

TENTH EXECUTIVE FOREST POLICY COURSE

REVISITING THE POVERTY REDUCTION AGENDA IN THE CONTEXT OF SDGs: OPPORTUNITIES AND CHALLENGES FOR ASIA-PACIFIC FORESTRY

15-25 MAY 2017
COLOMBO, SRI LANKA



AN OVERVIEW OF THE COURSE



Dr. CTS Nair



International
Agriculture
Organization of the
United Nations



Pacific
Community
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du Pacifique



ICIMOD



BACKGROUND

- ❑ On May 15, 2017 we embarked on a collective learning journey.
- ❑ During the last 10 days all of you have subjected to severe “information overload”.
- ❑ Many hours have been spent sharing, discussing and learning from each other.
- ❑ It is impossible for to summarise in one hour what transpired during the entire course.
- ❑ Yet it is inappropriate to leave the place without making an attempt to get an overview of what we have done.



BACKGROUND

- ❑ Society – nature relationship is changing continuously and the speed of change is accelerating.
- ❑ More changes are in the horizon and the situation in the next 10 to 20 years and beyond will be , very different from what it is now.
- ❑ Poverty continues to be a challenging problem notwithstanding the considerable reduction that has been achieved during the last 2 to 3 decades.
- ❑ Climate change has become a game changer. We are already witnessing its negative impacts. Poor people are likely to suffer more from climate change related events.
- ❑ Pursuit of SDGs would require reorienting forestry and moving away from the business as usual approach.



OBJECTIVES OF THE POLICY COURSE

It is in this context that FAO, APAFRI and Forest Department, Sri Lanka organized the 10th Executive Forest Policy Course from 15 May onwards with the following objectives:

- ❑ Gain an understanding of the larger changes and their impacts on forests and forestry.
- ❑ Understand future scenarios of SFM and implications on forest policies, institutions, science and technology.
- ❑ Learn about innovations in governance and science and technology.
- ❑ Examine options to capture the full potential of forestry to alleviate poverty.
- ❑ Improve policy analysis skills.



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COURSE MODULES

Module 1: Changing society, SDGs and Poverty reduction	Module 5: Economics of forestry interventions
Module 2: Forest governance and poverty reduction	Module 6: Tools for assessing forestry's impact on poverty
Module 3: Making forestry programmes pro-poor	Module 7: Communication skills I
Module 4: Lessons from poverty reduction through forestry	Module 8: Preparation of policy briefs

- ❖ Also we had two one-day trips giving a glimpse of some of the forestry activities in Sri Lanka

MODULE 1: CHANGING SOCIETY, SDGs AND POVERTY REDUCTION

Most of the issues under Module 1 were addressed on day 1 through the following presentations and ensuing discussions:

- ❑ Forests and poverty alleviation in Sri Lanka.
- ❑ Drivers of change and future scenarios for forestry in Asia-Pacific.
- ❑ An overview of forestry and poverty alleviation.
- ❑ Contribution of forests to GDP, employment and poverty alleviation.

MODULE 2: FOREST GOVERNANCE AND POVERTY REDUCTION

Considering the critical significance of forest governance in poverty reduction significant time was allocated to discuss the multifarious aspects of governance. Governance issues were addressed in a series of presentations and discussions as indicated below:

- ❑ **Integrated natural resource management and poverty reduction: Rhetoric and action (Jeff Sayer)**
- ❑ **Forest tenure reform and poverty alleviation (Yurdi Yasmi).**
- ❑ **Discussion : How pro-poor are national forest policies (Patrick Durst and CTS Nair).**
- ❑ **Forest governance improvement and poverty reduction (Doris Capistrano)**



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MODULE 2: FOREST GOVERNANCE AND POVERTY REDUCTION

- How FLEGT could help in poverty reduction (Josil Murray).
- Making forestry institutions responsive to the needs of the poor (Doris Capistrano).
- Group Discussion: Leadership in forestry (CTS Nair & Yurdi Yasmi)
- Dealing with divergent values and resolution of conflicts (Yurdi Yasmi)
- Group Discussion: Decentralization and devolution of forest management - An evolutionary process (CTS Nair & Yam Malla).

