

## INTRODUCTION

The forests are one of man's very important natural renewable resources. They can be used for recreation, for conservation and for utilization of the products obtained from them. For recreational use, the forests are made into sanctuaries and national parks, where people walk, picnic, and enjoy a change of surroundings from the city in form of ecotourism. Forests conserve naturally the soil, the water, the flora and fauna. Man does not have to do much to keep this going, other than not to destroy the forest, or not to replace it after use. The purpose of the forests, in which the foresters should be most interested, is its total utilization. This means the various uses to which the forest produce can be put. By far the largest amount of things sold from materials taken from the forest are made of wood in one form or another. Studying the journey from wood in the forest to an article or material which can be sold to the public, is completed in three steps:

- Learning about the properties of wood.
- Learning how to decide that one kind of wood is best for a certain kind of product.
- Learning the various operations and processes that have to take place in order to change the wood from the forest into the article or material that will sell to the public.

This is accomplished with the study of Timber Harvesting, Wood Anatomy, Wood Technology, Forest Industries and marketing; each of which is a specialized subject of Forest Utilization.

Fig. 12.3 explains the holistic approach of the forest resource utilization.

## DEFINITION

- (i) *Forest Utilization* is a branch of forestry concerned with the harvesting, conversion, disposal and use of forest produce.
- (ii) It is that branch of Forestry which deals with the most advantageous and suitable methods of collecting/harvesting, converting, and disposing profitably of forest produce in accordance with the results of experience and study, consistent with the strictest rules of forest culture, the most complete satisfaction of our wants and the securing of highest possible profit.

*Forest Produce:* All material yielded by a forest estate. It may include earth, stone, gravel and minerals. It is classified as:

- (1) Major Forest Produce – timber, smallwood and firewood, and
- (2) Minor Forest Produce – all forest produce, other than major forest produce, including grass, fruit, leaves, animal products, soil and minerals. Also known as Forest Produce other than wood or Non Timber Forest Produce.

*Subject Matter:* Forest Utilization can be dealt under following heads:

- I. Harvesting and Conversion of Wood – Utilization of Major Forest Produce.
- II. Utilization of Non Timber Forest Produce.
- III. Labour Organization, Modes of Sale and Disposal of Wood and other Forest Produce.