

**MINUTES OF REVIEW MEETING OF FELLING OPERATION IN SOUTH BENGAL FOR THE YEAR
2017-18 HELD AT KOLKATA ON 25/09/2018**

The following Officers attended the meeting both from Forest Directorate & WBFDC Ltd.

Sl. No.	Name of Officers.
1	Shri N. K. Pandey, PCCF & HoFF,
2	Dr R P Saini , MD, WBFDC Ltd.
3	Shri S Barari, PCCG (Gen),
4	Sh T V N Rao, APCCF, Finance
5	Sh N V Rajasekhar, APCCF, HRD
6	Shri M R Baloch, Adl PCCF North Bengal
7	Shri V.K. Sood, GM (Hqrs.) WBFDC Ltd.
8	Sh A V Mishra, CCF Finance
9	Sh N S Murli CCF MIS
10	Shri S P Yadav, CCF Central
11	Shri Sourav Choudhury, CCF, South-West Circle,
12	Shri S. Dey, CCF, Western Circle
13	Shri Kalyan Das, CCF, South-East,
14	Sh Tapas Das CCF PG & L
15	Shri Ganga Chettri CCF, Northen Circle
16	Ms Anupama CCF HQ
17	Ms Lipika Ray CF, WP & GIS
18	Sh A.P.Singh CF, Admin
19	Shri Mridul Kumar DFO Jalpaiguri
20	Sh J V Bhaskar, DFO Bankura North
21	Shri D.M. Pradhan, DFO, Bankura (S) Divn.,
22	Sh Basavraj H S DFO Jhargram
23	Shri S S S Sherpa DFO WP Hills
24	Shri Harikrishan, DFO, Birbhum Divn.,
25	Shri R Badhana, DFO, Purulia Divn.,
26	Shri Debashish Sharma , DFO, Burdwan Divn.,
27	Shri Arnab Sengupta, DFO, Rupnarayan Divn,
28	Shri Ayan Ghosh DFO WP
29	Shri A Mukherjee, DFO, Kharagpur Divn.
30	Shri Biman Biswas DFO Coochbehar
31	Shri N Panda, DFO, Panchet Divn.,
32	Sh R N Saha DFO Medinipur
33	Shri A Chatterjee, DFO, Kangsabati (S) Divn.,
34	Shri M.K. Mondal, DFO, Durgapur Divn.,
35	Shri P K Roy, DFO WP II
36	Shri Satyajit Roy, DM, Midnapur FC Division
37	Shri Kamal Sarkar, DM, Bankura FC Div
38	Shri Arunachal Bose, DM Siliguri FC Divn
39	Sh D K Yonzon, DM Jalpaiguri FC Div
40	Shri Somnath Sarkar , DFO Kolkata FC divn
41	Ms Sweata Rai DM, Alipurduar FC Divn

AGENDA OF THE MEETING:

1. Disposal of Forest Produce harvested during F.Y 2017-18
2. Fixation of targets of felling operations for the FY 2018-19
3. Finalization of the rates for felling operations
4. Discussion regarding the product mix
5. Reconciliation of accounts of WBFDC Ltd., and also reconciliation of produce
6. Discussions on the decision taken in the meeting held on 13-06-2018
7. Miscellaneous

PRESENTATIONS:

Each of the DFOs/DM were required to prepare a power point presentation covering the following points

1. Total forest produce harvested during the FY 2017-18 *vis a vis* disposal of forest produce through e-auction and the produce remaining in the depot as on 01-09-2018
2. Total forest produce received from other sources (other than felling operations) *vis a vis* the disposal of forest produce through e-auction and the produce remaining in the depot as on 01-09-2018
3. Problems faced any:
 - a. While fixing the reserve price of the depot lots
 - b. While making payments of usufructs to JFMCs
 - c. Any problem related to felling operation.

The meeting was chaired by Sh. N K Pandey, PCCF & HoFF, West Bengal. PCCF & HoFF explained importance of timely completion of felling, subsequent disposal and also regeneration of felled areas. He also showed his full satisfaction for E Auction system introduced by WBFDC Ltd for disposal of forest produce. MD WBFDC thanked all field officers & congratulated them for successful completion of harvesting operations and also successful implantation of E auction system for disposal of forest produce. After welcoming the officials present, he requested Ex-officio Divisional Managers & Divisional Managers to present Division wise power point presentation regarding area harvested, Harvesting cost, progress of sale, lifting of mining timber and payment of FPC share & Govt Royalty. Ex-officio Divisional Managers & Divisional Managers made power point presentation about harvesting & disposal under respective Divisions.

