APPENDIX – I

QUESTIONNAIRE FOR HEAD OF HOUSEHOLD

Title of Research: Decentralisation, Governance and Forest Resource Management: A Study in the State of Tamil Nadu, India

Name of Research Scholar: Lavanya Suresh

Questionnaire for Users of the Forest Resources

(Respondent: Head of household)

1. Name of the Respondent: ______________________
2. Date of interview (dd/mm/yyyy): __________________
3. Name of the village: ______________________
4. Name of the block/ taluk: ______________________
5. Address of the respondent: ___________________________________________
   ___________________________________________________________________

Demographic information

1. Age: __________
2. Gender: 1. Male 2. Female
3. Education level: ________________
4. Caste group:
   1. Scheduled Caste (SC) 2. Scheduled Tribe (ST)
   3. Other Backward Classes (OBC) 4. Other
5. Religion: ________________
6. Language spoken: _____________________________________________
7. Total number of family members living in the household:
   Adults:____    Children: :______
8. Type of house:
   1. Kutch 2. Pucca
9. What is the total monthly income of your family:
   1. Less than 2,000 2. 2,000 to 5,000
   3. 5,000 to 10,000 4. 10,000 and above
10. How long have you lived in this village?
   1. All my life 2. Migrated
About the forest

1. According to you, what benefits do you receive from the forest?

_____________________________________________________________________
_____________________________________________________________________

2. How would you describe the condition of the forest near your village?
   1. Poor
   2. Average
   3. Good
   4. Very Good

3. How has the condition of the forest changed (in terms of the number of trees, the availability of firewood, availability of fodder, etc.) over the past 5 years?
   1. Worsening
   2. Improving
   a. What are the main factors that have contributed to the change?

_____________________________________________________________________
_____________________________________________________________________

4. Has there been an impact of this change on your day-to-day activities? Yes/ No
   a. If yes, what is the impact

_____________________________________________________________________

5. Has there been an impact of this change on the activities in the village? Yes/ No
   a. If yes, what is the impact

_____________________________________________________________________

6. Have there been any forest fires in the past 1 year? Yes/ No
   a. If yes, did you report the forest fire? Yes/ No
      1. If yes, whom did you report it to? ____________________
      2. How fast did they respond? _____________ (Time/ hours _____)

About Forest Governance

1. Who manages the forest near your village? (more than one choice allowed)
   1. Forest Department
   2. NGO
   3. Tribal Panchayat
   4. Local Community
   5. Others (specify) _______
2. Are there any other organisations in your village, apart from the forest officials, that deal with the management of forest? Yes/ No
   a. If Yes, Name the organisation/s: ____________________________ (This name will be used in the place of ‘organisation’ through-out the questionnaire)

3. How did you come to know about this organisation?
   1. Organisation conducted a meeting
   2. Organisation representative personally met me
   3. Pamphlets distributed by the organisation
   4. Friends/Family
   5. Forest department
   6. Others (specify) ________________

4. What are the main activities that this organisation has carried out in your village?

5. Have you been involved in any of the activities of the organisation? Yes/ No
   a. If yes, what was the activity? ____________________________
   b. What did you do?

6. Have you been involved in any of the following activities of the organisation and to what extent:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Activity</th>
<th>No involvement</th>
<th>Was paid to participate</th>
<th>Voluntary involvement</th>
<th>I personally initiated it</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Planting</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Forest fire protection (digging fire lines, beating out the fire etc.)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Forest watcher (anti-poaching activities, anti-smuggling)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
7. Do you think the organisation is beneficial to you/ your household?
   
   1. Cannot say 
   2. No benefits 
   3. Some benefits 
   4. Very beneficial 
   
   a. Details: why?

_____________________________________________________________________
_____________________________________________________________________

8. Has the organisation’s efforts affected the forest around your village?
   
   1. Led to its decline 
   2. No influence 
   3. Helps to some extent 
   4. Has led to its conservation 
   
   a. Please explain why?

