

Social Sustainability of Natural Resource Management Activities: A Research in Dry Zone of West Bengal

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ABSTRACT Watershed-based development and management of natural resources has been the strategy for growth and sustainability of agriculture in arid, semi-arid and dry regions in India. Large public investments have made for the purpose in the last 40 years with little tangible results. In view of the importance of natural resources management programs for development of dry regions in India, a research was undertaken to assess the social sustainability of project. Indicators were constructed to assess the social sustainability in treated watershed TSJ/7 located in Bankura district of west Bengal. Majority of the farmers (69.15 percent) showed medium level of participation. Non-participation was higher in monitoring evaluation and post project maintenance phase. Farmers from a medium socioeconomic status showed a slightly better involvement in decision-making (index score 61.64) than lower socio-economic category farmers (index score 56.98). Overall, the project was able to achieve a medium level of social sustainability (index score 49.17).