

# Preface

Forests are potential sources not only from natural resources point of view but economically also. Forests occupy a major part of the river basins thereby controlling the hydrological regime of the rivers. Further, forests act both as a source and sink for carbon. Accordingly it is possible to devise measures and policies that will both reduce the emission of carbon from forest and enhance the sequestration capacity of the sink. There is, therefore, need for having a vision and a long term perspective plan for tackling the various hydrological problems related with forests with due consideration of issues relating to environment, social and economic factors. Also there is need for having an interdisciplinary approach to tackle the various problems arising out of the improper forest management.

Interactive research has been going on in India to address the questions of policy related to land-use change involving forestry and water environment. Interactive, in the present context implies that the eventual users, or stakeholders would interact closely with each other to derive benefits from the research programmes for better management of forests and water. However, there exists a gap between the institutional and public perception on the role of forest, water and their benefit to people. There is, therefore, an imminent need to bridge this gap. Keeping this objective in view, the National Institute of Hydrology had organized a seminar on "Forest, Water and People" with the aim to provide a platform for exchange of ideas, knowledge, understanding and team spirit among the field personnel, academicians, researchers in government and non-governmental organizations and most important the people. The Seminar held at Belgaum, Karnataka was attended by about hundred participants from different governmental and non governmental organizations. Fifty eight selected papers were presented under four different themes.

Following the seminar, it was decided that the papers presented at the seminar and the recommendations may be brought out as a publication for wider use. The Hard Rock Regional Centre of National Institute of Hydrology feels privileged to present the publication to the scientific and water

management community which, it is hoped, will help define the programme and priority areas for research in the future to arrive at appropriate policies for sustainable natural resources management. It is expected that the policy makers, forest and water resources managers will benefit greatly from the papers in this book.

Finally, we take this opportunity to express sincere gratitude, specially to, UNESCO, New Delhi; Ministry of Environment and Forest, Govt. of India; Indian National Committee on Hydrology (INCOH); Visveswaraiiah Technological University, Belgaum and Karnataka Pollution Control Board, Bangalore who have financed this event and helped to bring out this volume.

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