

In-service Training Improvement Plan for Module on Community Forestry and Joint Forest Management

*by Meera Iyer, IFS
Lecturer
Central Academy for State Forest Service, Dehradun*

Background

Central Academy for State Forest Service (CASFOS), Dehradun has been carrying out In-service refresher training for SFS officers of the different State Forest Departments since the year 2002. The In-service refresher courses have been initiated in response to the need felt for updating the skills and improving the knowledge of the serving officers to keep pace with the changes in the Forestry scenario. A five year Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) Technical Cooperation Project for the “Capacity Building of State Forest Training Institutions and SFS Colleges” started from March 2009 and is located at the Directorate of Forest Education & CASFOS, Dehradun. The project aims to improve the In-service training including Training of Trainers (TOTs) and other In-service courses for SFS Officers by designing improved modules based on extensive survey to assess the training needs in the forest sector throughout the country. As part of the project three conferences have been organized so far. The latest was titled “Designing Appropriate Training Modules for SFS officers” and held on 14th & 15th December 2010.

This note pertains to various aspects of one such module of In-service refresher course on “JFM and Community forestry” incorporating the recommendations of the conference.

Rationale for a course on “Community Forestry & JFM”

The importance of the social dimension of forestry in today’s world need not be overtly emphasized. With human populations exploding across the globe; the pressure on forests for meeting the needs of fuel wood, fodder, timber and increasingly *LAND*, has proportionately

expanded. The stresses on natural ecosystems due to this anthropogenic pressure has assumed dimensions of *war* not '**struggle**' for survival for the natural ecosystems and its myriad inhabitants. A recognition of the human dimension of forestry led to the implementation of Social & Community forestry programmes in the Nineteen Seventies and Eighties. A further recognition of the people's rights on forests and their role in forestry came in the form of Joint Forest Management (JFM) Resolution in 1991. A decade and a half later, The Scheduled Tribes and other Forest Dwellers Act, 2006 was enacted, which further intensified this recognition of people's stake in the forests.

It was but natural that the *people-forest interface* and *all related issues* should become an important theme for trainings aimed at refreshing the knowledge of forest officers.

Brief account of In-service Refresher training on “JFM and Sustainable Rural Development”

Keeping the above mentioned background in view, in 2002 CASFOS started with a **two week** training module on “*Joint Forest Management and Sustainable Rural Development*”. There were six such courses conducted between 2001-02 & 2002-03(See Table I). The courses included a large number of topics related to JFM and Sustainable Rural Development. (Table II) For each course around 35 SFS officers were nominated. CASFOS communicated the date, duration and the topic of the course, two months in advance to the State Forest Departments. The individual officers were then selected by the State Forest Departments and sent for the trainings. For the course on JFM & SRD, it was seen that attendance was very low, the lowest being six and highest being 12 participants. The total number of officers who attended the training in this period were 51. On perusal of the earlier course schedules (At Annexure I) one can identify the following areas for improvement:

- Structure/ Sequencing of Topics
- Duration
- Selection of Topics

Details of Course on JFM and Sustainable Rural Development**Table I**

Dates	Duration	Number of Participants
17 th to 28 th June 2002	2 weeks	12
10 th to 21 st May 2004	2 weeks	8
16 th to 27 th May 2005	2 weeks	6
22 nd May to 2 nd June 2006	2 weeks	8
12 th to 23 rd February 2007	2 weeks	6
1 st to 12 th October 2007	2 weeks	11

It is evident from the table above that content of the course did evolve to include focused inputs on JFM and its practical aspects. Between 2007 and 2011 no courses on this topic were held.

Comparison of topics covered in Six courses on “JFM & Sustainable Rural Development”

