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NEWSLETTER

SUSTAINABLE CATCHMENT FOREST MANAGEMENT (SCATFORM) PROJECT



MESSAGE FROM CEO & PD

On behalf of the SCATFORM Project, I am delighted to share the Newsletter for February, 2022. The primary purpose behind the Newsletter is to inform the readers about the project and periodically share the progress and achievements of the project. This edition of newsletter overviews the aspects related to Joint Forest Management (JFM) of the project.

The first newsletter of volume-2 in January, 2021 covered various aspects of the projects including the purpose, objective and structure of this project. We also shared the information on all the components that the SCATFORM project is focused on.

Through this newsletter we will continue to provide you a glimpse into project activities, challenges, good practices and progress.

Through this effort, I hope the readers will be able to understand the project. I will reiterate that we would like to receive your feedback and suggestions on project activities and the newsletter. Please do write to us.

To get all updates please follow social media handles of SCATFORM Project at twitter.com/JicaTripura, facebook.com/JicaTripura.

Sd/-

Dr. Avinash M Kanfode, IFS
Chief Executive Officer & Project Director



Brief Description of Joint Forest Management (JFM)

Tripura, a north-eastern state of India bordering Bangladesh on the three sides has abundant forest resources covering 60 percent of land of the state. A population of 3.67 million predominating Tribal communities living in far flung areas of the state depend mostly on forest for their livelihood.

The Joint Forest Management (JFM) programme was initiated in Tripura in December, 1991 and since then there has been reasonable progress in forest management involving the people living in and around the forests to protect and improve the forests and sharing the benefit from forest usufructs. JFM ensures partnership between the Forest Department and the forest fringe dwellers in order to provide better protection and management of forests on a sustainable basis in terms of sharing of benefits and responsibilities.

JFM movement was at first witnessed in Melaghar, West Tripura District and it resulted in turning the barren lands into verdant forests with protection made available by Forest Protection and Regeneration Committees.

Therefore, Joint Forest Management initiatives, which remain a priority of the State Forest Department, have been implemented in the state by forming JFMCs and by involving forest dwellers in protecting and managing their natural resources.

To strengthen the initiative of JFM in the state and also to address the issue of loss of forests due to soil erosion and other biotic interventions like Shifting Cultivation, the State government, has decided to further expand the achievement of TFIPAP and a new project, namely

SCATFORM came into existence with financial assistance from JICA.

The broad objectives of the project is to improve quality of forests in the targeted catchment area through sustainable forest management, soil and moisture conservation and livelihood improvement, and thereby contributing to development of forest ecosystem services and livelihood improvement of forest dependent communities in the State of Tripura.

Structure of JFMC

A JFMC is formed covering hamlets/villages. Each family living within the jurisdiction of the hamlet/village or a group of hamlets/villages are eligible for membership in JFMC. If husband becomes a member then wife automatically gets included as member and vice versa. SCATFORM gives adequate focus on the mobilisation of forest dependent communities including the Jhumias (shifting cultivators) to form JFMCs and these were discussed in earlier issues of the Newsletter. _

A two tier committee system is followed in the JFMC/EDC for better management of JFMCs. The committees are General Body (GB) and Executive Committee (EC). While the EC is responsible for managing the overall operations of the JFMC, the GB members help them in executing all the action plans prepared by the EC. The GB ensures devolution of power for better working of JFMC/EDC.

The EC meets once in each month but if not possible at least once in two months. The quorum for holding the EC meeting is 50 percent of the total members with at least 1/3rd of the women executive members.



Member Secretary is the Convener of the committee, who conduct both GB & EC meetings. Special GB as well as EC meetings may also be organized by the Member Secretary, if needed.

(a) Where a member of the General Body and Executive Committee of the Society is a member by reason of the office he or she holds, his or her membership shall stand terminated at the time he or she ceases to hold that office.

(b) The members of the Governing Body and Executive Committee of the Society remain at the pleasure of the members of the Society by resolution or election conducted every year as the case may be.

(c) A member of the General Body and the Executive Committee of the Society representing any Department of the State Government or other Government Organization or agencies shall continue to be such members during his or her tenure but for a change in the constitution of these bodies.

