

**Minutes of the Review Meeting held at Kurukshetra Forest Division on 30.09.2009 under the Chairmanship of Sh. Maha Singh, IAS, Financial Commissioner & Principal Secretary to Govt., Haryana, Forest Department.**

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A review meeting on forestry activities of all Departmental officers was held on 30.09.2009 under the chairmanship of Sh. Maha Singh, IAS, FCPS, Forests, Haryana at Auditorium of Kurukshetra Forest Division.

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 that presentations will be made by Divisional Forest Officers and senior officers concerning to the activities of respective divisions and various wings of the Forest Department. This will facilitate review of the activities, discussion on various operational and policy issues.

In his remarks, FCPS observed that today's meeting aims at review of the current activities, sharing of experiences, review the performance / accomplishments and find out ways and means to improve the performance.

2. The following Presentations were made in the forenoon session:-

- i) Clean Development Mechanism - by Sh V.S.Tanwar, IFS, CFP, Hisar
- ii) Rewari Forest Division – by Sh D.Hemram, IFS, DFO, Rewari
- iii) Jind Forest Division – by Sh M.L.Rajvanshi, IFS, DFO, Jind
- iv) Kaithal Forest Division –by Sh K.C.Meena, IFS, DFO, Kaithal
- v) Sonapat Forest Division – by Sh G.S.Shukla, IFS, DFO, Sonapat
- vi) Gurgaon Forest Division – by Sh D.K.Sinha, IFS, CF, Gurgaon
- vii) Mewat Forest Division – by Sh Satbir Singh, HFS, DFO, Mewat
- viii) Mahendergarh Forest Division – by Sh A.P.Pandey, IFS, DFO M/Garh
- ix) Jhajjar Forest Division – by Sh C.M.Shivakumar, IFS, DFO, Jhajjar

- x) Panipat Forest Division – by Ms Vasvi Tyagi, IFS, DFO, Panipat
- xi) Karnal Forest Division – by Sh Navdeep Singh, IFS, DFO, Karnal
- xii) Fatehabad Forest Division – by Sh Satbir Singh Sheoran, HFS, DFO, F/bad
- xiii) Bhiwani Community Forest Division – by Sh R.K.Jangra, HFS, DFO.
- xiv) Ambala Community Forest Division – by Sh B.S.Khokha, HFS, DFO
- xv) On potential threat of blue gum chalcid *Leptocybe invasa*, (WASP) – by Sh Jagdish Chander, IFS, CF, Research.
- xvi) On activities of Research Circle– by Sh Jagdish Chander, IFS, CF, Research.

The presentations were followed by discussion and following decisions were taken:-

- i) Those DFOs who could not attend the meeting due to election duty or due to any other reason will prepare presentations about activities of their divisions (on the pattern of Jind division) and will make presentations on a subsequent date to be intimated by direction office.

**Action: DFO- Ambala, Bhiwani, Sirsa, Hisar, Morni-Pinjore, Yamunanagar, Palwal, Faridabad, Kurukshetra**

- ii) The GIS presentation made by Sh M.L.Rajvanshi, IFS, DFO, Jind was appreciated by the house and it was decided that each DFO(Territorial) will collect GPS coordinates of forest properties(division office, range office, block office, residences, rest house etc.), nurseries, representative plantations and will also take digital photographs, videos and will prepare a GIS presentation of their divisions on the pattern of Jind within a period of one month.

**Action : All DFOs(T)**

iii) More IT / GIS professionals can be engaged on contract basis for speeding up the work related to GIS & MIS.

**Action : CF(Plg. & MIS)**

iv) APOs pertaining to 2005-06 to 2008-09 should be sent to direction office for which directions have already been issued. Similarly, the APOs should always remain available at the Division office and Range offices to facilitate the checking by senior officers.

**Action: All DFOs**

v) Haryana Community Forestry Project (CFP) will put up the photographs and work done in farmer's field under clonal agro-forestry & bio-drainage schemes. Cost benefit ratio should also be worked out.

**Action : CCF (CFP)**

3. Following presentations were made in the afternoon session:-

- i) On Activities of Production wing – by Sh Gulshan Ahuja, IFS, CCF Production.
- ii) Presentation on Quarter Girth formula – by Sh Vinod Bhatia, IFS, DFO, Production, Hisar
- iii) Presentation on HFDC - by Smt. Amarinder Kaur, IFS, MD, HFDC.
- iv) Presentation on some issues regarding logging operations – by Sh V.K.Jhajjaria, IFS, CF, West Circle, Hisar
- v) Presentation on development of Haryana Forest Department Website – by Sh M.M.Joshi, IFS, CF, Planning.

This was followed by discussions. Policy issues emerging out of the presentations were discussed in the house and following decisions were taken:-

i) FC&PS observed that the volume table pertaining to standing volume of trees being have been devised through Newton's formula. The marking lists are prepared by Territorial forest divisions by adopting these volume tables. On the other hand, when production divisions fell and converts these trees into logs, they follow quarter girth formula. In the quarter girth formula, the value of  $\pi$  has been taken as 4, whereas it should be 3.14. In this way, an error of about 20% is introduced in the volume calculations. This technical issue needs to be deliberated in length and experts of Forest Research Institutes also needed to be consulted for the purpose. FC&PS desired that a committee should be constituted to examine this anomaly (of incompatibility of Netwon's formula with quarter girth formula) and make a recommendation to facilitate the policy decision. The committee may hold consultations with experts at Forest Research Institute, Dehradun.

**Action: Direction Office & CCF (Production)**

ii) As per the prevailing practice, the territorial forest divisions hand over marking list of standing trees to production division. This should be followed by regular exchange of information between these divisions about the progress of felling and the data should be regularly reconciled.

**Action : All CFs(T), DFO(T) and CF & DFO(Production)**

iii) CCF, Production informed that the auction notices are being issued in the newspapers and also being displayed on the website. SMS are also sent to the registered contractors. FC&PS desired that videography of all the open auctions should be undertaken regularly.

**Action : CCF/ CF & DFOs (Production)**

iv) It was decided that wherever site is suitable ridge plantation should be preferred over pit planting as success of plantation on the ridges is

comparatively very high. Ridges also help in stopping the encroachment of forest lands by farmers of adjoining fields.

**Action : All concerned DFOs**

- v) It was also decided to constitute a committee to examine the issue of extent of plantations using tall plants (more than 6 feet height). Based on recommendation of the committee, a policy decision about using tall plants and normal plants in the plantations can be taken. The committee should submit its report within 15 days.

**Action : Direction office**

- vi) It was also decided that in future the DFOs will work out the requirement of the physical targets of plantations under different schemes in advance and intimate to their CFs / CCFs. Based on the recommendation of CF/CCF, Direction Office will distribute physical targets as per availability under the relevant scheme.

**Action : Direction Office, CCF/CF, DFOs**

- vii) It was also decided that at the beginning of next financial year, the budget should be allotted to Forest divisions as promptly as possible after it is received in the head office after approval of Finance Department and Administrative Department. The process of distribution of budget from direction office to CCFs / CFs and Forest divisions should not take more than 15 days.

**Action: Direction Office, CCFs / CFs**

- viii) The scheme of free distribution of seedlings under social and farm forestry scheme was discussed in detail. There were diverse opinion regarding continuity of this scheme in the present form versus modification of the

scheme by adopting the practice of plantation and maintenance of seedlings in the farmers field by Forest Department. This needs further discussion. Accordingly, it was decided to constitute a committee to examine this matter and submit the recommendation to PCCF Haryana within 15 days. Following officers will be the members of the committee:-

1. Sh Rupinder Singh, IFS, CF, CFP, Ambala,
2. Sh Ajay Kadiyan, IFS, CF, Production, Karnal
3. Sh S.L.Kaushik, IFS, DFO, CFP, Kurukshetra
4. Sh B.S.Khokha, HFS, DFO, CFP, Ambala

ix) The department has done commendable work of establishing Herbal Gardens in the every district. Now the question of maintenance of these parks and sustainability of efforts should be examined and appropriate steps be taken for maintenance of these herbal parks.

**Action : Direction Office**

x) APCCF(Forestry) pointed out that the funds are available with NMPB and DFOs can submit suitable proposals as per guidelines for activities related to herbal parks.

**Action : All DFOs(T)**

xi) APCCF(Forestry) observed that size of tall plants should not be less than 6 feet when it is planted.

**Action : All DFOs(T)**

xii) A backlog of about 1,00,000 cu m of dead and dry stock has got accumulated over the years, especially in the five divisions of West Circle, Hisar. As non-removal of such stock has not only been resulting into spread

of diseases in the adjoining healthy green trees but also into deterioration of wood quality in the dead and dry trees. Besides, such stock remains under threat of constant theft by the villagers etc. As a result of these factors, Govt. has been incurring heavy losses. In view of this factual position the department has taken a decision to stop felling of green trees except the emergency fellings and to harvest the dead and dry stock on priority basis. But CF, West Circle, Hisar has refused to heed the instructions issued on 27.08.2009 by the APCCF(F), Haryana. According to these instructions marking lists of all such stock were to be handed over to the Production Wing by 30<sup>th</sup> September, 2009. But the said CF advocated auctioning of such standing stock by his Territorial DFOs instead of getting it harvested through the Production Wing of the Department. His suggestion was rejected outright by the FC (Forests). Further, the FC (Forests) advised the DFOs to seek approval of CF (Central), MoEF (GoI), Chandigarh for removal of such stock within a week wherever it is mandated.

**Action: PCCF/CCF (Prod.)/CF, West/ DFOs (T), West Circle/DFO (Prod.), Hisar.**

- xii) The draft guidelines of additional central assistance and intensification of forest management scheme has been circulated to CCF and CF. The Divisional Forest Officers will go through these guidelines meticulously and prepare proposals / projects for their divisions expeditiously. A meeting will be convened at the Headquarter after 15 days in which the DFOs will submit their proposals / projects about these two schemes.

**Action : By Direction Office and All DFOs(T)**

- xiii) The recent order of Hon'ble Punjab and Haryana High Court dated 4-9-09 has already been circulated to concerned CFs / DFOs and they are directed to ensure compliance of the Hon'ble Court's order.

**Action : All CFs(T) / DFOs(T)**

xiv) The issue of distribution of districts for felling among production wing and HFDC can also be discussed afresh to facilitate comparison and better economics.

**Action : MD, HFDC / CCF(P)**

xv) With regard to presentation made by CF(Planning & MIS) regarding progress of development of website of Haryana Forest Department, it was decided that Nodal officer of different wings (APCCF, CCFs) will ensure that the updated contents are sent to CF(Plg. & MIS) within 15 days.

**Action : Nodal Officers designated for the purpose**

The meeting ended with vote of thanks to the Chair.