



# ANNUAL REPORT 2019-20

**NETWORK FOR CERTIFICATION AND  
CONSERVATION OF FORESTS**

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**Report NCCF**

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Report for 1<sup>st</sup> April 2019- 31<sup>st</sup> March 2020

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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 2019-20, detailing the activities and achievements of the organization during the year.

NCCF has continued its efforts to generate an impressive repository of work in the environmental, economic and social aspects of natural resource management. The primary focus has been on sustainable management of forests and trees outside forests and for that we have successfully developed globally benchmarked certification standards. We are simultaneously developing standards for Non Wood Forest Products, Protected Areas and Wetlands, Ecotourism, Quality Planting Material, Biofuel and Biomass. 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 is committed to the cause of certification and conservation of natural resources and 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 important issues of conservation through policy advocacy, consultation meetings and awareness raising.

We are deeply concerned and impacted by the Covid-19 outbreak. The pandemic has taught us the lesson that when we attack and injure biodiversity, we are exposing the support system of human life to new risks. There has been unusual social and economic disruption seriously impacting livelihoods. I take pleasure in mentioning that NCCF's sustainability standards help in promoting sustainable consumption and natural resource management as part of a wider SDG agenda. This implies balancing competing interests for sustainability, minimising environmental impacts, and meeting basic needs.

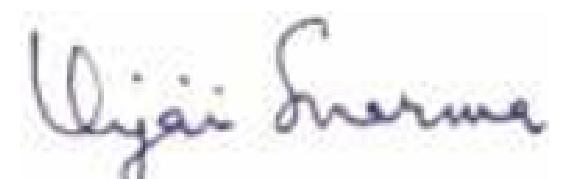
It is good that the capacity of NCCF is broad based and multi-disciplinary, with our professional exposure encompassing government, private sector and civil society for addressing the issues of sustainability. It is important to make certification accessible to small holders and low volume producers,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

NCCF is well tuned into the changing nature of international debates and consensus building. It has established itself well as a body of experts and as a thinktank in the field of certification and conservation of forests and has been contributing to the evolving national and international forestry agenda. Our network is rapidly expanding by joining the IUCN as a Member and getting Observer status with the UNCCD as an accredited civil society organization, after our effective participation in the COP 14 of UNCCD.

This year, we amended NCCF's Memorandum of Association to give us a mandate to develop, operate, manage and promote mechanisms, standards, procedures and guidelines to combat climate change and impacts thereof, reduce net greenhouse gas emissions, while achieving sustainable development. We look forward to NCCF's meaningful participation in COP 26 of UNFCCC at Glasgow in November 2021.

We acknowledge the active engagement of our distinguished members and stakeholders for achieving NCCF 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 and things are ever evolving and fast moving, requiring us to be more focussed 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. Thank you.



Vijai Sharma, IAS (retd)  
Chairman,  
NCCF

## Network for Certification and Conservation of Forests



NCCF is a non-profit organization, registered as a Society, under the Societies' Registration Act, 1860. A network of experts, professionals and stakeholders of natural resources, NCCF is actively engaged in development of India specific and globally benchmarked sustainability standards for various constituents of our natural resource base, 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 Governing Council for India, member of IUCN and has got Observer Status of UNCCD as a Civil Society Organization.

It is the endeavour of NCCF to make the Indian wood and forest fiber-based industry competent and acceptable globally. 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 an international recognition. This scheme is being used by many states for certification.

Many Asian countries like Malaysia, Vietnam, Indonesia, Japan, Myanmar, China, Korea, Thailand, etc., have also developed their national forest certification schemes that have been endorsed for international recognition. NCCF Scheme brings India into this club of Asian nations with their own indigenous forest certification scheme having international recognition.

NCCF's Trees outside Forest Certification Scheme is the first of its kind not only in India, but anywhere in the world, and this is ready for use. This scheme will bring much-needed recognition to the wood and timber produced by farmers on their lands and ensure better markets and price premium for their agroforestry produce. NCCF is managing PEFC Chain of Custody certification in India.

Forest and chain of custody certification are sustainability based, voluntary, non-regulatory, facilitative, conservation and marketing tool that promotes sustainable management of forests/trees outside forests. It includes forest monitoring, tracing and labelling of timber and non-timber forest products. It brings in enhanced creditability to our forest governance with international recognition and improves market accessibility of our forest products. It helps us in verifying the missing but desirable components in management plan and practices and in ascertaining the mechanisms to strengthen the management

Certification is an emerging global movement that supports sustainable development, while ensuring compliance to all forest and wildlife related legislations, rights of local communities including tribals and workers, economic growth, fair trade, livelihoods, value chains, consumer protection, and also enhancing competitiveness, technological innovation and quality of health and safety of forest workers, and biodiversity and environmental conservation. It 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.

NCCF is developing certification standards for non-wood forest produce, protected areas and wetlands, quality planting material, ecotourism and biomass & biofuels, which are at various stages of development.

NCCF is also developing a Carbon Registry-India aimed to provide a trading and tracking platform for verified GHG emissions reduction and removals enhancement.

NCCF's sustainability standards have a great potential to contribute towards achieving SDG goals, sustainable forest management, our international commitments for climate change mitigation and adaptation, biodiversity conservation and land restoration.

## NCCF's Working Areas



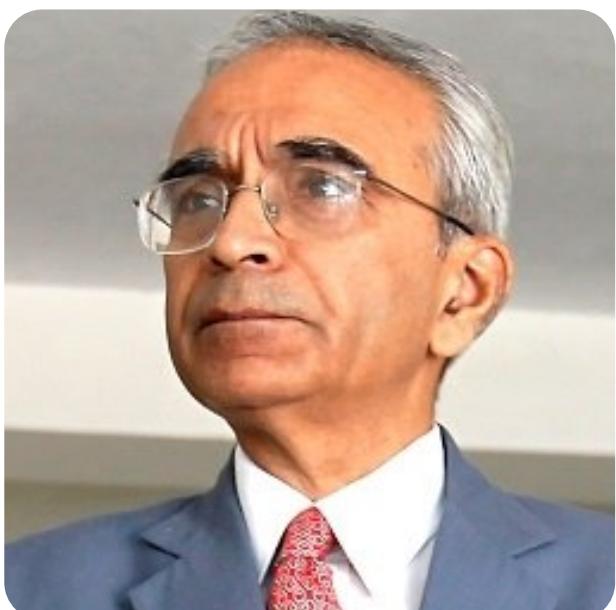
## Objectives

- To develop country-specific and internationally benchmarked National Certification Standards for Sustainable Forest Management, Trees outside Forests (TOF), Non-Wood Forest Products (NWFPs), Protected Areas and Wetlands (PAWs), Ecotourism, Quality Planting Material etc.; the standards also being compatible and conforming to the national statutes and legal framework.

- To develop, operate, manage and promote mechanisms, standards, procedures and guidelines to combat climate change and impacts thereof, reduce net greenhouse gas emissions, while achieving sustainable development.
- To provide a platform for bringing together forest-based stakeholders to promote forest and forest produce certification schemes for the long-term ecological security of forests.
- To provide a link between responsible production and responsible consumption and help the consumer to make socially and environmentally sound buying decisions.
- Promoting responsible trade in forestry sector and offering specific considerations to the unique needs of small and family forest owners while being quality used by large landowners.
- To bridge the gap between policymakers and practitioners including entrepreneurs on issues that emerges on trade and other related aspects of the forest products and services through a series of consultation meetings, awareness-raising, conferences and workshops etc.
- To promote skill development in the forestry sector in the interest of sustainable harvesting and utilization of forest produce as also to promote economic and social welfare of the labourers, plantation workers, artisans, workers engaged in processing of wood, NWFPs and manufacturing of paper, plywood, veneers, panels, furniture and forest-based handicrafts etc.
- Policy advocacy on important emerging issues concerning the conservation of natural resources.

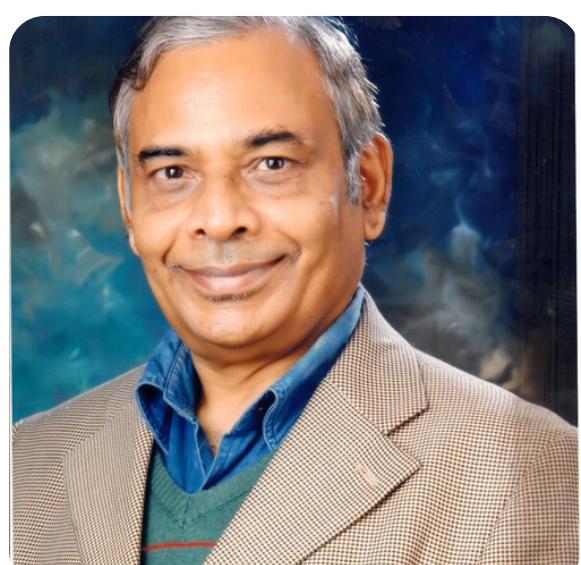
## Governing Body

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 (MoEFCC) 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 KBB ABS 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. G M 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 extraordinary 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-CoC & 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 Shows 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 Jewellery & 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 Indian (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'S COMMENDATION 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 MOEFCC. 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.

