesting, especially the role that women are playing in their leadership. We learned that India has been quite successful in empowering and strengthening communities, a strategy we could apply to our watershed networks.” “We were also interested in the intention of the Andhra Pradesh Forest Department to transition further from Joint Forest Management to Community Forest Management.”

The Thai team was also impressed with the way in which the FPC/VSS in Behroonguda had learned and applied modern silvicultural practices in assisting the regeneration of their degraded teak and dry deciduous forests. “We want to explore ways that indigenous knowledge and silvicultural science could be combined to improved JFM and CFM strategies in Thailand.”

After returning to Thailand, Khun Chaleo mentioned that he intends to apply community-based assisted natural regeneration strategies in their project area in Mae Khan Watershed (elevation 700-1500 meters). “The biological capacity is especially high in the degraded deciduous forests which possesses coppicing species. The social capital is present in the indigenous knowledge and institutions of the Hmong, Karen, and Thai communities living in the watershed. Activities will include community-based forest fire control, water harvesting, check dam construction, contour bunds, gap planting, which will be organized with the Tambon Administrative Organization (TAO).

Khun Udhai noted that “If the CFM Bill is passed in Thailand we can apply the Indian experience in many places in Thailand. I will talk with the watershed units to discuss how to implement community-based assisted natural regeneration in their areas.”

Vietnam

Dr. Nguyen Hong Quan and Dr. Nguyen Hai Nam reported that they were impressed by AP’s experience with assisted natural regeneration of dryland areas, especially of teak and bamboo. They also felt Indian approaches to water harvesting would have relevance in low rainfall areas in their country. Experience that could be explored in Vietnam might include JFM systems and new partnership relationships between

communities and provincial forest departments. The Vietnamese team was also interested in income generation from forests through non-timber forest products, employment, and benefit sharing arrangements.

The Indian experience in mobilizing community involvement in forest management by drawing on local leaders, especially women, impressed the Vietnamese team. The FPC/VSS organization was also informative for the participants, especially regarding the legal status of the community, its relationship with the forest department, and the ways in which community skills in silviculture had been developed through FD extension efforts. Finally, the Vietnamese were interested in the ways the JFM program had linked with other rural development projects to increase its impact.

Dr. Quan and Dr. Nam were also interested in strategies being used in AP to facilitate natural regeneration in open forests, degraded forests, as well as land that was used for shifting cultivation. They felt these strategies could be applied in remote parts of Vietnam including the Northern Mountainous areas and the Central Highlands.

The Vietnamese Team was interested in continuing its exchange with India and developing a country strategy that could draw on Indian experience. They noted that JFM strategy was especially useful in situations where the government could not fully allocate land, such as in protected areas. At present the Vietnamese government continues to pay for forest protection at a cost of 50,000 Dong/hectare/year, a strategy that they noted incurred major costs for the government and was not especially effective. JFM presented an attractive alternative for protected area with heavier restrictions on devolution, while CFM could work well in other areas. Finally, the Vietnamese team was impressed by the AP Forest Department's strategy to create a multi-media campaign that built political support at high government levels for JFM/CFM, as well as attracting major financing from the World Bank.

PART IV: SUMMARY

The workshop participants were interested in the gradual shift the Andhra Pradesh Forest Department is proposing to move from Joint Forest Management to Community Forestry Management. In addition, a new CFM Advisory Council comprised of government officials has been established at the state level. NGOs will operate as facilitators and watchdogs. The APFD senior staff indicated that this transition would pass further authority to communities to manage state forest lands under their control. According to Mr. Ramesh Kalaghatgi, Conservator of Forests:

“As we move from JFM to CFM we are making a policy of withdrawal of the Forest Department over a three year period. The Forest Department will no longer be on the Executive Committee of the VSS. Further the APFD will empower the VVSS with the rights to levy fines and capture offenders violating local rules governing community forest management.”

Mr. Kalaghatgi went on to note that while forest department field staff had made important contributions in developing JFM/CFM systems in Andhra Pradesh, their attitudes and skill levels also limited them. “The Divisional Forest Officers (DFOs) have been very important to the process, but many of the older fellows have difficulty changing to this new approach, so we have caught the young guys and trained them.”

