



NEWSLETTER

SUSTAINABLE CATCHMENT FOREST MANAGEMENT (SCATFORM) PROJECT



MESSAGE FROM CEO & PD

On behalf of SCATFORM, I am delighted to share the March 2021 newsletter of the project. The primary purpose of the newsletter is to inform the readers about the project and periodically share the progress and achievements of the project. This March 2021 newsletter overviews the forest improvement schemes of the project.

The Project aims to improve quality of forest in the targeted catchment with main focus on catchment protection. The duration of this project is 10 years (from September 2018 to September 2028) and the project components include bio-physical interventions (in forestry and soil & water conservation) and livelihood interventions.

The information contained in this and subsequent newsletters, I believe, would contribute towards maintaining transparency that SCATFORM would like to promote in its functioning and operations.

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উন্নত জীবন

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



FOREST IMPROVEMENT IN SCATFORM

The main objective of SCATFORM is to improve quality of forest in the target catchments by sustainable forest management, soil and moisture conservation and livelihood development, thereby contributing to development of forest ecosystem services and livelihood improvement of forest dependent communities in the State of Tripura. Forest improvement is a long-term process. Forest quality is

improved by direct plantation as well as protection. SCATFORM's investment is limited to the first-year plantation work and additional four years for maintenance. In order to create long-term benefits as incentives for maintenance, SCATFORM mostly work with forest dependent communities to improve forest conditions under Joint Forest Management (JFM) scheme.

BEAT FOREST BASIC PLAN AS A TOOL FOR FOREST IMPROVEMENT

In order to strategically tackle degraded catchments in comprehensive manner, SCATFORM newly introduced a project planning tool called Beat Forest Basic Plans (BFBPs). BFBP is the first such planning tool adopted in India. JICA forest project tends to focus on JFM, but it was felt that proper plans are needed between JFM micro plans and working plans. BFBPs provide a foundation for appropriate project implementation. BFBPs assess forest degradation level, topographical conditions, socio economic conditions of forest dependent communities, and previous activities done by TFIPAP, and creates a rough idea of a project plan in the beat for the first five years. By scientific selection of both Beat and BFBPs, SCATFORM is able to highlight the most vulnerable areas regarding soil erosion with marginalized forest dependent communities.

NURSERY DEVELOPMENT

SCATFORM has provisions to develop three types of nurseries, High tech, central and decentralized peoples nurseries. High tech and central nurseries are permanent nurseries operated by TFD and decentralized nursery is operated by JFM communities. Existing nurseries are improved with regard to infrastructure and management with an objective to meet the seedling requirement of all types of plantation under the project and department as well. Nursery development techniques are taught to members of JFM communities (JFMC) to operate decentralized nurseries to provide seedlings for the project implementation. They are expected to receive more benefit from operating nurseries and continue the operation of their nursery after the project for their livelihoods.

ARTIFICIAL REGENERATION AND AIDED NATURAL REGENERATION

Artificial regeneration (AR) and Aided natural regeneration (ANR) are commonly practiced in India. Large plantations (particularly with bamboos) were established in TFIPAP. For degraded scrub area after shifting cultivation, block plantations shall be established (AR). AR can be with bamboo only (AR bamboo) or with mixed species (AR mix). For degraded forest where rootstocks are available, ANR shall be applied. For existing trees, treatments such as singling coppice shoot,

removal of climbers and shrub, selective weeding, and fire protection by making fire lines shall be conducted and trees are planted at gap areas. Various types of species can be selected depending upon the objective of the site (soil binding, NTFP, fuelwood/pole production, etc.).

TEAK PLANTATION MANAGEMENT

Tripura has a large area of degraded teak plantation due to the strong anthropogenic pressure. Teak plantation is not considered to be suitable for catchment protection due to its poor growth of understory vegetation, negative allelopathic effect and splashing of soil by large water dumps through teak leaves on the ground. Degraded teak plantations can be treated either by thinning, gap planting, coppicing, or replacement with another species depending upon the site conditions and in consultation with JFMC. Before SCATFORM, degraded teak plantations were never treated in Tripura; therefore, trials are needed to figure out the constraints and potential. Relatively large areas are allocated to this activity (15,000 ha) in project.

SILVIPASTURE PLANTATION

Livestock rearing is an integral part of the rural economy although the productivity of the livestock is very low for which paucity of fodder or forage is one factor. Grazing is prohibited in Reserved Forests, but, in fact cattle are often grazed in the Reserved Forests because neither village pastures nor Protected Forests are able to sustain a large cattle population. Although it is said that tribal families do not much engaged in cattle rearing, grazing is regarded as one of causes of forest degradation by TFD and JFMC members. In addition, according to the results of the impact survey of TFIPAP, it is pointed out that the villagers encounter difficulty in arranging fodder due to increase in fodder price and enlargement of rubber plantations and plantations established by TFIPAP surrounding the villages that narrowed available lands for grazing.

Under these circumstances, silvi-pastoral plantations shall be established in order to reduce pressure of grazing on forest areas.

FILTER STRIP AND RIVER BANK PLANTATION

Besides the several forest plantation scheme under Joint forest management, SCATFORM with TFD directly works for forest improvement on the riverside for catchment protection (Department mode). Two schemes are prepared for the department mode: Filter strip and riverbank plantation.

