

Emerging Issues in Environmental, Forestry, and Developmental Sectors: Future Roadmap for IIFM.

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The emerging issues in the Environment, Forestry, and Development Sectors driven by Globalisation and increasing Environmental Consciousness have opened opportunities for Natural Resource Management (NRM) and Development Sectors. In order to identify the role of IIFM in responding to these emerging issues through its academic activities, this study has been undertaken. The Outcome of the study would provide the necessary future Direction to the Institute in terms of:

- i) Catering to the changing Manpower requirements of these sectors through its educational programmes
- ii) Enhancing professional skills of practitioners through its MDP programmes
- iii) Providing Research & Consulting Services to these sectors

The study has identified following emerging areas in the sectors of relevance to IIFM for possible actions as under:

Environment and Forestry Sector: Globalisation and WTO agreements - Trade & Environment Issues, Climate Change, Kyoto Protocol, CDM and Carbon trading related issues, Sustainable Forest Management (SFM) and Certification of Forests, Farm-forestry and agro-forestry, Public-private-partnerships for degraded forest management, Green Accounting/Forest Resource Accounting, Non-Timber Forest Products Management, Eco-tourism - Wilderness tourism, adventure tourism and educational tourism, Ecological Impact Assessment.

Development Sector: Micro finance/rural finance (Micro-credit plus) and Micro-enterprise development, Livelihood Promotion, Sustainable Livelihoods through NRM, Social Security & Social Capital, Policy Advocacy, Decentralization, Community Management, Sustainable Rural Development, Rural Marketing, Water Management and Water Markets, Energy Management, Social Marketing, Facilitation Skills and Relationship Management, Social Security & Social Capital, Health Management, Behavior change Communication.

Corporate Sector: WTO - Trade & Environment, Climate Change, Corporate Environmental Responsibility & Green Consumerism, Rural Markets, Banks –Credits & Saving, Micro – Insurance, FMCG, Agriculture Service providers, Herbal products.

Various skill-sets have also been identified for professionals for these sectors with a combination of general skills such as cognitive development & leadership skills, communications and applied management skills coupled with Sectoral skills in the areas of forestry, environmental and development sectors. Accordingly changes in the educational and training programmes have been suggested in order to provide the competence to these Sectoral managers. The study has suggested that the PGDFM programme should incorporate specialisations in the second year with a set of specialised courses while MRM programmes should be upgraded to Fellow Programme in Management (FPM). The study has also suggested that the institute might consider starting a few centres specialized in its sphere of activities with a view to focussed research in the emerging areas relevant for the country and also globally. These centres could be i) Centre for Sustainable Forest Management and Forest Certification; i) Centre for NTFP Management and Certification; and iii) Centre for Environment Management and Green Rating.

The study has also suggested that IIFM should collaborate and develop partnerships (both inter and intra sectors) with relevant organisations for synergistic benefits such as Ministries and the Departments of the Central and State governments, Non Government Organisations, Community Organisations, Research Institutions, International Organisations like IIED, IISD, Yale University etc., and Corporate Houses.

The study has emphasized the need to consider IIFM's current strengths and positioning in the current niche markets; the necessary resources required; and necessary changes in the present policies and structures while initiating new actions.