

Socio-Economic Impact of Social Forestry on Farmers in District Faisalabad

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Abstract: Present study deals with the survey which was conducted to study the Socio-economic impact of social forestry on farmers in District Faisalabad. Forest is a stable community of plants and animals dominated by woody vegetation. In Pakistan there is not appropriate forestry system and farmers are not aware of social forestry. The main purpose of the study were to measure : to examine Socio-economic characteristic of farmers affecting planting; to examine the motivating factors behind the adoption of social forestry. To determine the farmer's awareness about the advantages and disadvantages of social forestry. This study was undertaken in District Faisalabad. A sample of 150 respondents were selected. Data were analyzed by using statistical techniques.

Keywords: Socio-economic impact social forestry

Introduction

" Wood is a friend of mine the best friend on earth of man is tree. When we use the tree respectfully and economically we have one of the greatest resources of the earth. It is a beautiful material. Friendly to man , the supreme material for dwelling purposes. If a man is going to live , he should live with wood " (Wright , 1968). Tree have not only their physical existence but also have a close association with the Socio - economic life of people. Tree have multidirectional role in the life of all the living organism on this earth. The world's forests have an undisputed and vital role in sustaining natural and human environments. So the importance of forestry in all sphere of life cannot be postponed if we want to survive traces of life on earth. Social forestry may be defined as the term " Social forestry is used interchangeably with farm and community and forestry for local community development "(FAO, 1978).

The term refers to a broad range of trees or forest related activities undertaken by land owners and community groups to provide products for their own use and for generating local income. Social forestry can contribute significantly to improving the livelihood of poor rural people through soil improvement, it can also supply wood for home construction, farm building, fancy , fuel and fiber; food supplement; windbreaks protection, shade and fodder for livestock. Social forestry can provide income for farmers and can help to more people from the frightening and fragile condition of mere subsistence to a better level of living, In short the importance of tree is also obvious in Holy Quran. "It is He who sends down Rain from the sky; from it we drink, And out of it (grows) The vegetation on which Ye feed your cattle (Suraha Namal). Keeping in view the importance of social forestry for rural people the present study was designed to study the Socio- economic impact of social forestry on farmers in District Faisalabad. The main objectives of the study were to;
Examine the Socio - economic characteristic of farmers.
Examine the motivating factors behind the adoption of

social forestry by farmers.

Study the farmers attitude towards social forests on farms.

Determine the farmer's Socio-economic awareness about the advantages and disadvantages of forest' Plantation/Social forestry

Materials and Methods

The present study was conducted in District Faisalabad. Three villages were selected by using simple random techniques from Tehsil Faisalabad. These villages were 192, 197 and 201 R.B. A sample of 150 respondents (that were farmers) was selected randomly from these villages. The data were collected by personal interviewing the farmers. To analyzed the data the appropriate statistical techniques were used that were percentage, average/mean and Chi - square.

Results and Discussion

Key finding or results according to main objectives are shown in this section. first of all the results of the motivating factors behind the adoption of social forestry by farmers are shown in Table 1. The results showed that the main role as a motivating factors were of friends and then forest department, media and progressive farmers have minor role to motivate farmers. The results of direct benefits behind farmer's continuation of plantation are shown in Table 2. It shows that majority of the respondents were getting wood for fuel consumption and getting income from trees on their farms.

Regarding the attitude of respondents towards social forest it was found that a very large number of respondents i.e., 82.7 % had favorable attitude towards social forestry while only 17.3% respondents had unfavorable attitude towards social forestry. This is shown in Table 3.

Table 4 indicated the results about the awareness of farmers about social forest advantages. A very large number of respondents (75.3%) had awareness about the

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Table 1: Percentage distribution of the respondents according to their motivating factors

Motivating Factors	Frequency	Percentage
Friends	35	39.3
Media	4	4.5
Forest Dept.	30	33.7
Prog. farmers	20	22.5
Total	150	100.0

Table 2: Percentage distribution of the respondents according to the reasons behind their continuation of plantation

Direct Benefit	Frequency	Percentage
Fuel Cons.	71	58.2
Building Material	57	46.7
Soil Fertility	32	26.2
Income	65	53.3

(Percentage on the basis of 122 respondents)

Table 3: Percentage distribution of the respondents according to the type of their attitude towards social forest

Type of Attitude	Frequency	Percentage
Favorable	124	82.7
Unfavorable	26	17.3
Total	150	100.0

Table 4: Percentage distribution of the respondents according to their awareness about each type of social forest advantages

Social Forest Advantages	Yes	No	Total
Ecological Advantages			
Control of pollution	42 (28.0)		
Control of winds	69(46.0)	108(72.0)	150(100.0)
Control of Temp.	96(64.0)	81(54.0)	150(100.0)
		54(36.0)	150(100.0)
Economic Advantages			
Source of wood for fuel			
Industrial uses			
Source of income	55(3.3)	145(96.7)	150(100.0)
	70(46.7)	80(53.3)	150(100.0)
Health Advantages			
Medicinal uses			
Food (fruit plants)	14(9.3)	136(90.7)	150(100.0)
Agri. Advantages	96(64.0)	54(36.0)	150(100.0)
Source of Fert.	62(41.3)	88 (58.7)	150(100.0)
ANY OTHER	2 (1.3)	148 (98.3)	150(100.0)

economic advantages of plantation as a source of wood for fuel. Regarding the ecological advantages 64.0% were aware about trees as a control of temperature. About 64.0% of the respondents were aware of food advantages and less than 50 % were aware of agricultural advantages as a source of fertilization. It shows that respondents paid more emphasis to their individual benefits from trees than the benefits for the whole community. In spite of this the results of the present study shows that the popular sources of energy for cooking was firewood which was used by 66.0% of the total respondents while 58.0% and 48.7% consumed crop waste and tree prunes which they get from their own farms. All the results are in close agreement with conclusion of Sasson , (1980) that combination of agriculture and forestry by which trees and plants are combined to optimize harvest yields , seem to offer a provision outlook for land development and to contribute appreciably to the food supply and domestic needs of the population concerned. Regarding the quality of trees which respondents had grown it is found that the majority of the respondents I-e 59.3% had grown trees for commercial purpose on their farm lands. While less than 50.0% had grown for just food or other purposes. These results are in close accordance with results of survey conducted HESS (reported by Leach , 1973) which indicate that 51.0% of trees growing farmers said that they planted trees for commercial reasons and further 33% for the proper utilization of wasteland , presumably in order to get a good results from it

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