The presenters detailed about the disposal status of harvesting operations completed during 2017-18 and proposed the felling targets for 2018-19 and other issues relevant to felling operations. GM HQ WBFDC also presented felling year wise disposal status for all Divisions.

Detail discussion followed and the observations and decisions taken are given below:

1. Disposal of Forest Produce:

Status of disposal of forest produce through auction was reviewed. Concerned Divisions presented current status of disposal for their respective Divisions. GM HQ WBFDC also presented Division wise & total disposal status for produce from 2015-

16, 2016-17 & 2017-18 felling season and details about disposal status & sale value is given in Annexure 1-3.

It was noted that WBFDC Ltd has conducted 1231 nos E-Auctions till date and sold apprx. 52000 nos. lots with sale value of Rs 331 Crores apprx. It was also informed that apprx 676 & 3011 no of lots from 2015-16 & 2016-17 felling season respectively could not be sold through e auction. In total, 87 %, 89 % & 78 % of lots were sold through E auction from 2015-16, 2016-17 & 2017-18 felling season till date.

Division wise progress of disposal of forest produce was also analyzed. Sale of produce was very good in most of Divisions except all Divisions in Purulia Dist., Birbhum , Durgapur & Kharagpur Divisions. PCCF & HoFF instructed concerned DFOs to look into matter and also instructed that reserve price may be revised if required on the basis of quality of produce, location of depots, prevailing market trends etc.

After thorough discussions, it was noted that low sale in some of Divisions is due to below given reasons:

- a) Issues related to fixing of Reserve Price
- b) Quality of produce
- c) Local issues
- d) Location of Depots
- e) Delay in submission of lots

DM Bankura & Medinipur raised issue of reserve price fixed by the respective Divisions. MD , WBFDC Ltd requested DFOs to fix reserve price on the basis of quality of produce, location of depots and market conditions. DFO Kharagpur & Rupnarayan suggested that reserve price of all lots should be fixed by WBFDC Divisions who are conducting Auctions. However, PCCF & HoFF, W.B. and MD, WBFDC Ltd suggested that reserve price should be fixed by the Divisions who have harvested produce as per rules.

DFO Kharagpur expressed that the online results of e-auction done by the DM, Kharagpur Division of WBFDC, if made available or shared, will be of great help for fixing up the Reserve Price for his lots. MD WBFDC informed that online results of all Divisions are available in login provided with CCFs and they may share required data with their respective DFOs.

Concerned CCFs , DFOs and DMs were requested to look into the matter of low sale. They were also instructed to conduct workshop with timber merchants and to assess reasons for slow progress of sale of forest produce in the respective areas.

MD WBFDC Ltd informed that timber merchants are demanding that reserve price should be declared before E Auction. PCCF HoFF informed that as per existing rules reserve price is confidential and can not be displayed before auction. However, MD WBFDC informed that starting bid price can be displayed instead of reserve price because as per Finance Deptt No. 3836-F(Y)/FA/O/2M/71/14(Pt II) Dated

19.06.2017, Starting Bid Price is not confidential & displaying of starting bid price is mandatory and same should be followed for e auction of forest produce at auction bid page against each item for information of bidders.

PCCF & HoFF agreed to look into the matter so that necessary modifications can be made to existing rules for disposal of forest produce.

Decision:

- i) Concerned DFOs will fix reserve prices based on quality of produce, location of depots, prevalent market conditions & submit revise reserve price timely.
- ii) Respective CCFs will look into the matter of rationalization of reserve price so that more lots can be sold.
- iii) Purulia District has a problem which can be sorted out at the CCF Level and the problem of the participation of the Timber Merchants in the e0-auction needs intervention by meeting and participation of the JFMCs of the relevant areas.
- iv) Unsold produce of 2015-16 & 2016-17 may be sold through Tender immediately.
- v) Produce may be sold through negotiations In case of failure of tender process as per rules.
- vi) WBFDC Ltd Divisions will help concerned territorial divisions in fixing reserve price by providing relevant auction data from other Divisions.
- vii) GM Hq will make suitable modifications in E auction portal so that Lot History of each lot is available for concerned territorial Division & results of all Divisions are made available to each Divisions.

