



NETWORK FOR CERTIFICATION AND CONSERVATION OF FORESTS

ANNUAL REPORT 2020-21

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Network for Certification and Conservation of Forests (NCCF)

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Network for Certification and Conservation of Forests (NCCF)

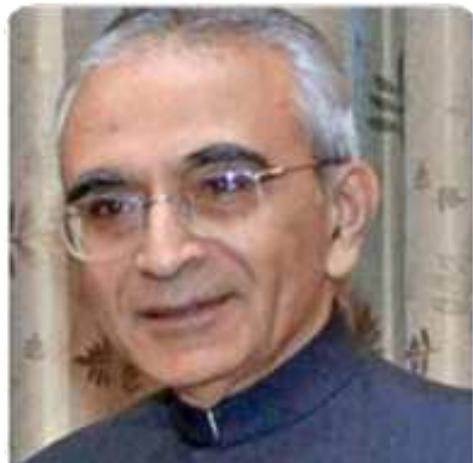
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Acronyms

ANAB	ANSI National Accreditation Board
AYUSH	Ayurveda, Yoga & Naturopathy, Unani, Siddha and Homeopathy
BEE	Bureau of Energy Efficiency
CAG	Certification Advisory Group
CDSCO	Central Drugs Standard Control Organization
CGIAR	Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research
CIFOR	Center for International Forestry Research
COC	Chain of Custody
CR-I	Carbon Registry-India
DPIIT	Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade
EPCH	Export Promotion Council of Handicrafts
FM	Forest Management
FSC	Forest Stewardship Council
FSI	Forest Survey of India
FTA	Forest, Trees and Agroforestry
GHG	Green House Gases
GMOS	Genetically Modified Organisms
GSTC	Global Sustainable Tourism Council
HCSSC	Handicrafts & Carpet Sector Skill Council
HOFF	Head of Forest Forces
IAF	International Accreditation Forum
ICAO	International Civil Aviation Organisation
ICFRE	Indian Council of Forestry Research and Education
ILO	International Labour Organization
INSS	Indian National Strategy for Standardization
IPCC	Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change
IUCN	International Union for Conservation of Nature
LULUCF	Land use, Land use change and Forestry
MOEF&CC	Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change
NABCB	National Accreditation Board for Certification Bodies
NWFP	Non-Wood Forest Products
NWFR	Non-Wood Forest Resources
NWPC	National Working Plan Code
PA	Protected Area
PAWS	Protected Areas and Wetlands
PCCF	Principal Chief Conservator of Forests
PEFC	Programme for Endorsement of Forest Certification
PTB	Physikalisch-Technische Bundesanstalt
QCI	Quality Council of India
QPM	Quality Planting Material
R&D	Research and Development
RAT	Risk Assessment Tool
REDD+	Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation
SDG	Standard Development Group
SFM	Sustainable Forest Management
STCI	Sustainable Tourism Criteria of India
TOF	Trees outside Forest
UP	Uttar Pradesh
UAF	United Accreditation Foundation
UNCCD	United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification
UNFCCC	United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change
UNIDO	United Nations Industrial Development Organization
WHO	World Health Organization

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Chairman's Message

It gives me great pleasure to present the Annual Report of the Network for Certification and Conservation of Forests for 2020-21 outlining the activities and achievements during the year.

NCCF is a society of experts and professionals in the scientific management of forests, trees and agroforestry. We are all committed to the cause of certification and conservation of natural resources. This is pertinent to biodiversity preservation, combating climate change and

halting desertification. We have endeavored to bridge the gap between policy makers and practitioners on issues of conservation through policy advocacy, consultations and awareness raising.

The work of NCCF includes development of sustainability norms and standards for certification of trees within forests and outside forests. This has kept us active in policy advocacy, research, training and capacity building. India has earmarked an ambitious target for enhancing its forest and tree cover. It is pertinent to mention that NCCF has developed a carbon registry and a carbon trading and tracking platform in the context of controlling greenhouse gas emissions. It may be mentioned that NCCF is a member of IUCN and the Programme for Endorsement of Forest Certification (PEFC). The UNCCD has given us observer status. This has enabled us to keep in step with the initiatives being promoted multilaterally for reversing desertification.

It is good that the capacity of NCCF is broad based and multi-disciplinary, with our professional exposure encompassing government, private sector and civil society for addressing the issues of sustainability. It is important to make certification accessible to small holders and low volume producers, to enable benefits to local communities by the tapping of their own entrepreneurship.

We acknowledge the active engagement of our distinguished members and stakeholders for achieving NCCF's objectives and complement the Chairpersons, Co-chairpersons and Members of the Standard Development Groups for systematically taking forward the process of Standard Development in a time bound manner.

There are several new challenges emerging in the forestry and environment sector where things are ever evolving and fast moving, requiring us to be more focused and robust in our approach. As an eminent body of experts and professionals and with the diversity of our stakeholders, we are well poised to meet the emerging challenges in sustainably managing our natural resources.

Vijai Sharma, IAS (retd)
Chairman, NCCF



Network for Certification and Conservation of Forests

NCCF, came into existence in January 2015 as a registered society of experts, professionals and stakeholders of natural resources, engaged in development of India specific and globally benchmarked sustainability standards, as its core working area, apart from working for policy advocacy, training and capacity building through multi-stakeholder engagement

NCCF is a member of PEFC Alliance from India, and has all the administrative responsibilities related to the PEFC Scheme's operationalization in India and the management of PEFC Chain of Custody. NCCF is a Member of IUCN and has got Observer Status with the UNCCD as a Civil Society Organization.

NCCF has developed the Indian certification schemes, both for Forest Management and Trees outside Forests and while the former has already been endorsed by PEFC, the latter is under the process of PEFC endorsement. NCCF FM Certification Scheme has brought India into the club of Asian nations like Malaysia, Vietnam, Indonesia, Japan, Myanmar, China, Korea and Thailand, which are having their own indigenous forest certification schemes. NCCF endeavours to make the Indian wood and forest fibre-based industry competent and acceptable globally.

NCCF is also developing voluntary standards for Non-Wood Forest Products, Ecotourism, Quality Planting Material, Safeboards (safe emission levels of formaldehyde from composite wood). Development of Standards for Protected Areas and Wetlands, Biofuel and Biomass and Land Degradation Neutrality have also been taken up. NCCF's effort in setting up a Carbon Registry-India is a major endeavour. This will facilitate listing service for projects and methodologies and tracking-trading service for carbon credits.

NCCF's Sustainability Standards have a great potential to contribute towards achieving SDG goals, sustainable forest management, our international commitments for climate action, biodiversity conservation and land restoration, apart from meeting the requirements of certified material for the wood based industries.

NCCF's sustainability initiatives are fully in sync with the objectives of the Indian National Strategy for Standardization (INSS), propounded by the Ministry of Commerce and Industry, Government of India on how to best use standardization, technical regulations, quality infrastructure and related activities to advance the interests and well-being of the Indians in a global economy.

The National Accreditation Board for Certification Bodies (NABC), a constituent Board of the Quality Council of India (QCI), an autonomous national accreditation body under DPIIT,

has also recognized the NCCF Scheme by providing accreditation to certification bodies. Under an arrangement with the NABC, NCCF is providing provisional approval to the Certification Bodies for NCCF-PEFC FM Scheme, w. e. f . 01 August 2021 , however, NABC will continue to provide regular accreditation to the CBs.

➤ NCCF's Core Activities



➤ Aims and Objectives of NCCF:

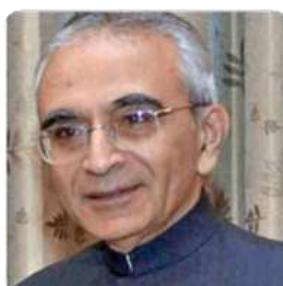
The aims and objectives being pursued by the Society are:

- To develop standards for forests and forest certification that are compatible and conforming to the national statutes and legal framework.
- To support and develop the standard-setting process by establishing the standard development groups in formulating standards related to the Timber, Non-Timber Forest Produce (NTFP) and Medicinal Plants certification.
- To develop, operate, manage and promote mechanisms, standards, procedures and guidelines to combat climate change and its impacts thereof, reduce net Greenhouse Gas emissions, while achieving the sustainable development.
- To bridge the gap between policy makers and practitioners including entrepreneurs on issues that emerge on trade and other related aspects of forests and forest produce and the ecosystem services.
- To formulate a code for voluntary accreditation of forest certification bodies.
- To provide a platform for bringing together bodies/government/non-government organizations/persons/institutions/stakeholders for promoting forests and forest produce certification schemes for long term security of forest resources.
- To process and develop the appropriate monitoring and assessment activities to assess the condition of the forest, management activities and their social and environmental impacts.
- To develop rigorous procedures and standards to evaluate whether certification bodies can provide an independent and competent forest evaluation (certification) services.
- To increase public awareness especially of key stakeholders through various measures and disseminate information about benefits, processes and global developments about independent forest certification.

- To promote certification of natural forests, including protected areas to support effective management of these areas for environment services such as carbon store, recreational/eco-tourism, biodiversity for the human well-being.
- To provide a link between responsible production and responsible consumption and help the consumer to make socially and environmentally responsible buying decisions.
- To process applications for NCCF's notification of Certification Bodies (CBs) operating upon forest management system and/or chain-of-custody certification and issuance of logo usage licenses to the certificate holders.
- To provide training and education to the beneficiaries in the areas of execution of environmental planning, environmental (including bio-physical and social) impact assessment, and related areas.
- To provide assistance to the industry and commerce to implement relevant systems and adopt practices that minimize impacts on human health and the environment.
- To carry out educational programmes designed to promote the certification of Forests and Forest Produce.

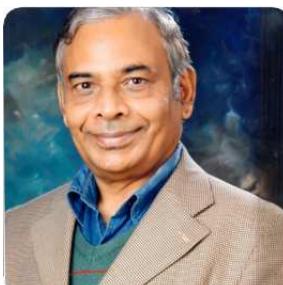
➤ Governing Body

The governing body, comprising Chairman and 12 other members, decide the overall policies and directions in carrying out NCCF's activities. The members comprise representatives from the Central Ministries: Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare, Ministry of Commerce and Industry, Export Promotion Council of Handicrafts (EPCH), Senior Retired Civil Services Officers, Professional Foresters, Private Sector, Non-governmental organizations. NCCF's Governing Body is a strong foundation having the vision of the diverse stakeholders gathered on one platform.



Mr Vijai Sharma, IAS (retd), Chairman

Mr Vijai Sharma is ex Chief Information Commissioner of India, ex Secretary to the Government of India, Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change (MoEF&CC) and ex Hon'ble Member, National Green Tribunal (NGT).



Mr A K Varma, Co-Chairman

A Member of Indian Forest Service (1974; Karnataka), Mr Varma retired on superannuation as Principal Chief Conservator of Forests and Head of Forest Force of Karnataka State Forest Department. He has also worked in various capacities including PCCF (Wildlife) and Chief Wildlife Warden Karnataka and has been actively involved in the field.

of Forest management certification and Chain of Custody Certification process as peer reviewer, observer, co-auditor and lead. He was also the Chairman of KBBABS committee and member Tech group of sub mission on Agroforestry. He is presently Member of the NCCF Governing Body and also chairing the Standard Development Group, FM Standard of NCCF.



