

Treatment of Uncultivated Land Under Watershed Development Approach : Institutional and Economic Aspects

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This paper primarily deals with the symbiotic relationship between cultivated and uncultivated lands under watershed development approach. One of the dominant variables which is a cause as well as offers a solution to the problem of land degradation is the type of ownership of land. In a cross section of four situations, two with different administrative perspective and the other two with local participation offer clues to the problem of the treatment of degraded lands. Even in a watershed development approach care has to be taken of the cross institutional perspectives.

I Introduction

Sustainability of the growth achieved after mid-sixties has posed a challenge to developmental thinkers on three frontiers. Firstly, we had on the one hand some specific technological options across the shelf and on the other the by-passed regions as well as classes to match these options. This posed a formidable mismatch under present structural conditions. Secondly, the fragile resource regions do not offer material suitable for the technological philosophy of early seventies developed under extremely diverse situation. Lastly, the rate of economic depletion of resources especially land, if not averted, may cause a set back for any policy solution. Under these circumstances planning for the use of resources occupies a prime position in developmental scenario. Hanumantha Rao pointed out that under the different agrarian situations prevailing in the country, with the exclusion of the "most dynamic zone", the remaining regions are extremely degraded and these regions constitute the economic base for the bulk of the poor (Rao, 1988). His analysis brings out the necessity of land augmenting and land saving technological changes with ecological balance. The basic solution about sustainable development emanates from proper land use planning for the fragile resource regions.