



India

## 35 Rajasthan Forestry Development Project

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This project's objective was to improve productivity by increasing grass and fodder, and to promote environmental preservation and job creation through the afforestation and planting of pasture in cooperation with the Forest Department and local residents in the 15 regions in Rajasthan, and thereby to contribute to the alleviation of poverty in those regions.

**Loan Amount/Disbursed Amount:** 4,219 million yen/4,219 million yen

**Loan Agreement:** February 1995

**Terms and Conditions:** Interest rate 2.6%; Repayment period, 30 years (grace period 10, years); General untied

**Final Disbursement Date:** April 2002

**Executing Agency:** Forest Department, Government of Rajasthan



**External Evaluator:** Chiaki Nakamura (Global Link Management, Ltd.)

**Field Survey:** October 2004

### Evaluation Result

In this project, the afforestation of approximately 55,000 ha (an area roughly equivalent to the city of Kobe, Japan) and the construction of reservoir for recharging of water, were implemented almost as planned. The project period exceeded the plan due to a delay in some of the tree-planting, and the project cost was slightly above the planned amount.

With regard to productivity, the total production of grass and non-timber products such as fodder amounted to 55,000 tons (50 million rupees). Regarding environmental preservation, the survival rate of trees one year following planting in 2001 exceeded the target of 70%, achieving an average survival rate of 72%. Moreover, the water level in the local wells one year after planting rose by an average of 1.8%, and so the water reserve capacity of the soil was also improved. As for job creation, 22 million person/days were employed.

According to beneficiary survey, 74% noted "reduced time for obtaining animal fodder" and 66% noted "increase in household income." "Savings on fuel expense," "improvement of convenience of water supply," "reduction in heavy labor," were also referred, and contributed to improvements in women's living environment.

There are no problems in the technical capacity, operation and maintenance system, or financial status of the Rajasthan Forest Department or the Village Forest Protection and Management Committees (VFPMCs) which are in charge of operation and maintenance.

### Third-Party Evaluator's Opinion

This project, which is highly relevant, preserved water recharge, prevented desertification by planting trees, and contributed to resident's living improvement, and social economic conditions.

**Third-Party Evaluator:** Mr. Kuldip Naya (mass communication)

Obtained a doctoral degree in philosophy from Guru Nanak Dev University. Currently working as a freelance journalist. Former member of upper house of Parliament, former special envoy to Great Britain, and former United Nation delegate specializing in diplomacy.

#### Project Plan versus Actual and Achievement rate

This project is composed of the afforestation component, including afforestation of bare land, restoration of devastated forest land, timber planting for fuel use, grass planting, and farm forestry, and the non-afforestation component, including recharging of water (reservoir) and construction of simple crematoriums.

Component		Planned	Actual	Achievement Ratio (%)
(1)	Afforestation Components (ha)			
①	Bare land afforestation (ha)	12,000	11,525	96
②	Devastated forest restoration (ha)	29,000	29,947	103
③	Timber planting for fuel use (ha)	8,000	8,053	101
④	Grass planting (ha)	6,000	6,053	101
⑤	Farm forestry (10,000 trees)	8,000	8,700	109
(2)	Other Components of Project			
①	Development of water sources (small dams) (number of dams)	530	600	113
②	Construction of small-scale crematoriums (number of facilities)	250	252	101



Women carrying firewood obtained from the afforestation project