

**MINUTES OF REVIEW MEETING OF FELLING OPERATION IN WEST BENGAL FOR THE
YEAR 2018-19 AND PROPOSED FELLING IN 2019-20 HELD AT ARANYA BHAWAN,
KOLKATA ON 13/09/2019**

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

S. No.	Name of Officers
1	Shri S. Barari, PCCF & HoFF, WB
2	Dr. R.P. Saini, MD, WBFDC Ltd.
3	Shri TVN Rao, PCCF and Addl. PCCF Finance, WB
4	Shri Debal Ray, APCCF & CPD WBFBC Project
5	Shri Sandeep Sundriyal, GM Headquarters, WBFDC Ltd.
6	Shri V.K Sood, Addl. PCCF North Bengal
7	Shri AV Mishra, APCCF & CCF Finance
8	Shri Sourav Choudhury, CCF, South-West Circle,
9	Smt Pratibha Raj, CCF, Soil Conservation
10	Shri S.P Yadav, CCF Central Circle
11	Shri S. Dey, CCF, Western Circle
12	Shri Kalyan Das, CCF, South-East,
13	Dr. Anupama CCF, Headquarters
14	Shri S Sengupta FD, BTR
15	Shri Ganga Chettri CCF, Northern Circle
16	Shri Sudhir Das, CCF Hill Circle
17	Smt. Sumita Ghatak CCF MIS
18	Shri Debanshu Mallick CCF & CF Research Circle
19	Shri B.R. Shewa CF & GM North WBFDC Ltd.
20	Smt. Lipika Ray, CF WP&GIS Circle
21	Sh J V Bhaskar, DFO Bankura North
22	Sh Basavraj H S DFO Jhargram
23	Shri Manoj Kumar Saha DM Purulia FDC, WBFDC Ltd
24	Shri Pknaki Mitra DCF Finance
25	Shri Kumar Vimal DFO Jaldapara WL Division
26	Shri Rana Dutta DFO Nadia Murshidabad Division
27	Shri Amrita Dutta, Kangsabati (N) Division
28	Shri Ram Prasad Badana DFO Purulia Division
29	Shri N Panda, DFO, Panchet Divn.,
30	Shri M.K. Mondal, DFO, Durgapur Divn.,
31	Ms Sweata Rai DM, Alipurduar FC Divn & DM, Jalpaiguri FC Division (Additional Charge)
32	Shri P K Roy, DM, Darjeeling FC Division
33	Shri S K Berwal, DFO Medinipur
34	Shri K. Sarkar, DM, Bankura FC Division & DM, Medinipur FC Division (Additional Charge)
35	Shri D. Bera, DM, Kolkata FC Division
36	Shri D.B. Basnet, DM, Kalimpong FC Division

Agenda Items

TIMBER OPERATIONS

- A. Review of Target Vs Achievement Area harvested in 2018-19 & Reasons for Shortfall
- B. Review of Forest Produce harvested in the season 2018-19
- C. Review of Forest Produce harvested but unsold
- D. Finalization of Targets for Felling in 2019-20
- E. Status Report of revenue generated & average price of different product mix
- F. Reconciliation of Revenue between Territorial Divisions with WBFDC
- G. Finalization of scheduled rates for Timber Operation;
- H. Discussion regarding Product Mix.
- I. Status Review of E-Auction & Issues if any.

The meeting was co-chaired by Sh. S. Barari, PCCF & HoFF, West Bengal and Shri R.P Saini, MD WBFDC Ltd. 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 successful implantation of E auction system for disposal of forest produce.

After welcoming the officials present, he requested the Chief Conservator of Forests of various Territorial Circles to present the details of harvest done in the Divisions under their jurisdictions. Harvesting cost, total produce wise out turn, progress of sale, lifting of mining timber and payment of FPC share & Govt Royalty. GM North and South WBFDC Ltd., also made power point presentation about harvesting & disposal under respective Divisions in the WBFDC Ltd.

The presenters detailed about the harvesting operations completed during 2018-19 and proposed the felling targets for 2019-20 and other issues relevant to felling operations. Detail discussion followed and the observations and decisions taken are given below:

1. Harvesting Areas

In South Bengal, total targets for harvesting (Designate Division and WBFDC Ltd.) was kept at 6807.68 ha during 2018-19, which included 3709.50 ha Sal coppice area felling & 3098.18 ha plantation felling. Out of the above, actual achievement is 5667.70 ha which includes 3064.00 ha. for Sal coppice areas (82.60%) and 2603.70 ha plantation area (84.04 %). Overall achievement was 83.38 % for area harvested by Designated Divisions & 72.72 % for area harvested by WBFDC Ltd Divisions. Division wise achievement of harvesting was also reviewed. It was observed that Purulia Forest Division showed lowest achievement of 50 % only followed by Jhargram Forest Division at 61 %.

