

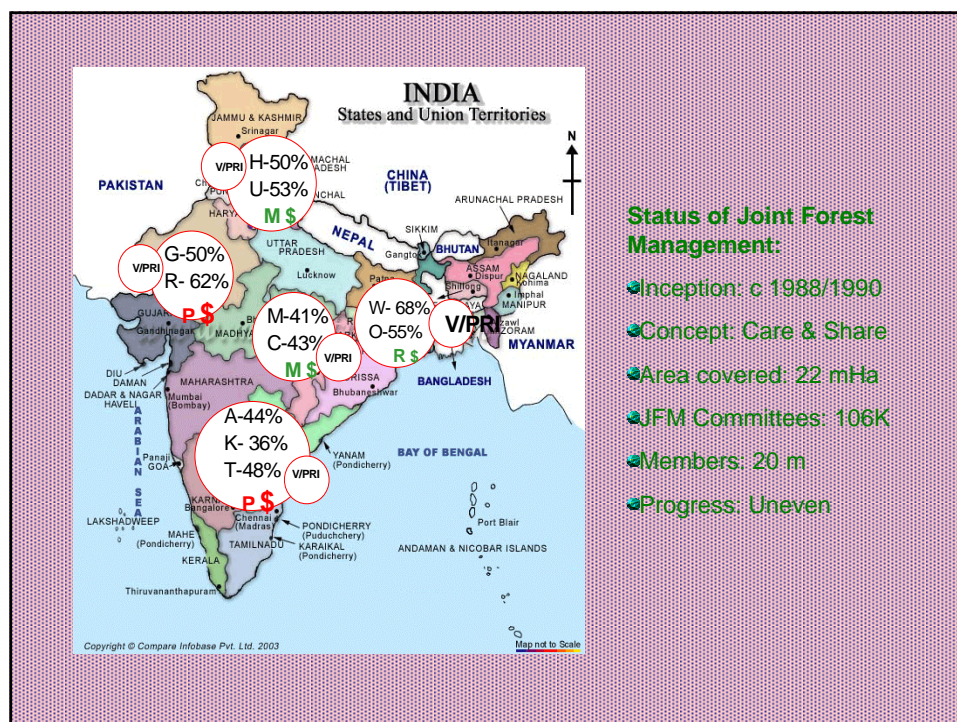
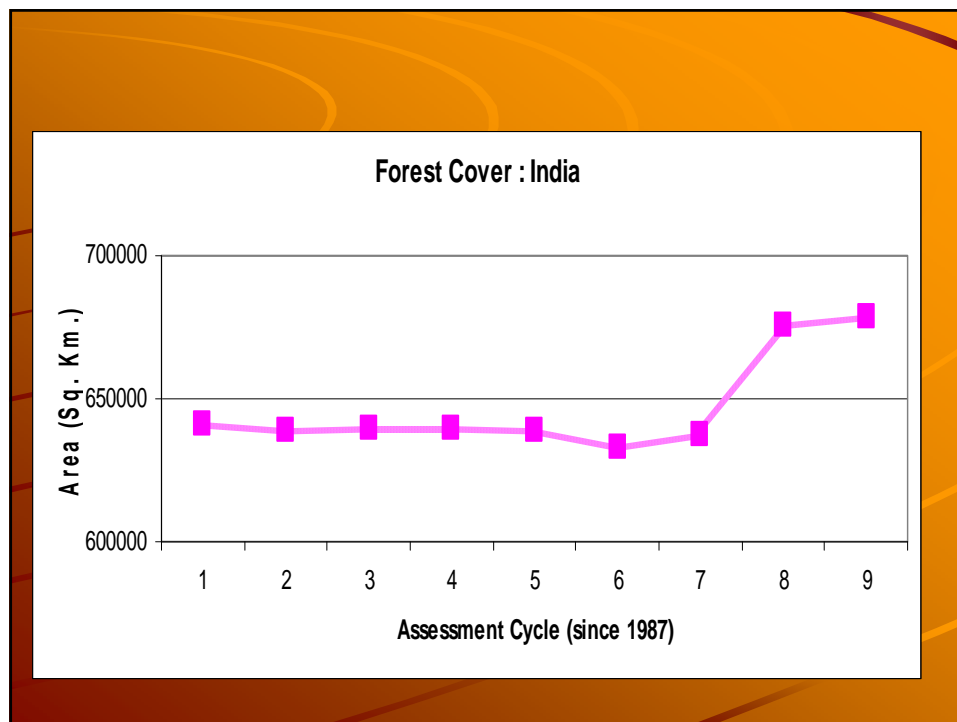
Challenges of Combating Desertification in Asia – A case study of India

