

A Study on Sustainable Resource Management in Jharkhand's Forest Sector: Progress and Prospects

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Abstract

This research paper examines forest conservation, afforestation efforts, and sustainable resource management in Jharkhand, focusing on major government initiatives such as the *Mukhyamantri Jan Van Yojana* and the *Compensatory Afforestation Fund Management and Planning Authority (CAMPA)*. Jharkhand's forests, comprising tropical moist deciduous, dry deciduous, and semi-evergreen types, are vital for maintaining ecological balance and supporting the livelihoods of tribal and rural communities. The study analyses 2023 data on forest cover, tree cover, and plantation drives across various forest divisions, highlighting both achievements and challenges in sustainable forestry. Findings indicate that the state has a total forest cover of 23,721 sq. km and tree cover of 2,867 sq. km, representing about 29.76% of its geographical area. In 2023, large-scale plantation drives resulted in the planting of over 15.87 million trees, with districts like Hazaribagh East, Chatra South, and Ramgarh leading the efforts. While significant progress has been made in enhancing green cover and promoting eco-friendly livelihoods, challenges such as illegal logging, encroachment, and uneven plantation distribution persist. The paper underscores the need for integrated policy measures, community participation, and continuous monitoring to achieve long-term sustainability in Jharkhand's forest management.

Keywords: *Forest conservation, afforestation, sustainable forestry*

1. Introduction

Forests are an indispensable natural resource, providing ecological stability, biodiversity conservation, and livelihood security for millions of people. In Jharkhand, forests occupy a pivotal role in the socio-economic and environmental landscape. As per the Indian State of Forest Report (ISFR) 2021 and the Jharkhand Economic Survey 2023–24, approximately 29.76% of the state's geographical area is under forest cover, comprising diverse ecosystems such as tropical moist deciduous, dry deciduous, and semi-evergreen forests. These ecosystems not only support a rich variety of flora and fauna but also form the cultural and economic backbone for the tribal and rural communities of the state.

The Government of Jharkhand has implemented multiple flagship programmes to address deforestation, promote afforestation, and ensure sustainable forest management. Key initiatives include the *Mukhyamantri Jan Van Yojana*, which encourages community-based tree plantation on private and farm boundaries to enhance green cover and improve rural incomes, and the *Compensatory Afforestation Fund Management and Planning Authority (CAMPA)*, which channels funds for afforestation, wildlife protection, and ecosystem restoration. In the year 2023 alone, plantation drives under these schemes resulted in over 15.87 million trees being planted across various forest divisions, with districts such as Hazaribagh East, Chatra South, and Ramgarh leading the efforts. Despite these achievements, the state faces persistent challenges such as illegal logging, encroachment, and uneven distribution of plantation activities across regions. Addressing these issues requires integrated policy frameworks, robust monitoring mechanisms, and active participation of local communities. This research paper aims to critically analyse the trends, performance, and sustainability of forest conservation efforts in Jharkhand, supported by quantitative data from official sources, to provide evidence-

based recommendations for enhancing environmental resilience and socio-economic development.

Forests in Jharkhand are not only an ecological asset but also an economic lifeline. The state is home to a significant tribal population—many of whom reside in forested areas and depend on forest resources for fuel, fodder, timber, and non-timber forest products (NTFPs) such as lac, tamarind, and medicinal plants. These resources contribute to household incomes, food security, and traditional livelihoods. The interplay between conservation and livelihood generation is therefore central to Jharkhand's development strategy, as reflected in state policies that integrate environmental objectives with rural poverty alleviation. The *Mukhyamantri Jan Van Yojana* and *CAMPA* programmes exemplify this approach by blending large-scale afforestation with economic incentives for local stakeholders.

From a policy perspective, Jharkhand's forest management efforts align with India's commitments under the National Action Plan on Climate Change (NAPCC) and the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), particularly SDG 15 (Life on Land) and SDG 13 (Climate Action). Increasing forest and tree cover enhances carbon sequestration, mitigates the impacts of climate change, and improves ecosystem services such as water regulation and soil fertility. The data from 2023 plantation drives demonstrate substantial progress; however, sustaining these gains requires addressing structural issues like inadequate monitoring, limited capacity in forest divisions, and low participation in certain districts. By combining strong institutional frameworks with community-driven conservation, Jharkhand can strengthen its position as a leader in sustainable resource management while ensuring that forest-dependent communities are active beneficiaries of environmental policies.

