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e-newsletter; Forest Certification

**NETWORK FOR CERTIFICATION AND
CONSERVATION OF FORESTS**



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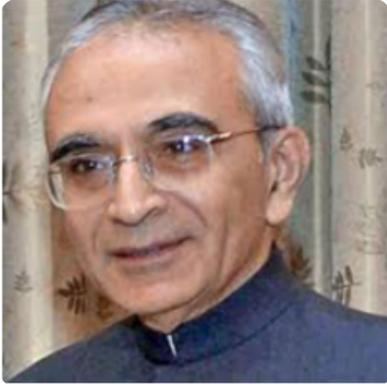
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Network for Certification and Conservation of Forests (NCCF), came into existence in January 2015 as a registered society, comprising experts, professionals and stakeholders of natural resources, engaged in development of India specific and globally benchmarked sustainability standards, as its core working area, apart from working for policy advocacy, training and capacity building through multi-stakeholder engagement.

NCCF has developed the first ever Indian scheme of forest certification that is endorsed by the Programme for the Endorsement of Forest Certification (PEFC), giving it global recognition. NCCF's Trees outside Forest Certification Scheme is the first of its kind and presently under the process of PEFC endorsement. We are also developing standards for Non-Wood Forest Products, Ecotourism, Quality Planting Material, Safeboards, Protected Areas & Wetlands, Biomass & Biofuels and Land Degradation Neutrality. NCCF's Carbon Registry India is a major endeavour to provide a carbon trading and tracking platform for verified net Green House Gases emissions reductions and removals enhancement with Sustainable Development Contributions.



Dear Friends,

NCCF is bringing out a newsletter. My best wishes on the occasion of the first issue.

The newsletter will seek to provide information about NCCF activities and promote exchange of knowledge to enhance understanding about certification and conservation of trees, forests and agro-forestry. In this regard there is an impressive repository of work by NCCF that could be built on.

Our agenda includes Non Wood Forest Products, Protected Areas and Wetlands, Ecotourism, Quality Planting Material and Biofuels. Land Degradation Neutrality is in focus. NCCF has also conceived a registry as part of an effort to provide a carbon trading and tracking platform for greenhouse gas emissions.

The pandemic has made us realize, more than ever, that when biodiversity is injured the support system of human life gets exposed to new risks. We have seen unusual disruption seriously impacting lives and livelihoods. Of relevance are NCCF standards that promote sustainable consumption and natural resource management. The wider SDG agenda seeks to balance the competing interests for equitable growth. Basic needs have to be met while minimising environmental impacts.

The newsletter will reflect NCCF's multi-disciplinary capacities. Our work encompasses activities pertinent to government, the private sector and civil society for addressing issues of sustainability. We seek to make NCCF an enabling vehicle that makes certification accessible to small holders and low volume producers to enable benefits to local communities by the tapping of their own entrepreneurship.

Let me avail of this opportunity to thank you for your support and guidance to the NCCF. Our continuing engagement will enable the newsletter to evolve productively.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Vijai Sharma". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Vijai Sharma

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Forests play a critical role in amelioration of the global environment, alleviating effects of climate change and natural disasters. It is one of the primary sectors that contribute significantly to our economy, providing a large variety of tangible and intangible benefits for the people at large and are a prime source of livelihood for millions of poor people. Significance of forests on a global scale reinforces the need to manage forests in a sustainable manner and ensure benefits from forests for the present and future generations.

Forest certification, an emerging global movement, is sustainability based, voluntary, non-regulatory, facilitative, conservation and marketing tool that promotes sustainable management of forests/trees outside forests. It brings in enhanced credibility to our forest governance with international recognition and improves market accessibility of our forest products. Since, our country has multiple forest types and a diversity of scientific and traditional forest management practices. A country specific certification system is required for flexibility and adaptability in addressing sustainable management needs of such diverse forests.

NCCF's Sustainability Standards have a great potential to contribute towards achieving SDG goals, sustainable forest management, our international commitments for climate action, biodiversity conservation and land restoration, apart from meeting the requirements of certified material for the wood based industries.

Sachin Jain,

Treasure-Convener, NCCF



NCCF, since its inception in 2015, has come a long way in developing India specific and globally benchmarked Sustainability Standards for various components of our natural resource base. Quality assurance, legality compliance, sustainable sourcing, certification and skill development are gaining new thrust in the context of emerging trends in e-Commerce and new age digital marketing to promote the wood based industries (WBI). This sector has immense potential to develop a green and self-reliant India and other government initiatives. A Steering Committee for Advancing Local Value-Add and Exports (SCALE), a joint government- industry panel has identified

Furniture sector as one of the focus sub-sectors. The wood used for manufacturing products for exports and even for domestic consumption should ideally come from the certified forests/ToF in view of the rising concerns about sustainability and legality of wood. NCCF's TOF Certification Scheme is a great endeavour to augment availability of certified raw material to the industry.

Sanjeev Aggarwal

Secretary, NCCF

Forest Management Certification Standard

Forest certification is a market driven voluntary tool that facilitates sustainable management of forests/trees outside forests. Apart from monitoring the resource management activities it enables tracing and labelling of timber and non-timber forest products enhances credibility to forest governance with international recognition and improves access to markets. It helps us in identifying the gaps in efficient and effective implementation of management plan and practices and thereby strengthens management mechanism.

