DEVELOPING CERTIFICATION STANDARD FOR TREES OUTSIDE FOREST (TOF) IN INDIA

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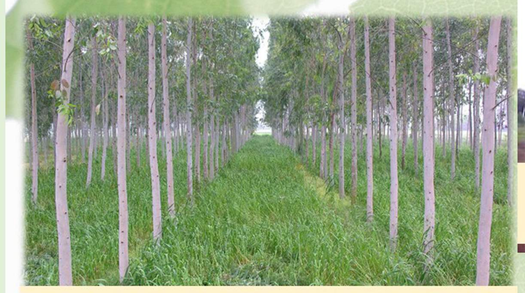
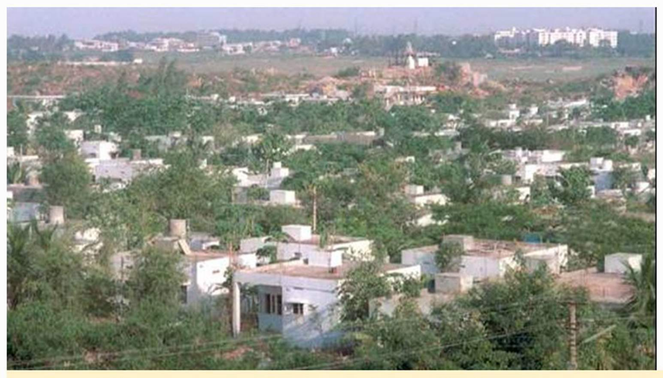
Trees outside Forest (TOF) in INDIA

- Woods from TOF constitute about 85% of the industrial wood consumption of India (< 70 million m^3)
- In India "***all trees growing outsides government recorded forest areas***" are defined as TOF
- TOF mostly grows in agroforests, farm lands, roadside, homesteads, gardens, orchards and urban areas
- The pattern of occurrence is in the form of block plantations/ forests or linear or scattered
- TOF remained as an invisible resource to land use agencies
- The economic value of TOF as industrial wood has not been properly assessed and realized



Block plantation of Eucalyptus

***Ailanthus Excelsa* & *Acacia Nilotica* On Farm Bunds**



Urban trees - Residential areas

Urban trees - Roadside plantations

Need for ToF Certification Standard in INDIA

- Huge production, but no sustainability adherence systems as well as standard for certification
- Indian producers using TOF wood are unable to tap the global market and fetch commensurate price
- Farmers holding most of this resource get adversely affected
- Unstable and inconsistent domestic marketing of TOF products
- Being in private sector, there is a lack of uniformity in silvicultural, management and other operational practices.
- Inadequate mechanism to access the improved and best management practices essential for sustainable management.

NCCF – ToF Certification Standard

- The standard is fully voluntary and not legal
- Is developed for the first time at Global and National level
- Developed through an open, transparent and consultative process
- Holds benefit for tree owners interested in sustainable management and certification
- Simple standard within the reach of small and marginal land holders, without compromising on global benchmarks
- The certification standard is globally aligned but made simple with 28 criteria and 97 indicators for block plantations and only 16 criteria and 51 indicators for scattered trees
- The standard focusses on 6 themes namely legality compliance; management plan and practices; health and vitality; maintenance and enhancement of productivity, socio-economic responsibility; and conservation and environmental safeguards

One year old Teak and Groundnut

***Casurina* in Private Land**

Multi-Stakeholder Driven

- Multi-stakeholder participation from timber, plywood and pulp and paper industries, farmer groups, wood suppliers and aggregators, governmental and non-governmental organizations, community organisations, research institutions, technical experts 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

About NCCF

NCCF is a multi-stakeholder not for profit society, registered under the Societies Registration Act 1860, with the main objective of developing a globally aligned certification program in India and addressing the concerns for sustainable management of forests and the plantations outside the forest areas, while at the same time making the Indian wood and forest fibre based industry competent globally.

Network for Certification and Conservation of Forests (NCCF)

NCCF

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