



NCCF



20 YEARS
CARING FOR
OUR FORESTS



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Network for Certification and Conservation of Forests PEFC Council Member (NGB) from India





PEFC Stakeholder Dialogue

Sustainability and certification: from niche to mainstream

Session 3: Forests, forests management and landscapes

Trees outside Forests, Developing country context

Würzburg, Germany || 14 November 2019



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PEFC's idea for ToF



ToF: What do we want to certify?

Inclusion of Trees outside Forests within CoC and as Controlled Source

1



Tree Certification

2



Responsible Management of Trees outside Forests

3



Sustainable Agroforestry

4



Agreed: Focus on 1 and 3

India Forest and Tree Cover Profile



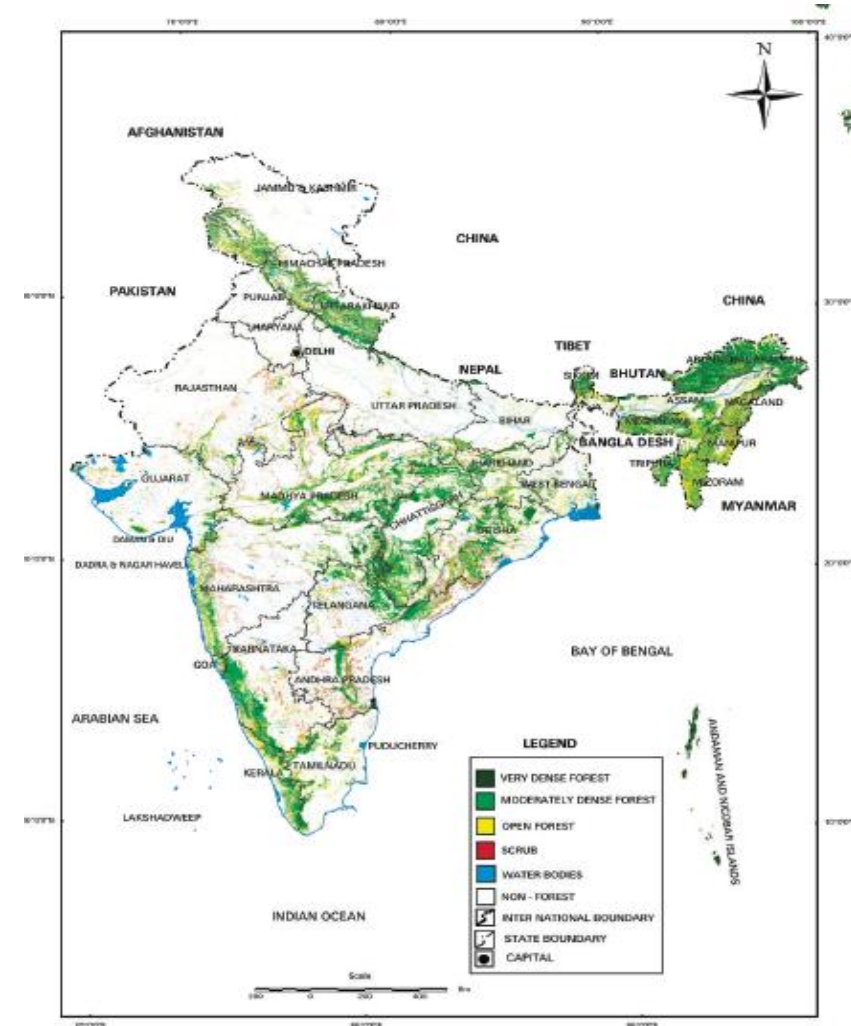
Globally, India stands at 10th position accounting for **2% of Total Forest Cover of the world**

India is one of the **17 mega-diverse countries** with 4 global biodiversity hotspots of the world and 16 major forest types

•As per India Forest Sector Report 2017:

- **Forest Cover = 7,08,273 sq km (21.54% of GA)**
- **Tree Cover = 93,815 sq km (2.76% of GA)**
- **Forest & Tree Cover = 8,02,088 sq km (24.39% of GA)**

•Total carbon stock in forests is estimated to be **7082 million tonnes.**



TOF Definition in National Context: India



- All trees **growing outside recorded forest areas** are defined as trees outside forests (TOF).
- The recorded forests includes **‘reserve’, ‘protected’ or ‘unclassified forest’**.
- Occurrence of TOF: **block, linear and isolated/scattered trees**
- TOF constitutes **trees growing in:**
 - ✓ private lands in agroforestry, farm forestry, along the farm bunds
 - ✓ homesteads, orchards and common and government non-forest lands
 - ✓ parks and gardens, along roads, canals and railway line in rural or urban areas
- Ownership generally private, community government, or leased land status.

