



ORISSA FORESTRY SECTOR DEVELOPMENT PROJECT

SFTRI Campus, Ghatikia,
Bhubaneswar-751 003

Letter No 1314 /OFSDP-A&F 110/2007

dated 8th April 2008

To
All Members
Governing body of
Orissa Forestry Sector Development Society (OFSDS)

(Principal Secretary to Govt. Forest & Environment Department
Principal Chief Conservator of Forests
Principal Chief Conservator of Forests Wild life
Special Secretary Forest & Env. Dept.)

Sub: The fifth meeting of the Governing Body of OFSDS – Proceedings
Ref: This office letter no. 1043/ OFSDP-A&F 110/2007 dated 27th March 2008


Sir,

Please find enclosed herewith a copy of the Approved Proceedings of the fifth meeting of the Governing Body of OFSDS, held on 29th March 2008, Chaired by Shri S. P. Nanda, IAS, Agriculture Production Commissioner and Chairperson of the Governing Body of OFSDS.

Receipt of the same may please be acknowledged.

Encl. a.a.

Yours faithfully


8/4/2008
Arun K. Bansal
Project Director
& Member Secretary OFSDS

Copy forwarded to the PS to Agriculture Production Commissioner along with a copy the Approved Proceedings for kind information of the APC and Chairperson Governing Body of OFSDS.

Copy forwarded to the PS to the Chief Secretary, along with a copy the Approved Proceedings, for kind information of the Chief Secretary and President OFSDS.


8/4/2008
Project Director
& Member Secretary OFSDS

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Proceedings of the 5th meeting of the Governing Body of Orissa Forestry Sector Development Society (OFSDS) held on 29th March, 2008 at 12.45 pm in the office chamber of the Agriculture Production Commissioner & Chairperson Governing Body

The meeting was chaired by Sri S.P. Nanda, IAS, Agriculture Production Commissioner and Chairperson of the Governing Body of the Society. The list of members present is at Annexure-'A'.

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

Agenda Item No.1: Compliance of the decisions of the last meeting of the GB

The Project Director informed that in pursuance of the decision of the Governing Body, Special Secretary to Government, Forest & Environment Department and the Project Director, Orissa Forestry Sector Development Project went through the draft VSS Management Manual and made necessary changes to make it compatible with the proposed revised JFM resolution, and the VSS Management Manual has been printed and circulated.

The Project Director informed that after analyzing remuneration for similar positions in Watershed / OTELP Project, monthly remuneration of the Animators under OFSDP has been fixed at Rs.750/- per month with the approval of the APC and Vice-President, OFSDS.

Further, the Project Director brought to the notice of the members that in pursuance of the decision of the Governing Body under Agenda Item No.3 – revised Proceedings, incorporating the observations of the Principal Secretary to Government, Forest & Environment Department, have been issued.

Agenda Item No.2: Engagement of General Consultants

The Project Director informed that as per the provision of the Project and following 'JBIC's Guidelines for Employment of Consultants' offer of a consortium led by Nippon Koei Co., Japan and including Natural Resources International, UK, and Sutra Consultancy, Pvt. Ltd., Orissa, has been selected with the concurrence of the JBIC. The details of the selection were placed in the meeting and approval given by the Vice President, OFSDS, was ratified by the GB.

Agenda Item No.3: Progress of Activities

The Progress of Activities as per circulated Agenda Notes was noted by the members. The Project Director highlighted the following activities:

a. Restoration of Degraded Forest

(i) *JFM Mode Intervention:* Micro Plans in respect of 623 sites covering an area of about 65800 Hectares selected in the first batch of JFM Interventions have been completed. The Community Development works and Forestry interventions in the treatment area have been initiated, for which required funds have been transferred to the concerned VSSs.

For the 2nd batch, 701 JFM sites have been selected after Circle level scrutiny/analysis by the General Consultants' Experts along with officials of the Project Divisions. The methodology of Survey Mapping has been refined based on the experience gained during the survey and mapping of the first batch area. Demarcation and mapping of the 2nd batch sites have been initiated.

Considering that the involvement of the NGOs of the Project is very innovative, a review of functioning of the NGOs has been initiated and detailed guidelines for NGO partnership is under preparation with the assistance from the General Consultants. The detailed guidelines for Entry Point Activities and Income Generation Activities are under preparation by the General Consultants. For base line survey (all households in selected sample project villages and control villages), a detailed ToR has been developed through General Consultants and News Paper advertisement has been published seeking offers.

