

***Comments On The Project "Forest For Food And Development" From Eminent
Persons, Apex Organisations And Leading Institutions***

1. Copy of letter Dated 25-05-82 from Shri Mohan Singh Mehta, President Seva Mandir, Udaipur and Ex Vice-Chancellor, University of Rajasthan, Jaipur.

Mr. Jain,

I have read your article with much interest. Your views are convincing. I am also feeling depressed at the existing state of affairs. We must continue our efforts.

2. Copy of letter No.IIFM/RVS/91/4195 Dated 15-11-1991 from Prof. R.V. Singh (IFS) to S.M. Jain Copy endorsed to Director, IIFM, Bhopal & Prof. V.K. Bahuguna, IFS.

Dear Sir,

Kindly refer to your letter No.SMJ/G/91, dated 01-11-91 addressed to the Director, IIFM, Bhopal. We thank you very much for your interest in our Institute.

We are ready to collaborate with your proposed research programme. However, this needs further discussion in the matter. Kindly make it convenient to discuss this matter with me or with Prof. V.K. Bahuguna, IFS at IIFM, Bhopal on 5th or 6th December 1991.

3. Copy of letter Dated 10-12-1990 from Guhathakurta (Sr. Project Officer (Forestry)) World Bank to S.M. Jain

Dear Mr. Jain:

Please refer to your letter no. SMJ/90 dated December 4, 1990.

We have read with interest your project profile and feel that you may consider to pose this project to the Indian Council of Forest Research and Education. However, we thank you very much for your interest in the Bank.

4. Copy of letter Dated 16-08-1988 from Mr. E. Bojadzievski (FAO Representative in India and Bhutan) to S.M. Jain

Dear Mr. Jain,

Thank you for your letter of 3rd August 1988 enclosing a copy of your project idea on Forest for Food and Development.

Through we find your proposal extremely relevant to FAO's mandate in India, we are unfortunately not in a position to entertain any requests other than those sent to us through the Ministry of Agriculture which is our nodal point in India. I would therefore request you to approach either the International Cooperation Division of the Ministry of Agriculture or the Ministry of Environment and Forests who would, after scrutiny and if found acceptable, forward your project idea to FAO for consideration.

5. Copy of letter No.Q-15025/1/88 Dated 22-08-1998 from Mr. H.M. Bhatia (Dy. Advisor, Forestry) endorsed to S.M. Jain.

Shri S.M. Jain has sent a research project on the subject mentioned above to Prof. M.G.K. Menon, Member, Planning Commission. This has been examined and found that this is a quite comprehensive research project report. Copies of the project report are enclosed for necessary action.

6. Copy of letter No. D.O. NO. MOS(S&T)/90-57 of Dated 13-01-1990 from Prof. M.G.K. Menon Minister of State to S.M. Jain.

My dear Shri S.M. Jain,

Thank you for your letter No. SMJ/90 dated 08-01-1990 concerning your project on "Forests for food development". I am forwarding your letter to the Secretary, Department of Science & Technology, to see what best can be done in this matter.

7. Copy of D.O. letter No.CMS.20/88/Pt of Dated 14-10-1988 from Shri P.K. Barua, ACS to S.M. Jain

Dear Shri Jain,

The Chief Minister, Assam has received the copy of your article "Forests for Food and Development" sent with your letter of 8th October, 1998.

The Chief Minister conveys his thanks for sending the article. The recommendations offered in your article will be examined.

8. Copy of D.O letter No. NWDBNC-IV/9/88 of Dated 21-09-1988 from Shri. Duleep Matthai Vice-Chairman (National Wastelands Development Board) to S.M. Jain

Dear Shri Jain

Please accept my apologies for not thanking you much earlier for your letter no. SMJ/88/ 117 dated 3.8.88 forwarded to me by our mutual friend Major General Baljit Singh. I was not able to write to you earlier as I had been out of India and have only recently returned.

I am passing on your proposal for detailed examination by the Board's Officers. A reply will be sent to you as soon as your proposal has been studied. I suggest you to meet me at the board office on your next visit to Delhi.

