

Suggestions for Future Work

Title: Common Pool Resources as Drivers of Development: Evidence from regions in India

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Several interesting possibilities for further research have emerged as a consequence of the project undertaken on “ Policy Implications of Knowledge with respect to Common Pool Resources” . In particular, the evidence on livelihood strategies and the role of common pool resources in poverty alleviation has been a mixed one, when considered in conjunction with the different stages of development within the component states of the Indian economy. The safety net role of common pool resources in alleviating poverty remains a dominant strategy but it was found that in some regions, it is essential to look at common pool resources within a larger framework of the development process. Such a framework has to examine their role in the context of market driven development processes. A few hypotheses which can be studied in depth in this framework are given below:

- With urbanisation increasing at a rapid pace, multiple-use common pool resources (such as water bodies, watershed catchments etc.) have come under pressure from over-use and pollution. How can they be conserved, in particular when the livelihoods-common pool resources link is no longer the driving one for urban populations? What urban institutional structures for their conservation can succeed?
- Can common pool resources such as bio-diversity rich forests be exploited to provide sources of rural income in a market economy, presumably by linking up with industry in bio-prospecting and value-addition based initiatives? What kind of incentives for introduction of new technology and mechanisms for sharing profits are useful in ensuring that this potential is realised?

The study undertaken suggests that regional differences in the role of common pool resources as development drivers are likely to exist. These differences are expected due to the different stages of development of regions in India and provide an interesting study area for further research, possibly to examine the hypothesis outlined above.