(ii) *Non-JFM Intervention:* The Project Director informed that main intervention in this mode is the establishment of Teak plantations over an area of 19000 hectares and is scheduled to start during the 3rd year of the Project. The matter has been discussed with the PCCF, Orissa. The total area available has been reported, by the concerned DFO-cum-DMU Chiefs, to be about 8200 hectares. The PCCF has directed field officials to identify further area required. The Plantation areas targeted for 2008-09, and 2009-10 are 800 & 7400 hectares respectively. The Chairperson observed that in the teak plantation sites the protection aspect should be duly taken care of, and suggested that 'Quality Planting Material' should be ensured especially for Teak. Hence, such areas be selected which are not vulnerable to smuggling. The PCCF, Orissa, opined that the commercial species may be encouraged to be planted on private land so that the pressure on the forest is reduced. The Project Director informed that, the project has organized several initiatives focusing on production of quality planting stock. The officers are being sent for training-cum-exposure visit to Nagpur to have a first hand knowledge on the Nursery (Root Trainer) Techniques followed for the production of quality planting

material. During this visit, they will also be exposed to teak plantations of Forest Development Corporation, Maharashtra which is successfully raising extensive teak plantations.

The Project Director also informed that funds have been released to the DMUs for construction/renovation of Forest roads and link roads for the VSS with emphasis on creating permanent structures like culverts, causeways and retaining walls. Funds have also been released for maintenance of forest boundary in respect of notified forest blocks for which notification and maps are available and where part of the area is being treated in JFM mode. Appreciating the emphasis of creation of permanent assets for forest/village link roads, the Chairperson observed that earth work may also be taken up under NREGS, and other such programmes.

The Project Director further informed that the project has a small component of Forest Type Improvement, for which a strategy is being developed for optimal utilization of the funds.

b. Capacity Development

The Project Director informed that since the last meeting of the Governing Body, exposure visits of the VSS members has been organized to the Western Orissa Rural Livelihood Project areas which have been very useful in facilitating first hand knowledge by the participants of successful interventions, some of which can be replicated under the Project. The visits have been documented in the third Quarterly Newsletter.

Five FEOs have undergone one week training on 'Business planning for livelihood promotion' organized by ACL, Hyderabad at CYSD, Bhubaneswar from 15th to 19th February 2008. 20 FROs/FEOs were sent for a learning visit to Maharashtra to study Advance Nursery Techniques. 29 Participants from 8 Coastal Divisions have been given refresher training on 'Casuarina plantations' organized through Department of Forestry, OUAT, Bhubaneswar. 27 personnel looking after the accounts at DMUs were trained on "OFSDP Accounting Procedures and Methods" organized at PMU.

c. Coastal Plantation

The Project Director informed that as per the decision of the Governing Body, the coastal plantation has been pre-scheduled. 340 hectares of Mangrove, and 101 Ha. of Casuarina plantation are to be raised during 2008-09 in Bhadrak and Balasore Wild Life Divisions. Nursery and other preliminary works have already been started. The International expert of the General Consultants has visited the areas and detailed strategy in this matter is being prepared for covering both technical aspects and social mobilization to achieve projected coastal plantations. The Chairperson opined that the most

vulnerable areas of the State should be targeted under "coastal plantation component". If necessary, the areas outside the project division can be taken up after getting the deviation approved.

d. Information Dissemination

The Project Director mentioned that 2nd Gramsat Interaction programme on the project activities was held on 31st January, 2008. Three Quarterly news letters have been published, first issue in English and 2nd & 3rd in both English and Oriya. The VSS Management Manual and Micro Plan Formats have been prepared in Oriya and sent to the DMUs/FMUs.

e. Financial Progress

The Project Director informed that the budget outlay of Rs.82.2 crores for the year 2007-08, has been sanctioned, which includes Rs.6.30 Crores towards salary of the regular staff in the Project Divisions. Till date an amount of Rs.56.93 has been received by Society from the Government. Up to February 2008, PMU had released an amount of Rs.46.13 Crores. The expenditure based on the Statements of Expenditure is Rs.33.05 Crores. Against reimbursement claims of Rs.31.10 Crores submitted to JBIC, an amount of Rs.19.88 crores has already been reimbursed by JBIC. The Chairperson of the Governing Body was of the opinion that since the Project is functioning in Society mode, due care should be taken to keep aside adequate funds for the period from April to June i.e., till the time the funds from budgetary allocation for the year 2008-09 are received.

Agenda Item No.4: Annual Report for the year 2006-07:

The first Annual Report of the Society, for the year 2006-07, including the "Audited Statement of Accounts" as placed before the Governing Body was approved.

Agenda Item No.5: Filling Up of the Posts at PMU & DMUs:

(a) Dy Project Director in the rank of DCF or equivalent :

The Project Director highlighted that there are 8 posts of Dy. Project Director in the PMU as detailed in the Project Memorandum. At present there are only 3 Dy. Project Directors out of which one Dy. Project Director is due to retire on 30th April, 2008. The Project implementation is being adversely affected due to the non-positioning of the prescribed personnel at PMU and in the field particularly the DMU Assistant Chiefs in the DMUs.

