

5. Conflict Resolution w.r.f to NRM

◆ Conflict Resolution with Particular Reference to Management of Natural Resources

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- ◆ Presented by:
- ◆ R P Mattoo. President
- ◆ *Natural Resources India Foundation (NRIF)* <http://www.nrif.org.in/>





Conflict Resolution w.r.f to NRM

- ◆ **NATURAL RESOURCE CONFLICTS** are disagreements and disputes over access to, and control and use of, natural resources.
- ◆ These conflicts often emerge because people have different uses for resources such as forests, water, pastures and land, or want to manage them in different ways.
- ◆ Disagreements also arise when these interests and needs are incompatible, or when the priorities of some user groups are not considered in policies, programmes and projects.
- ◆ Such conflicts of interest are an inevitable feature of all societies.



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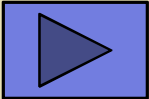
- ◆ In recent years, the scope and magnitude of natural resource conflicts have increased and intensified.
- ◆ These conflicts, if not addressed, can escalate into violence, cause environmental degradation, disrupt projects and undermine livelihoods.
- ◆ Acknowledging that conflict is a common feature of any resource use system is a prerequisite for sustainable management that is participatory and equitable.

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- ◆ Some reasons why conflicts arise: -
 - policies imposed without local participation
 - lack of harmony and coordination between bodies of law and legal procedures
 - poor identification of and inadequate consultation with stakeholders
 - uncoordinated planning
 - inadequate or poor information sharing
 - limited institutional capacity
 - inadequate monitoring and evaluation of programmes
 - lack of effective mechanisms for conflict management
 - Existence of Political Economy & Influence groups in the village
 - Conflicting political and religious groups



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- ◆ Natural resource conflicts can be put in six different, yet inter-linked, contexts: -
 - First is the economic context, 
 - Second is the land use context,
 - Third is the ecological context;
 - Fourth is the Institutional context;
 - Fifth is the Gender context;
 - Sixth is the is the legal context



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- ◆ Causes of conflict can be summarized as :
 - Decentralization / democratization, which gives the voiceless a voice;
 - lack of participation of all stakeholders,
 - changes in laws, policies, market values and lack of information regarding these policies, rights and changes;
 - contradiction between policies and unclear boundary establishment, both at the national and provincial level;
 - limited resources creating competition for them;
 - slow attitudinal change in the Forestry Department, resulting in some uncommitted field personnel; and
 - inequitable distribution of benefits





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- ◆ Different ways of analyzing conflicts
- ◆ The first involve a macro-level analysis
- ◆ understanding the parallel between power and the type of resources.
- ◆ conflicts over incentives for resource management in JFM are expressed differently from conflicts between conservation and resource utilization.
- ◆ The third party may sometimes chose to resolve the conflict inequitably if seen to be in the benefit of all. Such persons are usually respected village elders, school teachers or sometimes even formally elected village heads.

Definitions of Key Conflict Management and Resolution Strategies

Avoidance

Acting in ways to keep a conflict from becoming publicly acknowledged.

Mediation

Using a third party to facilitate the negotiation process. (A mediator lacks the authority to impose a solution).

Adjudication

Relying on a judge or administrator to make a binding decision.

Negotiation

Following a voluntary process in which parties reach agreement through consensus.

