

UNIT 3
FOREST POLICIES AND SCHEMES

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3.0 INTRODUCTION

The management of forests in the country is largely guided by the objectives outlined in the Forest Policies adopted by the nation. A policy may be defined as a determination of long term objectives and missions of an organisation and the strategy necessary for achieving those missions and objectives. A policy may be defined as a standing plan which is used to guide specifications. It has been considered as guides to action or channels to thinking. Before the advent of British rule in India there were customary restrictions and regulations on the use of forests. A large number of forests were conserved on religious beliefs.

3.1 HISTORY OF FOREST POLICIES

The outline of a forest policy which was the first step towards systematic conservation of forest in India was laid down in a memorandum dated 3 August, 1855 issued by Lord Dalhousie, the then Governor General of India. The foundation of scientific forestry in the country was laid with the appointment of Dr. Dietrich Brandis as the first Inspector General of Forests in 1864. In 1893 Dr. J. A. Voelker submitted his monumental report on the Improvement of Indian Agriculture wherein he discussed the state of forests in the country and stressed the need for formulation of a forest policy with a bias for serving agricultural interest more directly. On the basis of his recommendations, the Government of India issued Resolution No. 22F dated 19th October, 1894 declaring its first forest policy which was a landmark in the history of forest management in India.

Even before declaration of the above policy in respect of forests under the control of British India, some of the princely states like Hyderabad had declared their State Forest Policies which envisaged preservation and protection of existing forests. In Jammu and Kashmir, 'Ain-i-Janglat' of 1883 and Forest Regulation No. 1 of 1895 were promulgated to protect and preserve forests and regulate people's rights thereon.

3.2 FOREST POLICY, 1894

The forest policy of 1894 suggested classification of all government forests into four broad classes. Forests on hill slopes were to be preserved for protection of cultivated plains from hill torrents. The second category of valuable forests were to be managed on commercial lines for earning revenue after meeting local needs either free or at low and not on competitive rates. The third category 'minor forest' and the fourth category 'pasture lands' were to be managed mainly for greatest advantage and convenience of the people. The overriding consideration was that 'permanent cultivation has priority over forestry and land of even valuable forest should ordinarily be relinquished for that purpose'.

3.3 NATIONAL FOREST POLICY, 1952

Following independence, princely states were merged and full autonomy was conferred on the states. Role of forests was realised and the state forest departments were better organised. Facilities for research and training were created and forest areas or erstwhile princely states and other private owners were brought under the control of state forest departments. The realization of need for evolving a system of balanced and complimentary land use, checking erosion, establishment of tree-lands

wherever possible, ensuring supplies of local needs and raw material for forests based industries, realising maximum revenue consistent with fulfilment of aforesaid needs led to functional classification of forests into protection forest, national forest, village forest and tree-lands. A revised forest policy was declared by Government of India in the form of Resolution No. 13.1/52-F dated 12 May, 1952. The salient features of this policy were :

- Forests were reclassified into the following categories
 - (a) Protection forests,
 - (b) National forests,
 - (c) Village forests, and
 - (d) Tree-lands.
- Emphasized the need for evolving a system for balanced and complementary land use wherein each type of land is used in a manner which would maximize its productivity and minimize its deterioration.
- Emphasized increased supply of fodder, timber for agricultural implements and firewood.
- Discarded the notion that forestry as such has no intrinsic right to land but may be permitted on residual land not required for any other purpose.
- Discouraged indiscriminate extension of arable land by destroying forests.
- Encouraged tree-lands wherever possible and emphasized to awaken the interest of people in planting trees.
- Steps to control and regulate grazing in the forest area.
- Emphasized on increasing the area under forest cover to 60 per cent in the hills and 20 per cent in the plains.

3.4 NATIONAL FOREST POLICY, 1988

In view of serious depletion of forests due to increasing demand for fuel wood, fodder, timber, inadequate protection measures and diversion of forest areas for non-forest purposes, the need to evolve a new strategy for forest conservation became imperative. A revised national forest policy was issued by the Government of India in the form of Resolution No. 3-1/86-FP dated 7 December, 1988.

- The National Forest Policy (NFP 1988) was a milestone in the history of forest management.
- The Forest Policy was made conservation oriented and the revenue generation from the forest was kept as a peripheral concern.
- The NFP 1988 states that 'the life of tribals and others living within and near forests revolves around forests. The right and concessions enjoyed by them should be fully protected. Their domestic requirements of fuel wood, fodder, minor forest produce and construction timber should be the first charge on forest produce'.

- Unlike National Forest Policy of 1952, which gave much emphasis on revenue generation, the NFP 1988 states that 'the principal aim of Forest policy must be to ensure environmental stability and maintenance of ecological balance including atmospheric equilibrium which are vital for sustenance of all life forms, human, animal and plants. The derivation of direct economic benefit must be subordinated to the principal aim'.
- One of the basic objectives governing the NFP 1988 is to create a massive people's movement with the involvement of women to minimize pressure on existing forests.

3.5 STATE FORESTRY ACTION PLANS

The State Forestry Action Plans, outlining various plans, programmes and actions to be taken up by different state governments during the next twenty years to strengthen their forestry sectors were prepared by all the states during 1993–95. These plans and programmes were essentially on the line of NFP 1988 and other policy directives of the Government of India and policy initiatives of the state governments. Subsequently, National Forestry Action Plan was prepared by the GOI based on these State Forestry Action Plans.

3.6 GOVERNMENT OF INDIA CIRCULAR ON JFM DATED 1 JUNE, 1990

In view of the failure of forestry sector to achieve the widespread people's participation in protection, regeneration and management of forests, it was felt that the foresters should take active interest in the socio-cultural environment in which they work. The 1 June, 1990 circular of the Ministry of Environment and Forests was a step in this direction and provided the guidelines for involvement of village communities and voluntary agencies in the protection and development of degraded forest areas on the basis of their taking a share of the usufruct from the areas they agree to protect and develop. These guidelines formalised the concept of Joint Forest Management (JFM) and provided an operational framework for involvement of people in the management of degraded forests.

The text of this circular (No. 6.21/89-F.P. dated 1.6.90) issued by Shri Mahesh Prasad, the then Secretary (Environment and Forests), Government of India to the Forest Secretaries of all States and Union Territories on "Involvement of village communities and VAs in the regeneration of degraded forest lands" is reproduced below :

1. "The National Forest Policy, 1988 envisages people's involvement in the development and protection of forests. The requirements of fuel wood, fodder and small timber such as house-building material of the tribals and other villagers living in and near the forests, are to be treated as first charge on forest produce. The policy document envisages it as one of the essentials of forest management that the forest communities should be motivated to identify themselves with the development and protection of forests from which they derive benefits.
2. In a D.O. Letter No. 1/1/88-TMA dated 13th January, 1989 to the Chief Secretary of your State, the need for working out the modalities for giving to the village communities, living close to the forest land, usufructory benefits to ensure their participation in the afforestation programme, was emphasized by Shri K. P. Geethakrishnan, the then Secretary (Environment and Forests).

3. Committed voluntary agencies/NGOs, with proven track record, may prove particularly well suited for motivating and organising village communities for protection, afforestation and development of degraded forest land, especially in the vicinity of habitations. The State Forest Departments/Social Forestry organisations ought to take full advantage of their expertise and experience in this respect for building up meaningful people's participation in protection and development of degraded forest lands. The voluntary agencies/NGOs may be associated as interface between State Forest Departments and the local village communities for revival, restoration and development of degraded forests in the manner suggested below :
- (i) The programme should be implemented under an arrangement between the Voluntary Agency/NGO, the village community (beneficiaries) and the State Forest Department.
 - (ii) No ownership or lease rights over the forest land should be given to the beneficiaries or to the voluntary agency/NGO. Nor should the forest land be assigned in contravention of the provisions contained in the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980.
 - (iii) The beneficiaries should be entitled to a share in usufructs to the extent and subject to the conditions prescribed by the State Government in this behalf. The voluntary agency/NGO should not be entitled to usufructory benefits.
 - (iv) Access to forest land and usufructory benefits should be only to the beneficiaries who get organised into a village institution, specifically for forest regeneration and protection. This could be the panchayat or the cooperative of the village, with no restriction on membership. It could also be a Village Forest Committee. In no case should any access or tree pattas be given to individuals.
 - (v) The beneficiaries should be given usufructs like grasses, lops and tops of branches, and minor forest produce. If they successfully protect the forests, they may be given a portion of the proceeds from the sale of trees when they mature. (The Government of West Bengal has issued order to give 25 per cent of the sale proceeds to the village or its protection committees. Similar norms may be adopted by other States).
 - (vi) Areas to be selected for the programme should be free from the claims (including existing rights, privileges, concessions) of any person who is not a beneficiary under the scheme. Alternatively, for a given site the selection of beneficiaries should be done in such a way that any one who has a claim to any forest produce from the selected site is not left out without being given full opportunity of joining.
 - (vii) The selected site should be worked in accordance with a working scheme, duly approved by the State Government. Such scheme may remain in operation for a period of 10 years and revised/renewed after that. The working scheme should be prepared in consultation with the beneficiaries. Apart from protection of the site, the said scheme may prescribe requisite operations, e.g. inducement to natural regeneration of existing root stock, seedling, gap filling and wherever necessary, intensive planting, soil-moisture conservation measures etc. The working scheme should also prescribe other operations, e.g. fire-protection, maintenance of boundaries, weeding, tending, cleaning, thinning etc.

- (viii) For raising nurseries, preparing land for planting and protecting the trees after planting, the beneficiaries should be paid by the Forest Department from the funds under the social forestry programme. However, the village community may obtain funds from other Government agencies and sources for undertaking these activities.
- (ix) It should be ensured that there is no grazing at all in the forest land protected by the village community. Permission to cut and carry grass free of cost should be given so that stall feeding is promoted.
- (x) No agriculture should be permitted on the forest land.
- (xi) Along with trees for fuel, fodder and timber, the village community may be permitted to plant such fruit trees as would fit in with the overall scheme of afforestation, such as aonla, imli, mango, mahua etc. as well as shrubs, legumes and grasses which would meet local needs, help soil and water conservation and enrich the degraded soils/land. Even indigenous medicinal plants may be grown according to the requirement and preference of beneficiaries.
- (xii) Cutting of trees should not be permitted before they are ripe for harvesting. The Forest Department also should not cut the trees on the forest land being protected by the village communities except in the manner prescribed in the working scheme. In case of emergency needs, the village communities should be taken into confidence.
- (xiii) The benefit of people's participation should go to the village communities and not to commercial or other interests which may try to derive benefit in their names. The selection of beneficiaries should, therefore, be done from only those families which are willing to participate through their personal efforts.
- (xiv) The Forest Department should closely supervise the works. If the beneficiaries and/or the voluntary agency/NGO fail or neglect to protect the area from grazing, encroachment or do not perform the operations prescribed in the working scheme in a satisfactory manner, the usufructory benefits should be withdrawn without paying compensation to any one for any work that might have been done prior to it. Suitable provisions in the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) for this purpose should be incorporated.

3.7 GUIDELINES ON JFM 2000

The Guidelines on JFM 2000, or Guidelines 2000, has been formulated by the Government of India to strengthen the JFM programme and also to address many of the emerging issues. The state governments are advised to take the following steps in their respective states.

- Register the JFM or village committees under the Societies Registration Act, 1860 to provide them with legal back up. All adults of the village should be eligible to become members of the JFM Committees.
- At least 50% of the JFM general body and 33% of the members in the Executive Committee should be women, a similar percent of women should be present to hold the respective meetings, and at least one of the office bearers should be a woman member of the committee.

- The JFM programme should cover both good forests and degraded forests, though the protected area network is outside its purview. Different MOUs should be drawn up for each of these forest types, with regard to sharing of benefits, management strategies and the extent of area to be protected.
- State level representative forums or working groups need to be constituted to resolve conflicts in the functioning of the JFM Committees and to maintain harmony among different groups participating in the JFM.
- The Self-initiated CFMs need to be identified, recognised and registered as JFM Committees after proper verification of records and inquiry.
- For long-term sustainability of resources, a certain per cent of revenue earned from the final harvest by the Committees and the Forest Department needs to be ploughed back for forest protection with transient mechanism of income sharing among stakeholders.
- Concurrent and periodic monitoring of progress and performance of the programme should be undertaken at the Division and State level.

3.8 JFM RESOLUTIONS

On the line of June 1, 1990 Government of India's circular and in conformity with the NFP 1988, twenty eight states of the country have adopted JFM through passing enabling JFM resolutions in the state assemblies. In north-eastern India, all the states, viz., Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Manipur, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Nagaland and Tripura have their JFM resolutions passed and adopted (Box 3.1).

Box 3.1 Dates of notification of JFM resolutions in different North-Eastern states	
State	Date of notification
Assam	10.11.1998
Arunachal Pradesh	3.10.1997
Manipur	8.6.2000
Meghalaya	9.9.2003
Nagaland	5.3.1997
Tripura	20.12.1991
Mizoram	18.9.1998

The JFM resolutions of the seven north-eastern states are reproduced below :

3.8.1 Arunachal Pradesh

GOVERNMENT OF ARUNACHAL PRADESH
DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS
RESOLUTION ON JOINT FOREST MANAGEMENT SCHEME

No. FOR-104/D-4/90/VOL-I

Dated : Itanagar, the 3rd October, 1997

Whereas the Government of Arunachal Pradesh is concerned about the continued degradation of Unclassed Forests around the villages and other inhabited areas due to excessive biotic pressure especially grazing and removal of firewood and timber, jhuming etc.

And whereas, the Department of Environment and Forests has decided to take up a massive programme for regeneration and protection of the above Unclassed Forest areas jointly with the local villagers/inhabitants under a Joint Forest Management (JFM) scheme for converting them into productive forests.

And whereas active participation and involvement of local people are vital for regeneration, maintenance and protection of the aforesaid forests and plantations and successful implementation of the programme.

Now therefore, the Governor of Arunachal Pradesh is pleased to decide that Village Forest Management Committees (VFMCs) shall be constituted for this purpose throughout the State of Arunachal Pradesh and beneficiaries acting as members of such committees, shall be allowed as a measures of incentive, 25% of the benefits subject to observance of the conditions provided in this resolution.

The composition, duties and functions, the usufructuary benefits and restrictive measures pertaining to such committees shall be as follows :

1. COMPOSITION

The management of the selected forest areas will vest with the VFMCs. A VFMC shall be constituted for each of the Joint Forest Management (JFM) areas and shall have the following composition :

- (i) One adult member from each family of all the villages located within or adjacent to the selected JFM area. At least 30% of the total registered members shall have to be women.

Each VFMC shall be registered as a society or association under Society's Registration Act, after duly framing its bye-laws governing its duties, responsibilities, powers and jurisdictions.

- (ii) The VFMCs, in addition to the registered members, shall have ex-officio members as follows :
 - (a) Vice President(s) of the Zilla Parishad(s) of the District.
 - (b) Vice President(s) of the Anchal Samities falling within the identified areas.
 - (c) Range Officer concerned.
 - (d) One representative from local Non-Governmental Organisation (NGO) if any, in the areas to be nominated by the Divisional Forest Officer concerned.

None of the ex-officio members including NGO representative would be entitled to any of the benefits under this scheme.

(iii) Each Village Forest Management Committee shall have one Executive Committee (EC) with the following composition :

(a) Chairman to be elected by the registered members at the first General Body meeting of the VFMC to be convened by the Range Officer concerned. Ex-officio members shall not be entitled to vote.

(b) 8 (eight) Members from amongst the registered members of the VFMC shall be elected in the first meeting of the General Body.

(c) 3 (three) ex-officio members comprising

(i) Vice President of the Zilla Parishad.

(ii) One representative of NGO.

(iii) The Range Officer concerned.

The Range Officer having the largest territorial jurisdiction shall be the Member-Secretary of the Executive Committee.

No Range Officer shall continue as Member-Secretary for a term exceeding 3 (three) years.

(d) The Chairman and the Member-Secretary of the Executive Committee shall also function as the Chairman and Member-Secretary of the VFMCs concerned.

2. DUTIES OF VFMCs

(i) The Village Forest Management Committee shall maintain a register showing necessary particulars of the registered members as well as the beneficiaries, as for example, name, father's name, address, age, number of family members, name of nominees etc. The nomination form duly approved by the Executive Committee should be pasted in the register. Such registers are also to be maintained in the Range Office of the Forest Department and a copy of the aforesaid register shall also be kept in the office of the Divisional Forest Officer concerned for record.

(ii) The VFMC shall maintain a minutes book wherein the proceedings of the meeting(s) of the Executive Committee held from time to time, as well as the proceedings of the annual general meeting(s) of the Village Forest Management Committee(s) will be recorded under the signature of the President of the Committee and such minutes duly attested shall be sent to the concerned Range Officer for record.

(iii) The VFMC shall hold an annual general meeting once in every year, where activities of the VFMC as well as the details of distribution of usufructuary benefits are to be discussed, besides electing representatives of the beneficiaries to the Executive Committee(s).

3. FUNCTIONS AND RESPONSIBILITIES OF VFMCs

(a) (i) To ensure protection of forests/plantations through members of the committee(s).

(ii) To protect the said forests/plantations with the members of the committee.

- (iii) To inform forest personnels about any person or persons attempting trespass, and willfully or maliciously damaging the said forests/plantations and commit theft thereon.
- (iv) To prevent such trespass, encroachment, grazing, forest fire, theft and poaching of wild animals.
- (v) To regulate jhuming, grazing and collection of Non-Timber Forest Products (NTFP).
- (b) (i) To ensure smooth and timely execution of all forestry works taken up in the area under protection by the committee(s).
- (ii) To involve every member of the committee in the matter of protection of forests/plantations as well as any other duty assigned to the committee.
- (c) (i) To ensure smooth harvesting of forest produce by the forest department.
- (ii) To assist the concerned forest official in proper distribution of the earmarked portion of the net sale proceeds among the members of the committee as per list maintained by the Executive Committee.
- (iii) To ensure that usufructuary rights allowed by the Govt. is not in any way misused by any of the members and forests/plantations are kept free from any encroachment whatsoever.
- (d) (i) To prevent any activity in contravention of the provisions of the Assam Forest Regulation or any other acts and rules made thereunder.

The members of Executive Committee (EC) shall have power to apprehend any forest offender and hand them over to the authorities concerned for taking punitive action. They shall have power to seize illegal timber and any other forest produce.

The Executive Committee (EC) shall have power to levy fines for unauthorized/illegal activities on any of the members of the VFMC.

(e) **Memorandum of Understanding (MoU)**

The VFMCs through their ECs shall execute MoUs with the concerned DFOs for active participation in the task of protection, regeneration and management of forest areas and for implementation of the programmes as per the joint management plans. The format of MoU is at Annexure-I.

4. RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS

- (i) The Department of Environment and Forests shall be responsible for the constitution of the VFMCs and for overseeing the formation of the General Body(s) and Executive Committee(s).
- (ii) It shall ensure that the Management Plans are prepared for each of the JFM areas before such areas are taken up for timber operation/regeneration.

- (iii) The Divisional Forest Officer concerned shall prepare a Management Plan for each of the management units identified under this scheme after a critical analysis of the management issues and the needs of the local people.

