

**Proceedings**

**of**

**STAKEHOLDERS' CONSULTATION MEET-2011**

**Nagpur, MS**

**on**

**Setting Research Priorities**

**of**

**Tropical Forest Research Institute, Jabalpur**

**(20th June, 2011)**

Stakeholders' meet was organized at Van Sabhagriha, Nagpur (Maharashtra) on 20th June, 2011. Dr. M.S. Negi, Director, TFRI welcomed the delegates and participants, representing MS State Forest Department (SFD), non-government organizations (NGOs), etc. Dr. Negi highlighted the purpose of the meet, emphasizing its need for setting research priorities of the state and accordingly formulation of research projects.

Dr. Negi felicitated Shri AK Joshi, PCCF (M.S.), Nagpur as Chief Guest of the function and Dr. S.K. Khetarpal, PCCF (Wild Life), Nagpur as guest of honour and other dignitaries, including Shri VK Mohan APCCF (RET), Pune; Dr. Anmol Kumar, CCF, Nagpur; Shri Bhagwan, General Manager, FDCM; Shri Anil Mohan, CCF (IT & Policy); Shri Ramanuj Choudhary, CCF (E & N), MS Nagpur; Shri Jarnail. Singh, CCF (WP), Nagpur; Dr. Mohan Jha, CCF (Vigilance & SW), Nagpur; Shri TK Choubey, CF (Working Plan), Dr. SH Patil, CCF & Dy DG, Social Forestry, Nagpur; Shri G. Sai Prakash, CF Pune; Dr. VM Ilorkar, Sr. Scientist & Head, Agroforestry Centre, College of Agril. Nagpur; Shri S.P. Thakre, CF (WD) & Director M.V.S.S. Chandrapur; Shri RB Malave, Asst. Silviculturist, MS, Shri MS Ravinagar, Asst. Silviculturist, Nagpur; Dr. SS Bisen, retired Scientist, ICFRE; Shri Kamlakar Dhamge, Publicity & Information Office (Forest) MS; Shri Vaibhav Kalex, Represent Sandip Gadekar, Wonder grass Initiative Pvt. Ltd., Nagpur, Shri RK Wankhade, Regional Manager (Planning) FDCM Ltd., F. D. C. M Ltd., Nagpur; Shri AM Rathod, Regional Manager WFP & Asst. FDCM Ltd., Nagpur; Shri PJ Thosre, PCCF ( P & M), MS, Nagpur; Shri SG Tembhornihar, RM FDCM Ltd. Nagpur; Shri VK Mathur, AGM (AUD) NTPC, Noida, Noida; Shri UK Manusmare, AFO Research Chandrapur.

Dr. V. Nath, GCR, TFRI, Jabalpur made a brief power point presentation, highlighting research mandate and jurisdiction of the institute such as eco-restoration and rehabilitation of mined areas, development and demonstration of agroforestry models, forest protection, biofertilizers and biopesticides, non-wood forest products and planting stock improvement and core competence/themes (non-wood forest products, forest protection and biofertilizers, genetic improvement and ecosystem conservation and management) for Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh and Maharashtra. Dr. Nath also showcased salient findings of ongoing research projects, scientific strengths and extension activities of the institute.

Shri A.K. Joshi emphasized research on sustainable harvesting like that of *Terminalia arjuna* bark. He also stressed on strengthening of Van Vigyan Kendra and contributory research action plan by the department and Maharashtra Forest Institute. He inquired about bio-agent

released for insect control, stage of application in the field, expenditure per unit area, etc. Dr. N. Kulkarni, Scientist F, TFRI explained about field application of bio-agents for control of insect pests. Shri Joshi also inquired about harvesting technique of bamboo on sustainable basis. The institute did not work on this aspect of bamboo. However, Dr. A.K. Pandey, Scientist F, TFRI pointed out existence of vast literature and the training programmes organized on bamboo by TFRI incorporated such information. Shri Joshi was also apprehensive about removal of *Lantana*, for it also provides shelter to some fauna. He informed that MS forest dept has funded one project on *Lantana* to PVK, Akola. Regarding NWFPs, the seed of *Hyptis* can be used as binder for making aggarbattis. Direct application of mahua flower, sitaphal, jamun fruits, etc. should be worked out. The PCCF stressed the need for compilation of research work done by the TFRI and MS forest department in a booklet form.