2. Review of Literature

According to Mishra et al. (2025), the spatial variability in soil physicochemical properties across forest disturbances in Jharkhand emphasizes the significant role of forest soils in maintaining ecosystem functions, such as nutrient cycling and water regulation. The analysis reveals that soil properties, including pH, electrical conductivity (EC), organic carbon (OC), and nutrient levels (NPK), vary significantly with disturbance levels and soil depths. The findings show a decreasing trend in soil quality from dense/moderately dense forests to open forests and scrub/non-forest areas. In particular, nutrient deficiencies, especially in nitrogen, phosphorus, and potassium, were observed in disturbed forest areas, indicating the need for targeted nutrient interventions for forest restoration. The study recommends soil nutrient management strategies to improve plantation survival and forest productivity. It also highlights the importance of soil analysis in guiding restoration efforts and supporting sustainable forest management practices.

Kar et al. (2025) focused on the customary ownership of trees and its impact on Participatory Forest Management (PFM) in Jharkhand highlights the complex relationship between socioeconomic factors and community participation. The findings suggest that households with a higher number of trees under customary ownership are more economically empowered, but this also leads to reduced engagement in PFM activities due to their migration for better education and healthcare. In contrast, households with larger forest landholdings are more inclined to participate in PFM, driven by a desire to formalize their land ownership. Additionally, higher caste and wealthier groups have greater participation in PFM, reflecting their stronger resource access and decision-making influence. These insights provide valuable information for policymakers to design inclusive strategies that address socioeconomic disparities and encourage equitable participation in forest management, thereby supporting sustainable forest practices and enhancing tribal livelihoods.

Jharkhand's abundant forest resources offer significant prospects for Minor Forest Produce (MFP), including non-timber products like medicinal plants, fruits, seeds, and bamboo, which can alleviate poverty, enhance rural livelihoods, and promote sustainable development amid growing global demand for natural goods. However, the sector faces critical challenges such as inadequate market access, exploitation by middlemen, lack of value addition, weak implementation of government schemes like the Forest Rights Act, climate change-induced ecological degradation, and insufficient institutional support. These issues result in low incomes for tribal communities, post-harvest losses, and unsustainable harvesting practices. Addressing them requires policy reforms, capacity building, organized markets, cooperatives, climate-resilient strategies, and empowerment of women collectors to unlock MFP's economic potential while ensuring ecological balance and social equity.

According to Magry (2022), the integrated value chain analysis of non-timber forest products (NTFPs) in Jharkhand reveals key insights into the roles of women in collection, the limitations of resource exchange between upstream and downstream actors, and the monetary benefits at various stages of the chain. Despite the dominance of women in collection, their role remains constrained, and there is minimal exchange of resources or information between the upstream and downstream sectors. Wholesalers gain the highest profits, whereas NTFP collectors receive the lowest returns. The study underscores the need for enhancing the skills of collectors, improving infrastructure at the village level, and establishing supportive policy frameworks to bolster NTFP-related small-scale enterprises. These measures can significantly improve the livelihoods of NTFP collectors and promote sustainable development within the sector.

Kumar (2022) observed that the traditional knowledge (TK) held by tribal and rural communities in Jharkhand has historically supported sustainable forest management (SFM) and ecosystem services, preserving biodiversity and livelihoods through practices like Sacred Grove conservation, nature-based festivals, and taboos. This knowledge, passed down via legends and folk traditions, encompasses ethno-medicinal uses and sustainable use of Non-Timber Forest Products (NTFPs) like lac, silk, and bamboo. A study highlights the need to document this TK to prevent its erosion due to globalization, detailing steps to identify, record, and integrate it with scientific knowledge for SFM. Government initiatives, including the Forest Rights Act 2006 and Joint Forest Management, have facilitated this integration, enhancing ecosystem service provisioning. However, ongoing efforts are essential to harmonize TK with modern practices for long-term sustainability.

