



***UNLOCKING THE POTENTIAL
OF INDIAN JFM TO MEET
THE MILLENNIUM
DEVELOPMENT GOALS***

**K.K. Kaushal
India Forest Service
District Forest Office, Harur, Dharmapuri
Tamilnadu**



INDIA

- ◆ 1.1 billion population
- ◆ Impressive gains but still large human deprivations.
- ◆ One third of world's poor live in India
- ◆ 34.6% Indians < 1\$
- ◆ 20% of world's out of school children.
- ◆ 20% of world's gender gap in elementary education.
- ◆ One of 10 countries with adverse sex ratio- 927 females per 1000 males .

INDIA Cont...

- ◆ 60% women anemic.
- ◆ 50% of children malnourished.
- ◆ 34% new born are underweight.
- ◆ Spread of AIDS.
- ◆ Rapidly declining water table.
- ◆ Low per capita forest area with poor stock(74 cubic mtrs-113 cubic meters) .
- ◆ MAI of 0.7 cum in comparison to 2.1 global average





World Bank (2005)

“Unfortunately there is little understanding of whether India will be able to attain all or any of the MDGs. There is even less understanding of what it will take- by way of economic growth, infrastructural investments and sectoral interventions –to attain the different MDGs.”



FOREST SCENARIO

- ◆ 67.55 million ha.
- ◆ 20.55% of land area (since 1980)
- ◆ 96% state owned.
- ◆ 36% area is degraded.
- ◆ 178 million forest inhabitants
- ◆ Scattered population, interior location.

Forest Scenario Cont...

- ◆ Mostly poorest of the poor
- ◆ Not reached by development departments
- ◆ Green revolution of 1970s only in agricultural areas.
- ◆ Not suited for dairying.
- ◆ Present high growth in services sector- not suited for low human development

**ONLY FORESTS CAN PROVIDE REGULAR
AND MORE INCOME.**





INDIAN JFM

- ◆ 1988 Forest Policy.
- ◆ 27% forest area under JFM
- ◆ Positive impact on Forest cover.
- ◆ Meeting the subsistence needs.
- ◆ A momentous step from total state management



Despite notable successes in some areas....

- ◆ Mostly Donor driven and target oriented approach.
- ◆ No security of tenure.
- ◆ Lack of integration with rural development.
- ◆ No supporting organizational and marketing structure.
- ◆ Poverty alleviation is not the explicit objectives.
- ◆ Only degraded forests

“The current JFM model is weighed in favor of state forest department control over planning, management, investment, harvesting and marketing” (World Bank,2006).



The Challenge is

- ◆ Conserve the Forests for environmental and watershed benefits (Goal 7 for entire population)
- ◆ Improve income and wellbeing of forest inhabitants (Goal 1-8 for forest inhabitants)
 - NTFPs, Bio-prospecting, and Eco-tourism with an expanded and restructured joint forest management .



CRITICAL ENABLING CONDITIONS FOR JOINT FOREST MANAGEMENT

- ◆ Secure forest resources tenure and management rights for communities.
- ◆ Provide robust support system for management, regulations monitoring and control.
- ◆ Increase access to more efficient market.
- ◆ Establishing effective and flexible institutional model.
- ◆ Integrate with rural development & infrastructure creation (e.g. district-level committees)



FOCUS NEEDED

Given critical conditions for JFM combined with...

- ◆ Parity of NTFPs with agriculture (billions \$ subsidy for irrigation, fertilizers & price support)
- ◆ Ecotourism promotion - yet to begin firmly
- ◆ Bio-prospecting – treat as a frontier science like biotechnology

...all 8 Goals for forest inhabitants and Goal 7 for entire population can be achieved.

Restructuring JFM & efficient non-destructive forest uses to help meet MDG Target 1 to 12

Goal	Benefit From New Thrust
1. Eradicate extreme poverty and hunger.	178M forest inhabitants (mostly poorest of the poor) derive up to 50% of income from NTFP ; Collectors not adequately paid: Middlemen profiteering and inefficient management; Efficient NTFP policy supplemented by promotion of ecotourism and bioprospecting will increase their income substantially
2. Achieve universal primary education	Poor wages and returns from NTFP collection compel people to involve their children in this venture. Increased income from NTFPs, ecotourism and bio-prospecting will help them spare their children for school education.
3. Promote gender equality and empower women	Women & girls outnumber males in NTFP collection. Any improvement in NTFP management will therefore benefit them directly. Better NTFP management will increase fuelwood availability, another direct benefit to women.





Restructuring JFM...continued

Goal	Benefit From New Thrust
4. Reduce child mortality	Increased fuelwood availability and boil drinking water to prevent water-borne diseases.
5. Improve maternal health	Easily available fuel wood and better NTFP returns will benefit females more and keep better health.
6. Combat major diseases	Better income strengthens resilience and capacity for disease prevention. NTFP management helps conserve biodiversity that holds promise of plant-derived medicines for fighting major diseases.

Restructuring JFM...continued

Goal	Benefit From New Thrust
7. Ensure environmental sustainability	<p>Better NTFP management means sustainable forest management, to safeguard the environment and watersheds.</p> <p>Prudent promotion of ecotourism and bio-prospecting do not impact on biodiversity & forest health, rather it helps it improve.</p>
8. Develop a global partnership for development	<p>Rio & WSSD: North- South cooperation in forest and biodiversity conservation.</p> <p>India can seek funds to restock its forests and develop enabling infrastructure and institutions from existing international poverty alleviation frameworks and also under global forestry, environmental and biodiversity programmes.</p>





Conclusions

Restructured and expanded JFM supported by proper institutional and markets can help India achieve all the 8 goals for forest inhabitants and goal 7 (which is crucial for sustainability of all other goals) for the forest inhabitants.