

SYMPOSIUM

Decentralization, Power & Tenure Rights of Forest-Dependent People

Dahod, Gujarat, India; 27-28 October 2009

Wageningen University (the Netherlands) and the Sadguru Foundation (India) will jointly host a symposium 'Decentralization, Power and Tenure Rights of Forest-Dependent People' at Dahod, Gujarat, India on 27-28 October 2009. An optional one-day field visit will be arranged on 29 October 2009.

Objective The main aim of the symposium is to share local, national and international experiences of decentralization reforms and forest tenure rights in relation to the political position of forest-dependent indigenous peoples and pastoralists.

Symposium Key identified thematic issues for discussions are:

Decentralization Reforms

Decentralized forest management reforms recognize new types of institutions. In practice, what kinds of institutions are chosen and why? Are the local institutions supportive towards marginalized groups? Do marginalized groups have a say in choosing the 'right' local institution?

Politics of Power

Different forms of power are devolved to different types of institutions through decentralized forestry. Which kinds of powers are transferred to local authorities? Who are the new authorities? Does devolving power to local authority mean empowerment of indigenous peoples and women?

Forest Tenure Rights

Statutory laws are increasingly recognizing forest tenure rights of the indigenous peoples. To what extent do international instruments and institutions influence national and local forest governance? Is the state 'recognition' of forest tenure rights conducive to the reduction of rural poverty?

Abstract The paper should address one or more of the above identified three thematic issues based on empirical and/or theoretical research.

Abstracts should include title, author(s), institutional affiliation, full contact address, telephone number and a summary (max 250 words) of the paper with four keywords. Please email the abstract as an attachment to Purabi Bose (purabi.bose@wur.nl) before 10 April 2009. Please state "symposium abstract/your last name" in the email subject line. We will notify acceptance of the abstract via email by 30 April 2009.

Participants We encourage participants from multi-disciplinary background including international and national researchers, academics, post-graduate students, policy-makers, legal experts, NGO members, government officers.

Language	English is the symposium language.	
Programme	Two-day interactive symposium will have keynote lectures, selected paper presentations, panel discussion, and an open-forum focussed debate. The confirmed programme will be available by September 2009.	
Venue	Sadguru Foundation, Chosala, Dahod district, Gujarat, India.	
	Being hosted in a semi-arid, tribal district bordering Rajasthan and Madhya Pradesh states, the symposium presents an opportunity to explore what future holds for some of India's poorest forest-dependent tribal communities.	
	Dahod is directly connected to Mumbai (540km/9hrs) and Delhi (840km/12hrs) by Indian railways. The nearest airports are in Ahmedabad and Vadodara city of Gujarat. By road: bus service is available from Ahmedabad (200km) and Vadodara (150km).	
	Check venue details at www.nmsadguru.org/FacilitiesAvailable.html and general information about Dahod at http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Dahod	
Important Dates	Abstract submission	10 April 2009
	Acceptance of abstract	30 April 2009
	Registration fees and paper submission	15 September 2009
	Final programme & Keynote speakers	30 September 2009
	Symposium	27-28 October 2009
	Fieldtrip (optional)	29 October 2009
Registration	A nominal participation fee of Rs.2000 is to be paid by 15 September 2009. To encourage participation of PhD students and women from developing countries, the fee is further relaxed to Rs.1000. The fee includes pre-symposium proceedings, twin-sharing accommodation for one night at the venue, and meals. The fees exclude all other expenses like travel, extra days of lodging/boarding, and field trip. All registrations will be confirmed on the receipt of fees.	
Mode of Payment	Indian Participants: Kindly send demand draft in favour of "N. M. Sadguru Water and Development Foundation" together with a covering letter (including full name, institutional affiliation, position, address, telephone, email) to Harnath Jagawat, Director, Sadguru Foundation, Post Box 71, Dahod 389171, Gujarat, India.	
	International Participants: Through bank transfers, kind contact symposium secretariat.	

For any further information, to register your participation, or to co-sponsor the symposium, please contact the Symposium Secretariat preferably by email at:

