

Minutes of the meeting held on 30.06.2009 under the Chairmanship of Sh. Maha Singh, IAS, FCPS, Forests, Haryana.

A review meeting on forestry activities of all Departmental officers was held on 30.06.2009 under the chairmanship of Sh. Maha Singh, IAS, FCPS, Forests, Haryana at Red Bishop Tourist Complex, Panchkula.

At the outset, Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (PCCF), Haryana, Sh. D. R. Ramesh Singh, IFS welcomed the Financial Commissioner & Principal Secretary (FCPS) and apprised him of the forestry activities planned for the current year 2009-10.

In his remarks, FCPS observed that in today's meeting, apart from review of conventional forestry activities of the department, the participants will be encouraged to come up with creative and innovative ideas to improve the working of the Haryana Forest Department. The house will also deliberate the modalities for strengthening the decision support system at various levels.

The issues discussed and the decision taken in the meeting are as under:-

1. FCPS stressed that the tenders issued by Forest Department should be invariably available on website <http://tenders.gov.in>. Headquarter will issue user ID and password received from NIC for this purpose.

Action: CCF (HQ) to issue directions

2. GIS applications in forestry in Haryana Forest Department:

To adopt GIS applications in Haryana Forest Department, a team of officers under the leadership of FCPS has already visited Indian Institute of Remote Sensing, Dehradun and Forest Survey of India, Dehradun. The said team will also be visiting National Remote Sensing Centre, Hyderabad and Andhra Pradesh, Forest Department, Hyderabad during the first week of July. FCPS stressed that GIS

applications in Haryana Forest Department must be introduced, for which a road map needs to be prepared by the direction office of Haryana Forest Department. Since, Forest divisions are primary source of data needed for GIS applications, the ownership and involvement of field level DFOs and Conservators is absolutely important for successful implementation of the project. The initiative response and outcome of this initiative will be critically analysed and the best performer will be suitably rewarded.

Action: CF (HQ) issue necessary letter to all CCFs, CFs & DFOs

3. Presentation by Sh. T.S. Puri:

Sh. T.S. Puri, Director, Research ISPER, Panchkula made a presentation on surface and sub surface water resources in Haryana. In his presentation he demonstrated that with the GIS tools can be used successfully for locating suitable sites for surface or sub surface dams. Based on the information available through GIS - Remote Sensing, it is easy to select the location of water harvesting structures and the need of repairing the old structures.

Action: CF (HQ) send letter to CCF (P-I), CF (North) & DFOs (Ambala, Morni & Pinjore, Yamunanagar)

4. GIS applications in forestry:

Sh. Vinod Kumar, IFS, DCF (M&E) Ambala made a presentation of GIS application in forestry sector. He demonstrated the example of mapping of Arravalis in Faridabad district using GIS technology and preparing the scientific evidence for the mining case being heard before Hon'ble Supreme Court of India.

Action: CF (HQ) issue letter to CF (South) & all his DFOs to follow up Aravalli mapping.

5. During discussion FCPS desired that department should arrange GPS/DGPS sets for survey of properties of all the forest divisions. The field level DFOs will collect and organize topo-sheets, working plan maps, stock maps, boundary maps pertaining to their forest divisions for the purpose of digitization. The information/ maps wherever required from revenue department will also be collected. A knowledgeable person about revenue records will also be identified by DFOs who can help them during the process of geo-referencing. Data/ information for various GIS layers such as boundary registers, location of forest properties, location of nurseries, plantations will also be suitably organized. This will be used for developing GIS for the respective forest divisions. He also stressed the need of identifying, capable and willing officials among the field and ministerial staff who can be trained on the use of GPS/DGPS sets. Training of these officials/ officers in use of GPS/DGPS will be organised by GIS cell located at direction office. GIS cell will identify suitable training Institutes for the purpose and send the officials / officers for short term courses relevant for the purpose.

Action: CCF (P-I), CCF (P-II), CCF (CFP), CF(P&MIS), CFs (T), CFs (CFP), DFOs (T), DFOs (CFP)

6. Presentation by representative of SCIENCE:

A presentation was made by Sh. Pravir De about the expertise of their organization in the GIS, Remote Sensing applications in forestry sector, especially their work with IIRS, FSI and Utarakhand Forest Department.

