

# INDIAN STATISTICAL INSTITUTE

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July 19, 1984

Dear shri Pandurang Hegde,

I am glad to have your letter of July 16, 1984. I have been knowing about your struggle almost single handed in this movement which I learn has aroused the interest of the local people. I do certainly appreciate your view that the movement requires scientific background. I shall be happy to be of assistance in any manner and I have a keen interest in this task as we had the opportunity to look at the problems in Karnataka and in particular in the Malnad. I have enclosed herein a copy of the section on Malnad from our study which would be of some interest. At a later stage if you are planning any visit to Delhi or when I go that side we could discuss more about it. I would like to know what are the areas in which the movement has taken roots

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and what are the future programmes. I shall be meeting Gopal Krishna Kadekodi next week and discuss with him.

As you will see from your first hand observation there is hardly anything worth the name in terms of drawing up a physical plan for the District or its parts. There are now largescale topographical maps ~~and~~ available with some effort for this area and we should be in a position to impose upon the plan officials the need for such an approach. This would mean demarcation of areas e.g. of spice gardens and other cultivated areas and land uses in the adjoining areas. (the 'Beta' lands and other areas under forests/vegetation). Whenever the areas have been depleted of the valuable vegetal cover they should be brought under new plantations and people should be made to be aware of the need to nurse them for certain period of time. One should prepare detailed map of landuse for some villages as a basis for presenting our views to the people and

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the Government. Simultaneously (this I don't know how it can be done) one should arrange to have film strips for selected areas so that the people would become more convincingly aware of the danger. The Dept of Environment needs to be persuaded to adopt one small area in this tract for this purpose. I do hope Mr Gadgil and his group knows about it. He has a large Project from them in Sissi area. Have you discussed with him?

I hope you have seen a copy of the publication of the proceedings of the Seminar organised some years back by the Totgar Society (The Report is published by the Gandhi Peace Foundation). I don't have even my copy as an author of one paper. You might get some idea in this.

More again.  
With best wishes in your effort

Yours  
A. Shar

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ಹುಲೇನುಳಗಿ ಕಟ್ಟಡ, ಶಿರಸಿ - 581 401

Aug 4, 1984.

Dear Shri L S Bhat,

Thank you very much for sending the photocopy of your study on Malnad. Frankly speaking I did not know that such a kind of study existed! It makes an interesting reading and it specifically envisages a total development plan for the whole of Malnad region.

Some comments on the paper :

- a) In your study an assumption has been made about 3<sup>0</sup> slope land being available for paddy cultivation along the river streams. I am doubtful as to how realistic it is. As stated elsewhere in the study, there is physical and economic limits to cultivation. We may have to see that the catchment area is not denuded as it will in the long run effect the costal area causing floods. The suggestions (page 117) to emphasise on the ecological factor is very important.
- b) Changing land use from paddy to spice may be economically rational but as you have correctly pointed out in your study it is very much linked to the availability of leaf manure and perennial water supply. This calls for a larger part of land to be kept under tree cover to assist spice garden.
- c) I do not know when this study was conducted. However, in 1967 large tracts of reserve forest land was released for cultivation. The clearfelling of the forest cover was done without any consideration to the area. For instance forest in steep slopes and catchments were clearfelled. Today these land lie barren and the topsoil has been washed away. The politicians and the contractors gained. This represents a classic case wherein the land use classification was not studied and a change in it was imposed with a greater harm to people and the environment. So the need at present is to assess the damage it has done to the already existing pattern of land use.
- d) I wish your study should have been the base for such kind of change. The Western Ghat Development Programme

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is celebrating its tenth year of implementation. But it hardly considers the basic issues. I have not read the plan prepared by the Town and Country Planning Organisation. But the evaluation of WGDP by PEO shows how absurd the programme is.

Now about Appiko Caluvali- thanks for your appreciation I am not the person who started this movement. It was started by villagers and I jumped into the fray when I saw that political parties were trying to make a capital out of it.

At present the movement covers eight places, or cluster of villages in Sirsi and Siddapur taluka. It has also spread to Sagar taluka in Shimoga district.

Appiko has three main objectives, to save, to grow and to utilise forest ( ). At present we are busy in tree planting programme in the villages and we are also educating about the utilisation aspect.

We are prepared to work on the land use maps as suggested by you. We need your guidance.

Prof. Gadgil's Centre for Ecological Studies in close collaboration with DOEN has made 20 minutes film on the situation of western ghats. I have not seen the film.

It is very sad that Gadgil's Centre and Appiko has basic differences. They say their job is only research and they cannot associate with the movements.

So most of the academicians and the scientists are against Appiko. The real issue is, where does the academician stand? Is his job only doing the research?

I am trying to contact people from the scientific field who are with the people, and who support people's movements.

Looking forward to hearing from you,

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ಅಭ್ಯುಕ್ತರೇ - ಉಳಿಸು; ಬೆಳೆಸು; ಬಳಸು.