### **Deputy Inspector General of Forest, Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change**

Deputy Inspector General of Forest (DIGF), Survey and Utilisation division is the official nominee of the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change on the Governing Body of NCCF.

## **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 Avani K. Varma, IFS (Retd.)

**Chairperson, SDG Forest Management and Eco-Tourism Certification Standard of NCCF**



### 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 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,

**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 AK Bansal IFS (Retd.)

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



## 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. RR 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 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, IndiaHACCP 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.

## Mr AK Goyal IFS (Retd.)

### Chairperson Safeboards

Mr AK 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, MoEFCC, 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 Associate

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 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 Tripta Tarunita, Coordinator**

A Post Graduate in Forest Management with specialisation in Environment Management from Indian Institute of Forest Management(IIFM) and graduate in Computer Science. She joined NCCF in May 2019 as Coordinator and co-ordinated Standard Development Groups for PAWS and BioFM and other Secretarial activities.

**Ms Sneha Sukare, Coordinator**

A Post Graduate In Forest Management with specialisation in Environment Management from Indian Institute of Forest Management(IIFM) and graduate in B.Sc Electronics. She joined NCCF in May 2019 as Coordinator. She co-ordinated Standard Development Groups for NWFP and liaison with state forest department.

**IT and Website Support****Mr Balbinder Singh,**

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



**Pravin Kumar Chandra**

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.

**Team Carbon Programme****Mr Richard Bright, Director-IT**

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, Carbon Programme**

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.



## COVID-19 and its impact on NCCF Working

NCCF family is deeply concerned and impacted by the COVID 19 outbreak worldwide and stand together with the Nation and humanity in fight against the pandemic. We have managed to work from home, with arrangements for virtual meetings.

NCCF has issued Certification Guide for PEFC certified companies and Certification Bodies to overcome the restrictions due to COVID-19 and help them continue business as usual. We deeply value our association with the Members and Stakeholders and stand committed to remain productive as an institution.

Climate change, habitat fragmentation, land use changes, biodiversity loss and illegal wildlife trade, among other factors, are often identified as possible reasons for zoonotic diseases and emergence of animal borne pandemic like the COVID-19. The pandemic has taught us a lesson that health of the people and the health of the planet are inter-dependent, essentially one and the same thing and both can thrive in equal measure.

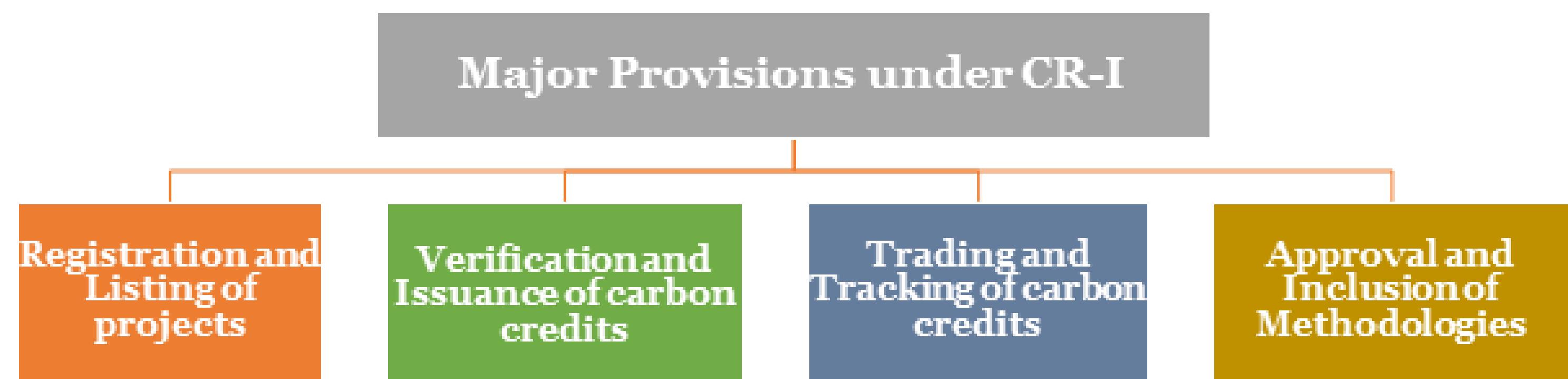
Conservation challenges during and post COVID-19 call for adopting sustainable lifestyles, absolutely new mode of consumerism, going back to the villages and hills (reverse migration), need for a decentralised governance and economy; high priority to local industries, MSMEs, green growth; focus on climate change mitigation, biodiversity conservation, nature based solutions and prudent management of natural resources. The cultural role and ecosystem services of forests, agroforests and urban forests for peace and well being of people has increasingly been felt in these challenging times.

Certification promotes sustainable management of natural resources. May be, it contributes in a small way to keep at bay COVID like situations in future.

## Carbon Registry-India

### Introduction

NCCF is developing an India-centric Voluntary Carbon Offset Mechanism known as 'Carbon Registry-India' (CR-I) under the Chairmanship of Dr Jagdish Kishwan, IFS (Retd.) and Former Addl. DG Wildlife, MoEFCC. 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 trade carbon credits to offset their carbon footprint, or to contribute in reducing country's emission intensity. Developing a Carbon Registry is a first of its kind of exercise in India and will provide a platform for the businesses, NGOs and individuals to 'register' their projects and trade carbon credits issued against the verified projects by the Registry.



### Status of Development

Carbon Registry-India (CR-I) is in advanced stage of development. The standards and other documents are being drafted which would then be put up for review by SCG and TWG members for their valuable suggestions and feedback. The CR-I's IT System (CRIS) - phase I, which provides functionality for "Registration and listing of projects" is concluded. Development of "Carbon credit issuance module and Phase II discussion on "Trading platform" is in progress. To verify the system under real-time operating conditions, a brief pilot testing was done internally in September 2019 and NCCF is expecting the next pilot testing for CRIS in Q1 2021.

### Consultation Meetings

As part of its standing policy, NCCF has made the process of development of the Carbon Registry completely open, transparent and inclusive by constituting a Stakeholder Consultation Group (SCG) and a Technical Working Group (TWG). TWG comprises experts and stakeholders, including project developers, validation and verification bodies, research institutes, policy advocacy entities, and subject matter experts among others. NCCF, till date has organised one Stakeholder Consultation Group Meeting and two Technical Working Group Meetings for Carbon Registry-India (CR-I) and received valuable comments and suggestions from the TWG Members and Special Invitees.