Kumar and Saikia (2020) examined that Jharkhand is one of the biodiversity rich states of India because of its origin, diverse physiographic and climatic conditions. It is well known due to its tribal populations, mineral resources, and its vast forest resources. Forest resources are considered as a commodity of high value across the state as most of the locals are dependent for their daily subsistence needs mainly for food and fuelwood. Forests play an important role in the economic, cultural and social lives and supporting rural livelihoods and food security in Jharkhand. Jharkhand is home to tropical moist deciduous and tropical dry deciduous forests and the dominant plant species like *Shorea robusta*, *Diospyros melanoxylon*, *Pterocarpus mersupium*, *Gloriosa superba*, *Butea monosperma*, *Madhuca longifolia*, etc. Commonly extracted forest produces are timber, fuel wood, fodder, and a range of Non-Timber Forest Products (NTFPs) such as fruits, nuts, edible fungi, vegetables, fish, animals and medicinal plants, resins, essences, and a range of barks and fibers such as bamboo, rattans, palms and grasses. Over-exploitation of useful plants, lack of knowledge and awareness about the plants' present population status, habitat alteration and specificity, narrow range of distribution, over-grazing are some of the severe threats endangering the existing populations of important plants.

Sahu (2020) studies the implementation of the Scheduled Tribes and Other Traditional Forest Dwellers (Recognition of Rights) Act, 2006 in Jharkhand identifies several challenges that hinder the effective recognition and enforcement of forest rights. The analysis reveals that the process is characterized by uneven, non-transparent, and stagnant recognition of forest rights claims across the state. Key barriers include the ambiguous role of implementing agencies, insufficient financial and human resources at the district and sub-divisional levels, and the absence of a dedicated tribal department. Furthermore, the lack of horizontal integration among agencies and the failure to ensure meaningful participation in the rights recognition process exacerbate the situation. These findings underscore the need for a more coordinated, resource-supported approach to improve the implementation of the Act and ensure the rightful recognition of forest rights for the affected communities in Jharkhand.

3. Need of Study

The need for this study arises from the increasing importance of sustainable forest management and afforestation in Jharkhand, a state rich in biodiversity and forest resources. With rising challenges like illegal logging, encroachment, and climate change, it is crucial to assess the effectiveness of government initiatives, such as the *Mukhyamantri Jan Van Yojana* and CAMPA, in enhancing green cover and supporting local communities. Understanding the impact of these programs will provide valuable insights into the state's environmental and socio-economic progress, guiding future policies for balanced conservation and sustainable resource use.

4. Aim and Objectives of Study

The primary objective of this study is to examine and evaluate the status, trends, and effectiveness of forest conservation and afforestation initiatives in Jharkhand, with a focus on government-led programmes such as the *Mukhyamantri Jan Van Yojana* and the *Compensatory Afforestation Fund Management and Planning Authority (CAMPA)*. The study seeks to assess their ecological and socio-economic impacts, identify challenges, and suggest policy measures for promoting sustainable forest management in the state.

Specific Objectives

- To analyse the current forest and tree cover in Jharkhand, including its distribution, density categories, and changes over time
- To evaluate the performance and outcomes of major afforestation and conservation initiatives implemented by the Government of Jharkhand
- To identify key challenges in forest conservation and recommend strategies for improving ecological sustainability and livelihood generation

5. Research Methodology

The research is primarily based on secondary data collected from various reliable sources, including the Jharkhand Economic Survey and scholarly articles, with a significant focus on official reports from the Department of Forest, Government of Jharkhand. These sources provide detailed information on forest cover, plantation activities, government initiatives, and conservation efforts in the state. The data includes statistical figures and insights from the Department of Forest, Government of Jharkhand, as well as other relevant publications, which have been systematically analyzed to evaluate the effectiveness of forest management and afforestation programs in the region.

6. Result and Discussion with Data Analysis

- **Forest Conservation and Sustainable Resource Management in Jharkhand**

Jharkhand is home to a rich diversity of forests, including tropical moist deciduous, dry deciduous, and semi-evergreen types, playing a crucial role in maintaining the state’s ecological balance and biodiversity. These forests are also vital for the tribal communities who depend on them for their livelihoods. To ensure a balance between conservation and sustainable resource extraction, the state government, alongside conservation organizations, is focusing on afforestation, anti-poaching initiatives, and community-based conservation strategies. While challenges such as illegal logging and encroachment persist, Jharkhand remains dedicated to sustainable forest management, striving to create a harmonious coexistence between nature and human activities.

