

Role of Women in Participatory Forest Management: The West Bengal Experience

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KEYWORDS Gender. Forest. Tribals. East India

ABSTRACT This paper attempts to assess the role of forest vicinity dwellers in forest protection, as was exhibited in Bankura district of West Bengal. The relative success of forest management programmes in the district of Bankura (as revealed from the discussion) seems to be because of favourable interplay of three factors first, the grassroots participation of women in the programme; second a rational perception about the balance between forest exploitation and forest protection among the tribals who have been maintaining a symbiotic relationship with the forest around them for ages and third, the administrative support provided by the state government under the norms suggested by the National Forest Policy, 1988, regarding protection of natural forests.