

**NATIONAL RAINFED AREA AUTHORITY**  
**Department of Agriculture, Cooperation & Farmers Welfare**  
**Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare**

**Minutes of the Review-cum-Discussion Meeting on “Pilot Project on Fringe Forest Lands and Sub- Mission on Agro-forestry” held on 22<sup>nd</sup> January 2018, at NASC Complex, New Delhi under the Chairmanship of Dr. Ashok Dalwai, CEO (NRAA).**

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The review cum discussion meeting on **“Pilot Project on Fringe Forest Lands and Sub- Mission on Agro-forestry”** was held on 22<sup>nd</sup> January 2018, at Committee Room no 1, NAAS, NASC Complex Delhi under the chairmanship of Dr. Ashok Dalwai, CEO (NRAA).

The purpose of this review meeting was to draw up a list of action plans based on agroforestry issues of various States involved in Sub- Mission on Agro-forestry and to include agroforestry component in the drought proofing Action Plans for the districts of Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh and Rajasthan, which is under preparation.

The meeting began with the welcome speech and opening remarks by Dr. Ashok Dalwai, CEO, NRAA. In his opening remark he gave an overview of the mandate of NRAA and its collaboration with FRI, Dehradun in conducting this Pilot Project on “Identification of extent of forest lands in forest fringe villages”. He emphasized the need of sharing the substantial amount of data and information generated through this project with so as to strengthen programs for communities residing in the fringe areas of forests and rainfed areas. He further explained that this valuable document can be used to prepare comprehensive action plans for drought proofing, as well as working-out strategies for further promotion and development of agro-forestry in all States. He informed that NRAA is now committed to develop action plan for the 150 most vulnerable drought prone districts of the country based on report of NICRA. NITI Aayog has selected these 150 most backward districts based on various parameters.

Farm income is extremely vulnerable in these districts and hence to enhance the farmers’ income through sustainable livelihoods through increased non-farm income, horticulture, agro forestry, livestock, fisheries, dairy, poultry could play an important role. He further mentioned that Government of India has launched the Sub-Mission on Agro-Forestry in 2016-17 after the enunciation of the National Agro-Forestry Policy 2014. This would contribute to the slogan of “*Medh per Pedh*”, of Hon’ble PM. Planting appropriate/multi-purpose tree species on bunds and cultivable wastelands to increase the tree cover, for carbon

sequestrations as well as supplemented income. An important pre-requisite for availing central assistance is liberalization of the transit rules of common tree species grown on private lands. Farmers should be motivated and educated to take up climate resilience agriculture and double their income for sustainability.

Thereafter, Dr. Savita, IFS & Director, FRI presented the salient outcomes of the project. She highlighted the major findings, significance and purpose of this project and the utility through incorporating the information generated through this project in the area of forestry & agro-forestry by States. She stated that FRI, Dehradun in collaboration with the other Institutes of ICFRE had conducted this study in 275 rainfed districts in 27 States and 01 UT (Andaman) and prepared, 6 zonal and 1 national reports.



These will assist to prioritize forestry interventions for both conservation and improve livelihoods through increased incomes of farmers. The study focused on these main objectives : (a) identification of fringe forest and forest fringe villages and their mapping (b) socio-economic status through survey at village and household levels and (c) ecological study of fringe forests. 1,39,342 fringe forest villages have been identified in these States. She drew attention on NRAA's mandate and emphasized that the data and information available in the report, could be used to identify most vulnerable districts, identify gaps & priorities in development of rainfed areas. Ecological data could be used as baseline data to formulate agro-forestry projects with a view to reduce impacts of climate change variability and other environmental stresses also. She also informed that software and web based data repository have been created to maintain consistency, accuracy and automated socio-economic data analysis. She highlighted that FRI has introduced many new agro-forestry tree varieties of neem, eucalyptus etc., which is successfully being grown by farmers in Punjab, Haryana, Delhi, U.P. & Uttarakhand to make agro-forestry a high returns venture. She also explained that agro-forestry production per ha per annum is currently very low. Increase in productivity is required, FRI can be an active partner in capacity building on agro-forestry in association with States. Therefore, after completion of this pilot project, future follow-up action identified by FRI, Dehradun for promotion of agro-forestry including capacity building, identification of fringe forest villages in drought vulnerable districts, prevailing & potential agro-forestry models etc. It was also mentioned that NRAA should take a lead as a knowledge platform to promote agro-forestry.