Table – 01: Details on Forest Cover for the State of Jharkhand in 2023

Total Forest Cover (Area in sq. km.)	23721
Tree Cover (Area in sq. km.)	2867
Total Forest Cover and Tree Cover (Area in sq. km.)	26588

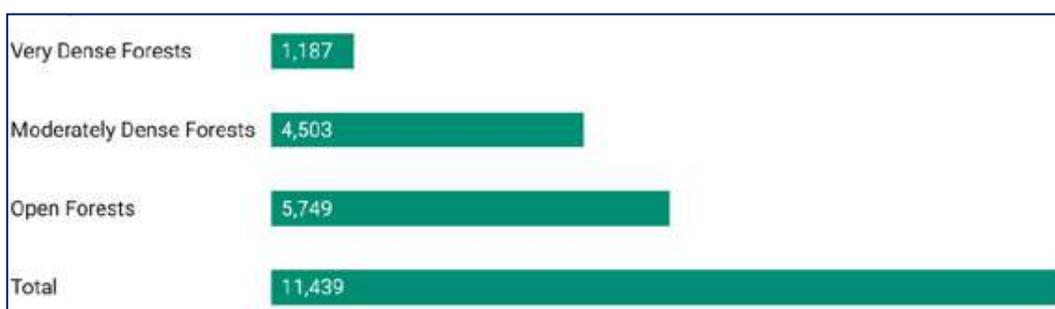
(Source: The Department of Forest, Government of Jharkhand)

The table provides forest and tree cover in Jharkhand as of 2023. The total forest cover is 23,721 square kilometers, while the tree cover stands at 2,867 square kilometers, bringing the combined total of forest and tree cover to 26,588 square kilometers. According to the Indian State of Forest Report (ISFR) 2021, around 29.76% of Jharkhand’s geographical area is covered by forests, consisting of 3.26% very dense forests (VDF), 12.15% moderately dense forests (MDF), and 14.34% open forests (OF).

The distribution of forest cover within the recorded forest area includes 12,282 square kilometers of total forest cover, with 5,682 square kilometers as open forests, 5,186 square kilometers as moderately dense forests, and 1,414 square kilometers as very dense forests. Outside the recorded forest area, Jharkhand has a total forest cover of 11,439 square kilometers, which includes 5,749 square kilometers of open forests, 4,503 square kilometers of moderately dense forests, and 1,187 square kilometers of very dense forests. This data highlights the state's efforts in forest conservation and its diverse forest ecosystems, while also showing the varied density of forests across different regions.

- **Categorization of Forest Cover for Jharkhand in 2023**

Forest Cover outside the Recorded Forest Area (Area in Sq. Km)



Forest Cover outside the Recorded Forest Area (Area in Sq. Km)



- **Performance of Government Initiatives for Forest Conservation and Livelihood Enhancement in Jharkhand**

Mukhyamantri Jan Van Yojana: The Mukhyamantri Jan Van Yojana is a significant initiative aimed at increasing the state’s green cover while also promoting the economic well-being of farmers. By encouraging villagers to plant trees on their private properties and at farm boundaries, the program seeks to reduce pressure on the state’s notified forests and enhance agricultural income. The forest department incentivizes participants by reimbursing a portion of the costs for planting and maintaining the trees. Moreover, a three-quarter cost rebate is provided for planting trees, with seventy-five percent of the fixed cost being reimbursed to the rightful landowner, as per revenue records. This year, the program successfully planted 187,131 plants, of which 343,888 were fruit-bearing trees, contributing significantly to both environmental sustainability and local livelihoods.

Compensatory Afforestation Fund Management and Planning Authority (CAMPA): Established by the Indian government in 2004, CAMPA is a crucial initiative focused on forest regeneration, wildlife improvement, and the compensation for forest land diverted for development projects. Jharkhand’s state-level CAMPA wing was set up in 2009 to manage and oversee the allocation and use of compensatory afforestation funds within the state. The objective of CAMPA is to promote sustainable forestry by utilizing these funds for afforestation activities, wildlife protection, and ecosystem restoration. The initiative also fosters community participation in forest conservation by involving local populations in the planning and execution of afforestation projects. Additionally, CAMPA supports the collection and marketing of non-timber forest products (NTFPs) and promotes eco-tourism, thereby creating livelihood opportunities and providing economic incentives for local communities to conserve forests. In 2023, the CAMPA initiative successfully planted 15,877,252 trees, with the highest number of plantations recorded in the Hazaribagh, Chatra, and Ramgarh forest divisions, further contributing to the state's environmental and socio-economic objectives.

