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PARTICIPATORY MANAGEMENT OF COMMON PROPERTY RESOURCES

( A New Concept )

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PARTICIPATORY MANAGEMENT  
(Evolution of the concept)

(1) Forests in India are owned, controlled and regulated by Government. Other public and community lands are also owned by Govt. but with little control and regulation.

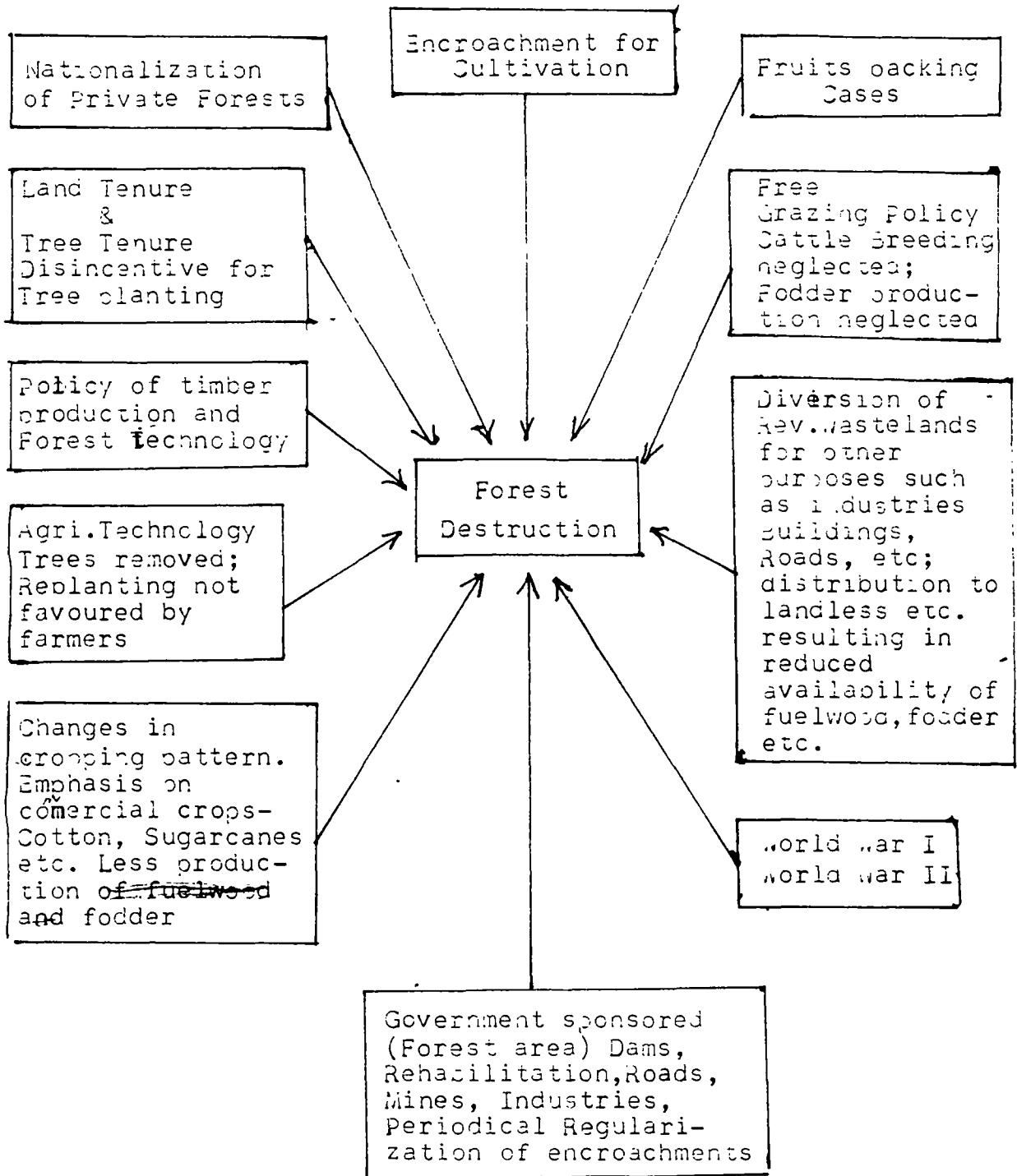
(2) The assumption that ~~the~~ Govt. management ensures optimum benefits-direct and indirect-to the community is wrong. The same is true regarding management by people themselves!

