

Community
Forestry
Working Paper 1

Process Stage 1

**Multi-Criteria Village Selection System
&
Rapid Appraisal Methods**

***Haryana Community Forestry Project
Haryana Forest Department***

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CONTENTS

Preface

The Community Forestry Development Process

The Multi-Criteria Selection System

The Rapid Appraisal Methodology

Conclusion

References

Figure 1	The Overall Community Development Process
Figure 2	Decision Model for Selecting Villages for Intervention
Annex A	MCSS Criteria Scoring and Weighting System
Annex B	MCSS Raw Data Sheet and Scoring Sheet for a C.D. Block
Annex C	Map of C.D. Block showing Villages Ranked in the 1 st Quartile from MCSS
Annex D	Rapid Appraisal Interview Guide Sheet
Annex E	Sample Rapid Appraisal Report

PREFACE

This is the first in a series of Guidelines produced for the Haryana Community Forestry Project (HCFP) under the Department of Forestry with support from the European Union.

The major objectives of the Haryana Community Forestry Project are to:

- promote equitable community development at village level
- promote better management of common property resources
- promote diversified farming systems that include trees
- promote forestry related income generating activities
- promote energy saving devices

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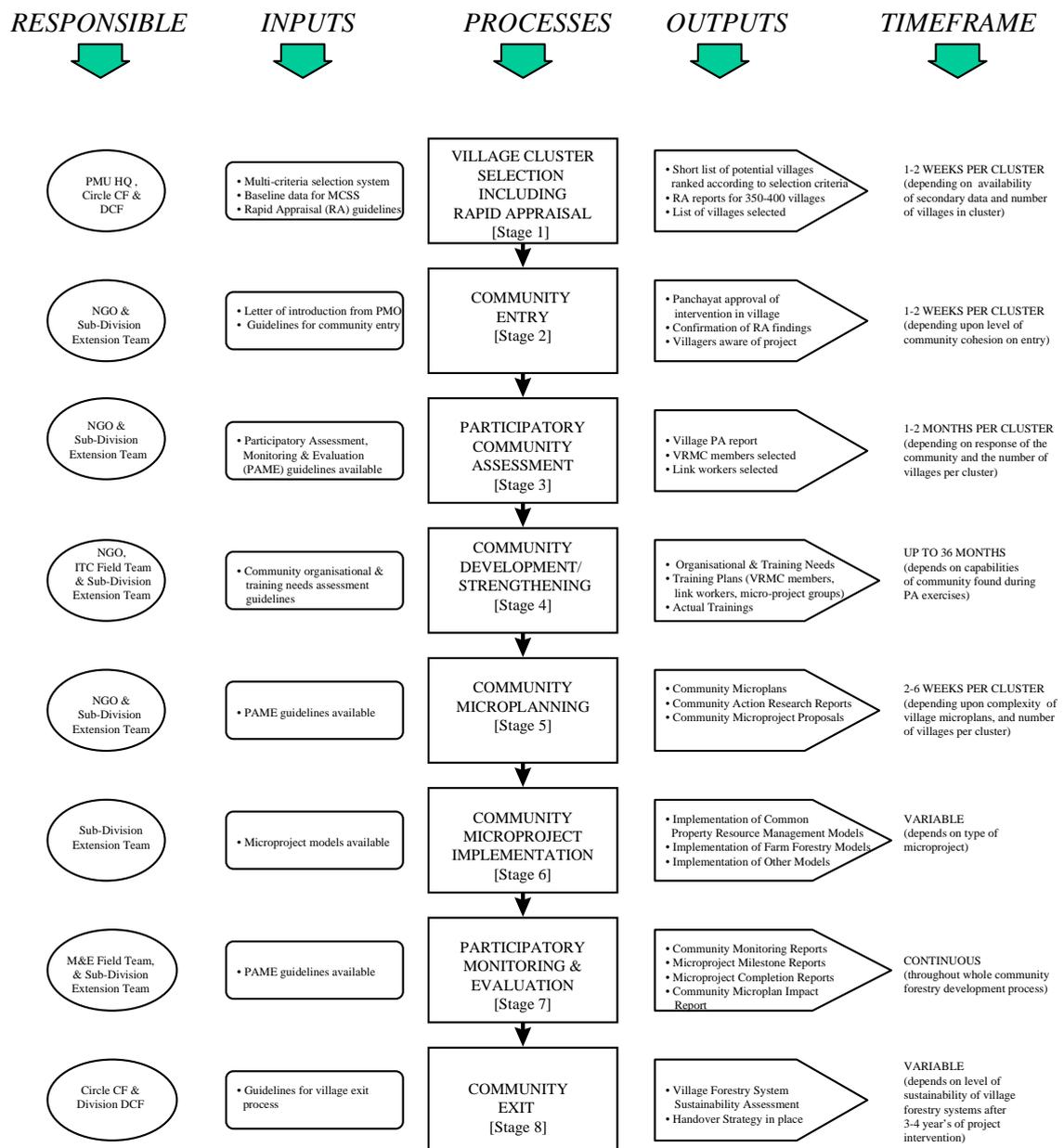
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Community Forestry Development Process

The Steps in the Process

The overall development process comprises eight Stages as outlined in Figure 1 below. This set of Guidelines refers to Stage 1, the initial selection of village clusters for intervention by the project through a multi-criteria selection system (MCSS) followed by a Rapid Appraisal (RA) in those villages with a high potential for meeting the project purposes of the HCFP.

