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Minutes of Governing Body cum Steering Committee Meeting of Tripura Bamboo Mission (TBM)

Date: March 2, 2017

Time: 3.30 pm

Venue: Conference Hall-II, Secretariat, New Capital Complex, Agartala

The list of participants is enclosed in Annexure I.

A. Key Discussions

1. The Governing Body cum Steering Committee Meeting of the Tripura Bamboo Mission was chaired by the Chief Secretary, Government of Tripura. The meeting started with a presentation on the background of the Tripura Bamboo Mission (TBM) and its vision & objectives by Dr AK Krishnakumar, Executive Director- IL&FS Clusters.
2. This was followed by a presentation by Ms Sharmistha Mohapatra, Vice President- IL&FS Clusters on the achievements and current status of the program. It was highlighted during the presentation that over a 10 year period (2007 till 2017), TBM has been instrumental in increasing the sector turnover from Rs 27 Crores to more than Rs 100 Crores. During this period, Rs 79 Crores has been mobilized from external sources of funding by leveraging the initial seed funding of Rs 1.88 Crores provided by the State Government under a Special SGSY project. The major outcome has been to strengthen the value chain in the bamboo sub-sector, provide critical production infrastructure, address the skill gaps, induct technology to enhance productivity, and bring about a paradigm shift in the product portfolio and marketing of the cluster products.
3. A key take away from the project has been a mission-approach with a robust implementation framework which enabled the deployment of professional management support through engagement of competent private sector agency and flexibility of carrying out mid-course corrections based on the recommendations of periodic external evaluation.
4. TBM informed that it has mobilized around 1100 ha of land for bamboo plantation in the coming planting season 2017 and it has created around three (3) lakh of quality planting material of B tulda and B balcooa from TC origin for the coming season. The balance six to seven lakhs of planting material shall be managed by collection of rhizome from local area. However, it will be challenging to complete the plantation program on time without assured quality planting material available in hand.
5. Mr Surendra Kumar, APCCF informed that Forest Department is also creating quality planting material of commercially important bamboo species and this would be made available to TBM. The Chief Secretary advised that TBM and Forest Depart should work closely to ensure on timely availability of planting material.
6. The MD TFDPC reiterated the importance of generating bamboo planting material and advised that TBM should have a strong program for establishing nurseries, so that the State achieves self sufficiency in generating high-quality planting material and gradually reduce its dependence on external sources.
7. Principle Secretary-RD appreciated the performance of TBM in bamboo plantation, and stated that the RD Department has been providing the required funds for meeting the labour component of the bamboo plantation besides the cost of planting material under MGNREGA.

He assured continued support and committed to fund of Rs 11 to 12 Crores for undertaking the current target of 1000 Ha of HDBP.

8. The issue of availability of quality bamboo raw material to meet the industry requirement was highlighted by Dr A K Gupta, PCCF. He appraised that bamboo farmers in Dhalai are currently unable to meet the quality requirements of Mutha Industries. He advised that TBM should take responsibility of imparting adequate awareness, training and technical support to enable framers raise high quality bamboo plantation. Mr Kedar Panda, Project Manager-TBM, committed that TBM would train 2000 farmers to undertake HDBP in FY 17-18
9. The Principle Secretary- I&C stated that TBM has created significant impact in the bamboo sector in the State, and built a strong value chain with focus on value addition, scale and competitiveness. However, he cited that the drop in turnover from Rs 122 Crores in FY 12-13, is result of the implementation of the WTO guidelines that led to a reduction of import duty on round sticks being sourced from China and Vietnam. As bamboo incense sticks accounts for a significant portion of the total sector turnover, this policy shift has adversely affected the incense stick industry in Tripura. He strongly advised that corrective action through a combination of attracting private investment as well as facilitating Government support should be undertaken to rapidly augment the stick production capacity of the State, and thereby restoring its leadership position.
10. The Principle Secretary- I&C mentioned that pilot initiatives of raising private bamboo plantations in small holdings need to be scaled up, primarily due to the benefit of ensuring livelihood support to the rural poor in the State. And at the same time, building the raw material base for the rapidly growing bamboo based industries in the State. He also suggested that TBM should work in close coordination with Purbasha & Dept of HH&S for marketing of the diverse handicraft products developed by TBM. Emphasis has to be given on high value high demand products.
11. The Mission Director- TBM, highlighted the issue of Transit Permit and its repercussion in promoting bamboo industry was discussed in length. It was suggested to remove the Transit Permit system for intra-state transport of bamboo and bamboo cut pieces. An exclusive meeting with Forest Department shall to be organized to resolve the Transit Permit issues.
12. The Chief Secretary appreciated the activities undertaken by TBM and advised that there is an immediate and urgent need for addressing issues related to building competitiveness of the bamboo sector in State. While he took note of the action taken by TBM to address the decline in turnover, he also advised that the following steps should be undertaken by TBM on priority basis:
 - a. Diversifying the bamboo industrial applications in the State to other avenues beyond round sticks
 - b. Ensuring that industries are able to source bamboo raw material at competitive rates
 - c. Ensure appropriate strategies are adopted for transportation of finished bamboo goods, taking in consideration logistic hurdles and bottlenecks
 - d. Ensuring availability of high-quality planting material, package of practices, and extension support to ensure highest productivity of bamboo plantation and also ensure that the species are in line with the product portfolio included in the industrial application strategy

13. The Chief Secretary concluded the meeting by stating that in the next phase TBM should accomplish the task of ensuring that selected high-value products made in Tripura should find place in reputed international retail chains like Ikea.