2. Product Mix:

During last review meeting a Committee, comprising of CCF, WC; DFO Midnapur, DFO, Rupnarayan, DFO Panchet and DM-Kharagpur, WBFDC was constituted to identify the correct size-wise product mix of the felling produce as per the market demand by obtaining the views of timber merchants. Above Committee has submitted its report.

Decision:

- A) GM HQ to inform product mix for coming felling season on the basis of recommendations of the committee to all Divisions in South Bengal.
- B) GM HQ will inform Division wise targets for mining poles and cogging sleepers in South Bengal so that demand for coal companies are met completely.

3. Felling Targets for 2017-18

Division wise Tentative targets for felling during 2018-19 were also discussed. CF Working Plan informed that working plan for Jalpaiguri & Purulia Distt have not been approved.

PCCF & HoFF directed all DFOs that the area felled must be regenerated & area of regeneration could be more than the area felled during the year. Concerned Ex-

officio Divisional Managers proposed tentative felling targets for 2018-19 for respective Divisions as follows:

Decisions

- i) Concerned CCF and GM HQ will finalize total area to be harvested by WBFDC DMs & Designated Divisions in South Bengal.
- ii) CF Working Plan will take immediate steps for renewal of working plans for Purulia, Kurseong & Jalpaiguri Distt.
- iii) CF Working Plan will take timely action for felling approval for 2018-19.
- iv) Designated Divisions to take up additional felling in the areas where felling was approved during 2017-18 but which could not be felled due to local problems. However details of such areas should be communicated to WBFDC Ltd and Working Plan wing for information and taking necessary action.

4. Distribution of FPC share:

Progress of distribution of FPC share and reconciliation of accounts was reviewed. It was found that FPC share in most of Divisions in South Bengal is paid regularly. However, FPC share payments are due in North Bengal Divisions. Concerned officials were directed to take immediate steps for reconciliation of accounts and payment of FPC shares to the beneficiaries.

Decision:

- i) Bank A/c no.s of all the JFMCs should reach the concerned DMs of WBFDC dealing with the given CFC area.
- ii) Outstanding FPC shares should be distributed before the felling starts for 2018-19.
- iii) Concerned GM & CCFs will monitor payment of outstanding FPC share at the earliest.
- iv) A committee consisting of Chief Conservator of Forests, Wildlife North, CCF North, CCF Hill & GM North would suggest modalities for distribution of FPC share in North Bengal.

5. Review of Depots:

Ex-officio Divisional Managers & Divisional Managers submitted list of Depots along with infrastructure available for respective Divisions. PCCF & HoFF instructed that number of Depots in a Division should be further rationalized keeping in view actual felling area and its distance from nearest existing depot. MD WBFDC emphasized that efforts should be made to make selected large depots instead of many small depots.

DFOs requested to allot one time grant for depot extension/ construction of boundary wall/ approach road. MD WBFDC informed that necessary funds can be allotted by WBFDC provided specific proposal are sent by concerned DFO/DMs

through respective controlling officer and recommended by PCCF & HoFF . Funds utilized funds for the above purpose will be recovered from the respective Divisions.

Decision:

- i) Depot at strategic locations and central to Divisions may be upgraded on lines of Central Nurseries. These would be more cost effective for lifting of the produce by the timber merchants, storing/stocking of the produce and also maintenance and ease of service to the visiting parties interested in e-auctions.
- ii) The Circle in charges should review the depot locations and send the report to PCCF & HoFF and MD WBFDC Ltd.
- iii) WBFDC Divisions may be allowed to use available space in Depots maintained by Terrestrial Division
- iv) Divisional Manager's were requested to supply adequate depot register to designated Divisions.
- v) Additional one Time allotment for Depot Extension & construction of Boundary wall will be released by WBFDC Ltd as after written approval & recommendations of PCCF & HoFF.