_____________________________________________________________________

9. Are you aware of any similar efforts being carried out in the neighbouring village?
   
   Yes/ No 
   
   a. If yes, how far have these efforts influenced the forest conservation in that village?

_____________________________________________________________________

Participation

1. Do you think you have a role to play in the maintenance of the forest? Yes/ No 
   
   1. No roll 
   2. Indirect roll through elected representatives, traditional leadership or village elite 
   3. Roll as a member of an institutional 
   4. Direct roll in conservation efforts, collection of NTFP, building of fire lines etc. 
   
   a. Give reasons:

_____________________________________________________________________

7. Do you think you have a role to play in deciding who has access to the forest? 
   
   Yes/ No 
   
   a. Please give reasons for either answer?
8. If you have a choice, what kind of role would you like in the management of the forest?
_____________________________________________________________________
_____________________________________________________________________

9. Have you participated in any management activities?
   1. No participation
   2. Indirect participation through elected representatives, traditional leadership or village elite
   3. Institutional participation (as a member)
   4. Direct participation in conservation efforts, collection of NTFP, building of fire lines etc.
   Others (specify): ________________________________________________________

10. What was your involvement in the formation of the organisation?
    1. No involvement
    2. Heard about it and thought it was a good idea to support
    3. Was asked by members to help in its set up
    4. Was directly involved in its inception
    Details: ________________________________________________________________

11. Have you attended meetings held by the organisation?
    1. Never
    2. Sometimes
    3. Often
    4. Always
    a. Why? __________________________________________________________________

12. Do you get a chance to speak at the meetings? Yes/ No
    a. If yes, how often have you spoken at the meetings held by the institution?
    1. Never
    2. Sometimes
    3. Often
    4. Always
    i. If 2 to 4, what are the issues raised by you?
    ________________________________________________________________________

13. Do women attend the meetings held by the organisation? Yes/ No
    a. If yes, how often have they spoken at the meetings?
    1. Never
    2. Sometimes
    3. Often
    4. Always
i. If 2 to 4, what are the issues raised?


14. Do people of a particular tribal community get special representation in the meetings? Yes/ No
   a. If yes, how is it done?


15. Has the organisation consulted you on issues of forest conservation:

   1. Never
   2. Sometimes
   3. Often
   4. Always
   a. What are the issues on which you were consulted


16. Have you contributed financially to the organisation?

   1. No contribution
   2. Occasional contribution in times of necessity/festivals (fixed amount)
   3. Occasional contribution (proportional to one’s capacity)
   4. Regular fixed amount
   5. Regular contribution proportional to individual contribution

Details: ______________________

17. Have you contributed to the organisation in any other way? Yes/ No
   a. If yes, please specify


18. In your village, who are the people most involved in the activities of the organisation?


   a. Are they members of any particular group/committee? __________

19. How often do the members of the organisation approach you?

   1. Never
   2. Sometimes
   3. Often
   4. Always
   a. If 2 to 4, What did you discuss? ________________________________
Empowerment

1. According to you, has the government given you a legal right over the forest? Yes/ No
   a. If yes, can you claim that right?

2. Has the organisation told you of the rights that you can claim over the forest and its resources? Yes/ No
   a. If yes, what rights did they tell you about?

3. Has the organisation helped you to claim any of the rights over the forest or its resources? Yes/ No
   a. If yes, how did they help you?

4. Do you think your rights over the forest and its resources have ever been violated? Yes/ No
   a. If yes, has the organisation helped you resolve the conflict? Yes/No
      i. If yes, How?