Table II

2002-03 17 to 28/6/02	2003-04 10 to 21/5/04	2004-05 16 to 27/05/05	2005-06 22/5 to 2/6/06	2006-07 12 to 23/2/07	2007-08
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Role of NGO • Gender Issues • Watershed Management • Role of Forest Officers in Changing scenario • Trust Building • Eco development around PA • JFM in West Bengal • Attitudinal changes required in JFM • Sustainable FM • Agro forestry • Sustainability of JFM • PA Resources • JFM • Issues in JFM • Training Inputs • JFM & community participation in tourism • Forestry for Rural Development • Medicinal Plants • HRD & JFM • JFM in Jharkhand 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • JFM in Bengal • Participatory fire fighting control • Eco development around PAs • Models for sustainable development • Sustainable Resource Management • Positive Thinking • Gender Issues in Forestry • JFM vis a vis grazing management: case study from Buldhana • Participatory Fire fighting control • Participatory approach in watershed management • Forest Ownership under forest policies & JFM • PRA & community participation • Watershed Management Guidelines • Forest Carbon Management under the Kyoto protocol- Additional income for JFM participants • Visit to WII 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Agro forestry for rural dev. • Eco development around PAs • JFM: MP experience • Community based economic dev. • Appropriate Technology & Rural Development • Sukho Majri model of community participation • Sustainable NRM • Intro to improved techniques of wood preservation • Concept & Issues of FDA • Common Project Resource Mgmt in watershed mgmt • Impact of forest Fires in PAs • Concept and Issues in stake holder participation • Nurturing conservation led livelihood opportunities • CFM in Andhra Pradesh • Integrated N RM & Poverty Reduction Project of Haryana • Self Help Groups • Presentation by participants • FSI/ FRI- half day each • JFM sites in Renuka Forest Division, Medicinal Plants Nursery in Narendranagar- one day each • Rajaji National Park: resettlement of Gujjars- 1 day Total: 4 days field 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Competency issues & Forest Officers • Sustainable Rural Dev. Key Policy Issues • JFM-a case study • Participatory Fire fighting control • Forestry Extension : a participatory approach • Watershed Management guidelines • Rural Development: Water based approach • PRA & Community Participation • JFM in West Bengal • People's Participation in Watershed Management • JFM: a case study from MP • Community participation & Biodiversity Conservation • Apatani model • Stake holders in JFM • Gender Issues • People's participation in NBDR & conservation • JFM in Uttarakhand • Experience Sharing • Visits to WII, Herbal Garden in Narendranagar 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Introduction to computers • MS Word • MS Excel • JFM: an overview • Ecotourism and livelihood: The Periyar Experience • Tribal Bill and Forests Policy and Legal Issues in JFM • Participatory Fire Control • PRA and community participation • Participatory PA management • Eco-development and its role in Biodiversity conservation • Visit to FRI 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Interaction with Faculty and expectation from the course • JFM- a case study from MP • Stake Holders in JFM • Gender Issues • Community Participation and Biodiversity conservation • JFM & Jutropha project • Empowering Communities for NRM • Panel discussion on Progress of JFM and its future • JFM • JFM in Bihar • People's involvement in Forests and water conservation • JFM in West Bengal • Policy Issues in JFM • Sustainability issues in JFM • HRM aspects in JFM • Participatory management in Protected Areas • Apatani Model

The proposed Module

In the conference on Designing Appropriate Training Modules for SFS officers” held on 14th & 15th December 2010, presentations on different In-service training modules were made by experts in those fields. For “Community Forestry and JFM”; Dr Amrinder Kaur, IFS, CCF Community Forestry, Haryana Forest Department & Shri Jitender Sharma, IFS, CCF (Hills), Punjab Forest Department; were the experts, who made a presentation on the topic. After thorough discussions, a working group including the two experts, formulated a “model” module. The four major areas of knowledge and skills which need to be imparted during this course were identified as:

1. PRA skills.
2. Micro planning.
3. Conceptual skills regarding Community participation & JFM.
4. Gender Sensitization

The salient features of the recommended one week module (See Table III) are:

- A long Introductory **Session(Session 1)** which outlines the objectives of the course; expectations of the participants at the out set of the course and other details. It would incorporate an Ice Breaking game so that the participants are totally relaxed and familiar with each other.
- The **second session(Session 2)** would discuss in detail the historical perspective of JFM and a critical analysis of the progress so far.
- Starting from the post lunch session on the first day, **3 sessions(Sessions 3,4 & 5)** have been devoted to “Facilitation skills for Community Mobilization” which would include inputs on How to identify the local community? How to approach the community? How to organize them into JFM committees or SHGs? How the conduct meetings? PRA

techniques & Micro planning to name a few.

- This input will be followed by a session (**Session No. 6**) on “Stake Holder Analysis”, which is a very important prerequisite for involving communities.
- The third day forenoon (**Sessions 7 & 8**) is set aside for intensive inputs on gender sensitization
- The next session it aimed at giving inputs on Micro Credit and Income Generation Activities in the context of JFM. (**Session 9**)
- Next, one and half days has been set aside entirely for Field Visit of the participants to villages, which illustrate success stories in JFM & Community forestry projects.. The participants will be divided into groups before they leave for the field and allotted topics related to the concepts for which inputs have already been given. They will be required to study those aspects of Community Forestry and JFM while they are in the field and make presentations on their return. (**Sessions 10,11,12, 13 & 14**). The field visit will include a night halt in the village itself or near by place if possible.
- The **Session 15** has been set aside for group presentations and experience sharing of the field visit.
- The last two sessions, 16 & 17 is scheduled for Summing Up, Feed back and Valedictory.
- Thus, a total of 17 Sessions have been proposed. Each day, there are two sessions in the fore noon of One hour and fifty minutes or 110 minutes each. There is one session slotted in the afternoon, of Two hours and ten minutes or 130 minutes duration.

Proposed Time Table for One week Workshop on Community Forestry and JFM

Table III

Date	Session-I 0915-1105 hrs.		Session-II 1120-1310 hrs.		Session-III 1430-1640 hrs.
Mon.	1 Ice breaking Session (Introduction, Course expectation etc.)	Tea Break 11.05-11.20 hrs	2 JFM resolutions- critical analysis	Lunch Break 13.10-14.30 hrs	3 Facilitation skills for community mobilization (PRA tools, Micro- planning etc.)
(Tue)	4 Facilitation skills for community mobilization (PRA tools, Micro-planning etc.)		5 Facilitation skills for community mobilization (PRA tools, Micro- planning etc.)		6 Stake Holder Analysis
(Wed)	7 & 8 Gender sensitization		9 Micro credit And Income generation activities *		
(Thurs)	10,11,12 Field visit				
(Fri)	13 & 14 Field Visist			Lunch Break	15 Group presentations and experience sharing of field visit
(Sat)	16 & 17 Summing Up, Feed Back & Valedictory				

* Session to be followed by briefing for next day's field visit