The AFN group was interested by the many changes that the APFD had made in its organization orientation towards communities, building staff capacity to interact with villagers, revising operating procedures to accommodate community involvement, and in beginning to shift the orientation of field staff from policing to community outreach. At the same time, it was also clear to the AFN visitors that the transition was still in process, with field staff still wearing the uniforms and insignia that characterize a para-military organization.

A major issue that emerged was the question of sustainable financing of community-forest management and assisted natural regeneration. It was clear that support from the World Bank Andhra Pradesh Forestry Project and other schemes had accelerated the expansion of JFM, it was also creating a growing debt burden for the state. By the end of the first Phase of the AP Forestry Project in 2000, many FPC/VSS groups were reported to have become inactive. In some cases, this meant a cessation of silvicultural treatments for degraded forests, in other communities it referred to halt of all protection efforts. While some FPCs/VSS like Behroonguda continued to operate after outside project subsidies were terminated, many new management groups either collapsed or lost momentum raising important questions regarding the long term sustainability of project financing modalities. The AFN group raised a number of questions concerning how community forest management institutions could develop alternative sources of financing, through capturing some forest product revenues for reinvestment in management, or by attracting environmental service payments for carbon sequestration, improved hydrological function, or biodiversity conservation.

Recommendations to the Andhra Pradesh Forest Department

- § Attempt to sustain support from national and state government sources by building community capacity to attract a diverse array of projects and schemes.
- § Explore institutional capacity building strategies for community forest management groups including the formation of federations and other apex bodies that could help represent their needs in the outside public and private sector.
- § Strengthen the capacity of NGOs in AP to play a long term support role to community forest management groups.
- § Consider further strengthening the tenure security of community forest managers by developing new legal mechanisms.
- § Enhance the role of the FPC/VSS in preparing microplans, annual work plans, and in financial management.
- § Increase the range of livelihood (off-farm) options.
- § Organize more opportunities for VSS to share experience with one another.

- § Implement strategy to discourage the setting of ground fires in the dry season (March-May) to stimulate Tendu leaf growth. This practice constrains natural regeneration, especially seedlings.
- § Phase out the wearing of uniforms for forest department field staff to facilitate their shift from policing roles to community support functions.

APPENDIX 1: WORKSHOP AGENDA

Day 1 (March 10th – Sunday)	Travel to India
2:30 pm – 5:05 pm	Bangkok to New Delhi – Indian Airlines (IC 856)
6:00 pm	Check into Airport Hotel, New Delhi
Day 2 (March 11th – Monday)	Travel to Hyderabad - Meetings
6:30- 8:30am	New Delhi to Hyderabad - Indian Airlines (IC940)
9:00 am	Check in – Viceroy Hotel
10:00am -12:00pm	Orientation to India Trip Program (Mark and Emmanuel)
1:00 pm-5:00 pm	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Meeting with Senior Staff of the Andhra Pradesh Forest Department 2) Description of Forest Department Organization and History 3) Origins of Joint Forest Management (JFM) 4) Natural Regeneration Strategies 5) Expansion under World Bank Forestry Project 6) Current State of JFM Development: Problems and Opportunities
Day 3 (March 12 Tuesday)	Travel and Field Visit
6:00 am – 11:00 am	Travel by Train to Mancherla Town
12:00 pm – 1:30 pm	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Introduction to JFM Field Program by DFO Nagnath 2) Briefing of spatial layout of range including forest cover, distribution of FPCs, management problems, conflicts, and opportunities (DFO)
1:30 – 4:00 pm	Field Visit to examine Assisted Natural Regeneration Strategies
5:00 pm	Check In – ACC Guest House
Day 4 (March 13, Wednesday)-	Field Visit
9:00 – 12:00 pm	Meetings with Behrangooda Community Groups -- Meet with Forest Protection Committees and representatives from Women's Credit Association
1:00-4:00pm	Forest Visits and Discussion of Forest Production Systems
5:00-10:00 pm	Travel by Train to Hyderabad
10:30 pm	Check in Viceroy Hotel

