

NCCF Trees Outside Forest (TOF) 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

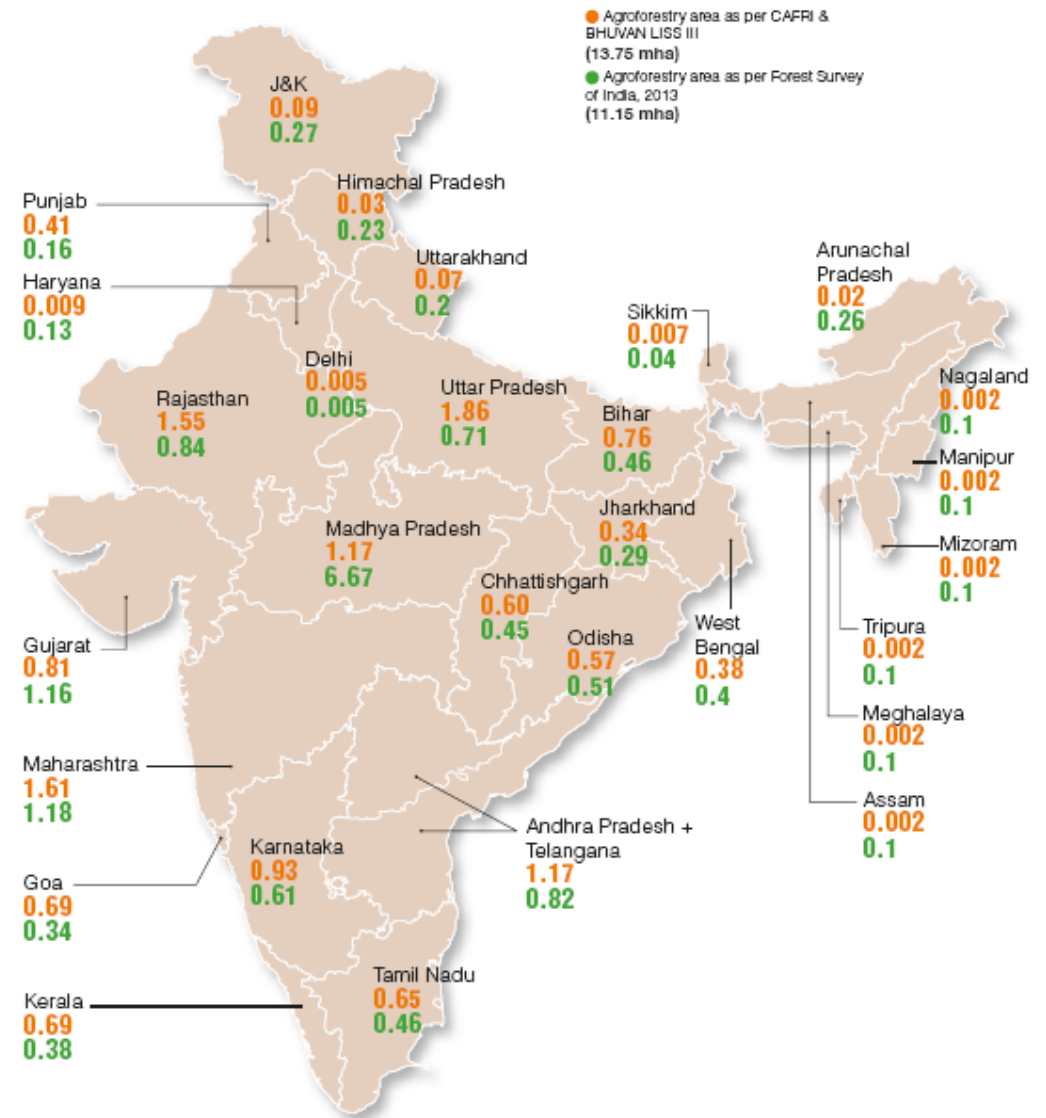
Note:

- 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

Agroforestry in India : Popular ToF Species

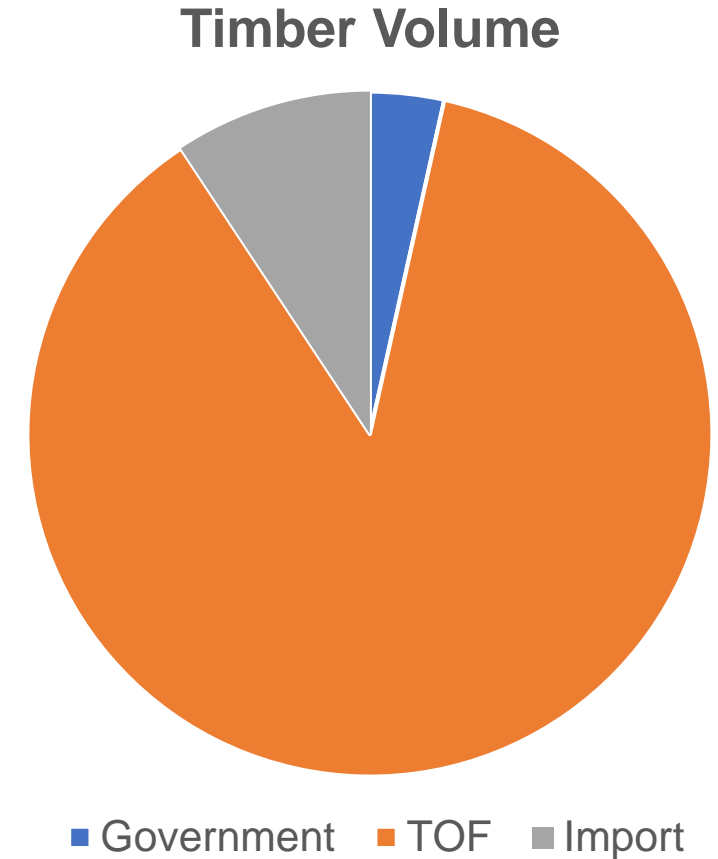
| Common Name | Scientific Name |
|------------------|-------------------------|
| Eucalyptus | Eucalyptus spp. |
| Poplar | Populous spp. |
| Subabul | Leucaena leucocephala |
| Casuarina | Casuarina equisetifolia |
| Babool | Acacia nilotica |
| Malabar Neemwood | Melia dubia |
| Shisham | Dalbergia 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 ?

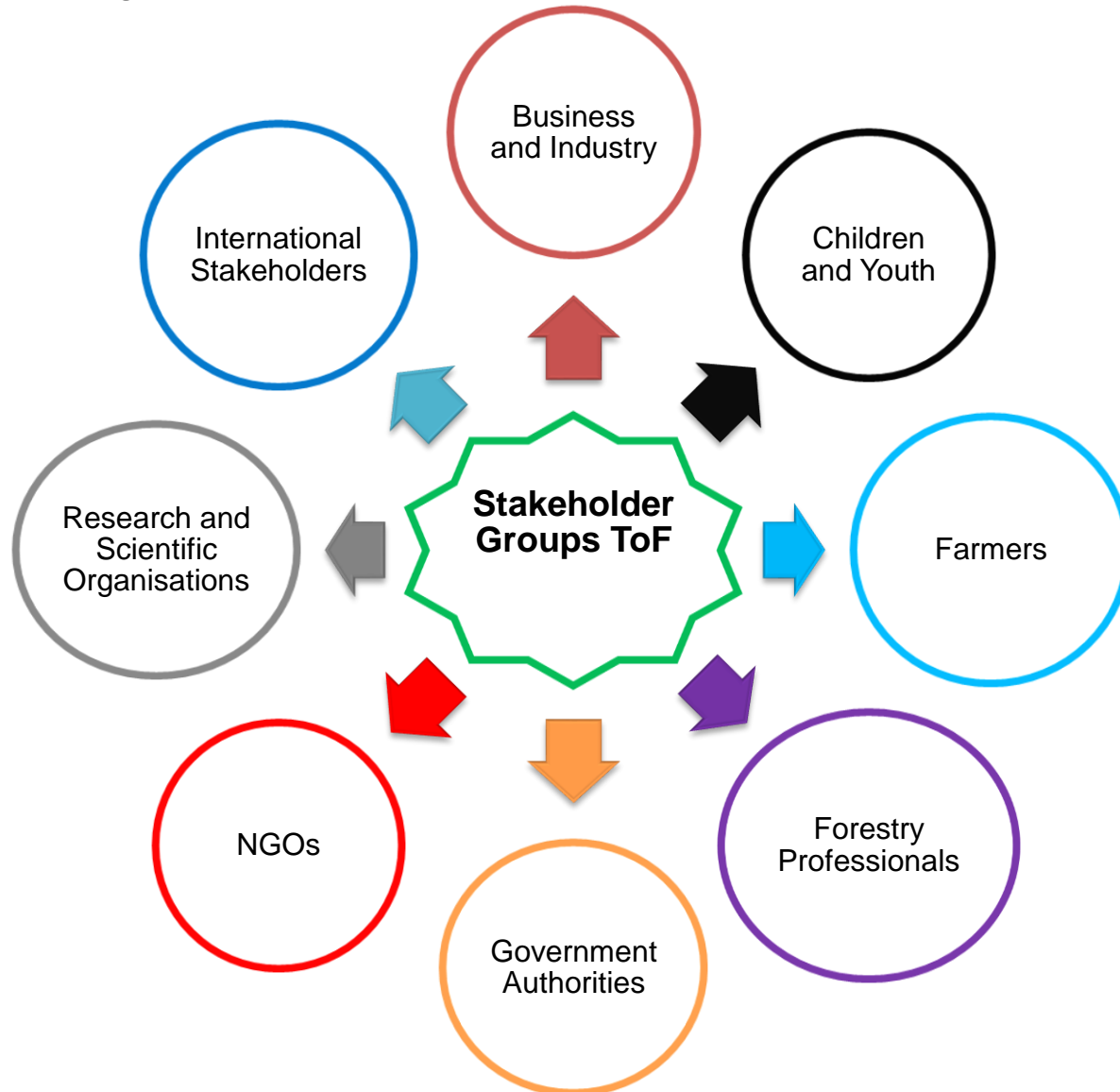
- ✓ Huge production of wood from TOF but no sustainability adherence systems as well as standard for certification
- ✓ Indian producers using TOF wood are unable to tap global market and fetch commensurate price
- ✓ To help farmers manage their trees responsibly, as per possible best practice, so that 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. An open and transparent process was followed with wide consultation across the country with farmers, wood-based industries, Ministry of Agriculture, Forest Departments, research institutions etc which took 3 years.
- ✓ The **Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare** had a very important role which consulted many state governments.
- ✓ This is intended to cover certification of agroforestry plantations, urban trees and forests, private forests, scattered trees in farmland and homesteads, trees along roads, canals, railway lines and in orchards and gardens.