5. Are you aware of the schemes that get you patta right over the forest and grazing land?

6. If you are given patta how will you utilize the land?
   1. Agriculture  2. Lease
      3. Construction  4. Others (specify) ____________

7. Has the organisation helped you personally in income generation? Yes/No
   a. If yes, How?
8. Has the organisation helped the people of your village to come together and solve problems? Yes/No
   a. If yes, how:

   __________________________________________________________
   __________________________________________________________

9. According to you, has the status of women in the village changed due to the organisations activities?
   1. Not at all
   2. Little
   3. Quite a lot
   4. A great deal
   a. If 2 to 4, Why

10. According to you, has the status of the tribal communities in the village changed due to the organisations activities?
   1. Not at all
   2. Little
   3. Quite a lot
   4. A great deal
   a. If 2 to 4, Why

11. Do you think your opinion matters to the organisation?
   1. Not at all
   2. Merely heard but not taken seriously
   3. Mostly taken seriously
   4. Always taken seriously

_Deepening Democracy_

1. How important are your individual activities for forest management?
   1. Unimportant
   2. Somewhat important
   3. Important
   4. Very Important
   a. Why:________________________________________________________
      __________________________________________________________
2. How will you rate the organisation’s help in this regard

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Issue</th>
<th>Poor</th>
<th>Average</th>
<th>Good</th>
<th>Very Good</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Allowing you to question the organisations activities in your village</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Allowing you to ask for a service that has been promised but not delivered</td>
<td></td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Response to complaints</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Response to suggestions</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

3. How important are the activities of the organisation in making government officials more competent?

1. Unimportant
2. Somewhat important
3. Important
4. Very Important

a. Why: __________________________________________________________

4. According to you, are the activities of the organisation important in reducing corruption in the working of the forest officials?

1. Unimportant
2. Somewhat important
3. Important
4. Very Important

a. Why: __________________________________________________________________

5. According to you, are the activities of the organisation important in reducing illegal activities like smuggling?

1. Unimportant
2. Somewhat important
3. Important
4. Very Important

a. Why: __________________________________________________________________
Social/ Cultural Factors

1. According to you, who has the most access to the forest and its resources in the village?
   1. Members of the organisation
   2. Influential members of the village
   3. Non-villagers
   4. All villagers
   a. Who are they? Give details:

2. Do you know of rules set down by the community that govern the forest? Yes/No
   a. If Yes, What are they?

3. According to you, are there certain forest areas that should not be touched? Yes/No
   a. If Yes, why?

4. Does your family believe that certain areas of the forest are sacred? Yes/No
   a. If yes, why?

5. Are there any festivals in which you go to the forest to perform the rituals? Yes/No
   a. If yes, what are they?

6. Are women allowed to go to all areas of the forest? Yes/ No
   a. If yes, why?
7. According to you, do certain communities have traditional rights to the forest?
   Yes/ No
   a. If yes, which communities ____________
   b. Why ____________

Economic Factors
1. Total agricultural land owned by household: ________________ acres
2. What is your main occupation: ________________________________
3. House hold Income sources:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Source</th>
<th>Income Generated</th>
<th>No. of Months</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Agriculture</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Poultry</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Daily wage labour</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tea plantation worker</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Salaried white collar job (specify)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Working for the forest officials</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sale of Non- Timber forest products</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Others (Specify)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

4. Do you use Non- Timber forest products? Yes/No
   1. (If yes), which of the following do you extract:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>No.</th>
<th>Name of NTFP</th>
<th>Monsoon (Iypasi-thai)</th>
<th>Post-Monsoon (Masi-Vaikasi)</th>
<th>Summer (Aani-Purattasi)</th>
<th>Remarks</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Qt. Kg.</td>
<td>Value in Rs.</td>
<td>Qt. Kg.</td>
<td>Value in Rs.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Fuel Wood (no. of head loads)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Fodder</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Gum resins</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Honey</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Medicinal herbs</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Small timber</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>Leaves</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>Manure</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>Silt for fields</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>Fruits</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td>Roots</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>Others (Specify)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
5. Who regulates the entry to forest lands? (more than one choice allowed)
   1. Forest Officials  2. Village Panchayat  3. Local Community
   4. Tribal Panchayat  5. NGO  6. Others (specify)______