The presentation was followed by a round of discussion. Prof. P. Bhattacharya, IP University critically observed that FRI, Dehradun should work more on ecology eg. Soil type, kind of crop, Socio-economic condition of household, type of bench-mark, limitations, forest Act, incorporating medicinal

plant, development of upland areas for agro-forestry as in case of China & Thailand. He also explained about integrated system of agriculture successfully implemented in Tripura and propagation of commercial trees species by ITC on agricultural lands for increasing farmer's income.



Dr. O.P. Chaturvedi, Director, CAFRI Jhansi stressed that atleast 2 species of agro-forestry should be introduced in each zone. Dr. K. Prabhu, Jt. Director, IARI advocated for availability of markets for agro-forestry products which would ultimately enhance the income of farmers. Sudhanshu Gupta, APCCF, Tamil Nadu suggested that fringe forest villages are not covered under forest therefore agriculture and agro-forestry should be propagated in these villages. Tamil Nadu Govt. has incentivized agro-forestry for some species and is being successfully implemented and that the same can be applied for other States also. Sh. R. B. Sinha explained that agro-forestry can be implemented on agricultural lands of forest fringe areas and fund is a constraint in some States for implementing agro-forestry schemes. Dr. A.K. Handa suggested that some successful agro-forestry models are available at CAFRI, Jhansi which can be replicated in States/UTs.

Alka Bhargava, JS(NRM) explained about the restructured National Bamboo Mission on the anvil. She also advocated that States implementing sub-mission on agro-forestry should consult with FRI, Dehradun to educate farmers on agro-forestry and best agronomic practices so that better productivity of agro-forestry tree species could be achieved and increasing income of farmers. CEO, NRAA observed that Soil Health Card Scheme should be also introduced in forest fringe villages to reduce input cost and increase farmer's income. Dr. Dalwai further discussed regarding incorporation of outcomes of Pilot study in drought proofing Action Plans. Dr. Savita explained that FRI, Dehradun had submitted a project on study of soil health of the forest areas to MoEF which is a much required study for approval. CEO NRAA further discussed integration of outcomes of this study in drought proofing plans in states/districts. CEO, NRAA explained that additional income could be generated from agro-forestry products for sustaining of farmer's income. Dr. A.K. Handa, CAFRI informed that combination of Poplar tree with wheat had been demonstrated successfully on farmer's field. Therefore, selection of tree species is very important in the right combination with crop without affecting crop yield. Alka Bhargava, JS(NRM) advised States implementing Sub-Mission on Agro-Forestry that sufficient fund is available for demonstration of good agro-forestry models and capacity building programmes could be chalked out in collaboration with FRI, Dehradun and TERI, Jabalpur. Sudhanshu Gupta, APCCF, TNFD suggested that watergel application should be demonstrated by CRIDA, Hyderabad as utilized in desert

areas. CEO, NRAA finally suggested to Dr. K.V. Rao, CRIDA Hyderabad that forest fringe areas in these 24 drought vulnerable districts could be incorporated for enhancing farmer's income.

Dr. K.V. Rao Principal Scientist ICAR-CRIDA, Hyderabad, made a presentation on District Action Plan for Drought Proofing-Scope for Agro Forestry. He informed that CRIDA was in process of developing the plans through collaborative efforts with line departments of 3 states selected by NRAA for implementation in the year 2017-18 namely Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka & Rajasthan. Committees have been formed at various levels to prepare plans as per the specific requirements of particular State. Total 24 districts have been identified under the plan namely Andhra Pradesh (04 districts), Karnataka (16 districts and Rajasthan (04 districts) and assessments made for rainfall dependency, runoff water, crop management, need for additional water and sources of water available, groundwater availability etc. He further briefed about various region specific agro forestry systems for selected States, and also suggested that degraded lands which are not under cultivation can be brought under *Leucaena* cultivation for higher returns as in Andhra Pradesh.