Shortage of achievement was ascribed to the following:

1. Low crop density in some areas
2. FPC disputes
3. Inaccessibility of areas
4. JFMCs not getting their share in past.
5. CFC coupes not handed over timely

In discussion with the field officers present and while reviewing the felling operation of 2018-19, it was observed that the 2018-19 felling cycle was supposed to be over by March 2019. Unfortunately, some felling operations continued till much later. Moreover, in South West Bengal, felling cycle should be over by January/February since the growing season for coppice shoots starts in February. PCCF & HoFF instructed Designated Divisions that WBFDC Divisions should be allotted felling areas having WBFDC infrastructure in nearby areas only and no areas should be allotted having dispute related to JFMCs. It was decided that CFC operations should be completed within March and no CFC issue shall be dealt with after May.

In North Bengal, CFC felling over an area of 42.88 ha could be completed against working plan approved targets of 102.07 ha. Detailed of area felled and out turn of produce is given below:

Division wise harvesting achievements from CFC for North Bengal in 2018-19

S.No.	Division	Harvesting Target (ha)		Achievement (ha)	Out turn Timber (m3)	Out turn Firewood (stacks)
1	Kurseong	0		0	0	0
2	Baikunthpur	56.55		0	0	0
3	Jalpaigiri	0		0	0	0
4	Jaldapara WL	36.65		35.51	3155.518	941
5	Kalimpong	0		0	0	0
6	Coochbehar	8.87		7.37	1027.193	76
	Total	102.07		42.88	4182.711	1017

Decisions

- (i) WBFDC Ltd Divisions should be allotted areas wherever WBFDC infrastructure is available.
- (ii) Felling may not be taken up in areas where local FPC members refuse to provide labour for felling.

- (iii) Felling operations must be completed, and areas handed over to respective Divisions before end of March.
- (iv) Each Division shall prepare GPS maps before starting felling & also after completion of felling in each area. From next year pre and post harvesting kmz files should be presented in meeting.

Out turn of Produce

During 2018-19, total production from harvesting is appx 14.34 Lakhs nos of sal poles, 4.09 lakhs nos. cogging sleepers, 10634.38 m3 timber and 71774.16 m3 of firewood in South Bengal.

The issue of differential cost of extraction due to different "Depot — CFC Area distances" was discussed. It was suggested that the concerned DFO & DM may exchange their depot location based on felling areas allotted, to reduce the carriage lead and to optimize the cost of extraction. This may be done amicably between the DFO and the DM, WBFDC. In North Bengal, total production was 4182.711 m3 timber and 1017 firewood stacks.

Decisions

1. It was reported in the meeting that Committee, comprising of CCF, WC; DFO Midnapur, DFO, Rupnarayan, DFO Panchet and DM-Kharagpur, WBFDC which was constituted in the last felling meeting for identification of correct size-wise product mix of the felling produce as per the market demand by obtaining the views of timber merchants, has submitted its report.
2. Lower girth class poles may be harvested to reduce firewood out turn.
3. WBFDC Divisions may be allowed to use available space in Depots maintained by Territorial Division.
4. GM HQ will inform Division wise targets for mining poles and cogging sleepers so that demand for coal companies are met completely.

2. Disposal of Forest Produce

Status of disposal of forest produce through auction was reviewed. GM HQ WBFDC informed that only E-auction for sale of forest produce are being conducted by WBFDC Ltd from February 2017 and WBFDC Ltd has conducted nos. 1971 E-Auctions till date. During 2018-19, for South Bengal, there were 8324 unsold Lots at start of the year. During 2018-19, from harvesting operations 24520 Lots were received. Out of this inventory, during 2018-19 in South Bengal, 28712 Lots were sold in e-Auction, which amounts to 87% Lots sold. This is encouraging trend as in previous years 87 %, 89 % & 62 % of lots were sold through e-Auction from 2015-16, 2016-17 & 2017-18 felling season.