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 |
|----------------|--|
| Theme A | Legality Compliance with Legal Requirements (compliance to laws, ownership, land records etc.) |
| Theme B | Management Plan and Practices (only for block plantation types of ToF) |
| Theme C | Health and Vitality of ToF Resources (checks on application of pesticides, chemicals, etc.) |
| Theme D | Maintenance and enhancement of productive functions (sustainability, harvesting techniques, record keeping, etc.) |
| Theme E | Socio-Economic Responsibility (social protection, labour laws, minimum wage act etc.) |
| Theme F | Conservation and Environmental Safeguards (avoidance of invasive species, soil water quality, protection RED spp.) |

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

Criteria & Indicator in ToF

Block plantation (Agroforestry)

C: 28; I: 98

Non-Block (Linear/Standalone)

C: 16; I: 48

Criteria & Indicator in FM

C: 59; I: 259

Themes: 6

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graph TD; A[Themes: 6] --> B[Criteria: 28 (16)]; B --> C[Indicators: 98 (48)];
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Criteria: 28 (16)

Indicators: 98 (48)

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”
- ✓ To eliminate/ reduce the certification cost of specially of marginal, small and medium land holding farmers the following strategy:

A. Industry/Supplier driven

B. State specific agency (Social Forestry/SFC)

C. Species wise certification

D. Cooperative/Federation/NGO driven

E. Owners managing Urban trees and forests/roadside plantations

Some Facts about Goa Forests relevant to trees outside forests (TOF)

As per latest (ISFR 2019) report of Forest Survey of India

Total Forest Cover of the State is **2,237.49 sq. km i.e. 60.44%** of GA

- ✓ Inside RFA: **1,225 sq. km**
- ✓ Outside RFA: **1,063 sq. km and**
- ✓ Tree cover **272 sq.km**
- ✓ **Thus total TOF area =1335 sq. km.**

Estimated volume of wood harvested annually from ToF is about 12000 cum.

Species mainly include Teak, Mango, Shisham, Shivam (*Gmelina arborea*), Jack (*Arocarpus spp*), Bhendi, Mati (*Terminali app*), Jamun etc.which are preferred by saw mills.

Bamboo is the only species exempted:

Transit Pass under Goa Preservation of Trees Act 1984

About 100 Sawmills in Goa are dependent on imported wood and woods brought from states like Maharashtra, Karnataka, Kerala & Madhya Pradesh.

Potential for use of certified raw material

- ✓ Domestically produced Timber/Firewood & Poles are currently used within the state for furniture making, construction work and handicrafts etc.
- ✓ If production improves due to commercial plantations, then exports can also be explored.
- ✓ Identification and demarcation of **Private Forest** after which working schemes will be prepared and lead to tree harvesting (**Approx. 46 sq. km identified and 32 sq. km being reviewed**).
- ✓ Plan of harvesting of Eucalyptus, Acacia and Bamboo

Thank You!!

Network for Certification and Conservation of Forests

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