



REVIEW ARTICLE

A SYSTEMATIC REVIEW ON JOINT FOREST MANAGEMENT (JFM) RESOLUTION, 2011 AND ITS AMENDMENT, 2015 IN ODISHA, INDIA

Ajit Kumar Swain*

Department of Forestry, North Eastern Regional Institute of Science and Technology (Deemed to be University), Nirjuli - 791109, Arunachal Pradesh, India.

*Corresponding Author Email: ajit.swain7@gmail.com

This is an open access article distributed under the Creative Commons Attribution License CC BY 4.0, which permits unrestricted use, distribution, and reproduction in any medium, provided the original work is properly cited.

ARTICLE DETAILS

Article History:

Received 15 March 2022
Accepted 25 April 2022
Available online 29 April 2022

ABSTRACT

This paper reviews rules and regulations implemented by introducing a state policy of Joint Forest Management (JFM) in the forest fringe villages of Odisha, a coastal state of India. It critiques the guidelines and amendments associated with JFM in Odisha that seem not to be examined previously. Several questions are revealed right here relating to the formation of an institution like Vana Surakhya Samiti (VSS) or Eco Development Committee (EDC), the role of villagers, community members, and the Forest Department in building these institutions at the local level, the meetings, resolutions needed, people of the village associated, MOU required between a Divisional Forest Office and these institutions following the resolution of JFM, 2011 and amendments of 2015, and so on. This comparison of the resolution and amendments concludes; that the participation of villagers increases with the initiatives of the JFM in the protection of their own area. JFM has a larger role function in building trust among the forest department officials and villagers of the nearby forest. The necessary modifications in the JFM amendment, of 2015 have made the financial processes transparent, the inter-village and intra-village conflicts are reduced to different projects implemented following this JFM policy. The forest fringe village individuals and their participation in managing the forest resources is a mandatory need. JFM has catered to these needs with different resolutions and amendments. It has not only helped the Government to manage the forest resources in a sustainable way but also enhanced the livelihood of the people making their future better.

KEYWORDS

Forest Protection, Community Participation, Micro plan, Palli Sabha, Resolution

1. INTRODUCTION

The approach of Joint Forest Management (JFM) is well thought out a non-market community-based approach and it is quite enormous (Prasad and Kant, 2003). In the beginning, in Asia, Nepal, Pakistan, Indonesia, Philippines, Cambodia, and Vietnam participatory forest management was found in parallel with the Indian experience (Colfer et al., 2008). This was also equally evident in several African and international locations (Potters et al., 2002). The preliminary success of JFM in West Bengal is a huge impetus to rehabilitate forests through a revenue-sharing model with local villagers presenting them the incentives for replantation and looking after degraded forests, which aren't even denied by the critics (Lele, 2000; Poffenberger and McGean 1996).

Odisha's forests are dense, diversified, and multi-stored. Mineral resources are abundant in the state. Conferring to the Champion and Seth Forest types classification (1968), Odisha's forests are fragmented into four forest type groups, each of which is again divided into 19 forest types (Champion and Seth, 1968). According to the Indian State of Forests Report, 2021, the state's forest cover accounts for 52,156 sq. km. or 33.50 percent of the state's geographical area (IFSR, 2021). As a result, forest resources are vital to people's financial and cultural well-being. Odisha is one of the First states to develop a JFM program, recognizing the need for community participation in forest protection (IFSR, 2021). People's participation in

the protection of the forests and development has been envisioned in National Forest Policy, 1988 (MoEFCC, 1988). In line with this policy, the Odisha Government implemented the JFM approach. It enlisted the involvement of community members in the protection, regeneration, and forest resources management. JFM has served as an important strategy for forest regeneration, management as well as social, and financial empowerment of local people who depend on forests.

