

# study of common property resources

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## Results and Conclusions

### CPR Land Development

#### ***Clearly defined boundaries***

The physical boundaries for each CPR land must be clearly defined so it can be distinguished from the PPR land. These villagers should be well aware of these boundaries. The social boundaries for the access of the resources from the CPR land should be clearly defined. In some cases, they are not clearly defined either for the land or for watershed structure. For the sustainable use of the resources from CPR land one shall have restricted usage for the same, which will initiate the ownership feeling to the villagers. These social boundaries shall be based on the availability of the resources, physical boundaries, population of users, their dependency and also provide equity among the villagers.

For enduring the Ostrom's principle, existence of both the boundaries are necessary.

#### ***Congruence***

At present, the CPR lands are in degraded condition, as villagers have till now have tried to maximize the benefit from the CPR land without considering the sustainability. For sustainability a proper equilibrium between time, space and technology should be there.

The cost incurred during development of the resources, cost imposed by provision rules and transaction cost should be in proportion with the derived benefits. Since the benefits from the CPR land is still not derived, so its appropriateness measurement for direct benefits is not available. But considering the ecological, environmental and functional

benefits from the efforts, appropriateness occurs. Using the qualitative way, with the participation of the villager's and staff of the NGO, cost appropriateness is done. The effect of this is visible in the field conditions with the enhancement of water table, soil moisture and conservation of the soil.

For a CPR to be congruent there should be a balance between the use of the CPR's and the sustainability of the CPR's. The CPR's should be such that it should provide benefits to the community and at the same time be sustainable.

### ***Collective choice arrangements***

In Sugur village of the Maramuri watershed, villagers mainly depend upon the forestland for the grazing and fuel wood. When the forestland are developed, the entry to these areas is prohibited. So villagers whose livelihood is dependent upon the grazing are mostly affected by operational rules. When the CPR land or watershed structure is near to PPR land, then that individual tend to derive more benefits from it, even though all the villagers have contributed equally in the development, as in the Nandapur Village-Kanakanala watershed and Hamunthawadi village- Upper Mullamari watershed. Villagers had not yet felt that personal benefits received by an individual are less than the collective benefits. As the institutions will mature and benefits will increase from the CPR land, villagers may realize the importance of increasing the personal benefits equivalent to the contribution. The villages should participate in modifying operational rules so the personal benefits received by an individual are equal to the collective benefits. Also an individual should not go for free riding without contributing anything.

### ***Monitoring***

There is proper monitoring mechanism for every CPR. The monitoring mechanism for the CPR land lacks the participation of villagers in the Kanakanala watershed and Upper Mullamari watershed. User shall select the Monitors, who actively audit common pool resource conditions and user behaviour are accountable to the users. The monitors shall do the monitoring of the flow of the benefits to the desired persons.

***Graduated sanctions***

The graduated sanctions exist in the Sugur village in the Maramuri watershed and Nandapur village in Kanakanala watershed. The villages have collected nominal fine from those who have violated operational rules or social norms. Similar provision shall be established and followed in the other villages of the entire watersheds.

***Conflict resolution mechanisms***

Till now the conflict relating to the CPR had not been identified in the villages by the researchers. As the benefits flow will start from the CPR land, conflicts may arise among the villagers. As per the present condition, conflict resolving village institutions are capable for resolving conflicts in Illhal and Hanumathawadi village in Upper Mullamari watershed, Sugur village in Maramari watershed and Nandapur village in the Kanakanala watershed.

***Minimal recognition of rights to organise***

The forest department is external agency, which is influential regarding the activities of the CPR land, and challenging the rights of users to devise their own institutions even though forest department hadn't contributed to the development of the CPR land. No external influences are there in the watershed activities.

**Institution Linkage**

After discussion with the forest officials, Villagers and NGO personnel, an institutional linkage for the development of the CPR land has been developed for the ISPWDK project, as shown in the figure 7.1. According to it the forest department, VFC, VDS and NGO's can work for the rehabilitation of the degraded forest.

As per guidelines for JFMC in Karnataka State, it is necessary to form the VFC as village level institution to work on the CPR land, as it possesses the usufruct right for the reaping the benefits from the harvest of the forest produce. Since the VDS is working in the village for the development of the CPR by implementing the watershed structures, so its members can themselves constitute VFC keeping the rules for representation of different social, gender and economic profile as JFMC guidelines in

mind. The VFC is registered institution and has legal status for management and harvesting from forestland. Both VDS and VFC can undertake development, maintenance and protection work on the CPR lands especially the forestland, roadside land and nalaside land. The VDS can also co-ordinate with the VFC for the benefit sharing and regulation of the resources from the CPR land. Forest department will provide Technical knowledge, Financial support and will possess Control & Regulation over the VFC and forest land. The forest department will appoint the forest guard or deputy ranger as the VFC secretary who will take care of the VDF.

The benefit sharing will be initiated by the VFC after it prepares the microplan of the village and management plan for the planting, management practices and harvesting strategies. The forest guard or forester and the secretary of the VFC will undertake this responsibility. This will be approved by the DCF. Medicinal Plants, fodder and tree species can be planted but it should be mentioned in the management plan. The VFC/VDS can raise the decentralise nurseries for the plantation of trees in CPR land and PPR land. This will help them to plant the species of their choice in required numbers in the CPR land and regulate the quality and age of the sapling during the planting process. This will also provide the livelihood opportunities to the landless villagers.

The funds flow will be done by the forest department from the fund allotted to it. If any donor agency (host organization) wants the fund for the development of the CPR land, it can deposit in the VDF maintained by the VFC, but outflow will go through the government rules and regulations. So the Host organization can initiate the funds flow to the client organization, which in turn pass to the VDS for its usage for the CPR development. The client organization can act as the medium for the flow of funds, capacity building of the VFC and VDS, and monitor the effective utilization of benefits with externalities. The NGO's can also initiate the formation and facilitation of the VFC, where it not existing and activate where it is dormant.

The formation of the VFC and establishing the rule for benefit sharing of produce from the roadside plantation, nalside plantation and block plantation should be as per the JFMC guidelines issued by the Karnataka State Forest Department, as shown in Annexure - two.

### **Economic Valuation**

The Tree surviving in the Block Plantation of the Nandapur are 12,800 at present. Considering the unfavourable condition continuing for the coming years, the value of the timber that can be obtain from the tree after their rotation period will be approximately three crore. This will vary considering the demand of the timber, quality of the timber and prices of the timber in the market.

The importance of the plantation not only lies in the value of the timber that the community will be deriving from it. Considering benefits derived due the positive market externalities by the community justifies the project cost borne by the host and client oganistaion for raising the captive plantation.

According to the VFC concept, ownership will lie in the hands of the forest department and usufruct rights with the community. Community is coming forward to take up the responsibility and maintenance of the plantation. The social fencing shall be encouraged and practised for the protection of the entire block and roadside plantation. Though the monitoring will be undertaken by the village institution, even than client organization (SAMUHA) can appoint the watcher for monitoring of the block and roadside plantation of phase-I, till the community start deriving the benefits and plantation become sustainable.

**Figure 7.1 Proposed Institutional Mechanism for CPR land (Forestland, nalaside & roadside) development**