Figure 1 The Overall Community Forestry Development Process



The Multi Criteria Village Selection System

The Project Area

The Project Area comprises 43 blocks in 10 districts in two distinct agro-ecological zones of Haryana State, namely, the Arid/ Semi-Arid Western Plains and the Semi-Arid/ Sub-Humid Western Shivalik Region. In all there are 2909 villages within the Project Area, and it is expected that the Project will carry out its activities in 300 villages (around 10% of the total number). Districts and blocks were selected by the Haryana Forestry Department based both on the potential for providing villages for implementing the various forestry models and on the fact that there were no other major on-going forestry activities of the Haryana Forestry Department or other donors in the specified blocks.

Project Area	Project Division	Districts Covered	Possible Blocks to be Covered	Number of Villages in each Block	
Arid and Semi-Arid Western Plains	Hisar	Sirsa	Rania	47	
			Ellenabad	35	
			Dabwall	49	
			Odhan	38	
			Bara Gudha	44	
			Sirsa	51	
			Nathusari Chopta	55	
			Sub-total=319		
		Fatehabad	Fatehabad	36	
			Bhuna	22	
			Batthu Kalan	28	
			Ratia	69	
			Tohana	71	
			Sub-total=226		
		Hisar	Uklana	23	
			Barwala	37	
			Agroha	31	
			Adampur	18	
Hansi	35				
Bas	21				
Narnaund	27				
Hisar I	43				
Hisar II	43				
	Sub-total=278				
Bhiwani	Bhiwani	Loharu	73		
		Siwani	54		
		Bhiwani	49		
	Sub-total=176				
Rewari	Rewari	Jatusana	75		
		Nahar	52		
	Mahendragarh	Kanina	59		
	Sub-total=186				
Semi-Arid and Sub-Humid Shivalik Region	Ambala	Panchkula	Morni	15	
			Barwala	51	
			Pinjore	122	
			Raipur Rani	82	
			Sub-total=270		
	Ambala		Naraingarh	126	
			Ambala	175	
			Barara	137	
		Sub-total=438			
	Kurukshetra	Kurukshetra	Ladwa	94	
			Shahbad	110	
			Pehowa	79	
			Thanesar	106	
			Sub-total=389		
Yamunagar		Sadaura	58		
		Bilaspur	138		
		Radaur	104		
		Chhachhrauli	166		
		Jagadhri	161		
	Sub-total=627				
			Total=2909		

Village Selection Criteria the criteria used for initial screening of villages for intervention by the project fall into four main categories: (a) land suitability for the various forestry models that are to be promoted by the project; (b) land availability for micro-projects involving common property resources; (c) socio-economic condition of the potential beneficiaries; and (d) physical planning criteria related to contiguity of selected villages. These are portrayed in the decision making model in Figure 2 where the following guidelines should be adopted by the DCF in each Division:

- minimum of 17 ha community land in all selected villages
- minimum of 50 ha of sand dune affected lands in each of the 180 western villages
- one water harvesting dam site in or adjacent to those villages adjacent to Shivalik Hills
- preferred village size 200-500 households for better social cohesion and community mobilisation
- preferred scheduled caste numbers to be at least 30% of population
- preferred agricultural labourers to be at least 30% of population
- village to be part of a contiguous cluster of 3-4 villages all with similar high potential for intervention.

