

Village Forest Councils: Emerging Rural Institutions for Integration of Ecology, Society, and Economy in Tamilnadu State of India

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Tamilnadu, the southern state of India, has embarked upon community involvement process to restock its forests through an Indian version of community forestry called Joint Forest Management. The peoples participation is structured through specially established local representative institutions called Village Forest Councils. This paper seeks to present a full account of the concept, working, and effectiveness of the Village Forest Councils in Tamilnadu. Further, it attempts to analyze the growth of Village Forest Councils into important local institutions for integration of ecology, society, and economy.