Mr Suneel Kumar Pandey, Secretary

Mr Suneel Pandey , is presently Vice President-Plantation and Raw Material in ITC-PSPD, and leads a multi-disciplinary team involved in Plantations, Social Forestry, Raw material Procurement , Sustainability and Bio-diversity Conservation. During his tenure as IFS, he has also served as Senior Forestry Specialist in the National Mission on Bamboo

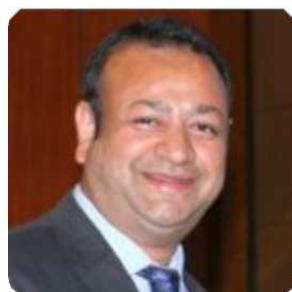
Applications (NMBA)and has successfully handled different business and development initiatives in the areas of Technology Development, Enabling Systems, Policy & Programme implementation, CDM and forest certification.



Mr P K Garg, Joint Secretary

Mr Pawan Kumar Garg, working presently with Star Paper Mills Limited, Saharanpur, U.P. as Sr. GM Commercial has vast experience of 39 years in Supply Chain Management and Commercial functions in Paper Industry, Textiles and FMCG Industry. He has been associated with the development of Hi-tech Clonal Nurseries and Agro-Forestry.

He has vigorously promoted Agroforestry in Western U. P. for the last 15 years and the results are quite visible and evident now. He is trained in best management practices like TPM, TQM, Six Sigma, Gemba Kaizen, PMS, ICRM, SCM etc. and is a member of Indian Institute of Materials Management, Chandigarh Branch and also Member of IPPTA.



Mr Sachin Jain, Treasure-Convener

Mr Sachin Jain is the Managing Director of Sara Abode Pvt Ltd. India's leading Prefabricated Wooden Houses manufacturer. Sara Abode is the exclusive distributor of Kontio, Finland for entire India and South Asia region. Kontio is the largest log manufacturing company in the world with over 45 years of expertise in the Scandinavian wood treatment

technology. Sara Abode aims to provide most eco-friendly, luxurious, comfortable and healthy Scandinavian lifestyle leading to an extra ordinary high life satisfaction and value for investment with its modern Log Building Architecture made to last for generation to generation.

Mr Jain also has experience in third-party monitoring and evaluation, environmental certification programs, etc. He is an internationally recognized expert in auditing FSC- Co C & FM Certification. He has contributed and directed various projects on sustainability, climate change, monitoring, evaluation and afforestation.



Mr Rajesh Rawat, Joint Treasurer

Mr Rajesh Rawat is currently the Director at EPCH. He was the first CEO of Handicrafts & Carpet Sector Skill Council (HCSSC) from December 2013 till August 2016. He has travelled extensively across the globe and made presentation on various topics including Strength of Indian Handicrafts; Timber legality, wood and wood based livelihoods

etc. at Chatham House, London; Forest Trends, Valencia; Furniture Shows in Singapore and Kuala Lumpur, Gift Show in Germany, Honk Kong, Chile and many other places.



Dr Rakesh Kumar, Chairman - India Expo Mart Ltd and Director General, EPCH; Member

Dr Rakesh Kumar conceptualized India's first state of the art infrastructure for Exhibition and Mart at Greater Noida. He is the key architect of several important projects in India such as setting up of National Centre for Design & Product Development and creation of

Handicrafts and Carpet Sector Skill Council (HCSSC) to bridge the skill gap in the handicrafts & carpet sector and provide over 2 million skilled manpower. His contribution towards developing Jodhpur, Jaipur, Moradabad, Saharanpur as well as other pockets of our country as the hub for handicraft items is simply unparalleled. He has conceptualized the need of traceability requirement of Timber legality of wooden handicrafts exporters and introduced "VRIKSH" as its standard which is accepted by UN International organization "CITES" for 186 countries, and also initiated several innovative steps to boost up this industry.

Dr Kumar is the person responsible for initiation of world renowned Indian Handicrafts & Gifts Fair (IHGF) in 1994, which is recognized as 'World's largest congregation of handicrafts exhibitors under one roof' by Limca Book of World Records. He has been instrumental in organizing Product specific shows like Home Expo comprising- Indian Furniture & Accessories Show, Indian Furnishings, Floorings & Textiles Show and Indian Houseware & Decorative show and Indian Fashion Jewelry & Accessories Show (IFJAS) at India Expo Centre, Greater Noida.

Dr Kumar is key architect for setting up of several important organizations in India such as setting up of National Centre for Design & Product Development (NCDPD) in New Delhi for design and product development. He is also instrumental in creation of Handicrafts & Carpet Sector Skill Council (HCSSC) to bridge the skill gap in the handicrafts & carpet sector. He has also been the Chairman of Indian Exhibition Industry Association (IEIA), Founder Chairman of Buying Agents Association of India (BAA) and founder governing committee of Network for Certification and Conservation of Forest (NCCF). He is the first Indian to receive the Japanese Government's 'JETRO' SCOMMENDATION AWARD' for International exposure to Japan. Dr Kumar has represented various important trade committees & boards in India & abroad.



Mr A K Bansal, Member

Mr Arun K Bansal has an experience of over 44 years in all aspects of conservation of forests, development of forest sector in the country including evolution of forest policy and legal framework, and international collaborations.

Has been directly involved in evolution and implementation of national policy relating to forest conservation & management – sustainable forest management, forest certification, climate changes adaptation and mitigation- REDD+, forestry and forest product research & education. Has contributed to the evolution of JFM through his association with JICA assisted forest projects in the Country since 2006 , and is presently working as short term consultant to JICA in evolving strategic capacity development project for efficient implementation of Priority Forest Policy Agendas proposed to be implemented by MOEF&CC. A qualified International Lead Auditor for Forest Management Certification. He is currently chairing NCCF's Promotion, Communication and Advocacy Working Group, and also the Non-Wood Forest Products Certification Standard Development Group.



Dr Vinay Sharma, Member

Dr. Vinay Sharma is the owner of the Nupur International. It was founded in the year 1993 . The organisation is now a synonym to quality for all their buyers around the world. They started off with small decoratives and antique reproductions and have now climbed the ladder & evolved as a major producer & exporter of wooden handcrafted furniture from Jodhpur, both traditional as well as modern.

Managing Director, Haryana Forest Development Cooperation Limited Member

Managing Director, Haryana Forest Development Cooperation Limited, Panchkula is a member of the NCCF Governing Body.

Joint Secretary, Ministry of Agriculture Cooperation and Farmer Welfare

Joint Secretary(NRM) is the official nominee of the Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare on the Governing Body of NCCF.

Ministry of Commerce and Industry

Deputy Secretary (Trade Policy Division), Ministry of Commerce and Industry has been nominated to attend important meetings of NCCF.

➤ Expert Chairpersons for NCCF's Initiatives

Mr A K Bansal, IFS (retd)

Chairperson, Non Wood Timber Produce (NWFP) standard of NCCF



Mr Anil Jauhri, (ex-CEO, NABCB)

Chairperson, Certification Advisory Group

Mr Anil Jauhri is former CEO of the National Accreditation Board for Certification Bodies (NABCB), a constituent Board of the Quality Council of India, and national accreditation body. He has 40 years of experience in the field of quality, standards, certification and accreditation having worked earlier in the Bureau of Indian Standards, the national standards body, and the

Export Inspection Council, India's official export regulator and certification body under the Ministry of Commerce & Industry.

He is nationally and internationally recognized expert having worked with such international bodies as UNFCCC, UNIDO, PTB, FAO and APO and was invited as an expert by WTO in 2013 and 2015. He has been part of India's trade negotiations with various countries, notably with the USA as part of Indian delegation led by the Commerce Minister in 2015 and 2017 in Washington DC. He secured a number of international equivalences for NABCB such as Product certification, Inspection, various management systems like Food safety, Information security, Occupational Health and Safety and Energy management systems. Besides being instrumental in supporting regulators like PNGRB, FSSAI, CDSCO, BEE etc. he also led development of a number of voluntary certification schemes of Quality Council of India (QCI) notably AYUSH Mark, ICMED scheme, Yoga certification, IndGAP, India HACCP etc. He continues to provide expertise to Ministries such as Commerce, AYUSH, Biotechnology and office of Principal Scientific Adviser besides being an evaluator for the International Accreditation Forum as well as Asia Pacific Accreditation Cooperation and Lead assessor for accreditation bodies like NABCB and ANAB and UAF in USA.

Dr Jagdish Kishwan, IFS (retd)

Chairman & Chief Coordinator, Carbon Registry-India (CR-I) and Chairperson, Protected Areas and Wetlands Standard (PAWs) of NCCF



Dr Jagdish Kishwan, is the program lead for Carbon Registry-India. He oversees and guides the team and programme development in terms of establishing rules, requirements, procedures & guidelines, overall management and progress. He has over 43 years of experience in forestry sector, policy,

Climate change adaptation, research and academic assignments, administration, natural resource management and conservation in India and has worked on assignments with central government (MoEFCC) and state government (Jammu and Kashmir). For six years he has been a lead negotiator for India on forestry related agenda items including REDD+ and LULUCF in UNFCCC. Three years (2010-2013) as Member, Expert Group of Planning Commission of India on "Low Carbon Development Strategy for India". He is a qualified International Lead Auditor for Forest Management Certification and is also chairing the Protected Areas and Wetlands Certification Standard Development Group with NCCF.



Dr Devendra Pandey, IFS (retd)

Chairperson, Trees Outside Forest (ToF) Standard of NCCF

An Indian Forest Service Officer and Former DG of Forest Survey of India (FSI), Dr Pandey has been an expert reviewer of Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC)- Fifth Assessment Report for Working Group II and III. He is a member of Global Observation of Forest Cover and Land Dynamics panel (GOFC-GOLD). He has previously worked with many national and international organisations of repute to United Nations. Food and Agricultural Organization (FAO), United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) and United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), etc.



Mr Abhijit Ghose, IFS (retd)

Chairperson, Quality Planting material (QPM) standard of NCCF

Mr Abhijit Ghose has a rich track of exemplary service of 40 + years in forestry including 34 years in Indian Forest Service with experience of 5 years at the Apex level of governance with Policy Formulation, Institutional Development with partnership of local , communities Capacity building of all stakeholders, Research and development in forestry, Combating Desertification in Thar Desert of Rajasthan besides providing important consultancy services in forestry sector at National level.


Mr R R Rashmi, IAS (retd)

Chairperson, Biofuel and Biomass

Mr Rajani Ranjan Rashmi is a former member of Indian Administrative Service (1983) batch. He was India's principal negotiator for climate change negotiations under the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change for several years and has been part of climate change policy-making in India in the run-up to and after the Paris Agreement. As Special Secretary in the Ministry of Environment Forest & Climate Change in the Government of India, he has been closely associated with formulation and implementation of policies relating to Climate Change, Pollution, Montreal Protocol on ODS, and Environmental Clearances, besides being the Project Director of Green India Mission.

