

6/17/08

(176)

**Proceedings of the 6<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Governing Body of Orissa Forestry Sector Development Society (OFSDS) held on 18<sup>th</sup> August, 2008 at 11.00 hours in the office chamber of the Agriculture Production Commissioner & Chairperson, Governing Body**

---

The 6<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Governing Body of Orissa Forestry Sector Development Society was chaired by Sri S.P. Nanda, IAS, Agriculture Production Commissioner and Chairperson of the Governing Body. The list of members present is at Annexure-1.

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.

The following agenda items were discussed:

**Agenda Item No. 1(i): Confirmation of the Minutes of Last meeting**

The project Director informed that the proceedings of the last meeting held on 29<sup>th</sup> March 2008, was sent to all the members vide letter no. 1314/OFSDP-A&F 110/2007 dated 8.4.2008. No comments have been received. The minutes of the last meeting were confirmed.

**Agenda Item No.1 (ii) Compliance of the decisions of the last meeting of the GB held on 29<sup>th</sup> March, 2008:**

**(a) Engagement of Deputy Project Directors in the rank equivalent to of Deputy Conservator of Forests:**

The Project Director informed that as per the decision of the Governing Body at its 5<sup>th</sup> meeting, three Deputy Project Directors in the rank equivalent to Deputy Conservator of Forests have been selected for contractual engagement. After scrutiny of applications received in response to advertisement in newspaper and Project website, followed by interview by a broad based committee constituted for the purpose. The Project Director, OTELP was the Chairperson of the committee, with Director, I&PR Department; Director, Agriculture Department; a Faculty Member of XIMB; Representative of the PCCF, Orissa and two Jt. Project Directors of the Project as the members of the Committee. Based on the recommendations of the committee offer letters for contractual engagement have been issued to the following persons on 8<sup>th</sup> August, 2008.

Post	Name of the Selected Candidate
Dy. PD (Livelihood Improvement & VSS/ Community Development)	Mr. Amiya Ranjan Parida
Dy. PD (Publicity & Awareness)	Mr. Devasis Biswal
Dy. PD (Training)	Mr. Sanjeeb Biswasi

**(b) Technical Personnel for Project GIS/MIS:**

In the 5<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Governing Body, a decision was taken to engage one GIS Technician and one MIS Technician on contractual basis through service providers. Accordingly, offers were invited through news paper advertisements. Only two applications were received, which were incomplete. The matter was placed before the Chairperson of the Governing Body with a proposal for selection of GIS & MIS Technicians from open market for engagement on contractual basis for his approval. This proposal was approved by him. Accordingly, action has been initiated for selection of GIS and MIS technical personnel. This decision was ratified by the Governing Body.

**(c) DMU Asst. Chiefs in the Divisions:**

As decided in the last Governing Body meeting two retired ACFs, namely, Sri Rajkishore Sarangi & Sri Sudam Chandra Rout have been engaged as 'Technical Personnel' in Phulbani and Balliguda Divisions respectively. This is based on the recommendation by the Conservator of Forests, Berhampur. These two ACFs have already joined under the condition that they will be disengaged on the joining of regular ACFs.

**(d) DEO (Accountants) at the DMU level:**

The decision of the Governing Body at the last meeting was communicated to the DFO-cum-DMU Chiefs. Chairperson was of the view that an objective assessment has to be made regarding the necessity of engaging such DEOs. If the need be, it should be advertised by the Project Management Unit at the State level, and a Chartered Accounting firm having out reach in the DMUs should be selected, to provide personnel to do the account works at DMUs on weekly job basis.

**(e) Concurrent Monitoring:**

The Project Director briefed that as decided by the Governing Body in its 5<sup>th</sup> meeting, a detailed proposal for Concurrent Monitoring has been prepared for the approval of the Governing Body. The proposal was approved with the modifications that (i) Retired officer from other related disciplines may also be selected instead of retired forest officers only, (ii) Project vehicles will be used for journey inside the Divisions, (iii) At least one VSS is to be selected from each FMU, and Project Director was authorized to take required follow up action.

**Agenda Item No.2: Progress of the Project Activities and Annual Action Plan for 2008-09:**

The Project Director mentioned that the activity status along with the Action Plan for the year 2008-09 are mentioned in details in Action Plan booklet that have been circulated to the members along with

Agenda Notes, and briefed the members regarding the major Project Activities during the year 2008-09:

**(a) NGO Collaboration:**

The NGO collaboration in the Project is an innovative intervention, wherein the NGOs and Forest Department staff are working as partners at the FMU level for the implementation of the Project. He emphasized that the intervention is working out fine in the field. However, a few issues like frequent staff turnover and replacement delays need to be addressed. He also brought to the notice of the members that 'NGO Collaboration Guidelines' have been developed after detailed interactive sessions at the DMUs with FMU/NGO, for facilitating effective partnership.