Dr. Mohan Jha, CCF (Vigilance & SW) PCCF office, Nagpur inquired about commercialization of biopesticide. Dr. N. Kulkarni explained the strategy and constraints for the same. Shri S.G. Tembhurnikar, RM FDCM Ltd., Nagpur informed that the protocol provided by TFRI, Jabalpur for control of white grub was highly successful in the nursery. Shri Jha expressed that Van Vihyan Kendra, Jhalna spread over 5-10ha near the town should be developed with hostel facility and a lecture hall. TFRI was urged to collaborate in developing agroforestry model for degraded land. Dr. V. M. Ilorkar, Sr. Scientist & Head, Agroforestry centre, College of Ag., Nagpur informed that his centre has developed models for Vidarbha region.

Shri V.K. Mohan stressed location specific project for bamboo. Dr. A.K. Pandey expressed his interest for the same.

Shri Anil Mohan urged for development of a collaborative plan with Wild Life Institute for sustainable utilization of bael fruits from a number of very good trees, without adversely affecting dependent wild life, in Pandharkawda.

Dr. S.S. Bisen, retired Scientist, ICFRE revealed relationship between rosagrass and tiger, the former helping the latter in healing of wounds. Likewise hill maina depends on *Ficus infectoria*. Relationship of MFP collection and wild life should clearly be mentioned in working plan. Shri Jarnial Singh also stressed the need for protection of ecosystem and wild life.

Shri G. Sai Prakash, CF, Pune presented the following observations along with items of work Identified at Stakeholders meet:

1. It has been observed that many a time deliberations during the meetings on different issues end up with commonly arrived issues for action; which are not usually and scrupulously followed or reviewed. Therefore in order to make such meetings meaningful and more objective in terms of identification, execution and followup, henceforth, all the decisions arrived at after deliberations, need to be drafted in the form of a statement of activity depicting the name of the individual/organization/'s expected to perform the action, which can be reviewed and monitored in the form of an Action Taken Report (ATR) at the time of the next Stake Holders conference or any Review meeting.
2. Various representatives of TFRI made their presentations regarding mandate of the TFRI, experiments undertaken and their achievements so far. One of the presentations referred to the development of standard practices for sustainable utilization of NTFP. Hence considering the expertise developed by the TFRI, it was decided that TFRI shall suggest such practices for the prioritized species for the State of Maharashtra.
3. The package of practices for the processing of NTFP species developed by TFRI, Jabalpur, should be given to the Maharashtra Forest Department. These methods could be disseminated throughout the state in the local language to achieve the objective of extension in a better way.
4. The Social Forestry Directorate co-ordinates the National Bamboo Mission in the State of Maharashtra and is the nodal agency for coordinating activities of the Green Guards. The Process regarding Recycling of Paper developed by the TFRI, if transferred to the SFD, would facilitate greater publicity and application of the process developed in TFRI.
5. In the backdrop of Bamboo exploitation rights being claimed and given under the Forest Rights Act, TFRI should standardize the technique of raising, harvesting and processing of Bamboo.
6. Monetary grants to enable translation of the Research work developed by TFRI into Marathi language should be given to the MFD by TFRI and needful provision be made in the budget. Similarly a brief booklet or publication could be brought out in Marathi highlighting the Research achievements of TFRI.
7. Methodologies of utilization of Invasive Weeds like *Lantana* by conversion into useful products need to be developed.
8. Bamboo in most places is in a state of congestion, making the process of working difficult. In view of the expertise developed at Balaghat in Madhya Pradesh, technique of working of Bamboo in congested clumps needs to be developed by TFRI.