A number of people in forest areas of Odisha actively participated in managing and protecting forest resources along with the initiatives that have been continued in a response to forest degradation. In knowing the need for community participation in forest area protection, the Government of Odisha turned into the pioneer state among nations to commence a policy of JFM even earlier than the implementation of the national forest policy in 1988. Odisha took the initial steps for including the local people in the protection of the Reserved Forest (RF) adjoining their villages. It was made in assigning specific roles and in return granting some concessions for meeting the usual requirements of firewood and small timbers. The Government also sought the involvement of the locals in the protecting, regenerating, and managing of the forest wealth. Now the forest management processes have been changed, growing consciousness among the people, employment opportunities, social empowerment of villagers, and experience gained from the past experience, this JFM was revised in 2011 and amended also in 2015 further to numerous points just

Quick Response Code



Access this article online

Website:
www.environecosystem.com

DOI:
10.26480/ees.02.2022.52.56

like the inclusion of villages positioned inside the National Parks or Sanctuaries and nearer to the same for protection and supervision of wildlife habitats, the reserved forests, protected forest, village forest, and revenue forest bearing a crown density of less than 40% under JFM. The role of Palli Sabha, the compositions of membership of the Executive Body, and accountability procedures have been given importance in the due time at the Vana Surakhya Samiti.

The Orissa village Forest Rules, 1985 were passed by means of the state authorities, and they required the drafting of a management plan for each village forest, as well as community cooperation in this forest maintenance (OFVR, 1985). The State Government enacted a resolution in 1988 establishing a village-level forest protection committee to launch formally a protection scheme of peripheral Reserve Forest areas with the involvement of neighboring village people. In 1990, the resolution's scope was expanded to cover Protected Forests also. The Forest and Environment Department of the Government of Odisha published a Resolution in the year 1993 to improve the forest people interface (JFMR, 1993). This resolution addressed the participation of all local groups in the protection of adjoining forests, the formation of VSS, the duties and responsibilities of the VSS, with their Executive Committees. Forest Department and Gram Panchayat's roles in the preparation of JFM plans had useful benefits for the VSS, and provisions of the MoU were also among other things. The resolution in 2008 was published to increase the participating approach to all forests types, as previous resolutions couldn't shelter the wetlands covered by mangroves and the State's protected areas (PA) (National Parks and Sanctuaries), and participating ways of administration were required there as well. Eco-development was selected as a method to improve local people's livelihoods and to improve their support for conservation (JFMR, 2008).

In JFM mode, participatory forest management is an emerging perception with ecological, sociocultural, and economic mechanisms. Throughout the state of Odisha, people have played a significant part in forest protection and rejuvenation. Villagers have organized V.S.S.s following JFM Resolution or Community Forest Management Groups out of doors of the JFM framework. It is desirable to permit people's groups to run smoothly, whether they were created in response to government resolutions or on their initiative, with forest protection as the primary and fundamental goal. The panchayat extension to scheduled area (PESA) Act of 1996, which applies to scheduled areas states: "every Gram Sabha shall be competent to safeguard and preserve the people's traditions and customs, their cultural identity, community resources, and the customary mode of dispute resolutions. Every Gram Sabha will approve the plans, programs, and projects for social and economic development". This Act gives Gram Panchayat in Schedules Areas the ownership of minor forest produce (MFP) (PESA Act, 1996). This decision by the Government is to abolish the monopolies in the collection and selling of 69 MFP products in keeping with the spirit of the PESA Act.

The act of Scheduled Tribes and other traditional forest dwellers (recognition of forest rights) of 2006 recognized community forest resources. According to this act, the resources of community forest refer to customary common forest areas within the traditional and customary boundaries of the village. In addition to seasonal usage of the landscape in the case of pastoral groups, amongst other things. The minor forest produces are well-defined as all non-timber forest produce of plant origin, such as bamboo, brushwood, stumps, cane, tassar, cocoons, honey, wax, lac, tendu or kendu leaf, medicinal plants and herbs, roots, tubers, and the like, as described via the Forest Rights Act. It's worth noting that, for Kendu Leaf, the government's strategy was to delegate some tasks in order to protect the livelihoods of forest-dependent communities and provide managing contributions to enable the scale of operation needed for satisfactory value comprehension and long-term administration (FRA, 2006).