The Programme for Endorsement of Forest Certification (PEFC) and Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) are the two leading internationally recognised certification schemes. NCCF has developed the first ever Indian scheme of forest certification spearheaded by Mr A.K. Varma, Co-Chairman NCCF, IFS (retd) on superannuation as Principal Chief Conservator of Forests of Karnataka State Forest Department, through a multi-stakeholder consultative process comprising representatives from government, research and academic institutions, civil society organizations, state forest departments, industry, workers and trade unions and international organizations. This scheme fully conforms to the objectives of National Forest Policy, National Working Plan Code 2014, Bhopal India Process of IIFM, and international best practices in certification.



Covers 4.5 lakh ha. in 41 Forest Divisions of Uttarakhand Forest Corporation

Many Asian countries like Malaysia, Vietnam, Indonesia, Japan, Myanmar, China, Korea, Thailand have also developed their national forest certification schemes that have been endorsed for international recognition. NCCF's Forest Management (FM) Certification Standard endorsed by the PEFC, giving it global recognition. This brings India into the club of Asian nations with their own indigenous forest certification scheme.

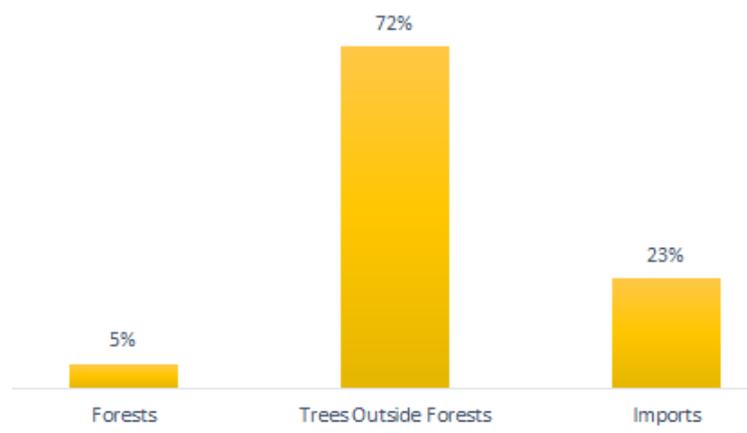
Trees outside forests Certification Standard

Trees outside forests (TOF) resource in India is playing a very important role in meeting the requirements of wood fibre of the country, especially the pulp and paper, plywood and composite products, handicrafts and furniture industry and also providing additional income to farmers/tree growers. The report (July 2020) of a High-Level Expert Group on "Growing India's agricultural exports through crop-specific, state-led plans" constituted by the XV Finance Commission reveals that that around 72% of the industrial wood requirement is met from ToF, only 5% from forests and balance 23% from imports.



ToF resources are mostly in the individual/private sector and there is a lack of uniformity in silvicultural, management and other operational practices. NCCF's ToF Certification Scheme is led by Dr Devendra Pandey, IFS (retd), ex. PCCF & HoFF, Arunachal Pradesh and DG, FSI, the first of its kind in the world and is presently under the process of PEFC endorsement. This scheme will bring much-needed recognition to the wood and timber produced by the farmers on their lands and sustainability of agroforestry while ensuring better markets and higher income for agroforestry produce.

Consumption of wood - 65 Mn m3 in 2017



Synergy between NCCF-FM Standard & Working Plan Based Forest Management

NCCF FM Standard incorporates all components of Working Plan in its Principles, Criteria and Indicators. Additionally, it provides for:

- Brand Image : Global recognition
- Periodic monitoring, evaluation and assessment by Independent third party
- Compliance to internationally benchmarked forest management practices
- Compliance to International Laws, Treaties and Agreements

- Ensures active engagement of Stakeholders in planning, implementation monitoring and evaluation
- Incorporates components of welfare, health and safety of people, labour and staff
- Added thrust on forest hydrology, biodiversity conservation and climate change mitigation
- Value addition, exploring new products and markets

Non Wood Forests Products Certification Standard



India is blessed with abundant forest and tree resources providing us many wood and non-wood products which are tangible and physical objects of biological origin in addition to the eco system services. Collecting, harvesting, processing, value addition and marketing of Non-Wood Forest Resources (NWFRs) is an important source of livelihood for the forest dwellers and local communities. The forest are under tremendous pressure as these activities continue largely in informal sector and bulk of the NWFP collection remains unrecorded particularly in the growing and developing economies. New trade and commerce opportunities are emerging and increasing for

NWFRs having diverse uses including pharmaceuticals, nutraceuticals, cosmetics. Gradually, through initiatives related to decentralized governance communities are having greater role in management of these resources.

With a view to promote sustainable NWFP resource management, NCCF is developing certification standard for NWFPs, through a multi-stakeholder Standard Development Group, comprising representatives from government, research and academic institutions, civil society organizations, state forest departments, industry, primary collectors and international organizations under the Chairpersonship of Mr. Arun Kumar Bansal, IFS (retd), ex Additional DGF (FC), MoEF&CC and Chairperson, NCCF's PCA Group. The scheme is at pilot testing stage as of now and four sites have been identified for pilot testing.