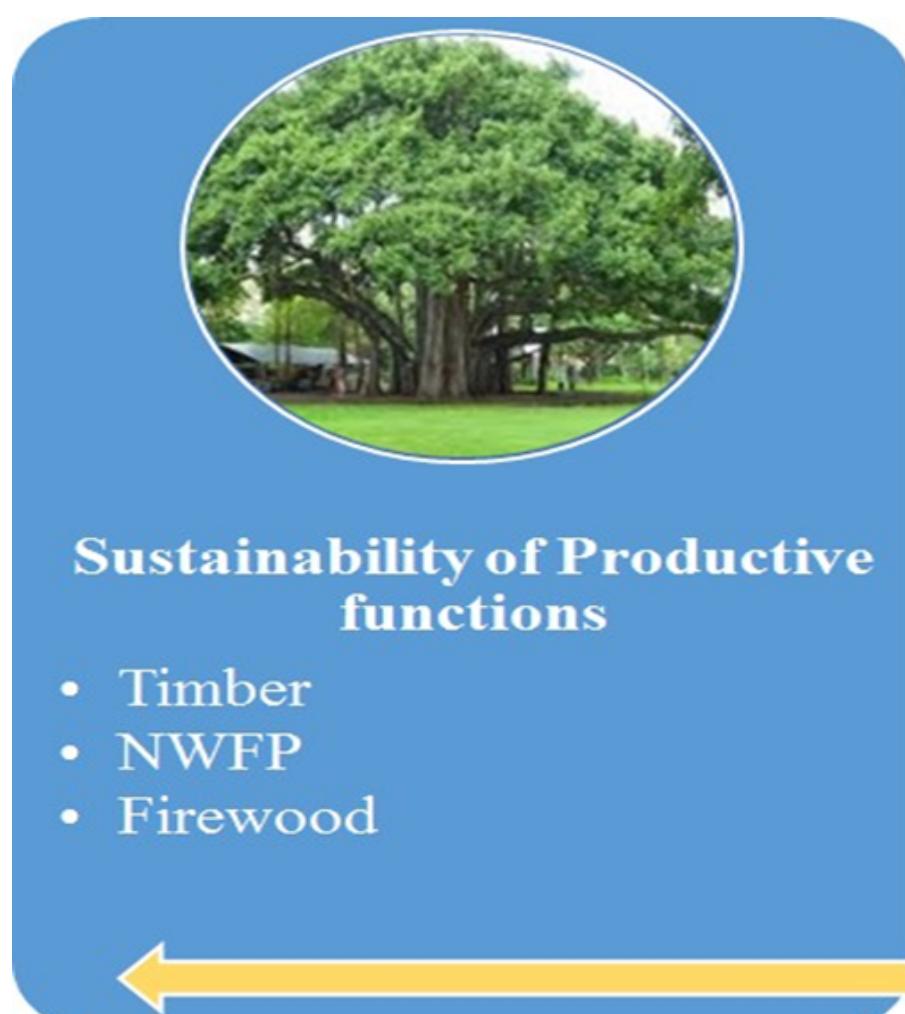
## Sustainability Certification Standard Development

Sustainability Certification Standards provides credibility to the business, traceability of the natural product and assurance to the customers about the sustainable management of the natural resources with respect to its economic, social and environmental aspects. Indian industry face challenges in the international market with regards to standards and conformity assessment. Therefore, if India's own regulations are based on international standards, it would ensure that the manufacturers are capable of meeting regulations of the importing countries.

Conformity to Voluntary Sustainability Standards (VSS) guarantees that the products you buy don't adversely impact the environment and the people making such products. VSS may be developed by the governments, single businesses, and business associations, environmental or social non-governmental organizations. Many VSS are linked with consumer products, others are used within business-to-business relationships. They have the potential to generate significant environmental, economic and social benefits in developing countries. (UNFSS).

We at NCCF, have been contributing our bit to furtherance of the objectives of India National Strategy for Standardization (INSS), through development of our various globally benchmarked sustainability standards for certification of Forests, Trees outside Forests, NWFPs, Protected Areas and Wetlands, Ecotourism, Quality Planting Material, Biofuel and Biomass etc. in the field of natural resources. Standards for Forests/ ToF aim at promoting sustainability of the resources, global value chain and commerce in the wood based sector. The standards are developed following NCCF's standard setting protocol ensuring meaningful and balanced participation of diverse stakeholders.

NCCF's sustainability standards have a great potential to contribute to the achievement of SDG goals, sustainable forest management and India's International commitments for climate change mitigation, biodiversity conservation and land restoration.



## Forest Management Certification Standard

Forest Certification is an emerging global movement that supports sustainable development, while ensuring compliance to all forest and wildlife related legislations, rights of local communities including tribals and workers, economic growth, fair trade, livelihoods, value chains, consumer protection, and also enhancing competitiveness, technological innovation and quality of health and safety of forest workers, and biodiversity and environmental conservation. It 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.

Forest and chain of custody certification are sustainability based, voluntary, non-regulatory, facilitative, conservation and marketing tool that promote sustainable management of forests. It includes forest monitoring, tracing and labelling of timber and non-timber forest products. It brings in enhanced creditability to our forest governance with international recognition and improves market accessibility of our forest products. It helps us in verifying the missing but desirable components in management plan and practices and in ascertaining the mechanisms to strengthen the management.

While there are innumerable benefits from forest certification both directly and indirectly, some of the tangible benefits that are expected through this evaluation and certification process are: -

- To make forests a profitable venture – by increasing revenue from timber (primary source of income)
- Make the state timber accessible and in demand in international markets due to the fact that certified good quality timber commands a high level of premium in these markets, due to the non-availability of such material.
- Increase market visibility of the State forest produce and increase exposure to new markets
- Bridging the gap between the demand and supply of certified forest produce, specifically timber in the Indian market
- Leverage the benefits of good management practices being followed in the state forests to achieve premiums for the timber being harvested.
- Globally recognized international stamp of approval for well managed forests
- Providing a baseline for undertaking carbon offset verifications and carbon mitigation projects for future.

## Benefits of Country Specific Certification Scheme

Helps in access to markets, which increasingly demand assurances for wood products' legality and sustainability and in mutual recognition of certified wood and wood products from India with other needing import/export of certified wood/wood products.

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

- i. Standard developed is with respect to Indian context and conditions
- ii. Driven by national stakeholders
- iii. Open, transparent and independent
- iv. Local standard incorporating global best practices
- v. Nationally adaptive and accepted
- vi. Internationally Endorsed
- vii. Economical (domestic auditors and other aspects)
- viii. Promote and facilitate national and international trade
- ix. Integration of local needs and expectations

## NCCF's Forest Management (FM) Certification Standard

NCCF has developed a country specific and globally benchmarked Forest Management (FM) Certification Standard through a multi-stakeholder Standard Development Group, chaired by Mr. AK Varma, IFS (retd), Former PCCF & HoFF, Karnataka. The Group included representatives from Government, management organizations, civil society organizations, some State Forest Departments as Observers, industry and industry associations. The scheme involves key elements of existing models in India viz the Bhopal India Process of the IIFM, the National Working Plan Code, 2014 and the provisions contained in the National Forest Policy, 1988, for promotion of afforestation, sustainable utilization of forest products and growth of the forest based industries.



## Compliance to NCCF FM standard by a forest management entity ensures as under;

- 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**

NCCF scheme of FM Certification was launched by the then Secretary, Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC), and Director General of Forests and Special Secretary in January 2018.

It is endorsed by the leading global certification organization, the Programme for Endorsement of Forest Certification (PEFC), giving it an international recognition. NCCF is the National Governing Body (NGB) Member of PEFC Alliance from India. 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.

NABCB, 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 NABCB. NCCF FM Accreditation from NABCB 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 conducted sensitisation workshops for 8 State Forest Departments of Punjab, Madhya Pradesh, Assam, Sikkim, Karnataka, Chattisgarh, Tripura and Uttarakhand during the last two years and about 200 forest personnel were trained. This is not only helping in the capacity building, but it also helps them strategies the management plan efficiently to achieve the desired goal. Many State Forest Departments are responding positively for taking up Forest Management Certification, recognizing its importance.

### **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 SFM and certification requirements are easily met. NWPC is an important component of FM certification. Certification brings in many other components of SFM which are internationally required to be complied with in order to be qualified as a certified forest. These additional requirements may vary from simple documentation to complex activities. The outcome being continuous improvement in forest management.

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. Ensures active engagement of stakeholders in planning, implementation, monitoring and evaluation. Incorporates components of welfare, health and safety of people. Considers other 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 Standard is the first of its kind not only in India, but anywhere in the world, developed by a multi-stakeholder Standard Development Group, chaired by Dr Devendra Pandey ex PCCF & HoFF, Arunachal Pradesh, ex-DG, Forest Survey of India. The certification scheme offers a great potential to bring the much-needed recognition to the wood and timber produced by the farmers on their lands and ensure better markets and higher price for their agroforestry produce.

ToF including agroforestry supply nearly 85% of industrial wood of the country, as estimated by the Forest Survey of India. Despite huge production of wood, there was no specific scheme for its certification. Indian producers using ToF wood were unable to tap global markets to fetch competitive price for their products. ToF certification scheme will also help encourage wood based industries to include certified ToF raw material in their procurement policies and supply chain management and will give consumers an assurance that the product is made from wood coming from responsibly managed ToF. The scheme will particularly help small land holders and farmers growing trees on their farmlands.



### Benefits of ToF Certification:

- Accelerating supply of certified raw material to the wood based industries
- Assuring consumers that the product is made from wood coming from responsibly managed TOF
- Enhancing farmers and private tree growers income
- Adoption of best management practices for raising ToF
- Increasing tree cover and climate change mitigation

## Non-Wood Forest Resources Certification Standard

NCCF is developing certification standard Non-Wood Forest Resources (NWFR) through a by a multi-stakeholder Standard Development Group, under the Chairpersonship of Mr A.K. Bansal, IFS (retd). Former Addl. DG Forests, MoEF & CC. India is 10th most forested country in the world. With an area of 80.72 MHa, some 24.56% of country's geographical area is under forest and tree cover. These areas are source of bulk of the non-wood forest products. We are aware about plenty of extraction of these resources, some are within sustainable limits and some are not.

