

A NOTE ON: Promoting Green Economy in South Asia: Seen through the lens of Agriculture

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This is not an academic or scholarly presentation. Instead it is a summary of quickly re-assembled observations/experiences gathered through close observations and interactions with farmers from over 10 countries from dry tropical countries of East and West Africa and South Asia as well as from Himalayan region. Accordingly, this presents ground level issues which are generally by pass the attention of scholarly and high profile discourses on the subject of green economy.

The difference between the farmers' approach to "greening the environment for successful agriculture" (compared to high profile discourses on the subject is caused by the following attributes:

On ground (finer) differences between "knowledge" and "understanding". The farmer is guided move by later while the planners and adviser put greater emphasis on the former. I can furnish several examples of the same.

- Institutional dimension differ. (CPR)
- Stake differences between decision makers as resource use planner and resource user.
- Differences between blink approach and prolonged analysis.
- Extraction instrument and rate (cart of axes versus modern machinery).
- Bio-diversity in bush-and its implications.
- Inter-linked NR-based farm activities.
- Examples from Research and action from I.N. research institute.
- Farmer trusting farmer more than Director of an agricultural research institute (examples).
- Approaches shifting with change of chief/and financial manager of donors. (cases)
- Talks run faster than action.
- East African drought of 1981.
- Population growth, market forces are beyond control of both farmer and planners/advisors.