The Forest & Environment Department has allowed the Society to take necessary alternate action for filling up of the posts of 4 Dy. Project Directors, in the rank of DCF or equivalent, as the Information & Public Relations Department and Agriculture Department have not responded for filling to these posts on deputation. Hence, it was proposed for filling up of 3 posts of Dy. Project Directors of DyCF or equivalent rank through contractual engagement from open market. The proposed remuneration is Rs.25, 000/- per month. The proposal was approved. A Selection Committee will be constituted by the Project Director for selection of candidates for the above posts. Chairperson suggested that the 'Selection Committee' should be broad based.

The Principal Secretary informed the members that the Department is conducting DPC soon to fill up the vacant posts in the rank of Dy. CF.

(b) Technical Personnel for Project MIS

The Project Director proposed to engage 2 Technicians to manage MIS/GIS at PMU for Data Base Management of information from 71 FMUs, 2275 VSSs. It was proposed to engage 2 technicians on contractual basis from open market with consolidated monthly remuneration of Rs.13000 to Rs.15000, each. The proposal was agreed to. The APC-cum-Chairperson of the Governing Body suggested that it will be better to outsource the MIS & GIS technicians through the specialized organizations dealing with such works.

In addition it was also proposed to engage System Manager for maintenance of the computer facilities at PMU on a monthly remuneration of Rs.7000 to Rs.8000/-. Approving the proposal, it was decided that the 'System Manager', can be out sourced through a Service Provider.

(c) DMU Asst. Chiefs in the Divisions :

The Project Director brought to the notice of the members that 'SAPROF Report' has recommended for posting 14 ACFs, one per each DMU, exclusively for the implementation of the Project. However, at present there are several divisions where even the sanctioned posts of ACFs are vacant. With the present availability of ACFs it will be difficult to fill up all the vacant posts, as the ACFs recruited in 2007 will only be available during 2009-10 after the completion of their training. It was therefore proposed that the Governing Body may consider engagement of suitable retired ACFs to be engaged as "Technical Personnel" to assist the DMU Chiefs in the DMUs where there is vacancy in ACF rank. The Principal Secretary informed that the Department is going to hold DPCs for promotion to the rank of ACFs. After detailed discussion, it was decided to engage 5-6 competent and suitable retired ACFs, after assessing the workload in the DMUs. CFs may be authorized to

select these technical personnel on terms decided by the PMU. These technical personnel will be disengaged on joining of the regular ACFs.

The PCCF also suggested that some technical personnel should be engaged at PMU for focused attention on specific interventions such as Teak Plantations, and Quality Planting Material. Appreciating the need for such technical personnel, it was decided that the Project Director will make a detailed analysis and prepare reasoned proposal for the consideration of the Governing Body.

(d) DEO (Accounts) at the DMUs

The Project Director brought to the notice of the members that the DFO-cum-DMU Chiefs have expressed the need for one computer knowing Accountant for proper maintenance of accounts at the DMUs. The proposed monthly remuneration for this post is Rs.6000 to Rs.8000/-.

Agreeing to the need for support to DMUs in Project Accounts, it was decided that this may be done by outsourcing through local "Chartered Accounting" firms on contractual basis.

Agenda Item No.6: Concurrent Monitoring:

The Project Director highlighted the need for independent 3rd party concurrent monitoring for higher transparency. The scope of the work will include physical verification and stock taking of the assets created under the Project. The Chairperson suggested for engagement of upright and honest retired forest officers for the proposed concurrent monitoring.

After detailed discussion, this was agreed to in principle, and it was decided that a detailed proposal be put up at the next meeting of the Governing Body.

Agenda Item No.7: Any other matter:

The Chairperson and APC requested the Principal Secretary Forest and Environment to bring out the proposed revised JFM resolution as it is long over due.

The meeting ended with a vote of thanks to the Chairperson, and all the participants.

Sd/-
(S. P. Nanda)
Agriculture Production Commissioner-cum-
President, OFSDS &
Chairperson, Governing Body

ANNEXURE - 'A'

LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

S.No	Name	Address	Designation
1.	Shri S. P. Nanda, IAS	Agriculture Production Commissioner, and Vice President, OFSDS	Chairperson
2.	Shri H. S. Chahar, IAS	Principal Secretary to Government, Forest & Environment Department.	Member
3.	Shri S.C. Mohanty, IFS	Principal Chief Conservator of Forest, Orissa.	Member
4.	Shri B. K. Patnaik, IFS	Principal Chief Conservator of Forest (WL), Orissa	Member
5.	Shri P. N. Padhi, IFS	Special Secretary to Govt., F&E Department.	Member
6.	Shri A. K. Bansal, IFS	Project Director, OFSDP	Member- Secretary
SPECIAL INVITEES :			
1.	Mr. M.G. Gogate	Team Leader, General Consultants.	
2.	Shri B.K. Swain, IFS	Jt. Project Director (IM&E), OFSDP	
3.	Shri D. Biswal, IFS	Jt. Project Director(A&F), OFSDP	
4.	Shri R. N. Sahoo, IFS	Dy. Project Director(Trg.), OFSDP	