Table 02: The Number of Plants Planted in JAN VAN YOJANA for the Financial Year 2022-23 and 2023-24 (Up to September 2023)

Districts	Division	Fruits	Timber	Total
Dumka	Social Forest Division, Dumka	268136	1348268	1616404
East Singhbhum	Adityapur Social Forestry Division	3015	0	3015
Garhwa	Social Forest Division, Garhwa	14400	41990	56390
Hazaribagh	Social Forest Division, Hazaribagh	1016	930	1946

Koderma	Social Forest Division, Koderma	160	0	160
Latehar	Social Forest Division, Latehar	480	0	480
Lohardaga	Lohardaga Forest Division	890	0	890
Palamu	Palamu Forest Division	10720	33820	44540
Ranchi	Social Forest Division, Ranchi	2454	0	2454
Sahibganj	Sahibganj Forest Division	21504	43165	64669
Seraikela Kharsawan	Seraikela Kharsawan Forest Division	480	3315	3795
Simdega	Social Forest Division, Simdega	19718	54842	74560
West Singhbhum	Social Forest Division, West Singhbhum	915	1099	2014
Total		343888	1527429	1871317

(Source: The Department of Forest, Government of Jharkhand)

The table titled The Number of Plants Planted in Jan Van Yojana for the Financial Year 2022-23 and 2023-24 (Up to September 2023) provides a detailed overview of the number of fruit and timber plants planted across various districts in Jharkhand. Dumka stands out as the leading district with the highest number of plantations, having planted a total of 1,616,404 plants, of which 268,136 are fruit plants and 1,348,268 are timber plants. Other districts with significant planting activities include Sahibganj, which planted 64,669 plants (21,504 fruit plants and 43,165 timber plants), and Simdega, which saw the planting of 74,560 plants (19,718 fruit plants and 54,842 timber plants). Garhwa and Palamu also made notable contributions, with 56,390 plants (14,400 fruit plants and 41,990 timber plants) and 44,540 plants (10,720 fruit plants and 33,820 timber plants), respectively. However, some districts recorded minimal planting activities, with Koderma planting only 160 fruit plants and no timber plants, while East Singhbhum planted just 3,015 fruit plants without any timber plants. Similarly, Ranchi, Latehar, and Lohardaga reported relatively low numbers, with only fruit plants being planted—2,454 in Ranchi, 480 in Latehar, and 890 in Lohardaga. Overall, the total number of plants planted across all districts amounted to 1,871,317, with 343,888 being fruit plants and 1,527,429 being timber plants. This extensive planting effort under the Jan Van Yojana underscores the state's dedication to enhancing its green cover and fostering sustainable forestry practices.

Table – 03: Details of Forest Division and No. of Plants

Name of Forest Division	Number of Plants
Sahibganj Forest Division	958094
Jamtara Forest Division	169500
Dumka Forest Division	485100
Godda Forest Division	580050
Pakur Forest Division	413000
Deoghar Forest Division	521790
Koderma Forest Division	205000
Hazaribagh west Forest Division	490500
Hazaribagh East Forest Division	1285820
Chatra South Forest Division	1130158
Ramgarh Forest Division	1095909
Giridih East Forest Division	918778

Giridih West Forest Division	765101
Bokaro Forest Division	389500
Dhanbad Forest Division	435800
Jamshedpur Forest Division	748500
Chaibasa Forest Division	0
Kolhan Forest Division, Chaibasa	107500
Seraikela Forest Division	16393
Ranchi Forest Division	809062
Khunti Forest Division	980927
Simdega Forest Division	563800
Gumla Forest Division	424180
Lohardaga Forest Division	499000
Lathar Forest Division	267000
Garhwa North Forest Division	172900
Garhwa South Forest Division	821006
Medininagar Forest Division	622884
Total	15877252