(3) On account of these very reasons:  
Forests are disappearing  
Public and community lands are being destroyed  
Tree growing is not succeeding with a few notable exceptions.

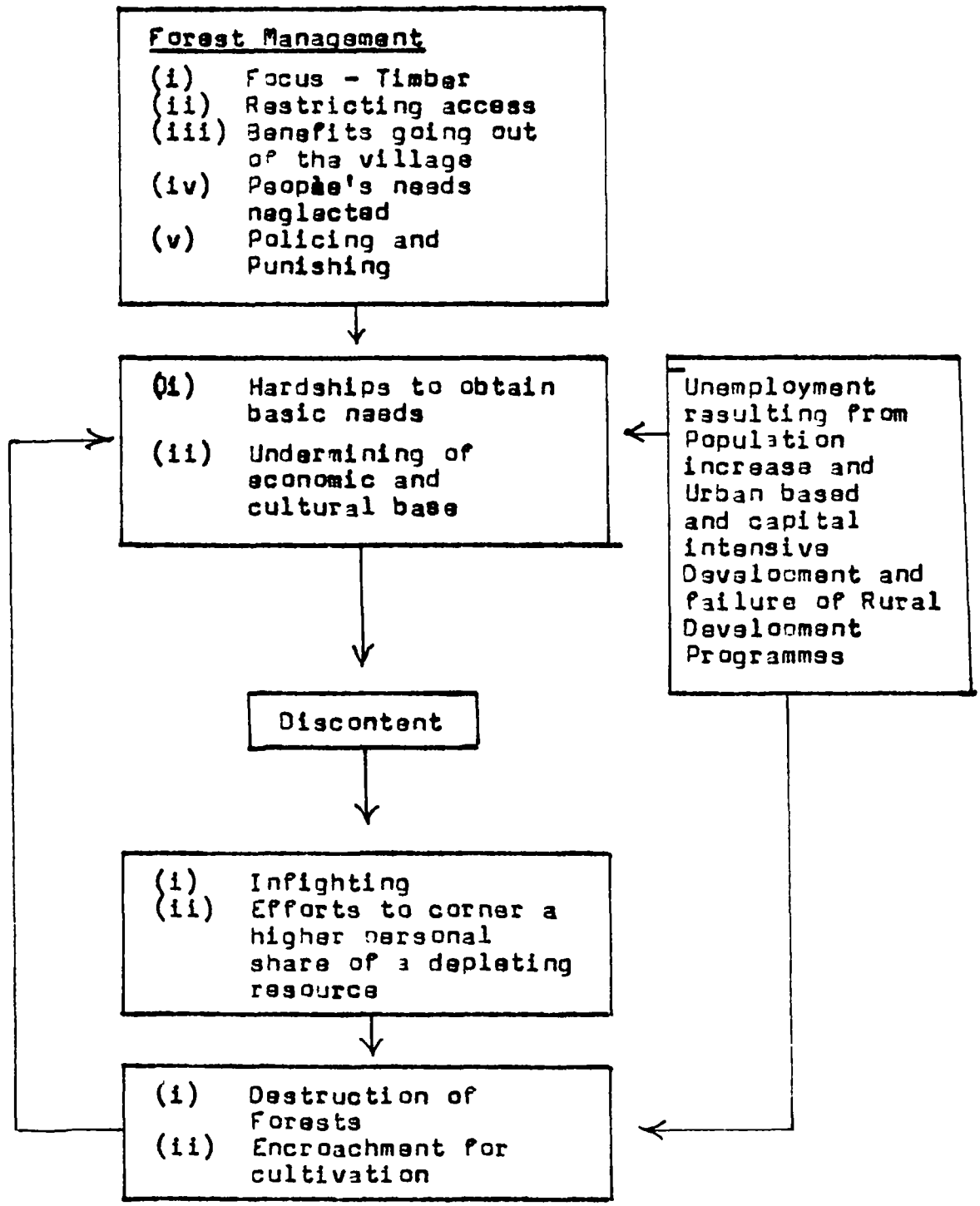
THUS IS BORN, DURING THE LAST FIVE YEARS OR SO, THE CONCEPT OF PARTICIPATORY MANAGEMENT.

