

**Minutes of the Sixth Coordinated Mission Steering Committee Meeting
on the State Bamboo Mission**

Date: 29th February, 4:00 pm

Venue: Secretariat, Conference Hall No: III

The list of Participants is enclosed in Annexure I.

1. The meeting was chaired by the Chief Secretary, Shri S. K. Panda. The Chief Secretary welcomed all the members of the Committee to the sixth meeting of the Coordinated Mission Steering Committee (CMSC) constituted under the purview of Tripura State Bamboo Mission. He requested Dr. A. K. Krishnakumar, Executive Director of IL&FS Clusters to make the presentation on progress achieved by the Tripura Bamboo Mission and present the Action Plan for the next phase.
2. Dr. Krishnakumar made a presentation covering the following areas.
 - End Term Evaluation Findings
 - o Achievements of TBM
 - o Recommendations
 - Action Plan for next 5 years
 - Annual Action Plan for 2012-13
3. As per the decision taken by the 5th Coordinated Mission Steering Committee on 4th Feb 2011, the End Term Evaluation of Tripura Bamboo Mission was undertaken by the Andhra Pradesh Technology Development & Promotion Centre (APTDC), an autonomous organization, jointly promoted by Govt. of Andhra Pradesh, Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) and Technology Information, Forecasting and Assessment Council (TIFAC), Government of India. APTDC conducted the End Term Review of Tripura Bamboo Mission through a two member team headed by Mr Ramesh G Kalaghatgi, IFS, Addl., Prl. Chief Conservator of Forests, A P Forest Department. The End Term Evaluation team presented its final report and recommendations in Feb 2011.

4. Key findings of the End Term Evaluation

The Key findings of the End Term Evaluation are as follows.

- a. TBM has established a clear model for the integrated development of the Bamboo sector in the state.
- b. The sub-sector specific focus and the cluster based approach that it has adopted has led to focused interventions resulting in promotion,

consolidation and strengthening of the value chain, expansion of the production base and improved returns for all stakeholders.

- c. The different sub-sectors within the sector have experienced variable growth with more than 80% of the turnover increase coming from incense subsector followed by the handicrafts sector.
- d. The bamboo resource is on a declining trend and resource regeneration needs to be addressed urgently.
- e. Turnover increase: The total turnover of the bamboo sector in the state has increased from the base level of Rs. 27.90 crore (2006-07) to Rs. 93.05 crore (2010-11).

ANNUAL GROWTH OF THE BAMBOO SECTOR IN TRIPURA					
YEARS	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09	2009-10	2010-11
Turnover (Rs. Crore)	28.00	35.50	56.56	76.00	93.05

- f. Financial Resource Mobilization: The TBM program was launched in August 2007 with an initial funding of Rs 1.88 crore from the Special SGSY project. This initial corpus from the Govt. of Tripura has been augmented with funding from various sources that includes Central Government schemes, State Government Schemes and investments from local private sector. These include funding from Ministry of DoNER, NMBA, NBM, JICA, DRDA, district administration and Ministry of Commerce. As on 31st March, 2011, TBM had mobilized Rs. 46.24 crores.
- g. Coverage and Outreach:
 - No. of Clusters Covered : 33 clusters in 4 districts
 - No. of persons trained : 30,000 approx.
 - No. of Livelihoods generated : 15,000 approx.
 - Total Bamboo Plantation area covered : 140 Hectare
 - No. of CFCs established : 16
 - No. of societies & cooperatives promoted : 25

5. Key Recommendations by the End Term Evaluation:

I. Strengthening the Institutional Structure of TBM

- To establish TBM as Tripura Bamboo Board (TBB), which shall be registered under the Societies Registration Act 1954, headed by the Chief Secretary.
- The General Body of the society shall comprise of Secretaries and Head of various line Departments, representatives of ADCs, clusters, societies, Industries, Financing institutions and members of Civil Society.
- The Board shall have the mandate to plan, mobilize financial support, develop new designs, ensure convergence with various livelihood development initiatives in the state, arrange for capacity building, facilitate market linkages and undertake monitoring and evaluation.
- The Government of Tripura shall provide seed capital for triggering its activities and subsequently the TBB shall develop a business plan to mobilize resources and ensure self sustenance within a reasonable period of 5-7 years.