MODULE 3: MAKING FORESTRY PROGRAMMES PRO-POOR

- Environmental conservation and livelihood improvement: Where and when it leads to a win-win outcome (Jeff Sayer)
- Panel discussion on the role of forests and forestry in poverty reduction (with Jeff Sayer, Doris Capistrano, Patrick Durst and Josil Murray).
- Commercial forestry and livelihood improvement (Josil Murray).
- Managing non-wood forest products and poverty alleviation (CTS Nair).
- Panel Discussion on role of forests and forestry in poverty reduction (with Jeff Sayer, Doris Capistrano, Patrick Durst and Josil Murray).

MODULE 4: LESSONS FROM POVERTY REDUCTION EFFORTS

- Korean experience of reforestation through social mobilization (Dong Geun Han).
- Joint forest management in India (CTS Nair).
- Community forestry and poverty reduction: Lessons from Asia (Yam Malla).

MODULE 5: ECONOMICS OF FORESTRY INTERVENTIONS

- Economic aspects of poverty reduction through forestry (CTS Nair).
- Payment for ecosystem services: A win-win option (CTS Nair).
- Paris Agreement, REDD+ and poverty alleviation: Lessons learnt and the way forward (Beau Damen).
- Financing environmental and forestry programmes: GCF and GEF (Beau Damen).

MODULE 6: TOOLS FOR ASSESSING FORESTRY'S IMPACT ON POVERTY

- ❑ **Social-cost benefit analysis (CTS Nair).**

MODULE 7: COMMUNICATION SKILLS 1

- Making communications effective (Caroline Liou).
- Living in an era of social media: Opportunities and challenges (Caroline Liou).
- Preparation of policy briefs: How to make messages stick (Caroline Liou).
- Making good presentations (Yurdi Yasmi & Caroline Liou)

MODULE 8: PREPARATION OF POLICY BRIEFS

This was a major exercise spread over the entire duration of the course.

Group	Theme
Group 1	Enhancing the role of forestry in accomplishing SDG 13 – Climate Action
Group 2	Improving non-wood forest products value chain to enhance rural income.
Group 3	Management of protected areas through local community participation
Group 4	Small holder tree growing and poverty alleviation
Group 5	Improving the economic viability of small-scale forestry enterprises

We had two one-day field trips as indicated below:

1. The visit to Kannelia Forest Reserve provided an indication of how local livelihood concerns are mainstreamed into management of protected areas. Local communities are involved in a wide array of activities and forest related activities help in supplementing their income. Several factors have enabled the development of effective collaboration between Forest Department and local communities.
2. Visit to the saw-saw milling and furniture unit under the State Timber Corporation and the private sector saw milling and furniture units provided some in-sights into the larger challenges, especially being faced by public sector enterprises.



TAKE HOME MESSAGES

1. The larger environment of forestry is undergoing very rapid changes. Often forestry organizations are unable to perceive and adapt to the larger changes.
2. The governance system – including policies, legislation and institutions - needs to undergo fundamental changes. Command and control organizations have no future in a networked world.
3. Need to realise that there are limits to what can be done by forestry alone as regards poverty reduction. Forestry has to work very closely with other sectors and this will require a broader landscape approach transcending the historical sectoral boundaries.
4. Thinking out of the box is unavoidable if we have to address most of the current and emerging problems.
5. Leadership is very critical; unfortunately good leaders have become “a rare and endangered species”.

TAKE HOME MESSAGES

6. Tenure reform is fundamental to any programme dealing with poverty reduction.
7. Major transformations – as in the case of Korea – took place in the context of a combination of factors.
8. Economic viability of forestry initiatives needs in-depth assessment. Inefficiency and waste need to be addressed without which sustained poverty reduction will be impossible.
9. Informed use of tools like social cost benefit analysis fully understanding the challenges in their use is critical to enhance pro-poor investments.
10. We all need to become excellent communicators.

TO SUM UP

- ❑ Transcend the forest sector boundaries – Consider what is happening outside the “Forests – Forestry Box”.
- ❑ Take a long term perspective and look far into the horizon to see what is coming.
- ❑ Make forestry more “people-centric” and less “forest-centric”.

Think Outside
The Box



Wish you all the best and thank you!



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Asia-Pacific
Forestry
Commission



Forest Department
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