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VIDEO FILM ON JFPM PROGRAMME

There is a need for raising awareness and educating people about Joint Forest Planning and Management (JFPM). This will help local people to understand the process better and participate more actively. It will also help to educate the general public regarding the implementation of this scheme.

The WGFP is funded by ODA (UK). The project is being implemented in Uttara Kannada district, Karnataka since 1992. So far the KFD (Karnataka Forest Department) has formed 88 VFCs (Village Forest Committees) in 88 villages. In many villages the KFD has drawn up Micro Plans to manage the forests under VFC. In many villages the Karnataka Government has signed MOU (Memorandum of Understanding) with VFCs to legalise the sharing process. This is a unique experience in allowing peoples participation of management of natural resources.

Parisara Sanmrakshana Kendra, Sirsi is preparing to make a video film which will help to spread awareness regarding the above JFPM process and related environmental issues.

The objective of the video film is to document the process of JFPM in Uttara Kannada. This will be used as a tool to raise awareness at village level on JFPM, strengthening the understanding of villagers.

VIDEO FILM PRODUCTION

WESTERN GHATS FORESTRY PROJECT

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Script of 12 minute film for presentation in UK. The film looks at the consequences for the people of 'participatory reforestation'.

HOST: This is Uttara Kannada, Northern Karnataka, one of the areas of outstanding biodiversity of India.

SHOT OF UNDISTURBED FOREST, EVERGREEN AND DECIDUOUS

HOST: There are three ecological zones: the coastal strip, the ghats themselves, and the plain to the East of the ghats.

SHOW APPROPRIATE LOCALITIES

HOST: The Overseas Development Administration of the United Kingdom is financing a re-forestation scheme in this area.

SHOT OF ACACIA PLANTATION.

HOST: This is one of the most prestigious projects involving British Aid, and is being carried out in conjunction with the Karnataka Forestry Department.

BOARD SHOWING ODA LOGO AND PLANTATION

HOST: It places particular stress on participation of the local people, who have been promised a 50% share of the profits that are to accrue from the planting programme.

SHOW KFD SLOGAN 'CARING AND SHARING'.

HOST: The method to achieve a high level of participation has been the Village Forestry Committees, to which most, if not all, villagers belong. Collectively, they decide what is to be planted, and they are responsible for the nurture and maintenance of the plantations.

SERIES OF SHOTS OF VILLAGERS MEETING, TENDING TREES.

HOST: In each village, however, the significant decisions lie

ultimately in the hands of forest officials.

SHOT OF KFD OFFICE IN SIRSI

HOST: One of the principal aims of the project is to help maintain the biodiversity of the Western Ghats.

SHOT OF THICK RICH FOREST, TREES BEING USED FOR A VARIETY OF PURPOSES.

HOST: Participation through Joint Forestry Project Management has led to the formation of 88 village forestry committees.

VIEW OF VILLAGES.

HOST: In order to find out how effective these have been, we went first to Arshingeri on the edge of the Western Ghats. (NOVEMBER 7. & 7.30-8.00 a.m.)

SHOT OF VILLAGE MAIN STREET, HOUSES, FIELDS.

SHOTS OF INTERVIEWS WITH VILLAGERS.

QUESTIONS: How the Village Forest Committee was started.

Do the people know about the plantations, and will they be beneficial to them?

What is their view of the VFC?

After ARSHINGERI the team goes to GOTGODI village (NOV. 7. 11.0 a.m. - 1.00 noon) SHOTS OF PLANTATIONS OF TEAK.

The team drives to MALGI, rest and lunch (1.00 p.m.-3.00 P.M.)

3.0 P.M. We start for BELLANKERI 3.30 arrival).

HOST: This is Bellankeri on the Eastern side of the ghats. Here, an exotic species, *Acacia auriculiformis*, has been planted between areas of natural forest regeneration.

3.30-5.0 P.M.: SHOTS OF PLANTATIONS OF ACACIA IN BETWEEN NATURAL REGENERATION.

PADDY FIELDS FROM WHICH PEOPLE HAVE BEEN EVICTED FOR PLANTATIONS.

INTERVIEWS WITH THE PEOPLE.

QUESTIONS: What happened to the land in which you were cultivating paddy?

What has been the effect of this plantation?

5.0 PM.-7.0 P.M. : In BELLANKERI Village. Discussion with people. Village Forest Committee Chairman, Ganapati Gowda.

QUESTIONS: Did the Forest Department consult the committee before planting?