Circle wise and Division wise progress of disposal of forest produce was also analysed. Sale of timber was very good in most of Divisions except Bankura South, Jhargram, Birbhum, Durgapur & Burdwan. Concerned CCFs, DFOs and DMS were requested to look into the matter. 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.

Decisions

1. DFOs/ DMS were instructed to increase the Reserve Price of the lots in multiples of INR 500. Concerned DFOs will submit revise reserve price timely.
2. Respective CCFs will look into the matter of rationalization of reserve price so that more lots can be sold.
3. All Divisions must submit reserve price of lots to be put up auction at least 10 working days before actual dates of auction so that all auctions should be published at least 7 days before actual auction date.
4. Unsold produce of 2015-16 & 2016-17 may be sold through Tender immediately.
5. Lot size should not be too large or too small and field officers were urged to make the size of lots in a manner that it can be transported in a single vehicle.
6. Lot no. should be unique to Division and same lot no. should not be repeated for produce from different ranges/beats/Depots/FPC in the Division.
7. All the DFOs/ DMS were advised by the PCCF & HoFF to tag the JFMC names with lot no. in North Bengal.
8. Lifting of Mining Timber: GM HQ informed about lifting of mining timber which is primarily dealt by Bankura FC Division. As per report submitted by the DM, Bankura FCD, 58501 nos. sal poles and 350587 nos. cogging sleepers have been lifted by the coal companies, from 1st Nov 2018 till 31st Aug 2019

3. 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.

Outstanding FPC shares upto 2016-17 should be distributed before the felling starts for 2018-19. The share upto 2015-16 felling year would be as per earlier G.O. The enhance FPC share would be payable on produce harvested during 2016-17 onwards. On the issue of distribution of FPC share in North Bengal through respective DMs; the MD expressed his reservations. He observed that there would be delay if the details of JFMC shares of all the JFMCs and their bank A/c details don't reach WBFDCCL in time. Without the updated accounts and details of JFMC shares, FPC wise share cannot be paid.

4. Targets for 2019-20

Division wise Tentative targets for felling during 2019-20 were also discussed. CF Working Plan informed that felling for Baikunthapur Division though approved it should not be felled owing to excessive CD lying in the field of the Division.

PCCF & HoFF directed all DFOs that the area felled must be regenerated & the area of regeneration could be more than the area felled during the year. Concerned CCFs during their presentation gave the details of the felling areas for the forthcoming season and GMs presented the details of allotment required for felling by WBFDC Ltd. The same can be streamlined in the field by the respective CCFs by discussion with the GMs of WBFDC Ltd. The Tentative are to be felled in CFCs in 2019-20 is as follows as per the approved ATR for the proposed felling in the current year:

TENTATIVE HARVESTING TARGETS FOR 2019-20

Division	Harvesting Targets 2019-20		
	Sal	Plantation/Misc	Total
A. SOUTH BENGAL			
Jhargram	655.00	112.50	767.50
Rupnarayan	520.00	362.00	882.00
Midnapur	802.00	398.48	1200.48
Kharagpur	176.00	67.00	243.00
Total WC	2153.00	939.98	3092.98
Bankura (N)	545.00	508.70	1053.70
Bankura (S)	424.00	779.00	1203.00
Panchet	485.50	495.00	980.50
Total CC	1454.50	1782.70	3237.20
Burdwan	60.00	191.00	251.00
Durgapur	10.00	75.00	85.00
Birbhum	20.00	136.00	156.00
Total SEC	90.00	402.00	492.00
Purulia Division	52.00	90.00	142.00
Kangsabati North	16.00	357.00	373.00
Kangsabati South	140.00	140.00	280.00
Total SWC	208.00	587.00	795.00
Total S.B.	3905.50	3711.68	7617.18

B. NORTH BENGAL			
Baikunthpur	27.83	28.88	56.69
Coochbehar		8.87	8.87
Total N.B.	27.83	37.75	65.56
GRAND TOTAL	3933.33	3749.43	7682.74

Decisions

- i) CF Working Plan will take immediate steps for renewal of pending working plans and update.
- ii) Looking at the reported excess extraction of timber having been made from the Baikunthapur division it was advised by the PCCF & HoFF to have ZERO FELLING for 2019-20. It was also suggested to immediately verify marking list and tally it with the extracted timber. It was also decided that the Baikunthapur division should identify the degraded areas for planting-up next year since the available felling area would be reduced.
- iii) CD operation in Baikunthapur Division shall be operated by jointly by WBFDC & DFO Baikunthapur.