**(b) EPA Guidelines:**

EPA guidelines in English and Oriya have been finalized and sent to the DFO-cum-DMU Chiefs for circulation to the facilitating officials, Partner NGO Teams, and the VSSs.

**(c) VSS Office-cum-meeting place:**

The Office-cum-Meeting places have been constructed/under construction in the 1<sup>st</sup> batch VSSs.

**(d) IGA Frame-work:**

'IGA Frame Work' has been prepared. It has been discussed at various levels. Consequently, process for 'Marketing Research' by external agency to finalize area-based listing of IGA options, intervention points, business plans and institutional arrangements through analysis of micro and macro level value chains of forest and rural products have been initiated. Offers have been received in this regard and they are under scrutiny.

The Project Director also proposed to organize a cross learning seminar of the JBIC assisted projects in the country with regard to IGA and other community mobilization efforts. Agreeing to this, as suggested by the Chairperson it was decided that cross learning seminars with other similar project should first be organized at DMU level.

**(e) Afforestation Activities:**

The Project Director briefed that after revisit of the Micro Plans, ANR gap and block plantations have been taken up in 610 VSS sites. Till July 31<sup>st</sup> the achievement has been reported to be 36595 Ha., under ANR and 4308.3 ha under block plantation. Seedlings have been raised in 10 permanent nurseries, 176 VSS decentralized nurseries and 358 temporary VSS nurseries. As a part of State's mass plantation drive to plant 20 lakhs seedlings on a single day i.e on 7<sup>th</sup> July, 2008, 5,97,937

seedlings were planted at the Project sites. 701 JFM sites have been selected for the 2<sup>nd</sup> batch of JFM mode intervention. Preparation of DGPS maps is under progress.

The Special Secretary, F&E Department, Govt. of Orissa said that the PCCF has raised his concern against gap plantation. The Chairperson opined that the Project works should be implemented strictly as per the Project Memorandum and no deviation should take place.

The Chairperson observed for having a reward system in place to acknowledge good works of VSSs. Project Director mentioned that so far required areas for raising teak plantation as provided in the project memorandum have not been selected. Chairperson observed that, teak plantation is a very important component of the project that has been decided after lot of analysis during project formulation, and need. The Special Secretary suggested that the DFOs and CFs, who are responsible for implementation of working plans should identify suitable areas for this component. It was also decided that need for amendment in the working plan prescriptions to facilitate raising successful teak plantations as targeted in the Project, should also be looked into by the concerned DFOs and CFs. Nursery and planting techniques should also be revisited to bring improvement considering the importance of the component. .

**(f) Biodiversity Management:**

The Project Director informed that the General Consultant Experts have visited five protected areas (Satkosia, Kotagarh, Lakheri, Kuldiha and Debrigarh) and had detailed discussions with PCCF Wild Life, field officials and PMU. It was agreed to evolve plans for interventions in three clusters in Satkosia Division (Tikarpada, Purunakote and Baliput) and two clusters in Balasore Division (Betei, Risai in Kuldiha Sanctuary). The DFO-cum-DMU Chiefs have been asked for preparation of detailed plan for these clusters. The DFO Satkosia has already furnished a proposal on 12<sup>th</sup> August, 2008 which is under scrutiny by PCCF Wild Life. It is also proposed to follow up the operationalization of the facilities created at Debrigarh Sanctuary under OFSSP for which DFO Hirakud WL Division has submitted a proposal to PCCF WL.

**(g) Coastal Plantations:**

Mangrove plantation is being raised over an area of 340 ha., and Casuarina plantation over an area of 50 ha during the current year. It is proposed to take up mangrove plantation over an area of 900 ha during next year. Project Director informed that since the proposed mangrove plantation areas are neither Notified Forests nor Protected Areas, formation of VSS or EDCs are not covered by the present JFM Resolution. After detailed discussion, it was decided that in such cases Joint Mangrove Management Committees will be formed on the pattern of EDCs for enlisting effective community mobilization in restoration of Mangroves.

Project Director further informed that due to non availability of areas along the coast for casuarina plantations, the CF Baripada has been advised to get an analysis of old plantations which can be harvested and areas replanted. The Chairperson observed that encroached areas may also be got vacated through the Collectors for raising casuarinas, and plantations may also be taken up on private land.

**(h) Base line Survey:**

The Project Director appraised that the base line survey work has been awarded to NABCONS – an organization of NABARD and they have started the work after inception meeting held on 28<sup>th</sup> July, 2008. The work is expected to be completed within 5 months.

