

Livelihood Linkages & Adpatations

Forest based livelihoods amongst Indigenous Communities

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18-20th Sept, 2010



Forest Livelihoods: Why it is of concern to us...

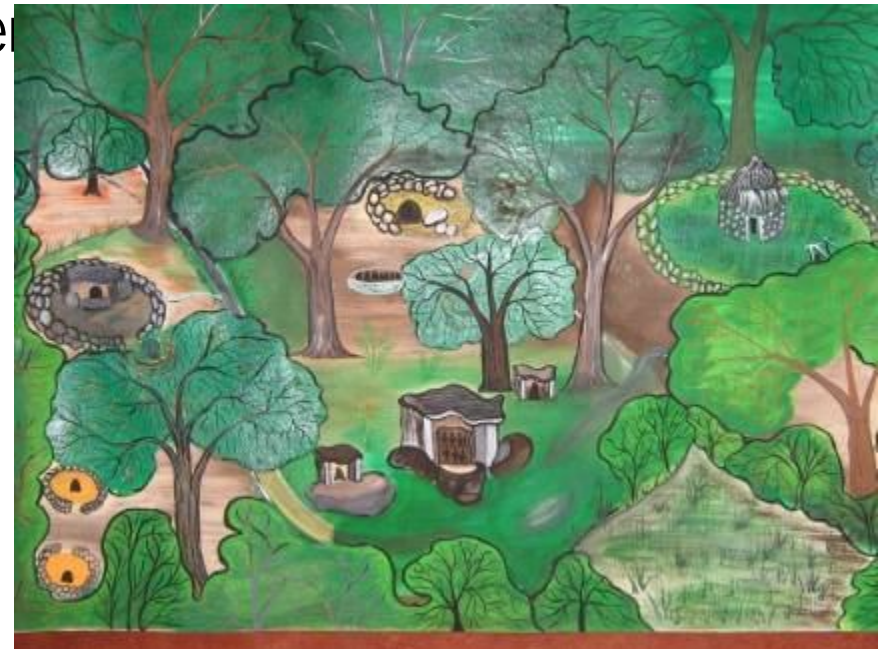
- Adds income to 30% rural people in India
- 67% gatherers are women
- 13% are children!
- Forms between 20-30% of family income per annum
- India has over 84 million *adivasis*
- Amongst the poorest people in India



Cont....



- It forms part of the communities tradition, lifestyle and culture
 - Sacred Groves
 - Medicine
 - Food, Fibre, Fuel, Fodder, Timber
 - Grazing lands
 - Crafts
 - Customary laws
 - Ancestral Domains



Land & Livelihood

- No clear titles for land
- Traditional, rainfed, subsistence, marginal Agriculture
- Wildlife crop raiding
- High crop diversity
- Most lands are leased out without access to credit
- Risks/vulnerabilities of agriculture



Wage livelihood

- Plantations, Forest Department, Landlords
- High labour rates in timber logging
- Some work in roads, mines, mills and cities through contract labour agents
- Few permanent workers



Forest Livelihood depends on



- Availability of resources in the forest
- Forest Governance – laws and rules
- Access to markets & demand for NTFPs
- *However, the potential of NTFPs is high (50,000 crore annual business)*

Diversity of Choice/Adaptations

- Negotiations with all stakeholders determine impact
- There are social and cultural preferences
- Usually all choices are open/varied and depend upon
 - Availability and access to forests/agriculture lands
 - Government benefits/development scenario
 - Environmental factors – climate, drought, rain pattern, flowering



Actors & Drivers

- Forest Department/Government /Rural Development Agencies
- Traders – a strong grip on markets and money lending
- Contract Labour Agents
- Civil Society Groups & Rights activists
- Mining & Power Sector



What/Who can make a difference

- GOVERNMENT and MARKETS
- Policies that support Welfare & Wellbeing
- Markets –fair, organic and biodiversity friendly
- Local economy development
- Innovation in rural technologies, institutions
- Local capacity building & creating opportunities
- Making people part of the development process



Policy & Planning Implications

- Protect the land/habitat/bio-diverse areas for environmental services
- Pursue different growth models for this sector vis-à-vis the industry – social inclusion
- Declare ecologically sensitive areas
- Promote knowledge enterprises – ecology, anthropology, hydrology in biodiversity rich areas
- Promote social enterprises with adequate finance and capacity building measures

