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PS_3.1_001_Changing people

Status of fringe forest management in rainfed areas of India and socio-economic assessment of fringe villages for Rural-Urban areas

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Introduction

This presentation is about outcome of a project title “**Forest Resource Dependence and Ecological Assessment of Forest Fringes in Rainfed Districts of India”** completed at ICFRE (Indian Council of Forestry Research & Education, Govt. of India)

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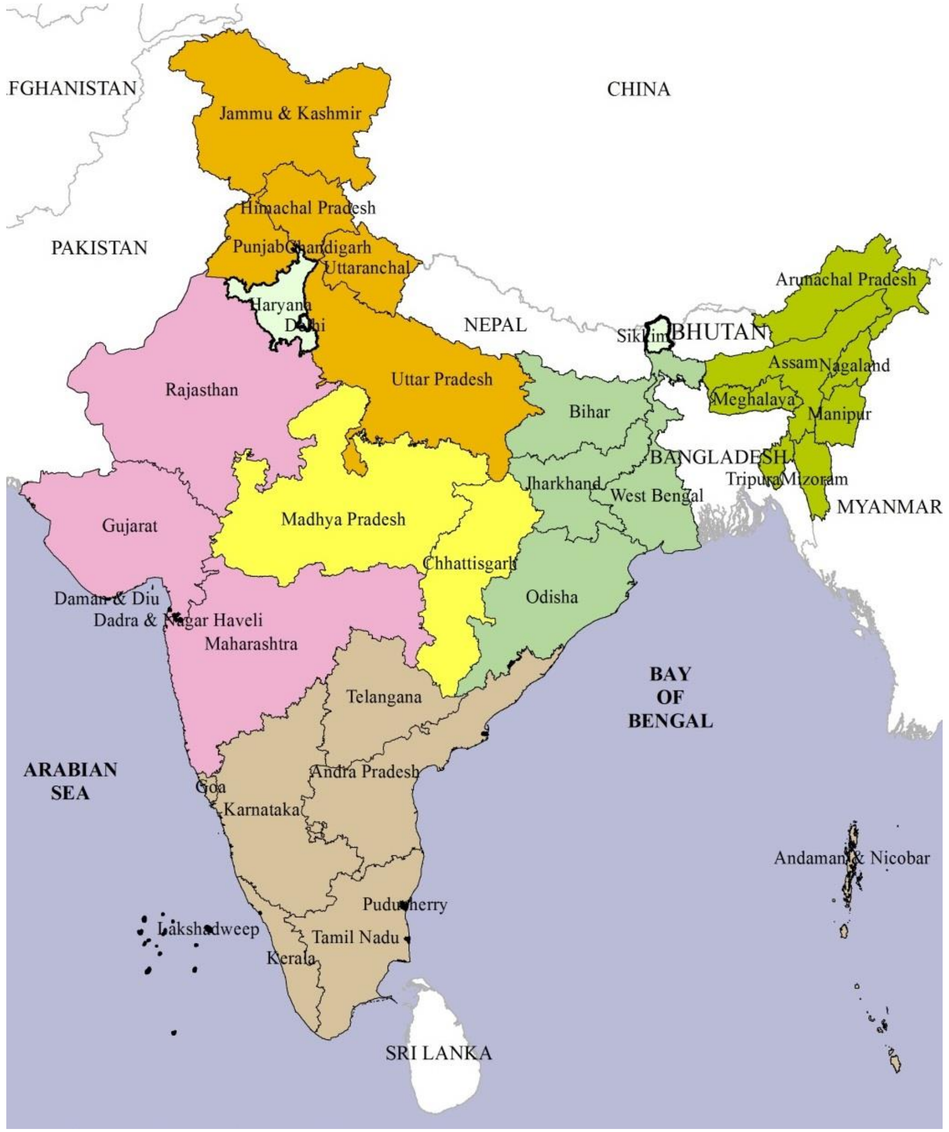
Study Area