9. TFRI should develop a project to study the working of Bamboo, which is normally harvested at intervals of 3 years as per working plan prescriptions, whereas some progressive farmers do harvest on an annual basis. It is imperative that the TFRI study both the processes of harvest, and arrive at a research finding for better management and higher sustainable returns from bamboo clumps.
10. The Buffer Areas around the Protected Areas are home to the wildlife that frequents such areas. However practices of exploitation of kasbes that will not cause disturbance to the Wildlife habitats need to be developed. TFRI should develop protocol for sustainable and wildlife friendly harvest of Bamboo around the protected areas.
11. TFRI should develop economical practices of harvest of species like Bael, coupled with value addition to such produce.
12. Exploitation of NTFP in the forests does affect the survival of wildlife dependant on the produce; however, there is no data defining the limits of such collection, which could ensure that the wildlife dependant on NTFP is not deprived of its food. Hence the extent to which the collection of NTFP from the forests affects the wildlife of habitat, needs to be taken up by TFRI in consultation with the Wildlife Institute of India.
13. TFRI should increase their contribution and inputs towards the establishment of Van Vigyan Kendra at Jalna. APCCF (RET) should study the works done and suggest improvements.
14. The staffs with the Research Wing are not specially trained in areas of Forest Research and analysis. TFRI should undertake periodic training for the staff of the Research wing including the Range Forest Officers and the Assistant Conservators of forests.
15. The causes of decrease in yield of Seed Production Areas (SPA) in Teak in Maharashtra need to be investigated.
16. The machinery developed for treatment of teak seed need to be utilized and popularized in the State.
17. TFRI should suggest Topics of Research to be taken up by the Research Wing of Maharashtra.

Shri V.K. Mathur, AGM (AUD) NTPC, Noida, A-II, NTPC, NFL Premises, Noida made presentation and displayed a film show on use of fly ash in reclamation of degraded forests. Shri M.S. Chawla, GM appraised the house that technical assistance of TFRI would help in building up the confidence for carrying out research on management of fly ash. PCCF MS desired joint project for degraded site in MS.

Some additional issues related with the forestry research was communicated by the CCF, Pune, Maharashtra for consideration of TFRI and Maharashtra Forest Department and annexed at Annexure-I.

Based on the interactive discussion and suggestions made by different delegates, following common research priority areas emerged, which might help scientists and researchers to formulate research projects for the forthcoming 21<sup>th</sup> RAG of the institute.

## **RECOMMENDATIONS**

1. Standard practices for sustainable utilization of NTFP. Hence considering the expertise developed by the TFRI, it was decided that TFRI shall suggest such practices for the prioritized species for the State of Maharashtra.
2. Development of Agroforestry model for degraded land.
3. Sustainable utilization of bael fruits coupled with value addition to such produce which should not have any adverse effect on wild life feed upon it in collaboration with Wild Life Institute.
4. Location specific projects for bamboo. The Social Forestry Directorate co-ordinates the National Bamboo Mission in the State of Maharashtra and is the nodal agency for coordinating activities of the Green Guards. The Process regarding Recycling of Paper developed by the TFRI, if transferred to the SFD would facilitate greater publicity and application of the process developed in TFRI.
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The meeting ended with a vote of thank by Dr. N. Kulkarni, Head, Extension Division, TFRI, Jabalpur.

## **Appendix 1**

List of issues forwarded by CCF, Maharashtra: -

1. Soil and water conservation techniques and their probable application in Forest Management.
2. Improvement of Productivity of Grassland/ Rangeland for overall improvement of wildlife habitat. Establishment of Hortipasture and Silvipasture on wasteland/Forestlands.
3. Establishment of Biofencing to reduce damage to Agricultural crops by wild animals.
4. Use of biofertilizers for improving the productivity of forest. (Nursery/Field).
5. Use of forest biomass for production of organic manure and value added products.
6. Control of disease (nursery) using zero pesticides (Soil solarisation) etc.
7. Rejuvenation of degraded bamboo forest / plantations.
8. Improving the productivity of MFP yielding species. eg. Kull (*Sterculia urens*), Dhawd (*Anogisus latifolia*), Tendu (*Dispyros melnoxylan*), dry land fruit Char (*Buchnanania lanzan*), Karvand, Jamun, Khirni, Hirda, Behda, Biba etc.
9. People participation in forest management of forest based industries, lac culture, apiculture, sericulture, bamboo working.
10. Mechanization of forestry operations.