



Vol. 42, No. 3, pp 314-321, 2014

Indian Journal of Soil Conservation

Online URL: <http://indianjournals.com/ijor.aspx?target=ijor:ijsc&type=home>



Joint Forest Management in Haryana: Assessment of performance and evaluation of impacts

Swarn Lata Arya¹ and R.P. Yadav

Central Soil and Water Conservation Research and Training Institute, Research Centre, Chandigarh- 160019, India.

¹E-mail: swarn_arya@yahoo.com

ARTICLE INFO

Article history:

Received : July, 2013

Revised : May, 2014

Accepted : June, 2014

Key words :

Bhabbar,

Forest policy,

Haryana Forest Department,

Hill Resource Management Societies,

Joint forest management,

Policy failures,

Policy issues,

Shivaliks

ABSTRACT

A participatory approach to forest management popularly known as Joint Forest Management (JFM) organized at a grassroots level by community-based institutions has been implemented in India since 1970s and is considered, by and large, to be successful and an ideal forest management model in the present world forestry scenario. The present article tries to examine and evaluate the impact assessment of Joint Forest Management policy on the social, economic and ecological equilibrium of village level institutions working in the *Shiwalik* foothill region in Northern India in Haryana state. It further analyses the emerging policy issues confronting joint forest management as a result of revised JFM notification in 1998 issued by Government of Haryana. The main controversial feature of revised notification has been its new benefit sharing system between Haryana Forest Department (HFD) and Hill Resource Management Societies (HRMS). As a result, the income of all the JFM committees declined by 50 to 75%. Many of these committees functioning with great success have altogether collapsed for want of funds after the issuance of revised notification and sudden decline in the demand of *bhabbar* (*Eulaliopsis binata*) which needs immediate attention.