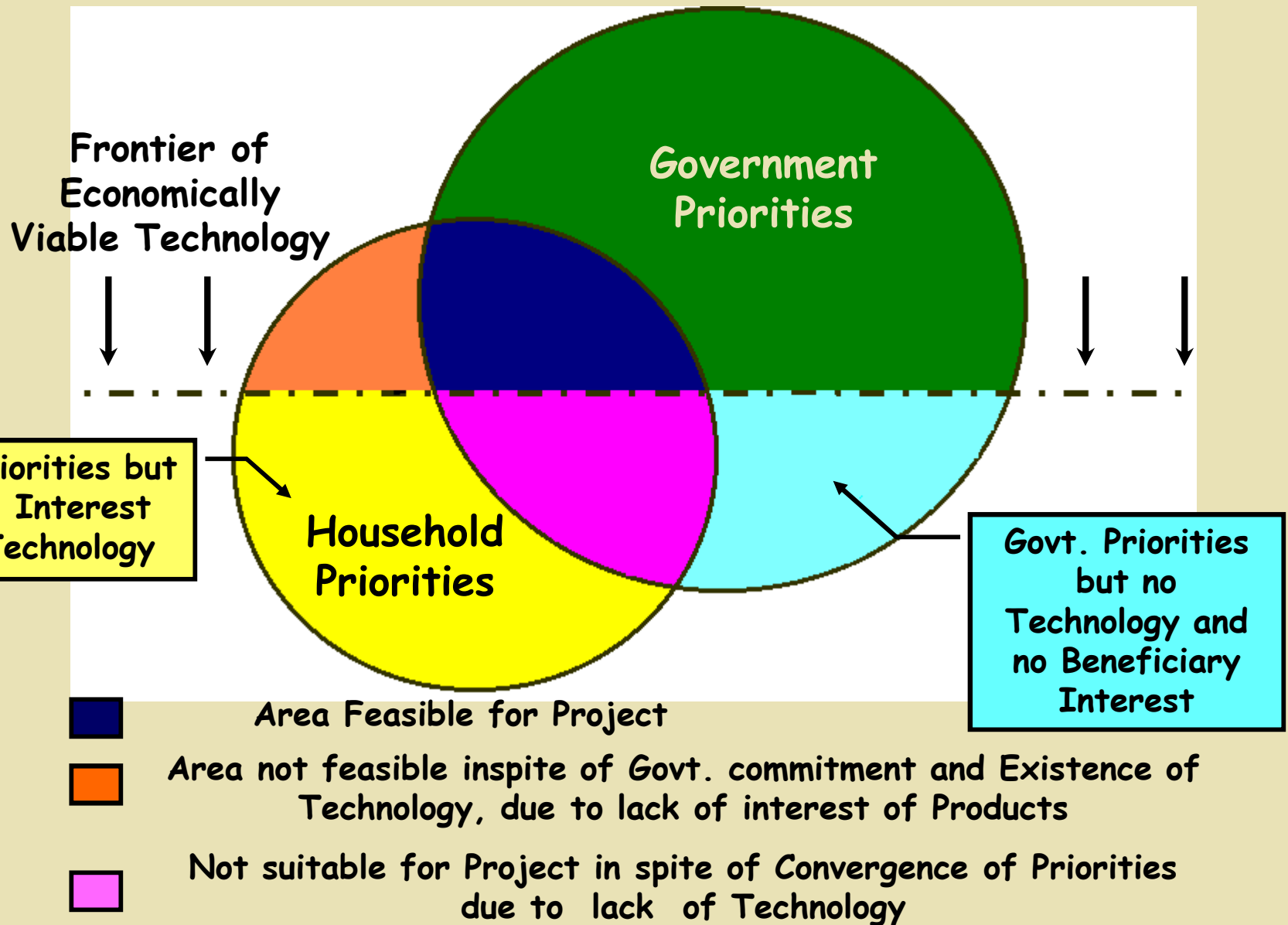
Arbitration

Submitting a conflict to a mutually agreeable third party, who renders a decision.

Coercion

Threatening or using force to impose one's will.

Convergence / Divergence between Priorities-implications for Project Design/ Settlement of conflicts





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- ◆ If not addressed in an effective and timely manner, natural resource conflicts can adversely affect community livelihoods and result in resource degradation.
- ◆ Alternative conflict management offers an innovative, multidisciplinary approach to understanding, analysing and managing conflicts both before and after they occur.
- ◆ It seeks the development of participatory and consensus-building strategies, and it builds upon existing formal and informal conflict management mechanisms within local communities.
- ◆ Alternative conflict management also seeks to strengthen the capacity of local institutions and communities to manage conflict and promote sustainable resource management.

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- ◆ *Thanks for your patient hearing*