9. Copy of letter No. 7831/BS/20 of Dated 07.08.1988 from Major General Baljeet Singh, General Officer Commanding to Duleep Mutthai, Vice Chairman, National Wastelands Development Board, New Delhi and copy endorsed to S.M. Jain

(a) This is with reference to Mr. S.M. Jain's letter no SMJ/88/117 dated 3 Aug 88, addressed to you with a copy to me.

(b) I had the good fortune of meeting Mr. Jain and listen to his ideas on environment. I have also read his brief treatise on "Forest for Food and Development". As a lay environmentalist, it appeals to me immensely as a document of infallible wisdom.

(c) As you have a date with me at Kota, here is an added justification for you to make the of promised trip, the soonest. While I would share with you my divisions projects, Mr. Jain would also have an opportunity to talk about his project with you at the same time. I do hope we shall see you soon but please do let me know at least a week in advance, two tentative dates of your visit so that I can adjust my programmes accordingly.

10. Extract Copy of letter No. D.O. No. PA/FCI/88/2499 of Dated 20/04/1988 from Mr. A.K. Sachdev Secretary & Principal, Food Craft Institute, New Delhi.

Dear Sh. Jain,

I received your letter dated 3rd February, 1988 together with background paper on "Forest for Food and Development" and the proposed research project. I am extremely sorry for delay in reply. I have gone through the same and find the information a gold mine. The more I read it the more I am convinced that forests and their systematic regeneration will provide the country with food, fruits, timber and all sorts of value-added products. I wholehearted support the same.

11. Copy of letter dated 03-02-1988 of Maulana Syed Assarul Haq, Member of Parliament (Rajya Sabha) sent to Shri Bhajan Lal Minister of Environment & Forests New Delhi.

My Dear Shri. Bhajan Lalji,

I hope, you are aware of a very useful project "Forest for Food and Development" submitted by Shri S.M. Jain, Retired Forest Officer from Rajasthan. This project is pending in the Ministry of Environment and Forests since 11-10-1985. On earlier

draft of the project the MAB (Man and BioSPhere) Committee suggested some modifications with following comments -

"The author should be encouraged to resubmit the proposal as the study has the potentialities for suggesting a new model of development"

Accordingly Shri Jain has submitted the revised project vide his letter dated 03-10-87. I understand that the project is under active consideration of the department of environment.

I have carefully gone through the project and it has impressed me very much as it suggests to establish the forgotten food value of forests from a variety of edible and nutritious seeds, nuts, beans, leaves, tubers etc. of about 50,000 plant species available in our forests. The food production per hectare will be ten times more than that from agriculture and that too without any recurring cost. There will be no need for irrigation, chemical fertilisers and harmful toxic pesticides. In addition to food a variety of other products timber, fuel, oils, resins, gums, wax, dyes, fibres flosses etc. will also be available to promote cottage, small and big industries. There will be no need for high subsidies we are giving for sustaining the capital intensive, hi-tech agriculture. Once the food value of forests is scientifically established the farmers will take up tree planting themselves. It would reduce pollution, check floods and droughts and help save crores of rupees.

The project, if implemented would help evolve forest based model of life on sound scientific lines, which would ensure best use of existing and potential resources in such a way as to maintain for now and in perpetuity, the best possible sustained yield from the biosphere without in any way eroding or degrading the resource base. I strongly recommend that the project should be sanctioned as early as possible.

I request you to kindly give it your personal consideration to expedite its sanction.

12. Copy of letter No. F1/KOUNCS/88/650 of Dated 01-02-1988 from Prof. V.R. Mehta (Vice Chancellor), Kota Open University to S.M. Jain

Dear Shri Jain,

Many thanks for your letter No. SMJ/P/38 dated 20th January 1988. Your project sounds interesting and I would like to discuss with you as and when it is convenient for you.

13. Copy of letter No. KO/GM/R &TD/Tech-1/1408 of Dated 14-01-1988 from Mr. K.K. Verma, General Manager, Res. & Tech. Dev. (J.K. Syn. Ltd.) to S.M. Jain

Dear Sir.

Your letter dated the 9th November, 1987, addressed to Mr. Ramapati Singhania has been passed on to me for further action. The detailed project report on "Forest for Food and Development" enclosed along with aforesaid letter is of national interest and any technical assistance that is possible from our end will be rendered.