How is the Village Forest Committee functioning?

A woman member of Village Forest Committee will also speak on women's participation.

In the same village we will also interview JAISHEELA GOWDA, President of VFC, BMSHI village. He is a very forceful speaker, and is likely to be a central presence in the film. His contribution will be the questions he is asking of the ODA in UK - e.g. By implementing this project of ODA, you have destroyed the paddy fields and the homes of village people. How are you going to compensate for this? He will say that this is not Joint Forest Management, it is Authoritarian Forest Management funded by ODA. (He may appear in the film twice, and to conclude the film).

DRIVE DOWN TO SIRSI, REACHING SIRSI BY 8.30. HALF AT PANCHAVATI HOTEL.

NOVEMBER 8: 7.0 A.M. Start for GHATTIKAI village, half an hour drive.

HOST: We are now in Ghattikai, where plantations of eucalyptus and acacia have been mixed with local species, whether the local species can survive in these conditions is unsure.

SHOOT PLANTATIONS OF EUCALYPTUS AND ACACIA, IN WHICH LOCAL SPECIES ARE ALSO PLANTED.

INTERVIEWS WITH VILLAGERS:

QUESTIONS: What has been the effect on livestock of the ODA plantations?

What has been the effect on people's access to non-timber forest produce? (PRABHAKAR BHATT from the Field Centre of Centre for Ecological Studies or proxy, with Village people).

SHOTS OF CATTLE AND FODDER. SHOTS OF NON-TIMBER FOREST PRODUCE KARWANDA.

HOST: The berries of karwanda are eaten: The thorny twigs are used for hedges to prevent cattle from trampling crops; afterwards, the wood is used for fuel. Moreover, these types of shrubs are essential for biodiversity, since birds build their nests in them and consume the berries. The shrubs are now being cleared for planting.

SHOTS OF CLEARING OF UNDERGROWTH, WHICH UNDERMINES BIODIVERSITY.

TRENCHES DUG ACROSS TRADITIONAL PATHWAYS.

9.0 A.M.-10.0 A.M. Back to Sirsi. SHOOTING INTERVIEW WITH FOREST DEPARTMENT PEOPLE

QUESTIONS: How are they are involving the villagers?

What is their impression of the project?

SHOT OF VEHICLES AND OFFICE

12.00-3.00 Lunch and break

3.0 Departure for HITTALLI Village 26 km.

HOST: This is Hittalli village, almost on the crest of the Ghats.

SHOOTING TEAK PLANTATIONS. Interview with Village Forest Committee Chairman.

QUESTIONS: Is there any power given to VFC to decide on the management of the forest?

HOST: Triyambak has observed the consequences of plantation on the livelihood of the poorest people, those who have traditionally sold compost.

INTERVIEW WITH TRIYAMBAK ON THE EFFECTS OF PLANTATIONS ON THE POOREST PEOPLE.

SHOTS OF POOR PEOPLE'S THATCHED HUTS, COMPOST PIT. TRIYAMBAK WILL COMMENT ON THE ACCESS OF POOR TO THE FOREST. THEY CAN NO LONGER SELL COMPOST. THIS AFFECTS POOR WOMEN MOST. INTERVIEW WITH WOMAN.

SHOTS OF PLANTATIONS AND ACCESS TO FOREST CLOSED. TRIYAMBAK WILL TELL HOW THERE IS NO ALLOWANCE FOR ANY NON-TIMBER FOREST PRODUCE IN THE PROJECT.

If shooting is finished early, trip to MAGOD Falls for rest.

BACK TO SIRSI, Panchavati Hotel

NOVEMBER 9. Morning to re-take any problem shots.

2.0 P.M. Leave for KUMTA on the coast, 60 km. from SIRSI, driving down from the Ghats. ON THE WAY, SHOOT GREST LINE OF WESTERN GHATS.

Visit to HALKAR Village. SHOOTING FROM 5.0-7.0

HOST: This is Halkar, in the coastal belt. The forest here has been under the control of the people since 1924, under the forest panchayat. This place illustrates what happens when the people have real power over the resources that sustain them.

THE VILLAGE FOREST WHICH HAS BEEN PROTECTED SINCE 1924 BY VILLAGERS UNDER VILLAGE FOREST PANCHAYAT. SHOTS OF FORESTS. SHOTS OF MEETING OF VILLAGE FOREST PANCHAYAT.