B. Key decisions

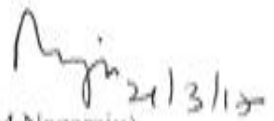
1. Approval of the annual action plan FY 17-18

The Governing Body approved the Action Plan presented by TBM for the FY 17-18. The Plan focuses on building the competitiveness and scale of the mechanized round stick production by setting up two large scale unit and 20 micro units, training 8000 beneficiaries across the various focus sub-sectors, and promotion of the various cluster level producer institutions.

2. Approval of recommendations of the End-Term Evaluation Committee

The Governing Body accepted the recommendations of the End-Term Evaluation Committee and advised TBM to roll out the recommendation through effective interventions in a time bound manner.

The meeting ended with thanks to the Chair.


(M.Nagaraju)
Principal Secretary

No. IV-2(93)/PLG/DI/2013/Part - 1/ 5382-90
Government of Tripura
Directorate of Industries & commerce

21st
Dated, Agartala, the March 2017

To
All concerned

Copy to :

- i) The SA & JS to Chief Secretary - for kind information of Chief Secretary.
- ii) The P.S to Principal Secretary, Industries & Commerce - for kind information of Principal Secretary.

To

Mr. V. George Jenner, IFS.
Mission Director TBM & Director of
Industries & Commerce.

Annexure I: List of Participants

<i>Sl. No.</i>	<i>Name</i>	<i>Designation & Deptt./ Agency</i>
1	Shri Sanjeev Ranjan, IAS	Chief Secretary, Govt. of Tripura
2	Mr. M. Nagaraju, IAS	Principal Secretary, Industries & Commerce
3	Dr. G.S.G Ayyangar, IAS	Principal Secretary, Rural Development Deptt.
4	Mr. L.H. Darlong, IAS	Secretary, Tribal Welfare, Govt of Tripura
5	Dr. AK. Gupta, IFS	Principal Chief Conservator of Forest & CEO - IGDC
6	Dr. Ashok Kumar, IFS	MD, TFDPC
7	Mr. Surendra Kumar, IFS	Additional PCCF, Forest Department
8	Mr. V. George Jenner, IFS	Mission Director TBM & Director Industries & Commerce
9	Mrs. Swapna Debnath	Add Director, Dept of Industries & Commerce
10	Mr. Sujib Das	Project Officer (Technology) & DDO, TBM
11	Dr. A.K. Krishna Kumar	C.E.O. IL&FS Clusters
12	Ms. Sharmistha Mohapatra	Head- Livelihood & Rural Enterprises, VP IL&FS Clusters
13	Mr. Siddhartha Choudhury	AVP, IL&FS Clusters
14	Mr. Kedar Krushna Panda	Senior Manager, IL&FS Clusters
15	Mr. Santanu Das	Team Leader- Handicraft. TBM-IL&FS Clusters
16	Mr. A. B. Fazal Ali Mazumder	Assistant Manager, TBM - IL & FS Clusters
17	Mr. Sukanta Das	Team Leader - Marketing, TBM
18	Mr. Timir Chowdhury	Team Leader, Incense TBM
19	Ms. Rama Reang	Sr. Coordinator, TBM
20	Ms. Aparajita Majumder	Sr. Coordinator, TBM
21	Mr. Lab Datta	Sr. Coordinator, TBM
22	Mr. Ambar Das	Designer - TBM
23	Mr. Suman Paul	Sr. Coordinator, TBM
24	Mr. Rajib Saha	Sr. Coordinator, TBM
25	Ms. Lovely Baruah	Sr. Coordinator, TBM
26	Mr. Rajib Sarkar	Admin Coordinator, TBM
27	Ms. Nibedita Deb	Co-ordinator - TBM
28	Mr. Jayanta Kumar Deb	Cluster Coordinator - TBM

Attendance Sheet :

State Bamboo Steering Committee Meeting at 11:30 pm on 02-03-2017
in the Conference Hall No.II of the New Secretariat Building under the
Chairmanship of Chief Secretary, Tripura.

Sl. No.	Name of the Officer with Designation	Mobile no. & E-mail ID	Signature
1	A.K. Krishnakumar	9910338322 krishnakumar.ak@delhiindia.com	
2	V. George Jearar	vgjearar@gmail.com	
3	Dr. A. K. GUPTA	Prof@CHELW_CED, IGBC	 21/3/17
4	M. Nagarajan		
5	Dr. ASG Ayyangar		
6	D. Ashok Kumar	MD, JFPOC	
7	S. Icumar	KPCCA, Forest Dept	
8	L H Darlog	Secy. tw	
9	Siddhanta Choudhury Assistant Vice President	8974035350	
10	KEDAR KRUSHNA PANDA	8413075339	
11	Ms. S. Debnath Asstt. Director (Cec)	9436452082	
12	Sufib Das Project-officer (BAM)	9936768506	
13	A. B. Pasol Ali Mondal Asstt. Manager (BAM)	8415901816	
14	Lovely Banerjee (TBM) Cluster Co-ordinator	9678000889	
15	Aparajita Majumdar Co-ordinator (TBM)	9985098088	
16	Rama Raang (TBM)	9862675547	