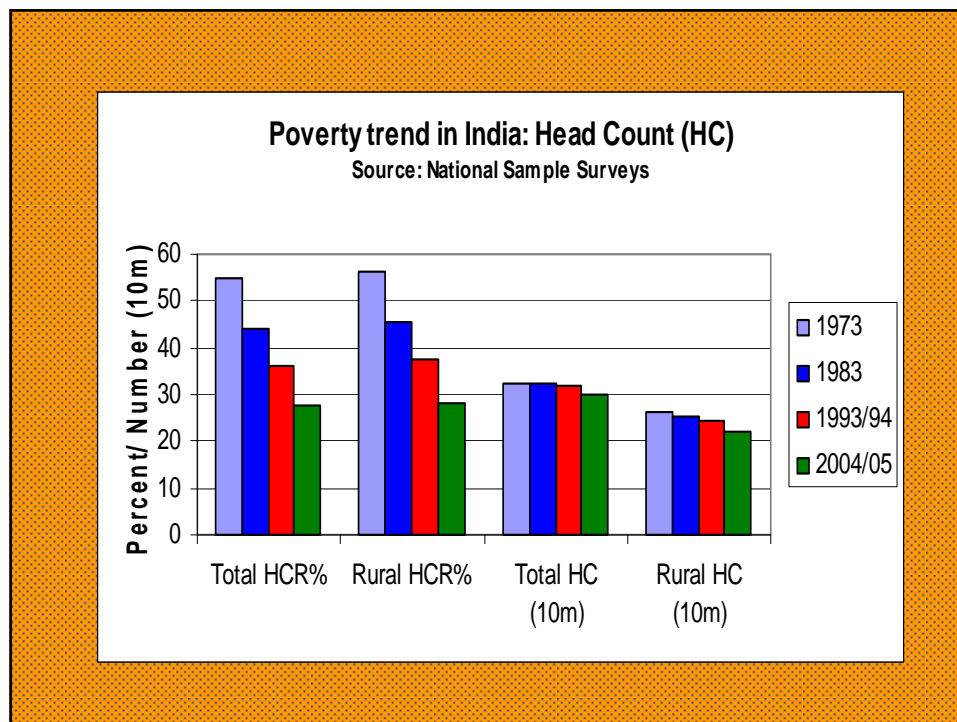
Sanjay Kumar
Government of India

Wastelands Area : India

(Source: Wastelands Atlas 2005, NRSA)

1986-2000	2003
65.85 million ha	55.27 million ha
20.17%	17.45%





◆ Geography of poverty

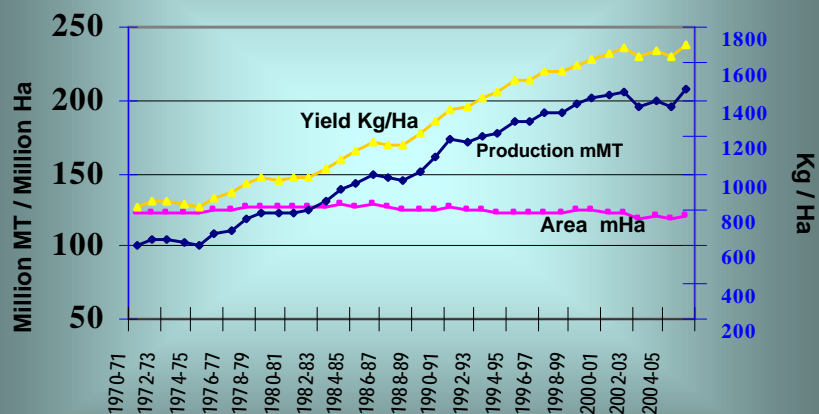
- **BUM² States: 49% poor in India (1983) → 50.6% (2004-05)**

