

Webinar on Forest Certification by NCCF

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Introducing NCCF Trees outside Forest Certification Scheme

By:

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TOF: Definition

- ✓ “**All trees growing outside recorded forest areas** (reserve, protected or unclassified) are defined as Trees Outside Forests (TOF).
- ✓ TOF can occur in **block, linear and scattered** form in urban or rural landscapes
- ✓ Example: Agroforests, linear plantations along roads/highways, railway or canal, farm bunds, block plantations, mango orchards, trees in tea gardens/parks, scattered /homestead trees etc.
- ✓ Ownership mostly **private** and partly community or government

Note:

- TOF** and **Tree Cover** are not same. Tree cover is a subset of TOF.
- National Working Plan Code 2014, in Clause 83 Ch 6 mentioned to prepare separate strategy of management for TOF

Classification of ToF on the basis of occurrence in India

✓ **Block Formations**

- Urban trees and forests
- Agroforestry

✓ **Non-Block Formations**

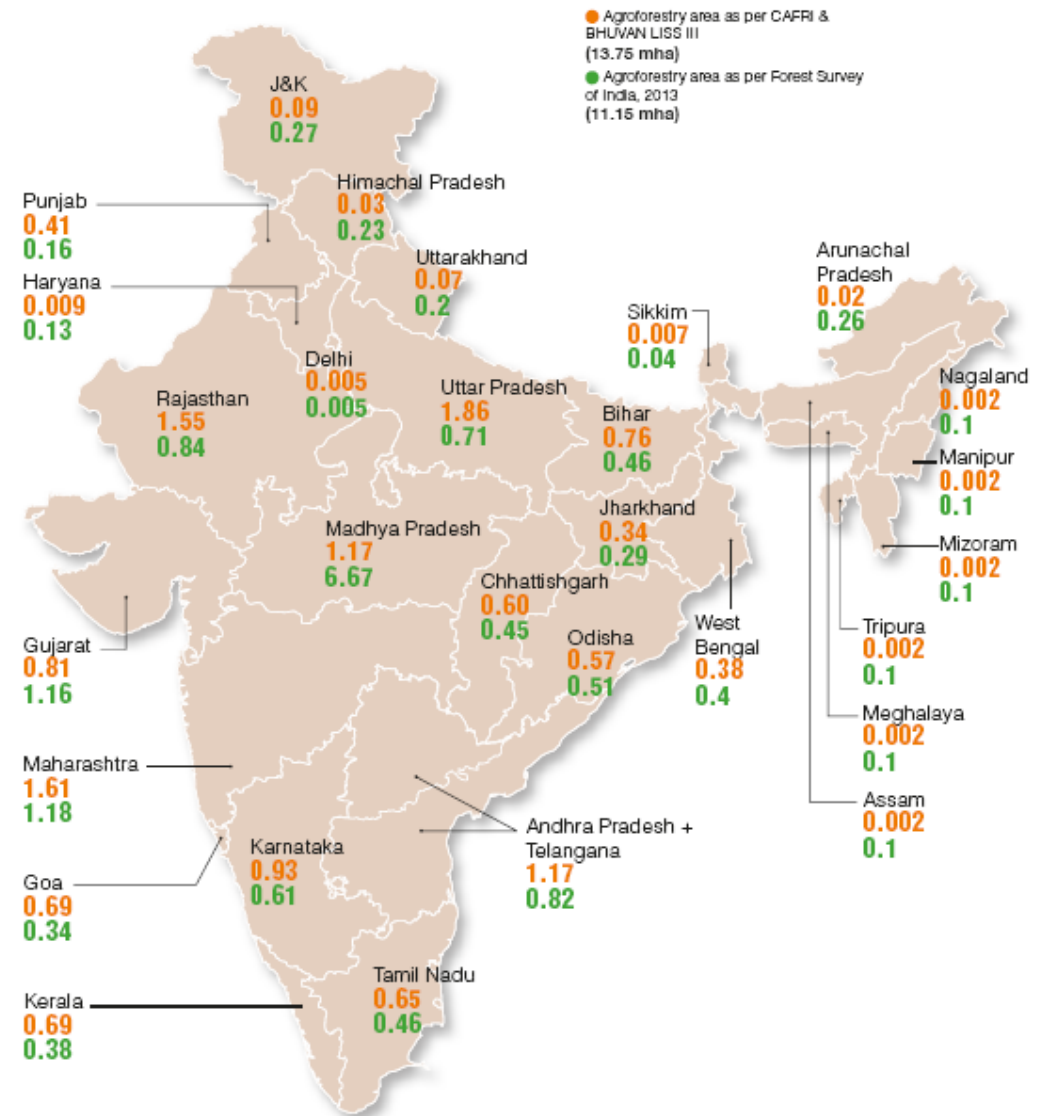
- Scattered Trees
- Avenue Plantations/Multipurpose lots
- Along highways, railway lines, etc.