TOF constitute about 85% of the industrial wood consumption of India

TOF Definition by FAO



Trees outside Forests refer to trees on land not defined as Forest and Other Wooded Land.

According to this definition, Trees outside Forests are located on "other land", such as agricultural land, built-up areas around settlements and infrastructure, and bare land (dunes, former mining areas, etc.)

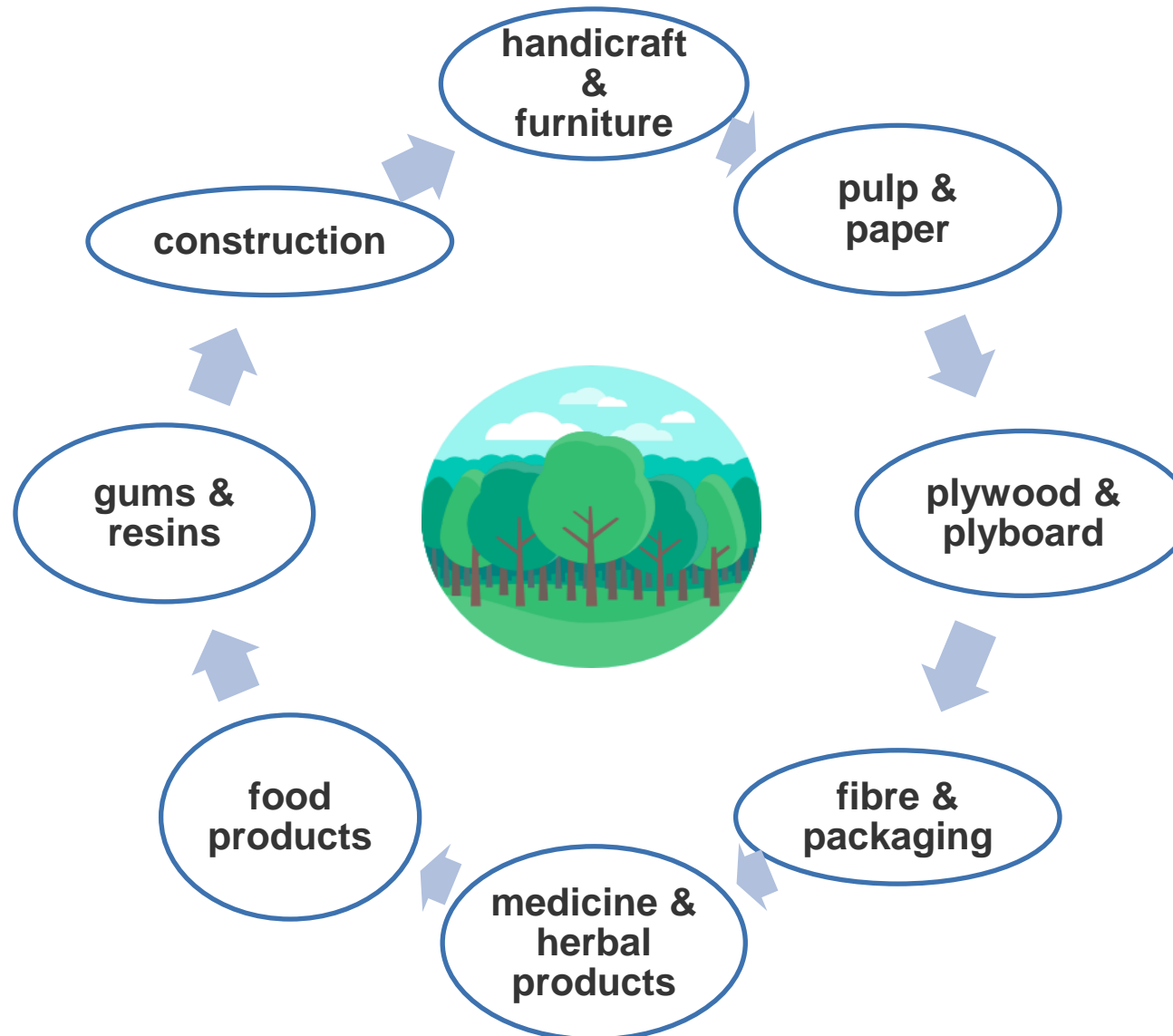
Need for TOF Certification



- Huge wood **production** from ToF but **no sustainability** adherence systems or standard for certification
- **Help farmers** manage their **trees responsibly**, as per possible best practice
- Help farmers get better price for responsibly managed trees **locally** and **globally**
- Encourage timber based industries to include **certified ToF raw material** in their **procurement policies** and **supply chain management**
- Gives **consumers** an assurance that the product is made from **responsibly managed ToF**
- **Inadequate mechanisms** for small holders to access the improved and **best management**

practices

Industrial Dependence on Wood & Wood Based Sector in India



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Popular timber species in India



| Common Name | Scientific Name |
|-----------------------|--------------------------------|
| Eucalyptus | <i>Eucalyptus spp.</i> |
| Poplar | <i>Populous spp.</i> |
| Subabul | <i>Leucaena leucocephala</i> |
| Casuarina | <i>Casuarina equisetifolia</i> |
| Acacia, Babool, Kikar | <i>Acacia nilotica</i> |
| | <i>Melia dubia</i> |
| Sheesham, Shisham | <i>Dalbergia sissoo</i> |
| Mango | <i>Mangifera indica</i> |
| Neem | <i>Azadirachta indica</i> |
| Semal, Kapok | <i>Bombax ceiba</i> |

