answered yet are to what extent tree planting wiill reduce maintenance needs and subsequent need for rehabilitation? How would the benefits attributable to reforestation of hydrological boundaries compare with the possible cost? How such returns compare with the existing practices at present? Answers to those questions and effecting institutional changes discussed in the paper will certainly trigger off participatory forestry in irrigation schemes. It will be a necessary component in the sustainability of irrigation works in this country which have created a massive dent in country's investments for the last four decades.

A project for participatory Forestry in Sri Lanka

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An ADB Mission visited Sri Lanka in early 1989 and prepared a project preparation technical assistance (a feasibility study) for a Participatory Forestry Project. The objectives of this study was to assist the Government with the preparation of a detailed project proposal suitable for external funding. The project proposal was to fit within the frame work of Government's overall development objectives, in particular the Forestry Sector, National Agriculture Food and Nutrition Strategy, proposed by the Council for Agriculture and Research, Community Forestry Project funded by ADB, Land Use Policy Planning Project, Perennial Crops Development Project, forestry activities under the World Bank the Netherlands Govt USAID, ODA, FINNIDA and other organisations. The feasibility study focussed on all activities concerned under community forestry, agro forestry, social forestry, farmers woodlots, private tree planting, planting of shelter belts, planting to protect watersheds and environment, fuelwood plantations and other activities privately aimed at arresting environmental degradation and enhancing production, employment and income generation for participants in rural areas.

ADB selected FORTECH Consultants to carry out the Technical Assistance Feasibility Study. This team of consultants was fielded in the first quarter of 1990 and the Draft Final Report was completed in mid 1990. A Tripartite Meeting was held in Aug. 1990 at which the final draft was critically discussed.

The total cost estimate of the technical assistance is estimated at US $25.7 m. ADB would finance $ 14.3 m, the government contribution amounts to $ 0.7 m. Beneficiaries would contribute $ 5.0 m. (mainly through their labour). The anticipated World Assistance would be worth US $5.7 m.

Major project components estimated are institutional development 25% forestry research support 6%, training 2%, participatory forestry i.e. homestead garden development 39%, village forestry development 25% and monitoring and evaluation 2%.

The Fact Finding Mission visited in October 1990. After signing the Memorandum of Understanding the Appraisal will be done in early 1991.

The objectives of the project are 3 pronged, long-term, short-term and medium

term. Longterm objective of the project is to restore trees of a wide range of uses through the land holder. It is expected to raise the quality of life and standard of living of settlers by providing them with a more varied diet, raw materials for use and sale, edible and medicinal products for sale or barter, fuel for energy and additional fodder for livestock. It is expected that the increased tree cover will benefit the environment, improve the landscape, and help to conserve soil and water and recycle soil nutrients.

Short-term objective is to encourage settlers and villagers to invest their time effort and funds in tree related land use systems, recompensing them for their time devoted to the creation of woodlots outside their immediate land holdings and supplying them with trees of their choice for their farm development areas and home gardens which constitute the primary target in the project effort.

The immediate objective is to set up a sustainable working delivery system involving a process of initial contact, consultation and supply of high quality planting material of the type preferred by settlers and villagers. The interface would comprise selected trained casual employed permanent residents of the target areas backed by trained village nursery men recruited from the same man power source. The main benefits of this structure are the likelihood of learning the real aspirations and preferences of villagers and the generation of income at village level, the income from sale of planting material by nursery men and renumeration of families for time spent in establishing and monitoring woodlots.

The islandwide scope of participatory forestry has evolved from the Community Forestry Project. The new project covers the application of four major landuse models involving participatory multipurpose tree planting. The first of these is the establishment of trees and hedgerow species and home gardens and associated farm development areas by an estimated total of 63,800 families over about 4,000 ha. The next is the participatory planting of forest and multipurpose tree species in about 4,000 ha. The second model is protective woodlot establishment on eroded and steep pockets of land found in development areas and lastly other plantings under the auspices of various government agencies.

All 19 Forest Divisions of the Forest Department will be involved in this exercise. Education and Extension Division of the Forest Department will be strengthened by permanent and casual employee establishments. The Research and Development needs of the project will be met by the allocation and execution of adoptive research contracts. A National Tree Seed Centre and a Vegetative Propagation Unit will be established.

The project is aimed at generating incomes and reforestation with vegetative cover and stabilising the production of food, wood, fuel and fodder in areas of particular need namely, recently settled lands and impoverished rural populations.

The priority of project implementation is on 5 districts where the Community Forestry Project is being implemented – Badulla, N'Eliya, Kandy, Matale, Batticaloa, plus 3 more, Anuradhapura, Kurunegala and Hambantota in the first year. In the 2nd year Puttalam, Polonnaruwa, Moneragala, Ratnapura will be taken. Remaining districts Kalutara, Galle, Ampara, T'comalee, Vavuniya will be operative in the 3rd year.

The physical target of the Participatory Forestry Project is the rural household and its associated land. The project's target communities are therefore the settlers those that require assistance to re-establish the traditional tree cover and the home garden in new environments as well as the establishment of permanent trees and shrubs in their farm development. Greater priority is accorded to those most in need, the landless and rural poor in the dry zone who are forced through necessity to occupy land to which they have no legal access. Janasaviya recipients will be direct beneficiaries of this project. This would help immensely in the alleviation of poverty in this country.