Quality Planting Material Certification Standard

The quality of tree planting material often varies across nurseries, leaving the (potential) tree producers uncertain about how well the seed/seedlings in question will establish and grow and, ultimately, bring about positive benefits. Accessibility of small/marginal land holders to quality planting material (QPM) has been a challenge for integration of value chains, liberalization and globalization effects, market volatility and other risks and vulnerability etc. The absence of certification standards also deters investment. When such standards are in place and enforced, tree producers are likely to obtain better and more consistent prices for their tree products, as well as securer markets, thereby reducing risk.



NCCF is developing certification standard for QPM through a multi-stakeholder Standard Development Group under the Chairpersonship of Mr Abhijit Ghose, IFS (retd), ex PCCF & HoFF, Rajasthan and ex-Chairman, Expert Committee on ToF, MoEF&CC. NCCF QPM standard includes stakeholders from different categories like Independent Experts, Forestry Professionals, NGO, Business & Industry and Scientific & Research Organisations.

A certified QPM regime is essential for healthy and sustainable growth of the sector and ensuring plenty of quality planting material that meets global standards.

Ecotourism Certification Standard

In India, the tourism sector has significant potential given its rich culture, heritage and diversity in ecology, terrains, forest types, landscapes, places of natural beauty and also its unparalleled biodiversity richness. Tourism is a potentially large employment generator and source of livelihoods, besides being a significant source of foreign exchange.

Ecotourism is responsible travel to natural areas which conserves the environment and improves the well-being of local people.” The sector faces the number of challenges in the absence of specific guidelines and sustainable management such as inadequate support infrastructure lack of cleanliness of the destination site, lack of conservation of ecotourism sites, safety of tourists and the conflicts of interest amongst the ecotourism industry and locals, etc. that leads to excessive exploitation of local natural ecotourism sites/ecosystems.



NCCF is developing a certification standard for Ecotourism through a multi-stakeholder Standard Development Group under the Chairpersonship of Mr. AK Varma, IFS (retd), ex PCCF & HoFF, Karnataka. The certification standard will promote responsible tourism and will contribute to improving the quality of the ecotourism destinations in India. The draft standard is ready to go for public consultation phase for a period of two months, followed by its pilot testing at few ecotourism sites to review the practicality of criteria and indicators in the field, before the final version of standard is placed before NCCF's Governing Body for its formal approval. NCCF is contemplating to launch the scheme by the year end .

Safeboards Standards and Certification Scheme

Composite wood products have emerged as the most widely used and dominant building materials over the last three decades owing to their characteristics, viz; light weight, corrosion-free, insulation and cost-effectiveness. The boards, however, do not provide a healthy indoor air quality to the users owing to the resins and chemicals used in their production and continuous emission of volatile organic compounds (VOCs) from their usage even after years of installation.



Formaldehyde emissions are a challenge to all the stakeholders of plywood industry in terms of economic development, health effects and foreign trade. Sustainable and low-emitting furniture products have high demand in international markets and huge potential for domestic consumption as well.

NCCF is developing an Indian Certification Scheme and Standards: “Safeboards”, through a multi-stakeholder Standard Development Group, chaired by Mr. A. K Goyal, IFS (retd.), ex-Special Secretary to the Government of India. This scheme will provide value-addition to the composite-wood manufacturers and health benefits to the people using composite wood, wooden interiors, panels and furniture. It focuses on technical criteria and safe levels of toxic emissions of formaldehyde from the composite wood products. This scheme will be an indigenous and internationally benchmarked for use in sustainable/low-emitting furniture products, handicraft items and other interior products.

The scheme also aims to have uniform technical regulations using appropriate standards across the manufacturing units for manufacturing safe products for export or domestic markets. The scheme was live for public consultation from Feb'21 to Apr'21 and is presently under pilot testing which is vital for an interactive field study to ascertain the practicability and relevance of the Draft Certification Standards, before its formal approval by NCCF Governing Board. NCCF is contemplating to launch the Safeboards scheme in October 2021.

Carbon registry-India (CR-I)



Climate change is described as a change in the average global temperature caused by an increase in greenhouse gases (GHG) in the atmosphere, which stresses our ecosystems with prominent and visible implications such as global warming, melting of ice-caps, rising sea levels, ocean acidification, increased fire threats, droughts, impacts on bio-diversity and so on.

Offsetting is a way of paying for others to reduce emissions or absorb CO₂ to compensate for your own emissions. This is done to try and create a balance which doesn't create a platform for radical changes, doesn't harm your efficiency and at the same time, works in favour of a relatively safe environment as

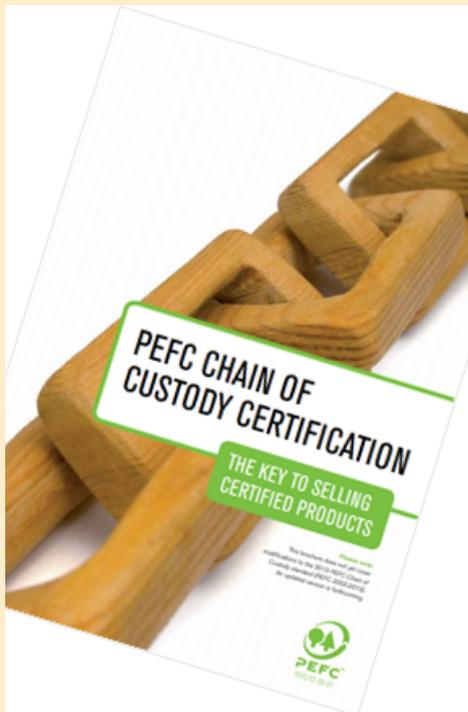
well. In simple terms, carbon offsetting is a way to take responsibility for unavoidable carbon emissions.