The Management Plan shall aim at sustainable development of the selected forest areas and shall have prescriptions for production of timber, fuel wood, fodder, regulation of grazing, method of regeneration, method of rehabilitation of degraded forest areas, the quantities and modalities for removal of forest produce.

The Management Plan shall cover a period of 5 (five) years.

- (iv) The draft Management Plan will be considered by the Executive Committee (EC) and after discussion in the G.B. of VFMC, it shall be submitted to the Principal Chief Conservator of Forests for approval.
- (v) The implementation of the Management Plan will be taken up with the help of funds available under relevant State Plan Schemes including the regeneration of the harvested areas and degraded forests under State Plan/Central Sector Scheme.
- (vi) The prescriptions of the Management Plan shall be strictly enforced to guard against over felling and to ensure that the harvested areas are regenerated within a given time frame.
- (vii) The Executive Committee (EC) and the DFO concerned shall maintain a close control over all operations in the identified areas.
- (viii) The Department shall ensure proper sharing of the usufructs and revenues accruing from the management of the JFM areas and guard against any misuse of the benefits and privileges available under this scheme.
- (ix) The Divisional Forest Officer concerned shall set up an Extension cell in his office under the charge of a responsible officer (ACF/Range Officer) for furthering the objectives of this Scheme in the areas under their jurisdiction and eliciting the cooperation of the local people in implementing the JFM Scheme.
- (x) The Department shall make necessary arrangements for providing training to the members of the VFMCs and ECs enabling them to discharge their duties and responsibilities effectively.
- (xi) The Department will arrange for the disposal of the timber and NTFPs harvested from the areas under Management Plan prescriptions through the Arunachal Pradesh Forest Corporation Ltd. (APFCL) so as to ensure maximum financial returns to the VFMCs.
- (xii) The Department through its State Forest Research Institute (SFRI) shall develop area-specific packages for afforestation and development of the forest resources in the identified JFM areas.
- (xiii) The Department shall also promote either directly or through the concerned agencies, the development of traditional jhum-lands in the areas for permanent cultivation, so that the "Jhumias" do not extend their jhumming activities to new sites within the identified JFM area.

5. SELECTION OF AREAS

- (i) The JFM Scheme shall be implemented in the unclassified forest around the respective villages and other habitats which are vulnerable to encroachments and biotic interference.
- (ii) The Scheme shall not apply to private forests or forests under private ownership.
- (iii) The selection of areas shall be done by the Department of Environment and Forests in consultation with the local administration and consent of the local people.
- (iv) The villagers will have to enter into an agreement with the State Department of Environment and Forests giving their consent for implementing the JFM Scheme in their areas and to abide by the terms and conditions specified thereunder.
- (v) The Management Unit shall be determined on the basis of the extent of unclassified forest area which can be delineated into a composite block and over which the nearby villagers have been traditionally exercising customary rights and privileges.
- (vi) All the villagers of the villages so identified shall hereinafter be referred to as the "beneficiaries".
- (vii) The protection regulation provisions of the Assam Forests Regulation 1891 (VII of 1891) shall *ipso facto* apply to the selected areas so as to provide the necessary regulatory and control mechanism and bring the areas under scientific management.

6. MEETINGS

- (i) The General Body (GB) of the VFMC shall meet once annually while the Executive Committee (EC) shall meet at least once in three months, or more frequently if the Member Secretary in consultation with the Chairman deems it necessary to transact any urgent business.
- (ii) The quorum for the meeting of the General Body (GB) as well as the Executive Committee (EC) shall be half of the registered members and elected members respectively.
- (iii) The General Body (GB) and EC will maintain registers of members, a register to record the minutes and decisions of each meeting and a cash register to maintain records of income and expenditure.
- (iv) The EC may appoint part time or full time employees at such consolidated wages as may be decided, to maintain the accounts and for other purposes.
- (v) The Member Secretary shall be overall responsible for the proper maintenance of all records and accounts.
- (vi) The accounts shall be got audited annually after their approval by the Executive Committee (EC) and the GB of the VFMC.

7. BENEFITS / USUFRUCT SHARING

- (i) The members of the VFMCs will be entitled to use all Non-Timber Forest Produce (NTFP), dead and fallen wood, small timber, fodder etc. for their bonafide domestic consumption free of cost, without causing any damage to the forest areas. These benefits will be available to the VFMC members only when they undertake to discharge their protection and management responsibilities and functions as envisaged under the scheme.
- (ii) The revenues accruing from the timber operations, both at the time of silvicultural thinning and main feelings, will be shared between the VFMCs and the Department in the following manner :

50% of the gross revenues shall be credited to the Govt. account as revenue while from the remaining 50%, 25% will be distributed equally among all the members of the VFMC concerned and the balance 25% will be deposited in the Development Fund which will be operated by the EC for developmental activities as may be approved by it and endorsed by the GB. The other revenues such as from levy of fines etc. will also be credited to the Development Fund.
- (iii) In case substantially degraded unclassified forests are selected as JFM areas in some places, the VFMCs should be assured some immediate benefits until the identified forests reach a productive stage. This can be ensured by providing wage employment to as many VFMC members as possible during the implementation of forest regeneration and development efforts. Assistance can also be taken through the District Administration under the ongoing Rural Development Schemes to benefit the VFMC members.

8. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

There will be no direct financial implication for the Department in the implementation of this scheme. No additional staff will be required to be engaged by the Department for implementing this scheme in the identified areas. However, if the DFO concerned can deploy his staff to further the objectives of this scheme he shall be free to do so. In any case as provided for in the scheme the EC may appoint part time or full time employees as may be necessary for various purposes in implementing the scheme. Ongoing State Plan and Central Sector Schemes shall be made use of in the afforestation of degraded JFM lands and for Aided Natural Regeneration (ANR) of harvested areas. Advantage will also be taken of the new CS Scheme initiated by the Ministry of Environment and Forests for the Joint Management of Forest lands with the association of scheduled tribes and rural poor. The Department will also strive to obtain financial assistance through externally aided projects and bilateral and multilateral funding agencies for furthering the objectives of this programme. The VFMC Development Fund will also be utilised in furthering the aims and objectives of the scheme as may be considered from time to time by the EC.

9. TERMINATION OF MEMBERSHIP, DISSOLUTION OF THE COMMITTEE Etc.

- (i) The Divisional Forest Officer concerned shall have the power to disqualify and remove from the membership of the VFMC, GB and EC any member who is found guilty of any forest offence by a competent Govt. or authority concerned. He shall also be empowered to dissolve any VFMC, GB, EC if it is found necessary to do so in the interest of proper management of the forest of the area.

- (ii) If a VFMC fails to function properly, or if there are instances of financial irregularities, misappropriation or violation of any relevant rules and regulations, the DFO concerned can supersede the VFMC without paying any compensation for any work that might have been done prior to such supersession. In such an event the management of the JFM area shall vest wholly with the Department.
- (iii) If there is any matter which fails to get resolved by the GB/EC, it shall be referred to the DFO concerned for a decision. Appeal against any such decision of the DFO shall lie with the Conservator of Forests concerned. An appeal against the decision of the C.F. shall lie with the Government whose direction/decision shall be binding on the VFMC.

The Government may add to or delete from any of the provisions of this scheme as may be considered necessary depending upon the experience gained in the implementation of this scheme.

The order shall come into force with immediate effect.

This issues with the approval of the State Government of Arunachal Pradesh Vide CAB/M/(2)/96 dated 7.11.96.

(G P Shukla)
Secretary (Env. & Forests)
Govt. of Arunachal Pradesh
Itanagar

Memo No. FOR. 104/D-4/90/Vol-I

Dated Itanagar the 3rd October, 1997.

Copy to :

1. P. S. to Hon'ble Chief Minister, Arunachal Pradesh, Itanagar.
2. P. S. to all Hon'ble Ministers, Arunachal Pradesh, Itanagar.
3. P. S. to all Hon'ble Speaker, Arunachal Assembly, Naharlagun.
4. P. S. to all Hon'ble Dy. Speaker, Arunachal Assembly, Naharlagun.
5. All Secretaries, Govt. of Arunachal Pradesh, Itanagar.
6. All Heads of Department, Govt. of Arunachal Pradesh.
7. All Dy. Commissioners/Addl. Dy. Commissioners, Arunachal Pradesh.
8. All Chief Conservator of Forests, Arunachal Pradesh.
9. The Managing Director, APFC Ltd., Itanagar.
10. All Conservator of Forests, Arunachal Pradesh.
11. All Divisional Forest Officers, Arunachal Pradesh.
12. Director of Information and Public Relations, Govt. of A. P., Naharlagun with a request to publish the above in a special issue of Arunachal Pradesh Gazette and 300 copies may be sent for wide circulation.

(G P Shukla)
Secretary (Env. & Forests)
Govt. of Arunachal Pradesh
Itanagar

ANNEXURE - I

FORMAT FOR MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING

We the members of the Executive Committee of the Village Forest Management Committee of _____ village do hereby undertake individually and collectively to perform the duties and shoulder the responsibilities as detailed in the Resolution No. _____ dated _____ of the Environment and Forest Department, Government of Arunachal Pradesh for proper protection and regeneration of the degraded forest areas as per the schedule given hereunder :

Schedule

1. Name of the Village Forest Management Committee :
2. District/Forest Division :
3. Subdivision/Forest Range :
4. Police Station :
5. Village :
6. Name of the Forest Block :
7. Legal status of the forest land :
8. Area (ha.) of the forest land :
9. Boundaries of the area :

North -	East -
South -	West -

We, understand that the usufructuary benefits as detailed in the aforesaid Resolution shall be allowed only upon satisfactory observance of the duties, responsibilities and functions by the Executive Committee and by the members of the Village Forest Management Committee as per the aforesaid Resolution.

A copy of the aforesaid Resolution is annexed herewith duly signed by us on every page in proof/evidence of our having read/understood the same in letter and spirit. It is hereby agreed that this Memorandum of Understanding will come into effect from _____.

Signature of the member of the Executive Committee

Signature of the Witness

Name and Address	Signature with date	Name and Address	Signature with date
1.		1.	
2.		2.	
3.		3.	
4.		4.	
5.		5.	

Signature of the local Forest Officer

Signature with date

Sl. No.	Designation	Name
1.	DFO	
2.	ACF	
3.	Forest Range Officer	
4.	Forester	
5.	Forest Guard	

3.8.2 Assam

THE ASSAM GAZETTE, EXTRAORDINARY
PUBLISHED BY AUTHORITY

No. 14 Dispur, Saturday, 20th February, 1999 1st Falguna, 1920 (S.E.)

GOVERNMENT OF ASSAM
ORDERS BY THE GOVERNOR
FOREST DEPARTMENT, DISPUR

NOTIFICATION

The 10th November, 1998

No. FRW. 8/93/75. – The Govt. of Assam is pleased to make the following Rules for the active participation and involvement of local people for regeneration, maintenance and protection of degraded forest and plantations.

The Assam Joint (people's participation)
Forestry Management Rules, 1998.

1. **Short title and commencement**
 - (i) The Rules shall be called "Assam Joint (people's participation) Forestry Management Rules, 1998."
 - (ii) They shall come into force with immediate effect.

- Definition**
 2. In these resolution, unless there is anything repugnant in the subject or context :
 - (a) "State" means the State of Assam;
 - (b) "Governor" means the Governor of Assam;
 - (c) "Government" means the Government of Assam;
 - (d) "Committee" means the Forest Protection and Regeneration Committee;
 - (e) "Usufructs" means – use and profit of the benefits accrued from the property but not the property;
 - (f) "Minor Forest Produce" includes leaves, twigs of trees, edible fungal, honey, medicinal plants, fodder, fruits, reeds and moss, silk, cocoon, wax, myrabolams, lac;
 - (g) "Beneficiary" means the members of the Forests Protection and Regeneration Committee the unit of which is a family;
 - (h) "Working scheme" means the short term scheme formulated for regeneration, protection and management of forest areas jointly by the members of Forest Protection and Regeneration Committee and the Forest Department keeping in view of the needs and aspirations of the Committee Members;

- (i) "Natural regeneration" means : Regeneration of a forest natural seed fall with or without human aids;
- (j) "Intensive planting" : Man made plantation with much larger number of seedlings than the number of matured number of trees sustainable under a given sets of locality factors;

- Committee** 3. There shall be Committee namely "Forest Protection and Regeneration Committee" to be constituted under provision of rule 7 for the purpose of regeneration, maintenance and protection of Forest areas in the State under continued degradation because of biotic interference. The families acting as members of the Committee shall be allowed, as a measure of incentive, usufructs defined hereinbefore in rule subject to observance of the conditions provided in these rules.
- Selection of area** 4. The sites including all areas outside Reserve Forests and only peripheral degraded areas of Reserve Forests shall be selected in accordance with a working scheme prepared in consultation with the beneficiaries and duly approved by the concerned circle Conservator of Forests.
- Limitation of area** 5. The area under the protection of such Committees may usually be limited to 3 (three) hectares per beneficiary family for natural regeneration and 1 (one) hectare for intensive planning. The area for natural regeneration and artificial regeneration will depend upon number of beneficiary families in the Committee. The performance of the Committees shall be closely monitored and extent or limit of the area reviewed and revised if considered necessary.
- Cost of scheme** 6. The cost of regeneration and maintenance of degraded Forests and allied development works as per approved schemes shall be borne by the Government.
- Constitution of the Committee** 7. (i) Each Range Officer shall organise meeting with villagers of one or cluster of villages residing adjacent to forest areas and explain the concepts of Joint Forestry Management and its benefits in simple language and the President or some members of the local Gaon Panchayat will be invited to attend. In case a minimum of 50% of the total number of adults in the village accepts the proposal in the meeting then the Divisional Forest Officer shall constitute the Forest Protection and Regeneration Committee(s), within the framework of this Rules.

- (ii) The option to become members of the Committee shall be open to all the concerned villagers, living in the vicinity of the Forest concerned. Membership of each family will be in the name of the husband and wife or a male and a female member of the family and shall be considered as one unit of beneficiary. The families who are already entitled to rights, concessions or privileges over the forest area also shall be included as members of the Committee.
- (iii) Committee Non-Government Organisations (N.G.O.) and Voluntary Associations (V.As.) of the locality shall be utilised for motivating and organising village communities living close to the forests selected for protection, regeneration and afforestation etc.

The Non-Government Organisations (N.G.Os.) and Voluntary Associations (V.As.) may be associated as interface between the Forest Department and Village Communities. No ownership or lease right over the forest land will be given to the beneficiaries or to the N.G.Os./V.As. No act in contravention of the provisions of Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 shall be permitted.
- (iv) Each Forest Protection and Regeneration Committee shall have an Executive Committee to carry out various activities as assigned to the Forest Protection and Regeneration Committee.
- (v) The composition of the Executive Committee shall be as follows :
 - (a) Gaonbura or any members of the local Gaon Panchayat(s) Member.
 - (b) Elected representatives of the beneficiaries (not exceeding 9) Members.
 - (c) Concerned Beat Officer or any Forest Official not below the rank of Forester.
Deputed for the purpose Member-Secretary.
- (vi) The members of the Executive Committee shall elect the President in each meeting.
- (vii) Constitution of the Forest Protection and Regeneration Committee including Executive Committee will be approved by the Divisional Forest Officer concerned on the recommendation of the concerned Range Officer.
- (viii) The concerned Divisional Forest Officer will monitor, supervise and review the functions of the Forest Protection and Regeneration Committee.

- (ix) If any change in the Forest Protection and Regeneration Committee or the Executive Committee is necessitated, after initial constitution, the Executive Committee shall make suitable recommendation to the Divisional Forest Officer concerned duly endorsed by the concerned Range Officer for approval.
- (x) The Beat Officer or the Forester as the case may be, as Member-Secretary shall convene the meeting of the Executive Committee at least once in every 3 months and once in every 6 months for the Forest Protection and Regeneration Committee.
- (xi) The representative of the beneficiaries for the Executive Committee shall be elected each year in the annual general meeting of the Committee, where the concerned Range Officer shall be an observer.

Meeting and Quorum 8.

- (i) Forest Protection and Regeneration Committee shall maintain a register showing necessary particulars of the members of the Committee, e.g. name, father's name, address, number of family members, name of the nominee etc. The nomination forms duly filled in and approved by the concerned Divisional Forest Officer should be pasted in the register. Such registers shall also be maintained in the concerned Range Officer of the Forest Department for permanent record.
- (ii) The Forest Protection and Regeneration Committee shall maintain a "Minutes Book" when proceeding of the meeting of the Executive Committee held from time to time as well as proceedings of the annual general meeting of the Forest Protection and Regeneration Committee shall be recorded under the signature of the Chairperson of the Executive Committee and such minutes duly attested shall be checked by the concerned Range Officer for record and initiating any action proposed in the resolutions adopted in the meeting.
- (iii) The Forest Protection and Regeneration Committee (to be referred to as the Committee hereinafter) shall hold an annual general meeting once every year where activities of the Committee as well as details of distribution of usufructuary benefits shall be discussed, besides electing representative of the beneficiaries to the Executive Committee.
- (iv) The quorum of the meetings of the above Committees shall be treated as complete if 1/3rd of the members are present in the meeting.

- Duties and Functions 9.** The duties and functions of the Forest Protection and Regeneration Committee shall be as follows :
- (a) (i) To ensure protection of forests/plantations through the members of the committee.
 - (ii) To protect the same forests/plantation(s) with the members of the Committee : The forest area selected for joint forest management shall be worked out in accordance with approved working plan/working scheme for subsequent revision/preparation of working plan/working scheme, the Executive Committees shall be consulted for working plan prescription in the forest areas taken up for joint forest management. It shall also be ensured that no grazing of cattle and other animals is permitted in the forest land under joint forest management but permission for cutting and carrying of grass and fodder as permissible silviculturally shall be allowed free of cost to encourage stall feeding of cattle and other animals. Improved varieties of Non-wood Forest Produce shall also form a component in the plantation activities.
 - (iii) To report to the Forest Officials any attempted trespass or willful damage to or theft in the forest(s)/plantation(s) by any person or persons.
 - (iv) To prevent any trespass or encroachment on grazing, fire or theft in or damage to any forest/ plantation or use of such land for agricultural purposes.
 - (b) (i) To ensure smooth and timely executed of all forestry works taken up in the area under protection by the Committee.
 - (ii) To involve every member of the Committee in the matter of protection of Forest(s)/ Plantation(s) as well as other duties assigned to the Committee.
 - (iii) To assist the concerned Forest Officials in the matter of selection/engaging labourers required for forestry works mainly from the beneficiaries and their families.
 - (c) (i) To ensure smooth harvesting of the forest produce by the Forest Department.
 - (ii) To assist the concerned Forest Officials in proper distribution of the earmarked portion of the usufructs among the eligible members of the Committee.
 - (iii) To ensure that usufructuary right allowed by the Government are not in any way misused by any member and the forest/plantation sites are kept free from any encroachment whatsoever.

