

Adapting Livelihoods and Landscape approach in Shiwalik hill ranges in Haryana, India with a focus on Joint Forest Management Programme

Executive summary

The Energy and Resources Institute (TERI) has been associated with Joint Forest Management (JFM) programme in Haryana for past one and half decade. During this period, TERI facilitated formation of village level institutions, built capacities of Forest Department and local communities and helped in starting community enterprises in two forest divisions of the state. JFM in Haryana has its roots in the successful experiment of community based natural resource management at Sukhomajri village in the late 1970s. The initial success, achieved by the Haryana Forest Department and the Hill Resource Management Society (HRMS) at Sukhomajri has been replicated at 60 other sites in the Haryana Shiwaliks, with similar impacts. The program now covers nearly 30 000 hectares of forest and non-forest area in the Shiwaliks. TERI continues to facilitate JFM in the State by providing technical guidance and creating new models of enterprise development. While the programme has resulted in an improvement in the status of the forests and in the socio-economic status of the people, the programme has been mainly focused at the forests than a holistic landscape approach. Hence scope of interventions and impact on the livelihoods of local people needs more attention in the further stages of JFM programme in Haryana. The present proposal aims to address this lacuna in the JFM programme with the help of Livelihoods and Landscape Approach (LLS), which aims to identify various land uses in a given landscape and manage them for maximum livelihood gain.

Haryana JFM in the context of LLS

LLS programme aims to catalyse the sustainable use and conservation of forest biodiversity and ecosystem services for the benefit of the rural poor. It provides an excellent opportunity to strengthen the ongoing efforts of TERI in the context of Haryana JFM. The goal of LLS for India focuses on improvement of the existing institutional arrangements for community-based forest management, in particular Joint Forest Management, to promote participatory local-level forest product marketing and processing, and to integrate these arrangements with Livelihoods and Landscape approach. The focus of activities will be mainly oriented at integrating institutional arrangements like JFM with landscape level approach by adapting Forest Landscape Restoration (FLR) wherever necessary.

