

To the Principal Secretary,
Industries & Commerce Dept.

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Minutes of Seventh Coordinated Mission Steering Committee Meeting
On the State Bamboo Mission
Date: 23rd May, 11:00 am
Venue: Secretariat, Conference Hall No:3

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 seventh meeting of the coordinated Mission Steering Committee (CMSC) constituted under the purview of Tripura State Bamboo Mission. Shri S.K Panda reiterated the importance of the bamboo sector in the state and the role of Tripura Bamboo Mission in taking the sector forward. He highlighted TBM's contribution in developing capacities and institutions to promote value added activities and increase income of poor producers and artisans engaged with bamboo as their main source of livelihood.

Thereafter he requested Ms. Sharmistha Mohapatra, Head- Rural Livelihoods and Enterprise of IL&FS Clusters to make the presentation on progress achieved by the Tripura Bamboo Mission (TBM) and the action plan for the current financial years to the committee.

2. Ms. Sharmistha made a presentation covering the following areas.

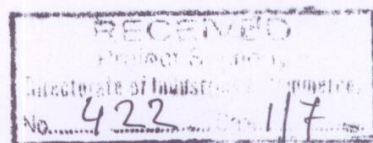
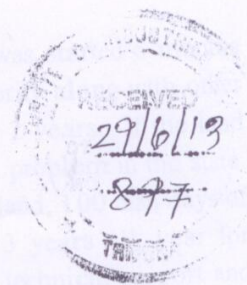
- Achievements of TBM in FY 2012-2013
- Annual Action Plan for 2013-2014

3. Key Discussions and Decisions taken

- Launch of the Tripura Bamboo Plantation Programme

a) The Chief Secretary recommended that the bamboo plantation programmes should be launched immediately in the current plantation season. As the project has already been submitted to NEC for funding support and it may take some time for the project to be approved by NEC, it was decided that the pilot round of plantation of approximately 200 ha shall be taken up with funding support from JICA.

b) It was decided that TBM shall attempt to undertake 1500 ha of bamboo plantation with the RoFR beneficiaries located in the clusters where TBM is working. It was also recommended that TBM should work with the Department of tribal welfare closely and the department will provide the list of RoFR beneficiaries for preparation



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of detail action plan. It was decided that an inter departmental approach will be undertaken for funding this initiative whereby respective BDO will provide funding support under the MNREGA scheme, Forest Department will provide planting material and the balance funding support maybe provided under the NRLM programme of the ministry of Rural Development and Tribal Welfare Department.

- c) The Mission Director of TBM, Shri Praveen Agrawal, stated that a detailed map with the species wise requirement of bamboo in all the clusters has been prepared. The map clearly indicates the location, type of bamboo based activity and the specific species required in the clusters. He advised that this map should be used as planning tool for implementing the planting material generation programmes well as the bamboo plantation programme. However due to shortage of the required planting material in this planting season, TBM will start plantation of bamboo with the currently available plating material.
- d) Shri S.K. Panda stated that a focused approach for bamboo plantation should be adopted and advised to start plantation in the thirty seven (37) clusters where TBM is currently working. It was decided that TBM will prepare a detail plantation plan for the 37 clusters, where TBM is currently working and to begin with, a plan to start plantation in 20 selected clusters especially in the RoFR area in the 1st year should be the priority.

- **Sourcing of funds for bamboo plantation from JICA**

As part of the new JICA project of Agro forestry project which was started 6 months back, it was recommended that bamboo plantation should be a priority along with other horticulture crop and 5000 ha of plantation should to be raised in 2 years. If the land issue is sorted out the plantation target of 5000 ha should not be a problem in the state. The arrangement could be that RoFR beneficiaries can provide the land, 100 man days of labour cost can be contributed by MNREGA for a period for 3 years (1st year for plantation and 2nd year maintenance), IL&FS Clusters to provide technical support and forest department can provide funding for the plantation.

- **Short Film on Model bamboo plantations**

The Chief Secretary recommended that a short film on model bamboo plantation in Tripura, showing the best practices, economic returns and the benefits of bamboo plantation for the community should be made. Shri S.K.Panda also recommended that this film should be used in all awareness generation programs.

- **Focus on incense sector**

The Principle Secretary Shri. L.K.Guptra reiterated the importance of the incense sector in Tripura's economy. It has been the largest contributor both in terms of revenue and livelihoods generation, however in the past 2 years the volume of sticks sourced from Tripura has fallen from 25000mt to 17000 mt. This is due to the increase sourcing of sticks from Vietnam, the duty on sticks from Vietnam has reduced from 30% to 10% under the ASEAN Free trade agreement and this will further reduce by 1% with each year. Due to the imports getting cheaper and also because of better quality of the sticks, increasingly supply of sticks from Tripura has been substituted by Vietnam sticks. In order to counter the import Sri Gupta suggested that the interventions of semi mechanization under the NInC programme should be upscale aggressively.

