

## CHAPTER XVII

### FORESTRY STATISTICS

Reliable forestry statistics are required at the national level by different agencies for planning, policy analysis, and making decision on forestry investment and development programmes. Statistics are also required to monitor and evaluate the impact of policies and programmes. To make this information available at one place, Directorate of Statistics, Indian Council of Forestry Research & Education, Dehra Dun, has been created under FREEP.

The Specific task to be carried out by DOS are as follows :

- Identify in consultation with MoE & F the primary and secondary forestry data to be collected,
- Liaise with agencies concerned with the collection of primary or secondary data, collect, collate and process the agreed data,
- Check on data reliability,
- Provide required data to MoE & F or other authorised users timely.

#### FORESTRY STATISTICS INDIA

Directorate of Statistics has been collecting data on various aspects of forestry and forest from various agencies by two way approach. The designed formats were sent to the various States/UT's and/or other agencies. Simultaneously, formats were sent to different institute of Indian Council of Forestry Research & Education, working in the various States/UT's. In most of the cases, two sets of data were received, which were used later for validation.

Keeping in view the quantum and different types of data, the electronic spreadsheet (MS EXCEL) and Database Management System were created.

The data gathered was posted in the forms and output tables, placed in seventeen chapters on different aspects of forestry for the client and user agencies.

ICFRE has brought out three edition of "Forestry Statistics India" as follows :

**a) Forestry Statistics India 1988-94**

The Statistics & Utilisation Division of M o E & F issued a series of Forestry Statistics publication under the title of "India's Forest" between 1983 and 1987. Subsequently, till 1995, no forestry data compilation's were carried out by M o E & F. ICFRE brought out first the 1995 statistical compilation and

then took action to update information between 1988 to 1994 by bringing out Forestry Statistics India 1988-94.

Information from other Central and State agencies was also collected in the standard format. This task was not given in the original mandate of the Directorate of Statistics under the World Bank FREE Project. However, it was added to our action plan later as no compilation was available for this period. The collected data was scrutinized and errors were rectified in consultation with State Forest Departments (SFD). The "Forestry Statistics India 1988-94" was published in 1997.

**b) Forestry Statistics India 1995**

Formats were designed based on the Forestry Statistical Compilation issued by Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation, Central Forestry Commission and Ministry of Environment and Forests to collect data from State Forest Departments, Forest Corporations, various Central Ministries and other agencies. The data were scrutinized, errors were rectified in consultation with Forest Departments, and Forestry Statistics India – 1995 was brought out in 1996.

**c) Forestry Statistics India 1996**

A workshop "FORSTAT -96" was organised at ICFRE to identify various Forestry fields about which information is to be collected for bringing out annual Forestry data Compilation. Based on the suggestions of various State Forest Departments and other agencies and the existing forestry compilations, 45 Standard formats were sent to the State Forest Departments and Corporations for collection of data. The data on forestry sector was segregated into 19 chapters under various heads. In this edition two additional chapters on Forest Management and Forest Offences were added. Our endeavor is to collect information on all essential aspects of forestry and allied sectors.

**d) Forestry Statistics India 1997 – 98**

ICFRE has taken a policy decision to publish statistical information bi-annually and the first bi-annual edition with the data from 1.4.96 to 31.3.98 for the year 1997-98 will be compiled by using National Forestry Database Management System developed at ICFRE. The Reports will be generated in 180 output forms which will be placed in 19 chapters. The Data from State Forest Departments, Forest Corporations and other agencies is required for compilation.

## **TIMBER/BAMBOO TRADE BULLETIN**

The prices in the open market for the timber and other produce pertaining to the species harvested from forest are dependent on prices paid by the lessees for standing crops; logging cost; transportation and sawing cost; overheads; location of the market; and other such factors. The pricing mechanism for timber, bamboo and firewood is also dependent on the exploitation of this produce from farm forestry operations. The prices vary from place to place depending on the demand and supply, location of small scale industries, and the Government policy on marketing of forest produce. The classification followed in different markets all over the country varies a lot on account of the specific use of the forest produce. Under the World Bank FREE Project, a quarterly Timber/Bamboo Trade Bulletin is published giving information on the prices of important forestry species in 19 market centres spread all over the country. So far 16 (Sixteen) bulletins have been published by this Directorate starting from the first edition of December '94 to the latest issue of September '98.

## **BIOMETRICAL ASSISTANCE**

Biometrical support has been provided to Eighty Seven research projects of different Institutes of ICFRE. In addition, several consultations have been provided to the Scientists of ICFRE institutes viz.; Jabalpur, Allahabad, Shimla, Dehradun, Jodhpur etc.

## **NATIONAL FORESTRY DATABASE MANAGEMENT SYSTEM (NFDBMS)**

The Directorate of Statistics, ICFRE, Dehradun has initiated a programme under the World Bank FREE Project, to develop a National Forestry Database Management System (NFDBMS) utilising the technical support from M/s CMC Ltd. It uses ORACLE RDBMS as backend and Developer 2000 as front end tool. The NFDBMS was developed using client server architecture and was tested using a small local area network (LAN) with Windows NT operating system. Around 125 input forms, 180 reports and 26 predefined queries were designed. The graphical representation of the data is also provided in the system. The application software supports executive information system and adhoc queries. Presently the database contains the Forestry Statistical data for the year 1995. These databases were available in the form of books "Forestry Statistics India – 1988 - 94, 1995 and 1996. It is planned to provide this database on ICFRE Webserver so that it is available on internet and intranet.

The NFDBMS includes the data pertaining to the following topics viz.; Demography, Area, Diversion of Forest Area, Land use and Soil Conservation, Afforestation, Forest Management, Wildlife, Livestock and Fodder, Forest Offences, Planwise Progress, Wood Based Industries, Forest Product and Energy Consumption, Revenue and Expenditure, Education and Training, Organisation, Import and Export, Economic Indicators, World Forestry Statistics and Conversion Tables.

Adequate training was provided to the Staff and Scientists for managing the databases and the application software. Integration of this attributed data to spatial data with the help of GIS is the envisaged activity in the Directorate of Statistics.