NCCF is setting up an India Centric voluntary carbon offset market mechanism - the Carbon Registry-India (CR-I) to provide listing services for the Greenhouse Gas projects and providing a trading and tracking platform for the verified GHG emissions reduction and/or removals enhancement projects, issuance of net GHG emission reduction units and approval and adoption of new quantification and monitoring methodologies, applicable to Indian territory and anywhere across the globe.

The standards-based programme CR-I is developed with a lot of inputs in the form of recommendations and comments from esteemed members of a multi-stakeholder group chaired by Dr. Jagdish Kishwan, ex PCCF & HoFF, J&K; DG, ICFRE; Addl. DG Wildlife, MoEFCC. It is at an advanced stage with standards, procedures, tools and guidelines completed and vetted by an Expert 3rd party Sustain plus. NCCF is gearing up for Test planning and preparation to release CR-I for Pilot Testing with stakeholders and also focusing on the Infrastructure setup and Go-live groundwork and shall announce the occasion of Go-live of Carbon Registry- India (CR-I).

The development and functioning of the 'Carbon Registry-India' (the Registry) would help in achieving NCCF's aspirational goal of combating climate change and its impacts through utilisation of ambition of the internal along with strength of global environmental markets, which shall serve as a platform for registration of projects, issuance of carbon credits & approval and listing of project-based methodologies and it will be the first Carbon Registry from India.

NCCF : PEFC - Chain Of Custody



NCCF has adopted PEFC Chain of Custody Certification as part of its certification schemes for forests and trees outside forests. NCCF is a member of PEFC alliance and administers these schemes in India.

PEFC Chain of Custody certification is used to demonstrate compliance with private and public procurement policies and guidelines that increasingly specify PEFC as proof of origin. The entire flow of wood material from forest to consumer must be monitored and documented to demonstrate its origin. This evidence is known as the Chain of Custody (CoC).

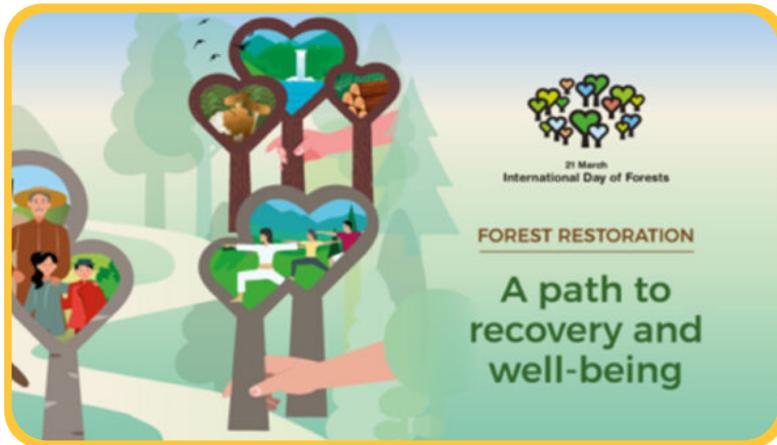
In addition, PEFC Due Diligence System (DDS) minimizes risk that timber comes from illegal harvesting and enables companies to demonstrate alignment with regulatory requirements (e.g. EUTR). The PEFC DDS is an integral part of PEFC CoC certification.

**43 Chain of Custody Certificates
for various industries**

FTA Kunming Scientific International Conference

NCCF participated online in CGIAR's Forest, Trees and Agroforestry (FTA) International Scientific Conference themed as "Forests, trees, and agroforestry for diverse sustainable landscapes". NCCF contributed the following four papers

- "Certification of Nursery and Quality Planting Material to Accelerate Agroforestry in India"
- "Conducive Policy and Regulatory Regimes are Key to Success of Agroforestry in India"
- "Need for a strong policy regime to drive Forest/ Trees outside Forest certification in India"
- "Sustainable Agroforestry- A Boon for India"



International Day of Forests

The restoration & sustainable management of forests help address climate change & biodiversity crises. NCCF joined hands with the FAO of United Nations & Wood Culture Society in celebrating the International Day of Forests and World Wood Day "Forest restoration : a path to recovery & well-being". Successful restoration generates a wide range of benefits not only forest quantity and quality, but enhanced food security, improved air and water quality, climate change resilience, job creation, and other equivalent aids. The message of the UN Secretary-General can be accessed by clicking [here](#).

Accreditation: Supporting the Implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)

NCCF collaborated with the Consultants Consortium of Chennai (CCC) is organizing a webinar on Sustainable Forest Management. Mr. A.K. Varma, Co-chairman, NCCF and Chairperson, NCCF-SDG, Forest Management and Ecotourism Groups (Former PCCF & HoFF, Karnataka) presented a detailed talk on "Certification for Sustainable Forest Management with focus on NCCF Forest Management and ToF Certification Schemes".

A banner for a webinar session. It has a blue background with a tree icon on the left. The text includes "#Session 3", "Register", "June 9, 2021 11am - 1 pm", and "Topic: Certification for Sustainable Forest Management". Below this, there are four speaker profiles with their names, titles, and topics.