Filter strips shall be developed to slow down runoff from fields, and to trap and filter the sediments before they reach streams, but riverbank plantations directly target vulnerable

riverbanks to reduce soil erosion and to stop damage of agricultural fields and human habitations from flood. Three lanes of plantation are established for filter strip plantation with combination of bamboos, canes and trees with consideration of soil binding, tolerance level against water as well as contribution to livelihood of local communities.

AGROFORESTRY DEVELOPMENT FOR DEMARCATED ROFR LANDS

In order to improve forest status, land ownerships have to be consolidated for a long term. One of the major causes of deforestation is shifting cultivation on hill slopes by local communities, especially tribal communities in upper catchment areas. In such areas, Forest Rights are often vested to the community people under the Forest Right Act. Tripura is the pioneer state for Recognition of Forest Rights (RoFR). One of the significant achievements of TFIPAP is agroforestry development. RoFR land holders do not have clearly demarcated ROFR lands, SCATFORM shall make groups of RoFR land holders to demarcate lands for agroforestry development. The demarcation of the RoFR lands shall be carefully conducted by Tribal Welfare Department, Revenue Department and Forest Department.

CATCHMENT PROTECTION AS THE PRIMARY GOAL OF SCATFORM

Tripura has such intensive rainfall with fragile soil susceptible to erosion and large areas are flooded every year and therefore, catchment protection is the primary goal of SCATFORM. Forest is improved for enhancement of forest ecosystem services which protect catchment, conserve biodiversity and develop livelihood. It should be highlighted here that the performance of catchment protection shall largely vary depending upon how we actually plant trees and place soil moisture conservation infrastructures in the field. Through the implementation of SCATFORM, TFD officers, project staff as well as local communities thoroughly understand the project concept and practices in the field and working together toward the visible achievement of the project.

PARTICIPATION IN 21ST TRIPURA INDUSTRY & COMMERCE FAIR

The 16 days long Tripura Industry and Commerce Fair was held in Hapania Mela ground, in which the SCATFORM project opened a stall.. The models of the project components like Sustainable Forest Management, Livelihood Development and Satellite based GIS monitoring system displayed in replica models. A good number of visitors visited the stall during each of the mela days. Dignitaries like Hon'ble, Chief Minister Shri Biplab Kr Deb, Hon'ble' Member of Parliament Smt Pratima Bhowmik, and other dignitaries visited

the stall. The stall was also graced by PCCF & HoFF Dr D. K. Sharma, IFS and other senior forest officials during mela days.



4TH GB MEETING

The 4th Governing Body meeting was held on dated 18th February, 2021 under the chairmanship of PCCF & HoFF, Tripura in Conference Hall of Prakriti Bhawan, Hatipara. The meeting was attended by the members of the Governing Body and other project personals. The project activities were reviewed in the meeting. In the beginning of the meeting the PCCF & HoFF released the project manuals which were prepared by the project.



PARTICIPATION IN HORNBILL FESTIVAL

The SCATFORM Project participated in the 2 Hornbill festival held in Teliamura on dated 26th February 2021. The festival was inaugurated by Hon'ble Forest Minister Shri Mevar Kr Jamatia. A large number of people from all section of the society visited the project pavilion.

TRIAL OF LEMON MARMALADE MAKING

A successful field level trial run was executed for making of scented lemon based value added product by the female members of the Hawaibari JFMC at Hatai Kotor Eco Parak, Baramura. This exercise was jointly implemented by PMU



THE SUMMARY OF FOREST IMPROVEMENT ACTIVITIES IN SCATFORM IS GIVEN THE TABLE BELOW

Component	Detail
Sustainable Forest Management	1. Improvement of Forest Nurseries- 7 nos. Central, 3 nos. Hitech 2. Decentralized people's nursery- 150 nos 3. Artificial Regeneration- 5000 ha 4. Aided Natural Regeneration- 21000 ha 5. Teak Plantation Management- 15000 ha 6. Silvi-pastoral Plantation- 1000 ha 7. Filter Strip Development- 96 km 8. Riverbank Plantation- 100 km
Livelihood Development	Agroforestry 8,880 ha

PROJECT PROGRESS AS ON FEBRUARY 2021

A	Improvement of Forest Nurseries	Unit	Achievement
	Hi-Tech Nurseries	Nos	3
	Central Nurseries	Nos	7
B	Plantation		
	AR Plantation	ha	775
	ANR Plantation	ha	962
	Agro Forestry Plantation	Ha	181.03
	Filter Strip	Km	2.5
	River Bank Plantation	Km	11
	Fruit Tree Plantation in Gumati Sanctuary	ha	65
	Grass-land Development in Gumati Sanctuary	ha	65
C	Soil and Moisture Conservation		
	Check Dam M1	Nos	12
	Check Dam M2	Nos	6
	Brushwood Check Dam	Nos	49
	Contour Trench	ha	91
	Bandalling	sites	1
D	Livelihood Development		
	SHG Formation	Nos	172
E	Institutional Development		
	Preparation of BFBP	Nos	59
	Formation of JFMC	Nos	161

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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