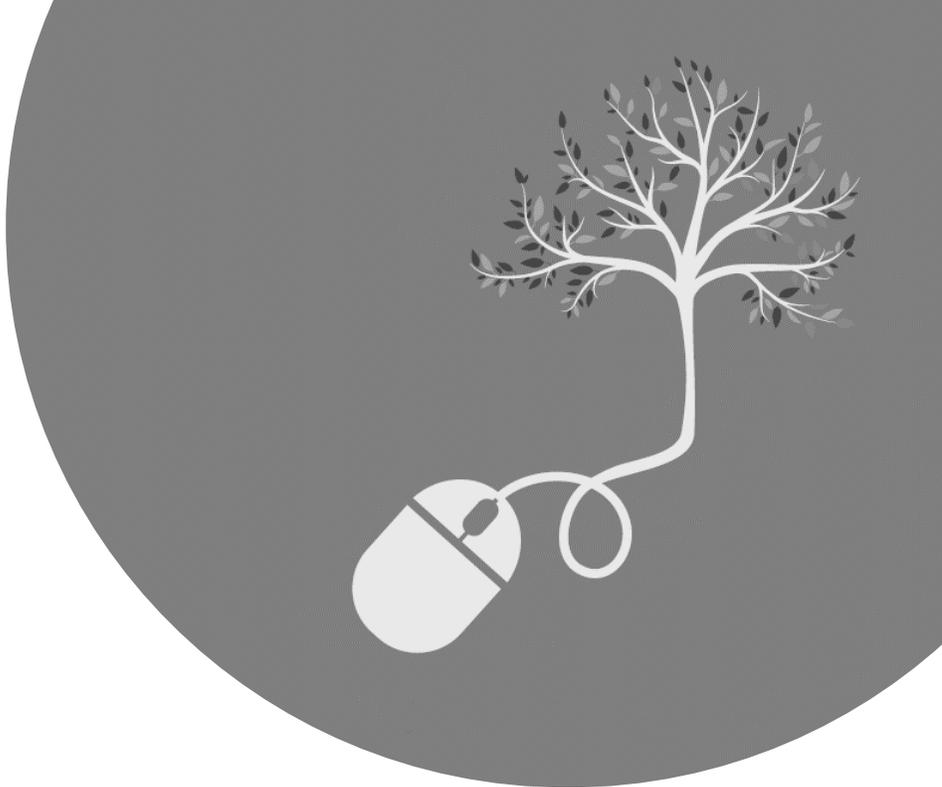




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A LEARNING MANAGEMENT SYSTEM FOR INDIA'S FOREST SECTOR

A Forest-PLUS developed online learning platform for forestry

Online learning platforms can expand the reach of instructors and allow them to focus on interaction with learners rather than content delivery; for learners, these platforms increase their ability to access and interact with the instructor. Forest-PLUS, a partnership between USAID and the Indian Ministry of Forestry and Climate Change, focuses on innovations that help Indian forestry meet the challenges of the modern era. A Forest-PLUS developed product, the Forest-PLUS Learning Management System (LMS) is a full-fledged online learning platform for Indian Forestry.

WHAT IT IS

Based on the open-source learning platform moodle¹, the LMS is a flexible online system for professionals and students interested in the forest sector. It contains courses focused on forestry in India and can be customized for the needs of the institution and instructor. In addition, it connects to an online virtual laboratory for carbon inventory, the Forest Data Management System, and a mobile app for data collection, mForest.

¹ Moodle.org

BENEFITS

TESTED, TRUSTWORTHY CONTENT FOR LECTURERS AND LEARNERS

The LMS contains courses focused on bringing those familiar with the forest sector up to date on the latest developments and best practices. These are:

1. A course on the principles of forest carbon measurement, focused on teaching the why and how of carbon measurement and accounting, spanning the policies that undergird REDD+ to practical considerations for implementation.
2. A course on an Ecosystem Approach to Forest Management, which orients learners to forest management with the objective of a sustained yield of multiple ecosystem services.

All the courses have been used in classroom trainings for hundreds of learners throughout India over the last four years.

FACILITATES BEST PRACTICES IN TEACHING AND LEARNING

The platform facilitates connecting to learners at their own pace, and allows instructors the flexibility to connect to them amidst their other obligations. This permits working professionals with a base in another location to access continuing professional development opportunities without placing undue burdens on them or their institutions.

For learners resident in a teaching institution the LMS allows instructors to “flip the classroom”, using the LMS to provide content delivery, tests of learning, and receipt and grading of course assignments, leaving the instructor the time to interact with students in a laboratory setting or in the classroom.

PROVIDES A PLATFORM FOR LEARNING ON FOREST CARBON MANAGEMENT

The LMS connects directly to the Forest-PLUS Forest Data Management System (DMS). This affords the opportunity of a virtual laboratory for hands-on learning. Further expansion is possible using a mobile application for forest inventory, mForest. This can be used to facilitate a field course in forest carbon inventory, with the design, field data collection and analysis done electronically.

WHO CAN USE IT

The LMS is available platform for any Indian institution involved in forest management to have and use. The software and content can be downloaded and installed on any web-enabled linux server, from which the institution can customize the platform, as well as provide access and control for use as it finds suitable.

TO GET THE LMS FOR YOUR INSTITUTION:

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