

**Minutes of the Fourth Coordinated Mission Steering Committee on the  
State Bamboo Mission**

Date: 9<sup>th</sup> JUNE 2010, 4:30 p.m

Venue: New Secretariat, Conference Hall No: 3.

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The list of Participants is enclosed in Annexure I.

1. The meeting was chaired by The Chief Secretary, Government of Tripura. He welcomed all the members of the Committee to the fourth meeting of the Coordinated Mission Steering Committee (CMSC) constituted under the purview of Tripura State Bamboo Mission. Dr AK Krishnakumar, Chief Operating Officer of IL&FS Clusters Development Initiative, the Project Implementation Agency of the Tripura Bamboo Mission made the presentation on the progress achieved by Tripura Bamboo Mission during the last Financial Year (2009 – 2010) and also presented the Action Plan for the current financial year 2010 - 2011.(enclosed as annexure II)
2. The summary of the progress achieved as by the Tripura Bamboo Mission is as follows:
  - 2.1 Turnover Increase: It was noted the total turnover of the bamboo sector across the identified sub-sectors in the state has increased from the base levels of Rs 27.90 crores in 2007 to Rs 76.99 crores as on 31<sup>st</sup> March 2010.
  - 2.2 The various interventions under TBM were undertaken in: 27 clusters in 4 districts across the state.
  - 2.3 In the FY 2009 – 2010 total 5965 persons were trained taking the total number of persons trained to 18,112 since the launch of the program in August 2007.
  - 2.4 The total number of incremental livelihoods generated during the year is estimated at 6500 across all the all five sub-sectors.
  - 2.5 The total funding mobilized under the TBM program has been estimated at Rs 44.33 cr. The important projects that have been sanctioned during the year are the Bamboo Park Project with a total project cost of Rs 29.35 cr with funding support from ASIDE scheme of the Government of India. The Bamboo Park will be implemented by TIDC with technical and project management support of IL&FS Clusters (Project Implementing Agency of Tripura Bamboo Mission).
  - 2.6 A total number of 14 major Community Production Centers have been initiated using pre fabricated bamboo structures with the funding support of NMBA.

**3. Key Issues Discussed:**

- 3.1 The committee members expressed their concern on the bamboo resource crunch and agreed that the sustainable growth of the bamboo value additions sector will need to be matched with adequate bamboo resources. The Project Director of the JICA

project informed that although the plantation programs have been worked out by the project, the key constraint has been the availability of planting material. He asserted the need for promotion of seedling nursery and sourcing of TC plantlets with advance planning especially since the planting season is very short.

3.2 The PCCF informed that the increased consumption of bamboo shoots has aggravated the bamboo resource crisis. He suggested that there should be an institutional mechanism to curtail the unchecked harvest of bamboo shoots along with an awareness program to conserve the bamboo resources. The Chief Secretary commented that it would be extremely difficult to restrict people from consuming bamboo shoots and the only way to address this issue should be via an increased volume of plantation. Mr Asim Narayan of NMBA, commented that bamboo shoots has enormous demand and it should be viewed as an opportunity rather a threat and it should be considered to have planned plantations of *Dendrocalamus asper* which is a special variety of bamboo for production of bamboo shoots, as homestead and community plantations. He informed that NMBA had already supported a vacuum packaging unit for bamboo shoots in Tripura.

3.3 The Commissioner and Secretary, Rural Development informed that in order to include bamboo plantations under the NREGA program, TBM needs to undertake a serious consultation with the elected representatives of the PRI and should engage and coordinate with the BDO to include these activities as a part of their annual plan.

3.4 The Commissioner and Secretary Tribal Welfare informed about the issue of over 1.5 lakhs hectares of Forest land as *Patta rights* to tribal households under the Forests Right Act. and bamboo plantation and value addition can be included as an important livelihoods promotion activity in these areas.

3.5 The Chief Secretary complemented the Tripura Bamboo Mission for various successful livelihoods models that they have established in the State. He commented that the polished incense initiatives should be replicated on a large scale as it can be easily scaled up and established within a very short period among the tribal and marginalized sections of population across the state giving them an immediate supplementary source of income. He advised the other bamboo programs in the State including the JICA and the Indo - German Project to replicate these models in their program.

3.6 The Project Director of the Indo -German project commented that they would be able to replicate the livelihoods models in the 100 villages in Dhalai district that have been identified under the Indo -German project. He also extended Technical and Knowledge support to the bamboo enterprises being promoted under TBM including funding support to 25 microenterprises engaged in bamboo based activities.

