

Preface

This book deals with afforestation and reforestation of lands in arid and semiarid tropics. It attempts to cover the technical aspects as well organisational aspects of designing, developing and implementing afforestation and reforestation programmes and projects in practical situations. Chapters 1–6 provide an account of the technical aspects of afforestation such as nursery techniques, site selection, fencing, soil and water conservation works, planting and aftercare. Chapters 7–10 deal with organisational and institutional aspects of managing large afforestation projects. Managing afforestation projects may appear to be a simple task but actually involves a great number of interlinked activities and can be particularly challenging when the local communities must be involved in afforestation programmes, which often is the case if the benefits of afforestation are to be sustained.

The book includes specific data in form of charts and tables, apart from a number of diagrams illustrating various designs, structures and techniques. The model designs and specifications of the components of afforestation works presented in this book should be taken only as examples while developing and implementing specific afforestation programmes and projects. All the principles and models have been tested over the years and found to be successful templates, in the author's experience, for execution of afforestation and reforestation programmes, particularly in developing country contexts where mechanization is minimal or absent. The models and templates should, however, be suitably adapted by the prospective user to the actual context if the local edaphoclimatic and socioeconomic conditions so warrant.

The book is primarily aimed at the practicing foresters, soil conservation engineers and land resource managers in general who are interested in vegetative solutions to the problem of land degradation in arid and semiarid tropics. Afforestation, reforestation and restoration of forests in degraded commons is a challenging task, especially in developing countries, but it also offers numerous opportunities for rural development, livelihood security and employment generation, and nonwood forest products. The importance of land resource management programmes has also been recognised in the international environmental agreements, particularly the three Rio conventions on biodiversity conservation, combating desertification and climate change. It is hoped this book will contribute to promoting actions in field in this direction.

Afforestation, Reforestation and Forest Restoration in
Arid and Semi-arid Tropics

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