6. Who regulates the extraction of NTFP’s from the forest? (more than one choice allowed)
   1. Forest Officials  2. Village Panchayat  3. Local Community
   4. Tribal Panchayat  5. NGO  6. Others (specify)______

7. What is the pattern of household energy use: (specify quantity per month)
   1. Fuel wood____  2. Dung cake________

8. What are the sources of fuel wood collection across the seasons?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>No.</th>
<th>Source</th>
<th>Monsoon (Iypasi-thai)</th>
<th>Post-Monsoon (Masi-Vaikasi)</th>
<th>Summer (Aani-Purattasi)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Own trees/groves</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Crop residues from own farm land</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Fuel wood from forest land</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Received as wages</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Receives from tea estate</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Purchased from market</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>Others (specify)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

a. (if collected from the forest) What is the mode of transport for both the fodder?
   1. Head load  2. Bullock cart  3. Lorry

9. What is done with the fire wood after collection?
   1. Only used for the household  2. Partly sold in the market
   3. Partly sold to the neighbours  4. Others

10. Livestock: (Number and total value in Rupees)
    a. Goat/sheep: ________________________
    b. Cow/Oxen/buffalo: __________________
    c. Hens: __________________
    d. Any other: ____________________

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11. Where do you graze your livestock?
   1. Private lands    2. Common grazing land
   3. Forest land      4. Stall fed
   5. Other (specify)_______

12. Where do you rear the livestock?
   1. Private Field    2. Left to roam the forest lands
   3. Others________

13. What is the time duration involved in allowing the cattle to graze and bringing the back in:
   1. Daily    2. Weekly
   3. Monthly   4. Brought in when they are pregnant
   5. Others

14. What is the source of fodder for the livestock?
   1. Market    2. Crop residue
   3. Forest    4. Others (specify)________
   a. (If collected from the forest) What is the mode of transport for both the fodder?
      1. Head load    2. Bullock cart
      3. Lorry

Political Factors
1. Over the past five years, have there been any clashes with regard to the forest and its resources? Yes/No
   a. If yes, what was the conflict about?
      ______________________________________________________
      ______________________________________________________

   b. Which institutions/individuals were involved in the conflict?
      ______________________________________________________

   c. How long did the conflict last?
      ______________________________________________________

   d. Was it resolved? Yes/No
      i. If yes, who helped resolve it?
         ______________________________________________________
      ii. If no, who is currently trying to resolve it?
         ______________________________________________________
2. Do you know of any elected panchayat member involved in forest issue? Yes/No
   a. If yes, how are they involved?
_____________________________________________________________________
_____________________________________________________________________

3. Do you know of a local MLA being involved in any forest issue? Yes/No
   a. If yes, how are they involved?
_____________________________________________________________________
_____________________________________________________________________

4. According to you, are there any other powerful groups, apart from the forest
   officials, NGO’s or VFC’s, whose activities affect the forest? Yes/No
   a. If yes, how are they involved?
_____________________________________________________________________
_____________________________________________________________________

**Conclusion**

1. Who according to you should have the right to decide how the forest is managed?
   1. Forest Officials 2. NGO
   3. Tribal Panchayat 4. Local Community
   5. Others (specify) _______ 6. Or a combination of these
(Specify)___________

2. If you had a choice, what responsibility over the forest would you give:
   a. The State:
   ___________________________________________________________________

   b. NGO’s:
   ___________________________________________________________________

   c. Local Community:
   ___________________________________________________________________
APPENDIX – II
INTERVIEW GUIDE FOR PERSONNEL OF INSTITUTIONS INVOLVED IN
THE MANAGEMENT OF FORESTS

Name of Institute: INSTITUTE FOR SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC CHANGE
Title of Research: Decentralisation, Governance and Forest Resource
Management: A Study in the State of Tamil Nadu, India

