

3 Institutionalisation

It is essential to train IFS staff to undertake a site-specific approach to JFM, as there is no single formula in the process that can be prescribed for the whole country. It is evident from the examination of the Government Orders on JFM from twenty states that the approaches vary in economic priority, the sharing of usufructs, composing specific plans of operation, and defining the varying limits of gender and equity. Similarly, any approach must take into account the different biomass potential in an area, the land classification, the socioeconomic status of fringe communities, and the treatment to be applied. Under such conditions, it is desirable to

develop attitudes of commitment to the various options and to refining the approach. This is one reason that the IFS probationers are offered a unique opportunity to analyse different JFM models during their professional training when they visit different places in seven-month long tours. They have opportunities for discussion and critical assessment of the issues. The job of preparing the training modules that address the finesse of the process appropriately may fit in very well with the role of the Academy. An attempt is made to draw attention to innovative strategies in JFM through a combination of close-knit training modules and visits to sites.