However, due to financial and other constraints we will not be able to assist you financially for this project. You will keep us informed of any technical assistance desired in this connection and we shall try to help you. In case you have any other point for discussion, you may please meet the undersigned on any convenient date.

14. Copy of letter Dated 11-01-1988 of Mr. Dal Chand Jain Member of Parliament (Lok Sabha) addressed to Shri. Bhajan Lal.

Dear Bhajan Lal Ji,

One spirited retired Forest Officer Shri S.M. Jain has submitted to your Ministry a synopsis of a Research Project on "Forest for Food and Development". The

project seeks to evaluate the nutritive value of forest products like seeds, nuts, leaves, fruits, tubers, etc. A copy of synopsis is enclosed.

I consider that this project if taken up might throw up interesting results and open up avenues for solution of long term food problem. I commend the project for your consideration.

15. Copy of letter No.14/PS/RR(P)/86-1 Dated 14-11-1986 from S. Bagchee, Private Secretary to Rajya Raksha Mantri, New Delhi to S.M. Jain.

Dear Mr. S.M. Jain,

I write to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of 18th October, 1986 addressed to Shri Shivraj Patil, Minister of State for Defence production and supplies, enclosing a copy of your paper "Forest for Food and Development". The Minister has gone through the same with interest.

16. Copy of letter dated 14-10-86 from Dr. D.C. Jain to S.M. Jain

Respected Sri Jainji,

I have received a letter from Belgium. Your article on new food sources has been much appreciated throughout the world. I am enclosing the photocopy of the letter. Kindly reply them.

Your letter published in Hindustan Times has received attention by many people. Kindly keep it up.

17. Copy of letter Dated 14-08-1986 of Mr. Carl Heast, Lima-Belgium, addressed to Dr. D.C. Jain, New Delhi.

Dear Dr. Jain,

For some reason your letter and the souvenir about the World Conference reached us only now.

We were most impressed by the article of Mr. S.M. Jain which we feel is one of the best analysis that exist on this topic.

Our company, next year 30 years in existence, is relentlessly promoting organic agriculture all over the world. Since we know that is the only way out for our planet, organic agriculture being based on recycling and not on predatory cultivation. We currently transform some 4000 tonnes per year of cereals and pulses per year out of organic culture.

We promote cereals, vegetables and fruits as the basis of the human nutritional plan, hence (semi) vegetarianism.

We would be very pleased if we could have a contribution form yourself or Mr. S.M. Jain for our jubilee book next year.

18. Copy of letter No. OH/fp/1 of dated 01-11-1985 from Mr. Ole Hamann, Plants Officer, International Union for Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources, Switzerland to S.M. Jain.

Dear Dr. Jain,

Many thanks for your letter of 22nd October and the enclosed project outline. Unfortunately, the copy of your paper "Forest for Food and Development" was not enclosed. I would certainly like to read it if you would forward a copy to me.

The project idea represented is very interesting and represent a comprehensive way of looking at conservation and development. The long-term commitment from a funding agency to implement such a project is, however, outside the reach of our modest IUCN/WWF Plants Conservation Programme. Such commitment should be sought directly from organisation like FAO and major aid-agencies. On a more technical level, I think that an in situ conservation element should be

included in such a project to ensure that those priority forest species on which the project will be based also will be ensured survival in the wild.

19. Copy of letter No. ESRF/3560 dated 25-04-1985 from Mr. Sanjeev Gupta, Secretary, Economic and Scientific Research Foundation, FICCI, New Delhi to S.M. Jain.

Dear Mr. Jain

Please refer to your letter of 12th April addressed to D. N. Patodia, our President - Elect suggesting that ESRF undertake a research project on "Forest for Food and Development". We agree with you that the subject matter is important and needs to be researched. However in view of paucity of funds ESRF will not be able to undertake this project. In case anybody/Institution wishes to sponsor this project, ESRF would be most happy to undertake it.

20. Copy of letter No. Ps/1286 dated 05-08-1983 from Mr. H.K. Jain, Director, Indian Agricultural Research Institute. New Delhi to S.M. Jain

Dear Shri Jain,

Thank you very much for your letter no. SMJ/RO 13/2375 of 29th July, 1983. I have been reading the manuscripts which you have sent with considerable interest.