Stakeholder Identification and Mapping

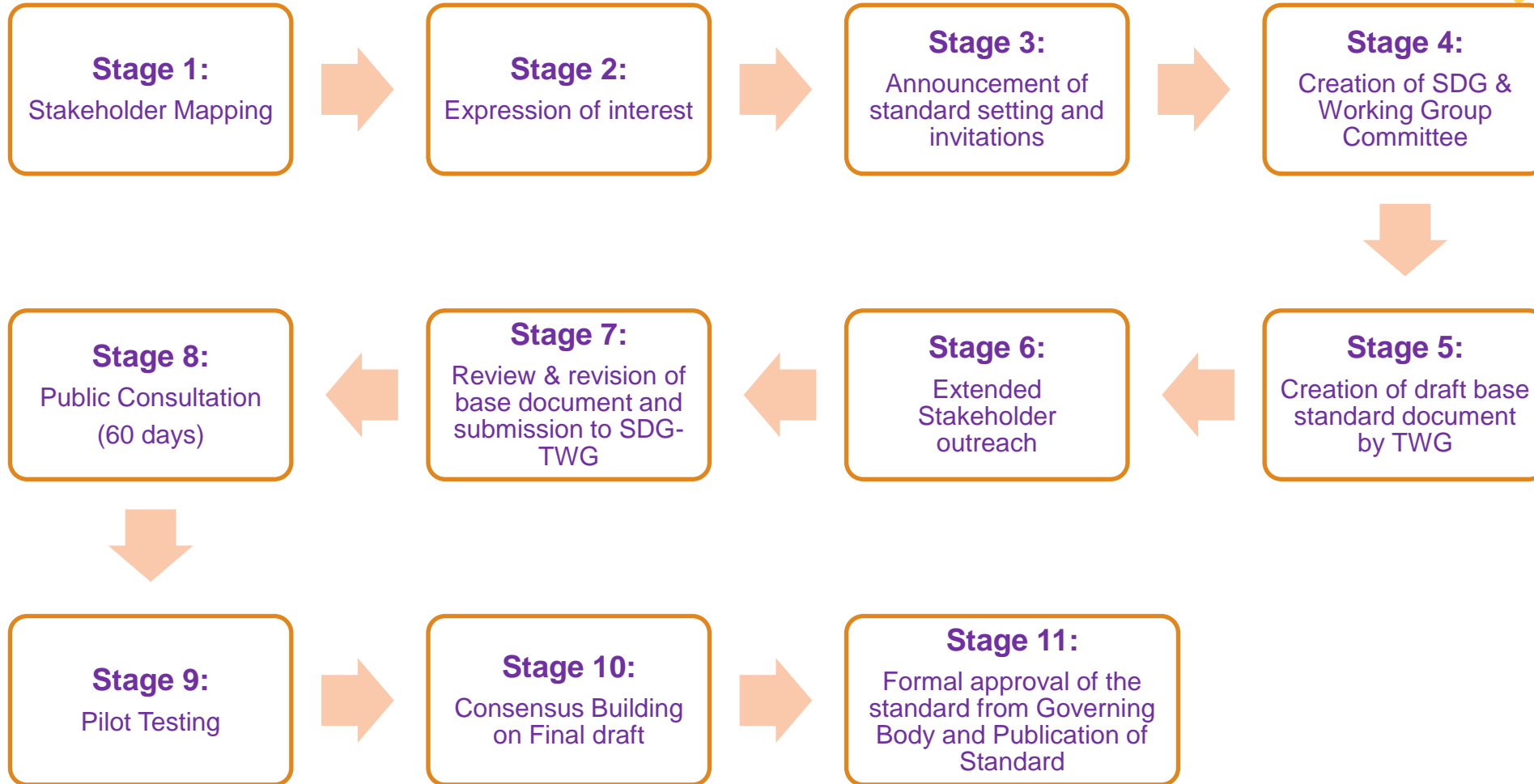


Stakeholder identification and mapping by NCCF is conducted referring UN Agenda 21 covering the following Stakeholder Classes:



- 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

TOF Standard Development Process & Timelines



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Rationale for selection of Pilot Testing sites

| Rationale for selection | Sites | | | |
|--|---|--|--|---|
| | Karur (Tamil Nadu) | Saharanpur (Uttar Pradesh) | Plantations along IG Canal (Rajasthan) | New Delhi |
| TOF Model | Agroforestry/ Scattered Trees | Agroforestry/ Scattered Trees | Linear Plantations | Urban forest |
| TOF Intensity | High | High | High | High |
| Industries in vicinity | Paper and Pulp | Plywood, MDF, Matchsticks, Packaging | Handicraft Industry | NA |
| Existing Timber Species | Eucalyptus, Casuarina | Eucalyptus, Poplar, Sheesham | Babool, Rohira, Sheesham, Neem, Acacia tortilis | Mixed Avenue Plantations |
| Use of chemicals | High | High | High | - |
| Rationale for selection | TOF, Farm Forestry Captive Plantations managed by TNPL | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bigger landscape • Interested in certification | Unique plantation model for PT and wood is supplied to handicrafts industry | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rising issues in Delhi-NCR around tree felling • Urban Forests • Multiple greening agencies |
| Primary Contact Organisation(s) | 1. Tamil Nadu Newsprint and Papers Limited | 1. Star Paper, 2. Haryana Forest Development, Corporation, 3. Haryana Forest Department | 1. Rajasthan Forest Department | 1. Delhi Forest Department |
| Approach | 1. Captive plantations 2. Farm Forestry plantations 3. Group Certification/ Cooperative model currently FSC-FM certified | 1. Star Papers supplies planting material to Farmers 2. Sourcing still from market/ suppliers and not directly from farmers 3. Farm forestry plantations | 1. Along the Indira Gandhi Canal stretch in Bikaner 2. Wood is supplied to handicraft sector 3. Government | 1. Avenue plantations, urban forests and parks 2. Multiple land ownerships |