Currently, he is associated with the Centre for Global Environmental Research in TERI where he works on areas relating to climate change, mitigation and adaptation challenges, carbon markets, and related environmental policies and actions. He serves on the Sub Committee of the Ministry of Finance on Climate Finance and is a Member of the Technical Advisory Body of the International Civil Aviation Organisation (ICAO) for recommending use of emission units for CORSIA. He advises National Agricultural Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) on international climate business and chairs the 'Biofuels and Biomass Standard Development Group'


Mr A K Goyal, IFS (retd)

Chairperson, Safeboards

Mr A K Goyal, an ex-IFS officer, superannuated from government service as Special Secretary, Ministry of Panchayati Raj, with 40 years of experience in field forestry, worked as Joint Secretary, MoEF&CC, dealing with matters related to convention on biological diversity, wetland conservations, Ramsar convention on

wetlands and information technology related matters, management, training of personnel, administration, and implementation of related policies, schemes, and legislations and Panchayati Raj system, field assignments as DFO and Conservator and Additional PCCF in Kerala Forest Department. Chaired an Expert Committee for modifications to Biological Diversity Act and Rules. Serving as Independent Director on the Board of Andrew Yule & Company Limited, a CPSU, Member of an Expert Panel for empanelment of All India Services for appointment as Joint Secretary to GOI and Chairperson of Standards Development Group of NCCF for developing international standards on "SAFEBOARDS" of formaldehyde emissions. Areas of specialization include law, administration and e-governance.

➤ NCCF Secretariat



Mr A K Srivastava, IFS (retd), Director General

Mr A K Srivastava has worked as Director-General of Forests & Special Secretary, Additional Director General of Forests (Forest Conservation) and CEO, CAMPA in the Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change, Director, Indian Institute of Forest Management, Bhopal, Joint Secretary, Government of India, Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment, PCCF &

Chief Wildlife Warden of J&K State and Additional Commissioner (NRM) in the Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare. He had been ex-officio Chairman, National Forest Advisory Committee (FAC), ex officio Member, FAC, National Biodiversity Authority, and Animal Welfare Board of India. Mr Srivastava is currently an Expert Member of the Monitoring Group, National CAMPA of MoEF&CC, and also the Chairman of Green The Earth Trust, working in the field of afforestation and environmental conservation.



Mr Varun Grover, Assistant Director

A Post Graduate Diploma in Forestry Management from Indian Institute of Forest Management (IIFM) and graduate in Mechanical Engineering. He previously interned with NCCF and joined full time in April 2017. He is currently supervising, managing and providing technical inputs for the standard development activities of the Standard Development Groups on FM, TOF, NWFP, PAWs, etc. and is also assisting secretariat in their work/activities.



Dr Indu Dwivedi, Senior Coordinator

A Doctorate in Forest Biotechnology from Forest Research Institute, Dehradun, Post Graduate in Biotechnology from Amity University, Noida and Graduate in Life Science from Kumaun University, Nainital. She joined NCCF in August 2019. She is currently looking after the Training and Capacity Building Division, Projects and Quality Planting Material Standard Development Group.



Ms Pratibha Singh, Assistant Director

A Masters of Business Administration from ICFAI and has joined NCCF as Assistant Director NCCF and is currently Subheading the Promotion, Communication & Advocacy division at NCCF and Coordinating PCA Sub WG. Her experience reflects holistic experience in identifying target audiences and devising campaigns that engage, inform and motivate; skilled in driving the various communication platforms & mediums for brand positioning, developing strategic & tactical communications.

➤ NCCF Secretariat

Ms Abhilasha Guleria, Project Consultant



Almost a decade old Forestry professional with post-graduation in Wood Science and Technology from Forest Research Institute (FRI) and graduation in Forestry, Ms. Abhilasha Guleria has joined NCCF since August 2020. She had the opportunity to work for Safeboards certification scheme and ToF Risk Assessment Tool development. Currently, she is working as Project Lead for Agroforestry Policy Research Project, awarded to NCCF by ICFRE, under the guidance of Dr. Devendra Pandey, Principal Investigator of the Project.

Ms Upasana Singh, Coordinator



A Post Graduate (MBA) in Natural resources and Sustainable Development from Amity School of Natural Resources Development and graduate in Resource Management. She has joined NCCF in 2018. She is currently looking after the administrative activities of NCCF, coordination of Ecotourism Certification Standard Development Group and membership of the society.

Ms Ria Antil, Coordinator



An M.Phil in Natural Resource Management from Indian Institute of Forest Management, Bhopal, and postgraduate in Natural Resource Management from Guru Gobind Singh Indraprastha University, Delhi with a graduate in Botany from the University of Delhi. She joined NCCF in August 2020 as Coordinator and co-ordinated Standard Development Groups for Forest Management and BioFM and along with other Secretariat activities.

Ms Tripta Tarunita, Coordinator



A Post Graduate in Forest Management with specialization in Environment Management from Indian Institute of Forest Management (IIFM) and graduate in Computer Science. She joined NCCF in May 2019 as Coordinator and coordinated Standard Development Groups for PAWS and Bio FM and other Secretarial activities.



Ms Rishika Sharma, Coordinator

A graduate in Forestry and Natural Resources from HNB Garhwal University and, additionally completed a certificate diploma course of Chartered Forester from Indian Institute of Forest Management. She joined NCCF as an intern and is now promoted to the position of Coordinator. She is currently coordinating the Ecotourism Certification Standard Development Group and an ICFRE project on Policy Research Study in Agroforestry along with some administrative activities of NCCF.

➤ IT and Website Support



Mr Balbinder Singh, Sr. Manager

Mr Singh has over 14 years of experience in infrastructure services, networking, vendor management and service delivery. He has previously worked with Kuoni Travel (India)/SOTC - Head OTRS (Email management System) and ACD (Call Management system) and BTSOFT Travel ERP and Server Pan India management for over 300 users.



Mr Pravin Kumar Chandra, Assistant Manager, Lead Developer

Pravin Kumar Chandra holds Master degree in Computer Applications with more than seven years experience in Web & Software development, using tools including visual studio, MS SQL, HTML, CSS, C#, JavaScript, Bootstraps, WordPress.

➤ Finance and HR Team



Ms Harpreet Kaur, Head, Finance Team

Ms Harpreet has over 12 years of experience. She Joined NCCF in April 2020 as Finance support staff.



Mr Shivam Sharma, Accounts Executive

Mr Shivam has completed B.B.A and M.B.A in Banking & Finance. He has 4.5 year of experience in certification industry. He Joined NCCF in March 2021 as accounts executive.



Ms Sonia Bhargava, HR Manager

Ms Sonia has earned a bachelor's degree in arts. She has over 17 years of experience in Client relationship management, HR, and sales. She is working as HR Manager of NCCF since October 2020 .

➤ Team Carbon Programme



Mr Richard Bright, Director, CR-I

Richard Bright, Director IT, is the Head of Technology and has joined NCCF in January 2019. Richard, is a seasoned IT and digital transformation leader with over 20 years of experience in efficiently managing Information Technology operations. Prior to joining NCCF, he has served as Director at Teleperformance (D.I.B.S), heading global software service delivery and before that he held leadership positions with companies like Intelenet Global Services, Serco, Kuoni and Sita-Western Union. He has a masters degree in computer application, is a certified Prince 2 practitioner, ITSM , Cisco professional, Robotics automation expert and ISO 27001 LA.



Mr Chetan Aggarwal, Project Officer

Mr Chetan Aggarwal holds two post-graduate degrees with Masters' degree in Climate Science and Policy and Advanced Post Graduate Diploma in Renewable Energy both from TERI School of Advance Studies (Previously TERI University). Presently working in development of India centric Voluntary Carbon Offset market mechanism his duties include development of rules, requirement, procedures and guidelines of Carbon Registry-India, assist in development of IT Registry and Trading Platform, engagement with stakeholders and other works associated with the programme. He previously worked as Research Intern with Greenpeace India in Climate and Energy division.



Mr Aditya Barman, Project Intern

A Post-graduate (M Sc.) in Environmental Sciences from Amity University, Noida and graduate in Environmental Sciences. He has joined NCCF in January 2021 as an intern for Safeboards Standards and certification Scheme. He is currently responsible for coordination of Safeboards Standards and certification Scheme and Carbon Registry-India Programme.

► NCCF's Multistakeholder engagement for development of Sustainability Standards:

NCCF follows a multi-stakeholder engagement approach in all its Standard Development activities.

THE STAKEHOLDERS ARE MAPPED TAKING REFERENCE FROM THE UN AGENDA 21 STAKEHOLDER CATEGORIES, THESE ARE AS UNDER:

- Business and Industry
- Women
- Children and Youth
- Indigenous People
- Non- Government Organisations
- Local Authorities
- Workers and Trade Unions
- Scientific and Technological Community
- Farmers



A large no of independent experts are also associated with the Standard Development process and as members of concerned Standard Development Group.

➤ Carbon Registry-India



Climate change refers to a change in the average global temperature caused by an increase in greenhouse gases (GHG) in the atmosphere, which stresses our ecosystems with prominent and visible implications such as global warming, melting of icecaps, rising sea levels, ocean acidification, increased fire threats, droughts, impacts on biodiversity and so on

NCCF is developing a Voluntary Carbon Offset Mechanism known as 'Carbon Registry-India' (CR-I) through a multi-stakeholder group chaired by Dr Jagdish Kishwan, ex PCCF & HoFF, J&K;DG, ICFRE; Addl. DG Wildlife, MoEF&CC. After India set ambitious targets for its Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) to reduce emission intensity of its GDP and to achieve substantial electric power installed capacity from non-fossil fuel-based energy resources, it is believed that significant action will take place in private and voluntary sectors. CR-I will enable companies and individuals to track carbon credits to offset their carbon footprint, or to contribute to reducing the country's emission intensity. Development of Carbon Registry- India, which is the first of its kind in India, will provide a platform for the businesses, NGOs and individuals to 'register' their projects and track carbon credits issued against the verified projects by the Registry.

Major Components of CR-I



CR-I is at an advanced stage with standards, procedures, tools and guidelines being vetted by subject matter expert Sustain plus. A law firm, JSA with expertise in Renewable Energy & Cleantech space and hydrocarbons has also been added to CR-I, Technical Working Group for legal guidance and support. Development of a financial module for the CR-I's IT System (CRIS) - phase I is in progress and is expected to be concluded by August 2021. Subsequently, a CR-I project office will be set up and pilot testing will be initiated.

The development and functioning of the 'Carbon Registry-India' (the Registry) would help in achieving NCCF's aspirational goal of combating climate change and its impacts through utilization of ambition of the internal along with strength of global environmental markets, which shall serve as a platform for registration of projects, issuance of carbon credits& approval and listing of project-based methodologies, provided by the first Carbon Registry in India.