THEY WILL SPEAK OF REAL POPULAR CONTROL OF THE FOREST, IN CONTRAST TO THE NAMESAKE ODA-SPONSORED VFCs. THIS CAN BE USED AS CONCLUDING PART OF FILM AS AN ALTERNATIVE TO THE TOP-DOWN MODEL OF ODA.

From KUMTA drive down to GOKARNA. Stay at Tourist Guest House.

NOVEMBER 10. Start 7.0 for TALAGADDE Village, where the first VFC was formed under the ODA scheme. Arrive 8.0 A.M.

HOST: This is Tallagadde, the village where the first village Forest Committee under the ODA scheme was formed.

8.000 A.M.-11.0 A.M. SHOOTING CASHEW PLANTATIONS, ACACIA PLANTATIONS HALLAKKI VOKKAL TRIBES.

Questions to villagers: What were the promises made by the Forest Department?

How far have they been fulfilled?

SHOTS OF THATCHED HOUSES, COMPOSE PITS, AGRICULTURE FIELDS. SHOT OF WHOLE VILLAGE AGAINST BACKGROUND OF FOREST.

11.30 Drive down to KARWAR, 45km. ON THE WAY SHOOT THE COASTAL BELT AND SEA. Lunch KARWAR.

3.0 P.M.-4.0 P.M. Interview Forest Department Official.

QUESTIONS: Once the plantations are harvested after 10 years. What next? Vision of the long term future of the Western Ghats.

Departure for Goa- Panjim 105 km.

Madgaon 60 km - many beaches en route. Proceed to Bombay via Ratnagiri.

BACKGROUND ISSUES LIKELY TO BE RAISED BY VILLAGERS.

How were the VFC formed? How many people in the village are members? Are they active members? Were they consulted before any planting took place? Are there villages in which KFD has colluded with the local elite to maximise income through commercial planting? How many villagers remain in ignorance of the existence of VFCs?

Who dominates the decision-making process villagers or officers of KFD?

Much is made in the programme of women's participation. What has been the role of women in deciding on the species to be planted?

Was planting started before the VFCs were formed?

What would be the preference of the people in selecting species for planting?

Do they expect to benefit from the project?

How many people have been uprooted from land they are cultivating for the benefit of plantations? What compensations have they received? How do they feel about the scheme?

What have been the consequences for the livestock of the people?

How much land formerly open to the people has been enclosed? What are the results of this in their daily lives?

How do the people feel about the KFD?

CONCLUDING COMMENTARY: SHOTS TO BE TAKEN EN ROUTE

HOST: The Forest Policy since British times has been the maximising of income from the forests. This has not changed since Independence. Even earlier 'social forestry' projects of the ODA and World Bank led to monocultures of commercial species-teak, eucalyptus. The question to ask is how new a departure from these exploitative attitudes is this JFPM? Is it an old story in a new form? Have they merely become smoother operators, more sophisticated at implementing the same policies as before? We can only listen to the testimony of the people. Since it is in their name that the project has been undertaken, it is surprising how little we have heard from them, and how much we have heard from the expensive consultants-almost all from the UK-who have certainly been major beneficiaries of the project. Their reports alone have, literally, torn up trees.

END.

Schedule for whole programme: 6 November night, stay at Hubli. Bombay-Hubli 600 km. Accommodation will be fixed by Pandurang and communicated to Howard Martin. Pandurang will join the group at Hubli.

7th November Departure Hubli 6.30. Visit Arshingeri, Malgi, Bellankeri. Reach Sirsi by evening. Overnight Sirsi.

8th November, Departure for Ghattikai at 7.0 A.M. Back to Sirsi. Afternoon visit to Hittalli village, Magod falls, Over night Sirsi.

9th November, Departure for Kumta 7.0 A.M. Visit Halkar. Halt at Gokarna.

10th November Departure 7.0 A.M. Visit Talgadde village. On to Karwar, Depart for Goa.

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From KUMTA drive down to GOKARNA. Stay at Tourist Guest House.

NOVEMBER 10. Start 7.0. for TALLAGADDE Village, where the first VFC was formed under the ODA scheme. Arrive 8.0a.m.

HOST: This is Tallagadde, the village where the first Village Forest Committee under the ODA scheme was formed.

8.00 a.m - 11.0 a.m. SHOOTING CASHEW PLANTATIONS, ACACIA PLANTATIONS, HALLAKI VOKKAL TRIBES.

Questions to Villagers: What were the promises made by the Forest Department?