5. Review of Depots

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.

6. Cyclone Damaged (CD) and Seized timber

It was resolved in respect of CD timber, concerned DFOs shall submit details to CCF/CF who shall then submit it to PCCF HOFF for approval. Upon receipt of PCCF HOFF approval of the specific cases, MD/WBFDC shall issue suitable instruction to concerned GM for fund release to the concerned unit. In case of Seized timber, PCCF HOFF shall issue directions for mechanism and fund release.

7. Harvesting Rates

The CCFs requested that harvesting rates needs to be revised during current year due to increased carriage cost and the same may be considered. Other Costs as stood last year were accepted owing to lowering of labour rates. The approve harvesting rates are enclosed in Annexure

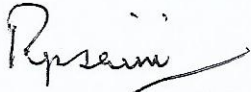
8. Thinning

Thinning in plantation was also proposed to be taken up and the CF WP&GIS would give details for thinning for taking up in the current year for various Divisions (current and past updates) after following due protocol as prescribed, so that it can be taken up in the current year.

9. Miscellaneous:

It was instructed by PCCF HOFF and MD/WBFDCL that reconciliation of financial figures as well as physical achievements shall be done between Forest Divisions and FC Divisions within 30.11.2019.

The meeting ended with vote of thanks to one and all


MD, WBFDCL Ltd/West Bengal

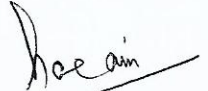

PCCF (HoFF)/West Bengal

No. 6545/MKT/2M-883/17

Dated: 24.10.2019

Copy forwarded for information & necessary action to:

1. The Principal Chief Conservator of Forests, General, West Bengal
2. The Principal Chief Conservator of Forests and CWLW, West Bengal
3. The Principal Chief Conservator of Forests, RMD, West Bengal
4. Addl. Principal Chief Conservator of Forests, Finance
5. Addl. Principal Chief Conservator of Forests North Bengal
6. The General Manager, Headquarters, WBFDC Ltd
7. The General Manager, North WBFDC Ltd.
8. All the Chief Conservator of Forests and FDs, West Bengal
9. All the Conservator of Forests, West Bengal
10. All the DFOs/DFDs/DCFs, West Bengal


PCCF (HoFF)/West Bengal

ANNEXURE

Item & Measurement	Unit	Rates for 2018-19	Rates for 2019-20
A. SOUTH BENGAL			
INCIDENTAL COSTS			
Coupe Marking	Ha	950	950
Extraction Path	Ha	2100	2100
Watch and Ward (Coupe)	Ha	1200	1200
Watch and Ward (Depot)	Ha	300	300
Contingency*	Ha	2500	2500
Maintenance of Depot	Ha	3400	3400
FELLING, LOGGING & CARRIAGE RATES			
POLES			
Girth upto 40cm of any length	No.	48	48
41-50cm upto 12'	No.	50	50
42-50cm upto 12'-14'	No.	54	54
42-50cm above 14'	No.	56	56
52-60cm upto 12'	No.	54	54
52-60cm upto 14'-16'	No.	70	70
52-60cm upto 18'-20'	No.	100	100
51-60cm upto 20'	No.	130	130
61cm above upto 12'	No.	80	80
61cm above upto 14'-16'	No.	140	140
61cm above upto 18'-20'	No.	200	200
61cm above upto 22'-24'	No.	235	235
61cm above upto 24'	No.	340	340
COGGING SLEEPER			
5"X5"X5"	No.	28	28
4"X4"X4"	No.	25	25
FIREWOOD			
Sal	Cum	420	420
Eucalyptus	Cum	420	420
Akashmoni	Cum	430	430

TIMBER			
Sal	Cum	2100	2100
Eucalyptus	Cum	2100	2100
Akashmoni	Cum	2200	2200
A. NORTH BENGAL			
TIMBER			
CFC			
Plain	Cum	2700	2700
Hills	Cum	3400	3400
CD/SEIZED			
Plain	Cum	2900	2900
Hills	Cum	4400	4400
FIREWOOD			
Plain	Cum	600	600
Hills	Cum	650	650
COUPE MARKING			
Plain	CUm	2100	2100
Hills	Cum	2100	2100
DEPOT MAINTENANCE			
Large	Cum	250000	250000
Small	Cum	125000	125000