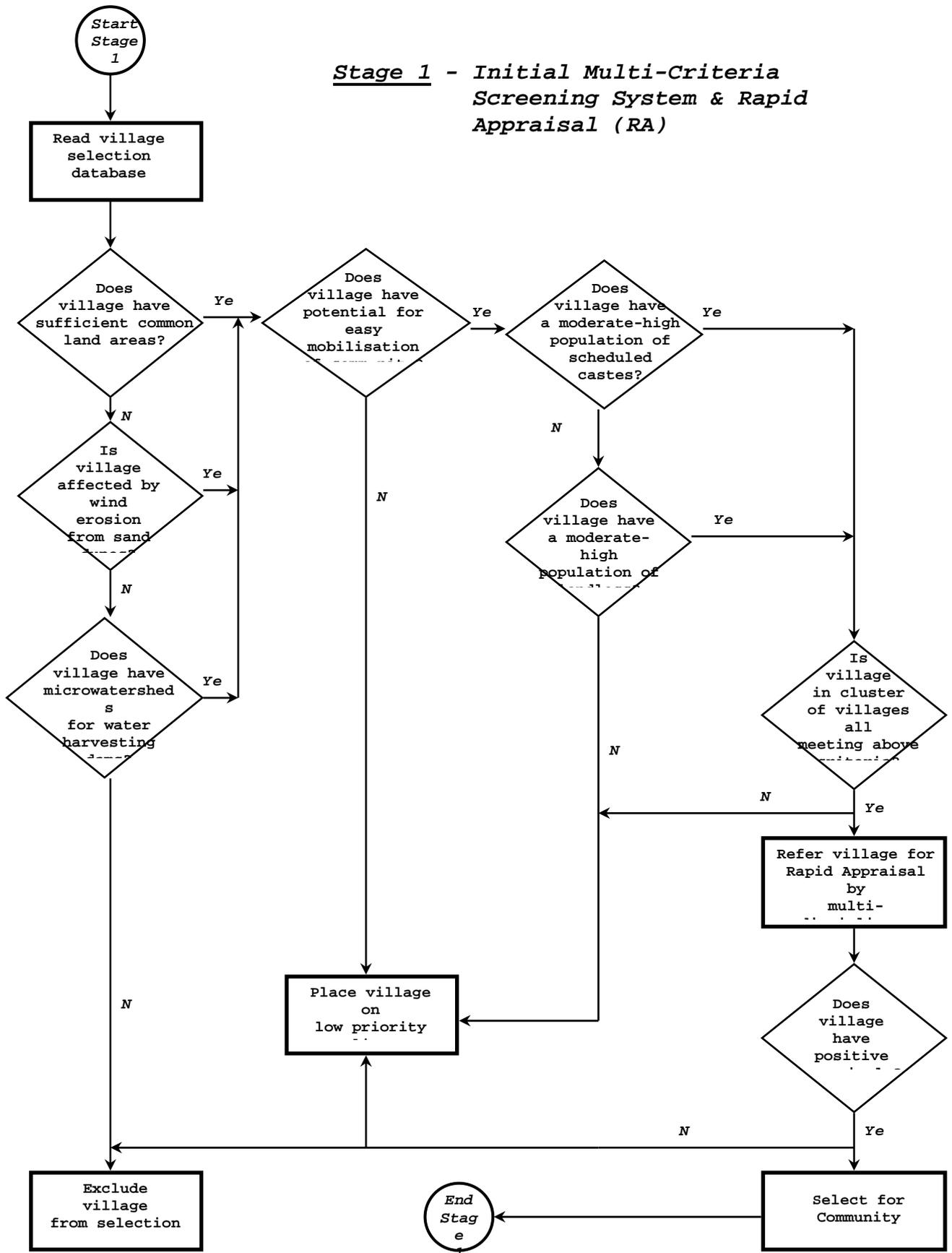
Criteria were selected based on the following: (a) must be of direct relevance to the project's intervention models and beneficiaries; (b) must be quantifiable from available secondary data either directly or through proxy indicators; (c) must be based on the principles of a minimum data set; and (d) should not take too long to collect or analyse (collection, analysis, and presentation of data from MCSS and RA for 7 villages in one C.D. Block should take less than two weeks by a Team headed by the Divisional DCF).

Land Suitability Criteria

Of the six forestry models proposed by the project, three are conditional on the suitability of land for the model. These are:

- (a) sand dune fixation as defined in the model in the Appraisal Document is only relevant to Land Class SD1 which comprises land with regional, linear sand dune plateaux or rolling and hilly sand dunes suitable for afforestation (these areas may be also be suited to an enrichment planting model where some forest still remains). Other land classes, not considered in the Appraisal Document are: Land Class SD2 with gently undulating to undulating sand dunes in a complex of shifting sands and fertile inter-dune areas used for rainfed agriculture where an agroforestry model is required in the fertile depressions with afforestation or wind break models on shifting sand dunes, Land Class SD3 comprises flat, canal irrigated land which was formerly affected by sand dunes and where cut and fill has resulted in exposure of subsoils with kanker or other hard-pan layers resulting in localised flooding and build up of salinity, these areas are best suited to multi-species farm forestry and agroforestry and may also be suited to poplar plantation on prime land; and Class SD4 on flat to gently undulating sand dune affected land used for sprinkler irrigation from tube-wells where fruit trees may be planted along with vegetable crops such as onions and tomatoes. Careful land use planning will be needed in each village through participatory processes in order to allocate the correct models to the different land classes.

Figure 2 Model for Selecting Villages for Intervention



- (a) poplar seedling distribution is only relevant in areas suitable for poplar. These lands are generally prime agricultural lands, usually irrigated, fertile and in latitudes greater than 28 degrees. Preference is given by the project to areas in the four Northern districts, although irrigated land in Sirsa, Hisar and Fatehabad districts is the focus for poplar expansion amongst farmers at the present time.
- (b) water harvesting dams from micro-watersheds in the Shivalik Hills where suitable areas should have the correct micro-catchment morphology, hydrology, and land cover.
- (c) The other three models are expected to be suitable in all villages, provided land is made available and there is willingness amongst the villagers to implement the different beneficial land treatments, namely tree groves, kitchen gardens improvement and multi-species farm forestry and agroforestry.

On the assumption that all proposed 180 villages in the western Arid and Semi-Arid areas (60 villages per management Division) have land available for sand dune models, then, villages with at least 50 hectares of land suitable for sand dune fixation are required. The project will need to decide which of the sub-models described above is applicable. The full picture will only be known after Rapid Appraisal in pre-selected villages.

Land Availability Criteria

One of the models requires large areas of community land to be made available, namely for village woodlot development (some community land will also be needed for the sand dune fixation model) if the HCFP project targets are to be met.

