CHAPTER V

FINDINGS AND CONCLUSIONS

The main objective of this chapter is to present a summary of the work and to draw conclusions from the analysis. The present work is undertaken with a view to understand the need for the development of forest-based industries and to suggest strategies for sustainable growth and development of forest based industries of Kurnool district in Andhra Pradesh. The various findings relating to the work are lacunary in nature with possible remedial solution as given under.

Social Forestry Programmes

In the absence of the large scale afforestation schemes launched by the Government during the Seventh Plan under its social forestry programme, the growth and survival of the existing forest based industries would have been endangered.

Development of Waste Lands

Only a small percentage i.e. 5.4 per cent of the total area is under cultivation. The forest coverage in the district is only to the extent of 18 per cent. Still there is a lot of land left for the growth of forest area and thus, there is lot of scope for survival and development of forest based industries in the district. What needs to be done is rigorous execution of social forestry programme in the area.
The school children in the area shall be encouraged to undertake nursery and plantation activities as part of social forestry programme.

The Government should take the necessary steps to encourage and develop man-made forests through various agencies like forest department, forest development corporation and voluntary organisations. Farm forestry and Production forestry should be encouraged. Commercial plantations like teak, red-sanders, cashew, eucalyptus also should be encouraged to meet the future needs of the units in the district.

It is necessary to increase substantially the vegetative cover by massive a forestation through social forestry, farm forestry and other plantation programme.

Augmentation of Forest Research

There is a need for augmentation of forest research in the direction of biological and forest product research. Forest research and education has continued to be the biggest link of forest administration.

Regional forest research centres may be opened in the Nallamalai Forest range as the area is endowed with thick forest vegetation consisting of rich flora and fauna.

Conduct of Forest Surveys in the Area

More and more field oriented projects have to be carried out in order to survey the forest resources in the area for asserting the availability of raw materials for wood based industries.
The State Government is allowing the wooden comb industries to collect the necessary wood from certain specified areas only. The Government should conduct necessary survey of the various forest regions, identify new areas and widen the area of operation of collection of wood by the wood comb industrialists. This will help the wood comb industry to develop in a considerable manner.

The Forest Survey of India shall lay special emphasis on forest inventory and reinventory, photo interpretation and mapping, data processing and training consultancy and some special studies in the district area.

Satisfying the Fuel wood Requirements

The proper planning of forestation to the basic needs of the people in respect of fuelwood, fodder, minor forest produce and small timber would help solve the problem of indiscriminate cutting of the woods.

Linkage of Social Forestry with Tribal Welfare

A close linkage between forestry programmes and welfare of the tribal and other communities traditionally dependent upon forests has to be ensured.

Modern Management Techniques

Forestry has acquired a multi-disciplinary dimension and efficient implementation of the activities requires the tools of modern management techniques which are not available in this sector.
Making people more participative

Forestry programmes will be successful only with the active participation of the people. The people participation programme launched by the Seventh Plan under its social forestry programme has yet to accomplish the laid down objectives.

More participation in Minor Forest Produce Development Programmes

Greater attention has to be given to meaningful participation of the tribals in the minor forest produce development programmes so that they do not remain mere wage earners but become active participants in their endeavour which is designed to uplift their economic status. We should forget here that 60 per cent of production of the minor forest produce is utilised by them as main food or as supplement.

Forest Conservation Policy - A discouraging feature

The forest conservation policy of the Government did not encourage the growth of industrial units based on forest wood. It is observed in the study that more number of respondents prefer to operate within the lesser investment because of the Government conservation policy of forest. As a result a very few units have the highest investment above Rs. 10 lakhs and also a corresponding turnover.

Depletion of Forest Wealth Vis-a-vis Far away Resource Availability

The depletion in the availability of the forest wood has forced more than 1/5 of the existing units to opt for outside the State
source. This has caused an increase in the transportation cost etc. Some timber depots, saw mills and beedi manufacturing units have already been either wound up or on the verge of closure.

The problem is not much due to non-availability of the material locally but the depletion of the forest at a faster rate.

The Forest Department should open a number of "Raw materials collection centres" in the vicinity of forest areas. The centres should collect the forest products from the near forests and supply or transport these raw materials to "Raw material depots" in urban centres. These collection centres should be setup and organised for beedi leaves, honey, myrobolam and other minor forest produce.

Smuggling of Woods

While there are apprehension of the closure of the business in the wake of forest depletion many of the industrial units holders based on forest produce are of the opinion that the forest based industries would be survived provided the government checks the smuggling activity and undertake intensive social forestry programmes in the forest area.

The Government should enact necessary legislations and frame rules and regulations for restricting the transport of the scarce forest products to neighbouring states, till the needs of the local industries are met. This avoids the shortage of raw materials to the local units.

Perspective of the Problem

It is stated that the deforestation is a complex problem that has largely resulted from poverty, unequal land distribution and the
pressure of a growing population.

The solution for the problem of survival of forest based industries in the wake of the fast deteriorating of forest lies in finding solution to the problem of poverty and mitigation of population growth. While economic growth is held responsible for environmental deterioration in developed countries, extreme condition of poverty are responsible for forest depletion in developing countries like India.

Today there is a need not only for preservation but also afforestation. The whole sale indiscriminate cutting of trees has to be arrested immediately. Conservation, if practised as a dynamic concept can yield both financial and material gains.

Afforestation, social forestry and agro-forestry programmes with its component parts of agrosilvi-cultural system, silvipastoral system and agro-silvi pastoral systems, should be undertake specially on the marginal lands and culturable waste lands, where there is a potentiality of tapping ground water. This will go a long way in meeting the demands of food, fuel fodder and shelter of the growing population. At the same time they help in maintaining the ecological balance. In order to monitor the level of changes in the forestry sectors, a forestry information system has to be formulated to suit the region.