Participatory Management has acquired a great relevance to even other sectors of economy where PEOPLE are concerned. It makes for less conflicts, violence and strikes; additionally, it improves productivity and profits. It is closest to the concept of TRUSTEESHIP propounded by Gandhiji in the thirties.

ANATOMY OF FOREST DESTRUCTION



FOREST MANAGEMENT AND FOREST DESTRUCTION



## WHAT IS PARTICIPATORY MANAGEMENT?

It is a process comprising a wide and diverse range of progressive phases. The number and the period of each are highly sensitive to local micro and microscopic conditions, such as :-

- People-their culture, attitudes, experiences etc.
- Government Agencies-focus, attitudes, corruption
- Political environment

## WHO ARE (should be) PARTICIPANTS?

### Major:

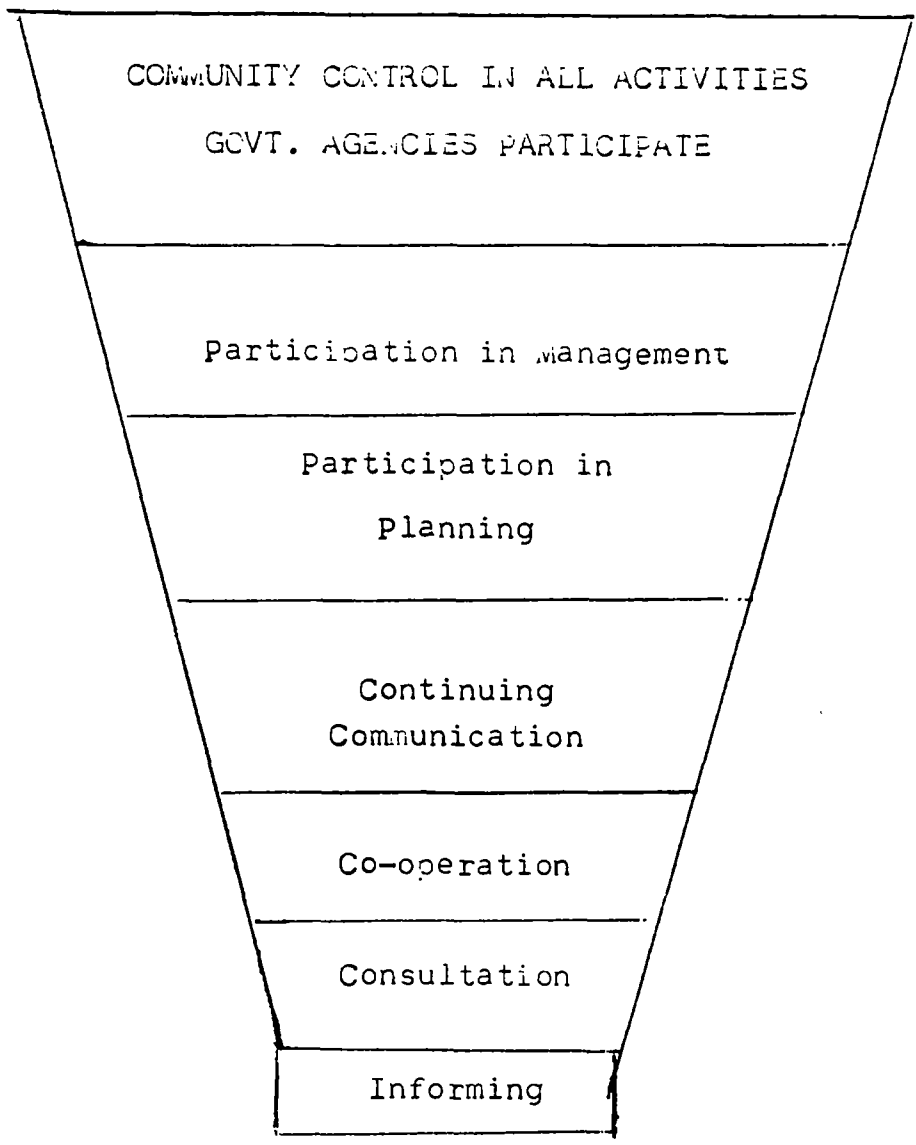
- People and their organizations
- Concerned Govt. Agencies
- N.G.O.s involved in Rural Development
- Environmental Groups
- Women's organizations