In selection of villages, preference should be given to villages with 17 hectares (42 acres) or more of land available for village woodlots. Villages should not be selected if there is less than 10 hectares of land available for village woodlots. The average area available in any village cluster should be 17 hectare or more per village. The establishment of VRMC and construction of chetna khendra in villages which do not release land for community woodlots or sand dune fixation can be considered as questionable, not only in meeting the project plantation targets, but also in providing benefits to disadvantaged groups and in following the spirit of community resource management against that of private resource management.

It is more viable for village woodlots to be in larger plantation blocks for economies of scale, ease of management and protection. In addition, larger plantation blocks will provide more employment to disadvantaged groups thus contributing to the alleviation of poverty amongst the poorer sections of society. The Financing Agreement and the Appraisal Report both suggest minimum size blocks of 20 hectares.

Initial observations in the Project Area indicate that, in the more developed C.D.Blocks, especially those dominated by irrigated agricultural land, it will not be easy to find community land of this size, and the project may have to review its policy on intervention in such Blocks. In addition, panchayat land that has been encroached upon over several decades may be considered part of a shamlat de or similar land ownership system, and subject to legal restrictions on use at the present time. The project should avoid villages where protracted legal proceedings may be required to release land for forestry, and the subsequent need for involvement in conflict management .

During the previous World Bank Social Forestry Project, the majority of villages in the Project Area were covered by social forestry interventions and many common land areas are already planted to trees (many are due for thinning, pruning and harvesting at the present time). Land which may be available will be in small pockets of less than 5 hectares in size, and may also be on land marginal for tree growing e.g. flood prone land on lower terraces of rivers and streams

and in areas with saline and sodic soils. In addition many panchayats have preferred to lease out land for agricultural purposes, and will need to be convinced that planting of trees on this land will give better economic returns than the existing rental income. Land is also used to establish settlement areas and also for institutions such as schools. Some villages claim to have used all their common land areas for other land uses, and no land is available for forestry. This is especially the case in the richer, northern districts and in areas dominated by irrigated agriculture.

Socio-Economic Criteria

The prime beneficiaries of the project include several distinct disadvantaged groups: women, scheduled castes, the landless, and resource poor farmers. These groups are found in all villages to a greater or lesser degree. It is expected that those that fall below the poverty line are from the scheduled caste, landless and resource poor farmer groups.

The Financing Agreement suggests that only villages which are below the average poverty line for that district should qualify for intervention. The Rural Development Agency has recently collected poverty information, but the data are not yet ratified due to disputes over the reliability of some of the data. It is the responsibility of the DCF in each Division to collect information from the BDO in each block, and to verify the information during the Rapid Appraisal in each village

The Economic and Statistical Adviser's Office for Haryana indicates that poverty line data based on calorie intake are only available at the State level from a sample of villages. From 1996 data, those families falling below the poverty line in rural areas are 28% of the total households in Haryana State. In addition, the National Sample Survey Organisation (NSSO) also carries out surveys in sample villages based on consumer expenditure, and uses a poverty line indicator of Rupees 215 expended per month.

Since women are found in all villages, and since 88% of all farming households in Haryana are either marginal or small farmers and are present in all villages, these two criteria are considered redundant for inclusion in the village screening exercise. Consequently, emphasis has been placed on two proxy indicators for poverty, namely, percentage of households from scheduled castes and percentage of main workers who are agricultural labourers (also a proxy indicator for landless). Once reliable and approved poverty line data are available for all villages, it may be useful to include this data in the proposed Multi Criteria Selection System (MCSS).

In order to maximise both the achievement of project targets and the potential for further adoption of the project's interventions preference is given to villages within the size range 200-500 households. Significantly smaller villages will provide less impact from project resources and significantly larger villages will not provide the needed cohesion required for successful community management of resources.

Physical Planning Criteria

Block clustering will take place during the first two years of the project with all blocks along the Rajasthan border being selected for intervention due to the high probability of land for sand dune fixation and village woodlots together with all blocks bordering or including the Shivalik Hills where there is expected to be a high potential for water harvesting dams and reclamation of degraded river bank lands. The inclusion of blocks in the central plain areas will depend on availability of community lands, following a study of community lands in the Project Areas.

The Financing Agreement also suggests clustering of villages, consequently, one criterion for selection is that villages that are considered highly suitable for selection from the previous criteria

should also be geographically adjacent to at least two other highly suitable villages. Clustering of villages will have the following benefits: (a) ease of project logistics (extension, training, input supply etc.); (b) ease of information sharing between villages (villages learn from each other); and (c) possibilities for aggregation of adjacent common lands and sand dune affected areas for a more consolidated approach (easier to reach 20 hectare size blocks of community land).

It is planned in the Overall Work and Financing Plan (HCFP, 1999) that there will be thirteen forestry extension field operations teams, each comprising a sub-divisional forestry officer, a deputy ranger, two foresters, two trainers, and fourteen forest guards. It is expected that by the end of the project, each team will have supported 20-25 villages, with one village cluster started in each of the first six years by each team. A cluster comprises 3-4 villages, and it is expected that each of the selected blocks in the project area will contain at least two fully developed clusters or seven fully developed villages by the end of the project. Some blocks that have seriously degraded land may end with 5 clusters or 15-20 villages. Other blocks that fail to provide land for community interventions may be excluded from the project after Rapid Appraisals have taken place.

