

## **EXECUTIVE BRIEF**

1. The purpose of the study was to understand the implementation of the farm forestry programme and suggest measures to improve the effectiveness of the programme carried out by the forest department of the Government of Karnataka.
2. The objectives of the study were to ascertain the views of the farmers, village leaders and forest department officials, regarding the problems and solutions, in implementation of the programme and to ascertain the impact of farm forestry on the incomes of the participating farmers.
3. The study selected 53 nurseries, 618 villages and 1665 farmers for the survey in addition to collecting secondary data.
4. The farmers selected belonged to four different size group of holdings. About 10 per cent of them were SC/ST farmers. Most of them were in the age group of 36 to 55 years and were educated beyond 7<sup>th</sup> standard. The average size of family was about seven.
5. Nearly half of them were motivated by the forest department officials to take to farm forestry and the rest were self- motivated. Nearly half of them received guidance from the forest department officials. The farmers opined that they should get free supply of seedlings, there should be regular visits by the forest department staff and easy access to the nurseries.
6. The survival rate of seedlings was found to be about 76 per cent. The seedlings were mainly planted on dry lands and field bunds. While purchasing seedlings, the farmers preferred the bag size of 5x8 due to reasons like satisfactory growth, lower cost and ease of transport. The survival rate depended on the species of seedlings planted. Species like Jack fruit, Jumlum had lower survival rate as compared to species like, eucalyptus, casurina, bamboo and honge. The survival rate of the seedlings supplied by forest department was the highest while that of private nurseries was the lowest.
7. The farmers do take a number of steps to increase the survival rate like, providing irrigation and application of manures and fertilizers. About 60 per cent of the surveyed farmers had definite plans to participate in arm forestry programme during the year 1999-2000 and many of them planned to plant teak and eucalyptus.
8. The main source of fodder for cattle was crop residues and the source of fuel was firewood obtained from owned trees and crop residues.

9. Nearly half of the village leaders were in the age group of 41-50 years and more than 60 per cent of them held some official position in the village like, member of panchayat, or chairman or member some cooperative society. Their awareness of the farm forestry programme was very high. They opined that Teak and Acacia was highly suitable in two ecological regions while Eucalyptus was more suitable in the other two ecological regions. By and large the village leaders felt that the farm forestry programme does not compete with other crops. As felt the farmers, the village leaders also felt that the location of nurseries was not convenient and the seedlings cost was high.
10. The village leaders also felt that there is wastage of seedlings due to factors like lack of irrigation, no application of fertilizers and cattle grazing. Private nurseries scored over others in low cost of seedlings, door delivery and supplying the species required. The village leaders mentioned that the extension measures had to be strengthened by the forest department. They also felt that lack of grazing lands affected farm forestry. Their views with regard to fodder and fuel were the same as observed in the case of farmers' survey.
11. Most of the RFOs and DCFs / DFOs had targets and the targets were fixed by mostly by DCFs / DFOs. But there was no clarity with regard to the person responsible for deciding on the species. It is commendable that all the officers recognized the role of demand in deciding the seedlings to be raised. Nearly half of the officials were not aware of the lands suitable for farm forestry in their area of operation. The officials also felt that teak followed by eucalyptus were suitable for farm forestry in their areas. Most of them felt that the motivators and existing staff are sufficient to attend and monitor the farm forestry programme. They were also aware of the measures adopted by the farmers to increase the survival rate. Some of the nurseries adopted innovative measures in selling seedlings like, selling in shandies on shandy days, selling at KSRTC bus stands and even free supply at some times.
12. The number of registers prescribed and maintained left much to be desired. It appeared that there is a need for reduction in number and simplification of the registers prescribed which will result in easy compliance.
13. The RFOs were found to be following different procedures for distribution of seedlings to the farmers. Here again there is need to evolve a uniform and simple procedure, which is easier for the farmers to comply with.

14. Farm forestry was a main source of income for the farmers who felled and sold trees. The farm forestry activity accounted for about 17.5 per cent of the total farm income, which is very significant. The value of the trees sold varied as per the species. Species like acacia, tamarind command higher prices when compared to trees like eucalyptus.
15. There is need for the forest department to train their personnel in extension and motivation apart from technology. The department should involve NGOs and self help groups in the programme to make it more effective. The innovative measures adopted by some nurseries, should become the model for other nurseries. By and large the nurseries were able to meet the demand of the farmers in terms of species required and number required.
16. The registers require attention in terms of reduction in their numbers and simplification for ensuring proper record keeping. The officials have to keep a record of areas suitable for farm forestry in their area of operation so that it is easy to identify the farmers who can participate in the programme. The procedure followed for distribution should be stream lined.
17. An estimate of the area covered under farm forestry is worked out and the validity of the sample has been established.