 Mr Avani Kumar Varma, IFS (retd), Co-Chairman NCCF Topic: Detailed Talk on NCCF and PEFC Scheme for Forest Management	 Mr Partha Munshi, Sr Lead Auditor & Trainer SGS India Private Limited Topic: FSC-COC and PEFC - COC certification scheme for Sustainable
 Dr. T.R. Manoharan, Sustainability Professional Topic: Detailed Talk on FSC - Forest Management Scheme	 Mr. V. Premkumar, Founder Jayvin Management Systems and Solutions P Ltd Topic: Implementation perspective for FSC & PEFC - COC Certification



22 MAY 2021
BIODIVERSITY DAY
We're part of the solution
@NCCF INDIA #ForNature

International Day for Biological Diversity 2021

NCCF celebrated the International Day for Biological Diversity 2021 with world community. to increase understanding and awareness of biodiversity issues. Theme for this year "We are part of the solution" is a reminder that biodiversity remains the answer to several sustainable development challenges.

Health of the people and the health of the planet

are inter-dependent, essentially one and the same thing and both can thrive in equal measure. NCCF pledged to be part of the solution by conserving our biodiversity and working together at all levels to build a future of life in harmony with nature.

NCCF joined a consortium to formulate landscape based management plans under UNDP SECURE Himalaya Project



UNDP in the year 2018 awarded a project to the consortium of GIPL, NCCF and ICIMOD to formulate landscape based strategy and management plans for the Khangchendzonga – Upper Teesta Landscape in Sikkim and Lahaul-Pangi Landscape in Himachal Pradesh under SECURE Himalaya Project. The project aimed at development of an integrated strategy for conservation of snow leopard, its prey base, other endangered species and biodiversity of the area while focusing on conservation and sustainable use of natural resources and improvement of socio-economic condition of the local communities through a landscape-level

participatory integrated approach and in collaboration with government and non government agencies. The management plans have been successfully formulated and submitted to UNDP.

Indian Council of Forestry Research and Education (ICFRE)- Policy Research Study in Agroforestry

The Indian Council of Forestry Research and Education (ICFRE) has awarded “Policy research study in Agroforestry project to Network for Certification and Conservation of Forests (NCCF) with specific Terms of reference that include policy issues, regulatory framework, market mechanisms, forward and backward linkages, availability of quality planting material, trends in prices of agroforestry produce, the impact of imports on agroforestry, measures to promote exports, promoting certification of forests / ToF and linkages with NDC targets, etc in Agroforestry sector. As part of the project, NCCF has organized online- focused

group discussion on “Policy research study on agroforestry” on 29th June and 6th July 2021 for North and South zone respectively.

Dr. Devendra Pandey, IFS (ret), Chairperson, NCCF ToF Standard Development Group and Principal Investigator of this research project coordinated proceedings of the Focus Group Discussion.



Mr Avani Varma, Co-Chairperson, NCCF shared the perspectives on Agroforestry, as Member of the National Sub-mission on Agroforestry and NITI Aayog’s Committee on Agroforestry.

Experts present in the meeting offered their valuable suggestions on diverse issues like matching Agroforestry species with requirements of Wood based industries region wise/state wise; tradable parameters for different spp. and uses, market mechanisms including market information system; transport subsidy to facilitate price stability of AF wood; strong AF extension services including decentralised nurseries, Quality Planting Material,

AF models, regular training programmes for tree growers, ; incentivising tree growing based on survival; separate governance regime for AF - liberalised transit permit system across the country, provision for certificate of origin/ownership to ensure legality and traceability, adherence to minimum product standards to ensure quality and service life, certification of AF products - used as raw material for manufacturing - to enhance exports; evolving system for payment of Eco System Services of agroforestry, reduction of wood imports, coordinated research & policy development etc.

NCCF: PEFC Webinar for The Rubber Board



NCCF & PEFC jointly organized a Webinar for The Rubber Board for Promoting Certification of Forests and Rubber Plantations for Long Term Sustainability of the Resource and Rubber Industry in India. attended by 117 participants including Managing Directors and senior officers of SFDCs/Plantation Corporations, officers of The Rubber Board, natural rubber estate owners, representatives of the rubber industry, certification bodies, experts and other stakeholders of natural rubber plantation.

Dr. K N Raghavan, Chairman Rubber Board emphasized The Rubber Board's goal to be Self-

reliant in natural rubber production by focusing on the sustainability of Indian rubber plantations through various strategies including promotion of Good Agricultural Practices for increasing Productivity in existing plantations, human resource development, integrated farming for sustainable livelihoods and enhancing the sustainability of Indian Natural Rubber plantations. He underlined the importance of the Trees Outside Forests certification scheme developed by NCCF in enhancing not only production level but also ensuring better markets and premium price for certified products. NCCF contemplates to initiate a pilot project for certification of rubber plantation of small holders.

Targeting Sustainability of Forests through Certification and NCCF Standards

The India International Centre (IIC), Delhi organized a webinar on the theme; "Targeting Sustainability of Forests through Certification and NCCF Standards " on 17th February 2021.

The talk elaborated the need of certification as an emerging global movement supporting sustainable development, while ensuring compliance to all forest and wildlife related legislations, rights of local communities including tribal and workers, economic growth, fair trade, livelihoods, value chains, consumer protection, and also enhancing competitiveness, technological innovation and quality of health and safety of forest workers, biodiversity and environmental conservation.