Village Scoring and Weighting System

Raw data for seven out of eight criteria chosen for the Multi-Criteria Selection System (MCSS) were entered into an Excel spreadsheet. They were then subjected to an initial scoring system as outlined in Annex A. The scoring ranges from 1 to 0 (zero), with 1 being highly suitable for selection and 0 being not suitable for selection. Each of the scored criteria was also weighted with regard to its perceived importance for initial screening of villages. The scores for each of the seven criteria was then summed to provide an Initial Overall Weighted Score. Examples of the raw data sheet and the scoring sheet for one block in Bhiwani District (Siwani Block) are found in Annex B.

Village Ranking and Cluster Selection

The scoring of seven individual criteria (excluding the cluster score) was carried out automatically in the Excel spreadsheet to provide an Initial Overall Weighted Score for the 7 criteria. The villages in the 1st Quartile (top 25% of these initial scores) were then shaded in colour on a map showing all of the villages within that specific block. For each village in the 1st Quartile, the number of adjacent (contiguous) villages which were also in the 1st Quartile was calculated and entered into the raw data spreadsheet and scored in the score spreadsheet, and a Final Village Score was derived. From the Final Village Score, the top ranked 12.5% highest scoring villages were plotted onto the same map in a different colour, and village clusters were identified for Rapid Appraisal (RA) by a multi-disciplinary team. A map showing villages in the 1st Quartile, upper 12.5% on Final Score, and selected clusters for one block in Bhiwani District is found under Annex C.

In order to achieve a maximum spread effect from the project interventions, and to allow for the possibility of natural adoption of models by new adjacent villages in future (post-project), where possible two priority clusters of 3-4 villages each should be selected for RA in each block. In the event of clusters or individual villages being rejected during the RA, a third cluster may need to be identified for RA. The ultimate aim should be for seven (7) villages in two clusters to reach all stages in the community forestry development process in each target block, resulting in achievement of the 300 target villages as specified in the Project Logical Framework (OWP, 1999).

It has already been pointed out that if a block fails to provide village clusters with sufficient land for at least one of the three key common property resource models (village woodlots, sand dune fixation, and water harvesting dams), it will be excluded from intervention since it will not meet the overall aims of the community forestry project.

Up-Dating the MCSS

Secondary data are used in the MCSS, and are as follows for each of the key criterion used:

Criteria Used	Sources of Raw Data
Land suitability for sand dune fixation	1:50,000 Survey of India maps (1970's data) Wastelands maps from HARSAC (1999 data) Local knowledge of Forest Department
Land suitability for water harvesting from micro-watersheds	Local knowledge of Forest Department
Land suitability for poplar plantations	Local knowledge of Forest Department
Community land availability	Proxy data from 1991 Census (used only in absence of BDO data) BDO Panchayat land data
Number of households	1991 Census
% Scheduled castes	1991 Census
Agricultural labourers as % of all main workers	1991 Census
Number of contiguous villages	Calculated after plotting on map those villages in Upper Quartile after Initial Scoring using above data

It is clear that the use of secondary data in any MCSS has risks, since the data may be out of date, inaccurate or incomplete. Consequently, during the RA exercises. The MCSS data will be updated from the Block Development Office and Gram Panchayat records, and a re-scoring will take place in order to confirm the ranking of villages and thus the effectiveness of the MCSS.

Initial pre-testing of the MCSS for village clusters has shown that those village clusters selected have provided villages suitable for Community Entry in most cases. This has been seen from the results of Rapid Appraisals in over ten villages in three Blocks.

Refinements to the MCSS could include: (a) different scoring levels for different sand dune fixation suitability classes; (b) inclusion of more recent data on community land from BDOs; and (c) inclusion of poverty line data collected from BDOs. These adjustments should be carried out by the CF and DCF responsible for recommending to the PMU villages for intervention.

Final selection of villages will only take place after the RA exercises, and this process is described in the following part of these Stage 1 Guidelines.

The Rapid Appraisal Methodology

The Rapid Appraisal (RA) methodology (Messerschmidt, 1995) comprises formulation of RA Hypotheses, development of an RA interview guide related to the hypotheses, rapid data collection methods, analysis of results through team brainstorming, and recommendation of villages for full Community Entry.

RA Hypotheses

Hypotheses help to focus the investigation of villages tentatively short-listed for Community Entry from the MCSS previously described, and enable decisions to be made concerning final village selection. They also determine the types of questions to ask during village interviews in order to avoid asking both questions that will not affect the decision to carry out development work in a village and questions that are best left for the Participatory Planning, Village Institutions Formation and Microplanning stages of the development process (Stages 3-5 in the Figure 1) when more time can be devoted to data collection with different target groups.

In this Rapid Appraisal, hypotheses are constructed in the form of positive statements, and if the RA findings confirm these statements, the village qualifies and can be recommended for Stages 3-5 (Participatory Village Assessment, Village Institutions Formation and Microplanning).