Name of Research Scholar: Lavanya Suresh

Personal Background-
Name: Mr. / Ms. / Mrs. ______________________________________
Age: _______________
Educational qualifications: ________________________________
Caste: ______________________________________________________
Religion: __________________________________________________
Place of birth: ____________________________________________

About the Organisation-
1. Name of the Organisation: ________________________________

2. Present position in Organisation: ____________________________

3. Nature of employment: Permanent/ Temporary/ Contract/ Other (Please specify)
   _______________________________________________________

4. Number of Years since working in present organisation:
   ________________________________

5. Any experience prior to present organisation:
   _______________________________________________________

6. Nature of job in organisation:
   _______________________________________________________

7. Description of responsibilities in organisation:
   _______________________________________________________

8. What are the three main activities of your organisation:
9. Who sponsors the organizations activates?

10. Who are the main decision makers in the organization and how are these decisions finalized?

**About Natural Resource Management (NRM):**

11. What are the types of NRM measures undertaken?

12. What inspired such initiatives by your organization?

13. What are the strategies employed so as to accomplish the NRM goals of the organization?

14. What is the planning process involved in creating NRM strategies and schemes?

15. How are the organization’s goals achieved on the ground? How do they operate at the village level?

**Decentralisation:**

**Participation**

16. What role do you think the people have in the maintenance of the forest or in deciding who has access to it?
17. In what ways does your organisation encourage participation of the people who live in/near the forests?

________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________

18. Have the village people been involved in the formation of micro-plans for conservation? How?

________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________

19. Have the village people been involved in the conservation efforts? If so, how?

________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________

20. Does your organisation seek financial contribution from the villagers?

________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________

21. Are villages directly involved in protecting/regulating the use of forest?

________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________

22. Are the villagers in any way involved in the protection or regulation of the resources extracted from the forest?

________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________

23. What fraction of village households are involved in the institutions work with regard to NRM? How do you encourage participation?

________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________

*Empowerment*

24. Who according to you should have the right in deciding how the forest is to be maintained and who should have access to it?

________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________

25. What legal rights over the forests are given by the government to the people?

________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________
26. How effective is the implementation of laws and programmes that hope to give rights to the people? Why?

________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________

27. Has the organisation helped the people to claim any of the rights over the forest or its resources? How?

________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________

28. Has the organisation helped the people to resolve conflicts when violations of rights over the forest or its resources have occurred? How?

________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________

29. Has the organisation helped augment the income of forest village households? How have these efforts benefited the villagers?

________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________

30. Has the organisation helped the people of a village to come together and solve their problems? How?

________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________

31. Are women and members of SC/ST communities part of the organisation’s conservation initiative? If so, what is their role?

________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________

32. Do you consult villagers on issues related to conservation activities? If so, how?

________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________

33. How do you incorporate the needs and opinions of the villagers in your activities?

________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________

34. Do you hold meetings to consult with various stakeholders? If so, who are the ones invited? What format does this consultative process take?

________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________
35. How were the villagers approached when you initiated your organizations efforts in the village?

________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________

36. Which are the activities that you think the people should be involved in?

________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________

Democracy
37. Do you feel that your institution gets the needs of the people across in terms of management of the forests? If so, how?

________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________

38. In terms of ensuring accountability to the government as well as the villagers, what steps does you institution take?

________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________

39. How do you see the needs of the people being addressed in the governance of the forests? To what extent should it be done?

________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________

Linkages
Government-NGO Collaboration:
40. According to you, can both the NGO and the government together do a better job in Natural Resource Management than independent of each of other? If so, how and Why?

________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________

41. What are the areas in which your organization and the government have established a partnership?

________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________

42. Which are the activities that you think the NGOs should take up and which ones should be left to the government?

________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________

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43. According to you, what are the problems which occur in the NGO-government partnership in Natural Resource Management?

___________________________________________________________

44. (If it is an NGO) How do you relate to other NGO’s involved in forest management? Are there any agreements between you and them?

