

1135. **Arya, S.L. and Samra, J.S. 1995.** Participatory process and watershed management-a study of the Shiwalik foothill villages in Northern India. *Asia-Pacific J. Rural Dev.*, V(2):35-37.

The paper critically reviews and analyses four selected community based watershed development projects in the foothill villages of Shiwaliks in Northern India with a view to identifying people's participation in them and drawing lessons useful for securing their involvement. The linkages between common property resources (CPRs), private property

resources (PPRs), and quality of life (income levels) were analyzed using the statistical clustering technique. The characterization of village economies and their present status revealed the differences between actively participated watersheds, planned and managed by the communities (Sukhomajri and Bunga) and the others under a bureaucratic set up (Chowki and Tibbi). In Sukhomajri and Bunga, the cropping pattern changed in favour of wheat (*Triticum aestivum* L.), barseem (*Trifolium alexandrinum*), sugarcane (*Saccharum officinarum* L.), paddy (*Oriza sativa*) and pulses. The cropping intensity increased and so did the availability of fuel and fodder. The composition of animal population changed in favour of buffaloes away from cows and goats. The catchment area is being protected and managed by societies and so is the distribution of water for irrigation to the farmers. The types and levels of links among CPR-PPR and income levels exhibited a higher degree of participation in Bunga and Sukhomajri and a very low degree of participation in Chowki and Tibbi projects. The reasons for the failure and absence of people's participation in the projects in Chowki and Tibbi were many including the improper designing and execution of structures, lack of organizational skills, and the inability of the government to make needed investments within stipulated time periods and to provide technical information, training and guidance. The participatory development process, based on the creation of links between CPRs and PPRs was found to be stable and sustainable.