

PROCEEDINGS OF THE MEETING HELD ON 14<sup>th</sup> AUGUST, 2013, ON NURSERY  
DESIGN AND OPERATIONS, AT ARANYA BHAVAN

JICA assisted West Bengal Forest and Biodiversity Conservation (WBFBC) Project has been launched in the State since August 2012. The Project Management Unit (PMU) of WBFBC Project has recently appointed the Project Management Consultant (PMC). One of the initial tasks of the PMU is to set up the Hi-tech nurseries – 20 nos. new and 20 nos capacity expansion of the existing ones—in the state to cater to the Quality Planting Material (QPM) for the plantations to be undertaken from next year. With a view to gathering first hand knowledge, the experts of the PMC visited some of the nurseries and plantations of South Bengal. During the visit, the experts had lots of interactions with not only the members of the PMU but also the field level staff, so that the Nursery Manual could be developed quickly.

A meeting was therefore held at Aranya Bhavan on 14<sup>th</sup> August, 2013 to decide on some of the cardinal issues regarding nursery design and nursery operations. The meeting was presided over by Shri S.B. Mondal, PCCF (HoFF) West Bengal and the following persons were present.

From the Forest Directorate:

1. Shri N.C Bahuguna, PCCF Wildlife
2. Shri D.Ghosh, PCCF Research, Monitoring & Development
3. Shri U. Bhattacharya, PCCF General
4. Shri S.Dhaundyal, APCCF Finance & Chief Project Director, WBFBCP
5. Shri N. Pandey, APCCF Human Resource Development
6. Shri R.R. Pandey, APCCF Research & Development
7. Shri B.R Sharma, CCF South West Circle
8. Shri R.K.Mahtolia, CCF Conservation & Extension
9. Shri S. Barari, CCF Finance & Project Director (Finance), WBFBCP
10. Shri R.R.P Singh, CCF Research
11. Shri V.K. Yadav, CCF Central Circle
12. Shri R. Kumar, CCF South East Circle
13. Shri S.Chaudhuri, CCF Spl Development Project & Addl. PD, WBFBCP

From the PMC (Experts):

1. Dr Hans Kooijk, Forestry Expert and Team Leader, PMC
2. Dr Salabh Bharadwaj, GIS & E-Governance Expert, PMC

At the onset the PCCF (HoFF) West Bengal welcomed everybody and requested the participants to give inputs on the cardinal issues regarding hi-tech nurseries proposed in the WBFBC Project, so that decisions on these could be firmed up, for follow up actions by the consultant experts. The discussions held and decisions taken are presented below.

**1. Container Nursery :** In the mid-nineties Forest Directorate introduced Root trainer in modern (central) nurseries under the World Bank aided West Bengal Forestry Project. About 15 nurseries were developed throughout the state. However, till date, use of polypot in nurseries has not been done away with completely. In some of the nurseries, there has been an apparent roll back to polypots. Participants discussed the issue and converged on the opinion that a written directive on large scale use of root trainer should have been issued, once the container nursery (with root trainer) attained a level of success during the West Bengal Forestry Project.

**Decision :**

- (i) *Under the JICA assisted West Bengal Forest and Biodiversity Conservation Project the High tech Central nurseries should be set up with Root Trainers only.*
- (ii) *For developing full fledged Root Trainer nursery, fund from other schemes have to be pooled by the implementing units, if necessary.*
- (iii) *Experts of PMC should develop specifications for Root Trainer Nursery as early as possible.*

2. **Use of Quality seed:** Use of quality seed is one of the critical aspects of raising quality planting material. It was unanimously agreed upon that there cannot be any compromise on the quality of seeds

**Decision:**

- (i) Only "source-identified" seeds, from Seed Stands, or Plus trees marked by Research wing should be used in nurseries.
- (ii) Heads of DMUs should ensure that the seeds are collected centrally and not through all the ranges, from the identified seed sources of Research wing only.
- (iii) Seeds from identified seed source should be collected by the field staff of the respective DMUs and not through other collecting agents.
- (iv) The identity of the seed source should invariably recorded in the plantation journal.
- (v) Silviculture divisions will technically monitor the seed collection.

3. **Potting Mixture :** Other important aspect of container nursery is the use of medium. Several trials have been done in the past for developing good potting mixture and good compost in a scale that could cater to the seedlings / clones raised in the Central nurseries. Participants, including the experts agreed that development of good, light potting mixture is very important for growing healthy seedlings or clones having desirable root : shoot ratio.

**Decision:**

- (i) Experts of PMC should prescribe ideal potting mixture for important species as early as possible.
- (ii) Use of compost must be included in the nursery manual. Compost may be developed from the locally available raw material with simple techniques to be suggested by the experts.
- (iii) The expert on IGA should explore the possibility of developing a scheme for the SHGs who could make compost as per specification and supply to the nurseries. The SHG members may be trained in composting / vermi-composting, if necessary.

4. **Special consideration for plantations of North West Circle :** A point was raised that, though the plantations in the divisions under North West Circle requires mound planting, no fund is provided. It also revealed that the plantation models for North Bengal, unlike South Bengal, do not have Soil Conservation as an integral component.

**Decision:** It was decided that the PMU will look into the possibility of including North West Circle in South Bengal so that fund under Soil Conservation, integrated in the South Bengal plantation models, could be utilised for mound planting.

The meeting ended with thanks to the Chair.

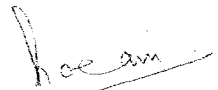
Sd/-  
(S.B. Mondal)  
Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (HoFF)  
West Bengal

No. 4353/P&S(P)/3D-257

Dated; 26 August, 2013

Copy forwarded for information and necessary action to :

1. PCCF Wildlife and Chief Wildlife Warden, West Bengal
2. PCCF Research, Monitoring and Development, West Bengal
3. PCCF General, West Bengal
4. The Chief Project Director, West Bengal Forest & Biodiversity Conservation Project
5. All Adtl PCCFs, including Director Sundarban Biosphere Reserve, West Bengal
6. All Chief Conservator of Forests, West Bengal
7. All Field Directors, West Bengal
8. All Conservator of Forests, West Bengal
9. All Divisional Forest Officers, West Bengal. They are requested to issue necessary directions to the concerned ranges

  
Chief Conservator of Forests, Finance