6. Harvesting Rates:

Divisional Officers requested that harvesting rates needs to be revised during current year due to increased labor & transport cost. Current harvesting rates were decided during 2017-18 felling season.

DFOs informed that due to enhancement of wages, allotment for wages of Accountants is required to be increased from Rs 2,00,000.00 per year to Rs 2,30,000.00 . PCCF & HoFF agreed to the above and requested MD, WBFDC to allot additional funds for the above purpose.

Decision

Revised harvesting rates for 2018-19 felling season approved by PCCF HoFF & MD/WBFDC Ltd are given as Annexure.

7. Miscellaneous:

During the course of discussion various issues were flagged by the participants and decisions emerged on some of them. These are given below.

a) Timber allotment to WBFDC Divisions:

MD WBFDC Ltd informed that respective Divisions have failed to allot timber for joinery & carpentry units of WBFDC Ltd due to which WBFDC Ltd is unable to fulfil orders received from Govt Deptt. DFO Kurseong & DFO Jalpaiguri informed that timber could not be supplied due to GST related issues. DFO Kurseong & DFO Jalpaiguri informed that GST issue have been resolved and allotted timber will be supplied to WBFDC at the earliest .

b) **GST for Carriage:**

The issue of incorporating GST in the Forest produce extraction rate was discussed at length. It was suggested that GST in CFC rate is not applicable for local carriage. However additional allocation for actual GST component will be made by WBFDC Ltd wherever applicable.

c) **Facilities of E Auction Reports to all DFOs:**

PCCF & HoFF proposed that in E Auction portal, designated Divisions should be provided facility for getting average auction price for all Divisions , Physical & Financial Reports for E auctions and history of all lots for respective Divisions. MD, WBFDC Ltd agreed to it and requested GM Hq to do the needful at the earliest.

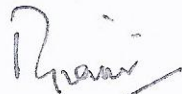
d) **Disposal of Old Lots:**

It was decided that Lots for the period prior to 2014-15 should be disposed by respective Divisions through Tender or negotiation sale following existing rules.

e) **Training:**

It was decided that workshops on E-auction should be organized to train up and update the field staff.

The meeting ended with a vote of thanks to the chair.



Managing Director
West Bengal Forest Devt Corp. Ltd.



Principal Chief Conservator of Forests
& HoFF, W.B.

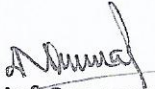
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Dated: 09.10.2018

Copy forwarded for information & necessary action to:

1. MD, WBFDC Ltd
2. PCCF General
3. PCCF Wildlife
4. Additional PCCF & Director, SBR
5. Additional PCCF Finance
6. Additional PCCF North Bengal
7. GM (Hqrs.) WBFDC Ltd.
8. CCF Finance
9. CCF Northern Circle
10. CCF Hill circle
11. CCF Wildlife North
12. CCF HQ
13. CCF, Western Circle
14. CCF, Central Circle
15. CCF, South-West Circle
16. CCF, South-East Circle
17. GM, North, WBFDC Ltd

18. CF Administration
19. CF Working Plan & GIS
20. DFO Jalpaiguri
21. DFO Baikunthpur
22. DFO Kurseong
23. DFO Jaldapara WL
24. DFO Coochbehar
25. DFO, Bankura (N) Divn.,
26. DFO, Bankura (S) Divn.,
27. DFO, Panchet Divn.,
28. DFO, Jhargram Divn.,
29. DFO, Midnapur Divn.
30. DFO, Rupnarayan Divn.,
31. DFO, Kharagpur Divn.
32. DFO, Purulia Divn.,
33. DFO, Kangsabati (N) Divn.,
34. DFO, Kangsabati (S) Divn.,
35. DFO, Burdwan &
36. DFO, Birbhum Divn.,
37. DFO, Durgapur Divn.,
38. DFO East Medinipur Divn
39. DM, Purulia FC Division,
40. DM, Midnapur FC Division
41. DM, Bankura FC Div
42. DM Siliguri FC Divn
43. DM Kalimpong Divn
44. DM Jalpaiguri FC Divn
45. DM Alipurduar FC Divn


Principal Chief Conservator of Forests
& Head of Forest Force, W.B.