Agroforestry in India : Popular ToF Species

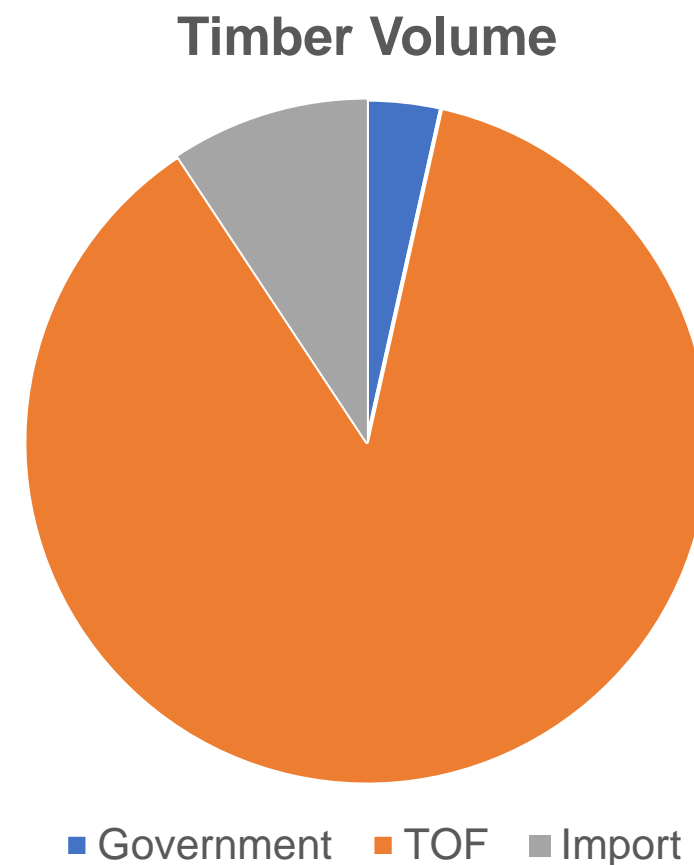
Common Name	Scientific Name
Eucalyptus	Eucalyptus spp.
Poplar	Populous spp.
Subabul	Leucaena leucocephala
Casuarina	Casuarina equisetifolia
Babool	Acacia nilotica
Malabar Neemwood	Melia dubia
Shisham	Dalbergia sissoo
Mango	Mangifera indica
Neem	Azadirachta indica
Semal	Bombax ceiba

Agroforestry areas in India (in million ha)



Sources of Timber production in India

Source	Estimated Volume (annual)
1. Government Forests –natural/ plantations including road side	3 million cum
2. Trees outside forests	75 million cum
3. Import of round logs	8 million cum



Need for TOF Certification Standard ?