The key hypotheses are listed below:

1. The social composition of the village meets the aims of the project, namely, that disadvantaged groups are a significant proportion in the village and will benefit from the project's interventions and that social cohesion is apparent in the villages, providing a good chance for consensus on village goals and ultimately project success.
2. Land suitable for the different beneficial land treatments recommended in the Financing Agreement and Overall Work Plan are found in the village, especially those related to common property resources (either village woodlot development, sand dune fixation, or water harvesting dams).
3. Common land (including institutional land) suitable for community forestry interventions is available in blocks of sufficient size for achieving HCFP goals.
4. Village panchayat is considered capable and willing to manage community forestry resources (initially with HCFP leadership but ultimately unassisted).
5. Village leadership perceptions favour forestry interventions.

RA Methods

It is suggested that a semi-structured interview format be used for collecting data for the RA exercises. An Interview Guide Sheet is shown as Appendix D, indicating the types of data that could be collected. It must be remembered that much more data will be collected during Stage 3 and 5 when more time will be available to provide data accuracy through participatory Community Action Research.

Data collection for the RA would be undertaken by a Team comprising the Divisional DCF (DFO), the Sub-Divisional Forest Officer responsible for the particular C.D. Block, a surveyor and a woman field officer (if no female staff are available, alternatives should be sought from other line departments). The RA Team will be headed by the Divisional DCF. The presence of the DCF is very important because this is the step which recommends selection or rejection of the village, and this would perhaps be the only occasion when he/she has the opportunity to have first

hand knowledge of all project villages under his/her jurisdiction. In some circumstances, it would be advisable to include staff from existing Territorial and Social Forestry Divisions who might be familiar with the area.

The team would first call on the Community Development Block Officer, Block Agricultural Development Officer, District Statistical Officer and other concerned officials to collect available secondary data on all villages in the Block e.g. poverty line data, areas of community land, existing or pipeline development projects in the target villages. They will also discuss the general development situation of the villages with these agencies. Thereafter, the RA Team would proceed to the villages to collect the required information through village and focus group interviews, and a village transect (including potential sites for establishing the forestry models). The surveyor would make a rough sketch map of the village to complement the village cluster location map prepared for the MCSS using Census Enumeration Maps provided by the PMU. *At least one day should be spent in each village for interviews, field transects and site inspections during the Rapid Appraisal. The tendency to rush interviews should be avoided.*

The RA team will also note their observations on a blank version of the RA Interview Guide, which will be attached to the final RA report together with the location map of the village and sketch map.

RA Results Analysis and Final Selection of Village

The purpose of the RA is to confirm the findings of the MCSS and to arrive at a final decision on selection of village clusters for intervention by the HCFP. The RA team will analyse the data collected from this perspective and recommend to the PMU through the CF (Operations) selection or rejection of each village. Analysis should be carried out by the team through a brainstorming session immediately after the RA fieldwork is carried out, and will include interview data and any reliable secondary data.

An example of an RA report together with the recommendation format is shown in Annex E. The main body of the report should not exceed two pages, should contain enough information that will lead to justification for selection or rejection of the village based on proving or disproving the hypotheses listed previously.

Conclusion

The Multi-Criteria Selection System together with the Rapid Appraisal is an attempt to formalise the initial screening process, and to make it more logically sound based on a number of hypotheses that will lead to achievement of the Project's Objectives, Purposes and Outcomes as defined in the Logical Framework Matrix (OWP, 1999).

If village selection is sound, It will contribute to the achievement of the project's Physical Progress Targets as planned. The aim should be to avoid inefficient use of resources that might occur if PA and Microplanning are carried out whose outcome may have a minimal contribution to overall project objectives, especially with regard to management of common property resources, rehabilitation of degraded land and empowerment of disadvantaged groups.

References

GOH (1993a) *District Census Handbook for Ambala District - Village and Town Directory and Village and Town-wise Primary Census Abstract* Published by Director of 1991 Census Operations, Government of Haryana

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Messerschmidt, D.A (1995) *Rapid Appraisal for Community Forestry: The RA Process and Rapid Diagnostic Tools* International Institute for Environment and Development, London, UK

MRAE (1996) *Basic Rural Statistics* Ministry of Rural Areas and Employment, Krishi Bhavan, New Delhi

OWP (1999) *Overall Work Plan* Haryana Community Forestry Project, Forestry Department, Van Bhavan, Panchkula

Annex A

Criteria Scoring and Weighting Systems

Criteria	Raw Data	Score
Land suitability for sand dune fixation	Yes	1
	No	0
Land suitability for water harvesting from micro-watersheds	Yes	1
	No	0
Land Suitability for poplar plantations	Yes	1
	No	0
Community land availability	>20ha	1
	11-20ha	0.5
	5-10ha	0.25
	<5ha	0
Number of households	>800	0
	501-800	0.5
	201-500	1
	51-200	0.75
	26-50	0.5
	<26	0
% Scheduled castes	>30	1
	20-30	0.75
	11-20	0.5
	<11	0
Agricultural labourers as % of all main workers	>30	1
	20-30	0.75
	11-20	0.5
	<11	0
Number of contiguous villages	>2	1
	2	0.75
	1	0.5
	0	0

MCSS Criteria	Weighting
Area of common land Number of households in village Village clustering index	Weighting Factor 5
Suitability for water harvesting dams Suitability for sand dune stabilisation	Weighting Factor 4
Scheduled castes Landless	Weighting Factor 3
Suitability for poplar plantations	Weighting Factor 1

