6th Training Workshop on 'National Bamboo Database for the Division Level Users (DFOs) held in Aranya Bhawan, Kolkata on 9th February 2016

Sixth Training Workshop on 'National Bamboo Database for the Division Level Users generally Divisional Forest Officers (DFOs), or their equivalents from other departments, from the State of West Bengal was held at Aranya Bhawan, West Bengal Forest Department, Salt Lake, Kolkata on 9th February 2016. This training programme of one days' duration was structured especially for the DLUs of West Bengal as they could not attend the training programme organized at IFP, Ranchi on 28th to 29th December 2015 for the DLUs of Eastern States.

DLUs of all forest divisions of West Bengal and Assistant Director of Horticulture Department, as a representative of State Mission Director (West Bengal) attended this exclusive training programme. Total 58 participants were present.
BTSG – ICFRE, the knowledge partner of NABM, was represented by Dr. Vimal Kothiyal ADG (RP), ICFRE, Shri SS Jain, Consultant (Bamboo Plantation) and Shri Sudhir Kumar, Consultant (Bamboo Web Portal) in this training programme. West Bengal Forest Department, which has arranged this training, was led by Shri Azam Zaidi, PCCF (HOFF) and Shri NK Pandey, PCCF, West Bengal.

Shri Azam Zaidi, PCCF (HOFF) inaugurated the workshop. Shri NK Pandey, PCCF, West Bengal addressed the DFOs present and gave a brief information of National Agroforestry and Bamboo Mission, BTSG-ICFRE and importance of this Web Portal/Data base, and handed the floor to Dr. Vimal Kothiyal welcomed the participants and started the proceedings of the day, he stressed upon the role of these training programmes and hoped that they would be able form a link between BTSG-ICFRE and DLUs of Eastern States.

Like Tamil Nadu in West Bengal too, the State Mission Director designated by NABM comes from Horticulture Department, which has no control over the extant and availability of bamboo resource of the State. Whereas, the West Bengal Forest Department who can provide the requisite information/data to the National Bamboo Database web portal/software has no direct link with NABM. This set up has resulted in the sheer confusion. Therefore, to clear this ambiguity separate IDs were created for West Bengal Horticulture Department and West Bengal Forest Department and in addition, with the consent of SFD authorities a nodal officer was designated from the State Forest Department who would perform the role equivalent to that of SMD as for as data entry in the NBD Web portal/software is concerned. While the SMD, who belongs to Horticulture Department will be responsible for the information falling under his jurisdiction.

For the convenience of participants and with a view to make the most the training workshop was divided into following sessions:
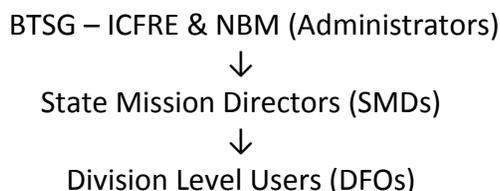
Session – 1: Welcome address

Session – 2: Presentation by Dr. Vimal Kothiyal, ADG (RP), ICFRE / BTSG – ICFRE, Dehra Dun on Web Portal / Database (basic information flow and structure)

Session – 3: Presentation on Web portal of National Bamboo Database (Working of Web Portal/database functioning and Data Entry Formats) by Shri Sudhir Kumar, Consultant, (Bamboo Web Portal) BTSG – ICFRE, Dehra Dun.

Session – 4: Training Session on Web Portal /Database

Session – 5: Question hour Session

Dr. Kothiyal explained the structure and work flow of the software through a PowerPoint Presentation. Participants were informed that bamboo resource information of the whole Division/State/Country irrespective of schemes and funding agencies has to be included in the forms. He also explained that this software works on the following three tiered structure:

<div align="center">

BTSG – ICFRE & NBM (Administrators)
↓
State Mission Directors (SMDs)
↓
Division Level Users (DFOs)

</div>

While dealing with step by step methodology for using this software Dr. Kothiyal explained to the participating Division Level Users that after filling all the forms, they will send the forms to the State Mission Director, but before sending it to the SMD the DLU must ensure that forms have been filled in properly and factual information is entered, auto-check has been provided in the software to alert DLU to this effect. And prior to sending the properly filled in forms to the SMD, he would have to ask SMD to activate the **Send** button to enable him to transmit the data. SMD will check the forms; if SMD finds data in order then he would forward it with his remarks to Admin. (BTSG-ICFRE or NABM) after answering the mandatory queries of auto-check provision, SMD will, however, request 'Admin' to activate his **Send** before forwarding the data forms. In case SMD finds forms not properly filled in or genuineness of data he would send it back to the DLU with his remarks.

Participants were advised to open this web portal/software through browsers such as **Mozilla Firefox** or **Google Chrome** only, if they don't have these browsers they may download them easily and free of cost. This software cannot be accessed through Windows Explorer.

Dr. Kothiyal dealt with the role and function of the web portal at each level. He also explained the procedure for creating the users at all the three levels and their approval procedure. Data entry formats were also discussed as well as the precautions required to be taken while entering the data. Other features of the web portal which are yet to be introduced were also discussed. Participants were told about operation of software and operation manual; how to fill up excel forms; query generation; use of suggestion box for offering suggestion and in case of confusion or problem; frequently asked questions (FAQs), etc. It was informed that till that date 179 forms had been filled up but no information has gone to the permanent database, this information is on real time basis. BTSG-ICFRE looks ahead to transmit properly filled in and complete in all respect approved forms to the permanent database by 31st March 2016. Importance of the information available in the database to different levels of bamboo stakeholders and general public was also explained.

Shri Sudhir Kumar, Consultant (Bamboo Web Portal) under BTSG – ICFRE made a PowerPoint presentation on functioning and data input into the software. One by one all formats were displayed for point to point discussion in the house.

Hands on training session was also conducted simultaneously, which proved to be quite useful as participating DLUs took keen interest in general operation of software, creation of division level IDs, filling up of formats, using correct units, forwarding filled in formats to the SMD, correction of data, etc. This part of training to the DLUs was imparted on one to one basis. Accordingly 38 Divisions of West Bengal were added to the Web Portal and 33 users (DFOs) were created totaling it to 553 with 612 Divisions.

DLUs were advised to go through the training manual provided to them, which would be helpful in operating this web portal. In case they have any difficulty they may contact undersigned, contact details are given in the software as well as training manual or send their suggestions/problems through suggestion box. Some very useful inputs came up during this training and they have been incorporated in the web portal.

The workshop ended with a vote of thanks by Dr. Vimal Kothiyal to Shri A. Zaidi, PCCF (HOFF) and Shri NK Pandey, PCCF for excellent arrangement and taking keen interest in this Web Portal, and to all participants for actively participating in workshop and providing their valuable time. Participants also thanked the organizers for short but meaningful workshop.

Photographs of 6th Training Workshop on 'National Bamboo Database for the Division Level Users (DFOs) held in Aranya Bhawan, Kolkata on 9th February 2016