**(i) Project MIS:**

The MIS for the Project is under development by the General Consultants. In the meanwhile, funds have been released to the DMUs for providing internet connectivity to FMUs through data cards.

**(j) Capacity Building:**

Capacity Building plan has been prepared by the General Consultants. A list of State level, National, and International 'Training Programs' has been prepared. Training on 'Soil and Moisture Conservation measures, especially Continuous Contour Trench' is being organized at Koraput for the FMU level staff, selected VSS members and DFOs/ACFs during the first week of September.

**(k) Forest Type Improvement:**

The 'Forest type Improvement' component will be addressed from the current year onwards. It is suggested that there is a scope for taking up selected teak plantation areas for improvement through tending, soil and moisture conservation measures, thinning etc. This will be in addition to improvement works in selected good high forests as is envisaged in the Project. The Special Secretary observed that such improvement may be taken up for other important group of species, including medicinal plants.

**(l) Research:**

Project Director informed that, after a visit to the teak seed production areas by Project Director, Joint PD (IME) along with GC Team Leader, the Silviculturist Bhubaneswar has been requested to prepare a plan of action for improvement of teak seed production areas that can be funded from the Project in the long term interest of the State. Similarly, it is proposed to establish a garden of different varieties of casuarinas suited to the State in collaboration with IFGTB, Bangalore. It is also proposed to publish technical bulletins on selected themes and pictorial brochures for easy understanding by the members of the VSSs. Accepting these proposals, it was decided that research activities need to be expedited.

The Annual Action Plan was approved with the observation that it should reflect the activities that are being taken up during the year, rather than mentioning that such and such works will be taken up particularly with regard to Soil and Moisture conservation measures, JFM interventions etc.

**Agenda Item No.3: Budget of OFSDS for the year 2008-09:**

The Project Director mentioned that the requirement of funds for taking up various activities during the year 2008-09 is Rs.1497.14 million (Annexure-2). The Governing Body approved the proposed budget for the year 2008-09, and authorized the Project Director to incur expenditure.

The Special Secretary brought to the notice of the Governing Body that the fund transfer to the Society was delayed this year because of the process of release. After discussion, it was agreed that Forest and Environment Department may directly release sanctioned funds to the OFSDS instead of routing through PCCF, Orissa. The Chairperson requested the Principal Secretary to take necessary action in this regard.

**Agenda Item No.4: Engagement of Chartered Accountant Firm:**

The Governing Body approved the engagement of M/s Patro & Co, 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor, Janpath, Tower, Ashok Nagar, Bhubaneswar-751 009, as recommended by the committee constituted by the Project Director for evaluation of offers of the five Chartered Accountant firms suggested by the Controller of Auditor General, India.

Finance Year	Audit and other Professional Services(Rs.)	Travel Expenses(Rs.)	Total (Rs.)
2008-09	3,36,000	1,56,000	4,92,000
2009-10	3,52,000	1,66,000	5,18,000

The meeting ended with a vote of thanks to the Chair.

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

## ANNEXURE - 1

## LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

S.No	Name	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 B.P. Singh, IFS	Chief Conservator of Forest, (SF & Affn.)	Nominee of PCCF, Orissa
4.	Shri S.S. Srivastava, IFS	Chief Conservator of Forest (WL),	Nominee of CWLW & PCCF, WL, Orissa
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
<b>SPECIAL INVITEES :</b>			
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 (A&F), OFSDP	

## ANNEXURE - 2

**BUDGET FOR THE YEAR 2008 - 09**

<i>(Rupees in million)</i>	
Item	Budget, 2008-09
<b>ELIGIBLE PORTION :</b>	
Preparatory Works	77.03
Strengthening of Executing Body	11.12
Capacity Building of VSSs	111.18
Community/Tribal Development	236.43
Biodiversity Conservation	33.03
Forest Management under JFM Mode	576.21
Forest Management under Non-JFM Mode	110.37
Farm Forestry Development	2.74
Infrastructure Development	41.05
Forest Researches	3.30
Publicity and Communication	2.82
Monitoring and Evaluation	8.72
Phase-out and Phase-in Activities	-
	<b>1,214.00</b>
Price Escalation	-
Physical Contingency	60.70
<b>Total (Excluding Consultancy)</b>	<b>1,274.70</b>
Consultancy Services	<b>70.88</b>
Base Cost	67.50
Price Escalation	-
Physical Contingency	3.38
<b>Total JBIC Loan</b>	<b>1,345.58</b>
<b>NON ELIGIBLE PORTION :</b>	
Administration Cost	107.76
VAT	7.28
Service Tax	32.80
<b>Govt. Share</b>	<b>147.84</b>
Interest during construction	3.72
<b>Grand Total :</b>	<b>1,497.14</b>