ANNEXURE-IV

REVISED RATES OF HARVESTING FOR FELLING SEASON 2018-19

Item & Measurement	Unit	Rates for 2017-18	Rates for 2018-2019
A. SOUTH BENGAL			
INCIDENTAL COSTS			
Coupe Marking	Ha.	950.00	950.00
Extraction path	Ha.	2,100.00	2,100.00
Watch & Ward (Coupe)	Ha.	1,100.00	1,200.00
Watch & Ward (Depot)	Ha.	280.00	300.00
Contingency*	Ha.	2,300.00	2,500.00
Maintenance of Depot	Ha.	3400.00	3400.00
FEELING, LOGGINGS & CARRIAGE RATES			
POLES			
Girth up to 40 cm of any length	No.	45.00	48.00
41-50 cm up to 12'	No.	48.00	50.00
42-50 cm up to 12'- 14'	No.	52.00	54.00
42-50 cm above 14'	No.	55.00	56.00
51-60 cm up to 12'	No.	52.00	54.00
51-60 cm up to 14' -16'	No.	68.00	70.00
52-60 cm up to 18' -20'	No.	98.00	100.00
51-60 cm up to 20'	No.	125.00	130.00
61 cm above up to 12'	No.	78.00	80.00
61 cm above up to 14' -16'	No.	135.00	140.00
61 cm above up to 18' -20'	No.	198.00	200.00
61 cm above up to 22'-24'	No.	230.00	235.00
61 cm above 24'	No.	336.00	340.00
COGGING SLEEPER			
5'X5"X5"	No.	25.00	28.00
4'X4"X4"	No.	20.00	25.00
FIREWOOD			
Sal	Cum.	400.00	420.00
Eucalyptus	Cum.	400.00	420.00
Akashmoni	Cum.	415.00	430.00
TIMBER			
Sal	Cum.	2,000.00	2,100.00
Eucalyptus	Cum.	2,000.00	2,100.00
Akashmoni	Cum.	2,120.00	2,200.00
B. NORTH BENGAL			
TIMBER			
CFC			
Plain	Cum.	2,600.00	2,700.00
Hills	Cum.	3,300.00	3,400.00
CD/Seized			
Plain	Cum.	2,750.00	2,900.00
Hills	Cum.	4,200.00	4,400.00
FIREWOOD			
Plain	Stack	550.00	600.00
Hills	Stack	600.00	650.00
COUPE MARKING			
Plain & Hills	Ha.	2,100.00	2,100.00
DEPOT MAINTENANCE			
Large	No.	2,20,000.00	2,50,000.00
Small	No.	1,10,000.00	1,25,000.00

K.T.O.

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*For engagement of Account Assistant (Contractual basis), additional allocation
would be made @ Rs. 500/- per hectare subject to maximum Rs. 2.30 lakhs for
Divisions undertaking 400.00 Ha or more felling

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Managing Director
W.B. Forest Dev. Corpn. Ltd.

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N. K. Pandey, IFS
Principal Chief Conservator of Forest
Head of Forest Force
Directorate of Forests
Govt. of West Bengal

ANNEXURE-1

STATUS OF E AUCTION IN WEST BENGAL AS ON 22.09.2018

Felling Year- 2015-16

Division	No of Lots uploaded	No. of lots sold	% Lots sold	Unsold Lots	Sale Value (Rs. In lakhs)
A. SOUTH BENGAL					
Designated Division					
Jhargram	266	207	77.82	59	60.72
Medinipur	104	69	66.35	35	24.3
Rupnarayan	106	49	46.23	57	14.92
Kharagpur	0	0		0	
Purba Medinipur	29	13	44.83	16	1.9
Bankura North	15	8	53.33	7	2.83
Bankura South	159	106	66.67	53	40.19
Panchet	29	25	86.21	4	17.44
Burdwan	182	122	67.03	60	48.79
Birbhum	75	12	16.00	63	5.31
Durgapur	17	14	82.35	3	6.66
Kangsabati North	39	18	46.15	21	6.21
Total Directorate	1021	643	62.98	378	229.27
WBFDC Division					
Medinipur FC	442	357	80.77	85	112.47
Bankura FC	399	373	93.48	26	140.75
Purulia FC	26	2	7.69	24	0.64
Total WBFDC	867	732	84.43	135	253.86
TOTAL	1888	1375	72.83	513	483.13
B. NORTH BENGAL					
Alipurduar FCD	825	824	99.88	1	764.34
Jalpaiguri FCD	263	215	81.75	48	300.99
Siliguri FCD	2149	2050	95.39	99	2537.53
Kalimpong FCD	175	160	91.43	15	86.27
TOTAL	3412	3249	95.22	163	3689.13
GRAND TOTAL	5300	4624	87.25	676	4172.26