➤ **Forest Management Certification Standard**

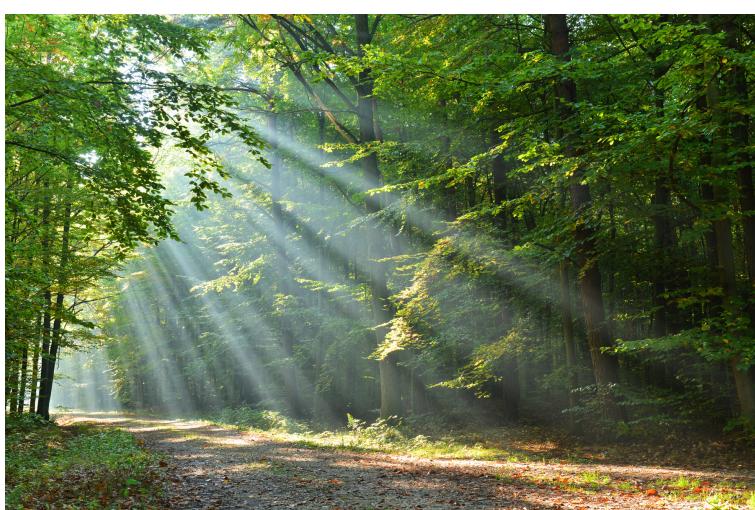
Forest certification ensures compliance to Forest Rights Act and all other Forest and wildlife related legislations. It contributes to improving the working conditions, safety and health of forest workers, it leads to improved forest conservation outcomes, and encourage sustainable forest use. It helps in branding and international recognition of forest management entities and boosts the public image of companies which pursue certification in their own forest operations or purchase only certified products.

Certification of forests/trees outside forests facilitates the sustainable production and export by the forest-based industries under an internationally recognized logo and this will also contribute to the success of 'Make in India Programme' and 'Atma Nirbhar Bharat Abhiyan'. It essentially acknowledges a country's dedication to responsible forest management and its efforts to maintain a sustainable supply of forest products and services from healthy, diverse and productive ecosystems.

Benefits of Country Specific Certification Scheme

A domestic certification scheme should be preferred for the following reasons:

- i. The Standard is developed keeping in view the Indian context and conditions.
- ii. Driven by national stakeholders.
- iii. It is open, transparent and independent.
- iv. Local standard incorporating global best practice
- v. Nationally adaptive and accepted
- vi. Internationally endorsed
- vii. Economical (domestic auditors and other aspects)
- viii. Promotes and facilitates national and international trade
- ix. Integration of local needs and expectations



► NCCF's Forest Management (FM) Certification Standard

NCCF has developed the first ever Indian scheme of forest certification that is endorsed by, the Programme for the Endorsement of Forest Certification (PEFC), giving it global recognition. It is based on six themes covering 14 Principles, 59 Criteria and 239 Indicators. The standards are India specific and involve the key elements of existing models in India, viz the Bhopal India Process of the Indian Institute of Forest Management, the National Working Plan Code 2014, and the provisions contained in the National Forest Policy for promotion of afforestation, sustainable utilization of forest products, and growth of the forest-based industries.

NCCF's Forest Certification Scheme was launched by then Secretary, Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEF&CC), and then Director General of Forests and Special Secretary in January 2018.

Compliance to NCCF FM standard by a forest management entity ensures:

- Full conformance with all applicable laws and regulations
- Conformance with ratified ILO Conventions
- No use of WHO banned pesticides
- Respect, and upholding of workers' rights and wages
- Health and safety issues
- Clear demarcation of land boundaries and maps
- Regular trainings of staff and workers
- Stakeholder engagement in management operations
- Continuous improvement in management
- Protecting important sites with recognised significance
- Unbiased independent 3rd Party monitoring and reporting to enable improvement
- Measures to maintain/improve health and vitality of forests/ToF
- Mitigation of negative impacts on environment and society
- Adherence to social and environmental safeguards
- Traceability and tracking to verify source of product; eliminates illegal sourcing
- Protecting forests/ToF from damaging agents (such as wildfire, diseases and invasive species)
- Documenting and record keeping; audits and publishing findings
- No use of GMOs
- Timely payment of wages

The prime objective of PEFC Endorsement is to determine whether a national forest certification system meets the PEFC Sustainability Benchmarks and conformance to PEFC requirements and enables access to the certified entities to the international markets.

NABC, a constituent Board of QCI, under DPIIT, Ministry of Commerce and Industry, which is a member of the International Accreditation Forum (IAF), is offering accreditation to the competent and independent certification bodies for this scheme, under a Mutually Recognition Arrangement (MRA) with the NABC. NCCF FM Accreditation from NABC demonstrates competence level of the Certification Bodies (CBs) to perform FM certification audits as per internationally recognized ISO 17065 Standard and NCCF Standards. CBs are accredited based on the organizational and technical competence of an organization to conduct certification activities like auditing and report writing. To spread the awareness about certification and Forest Management Certification Standard.

NCCF had earlier conducted sensitization workshops for the State Forest Departments of Punjab, Madhya Pradesh, Assam, Sikkim, Karnataka, Chhattisgarh, Tripura, Haryana and Uttarakhand. During the year 2020, NCCF conducted sensitization workshops for Jammu & Kashmir, Maharashtra and Goa State Forest Departments and about 300 forest personnel were trained over the past three years. This not only contributes to their capacity building for taking up forest certification, but also helps them strategize the forest management plan efficiently to achieve the desired goals.

U. P. Forest Corporation undertook PEFC-NCCF Forest Management Certification and got certified 41 Divisions covering 4.5 lakh hectares of forest area. UPFC has been able to sell some 7000 cubic meters of PEFC certified timber during 2020-21, with a price premium. Many other State Forest Departments are contemplating to take up forest certification using PEFC-NCCF Standard.

➤ **Synergy between Working Plan based SFM and Forest Certification**

NCCF-FM standard incorporates all aspects and components of National Working Plan Code 2014 (NWPC) in its Principles, Criteria and Indicators. Thus, if NWPC is followed, vital objectives of Sustainable Forest Management (SFM) and certification requirements are met to a great extent. Certification brings in many other components of SFM which are internationally required to be complied with in order to qualify for being a certified forest.

NCCF-FM Certification Standard provides a tool to create a brand image through global recognition. It ensures that forest management activities are complying to internationally benchmarked forest management practices, international laws, treaties and agreements. It further ensures active engagement of stakeholders in planning, implementation, monitoring and evaluation and incorporates components of welfare, health and safety of people. The Standard considers other important aspects of forest management like forest hydrology, biodiversity conservation and climate change mitigation, value addition, exploring new products and markets. It helps in assessing loopholes in forest management activities and identify scope for improvement.



➤ Trees outside Forests (ToF) Certification Standard

NCCF's Trees outside Forest Certification Scheme is the first of its kind not only in India but anywhere in the world and is under the process of endorsement by PEFC. The standard is developed by a multi-stakeholder Standard Development Group, chaired by Dr Devendra Pandey ex PCCF & HoFF, Arunachal Pradesh and ex-DG, FSI. The standard focuses on certification of wood coming from non-forest lands, agroforestry, farmers' lands, smallholders' plantations, block and linear plantations and farm forestry etc.

The report of a High-Level Expert Group on "Growing India's agricultural exports through crop-specific, state-led plans" constituted by the XV Finance Commission reveals that around 72% of the industrial wood requirement is met from ToF, only 5% from forests and balance 23% from imports. Despite huge production of wood, Indian producers are unable to tap global markets to fetch competitive price for their products.

ToF certification scheme will help the construction and other wood sector industries to include certified raw material in their procurement policies and supply chain management. This scheme will bring much-needed recognition to the wood and timber produced by the farmers on their lands and ensure better markets and higher income for their agroforestry produce.

NCCF ToF Certification Standard is based on six themes. The Standard for Block plantations including Agroforestry has 28 Criteria and 98 Indicators, whereas for Non-Block (linear/standalone) plantations, it is 16 Criteria and 98 Indicators.



BENEFITS OF TOF CERTIFICATION:

- Adoption of best management practices for raising ToF.
- Increasing tree cover outside forests
- Accelerating supply of certified raw material
- Enhancing farmers income

➤ Non-Wood Forest Resources Certification Standard

NCCF is developing certification standard for Non-Wood Forest Resources (NWFR) through a multi-stakeholder Standard Development Group under the Chairmanship of Mr Arun Kumar Bansal, IFS (retd), Former Addl. DG Forests, MoEF&CC, and currently this is at pilot testing stage.

India is 10th most forested country in the world, with an area of 80.72 mha (24.56% of country's geographical area) under forest and tree cover. These areas are source of bulk of the non-wood forest products. This standard will benefit forest dwellers and local communities for whom extraction (collection/harvest) of NWFPs is an important source of livelihood. Moreover, commercial opportunities for NWFRs are emerging and certification can help promote their marketing, ease of trade, better price to the gatherers and cultivators and creating the market linkages while ensuring sustainability of NWFRs.

Major challenges faced by the sector:

- There is no mechanism to decide the limits and thresholds values for different NWFPs (plant and animal origin) to ensure resource sustainability.
- Collection/Extraction of NWFPs is largely unorganized and unrecorded except for some specified NWFPs.
- There is no proper mechanism for benefit-sharing with the forest dwellers, local communities, and others involved in the collection/extraction of NWFPs.
- Lack of effective channels to ensure the use and practice of traditional knowledge in the management of forest resources and their documentation.
- Absence of standardization of package of practices for harvesting/collection and primary processing of most NWFPs.
- NWFP market is highly unorganized and the demand side is also unaware of their availability, and even use of several NWFPs.
- Primary processing of NWFPs takes place at the household level and in small scale units mainly outside established marketing systems/channels.
- Absence of mechanism for tracking and traceability for NWFP products and resources.



➤ Protected Areas and Wetlands Certification Standard

NCCF has embarked on an initiative to develop Certification Standard for Protected Areas and Wetlands (PAWs) through a multi-stakeholder Standard Development Group (SDG) under the Chairmanship of Dr Jagdish Kishwan, IFS (retd), Former Addl. Addl. DG Wildlife, MoEF&CC, New Delhi, India. NCCF's PAWs Certification Standard is a voluntary initiative to develop a robust and comprehensive institutional mechanism for scientific monitoring of the existing issues such as poor health of the forest areas, large areas impacted by invasive species, human-wildlife conflicts, poaching, illicit felling, encroachments, and other illegal and unauthorized activities in Protected Areas and Wetlands. Through simple, usable and generic parameters of this certification, the monitoring mechanism could be regularly applied to a PA to assess the health, impact, and efficacy of the government funding, management practices, which of the newest government policies and directives on the functioning of the PA.



Objectives of developing the PAWs Standard are as follows:

- To encourage the standardization of the conservation and protection measures and expand the ambit of the relevance of the conservation standards;
- To establish a local framework with international benchmarks for ease of assessment and third-party voluntary verification of the efficacy of the management practices being followed;
- To serve as a base line assessment tool for the efficacy of management practices, as a tool to assess the viability of a conservation project proposal along with its funding mechanism, and as a guide for landscape-level conservation;
- To help PAWs managers with an objective assessment of their project areas;
- To adapt, mould, and merge different standards that might be existing in the domain and evolve a generally applicable M&E framework;
- To develop a scoring system to quantify various assessment parameters and homogenize the evaluation system.