This standard is being developed by NCCF is to 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 and promote their marketing, ease of trade and facilitate market linkage while ensuring sustainability of NWFRs.



### Major challenges faced by the sector:

- There is no mechanism to decide 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 collection/extraction of NWFPs
- Lack of effective channels to ensure use and practice traditional knowledge in management of forest resources and its documentation
- Absence of standardization of package of practices for harvesting/collection and primary processing of most NWFPs
- NWFP market is highly unorganized and demand side is also unaware of their availability, and even use of several NWFPs
- Primary processing of NWFPs takes place at 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 is developing Certification Standard for Protected Areas and Wetlands (PAWs) through a multi-stakeholder Standard Development Group, under the Chairpersonship of Dr Jagdish Kishwan, Former PCCF & HoFF, J&K, DG, ICFRE and Addl DG(WL), MoEF&CC. India is committed to mainstream National Biodiversity Targets 2012-2020 in its conservation and developmental priorities. NCCF's PAWs Standard is a voluntary initiative to develop a robust and comprehensive institutional mechanism for scientific monitoring of the health of Protected Areas and Wetlands, through a simple, usable and generic certification parameter applicable to complete range of PAs, Conservation Areas and wetlands in the country.



### Objectives of developing the PAWs Standard are as follows:

- To encourage the standardization of the conservation and protection measures and expand the ambit of relevance of the conservation standards
- To establish a local framework with international benchmarks for ease of assessment and a third-party voluntary verification of the efficacy of the management practices being followed
- To serve as a baseline 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 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 homogenise the evaluation system

## Certification Standard for Nurseries and Quality Planting Material

NCCF has initiated the process for the development of certification standards for Nurseries and Quality Planting Material (QPM), through a multi stakeholder Standard Development Group (SDG) under the Chairpersonship of Mr. Abhijit Ghose, IFS (retd), Ex PCCF HoFF, Rajasthan. Quality Planting Material (QPM) is an essential input in creating plantations in forest as well as outside of the forest areas for higher productivity and meeting out of the rising demands of woods in the country. Quality becomes more relevant in the practice of agroforestry where trees compete with agri-crops in a given land use. Farmers would be motivated to plant trees with their usual crops only when they will be convinced about the higher economic return from agroforestry.



QPM has been one of the main agenda of discussion in MoEFCC's Expert Committee on TOF deliberations. NCCF, which participated in the discussion, has recommended a set of measures required for improving the QPM scenario in India for undertaking large scale tree planting initiatives. Developing credible certification scheme for plants & standards for nursery management will ultimately cover the certification process from seed stage to QPM as well as addressing issues such as legality, land tenure, environmental safeguards, management plan etc. and chain of custody such as tracking, traceability, batch accounting and logo usage etc. National Horticulture Board has already developed a protocol for accreditation of nurseries set up for supply of QPM and the similar protocol can be examined for third-party certification of Nurseries. Legal provisions already exist in our country for certified seeds/plant materials for Agri-crops, but such practices are non-existent so far for tree crops. Developing National QPM Registry is another NCCF idea to provide a secure platform for issuing, tracking and retrieving information of the certified entities, certified stock & QPM availability. In view of the above imperatives, NCCF has taken up the initiatives to develop the certification standard for QPM production. A certified QPM regime will be essential for healthy and sustainable growth of the sector and ensuring plenty of quality planting material that meets global standards.

### 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

NCCF is developing Ecotourism Certification Standards through a multi-stakeholder Standard Development Group, under the chairmanship of Mr AK Varma, IFS (retd), Former PCCF & HoFF, Karnataka. 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. It supports the protection of nature, forest and wildlife by creating awareness and encouraging ecotourism in a sustainable manner so as to prevent damage to eco-system in the name of tourism.

Ecotourism sector is growing fast, and various ecotourism projects are coming up in various bio-geographical regions of India. Ecotourism benefits in terms of generating alternative livelihood opportunities for forest-dwelling people living in rural remote areas of high conservation value. There is an urgent need to consider ecotourism at the interface of conservation and development, with a focus on maximizing benefits and minimizing impacts. To achieve the least impact growth of this new form of tourism, ecotourism certification standards can be used as a tool to bring optimum ecological, economic and social benefits to society.



### Objectives of developing the Ecotourism Standard are as follows:

- To build environmental and cultural awareness and respect.
- To provide positive experiences for both visitors and hosts.
- To deliver direct financial benefits to local people and promoters for conservation.
- To recognize the rights and spiritual beliefs of the indigenous people in your community and work in partnership with them to create empowerment.
- To enable sustainable growth of the ecotourism sector.
- To enable independent third-party evaluation of ecotourism management practices market-driven mechanism, independent of legislative and policy fluctuations.
- Appropriate management of environmental and social resources; playing a vital role in ensuring the sustenance of ecotourism projects.
- To assist in maximizing and minimizing impacts from ecotourism practices.
- To align India's standards with those of internationally accepted ones for larger benefits to all the stakeholders simultaneously conserving the destination themselves

### 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. 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.

The main objectives of the standard are:

- 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 bioproducts.

## Safeboards Certification Standards

The composite wood products have emerged as some of the most dominant building materials over the last three decades owing to some of their very good special characteristics. These products, however, do not provide a healthy indoor air quality to the occupants owing to the emissions from resins and chemicals used in their production and from their usage, even after years of installation in the buildings. Amongst the chemicals and resins used, particularly formaldehyde, during the manufacturing of the products, release harmful emissions, some of which are found to be carcinogenic, leading to the poor indoor air quality for the users. In India, currently, we do not have any voluntary or regulatory standards related to emissions resulting in majority of the composite wood products not qualifying the most basic levels of other countries' emission standards which seriously affect the health of people, exports of such products in the global markets, and informed choice of people to use these products.



To deal with this important aspect, the Network for Certification and Conservation of Forests has announced its intention to develop new indigenous certification standards scheme called 'Safeboards Standards Development Scheme' to bring the wood products to international standards having value-added market. The mandate is to enable the industries in developing products by cutting down on formaldehyde emissions for betterment of human health and overall environment.

## 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 (NABC) 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.

CAG comprises following Members:

1. Mr Anil Jauhri, Expert on accreditation/certification; Chairperson
2. Director General, NCCF or representative
3. Mr JK Jain, Vice President, Greenply as a representative from Industry
4. One representative from Certification Body accredited by NABC to operate upon NCCF Certification Standard (GICIA India Pvt Ltd)
5. Two Chairpersons of NCCF Standard Development Groups or their nominees
7. CEO, NABC or his representative (as a special invitee)

## 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 CO<sub>2</sub>eq 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, Chattisgarh, Tripura and Uttarakhand at their headquarters.

## Participation in Conferences and Meetings

### **Workshop on "Developing a Roadmap for Sustainable Agriscapes in Ganga basin; 22 May 2019**

National Mission for Clean Ganga (NMCG) and International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) organized a workshop on "Developing a Roadmap for Sustainable Agriscapes in Ganga basin" to celebrate International Day for Biological Biodiversity on 22nd May 2019. Mr. A.K Srivastava, then Executive Director (Honorary) of NCCF participated as a panelist and presented his views on the role of certification in biodiversity conservation and sustainable agriculture. Ms tripta Tarunita and Ms sneha Sukare, coordinators also attended the workshop. The workshop highlighted the importance of biodiversity conservation for food, health & well-being and discussed on developing roadmap for sustainable agriculture in Ganga Basin.

### **FAO's National Workshop on "Highly Hazardous Pesticides use in Agriculture and strategy to combat its residual input under GEF 7- Agriculture Chemicals Programme", 28th May 2019**

FAO is actively engaged in the priority area of pesticide risk reduction globally. FAO in discussion with the GEF Secretariat, is in the process of formulating a global project under the GEF-7-Agriculture Chemical Programme, specifically for the replacement of POPs and HHPs,

Used in the food supply chain, including disposal of obsolete pesticides for prevention of contaminated plastics used in agriculture. Mr. A.K Srivastava, Executive Director (Honorary) and Mr Varun Grover, Assistant Director, NCCF participated in the workshop and highlighted the significance of certification that ensures that WHO banned hazardous pesticides are not used in the landscapes.