Day 5 (March 14, Thursday)	Hyderabad Meetings
9:00 – 12:00 pm	Discussions with Andhra Forest Department staff regarding Field Trip
1:30 pm – 5:00 pm	Review Potential Applications of India's Community-based Forest Restoration Strategies in Southeast Asian Nations
7:00 pm – 9:00 pm	Farewell Dinner with Andhra FD Staff
Day 6 (March 15, Friday)	City Tour – Shopping – Travel to Delhi
9:00 am – 12:00 pm	City Tour
1:00 pm – 5:00 pm	Free Time
7:00 pm – 9:00 pm	Hyderabad-Delhi (IC939)
Day 7 (March 16, Saturday)	Travel to Bangkok
00:50am – 6:15 am	Delhi - Bangkok (IC 855)

APPENDIX 2: DIRECTORY OF PARTICIPANTS

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Vietnam	Dr. Nguyen Hong Quan	Deputy Director, Department for Forest Development, Ministry of Agriculture & Rural Development (MARD) Chairman, NWG-CFM, Vietnam	Department for Forestry Development, Ministry of Agriculture & Rural Development (MARD), and National Working Group on Community Forest Management in Vietnam	2 Ngoc Ha Hanoi, Vietnam Tel: (84-4) 8438803 Fax: (84-4) 8438793	cucptin@hn.vnn.vn
Vietnam	Dr. Nguyen Hai Nam	Director of Projects National Program Manager Secretary	Mekong River Commission SMRP National Working Group on Community Forest Management in Vietnam (NWG-CFM, Vietnam)	Unit 702, Tung Shing Square 2 Ngo Quyen Street IPO Box 304 Hanoi, Vietnam Tel: (84-4) 934-6002 Fax: (84-4) 8438793	MekongL@netnam.org.vn

APPENDIX 3: REGIONAL ASSESSMENT BY WORKSHOP PARTICIPANTS

In order to evaluate the effectiveness of this regional field workshop, the nine participants were asked to evaluate the activity and provide comments and suggestions for future activities of this type. In providing feedback, the participants were asked to score the visit on a scale of 1 to 10 in terms of other similar country workshops with which they have been involved. The five criteria considering average scores were:

	Criteria	Average Score on Scale of 1 to 10
1	Organization of Visit Program	8.9
2	Opportunities to Learn from another Country regarding CFM	8.2
3	Provision of Supportive Documentation	9.4
4	Opportunities for Exchange with Local People and Forestry Field Staff	8.2
5	Logistics	9.2
	Average Scores	8.8

The participants were also asked what they felt was the most useful part of the trip for them. Comments included the following:

- § “Learning about leadership at the village level.” “Approaches to regeneration of degraded forest lands through local participation.”
- § “The role field foresters play in facilitating community participation.”
- § “Interacting with Andhra Pradesh Forest Department officials, ITDA, VSS presidents and members, and co-participants to explore JFM and CFM strategies in India and other ASEAN countries.”
- § “Visiting Behroonguda was the most useful part, we can learn most about VSS formulation, their management and assisted natural regeneration.”
- § “Learning from local people about VSS and participating in forest management.”
- § “Cooperation between VSS and FD and benefit sharing arrangements.”

The participants were also asked how the country exchange program could be improved. Comments included:

- § “Visit more good models of VSS. Increase opportunities for direct discussions with farmers.”
- § “Discuss the reasons that made some VSS fail. Draw lessons from failures so that we can avoid mistakes.”
- § “Provide a brief orientation course on Indian context so participants will know basic greetings, gestures, and units of conversion and measurement.”
- § “Have more time in communities for exchange of CFM strategies and practices.”
- § “More time to visit comparison field sites and examine water management and water harvesting strategies.”

Other comments:

- § “The scheduled activities lined-up for the entire duration of the workshop is well-planned and organized.”
- § “Thanks a lot for the kind and helpful facilitation by AFN.”
- § “Need more time for participants interaction and exchanges.”
- § “The organization was very good, and combining the workshop and field visit helped the participants to understand the JFM/CFM experience more clearly.”