The Gram Sabha is responsible for introducing the process of assessing distinct and community forest rights under the Forest Rights Act. As a result, the passage of the FRA grants an opportunity to not only increase existing Participatory Forest Conservation and Management curricula but also to endorse them in spaces where such institutional arrangements do not happen. With the changing landscape of forest management, raising public consciousness, and lessons learned from past management practices, the Joint Forest Management Resolution of 2008 was modified to the Joint Forest Management Resolution of 2011 (JFMR, 2011). In studying JFM in India, there may be a need to build richer models to look at the occurring at the local level, with attention to the historical context of community forest management; the nature of participation in JFM; the mechanisms by means of which the state may also seek to develop its power "in new approaches" as Lele puts it; and whether or not the resulting co-management is adaptive, i.e., involves learning by experience

(Agarwal 2001; Agrawal 2005; Bingeman et al., 2004; Lele, 2000; Nayak and Berkes, 2008).

This study has a look at policy and amendments related to JFM in Odisha that looks not to have been previously examined: the constitution of VSS and EDC, people, laws, and resolutions to be associated with it, the general body and executive-level meetings to be completed, the accounting and monetary measures to be adopted at both VSS/EDC and Forest Department levels. This JFM resolution, 2011 and its amendments, 2015 provide specific interest to public empowerment, i.e., the community's capability to take decisions on problems that touch their survives, changes in local power and control, and influences on the adaptive capacity of societies to deal with their difficulties. Following some background on the state of Odisha, the study first observes the historical setting of the shift from community forest management to JFM, and then proceeds under three headings, to examine the influences of the shift regarding (1) The extent of participation of villagers in forest management has improved, along with the executions of JFM in the state; (2) JFM has a larger role in favour of a structuring a closeness between the inhabitants with the Forest Department; and (3). The necessary changes have been taken place in the financial and accounting processes of the VSS/EDC for conflict-free institution-building of VSS/EDC for sustainable management of forest resources.

2. JOINT FOREST MANAGEMENT RESOLUTION, 2011

2.1 Selection of VSS/EDC Area

The State forests to be protected beneath this Resolution are assembled into two categories: (a) Reserved Forests, Protected Forests, Village Forests, Revenue Forests, and other forest types not covered by Protected Areas, and (b) Protected Areas (National Parks and Sanctuaries), except core areas, and mangrove wetlands. Vana Surakhya Samiti (VSS) is the name of the committee shaped for the first category of forests, while the Eco-Development Committee is the name of the committee formed for the second category (EDC). The Palli Sabha links the forest range officer who is involved while defining the amount of the land to be awarded, taking the forest usually preserved and utilized by the community, nearby villages, and their claims. If a cluster of villages agrees in forming a VSS together, are permitted to form. Forester of that area delivers technical assistance and aid in classifying the forest area that the committee will manage. If the extent of forest area allotted to the existing VSS constituted under the JFM Resolution, 2008 has to be reformed, the village community and local forest department officials do not lower the rank of a Forest Range Officer can be accessed.

2.2 Constitution of VSS/EDC

In most instances, a single village may have only one VSS/EDC. A VSS might also span a couple of villages, or a village may additionally have more than one committee, especially if it's much large. If there are some other forest protection groups, they would be sheltered in this Resolution. The VSS/EDC will comprise all of the village's adults. They may pay a registration fee set by the VSS/EDC General Body (GB). The Palli Sabha bears its Resolution to the Range Officer in charge of the VSS or EDC for his records, as well as communication to the DFO in charge of the division for registering.

2.3 Constitution of the Executive Committee (EC)

The Chairperson, Vice-Chairperson, Secretary, and Treasurer, as properly at the least 11 (eleven) additional members, are elected via the Palli Sabha to form the Executive Committee. As a minimum half of the memberships of the EC have to be female members. The number of SC and ST memberships in the Executive Body will be proportional to their VSS / EDC membership. There should also be representation from the community members who don't have any other source of income except the forests. Together with this, the composition of the EC will be constituted in this type of manner that, a woman ought to be the Chairperson or Vice-Chairperson and the local forest Guard and ward member (s) are the concerned ex-officio member(s). The Range Officer concerned will act as the Returning Officer for conducting the election of the EC. It will be the duty of the Returning Officer to ensure that the representation in the EC is following the reservation detailed above. The EC will have a tenure of 3 years at once.