- (d) (i) To prevent any activities in contravention of the provisions of the Indian Forest Act, 1927 or the Assam Forest Regulation, 1891 or any other relevant Acts or Rules.
- (ii) To report to the concerned Beat Officer/Range Officer about the activities of a beneficiary which are found prejudicial and detrimental to the interest or a particular plantation of forest, which may result in cancellation of the membership of the erring beneficiary.
- (iii) To assist the Forest Officials to take action or proceed under the Assam Forest Regulation, 1891, the Indian Forest Act, 1927, the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972 and any other Acts or Rules against the offenders including any erring member of the Committee found to be violating the provision of such Acts, and Rules on damaging the Forests/Plantations.
- (e) To ensure protection of Wildlife in such areas.
- (f) To ensure protection of all forests/plantations in areas other than the areas taken up for participatory management within the jurisdiction of the respective village/villages from which members of the aforesaid Committee have been drawn, by prevention any trespass or encroachment or grazing, fire or theft in or damage to any forest/plantations, and by generally assisting the Forest Officials in their lawful function in prevention of such forest offences and prosecution of the offenders.
- (g) To ensure that none of the beneficiaries included under the participatory management programme practices jhuming.

Usufructuary benefits 10.

- (i) In case of natural regeneration/plantations taken up under the scheme, the beneficiaries shall have to protect the forest to be eligible for sharing of usufructs under this programme.
- (ii) The beneficiaries shall be permitted to collect minor forest produces, free of cost without causing any damage to the forests/plantations.
- (iii) 25% output from Silvicultural thinnings shall be set aside for distribution to the beneficiary families through the Executive Committee for meeting their bonafide household needs. In case of short fall, the Executive Committee shall prioritise examining the requirements of the individuals and arrange smooth distribution. In case of surplus, the Forest Department will dispose it off through the approved system of sale

and deposit the sale proceeds in the fund of the Forest Protection and Regeneration Committee for utilisation for the cause of common interest of the beneficiaries. Balance 75% shall be disposed of by the Forest Department and 1/3rd of the net receipt (after deduction of proportionate cost of creation and harvest) shall be deposited to the Executive Committee for proportionate distribution to the members of the Forest Protection and Regeneration Committee.

- (iv) The output from the harvest from main fellings shall be sold by the Forest Department. The beneficiaries will be entitled to 25% of the net receipts from main fellings. The net receipt will mean, the sale value of the produce less the direct cost of creation and harvest. The concerned Divisional Forest Officer shall set apart proportionate amount from the sale proceeds as above and shall arrange distribution of the same to the eligible beneficiaries in consultation with the Executive Committee upon satisfactory performance of the duties and functions detailed hereinbefore.
- (v) The receipt from the harvest of plantations under Social Forestry shall be distributed as above, amongst the beneficiaries after deduction of cost of plantation and cost of harvest.

Termination of membership, dissolution of committee

- 11. (i) Failure to comply with any of the conditions laid down hereinbefore or contravention of the provisions of the Indian Forest Act, 1927 or the Assam Forest Regulation, 1891 or other relevant Acts or Rules, may entail cancellation of individual membership and/or dissolution of the Executive Committee on Forest Protection and Regeneration Committee, as the case may be, without paying compensation to any one for any work that might have been done prior to such cancellation, by the concerned Divisional Forest Officers.
- (ii) The concerned Divisional Forest Officer, shall be competent to take appropriate action and even to dissolve any Executive Committee, on the grounds stated above, on the recommendation of the concerned Range Officer or otherwise.
- (iii) The concerned Divisional Forest Officer may authorise the concerned Range Officer to take proper action and even terminate the membership of an individual member on the above mentioned grounds, on the recommendation of the Executive Committee of Forest Protection and Regeneration Committee.

- (iv) Appeal against any such penal action by the Range Officer may be preferred to the concerned Divisional Forest Officer.
- (v) Appeal against any such penal action by the Range Officer may be preferred to the concerned Circle Conservator of Forests, whose decision shall be final.

The format for the memorandum of understanding to be adopted by the Forest Protection and Regeneration Committee formed by the village community is given below :

MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING

We, the members of the Forest Protection and Regeneration Committee do hereby undertake to perform the duties and functions as detailed in the Rule No. dated of the Forest Department, Government of Assam for proper protection of the forests/plantations assigned to this Committee as per the Schedule given hereunder :

Schedule :

- 1. Name of Forest Protection and Regeneration Committee :
- 2. District :
- 3. Sub-Division :
- 4. Police Station :
- 5. Mouza :
- 6. Panchayat :
- 7. Status of the land :
- 8. Area in Hectares :
- 9. Boundary :

North - East -

South - West -

We understand that the usufructuary benefits as detailed in the aforesaid Rule dated..... shall be allowed only upon satisfactory performance of the duties and functions by this Committee and the individual beneficiaries as per the aforesaid Rule.

A copy of the aforesaid Rule is annexed herewith duly signed by us on every page as proof/evidence or our having and understood the same in letter and spirit.

*Signature of the members
of the Committee*

Signature of Witness

Name and Address	Signature	Name and Address	Signature
1.			
2.			
3.			
4.			
5.			
6.			

SIGNATURE OF LOCAL FOREST OFFICIALS

Sl. No.	Name and Designation	Signature
1.		
2.		
3.		
4.		
5.		
6.		

H. SONOWAL
Commissioner & Secy., Forest Deptt.

3.8.3 Manipur

GOVERNMENT OF MANIPUR
SECRETARIAT : FOREST & ENVIRONMENT DEPARTMENT

NOTIFICATION

Imphal, the 8th June, 2000

No. 55/4/95/For (Pt) : The Governor of Manipur is pleased to issue the following notification for participation of villagers in regeneration, protection, conservation and management of degraded forests (inclusive of unclassified forests) of Manipur in the areas identified for Joint Forest Management (JFM).

1. The illicit cutting of trees from the Government Forests by the people residing nearby is ever-increasing day by day apart from encroachment by some organised groups for jhum cultivation and settlement. Lack of scientific management of forests, large-scale practice of shifting cultivation, excessive felling of trees etc. within the major chunk of unclassified forests have also caused large-scale degradation of forest resources of Manipur. This has caused heavy loss to forest resulting in the degradation of land and its environment. In spite of all the efforts made and possible measures taken, it has not been possible on the part of Forest Department alone to bring satisfactory results towards protection and sustainable development of the forests in the State. Because of resource constraint the Forest Department is finding it difficult to meet the requirement of the people on a sustained basis and to maintain ecological balance. Thus it is felt that it is the primary responsibility of the Forest Department to develop the forest as a productive unit on a sustained basis while ensuring proper protection, conservation and development of the environment.

For sustainable development and protection of forest, the National Forest Policy of 1988 envisages participation of people. Therefore, it has been considered very essential to evolve people's co-operation in the protection, conservation and development of degraded forests of the state.

In this connection the Ministry of Environment & Forest, Government of India suggested to all the State Governments vide their Circular GNo. 6-12/89-FP dated 1st June 1990 for protection and development of degraded forest areas through the involvement of the local village communities. Further, under letter No. 1-23-91-MML dt. 18/1/91 the Govt. of India instructed all state governments to make statutory provisions to share the usufructs and the biomass between the people in the participating village and the Department.

Following the guidelines, the State Forest Department has taken a decision to develop and manage degraded Reserved and Unclassed Forests with the active participation of the local villagers by constituting Joint Forest Management Committees. Further it has also been decided that with a view to making the efforts a success there should be a sharing of usufructs between the villagers and the Department to meet the requirement of the basic needs in terms of fuel, fodder etc. in lieu of their co-operation subject to fulfilment of conditions provided in the notification. The identified forest areas will be managed in accordance with the prescriptions of a working scheme (Joint Forest Management Plan) to be prepared in consultation with the Committee and duly approved by the concerned circle Conservator of Forests.

2. Procedure for constitution of Joint Forest Management Committee :

Area Selection : The Divisional Forest Officer (Territorial) will select such degraded forest areas where the villagers located nearby are willing to extend their co-operation in the protection and development of forest by constituting a Joint Forest Management Committee.

Constitution of Committee (Joint Forest Management Committee): A Forest Officer not below the rank of Range Officer will convene a general meeting of all villagers in which all adults of the village can participate. After explaining the concept of Joint Forest Management, proposal for constitution of Joint Forest Management Committee for that village may be considered. One member from each family will be nominated as member of the committee. The participation of nominee of 50% families residing in the village will be the quorum of the meeting.

Constitution of Executive Committee :

- (i) Each Joint Forest Management Committee shall have an executive committee to carry out various activities assigned to the Committee as per guidelines/ prescriptions of working scheme (Joint Forest Management Plan) within the scope of the rules. The Executive Committee shall have one year term.
- (ii) The composition of the Executive Committee :— The following persons shall constitute the committee.
 - (a) 9 (nine) elected representatives from the Joint Forest Management Committee of which 3 (three) should be women. Member
 - (b) One member from NGO with proven tract record Member*
 - (c) One Local Teacher – if available Member*
 - (d) Concerned Forester Member Secretary
 - (e) Concerned Forest Guard Member

* In case of non-availability of suitable member, the Divisional Forest Officer shall nominate the same.

The Members of the Executive Committee shall elect the Chairperson in its first meeting. The Committee shall meet at least once in 3 (three) months.

- (iii) Authority to approve the constitution of the Committee :

The concerned Divisional Forest Officer will approve the constitution of the Joint Forest Management Committee and its Executive Committee on the recommendation made by the concerned Range Officer after the members jointly sign an undertaking in the prescribed form with the pledge to perform their duties and functions as detailed in the notification and to entitle themselves for usufructuary benefits.

- (iv) Each Joint Forest Management Committee shall be registered under the Societies Registration Act, 1860.

3. Working Scheme (Joint Forest Management Plan) :

The Divisional Forest Officer with the help of his staff will carry out survey of the resources of the area and socio-economic survey of the village. On the basis of the survey a Joint Forest Management Plan for the forest area shall be prepared. The preparation of the Plan should be through Microplanning process and using PRA techniques. The JFM plan should give adequate emphasis on conservation and protection of unique bio-diversity and ecologically fragile areas. The plan should give details of silvicultural system required for production of fuel wood, thatching grass, fodder, timber and other Non-Timber forest produce on a sustainable basis with appropriate entry point activities wherever necessary. The details regarding the mechanism for distribution of forest produce like firewood, thatching grass among the beneficiaries should also be indicated. The plan should be prepared to manage the forest for a period of 5 (five) years and the same shall be prepared accordingly to suit the local conditions.

The Divisional Forest Officer or any Officer authorised by him will first submit the preliminary plan proposal to the Executive Committee and suggestion or changes if there be any will be discussed and incorporated accordingly.

The draft plan on acceptance by the Executive Committee will be submitted to the Joint Forest Management Committee for their views. The Divisional Forest Officer or his authorised officer will discuss in detail with the Committee and obtain their approval.

4. The Committee to sanction the Plan :

There shall be a committee who will sanction the plan prepared by the Divisional Forest Officer. The constitution of the committee will be as follows :

(i) Conservator of Forests (Territorial)	Chairman
(ii) The concerned Divisional Forest Officer, Working Plan	Member
(iii) The concerned Divisional Forest Officer, Social Forestry	Member
(iv) The concerned Divisional Forest Officer, Soil Conservation	Member
(v) Two Members from the Executive Committee (Nominated by the Committee)	Member
(vi) The Divisional Forest Officer/Territorial	Member Secretary

After approval of the Joint Forest Management Plan by the above committee the normal Working Plan/Management Plan, if any, shall remain suspended in the area(s).

5. Duties of the Joint Forest Management Committee :

- (i) The Executive Committee shall maintain a register of all the members of the Joint Forest Management Committee and record the following information in the register viz., name of the member, father's/husband's name, address, age, number of members in the family etc. Registration of membership will be in the application form duly filled in and approved by the concerned Divisional Forest Officer which should be pasted in the register. Such registers are also to be maintained in the concerned Range Offices of the Forest Department for permanent record.
- (ii) The Committee shall maintain a register wherein proceedings of all the meetings held from time to time and also the proceedings of the general body meeting of the Joint Forest Management Committee will be recorded under the signature of the Chairman of the Committee. The proceedings duly attested by the Chairman will be sent to the Range Forest Officer for record.

- (iii) The Executive Committee shall convene the general body meeting of the Joint Forest Management Committee which should be held once in every year to review the activities of the Executive Committee regarding implementation of different forestry activities as prescribed in the working schemes (Joint Forest Management Plan). The details of distribution of usufructuary benefits are to be discussed in the meeting.
- (iv) The quorum of the meetings of the above Committees shall be treated as complete if 50 per cent of the members are present in the meeting, of which at least half should be women.

6. **Functions :**

- (a)
 - (i) To ensure protection of forest(s)/plantation(s) through members of the Committee;
 - (ii) To protect the said forest(s)/plantation(s) with the members of the Committee;
 - (iii) To inform forest personnel of any person or persons willfully or maliciously damaging the said forest(s)/plantation(s) or commit theft thereon;
 - (iv) To prevent such encroachment, grazing, fire, theft or damage;
 - (v) To apprehend or assist the forest personnel in apprehension of such person or persons committing any of the offences mentioned above.
- (b)
 - (i) To ensure smooth and timely execution of all forestry works taken up in the area under protection by the Committee;
 - (ii) To involve every member of the Committee in the matter of protection of forest(s)/plantation(s) as well as other duties assigned to the Committee;
 - (iii) To assist the concerned forest official in the matter of selecting/engaging of labourers required for forestry works.
- (c)
 - (i) To ensure smooth harvesting of forest produce;
 - (ii) To assist the concerned Forest Official in proper distribution of the earmarked portion (i.e. 30% of the surplus out of the harvest from silvicultural thinning and main felling in case of RF/PF and 60% of the surplus in case of other areas) among the members of the Committee (as per the list maintained by the Executive Committee/Forest Range Officer).
 - (iii) To ensure that usufructuary rights allowed by the Government is not in any way misused by any of the members and forest/plantation sites are kept free from encroachment whatsoever.
- (d)
 - (i) To prevent any activities in contravention of the provisions of Indian Forest Act of 1927 and Rules made thereunder;
 - (ii) To report about activities of particular member which are found prejudicial and detrimental to the interest of particular plantation and/or forest to the concerned Beat Officer/Range Officer;
 - (iii) To assist the Forest Officials to take action or proceed under Indian Forest Act of 1927 and any Acts and Rules made thereunder, against the offenders, including any erring member of the Committee found to be violating the Act or damaging the forest/plantation.

7. Usufructuary Benefits :

- (i) The Committee will have the usufructuary rights provided it discharges its duties and responsibilities under these rules. That is, the members (beneficiaries) will have to protect the forest and manage such forest under natural regeneration for at least 5 years to be eligible for sharing usufruct under the programme. In case of artificial regeneration, the right to usufructs will be in accordance with the Management Plan of the area.
- (ii) The members shall be permitted to collect dead, dry, fallen branches of trees, leaves of fodder, free of cost, but without causing any damage to the forest and plantation.
- (iii) The members shall be entitled, free of cost, to the produce from silvicultural thinning and main felling for their bonafide domestic needs only as may be approved by the Divisional Forest Officer concerned on a formal proposal from the Executive Committee.
- (iv) The surplus out of the harvest from silvicultural thinning and main felling will be shared in the ratio of 30:20:50 among the members, Joint Forest Management fund and the Forest Department in case of JFM in RF/PF and 60:20:20 among members, Joint Forest Management fund and the Forest Department in case of JFM in other areas. (The surplus will be the net receipt of the sale value of the produces less the direct cost of the harvest). The concerned Divisional Forest Officer shall distribute the same to the eligible members in consultation with the concerned Committee upon satisfactory performance of the duties and functions detailed above.

8. Memorandum of Understanding :

A Memorandum of Understanding (as in Appendix) shall be signed between the Joint Forest Management Committee and the Divisional Forest Officer concerned on behalf of the Forest Department.

9. Termination of Membership/Dissolution of Committee, appeal etc. for control on the working of Joint Forest Management Committee :

Violation of any of the above conditions and provisions of Indian Forest Act, 1927 and other relevant rules will be sufficient reasons to cancel the primary membership of a member of the Committee or even to supersede the Joint Forest Management Committee itself. In case of violation, the Divisional Forest Officer (Territorial) shall take appropriate action including dissolution of the Joint Forest Management Committee. The concerned Range Officer may also be delegated with the powers by the concerned Divisional Forest Officer to terminate the membership of a member of the Joint Forest Management Committee. Accordingly the Range Forest Officer on the recommendation of the Executive Committee shall execute the action against the persons violating the conditions.

An appeal against the action of the Range Officer may be preferred to the Divisional Forest Officer (Territorial). An appeal against such penal action by the Divisional Forest Officer may be preferred to the concerned Conservator of Forests. The decision given by the Conservator of Forests would be final and binding on both the parties.

10. **Repeal and Saving :**

The programme under the Joint Forest Management Plan may be reviewed by the Government after 10 years or earlier if the circumstances so warrant.

Sd/- (Saichhuana)
Principal Secretary (Forest & Environment)
Government of Manipur

Memo No. 55/4/95/For (PT)

Dated : Imphal, the 8th June, 2000

Copy to :

1. Secretary to the Chief Minister for kind information of the Hon'ble Chief Minister, Govt. of Manipur.
2. P. S. to the Dy. Chief Minister for kind information of the Hon'ble Dy. Chief Minister, Govt. of Manipur.
3. P. S. to the Minister (Forests & Environment) for kind information of the Hon'ble Minister, (Forest & Environment) Govt. of Manipur.
4. P. S. to all Ministers & State Ministers for kind information of the Hon'ble Ministers & State Ministers, Govt. of Manipur.
5. P. S. to the Chief Secretary, Manipur.
6. The Pr. Chief Conservator of Forests, Manipur.
7. The Chief Conservator of Forests/General/Wildlife.
8. All Conservator of Forests, Govt. of Manipur.
9. All Deputy Commissioners, Govt. of Manipur.
10. All Divisional Forest Officers, Govt. of Manipur.
11. The Director, Printing & Stationery, Govt. of Manipur for favour of Publication in the Extra-ordinary Gazette of Manipur. 10 copies of the publication may please be furnished to the undersigned.
12. Guard File.

(P. Magha Singh)
8.6.2000
Deputy Secretary (Forests & Environment)
Govt. of Manipur

APPENDIX

MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING

1. The Fund for Joint Forest Management shall be channelled through Forest Department, Manipur.
2. The Legal issue for Joint Forest Management areas shall be addressed through the Forest Department.
3. For violation of any of the clauses of the Notification of JFM No. 55/4/95/For (Pt) : dt. 8.6.2000, the provision of Indian Forest Act, 1927 and Manipur Forest Rules, 1971 and other laws of the land shall be applied.
4. The Department shall arrange training of staff involved in Joint Forest Management and members of Joint Forest Management Committee.
5. The Joint Forest Management Committee should ensure protection of forest and plantations areas, checking encroachment, illicit cutting of trees, unauthorised grazing and other destructive activities like fire, thefts of forest produces etc.
6. The Joint Forest Management Committee will inform and assist the forest personnel in checking, detecting and stopping of attempts/acts of forest offences in the form of willfully or maliciously damaging the forest/plantations or committing theft.
7. The Joint Forest Management Committee will ensure smooth and timely execution of all forestry works taken up in the area under protection by the committee.
8. The Joint Forest Management Committee should report the activities of any beneficiary member found prejudicial or/and detrimental to the interest of the plantations/forests to the concerned Range Officer/Beat Officer for legal recourse.
9. The Committee shall not claim ownership or lease right over the Reserved Forests or Protected Forests.
10. The Committee shall assist the Forest Department in regeneration and protection of Joint Forest Management areas.
11. No Committee member shall acquire any right over the Reserved Forests or Protected Forests, Joint Forest Management areas and authority of giving or allowing any other persons to cut trees and/or graze.
12. No horticulture, agriculture or any other activities not related to forestry shall be permitted inside the forest area entrusted to the Committee.