India

Out of 597 Districts, only 275
Rainfed Districts chosen for study

Provinces (States)	:	27
Union Territory	:	01
Administrative Districts	:	275

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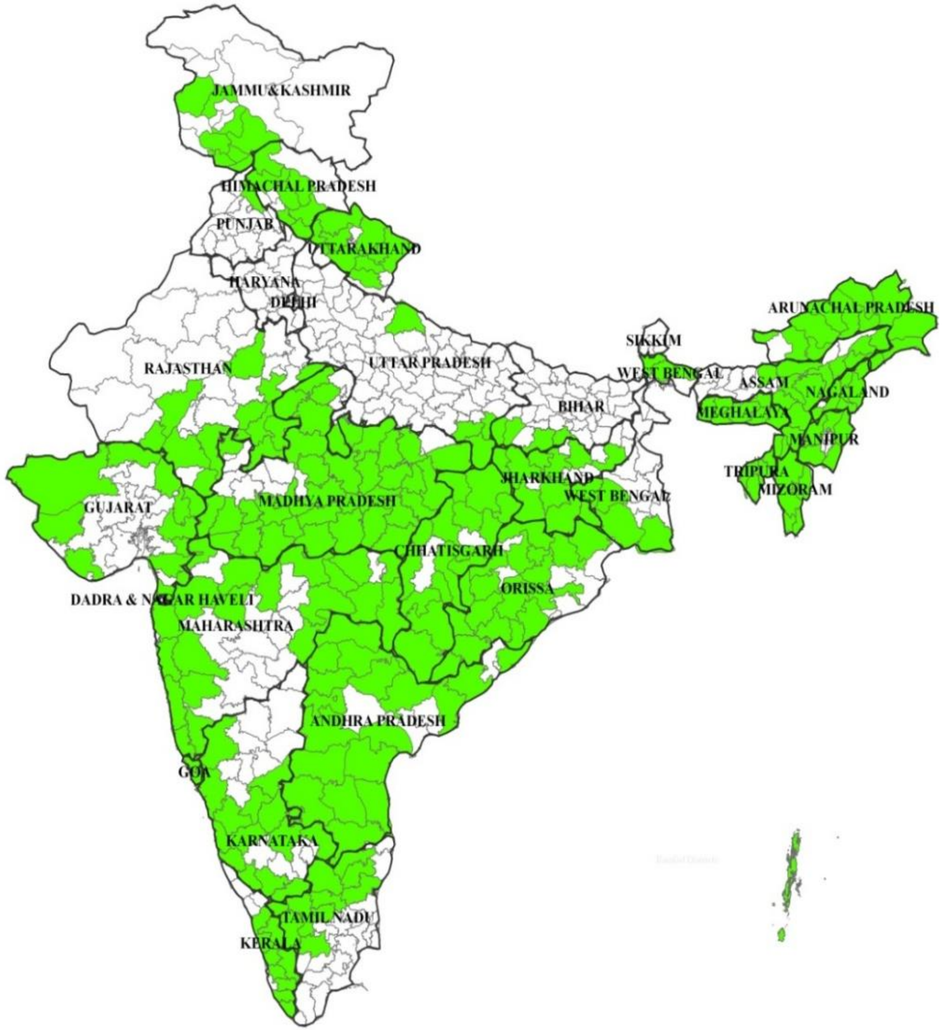
DISTRIBUTION OF RAINFED STUDY DISTRICTS



Study area shown in green

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Components of Study

- **Identification of *forest fringe* villages of India**
- **Socio-economic study of *forest fringe* villages for Rural-Urban Areas**

What is **Fringe Forest**?
"1 km distance inside the forest from outer periphery of the forest was identified as fringe forest."

What is **Forest Fringe Villages**?
"Villages lying within 1 km distance along the outer periphery of the forest boundary."

What is **Rainfed Area**?
"Those geographic areas where crop production is exclusively dependent on rainfall ."

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About

- The fringe forests are degrading greatly, this is so because the people living in these fringe villages belong to economically weaker section and lack basic amenities like roads, transportation etc.

- The lack of alternative livelihood opportunities leads to the heavy dependencies on forest resources and results in overexploitation of forest wealth. This leads to the shrinkage of forests and natural resources and extinction of many species to finally result in environmental degradation.

- India ranks first among the rainfed agricultural countries of the world in terms of both extent and value of produce. Rainfed regions account for 68% of the total net sown area in the country and are home to two-thirds of livestock and 40 percent of human population. Although the ecological, social and economic importance of the fringe forests is widely recognized yet, the data especially on socioeconomic aspects of forest fringe villages and communities living there is meagre.