3. MEETING

3.1 General Body (GB)

At least once each six months, the VSS / EDC's GB meeting is held. It can also be called whenever it is required. The GB meeting is called by the Secretary, with the Chairperson's permission. Normally, a 15-day notice is

compulsory for a meeting to be called. The Gram Panchayat obtains a duplicate of the notice. The meetings are chaired by the Chairperson and, in his absence, the Vice-Chairperson. The quorum for the GB is 50 percent of the memberships of the VSS / EDC. Women ought to make up at least one-third of the attendees. A different meeting of the VSS/EDC can be called under exceptional circumstances if at least one-third of the members decide to call one and submit a written request to the Chairperson.

If the Chairperson fails to call the meeting, the Secretary, with the Vice Chairperson's approval calls the GB meeting. In all of these situations, a three-day notice asserting the purpose of the meeting would be required. At least two-thirds of the members of VSS / EDC must vote in such a meeting to conclude. The Secretary will take proceedings on the meeting and get them accepted by the Chairperson. The minutes would be copied and attached to a register or kept in a guard file. Under the Secretary's signature, a replica of the Resolution will be communicated to the Forest Range Officer and the Gram Panchayat. GB must elect the Executive Committee at least one month before its time period expires.

3.2 Executive Committee (EC)

The EC would convene as frequently as per wish, but no less than once every two months. The Chairperson leads over the meeting, and in his nonappearance, the Vice-Chairperson will preside. A quorum for every EC meeting is 50 percent of the membership, with at least one-third of the members being females.

3.3 Duties and Responsibilities of VSS / EDC

Individually and collectively, the individuals of the VSS or EDC need to shield the forest, wildlife, and biodiversity. The VSS/EDC makes the required phases to protect adjacent catchment regions, water supplies, and other ecologically sensitive locations. Plantation of indigenous medicinal and NTFP species in the forests and outside the forest zone surrounding the hamlet will be arranged by the VSS / EDC. The VSS / EDC is accountable for ensuring that the Palli Sabha's decisions to bound admittance to communal forest resources and to break any action that troubles wildlife, forests, or biodiversity are tracked. If any elected member of the EC fails to accomplish his or her duties reasonably, the General Body of the VSS/EDC may remove and/or substitute that person by a two-thirds majority of the membership.

3.4 Duties and Responsibilities of the Executive Committee (EC)

The EC manages the VSS or EDC's everyday operations ensuing the Resolution's necessities. Next technical inspection by the Forest Range Officer involved, the EC prepares the Micro Plan and Annual Work Plan for the allotted forest area, integrating other developmental activities outside the forest area linked with the forest-based livelihood system, and have it accepted by the VSS / EDC. The EC is in charge of monitoring and implementing the VSS / EDC's Micro Plan and Annual Plan, as well as any conclusions made by the General Body. The EC stays in charge of protecting the forests assigned to the VSS / EDC, as well as assisting the Forest Department in apprehending offenders who commit forest crimes. If members of the VSS / EDC show a significant role in the exposure of forest crimes and the seizure of forest harvests within their village limits, they will be eligible for a fixed percentage of the value of the forest products seized (except for WL Trophies) as per the procedure outlined in para. - 11 (iii) of the Joint Forest Management Resolution, 2011 (JFMR, 2011).

The EC develops actions on all complications relating to membership, conflict resolution, encroachment anticipation, the exercise of customary rights, and utilization of acceptable forest resources such as NTFP, including bamboo, in conjunction with the GB. The EC is in charge of accounting for and handling finances and other resources gained from the government, other agencies, and, if applicable, incomes generated internally. For this reason, the Secretary and Treasurer of the VSS / EDC must open a joint bank account called a VSS account or EDC account in any urban, rural, or cooperative bank recognized by the RBI, or in any post office, which will be operated conjointly by them. The Chairperson and the Secretary have to sign a utilization certificate for the spending acquired and submit it to the appropriate authorities. The EC stays in charge of managing amounts received by VSS / EDC by keeping and administering the VSS / EDC account under the method outlined in Annexure A of the Joint Forest Management Resolution, 2011 (JFMR, 2011). To safeguard greater returns for members, the EC tries to build marketing associations for various NTFP items and other micro-enterprise products. In this regard, the Forest Department offers appropriate help. VSS / EDC's annual account is presented to the GB for approval.

