

FORESTRY AS SAFETY NET IN WEST BENGAL, India**WHY WE DID THIS RESEARCH?**

WE WANTED TO LEARN FROM THE POOR ABOUT THE
ROLE OF FORESTS IN THEIR LIVELIHOODS.

WHAT WE TRIED TO FIND OUT?

WE TRIED TO FIND RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN NTFPs
AND LIVELIHOODS OF POOR AND WAYS TO
STRENGTHEN THEM

WHAT THE FOREST VILLAGERS TOLD US?

- FORESTS play a critical role in supporting POOR
VILLAGERS LIKE US.
- OUR LIVELIHOODS Depend on FORESTS

"WE" Stitch SAL
Leaves



"WE" get Fuel Wood,



Dry Wood - Wild Potato
Leaves, Flowers (e.g. Mahul)
Fodder, Fruits -
Grass Wild Leaves
Twigs/Branches of Trees
Tree Bark - Timber
Medicinal Plants Gum
Wild Animals Ants
Vegetable Oil Worms
Roots

FOREST provides Water for
daily use and helps in growing crops

**"OUR" Food/Livelihood CALENDAR**

has 2 Difficult Periods

When "WE" depend more on
FORESTS

January - June

August - October

FOREST Gives
PEACE and HARMONY



to "Us" and
Our Children

WE ASKED -
HOW MANY USE
FORESTS?
40% to 50% of
Forest Village Make
DIRECT USE of
FORESTS

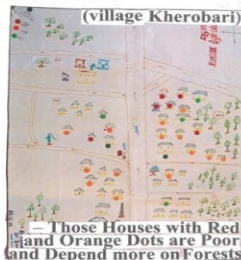
"WE" Collect Items
from FOREST for
Eating/Selling/
Exchange We Collect
Mushrooms Snails



January to June
August to October

Who Use Forests as Safety Net?

"We" Local Communities Living in and
Around Forests



Those Houses with Red
and Orange Dots are Poor
and Depend more on Forests

WE ASKED - ARE
MIXED FORESTS BETTER?
Villagers said Mixed Forests
Help us to Tackle over Seasonal
Livelihoods' Problems



* Mono-Forests
Accacia Plantation
Give "Us" Limited Benefit -
Mainly Branches
and Leaves as Fuel



FACILITATOR -
NEELA MUKHERJEE

(neelamuk@del2.vsnl.net.in)

DEVELOPMENT TRACKS, RTC, 52/82 C.R. PARK, NEW DELHI-19

RECOMMENDATIONS -

- * Link up FORESTS with
LIVELIHOODS of local POOR
- * Mobilise USER-GROUPS of
POOR for LIVELIHOODS
and also Enrichment of
BIO-DIVERSITY
- * Introduce PARTICIPATORY
PLANNING of FOREST
RESOURCES
- * Integrate Such Planning with
POVERTY REDUCTION
Strategies