II. Increased Livelihood Focus

- Organize artisans into Common Enterprise Groups (CEGs) which will function on the model of SHGs but on a business model duly ensuring livelihood enhancement.
- Link CEGs to existing CFCs developed at cluster level. Thus a federation of CEGs will emerge at a cluster level.
- Strengthen existing societies and link them to business community who can adopt and handhold these institutions.

III. Awareness & Capacity building

- Develop a training curriculum and training infrastructure to train the para-foresters and other bamboo dependent villagers
- Build awareness among the villagers, artisans, business community and the government officers about the initiative is very critical and program should reach out to all the stakeholders.
- Undertake capacity building initiatives covering, subjects like – social mobilization / institutional development / skill development / nursery raising – plantations – management of bamboo resource – value addition & enterprise management should be organized

IV. Convergence with other Livelihoods, Tribal Welfare and Forestry Programs

- Special attention should be paid to converge the Bamboo Mission activities with the implementation of the National Rural Livelihoods Mission (NRLM) Program as bamboo will be a major sector for livelihoods promotion in the state.

- Other programs both Central / State Government including programs funded by Multilateral agencies that have components of capacity building, enterprise development, cluster development, plantation development etc for the bamboo sector should be implemented by converging the programs with the Bamboo Mission.

V. **Convergence with the Bamboo Park**

- Supply chain has to be established by linking the village or cluster level producer groups with these units.
- The TBM and TIDC should work in close coordination to ensure that the park enterprises have strong backward linkages for sourcing the raw material.

VI. **Priority on Resource Generation**

- Assessing Silvicultural availability
- Ensuring scientific management of Bamboo
- Improvement of existing regeneration in bamboo bearing forests
- Extension forestry & bamboo plantations to bring substantial area outside the forests under bamboo plantations.
- Promote a cadre of para-foresters on lines of ANMs to provide the required technical support, to the gram panchayats, farmers and JFMC members in raising nurseries and planting bamboos.
- Strengthening JFMCs and role of Village institutions
- Resource augmentation through large scale commercial and block plantation of bamboo shall be undertaken by a competitive & experienced agency like TFDPC.

VII. **Way forward for the Tripura Bamboo Mission**

- During the 12th Plan period, the TBM will play a critical role in enabling the State Government to achieve the plan goal of "Achieving faster and inclusive growth".
- As large number of poor producers is engaged in the sector, the continued growth of the sector is imperative to promote inclusive economic development in the state. In view of this the Government of Tripura needs to assign priority to the sector and provide the required support for TBM to both deepen and widen its activities in the next phase.

- The Government of Tripura shall provide seed capital for triggering its activities and subsequently the TBB shall develop a business plan to mobilize resources and ensure self sustenance within a reasonable period of 5-7 years.

Action Plan for next five years (2012-13 to 2016-17)

In the third phase of TBM, the focus will be to make Tripura as the hub of bamboo based sustainable micro, small and medium industries in the country by mobilizing the local natural and human resources and enable structured growth in the sector by strong institution building and market linkage.

Key objectives

The key objectives of the Tripura Bamboo Mission in the third phase are as follows:

- Sustain the growth achieved in the bamboo sector and increase the current turnover from Rs. 95 crores to 200 crores over a 5 year duration.
- Build the bamboo sector as a major livelihood provider and provide employment opportunities to 20,000 poor producers in the sector.
- Provide critical production and commercial infrastructure, technology, marketing support, capacity building and product diversification, to build competitiveness and ensure sustainable development of the clusters.

Thrust Areas

The thrust areas in the third phase are as follows:

- Establish the raw material supply chain for the upcoming units in the bamboo park
- Ensure adequate availability of bamboo through organized plantation development programs adopting the concept of precision agriculture
- Institutional strengthening of the producer organizations under a PPP framework
- Expanding the product range and helping the community to move up the value chain through continued interventions in design and technology induction
- Streamlining the grassroots level production base on the "one village one product model"
- Up gradation of skill of all stakeholders in the value chain
- Facilitate market penetration and brand development for Tripura products

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- Bamboo as a core component for livelihood enhancement under the NRLM facilitating inclusive growth
- Facilitate appropriate credit linkages