Thereafter a brief feedback from Officers of States implementing SMAF was taken;



### Karnataka

Mrs. Anita Kerkal, IFS, Add. PCCF(SF) presented the physical & Financial progress of Sub-Mission on Agro-Forestry.

Issue:- Clarification sought regarding up-scaling of Mission through convergence of Centre & State schemes funding.

### Tamil Nadu

Sudhanshu Gupta, APCCF, TNFD suggested that Farmers Interest Groups can be created to enhance the farmer's income through agro-forestry.

Issues:-

- i. Scheme got delayed due to creation of budget line during this year and RE will be released in January.
- ii. Delayed monsoon hampered the progress of scheme.
- iii. To revise the cost norm of 60:40, Centre & State ratio.

### Himachal Pradesh

Dr. L. C. Bandana, IFS presented the physical & financial progress of Sub-Mission on Agro-forestry.

Issues:-

- i. Clarification regarding promotion of nursery on private lands instead on govt. lands.
- ii. Promotion of indigenous tree species for farmers.
- iii. Certification of nursery is required.

### Jharkhand

Sh. N. P. Deo, ADFO presented the progress report on sub-mission on Agro-Forestry. He also explained the 'Mukhyamantri Jan Van Yojana' under which plantation of trees is being promoted among farmers of the state.

Issues:-

- i. Farmers are not interested in agro-forestry plantation.
- ii. Timber from Forest & Non-Forest areas should be categorized for marketing.
- iii. Certification of nursery is required.

### Orrisa

Sh. H. K. Panda, Director(Agriculture), presented the physical & financial progress of Sub-Mission on Agro-forestry.

Issues:-

- i. Revision of existing cost norms for plantation.
- ii. Cost norm is higher eg. Cashew.

### Madhya Pradesh

Sh. K. S. Yadav, DFA(Agriculture), presented the physical & financial progress of Sub-Mission on Agro-forestry.

Issues:-

- i. Nurseries are being raised by the Forest Deptt. Whereas plantation is carried out by State Agri. Deptt.
- ii. Restriction on transportation of timber for marketing.
- iii. Areas have been not identified in some districts for new plantation.

### Rajasthan

Sh. Govind Singh, Dy. Director(Agriculture), presented the physical & financial progress of Sub-Mission on Agro-forestry.

Issues:-

- i. Shortage of Marwar Teak Plant material which is preferred by local farmers.

### Chhattisgarh

Representative of Chhattisgarh presented the physical & financial progress of Sub-Mission on Agro-forestry. 1.20 lakh agro-forestry trees are planted in low density plantation. Lemon grass has been successfully planted in some areas. Khamar & Neem trees(*Melia Dubia*) are popular in tribal belts.

### Haryana

Sh. Subhash Yadav, (Haryana Forest Development Corporation), presented the physical & financial progress of Sub-Mission on Agro-forestry.

Issues:-

- i. To revise cost norms i.e. 60:40, hence the farmers are not interested in agroforestry.
- ii. Development of agroforestry models on large area of barren land in Gurugram.
- iii. To develop 1100 acre barren lands of Massani Barrage near Dharuhera through integrated Agro-Forestry Models.

## Mizoram

Sh. Pradip Chhetri, AEO (Agriculture), presented the physical & financial progress report.

Issues:-

- i. To revise cost norms i.e. 60:40.
- ii. Fund has not been released.
- iii. Most of the notified agro-forestry species are not preferred by farmers.
- iv. Bamboo shoots are the most preferred for plantation by local farmers.

