

# 4 Forestry and the Five Year Plans

The annual release of funds in various development plans is shown in Table 7.

Table 7 shows that there has been a gradual decline in the release of funds for the forestry sector. Forestry gets about 10 per cent of the total development budget allocated for the agricultural sector, less than 0.5 per cent of the funds for the national Annual Development Programme. The proposed allocation of forestry development funds for the Eighth Plan (1993-98) is Rs 4,015 million against a release of Rs 529 million annually up to 1997.

## 4.1 The Ninth Five Year Plan (1998-2002)

The Ninth Five-Year Plan initiatives for forestry are essentially based on the Policy Objectives of 1991, until the draft Forestry Sector Policy 1998 is approved by the government. However, the plan approach is based on participatory forestry to expand the forestry resource base, produce an adequate quantity of raw material for growth of a wood-based industry, and

reduce dependence on imported wood and wood products.

### 4.1.1 Approach

Forestry plays an important role in the sustainability of Pakistan's agrarian economy, which is dependent on environmental stability, water regulation for irrigated agriculture, and cheap generation of hydropower. The population of 137 million, which is growing at a rate of 2.7 per cent per year, is facing an acute shortage of agricultural and forest products. The pressure on Pakistan's meagre forest resources is leading to degradation of watersheds, accelerated soil erosion, accretion of silt in the multipurpose dams of Tarbela and Mangala, and a high frequency of floods. These together with the depletion of rangelands mean that the gap between supply and demand of both agricultural and forest products is likely to grow larger in coming years.

Pakistan is heavily dependent on imported products, raw as well as value added. Pakistan

**Table 7: Provision/Release of Funds in Five-Year Plans**

Plan	Provision	Release	Ratio Provision to Release
1st (1955-59)	39	35	1.1:1
2nd (1960-65)	87	72	1.2:1
3 <sup>rd</sup> (1965-70)	140	92	1.5:1
4 <sup>th</sup> (1970-78)	216	212	1.0:1
5 <sup>th</sup> (1978-83)	1223	629	1.9:1
6 <sup>th</sup> (1983-88)	1571	749	2.1:1
7th (1988-93)	1962	946	2.1:1
*8 <sup>th</sup> (1993-98)	4015	2647	1.5:1

\*Data for 8th Plan are available up to 1996-97.

Source: Ninth Five Year Plan Document (1997).

imports wood and wood products exceeding Rs seven billion annually, the bulk of which is spent on wood pulp, paper, and paper products. It will require a strategic leap forward to change from import substitution to self-sufficiency and industrialisation driven programmes.

There has been a growth in urbanisation and industrialisation without regard to environmental issues such as air and water quality. The impact of climate change, and potential disruption to life-support systems, require that forestry programmes be prioritised in accordance with the recommendations of the Forestry Sector Master Plan (1992). Although awareness of the need to reduce the size of the population is increasing, natural resources continue to bear an ever-increasing burden to meet timber, fuelwood, and grazing needs.

During the term of the Ninth Five-Year Plan, greater emphasis needs to be laid on the involvement of the private sector in tree planting on farmlands, and on community participation in the management of state forests. The growth of a wood-based industry will assure the marketability of farm-grown wood, and better prices for wood and farmland planting will contribute to alleviation of rural poverty and the conservation of natural forests. Incentives to and setting up of wood-based industries, and rationalisation of the import duty structure on timber, will contribute to saving the country's dwindling forests and reducing dependence on imported wood and wood products.

In the Eighth Five-Year Plan, the emphasis was on awareness, advocacy, institutional development, and the legal framework for the forestry sub-sector. Although awareness raising and implementation of projects of demonstrative value led to a breakthrough in attitudes towards planting trees on farmlands and conserving existing forests, progress in the area of institutional and legal reforms was abysmally low. These qualitative indicators spell out the extent of consolidation of work carried out in the past. It will be a guiding principle of the Ninth Five Year Plan to undertake enabling institutional and legislative

reforms for capacity building to meet the emerging challenges faced by the forestry sector in the twenty-first century.

#### **4.1.2 Objectives of the Ninth Five Year Plan**

The Ninth Five-Year Plan will focus on the following set of actions.

- Public sector development programmes will indicate their environmental soundness.
- The private sector, which is a market framework, will be guided indirectly by policy incentives (disincentives), environmental considerations, pollution mitigation options, and conservation of natural resources.
- Legal and institutional reforms will be carried out in the forestry sector.
- Maintenance and improvement of watersheds will receive due priority.
- Property rights in rangelands and marginal lands will be clearly defined to prevent over-exploitation of the resource.
- International conventions to which Pakistan is a signatory will be implemented in letter and spirit.
- Community participation will be given a concrete shape.

