

डा० देवेन्द्र पाण्डेय
महानिदेशक
Dr. D. Pandey
Director General



भारतीय वन सर्वेक्षण

FOREST SURVEY OF INDIA

(भारत सरकार, पर्यावरण एवं वन मंत्रालय)

(Govt. of India, Ministry of Environment & Forests)

कौलागढ़ मार्ग, देहरादून - 248 195

Kaulagarh Road, Dehradun - 248 195

PREFACE

After the Forest Survey of India (FSI) published the first 'State of Forest Report (SFR)' in 1987 by assessing the forest cover of the country a lot of technological advancements has taken place in the field of remote sensing technology since then. There has been a gradual shift from visual interpretation of 1:1 million scale to digital interpretation of 1:50,000 scale at FSI. The personnel of FSI also gained invaluable experience during this period of two decades making the assessment of forest cover more objective and analysis of changes more accurate. The assessment of accuracy in the present report has been done in an independent way as per internationally accepted standard and has been found to be more than 92%.

SFR 2005 presents the regular features like forest cover at national, state and district levels, tree cover at national and state levels, mangrove cover and growing stock of wood in India's forests. Chapter 1 provides an overview of the Report, harmonization of forest cover of previous assessments and a glimpse of the world forest resources. Chapter 2 describes the methodology of forest cover assessment along with the results at national and state levels as well as forest cover in Hill and Tribal districts, both important for conservation.

Chapter 3 provides a new dimension of information on forest cover which is being repeatedly asked by many, that is, the forest cover inside and outside the recorded forest lands. It was possible to publish only for those States/UTs who provided the boundaries of recorded forests in digital format. This will help in fine-tuning forest monitoring and managements under the control of State Forest Departments. Chapter 4 describes the extent and density of mangroves, a sensitive inter-tidal ecosystem.

The role of trees outside forests (TOF) has become very important for meeting the needs of industrial wood and carbon sequestration. This has been presented in Chapter 5 giving methodology and the estimated tree cover. In Chapter 6, estimates of growing stock (volume) of the country's forest and tree cover has been presented.

To bring transparency, the locational details of the forest cover change assessed during 2002-04 by FSI were sent to State/UT Forest Departments in advance for re-verification. Further, the analysis of accuracy through independent data set presented in Chapter 7 has enhanced the reliability of the present forest cover and helped in the harmonization of the forest cover of previous assessments. Chapter 8 provides State/UT wise information of forest resources at district level besides basic information on geography, land use pattern, JFM activities and the protected area network.

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(Devendra Pandey)