### Others:

- Panchayat office-bearers
- Political leaders
- Religious leaders
- School teachers
- Industry

The various participants do not share the same philosophy, work ethic and work culture. This compounds the already complex situation.

EVOLUTION OF PARTICIPATORY MANAGEMENT



WHAT ARE DIFFERENT COMPONENTS OF PARTNERSHIP?

- (1) Govt.Agency-Govt.Agency partnership
- (2) User Groups-Govt.Agencies partnership
- (3) User Group-User Group partnership
- (4) User Group-N.G.O.s partnership
- (5) Govt.Agencies-N.G.O.s partnership
- (6) Govt.Agencies-N.G.O.s-User Groups partnership

The degree and the kind of partnership is governed by the legal status of the resource.

WHAT DOES PARTICIPATION LARGELY IMPLY?

- (1) Trust and Confidence in one another.  
(This is extremely difficult)
- (2) Perception of shared concerns,dangers,benefits:  
shared responsibilities,decision making powers,  
(Planning,Management,Harvesting,Regeneration  
and Distribution of benefits)
- (3) Equality of partners
- (4) Continuing interaction among partners
- (5) Partners reinforce,complement and supplement  
one another.
- (6) Flexibility and freedom to change

WHAT SHOULD BE THE DEGREE OF PARTICIPATION?  
(Different levels)

<u>Level</u>	<u>Degree of Participation</u>
Village	complete, continuous in all areas
Sub-County	Continuous, funding, technology, Administration and co-ordination
County	Frequent, Funding, Experts, Research and Training
State/Province	Occasional, Funding, State Policy
National	Occasional, National Policy



Participatory Management, sharing of functions and responsibilities at different levels

Sr. No.	Area	Levels	Centre (a)	State (b)	District (c)
1	Updating Maps and information and making it freely available		General Guidelines for the country	General Guidelines for the State within framework of (a)	Specific Guidelines for District within framework of (a) and (b)
2	Land use for Govt. Wastelands		General Guidelines for the country	General Guidelines for the State within framework of (a) together with District-wise specifics.	Specific Rules for the District within framework of (a) and (b)
3	Tree Tenure		General Guidelines for the country	Specific Guidelines for the State-Districtwise within framework of (a)	Detailed Guidelines for the District
4	Law and Rules for Felling and Transport		Indian Forest Act for the country	Specific State Law, Rules Districtwise	Detailed Guidelines for operationalising District Rules
5	Encroachments		National Policy	Specific Policy-Districtwise -- Ethnic Groupwise	Detailed Guidelines for operationalising District Policy
6	Priorities and criteria for allotment (lease) of Government Wastelands		Principles & General criteria for the country (i) Landless (Coop.) (ii) NGO/VO (iii) Small and Marginal farmers (iv) Industry	Specific Guidelines for the State-Districtwise & Ethnic Groupwise Constitution of a broadbased District and Allotment Committee	Operationalizing the guidelines for the District so that the Land Allotment Committee takes decisions for allotment.