## 28th session of Asia Pacific Forestry Commission, Asia-Pacific Forestry Week; 17-21 June 2019

The Asia Pacific Forestry Commission (APFC) and Asia-Pacific Forestry Week (APFW 2019) was held at Incheon, Republic of Korea during 17-21 June 2019. This was one of the largest and most important forestry gathering in the Asia-Pacific region.

The events were co-hosted by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) and the Korea Forest Service (KFS).



APFC is one of the six regional forestry commissions established by FAO to provide a policy and technical forum for countries to discuss and address forest issues at the regional level. APFC is composed of 34 member countries, and its sessions are attended by the member countries and invited international organizations as observers.

APFW 2019 was an open forestry gathering in the Asia-Pacific region which is conducted every four years in conjunction with the APFC session. The overall theme this time was "Forests for peace and well-being", reflecting the positive dimensions of forestry and the need to proactively integrate forestry into the wider context of environment, society and sustainable development, under which economic, social, human and cultural dimensions are also considered.

The events witnessed the participation from organizations from different parts of the world and collaborators including government, civil society, research, academia, and private sector. Plenaries, dialogues, sessions, seminars, workshops, field trips, canopy room events, cultural shows and much more were organized among various other events to discuss the issues faced by forestry sector.

The Network for Certification and Conservation of Forests (NCCF) participated in the APFC and APFW 2019 from 17 June to 21 June 2019 alongwith the Member Countries, International and Regional Forestry organizations. NCCF was represented by Mr Sachin Jain, Convener-Founder, NCCF and Mr. A.K. Srivastava, Executive Director (Honorary) of NCCF.

NCCF representatives made valuable remarks in the plenary sessions: 1. Forests for Peace and Well-being: Towards a Brighter Future, 2. Achieving the Sustainable Development Goals: Accelerating the Forestry Contribution and 3. Journey to 2030: the Future for Forestry in Asia and the Pacific, highlighting the contribution of forest certification as an efficient tool to promote SFM, REDD+, SDGs, NDC commitments as also the objectives of various international commitments under the UNFCCC, UNCCD and UNCBD, etc.

NCCF also attended all the events organized by the Programme for the Endorsement of Forest Certification (PEFC) and made meaningful contribution on diverse issues related to forest certification, particularly in the context of India.

PEFC organized a session, Development of Synergies between PEFC and Other Initiatives such as FLEGT Utilizing Experience in ASEAN, as part of Stream 4: Promoting Responsible Trade and Markets of APFW. There were discussions on the emerging trends in trade, markets and consumer behavior of timber and non-timber forest products as well as forest ecosystem services. A need was felt that India should also have a mechanism like FLEGT to put ban on import of illegal timber, if any and to encourage use of certified wood and wood products.

An important highlight of the APFW was the launch of the Third Asia-Pacific Forest Sector Outlook Study. The APFW 2019 concluded with the robust recommendation that forests are key to delivering on the SDGs, NDCs and meeting objectives of various international commitments under the UNFCCC, UNCCD and UNCBD, etc. We need to promote forestry beyond the forests, with their contributions to addressing key challenges such as water security, food security, climate change mitigation and adaptation, disaster risk management, biodiversity conservation, combating desertification, enhancing health and well being of people and promoting peace.

### **Addressing the delegation of forest officers from Bangladesh at the MoEF&CC on Forest Certification; 4th July 2019**

Shri A K Srivastava, Executive Director (Honorary), Network for Certification and Conservation of Forests addressed a delegation of forestry professionals from the Government of Bangladesh at the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change on July 4, 2019 on the subject of Forest Certification in India.



Mr Srivastava highlighted how Forest Certification promotes sustainable management of Forests, and contributes to attainment of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and the commitments under the Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs). The delegation expressed interest in knowing the details of the processes and procedures of forest certification. NCCF offered to provide professional assistance to Bangladesh in the matters of forest certification, if so required by the Government of Bangladesh.

**NCCF and NABCB jointly organised an interactive meeting on NCCF forest management certification scheme and accreditation requirements for the certification bodies; 26th July 2019**

NCCF and NABCB jointly organised an interactive meeting with the Certification Bodies (CBs) with a view to sensitize them on the Accreditation requirements for the CBs to operate upon under the NCCF Forest Management Certification Standard, at Hotel Holiday Inn, Mumbai on 26th July 2019.

This well-attended meeting deliberated on the significance and scope of forest certification in India, understanding the requirements of provisional approval and accreditation of the certification bodies from NABCB to operate on the NCCF FM certification scheme, business potential, and benefits to the CBs, etc.

Mr. AK Srivastava, Executive Director (Honorary), NCCF, Mr. Anil Jauhri, CEO, NABCB (via video conferencing) and Mr. Mudit Kumar Singh, IFS, Head of Forest Force, Chhattisgarh and CEO, CGCERT were the key speakers in the meeting. Ms. Vani Bhambri Arora, Deputy Director, NABCB, Mr. Varun Grover, Assistant Director, NCCF and Ms Taruna Singh, Manager, GICIA India Pvt Limited made detailed presentations on various aspects of accreditation, certification and auditing.

NCCF and NABCB have signed a letter of understanding to provide accreditation and provisional approval to the CBs in India. More and more State Forest Departments (SFDs) are coming forward to take up forest certification of some forest divisions and NCCF is actively providing them professional assistance. The SFDs are in the process of inviting expression of interest from the Certification Bodies, hence, it is necessary that CBs take provisional accreditation from the NABCB.

Mr. Anil Jauhri, CEO, NABCB, while addressing the meeting via video conferencing, impressed upon the need of certification for enhancing quality, accountability, traceability and effectiveness of forest governance. He congratulated NCCF for going a step ahead, giving India a country-specific and internationally benchmarked certification scheme and encouraged the CBs to take accreditation for NCCF scheme.

Representatives of the certification bodies GICIA India Pvt Ltd, Bureau Veritas India, TUV SUD South Asia COTECNA Inspection India Pvt. Ltd., Chhattisgarh Certification Society India (CGCERT), Intertek India Pvt. Ltd., IRCLASS Systems and Solutions Private Limited, CU Inspections India Pvt. Ltd., Biocert International Pvt. Ltd, Aditi Organic Certifications Pvt. Ltd., Telangana State Organic Certification Authority (TSSOCA) attended the meeting. Some certification bodies joined the meeting via video conferencing.

NCCF announced that an auditor training program on NCCF FM Standard will be held on September 2019. NCCF will be discussing the same with the CBs and more details will be available on the website. At the end of the meeting, the CBs had much better clarity for taking up Accreditation and Provisional approval under the NCCF FM Scheme.

### **Side event at UNCCD COP 14 Delhi NCR; 7th September 2019**



India hosted the COP14 of UN Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD) from 2nd to 13th September at Delhi NCR, Greater NOIDA, Uttar Pradesh. Theme of this CoP is "Restore Land to Sustain Life".

NCCF's side event, Certification of Natural Resources to Combat Desertification and Restoring Landscapes, was held on 7th

September 2019, focussing on certification of natural resources enhancing the sustainability of forests, agroforests, urban forests and NWFPs, thereby controlling land degradation, helping in combating desertification and achieving ultimate goal of Land Degradation Neutrality (LDN).

The program commenced with a welcome address from Shri AK Srivastava, Director General NCCF. He outlined the context of the side event adding that certification will facilitate in better management of resources which involves all parameters. Dr Pradeep Monga, Deputy Executive Secretary, UNCCD in his remarks highlighted the potential contribution of certification of natural resources in promoting LDN and thus combating desertification. Certification holds relevance to mandate of UNCCD and such side event are more important and impactful.

Shri Saibal Dasgupta, Additional Director General of Forests, Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change; Shri Jigmat Takpa, Joint Secretary and National Focal Point of India for UNCCD; Shri Vijai Sharma, Chairman NCCF and Mr Avani Varma, Co-chairman, NCCF were also present and addressed the meeting.

Dr Jagdish Kishwan, Former Member IFS and Chairperson Carbon Registry India- NCCF, chaired the panel discussion and Ms Bharati, Inspector General Forest MoEF&CC, was co-chair to the session. The panelists in the session Mr A.K.Srivastava, Executive Director (Honorary), NCCF, Mr.

Patrick Worms, Senior Science Policy Advisory, ADG, ICRAF, Dr Devendra Pandey, Chairperson, ToF Group of NCCF, Ms Anna Van Paddenburg, Director, Sustainable Landscapes, Global Green Growth Institute (GGGI), Mr. AK Varma, Chairperson, FM group of NCCF, DR V.P.Singh, CIAT, Dr Vivek Saxena, IUCN India, Dr S.K.Dhyani, World Agroforestry ICRAF, Dr. Javed Rizvi Mr D.K.Sinha PCCF, Haryana, Dr Suneesh Buxy, DIG (R&T), MoEF&CC, Dr C.M.Pandey, FAO Expert and Mr Ashish Bharadwaj from AWS exchanged their ideas on various aspects of Land Restoration, Climate Change mitigation and certification as a tool to promote sustainable management of forests/ToF.