Protection of the woods from Pests, Fires, etc.

The forest department should take necessary steps for protecting the forest products from insects and pests, diseases, fires
etc. The Government should convert the minimum area of forests into other uses like construction of dams, transmission lines etc. Goats and Sheep should not be allowed for grazing. The Forest Department should earmark certain areas for grazing and for fuel wood.

**Development of Herbal/medicinal plantation**

The latest trend in demand is in favour of various cosmetics whose content is dominated by the essence of certain varieties of forest trees. Therefore, special attention shall be paid to create separate belts within the forest area for the cultivation of herbal and medicinal plants in the Nallamalai forest region.

**Provision of More Financial Assistance**

It is the responsibility of the Government to see that the institutional finance is diverted to the forest based industries, as at present very few units are enjoying the necessary institutional finance to meet their fixed and working capital requirements.

**Promotion of More Co-operatives**

The Government should induce industrialists to join in large numbers in co-operatives sponsored by Khadi and Village Industries Commission. This will enable the units to procure the necessary finances from the commercial banks and other financial institutions.

Various forest-based industrial units should come together and form themselves in producer's co-operatives.
Formation of producer's co-operatives will enable their members to derive variety of benefits like procurement of raw material of a good quality at reasonable prices and at the required time. They can also get the necessary financial accommodation from the banks, S.F.C. etc., apart from marketing their products profitably.

Training Programmes

The Government should organise the necessary training programmes for the benefit of the workers and entrepreneurs of forest-based industries in the district in the areas of raw-material management, technical know-how, in designing production and marketing programmes of their products and enable them to have a thorough understanding of problems, the way and means to solve them. All agencies and institutions etc., engaged in the process of development of forest-based industries e.g., forest department, financial institutions, universities, etc., should be involved in these programmes.

Development of Infrastructural Facilities

Transport and other infrastructural facilities should be developed. The Government should take necessary steps to issue licenses to various categories of vehicles, small vans, mobile vans to the industrialists. This is an urgent need. The State and Central Government should provide the necessary finances for this purpose on easy terms of credit and interest.
Better Tools and Equipment

Necessary tools and implements have to be supplied by the Government to the workers and poor artisans who are working especially in basketary and wooden toys and combs industries.

The industrialists should evince necessary interest in adopting modern tools and equipment and methods of production to increase the productivity of their workers and the units as well. This will ensure fair wages to workers, reasonable prices to consumers and substantial returns to owners.

Power Problem

The Government should take necessary steps for giving power connections to all the units of forest-based industries without any further delay and pretty objections. The electricity department should ensure that there are no frequent interruptions in the power supply to these units.

Rationalisation of Licencing Policies

The licensing policies should be rationalised to set up the forest-based industrial units in the interior areas. This will help the small and household forest-based industrial units to avoid cut-throat competition; get reasonable prices for their products and affect marketing of their goods in their areas only. This will help in minimising the cross transport cost.

Marketing Problems

Another problem in forest-based industries development is the
problems marketing of the goods especially in the case of agarbatties, safety matches, bamboo works, wooden combs and toys, wooden furniture etc. The Government should take necessary steps for marketing these products of forest based industries. The Government can purchase finished goods from the industrial units and sell them through their own cottage and village industries depots in urban areas and metropolitan centres. This will help the small scale forest based industrial units to have guaranteed sales and reasonable prices for their products.

Reduction of Excise Duty and Sales Tax

The Government of Andhra Pradesh should take necessary steps to reduce the excise duty on products of certain types of forest-based industries like safety matches and beedies. It is also suggested that the sales tax on the above mentioned products should be abolished with immediate effect as has been done in Tamil Nadu State in order to encourage these units and promote their sales.

Proper Assessment of the Financial Requirements

The commercial banks should survey the needs of fixed and working capital of all forest-based industries and advance necessary amounts to these units in the liberal way. Necessary credit survey can be conducted by the commercial banks and other financial institutions to ascertain the nature and extent of financial accommodation required by these units and adopt a consortium approach to meet their financial needs. This will help in the elimination of duplication of efforts and over and under flow of resources to some of the units.
The co-operative banks particularly the primary co-operative credit societies should also extend their helping hand in the matter of providing the necessary finances to the forest-based industrial units.

The Khadi and Village Industries Commission should also take necessary steps to encourage the forest-based industries to register themselves with the Khadi and Village Industries Commission, so that the Commission can help these units financially and also in various matters like marketing and advertising etc., of their products.

**Exploitation of Tourism Potentiality**

Tourism is the second largest industry after petroleum in the world. It is the fifth largest foreign exchange earner for India. Since the Kurnool district possesses a lot of thick forest area endowed with important places of tourist importance viz., Srisailam, Mahanandi, Ahobilam, Mantralayam and Yaganti, a lot of domestic tourist can be promote in this area. Development of tourism will further develop other cottage and tiny industries like toys making hat and mat making, photo frameworks, albums, calenders, malas (neck-chains made of rudraksha a forest product), etc. The demand for whose products is bound to increase with the growth of more number of tourists.

**Creating More Environmental Awareness**

The literacy percentage in the district is less than the State average i.e. 29.9 per cent. There is a link between the degree of literacy and the environmental awareness. As part of the total
drive to create awareness among the people (both living in the forest area and outside the forest area) special emphasis has to be given and the adult education training programme shall be dovetailed with the lesson component of the need for forest preservation and the environmental concern.

Creating a massive peoples movement for achieving the objectives of environmental policy is need of the hour.

Thus, forestry has an important place in programmes aimed at eradicating poverty, promoting economic growth, and maintaining environmental quality.