13. The Committee shall not acquire any right for cutting of trees at their will. The harvesting of the crop shall be in the form of thinning, collecting dry leaves, green leaves, final felling etc. as mentioned in the management plan.
14. The usufruct shall be shared at 30:20:50 in case of Reserved Forests & Protected Forests and 60:20:20 in case of other forest areas among the beneficiary members, Joint Forest Management fund and Forest Department, respectively.
15. The Joint Forest Management Fund shall be managed by the Joint Forest Management Committee only for Joint Forest Management purposes.
16. The N.G.O. members shall not be entitled to any benefit from this scheme as their services shall be purely voluntary.
17. The Committee shall ensure protection of wildlife in Joint Forest Management areas.
18. All Clauses of Notification for Joint Forest Management No. 55/4/95/For (Pt) dt. 8.6.2000 and any amendment made thereafter shall be observed in letter and spirit by the Committee.

Witnesses

1.

2.

i. Signature of the Chairman,
Executive Committee/JFMC

ii. Signature of the Member,
Executive Committee/JFMC

Place :

Date :

1. Signature of DFO

3.8.4 Meghalaya

**GOVERNMENT OF MEGHALAYA
FOREST & ENVIRONMENT DEPARTMENT**

NOTIFICATION

No. FOR. 64/99/186

Dated : Shillong, the 9th September 2003

JOINT FOREST MANAGEMENT (JFM) IN MEGHALAYA

Whereas the Government of Meghalaya is concerned about the degradation of forests and forest ecosystems in the State due to unsustainable biotic pressure;

And whereas, the State Government aims to halt the degradation of forests in the State and improve these by protecting the existing forests and undertaking forest based resource development programmes and restocking the degraded forests;

And whereas the State Government feels that active participation and involvement of the people is essential for protection of existing forests and successful implementation of afforestation and aided regeneration schemes and forest based resource development programmes;

And whereas the management of forests and wild bio-diversity areas needs to be improved;

Now, therefore, the Governor of Meghalaya, in consultation with the Jaintia Hills Autonomous District Council, Khasi Hills Autonomous District Council and Garo Hills Autonomous District Council, is pleased to announce the implementation of 'Joint Forest Management' (JFM) in the State as per the following directives :

1. OBJECTIVES OF JOINT FOREST MANAGEMENT (JFM)

- (i) To elicit the active participation of local communities for regeneration of degraded forests in their neighbourhood by undertaking afforestation, aided natural regeneration and conservation of wild bio-diversity.
- (ii) To involve local communities in improving the environment in the State and the Country.
- (iii) To elicit and ensure the co-operation of local population to halt declining trend in the forest cover and degradation of ecosystems.
- (iv) To ensure proper synergy between the technical expertise & infrastructure of the Forest & Environment Department and traditional knowledge and untapped human resource of local tribal communities to ensure conservation of wild bio-diverse resources as well as to expand forest cover in the State by undertaking afforestation/regeneration programme on barren and degraded lands.

2. AREAS TO BE COVERED UNDER JOINT FOREST MANAGEMENT

- (i) Degraded forest areas including those owned by communities, clans and individuals.
- (ii) Any other land which has ecological significance or which needs management intervention on ecological/environmental considerations.

3. TYPES OF WORK PROPOSED TO BE EXECUTED THROUGH JOINT FOREST MANAGEMENT

- (i) Artificial regeneration to be undertaken on barren lands existing in the State.
- (ii) Aided natural regeneration measures to be undertaken for restocking of degraded forests.
- (iii) Forest & wildlife protection.
- (iv) Various entry point activities to elicit and ensure continued co-operation between local communities and Forest & Environment Department/Autonomous District Councils. Such activities may include creation of community assets like roads and culverts, water harvesting structures, sheds for schools and community halls etc. and the total expenditure on these shall not exceed the norms prescribed in the scheme/work concerned.
- (v) Any other work including that related to protection of environment and management of ecosystems, which may be assigned by Forest Authorities of the State Government and the Autonomous District Councils.

4. CONSTITUTION OF JOINT FOREST MANAGEMENT COMMITTEES (JFMC)

- (i) A Joint Forest Management Committee (JFMC) shall be constituted in a village or group of villages where a JFM Project or Scheme is to be undertaken, by the Divisional Forest Officer/Autonomous District Council concerned.

- (ii) The JFMC shall consist of the following :

- (a) General Body (GB) :

Consisting of one adult member from each household. The GB shall elect a Chairman and a Vice-Chairman from amongst its members.

- (b) Executive Committee (EC) :

The Executive Committee shall consist of a Chairman, a Vice-Chairman and 7 (seven) other members, 5 (five) of whom shall be elected by the General Body from amongst its members. The Chairman and Vice-Chairman of the GB shall function as Chairman and Vice-Chairman of the EC also. One more member shall be nominated by the autonomous district Council concerned who shall be the ex-officio Joint Secretary. Another member to the Executive Committee shall be nominated by the State Forest Department of a rank not below a Forester, who shall act as the Member Secretary of the Executive Committee as well as the Secretary of the GB. The Member Secretary, EC shall maintain financial records of the JFMC.

Provided further that every effort shall be made to ensure adequate representation of women in the General Body as well as the Executive Committee.

- (iii) The term of office of the Chairman and other elected members shall be for a period of 2 (two) years subject to satisfactory performance.

Any elected member including Chairman and Vice-Chairman may be removed from their office by passing a resolution by a simple majority by the members of the General Body. The vacancy so caused shall be filled up by fresh elections from the General Body.

- (iv) The JFMC for a village shall be named after the village of its origin e.g. JFMC constituted for the village Nartiang, shall be named as the JFMC-Nartiang. However, if due to small size of villages or for any other reason it is more convenient to constitute a single JFMC for two or more villages, it may be so constituted, provided there is a general consensus among the villagers concerned. In such a case its name shall bear the names of all such villages or some other suitable name, as may be decided by the General Body.
- (v) A savings bank account shall be opened in the name of each Committee. Such account shall be operated jointly by the Chairman and the Member-Secretary of the Executive Committee. All amounts provided to the JFMC shall be deposited into such account. Also other receipts in connection with JFM shall be deposited into this account.
- (vi) The Chairman and the Member-Secretary of the Executive Committee shall be jointly responsible for disbursement of any sum drawn from the account in respect of approved projects being implemented in the Village. The Member-Secretary shall maintain records of such transactions made as per standard procedures of accounts and book-keeping.

5. JURISDICTION OF THE JOINT FOREST MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

The Territorial Jurisdiction of the Joint Forest Management Committee of a Village shall be limited to the territorial limits of the village(s) for which it has been constituted.

Once a JFMC is constituted for a particular village or a group of villages, all subsequent Joint Forest Management work within that village or group of villages, as the case may be, shall be undertaken by that JFMC only, unless directed otherwise by the Principal Chief Conservator of Forests.

6. DUTIES AND FUNCTIONS OF THE GENERAL BODY, JOINT FOREST MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

- (i) To help select specific plot(s)/tract(s) of land for undertaking afforestation work, aided natural regeneration and biodiversity conservation activities under the JFM.
- (ii) To suggest appropriate entry point activities to be taken up in the area under the JFM.
- (iii) To suggest the kind of species to be planted in plantations proposed to be raised in forestry schemes for the village(s).
- (iv) To offer suggestions in preparation of the Working Plan/Working Scheme to be prepared for the JFM areas by the Forest & Environment Department or Autonomous District Councils.

- (v) To protect the afforestation/regeneration and conservation efforts in ecologically/environmentally sensitive regions in the JFM areas from fire, grazing, illegal and unauthorised exploitation etc.
- (vi) To fix the rate and extent of fines/punishment, which may be imposed by the Executive Committee under any law for the time being in force, on any person, who has committed any offence in the JFM areas.
- (vii) To elect the Chairman and the Members of the Executive Committee, JFMC.
- (viii) To remove the Chairman or any other elected Member of the Executive Committee whose performance is found to be unsatisfactory.
- (ix) To discuss and approve the formula and procedure to be adopted for sharing of usufructs amongst the Members of the JFMC as authorized share from the returns from the JFM area.
- (x) To authorize the Chairman, Executive Committee to execute legal agreements in connection with the JFM activities.
- (xi) To terminate membership of any person who is found to have committed a prohibited act in connection with the JFM activities, by passing a resolution in this regard by a simple majority of the Members present and voting.
- (xii) To admit new Members to the General Body to take care of the increase in the number of households in the village due to partition of joint families migration from outside or any other reason.

7. DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES OF EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE, JOINT FOREST MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

- (i) To represent the Joint Forest Management Committee and enter into agreement with the Forest & Environment Department/Autonomous District Councils or other bodies.
- (ii) To ensure proper and up-to-date maintenance of various records, registers etc., as prescribed under these guidelines.
- (iii) To assign fire protection as well as other protection duties to the Members of the JFMC from time to time to ensure protection of the JFM area.
- (iv) To arrange and oversee the distribution of usufructs harvested from the JFM area among members of the JFMC as per the usufruct sharing mechanism specified by the General Body.
- (v) To pass orders imposing penalty/fine on any member(s) of the JFMC, under any law for the time being in force, who is found to have committed a prohibited act in connection with the JFM activities.
- (vi) To initiate measures to terminate membership of any member of the GB, JFMC who is found to have committed a prohibited act of grave nature in connection with the JFM activities. This may be done by the Chairman, Executive Committee by moving a resolution in the General Body.
- (vii) To execute work/activities entrusted to the JFMC.

8. RECORDS/REGISTERS TO BE MAINTAINED

- (i) Register of Membership for the General Body.
- (ii) Minute books, separately for the General Body and the Executive Committee.
- (iii) Cash Book.
- (iv) Register of the usufructs shared between members.
- (v) Register of the fine(s)/penalty imposed on the members and collected.
- (vi) Register of the plot(s)/tract(s) of land under the JFM.
- (vii) Register of other activities undertaken by/through the JFMC.
- (viii) Any other record prescribed and relevant to the project.

Maintaining and updating of these registers and records, shall be the duty of the Member-Secretary, EC, JFMC. These registers shall be kept in the custody of the Member-Secretary, Executive Committee JFMC. During any meeting of the General Body or the Executive Committee these Registers/Records shall be made available to the members for inspection/scrutiny. However, on other days also these Registers/Records can be inspected by any member of the Committee at the office of the Member-Secretary.

9. PROCEDURE OF GOVERNING MEETINGS OF GENERAL BODY AND EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE JFMC

(A) Frequency of Meetings

- (i) The General Body shall meet at least once in a year.
- (ii) Extraordinary meeting(s) of the General Body may be convened if not less than 15 members or one-fourth of the members of the General Body, whichever is less, give an advance written notice of at least 30 days to the Chairman, Executive Committee to convene such meeting to decide upon urgent matter(s).
- (iii) Notice to convene a meeting of the General Body, giving date and venue of the meeting shall be issued by the Secretary, GB with the prior approval of the Chairman. Such notice shall be issued at least 15 days before the proposed date of the meeting.
- (iv) The Executive Committee, JFMC shall meet at least once in every quarter.
- (v) Extraordinary meeting(s) of the Executive Committee may be convened if not less than one-third of the total number of members of the Executive Committee, give an advance written notice of at least 15 days to the Chairman, EC to convene such meeting to discuss urgent matter(s).
- (vi) Notice to convene a meeting of the Executive Committee giving the date and the venue of the meeting shall be issued by the Member-Secretary, EC after taking prior approval of the Chairman. Such notice shall be issued at least 15 days before the proposed date of the meeting.

(B) Quorum for a Meeting

- (i) The quorum for a meeting of the General Body shall be not less than one-third of the total membership.
- (ii) In case any meeting of the General Body cannot take place on grounds of lack of quorum a fresh meeting shall be convened within 15 days, for which there shall be a quorum of 15 (fifteen).
- (iii) The quorum for a meeting of the Executive Committee shall be 4 (four) including the Chairman but excluding the Member-Secretary and the Joint Secretary. If both the Chairman and Vice-Chairman are absent, one of the elected member would chair the meeting.
- (iv) In case any meeting of the Executive Committee cannot take place on grounds of lack of quorum, a fresh meeting shall be convened within 7 (seven) days. There shall be no quorum for such meeting, but shall have the presence of the Member-Secretary and at least two elected members. In case both the Chairman and the Vice-Chairman are absent, one of the elected members shall chair the meeting.

(C) Minutes of the Meetings

- (i) Proceedings of each meeting of the General Body/Executive Committee shall be recorded in the Minutes Book and shall be signed by the person chairing the meeting and the Secretary/Member-Secretary.
- (ii) Separate minutes books in the form of bound registers shall be maintained for the meeting of the General Body and the Executive Committee.

10. DISSOLUTION OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE, JOINT FOREST MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE (JFMC)

- (i) If the Divisional Forest Officer concerned feels that the Executive Committee of a Joint Forest Management Committee, constituted within his jurisdiction, is not functioning properly and continued existence of such committee is not in the interest of the community, State or the Country or the concept of JFM, he may move a proposal for its dissolution, to the Principal Chief Conservator of Forests, Meghalaya, through the concerned Conservator of Forests and the Chief Conservator of Forests, giving detailed reasons for the dissolution of such Committee. The Conservator of Forests and the Chief Conservator of Forests would give their opinion on the Divisional Forest Officer's comments before forwarding it to the Principal Chief Conservator of Forests.
- (ii) The Principal Chief Conservator of Forests shall examine the proposal moved by the Divisional Forest Officer along with the remarks of the concerned Conservator of forests, and Chief Conservator of forests and pass an order dissolving the Executive Committee, JFMC, after giving an opportunity to the JFMC to show cause.
- (iii) Within a period of 1 (one) month from passing of an order dissolving an Executive Committee, JFMC, any Member of the Executive Committee may make a petition to the Principal Chief Conservator of forests to review such order. Such petition for review should be made through the concerned divisional Forest Officer.
- (iv) The Principal Chief Conservator of Forests may pass an appropriate order on the review petition within a period of 1 (one) month from the date of receipt of such petition.

11. SHARING OF USUFRUCTS

- (i) The usufructs available and allowed to be shared from a scheme under JFM as per the approved Working Plan/Working Scheme or other Rules shall be shared between the JFMC, the Forest & Environment Department and the Autonomous District Council under whose jurisdiction the JFM area falls.
- (ii) The allowable usufructs shall be among other things, in accordance with the objectives of the afforestation/regeneration/conservation programme of the scheme implemented. These shall be determined by the Government in accordance with the objectives of the Scheme and shall be incorporated in an agreement to be signed by the JFM Committee in this regard. These shall be subject to the statutory payment to the District Council concerned and the State Government.

12. MISCELLANEOUS

- (i) Notwithstanding anything contained elsewhere and irrespective of any usufruct sharing arrangement, any offence committed in respect of any afforestation/regeneration created or protection/conservation activity under JFM, shall be treated as an offence committed under relevant Acts & Rules relating to Forests, Environment & Wildlife.
- (ii) The State Government may make rules, in consultation with the Autonomous District Councils, consistent with these directives, by notifying in the Gazette or issue directions in order to achieve the objectives of the JFM in the State.
- (iii) In case of any dispute as to the interpretation of these Directives, the decision of the State Government shall be final.

*Commissioner & Secretary to Govt. of Meghalaya,
Forest & Environment Department*

3.8.5 Mizoram

GOVERNMENT OF MIZORAM
ENVIRONMENT & FORESTS DEPARTMENT

No. B.11011/36/95-FST

Dated : Aizawl, the 18th Sept/98

NOTIFICATION

Whereas the Government of Mizoram is concerned about the continued degradation of the forest area in the State because of excessive biotic pressure, like illicit fellings, jhuming, fire, encroachment on Government Forests, etc. and whereas the Forest Department has taken up a massive programme for resuscitation of the degraded forests of the State as a whole for concerning the areas into productive forests.

And whereas active participation and involvement of local people are vital for regeneration, maintenance and protection of the aforesaid forests/plantations and successful implementation of afforestation programme as was envisaged in the National Forest Policy, 1988.

And whereas the guidelines suggested by the Government of India, Ministry of Environment & Forests, in their letter No. 6-12/89, dated 1.6.1990 envisaged a Joint participatory forest Management through the involvement of village communities and voluntary agencies towards the planning, protection, regeneration development and management of forest areas and other Government lands degraded due to various biotic pressure.

Now, therefore, the State Government of Mizoram hereby decided to introduce the scheme of "Joint Forest Management" to be implemented jointly by the State Government, Forest Department and the Village Forest Development Committee to be constituted by the Government in accordance with the terms and condition laid down in the Annexure-I.

Sd/-

L. KAWLHMINGTHANGA
Joint Secretary to Govt. of Mizoram
Environment & Forests Department

Copy to :

1. P. S. to Governor, Mizoram
2. P. S. to Chief Minister, Mizoram
3. P. S. to Minister/Minister of State
4. P. S. to C. S. Mizoram
5. All Commissioner/Secretaries
6. Deputy Inspector General of Forests (FP) with reference to his letter F. No. 6-21/89-FP(Pt) dated 18.3.1996.
7. Principal Chief Conservator of Forests, Mizoram with reference to his letter No.
8. All Head of Departments.
9. All Conservator of Forests/Chief Wildlife Warden Mizoram
10. All Divisional Forest Officers
11. Controller, Printing & Stationery, Mizoram with 7 spare copies for publication in the Official Gazette
12. Guard file

Sd/-
LIANZUALA
*Under Secretary to Govt. of Mizoram
Environment & Forests Department*

ANNEXURE - I

The procedure for constitution of the Village Forest Development Committee, duties and functions, the mechanism of sharing of produce and other modalities of the committee shall be as follows :

1. CONSTITUTION OF VILLAGE FOREST DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

The Range Officer will contact the local villagers and convene a public meeting in consultation with the President of the Village Council and Non-Government Organisation like YMA and MHIP. The meeting shall be presided over by the Range Officer and shall elect a minute Secretary from amongst themselves for the purpose of recording minute of the meeting. Name of all the persons who attended the meeting shall be recorded in the minute book.

The RO shall explain various aspects of Joint Forest Management to the Villagers who attended the meeting. In case, a minimum of 50% of the households in the village agree to the proposal, a village Forest Development Committee will be constituted in the meeting. All persons who are willing to become a member of the Village Forest Development Committee to be known as General Body shall be registered in the Minute book as Member of VFDC or General Body. A resolution for the constitution of VFDC or General Body shall be adopted in the meeting and recorded in the minute book under the signature of the Chairman and the minute Secretary. The minute Secretary shall cease to function as such after the meeting is over.

