

Recommendation 4: Increase Community Capacity and Build Local Institutions

Recommendations:

Build strong local institutions. Given the high levels of illiteracy, considerable time, effort, and resources need to be invested in building community capacity. States can build on the forestry experiences of Andhra Pradesh and Assam, and from other sectors in India such as watershed development, in which community-driven development is a central feature.

Make conflict resolution under JFM more equitable. Conflicts often arise in natural resource management. These are exacerbated in India where population density is high and land and forests are emotional and political issues. New and simple mechanisms are needed to address these conflicts.

Provide for communities to be compensated fairly when forest livelihoods are affected by changes in land use such as mining. Discussions currently taking place in Orissa, in which the owners of firms engaged in new land use activities would issue non-voting shares to community members as compensation in addition to resettlement and rehabilitation entitlements, offer promise.

Train forest department field staff in new management approaches and gradually shift their role to approving community micro-plans, providing advisory services, and sharing applied research.

The private sector can support communities in planning, production, and marketing of forest products.

