

Regional Governance of Forest and its Fringe - case of South India -

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In recent years, on a global scale, forest issues are being "organized". The "facts" of a serious deforestation and "needs" of appropriate protection, as the international public opinion, becomes the general framework of forest policy in each country and region, and under the framework various policies have been implemented. In the late of the 1980s, it may be said that the short turn from the timber-oriented forest government to the community based forest management and governance is a beginning of such a trend. Since the 1990s, many of research such as various case studies of the present situation of forest, a critique of forest policies and foreign aids, and theoretical studies including the commons theory, have been accumulated.

In India, Joint Forest Management (JFM) which was launched at the beginning of 1990s has been showing a certain "recovery" in the forest rate. However, since the late 1990s, various problems such as land acquisition and competition and the human ? wildlife conflict spout out. Indeed, under the JFM program, we might be able to recognize the results of certain "improvement" in both the macro level of forest rate recovery and micro level of participatory activities in village. On the other hand, it has been overlooked the issues related with the forest "region" including the forest and its fringe areas. The success of forest policy, so to speak, has dug out the forest "region" issues.

Even if the community based forest management will be developed continuously, the problem of the forest "region" must be considered with a peculiar frame of its own. As the forest "purification" by the setting of "National Park" and an enclosing of legal and/or physical, the doughnut-shaped chaotic area around the forest appears like sprawling phenomenon in the sub-urban area.

In this study, we are trying to overview of the problems in the forest "region" based on our field survey in Karnataka, India.

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