How far have they been fulfilled?

SHOTS OF THATCHED HOUSES, COMPOST PITS, AGRICULTURE FIELDS. SHOT OF WHOLE VILLAGE AGAINST BACKGROUND OF FOREST.

11.30 Drive down to KARWAR, 45 km. ON THE WAY SHOOT THE COASTAL BELT AND SEA. Lunch KARWAR.

3.0p.m. - 4.0p.m. Interview Forest Department Official.

Questions: Once the plantations are harvested after 10 years, what next? Vision of the long-term future of the Western Ghats.

DEPARTURE FOR GOA - Panjim 105 km.

Madgaon 60 km - many beaches en route. Proceed to Bombay via

Ratnagiri.

BACKGROUND ISSUES LIKELY TO BE RAISED BY VILLAGERS.

How were the VFCs formed? How many people in the village are members? Are they active members? Were they consulted before any planting took place? Are there villages in which KFD has colluded with the local elite to maximise income through commercial planting? How many villagers remain in ignorance of the existence of VFCs?

Who dominates the decision-making process - villagers or officers of KFD?

Much is made in the programme of women's participation. What has been the role of women in deciding on the species to be planted?

Was planting started before the VFCs were formed?

What would be the preference of the people in selecting species for planting?

Do they expect to benefit from the project?

How many people have been uprooted from land they are cultivating for the benefit of plantations? What compensations have they received? How do they feel about the scheme?

What have been the consequences for the livestock of the people?

How much land formerly open to the people has been enclosed? What are the results of this in their daily lives?

How do the people feel about the KFD?

CONCLUDING COMMENTARY: SHOTS TO BE TAKEN EN ROUTE.

HOST: The Forest policy since British times has been the maximising of income from the forests. This has not changed since Independence. Even earlier 'social forestry' projects of the ODA and World Bank led to monocultures of commercial species - teak, eucalyptus. The question to ask is how new a departure from these exploitative attitudes is this JFPM? Is it an old story in a new form? Have they merely become smoother operators, more sophisticated at implementing the same policies as before? We can only listen to the testimony of the people. Since it is in their name that the project has been undertaken, it is surprising how little we have heard from them, and how much we have heard from the expensive consultants - almost all from the UK - who have certainly been major beneficiaries of the project. Their reports alone have, literally, torn up trees.

END.

Schedule for whole programme: 6 November night, stay at Hubli. Bombay-Hubli 600 km. Accommodation will be fixed by Pandurang and communicated to Howard Martin. Pandurang will join the group at

Hubli.

7. November. Departure Hubli 6:30. Visit Arshingeri, Malgi, Bellankeri. Reach Sirsi by evening. Overnight Sirsi.

8. November. Departure for Ghattikai at 7.0 a.m. Back to Sirsi. Afternoon visit to Hittalli Village, Magod Falls. Overnight Sirsi.

9. November. Departure for Kumta 7.0 a.m. Visit Halkar. Halt at Gokarna.

10. November Departure 7.0a.m. Visit Talgadde village. On to Karwar. Depart for Goa.

PANDURANG HEGDE: PHONE: 08384 75139(office)

08384 74720 (residence)

FAX: 08384 75131.

ODA-GOTGODI

B.B.C. FILM: Just before Ugadi festival that is in March 1994 the B.B.C. made the film in Gotgodi about the ODA plantation. Forester Ashok Kumar Algoor informed the villagers that some persons are coming to for video shooting in the ODA plantation. DFO, Sub-DFO, RFO and ODA DFO, ODA RFO and 2 persons (1 man, 1 woman) from BBC were present in that occasion.

By hearing video shooting the people rushed to the spot and they were 40-50 in number. The B.B.C. spokes men asked questions like what is the use of this JFPM to the villagers and how they are participating in it. DFO Shivanna Gouda translated their questions. They also asked the same question to some women. Villagers said that these questions are asked to them by everyone. The answer i.e., the use of ODA plantation is for fuelwood, fruits, fodder, minor agricultural implements, poles for construction of the houses, charcoal for blacksmiths etc. They were told to act naturally in the plantation area in behaving with DFO and other forest officers and also to walk around the plantation area. They spent about 3 hours in the village and the shooting was for half an hour.

COMMENTS:

- 1) What is the feeling of people/towards this
- 2) On reflection what do they think
- 3) Does the ODA forest provide fuelwood and fruits?
- 4) Was it a enacted show for film?