The Resolution so adopted by the meeting shall be forwarded to the DFO concerned with list of members of the VFDC or General Body for his office record, as per Appendix-I.

Every household living in the village will have the option of becoming member of the committee and each family (household) will be considered as one unit of beneficiary.

2. IDENTIFICATION OF AREAS FOR JOINT FOREST MANAGEMENT

Though in principle, the scheme is applicable to all the forest areas of the State, initially, it will operate in selected degraded forest lands with potential for regeneration through protection measures combined with necessary silvicultural protection measures combined with necessary silvicultural activity. Only such forest areas will be selected where the villagers (local people) show interest in trying Joint Forest Management concept. Forest area less than 50 hectares per village will not be allowed to be managed under JFM scheme.

Initially, the DFO of the selected territorial Division, through his Range Officers, will select the areas suitable for implementing Joint Forest Management. The number of areas to be selected will be intimated by the PCCF.

3. CONSTITUTION OF MANAGING COMMITTEE

Managing Committee (MC) will be constituted by the members of Village Forest Development Committee (VFDC) whose meeting for the purpose shall be presided over by the Village Council President (VCP). A member for each 'Veng' (Locality) will be included in the Managing Committee whose composition will be as follows :

- | | | |
|--|----|--|
| (i) Representative to be elected by VFDC members | - | One from each 'Veng' of the village (Member) |
| (ii) President of the Village Council | -- | Ex-officio Member |
| (iii) Representative to be elected by VFDC members | - | Ex-officio 2 Members |
| (iv) Representative of School/College Teachers | -- | Ex-officio 2 Members (1 each) |
| (v) Beat Officer (Forester/Forest Guard) | -- | Ex-officio 2 Members Secretary |

The term of the Managing Committee will be one year. The Committee will elect its own Chairman and Vice-Chairman amongst themselves.

Constitution of the Village Forest Development Committee and the Managing Committee will be sent to the DFO for approval of the competent authority as per model form prescribed at Appendix-I.

If any inclusion or change in the Committee/Managing Committee is necessitated, after initial constitution, the Managing Committee shall make suitable recommendation to the DFO duly endorsed by the VCPO for approval.

The Beat Officer, as Member-Secretary shall convene the meetings of the Managing Committee as well as Village Forest Development Committee as per scheduled procedure.

4. DUTIES AND FUNCTIONS OF THE MEMBERS OF THE VILLAGE FOREST DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE AND THE MANAGING COMMITTEE

- A. (i) The members of the VFDC as well as that of Managing Committee individually and collectively will ensure protection of the forests against grazing, fire, illicit felling, theft of forest produce and encroachment of forest lands in accordance with the approved Joint Forest Management Plan.
- (ii) It shall be the duty of all members to prevent forest offence and pass on relevant informations and intelligence in this regard to the Managing Committee as well as to the Forest Officials.
- (iii) The members shall actively help the forest officials in apprehending any person committing offence in the forest lands and in giving proper evidence against any such person in the courts of law.
- (iv) The member shall assist the forest officials in carrying out silviculture and other forest improvement works in accordance with the Joint Forest Management Plan.

- (v) The member will strive for creation of awareness about the importance of forests among non-members of the village and other villagers.
- (vi) The members may give advice and suggestions for the successful implementation of the scheme to the concerned Forest Officer.
- (vii) The Village Forest Development Committee will hold an annual general meeting where activities of the Committee as well as details of distribution of usufructory benefits are to be discussed, besides electing representatives of the beneficiaries for the Managing Committee. Such meetings will be presided over by the Chairman of the Managing Committee.

Besides the duties and functions listed above, the Managing Committee also has to ensure discharging the following duties and responsibilities :

- B. (i) Active participation in the preparation of Joint Forest Management Plan.
- (ii) Assigning the duties and responsibilities to the members of the Village Forest Development Committee connected with protection, regeneration and extraction of forest products.
- (iii) Recommending to the RO/DFO against members indulging in acts against forest laws or sound principles of forest conservation or village interest debarring them from the committee.
- (iv) Assigning share of usufruct among its members either equitably or lesser to a member, if he has not discharged his duties and responsibilities assigned to him.
- (v) Regulating grazing or collection of forest produce from a specified portion of the area.
- (vi) Priorities requests and advice examining the urgency of the needs of individual members, and setting apart the products for self consumption in case of shortage of supply against demand.
- (vii) Resolution of doubts and issues in respect of usufruct rights between individual members.
- (viii) The members of the Managing Committee shall have the powers to check and apprehend those indulging in activities which are in contravention of the Mizoram (Forest) Act, 1995/Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972/Forest Conservation Act, 1980 of the Government of India and hand them over to the Forest Officers along with the forest produce, tools and vehicles, if any, used in commission of the offence for taking further action.
- (ix) The Managing Committee shall have powers to seize wood illegally cut inside the forest area and the Committee will levy fine for unauthorised felling and grazing as per instructions issued by the Government from time to time. The fine so collected shall be credited to the 'Village Forest Development Fund'.

- (x) The Managing Committee shall maintain a register showing necessary particulars of beneficiaries/Members e.g. name, father's name, age, address, number of family members, name of representative of a family, etc. Such Registers are also to be maintained in the office of the concerned RO for record.
- (xi) The Managing Committee shall maintain a 'minute book' wherein proceedings of the meetings of the Managing Committee as well as that of the annual meeting of general body will be recorded under the signature of the Chairman of the Managing Committee and such minutes duly attested shall be sent to the RO for record.
- (xii) The Member-Secretary i.e. Beat Officer (Forester/Forest Guard) shall maintain all records together with the cash book and other accounts of the committee. The account shall be approved by the Managing Committee and place before the meeting of the general body once every year. The Range Officer shall scrutinize the accounts of the Committee and Village Forest Development fund at least once in every three months and if any irregularity is noticed the same shall be reported to the concerned DFO for appropriate necessary action.
- (xiii) Complete physical account of all works taken up and all expenditure incurred including the details of forest produce permitted to be collected free, shall be kept by the committee. The details of timber, etc. sold together with the names of beneficiaries shall also be maintained. All such details shall be submitted to the RO in prescribed form every month.
- (xiv) Other modalities for the functioning of the Managing Committee and Village Forest Development Committee shall be governed by instructions issued by the Government from time to time.
- (xv) The Managing Committee shall meet at least once in three months and the meeting shall be convened by the Member-Secretary.
- (xvi) The quorum for the meetings of the Managing Committee and the Village Forest Development Committee shall be not less than one third of the total number of members.

5. TERMINATION OF MEMBERSHIP, DISSOLUTION OF THE COMMITTEE ETC.

- (i) If any member of the Managing Committee fails to attend three consecutive meetings of the committee, he shall be removed from the membership of the committee by the Range Officer concerned on the recommendation of the Member-Secretary, after giving the member concerned an opportunity of being heard.
- (ii) The Range Officer is empowered to disqualify any member of the committee permanently or for a specified period, if it is found necessary to do so in the interest of proper maintenance of the forest or other assigned areas and/or in the interest of the proper functioning of the committee.

- (iii) If a member of the Committee is found guilty of any forest offence by the government or other authority concerned, he/she shall automatically cease to be a member of the Village Forest Development Committee for lifetime.
- (iv) If the committee fails to function properly, or if there are instance of financial irregularities, misappropriation or violation of any rules and regulations stipulated thereon, the DFO concerned can supersede and dissolve the committee on the recommendation in writing of the Member-Secretary/RO/ACF without paying any compensation for any work that might have been done prior to such supersession.
- (v) Appeal against any penal action by the Range Officer under clause 5(i) & 5(ii) above may be preferred to the concerned DFO through the Chairman of the Committee VCP.
- (vi) Appeal against any such penal action by the DFO may be preferred to the concerned CF whose decision shall be final.
- (vii) If there is any confusion or deadlock on any issue, the matter shall be referred to the PCCF (through the CF concerned) whose direction/decision shall be binding on the Village Forest Development Committee.

6. DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES OF GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS

- (i) There should be conscious attempt to ensure that the benefits from JFM areas go to the people as the responsible and honourable partner in forest management and related activities.
- (ii) The problems arising from the interaction between the Village Forest Department Committee, between members of the same village forest development committee and the villagers outside village Forest Development Committee, should be arbitrated by the RO/ACF/DFO as early as possible.
- (iii) Leadership of senior officers of the Forest Department to provide clear, coherent, and unambiguous guidance and frequent site visits will be crucial for the success of the scheme.
- (iv) An integrated approach and interest shown by different department like Revenue, Agriculture, Horticulture, Forests, Animal Husbandry, Sericulture will be useful to make the scheme successful.
- (v) Officers of Forest Department will have the freedom to attend the meetings of the Committee, to participate in their discussion and render advice.
- (vi) The areas other than forest land to be handed over to the AFDC for Joint Forest Management shall be notified as forests under the provision of Mizoram Act, 1955.
- (vii) The DFO will be responsible for preparation of the Joint Forest Management Plan for the forest area providing for the local people's requirements and wishes in the Plan. It will be his responsibility to see that the approved programme as per the JFM plan are properly executed by associating the Managing Committee at each stage.

7. JOINT FOREST MANAGEMENT PLAN

- (i) The DFO will select on priority basis such sensitive degraded area, where the villagers are willing to share their cooperation in protection/planting/regeneration.
- (ii) The DFO/ACF/RO will prepare a JFM plan by carrying out microplanning exercise. The management plan shall aim at sustainable development and will include methods for development of degraded forest areas for sufficient production of fuel wood, timber, fodder, bamboos, etc. for meeting the demand of the local people. Due emphasis will be laid on maintaining the standing biomass in all its diversity. The management plan shall also prescribe the quantities and modalities for removal of forest produce, for procurement and distribution every year. The management plan will be prepared for a period of 10 years.
- (iii) The DFO/ACF/RO will submit the management proposals to the Managing Committee of the VFDC. The prescriptions will be discussed along with suggestions of the Committee, if any. If proposals are required to be amended, it shall be done, after obtaining the approval of the VFDC, the DFO will submit the management plan to the CF concerned who will give his formal acceptance of the execution of the plan.
- (iv) A Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) will be signed by the DFO and Managing Committee of the VFDC for the due performance of the agreed functions of the approved management plan. The model proforma of MoU is given in Appendix-II.

8. FINANCIAL ARRANGEMENT

Government will bear the expenditure to be incurred for implementing the Joint Forest Management plan through Forest Department, financial assistance in the shape of Grant-in-Aid, etc. if any may also be availed of.

9. DISPOSAL OF FOREST PRODUCE AND SHARING

- (i) The beneficiaries shall be entitled to grasses, leaves, fruits, fallen twigs, lops and tops, prunings and fuel wood free of cost from the JFM areas of forests. The committee may work out its own principles and mechanism for equitable distribution of the above forest produces to all the right holders with a view to meeting the needs of the local population.
- (ii) Out of the harvest from silvicultural thinnings and main fellings, the beneficiaries will be entitled to the produce for their bonafide domestic needs on payment of nominal amount as may be approved by the DFO on a formal proposal from the Managing Committee duly recommended by the concerned RO.
- (iii) The surplus out of the harvest from silvicultural thinnings and main fellings after meeting the bonafide domestic needs of the beneficiaries as indicated shall be disposed of under the supervision of the RO through public auction.

- (iv) The proceeds arising from the sale of the forest produce, after deducting all the expenditures incurred on harvesting and auction, shall be shared between the Government, beneficiaries and VFDC in the ratios mentioned below :

50 per cent to the Government to be deposited in 'State Forest Development Fund' to be utilised for development of forests.

30 per cent to the beneficiaries through the VFDC as per rules to be framed for the purpose and

20 per cent to a special fund to be called 'Village Forest Development Fund'. This fund will be operated by the VFDC as per rules to be framed by the Government.

10. VILLAGE FOREST DEVELOPMENT FUND

The fund is to be created on account of each VFDC. The initial expenditure required for opening the account shall be met from the fund provided by the Forest Department in this regard. This shall be operated by the VFDC as per the management plan at Para 7 and also as indicated below. Fines & penalties collected if any, shall be credited to this fund. Beside 20 per cent of the proceeds arising from the sale of the forest produces as stated under clause 9(iv) used only for the development activities of forests as per the approved management plan of the VFDC. In any way, this fund shall not be used for the benefits of the members personally or shared as profits among the members.

The operations of VFDC fund shall be in Joint Account system in the name of the Chairman of Managing Committee of VFDC and the Member-Secretary. However, the maintenance of records and accounts relating to VFDC shall the responsibility of the Member-Secretary as stated in clause 4B(xii).

11. ROLE OF NGOS IN THE JFM

- (i) The Voluntary Agencies/NGOs like YMA and MHIP with proven track record may be involved for motivation and organisation of VFDC for planting, protection, regeneration and development of forest lands and other Government Lands covered under JFM. The Forest Department should take full advantage of the expertise and experience of such voluntary agencies. While drawing management plans the NGOs should also be consulted.
- (ii) The NGOs shall perform all other functions in the ex-officio capacity of the members of the general body and the Managing Committee of the VFDC. The NGOs are not entitled to any benefits accorded under the scheme.
- (iii) NGOs may assist in disseminating the information regarding guidelines/ resolution for community involvement issued by the Government/Forest Department among Village Communities.
- (iv) NGOs can play an effective role of an extension agency between VFDC and Government Department.

APPENDIX-I

APPLICATION FORM FOR CONSTITUTION OF VILLAGE FOREST
DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE FOR JOINT FOREST MANAGEMENT

To

The Divisional Forest Officer

_____ Forest Division

(Through the Forest Range Officer,

_____ Forest Range)

Sub : Constitution of Village Forest Development Committee for Joint Forest
Management – registration regarding.

Dear Sir,

As per Government Notification No. _____ dated _____
we have organised into a Village Forest Development Committee on _____ to
join the scheme of Joint Forest Management. Necessary details/particulars of the
committee and the area to be taken up are as follows :

1. Name of the Committee _____ Village Forest Development
Committee _____ Mizoram.
2. Village _____
3. Forest Beat _____
4. Range _____
5. Total Members _____
6. Details of Office Bearers (Managing Committee)

Sl. No.	Name and Father's Name	Designation
1	2	3

7. Area proposed to be protected and developed _____
(Map to be enclosed)
8. Location of the proposed area _____
9. Boundaries : East - North -
West - South -
10. YMA _____ Branch is pleased to guide and support us in administrative and management aspects.

We hereby undertake to abide by the rules and regulations as prescribed by the said Government Notification and the rules made thereunder or likely to be made in future. We also undertake not to contravene the Mizoram (Forest) Act, 1995, the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 and the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972. In case of failure to comply with any of the conditions laid down in the said Government notification by any of the members of the Committee, the membership of such member may be cancelled and such member may not be allowed any usufructory benefits from the date of termination of his/her membership.

Details of individual members of the VFDC are enclosed herewith.

Yours sincerely,

(_____)

Member-Secretary
Village Forest Development Committee

(_____)

Chairman
Village Forest Development Committee

DETAILS OF THE MEMBERS OF VFDC

Sl. No.	Name of the head of family	Father's/ husband's name	House No.	Age	No. of members in the family	Signature/thumb impression of the member
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
1.						
2.						
3.						
4.						
5.						

(_____)
Member-Secretary
VFDC

(_____)
Chairman
VFDC

APPENDIX-II

MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING

We, the members of the Village Forest Development Committee _____ village do hereby undertake individually to perform the duties and shoulder the responsibilities as detailed in the Government Notification No. _____ dated _____ of the Forest Department, Government of Mizoram, for proper protection and regeneration of the Forest(s)/Plantation(s) assigned to this Committee as per the Schedule given hereunder.

Schedule

1. Name of the Committee :
2. Village :
3. District :
4. Police Station :
5. Location of the land :
6. Beat :
7. Range :
8. Area (in hectare) :
(Map to be attached)
9. Status of the land :
10. Boundary : East - North -
West - South -

We understand that the usufructuary benefits as detailed in the aforesaid Government Notification shall be allowed only upon satisfactory observance of the duties, responsibilities and functions by this Managing Committee and by the members of the VFD Committee as per the aforesaid Notification.

A copy of the aforesaid Notification is annexed herewith duly signed by us on every page is proof/evidence of our having read/understood the same in letter and spirit. It is hereby agreed that this MoU will come into effect from _____.

Members of the Managing Committee

Witness

Name and Address	Signature with date	Name and Address	Signature with date
1	2	3	4
1.		1.	
2.		2.	

LOCAL FOREST OFFICERS

Sl. No.	Name	Designation	Signature
1.		DFO	
2.		ACF	
3.		RO	
4.		Forester	
5.		F/G	

3.8.6 Nagaland

GOVERNMENT OF NAGALAND
DEPARTMENT OF FOREST ECOLOGY & ENVIRONMENT AND WILDLIFE

Dated : Kohima, the 5th March, 1997

NOTIFICATION

No. FOR-153/80(VOL.II) : In conformity with the National Forest Policy of involving the people in the management, development, protection and sharing of forest produce jointly with the State Government and also taking into account the land-holding pattern in Nagaland where execution of any developmental activity is virtually impossible without the prior consent and active cooperation of the land owners concerned, the Governor of Nagaland is pleased to notify the detailed modalities for implementation of the Joint Forest Management programme as below :

1. JOINT FOREST MANAGEMENT

Whereas 88.3% of Forests in Nagaland are owned by villagers and the Government having no control over the felling of the trees in these areas; and whereas the Government is aware of the consequences of uncontrolled tree felling and shifting cultivation leading to serious ecological problems.

Whereas the Forest Department aims at taking up afforestation programme for *regeneration* of degraded Forests with the objectives of converting such areas into "*Productive Forests*" and whereas the *active participation* of the land owners is needed for successful implementation of the programme thereby establishing a "*Resource-based Economy*" for the villagers.

Now, therefore, in order to achieve the objectives of the afforestation programme in consonance with the National Forest Policy the Government has accepted the Joint Forest Management (JFM) with the land owners where Government shall bear the *financial burden of creation* and technical management with the active participation of the land owning communities who shall also be fully responsible for the protection of the plantation so created and the Government shall collect the royalty value at the current rate as its share of the system. The beneficiaries as *member of the participating community* are entitled to the share of the usufructs only on satisfactory observance of the conditions laid down in the JFM resolution and MOU.

2. OBJECTIVE OF THE JFM

- (i) To elicit the active participation of the villagers in (a) creation (b) management and (c) protection of the plantations;
- (ii) To achieve ecological needs consonant with sustainable productive forestry; and
- (iii) To create a wood-based economy for the people.

3. AREAS TO BE COVERED

- (i) Non-Government lands that can be put into use for forestry;
- (ii) Non-Government virgin forests; and
- (iii) Any other land of the state which may be managed under JFM.