- In-depth understanding of the fringe forest areas and the communities depending on these forests will help decision makers and managers of forests to undertake meaningful interventions. This study will provide an inventory for creating the future scenario and determination of the ecology of the area.

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Information Generated by this Study

- Extent and distribution of forestlands
- Number and names of forest fringe villages
- Forest cover density in fringe forests
- Forest types in fringe forests
- Areas supporting open, moderately dense and dense forests
- Tree density and height and girth of trees
- Regeneration status of the major species
- Importance Value Index of the forest species
- Community structure and species diversity of plants

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Socio-economic status of forest fringe communities at Village level and at Household level including

- Infrastructural facilities
- Road connectivity
- Drinking water availability
- Electricity connection
- Distance between fringe village and nearest town
- Distance between household and forest Ownership of dwellings
- Religion diversity
- Community structure
- Age –group structure
- Literacy & Educational Status
- Occupation status
- Marital status
- Gender ratio
- Income
- Social participation
- Household Accessories
- Agricultural implements
- Land Holdings
- Crop profile
- Livestock composition
- Grazing pattern
- Fodder- Source and species
- Fuelwood- Source and species
- Energy consumption

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Methodology

Steps involved in the Study

- Design of sampling for survey by **FRI** with assistance from **Forest Survey of India**
- Developing field forms and questionnaire for survey by FRI
- Field survey by institutes of ICFRE across the country
- GIS implementation work by FRI
- National Data portal development for data entry and Compilation by FRI
- Compilation of findings and synthesis of reports by FRI

Selection of sample villages for survey

Number of sample villages for survey were calculated by adopting following formula :

$$n = \left(\frac{CV(Y) * t}{\epsilon}\right)^2$$

where CV = Coefficient of variation
Y = Character under study
t = Confidence Interval
ε = Margin of Error

For calculating the sample size of the villages, mean and standard deviation was provided by FSI, Dehradun for calculating the CV.

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Selection of sample for Socio Economic survey

- The first sampling unit i.e. villages within each districts was stratified based on the population of the villages available in the population census (NSSO).
- Stratified random sampling design was adapted for the survey.
- The first stage sampling units were the villages and the second stage sampling units were the households.
- The households were categorized in three groups based on their economic status i.e. ‘Affluent’, ‘Less-affluent’ and ‘Others’. Thereafter 12 households from each village were selected from all the groups.

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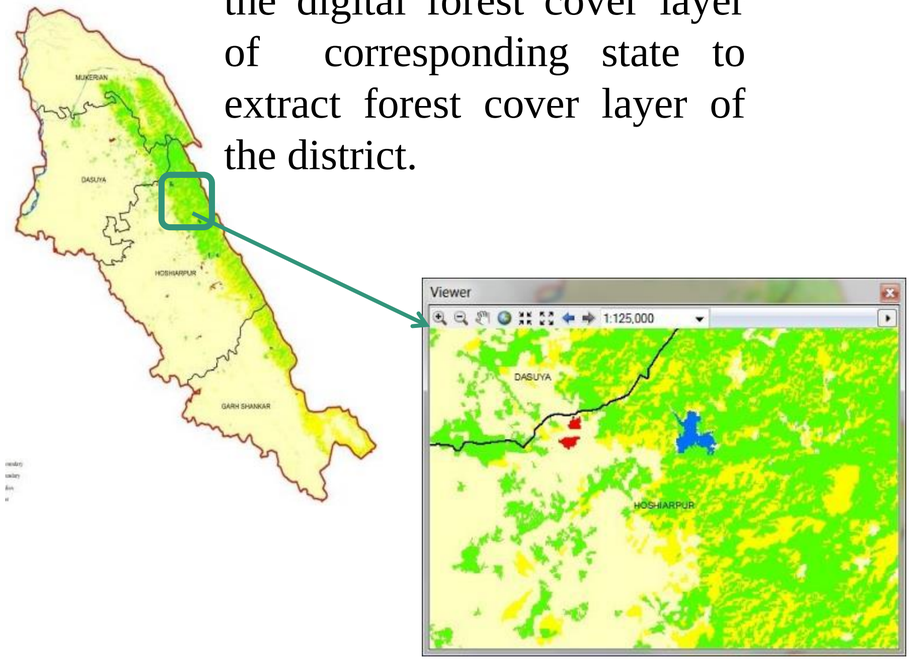
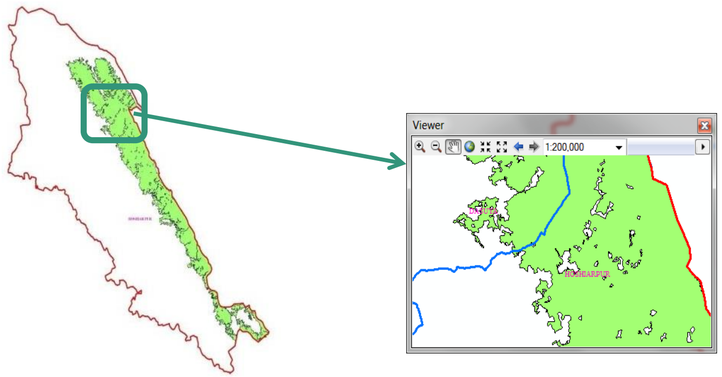
GIS mapping Work of Study Area