(d) Should any Executive Body member of the Society, other than President and Member Secretary, is unable to attend any meeting of the Society, he or she would be at the liberty to appoint and authorize a representative to take part in such meeting but the said representative would have no right to vote.

Termination of Membership /Filling up Governing Body members:-

A member of the Governing Body/Executive Body of the Society ceases to be a member if he or she (a) dies, (b) resigns from his or her membership, (c) is convicted for a criminal offence involving moral turpitude, etc. (d) becomes insolvent, (e) becomes unsound mind, (f) fails

to attend three consecutive meetings of the Society without prior notice and valid reasons.

Individual membership may be cancelled if the member becomes unable to comply with any of the aforesaid conditions (except death or self motivated resignation). Even dissolution of the EC or JFMC without paying any compensation to anyone is also possible. This is done by the DFO on recommendation of the concerned RFO.

The concerned Range Forest officer (RFO) may be authorised by the Divisional or District Forest Officer to take proper action even with termination of individual membership on the above mentioned grounds

In case of individual membership, any casual vacancy in the Governing Body /Executive Body shall be filled by appointment and members thus appointed shall holds office for the remaining part of the term.

The Governing Body/Executive Body of the Society continues to function not withstanding any vacancy therein and not withstanding any defect or shortcoming in the appointment/nomination of any of its members, no act or proceeding of the Society may be called in question merely by above reasons.

Quorum and Meeting Process

15 (fifteen) days prior notice is given to all the members of Governing Body/Executive Body, as the case may be, for every meeting

At least 3 (three) members, including the President and the Member Secretary, constitutes the quorum for any meeting of the Executive Committee. At least 33 percent of female members are to attend every meeting.



The President of JFMC presides over every meeting of the General Body/Executive committee and in his absence the Vice chairman of the EC presides over the meeting. In their absence only a member so selected by the respective Body unanimously may preside and in such event he shall exercise the power and authority of the President.

In case of difference of opinion amongst the members, the opinion of the majority prevails.

Any resolution may be adopted by circulation, among its Governing Body/Executive Body members and any resolution thus adopted will have the force of resolution adopted in regular meetings.

Financial Management in JFMC/EDC

For the development of JFMC /EDC as an autonomous body JFMC needs to undertake the responsibility of financial management as the financial stability indicates the sustenance of any organization including the CBOs. Therefore it is very pivotal for any organization like JFMC or EDC to manage and maintain the accounts regularly without any fault. In JFMC the accounts are generally maintained by the Executive Committee members namely Member Secretary along with Treasurer and the President. And special attention is paid to maintain transparency in financial management right from the beginning.

Source of fund for JFMC/EDC

- Receipt from membership Fees;
- Receipt of Fines/penalties from the members and others;
- Receipts from sale of forest produces;
- Forest management/tree plantation and maintenance funds received from the Forest Department;
- Funds for development activities received from the Forest department;
- From other agencies for other development work;
- Funds received from Panchayat;
- Any other receipts as permissible;

Steps to be taken after receiving of any Fund

- A proper receipt is issued by JFMC;
- A joint account is opened in any bank in the name of the JFMC and receipts are deposited;
- The authorised signatories(s) is member Secretary and Treasurer/President;
- Treasurer looks after deposit of any amount in the bank;
- Entry of Passbook is a must in every month;
- Any withdrawal without the resolution of EC is not permitted;
- All the entries –deposit and withdrawal are to be entered in the cash book;

DIST. WISE JFMC AND SHGs FORMATION UPDATE

SL No	Name of the District	No of SHG	No. of JFMC
1	North	57	24
2	West	34	21
3	Gomati	39	58
4	South	33	39
5	Unakoti	45	36
6	Khowai	36	36
7	Sepahijola	22	15
8	GWLS(Gandhachara)	33	16
9	GWLS (Ganganagar)	6	6
	Total	305	251

YOUR CONTRIBUTION TO THE NEWSLETTER

We request and encourage you to share your experiences under the Project. You can highlight activities and achievements of the Joint Forest Management Committee. We can also consider inspiring stories of individuals who are doing good work which needs to be shared with other people in the state. This will provide recognition to individuals and provide opportunities for other people to learn from the experiences. You can share your experiences with our field personnel / JFMC.

You can also write to us at: tripurajica@gmail.com

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