- 3.7 Prof M.P Ranjan from NID apprised the CSMC about the project undertaken in the Furniture sector by NID in association with TBM. He asserted that with a growing trend of using eco friendly furniture there is a huge opportunity for bamboo furniture to be used the large number of residences coming up with the realty sector boom, across the country. In order to adequately prepare the supply capacity he proposed to promote 100 microenterprises with the funding support of Rs 5 lakhs to produce bamboo furniture designed by NID. He also extended NID's support to jointly promote design and marketing of the bamboo products developed under the project.
- 3.8 The Mission Coordinator of the Tripura Bamboo Mission reiterated that a species wise – area wise list has been prepared by TBM and given to the Forest Department to immediately undertake 18,000 Ha of plantations to support the current and the upcoming needs of the various bamboo value added activities in various clusters across the state. He also emphasized that the plantation activity should be taken up by the Forest Department as the key mandate of TBM is to promote value addition and it is not equipped to undertake large scale plantations as envisaged. It will provide a complementary role by way of piloting use of new technologies and promoting the generation of planting material through community initiatives.
- 3.9 The Principal Secretary Industries and Commerce informed the CSMC that he is fully aware about the bamboo resource crisis and asserted that concerted efforts need to be made to ensure the sufficient increase of the production base of bamboo with the Forest Department taking the lead, as this will be critical to the plan for promoting bamboo industrial applications and bamboo based enterprises in the State especially the Bamboo Park.
- 3.10 The Principal Secretary Handlooms and Handicrafts agreed to support the SPV by way of enabling them to use Purbhasha's retail infrastructure at Delhi, Kolkata and Guwahati on a concessional rate. He asked the TBM team to assist the SPV to finalize their site requirements at the earliest.
- 3.11 Mr Asim Narayan from NMBA apprised the CSMC about the various activities that have been jointly undertaken by NMBA and TBM. These include the 20Ha Community Plantation of Kanakaich bamboo, financing of bamboo stick making machinery to the construction of Community Production Centers using bamboo pre-fabricated structures. He assured that NMBA will continue to extend support to TBM for the various bamboo value addition activities especially in the area of promotion of industrial applications of bamboo.

4.6 The JICA and the Q12 project shall replicate the successful models established by TBM in the area of livelihoods generation in the bamboo sector. The TBM activities

#### 4. Decisions Taken:

Based on the discussions in the Coordinated Mission Steering Committee of the State Bamboo Mission and the subsequent discussions with the Chief Secretary the following important decisions have been taken:

- 4.1 To address the shortage of planting materials, it was decided to launch an organized plantation program in the State with a major role being played by the Forest Department. It was decided that the Forest Department through JBIC & IGDC would raise 20 lakhs seedlings under Tissue Culture technique for the plantation year 2011-12 under a decentralized seedling nursery program in Forest Divisions in the State.[Action:- PCCF/CEO (JBIC)/IGDC]
- 4.2 Under the FRA Act, 1.5 lakhs hectares of forest land (*patta right*)s have been issued to tribal households in forest areas. It was decided to include bamboo also as an economic activity for the utilization of the land.[Action:-Tribal Welfare Deptt/PCCF/District Magistrates /Mission Coordinator (TBM)]
- 4.3 With the involvement of PRIs, it was decided to include bamboo plantation activities under the NREGA program. A model project shall be prepared by the Tripura Bamboo Mission that will be shared with various agencies implementing the bamboo plantation program under NREGA.[Action:- Commissioner & Secretary (RD Deptt)/ District Magistrates/Mission Coordinator (TBM)]
- 4.4 At least 10% of the total sticks production in the state should be converted into rolled incense with appropriate support from the Tripura Bamboo Mission. To address the shortage of Jiget, that is the main raw material for the masala needed for rolled batti, The DFO Research will initiate a Nursery Program and this will be followed with a pilot plantation of Menda in 100 Ha in Ambassa and Manu Forest divisions.[Action:- PCCF/DFO(Research)/DFO(Ambassa & Manu)/Mission Coordinator(TBM)]
- 4.5 The polished incense sticks subsector has witnessed unprecedented growth. In view of the huge demand and the ease with which the activity can be introduced in the tribal areas especially in re-grouped village. It should be given special focus and replicated across the State[Action:- District Magistrate/Tribal Welfare Deptt./ Deptt. of Industries & Commerce/Mission Coordinator(TBM)]
- 4.6 The JICA and the GTZ project shall replicate the successful models established by TBM in the area of livelihoods generation in the bamboo sector. The TBM activities

should be scaled up especially in the 100 villages in the Dhalai district where the Indo - German project is being implemented.[Action:- CEO (IGDC)/JBIC/District Magistrate(Dhalai)/TBM]

- 4.7 Regarding the issue of TP/ GP, VAT and the problem of double taxation in bamboo value added products, it was decided that the implications will be re-examined and put-up for decision[Action:- PCCF/ Deptt. of Industries & Commerce./Mission Coordinator(TBM)]
- 4.8 In principle approval was given by the CSMC regarding the proposal to provide space in **Purbhasha** Retail outlets in Delhi, Kolkata and Guwahati to the newly formed State level SPV in the Handicrafts Sector. A team from TBM and the SPV shall visit the retail locations and finalize the space requirements immediately.[Action:- Deptt of Industries & Commerce /Tripura Bamboo Mission]
- 4.9 The CMSC approved the Action Plan prepared by the Tripura Bamboo Mission for the Financial Year 2010 - 2011. (Enclosed in Annexure II)

Sd/  
(Shri.S.K.Panda)  
The Chief Secretary,  
Government of Tripura.

F.No.8 (2)/TBM/Meeting/06/ 10865-82  
Government of Tripura  
Department of Industries & Commerce  
Tripura Bamboo Mission

Dated, Agartala, the 16<sup>th</sup> June, 2010  
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To  
All the Members/Officials

(V.G.Jenner)  
Mission Coordinator &  
Member Secretary (CMSC)