➤ Certification Standard for Nurseries and Quality Planting Material

NCCF is developing certification standards for nurseries – Quality Planting Material (QPM) through a multi stakeholder Standard Development Group, where woody perennials, are raised based on certain standards, can be evaluated by a third party from purely technical angles by assessment of plant grow that critical control points of sapling growth in nurseries following certain standard protocols by addressing to various risk factors. Proper assessment of these standards will ensure the potential of the nursery to produce Quality Plant Material on sustainable basis.

Quality Planting Material is also an essential input in creating plantations in and outside the forest for higher productivity and meeting the rising demands of timber in our country. Absence of certification standards deters investment. A certified QPM regime therefore is essential for healthy and sustainable growth of the sector and ensuring plenty of quality planting material that meets global standards. The standard will help the tree producers obtain better prices for their tree products, as well as secure markets, thereby reducing risk.

It will be a win-win situation for the Nursery owner, as its produce can be sold at a premium price in comparison to non-certified nurseries and certainly consumers (planters/farmers) will be benefitted by better productivity by planting QPM in their fields which fetch better return and market value.

Soon the draft Standard document will be open for public consultation. Since, the quality of tree planting material often varies across nurseries, the accessibility of small/marginal land holders to quality planting material (QPM) has been a challenge.



Objectives of developing the QPM Standard are as follows:

- To determine different standards & criteria for establishing nurseries for supply of cost-effective Quality Planting Materials
- To maximize revenues and meeting quality raw material demands of wood based industries by reducing country's import burden
- To encourage continued R&D support for tree improvement program for development of location-specific quality seedlings

- To help in capacity building of motivated farmers, who are ready to undertake production of planting materials for tree species with quality control as a means of generating income for their livelihood.
- To assist producers/buyers in measuring, reporting and verifying the QPM of tree species in their operations

➤ Ecotourism Certification Standard

In India, the tourism sector has significant potential given its rich culture, heritage, and diversity in ecology, terrains, forest types, landscapes, places of natural beauty, and also its unparalleled biodiversity richness. Tourism is a potentially large employment generator and source of livelihoods, besides being a significant source of foreign exchange. There is increasing demand, particularly from the travelers and the service providers, and destination management entities, to have mechanisms in place for ensuring eco-friendly travel and tourism (ecotourism). That is how the need for ecotourism certification standard has come to be recognized.

Keeping in view, the importance of responsible travel to natural areas that conserves the environment and also sustains the well-being of the local people and the need for an ecotourism certification standard, NCCF constituted a multi-stakeholder Standard Development Group for developing the Standard, under the chairmanship of Mr A. K. Varma, IFS (retd), Former PCCF & HoFF, Karnataka. The Standard is intended to promote responsible tourism and improve the degrading quality of ecotourism destination entities in the country, making them economically viable, environmentally responsible, and socially beneficial in accordance with the national policies, rules and guidelines. In tune with the Standard Setting Procedure, it is expected that the draft Ecotourism Standard will be put to two months mandatory public consultation by mid-2021.

NCCF intends to get the Ecotourism Standard endorsed by the Global Sustainable Tourism Council (GSTC), to make the Standard nationally implementable and internationally acceptable.

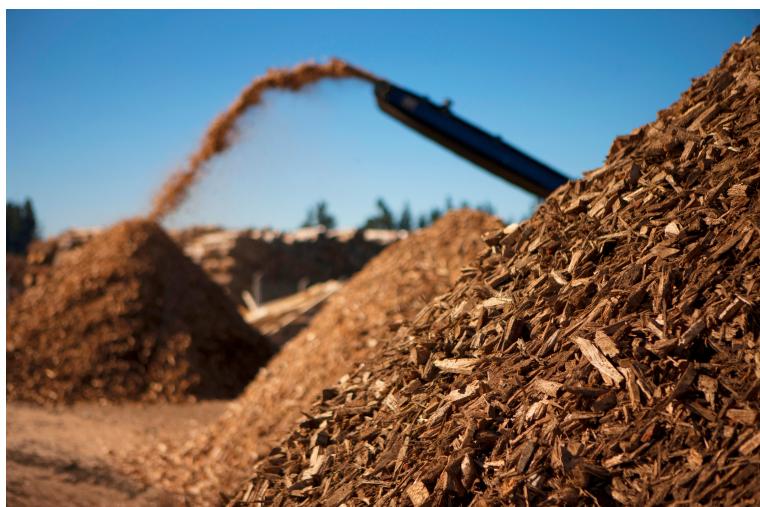


➤ Biofuel and Biomass Certification Standard

Biofuel and Biomass Certification Standard NCCF has embarked on an initiative to develop Certification Standard for Biofuel and Biomass (BioFM), enabling sustainable growth of the sector and also for ensuring that vital biological resources of the country are not exploited. The Biofuel and Biomass (BioFM) Standard Development Group is being chaired by Mr RR Rashmi, IAS (retd), Special Secretary, MoEF&CC and Dr Jagdish Kishwan, IFS (retd) as its Co-chair.

There is a trust to significantly promote the production of biofuels and biomass energy in both public and private sectors through various initiatives like, National Policy on Biofuels by Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas (MoPNG) in 2018. The Sub-section 5.25 of the policy mandates introduction of standards and certification for different biofuels and end use applications. Keeping in view the current scenarios and need for certification, NCCF is developing the certification scheme for biofuel and biomass and has a shared a concept note.

NCCF BioFM certification scheme can fulfil the mandate of having a certification scheme for biofuels ensuring its environmental, social and economic sustainability by maintaining the sourcing of biomass and throughout its supply chain by demonstrating compliance with their set of requirements. A certification system will provide third-party verification and ensure that feedstock is grown and converted sustainably and thus help in creating sustainable market linkages in this sector. This will further help the government, policymakers and other stakeholders to develop incentive-based mechanisms and dovetail with the existing schemes, policies and plans along with further strengthening the needs and requirements of the sector.



Objectives of the standard

- To ensure environment, social and economic Sustainability.
- To promote climate change mitigation and ensure energy security.
- To promote Circular Economy.
- To increase awareness and usage of biofuels and bio products.

➤ **Safeboards Standards and Certification Scheme**

Composite wood products have emerged as the most widely used and dominant building materials over the last three decades owing to their characteristics, viz; light weight, corrosion-free, insulation and cost-effectiveness. The boards, however, do not provide a healthy indoor air quality to the users owing to the resins and chemicals used in their production and continuous emission of volatile organic compounds (VOCs) from their usage even after years of installation.

Formaldehyde emission is a challenge to all the stakeholders of the composite wood industry in terms of economic development, adverse effects on human health, environment and foreign trade. Sustainable and low-emitting furniture products have high demand in international markets and do have huge potential for domestic consumption as well.

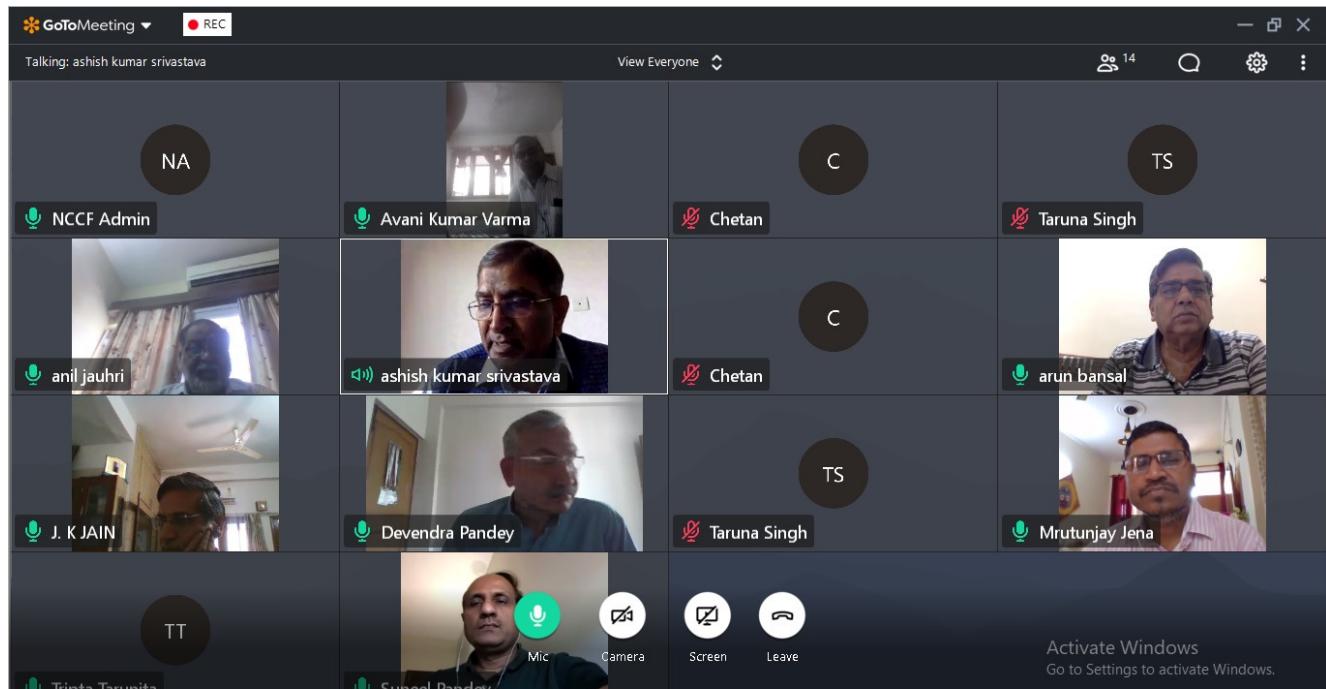
NCCF is developing an Indian Certification Scheme and Standards: "Safeboards", through a multi-stakeholder Standard Development Group, chaired by Mr A K Goyal, IFS (retd), Former Special Secretary to the Government of India. This scheme will provide value-addition to the composite-wood manufacturers and health benefits to the people using composite wood, wooden interiors, panels and furniture. It focuses on technical criteria and safe levels of toxic emissions of formaldehyde from the composite wood products. This scheme will be an indigenous and internationally benchmarked for use in sustainable/low-emitting furniture products, handicraft items and other interior products.

The mandatory Public consultation of Safeboards Standards and Certification Scheme began on February 5, 2021 and shall be concluded on April 6, 2021 after the completion of public consultation the suggestions shall be incorporated in the draft Standards. Thereafter, the draft Standards shall be put up for Pilot Testing. It is expected that the Safeboards Standards and Certification Scheme will be launched by the end of 2021.



➤ Constitution of Certification Advisory Group (CAG)

A Certification Advisory Group was constituted in March 2020, under the Chairpersonship of Mr Anil Jauhri, ex Chief Executive Officer, National Accreditation Board for Certification Bodies (NABCB).



