



**Forestry Extension For
Sustainable Community Forest Management
in Sri Lanka:**

**Prevailing Opportunities,
Remaining Challenges and
Possible Resolutions**

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BACKGROUND



❖ Major community forestry Projects in

Sri Lanka:

- ❖ Community Forestry Project (CFP) in 1982
- ❖ Participatory Forestry Project (PFP) in 1993
- ❖ Small Grants Program for Operations to Promote
Tropical Forests (SGP PTF) in 2004



Community Forestry Approaches



Protective / Community Woodlots



Farmer woodlots



Miscellaneous Plantings



Homestead garden planting

- ★ Community forestry involves changes:
 - Management procedures
 - Technologies
- ★ Communities require knowledge:
 - Decision-making on multiple management options
 - Multiple uses of community forest

★ Community forestry extension:

- Increase knowledge and skills
- Use current, relevant, scientific, experiential, and indigenous knowledge
- Promote sustainable forest management



Objectives

1. To understand prevailing opportunities pertaining to community forestry extension strategies
2. To analyze remaining challenges in implementing community forestry extension services
3. To suggest possible resolutions to promote extension for sustainable community forest management

PREVAILING OPPORTUNITIES



Forestry Extension Service

- ★ National Forestry Extension Program in 1980
- ★ Forestry Extension Service established in 1982
- ★ Community forestry extension work concerned:
 - Forestry, agriculture, energy and environment



Innovations and Technology Development

- ★ CFP in 1982:
 - Established Community Forestry Research Unit
- ★ PFP in 1993:
 - Manuals on Seed management and technology
 - Developed extension aids (videos and pamphlets)
- ★ SGP PTF in 2005 developed:
 - Better harvesting techniques for NTFPs
 - Regeneration techniques for selected species

Education and Training

- ★ CFP -Communication development for FD staff
- ★ PFP -Extension education for FD staff, motivators, and community
- ★ SGP PTF -Entrepreneurship development program for communities



Dissemination of Information and Technology Transfer

- ★ CFP established :
 - Demonstration woodlots
 - Village nurseries
- ★ PFP:
 - Miscellaneous Planting
- ★ SGPPTF:
 - Regular cluster workshops
 - Web-based system



Community Empowerment

* CFP:

- Setup Village Forest Societies (VFS)
 - * Given technical knowledge in seedling production
 - * Trained to act as motivators

* FRMSP:

- Improved skills of communities for:
 - * Silvicultural operations
 - * Influence in decisions and programs

* SGP-PTF:

- Forest based enterprise planning and management
- Marketing, value addition, and equitable governance

REMAINING CHALLENGES



Disorientation of Extension Programs



Misconceptions

- ★ CFP awareness program for fuelwood without fuelwood shortage
- ★ PFP miscellaneous planting without motivating communities to protect trees
- ★ FD plant Pine without socio-economic and environment concerns

Inappropriate Technology

- ★ *Some CWLs abandoned:*
 - Incompatibility with traditional farming systems
- ★ *Some FWLs facing risks:*
 - Lack of silvicultural knowledge and technologies
- ★ *Low productivity of energy development project:*
 - Poor quality seeds, inappropriate planting methods



Lack of Commercial Orientation

- ★ Forestry extension still focus on Livelihood of communities
- ★ Forest dependency for livelihood decreasing since 1980s with:
 - Shifting of economy towards tea cultivation



Poor Gender strategies

- ★ Forestry extension programs:
 - Not target women
- ★ Community forests usually managed by women



Institutional Difficulties



- ★ Lack of extension foresters makes difficulties to:
 - Implement Miscellaneous Planting

- ★ Poor extension in early years of PFP
 - Lower survival rate of trees under FWLs

- ★ Limited experiences and technical skills of Extension:
 - Make difficulties in SGPPTF



Non-participatory Approach



- ★ Community participation in management confined to selected members by FD
- ★ Existing village community organizations have:
 - Latent organizational structures
 - Mobilizing in times of need
 - Limited experience:

POSSIBLE RESOLUTIONS



Reorientation of Extension Services

Integration in the Farming Systems:

- ★ Extension should cater diverse interests and aspirations of farming community
- ★ Extension has to deliver knowledge for:
 - Multiple management options
 - Multiple uses of forest and agriculture resources
 - Equitable benefit sharing

Multiple Innovations and Information:

- ★ Community forest extension should:
 - Disseminate knowledge on diverse innovation
 - Offer means for adopting innovations
 - Diversify community forestry activities
 - Promote economic opportunities



Rural Development:

- Community Forest extension should:
 - * Promote natural resource conservation and development programs
 - * Improve local economic, social and environmental conditions
 - * Generate additional income
 - * Complement government efforts to address poverty



Targeting of Extension Program



Forest Community

- ★ Extension programs should convey message:
 - To reach community
 - To be fully utilized by community
- ★ Convey importance of forests on:
 - Climate and ecological balance
 - Long-term economic stability
 - Sustainable community development



Women

- ★ Major issues should be discussed with communities including women



Institutions

- ★ Awareness programs should focus on:
 - Role of forests in well-being of people
- ★ Programs should target:
 - Planners, politicians, and non-forestry institutions
- ★ Supporting actors of local awareness programs:
 - Local schools and network of environmental societies



Adopting Multiple Extension Approaches



Participatory Extension Strategies

- ★ Should draw knowledge and experience of:
 - Local communities, academics, policy makers, researchers, forest offices etc.
- ★ Must respond to needs emerge within community
 - Mobilization and organization of rural households

Farmer Forest Management School

- Facilitate user-led experiments
- Generate knowledge and skills by users
- Make decisions required for sustainable management of community forest resources



Information Technology (IT)

* 'Nanasala' Centers:

- Implemented by Ministry of Science and Technology
- Improve IT for rural people
- Can facilitate interaction in
 - * Community forestry innovation systems
- Disseminate innovations to end-users
 - * To suit a variety of forest communities
 - * Convenient and timely manner



Development and Restructuring of Institutions



Inter-sectoral Linkages

- ★ Recognized after:

- Tea farmers pressure on natural forests

- ★ Forestry extension require to:

- Facilitate multi-stakeholder input and commitments
- Address all community forestry issues
- Comprehensive land-use planning
- Minimize negative impact of externalities
 - ★ Legal, economic and institutional constraints



Multi-Organizational Partnerships

* Forestry extension requires:

- Co-operation and collaboration of other extension partners
- Partnerships between research, extension and communities
- Support community for improving livelihoods
- Greater impact on rural development and poverty reduction

Knowledge and Skills Development of Extension Foresters

- ★ Changed role of forestry officials:
 - From 'police-person' to "community extension agent"
 - Provide research based technical information
 - Take management decisions in multi-functional forestry

Capacity Building of Communities

- ★ Community forestry extension has to:
 - Provide knowledge and promote skills
 - Combine local knowledge



CONCLUSIONS AND POLICY IMPLICATIONS

- ★ Forestry Extension has limited opportunities to develop strategies required for sustainable community forest management
- ★ Forestry extension is yet to be developed to face challenges in implementing community forestry extension services
- ★ Reorientation of services, targeting of programs, adopting multiple approaches, restructuring of institutions would promote forestry extension





THANK YOU