Sr. No.	Area	Levels	Centre (a)	State (b)	District (c)
7	Landless - Subsidy, Grants		Principles and General criteria for the country	Specific for the State, Districtwise & powers to be delegated to District. Funds to be placed at the disposal of Districts.	Operational Rules for the District so that the District Allotment Committee takes decisions
8	Small & Marginal Farmers		As per (7) above	As per (7) above	As per (7) above.
9	Industry for promoting Farm Forestry		Fiscal incentives, Modification of Income and Excise Taxes	Modification of State Agri. Tax wherever it exists & Sales Tax	Detailed Guidelines for District
10	Involvement of Women		General Guidelines for Wages, Recruitment, Reservation of work etc.	Specific Guidelines for the State-District-wise	Detailed Rules for operationalising the Policy.
11	Involvement of Student Community		Central Guidelines for country spelling out HOW	Specific Guidelines for the State: WHAT? WHERE? HOW MUCH? HOW? Nature camps, painting and Essay competitions, debates, etc.	Operational Plan WHO? WHERE: WHAT: FUND:
12	Debeauracratization and support to NGOs		General Guidelines (i) NGOs as Agencies for implementation; supporting & Strengthening them (ii) Village Legal Barefoot Forests (iii) Restructuring Social Forestry Organisations	(i) Specific measures to support and motivate NGOs (ii) Detailed Guidelines for Barefoot Foresters (iii) Restructuring Social Forestry Organisations as to	Operational Guidelines to implement District Policy

Sr. No.	Area	Levels	Centre (a)	State (b)	District (c)
				make them as service Departments, within the Rural Development Structure of the District	
13	Decentralisation		General Guidelines for Delegating authority to States to take decisions on all matters concerning Wasteland Development	Districtwise Guidelines delegating full authority to District (allotment of Wasteland, funds planning, Monitoring & Evaluation etc.) Village identity to be revived and ensured.	Operational Plans Block-wise; village-wise village identity to be ensured
14	Credit		National Policy regarding credit upto Rs.10000/- at subsidised rate of interest without a collateral.	State Policy regarding interest free loan to weaker sections, such as tribals, landless, widows and others.	District Guidelines for disbursement and recovery of loans.
			Improving credit access by the rural poor (Bank on wheels) simplifying procedures.	Delegation of Powers to the Districts.	Simplifying procedure.
15	Interaction		Country Level Forum National Federation	State Level Forum State Federation	District, Block & Village Level Forums, District Federation Village Forest Environmental Societies.

Sr. No.	Area	Levels	Centre (a)	State (b)	District (c)
16	Data and Information		Country Level	State Level	District Level (Van Vignan Kendras)
17	Transfer of Technology		Technology Management, collection, Collation Analysis & Communication through Periodicals & Annual Seminars	Liasion with Centre: Collection and Communication of State experiences through Periodicals & Annual Seminars.	Transfer of Technology through Van Vignan Kendras; Village Level Barefoot Foresters
18	Training		Coordinating and assisting the State efforts	Organising & Assisting NGOs conduct training of field functionaries, Training of Supervisors and Managers. Co-ordinating and assisting District efforts.	Assisting NGOs conduct training; Van Vignan Kendras to train Trainers and to produce training materials; refresher training of and technical support to Village Level Barefoot Foresters.
19	Research		Organise National and Regional Research and assist States.	Organise and conduct Research through Van Vignan Kendras	Conduct field research of local importance.
20	Marketing		National Level Marketing Organisation, Co-ordination, compilation and dissemination of Marketing information.	State Level Marketing Organisation and dissemination of information	District Level of Organisation, Farmers' Co-operatives

The above list is far from being exhaustive. The central consideration is to enable the Village Community including Landless and Farming Community to be self-reliant in respect of Wasteland Development so that the dependence on the Government is reduced progressively.

WHAT CONTRIBUTES TO THE SUCCESS?

- (1) Policy changes granting:-
  - Full village identity
  - Full tribal identity
  - Full access to the resource
  - Full access to all benefits
- (2) Restructuring the Administration so as to make it people oriented and sensitive to the culture, susceptibilities and aspirations of the beneficiaries
- (3) Creating/strengthening a viable and efficient representative village level organization
- (4) Use of local leadership, skills, resources and technology after suitably upgrading the same.
- (5) Continuing interaction and resolving conflicts through discussions.
- (6) Equitable distribution of benefits and sacrifices.
- (7) Improvement of the resources through soil and moisture conservation and better Management.
- (8) Encouraging local industries based on local resources. Training and Marketing stimulate and induce greater participation.
- (9) Moving progressively towards greater self-reliance and self-sustenance.