3.5 Role of Palli Sabha

As consistent with the 73rd Amendment of the Constitution, certain powers and obligations are delegated to the Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRIs). As a result, it's crucial in building a link among the village-level institutions such as VSS/EDC and the PRI, as well as a link with the Palli Sabha. The EC will serve as a Palli Sabha Sub-Committee on the forest, wildlife, and environmental protection and conservation. If the work of a VSS / EDC's EC is found to be harmful to forest conservation and in contradiction to the wider and long-term interests of the people, the VSS / EDC may propose that the EC be split and reconstituted. On receipt of such a recommendation, the Palli Sabha may examine the incident and report its answers to the Divisional Forest Officer for further action. After reviewing the merits, the Divisional Forest Officer dissolves the EC and endorses its reconstitution to the GB of VSS / EDC. The DFO formally presents the dissolution to the District Level Steering Committee for evidence at its next meeting.

3.6 Forest Department Role

The forest department's accountability is to register VSS/EDCs and uphold close contact with them, support VSS/EDCs in finding and arresting forest offenders and take legal action in cases where VSS/EDC members have given over the offender(s) and forest produce implicated in the offense. The forest department also supports VSS / EDC members in rising their capacity in numerous phases of forest management, planning, silviculture, nursery technology, forest laws, accounting, bookkeeping, micro-enterprise development, value addition, and processing of NTFPs, and offers technical support to VSS / EDCs in the preparation and implementation of the Micro plan or annual work program. While making the Working Plan / Management Plan of the concerned Forest Area / Protected Area, the forest department also invites proposals from the VSS / EDCs, to sign Memorandums of Understanding with the VSS / EDCs and confirm benefit-sharing as per current standards, to establish coordination with other departments/agencies for successful execution of the micro plans and related area development programs, and to make the process of settling duties and resolving conflicts easier.

3.7 Micro Plan

Following the formation of the EC, the members of the Committee produce a Micro Plan as quickly as possible, using a participatory method incorporating VSS members and technical input from Forest Department field employees. The Micro Plan is formed to confirm the conservation and long-term supervision of the assigned forests while also assimilating other developmental happenings outer of the forest area that is linked with the forest-based livelihood system, with the participation and involvement of line departments as desired. The Micro Plan mainly proposes afforestation, with an emphasis on indigenous medicinal and NTFP species, as well as soil and moisture conservation measures and activities to support forest-dependent communities' livelihoods. It also comprises the SHGs formation and micro-enterprises created on locally available resources, for example, eco-tourism, farm forestry, Agroforestry, Silviculture, pasture development, promotion of fuel-efficient devices, animal husbandry, pisciculture, beekeeping, mushroom cultivation, tassar/lac cultivation, and other activities.

The Micro Plan specifies the species to be used in various plantation plans and models. It also contains a comprehensive silvicultural operations plan that observes the necessities of the complete operating plan for the region or the Protected Area's Wildlife Management Plan. The Micro Plan established in this manner desires to comply with all applicable legislation. In addition, the Micro Plan summarizes the numerous NTFP items that can be composed. This is finished with careful consideration of the local eco-carrying system's capacity, productivity, and biodiversity. The Forest Range Officer observes the draft Micro Plan provided by the EC from a technical, financial, and legal standpoint. After that, it is presented to the GB for consideration and approval.

3.8 Usufruct Sharing

The VSS/EDC is enabled to certain usufructuary compensations from the allotted forests. Members profit from free access to usufructs such as falling leaves, fodder grasses, thatch grass, broom grass, fencing materials, brushwood, fallen lops, tops, and twigs for usage as fuel. All transitional yields, such as small timber, poles, firewood, and bamboo gathered in the VSS / EDC assigned area, are made accessible to VSS / EDC members in a method determined by the EC. If the stuff is sold for a profit, the profits are put in the VSS / EDC account. In the case of Kendu leaves and identified forest produce other than bamboo, (if any), the VSS has the right to gather the same from the assigned forest, but these items are disposed of as per

the prevailing provisions of Government and practices. If any big harvesting or final felling happens in the allocated forest while keeping the forest cover in perpetuity, the forest department takes care of it as agreed by the working plan/duly accepted the micro plan. Harvesting of wind-fallen trees is treated as the last harvest in the event of natural disasters. For salvaging and harvesting work, priority is assumed to members of the VSS/EDC. The forest department or its agents value the product and exchange the information with the VSS/EDC, and the product is sold/disposed of by the forest department or its mediators. After taking proportionate harvesting costs, the VSS / EDC gets 50% of the sale price, which is placed in the "VSS account."