#### **4.1.3 Ninth Five Year Plan Strategy**

The strategy to achieve the objectives of the Ninth Five Year Plan are based on the programmes identified in the Forestry Sector Master Plan (FSMP) document (1992-2017). The main theme in implementing these programmes revolves around the concept of collaborative or joint management, which seeks to mobilise local communities for conservation and sustainable development of natural resources like watersheds, forests, rangelands, and wildlife. The collaborative management regime would reform institutional arrangements for managing natural resources and secure the livelihoods of the local population by bringing together the diverse skills and capacities of various stakeholders in a flexible process subject to constant review.

Success of the Ninth Five-Year Plan for the Forestry Sector will be based on qualitative indicators. A review of the Forest Policy, institutional and legislative reforms, the resolution of sectoral and inter-sectoral conflicts, and community-based development will have to be undertaken to ensure sustainable use of the natural resources on a long-term basis.

The physical targets of the Ninth Five-Year Plan are based on the priority programmes listed in the FSMP. They are summarised in Table 8.

#### 4.1.4 Wood Production Estimates

During the term of the Ninth Five-Year Plan, the capacity of the private sector will be enhanced considerably through various initiatives for increased wood production on farmlands. The gap between supply and demand will continue to be met through the import of wood and wood products following rationalisation of the structure of the import duties for timber. As a result of the ban (1993-99) imposed on timber harvests in natural forests, 80 per cent of which are dispersed in the mountain ranges of the HKH, the demand for timber will be met from farmlands. Wood production from farmlands is expected to register a substantial increase as a result of various social

forestry projects that have been implemented over the last 15 years. Wood production in the lowlands will have a direct impact on high hill forests and on the people engaged in transport of wood from areas of surplus to areas of deficit. It will also have transboundary effects on the exploitation of forests in Afghanistan, which has been affected by the moratorium placed on the commercial harvest of natural forests in Pakistan.

#### 4.1.5 Financial Estimates

The total estimated outlay for forestry, watershed, range management, and wildlife during the term of the Ninth Five-Year Plan is Rs 28,436 million (Table 9).

The overall annual release of funds for the forestry sector during the 5th and 6th plan periods was Rs 138 million, for the 7<sup>th</sup> Plan Rs 190 million, and for the 8<sup>th</sup> (projected) Rs 529 million (Ninth Five-Year Plan document). It will be difficult to achieve a ten-fold increase to implement the policy objective. The policy may also underrate the difficulty of finding additional areas for afforestation in the public sector and the constraints resulting from aridity, water availability, and financial limitations.

**Table 8: Physical Targets for the Forestry Sector in the Ninth Five-Year Plan**

Programmes	Units	Punjab	Sindh	NWFP	Baloch istan	NAs	AJK	Total
Watersheds	000 ha/no	5	-	181	5	5	73	279
Coniferous	000 ha	40	-	215	25	35	85	400
Irrigated plantations	000 ha	15	5	-	-	-	-	20
Afforestation in riverine forests	000 ha	5	17	-	-	-	-	22
Afforestation in mangrove forests	000 ha	-	15	-	-	-	-	15
Amenity planting/linear	000 ha	10	5	6	-	-	-	21
Farmland planting	000 ha	116	57	54	9	2	-	238
Range management projects	No	5	1	2	2	-	-	10
Sand-dune stabilisation	000 ha	-	-	-	5	-	-	5
Nursery establishment	000 ha	1750	300	1600	50	110	110	3920
Sapling distribution	million	350	100	370	20	20	100	960
Sericulture cocoons	kg	25000	-	30000	-	5000	-	60000

Source: Ninth Five-Year Plan

Table 9: Estimated Costs (Rs million)							
Programmes	Punjab	Sindh	NWFP	Balochistan	NAs	AJK	Total
Watersheds	1,865.37	-	7,432.92	800.00	25.42	300.00	10,423.71
Conifer Forests	-	-	1,670.50	-	0.06	186.00	1,856.55
Irrigated Plantations	2,814.61	1,020.00	-	-	40.97	-	3,875.58
Riverain Forests	66.68	180.00	15.62	-	-	-	262.29
Mangrove Forests	-	96.00	-	-	-	-	96.00
Amenity/Linear Plantations	3,432.89	50.40	20.87	41.00	-	-	3,545.16
Famland Planting	543.17	303.00	1,411.60	-	88.29	-	2,346.06
Range Management	83.10	20.00	205.80	51.00	-	650.00	1,009.90
Sand-dune Stabilisation	-	-	143.37	40.00	-	-	183.37
Wildlife	960.18	80.00	879.57	373.00	47.23	-	2,339.98
Administration	160.00	14.00	357.60	8.00	22.00	120.00	681.60
Education & Training	60.20	20.00	215.00	-	25.00	120.00	440.20
Research	23.00	32.00	30.00	-	-	48.00	133.00
Sericulture	15.00	20.00	-	17.00	-	-	52.00
Nursery	-	-	15.32	13.00	41.83	50.00	120.14
Federal	-	-	-	-	-	-	875.98
a. Ministry of E.L.G & RD	-	-	-	-	-	-	48.36
Watersheds	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Administration	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
b. PFI - Research & Education	10,024.20	1,835.40	12,398.15	1,343.00	290.79	1,474.00	28,435.95