APPENDIX 4: STATEMENT FROM PENDUR RAMU, VSS PRESIDENT, BEHROONGUDA,

For many years, I have led the people of Behroonguda, my village in India, in efforts to protect and sustain our forests. Our relationship with the forest has always been close. Being Tribal and native habitants of fringe Forest areas, most of our requirements in life are met from forests. For example, small timber, like teak (*Tectona grandis*) is used for the construction of our homes; agricultural implements are prepared from the wood of the Billudu (*Chloroxylon sweeten*). We eat fruits from plants like Tendu (*Diospyros melanoxylon*), Velaga (*Ferronia elephantum*), and Usiri (*Emblia officinalis*). The seeds of the Chilla or cleaning nut (*Strychnos potatoram*), help to purify our water. Many plants have important medicinal properties: Nalla Jeedi (*Semicarpus anacardium*) is an antiseptic; Tella Maddi (*Terminalia arjuna*) is used to treat joint pains; while Kanuga (*Pangamia Pinnate*) is useful against skin diseases.

Aside from these practical uses, the forest provides important resources for our many rituals and celebrations throughout the year. During marriages and deaths in our culture, certain branches of trees are essential to the ceremony and help drive away diseases. In other ceremonies, trees such as the teak and the Mahua, provide shelter and serve as objects of worship. Some festivals are prayers to protect our livestock from predators and ward off evils and epidemics, while others celebrate life and the emergence from periods of danger.

Of all the festivals throughout the year, the most important is the one known as *Bheemdev*, celebrated on the first full moon day in November or December. This festival also coincides with the harvest. *Bheemdev* is a god, one of the five sons of the legendary King Pandu. His symbols are the elephant and the wild horse. So, in every tribal hamlet, we keep idols of elephant and wild horse guarded by two bundles of peacock feathers locally called as *Gajams*, in a hut made out of teak and bamboo.

The hut serves as a shelter for the *Bheemdev* god. Two days prior to the full moon day, all the villagers gather and clean premises of the hut and tie green mango leaves in a thread that stretches around the roof. Later, the *Bheemdev* idol is carried around the village in a bamboo basket shrouded by the *Gajams*. Villagers offer the god prayer, worship, and food. Then he is brought back to the hut in a long and elaborate two-day procession. The villagers break open a coconut and put the *Bheemdev* god inside the hut along with the *Gajams* and enter the hut to offer more prayers. Then they cook and all the villagers dine together in the moonlight. After dinner they dance outside the hut and play musical instruments until the morning comes.

It was the *Bheemdev* festival that first alerted us to the deteriorating condition of our forests. One year, not long ago, we found that there was no wood available to construct a *Bheemdev* hut large enough to accommodate our village. The existing shelter was damaged and inadequate in size. As we came to learn, the forest adjoining Behroonguda had been crippled by invasive species and smuggling from nearby non-forested habitations. We could not take wood from the forests belonging to other villages, because that is a form of stealing, and to construct a hut for *Bheemdev* from stolen materials is forbidden. So, for three years, we could not celebrate the *Bheemdev* festival and perform the necessary rituals.

We did not rest during these years. We decided to join together and take action to reverse the degradation of our forest. In 1993, all 97 families in our village formed a grassroots forest protection committee. The goal was to protect the trees in our adjoining forests, including firewood, timber, and non-timber forest products. In 1993, the government of the state of Andhra Pradesh officially recognized our efforts, giving our forest protection committee formal status as Vana Samrakshana Samithi (VSS). Under the government's joint forest management (JFM) program, they began to help protect and rejuvenate 500 hectares of degraded forest allotted to our village. We elected a tribal woman, Smt. Gourubai, as the first VSS president. During her presidency, my role was to spread the message of forest conservation, regeneration, and protection to the communities in and around the fringes of the forest.

Happily, the message got through. Our villagers are actively participating in protection and regeneration of rejuvenated forest by using only sustainable harvests of timber and firewood species, as is consistent with the conservation of the forest cover for posterity. As a result, the overall ecology of the forest has improved and the non-timber forest products have begun to regenerate. We have also begun selling timber

from 100 hectares of treated and protected forest. In 1998, we earned 359,500 Rupees from the sale of 3198 thinned teak poles, harvested from our silvicultural forest area. This flow of money will continue in the years ahead providing a basis for sustainable management of the forest resource. In 1998, I was honored to be elected VSS president and continue to hold that office today. My message remains the same as when I began:

Everything in nature is useful to everybody on this earth. Changing people's attitudes towards the destruction of nature can have significant results. If you need proof, just visit Behroonguda during the Bheemdev festival. Our god once again has a home.