Some of the important points and suggestion discussed during review meeting cum discussion by eminent speakers & CEO, NRAA are compiled as follows:-

### Action Points:

- I. Action plan at macro level will be finalized by collaboration of concerned institutes as of CRIDA, Hyderabad, NRAA, N. Delhi, FRI, Dehradun & TFRI, Jabalpur.
- II. CRIDA, Hyderabad is advised to prepare Action Plan on forest fringe villages situated in 24 drought vulnerable districts of Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh & Rajasthan as identified in Pilot Project of FRI, Dehradun, so that Agro-Forestry schemes could be implemented successfully.
- III. There should be convergence between watershed & Fringe Forest area for enhancing farmers income.
- IV. CAFRI, Jhansi should be assigned to update data of SMAF on their website for assessing the progress. They already have data related to Agro-Climatic Zone wise agro-forestry areas on their web portal. It was suggested that some fund can be allotted to CAFRI, Jhansi to update the data periodically.
- V. Certification of nursery for SMAF has been identified an important part since good seedlings and saplings will ensure good return to farmers. Therefore, ICFRE is assigned to come up with a Seed Certification Protocol
- VI. For implementing SMAF in states, NRM division will resolve all the issues and clarification raised during the meeting.
- VII. States implementing SMAF are advised to converge Centre & State fund for better implementation and support to enhance farmer's income.
- VIII. National Bamboo Mission is also set to be re-launch, as an means to strengthen rural improvement.

At the end of the meeting, CEO, NRAA thanked Dr. Savita, Director, FRI Dehradun for elaborate research done in the Pilot Project of FRI, Dehradun. He also thanked all the invited experts and state representatives for participation and interactions during the meeting.

List of Participants

<b>Sr. No.</b>	<b>Name &amp; Designation</b>	<b>Department</b>
1	Shri N.K. Pandey	Horticulture, Chhattisgarh
2	Shri Sudhanshu Gupta, APCCF	TNFD
3	Shri K. S. Yadav, DDA	Agriculture
4	Dr. L. C. Bandana	Forest Deptt., H.P.
5	Dr. K. V. Rao	ICAR, CRIDA, Hyderabad
6	Dr. Divya Shah	DAC&FW, RFS Div.
7	Dr. Savita, Director	FRI Dehradun
8	Smt. Anita S. Arekal, IFS, Addl PCCF	Social Forestry, Karnataka
9	Dr. Nandita Bery	Tropical Forest Research Institute, MP
10	Shri H. K. Panda, Director, Tech	Agri.&F.E., Odisha
11	Dr. A. K. Handa	ICAR-CAFRI, Jhansi
12	Dr. P. K. Mathur	FRI, Dehradun
13	Dr. S. K. Sharma, Scientist	ECC&F Div, FRI, Dehradun
14	Dr. Pradip Chhetri, SMS	Mizoram
15	Shri Sanjay Kumar, Dy. Commissioner(Hort.)	DAC&FW
16	Shri Manoj Kumar, Scientist	FRI, Dehradun
17	Dr. O. P. Chaturvedi, Director	CAFRI, Jhansi
18	Shri N. P. Deo	Forest Deptt. Jharkhand
19	Shri S. Bhaskar, ADG	NRM, ICAR
20	Shri Vivek Saxena	HFDC, Haryana
21	Shri K. V. Prabhu, Jt. Director	IARI, New Delhi
22	Shri B. Rath, ADC, RFS	MoA
23	Prof. Prodyut Bhattacharya	IP University, New Delhi
24	Shri Govind Singh	Agri, Jaipur, Rajasthan
25	Shri Satyabhan CCF	Haryana Forest Deptt.
26	Shri R. S. Rajpurohit	AWARI, Rajasthan
27	Shri Subhash Yadav	Haryana Forest Dev. Corporation
28	Dr. R. P. S. Deswal, ADC, NRM	DAC&FW
29	Smt. Alka Bhargawa, JS (NRM/RFS)	DAC&FW
30	Shri R. B. Sinha	ICRAFT
31	Dr. M. K. Srivastawa, Director	NRAA