If the forest produce is for bona fide household use and the VSS agrees to pay the proportionate price of harvesting, the VSS may additionally opt for 50% of the forest produce collected. All usufructs, counting transitional and rotational harvests, go to the VSS / EDC in the event of village woodlots built and sustained by the VSS / EDC on non-forest land. In cases, requests come for home building materials and other forest output from the designated forest if a natural calamity strikes the hamlet. In such instances, the VSS / EDC diverges from the Micro Plan to harvest the requisite amount of timber or other forest produce, with the agreement of the Divisional Forest Officer concerned. The EC stays in charge of distributing the usufructuary assistance among the VSS members justifiably. The needs of a group or community that has no other source of income than the forests are given special attention. For circumstances, when a member/a group of members of the VSS/EDC has a significant role in the collection of intelligence, detection, and seizure of illegal forest produce in transit, the concerned VSS/EDC is enabled to the prescribed percentage of the forest produce's sale price, as per Rule 4 (3) of the Orissa Rewards for Detection of Forest Offences Rules, 2004. After positioning the seized produce following the legislation, the DFO deposits the money in the "VSS account/EDC account."

3.9 Harvested Forest Product Transit

Forest produces that need licenses of transit under the Orissa Timber and Other Produce Transit Rules, 1980 are taken from the designated forest area in line with a permit granted mutually by the President and Secretary in the approved format (Form-4) of the Joint Forest Management Resolution, 2011 (JFMR, 2011). The license is only valid within the boundaries of the VSS members' home territory. The VSS / EDC keeps a record of this, and the secretary preserves the knowledge of the local Forest Range Officer of it every quarter, the competent forest officer grants a permit for carriage outside of the stated boundaries on receipt of an application from VSS / EDC.

3.10 Conflict Resolution

In the event of an intra-village conflict over the execution of JFM, the VSS/EDC Executive Committee attempts to resolve the conflict calmly. If it is unable to resolve the problem, it is brought to the attention of the Palli Sabha, and efforts are made to resolve the matter. If the issue persists, it is referred to the Sub Divisional Level Steering Committee, which is being established following the SDLC under the FRA, 2006, and their decisions are measured final. If there is a problem between villages, the matter is also referred to the Sub Divisional Level Steering Committee, whose decisions are considered final.

3.11 Memorandum of Understanding (MoU)

To uphold a unified working affiliation between the VSS or EDC and Forest Department, as well as in implanting a sense of possession, empowerment, and accountability, a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) is being signed between the FD and the VSS/EDC specifying the parties' responsibilities and obligations. The Chairperson of the VSS signs the MoU on behalf of VSS or EDC, while the Forest Department's Range Officer signs on behalf of the Forest Department. Other EC members sign the MoU as witnesses, while concerned local forest officials, such as the Forester and Forest Guard, sign the MoU as observers. A Memorandum of Understanding is written in the prescribed format (Form-5) of the Joint Forest Management Resolution, 2011 (JFMR, 2011).

3.12 Steering Committee

As per the resolution, there are Steering Committees at the Subdivision Level, District Level, and the State Level. The Sub Division Level Steering Committee (SDLC) includes of Sub Collector as Chairperson, Assistant Conservator of Forests as member convener, an officer of the Tribal Welfare Department in charge of the Sub-Division as a member, Sub Divisional Police Officer (SDPO) as a member, Forest Ranger concerned as a member, Tahashildar concerned as a member, Chairperson of the Panchayat Samiti concerned as a member, Zilla Parishad member as a

member, two Chairpersons/Vice-Chairpersons of VSS/EDC (to be nominated by the DFO) as also members. The SDLC stays in charge of resolving all intra-village and inter-village problems that are brought to their attention for the smooth process of the VSS / EDC. The SDLC meets at least once per quarter and supports the VSS / EDC in its procedures by providing appropriate support and supervision. The SDLC assists the VSS / EDC in forest preservation and sustainable administration, forest-based livelihood, and village holistic growth. The SDLC may, when desired, invite representatives of the concerned committees and other similar people's representatives, as well as reputable persons and establishments functioning in the field management of forests to their meetings.