Pilot Testing of TOF Standard

Time Period: September 2018 to February 2019

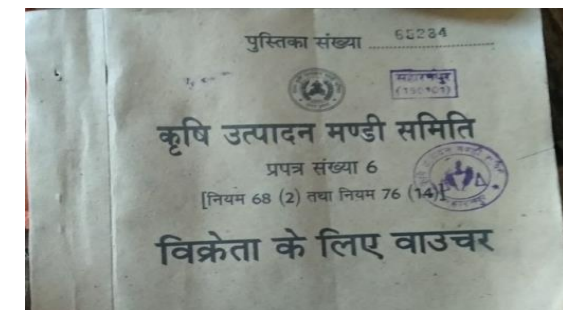
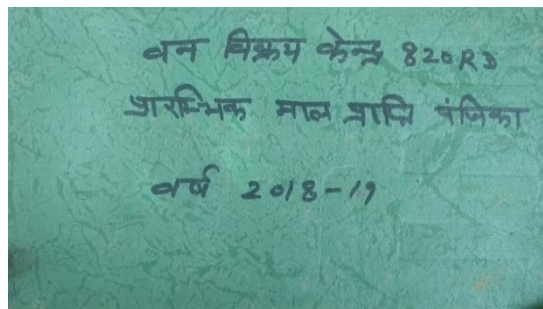


• Bikaner|| Linear Plantations

• Karur|| Agroforests

• Saharanpur|| Agroforests

• New Delhi|| Urban Trees and Forests

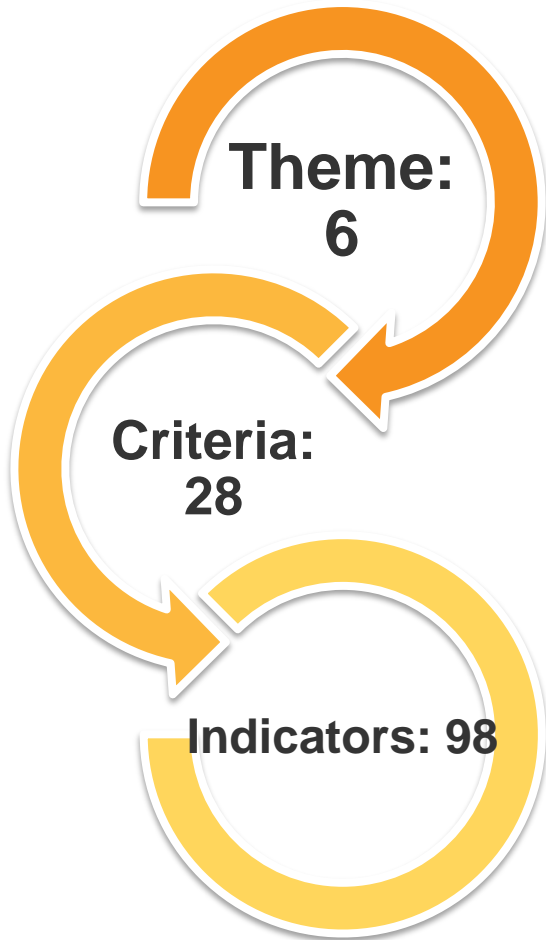


Summary of outcomes of Pilot Testing



- Cases of multiple ownerships: government, private,
- Unorganised and non-standardised raw material sourcing setups
- Existence of multiple agroforestry models
- Types: Linear plantations along canal, Leased land models, Group/cooperative models, Captive plantations
- FM managers are ToF managers
- Cases exist where legal status of land unclear
- Industry to play a major role in implementation of ToF certification
- Need to financial incentives to farmers: buy-back models, etc.
- Industry sectors: Handicrafts, Pulp & Paper, Packaging, Plywood, etc.
- Need for sensitization and awareness development for certification
- Direct purchase from farmer missing in several cases
- Farmers and industry carry out extensive R&D on farmlands
- Most of the requirements of the Standard were applicable
- **With Urban Trees and Forests (UTF):** Ownership and management is with several agencies, 19 Greening Agencies are active in Delhi. State Forest Department, DDA, MCD, CPWD, Delhi Cantonment Board, etc.

Structure and Components of TOF Standard



- The standard is fully voluntary and not legal
- Developed for the first time at Global and National level
- Developed through an open, transparent and consultative process
- Holds benefit for small tree holders interested in sustainable management and certification
- Simple standard within the reach of small and marginal land holders, without compromising on global benchmarks
- **Criteria & Indicator**
 - Block plantations and Urban trees and forests → Criteria: 28; Indictors: 98
 - Isolated/Linear/Scattered trees→ Criteria: 16; Indictors: 48



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For the development of the NCCF-TOF Certification Standard the NCCF-FM Certification Standard is being referred for the structure and flow.