CAG comprises following Members:

1. Mr Anil Jauhri, (Chairperson, Certification Advisory Group) former CEO NABCB and an expert on accreditation/certification
2. Mr A.K. Srivastava IFS (retd.), Director General, NCCF
3. Mr J K Jain, Vice President, Greenply
4. One representative from Certification Body accredited by NABCB (GICIA India Pvt. Ltd.)
5. Two Chairpersons of NCCF Standard Development Groups
6. Mr Rajesh Maheshwari, CEO, NABCB

The group was constituted to advise and facilitate activities related to Certification Standards and Schemes' developments as also to take care of the certification process, accreditation requirements, validation and verification requirements, certification body requirements and any other requirements pertaining to schemes' operation and implementation.

The first meeting of NCCF Certification Advisory Group (CAG) was held online on 17 April 2020 with Mr Anil Jauhri as the Chairperson. The meeting covered discussions augmenting certification bodies (CBs) for Forest Certification scheme in operation as also mobilizing CBs for the on coming Trees outside Forests (ToF) certification and Carbon Registry-India, noting that some state governments have already issued tenders for certification of forests. Given that NCCF scheme is endorsed by PEFC and is thus internationally acceptable, certification under the scheme would promote exports also.

➤ Constitution of Promotion Communication and Advocacy (PCA)

A Promotion, Communication and Advocacy Group was constituted in October 2020, under the Chairpersonship of Mr Arun Bansal, Former Addl. DG Forests MoEF&CC.



Mr. A.K. Srivastava
Former Member, IFS
Director General, NCCF



Mr. Arun K Bansal, IFS (Retd.)
Chairperson, NWFP-WG, NCCF
Former Addl. DG Forests, MoEF&CC



Mr. Sachin Raj Jain
Convener, NCCF



Mr. Suneel Pandey,
Vice President, ITC PSPD
Secretary, NCCF



Mr. Anil Jauhri
Ex-CEO, NABC
Chairperson, NCCF-CAG



Dr. Vivek Saxena,
IUCN



Prof. Amit Garg
IIM Ahmedabad



Prof. Rakesh M. Joshi
IIFT, New Delhi



Mr. B.H. Patel
CAPEXIL

PCA comprises following Members:

Dr Vivek Saxena, IUCN

MR B H Patel, CAPEXIL

Prof Amit Garg, IIM, Ahmedabad

Mr Anil Jauhri, Ex. CEO NABC and CAG Chairperson

Prof. Rakesh Mohan Joshi, Indian Institute of Foreign Trade, New Delhi

Mr Sachin Raj Jain Convener, NCCF

Mr Suneel Pandey, Secretary, VP ITC, NCCF

Mr Arun K. Bansal, Former Addl DG Forests (Chairperson PCA-WG)

PCA group held two meeting during the year, first on 23rd September 2020 and second on 25th March 2021. The meetings had discussion around invigorating Brand for Forest Certification scheme and engage in PEFC's Marketing, Communications and Advocacy (MCA) working group taskforces for various industries (Rubber, Furniture, Textile and Packaging) overarching objective to increase market demand and acceptance of PEFC and PEFC certified products globally. A subgroup chaired by Mr Anil Jauhri, was constituted specifically for suggesting measure for fast tracking adoption of sustainability certification standards for forests and ToF Schemes along with CoC certification.

Key Outcomes:

- Enforce - Quarterly Newsletter
- PCA Subgroup is formulated, chaired by Mr Anil Jauhri, for faster adoption of sustainability certification standards for forests and ToF along with CoC certification related wood/timber products.
- Participating in International industry taskforce for seeding and influencing the primary users – Rubber/ Furniture/ Textile & Packaging.
- Industry specific brochures

➤ Policy Advocacy and Research

NCCF is a network of experts and professionals in the fields of forestry, agroforestry, environment, climate change, biodiversity, certification, auditing, research, management, business enterprise, governance and industry etc. Often on important conservation issues, NCCF has played its policy advocacy role and tried to bridge the gap between policy makers and the practitioners. NCCF has also conducted desk research and stakeholders, consultation to make some concrete recommendations to the government on matters concerning certification, trees outside forests, achieving 33% goal of forest/tree cover, meeting nationally determined contributions to create an additional carbon sink of 2.5 to 3 billion tonnes of CO₂eq through additional forest and tree cover by 2030, compensatory afforestation fund, draft national forest policy etc.

➤ Capacity Building and Training

Capacity Building and Training is an important mandate of NCCF. We have conducted sensitization workshops on certification for many state forest departments. During the year, sensitization workshops were conducted for the State Forest Departments of Punjab, Madhya Pradesh, Assam, Sikkim, Karnataka, Chhattisgarh, Tripura and Uttarakhand at their headquarters.

➤ Participation in Conferences and Meetings

Joint Webinar by NCCF and NABCb on "NCCF FM Certification Scheme and Accreditation Requirements for the Certification Bodies"; 15 May 2020



NCCF & NABCb's Joint Webinar for Certification Bodies

NCCF FM Certification Scheme and Accreditation Requirements for CBs

15 May 2020, Friday,
1100 to 1300 hrs



The Network for Certification and Conservation of Forests (NCCF) and National Accreditation Board for Certification Bodies (NABCb) jointly hosted the webinar focused on understanding the requirements for provisional recognition of certification bodies for NCCF Forest Management Certification Scheme, including Chain of Custody Certification and business potential and benefits for certification bodies by performing audits against certification schemes and standards developed by NCCF.

This webinar had 90 participants, comprising leaders from leading certification bodies (CBs), experienced and qualified auditors, natural resource management experts and consultants.

Dr Mrutunjay Jena, Director, NABCb provided comprehensive insights on Accreditation and Provisional Approval Requirements of NABCb for the NCCF-PEFC FM Certification Scheme. He briefed about the technical competencies involved for CBs to take up accreditation from NABCb.

NCCF organized Webinar on Forest Certification; 19th May 2020

NCCF organised a webinar on Forest Certification on Tuesday, 19th May 2020. Dr Sanjay Kumar, Director General of Forests & Special Secretary, Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, Government of India delivered the inaugural address as the Chief Guest. Sessions were conducted by distinguished panelists on various aspects of certification.

The webinar was attended by 225 delegates from the central ministries, state governments, international organisations, industry and industry associations, academic and research institutions, civil society organisations, social groups, experts, professionals, certification bodies and other stakeholders.



NCCF organizes Webinar on World Environment Day on Sustainable Consumerism and Management of Natural Resources on 5th June 2020



NCCF organized a webinar on "Sustainable Consumerism and Management of Natural Resources", on the occasion of World Environment Day, 5th June 2020.

The webinar was inaugurated by Shri Sudhanshu Pandey, IAS, Secretary to the Government of India, Department of Food and Public Distribution, Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution. He highlighted the need for sustainable commerce and responsible consumerism to safe-

guard commerce and responsible consumerism to safeguard our socio-economic interests, keeping our actions aligned with sustainable development and management of natural resources.

NCCF organizes online lecture presentation on Forest Certification for IFS Probationers under training at IGNFA; 23rd April 2020

NCCF organized an online lecture presentation on the theme "Forest Certification: An Efficient Tool to Promote Sustainable Forest Management and Sustainable Development" for the IFS Probationers undergoing training at the Indira Gandhi National Forest Academy (IGNFA), Dehradun. IFS officers under training evinced a keen interest in understanding the advantages of certification, its international ramifications, and the modalities and procedures of undertaking certification.

Mr A K Varma, Chairperson, NCCF-SDG, Ecotourism addresses IUCN's webinar on "Role of Cultural and Natural Heritage in Tourism based Economy; 1st July 2020

Mr A K Varma, Chairperson, NCCF-SDG, Ecotourism addressed the webinar on Role of cultural and Natural Heritage in Tourism based Economy, held by IUCN, on 1st July 2020. He highlighted the need for certification standards in promoting and sustaining heritage-based tourism while focusing on its impact on heritage-based tourism post pandemic.

Certification in tourism has been debated for quite



sometime. Though there are many certification systems available in the world like Global Sustainable Tourism Council (GSTC) and Sustainable Tourism Criteria of India (STCI), not many tourism industry suppliers are certified. NCCF has taken the initiative of developing Ecotourism standard, through a multi-stakeholder Standard Development Group that will be country specific and internationally benchmarked and will promote sustainability of natural destinations, particularly in and around protected areas.



PEFC awards Certification of Appreciation to NCCF

NCCF was awarded Certificate of appreciation for gaining the second greatest increase in PEFC certified forest area in the world during the period Sept 2019 to Sept 2020.

Three awarded countries are:

1. Malaysia,
2. India and,
3. Korea

The award goes to the forest managers, communities, and stakeholders for sustainably managing their forests.

Online Workshop on Forest/ToF Certification for Jammu & Kashmir Forest Department; 12th June 2020

NCCF organised an online workshop to discuss the prospects of Forest/ ToF Certification in the UT of Jammu & Kashmir. PCCF, J&K expressed interest for certification of Poplars and Willow in Kashmir and Khair in Jammu province.

Dr Mohit Gera, PCCF & HoFF, J&K presented a brief overview of forestry and social forestry in J&K and the existing scenario of availability of wood, wood products and wood-based industries in J&K. Presentations/remarks were made by Dr Jagadish Kishwan, Former PCCF& HOFF,J&K; Chairman, Carbon Registry, NCCF, Mr A. K. Srivastava, Director General , NCCF, Dr Devendra Pandey, Chairperson, Standard Development Group, ToF, NCC , Mr Sachin Jain, Convener, NCCF and Ms Taruna Singh, Lead Forest Management Auditor.

NCCF presented its Trees outside Forest Certification Standard and a facilitative risk assessment tool (RAT), that has been developed to simplify and facilitate certification of trees outside forests for specific areas and single tree species within a State/Union Territory. RAT would be of great in promoting certification of a few abundantly available key species like *Populus deltoides* (Poplar), *Salix heterophylla* (Willow) and *Acacia catechu* (Khair) in Kashmir valley and Jammu region and this would greatly help the wood based industries dependent upon these tree species. Representatives of Hindustan Pencils Limited expressed interest in taking certification of poplars being used by them as raw material for their pencil industry.

Webinar for Consultants Consortium of Chennai on the World Standards Day; 14th October 2020



World Standards Day 2020

Online Meeting & Discussion Series by
Consultants Consortium of Chennai

Global Theme - Protecting the Planet with Standards

Topic - Forest Certification Standards & Certification Schemes from NCCF - Network for Certification and Conservation of Forests

Mr. A. S. Balachandran
Member Chairman of the Network for Certification and Conservation of Forests (NCCF)
The Forest Management Certification Institute

Dr. Anupathy Krishnam, Indian Forest Service (Retired)
CII-PEFC India Pvt Ltd

Mr. Arun Kumar Bansal, IFS
Independent Expert in the field of forest and agroforestry, FM and Auditor

Date & Time
October 14th 2020
4.00 pm

Mr. Richard Laity
Project & Development Officer
PEFC South East Asia
PEFC
Forest Management
Certification
Institute

On the World Standards Day, NCCF honours the efforts of thousands of experts who develop voluntary standards within standards development organizations .

NCCF participated in online webinar organised by Consultants Consortium of Chennai.

NCCF discussed sustainability standards including Forest/ trees outside Forest Certification Standards and their potential impact to “protect the planet”.