The District Level Steering Committee (DLSC) is made of the District Collector as the Chairperson, Divisional Forest Officers (Territorial and Wildlife) as a member, ADM dealing with land matters as a member, Deputy Director (Agriculture) as a member, Chief District Veterinary Officer as a member, PD, DRDA as a member, PA, ITDA as a member, District Welfare Officer as a member, Deputy Director Horticulture as a member, Soil Conservation Officer as a member, 5 VSS (Chairperson/ Vice-Chairperson being at least 2 females to be nominated by the DFO as a member. The Member Convener of the DLSC meetings is the DFO who has control over the district headquarters. The non-official members serve for three years. NGOs or other consultants with credibility and proficiency working on forest-related subjects may be co-opted by the DLSC. The DLSC convenes at least once every six months to assist the VSS / EDC in their operations and give them the essential support and guidance. The DLSC stays in charge of forest conservation and sustainable management, as well as forest-based livelihoods and village progress.

The State Level Steering Committee (SLSC) is comprised of the Minister (Forest) as Chairperson, Chief Secretary as Vice-Chairperson, Principal Secretary, F&E Department as a member, Principal CCF (O) as a member, PCCF (WL) as a member, 2 D.F.Os./One RCCF nominated by PCCF (O) on a rotation basis as a member, Secretary, Revenue Department as a member, Secretary, Rural Development Department as a member, Secretary, Home Department as a member, Secretary, PR Department as a member, Secretary, SC & ST Department as member Chief Conservator of Forests (Central) as a member, Director, Odisha Watershed Development Mission as a member, and along with this two representatives of Civil Society Organizations/Professionals to be nominated by F&E Department as a member, Special Secretary, F&E Department as a member, Chairpersons of two VSS / EDC to be chosen by the PCCF (O) as a member, CCF (Plan, Programme & Afforestation), Office of PCCF, Orissa as member-convener. The State Level Steering Committee's non-official members serve for three years. To guide the process of participatory forest management, the Committee meets at least once a year. If there are any changes to the Resolution, they must be presented to the SLSC for approval and recommendation to the government.

3.13 Amendment to Joint Forest Management Resolution, 2011

The amendments laid down in clause (i) of the JFM resolution 2011 are "the Palli Sabha shall elect the Chairperson, the Vice-Chairperson, the Treasurer, and a minimum of additional 11 (eleven) members with Local Forest Guard/Local Forester (Ex-officio Member) as Secretary and other Ex-officio Member such as concerned Ward Member(s) to establish the Executive Committee. At least 50% of the memberships of the EC shall be females. The number of S.C. & S.T. members in the Executive Body will be in proportion to their membership in VSS/EDC. There should also be representation from the group of community, who do not have any livelihood provision other than depending on the forests" (JFMRA, 2015). The amendments laid down in clause (iii) of the JFM resolution 2011 is the structure of the EC will be comprised of the Chairperson, Vice-Chairperson, Treasurer and members will be elected. Along with this, the Secretary (Local Forest Guard/Local Forester) and Ward Member(s) shall be Ex-officio Member(s) (JFMRA, 2015). The amendments laid down in clause (vi) of the Annexure - A of the JFM resolution 2011 is about the VSS/EDC account and procedure of accounting which states that the Secretary will be completely accountable for upkeeping the monthly account and preservation of the Case Book of the VSS/EDC (JFMRA, 2015).

4. CONCLUSION

JFM inspires the development of a corporation between local people and the Forest department. It shapes trust between the two parties. The awareness of native people's participation and the role of the village level committee in the protection of their forests is not new-fangled. To bring those communities, people, and forests under one frame, the Government of India has introduced the concept of JFM. The Government of Odisha being a pioneer state to implement the initiatives of JFM is encouraging people for a long time. Hence, the revisions in resolutions and the

amendments have been modified periodically to incorporate the necessary steps for the sustainable management of forests and creating employment opportunities for the forest-fringe villagers so that good coordination can be maintained. The necessary changes in the financial and accounting processes are also given priority so that a conflict-free institution of VSS/EDC can be built at the village levels for good management of forest wealth and cares and awareness can be increased to protect the wildlife habitats.

