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**Proceedings of the Meeting of the Governing Body of
Orissa Forestry Sector Development Society held on 01.10.2007
in the Office Chamber of Agriculture Production Commissioner.**

The meeting was chaired by Sri S.P Nanda, IAS, Agriculture Production Commissioner & Chairperson of the Governing Body of the Society.

The list of the members present is at **Annexure – A**

The Chairperson of the Governing Body welcomed the members and special invitees and requested the Project Director to initiate the discussion.

Agenda Item # 1.

Approval of the VSS Management Manual :

The Project Director informed the members that as per the provision of the project the draft of the VSS Management Manual has been prepared by the consulting firm namely Centre for Professional Expertise in Development, Bhubaneswar selected following the JBIC guidelines for employment of consultant.

The experts of the consultant included Mr. A.K Nanda, Team Leader, Mr. C.G. Mishra, Rtd. Pr. CCF, Orissa, Dr. Neeraj Kumar, XIMB, Mr. Nagendra Acharya and Mr. Debashis Dash. After initial consultation at the Project Management Unit, during January, 2007, the consultant had two round of field consultations at (i) Talcher on 22nd Feb., 2007 and (ii) at Koraput on 11th April, 2007 where in they held consultations with about 32 VSS presidents / members and also with Village Forest Workers, Foresters, FEOs and Range Officers. This was followed by a state level workshop on the first draft during month of May, 2007 at Bhubaneswar at which selected CFs, DFOs, ACFs, ROs & FEOs participated. The draft VSS Management Manual prepared by the consultant was scrutinized by a committee comprising Mr. S. Raghvan, CF Working Plans, Dr Ajay Mahapatra, Joint P.D, Mr. L. Otta, DFO, City Forest Division, Mr. G. Rajesh, DFO Khurda Division, & Mr. B.K Swain, Dy. P.D (I&ME) and copies were emailed to all DFOs and CFs associated with the project.

Hard copies were then sent to PCCF, Orissa, PCCF(WL), Orissa and all CFs for their comments and specific suggestion to be sent by 20th Aug., 2007. Soft copies were emailed to all the DFO-cum-DMU Chiefs and also to MD, OFDC and Chief Executive, RPRC and Spl. Secretary, F & E Deptt., Govt. of Orissa. Several comments and suggestions were received and the draft manual now presented for approval has taken into consideration the suggestions.

In the meanwhile, there was a discussion at the Govt. level in Forest and Environment Dept. in connection with the revised version of JFM Resolution. The Spl. Secretary F & E Dept. pointed out that some minor changes in the draft manual are required based on the proposed revised JFM Resolution.

After detailed discussion by the members, the draft VSS Management Manual was approved with the stipulation that it would be consistent with the proposed revised JFM Resolution of the Government. The Governing Body authorized the Spl. Secretary, F & E Dept. and Project

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Director to go through the draft manual and make necessary changes, if required, so that, it is compatible with the proposed revised JFM Resolution. Considering the urgency of the manual for preparation of micro plans in the selected JFM areas, this has to be done in the next two or three days. It was also decided that in the event of a conflict between the provisions of VSS Management Manual and revised JFM Resolution, the JFM resolution would prevail.

Agenda Item # 2

Progress of Activities:

The Project Director highlighted the progress of activities up to 30th Sept., 2007. The members took note of the progress made and observed that detailed programme should be prepared by the project to monitor the progress of expenditure. Emphasis may be laid on creation of assets to increase the financial returns of the VSS members while selecting Entry Point Activities.

APC also observed that payment to animator at VSS level may be kept at par with remuneration for similar facilitation under Watershed / OTELP Projects to avoid disparity at field level.

Agenda Item # 3.

Any other matter with the permission of the Chair

The Project Director mentioned that a letter has been received from the F & E Dept. regarding omission of the observation of the Pr. Secretary, F & E Dept. at the meeting of the Governing Body held on 06.08.2007, **“while calling meeting in the village for organization of VSS, Forest Official’s should play role of advocacy to promoting avocations which reduce pressure on forests.”** It was decided to issue revised proceedings suitably incorporating the above observations in the last Para of Agenda Item # 3 of the proceeding.

The meeting ended with the vote of thanks to all the participants.

Sd/-
(S.P. Nanda)
Agriculture Production Commissioner
& Chairperson, Governing Body
Orissa Forestry Sector Development Society.

ANNEXURE – ALIST OF PARTICIPANTS

1. Shri S.P. Nanda, IAS
Agriculture Production Commissioner - cum- President, OFSDS -
Chairperson
2. Shri H.S. Chahar, IAS
Principal Secretary to Government, Forest & Environment Deptt. - Member
3. Shri P.N. Padhi, IFS, Special Secretary to Government,
Forest & Environment Deptt. - Member
4. Shri P.R. Mohanty, IFS,
Principal Chief Conservator of Forest, Orissa - Member
5. Shri A.K. Bansal, IFS, Project Director, OFSDP - Member
Secretary

Special Invitees

1. Shri B.K. Swain, IFS, Dy. Project Director (I&ME), OFSDP
2. Shri R.N. Sahoo, IFS, Dy. Project Director (T), OFSDP
3. Shri R.C. Mohapatra, OFS, Dy. Project Director (A & F), OFSDP