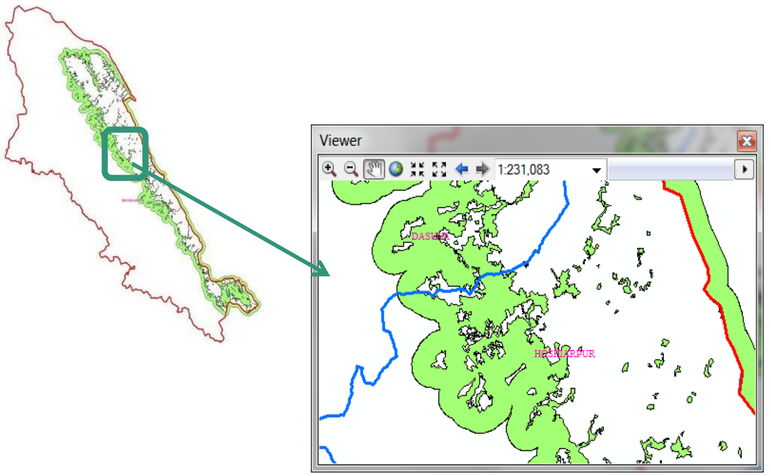
The shape file of the district boundary was overlaid on the digital forest cover layer of corresponding state to extract forest cover layer of the district.



- The raster layer of forest cover was converted to vector format.
- All vector limits for forest categories were dissolved to generate shape files of forest cover only.



Then **1 km buffer** was generated on the forest boundary



Output of GIS Mapping was useful in

- Identification of forest fringe villages
- Identification of fringe forests
- Information on forest cover density and forest types of fringe forests
- All essential maps used in the report