The state has also successfully implemented different projects like Ama Jangala Yojana (AJY), Odisha Forestry Sector Development Project (OFSDP) Phase-I, and Phase-II in different forest fringe villages. The projects are continued in different phases for sustainable management of forest resources, and wildlife habitats creating livelihood for the villagers with JFM rules and regulations. The increase in forest cover of the state is mostly affected by JFM implementation. This study reviews the rules and amendments of JFM in the state of Odisha. It will help the decision-makers, researchers, and other department officials who have a keen interest in protecting the forest and wildlife resources of Odisha, creating livelihood opportunities for the people and beyond.

REFERENCES

- Agarwal, B., 2001. Participatory exclusions, community forestry, and gender: An analysis for South Asia and a conceptual framework. *World Development*, 29 (10), Pp. 1623-1648.
- Agrawal, A., 2005. *Technologies of Government and the Making of Subjects*. London: Duke University.
- Bingeman, K., Berkes, F., Gardner, J.S., 2004. Institutional responses to development pressures: Resilience of social-ecological systems in Himachal Pradesh, India. *The International Journal of Sustainable Development & World Ecology*, 11 (1), Pp. 99-115.
- Champion, H.G., Seth, S.K., 1968. A revised survey of the forest types of India. *Govt. of India Publications*, 1 (1), Pp. 297-299.
- Colfer, C.J.P., Dahal, G.R., Capistrano, D., 2008. Lessons from forest decentralization: money, justice and the quest for good governance in Asia-Pacific. London, UK, Earthscan. Pp. 240. ISBN: 978-1-844075553.
- FRA. 2006. *Scheduled Tribes and Other Traditional Forest Dwellers (Recognition of Forest Rights) Act, 2006*. Ministry of Tribal Affairs, New Delhi, Government of India.
- ISFR. 2021. *India State of Forest Report. Chapter-II. Forest Survey of India*. Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, Dehradun, Government of India.
- JFMR. 1993. *Joint Forest Management Resolution, 1993*. Forest, Environment and Climate Change Department, Bhubaneswar, Government of Odisha.
- JFMR. 2008. *Joint Forest Management Resolution, 2008*. Forest, Environment and Climate Change Department, Bhubaneswar, Government of Odisha.
- JFMR. 2011. *Joint Forest Management Resolution, 2011*. Forest, Environment and Climate Change Department, Bhubaneswar, Government of Odisha.
- JFMRA. 2015. *Amendment to Joint Forest Management Resolution, 2011*. Forest, Environment and Climate Change Department, Bhubaneswar, Government of Odisha.
- Lele, S., 2000. *Godsend, sleight of hand, or just muddling through Joint water and forest management in India*, ODI Natural Resource Perspectives no. 53. UK: Overseas Development Institute
- MoEFCC. 1988. *National Forest Policy, 1988*. Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, New Delhi, Government of India.
- Nayak, P.K., Berkes, F., 2008. Politics of co-optation: community forest management versus joint forest management in Orissa, India. *Environmental Management*, 41 (5), Pp. 707-718.
- OFVR. 1985. *The Orissa Village Forest Rules, 1985*. Forest, Environment and Climate Change Department, Bhubaneswar, Government of Odisha.
- PESA Act. 1996. *Panchayats (Extension to the Scheduled Areas) Act, 1996*. Ministry of Panchayati Raj, New Delhi, Government of India.
- Poffenberger, M., McGean, B., 1996. *Village voices, forest choices. Joint Forest Management in India* Oxford University Press Delhi.
- Potters, J., Reeb, D., Crolius, M.R., 2002. The progress of participatory forestry in Africa. In the second international workshop on participatory forestry in Africa. *Defining the way forward: sustainable livelihoods and sustainable forest management through participatory forestry*, 15, Pp. 2007.
- Prasad, R., Kant, S., 2003. Institutions, forest management, and sustainable human development—experiences from India. *Environment, Development and Sustainability*, 5 (3), Pp. 353-367.