◆ Sociology of poverty

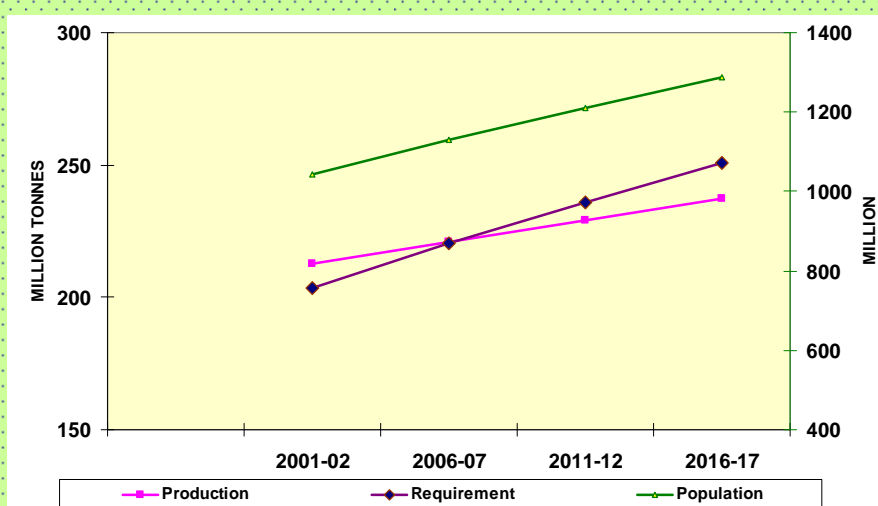
- **Schedule Caste + Schedule Tribe + Backward Classes = 81% of rural poor in India**
- **HCR (Rural Poverty)**
 - ◆ **Schedule Castes = 36.8%**
 - ◆ **Schedule Tribes = 47.0%**
- **Agricultural labourer:**
 - ◆ **1993-94: 41% of rural poor**
 - ◆ **1999-00: 47% of rural poor**
- **Self Employed**
 - ◆ **1993-94: 33% of rural poor**
 - ◆ **1999-00: 28% of rural poor**

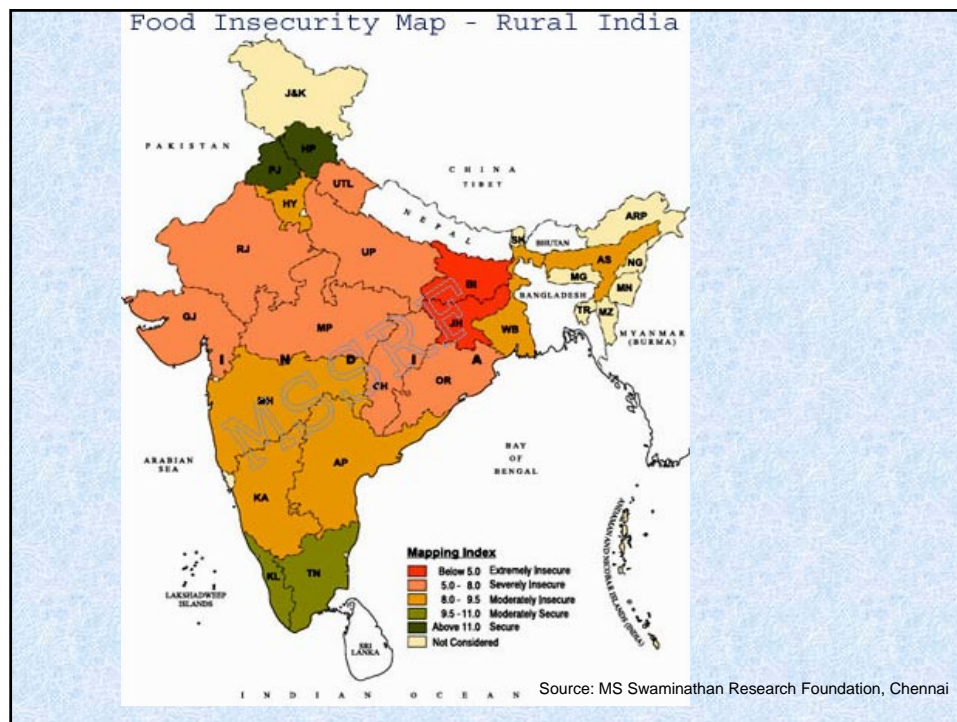
Trends of Area, Production and Yield of Foodgrains