___________________________________________________________

45. (If it is a government organisation) How do you relate to other government departments involved in forest management? Are there any agreements between you and them?

___________________________________________________________

46. In terms of implementation of laws and programs that govern the forest, where do you see your institution placed?

___________________________________________________________

47. Are you officially involved in the implementation of any government scheme that deals with the forest?

___________________________________________________________

48. Are there any informal means by which cooperation takes place between your organization and the other stakeholders, so as to achieve better NRM?

___________________________________________________________

49. How do you coordinate with them and are the people involved in this process?

___________________________________________________________
**NGO-Tribal Panchayat Collaboration:**

50. According to you, can both the NGO and the Tribal Panchayat together do a better job in Natural Resource Management than independent of each of other? If so, how and Why?

51. What are the areas in which your organization and tribal panchayats have established a partnership?

52. Which are the activities that you think the NGOs should take up and which ones should be left to tribal panchayats?

53. According to you, what are the problems which occur in the NGO-tribal panchayats partnership in Natural Resource Management?

**NGO-VFC Collaboration**

54. According to you, can both the NGO and VFC together do a better job in Natural Resource Management than independent of each of other? If so, how and Why?

55. What are the areas in which your organization and VFCs have established a partnership?

56. Which are the activities that you think the NGOs should take up and which ones should be left to VFCs?
57. According to you, what are the problems which occur in the NGO- **VFCs** partnership in Natural Resource Management?

58. How has the institution helped the village households meet their fuel and fodder needs?

59. How has the institution helped the village households meet its income needs?

*Cultural:*

60. How has the institution take into account the cultural heritage of the people and how they relate to the forest?

61. Does the institution take any steps to ensure that elite capture does not happen in terms of allowing access to the forest or access to NTFP?

*Political:*

62. Have you played any role in the resolution of conflicts that arise over the forest resources?

63. Have you negotiated with government officials to enforce the rights of the resource users in the area with regard to the forest resource?
**Status of the Resources (Outcome variables)**

64. What is the purpose of forests?

__________________________________________________________________________
__________________________________________________________________________

65. How does the institution promote the sustainable extraction of fodder and firewood by the villagers?

__________________________________________________________________________
__________________________________________________________________________

66. Are means of generating income from NFTP’s encouraged by the institution? Are these used as incentives to encourage conservation?

__________________________________________________________________________
__________________________________________________________________________

67. Have NTFP prices obtained by collectors gone up substantially after the institution’s intervention?

__________________________________________________________________________
__________________________________________________________________________

68. Are any other means of ensuring income to the village households being initiated?

__________________________________________________________________________
__________________________________________________________________________

69. Are the arrangements for sharing returns fair?

__________________________________________________________________________
__________________________________________________________________________

70. Are extraction levels of resources being curtailed and methods being modified to ensure long-term sustainability of the resource?

__________________________________________________________________________
__________________________________________________________________________

71. Are indigenous species being regenerated so as to ensure biodiversity conservation?

__________________________________________________________________________
APPENDIX – III
QUESTIONNAIRE FOR INSTITUTIONAL GOVERNANCE

Village where it operates: ______________
Institution Name:_________________________

Inclusion

1. Is anyone excluded from the institution's activities and benefits on the basis of wealth?
   0 = Poor people are fully excluded
   10 = There is no discrimination on the basis of wealth

2. Is anyone excluded from the institution's activities and benefits on the basis of gender?
   0 = Women are fully excluded
   10 = There is no discrimination on the basis of gender or Women only group

3. Is anyone excluded from leadership positions in the institution on the basis of wealth?
   0 = Poor people are effectively excluded
   10 = There is no discrimination on the basis of wealth

4. Is anyone excluded from leadership positions or membership in the institution on the basis of social categories like being an SC or ST?
   0 = Women are effectively excluded;
   10 = There is no discrimination on the basis of gender or women only group

5. How often do the members/ constituents/ stakeholders of this institution meet collectively to discuss the activities of the institution?
   0= Such meetings are extremely rare
   10 = Meetings of the membership are held frequently

6. Does the institution encourage participation from members of groups that are not already involved?
   0 = There is no effort devoted to expanding participation
   10 = All possible efforts are undertaken to expand participation

7. Is it easy for new people to participate in the institution?
   0 = New arrivals are not allowed to join the institution
   10 = New arrivals are actively welcomed to join the institution
1. How frequently are poor households, and women included in the institution’s leadership/governance?
0 = Individuals in these categories (where applicable) have never been in leadership positions
10 = There is always someone from one of these three categories in a leadership position.

