RURAL EMPLOYMENT GENERATION IN TRIBAL COMMUNITY

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The Bastar district lies in natural forest area with various types of tribal communities. It is abundantly and richly endowed with forest resources (45-60%). The forests in this district can be divided into four belts, namely, Northern mixed forests, Central most region comprising of Sal belts, teak belt zone and the dry region comprising of mixed forests. Out of these, the major types of forests are Sal forests, teak forests and mixed forests. The major portion of the forest area is covered with Sal forest which mostly lies on the plateau. In the hilly region, Sal is confined to narrow valleys and on lower slopes. Podu cultivation by felling of forest is the general practice of the tribal population in the project area. Agricultural crops like Ragi, Sama, Paddy, Rajmash, Niger and other pulses are also raised in the area for one or two seasons. After cultivation of the above crops for one or two seasons the farmers move on to the nearest new forest areas since the soil becomes depleted and repeat the same process of destroying the forests. The practice of podu/shifting cultivation has caused denudation of forests, which is a serious threat to the ecology, resulting in soil erosion and siltation of the river basins. Traditionally the tribal communities of the villages were not used to the cultivation of horticultural crops and all of them were engaged in agricultural crops cultivation. For livelihood people from the region used to migrate to neighbouring states like Telangana, Andhra Pradesh, Maharashtra and Kerala. Migration of labour is an important factor affecting the course of socio-economic development of any area. Employment is seen as the primary driver of migration, especially rural to urban migration. Employment generation is the most important indicator of development in any country. More the number of unemployed, more will be the burden on economy as the unemployed are fed by the employed.

Horticulture is one of the fastest growing sectors in India and contributes immensely in poverty eradication and nutritional security of the population. This sector has immense scope to increase income and employment and helps in sustaining large number of industries. Horticultural crops play a unique role in the economy of the country. Many colleges and universities in the country offer undergraduate and postgraduate courses in forestry by way of B.Sc. (Forestry) and M.Sc. (Forestry) respectively. A student must have passed Higher Secondary (class XII) in Science stream with Physics, Chemistry and Biology (PCB) as compulsory subjects. This makes you eligible to apply for a B.Sc. in Forestry. If you want to dive deeper into this field, you can go for M.Sc. in Forestry which is a two-year program. Most of the agricultural institutes and universities are offering these courses.

For a master's degree in Forest Management is the development and implementation of a plan integrating all of the techniques, practices and principles required to take care of the forests. It is the science and craft of creating, managing, using, conserving and repairing forests and associated resources for human and environmental benefits.

HOW TO PURSUE A CAREER IN FOREST MANAGEMENT?

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For a master's degree in forestry, graduates in Science with subjects of Physics, Chemistry and Biology or Agriculture! Horticulture! Forestry are considered eligible. The specializations offered here are Forest Management, Forest Products, Wildlife Science, Forest Economics, Commercial Forestry, Agro-forestry to name a few. You can further study and apply for M.Phil./Ph.D in this field to become a scholar and open more doors for oneself. Most of the institutes/universities have a general course in forestry. However, some of these offer courses with specialization in particular branches in forestry. Topics covered under a forestry course include plantation forestry, social forestry, agro-forestry, ecology, biodiversity, tree improvement, forest hydrology and watershed management, wood science and technology, forest goods and

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