Note: Poverty Line Index is not included due to data reliability and current disputes over comparative analysis of district data

Annex B

**MCSS Raw Data and Village Scoring and Priority Ranking for Rapid Appraisal
for Siwani Block, Bhiwani District**

Annex C

**Map Showing Villages Selected for Rapid Appraisal from MCSS Ranking
Siwani Block, Bhiwani District**

Annex D

Rapid Appraisal Interview Guide

VILLAGE SELECTION – RAPID APPRAISAL INTERVIEW GUIDE

RA Data Type	Guidelines
Village Identifiers	Village: _____ CD Block: _____ District: _____ Census Map No: _____ GIS Grid No: _____ Date of Visit: _____
Focus Groups Consulted (mention key names and positions in community)	General Group Participants: _____ SC Group Participants: _____ Women Participants: _____
Community Land Details (areas in Ha)	Government Forest (as per local DFO): _____ ha Community Land (as per 1991 Census): _____ ha Community Land (as per BDO/Patwari): _____ ha Number of community land plots with location on village map <i>Current Community Land Use</i> <i>Panchayat Land [ha]</i> <i>Shamlat de [ha]</i> Wasteland (idleland) Grazing land School/education institution Temple/religious place Tree grove Woodlot (by social forestry/Kandi/ JRY & year of planting) Abadi Deh (settlement/roads/footpaths/ dumping grounds/other) Agricultural Lease Other _____ Land Area Available for CFP: _____ ha
Attitude to Forestry	<input type="checkbox"/> Very positive <input type="checkbox"/> Somewhat positive <input type="checkbox"/> Lukewarm <input type="checkbox"/> Hostile Briefly mention reason for response: _____ _____
Social Features	Total population: _____ number Total population: _____ hh SC households: _____ hh Other households: _____ hh No. marginal farmers: _____ hh No. small farmers: _____ hh No. other farmers: _____ hh No. landless farm labour: _____ hh No. non-farming households (artisan, business, service, professional): _____ hh Graduates: _____ no. of males _____ no. females Social segregation (e.g. separate temple for SC; separate anganwadi for SC; separate habitation for SC) Give brief description: _____ _____
Clustering	Name adjacent villages which have potential for CFP, and possible joint projects
Degraded Land Features	<input type="checkbox"/> Moving sand <input type="checkbox"/> Waterlogging <input type="checkbox"/> Eroding river banks <input type="checkbox"/> Mined/quarried <input type="checkbox"/> Deep fixed sand <input type="checkbox"/> Flood prone <input type="checkbox"/> Saline/sodic <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____
Forestry Model Potential	<input type="checkbox"/> Sand dune fixation <input type="checkbox"/> Multi-species farm forestry <input type="checkbox"/> Kitchen garden <input type="checkbox"/> Tree groves <input type="checkbox"/> Poplar farm forestry <input type="checkbox"/> Water harvesting dams <input type="checkbox"/> Community woodlots <input type="checkbox"/> No potential for current HCFP Models
Recommendation to PMU	<input type="checkbox"/> High potential – select for PA <input type="checkbox"/> Some potential but community land under dispute – place in low priority [reconsider after 6 months] <input type="checkbox"/> Moderate potential – repeat visit needed <input type="checkbox"/> No potential/ conflict resolution not possible - reject

RA Team Leader: _____

RA Team Members: _____; _____; _____; _____

Annex E

Sample Rapid Appraisal Reports

SAMPLE RAPID APPRAISAL REPORT [1]

Village Identifiers

1. Village Name: Garwa
2. Block Name: Siwani
3. District Name: Bhiwani
4. Number on Census Map: 22
5. Grid Reference for GIS: To be established by GIS Specialist

Focus Groups Consulted

At the village meeting there was a cross-section of adults from middle-aged to elderly groups, numbering about 44 persons which included teachers, unemployed educated youth, farmers etc. There were about 12 persons from scheduled caste, backward caste and artisans categories, including one panch. The youth took active part in discussions. Women were busy in their domestic and fieldwork activities and were not available for the meeting. The sarpanch was out of the village (name Sh.Udaibhan and newly elected). The meeting was held at a common place called "chowk", and the meeting was conducted in a manner in order to make the various groups feel at home resulting in a formal and frank discussion of the village situation.

Degraded Land Features

Moving sand dunes are common in the village, especially on private land in the south-west of the village. Fresh sands are entering the village from across the border with Rajasthan, and vegetative barriers and sand dune fixation techniques are needed. Sand dune wastelands need to be rehabilitated to supply fodder resource for the livestock population (1400 cattle), and to improve soil fertility.

Community Land

The village has 260 hectares (640 acres) of community lands which are situated in 7-8 locations, including 5 ponds, one primary school. About 32 hectares (80 acres) are leased out for agricultural purposes annually. There are also areas for grazing, settlement and waste disposal. There are around 182 hectares (450 acres) available for forestry activities, comprising undulating and rolling sand dunes and sandy plains. There are no temples, tree groves or standing community woodlots in the village.

Attitude to Forestry

Although the attitude to tree planting and forestry in general was found to be positive, the woodlot that was previously established in the village was felled by the villagers as soon as it was handed over to the Panchayat by the Forestry Department. The sarpanch (scheduled caste and a

woman) was unable to prevent the villagers from felling the forest.