Source: The Department of Forest, Government of Jharkhand

The table titled "Name of Forest Division and Number of Plants" provides a comprehensive overview of the planting efforts across various forest divisions in Jharkhand, highlighting significant contributions to reforestation and afforestation. The Sahibganj Forest Division led the efforts with an impressive 958,094 plants, followed closely by the Hazaribagh East Forest Division and Chatra South Forest Division, which planted 1,285,820 and 1,130,158 plants, respectively. The Ramgarh Forest Division also made substantial contributions with 1,095,909 plants. Other divisions, including Giridih East and West, collectively planted over 1.68 million plants, while the Khunti Forest Division added 980,927 plants to the total. In addition to these large-scale efforts, the Simdega and Gumla Forest Divisions planted 563,800 and 424,180 plants, respectively, and the Dumka and Godda divisions contributed 485,100 and 580,050 plants. However, some divisions reported lower planting figures, with Jamtara planting 169,500 plants and Seraikela only 16,393 plants, reflecting varying levels of reforestation activity across regions. The Chaibasa Forest Division, in particular, reported no plantations, possibly due to operational or resource challenges. Overall, the table indicates a total of 15,877,252 plants planted across Jharkhand's forest divisions, highlighting the state's strong commitment to increasing green cover and promoting environmental sustainability.

The below data presents the number of plants planted across various forest divisions in Jharkhand in 2023, highlighting the state's extensive reforestation and afforestation efforts, including those under the CAMPA initiative. The Sahibganj Forest Division led with the highest number of plants, having planted 958,094, followed by the Hazaribagh East Forest Division with 1,285,820 plants and the Chatra South Forest Division with 1,130,158 plants. Other notable divisions include the Dumka, Godda, and Pakur Forest Divisions, which planted 485,100, 580,050, and 413,000 plants, respectively. Despite these significant contributions, some divisions reported minimal or no plantation activities, such as Chaibasa, which planted no trees, and Seraikela with just 16,393 plants. However, regions like Ranchi, Khunti, and Simdega actively participated with 809,062, 980,927, and 563,800 plants, respectively. Overall, a total of 15,877,252 plants were planted across Jharkhand's forest divisions in 2023,

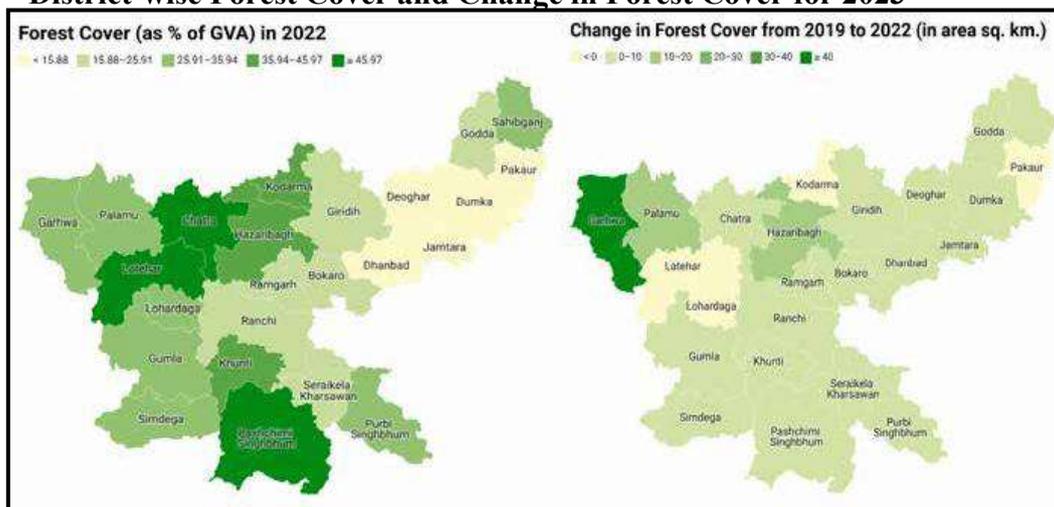
reflecting the state's continued commitment to enhancing its green cover and promoting sustainable environmental practices.