Action: DFO (Yamunanagar) and DFO (Rewari) to contact above agency and begin GIS work as discussed by FCPS on 30.06.2009 within a month.

7. Regarding current year's (2009-10) Forestry activities:

Addl. Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (APCCF), Forestry in his address emphasized on following points:

- National Highway, State Highway and Important district roads should be given priorities for plantations during the current year.
- Species which are long lasting should be selected for road side plantation.
- In the compact areas, Aravallis and Shivalik Hills focus should be on native species. Alongwith manual planting broadcasting of seed of such species may also be undertaken sufficiently.
- Standard of plantations should be improved and reviewed by regular field inspections.
- Planting stock should be of good quality. Healthy and proper size plants should be planted.
- Green felling should be avoided except emergency fellings.
- Back log of dead and dry should be cleared.
- Staff in the field deputed for checking the mining should be in uniform. The vehicles carrying the mined stones / badarpur etc. should be regularly checked and proper action should be taken against illegally mined material with the help of mining staff and police. Such vehicles may also be impounded by following proper procedure under relevant acts.
- Focus should be given on conservation of green trees.

Action: CCF(P-I), CCF (P-II), CCF (P), CF (T), DFO (T), CF (P), DFO (P)

8. DFO, Nuh suggested that for controlling mining activities, Eco-Task force should be constituted. FCPS directed that this suggestion will be

examined by CF, South who will send his recommendation within seven days to PCCF office.

Action: CF (South), DFO (Nuh)

9. APCCF, Wildlife suggested in the meeting that the highways which are being planned for widening in the next 4-5 years, plantation should not be carried out on them.

Action: CFs (T), DFOs (T)

10. DFO, Ambala pointed out that wildlife officials at Ambala are not reporting to him while being Wild Life Warden, he is entrusted the task of wildlife activities by district administration. He also suggested that ACR of wildlife officials should be routed through Wildlife Warden. APCCF, Wildlife assured to issue suitable guidelines to field staff.

Action: APCCF (Wildlife)

11. PCCF emphasized that officers viz CFs and DFOs should devote sufficient time for supervising and guiding the plantation activities during the planting season to improve the standard of plantations.

Action: CCF(P-I), CCF (P-II), CCF (CFP), CF (T), DFO (T), CF (CFP), DFO (CFP)

12. FCPS outlined in need of taking up a study for carbon accounting of the State. The action will be undertaken by CCF (Development) for this purpose. He also desired to provide him the planting and felling data in forests in the last 10 years. In addition he should also be provided forest areas diverted under FCA in last 10 years.

Action: CCF (Development), CCF (P), CF (Plg), CF (FC)

13.FCPS observed that the data/information generated from the GIS will be used in developing decision support system which will help in forest management, administration, monitoring and legal matters. To start with, every DFO will send a list and coordinates (using GPS) of all the properties (point features - location of offices, official residences, colonies, field staff quarters, nurseries) point features in his division along with other related information (attributes). This information should be received in the headquarter in the GIS cell latest by 15th July.

Balance information about the block forests (RF, PF, PLPA, section 38), boundaries of range, block, beat, rail road, canal network and plantations will be collected, organised immediately after the plantation season is over i.e. during September, 2009.

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Yamunanagar and Rewari divisions were shortlisted for doing a model work of GIS applications in their jurisdiction within one month. This achievement of GIS application will be inaugurated by Hon'ble Forest Minister.

Action: CCF (P-I), CCF (P-II), CCF (CFP), CF (T), DFO (T), CF (CFP), DFO (CFP)

14.PCCF directed that the following projects will be formulated expeditiously by the following officers:

- (1) Second phase of JICA Project – Sh. C. R. Jotriwal, IFS
- (2) Integrated Watershed and Afforestation Project for Aravali Hills – Sh. D.K. Sinha, IFS
- (3) Integrated Watershed Development and Afforestation Project for Shivalik Hills – Sh. Pankaj Goel, IFS

(4) Agro-forestry along national highways in agricultural land of adjoining villages.

Action: Sh. C.R. Jotriwal, CCF, P-I, Sh. D.K. Sinha, Sh. Pankaj Goel

The meeting ended with vote of thanks to the Chair.