

F. No. 3-6/2001-SU
Government of India
Ministry of Environment & Forests
(S.U. Division)

Paryavaran Bhawan,
C.G.O. Complex, Lodi Road,
New Delhi – 110003.

Dated: 6th March 2006

OFFICE MEMORENDUM

It has been decided to constitute a Committee consisting of the following experts to frame the Policy guidelines for '**Accreditation Criteria and Processes**' towards 'Forest Certification' for Timber, Non-timber forest products, etc.

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| 1. | Prof. Maharaj Muthoo, Ex-Executive Director, FSC and currently at Roman Forum, Italy | Chairman |
| 2. | Dr. Freezialah, Chairman, Malaysian Timber Certification Council (MTTC) | Member |
| 3. | Representative from PEFC | Member |
| 4. | Shri J.C. Arora, Director, Wood Products Sectional Committee, BIS | Member |
| 5. | Shri Burman, CMD, Dabur, from Ayurvedic Drug Manufacturer Association (ADMA) | Member |
| 6. | Dr. Sharma, Baidyanath, Chairman, ADMA | Member |
| 7. | Representative from APEDA, MoCI, GoI, New Delhi | Member |
| 8. | Shri P.P. Bhojved, representative from Tata Energy Research Institute (TERI), Delhi | Member |
| 9. | Shri Ajay Kumar, Addl. Dev. Commissioner, Ministry of Textile, New Delhi | Member |
| 10. | Dr. C.N. Pandey, Director, IPIRTI, Bangalore | Member |
| 11. | Prof. Manmohan Yadav, IIFM, Bhopal | Member |
| 12. | Shri B.K.P. Sinha, Director (Forestry), Amity International, Noida | Member |
| 13. | Shri A.K. Bansal, Addl. PCCF, Orissa | Member |
| 14. | Shri Sajjan Bhajanka, MD, Century Plywood, Chairman, FIPPI | Member |
| 15. | Shri S.N. Rai, Rtd. PCCF, Karnataka & Ex-Director, FSI | Member |
| 16. | Shri Pankaj Khullar, MD, Himachal Forest Dev. Corp. | Member |
| 17. | Shri K. Prasad, Ex-PCCF, UP | Member |

18. Dr. Bipin Behari, **Member Secretary**
Deputy Inspector General of Forests, MOEF
19. Shri S.S. Negi, Director, **Convener**
Forestry Research Institute, Dehradun

The Terms of Reference for the above committee will be as follows:

- (i) The Committee shall study the accreditation criteria and processes followed by the International and National Certification Schemes such as FSC, PEFC, MTCC, LEI, BIS, APEDA, MoCI for organic Certification, QCI (Quality Control of India), ISO-14000, Brazilian Certification Scheme etc.
- (ii) After studying all above, the committee will recommend the setting of an accreditation body for forest certification in India. Such an accreditation body may be an autonomous body so as to be a representative of various stakeholders and to be viewed as an independent and neutral body. Such a third party approach is supposed to have more credibility for being impartial.
- (iii) The Committee shall specifically recommend the criteria for selection of a certification body for accreditation with respect to its competence, legal and financial status and the organization structure including the experts available with the certification body.
- (iv) The committee shall recommend the criteria for selection/empanelment of experts as auditors/assessors who will undertake the assessment of a forest management unit (applicant) on behalf of the certification body and as per the certification standard of the National Certification Scheme (India). The Criteria for evaluating the competence of expert should include the educational qualification and the practical experience in this field.
- (v) The committee shall also explain/define each term used in the accreditation criteria and processes such as accreditation body, certification body, assessors/auditors, implied in the accreditation criteria and processes and applicable for forest certification in India.
- (vi) The committee shall also recommend a suitable logo to be used for the National Certification Scheme.
- (vii) The committee should arrive at a workable framework for Accreditation Criteria and processes so as to develop a synergy for Indian Forest Certification Schemes leading towards mutual recognition from International Forest Certification Schemes.

The committee will take the necessary action as per the above 'Terms of Reference' and submit its detailed report to this Ministry within six months' time.

It is the responsibility of the convener to arrange and facilitate deliberation of the Committee with the help of Member Secretary.

This issues with the approval of the competent authority.

(Dr. Bipin Behari)
Deputy Inspector General of Forests