Social Cohesion

The village is inhabited by different clans and gotra, making its social structure very heterogeneous. This may make it more difficult to obtain consensus on solutions to village issues. The village has around 450 households with around 3500 persons. The farming community comprises about 250 households with an average land holding size of 6 hectares (15 acres), however, land fragmentation is taking place through division of families and inheritance. The landless farm labourers are mainly from scheduled caste families and comprise around 160 households. Non-cultivator artisans form about 40 households. The villagers live in an integrated settlement with no separate hamlets, temples and wells based on caste, although one Anganwari is considered to be almost separate. Unemployed graduate youth (20 male and 2 female) provide a good resource to be tapped for development in the village. There are also 8 post-graduates in the village.

Employment

Being close to the border with Rajasthan, there are some residents who work in the next state. These include one administrative services officer and ten teachers. The majority of educated youth is unemployed or engaged in agriculture where almost half of farms are rainfed. There is an urgent need for income generation activities for self-employment.

Clustering Possibility

Adjacent villages of Mithi, Surpura, Siwatch and Jhumpa Morka form a possible cluster for development where there are significantly large areas of private sand dunes and panchayat land for forestry development. The village are also near the border with Rajasthan, and need more attention and development.

Forestry Model Potential

The following models have some potential in the village:

- (a) Sand dune fixation on community and private land (pure woodlots on sand dune plateaux and hills and agroforestry on the flat to undulating plains)
- (b) Tree groves around ponds, along village approach roads, and at cross-roads
- (c) Multi-species farm forestry on small to marginal farms, including agroforestry on land under sprinkler irrigation from tubewells where fruit tree development is already adopted by some farmers
- (d) Kitchen garden models
- (e) Improved and alternative cooking devices to conserve cow dung for manure

- (f) IGA - including collection and processing of medicinal plants, durry making and tailoring, already mentioned
- (g) Other possible entry points activities - village landscaping, drainage and improved wastewater disposal.

Recommendation

This village has high potential for achieving several of the HCFP goals and targets, and should be selected for PA (PRA) and Microplanning.

Members of RA Team:

1. Sh. Dalal - DCF Bhiwani and RA Team Leader
2. .
3. .
4. .
5. .
- 6.

Date of Visit:

14 April 1999 between 4.30 and 6.00 pm

RAPID APPRAISAL SAMPLE REPORT (2)

1. Village Name: HANGOLI



Village Identifiers

2. Block Name: Raipur Rani
3. District Name: Panchkula
4. Number on Census Map: 40
5. Grid Reference for GIS:

Village Leadership

Mr Sant Ram, Ex-Sarpanch and five other villagers participated in this unannounced meeting. The only lady panch of the village also met the team and she appeared quite articulate

Community Land

As per the 1991 Census, the village had 36 ha, but as per information available from the BDO it has approximately 42 ha. Village information revealed the following:

- (a) the panchayat land (some of which is shamlat de) is divided into 3 plots;
- (b) Plot 1 is on the river bank, extends to about 24 ha, and is given on annual lease for vegetable growing @ Rs 500 per hectare
- (c) Plot 2 is about 8 ha in extent and is given under lease as for Plot 1
- (d) Plot 3 is about 10 ha and is community grazing land on the opposite bank of the river and is in a degraded condition
- (e) The main temple has 2.5 ha of land suitable for a large amenity forest or park
- (f) There is also a temple for Harijans with land for a tree grove
- (g) Shamlat land is under litigation, though people present in the meeting felt that the decision will favour the panchayat

Attitude to Forestry

People are eager to participate in forestry after the present lease period ends. They have already contributed labour and money to construct the temple and to level the land. Self-help attitude appears well developed. Adequate number of educated unemployed youth are available.

Village Needs

With suitable landscaping, construction of suitable wastewater disposal system and tree planting along the approach road, the village, situated on undulating terrain, can be developed into an attractive settlement. River bank planting has good potential.

Social Cohesion

350 households in village. The Gujjar dominate the village social structure. 17% are from scheduled castes. The existence of separate Anganwadi for SCs shows prevalence of social distance, although there is adequate social cohesion.

Potential for IGA

Durry (a type of coarse carpet made from cotton thread) making is practised by 2 Julaha (weaver)

Activities

families. Women are eager to learn tailoring/knitting as there is no tailoring unit in the village.

Clustering Possibility

Hangola, another potential village, is in the vicinity. About 5 km from the village.

Forestry Model Potential

The following models have some potential in the village:

- (a) Community woodlots
- (b) Tree groves along approach road
- (c) Multi-species farm forestry on small to marginal farms
- (d) Poplar inter-cropping and block planting
- (e) Improved cooking devices to conserve cow dung for manure
- (f) IGA - durrly making and tailoring, already mentioned
- (g) Entry points - village landscaping, drainage and wastewater disposal.

Recommendation

This village has high potential for achieving some of the HCFP targets, and should be selected for PA (PRA) and Microplanning.

Members of RA Team:

1. Dr Joseph Viruthyel - Sociologist
2. Dr YP Singh - Training Specialist
3. Dr Deb Roy - Forester
4. David Billing - Monitoring Specialist

Date of Visit:

9 February 1999