

4 Conclusion

4.1 Issues and Problems

The major issues and problems in Myanmar for effective promotion of participatory forest management are as follow.

- Formulation of a self-sufficient system for local needs (Under the CFs, people's active participation plays a key role in the reforestation and rehabilitation of denuded areas.)
- Raising the awareness of communities, decision-makers, and others influencing public opinion about the vital role of trees and woody vegetation, wildlife, and national parks in national and socioeconomic development
- Ensuring need-based participation and people-based development
- Establishing harmony between the needs of society, the forest resource base, and forest development programmes
- Inadequate research in, and extension support to, participatory forest management
- Inadequate human resources and extension capability of the forestry department to increase public involvement in forestry programmes
- Need for awareness of community forestry and the significance of the problem it seeks to address
- Need to demonstrate the cost and benefits of community forestry programmes
- Development of mechanisms for the distribution of benefits to users to facilitate adoption of the programme by people
- The need for organization building at the grass roots' level to establish an effective recipient system that can serve the interests of the community and promote participatory forestry development.
- The community plantations allowed under legislation have not been established widely.

4.2 Suggestions and Recommendations

The following suggestions and recommendations could contribute toward a fuller implementation of participatory forest management programmes in Myanmar:

- develop programmes to create awareness about community forestry and the significance of the problem it seeks to address;
- develop training courses for farmers and between-farm visits;
- abolish rules and regulations that discourage tree planting on individual or communal lands;
- develop people-oriented programmes and projects that focus on income, employment, and fulfillment of basic needs;
- promote women's participation; and
- establish mechanisms to promote joint forest management.