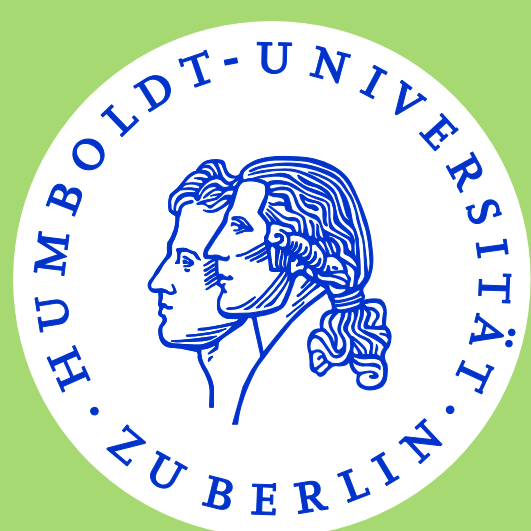


PUBLIC PARTICIPATION IN ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT: JOINT FOREST MANAGEMENT IN DEVELOPED AND DEVELOPING COUNTRIES - A REVIEW



Saikumar C. Bharamappanavara¹, Markus Hanisch² and Nithya V.G.³

¹ Doctoral Research Fellow, Division of Cooperative Studies, Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin, Germany.
² Professor for Cooperative Sciences, Department of Agricultural Economics, Humboldt University, Berlin.
³ Doctoral Research Fellow, Division of Horticulture Economics, Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin, Germany.

Background:

- Public participation is a process-oriented activity..
- public participation as “open, ongoing, two-way communication, both formal and informal, between government and its Stake holders-those interested in or affected by its actions (USDE, 1998).
- It is essential to spotlight the notion of Public participation in Environmental Management.

Aim: Study of Public Participatyion in JFM

- To study the concepts and models of public participation in environmental management.
- To study the public participation role in Forest Management through case study review of developed and developing countries.

Methodology: Sources of information used in this paper were collected from various environmental journals, national and international projects and World Bank reports, and from various websites of the organisations and programmes which are working on environmental management through public participation.

LEVELS OF PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION MYTHS AND TRUTH

Myth	Truth
Empowering the community equals a loss of agency control	Inviting the community to participate in decision making builds community support for a project and adds to the agencies credibility
The community lacks the ability to grapple with the complexity of many issues	The Community holds a vast body of knowledge and can identify issues and solutions often overlooked by agencies
Public participation is time consuming and expensive	Properly structured public participation programs will help to streamline the decision making process and save money in the long run.
Volunteers are a free labour force	Volunteers need to be appropriately resourced and managed in order to be productive
All community consultation projects are the same	Consultation projects should be carefully tailored to meet the needs of the program, stakeholders and the issues.
Community involvement should provide instant results	Community involvement involves capacity building and should be viewed as a long term investment by the agency

BEST PUBLIC PARTICIPATION MODEL

Case Study Results: Based on Experiences of successful and fruitless Public Participation programmes, some of the below key tips need to be ascertained before taking any of the project in large scale.

1. Appropriate timing of initiation of public participation

2. Appropriate access to information and documents

3. Quality of interaction, deliberation and dialogue
4. Use appropriate Agency Approach to facilitate public participation Process.

5. Communication and Feedback

Public participation levels in Agency approach and Community Approach

AGENCY APPROACH	COMMUNITY APPROACH
Inform: The agency provides information to the community.	Comply: The community complies with regulations and laws.
Consult: The agency seeks information or advice which it takes into consideration in the decision making process.	Co-operate: The Community agrees voluntarily to undertake an action.
Collaborate: The agency and community work cooperatively in the decision making process, although the agency maintains ultimate control of the process.	Participate: Members of the community or community groups become involved in a programme or activity.
Partner: The agency and community (Stakeholders) share responsibility in the decision making process.	Self Directed Action: The community makes the decisions and has ultimate responsibility.
Handover: The agency hands over control and decision making to the community. The agency may facilitate management by the community through the provision of resources and expertise.	

Conclusion:

- ❖ Increasing the social responsibilities for local governments and on the Public is an important part in achieving success in environmental management through public participation process.
- ❖ Public participation in environmental management is vital to strike a fundamental chord in assessing democratic governance for the sustainable success of the programmes in the present and for the future.