

Meeting of REDD+ at Delakhari, Chhindwara, Madhya Pradesh

The **Meeting of REDD+ at Delakhari, Chhindwara, Madhya Pradesh** was conducted on 7th April 2012. The meeting involving local communities involving JFMCs of Khatuadhana and Anjandhana was conducted in the premises of the Forest Guest House of Delakhari Forest Range, West Chhindwara Forest Division.

The meeting was chaired by Mr Pushkar Singh, CCF, Chhindwara. Mr K. P. Singh, CCF also spoke about his experiences of working in the region with respect to the dependence of the local communities on the non-timber forest produce such as *Buchanania lanzan* seeds, *Madhuca indica* flowers, *Diospyros melanoxylon* leaves as a major source of income. He also expressed the need to not only compensate the local people for conserving the forests but also highlighted the importance of sustainable management of the forest resources.

Dr J V Sharma described the importance of carbon sequestration by conserving forests and possibilities of financial incentives for the carbon sequestered. He lauded the efforts of the forest department for creating the JFM institution in the study areas and also enthused people for participating the in the process.

Mr K P Singh described the nature of working plan preparation in the region and the availability of the information in the context of past data on various forest resources.

Dr Yogesh Gokhale detailed the proposed nature of work and requested for the participation of the local people. He also discussed the time frame for socio-economic and biomass assessment surveys.

The participants also shared their experiences of work done in the villages through forest department. The frontline staff of forest department also shared their experience of working with people and various ground level issues in managing the forests.

The meeting ended with a positive note and resolution by the forest department and the local people for identifying the forest compartments for the proposed project.



Photo 1? Meeting of REDD+ with the local communities and MP Forest Department.



Photo 2: Explaining concept of REDD+ to the local people



Photo 3: Processing of *Madhuca indica* seeds for local use.



Photo 4: Typical moist deciduous forest in Chhindwara district



Photo 5: *Tendu* leaves collection by local people



Photo 6: Interaction of frontline staff and local people