2. Do the rules and mechanisms used to select representatives, leaders, and officeholders of the institution ensure fair representation to all groups?
0 = Rules are skewed in favor of an elite minority
10 = Rules allow a fair representation of the preferences of different constituent groups

3. Are women and poor households (where applicable) proportionately represented in the institution’s leadership?
0 = These groups are rarely represented on the institution’s leadership
10 = Women, dalits, and members from poor households are in leadership positions in proportion to their membership numbers

4. Does the institution’s leadership actively solicit input from members/constituents/stakeholders?
0 = The leaders never solicits input from members
10 = The leaders frequently solicit input from members

5. How well do the institution's activities reflect the preferences of its members/constituents/stakeholders?
0 = Activities do not bear any relationship to the preferences of a majority of the constituents
10 = Activities are a fair representation of the preferences of different constituent groups
Transparency

1. Is information about the institution’s activities easily available to people participating in the institution?
   0 = Information about the institution’s activities is extremely difficult to access by members
   10 = The institution makes information about its activities easily available to members

2. Is information about the institution’s activities easily accessible by people who are not members of the institution?
   0 = Information about the institution’s activities is extremely difficult to access by non-members
   10 = The institution makes information about its activities easily available to non-members

3. Does the institution maintain records that allow members to assess and evaluate the institution’s past performance? These might include balance sheets, annual reports, financial audit statements, minutes of meetings, etc.
   0 = The institution does not maintain any records
   10 = The institution maintains extensive records of its activities, including financial information

4. Does the institution allow members access to the records in order to evaluate the institution’s performance? These might include balance sheets, annual reports, or financial audit statements, etc.
   0 = The records are very difficult to access
   10 = The records are easily accessible to members

5. Are activities of the institution publicized or discussed so that non-members and the general public can access the information? Examples would include public display of information in PDS shops and panchayat notice boards, or public meetings which anybody could attend.
   0 = None of the records are ever displayed for public access
   10 = The record of activities is displayed clearly for members of the general public
**Accountability**

1. **Does the institution change its policies and/or activities (where applicable) if a majority of members or constituents demand such changes?**
   - 0 = The institution’s policies are never changed in response to demand from members or constituents
   - 10 = The institution is very responsive to demands from members

2. **Can members or constituents call a general meeting when they want to discuss a special problem?**
   - 0 = Mechanisms for such a possibility do not exist
   - 10 = Members can easily call such a meeting, when necessary

3. **How frequently have such meetings been held in the recent past?**
   - 0 = Never, although the provision does exist for calling such a meeting
   - 10 = Such meetings have been held several times in the past few years

4. **Can members or constituents take action to punish or remove leaders of the institution?**
   - 0 = Mechanisms for such a possibility do not exist
   - 10 = Members can easily punish or remove leaders of the institution

5. **How frequently has this happened in the recent past?**
   - 0 = Never or the possibility does not exist
   - 10 = Leaders have been punished several times in the past few years

6. **Are there mechanisms to warn and/or punish members for working against the objectives of the institution? These could be formal or informal mechanisms.**
   - 0 = Mechanisms for such a possibility do not exist
   - 10 = Members can easily punish other members of the institution for breaking rules

7. **How frequently have such mechanisms been used against members in the recent past?**
   - 0 = Never, although the possibility does exist
   - 10 = Members have been punished several times in the past few years