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**Minutes of the 11th Meeting of the Executive Committee of the APFBC Society
Held on 14th June, 2018, Dispur**

The 11th Meeting of the Executive Committee of the Assam Project on Forest & Biodiversity Conservation Society was held on 14th June, 2018, at 3.00 pm in the Conference Hall of the Home & political Department, CM's Block, 2nd Floor Dispur. The Meeting was chaired by Shri. Alok Kumar, IAS, Additional Chief Secretary to the Government of Assam, Department of Environment & Forests- cum- Chairperson EC-APFBC

A list of officers present in the meeting is at **Annexure-1**.

At the outset the Chairperson welcomed all those present in the meeting. Thereafter, with the permission of the Chair, Shri A. K. Johari, IFS, Special PCCF (Biodiversity & Climate Change) and Project Director-APFBC initiated Agenda- wise discussions.

Agenda-1: The Minutes of the 10th Meeting of the EC-APFBC were ratified.

Agenda-2: The EC was informed of the following developments with regard to issues discussed in the previous meetings:

- a) The Central Van Bazar 'Banashristi' was operational with effect from 10th April, 2018.
- b) Financial assistance for Entry-Point-Activities provided to 87 JFMCs and 49 EDCs.
- c) 10 Social Forestry Parks renovated.
- d) About 70 lakh seedlings of indigenous fruit bearing species raised in 31 nurseries.
- e) The project received Rs. 52 cr. from State Government during the financial year 2017-18.
- f) The construction of Residential Complex at Rehabari was as under
 - a. A-Block: nearly complete
 - b. B-Block: slab shuttering work under progress. 2nd floor completed.
 - c. C-Block: Piling works completed.
 - d. D-Block : structure completed

The EC suggested that a firm time-line be followed for the Project to ensure that the task is completed timely.

- g) The Annex Building assignment was still under litigation. *It was suggested by the EC that legal opinion be sought for making further prayer before the Hon'ble Court.*
- h) An offer was received from the Omeo Kumar Das (OKD) Institute of Social Change and Development, Guwahati, for evaluation of effectiveness of component Skill Development and Livelihood Enhancement.
- i) For training of Frontline Staff a comprehensive component would be included in the draft of Phase-II.
- j) After consultations with field officers it was estimated that about 100 JFMCs and 100 EDCs could be taken up in Phase-II for micro-planning and skill up-gradation activities for livelihood enhancement.
- k) E-ticketing system was in operation at Assam State Zoo.

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- l) The website of the department was updated with information on all the Protected Areas including Kaziranga and Manas National Parks. *It was suggested by the EC that some efforts be made to enhance visibility of the department website.*
- m) E-tendering process was in operation in the Forest Department.

Agenda-3: Component-wise physical progress in the Project was presented before the EC (a copy of the presentation made in this regard is at **Annexure-2**). The significant points made were as under:

- a) Component-1: all major activities except construction of Rehabari Residential Complex and finishing works of Highlands at Kaziranga NP, had been completed.
- b) Component-2: The No-objection Certificate had been obtained from the French development Agency and the procurement process for hardware through GeM was in process.
- c) Component-3: A total of 151 Micro-plans of the JFMCs & EDCs prepared under the Project had been uploaded on the APFBC Website in English as well as local languages. The EC desired that availability of these Micro-plans on website may be shared with other line departments for necessary actions on their part.

No new plantations were undertaken since last meeting of EC. However, some plantations raised already were under maintenance. In an exercise carried out recently for field verification of works including plantations, it was observed that except some locations the success rates were satisfactory. The PCCF & HoFF informed the EC that it was decided that the Controlling Officers shall be made responsible for monitoring and ensuring success of the plantations carried out by the FIUs (Forest Division) under their jurisdiction.

- d) Component-4: Through 222 Skill development Programs 5938 persons (1577 male and 4361 Female) were trained in different skills such as Tailoring/ Livestock rearing / Weaving / Bee keeping / Lac cultivation / Nursery / Food processing / Mushroom / Driving / Agarbatti / Apparel / Areca leaf plate / Computer training / Electrician / water hyacinth etc.). 23 Entrepreneurship Orientation Program were conducted to benefit 1302 skill-imparted persons.

Agenda-4: Financial position of the Project was explained as under: (figures Rs. in Crore)

a) Total funds received from state government:	Rs. 248.825
b) Direct payment by the AFD	Rs. 2.667
Gross receipts:	Rs. 251.492
c) Reimbursement made by the CAAA:	Rs. 110.60
d) Adjusted amount of Advance tranche:	Rs. 80.48
e) State Contribution	Rs. 5.32
Gross expenditure so far:	Rs. 196.40
f) Funds pending utilization with FIUs	Rs. 17.59
g) Funds in hand with PMU	Rs. 39.00
Gross unspent amount	Rs. 56.59.00
h) Committed liabilities	Rs. 39.00

i) Balance after committed liabilities	NIL
j) Interest accrued so far	Rs. 3.53
k) Interest spent so far	Rs. 1.49
l) Balance of interest amount	Rs. 2.03

Agenda-5: Matter for ratification / approval by the EC:

- a) The EC was informed that the contract for 'Evaluation of Phase-1 and drafting of Phase-II' was awarded to the Agriculture Finance Corporation Limited after obtaining NOC from the AFD. The Agreement was signed on 14th June 2018.
- b) The Proposal for study into effectiveness of Skill up-gradation and livelihood enhancement made by OKD Institute was discussed. *It was suggested to have consultations with the Institute to complete the study in lesser time with an optimum sample size.*
- c) As regards creation of a Corpus for marketing of Banashristi products the EC suggested to work out a business model that is self sustaining and not too dependent on subsidies and support.
- d) Regarding installation of a Solar Plant in Aranya Bhawan the EC suggested to have a cost-benefit analysis done keeping in mind the diminishing returns and increasing demand.
- e) Regarding sanction of Rs 53.00 lakh to Assam Biodiversity Board it was suggested to meet the demand from the unutilised funds received back from various FIUs.
- f) The EC approved retention of PMU staff on need basis.
- g) The EC was appraised of the progress in developing the Hornbill Park. The Secretary P&RD suggested to re-confirm the status of land of the park.

Agenda-6: Any other issue: following matters were discussed and recommendations made:

- a) *The EC suggested that for the Phase-II a Preliminary-Project-Proposal shall be developed to ensure that the proposal fits into the State Limit (quota) of borrowing.*
- b) *In the Phase-II of the Project the feasibility of linking the JFMCs/EDCs with successful cooperative societies, such as, Purabi may be explored.*

Sd/-

(Sh. Alok Kumar, IAS)

Additional Chief Secretary to Govt. of Assam
Environment & Forest Department and
Chairperson Executive Committee APFBC Society

CAK
15/06/2018
(C.A.K. Johari)
PD-APFBC