NCCF and PEFC International organize online PEFC Chain of Custody Auditors' Training in India; 6-7th August 2020

NCCF organized online session for PEFC Chain of Custody Auditors' Training jointly with PEFC International on 6- 7th August 2020.

Mr Richard Laity, Projects and Development Officer at the PEFC, South East Asia was the master trainer of the session. The training was attended by 33 auditors representing CBs and accreditation board from countries like India, Vietnam, Russia, Malaysia, Mexico, Singapore and Indonesia.

The training included subjects like 'Detailed requirements under PEFC Chain of forest and tree-based products', 'PEFC trademark rules', 'Requirements for CBs operating against PEFC Chain of Custody', 'NCCF, AB & CB requirements' and 'PEFC & CB engagement'



PEFC – NCCF CHAIN OF CUSTODY CERTIFICATION TRAINING

NCCF is a member of PEFC Alliance and administers PEFC CoC in India.



TRAINING OBJECTIVE

PEFC-NCCF organized CoC certification for all businesses involved in the supply chain. To update the capability of personnel engaged in CoC Audit and certification as per the revised procedure introduced in 2020

PARTICIPANTS GROUP

33 auditors represented Certification Bodies and Accreditation Bodies of India, Vietnam, Russia, Malaysia, Mexico, Singapore and Indonesia.



OUR TRAINING PARTNER

PEFC (Programme for the Endorsement of Forest Certification)



QUANTITATIVE FEEDBACK



FULFILLED THE LEARNING OBJECTIVE.



WERE FULLY SATISFIED WITH THE TRAINING

CoC TRAINING PARTICIPANTS

Very useful to discuss practical problems, interactive; realistic examples; good structure, very useful practical approaches.

Highly interactive trainer, the trainers were taking interest in increasing our knowledge

Faculty sincerity and dedication with bizarre patience and knowledge level



TRAINING DURATION

6th and 7th of Aug'20 18 hour online workshop - 15 effective sessions



ASSOCIATED ORGANIZATIONS

NABC, Bureau Veritas, Control Union, Russian Register, DoubleHelix, PT AJA Sertifikasi, DiMa Certification, Wood Cert., Demeter, Criterion Assessment, Forest Certification LLC, Tuv Nord



TRAINING METHODS

PowerPoint Presentations and Group Exercises, Q&A

IMPACT



OF PARTICIPANTS REPORTED A SIGNIFICANT INCREASE IN THEIR UNDERSTANDING OF THE TOPIC

CHANGE IN YOUR UNDERSTANDING AND AWARENESS ABOUT PEFC AFTER TRAINING



NCCF ACKNOWLEDGMENT

We would like to extend our deepest gratitude to everyone who graciously contributed their talents, insights, and time in imparting the training.

Mr. Richard Laity
Projects and Development Officer (PEFC), South East Asia.

Ms. Linda Matole
Technical Officer, PEFC

Ms. Nga Ha
PEFC SEA Coordinator

Mr. Mrutunjay Jena
Director, NABC, India

Mr. Anil Jauhri
Ex CEO, NABC

Director General and NCCF Team

NCCF organized a webinar on Forest/ToF and CoC Certification and its applicability in Pulp & Paper Industry for JK Papers; 27th November 2020

NCCF organized a webinar on NCCF's Forest/Trees outside Forest Certification Schemes and PEFC Chain of Custody Certification and their applicability in Pulp & Paper Industry for JK Papers on 27th November 2020.

Mr B P Ratho, General Manager, Plantation and R&D, JK Papers introduced briefly about JK Paper Limited. Mr A K Srivastava, Director General and Mr Varun Grover, Assistant Director, NCCF, explained the advantages of certification and specific features and easy adaptability of NCCF's Forest/Trees outside Forest Certification Schemes and PEFC Chain of Custody Certification.



Forest, trees and Agroforestry (FTA) Science Conference organised by CGIAR led by CIFOR, World Agroforestry, ICRAF; 14-25th September 2020



Delegates from NCCF actively participated in 10 days International Forest Trees and Agroforestry (FTA) Science Conference organized by CGIAR (CIFOR-World Agroforestry ICRAF) from 14th September 2020 to 25th September 2020.

The conference covered a lot of modern and classical themes within the six streams, a few prominent ones are research for policy transformation, agroecological approaches, addressing climate energy, landscape restoration, nature-based solutions

biodiversity conservation, equity, women empowerment, certification, REDD+, impact assessment, change theory, bamboo, resilience, design theories, and many more.

NCCF's participation in the FTA Conference brought new knowledge in the NCCF system. NCCF would like to take advantage of FTA research in shaping its certification standards, feeding inputs to the government in developing policies and in their effective implementation. Agroforestry in India will be major focus area for linking the research out comes to sustainable value chains, assessing impacts of Forests /Trees Outside Forests (ToF) certification on Sustainable Forest Management (SFM), agroforestry, climate resilience, landscape restoration, biodiversity conservation and livelihoods, and contributing towards doubling farmers income.

NCCF contributed abstracts of following four papers in the conference, out of which two papers were accepted for oral presentation and two papers for poster presentation:

- Certification of Nursery and Quality Planting Material to Accelerate Agroforestry in India.
- Conducive Policy and Regulatory Regimes are Key to Success of Agroforestry in India
- Need for a strong policy regime to drive Forest/Trees outside Forest Certification in India.
- Sustainable Agroforestry- a boon for India



Need for a strong policy regime to drive Forest/ Trees outside Forest (ToF) certification in India

AK Srivastava, Ria Antil

Network for Certification and Conservation of Forests, New Delhi-India | www.nccf.in

Certification for Sustainability of Forests / Trees outside Forests (ToF)

- Forests cover 31% of earth's surface area and provide us with various goods and ecosystem services. Globally, India, with nearly 25 % forest and tree cover, stands at 10th position accounting for 2% of total forest cover of the world
- Forest certification, an emerging global movement, is an important tool and enabler of sustainability in forest management and
- meeting our international commitments under the **SDGs, UNFCCC, UNCBD and UNCCD**. It is increasingly recognized as the demonstrable evidence for sustainable management of Forests/ToF
- Certification supports economic growth, fair trade, consumer protection, rights of tribals, health and safety of workers and livelihoods of forest communities

Forest Certification: "A voluntary process whereby an independent third party assesses quality of forest management and production against a set of requirements - standards predetermined by a certification organization" (FAO)

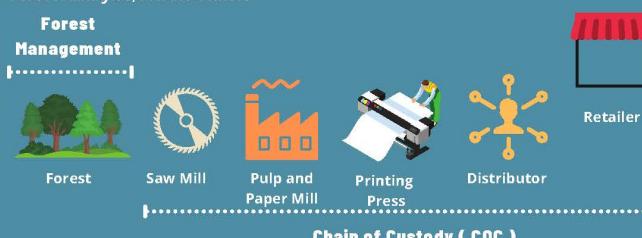
Environmentally Appropriate

Economically Viable

Socially Beneficial

Types of Forest Certification

Forest Management Unit (FMU) certification: Process leading to issue of Certificate by an independent party, which assesses forest/ plantation against defined standards - Forest Managers, Private Owners



Chain of Custody certification (CoC) Tracking wood products from certified forest / plantations to point of sale to ensure that the product is obtained from a certified source Forest - Primary & Secondary Manufacturers- Traders- Retailers.

Global Forest Certification Schemes



- Globally: (status mid-2019)
- FSC area: 200 mha; PEFC area: 325 mha
- Area under double certification: 93 mha
- Total certified area: 432 mha
- 70,000+ CoC Certificates

NCCF-PEFC Forest Management /ToF Certification Standard

- Only available Indian Scheme of Forest Certification
- Developed by NCCF through a multi-stakeholder Standard Development Group, endorsed by the Programme for the Endorsement of Forest Certification, giving it an international recognition.
- NCCF's ToF Scheme brings much-needed recognition to the wood and timber produced by the farmers on their lands and ensure better markets and higher income for their agroforestry produce. It is currently under the process of endorsement by PEFC.

Promoting Country Specific Certification Schemes in India

International Standards

- They are of Generic Nature
- They may imply higher costs (auditing, travel, logistics, etc.)

Indian Conditions

- Diverse legal and administrative frameworks of FM
- Diverse social, cultural & geographical conditions of forests in different states
- Forest diversity and variability of FM in India

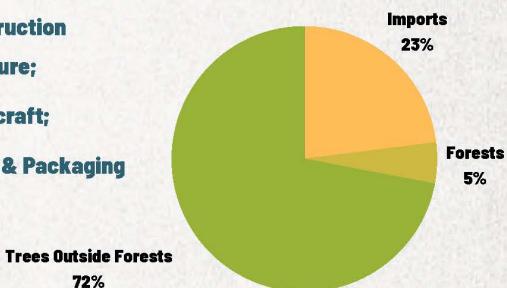
Advantages of Domestic Scheme

- Driven by national stakeholders
- Promote and facilitate national and international trade
- Integration of local needs and expectations

- Pilot Tested in Indian Conditions
- Economical (e.g. domestic auditors, ease and flexibility in use)

Certification to promote industries of Wood Sector

- Construction
- Furniture;
- Handicraft;
- Paper & Packaging



Consumption of Wood

Source : High Level Expert Group Report on India's Agricultural Exports submitted to 15th Finance Commission.

In India, certification is picking up at a slow pace. To promote certification , our recommendations are:

- Mainstreaming forest certification should be on top of the sustainability agenda- globally, nationally and locally.
- Need of a strong policy guideline / legislation for forest certification.
- Voluntary schemes should influence National/ International legislations.
- Promote certification in collaboration with central ministries, state governments, industry, civil society organizations and forest-based stakeholders.
- Promote Sustainable Public Procurement by focusing on due diligence, responsible sourcing and certification in public/ private sector's procurement policies.
- Increase domestic production of wood through production forestry and agroforestry and gradually reduce imports
- "Grow More Wood and Use More Wood" is Good for Environment

References:

Stringer, C. (2006). Forest certification and changing global commodity chains. *Journal of Economic Geography*, 701-722
 Mili Ghosh, B. S. (2016). Impact of forest policies on timber production in India: a review. *Natural Resources Forum*
 Yadav, M., Kotwal, P.C. & Menaria, B.L. (2007). Forest certification: a tool for sustainable forest management. Bhopal, India, Indian Institute of Forest Management



RESEARCH PROGRAM ON
Forests, Trees and
Agroforestry





Sustainable Agroforestry - A boon for India

A K Bansal, Ria Antil

Network for Certification and Conservation of Forests, New Delhi- India
www.nccf.in

INTRODUCTION

- Agroforestry is a land use system that integrates trees, crops and animals in a way that is dynamic, ecologically sound and culturally compatible.
- It has a great potential to contribute to India's target of bringing 33% of geographical area under forest and tree cover and meeting the nationally determined contribution of additional carbon sink of 2.5 to 3 billion ton of CO2 equivalent by the year 2030 and towards doubling of farmers' income.
- Wood is one of the important produce coming from forests/agroforestry that are renewable natural resource.
- It also contributes in meeting the SDG goals, and our targets under biodiversity conservation and the Bonn challenge.

