PREFACE

Increasing Forest or Tree Cover (FTC) to one third of the geographical area of the country is one of the major objectives of the National Forest Policy of India. Since 1952, all the forest policies of the country have clearly stipulated this target. Many projects and programmes have already been implemented to achieve this goal. The purpose of increasing FTC of the country is to ensure environmental security and to attain self sufficiency in wood requirements. Considering the facts that there is no more suitable land available at the disposal of the Government and there is dearth of financial resources required for afforestation, the most feasible option to achieve the above objectives would be afforestation of private lands – agro forestry. But that is also not without problems.

Despite all efforts of the Government towards afforestation of private lands it is not gaining momentum as required. Many theories are being attributed to the low adoption of afforestation by private land owners in the country. This work analyses the situation in the State of Kerala with special reference to the impact of government policies on hard wood tree growing in private lands. The study is initiated on the premise that government regulations on harvesting and transporting hard wood in Kerala are counter productive as far as agro forestry tree farming in the State is concerned.