Pendur Ramu is the current VSS President of Behroonguda, India. He is also the secular leader (*patla*) of the village. More recently, he was also elected to serve as a council member (*punch*) on the Chintapally Grampanchayat, a grassroots village-level democratic institution representing a cluster of area hamlets.

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HYDERABAD

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Foreign team all praise for VSSs in State

Express News Service

Hyderabad, March 14: The Vana Samrakshana Samitis (VSSs) in the State have become the cynosure of forest officials and environmentalists at home and abroad.

There are about 6,500 VSSs in the State under the Joint Forest Management programme and they are receiving accolades from different quarters. A 12-member South East Asian delegation of senior forest officials visited the Behranguda and Anderguda VSSs in Adilabad district this week.

Speaking at an interactive session at the Dallapalli AP Forest Academy in Rangareddy district today, delegation leaders Mark Poffenberger, regional director of Asia Forest Network (AFN), and Emmanuel De Silva from the World Bank (WB), said that the VSSs in AP were role models for similar initiatives in other Asian countries too.

"People who earlier cut and sold trees from forests are

now planting trees, and earning a livelihood from them," said Poffenberger.

Teressa Aquino from Department of Environment and Natural Resources, Philippines, said that her country was in the process of implementing JFM programmes. "The functioning of the VSSs here will be an example for us," she said.

'People who earlier cut and sold trees from forests are now planting trees, and earning a livelihood from them'

According to Emmanuel De Silva, the World Bank-aided JFM in AP, which had 16.52 lakh hectares of degraded forest area under it, would receive further help from the AFN and the WB. Sites in Adilabad were being identified for reforestation projects. The modalities would be finalised sho-

rtly, he said.

Expressing apprehension over sustainability of the VSSs if the World Bank funding stopped, the delegates called for more involvement of lower-rung forest department officials in policies and programmes.

A move that saw the dense forest area of AP increasing by nearly 2,000 square km in two years, the JFM concept for rehabilitation of degraded forests with involvement of public in the form of VSSs is slowly shaking off the shackles of official intervention and is beginning to move towards Community-Based Forest Management (CBFM). CBFM will have forests managed entirely managed by the VSSs.

As of now, members of the VSSs are fighting against deforestation, planting trees and medicinal plants as well as earning profits from sale of bamboo and different seeds. They are also gearing up to reap benefits from sandalwood trees already planted.

BRIEFLY



Emmanuel de Silva, World Bank representative, speaking at an interactive meeting of forest officials from five South East Asian countries with State forest officials on Thursday.

Forest officials of SE Asian nations studying JFM

HYDERABAD: Twelve senior forest officials from five South East Asian countries are on a visit to the State to study the experiences of Joint Forest Management and the efforts at transition to community-based forest management.

Forest officials from Cambodia, Indonesia, Philippines, Thailand and Vietnam and officials from the World Bank and the Asia Forest Network visited the Forest Academy at Dullapally village, Ranga Reddy district, on Thursday as part of this study tour.

They also visited Behrunga, Jannaram and Addurguda villages in Adilabad district and witnessed the working of the Van Samrakshana Samitis.

Speaking to the press, Mark Poffenberger, Regional Director, Asia Forest Network said that since 1992 this Network is working to bring the forest administrations of the Asian countries closer.



Group Photo of Workshop Participants
Top Row: Laurel Heydir, Dr. Quan, Chaleo Kanjan, APFD official, Ly Chou Beang, PeterWalpole, Ramesh Kalagati, Chea Som Ang
Bottom Row: Ms. Teresa Aquino, Pak Sutrisno, APFD official, K. Subba Rao, Mark Poffenberger, Uddhai Thongmee, Emmanuel D'Silva



Andhra Pradesh Forest Department



B. Nagnath standing next to a regenerating teak tree in the Forest of Behroonguda



Village woman scraping resin from a tree



Chea Som Ang, Dr. Nam, & Dr. Quan with Behroonguda villagers



Chea Som Ang,
Ly Chou Beang,
B. Nagnath,
Dr. Nam,
Uddhai Thongmee,
& Pak Sutrisno in
village council hut



Current VSS president, Behroonguda

Chaleo Kanjan,
Dr. Nam, and
Behroonguda
villagers walking in
the Forest