The event concluded with concrete recommendations to accelerate certification of natural resources. South-South cooperation for taking forward the agenda of certification in the developing countries was also raised in the session. Consensus was that certification has got a bright future in developing world. Besides the experts speaking on the subject, certification as a tool of institutionalizing sustainable management was appreciated. The event successfully flagged the need of certification of natural resources and products to sustain and improve productivity of lands in the developing countries. NCCF announced its intention to constitute a Standard Development Group for initiating the process of developing certification standard for Land Degradation Neutrality.

**JICA Project Director's Conference;  
20th September 2019, New Delhi**

Mr AK Bansal, Chairperson, SDG-NWFP, NCCF and Mr A K Srivastava, DG, NCCF participated in 10th Project Directors Meeting of JICA assisted Forestry and Natural Resource Management Projects.



Presentations were made on the theme "Consolidating Gains of JICA Forestry and NRM Projects in India through Forest Certification". Many speakers highlighted the need for certification of various constituents of our natural resource base to enhance the environmental, economic and social impacts of the JICA Projects.

It was heartening to note from various presentations that 4th generation JICA assisted Forestry and NRM Projects are focussing on carbon mapping, incentivising for climate change mitigation, catchment protection, monitoring of water bodies, intensive utilisation of technology and sustainable livelihoods. Forest certification is an emerging global movement and gradually taking its roots in India. There is a strong case that JICA pushes for certification of natural resources in its 4th generation projects.

### **GIZ Conference "The Future of India's Forests"; 17-18 October**

NCCF participated in the GIZ conference "The Future of India's Forests", held during 17-18 October in New Delhi. Zooming in and out between the different levels of forest management, this conference aimed to provide a platform for discussing emerging scenarios and issues facing the forestry sector in India.

The conference brought together various stakeholders, technical experts, national and international partners and decision-makers on forest management across sectors and scales. To identify solutions and approaches to meet multiple demands, commitments and need across the international, national and local levels of forest management. The two days, created very active and informational exchange by tapping into three thematic areas of Forests & Climate Change, Forests, Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services and Forests, Trees and Livelihoods, the conference offered an interdisciplinary and cross-learning platform for various stakeholders in forestry and allied sectors.

Dr Jagdish Kishwan, Chairman,Carbon Registry Program of NCCF was a panelist in the Forestry and Climate Change session. Mr A.K.Srivastava,DG,NCCF made interventions to highlight the contribution of certification in promoting sustainability of forests and trees outside forests. Mr Varun Grover,Asstt Director and Ms Tripta Tarunita,Coordinator ,NCCF also attended the workshop.

### **7th International Herbal Fair 2019; 18-22 December 2019, Bhopal- Madhya Pradesh**



A.K. Srivastava, Director General, NCCF participated in the 7th International Herbal Fair 2019 organized by Madhya Pradesh State Minor Forest Produce (Trade & Development) Cooperative Federation Ltd. (MP MFP Federation) from 18-22 December at Bhopal, Madhya Pradesh.

The MP MFP Federation in collaboration with the Indian Institute of Forest Management (IIFM) organized an International Conference on 'Responsible Management of Non-Timber Forest Produce (NTFP) Resources: Access and Benefit-sharing' during 20-21 December 2019 in Bhopal, MP as a side event of this International Herbal Fair.

This International Conference had focussed on Access and Benefit-sharing Mechanism as emphasized in Nagoya Protocol 2010 to ensure responsible management of NTFP resources. The sub-themes of the conference included: 1) Challenges in global sourcing of NTFPs and Certification; 2) Institutional mechanisms for responsible NTFP resource management, 3) Access and Benefit-sharing challenges and opportunities.

Mr Srivastava addressed the delegates in the inaugural session as a Guest of Honour and also made a presentation on 'NTFP-Sustainable Forest Management Certification and Access Benefit Sharing Compliance Certification' in the technical session. The presentation included draft criteria and indicators for Access Benefit Sharing Compliance also.

### **6th National Standards Conclave; 15-16th January 2020, New Delhi**

Shri AK Srivastava, Director General, NCCF participated in the 6th National Standards Conclave held in Delhi on 15-16 January 2020, organized by the Department of Commerce, Ministry of Commerce and Industry, Government of India in collaboration with the Confederation of Indian Industry (CII), Export Inspection Council of India (EIC), the Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS),



the National Accreditation Board for Certification bodies (NABC), and the Centre for WTO Studies (CWTOs) organized the 6th National Standards Conclave with the theme "Standards for Trade Facilitation".

The National Standards Conclave is organized every year to generate awareness amongst industry members and other stakeholders about the importance of "Standards" in the changing scenario of Global Trade. The Conclave was inaugurated by Shri Piyush Goyal, Hon'ble Minister of Commerce and Industry and Minister of Railways, in presence of Shri Sudhanshu Pandey, Additional Secretary, Department of Commerce and Shri Chandrajit Banerjee, Director General, Confederation of Indian Industry among other dignitaries.

The Hon'ble Commerce Minister called for minimization/elimination of import of timber products and furniture items from other countries particularly from China and announced zero tolerance for substandard products and services from industry and consumers. Shri Sudhanshu

Pandey, Additional Secretary, Department of Commerce informed that Shri A.K. Srivastava, DG, NCCF was attending the Conclave and that he would make a presentation explaining various measures for minimizing such imports of timber and promoting certification to boost the prospects of exporting wood and wood products from India.

Shri Srivastava participated as a panelist in the session "Voluntary Standards & Global Accountability Mechanisms" and made presentation on the theme "Forest Management Certification Standard: a tool for Sustainability and Trade Facilitation". He highlighted the need of certification standards for management of various constituents of natural resources and focussed use of certification for restricting import of timber and furniture from China. The panel was chaired by Shri Anil Jauhri, ex-CEO, NABC and had other speakers from Seconded European Standardization Expert for India (SESEI), UL India Pvt Ltd., Quality Council of India, GlobalG.A.P. and BRCGS.

**NCCF joins IUCN as a Member on  
14 February 2020:**

NCCF had applied for Membership of IUCN as a Civil Society Organization and based on strict scrutiny of its work on conservation and certification of natural resources ,IUCN admitted NCCF as a Member on 14th February 2020



The International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) is an international organization working in the field of nature conservation and sustainable use of natural resources. IUCN harnesses the knowledge, resources and reach of approximately 1300 Member organisations. These include States and government agencies, NGOs large and small, Indigenous Peoples' organisations, scientific and academic institutions and business associations. IUCN members constitute a network of organisations whose mission is to act as a source of advice on the environmental, economic, social and cultural factors that affect natural resources and biological diversity.

The objectives, mandate and activities of NCCF fully complement the work areas of IUCN and NCCF's association with IUCN will bring better synergy in each other's work in India and the neighbouring countries.

**Panel discussion on Enabling conditions, incentives and barriers for scaling agroforestry in India by World Resources Institute (WRI) ; 1st March 2020, New Delhi**

Mr A.K.Srivastava, Director General, NCCF made a presentation in the meeting on "Potential of NCCF's Trees Outside Forest (ToF) Certification Scheme in promoting agroforestry". Mr Varun Grover,Asstt Director and Ms Tripta Tarunita,Coordinator ,NCCF also attended the workshop.

The panel discussed innovative, technology-driven approaches to scaling agroforestry that integrate issues around current land use, best possible interventions in this area and evolve strategies and financial incentives that can support implementation of agroforestry. Key focus was on sharing learnings and experiences of implementing agroforestry in India, insights on land and tree tenure and the role of gender from an inter-sectional lens. The panel also discussed the role of different actors – government, private sector and civil society – along with the incentives that shape their actions.

Dr Devendra Pandey, ex Director General,Forest Survey of India, Chairperson, NCCF's ToF Group made a detailed presentation on using technologies to accelerate sustainable management of forests and agroforestry in India.

## Events organised by NCCF

### NCCF's accreditation to UNCCD as a Civil Society Organization (CSO)

UNCCD, established in 1994, is the sole legally binding international agreement that links environment and development to sustainable land management. 196 countries have ratified this Convention. UNCCD's core agenda is reversing land degradation and its outcomes while accelerating positive achievements for people and for ecosystems with a view to meeting Sustainable Development Goals.

The fourteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the UN Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD COP 14) was held from 2-13 September 2019, at the India Expo Center and Mart in New Delhi, India. Theme of this CoP was "Restore Land to Sustain Life". UNCCD secretariat encourages the active involvement of CSOs in the implementation of the Convention at all levels. Representatives from CSOs that are accredited to the COP may directly participate in the UNCCD secretariat's sessions. NCCF had taken accreditation of UNCCD as a CSO and actively participated in COP 14. UNCCD granted an observer status to NCCF, following the recommendation by UNCCD secretariat.

### NCCF's organized a side event at UNCCD CoP 14

NCCF organized a side event at the CoP 14 on 7th September 2019. It was a panel discussion on the theme "Certification of Natural Resources to Combat Desertification and Restoring Landscapes". The event had focussed on certification of various constituents of natural resources that enhances the sustainability of forests, agroforests, urban forests and NWFPs, thereby controlling land degradation, helping in combating desertification and moving towards the ultimate goal of Land Degradation Neutrality (LDN). NCCF presented its country specific and globally benchmarked standards developed for certification of forest and the trees outside forests.

Dr Pradeep Monga, Deputy Executive Secretary, UNCCD, Shri Saibal Dasgupta, Additional Director General of Forests and Shri Jigmat Takpa, Joint Secretary and National Focal Point of India for UNCCD, Shri Vijai Sharma, Chairman, NCCF had shared their thoughts in the inaugural session.

Dr Jagdish Kishwan, Former Member IFS and Chairperson Carbon Registry India, NCCF chaired the panel discussion and Ms Bharati, Inspector General Forest, MoEF&CC was co-chair to the session. Eminent experts from the Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change, World Agroforestry Centre-ICRAF, Global Green Growth Institute (GGGI), International Center for

Tropical Agriculture (CIAT), NCCF, International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) , Alliance for Water Stewardship and FAO had spoken on various aspects of combating desertification and land restoration.

The event concluded with concrete recommendations to accelerate certification of natural resources like forests, trees outside forests and non- wood forest products, in active collaboration with the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare, State Forest Departments, State Agriculture Departments, Industries, Farmers, Civil Society and other stakeholders. South-South cooperation for taking forward the agenda of certification in the developing countries was also raised in the session. NCCF along with stakeholders is willing to explore possibility of leveraging certification for meeting the goal of doubling farmers' Income by 2022. Financial and policy support of governments were also highlighted as an essential input for certification. Consensus was that certification has got a bright future in developing world.

NCCF's initiative of developing Carbon Registry- India with an aim of providing a much-needed trading platform for mitigation outcomes with associated benefit of checking land degradation was appreciated as a timely step by the participants especially industry representatives.

NCCF expressed its willingness to develop Sustainability Standard for certification of Land Degradation Neutrality.

NCCF has a repository of experts from different fields, having expertise from the diverse field of forestry, auditing, research, policy, management, government and many more. We are engaged in policy advocacy on diverse and important matters of national and international themes/policies/acts/laws highlighting the concerns of the industry, NGOs, communities, institutes etc. to the government.

### **NCCF Forest Management Auditor Training Noida**

**(19-21 December 2019):**

NCCF had organized Forest Management Auditor training program for aspiring NCCF Forest Management Auditors from forestry and allied services background. This comprehensive training course was designed based on interactivity, practical examples, open question and answer sessions, and dedicated group work. The training focused on enabling the participants with the various aspects and current trends in sustainable Forest Management as well as experience exchange between participants and experts.



The key highlight of the course was the participant mix from different background, including professional foresters, Certification Bodies, Natural Resource Management experts and consultants who intend to become a FM Auditor to conduct certification audit against the NCCF FM Standard.

### **Meeting with UPFC on Forest Certification; 10-11 February 2020, Lucknow**

Director General, NCCF along with other representatives had a meeting with the Managing Director, UPFC regarding forest certification in Uttar Pradesh. UPFC completed certification process for NCCF-PEFC Forest Management Certification covering 41 divisions and an area of around 4.5 lakh hectares. Their certification body GICIA India Pvt Ltd issued their NCCF-PEFC FM Certificate after conducting the certification audit.



# NCCF CORDIALLY INVITES YOU TO UNCCD COP14 Side Event

On 7<sup>th</sup> September 2019

Venue: MET-06, India Expo Centre & Mart, Gr. Noida (Delhi NCR), India

Time: 1130-1330 hrs

Globally 3 out of every 4 hectares of land has been altered from the natural state according to risk assessment report on land degradation by UNCCD.

UNCCD's core agenda is reversing land degradation and its outcomes while accelerating positive achievements for people and for ecosystems with a view to achieving Sustainable Development Goals.



## Desertification: Indian Situation

- India has around 70% of its total geographical area under drylands.
- With about 30% of its land affected by land degradation, India has high stakes and stands strongly committed to the Convention.
- India with 2.5% of the global land area, supports world's 18% of human and 20% of livestock population.
- Total geographical area under land degradation is 96.40 mha ( 29.32% of country's area)
- India is committed to achieve Land Degradation Neutrality by 2030.



# NCCF

Network for Certification  
and  
Conservation of Forests

COP14  
Theme

## “Restore Land, Sustain Future”



## India's International Commitments

- Nationally Determined Contribution: additional 2.5 - 3 billion tons of CO<sub>2</sub>eq. by 2030 through additional forest and tree cover
- Bonn Challenge: restoring 21 mha of degraded and deforested land by 2030
- SDGs: particularly no poverty, zero hunger, climate action, life on land and combating desertification
- Landscape restoration will help India regain ecological integrity and improve well-being of 700 million rural people

## Some schemes and programmes for land restoration are

- Green India Mission (GIM) and National Afforestation Programme (NAP)
- National Mission for Sustainable Agriculture (NMSA)
- Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana (PMFBY)
- Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchayee Yojana (PMKSY)
- Soil Health Card Scheme
- Soil Health Management Scheme
- Per Drop More Crop
- Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA)

## Certification of Natural Resources to Combat Desertification and Restoring Landscapes

Certification of natural resources enhances the sustainability of forests, agroforests, urban forests and NWFPs, thereby reducing the rate of land degradation, helping in combating desertification and achieving Land Degradation Neutrality (LDN).

Forest certification contributes to promoting SPM, REDD+, SDGs, NDC commitments and meeting the objectives of various international commitments under the UNFCCC, UNCCD and UNCBD, etc.

NCCF has launched Forest Management Certification Standard, which is country specific and globally benchmarked and endorsed by the Programme for the Endorsement of Forest Certification (PEFC).

NCCF's Trees Outside Forests Certification Standard is shortly being launched. Development of other sustainability certification standards and a Carbon Registry-India are under preparation. Highlights of these sustainability standards and CR-I will be presented in the side event.

### Expert speakers in panel discussion will be covering the following aspects

- Advantages of certification of natural resources
- Certification to combat desertification
- NCCF's FM Certification Standard
- NCCF's ToF Standard
- NCCF's other sustainability standards under development (viz. NWFPs, Protected Areas and wetland, Biomass and Biofuels, Quality Planting material)
- Carbon registry-India
- Agroforestry for Arresting Desertification: Large Scale Case Studies from India
- Plans, policies and scaling of REDD+ from Indonesia
- Bonn Challenge and India: Progress on Restoration Efforts across States and Landscapes



The infographic features a large green leaf graphic at the top. Below it, the NCCF logo is shown with the text: "NETWORK FOR CERTIFICATION AND CONSERVATION OF FORESTS: Strengthening Partnerships for Sustainable Ecosystems".

### Areas of work

The areas of work are represented by six circular icons:

- Sustainability Standards**: Represented by a gold star on a ribbon.
- Policy Advocacy**: Represented by a document icon.
- Natural Resource Conservation & Management**: Represented by a landscape icon.
- Multi Stakeholder Engagement**: Represented by a funnel icon.
- Capacity Building**: Represented by a person giving a presentation icon.

