

Second Coordinated Mission Steering Committee on the State Bamboo Mission

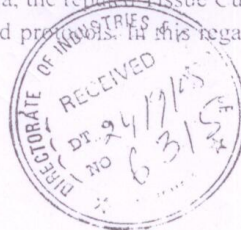
Date: 25<sup>th</sup> August 2008, 4:30 p.m

Venue: Secretariat, Conference Hall No: 1.

60/2315  
Mr S.A.

The list of Participants is enclosed in Annexure I.

1. The meeting was chaired by The PCCF, Shri R P Tangwan, in the absence of the Chief Secretary. The PCCF welcomed all the members of the Committee to the second meeting of the Coordinated Mission Steering Committee (CMSC) constituted under the purview of Tripura State Bamboo Mission and requested the Mission Coordinator Mr V George Jenner to begin the proceedings of the meeting.
2. Mr V George Jenner presented the details of the action taken on the major issues and key decisions taken by the first coordinated mission steering committee meeting. He also highlighted the key challenges that needed to be addressed for the effective and sustainable development of the bamboo sector under the Tripura Bamboo Mission.
3. Thereafter Dr A K Krishnakumar, made a presentation the progress achieved by IL&FS CDI during the last one year of implementation of the Tripura Bamboo Mission. He has also presented the Action Plan for the current financial year i.e. 2008-09. A copy of the Action Plan is placed as Annexure-II.
4. The key issues discussed and decisions taken in the second CMSC are as follows:
  - a. With regards to the huge **shortage of bamboo raw material** and the resulting cost escalations, it was decided that there needs to be better coordinated efforts to propagate all relevant species across the State on a need basis. To achieve this forest department will liaise with the Agriculture department for achieving better planned bamboo plantation activities at the state level. It was also decided that concerted efforts will be made for to converge and coordinate plans related to plantation of bamboo undertaken under the JBIC project, NBM project and the Indo - German projects. IL&FS CDI - TBM will present the cluster level survey findings to indicate the current shortage of raw material and the species specific requirement of the identified bamboo clusters in the state.
  - b. It was reported by IL&FS CDI that the **procurement of planting material** in the required species has been a serious challenge and given the future requirement needs an urgent and concerted policy level intervention. Given that the species requirement is specific to the needs of Tripura, the reputed Tissue Culture labs in other parts of the country do not have the required products. In this regard, the PCCF informed that



the TC lab in Hatipara has already been made operational in partnership with TBM and a fresh proposal should be submitted to operate the TC Lab at commercially viable scale under a PPP (Public, Private, Partnership) mode with a suitable private partner to be identified by TBM.

- c. Ensuring the **availability of Jiget** was identified as the major requirement for establishing the rolled batti sector in the state. It was agreed that while efforts to expand the area under Jiget plantation has to be taken on priority by the Forest Department, the JFM Committees should also be encouraged to undertake plantations as a major activity. However as these are medium term to long term measures, for the immediate requirement Jiget needs to be sourced from outside of the state. It was suggested that the cost escalation resulting from sourcing jiget from out of the state may be neutralized by providing a grant. It was decided that the suggestion may be examined further.
- d. Addressing the issue of **loss of competitiveness of bamboo products from the state of Tripura**, The PCCF informed the Committee on the adoption of the Supreme Court verdict on bamboo based products being treated as non – forest produce and thereby exempting the *Dharri* mats from the purview of the forest permits (the notification for which will be issued shortly). It was pointed out that the Supreme Court ruling was meant for the entire gamut of bamboo products, citing the case of bamboo mats and therefore should be extended to other bamboo products like the agarbatti sticks. It was decided that a fresh proposal indicating the list of other bamboo products to be exempted from forest permits may be submitted for consideration.  
It was also decided to submit a proposal seeking **sales tax exemption for agarbatti sticks** explaining the adverse implications of the tax levy and citing the list of other states that have made similar exemptions.
- e. It was pointed out by IL&FS CDI that the **institutional structure build under the TBM project** both at the grassroots level and at the state level is critical to building a strong platform for the successful implementation. Formation of numerous artisan societies and SHG federations at the cluster level are important for building the production and marketing capability of bamboo products in the state. Though there are existing cluster level societies, it was reported that these societies alone will not yield the desired results. Action has been taken and numerous grassroots owned & managed societies at the cluster level with the long term goal to federate these societies into the state level SPV. After detailed deliberations it was agreed that given the time bound nature of the project, it was the right course of action and that the same should be encouraged.



- f. Considering the time frame required to seed the project with a strong foundation in terms of building the right institutional structures, enabling the capacity building at the cluster level, addressing the structural barriers the various other intricacies involved and the progress of the project as on date, the project management consultant (PMC) pointed out the need for extension of the project period to achieve the targets. It was decided that the request will be taken into consideration and decision in this regard will be undertaken after a mid-term review is conducted.
- g. The Action Plan for FY 2008 - 2009 presented by IL&FS CDI for the implementation of the Tripura Bamboo Mission project was approved by the Committee.

A display of the new design developments undertaken under the project was presented to the committee members.

The meeting ended with a vote of thanks to the Chair.

-Sd/-

Chief Secretary  
Government of Tripura

F.No.8(2)/TBM/Meeting/06/  
Government of Tripura  
Department of Industries & Commerce  
Tripura Bamboo Mission

Dated, Agartala, the 20<sup>th</sup> Sept, 2008

To  
All the member/Officials

(V.G. Jenner)

Member Secretary

Coordinated Steering Committee

Copy to:- PS to the Chief Secretary, Tripura for kind information of Chief Secretary.