4. CONSTITUTION OF WORKING GROUP

A Working Group shall be constituted at the state level at Kohima under the Chairmanship of the Commissioner and Secretary, Forest for implementation of the scheme as hereunder :

- | | |
|---|--------------------|
| 1. Commissioner & Secretary, Forest | – Chairman |
| 2. Home Commissioner or his official representative | – Member |
| 3. Principal Chief Conservator of Forests | – Member-Secretary |
| 4. Chief Conservator of Forests/
Additional Chief Conservator of Forests | – Member |
| 5. Conservator of Forests
(Southern & Northern Circle) | – Member |
| 6. 2 (two) Deputy Conservators of Forests | – Member |

The Working Group shall decide on the administrative and financial procedure for implementation of the scheme and from time to time review the activities of the Community Forest Committee (CFC) at the District level.

5. CONSTITUTION OF VILLAGE LEVEL COMMUNITY FOREST COMMITTEE (CFC)

In order to implement scheme(s) under the JFM, village level Forest Committee called “Community Forest Committee (CFC)” shall be constituted by Government officials concerned and representatives of the members of the land owning community whose appointment/nomination shall be made with the consent of the Village Council concerned. The Constitution of the CFC shall be as follows :

A. Non-Governmental Land :

- | | |
|--|--|
| Chairman (Official) | DFO or Range or Beat Officer having jurisdiction over the area |
| Secretary (Non-official) | From the land owning Community |
| Members
(Officials & Non-officials) | S.D.O. (Civil) or EAC to be appointed as official member by the D.C. having jurisdiction over the area.

Two Non-official members to be nominated by the concerned village authorities from the land owning Community, and

1 (one) Forester/Forest Guards as official member to be appointed by the Chairman. |

The Chairman as the representative of the Department shall have vote power on financial and technical matters for a given project.

B. Government Land :

Chairman (Official)	DFO or concerned Range/Beat Officer
Secretary (Official)	A Forest official appointed by the Chairman
Member (Official & Non-official)	SDO (Civil) EAC to be appointed as official member by the DC having jurisdiction over the area; and 3 (three) Non-official members to be nominated by the concerned village authorities from the participating Community.

6. TERMS OF OFFICE

- (I) Non-official members from the participating community shall be in office for a term of five years, and
- (II) Official members shall be as per designation/appointment made to that effect.

7. MEMBERSHIP FEE

There shall be an annual membership fee of Rs. 20-00 (Rupees twenty) only payable by the members of the participating community.

8. TERMINATION OF MEMBERSHIP AND DISSOLUTION OF COMMITTEE

On the recommendation of the Management Committee, the DFO may terminate the membership of any member. If DFO is satisfied that the CFC is not working satisfactorily, the DFO in consultation with the Village Council may dissolve and reconstitute the CFC in a manner prescribed in foregoing clauses. In case the Management Committee is unable to act or there is a tie, then the decision of the concerned DFO shall be final in all such matters.

9. MEETINGS

The general body, comprising the total participating community plus all concerned officials/non-officials who are members shall meet once in six months and the Management Committee shall meet once in every quarter of a year. The quorum for the Management Committee meetings shall be 75%. In absence of quorum for two successive meetings, the quorum shall be deemed to have been formed with whatever members are present. The minutes of the meetings shall be recorded and circulated amongst all members.

10. ACCOUNT KEEPING

The Management Committee may open a Bank Account of the Committee for deposit of funds collected as membership fee to be jointly operated by the Chairman and Secretary. Funds sanctioned for the Micro Project areas from the Forest Department shall, however, continue to flow from the normal Forest Department's budget and as per the normal Government accounting procedures and systems.

11. PROCEDURE FOR SITE SELECTION

- (i) Non-Government land : The land owning community shall, with recommendation of the concerned Village Council, apply for the JFM scheme(s) through the DFO and the DFO shall send the recommended cases to the CF who shall finalise the selection of JFM Project sites.
- (ii) Government land : All JFM proposals shall be taken only after prior approval of PCCF/Govt.

12. CRITERIA FOR SELECTION OF SITE

The sites with the following conditions shall be preferred to others :

- (i) The area must be at least 30 ha (compact).
- (ii) Preferably above National High Ways, followed by State High Ways, then village Roads and any other Truckable road.
- (iii) Community lands to be given priority over individuals.

13. DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE CFC

- (i) To ensure the fulfilment of the objectives of JFM.
- (ii) To keep the activities of the CFC in records.
- (iii) To ensure protection of the JFM Forests.

14. MAINTENANCE OF PLANTATION JOURNAL

The Range/Beat Officer shall maintain a plantation Journal under the supervision and control of concerned DFO which will follow the format of the Forest Department Plantation Journal.

15. TRAINING

Training shall be imparted to low and middle level forest officers, village communities and NGOs from time to time as and whenever necessary.

16. MANAGEMENT PLAN FOR THE SELECTED AREA

A working scheme (hereinafter called Joint Forest Management Plan) will be prepared by the DFO and the Range Officers of the respective ranges after carrying out a Microplanning exercise which shall finally be approved by concerned CF and the selected site will be worked in accordance with this Management Plan. Such working scheme will remain operative for a period of 5 years and revised after that.

17. BENEFIT USUFRUCT SHARING

A. On Government Land :

The Forest Department shall be the funding agency and shall realise royalty from the harvest at the rate current at that time. The land owner shall not utilise such areas for any other purpose other than forestry.

B. On Non-Government Land :

The Forest Department shall be the funding agency for all the forestry works and shall have 80% of the produce of the forest and the remaining 20% shall be given to the participating community. Extraction of NTFPs will be regulated as per Forest Act and Rules in force. The area covered under JFM shall under no circumstances be allowed for quarrying or any other activities which go against the interest of the Joint Forest Management.

18. TERMS OF AGREEMENT

Detailed terms of Agreement/MoU (as per proforma annexed) shall be approved by the Law Department.

19. BREACH OF TERMS

In event of participating community causing damage to the plantation deliberately or resorting to activities which go against the interest, spirit and objectives of the JFM, funding by the Department shall be discontinued forthwith besides other appropriate legal actions.

In case of Government land, the matter shall be dealt with as per relevant sections of Nagaland Forest Act, 1968 and other legal provisions in force besides forfeiture of any claims of usufruct-share.

MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING

We the members of _____ do hereby undertake to perform the duties applicable and functions as detailed in the Resolution No. _____ dated _____ of the Forest Department, Government of Nagaland for protection and management of Forest Plantation(s) assigned to this Committee as per the schedule given hereunder :

Schedule

1. Name of CFC :
2. District/Division :
3. Forest Range/Beat :
4. Police Station :
5. Status of the Land :
6. Area in ha. :
7. Boundary : East - North -
West - South -

We further undertake that the usufruct sharing as detailed in the aforesaid Resolution dated _____ shall be allowed only on satisfactory observance of the duties and functions by this committee and the members of the participating community as per the aforesaid Resolution.

A copy of the aforesaid Resolution is annexed herewith duly signed by us on every page in proof/evidence of our having read/understood the same in letter and spirit.

Signature of the CFC

Signature of Witness

*Name and Designation
of the Local Forest Officers*

Signature

Sd/-
THEP FULHOVI ANGAMI
Commissioner & Secretary to Govt. of Nagaland

Copy to :

1. The Secretary to the Government of India, Ministry of Environment and Forests, Paryavaran Bhavan, C.G.O. Complex, Lodhi Road, New Delhi – 110003.
2. The Deputy Inspector General of Forests, Govt. of India, Ministry of Environment and Forests, Department of Environment and Forests and Wildlife, Paryavaran Bhavan, C.G.O. Complex, Lodhi Road, New Delhi – 110003.
3. The Sr. P. S. to Minister (Forests), Nagaland, Kohima.
4. The Principal Chief Conservator of Forests, Nagaland, Kohima.
5. The Home Commissioner, Nagaland, Kohima.
6. The Chief Wildlife Warden/Additional CCF (W.L.), Nagaland, Dimapur.
7. The Conservator of Forests, Southern Territorial Circle/Northern Territorial Circle, Kohima.
8. The C.F. Functional Circle, Dimapur.
9. The Wildlife Preservation Officer, Dimapur.
10. The Forest Utilisation Officer, Dimapur.
11. The Working Plan Officer, Kohima.
12. The Silviculturist, Silviculture Division, Kohima.
13. All D.F.Os in Nagaland.
14. The Principal, Forest Training School, Dimapur.
15. All D.Cs/Addl. D.Cs/SDO(C) in Nagaland.
16. The Director, Printing and Stationery, Nagaland, Kohima for publication in the next issue of the Gazette.
17. Guard file.

(SANJAY KUMAR)
Deputy Secretary
Nagaland

3.8.7 Tripura

TRIPURA RESOLUTION ON JFM

Resolution No. F17(140)For-Dev/90-91/470-30-529

Dt : Agartala, the 20th Dec., 1991

Whereas the Government of Tripura is concerned about the continued degradation of the forest area in the State because of excessive biotic pressure, especially grazing and removal of firewood and timber, jhuming etc. and whereas the Forest Department has taken up a massive programme for regeneration of aforesaid degraded forests with the objective of converting the areas into productive forests.

Whereas active participation and involvement of local people are vital for regeneration, maintenance and protection of the aforesaid forests/plantations and successful implementation of the programme.

Now, therefore, the Governor is pleased to decide that Forest Protection and Regeneration Committee (FPRC) shall be constituted for this purpose and beneficiaries acting as members of such committees, shall be allowed as a measure of incentive, usufructs defined here-in-after in Para 4 subject to observance of the conditions provided in this Resolution. The selected site shall be worked in accordance with a working scheme prepared in consultation with the beneficiaries and duly approved by the concerned circle Conservator of Forests.

The area under the protection of such Committees may usually be limited to 5 ha. per beneficiary for natural regeneration and 2 ha. for intensive planing. A unit may be usually 500 ha. for natural regeneration and 300 ha. for artificial regeneration so as to ensure effective protection and management. The cost of regeneration and maintenance of the degraded forests and allied development works as per the approved scheme shall be borne by the Government.

The composition, duties and functions and the usufructuary benefits and restrictive measures pertaining to such committees shall be as follows :

Composition

1. (i) The Divisional Forest Officers shall select the beneficiaries for constitution of the Forest Protection and Regeneration Committee(s), within their respective jurisdictions and within the framework of this Resolution.
- (ii) The beneficiaries shall be selected from rural poor people of homogeneous group living in the vicinity of the forests concerned. Each family will be considered as one unit of beneficiary and only those families who have at least one wage earner in the family will be eligible for becoming members of such committee.
- (iii) Each Forest Protection and Regeneration Committee shall have an Executive Committee to carry out the various activities assigned to the Forest Protection and Regeneration Committee.

- (iv) The composition of the Executive Committee shall be as follows :
 - (a) Elected representatives of beneficiaries (not exceeding 5) _____ members.
 - (b) Concerned Beat Officer _____ Member-Secretary. The members of the Executive Committee shall elect the Chairperson at each meeting.
- (v) Constitution of the Forest Protection and Regeneration Committee including Executive Committee will be approved by the Divisional Forest Officer concerned on the recommendation of the concerned Range Officer after the members jointly sign an undertaking in the prescribed form with the pledge to perform the duties and functions as detailed in this Resolution to entitle themselves for usufructuary benefits as per the Resolution.
- (vi) The Concerned Divisional Forest Officer will monitor, supervise and review the functions of the Forest Protection and Regeneration Committee.
- (vii) If any inclusion of change in the Committee/Executive Committee is necessitated, after initial constitution, the Executive Committee shall make suitable recommendation to the Divisional Forest Officer concerned duly endorsed by the concerned Range Officer for approval.
- (viii) The Beat Officer, as Member-Secretary shall convene the meetings of the Executive Committee as well as Forest Protection and Regeneration Committee, as per scheduled procedure.
- (ix) The representatives of the beneficiaries for the Executive Committee shall be elected each year in the annual general meeting of the Committee, where the concerned Range Officer shall be the observer.

Duties

2. (i) The Forest Protection and Regeneration Committee shall maintain a register showing necessary particulars of beneficiaries as well as members of the committee, e.g. name, father's name, address, age, number of family members, name of nominees etc. The nomination form duly approved by the Concerned Divisional Forest Officer should be pasted in the register. Such registers are also to be maintained in the Range Offices of the Forest Department for permanent record.
- (ii) The Forest Protection and Regeneration Committee shall maintain "minutes book" wherein proceedings of the meetings of the Executive Committee held from time to time as well as the proceedings of the annual general meeting of the Forest Protection and Regeneration Committee will be recorded under the signature of the Chairperson of the Executive Committee and such minutes duly attested shall be sent to the concerned Range Officer for record.
- (iii) The Forest Protection and Regeneration Committee (to be referred to as Committee hereinafter) shall hold an annual general meeting once every year where activities of the Committee as well as details of distribution of usufructuary benefits are to be discussed, besides electing representatives of the beneficiaries to the Executive Committee.
- (iv) The quorum of the meetings of the above committees shall be treated as complete if 50 per cent of the members are present in the meeting.

Functions

3. (a) (i) To ensure protection of forest(s)/plantation(s) through members of the Committee.
- (ii) To protect the said forest(s)/plantation(s) with the members of the Committees.
- (iii) To inform forest personnel of any person or persons attempting trespass and willfully or maliciously damaging the said forest(s)/plantation(s) commit theft thereon.
- (iv) To prevent such trespass, encroachment, grazing, fire, theft or damage, or use of such lands for agricultural purposes.
- (v) To apprehend or assist the forest personnel in apprehension of such person or persons committing any of the offences mentioned above.
- (b) (i) To ensure smooth and timely execution of all forestry works taken up in the area under protection by the Committee.
- (ii) To involve every member of the Committee in the matter of protection of forest(s)/plantation(s) as well as other duties assigned to the Committee.
- (iii) To assist the concerned forest officials in the matter of selecting/engaging of labourers required for forestry works, mainly from the beneficiaries and their families.
- (c) (i) To ensure smooth harvesting of the forest produce by the Forest Department.
- (ii) To assist the concerned forest officials in proper distribution of the earmarked portion by any of the members and forest/plantation sites are kept free from any encroachment whatsoever.
- (iii) To ensure that usufructuary rights allowed by the Government are not in any way misused by any of the members and forest/plantation site are kept free from any encroachment whatsoever.
- (d) (i) To prevent any activities in contravention of the provisions of Indian Forest Act of 1927 and any other relevant Acts and Rules made thereunder.
- (ii) To report about the activities of a beneficiary or beneficiaries which are found prejudicial and detrimental to the interest of particular plantation(s) and/or forests to the concerned Beat Officer/Range Officer, which may result in cancellation of membership of the erring beneficiary or beneficiaries.
- (iii) To assist the forest officials to take action or proceed under the Indian Forest Act of 1927 and any other relevant Acts and Rules made thereunder, against the offender including any erring member of the Committee found to violating the Act of emerging the forests/ plantations.
- (e) To ensure protection of wildlife in such areas.
- (f) To ensure protection of all forest(s), plantation(s) other than the area taken up for participatory management with the jurisdiction of the respective village/villages from which members for the aforesaid Forest Protection and Regeneration Committees have been drawn, by prevention of trespass, encroachment, grazing, fire, theft or damage, and by generally assisting the forest personnel in their legal functions in prevention of such forest offences and prosecution of offenders.
- (g) To ensure that none of the beneficiaries included under the participatory management programme shall practice jhuming.

Usufructuary Benefits

4. (i) In case of natural regeneration taken up under the scheme the beneficiaries will have to protect the forest for at least 5 years to be eligible for sharing of usufructs under this programme. No such time bar will be applicable for sharing of usufructs. In case of artificial regeneration areas which will be worked according to their silvicultural requirements and as per the approved scheme.
- (ii) The beneficiaries will be permitted to collect minor forest produces, dead and fallen leaves and wood and fodder free of cost without causing any damage to the forest(s)/plantations.
- (iii) Out of the harvest from silvicultural thinning and main felling, the beneficiaries will be entitled to the produce for their bonafide domestic needs as may be approved by the Divisional Forest Officer concerned on a formal proposal from the Executive Committee duly recommended by the concerned Range Officer.
- (iv) The surplus out of the harvest from silvicultural thinnings and main fellings after meeting the bonafide domestic needs of the beneficiaries shall be sold by the Forest Department. The beneficiaries will be entitled to 50 per cent of the net receipts from silvicultural thinnings and from main fellings. The net receipt will mean, the sale value of the produce less the direct cost of harvest. The concerned Divisional Forest Officer shall set apart proportionate amount from the sale proceeds as above and shall distribute the same to the eligible beneficiaries in consultation with the Executive Committee upon satisfactory performance of the duties and functions detailed here-in-before.

Termination of Membership, Dissolution of Committee, Appeal, Etc.

5. (i) Failure to comply with any of the conditions laid down here-in-before as well as contravention of provisions of the Indian Forest Act of 1927, other relevant Acts and/or Rules made thereunder, may entail cancellation of Individual membership and/or dissolution of the Executive/Forest Protection and Regeneration Committee, as the case may be without paying compensation to any one for work that might have been done prior to such cancellation by the officers of the Forest Department as stated below.
- (ii) The concerned Divisional Forest Officer, shall be entitled to take appropriate action, even dissolution of any Executive/Forest Protection and Regeneration Committee, on the grounds stated above, on the recommendation of the concerned Range Officer.
- (iii) The concerned Range Officer may be authorised by the Divisional Forest Officer to take proper action, even termination of an individual membership on the above mentioned grounds, on the recommendation of the Executive Committee of Forest Protection Committee.
- (iv) Appeal against any such penal action by the Range Officer may be preferred to the concerned Divisional Forest Officer.
- (v) Appeal against any such penal action by the Divisional Forest Officer may be preferred to the concerned Circle Conservator of Forests, whose decision shall be final.

The format of the undertaking to be provided by the FPC formed by the community is given below.

MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING

We the members of _____ Forest Protection and Regeneration Committee do hereby undertake to perform the duties and functions as detailed in the Resolution No. _____ dated _____ of the Forest Department, Government of Tripura, for proper protection of the forest(s)/plantation(s) assigned to this Committee as per the Schedule given hereunder :

Schedule

1. Name of Forest Protection and Regeneration Committee :

2. District :

3. Sub-division :

4. Police Station :

5. Mouza :

6. C. S. Plot No.(s) :

7. Status of the land :

8. Area (ha) :

9. Boundary : East - North -
West - South -

We understand that the usufructuary benefits as detailed in the aforesaid resolution dated _____ shall be allowed only upon satisfactory observance of the duties and functions by this committee and the individual beneficiaries as per the aforesaid resolution.

A copy of the aforesaid resolution is annexed herewith duly signed by us on every page is proof/evidence of our having read/understood the same in letter and spirit.

Signature of the Members of the Committee

Signature of Witness

<i>Signature of the Members of the Committee</i>		<i>Signature of Witness</i>	
Name and Address	Signature	Name and Address	Signature
1.		1.	
2.		2.	
3.		3.	
4.		4.	
5.		5.	
6.		6.	

<i>Signature of Local Forest Officer</i>	
Name & Designation	Signature
1.	
2.	
3.	
4.	
5.	
6.	

3.8.8 Revised JFM Resolution of Tripura

No. F. 17-159/For-Dev/97-99
FOREST DEPARTMENT
GOVERNMENT OF TRIPURA
Agartala

Dated : Agartala, the 16th January, 2002

Subject : Revised Resolution on Joint Forest Management in Tripura, 2001.

