

## STATUS OF TREES OUTSIDE FORESTS (TOFS) IN BASTI DISTRICT OF EASTERN UTTAR PRADESH

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### ABSTRACT

Trees Outside Forests (TOFs) refers to trees on land not defined as forest or other wooded land and generally include trees on farmlands, in cities and human settlements, orchards, sides of roads, pastures, banks of rivers, streams and canals and as shelterbelts which are less than 20 m wide and 0.5 ha area . The status of agro forestry is in very primitive stage in villages of the Basti district of Eastern U.P. The region has an agricultural economy and there is tremendous scope of agro forestry by growing tree species on bunds of the agricultural fields and in combination with the crop. Thus, to assess the status of Trees Outside Forests (TOFs) in rural area of the Basti district, a study has been undertaken for important tree species viz. Teak (*Tectona grandis* ), Mango (*Mangifera indica*), Babool (*Acacia nilotica*), Neem (*Azadirachta indica*), Kathal (*Artocarpus hetrophyllus*) and Shisham (*Dalbergia sissoo*) for selection of deficit species in plantation programmes and agro forestry. The trees were enumerated for all six species with respective girth classes in the selected villages of the district. In case of Teak, a total of 501484 trees , for Mango 326503 trees and 77559 trees of Neem were found in different girth classes. In case of Kathal, a total of 8644 trees and for Shisham, 236901 trees were enumerated . The status of Kathal and Babool is very critical in the district as very few trees were recorded in villages. Thus, to maintain sustainable availability of these species in future, they should be incorporated in future plantation programmes of state forest department/plantation agencies on sustainable basis.

**KEYWORDS:** Trees Outside Forests, Eastern UP, Agroforestry, plantation programmes

The district Basti lies in Tarai region of Eastern Uttar Pradesh. The status of agro forestry is in very primitive stage in villages of the district. There is tremendous scope of agro forestry by growing tree species on bunds of the agricultural fields and in combination with the crop. The farmers are used to grow tree species for their needs of fruits, fuel wood, fodder, small timber etc. on their land but this practice is not systematic and is limited to only some big farmers. Trees Outside Forests (TOFs) refers to trees on land not defined as forest or other wooded land and generally include trees on farmlands, in cities and human settlements, orchards,

sides of roads, pastures, banks of rivers, streams and canals and as shelterbelts which are less than 20 m wide and 0.5 ha area . It is now being increasingly argued that the role of TOF in providing food ,wood and fuel to rural masses, carbon sequestration, prevention of soil erosion, biodiversity conservation, checking desertification, establishment of wildlife corridors and microclimatic stabilization, is quite substantial meriting a detailed inventory (Bhattarai , 2000). Share of wood energy from non-forest lands used for cooking in rural India is 59% while that of biomass energy is 90% (Saxena, 1997). TOFs contribute about 25 per cent of India's woody