(3 years moving averages)



Food Grain Scenario





Strategy to Combat Desertification

- **Develop the natural resource (NR)**
 - ① Conservation of land, water and perennial biomass
 - ① Treatment of problem lands
 - ① Expand horticulture, forestry and agroforestry
 - ① Develop need-based NRM related infrastructure
- **Management of developed NR**
 - ① Formal allocation of user rights
 - ① System of management of assets created (e.g. user charges)
 - ① Sustainable use of developed NR (e.g. social regulation)
- **Non-farm livelihoods**
 - ① Diversification and link to markets
 - ① Upscaling of successes
 - ① Focus on productivity enhancement
 - ① Support to Self-Help Groups

New Policy Initiatives

- **National Environmental Policy 2006**

- “ while conservation of environmental resources is necessary to secure livelihoods and well-being of all, the most secure basis for conservation is to ensure that people dependent on particular resources obtain better livelihoods from the fact of conservation , than from degradation of the resource.”
- Undertake measures that are consistent with the local socio-cultural practices and combines traditional and modern science based knowledge

- **Eleventh Five Year Plan (2007-2012) Approach**

- Faster and Inclusive Growth

- **National Policy for Farmers 2007**

- Address declining agricultural growth and profitability
- Increase off-farm employment opportunities to create demand for farm products and to increase farmers' resilience

New Policy Initiatives (contd.)

- **National Rainfed Area Authority: c 2007**

- Convergence of programmes and institutions

- **National Policy on Voluntary Sector 2007**

- Joint Consultation, Collaboration and Capacity Building of VOs

- **National Rural Employment Guarantee Act 2005**

- Enhance livelihood security by providing 100 days of unskilled wage employment per year for 1 member of willing household

- **National Rehabilitation and Resettlement Policy 2007**

- Minimize displacement, promote alternatives and undertake time bound and adequate rehabilitation

New Programmes

- *Bharat Nirman Yojana (2005-2009)*
 - Time bound plan for rural infrastructure (electricity, all weather roads, telephone and additional irrigation capacity)
- National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme 2005
 - 851 m person days of jobs provided → 30%+ for work related to combating desertification
- National Food Security Mission 2007
 - Increase productivity of rice, wheat and pulse through area expansion (except rice) and productivity enhancement in sustainable manner
 - **Restoring soil fertility and productivity at individual farm level**
 - **Enhancing farm level economy (i.e. farm profits) to restore confidence of farmers of targeted districts**

New Programmes (contd.)

- National Agriculture Development Scheme 2007
 - Incentives to States for increasing investments in agriculture sector
 - Provide local flexibility and autonomy in planning for development of agriculture and allied sectors
- Green India Scheme (proposed)
 - Additional 6 mHA land to be afforested
- Common Guidelines for Watershed Development
 - 22.2 mHA (1997-2007) → 36.6 mHA (2007-2012)
- Rural Microfinance and diversification through Self-Help Groups
 - NABARD → Balanced regional growth; Financial Inclusion Fund
 - SGSY → Allocation for 2007-08 cUS\$450
 - Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (Khadi & Village Commission)
- Centrality of Local Govt. in developmental planning



THANK YOU