The Government of Tripura passed its own Resolution No. F.17(140)/For-Dev/90-91/47030-529 dated 20th December, 1991 of the Forest Department, based on the letter of the Government of India dated 1st June, 1990 and for the purpose of active participation and involvement of local communities in development and protection of forests on the basis sharing of usufructs. Now, the Government of India has come out with new guidelines dated 21st February 2000 for strengthening of Joint Forest Management (JFM) Programme. In the light of the new guidelines from the Government of India and on the basis of experience gained in the implementation of JFM in the State, it has become necessary to revise the existing Resolution of 20th December 1991. The text of the Revised Resolution is reproduced below :

“Whereas the Government of Tripura is concerned about the continued degradation of the forest area in the State because of excessive biotic pressure, especially grazing, removal of firewood and timber, *jhuming*, etc. and whereas the Forest Department has taken up a massive programme for protection and regeneration of aforesaid degraded forests with the objectives of ecological maintenance and increase the productivity of diverse forest products.

Whereas active participation and involvement of local people is vital for regeneration, maintenance and protection of aforesaid forests/plantations and successful implementation of the programme.

Now, therefore, the Governor is pleased to decide that Joint Forest Management Committees shall be constituted for this purpose and beneficiaries acting as members of such committees shall be allowed, as a measure of incentive, usufructs defined hereinafter in para 8 subject to observance of the conditions provided in this Resolution. The members shall sign a Memorandum of Understanding with the Forest Department as per proforma in Annexure-I, the selected site shall be worked in accordance with a working scheme to be called a microplan, prepared in consultations with the beneficiaries and duly approved by the concerned circle Conservator of Forests.

As far as possible there shall be separate Joint Forest Management Committee thereafter referred to as JFMC for a Gram Panchayat. However, depending on the socio-economic situation and location and extent of available forest land a joint for two or more Gram Panchayats or two or more JFMCs for one Gram Panchayat may be formed.

1. Forest areas under the management of JFMCs

- 1.1 The JFM programme will normally cover degraded forest area. In such forests the area under a JFMC should be limited to 5 ha per beneficiary for natural regeneration and 2 ha for intensive planting.

- 1.2 The programme may also be extended to good forest (crown density above 40%) areas except in (Protected Area) initially on a pilot basis. The pilot areas may be monitored closely for a few years and based on the feedback and success achieved the programme can be extended further in consultation with the Central Government. Before allowing the good forests on pilot basis, all the degraded forests of that locality should be covered simultaneously.
- 1.3 The extent of good forest areas to be allowed will depend upon the number of village households and should be restricted to a maximum limit of _____ and general limited to 2 km from the village boundary.
- 1.4 In good forest areas, the JFM activities would concentrate on Non-Timber Forest Products (NTFP) management and no alteration should be permitted in the basic silvicultural practices prescribed in the Working Plan.

2. Composition of Committee

- 2.1 The Divisional Forest Officers shall constitute the JFMCs by inducting willing families residing within the jurisdiction of such JFMCs as members (beneficiaries) within their respective territorial jurisdictions and within the framework of this Resolution. Initially, the Forest Range Officer of the area will make a list of all the families. He will then call a meeting of the willing families, in which the quorum shall be at least 50% of the eligible persons in that Gram Panchayat, and will obtain their consent for formation of the JFMC. He will then send the list of the families to the concerned Divisional Forest Officer, who shall scrutinize and review the proposal and shall normally decide within a period of three months whether to constitute the JFMC or to reject it.
- 2.2 Each family within the jurisdiction of the JFMC(s) shall be eligible for becoming a member of that JFMC(s). There shall be double membership for a family, i.e., if husband becomes a member then wife automatically gets included as member and vice versa.
- 2.3 Each JFMC shall have an Executive Committee to carry out the various activities assigned to it. The tenure of such Committee shall be one year after which a fresh Committee will be constituted.
- 2.4 At least 33% members of the Executive Committee shall be women.
- 2.5 The composition of the Executive Committee shall be as follows :
 - (a) Chairperson, Vice-Chairperson and Treasurer.
 - (b) Three members to be elected from among the JFMC members in an Annual General Meeting.
 - (c) Gram Pradhan or any member of local Gram Panchayat(s) as Member.
 - (d) Concerned Beat Officer as Member-Secretary.
- 2.6 The members in an Annual General Body meeting shall elect Chairperson, Vice-Chairperson and Treasurer. The Executive Committee shall have adequate proportional representation of different communities such as Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes, Other Backward Classes and General Castes.

- 2.7 Constitution of the JFMC will be approved by the Divisional Forest Officer concerned.
- 2.8 If any inclusion or change in the Committee, Executive Committee is necessitated, after initial constitution, the Executive Committee shall make suitable recommendation to the Divisional Forest Officer concerned duly recommended by the concerned Range Officer for approval.

3. Working of the JFMC

- 3.1 Meetings : The JFMC must hold at least one General Body meeting in a year where activities of the committee as well as details of distribution of usufructuary benefits are to be discussed. The Beat Officer as Member-Secretary shall convene the meetings of the Executive Committee as and when need arises but minimum one meeting shall be held in two months. The quorum for holding meeting of the Executive Committee shall be 50% of the total members; and minimum of one-third of the women executive members shall be present. The Chairperson or the Member-Secretary may call a special meeting of the General Body if it is so requested by at least one-third of its members.
- 3.2 The members to the Executive Committee shall be elected every year in an Annual General Meeting of the JFMC, where the concerned Range Officer shall be the observer and the local Beat Officer will function as the election officer.
- 3.3 The Chairperson will preside over the General Body and Executive meetings, and in his/her absence the Vice-Chairperson shall discharge this duty. The Chairperson shall also sign documents on behalf of the JFMC. In his/her absence, the Vice-Chairperson shall sign the documents.
- 3.4 The Joint Forest Management Committees shall be registered under the societies Registration Act, 1860 to provide them legal back up.

4. Duties

- 4.1 The JFMC shall maintain a register showing necessary particulars of beneficiaries as well as members of the Executive Committee as per Annexure-II. The nomination forms duly filled in and approved by the concerned Divisional Forest Officer should be pasted in the register. Such registers are also to be maintained in the concerned Range Officers for permanent record.
- 4.2 The JFMC shall maintain a 'minutes book' wherein proceedings of the meetings of the Executive Committee held from time to time as well as the proceedings of the Annual General Meeting of the Committee will be recorded under the signature of the Chairperson of the Executive Committee and such minutes duly attested by the Members of Executive Committee present in the meeting shall be sent to the concerned Range Officer for record and further action.
- 4.3 The Member-Secretary shall be responsible for handling paper works and general correspondences of the JFMC with the department, Non-Governmental Organizations (hereinafter referred to as NGOs), and other agencies.
- 4.4 The Treasurer shall maintain the accounts of the JFMC and present those in meetings of the General Body and the Executive Committee. The funds of the JFMC shall be kept in a bank account in the nearest bank or the post office, to be operated jointly by the Treasurer and the Member-Secretary.

5. Functions

- 5.1 To ensure protection of forest(s) plantation(s) through members of the JFM Committee.
- 5.2 To prevent commission of forest offences including trespass, damage to forest(s)/plantations, encroachment, grazing, fire, theft, etc., by taking prompt and appropriate action.
- 5.3 To ensure smooth and timely execution of all forestry works, mainly with the help of members, taken up the area under protection by the Committee.
- 5.4 To ensure smooth harvesting of the forest produce by the Forest Department and distribution of usufructs among the members.
- 5.5 To ensure that usufructuary right allowed by the Government are not in any way misused by any of the members.
- 5.6 To prevent any activities in contravention of the provisions of Indian Forest Act of 1927, Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980, Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972 and any other relevant Acts and Rules made thereunder, and to assist the forest officials to take action.
- 5.7 To report about the activities of a member(s) which are found prejudicial and detrimental to the interest of particular plantation(s) and/or forests to the concerned Beat Officer/Range Officer, which may result in cancellation of membership of the erring member(s).
- 5.8 To ensure protection of wildlife in such areas.
- 5.9 To ensure that none of the members included under the participatory management programme shall practice *jhuming*.
- 5.10 To develop market for forest products.

6. Preparation of Microplans

- 6.1 A microplan for the areas under Joint Forest Management shall be prepared jointly the Forest Department and the JFMCs taking assistance from the NGOs, if available.
- 6.2 The microplan shall take into account all the important aspects of sustainable management of forest resources, such as biodiversity, sound silvicultural practices, multiple products, effective soil moisture conservation, possibilities on non-forest lands and the needs and aspirations of the local people. Infrastructure Eco-development activities will also be a part of microplan.
- 6.3 The microplan should also focus on value addition and marketing of the forest products particularly the NTFP; and other income generating activities.
- 6.4 The microplan shall dovetail with the Working Plan of the area. In case of new Working Plans, a JFM Overlapping Working Circle should be provided to incorporate broad provisions of microplans. In areas where existing Working Plans are in force (till their revision), for incorporation of microplans in the Working Plans, a special order may be issued by the Principal Chief Conservator of Forests for implementation of the microplans.
- 6.5 The microplans shall be placed before the General Body of the JFMC for discussion and approval. A copy of the microplan will be sent to concerned Panchayat Samity and their representative will be invited to attend the General Body meeting.

7. Role of NGOs

- 7.1 Sincere efforts will be made to involve NGOs with a good track record at all stages of JFM process especially in motivation of people, creating awareness and providing training.
- 7.2 The NGOs shall act as catalyst in the working of JFMCs.

8. Usufructuary Benefits

- 8.1 In case of natural regeneration including Aided Natural Regeneration (ANR) taken up under the scheme, the beneficiaries will have to protect the forest for at least five years to be eligible for sharing the usufructs from thinning and final harvest under this programme. The artificial regeneration areas will be worked according to their silvicultural requirements and as per the approved scheme.
- 8.2 The beneficiaries will be permitted to collect NTFP as per existing rules for extraction of NTFP, dead and fallen leaves and small branches and fodder free of cost without causing any damage to the forest(s)/plantations.
- 8.3 Out of the harvest from silvicultural thinnings (limited to a maximum of one cu. m of timber per family) and main fellings (limited to a maximum of two cu. m of timber per family), the beneficiaries will be entitled to the produce free of cost for their bonafide domestic needs as may be approved by the Divisional Forest Officer concerned on a formal proposal from the Executive Committee duly recommended by the concerned Range Officer.
- 8.4 The surplus out of the harvest from silvicultural thinnings and main fellings after meeting the bonafied domestic needs (as indicated in para 8.3) of the beneficiaries shall be sold by the Forest Deptt. The beneficiaries will be entitled to 50% of the net receipts from silvicultural thinnings and from main fellings. The net receipt will mean, the sale value of the produce less the direct cost of harvest. The concerned Divisional Forest Officer shall set apart proportionate amount from the sale proceeds as above and shall distribute the same to the eligible beneficiaries in consultation with the Executive Committee upon satisfactory performance of the duties hereinbefore.
- 8.5 The NGOs shall not be entitled to any share of the usufructs

9. Termination of Membership, Dissolution of Committee, Appeal, etc.

- 9.1 Failure to comply with any of the conditions laid down here-in-before may be entailed cancellation of individual membership and/or dissolution of the Executive/JFMC, as the case may be, without paying compensation to anyone for work that might have been done prior to such cancellation by the concerned Divisional Forest Officer on the recommendation of the concerned Range Officer.
- 9.2 The concerned Range Officer may be authorized by the Divisional Forest Officer to take proper action even termination of an individual membership on the above mentioned grounds, on the recommendation of the Executive Committee of the JFMC.
- 9.3 Appeal against any such penal action by the Range Officer may be preferred to the concerned Divisional Forest Officer.
- 9.4 Appeal against any such penal action by the Divisional Forest Officer may be preferred to the concerned Circle Conservator of Forests, whose decision shall be final.

10. Miscellaneous

- 10.1 There shall be set up JFM Coordination Committees at the State and District levels. These Committees shall periodically review, solve problems and provide guidance on JFM related matters in the State.
- 10.2 There shall be set up a JFM Consultation Forum of People's representatives, government officials, professionals, NGOs and eminent persons. Such Forum will advise the JFM Coordination Committee on latest trends in social, economic and scientific issues on JFM.
- 10.3 There shall be appointed JFM Nodal Officers at the State, Circle, Division and Range levels. These officers shall be responsible for up-to-date progress of JFM.

The format of the understanding to be provided by the JFMC form by the community is at Annexure-I.

BY ORDER OF THE GOVERNOR

(A. K. Sinha)

Joint Secretary to Government of Tripura

Copy to :

1. The Secretary to the Chief Minister, Tripura for favour of information of the Honourable Chief Minister.
2. The PS to the Minister, Public Works Dept. Agricultural/Forest/Revenue/Rural Development/Cooperative/Education/Fisheries/Food and Civil Supplies/Industries and Commerce/Urban Development/Jail, Tripura for favour of information of Hon'ble Minister.
3. The Secretary to the Government of India, Ministry of Environment and Forests, Paryavaran Bhavan, CGO Complex, Lodhi Road, New Delhi-110003.
4. The Inspector General of Forest and Spl. Secretary to the Government of India, Ministry of Environment of Forests, Paryavaran Bhavan, CGO Complex, Lodhi Road, New Delhi-110003.
5. The Chief Secretary, Tripura.
6. The Accountant General, Tripura, Agartala.
7. The Principal Secretary/Commissioner/Secretary (all).
8. The Principal Chief Conservator of Forests, Tripura.
9. The Director General of Police, PHQ, Tripura, Agartala.
10. The Chief Conservator of Forests, (Dev. & WL) (General), Tripura.

11. The Engineer-in-Chief, Public Works Department, Tripura.
12. The Chief Executive Officer, TTAADC, Tripura.
13. The Managing Director, TFD & PC Limited, Tripura.
14. The District Magistrate and Collector, West/South/Dhalai/North District.
15. The Director, Panchayat Department, Tripura.
16. The Director, Agriculture Department, Tripura.
17. The Director, Fisheries Department, Tripura.
18. The Director, Horticulture Department, Tripura.
19. The Director, Animal Resources Development Department, Tripura.
20. The Director, Health & F.W. Department, Tripura.
21. The Director, Education Department, Tripura.
22. The Director, TRP & PGP Department, Tripura.
23. The Conservator of Forests, Social Forestry, O/o PCCF (Tripura).
24. The Conservator of Forests, Western Circle, Agartala/Southern Circle, Udaipur/
Northern Circle, Komarghat.
25. The Divisional Forest Officer, Sadar/Teliamura/Udaipur/Bagafa/Gumti/Ambassa/
Anu/Kailasahar/Kanchanpur Divisions.
26. The Wildlife Warden, Sepahajala/Trishna Wildlife Sanctuary.
27. The Sub-Divisional Officer (all).
28. The Block Development Officer (all).
29. The Manager, Government Press, Tripura, Agartala for Publication in the next
Tripura Gazette.
30. The Range Officer (all).
31. The Beat Officer (all).
32. Guard File.

(A. K. Sinha)
Joint Secretary to Government of Tripura

Annexure-I

The format of the Understanding to be provided by the JFMC formed by the Community is given below :

MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING

We, the members of the _____ Joint Forest Management Committee do hereby undertake to perform the duties and functions as detailed in the Resolution No. _____ dated _____ of the Forest Department, Government of Tripura, for proper protection of the forest(s)/plantation(s) assigned to this Committee as per the Schedule given hereunder :

Schedule

1. Name of Joint Forest Management Committee :
2. District :
3. Sub-Division :
4. Police Station :
5. Mouja :
6. C. S. Plot No.(s) :
7. Status of the Land :
8. Area (ha) :
9. Boundary : North - South -
East - West -

We understand that the usufructuary benefits as detailed in the aforesaid resolution dated _____ shall be allowed only upon satisfactory observance of the duties and functions by this committee and the individual beneficiaries as per the aforesaid resolution.

A copy of the aforesaid resolution is annexed herewith duly signed by us on every page in proof/evidence of our having read/understood the same in letter and spirit.

Signature of the Members of the Committee

Signature of Witness

Name and Address	Signature	Name and Address	Signature
1.		1.	
2.		2.	
3.		3.	
4.		4.	
5.		5.	
6.		6.	

Signature of Local Forest Officer

Name & Designation	Signature
1.	
2.	
3.	

Annexure-II
NOMINATION FORM

1. Name :

2. Father's Name :

3. Address :

4. Age :

5. Number of family members :

6. Name of Nominee :

7. Relationship with Nominee :

8. Age of Nominee :

9. Profession of Nominee :

3.9 CONSTITUTIONAL PROVISIONS

3.9.1 Fundamental Duties

Till the Constitution (42nd Amendment) Act, 1976, the protection and improvement of environment and safeguard of forest and wildlife were under the Directive Principles (Para IV) of the constitution of India in the form of Article 48A. By virtue of the above amendment a new Article 51A was added under new Part IVA of the constitution titled 'Fundamental Duties'. Item 'g' in the said article, it states that it shall be the duty of every citizen of India 'to protect and improve the natural environment including forest, lakes, rivers and wildlife, and to have compassion for living creatures'.

3.9.2 State List to Concurrent List

Forty-second amendment of the Constitution also transferred two subjects viz., forests and protection of wild animals and birds, from 'State list' to 'Concurrent list' in the seventh schedule thereby authorizing the Parliament as well as state legislatures to enact laws in respect of these subjects.

3.9.3 Special Status of North-East

In North-Eastern India, some of the states enjoy special status and have certain special provisions applicable to each one of them. The constitutional articles governing different states are as follows :

Nagaland	–	Article 371A
Assam	–	Article 371B
Manipur	–	Article 371C
Mizoram	–	Article 371G
Arunachal Pradesh	–	Article 371H

Further Article 244 and 244A of the Constitution specify that provisions of fifth and sixth schedules shall apply to the administration and control of scheduled areas, scheduled tribes and tribal areas including Autonomous District/Regional Councils etc. Autonomous District Councils have been constituted in the states of Assam, Manipur, Meghalaya, Mizoram and Tripura.

3.10 REPORTS OF THE COMMISSIONS INFLUENCING FOREST MANAGEMENT

3.10.1 Royal Commission on Agriculture, 1928

The Royal Commission on Agriculture examined the uses of forest lands for agricultural purposes such as fodder, fuel and timber for the rural population and soil conservation related activities. This Commission pointed out that if the forest area under the management of the forest department were all wooded and evenly distributed it would be sufficient to supply the needs of the agricultural community. Unfortunately, a significant portion of forest area consists of wastelands often entirely devoid of trees. The commission discussed policies relating to (a) the release of land for agriculture and construction of reservoirs, (b) grazing, and (c) provisions of fuel-wood. Its recommendations included the following :

- ★ Land should be freely given for agriculture because 'most of the land was given to the forest department when there was very little demand for agriculture'. The transfer of one million hectare of forest land to agriculture in Punjab is desirable.