21. Extract Copy of letter dated 13-05-1983 of Mr. Ashok Khosla, of Development Alternatives, New Delhi to S.M. Jain.

Dear Mr. Jain,

I read your paper on "Forest for Food and Development" with the greatest interest and found it most informative. The research programme outlined at the end of the paper seems both valuable and realistic.

22. Copy of D.O. letter No. NEHU/ VCF -12/83-246 dated 25.04.83 from Mr. B.D. Sharma, Vice-Chancellor, North-Eastern Hill University Shillong to S.M. Jain

Dear Shri Jain,

I am in receipt of your letter of 8th April, 1983. You have raised many basic questions in your article "Forest for Food and Development". I have also gone through the outline of the proposed research programme. I find that the objectives are very wide and I doubt if justice can be done to any of those aspects within the limited frame which you envisaged by way of support, etc. It is better to pursue one specific idea and concentrate on it so that worthwhile materials can be collected and certain valid policies can also be drawn from it. If you propose to pursue the studies, please reformulate your project. It should be possible for the Indian council of Social Science Research or even the Ministry of Agriculture to support such a programme.

23. Copy of letter dated 21-04-1983 of Mr. Edward Goldsmith, Editor of "The Ecologist" U.K. to S.M. Jain

Dear Mr. Jain,

I have just read your letter to my secretary Hilary Datchens. I agree with everything you say. Could we not have a copy of the paper you read at the conference on the environment in Delhi, we would love to publish it in The Ecologist.

I hope to be in Delhi next January and shall not fail to look you up as I am also very keen to discuss all these issues with you.

You might be interested in a little book I did some years ago called the Stable Society which I am sending under separate mail.

24. Extract Copy of letter Dated 30-03-1983 of Shri. Sunder Lal Bahuguna, Environmentalist, Silyara, Tehri, Garhwal, U.P to S.M. Jain

Dear Mr. Jain,

Thank you for your kind letter of March 14th, along with your paper and project proposal. I thoroughly read the paper and was delighted to find in you an enthusiastic and learned supporter of my ideas. My dream is to see the whole mankind living of nuts, fruits, tubers, and other forest products.

25. Copy of letter No. 4000-NRDC(1)/82 dated 22.12.1982 of Dr. Y. Venkatesham, Chief Engineer (Projects), National Development Corporation of India, New Delhi addressed to Director, Central Food Technological Research Institute, Mysore and copy endorsed to S.M. Jain.

Dear Sir,

I understand from S.M. Jain, Rural Development Officer, Indian Sugar mills Association, Sugar House, 39, Nehru Place, New Delhi that you are working on the food values of various forest based fruits, seeds, flowers etc.

In the present days of food and edible oil shortages, It is very desirable that our country explores the possibility of utilising every source of food and oil. As in the past most of the forest based sources were being utilised by "Adivasis" and other's, it will be useful if this practice is revived to meet the food shortage and also to avoid malnutrition amongst tribes and rural population which is below the poverty line.

You may be aware that NRDC under its programme on "Development and Promotion of Appropriate Technologies", would be interested in taking up any suitable technology that may be developed for providing nutrition to the villagers and tribes living in the forests. Our Corporation has already developed several need based technologies for rural population. A booklet entitled "Appropriate Rural Technologies" is enclosed for you kind information.

We shall be happy to receive any proposal for development of appropriate technologies to meet the food shortages in the country.

26. Copy of letter No. 4000-NRDC(2)/82/ dated 20-11-1982 of Mr. Y. Venkatesham, Chief Engineer (Projects) of National Research Development Corporation of India to S.M. Jain

Dear Shri Jain,

Thank you very much for your letter enclosing a copy of your article entitled "Forest for Food and Development" and a copy of the research proposals.

I shall appreciate very much if you could find time to visit us and have discussions regarding financing of the project.

27. Copy of letter No. FT-316(3)/PMES/82/9967 dated 12-07-82 of A. V. Venkatesham, Coordinator, Central Food Technological Research Institute, Mysore to S.M. Jain

Dear Shri Jain,

Kindly refer to your letter no SMJ/1881 dated 5th July 1982 addressed to our Director. In the two papers which you have enclosed as well as your letter, one can come across a good deal of facts and a number of ideas which merit attention. At our institute we have made efforts on studying some of the trees, seeds, fats, for their fitness for human consumption, to facilitate augmenting edible fat supplies in our country. We have also subjected Mahua flower as a possible source of sugar for fermentation processes.