**Forest Management Certification Standard (launched and endorsed by PEFC)**

- Trees Outside Forest Certification Standard (ready for launch)
- Non Wood Forest Produce Certification Standard (In Progress)
- Protected Areas and Wetlands Certification Standard (In Progress)
- Quality Planting Material Certification Standard (In Progress)
- Ecotourism Certification Standard (In Progress)
- Biofuel and Biomass Certification Standard (In Progress)
- Pet Trade Certification Standard (In Progress)
- Carbon Registry-India (In Progress)

**Grace us**  
with your presence at the side event during UNCCD CoP 14 and enrich its proceedings through your comments/suggestions

Register for the UNCCD CoP 14 below:  
<https://www.unccd.int/cop14-online-registration>

For confirmation of your participation or queries, you may contact:

Varun Grover (+91-9999330646)  
Tripta Tarunita (+91-9891811859)

## FINANCIAL (INCOME AND EXPENDITURE)

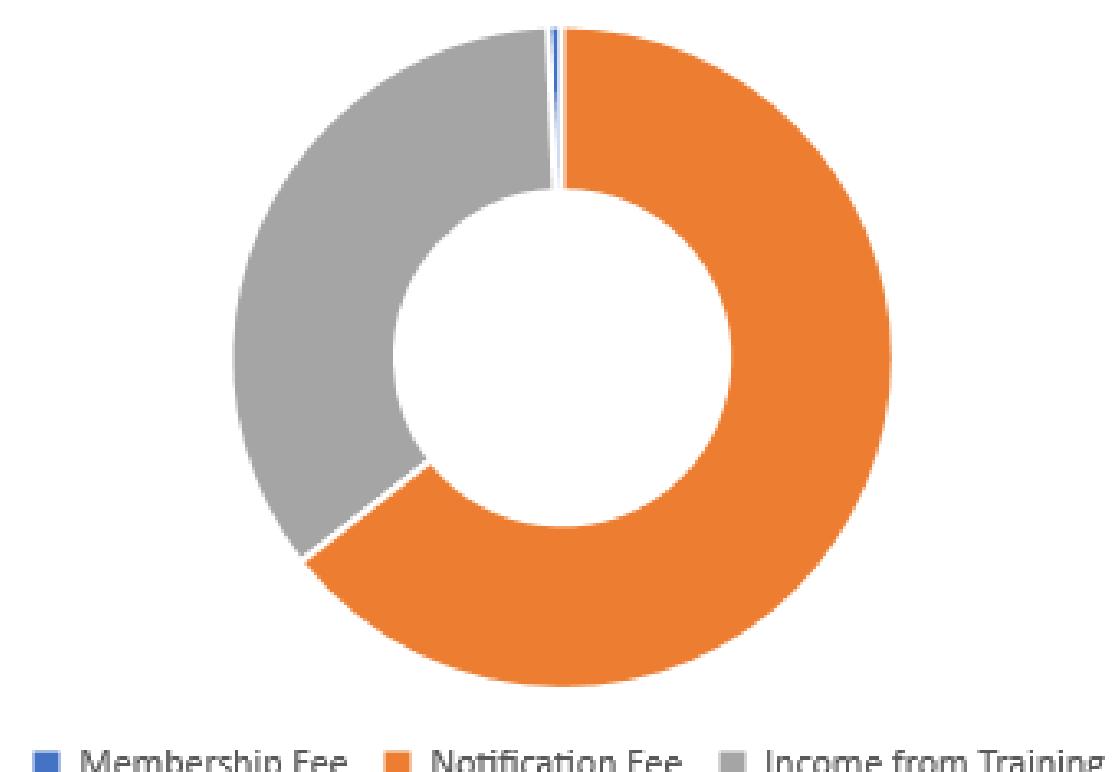
### Income:

<b>Income Membership Fee</b>	<b>0.69%</b>	<b>26346</b>
<b>Notification Fee</b>	<b>64.45%</b>	<b>2466106</b>
<b>Income from Training</b>	<b>34.86%</b>	<b>1334000</b>
<b>Total Income</b>		<b>3826452</b>

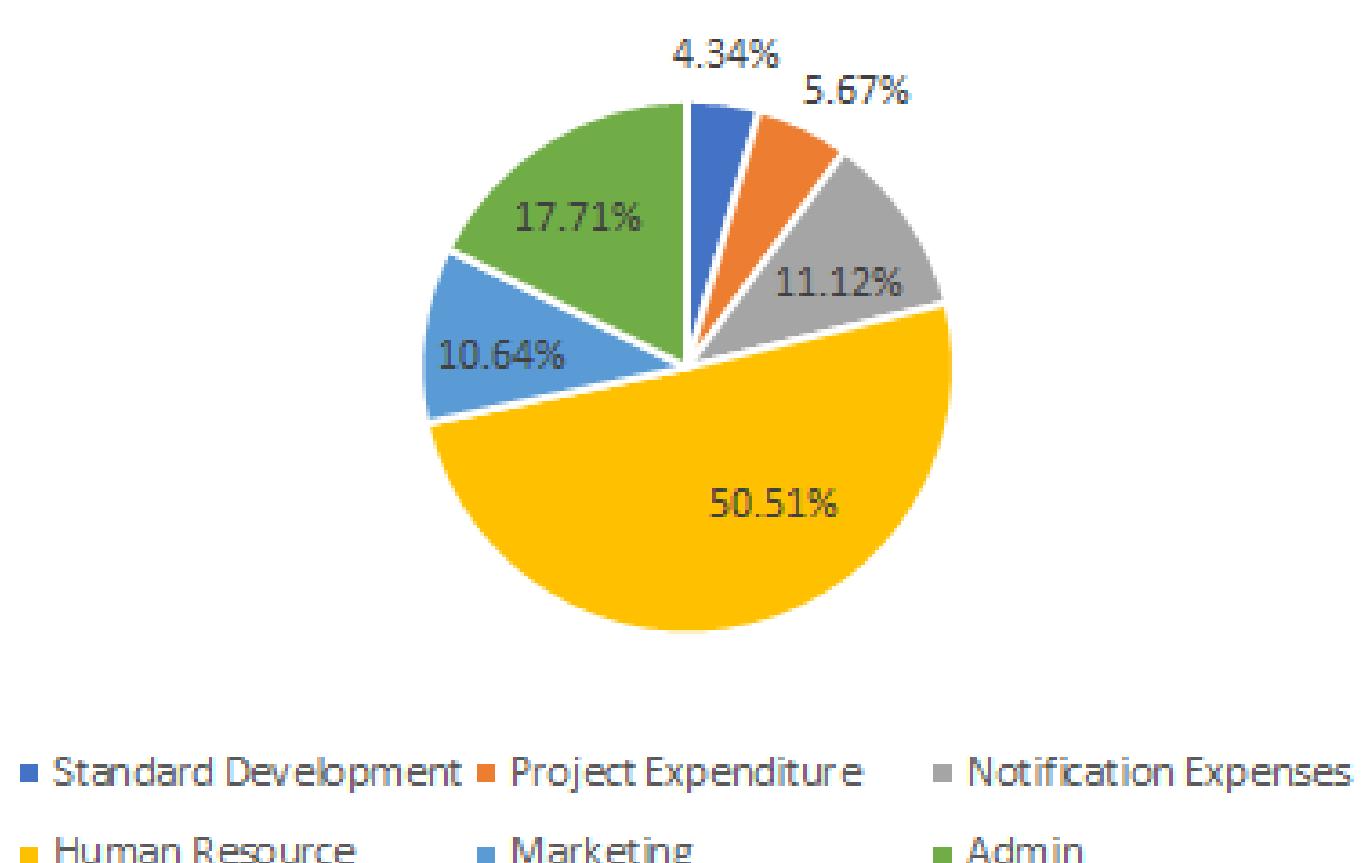
### Expenditure :

<b>Standard Development</b>	<b>4.34%</b>	<b>297,375</b>
<b>Project Expenditure</b>	<b>5.67%</b>	<b>388,432</b>
<b>Notification Expenses</b>	<b>11.12%</b>	<b>761,280</b>
<b>Human Resource</b>	<b>50.51%</b>	<b>3,459,126</b>
<b>Marketing</b>	<b>10.64%</b>	<b>728,931</b>
<b>Admin</b>	<b>17.71%</b>	<b>1,213,086</b>
<b>Total Expense</b>		<b>6,848,230</b>

Income Source 2019-20



Expenditure 2019-20



## 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.

### **Government Nominee Member**

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

### **Ordinary Member**

The entity(s)/bodies/Social Group entities/NGOs whether incorporated or not incorporated organization having a minimum five year of establishment.

### **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 work in 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 not have 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)

## Member 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  
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 Chander Pandey  
Ms Teena Antil  
Ms Upasna Singh  
Mr Varun Grover

## Acknowledgement

The Governing Body of NCCF thank the NCCF's members, employees, stakeholders, civil society organizations, research and academic institutions and international bodies for their consistent support. 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 in India 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. We solicit your cooperation and guidance in our future endeavours too.



## **Network for Certification and Conservation of Forests (NCCF)**

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