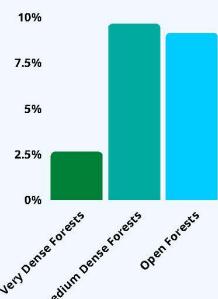
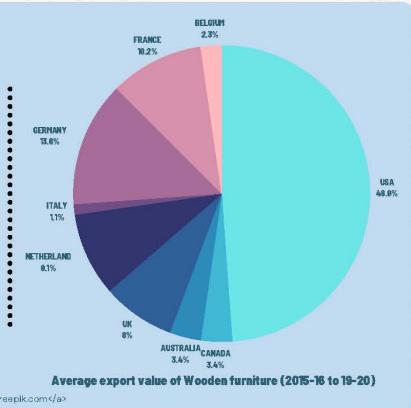


Fig. 1 : Depicts the Forest Cover of India :
Source : State of Forest Report, FSI 2019

Wood based Industries

- Paper industry is the organized sector, and has been promoting tree cultivation of pulp wood species by farmers under agroforestry models, including clonal plantations, extending over 125,000 ha contributing to tree cover.
- Other wood based industries are largely in the small-scale or "unorganized" sector constituting 85-90% of the total sector.
- Half of the wooden furniture made in India uses teak; 30 % is from mango, sheesham, mahogany, and cedar; and roughly 20 % from other hardwood species
- India imports small quantities of temperate hardwoods for commercial and home interiors and furniture, some of which is made for export.
- Wood based industries can immensely contribute in the Atma Nirbhar Bharat Abhiyan under which GOI has planned reforms and measures for the revival and long term sustainability of MSMEs. Ministry of Commerce has identified Furniture sector as one of the focus sub-sectors under SCALE (Steering Committee for Advancing Local value-add and Export)



[a href="https://www.freepik.com/vectors/tree">Tree vector created by macrovector - www.freepik.com/a>](https://www.freepik.com/vectors/tree)

POLICIES IN INDIA TO PROMOTE AGROFORESTRY

▲ National Forest Policy, 1988

▲ National Agroforestry Policy, 2014

▲ Sub-Mission on Agro-forestry (National Mission for Sustainable Agriculture)

RECOMMENDATIONS

Promotion of Agroforestry:

- Agroforestry needs to be integrated with the concept of "Grow more wood use more wood".
- Can help achieve the target of increasing forest/tree cover of India to 33%.
- Potential to sequester atmospheric carbon and mitigate the climate change effects.

Addressing Policy gaps in wood commerce:

- Productive use of degraded lands by raising plantations of suitable tree species in a mission mode It is necessary to permit/allow import of wood and wood products made only from wood sourced from certified forests.

Promote Credible Forest Certification process in India :

- The available Indian certification schemes having global recognition, shall be facilitated and promoted to enhance exports of wood products.
- The wood products industry should be encouraged to adopt voluntary certification for domestic markets by making certification as a requirement in public procurement policies.

NEED TO PROMOTE SUSTAINABLE AGROFORESTRY

Huge potential to bridge the gap between the demand and supply of industrial wood and reducing imports.

Additional assured income to farmers and reduces vulnerability to crop failures

Paper industry uses 80 % of the total requirement from farm produced wood

Agro Forestry offers tremendous opportunity for sequestering atmospheric carbon that remains locked when wood is used in manufacturing engineered wood products and reduced pressure on forests enables restoration of natural ecosystems.

Large quantity import of timber and other wood products, causing drain of foreign exchange reserves.

Indian domestic furniture market expected to grow at annual rate of 12.9 % during the period between 2020 and 2024.

In 2013, agroforestry was estimated to be 25.32 Mha (8.2% of TGA):
Comprising of 20 Mha in cultivated lands ; 13.0 Mha in rain fed areas and 5.32 Mha in other

Enhancing use of wood products:

- Provide positive policy push for use of wood products in key growth sectors for green/sustainable development.
- Bringing in "sustainability" in public procurement policies to promote wood products and promote environmentally responsive consumerism.
- Promote and mandate 'Green Public Purchasing' (GPP) for procurement of wood products by government departments and agencies. Thus ensuring natural resource sustainability and a shift towards a greener and resource efficient supply chain.
- Establishing specific wood processing zones around potential agro-forestry growth regions.



RESEARCH PROGRAM ON
Forests, Trees and
Agroforestry



Online workshop on Forest Certification for Goa Forest Department; 20th August 2020



NCCF organized an online Workshop on Forest Certification in collaboration with the Goa Forest Department, on 20th August 2020.

The workshop was inaugurated by Mr Subhash Chandra, Principal Chief Conservator of Forests and Head of Forest Department, Government of Goa. Mr Keshav Kumar, Chief Conservator of Forests, Government of Goa in his introductory remarks, emphasized on the benefits and advantages of Forest certification and made valuable remarks

on certification and on cost of certification, modalities and advantages of certification of cashew plantations.

The workshop was intended to sensitize the professional foresters and stakeholders about the environmental, economic and social advantages of certification and the modalities for taking up certification with the larger objective of promoting sustainable management of forests and trees outside forest.

NCCF organizes Online Workshop on Forest Certification for Maharashtra Forest Department; 23rd July 2020



NCCF organized an online Workshop on Forest Certification for the State Forest Department, Maharashtra on 23rd July 2020.

The workshop was inaugurated by Dr N Rambabu, Principal Chief Conservator of Forests & HoFF, Government of Maharashtra. Mr Praveen Srivastava, Principal Chief Conservator of Forests, Government of Maharashtra, highlighted the issues related to absence of certification on raw

material and products obtained from the forests and the need for forest certification.

The workshop was intended to sensitize the professional foresters and stakeholders about the environmental, economic and social advantages of certification and the modalities for taking up certification with the larger objective of promoting sustainable management of forests.

➤ **Membership of NCCF**

Members of NCCF are from diverse backgrounds and include representatives of environmental and social non-governmental organizations, professional foresters, industry, forestry organizations, community forestry groups, retailers and manufacturers, forest certification organizations and individual forest owners. There are five membership categories as under:

Subscriber Member

The founding members of NCCF.

Ordinary Member

The members nominated by the Central and State Ministries/Departments to the Governing Body of NCCF.

Institutional Member

Any academic or cultural body or local body constituted by local governing bodies, PSU, State Government including a university, department, research institute, registered society or trust interested in academic, cultural or social workin the sector.

Associate Member

Any person having the requisite qualification and a body corporate / Proprietorship Firm/ Firm/ Society/ Social Groups/ NGO/ Association of Persons (AOA) having interest in the activities related/associated with the objectives of NCCF and further intending to work with for the achievement of the objectives.

Co-opted Member

The governing body may choose/appoint or elect any person on the basis of their specific competence. These members shall be appointed for a term of three years, which may be renewed and shall nothave alternates.

Benefits of the Membership of NCCF

- Members become an important stakeholder for the organization.
- NCCF being a not-for-profit organization, membership money will be used for the contribution towards maintaining the Forest sustainability and development of standards.
- Members are entitled to attend the conferences, trainings, seminars, exhibitions, workshops and other important events and meetings organized by NCCF.
- Members have the voting rights for electing the Governing Body and may also file their nomination for various positions in the GB.
- Members can contribute to development of Standards through their comments and suggestions.
- Members have access to research, surveys, knowledge papers, press releases.
- NCCF provides a platform for interaction and networking between government, industry, NGOs and academia.
- Members have the benefit of tax exemption in the donations (80G & 12A)

➤ Members List

Subscriber Members

Mr Avani Kumar Varma

Mr JK Jain

Mr Sachin Raj Jain

Mr IVR Rao

Mr Suneel Pandey

Mr KH Devbrat

Mr Sanjeev Agarwal

Mr Rakesh Kumar

Mr AK Bansal

Institutional Members

Indian Plywood Industries Research & Training Institute(IPIRTI)

Tamil Nadu Newsprint and Paper Ltd (TNPL)

Indian Paper Manufacturer's Association (IPMA) Haryana Forest Development Corporation (HFDC) Hariom Education and Trainer

Export Promotion Council for Handicrafts (EPCH) Indian Institute for Human Settlements (IIHS)

Ordinary members

ITC Ltd

Sripathi Paper & Boards Pvt Ltd Sankalp International

Star Papers

Printographic Packaging India Pvt Ltd Group JK

Indian Art Furniture Pvt Ltd Kudrat Gramodhyay Sansathan A K Panels

Seshasayee Paper and Boards Limited Bloom Dekor Limited

Nupur International

Associate Members

Ms Jyotsana Sitling

Mr Vinod Verma

Mr AK Srivastava

Ms Ritu Jain

Mr Ambarish Choubey

Mr Manu Jose Mattam

Ms Neha Channa

Mr Ram Avtar Singh

Mr Ranir Pal Saini

Ms Taruna Singh

Mr Varun Grover

Ms Richa Garg

Ms Deepali Rautela

Ms Anchal

Ms Nidhi Rawat

Mr Ankur Nautiyal

Ms Sakshi Nehra

Mr Shovans Das

Mr Abu Bakar Ansari

Mr Mohan ChanderPandey

Ms Teena Antil

Ms Upasna Singh

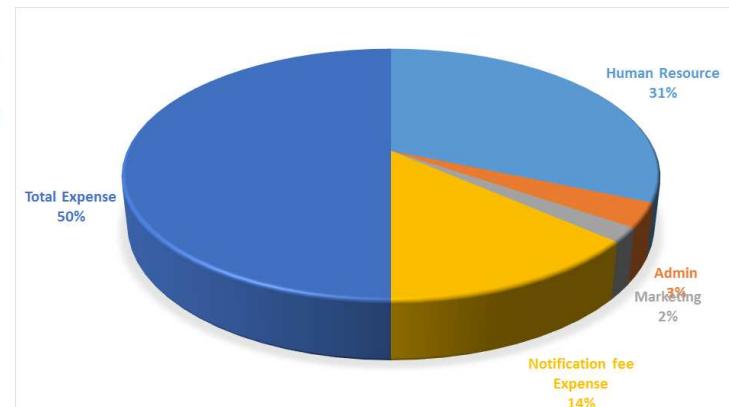
➤ Financial (income & Expenditure)

INCOME:

INCOME MEMBERSHIP FEE	4500
NOTIFICATION FEE	3475024
INCOME FROM TRAINING	720000
MISCELLANEOUS INCOME	32993
TOTAL INCOME	4273017

EXPENDITURE:

NOTIFICATION FEE EXPENSES	2191064
HUMAN RESOURCE	5102913
MARKETING	300000
ADMIN	507258
TOTAL EXPENSE	8101235



Acknowledgement

The Governing Body of NCCF thank NCCF's members, employees, stakeholders, civil society organizations, research and academic institutions and international bodies for their consistent support in furtherance of the objectives of NCCF. The Governing Body also thank the Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change, Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare, Ministry of Commerce and Industry, Government of India, State Forest Departments of various states of India, scientific and academic institutions and various government and non-government agencies for their support and cooperation. The Governing Body appreciates and values the contributions made by every member of the NCCF family and solicit their cooperation and guidance in NCCF's all future endeavours.



Network for Certification and Conservation of Forests (NCCF)

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