Mr. K.N. Shrivastava (IAS ret'd.), Director, IIC (ex secretary to GOI Ministry of Civil Aviation) in his introductory remarks emphasized on the significance of sustainable forest management for amelioration of the global environment, alleviating effects of climate change, and ensuring the survival of mankind.

Mr. Ben Gunneberg, CEO and Secretary General, PEFC gave a brief on the contribution of certification in promoting sustainable management of natural resources and meeting the Sustainable Development Goals.

Mr. A.K. Srivastava, Director General, NCCF made a presentation elaborating the need of forest certification, that is an emerging global movement and supports sustainable development. Gradually the markets world over are demanding proof of legality, traceability and sustainability of timber and wood products. Certification is globally recognized as the demonstrable evidence for sustainable management of forests and plantations and assures the environmentally conscious consumers that a product has been derived from a sustainably managed source. He also emphasized for adoption of certification by Wood Based Industries which will further contribute to doubling the farmers' income and facilitate implementation of 'Make in India Programme' and 'Atma Nirbhar Bharat Abhiyan'(self - reliant India). As a nation we must integrate the concept of "Grow more wood-use more wood" in our developmental and environmental priorities.





Dr Rita Sharma,
ex-Secretary, Ministry of
Rural Development,
ex-Secretary, National
Advisory Council, and
former Board Member of the
World Agroforestry Centre

The untapped green potential of agroforestry

Dr Rita Sharma, ex-Secretary, Ministry of Rural Development, ex-Secretary, National Advisory Council, and former Board Member of the World Agroforestry Centre - in her article “The untapped green potential of agroforestry”, published by the Hindustan Times on 3rd June 2021, has highlighted that agroforestry is globally offsetting about a third of total agricultural emissions. This has the potential of making the agriculture sector emissions neutral by 2050. Agroforestry keeps the pressure off natural forests and contributes to a wide range of economic, socio-cultural and environmental benefits.

Agroforestry helps diversify the income stream of farmers to buffer risks, through improved livelihoods, better nutrition, revitalized soils, nutrient recycling, cleaner air, productive and resilient cropping systems with carbon sequestration and biodiversity benefits.

The full article may be accessed [here](#)



Mr. Anil Jauhri
Ex-CEO, NABCB
Chairperson CAG-WG;
Member PCA WG NCCF

Setting standards: Towards global acceptance of Indian products

Mr. Anil Jauhri, ex-CEO, NABCB, and Chairperson Advisory Group addresses the real challenges in acceptance of Indian goods abroad, specific trade concerns raised by the member countries has shown that only 30% of these related to standards; 70% trade concerns related to what is called conformity assessment, which means issues related to inspection, testing and certification procedures.

The full article may be accessed [here](#)

Forest Certification - Call of the Day

Dr. Alind Rastogi, Chairman, Tripura Public Service Commission (ex PCCF&HoFF, Tripura) has rightly drawn the attention to “Nurturing The Nature” in his articles “Forest Certification- Call Of The Day” published in three parts in North East Colours, Categorizing the certified products and services into food certifications, safety certifications, tourism certifications, and environment certifications, e.g. FSSAI, FPO, ISI, ISO, Ecomark, BSES, BEE, STCI, GSTC, NCCF-PEFC, and FSC, etc. He has strongly pitched for forest certification, as a sustainability-based non-regulatory conservation tool designed to promote sustainable management of forests and trees outside forests.

The full article may be accessed [here](#)

Stamp of quality to help carve niche for TN wood industry

Mr. Sudhanshu Gupta, IFS PCCF/ JS Govt. of India Cabinet Secretariat highlighted Thammampatti wood carvings from Salem which got a geographical indication tag, but the sourcing of quality raw materials is at risk because of exploitation of the resources, lack of authenticity and intervention of middlemen. It has been impressed that certification will promote sustainable use and management of forests along with a stamp of quality for the consumers. These light coloured wooden panels and idols of Thammampatti have low capital investment and huge export potential and forest/ trees outside forests/ chain of custody certification can help to boost its demand with export potential.

The full article may be accessed [here](#)



Mr. Sudhanshu Gupta, IFS
PCCF/ JS Govt of India
Cabinet Secretariat

CAN WE MANAGE OUR FORESTS DIFFERENTLY?



Mr Suneel Pandey, IFS (retd), Vice President, Paperboards and Specialty Papers Division (PSPD), ITC Limited, Hyderabad

Mr Suneel Pandey, IFS (retd), Vice President, Paperboards and Specialty Papers Division (PSPD), ITC Limited, Hyderabad, in his article Can we manage our forests differently? published in Plyinsight, has triggered the thought process for managing our forests differently. Forests are complex systems, meeting our needs of food, fiber, fuel, timber, NWFPs and livelihoods, are rich repository of biodiversity and provide a diversity of ecosystem and cultural services. At times, there are conflicts regarding the way forests need to be managed for its productive as well as ecosystem services. Such dilemmas and conflicts are not limited to India. Countries like China have tried to address this issue, clearly dividing the forest areas into different functional entities for commercial use and areas critical for conservation.

By adapting to innovative and collaborative models, India can not only enlarge its wood production capacity, but can also reduce import substitution and can substantially reduce pressure on forests earmarked for conservation. If the policy gaps are addressed, and the priorities and objectives properly defined, India can soon achieve its long-term goal of wood self-sufficiency, import substitution, forest conservation, with increased employment and livelihood opportunities.