While welcoming your suggestion of associating you in the kind of programmes that you have suggested for being undertaken in our Institute, I may suggest to you that you also kindly get in touch with Minor Forest Products Branch of the Forest Research Institute at Dehradun. Also, if you are able to obtain reliable data on the quantity of availability and also the sources for the seeds/flowers/fruits

originating from the forests which merit R&D efforts at our Institute, you may kindly communicate the same to us for our study. As you may be aware, deploying inputs for R&D programmes at our Institute, it is necessary to be clear on the economic justification for which statistics provides solid foundation. Your participation on this aspects of programme initially would be most welcome.

28. Copy of letter No. D.O. No. 14/242/85-MAB/RE Dated 17-04-1986 of Mr. B.S. Attri, Principal Scientific Officer and Secretary to S.M. Jain

Dear Dr. Jain

Thank you very much for your letter dated 14th April, 1986 seeking a copy of the observation of the MAB committee. In this connection I am directed to inform you that the decision of the MAB committee is a collective one and it is either in negative or in positive. However, I am enclosing herewith the comments of the referees on your project which you may like to see. "The author should be encouraged to re-submit the proposal as the study has the potentialities for suggesting, a new model of development".

29. Extract Copy of letter No. 0.42/dated 31-08-1982 of Mr. P.G. Tulpule, Director, National Institute of Nutrition, Hyderabad to S.M. Jain

Dear Shri Jain

I have received your letter no. 2224 dated 29th July, 1982. One of the important activities of our institute is the nutritive value of foods consumed by different population groups in the country. I am sending herewith a few extracts of over annual reports of the work done in this area, for your information. As a part of this programme, we are interested in the study of common as well as uncommon (or less familiar) foods, for their nutritional evaluation.

We very much appreciate your interest in the foods of forest origin.

□□□

**Copy of letter dated 04-08-05 from
Edward Goldsmit, Editor "The Ecologist", U.K.**

Dear Dr. Jain,

Thank you very much for sending me your most impressive manuscript on Environmental Ethics. I read it with great interest and have actually photocopied the chapter Forests-based life-style, pages 51-59.

I do not agree with you about religion. I think humans are naturally religious and if one destroys the transcendental religion (if the term is appropriate) it is rapidly replaced by a secular religion of some sort – a category in which one could classify fascism, communism and even modern science & technology which provide the basis over the religion of progress. I have always rejected the idea of progress. For me there is only one problem in the world and it's called progress. You may not agree with me. In any case I am sending you, under separate cover, a copy of my book "The Way - An ecological world view".

Yours sincerely,

Sd/-

Edward Goldsmith

Mr. Edward Goldsmith
Editor "The Ecologist"
91 Sheen Street, Richmond,
Surrey TW9 1YJ,
United Kingdom (U.K.)

Dear Mr. Goldsmith,

I got your letter dated 04-08-05 in time. I did not write to you earlier as I anxiously awaited your book *The Way an Ecological World View* which you promised to send vide your letter dated 29-05-05 and 04-08-05. **I request you to kindly send the book at your earliest.**

I am happy to note that you are impressed by the contents of the chapter "Forest-based life-style" in the manuscript of my book "Environmental Ethics". As regards your comments about development I have emphatically stated that development, change or evolution, whatever nomenclature we may give, which though inevitable, should not in any circumstance, put burden or pressure on natural resources and environment beyond their respective carrying capacities.

I thank you for your comments on the chapter "Rationality" in my book. I do not know as to how you have interpreted "Rationality" as against "Religion". I am personally deeply religious ethically. I try to follow the good tenets rationally and not with orthodox, traditional, dogmatic, superstitious, compulsive obsession. I just do not believe in the superstitious rituals and dogmatism. I hope you will bear with me that one must be rational in belief, knowledge and action in all spheres including religion. I request you to kindly take the trouble of reading my book "Pristine Jainism".

With regards.

Yours sincerely

Sd/-

S.M. Jain