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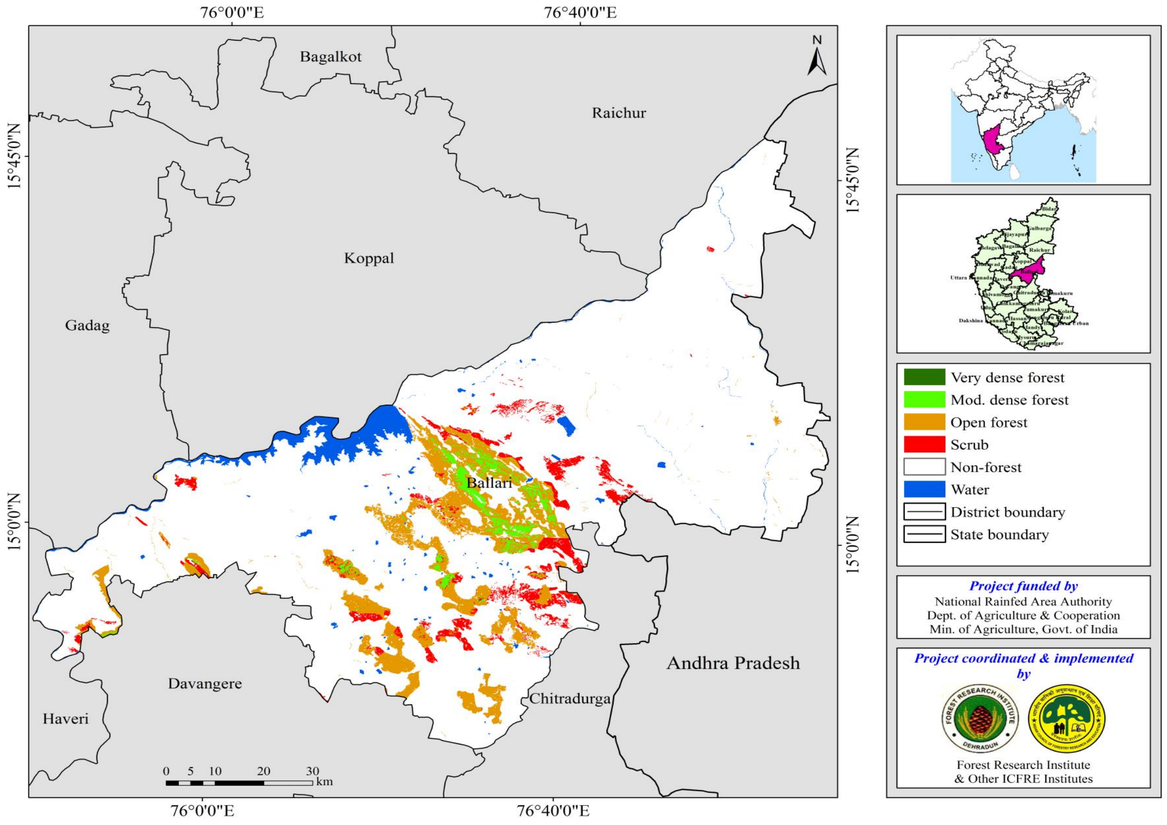
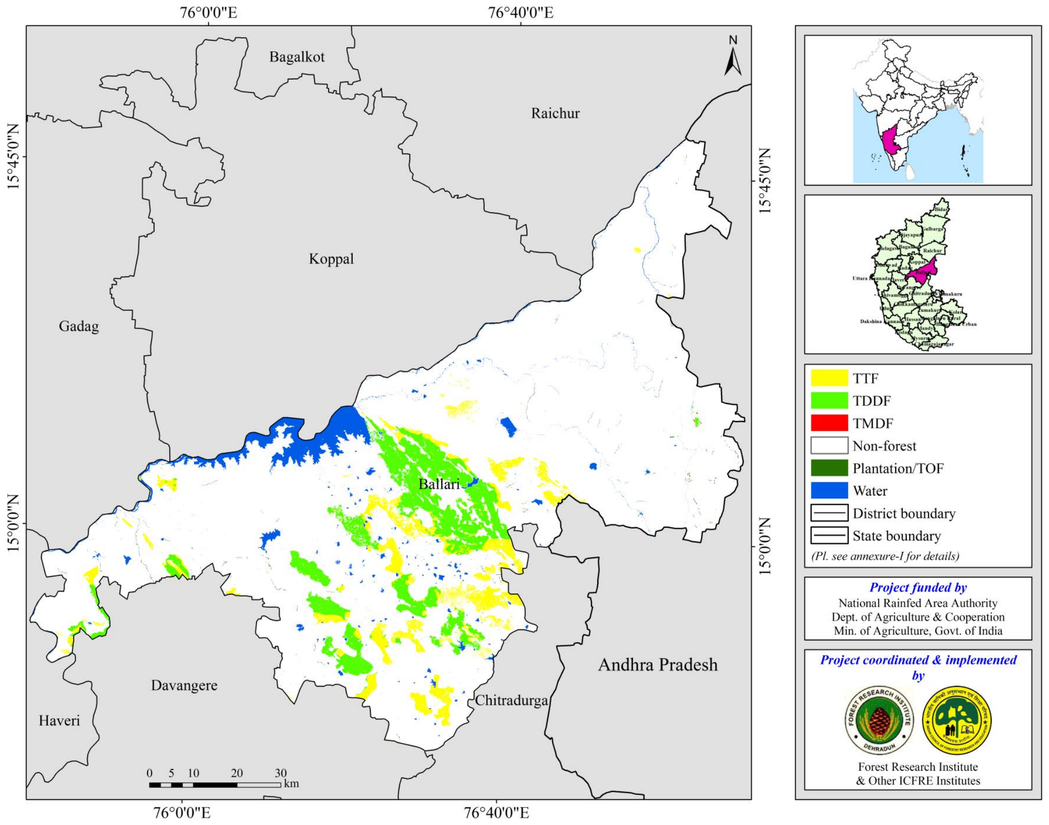
GIS Output: Maps Generation

