

5 Human Resources' Development for Forestry Development in Bhutan

The key institutions that offer basic forestry education within and outside the country are as follow.

5.1 The Bhutan Forestry Institute

The Bhutan Forestry Institute offers a one-year basic forestry course primarily for forest guards. The course includes basic silviculture, forest protection, social forestry, seed collection, forest botany, nursery operations, mensuration, forest survey and engineering, forest policy, wildlife, utilisation, and accounts.

5.2 The Logging Training Centre

The Logging Training Centre at Lamegonpa, Bumthang, offers the following courses: Manual Logging (6 months), Cable Crane Operation (6 months), Chain Saw Operation (6 months), Crew Leader (6 months) and Winch Mechanics (12 months).

In addition, the Centre provides a one and a half to two months course for voluntary workers and people using pitsaws. In general, the training courses consist of 1/3 theory and 2/3 practical exercises.

5.3 The Natural Resources' Training Institute

The Natural Resources' Training Institute (NRTI) at Lobesa offers a three-year diploma course in agriculture, animal husbandry, and forestry. For foresters, the course includes forest utilisation, silviculture, forest roads and

engineering, forest protection, mensuration, forest law and policy, wildlife and nature conservation, social forestry, and surveying. With the inclusion of a social forestry course in the syllabus, awareness of participatory forest management is now ensured and the faculty is becoming increasingly sensitised to this newly-emerging concept. Until 1992 when the NRTI became operational, nearly all advanced forestry education was imparted by Indian institutions.

The idea for establishing NRTI developed in the late eighties when the government realised that the sub-sectoral approach to the development of the country's agriculture, livestock, and forestry was not effective. The main reason for this was that the Departments of Agriculture, Animal Husbandry, and Forest did not consider the integrated nature of the farming systems practised by the farmers. Thus the respective programmes and activities did not complement each other. Although these Departments were all placed under the Ministry of Agriculture, there was very poor coordination and consolidation of development efforts and this resulted in duplication of efforts and often led to conflicts. In order to overcome these problems and address the needs of the rural population better, a policy decision was made to integrate the functions of the Departments of Agriculture, Animal Husbandry, and Forestry and reorganize them into multi-disciplinary divisions. Five divisions were created: the Administration and Finance Division (AFD); Policy and Planning Division (PPD); Research, Extension, and Irrigation Division (REID);

Forestry Services' Division (FSD); and Crop and Livestock Services' Division (CLSD). At the same time, a decision was made to integrate the training components of the three sub-sectors and bring them under one roof, thus heralding the birth of the Natural Resources' Training

Institute (NRTI) at Lobesa. The NRTI brought together and replaced the diploma-level training conducted by the National Agricultural Training Institute (NATI) at Paro, the Royal Veterinary Institute at Serbithang, and the Bhutan Forestry Institute at Taba.