Number of Plants Planted in 2023 across the Forest Division of the State (including CAMPA)

Name of Forest Division	Number of Plants	Name of Forest Division	Number of Plants
Sahibganj Forest Division	958094	Jamshedpur Forest Division	748500
Jamtara Forest Division	169500	Chaibasa Forest Division	0
Dumka Forest Division	485100	Kolhan Forest Division, Chaibasa	107500
Godda Forest Division	580050	Seraikela Forest Division	16393
Pakur Forest Division	413000	Ranchi Forest Division	809062
Deoghar Forest Division	521790	Khunti Forest Division	980927
Koderma Forest Division	205000	Simdega Forest Division	563800
Hazaribagh west Forest Division	490500	Gumla Forest Division	424180
Hazaribagh East Forest Division	1285820	Lohardaga Forest Division	499000
Chatra South Forest Division	1130158	Lathar Forest Division	267000
Ramgarh Forest Division	1095909	Garhwa North Forest Division	172900
Giridih East Forest Division	918778	Garhwa South Forest Division	821006
Giridih West Forest Division	765101	Medininagar Forest Division	622884
Bokaro Forest Division	389500	Total	15877252
Dhanbad Forest Division	435800		

Source – The Department of Forest, Government of Jharkhand

District-wise Forest Cover and Change in Forest Cover for 2023



(Source: The Department of Forest, Government of Jharkhand)

7. Policy Recommendations

A sustainable and inclusive approach to forest management in Jharkhand requires the strengthening of monitoring and evaluation systems. The use of advanced technologies such as Geographic Information Systems (GIS) and remote sensing can provide accurate, real-time data on plantation survival rates, forest density, and cover changes. Establishing district-level

performance dashboards will enable better accountability and allow policymakers to identify trends, gaps, and best-performing regions swiftly. These measures can create a transparent and data-driven framework for decision-making, ensuring that afforestation efforts are both effective and measurable. Enhancing community participation is equally critical for the long-term success of conservation initiatives. Participatory forest management models, which empower local communities and forest-dependent households, have been shown to yield higher survival rates and better resource stewardship. Linking afforestation with livelihood incentives—such as agroforestry, horticulture, and the sustainable collection of non-timber forest products (NTFPs)—can encourage widespread involvement while providing economic benefits. This approach not only strengthens the social fabric around environmental initiatives but also reduces dependency on unsustainable practices like illegal logging.

A targeted focus on underperforming areas can address the disparities observed in programme implementation across districts. Identifying administrative, infrastructural, and socio-economic barriers in low-activity regions will enable tailored interventions. Such measures could include capacity-building workshops, skill development for local forest officials, and community awareness campaigns to boost participation. Equally important is improving post-plantation care by allocating dedicated funds and deploying trained personnel for the critical first three years of sapling growth. Public-private partnerships can be leveraged to support maintenance and biodiversity enhancement, ensuring the long-term health of newly planted forests. Finally, integrating forest conservation efforts with broader climate action goals will help Jharkhand align its strategies with the National Action Plan on Climate Change (NAPCC) and Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), particularly SDG 13 and SDG 15. Expanding carbon sequestration projects can not only contribute to climate change mitigation but also open opportunities for attracting green financing through carbon credits and international climate funds. This integrated approach ensures that afforestation and conservation initiatives contribute to both local socio-economic development and global environmental commitments.

8. Conclusion

In conclusion, the state of Jharkhand has made remarkable strides in enhancing its green cover and promoting sustainable forest management through various government initiatives, such as the Mukhyamantri Jan Van Yojana and the CAMPA program. The Mukhyamantri Jan Van Yojana has successfully engaged local communities in plantation activities, with a total of 187,131 plants planted, including 343,888 fruit plants, thus contributing to both environmental sustainability and the economic empowerment of farmers. Similarly, the CAMPA initiative, with 15,877,252 plants planted across multiple forest divisions in 2023, has proven essential in forest regeneration and wildlife conservation efforts. The plantation activities in Jharkhand reflect a broad and strategic approach to afforestation, as evidenced by the significant contributions of divisions like Sahibganj, Hazaribagh East, and Chatra South, which alone accounted for millions of plants. Despite some divisions experiencing minimal plantation activity, the overall data highlights the state's commitment to reforestation and its potential to significantly impact its forest cover, which already comprises nearly 30% of its geographical area. The continued efforts in non-timber forest product promotion, community-based conservation, and eco-tourism offer sustainable livelihood options for tribal and local communities, ensuring that the economic and environmental benefits of forest conservation are mutually reinforcing. As Jharkhand moves forward, these initiatives will be crucial in maintaining the ecological balance, addressing deforestation concerns, and fostering a harmonious relationship between nature and the people dependent on it.

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