Forest Cover Map



Forest Type Map



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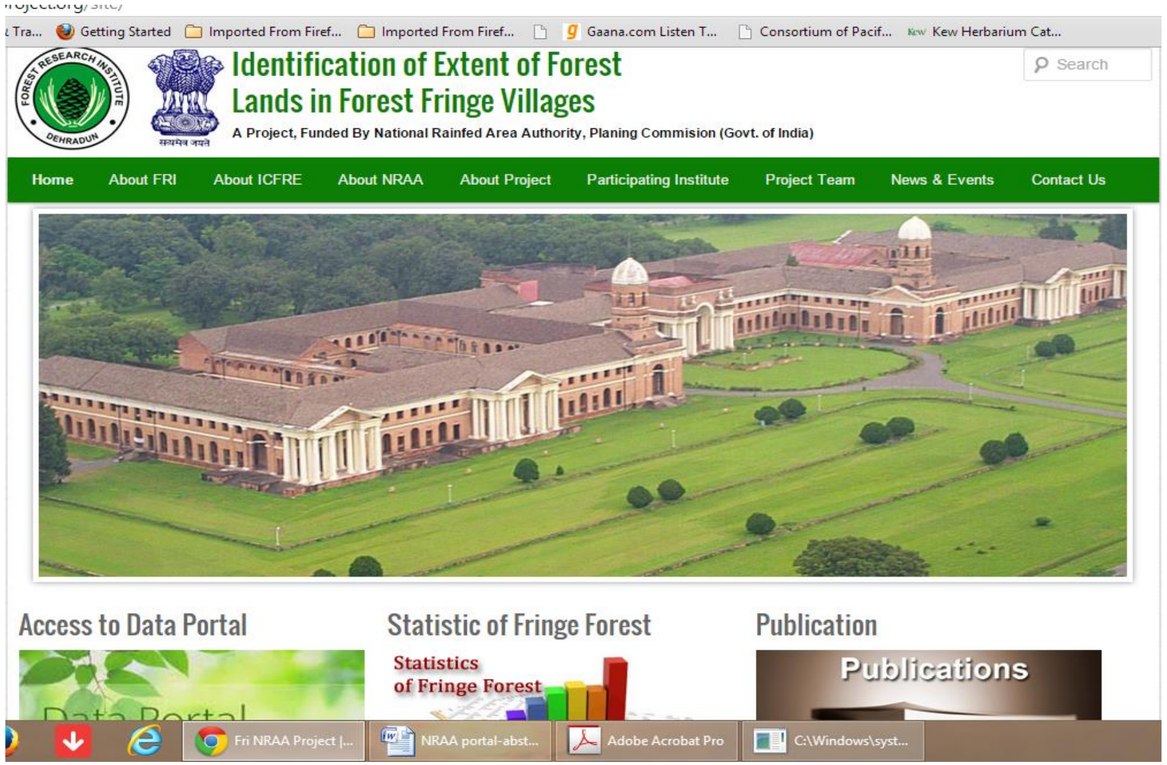
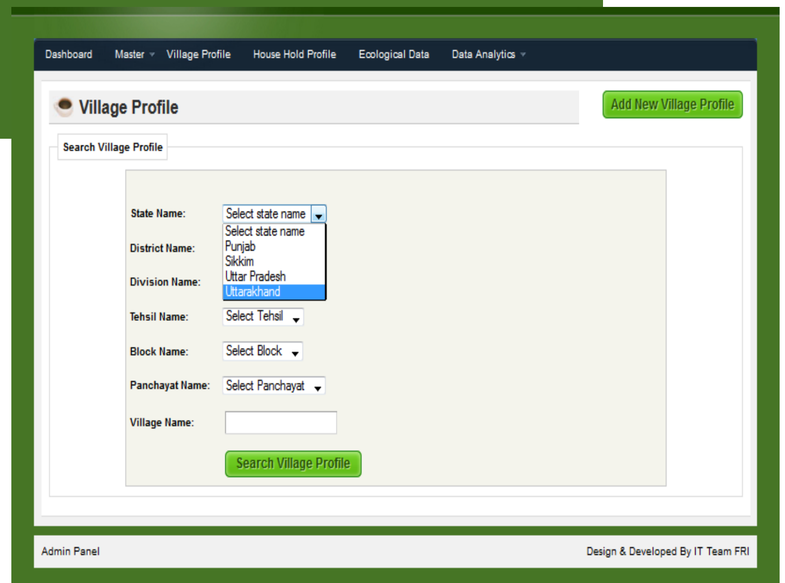
National Data Portal