The full article may be accessed [here](#)

WOOD SECURITY IS A STEP TOWARDS SELF-RELIANCE



Mr. RK Sappra IFS (R), Ex MD HFDC, Member SEAC

Mr. RK Sappra, IFS (retd), ex PCCF, Haryana and Member, SEAC has article "Wood Security is a step towards self-reliance" published by Plyinsight has analysed the situation arising due to illegal wood trade and focused on the need of forest certification in India, emphasizing that voluntary certification of wood and wood products may be encouraged to ensure their trouble-free international trade. The imported timber is bound to be costlier due to its increased demand by industry and enforcement of voluntary certification regime, and in that context, domestic promotion of composite wood panels may be the right strategy in the long run.

The full article may be accessed [here](#)

Certification is globally recognized as the demonstrable evidence for responsible management of forests and plantations and assures the environmentally conscious consumers that a product has been derived from a sustainably managed source. Forest Certification acknowledges a country's dedication to responsible forest management and its efforts to maintain a sustainable supply of forest products and services from healthy, diverse and productive ecosystems. NCCF's India specific, yet internationally benchmarked certification standards being user friendly will go a long way in conserving and enhancing our rich forests and biodiversity.

A.K. Srivastava
Director General, NCCF
dg@nccf.in



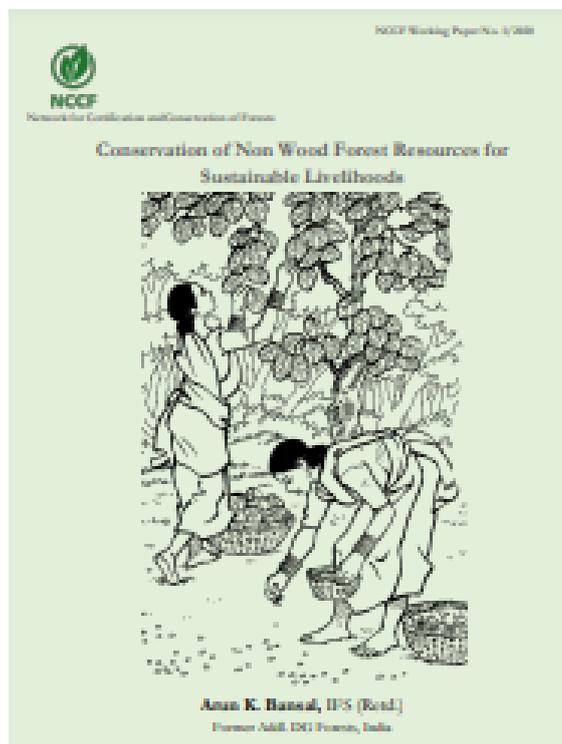
Mr. A.K. Bansal, Chairperson, SDG, NWFR, and PCA Group of NCCF

Mr. Arun Kumar Bansal, IFS. (retd), Former Additional Director General Forests, India, is a reputed professional forester. He is presently, Chairperson, NCCF Standard Development Group for NWFRs and Promotion Communication and Advocacy Group.

The studies are based on his professional experience of over 45 years in the Forest Sector and extensive stakeholder consultation by him and his team, dealing with three important sub-sectors viz. Timber and wood based industries, Non Wood Forest Products, and Bamboo, intrinsically related to livelihoods of the forest dependent people and farmers/tree growers. The studies depict broad norms for conservation and sustainable utilisation of the resources, enhancing livelihoods and marketing opportunities for key stakeholders in the value chains.

NCCF Working Paper No. 1/2020

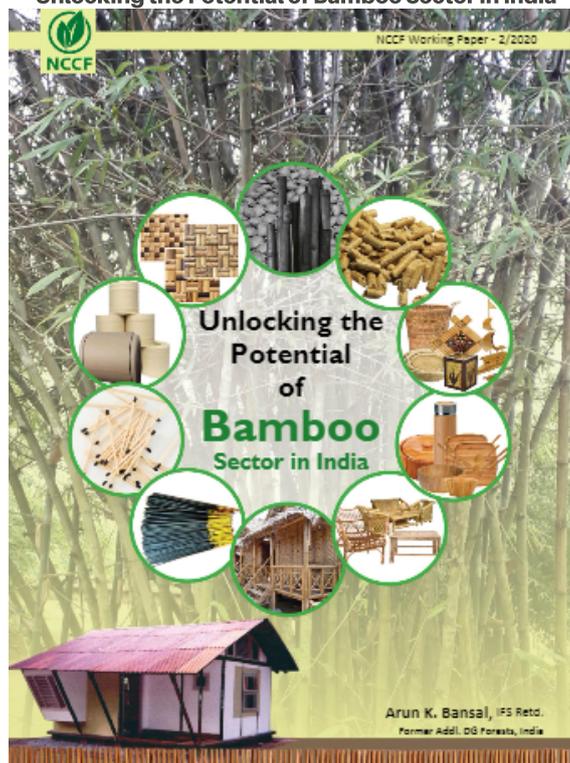
Conservation of Non-Wood Forest Resources for Sustainable Livelihoods