- **Focus on Agarbatti rolling**

Shri L.K Gupta also recommended that TBM should focus on conversion of 10% of the sticks into finished, perfumed and packaged agarbatti, as this is the only way to bring about transformational growth and compete in the Agarbatti sector. He has recommended that TBM should set up a training cum production center to impart training on rolling, perfuming and packaging of incense. This center should be supported by a raw material bank which inturn will support local entrepreneur to procure jiggat, perfume, and packaging. He also suggested that TBM should launch an umbrella brand for agarbatti under which dedicated local entrepreneur can be provided marketing support. Shri Gupta also reiterated that the department will assign special priority to the sector and local entrepreneur will be provided financial linked support under the PMEGP programme.

- **Establishment of Skill Training Center**

The need of a specific center for training and development of the incense sector was felt and the steering committee recommended that TBM should establish a skill training center for agarbatti rolling and packaging center immediately. This center will also have training facility on agarbati perfuming. It was decided that Department of Tribal welfare will place Rs. 40-50 lakhs to TBM for the purpose of establishment of this center.

- **Increase number of capacity building training**

Skill up-gradation training and Capacity building training of artisans and rural producers should continue and more number of artisans should be trained in the current financial year across all the Eight (8) districts and the Thirty Seven (37) clusters of operation in the state.

- **Manpower strengthening**

It was suggested that as Tripura natural resource based livelihoods are the major livelihood promotion area under the NRMMP. And the NRMMP funds may be

The Steering Committee expressed concern over the deployment of Man power especially in the incense sector. This sector will need special attention and a dedicated manpower will be required to further develop the sector. It was decided that manpower should be strengthen especially in the Incense sector to accelerate the growth and the attention required in the sector.

- **Handicrafts Products sale**

The members of Steering Committee were invited to an exhibition of the latest handicraft products designed by the TBM Design Cell. The Chief Secretary appreciated the products and suggested that TBM should collaborate with the Agartala Municipal Council and the Department of Tourism for promotion and sales of bamboo handicraft and utility and also conduct exhibitions in the state.

- **Revise Action Plan**

Shri Gupta advised TBM to revise the action plan with increase focus in the incense sector and by increasing the capacity building target to a minimum of 5000 beneficiaries. These beneficiaries will be across the focus sub sectors however the target specifically in the incense sector should be higher. The number of entrepreneur to be promoted in incense sector should increase from 10 to 50.

4. Convergence of Funds

- **Funds from NBM**

The Chief Secretary advised that as TBM is the platform for convergence and implementation of bamboo related programs in the state. The funds available under the NBM scheme be placed with TBM for undertaking the stipulated activities including training, plantation and other capacity building activities.

- **Funds from JICA**

The committee observed that fruitful convergence has been achieved between TBM and JICA activities in the past year. This should be scaled up and additional funding should be provided by JICA to undertake activities in the area of capacity building and training more artisans and poor producers in making incense stick and finished rolled agarbatti. Additionally JICA funding should also be utilized for undertaking model bamboo plantation.

- **Funds from NRLM**

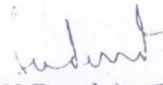
The committee recommended that as bamboo natural resource based livelihoods will be a major livelihood promotion area under the NRLM. And the NRLM funds may be

placed to TBM to undertake various livelihoods promotion activities in the bamboo sector.

- **Funds from Tribal Welfare Department**

The Secretary of Tribal Welfare Department Shri. Darlong extended his support to TBM to undertake livelihoods promotion activities especially for the RoFR beneficiaries. He committed that Rs. 40-50 lakhs from the Tribal sub-plans can be immediately placed to take up bamboo plantation and capacity building in semi-mechanized stick making in for the RoFR

The meeting ended with thanks of the chair.



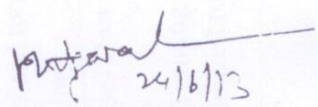
(S.K. Panda)

Chief Secretary &
Chairman, SBSC

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

Dated, Agartala, the June, 2013

To
All the Members/Officials



(Pravin L. Agrawal)
Mission Director, TBM &
Member Secretary, SBSC

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Revised Action Plan for FY 2013-2014

The revised action plan after all inputs and suggestion of the steering committee as given below:

ANNEXURE I

ANNUAL ACTION PLAN OF TRIPURA BAMBOO MISSION FOR 2013-2014

Sl. No.	Proposed Activity	Target	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4
Incense Sector- Bamboo Stick						
1	Skill Training on semi mechanized stick making	2300				
A	No. of new production areas to be established	15				
B	Financial support by facilitating linkages to loan	20 entrepreneurs				
c	Innovation on technology & dissemination to the clusters: Improved tool for stick making & polishing					
d						
Incense- Raw & Finished Agarbatti						
2	Skill Training – Hand rolling and mechanized rolling	2700				
a						

b	No. of new production areas to be established	15 centers					
c	Financial support by facilitating linkages to loan	30 entrepreneurs					
d	Innovation on technology, materials development & production						
3	Handicrafts (incl. furniture)						
a	Skill Training in contemporary high value goods	1200					
b	No. of new production areas to be established	10					
c	Institution Building- no. of producer groups to be formed	6 societies					
d	Design intervention - New Product Development	150					
e	Market linkage	Establish paypal linked portal					
f	Participation in fairs & exhibitions	6 Fairs					