6. Key Discussions and Decisions taken

- The Chief Secretary, Shri S. K. Panda reiterated the importance of the bamboo sector in the state and appreciated the work done by TBM in the areas of organizing the poor, building their capacities and institutions to undertake value added activities and their earning potential. He recommended that in the next phase, the successful pilots should be replicated and the coordination and convergence with other departments especially the Rural Development, Tribal Welfare, Forests, JICA, Indo-German project, TFDPC etc. should be strengthened. All committee members unanimously agreed that, although the End Term Evaluation has recommended to a livelihood focus, it is prudent to have a turnover target to achieve better focus and sustain the momentum of the programme.
- **Strengthening the institutional Structure of TBM:**
The committee accepted the recommendations of the End Term Evaluation team and decided to strengthen the existing institutional structure of TBM. TBM will be established as (Tripura Bamboo Board) TBB, which shall be registered under the Societies Registration Act 1954, headed by the Chief Secretary. The General Body comprising of Secretaries and Head of Departments of Forests, Industry, Handicrafts, Rural Development, Social Welfare, Tribal Welfare and Finance, representatives of ADCs, sector specific clusters, societies, Industries, raw material growers, PRIs, JFMCs/FDAs, experts (to be nominated by the Government), Financing institutions (Lead Bank and other financial institutions) and members of Civil Society (to be nominated by the Government).
- **Addressing the availability of bamboo**
Shri S. K. Panda stated that the availability of adequate bamboo resources continues to remain a challenge and all the efforts in the value addition and industrial promotion in the sector will face major impediments unless the resource generation is addressed successfully.

It was decided that, Tripura Bamboo Mission will take responsibility for bamboo plantation in the non-forest areas. These include homestead plantations, private land holdings and land allocated to the forest dwellers under the Forest Rights Act. The funding required for undertaking such plantations shall be

mobilized from MGNREGA funds and other central govt. schemes which have provisions for promoting bamboo plantation, such as National Bamboo Mission and national Rural Livelihood Mission.

In order to address the shortage of planting material, it was decided that the Tripura Bamboo Mission will promote nurseries in the private sector with the active involvement of the grassroot beneficiaries such as the SHGs, JFMCs, farmer groups etc. A separate scheme shall be prepared by the TBM to provide financial support and implement the bamboo nursery development programme.

- **Convergence with Bamboo Park**

The TBM and TIDC should work in close coordination to ensure that the enterprises in the Bamboo Park have strong backward linkages for sourcing the raw material. It was decided that TBM should develop frameworks for contract farming arrangements based on which the units can be linked to captive bamboo plantations of the required species quality and quantity. TBM shall also assist in developing supply chains by linking the village or cluster level producer groups, who will undertake preliminary processing of bamboo, with the upcoming units in the Bamboo Park.

- **Bamboo as major sector for rural livelihood promotion**

It was decided that bamboo will be a major sector for promotion of livelihoods under the National Rural Livelihood Mission programme implementation in the state. The Secretary, RD Department, Shri J. K. Sinha informed the Committee that over Rs. 200 crore from the MGNREGA funds have been given to various line departments and TBM has undertaken bamboo plantations under the MGNREGA programme. He assured that he will continue to provide support to TBM during the 12th Plan Period through the various RD schemes including MGNREGA and NRLM.

- **Focus on Handicrafts and Furniture**

During the last 5 years, growth in the handicrafts & furniture sector was sluggish as compared to incense sector. Considering the huge potential in this sector, it was decided that TBM shall build the capacities of the grassroot institutions and producer groups to undertake large scale production with quality adherence and cost competitiveness on a "one village one product" model. TBM shall undertake a comprehensive market development programme thereby establishing linkages with potential market segments.

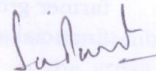
- **Project extension**

The Steering Committee expressed satisfaction and appreciated the performance of the Tripura Bamboo Mission in the last phase. The Committee

decided that the TBM project shall be extended for a period of five years under the 12th Plan Period starting from 2012-13 to 2016-17. The committee reviewed and approved the strategy and action plan of TBM for the third phase.

The CMSC also approved the Annual Action Plan prepared by the Tripura Bamboo Mission for the Financial Year 2012-13 (enclosed in Annexure II).

The meeting ended with thanks to the Chair.



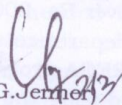
(S.K. Panda)
Chief Secretary &
Chairman, SBSC

F.No.8(2)/TBM/Meeting/06/3560-73

Government of Tripura
Department of Industries & Commerce
Tripura Bamboo Mission

Dated, Agartala, the 2nd March, 2012

To
All the Members/officials



(V.G. Jemher)
Mission Coordinator, TBM &
Member-Secretary, SBSC