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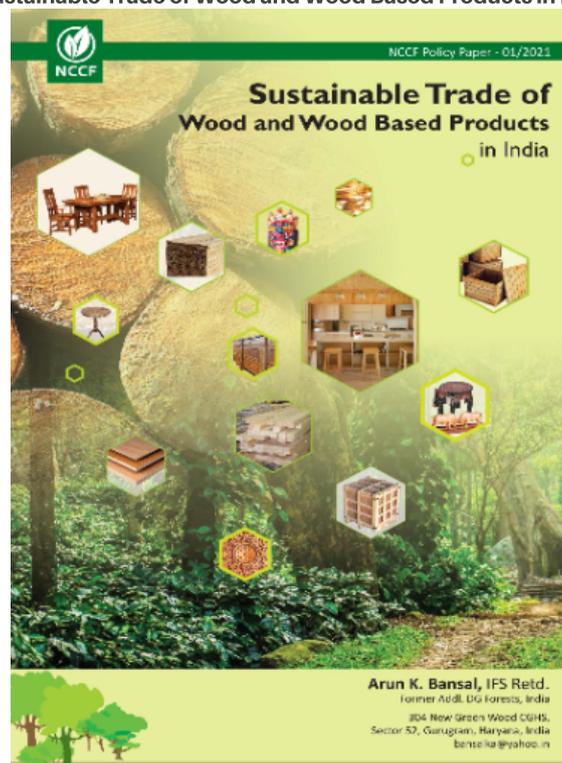
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Sustainable Trade of Wood and Wood Based Products in India



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Government / Corporate Initiatives on Sustainability

Prime Minister delivers keynote address at the UN 'High-Level Dialogue on Desertification, Land degradation and Drought'

The Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi spoke at the Opening Segment in his capacity as the President of the 14th Session of the Conference of Parties of United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD) and delivered a keynote address at the UN "High-Level Dialogue on Desertification, Land Degradation and Drought" on June 14, 2021.

Shri Modi called for reduction of the tremendous pressure on land and its resources. Also, listed steps taken by India to deal with the land degradation issue. He said that India has taken the lead to highlight land degradation issues at international forums.

The Prime Minister gave example of the Banni region in Rann of Kutch in Gujarat to illustrate how restoration of land can start a virtuous cycle of good soil health, increased land productivity, food security and improved livelihoods. In Banni region, land restoration was done by developing grasslands, which helped in achieving land degradation neutrality. It also supports pastoral activities and livelihood by promoting animal husbandry.

The full speech may be accessed [here](#)

Govt Approves Eight Toy Manufacturing Clusters Worth Rs 2,300 Crore To Boost India's Traditional Toys Industry



Make in India pushes for domestic manufacturing of toys, the Government has given approval for the building of eight toy manufacturing clusters at a cost of Rs 2,300 crore, reports Economic Times. The Government is looking to establish the toy clusters under the existing set of schemes such as the Scheme of Fund for Regeneration of Traditional Industries. Overall, the Government plans to establish a total of 35 toy clusters across the nation.

The full article may be accessed [here](#)

Social stock exchange: SEBI's initiative to support NPO's and FPEs, for promoting sustainability and environmental conservation

The concept of Social Stock Exchange is rather new and original to India. The Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) has released a report of the Technical Working Group (TWG) on Social Stock Exchange (SSE), that outlines the modalities for creating a SSE that will serve as a platform for fundraising and, also incorporate a set of procedures for involving participation of Non-profit organizations (NPOs) and For-profit enterprises (FPEs), subject to committing to minimum reporting requirements. The activities involved under the social objectives of the report include measures for environmental sustainability, addressing climate change, and forest & wildlife conservation. NCCF in a letter addressed to SEBI has welcomed this great initiative of Social Stock Exchange, while mentioning that NCCF's sustainability Standards are in line with these objectives and contribute towards achieving SDG goals, sustainable forest management and our international commitments for climate action, biodiversity conservation and land restoration.

Technical Group Report on Social Stock Exchange report can be accessed [here](#).

A wonder bamboo from Tamil Nadu to mitigate climate change

Greening the landscapes is an acute urgency in this era of global warming and climate change. Various organizations and individuals are working for afforestation and environmental amelioration and establishing tree parks and oxygen parks. The Tamil Nadu Agricultural University (TNAU) has designed an 'oxygen park' within its premises at Coimbatore with Beema Bamboo species, one of the fastest-growing plants, growing one-and-a-half feet per day under the tropical conditions. It is perhaps the best 'carbon sink' to mitigate carbon dioxide emissions.

Tom Crowther, a Swiss climate change ecologist, has estimated that there are about 3 trillion trees on earth. He has calculated that there is enough space on the planet for planting an additional 1.2 trillion trees that would have huge benefits in terms of absorbing atmospheric carbon dioxide, the main driver of global warming and climate change.

Beema Bamboo, developed by Dr N Bharathi of Growmore Biotech Ltd, the agri-technology company based at Hosur, Tamil Nadu, is an excellent choice for making the earth greener and mitigating climate change

The full article may be accessed [here](#)

CERTIFICATE OF MEMBERSHIP



This is to certify that

**NETWORK FOR CERTIFICATION
AND CONSERVATION OF
FORESTS (NCCF)**

was accepted as PEFC National Governing
Body Member in India by the PEFC
General Assembly in a postal ballot
on 17th August 2015.



William Street
William Street,
Chairman

Ben Gunneberg
Ben Gunneberg,
Secretary General



**"CSO with accredited status with the
conference of the Parties to the UNCCD"**



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