



# NEWSLETTER

## SUSTAINABLE CATCHMENT FOREST MANAGEMENT (SCATFORM) PROJECT



### MESSAGE FROM CEO & PD

Continuing with our efforts to share about the various components of SCATFORM Project through our newsletter, we are sharing the activities done towards NTFP component of the project in this issue. This issue of the newsletter is going to present to the readers about Non-Timber Forest Produce which occupies a prominent place. The NTFP policy also emphasised the need for well-designed, in-depth resource mapping studies on NTFP species. NCE and PMU considered the need for multi-specie, multi locational resource mapping study. NTFP policy lays specific emphasis on scientific production of Agarwood in the state. NTFP Centre of Excellence (NCE) has taken up this component actively. PMU shall strive to extend the scope of this work in the project areas, which have potential for production of Agarwood. It is hoped that readers will appreciate our endeavors and provide feedback and suggestions on things related to projects and about this newsletter. Do write to us.

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



# NTFP COMPONENT OF SCATFORM PROJECT

## Curtain Raiser:

In any forestry development project, focus on Non-Timber Forest Produce occupies a prominent place. Such focus on the category is technically well justified on three grounds-(a) for its significance in promoting livelihoods (b) for its role in strengthening cultural ethos of tribal communities (c) for its role in strengthening the local ecosystems.

The SCATFORM project aptly recognized these factors and provided for a dynamic space in the project scope.

## 1) NTFP Policy:

Based on the experiences drawn from Phase-I of the Project, it was realised necessary to formulate a comprehensive policy. The SCATFORM project prioritised this activity. The draft policy was deliberated in depth and finally its version 6.2 (January-2020) was finally approved and notified on 24th March-2020.

## Salient Features of the Policy:

The policy has 12 aspects in all. The sections dealing with core approaches, implementation strategies and

institutional mechanisms are dealt with in a comprehensive manner.

The management framework for NTFP is unique in the policy. This framework is structured on 3 pillars viz. Conservation, Augmentation and Harvesting (CAH). Though such design is employed for management of other biological resources, perhaps for the first time, it is extended to the NTFP category at policy level.

Further, the policy document recognizes the complexities in handling greater biological diversity in small geographic areas. The policy document delved into this aspect and spelt-out appropriate remedial interventions.

## 2) Resource Mapping Studies:

The project recognized the importance of obtaining reliable information about the resource base for different species of NTFP. The NTFP policy also emphasised the need for well-designed, in-depth resource mapping studies on NTFP species. NCE and PMU considered the need for a multi-species, multilocational resource mapping study.



As a prelude to such elaborate study, a Dip-stick study was conducted involving the frontline team of PMU. This preliminary assessment was carried out in 31 forest beats and covered 11 NTFP species (excluding Bamboo).

Based on this study, a detailed resource mapping study is planned for 8 species. It is coined to cover 112 forest beats falling under 32 forest ranges in 6 districts of the state. Once completed, this study is expected to provide clear insights into:

- a) Opportunities for cluster development and value addition & promotion of livelihoods
- b) Determination of harvestable limits for each species in respective locations
- c) Implementation of CAH framework with respect to 8 species by classification of the habitats and prioritisation.

### 3) NTFP Based Livelihoods:

Drawing experiences from Phase-I of the JICA project, SCATFORM has been keen to focus on the groundwork and evaluations. The project is working to integrate the knowledge generated from resource mapping study and market research. The proposed design envisages the classification of livelihood clusters into three categories

based on the market opportunities:

- Products for Purely Local Market Needs: Hill broom (Arjun Flowers) could be the single largest product in this category. Since Hill brooms (*Thysanolaena maxima* or other species) are available in many states- they capture nearest urban markets. Interstate trading is also limited to neighbouring states.
- Products largely for Wider Market Areas: Products like essential oils (Gandhaki, Lemongrass etc.), Bamboo Furniture, basketry & artefacts may have limited application for local needs. As such they offer market avenues largely for wider (national or International) markets. Opportunities may also exist for few medicinal plants like Giloy.
- Dual Character: Some of the specialised products may fall in this group. For example, pickles made from forest-based vegetables/ fruits are liked and demanded by Northeast tribes settled outside the state. The demand volume may be low. But it attracts a premium.

Above classification is expected to make each of the clusters self-sustainable in the long run. However, the process of above classification shall be attempted after wide consultations with all stakeholders. Also, market exploratory studies shall be carried out for reliability of planning.



#### 4) Certification:

Process and product certification for NTFP is considered to attract premium prices for many forest-based products. In relation to the past, there is an improved access to the certification standards, scheme owners and certification bodies.

While developing new livelihood clusters, CCFCs, this aspect shall be considered carefully. Right from the beginning, the clusters/ CCFCs shall be prepared for supplies of Certified produce under respective standards.

#### 5) Interventions for Promotion of Agarwood Production & Marketing:

NTFP policy lays specific emphasis on scientific

production of Agarwood in the state. NTFP Centre of Excellence (NCE) has taken up this component actively. A series of technical interventions are contemplated in the near future. PMU shall strive to extend the scope of this work in the project areas, which have potential for production of Agarwood.

#### Conclusion:

In general, it may be stated that, PMU has identified important avenues for sustainable development of NTFP and interlinked livelihoods opportunities. Also, there is a need for adequate level of groundwork in the sector, before launching any intervention, to ensure long-term sustainability.

PMU and NCE are jointly striving to conclude all the foundational work at the earliest.



#### 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](mailto:tripurajica@gmail.com)*

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