

Abstract

Planning for Sustainable Forest Management: An Environment Integrated Social Accounting Matrix Approach

Despite the concern for the conservation of forest cover and forest resources in India from all quarters, policy measures have failed to check the over-exploitation of the forest resource base. One major reason behind it can be the negligence of the prevailing linkage among various sub-sectors of the village economy. In the presence of sectoral inter-linkages, the eventuality of forest degradation is likely to take place if production sectors draw more inputs than the regeneration capacity of the forest.

The proposed project aims at solving for the demand and supply parameters of the forest sector when it is taken as an integral part of the village economic system. Thus, environmental concerns such as deforestation, land degradation and loss of bio-diversity caused by the economic activities in the village will be analysed along with its secondary and service sectors operations. The analytical tool used in the study is a modified village level social accounting matrix (SAM), integrating environmental concerns.

Addressing the forest conservation problem in the framework of a village level SAM is a new approach. The proposed analysis is expected to be enriched by the exploration of linkages of the village economic system with the forest sector by introduction of natural resource accounting, which is yet to enter into the agenda of many researchers.