- ★ Replacement of grazing by grass cutting is in the interest of both agriculture and forestry. Fees for grazing should be raised. The optimum grazing intensity to maintain quantity and quality of grass should be determined.
- ★ The economic feasibility of establishing plantations for fuel-wood and charcoal should be determined.
- ★ Forest area should be reclassified on the basis of its suitability for (a) good timber, (b) land suitable for fuel plantation including that which needs to be protected on physical ground, and (c) land suitable for development of fodder and the other categories of land should be managed by village panchayats.
- ★ Friendly relations between people and foresters are essential if forests are to be protected.

3.10.2 National Commission on Agriculture, 1976

The National Commission on Agriculture (NCA) pointed out the need for revision of the National Forest Policy keeping two pivotal points in mind. The first point was to meet the requirement of industrial wood, small timber, fuel-wood and fodder for rural community. The second point was the satisfaction of the present and future demands for the protective and recreative functions of the forests. The NCA suggested that the revised National Forest Policy should aim at checking denudation and erosion (including stream bank erosion, sea erosion and wind erosion), as well as maximising forest productivity to meet the demand for industrial wood, fuel-wood and grazing. Its recommendations included the following :

- ★ Forests should have adequate land. Deforestation should not be allowed without the approval of state legislature.
- ★ In protected forests no felling should generally be permitted.
- ★ The basic policy for forests managed primarily for production must be to meet the needs of existing and developing industries.
- ★ Social forests would cover wastelands, panchayat lands, village common lands and land on the sides of roads, canal banks and railway lines which may be brought under forest plantation, shelter belts and mixed forestry. Grass, leaf fodder, fruit trees and fuel-wood trees should also be a part of these forests. It is desirable to create woodlands with irrigation.
- ★ Small timber and fuel-wood should be provided to rural people at a reasonable price.
- ★ Free supply of forest produce to the rural population has delapidated forests. It is necessary to reverse the process. The rural people have not contributed towards the maintenance or regeneration of forests. Having over-exploited the resources, they cannot in all fairness expect that somebody else would take the trouble of providing them forest produce free of charge.

- ★ Given importance of livestock in India's economy, forest grazing should be allowed. Grazing should, however, be controlled and regulated so that it does not interfere with the productive and protective functions of forests. Grazing by goats in forests should be forbidden. Sheep should be allowed only in especially earmarked grasslands.
- ★ All forests under the control of other departments should be transferred to the forest department forthwith.
- ★ Regulation and control of private forests by the states is imperative.

3.10.3 Shukla Commission, 1997

In pursuance of the Prime Minister's announcement of "New Initiatives for the North-Eastern Region", a Commission under the Chairmanship of Shri S. P. Shukla, was set up to :

- ★ Critically examine the backlog in respect of Basic Minimum Services in the seven north-eastern states;
- ★ Critically examine the gaps in important sectors of infrastructure development in the north-eastern region, specially in power, communication, railways, roads, education, agriculture, etc.;
- ★ Suggest policies/programmes and requirements of funds to bridge the gap in Infrastructural Sectors and the backlog in "Basic Minimum Services" in the north-eastern states; and
- ★ Consider any other issue the commission considers relevant for achieving the above objectives.

The recommendations of the Shukla Commissions on the forest related issues include the following :

- ★ The centre should provide authoritative clarification on the legal issue as to who has final authority to permit bonafide diversion of forest land in the north-east.
- ★ The terms of reference of the High Level Committee appointed by the Ministry of Environment and Forests being limited to routine forest conservation strategies, it would be desirable for the Ministry to initiate a larger exercise aimed at producing a suitable north-eastern forest policy within the framework of the National Forest Policy that takes account of the specific ethos, needs and socio-political context of this region. The Government should constitute a body with strong north-eastern and other expert representation to undertake this task within a specific time frame.

3.11 ACTS, RULES AND REGULATIONS RELATED TO FOREST MANAGEMENT

State-specific acts, rules and regulations relating to forests and wildlife management either enacted or adopted in north-eastern region are summarised in Table 3.1.

States	Acts	Rules	District Council Rules and Acts
Arunachal Pradesh	4	2	—
Assam	12	26	2
Manipur	—	2	—
Meghalaya	17	13	2
Mizoram	1	—	2
Nagaland	2	13	—
Tripura	3	3	—

Some of the important Acts, Rules and Regulations which are in force in the country in general and in north-eastern region in particular are listed below :

- ★ Indian Forest Act, 1927
- ★ Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980
- ★ Forest (Conservation) Rules, 1981
- ★ The Cattle Trespass Act, 1871 (1 of 1871)
- ★ The Elephant Preservation Act, 1879 (VI of 1879)
- ★ Indian Fisheries Act, 1897
- ★ Livestock Importation Act, 1898
- ★ Wild Birds and Animals Protection Act, 1912
- ★ Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act, 1960
- ★ Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Rule, 1960
- ★ Prevention of Cruelty (capture of animals) Rules, 1972
- ★ The Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972
- ★ The Wildlife (Transaction and Taxidermy) Rules, 1973

- ★ The Wildlife (Stock declaration) Central Rules, 1973
- ★ The Wildlife (Protection) Licensing (additional matters for consideration) Rules, 1983
- ★ Transport of Animals Rules, 1978
- ★ The Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (Registration of Cattle Premises) Rules, 1978
- ★ Arunachal Pradesh Anchal Forest Reserve, (Constitution and Maintenance) Act, 1975
- ★ Arunachal Pradesh Anchal & Village Forest (Constitution and Maintenance) Amendment Act, 1984
- ★ Arunachal Pradesh (Removal of Timber) (Regulation) Act, 1983
- ★ Assam Forest Regulation, 1891 (Act VII of 1891)
- ★ Forest Protection Force Act, 1986 (Act 22 of 1987)
- ★ Assam Land and Revenue Regulation, 1886
- ★ The Assam Cattle Preservation Act, 1951
- ★ The Assam Acquisition of Land for Flood Control & Prevention of Soil Erosion Act, 1955 (Act 6 of 1955)
- ★ The Garo Hills Regulation, 1882 (Regulation 1 of 1882)
- ★ The Goalpara Tenancy Act, 1928 (Act 1 of 1929)
- ★ The Assam State Acquisition of Zamindary Act, 1951 (Act 18 of 1951)
- ★ The Assam Rhinoceros Preservation Act, 1954 (Act 20 of 1954)
- ★ The Elephant Preservation Act, 1954 (Act 20 of 1954)
- ★ The Elephant Preservation (Assam Amendment) Act, 1959
- ★ The Assam State Acquisition of Land belonging to Religious or Charitable Institutions of Public Nature Act, 1959 (Act 9 of 1961)
- ★ The Assam National Parks Act, 1968 (Act of 1969)
- ★ Manipur Land Revenue and Land Reforms Act, 1960
- ★ Meghalaya Forest Regulation (Application and Amendment) Act, 1973
- ★ Meghalaya Forest (Removal of Timber) Regulation Act, 1981
- ★ Meghalaya Tree Preservation Act, 1976

- ★ Meghalaya Protection of Catchment Areas Act, 1988
- ★ AWIL Fees Act, 1960
- ★ The Bengal Cruelty to Animal Act, 1869
- ★ The Meghalaya Wild Animal and Birds Protection Act, 1971 (Act 9 of 1971)
- ★ Mizoram Forest Act, 1990
- ★ Nagaland Forest Act, 1968
- ★ Nagaland Jhum Land Act, 1970
- ★ Nagaland Village Areas and Regional Council Act, 1970
- ★ Indian Forest Act (Tripura Amendment) 1984, 1986
- ★ Tripura Forest (Regulation of removal of Timber) Act, 1991
- ★ The Tripura Land Revenue and Land Reforms Act, 1960
- ★ Mikir Hills District (Forest) Act, 1957
- ★ Mikir Hills (Jhum) Regulation Act, 1954
- ★ Garo Hill District (Forest) Act, 1960
- ★ The United Khasi and Jaintia Hills Autonomous District (Management and Control of Forest) Act, 1958
- ★ Mizoram (Forest) Act, 1958
- ★ The Pawi Autonomous District (Forest) Act, 1976
- ★ The Lakher District Council Forest Act, 1981

3.12 SCHEMES

3.12.1 Centrally Sponsored Schemes

Four major projects under centrally sponsored plantation schemes of the NAEB during 9th plan were :

1. Integrated Afforestation and Eco-development Project (IAEP)
2. Area Oriented Fuel-wood and Fodder Project (AOFFP)
3. Non-Timber Forest Produce (NTFP)
4. Grant-in-Aid Schemes for NGOs (GIA)

Besides, plantation is an important component in central sector rural development schemes such as :

1. Jawahar Rojgar Yojana (JRY)
2. Rural Landless Employment Guarantee Programme (RLEGP)

National Wastelands Development Board, Ministry of Rural Employment has also the following plantation schemes :

1. Integrated Wastelands Development Programme (IWDP)
2. GIA Schemes for NGOs
3. Minor Forest Product Scheme (MFP).

3.12.2 The NAEB Schemes during 9th plan period

The NAEB Schemes were revised during 1997-98 with reorientation towards :

- (i) People's Participation/JFM in the entire Project
- (ii) Project preparation through PRA/RRA exercises and the preparation of microplans
- (iii) Improved technologies in up to one-tenth of the project area
- (iv) Adequate involvement of technical experts and NGOs in project preparation, implementation, monitoring and evaluation.

In order to facilitate the above, cost norms include adequate funds for :

- (i) Entry Point activity to gain the support of the people.
- (ii) Conduct of PRA/RRA with incentives for use of savings through JFM for community development activities.
- (iii) Appropriate systems for monitoring and evaluation.

The project period allows plantation and maintenance work for five years.

Implementing Agencies

Implementation of the projects under these centrally sponsored schemes are taken up by the State Forest Departments. Autonomous bodies like Forest/Plantation Development Corporation, DRDAs, research institutes and Universities involved in the regeneration of degraded forests could also submit projects and implement them under the guidance of the State Forest Departments. Competent Voluntary Agencies and other registered institutions of the local people could also implement or be involved in implementation of the projects by other implementing agencies. In all projects, NGOs, Panchayats, Zila Parishads, Village Communities etc. are to be associated as far as possible. JFM will be central to all projects. The Forest Department will also render advice and assistance required by autonomous agencies and inspect the work from time to time to ensure that the project is implemented in accordance with the prescribed guidelines.

JFM and Microplanning

JFM is central and integral part of all plantation schemes. The project authorities are given adequate leverage by way of “entry-point activities” and requisite funds for building up awareness amongst communities. There is involvement of gram panchayats or other village level bodies in the selection of the project sites. Such village bodies and local communities would also be involved in project preparation, implementation and usufruct sharing in consonance with provisions of the Forest Conservation Act, 1980 and the JFM guidelines issued in June 1990. The microplan may be drawn up in the early part of project implementation, after full consultation with the local communities. The project proposal must indicate the existing vegetal cover, area and locations proposed to be covered, extent of consultations with the local population during project formulation, mechanism of usufruct sharing and proposed involvement of people during implementation.

Project Area

The watershed/catchment area is preferred. However, clusters of compact blocks can be taken for treatment if the local situation so demands. The minimum area of a compact block in the scheme should not be less than 20 hectares, as far as possible. Project area should be confined mainly to recorded forest land and may be extended to adjoining areas, excluding private lands. For AOFFP, the project will be implemented in the identified fuel-wood deficit districts.

Objectives

A. IAEP

- ★ Regeneration and eco-development of degraded forests and adjoining areas on a watershed basis.
- ★ Augmentation of the availability of wood and non-wood forest products specially fuel-wood, fodder and small timber, honey, fruits, nuts, etc. from the regenerated areas.
- ★ Securing people’s participation in planning and regeneration efforts to ensure their sustainability and equitable distribution of forest products from the regenerated lands.
- ★ Development and extension of technologies for special problem lands like saline/alkaline soils, ravines, desert areas, mined areas, Himalayas, Aravallis and Western Ghats including the application of biotechnology, tissue culture, mycorrhizal inoculation etc.
- ★ Employment generation for the most needy sections of society, particularly those belonging to women, scheduled castes/scheduled tribes and landless rural labourers inhabiting the forests and adjoining areas.
- ★ Checking forest degradation and loss of biodiversity.
- ★ Ecological restoration and environmental conservation and eco-development.
- ★ Fulfilment of the broader objectives of productivity, equity and sustainability for the general good of the people.

B. AOFFP

- ★ Augmenting production of fuel-wood and fodder through regeneration of degraded forests and adjoining lands.
- ★ Promotion of devices/practices which conserve and promote efficient use of fuel-wood.
- ★ Encourage people's participation in planning, implementation and management of Project.

C. NTFP

- ★ Conservation and improvement of the non-timber forest produce, including medicinal plants.
- ★ Increasing the production of and replenishing the stock of non-timber forest produce and medicinal plants.
- ★ Providing additional income to the tribals and the rural poor living in and around forests.

Activities

The activities to be undertaken in respect of various schemes are described below :

A. IAEP

- (i) *In situ* moisture conservation measure like counter furrows, staggered trenches, mulching, box trenches, bench terracing and vegetative barriers etc.
- (ii) Soil and moisture conservation by construction of small scale engineering structures like gully plugging, check dams, toe walls, spurs and torrent control measures, small water harvesting structures including ponds, tanks and such vegetative measures as may be necessary.
- (iii) Planting and sowing of multi-purpose trees, shrubs, grasses and legumes, as well as fodder production and pasture land development including seed and seedling production.
- (iv) Cultural operations like tending, coppicing/pollarding, climber cutting, weed removal, soil working to encourage natural regeneration.
- (v) Promotion of agro-forestry and sericulture etc., as appropriate.
- (vi) Wood substitution and fuel-wood conservation measures etc.
- (vii) Measures needed to disseminate new technology such as mycorrhizal treatment of soils, tissue culture and bio-technology.

B. AOFFP

- (i) *Regeneration of degraded forest lands* : As far as practicable, stress would be laid on natural regeneration of degraded forests by effectively implementing measures necessary to ensure protection and reduction of biotic pressures. Sowing of seeds of tree, shrubs, grasses and leguminous species would be taken up wherever necessary, in order to develop adequate ground cover. In areas where natural regeneration cannot be obtained easily, artificial regeneration by means of sowing seeds and planting seedlings of the tree species including shrubs, legumes and grasses may be taken up to establish multi-tier vegetation of permanent nature.

- (ii) *Pasture development* : Pasture development activities would be undertaken by reseedling, planting grasses and legumes and fertilising degraded and unproductive pastures. In degraded forests, depending upon the nature of existing vegetation and site requirements, silvi-pasture plantations consisting of indigenous species would be raised to augment production of both grasses and leaf fodder. Productivity of such areas would be enhanced by sound management, including technical and scientific inputs. Species of fodder trees and bushes which are amenable to coppicing and pollarding would be given preference in the planting programme.
- (iii) *Soil and moisture conservation* : Soil conservation measures using small scale engineering structures such as check dams, retaining and breast walls, toe walls, spurs and torrent control measures, small water harvesting structures, contour furrows, staggered trenches, box trenches, bench terraces, vegetative barriers, mulches and gully plugs etc. would be undertaken wherever necessary.
- (iv) *Promotional activities* : Activities which promote the use of fuel-wood saving devices like fuel efficient chulhas, solar cookers and heaters, may be funded as component of the scheme.
- (v) *Training activities* : Training of field staff and beneficiaries participating in the project, extension and awareness programme to educate the community about project impact would be included.

C. NTFP

- (i) Plantation of locally and extensively useful species like bamboo, cane etc.
- (ii) Mixed plantation of trees like *Terminalia chebula* (herra), *T. Belarica* (baher), *Emblca officinallis* (amla), *Buchanania lanzam* (char), *Cinnamomum tamala* (tejpata), *Mangifera indica* (am), *Artocarpus hetrophyllus* (kathal), *Azadirachta indica* (neem), etc., by planting polybag raised seedlings. Species which are of economic value and can be further processed for value addition, are promoted.
- (iii) Regeneration of perennial medicinal plants needed for production of medicinal drugs is emphasised.
- (iv) Soil and moisture conservation by construction of check dams, contour furrows, staggered trenches, mulching, box trenches, bench terracing, vegetative measures is taken up under the component of mixed plantation of trees.

Funding Pattern

The IAEP and NTFP schemes are implemented as a centrally sponsored scheme/ central sector scheme for State Government/autonomous bodies, corporation, voluntary agencies, co-operative and other registered institutions to which project may be sanctioned directly by the NAEB with 100% central funding. However, the cost of the AOFFP project would be shared between the Central and State Government on a 50:50 basis. 100% grants are given to the implementing agencies under the Grant-in-Aid Schemes for NGOs.

Technical Extension

All projects will have a component of improved and established new technologies. Projects will earmark not exceeding 10% of the project area for implementing such technologies in the field of nurseries, plantations, etc. For new technologies, the cost norms are enhanced appropriately but not exceeding 25%.

Monitoring and Evaluation

Monitoring and evaluation of projects are done by the NAEB, apart from the monitoring and evaluation done by the State Government. The 1st evaluation is done within 12–24 months of sanction of the project. This would, in particular, ascertain the adequacy of the JFM efforts and the microplanning exercise. The 2nd (mid term) evaluation is conducted in the 4th year and the final evaluation in the last year (5th year) of the project period.

3.12.3 State Schemes

The following State Sponsored Schemes were in operation in the north-eastern states.

ARUNACHAL PRADESH

1. Artificial Plantation Scheme
2. ANR Scheme
3. Social Forestry Scheme
4. Apna Van Scheme
5. Industrial Plantation Scheme
6. Non-Timber Forest Products Scheme
7. Wildlife Scheme

ASSAM

1. Social Forestry General Scheme
2. Tribal Sub-Plan Scheme
3. Special Component Plan for Scheduled Caste
4. Hollong Plywood Scheme
5. Hardwood Plantation Scheme
6. Regeneration Plantation Scheme

MANIPUR

1. Economic Plantation Scheme (Plantation of industrially important species)

MEGHALAYA

1. Forest Nurseries Scheme
2. Social Forestry Scheme
3. Teak Plantation Scheme
4. Plywood Plantation Scheme
5. Salwood Plantation Scheme
6. Critical Catchment Area Plantation Scheme

MIZORAM

1. Quick Growing Species Plantation
2. Economic Plantation Scheme
3. Social Forestry Plantation Scheme
4. National Rural Employment Programme
5. Rural landless Employment Guarantee Programme

NAGALAND

1. Cultural Operation Scheme
2. Survey and Demarcation Scheme
3. Economic Plantation Scheme
4. Quick Growing Species
5. Mixed Plantations Scheme
6. Stabilization of Jhum
7. Rehabilitation of Degraded Forests
8. Afforestation of Ecologically Sensitive Area
9. Distribution of Seedlings
10. Kissan Nursery
11. Minor Forest Produce
12. Intensive Area Plantation
13. Housing Scheme
14. Building Schemes
15. Mixed Plantation

TRIPURA

1. Fast Growing Species Scheme
2. Industrial and Economic Plantation Scheme
3. Social Conservation Scheme
4. Social Forestry Scheme including Farm Forestry
5. Rural Fuel-wood Plantation Scheme
6. Operation Soil Watch Scheme
7. National Rural Employment Programme
8. Rural Landless Employment Guarantee Programme
9. NEC Scheme
10. Autonomous District Council Scheme
11. Forestry Research Scheme
12. Wildlife Scheme.