Themes under TOF Certification Standard



Theme A : Legality Compliance with Legal Requirements

Theme B : Management Plan and Practices

Theme C : Maintenance of Health of TOF Resources

Theme D : Maintenance and Enhancement of Productive Functions

Theme E : Socio-Economic Responsibility

Theme F : Conservation and Environmental Safeguard



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Categories of TOF Formations



a. agroforests in block

b. agroforests in non-block like linear, isolated, scattered and bund trees

c. urban trees and forests (UTF) including trees in parks, in avenues etc.

TOF formations and their thresholds



| S. No. | Formation | Threshold |
|-----------------------------------|-------------------------|--|
| A. Block Agroforest | | |
| 1 | Block | Area = 0.1 ha <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • one edge longer than 10 m • limiting factor is area |
| B. Non-Block Agroforest | | |
| 2 | Linear | Single/Multiple row; <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maximum width = 10 m • limiting factor is edge length |
| 3 | Isolated and Scattered | 1 tree |
| 4 | Bund | Trees around a farm boundary, tank bund, etc. |
| C. Urban Trees and Forests | | |
| 5 | Urban trees and forests | No threshold is required since management plan is needed for all kind of formations in urban areas. |



Possible strategies to implement NCCF-TOF Standard



a. Industry / Supplier Driven

Certification is market driven, responsibility for its implementation will be driven by the demand from market for sustainably sourced products, and make manufacturers ensure required compliances and certification for entire value chain.

Eg: Hindustan Pencils, Star Paper Mills, etc.

b. Cooperative/Federation/NGO Driven

In this, group of farmers may constitute a cooperative and can undertake management and certification. Reducing the individual cost of certification. NGOs working with farmer welfare can take a lead in organizing and supporting TOF certification.

Eg: SEWA, Patneshwari Agricultural Co-Operative Limited (PACL), etc.

c. Agencies managing Urban Trees and Forests/Roadside Plantations

In this, responsibility for management and initiation of certification process lies with the concerned organizations like city/town administration, RWAs, Municipal Corporations, Forest Departments, Private, Societies, etc. Urban trees and forests focus on recreation, aesthetic and amenity and pollution control roles and not meant for timber production.

Eg: RWAs, State Forest Departments, Delhi Development Authority, etc.

NCCF at World Agroforestry Congress



Challenges



- Lack of awareness amongst the stakeholders
- Budgetary constraints
- Slow offtake of certification by stakeholders
- Lack of accredited certification bodies for natural resource management particularly for forests and wood/wood based commodities
- Green Procurement Policy not in place
- Slow growth of requirement for certified products domestically
- Scarce availability of certified wood for leading companies scouting for certified material
- Lack of international sourcing from India
- Missing business models and value chain proposition in India

Way Forward



- Mainstreaming forest certification should be on top of the sustainability agenda- globally, nationally and locally, also because of benefit sharing through biodiversity conservation, payment of ecosystem services and carbon credits.
- Promote forest certification in collaboration with central ministries and state governments, research and academic institutions, international agencies, industry associations and industries, civil society organizations and other forest-based stakeholders
- NCCF is providing technical support to State Forest Departments and stakeholders on forest certification
- Insist on the Indian wood industry to import only certified wood from other countries
- Gradual reduction in import of wood and rapid enhancement in domestic production of wood and wood products outside reserve forests, through agroforestry, urban forestry, linear plantations, woodlots etc.

Network for Certification and Conservation of Forests



NCCF is a multi-stakeholder **non-profit** organization with following **core functional areas**:



- **MoEFCC, MoA&FW, EPCH** are on NCCF's Governing Body: MoC&I's nominee attends important meetings
- To develop **globally aligned certification schemes** in India, addressing concerns of **sustainable management of natural resources** and making Indian **wood and wood-based industry competent globally**.
- In 2019 NCCF-PEFC FM Certification Scheme received **PEFC endorsement**, giving it international recognition



Thank you!!

Network for Certification and Conservation of Forests (NCCF)

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