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Volumes of report: zone wise distribution

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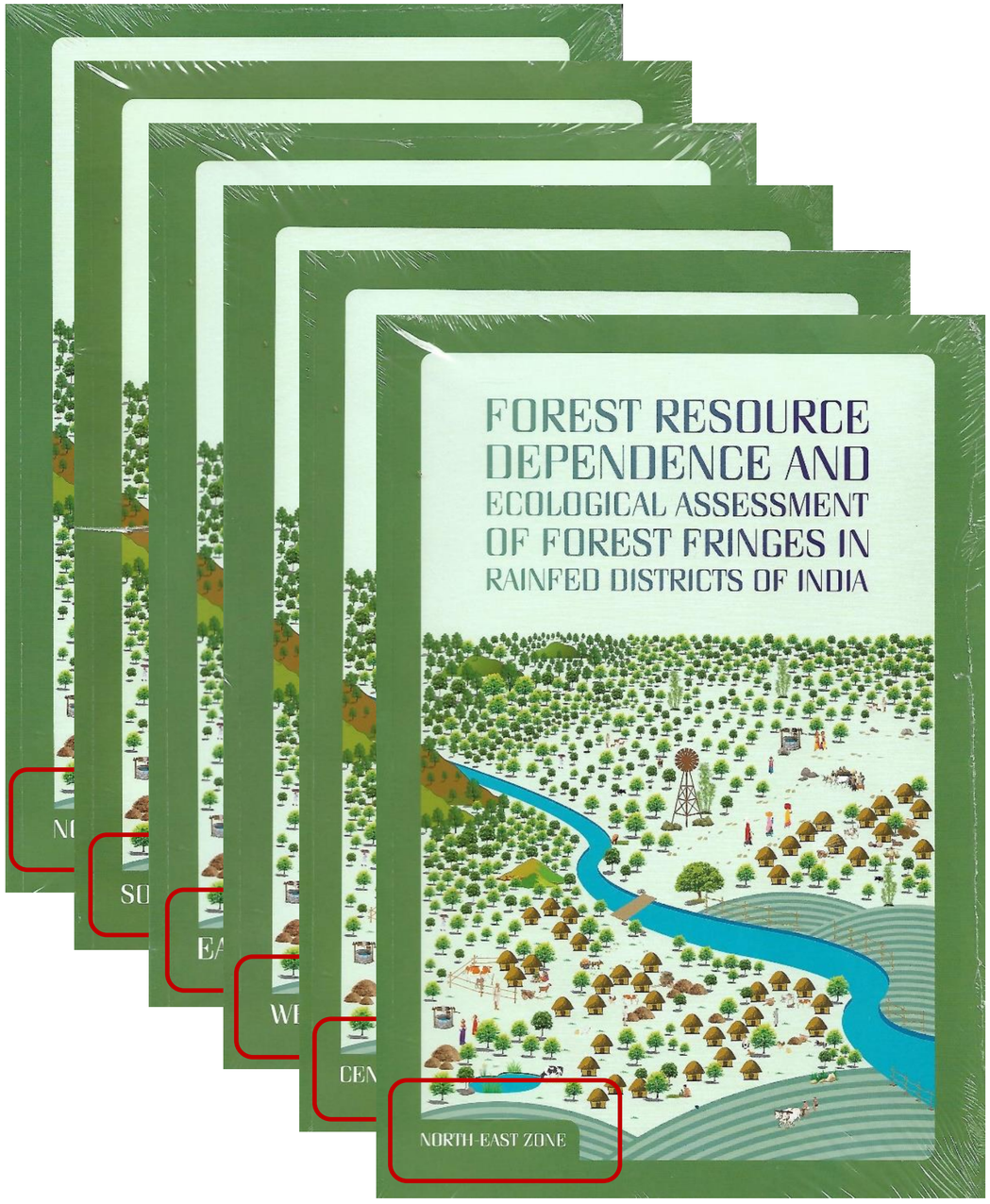
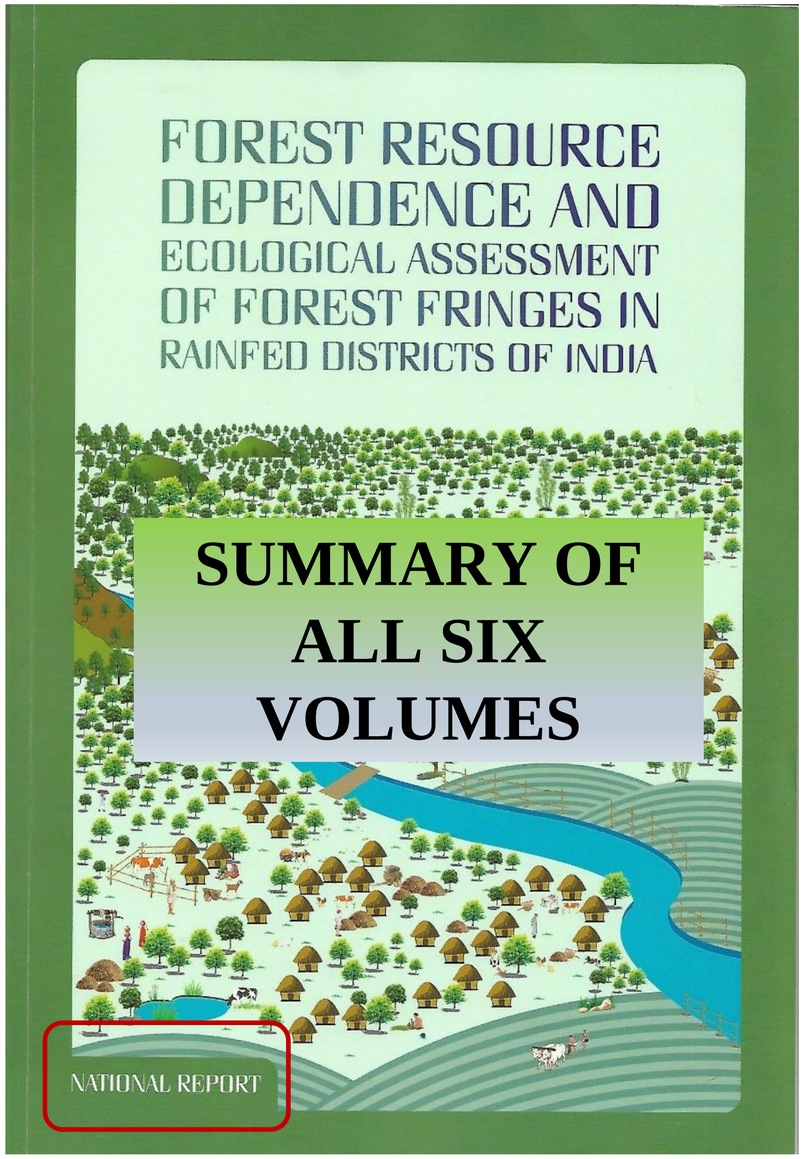
Volumes of report: zone wise distribution





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Glimpse of field photographs

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Outcome of the Study on Socio economic assessment of Rural-Urban Fringe forest

- Forest fringe villages of rural-urban areas and its **socio economic status** have been identified through this study.
- **Dependency** of the forest fringe community upon forests, its extent and the kind of forest resources being exploited were identified.
- Findings will help in screening and prioritizing the project implementation areas for developmental projects for **forest fringe communities in rainfed districts.**
- Ample amount of data has been generated for **27 States and 1 UT of India** from which lot of information, idea and knowledge can be accumulated for forest managers and policy planners.
- This study will lead to plan better **urban forestry interventions and its Socio-economic impact** in India

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Thank You