ANNEXURE-2

STATUS OF E AUCTION IN WEST BENGAL AS ON 22.09.2018

Felling Year- 2016-17

Division	No of Lots	No. of lots sold	% Lots sold	Unsold Lots	Sale Value (Rs in Lakhs)
A. SOUTH BENGAL					
Designated Division					
Jhargram	2012	1716	85.29	296	854.78
Medinipur	1150	1089	94.70	61	643.21
Purulia	2731	2078	76.09	653	1051.60
Kharagpur	845	722	85.44	123	379.68
Purba Medinipur	133	111	83.46	22	25.81
Bankura North	2481	1962	79.08	519	1218.54
Bankura South	1301	1139	87.55	162	593.96
Panchet	3065	2871	93.67	194	1719.50
Purulia	1135	869	76.56	266	353.51
Birbhum	362	161	44.48	201	99.05
Durgapur	299	233	77.93	66	80.96
Total Directorate	15514	12951	83.48	2563	7020.60
WBFDC Division					
Medinipur FC	3735	3690	98.80	45	1936.33
Bankura FC	3147	3115	98.98	32	1217.86
Purulia FC	53	9	16.98	44	1.77
Total WBFDC	6935	6814	98.26	121	3155.96
TOTAL-SOUTH BENGAL	22449	19765	88.04	2684	10176.56
B. NORTH BENGAL					
Alipurduar FCD	1353	1353	100.00	0	1276.28
Jalpaiguri FCD	961	822	85.54		889.47
Siliguri FCD	2490	2328	93.49	162	3163.86
Kalimpong FCD	519	493	94.99	26	499.18
TOTAL-NORTH BENGAL	5323	4996	93.86	327	5828.79
GRAND TOTAL	27772	24761	89.16	3011	16005.35

ANNEXURE-3

STATUS OF E AUCTION IN WEST BENGAL AS ON 22.09.2018

Felling Year- 2017-18

Division	No of Lots uploaded	No. of lots sold	% Lots sold	Unsold Lots	Sale Value (Rs in Lakhs)
A. SOUTH BENGAL					
Designated Division					
Jhargram	1853	1564	84.40	289	850.26
Medinipur	1652	1526	92.37	126	854.31
Rupnarayan	1923	1576	81.96	347	879.37
Kharagpur	706	208	29.46	498	103.33
Purba Medinipur	86	53	61.63	33	16.87
Bankura North	1235	959	77.65	276	523.93
Bankura South	1596	1088	68.17	508	551.45
Panchet	2682	2472	92.17	210	1086.20
Burdwan	840	709	84.40	131	232.25
Birbhum	304	177	58.22	127	62.39
Durgapur	316	24	7.59	292	8.20
Purulia	134	29	21.64	105	24.34
Kangsabati North	132	25	18.94	107	8.19
Kangsabati South	124	59	47.58	65	37.93
Total Directorate	13583	10469	77.07	3114	5239.02
WBFDC Division					
Purulia FC	119	1	0.84	118	0.21
Medinipur FC	5963	4617	77.43	1346	2835.94
Bankura FC	4491	3146	70.05	1345	1475.12
Total WBFDC	10573	7764	73.43	2809	4311.27
TOTAL-SOUTH BENGAL	24156	18233	75.48	5923	9550.29
B. NORTH BENGAL					
Alipurduar FCD	1669	1628	97.54	41	1547.15
Jalpaiguri FCD	696	672	96.55	24	274.06
Siliguri FCD	1122	817	72.82	305	964.27
Kalimpong FCD	494	447	90.49	47	650.28
TOTAL-NORTH BENGAL	3981	3564	89.53	417	3435.76
GRAND TOTAL	28137	21797	77.47	6340	12986.05