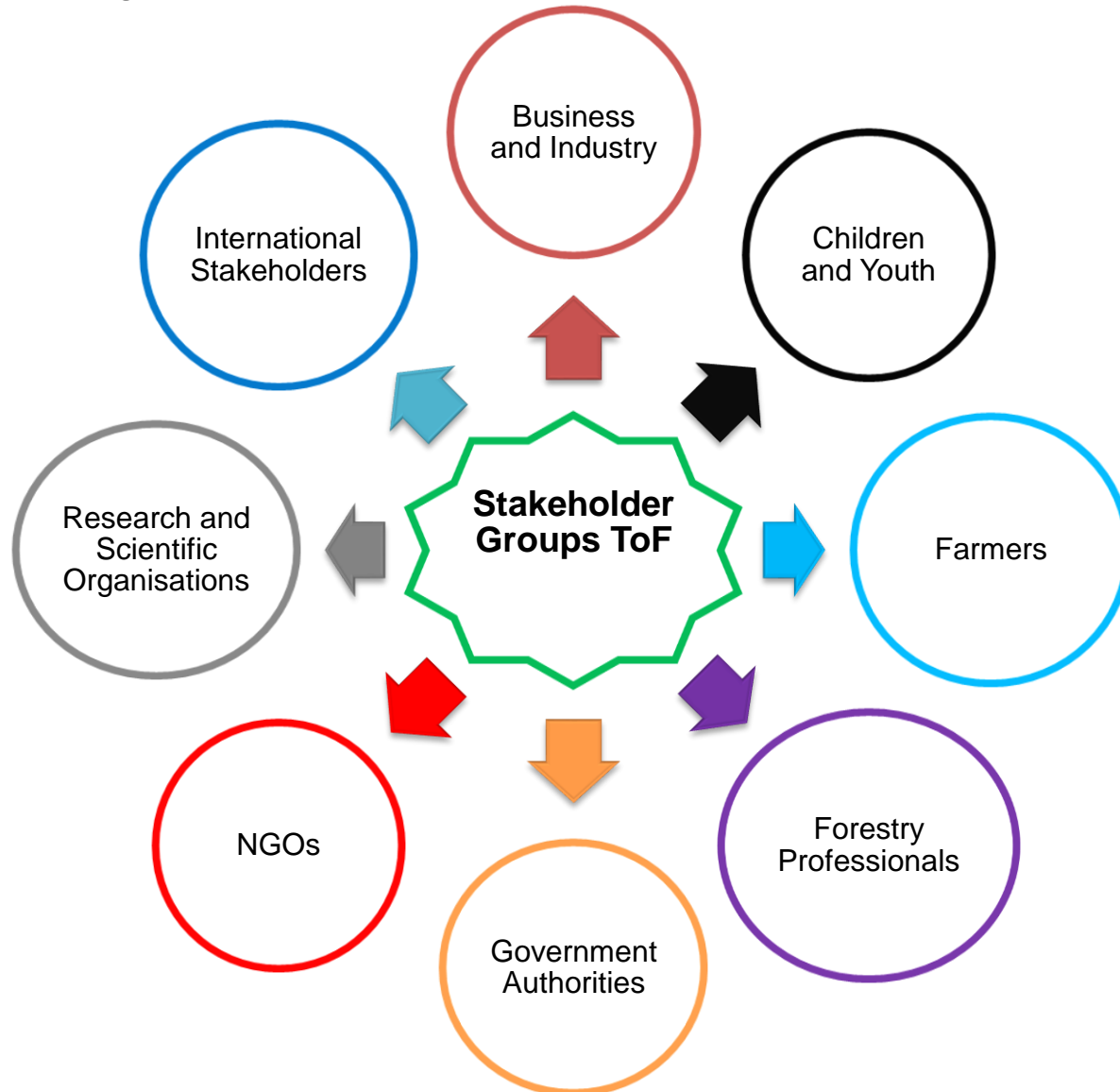
- ✓ Huge production of wood from TOF but no sustainability adherence systems as well as standard for certification
- ✓ Indian producers using TOF wood are unable to tap the global market and fetch commensurate price
- ✓ To help farmers manage their trees responsibly, as per possible best practice, so that their product get good price.
- ✓ To help and encourage timber based industries to include certified TOF raw material in their procurement policies and supply chain management.
- ✓ To give consumers an assurance that the product is made from wood coming from responsibly managed TOF.
- ✓ Inadequate mechanism to access the improved and best management practices essential for sustainable management.

NCCF ToF Certification Standard

- ✓ NCCF has developed a certification scheme for Trees outside Forest (ToF), first of its kind not only in India but anywhere in the world
- ✓ This is intended to cover certification of agroforestry plantations, urban trees and forests, scattered trees in farmland and homesteads, trees along roads, canals, railway lines and in orchards and gardens.
- ✓ This Standard has been developed in consultation with diverse stakeholders including the **Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare**.

Stakeholder Group of ToF for developing Certification Standard

Stakeholder identification and mapping by NCCF is conducted referring UN Agenda 21 covering the following Stakeholder Classes:



- ✓ Multi-stakeholder participation from timber, plywood and pulp and paper industries, farmer groups, wood suppliers and aggregators, governmental and NGOs, CBOs, technical experts, research institutions, etc.
- ✓ Standard was critiqued, reviewed and has undergone changes
- ✓ Underwent public consultation and pilot testing in the field
- ✓ The themes, criteria and indicators developed are subjected to modification based on local, national and global conditions

Structure and Components of TOF Certification Standard (very simple compared to NCCF-PEFC FM Standard)

Theme	Description	Criteria & Indicator in FM
Theme A	Legality Compliance with Legal Requirements	C: 59 I: 259
Theme B	Management Plan and Practices	
Theme C	Health and Vitality of ToF Resources	Criteria & Indicator Block plantation (Agroforestry) C: 28; I: 98
Theme D	Maintenance and enhancement of productive functions	
Theme E	Socio-Economic Responsibility	
Theme F	Conservation and Environmental Safeguards	Non-Block (Linear/Standalone) C: 16; I: 48

Themes: 6

Criteria: 28 (16)

Indicators: 98 (51)

Implementation of NCCF-TOF Certification Standard

- ✓ The standard is purely voluntary and not legal.
- ✓ It is for the benefit of tree growers interested in value addition through certification
- ✓ The TOF certification process will be carried out by an “eligible/qualified third party” which will charge a fee
- ✓ To eliminate/ reduce the cost of specially marginal, small and medium land holding farmers the following strategy:

A. Industry/Supplier driven

B. Cooperative/Federation/NGO driven

C. Owners managing Urban trees and forests/roadside plantations

Thank You!!

Network for Certification and Conservation of Forests

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