



## REPORT

# Stakeholder Consultation for Agroforestry Promotion in Assam



**24 JUNE 2022**

**ASSAM ADMINISTRATIVE STAFF COLLEGE,  
KHANAPARA, GUWAHATI, ASSAM**

## A. BACKGROUND

Assam, the gateway to northeast India, is known for its rich biological and cultural diversity. The forest ecosystems of the state – comprising luxuriant species and the varying habitats, landscapes, and regions in which they exist – are key to the spiritual, cultural, psychological, and social wellbeing of its diverse communities.

The Assam Forest Department has undertaken numerous initiatives to protect its ecosystems and communities, make them more resilient to climate change and develop a more sustainable state. To this effect, the Assam Forest Department, in association with Agence Française de Développement (AFD), launched the Assam Project on Forest and Biodiversity Conservation (APFBC) Phase-II with an overall aim to protect the state's natural ecosystems and habitats. One of the mandates of the APFBC is to promote alternative livelihoods among the forest-fringe communities of the state. Agroforestry is one of the alternative livelihood options that have the potential to cater to the goals of increasing green cover (outside the Recorded Forest Area), augmenting carbon sequestration, and creating sustainable livelihoods.

Realizing the importance and role of agroforestry in promoting sustainable development of the most vulnerable communities in the state, the Government of Assam, on 10 December 2021, has notified the creation of the Assam Agroforestry Development Board as a non-profit Company. It is envisaged that by working together the APFBC Society and the newly formed Agroforestry Board could promote agroforestry as an income-generating activity amongst the forest-fringe communities. Development of agroforestry in the state would lead to sustainable livelihood enhancement, increased green cover and climate change risk mitigation.

The first of its kind stakeholder consultation workshop was held on 24 June 2022 in the august presence of **Mr. Chandra Mohan Patowary, Hon'ble Minister for Environment and Forests, Government of Assam.**

### **Key objectives:**

The main objective of the workshop was to understand issues, challenges and best practices in the promotion and scaling up of agroforestry in the state. To achieve the above objective, the workshop facilitated a consultation and brainstorming of various stakeholders, with a focus on the following:

1. Facilitating an exchange and sharing of knowledge and ideas on the various themes of agroforestry development with the diverse group of stakeholders
2. Identifying opportunities for convergence of schemes and coordination among government machineries to promote agroforestry in the state
3. Highlighting challenges and issues related to raw material availability, supply chains, marketing linkages, regulatory compliances, among others and brainstorming potential solutions to enable the development of the agroforestry industry in Assam
4. Discussing the challenges faced by farmers and members of forest-fringe communities and highlight success stories on adoption and implementation of agroforestry
5. Sharing insights on potential ideas and successful agroforestry interventions that could be promoted and upscaled in different regions of Assam

## Outcomes:

The first of its kind workshop agroforestry workshop in Assam was attended by various stakeholders, including businesses, government, technical experts, and local communities who actively participated in the consultations during the day. The detailed agenda of the workshop is shared in **Annexure I**; the list of participants is shared in **Annexure II**.

Mr. Chandra Mohan Patowary, Hon'ble Minister for Environment and Forests, Government of Assam inaugurated the workshop and launched the flyer Agroforestry Promotion in Assam. Launch of the flyer and the following stakeholder consultation with the Hon'ble minister focussed on the promotion of agroforestry and securing partnerships among various players in the agroforestry sector including government departments, industries, farmers, and forest-fringe communities. Consultations during the workshop were focussed on the dual goals of increasing green cover outside forest areas and enhancing the livelihoods of farmers and forest-fringe communities through agroforestry-based interventions.

Participants from all stakeholder groups contributed their thoughts and insights on current challenges and highlighted some of the best practices in the implementation of agroforestry which would be instrumental in paving the roadmap for agroforestry development in the state.



*The first agroforestry stakeholder consultation workshop of Assam was held on 24 June 2022 in the Assam Staff Administrative College, Khanapara, Guwahati*

## B. SETTING THE CONTEXT

The opening session of the consultation workshop focused on providing an overview of the agroforestry sector, and underlying challenges and opportunities in Assam. The session also included industry-specific cases of agroforestry promotion which highlighted the potential of agroforestry as an inclusive solution toward sustaining agricultural production for livelihood, environmental and economic security.

Summaries of insights shared and key takeaways from the session are given below:

1. **Mr. Amit Kumar, Associate Partner, Business Consulting, Ernst & Young**, spoke about recent trends in Assam's Forest Cover, the demand-supply gap of wood-based industries, agroforestry-related transit rules, and best practices in West Bengal and Northeast that could be adapted to Assam's context for local level replication. He also shared his insights on how the Agroforestry Board and the APFBC Society could work together to achieve the objectives of both parties by promoting agroforestry as an alternate livelihood solution to enhance the socio-economic wellbeing of forest-fringe communities and increase the resilience of the forest ecosystems.
2. **Mr. Biswajit Chakrabarty, Senior Director FICCI, North-East Advisory Council & Assam State Office**, spoke about agroforestry as a tool for convergence of sustainability and economic growth. Mr. Chakrabarty shared how the involvement of large business houses could boost agroforestry promotion with a focus on furniture, food, and medicinal plants. He further spoke about the role of setting up industrial hubs for the promotion of agroforestry and the need for enabling policy, skill development and capacity-building ecosystem to spur investments in the sector.
3. **Mr. Suresh M R, Chief Operating Officer, Cycle Pure Agarbathies**, explained the Agarbathi manufacturing process and the raw materials required to highlight the potential of the Agarbathi industry in the promotion of the agroforestry sector. He also highlighted some of the challenges such as insufficient capital or funds to run the farm, poor access to credit, shortage of raw material, and inadequate market linkages that need to be addressed for the development of the sector.
4. **Mr. Ujjawal Kumar Sinha, Senior Program Manager, ITC** provided his insights on the role of agroforestry in ensuring higher economic returns to the farming community and generating additional rural employment opportunities. Mr. Sinha highlighted various techniques to promote tree-based farming through agroforestry model, accommodating trees and field crops, and stressed that plantation outside RF areas have the potential for agro-diversification through polyculture. He also highlighted agroforestry models adopted and promoted by ITC towards creating climate-sensitive landscape restoration, diversification of farm income, climate change mitigation, disaster resilience, and higher economic returns to the farmers.

### Key takeaways from the session:

1. The availability of wood domestically is at 9 million tonnes per annum (TPA) and is inadequate compared to the demand, which is currently about 11 million TPA and is projected to rise to 15 million TPA by 2024-25.

2. Need for better understanding and consultation on the Transit Rules for timber Products such as scheduled trees in Assam are required to facilitate harvest and transport of timber-based produce.
3. There is an estimated \$180-200 Bn global opportunity in the next decade in the furniture sector. Involvement of large business houses focussing on furniture, food, and medicinal plants could give a major boost to agroforestry.
4. Need to address the challenges of insufficient capital or funds, poor access to credit and shortage of superior planting material, inadequate market linkages and value chains for agroforestry promotion.
5. Agroforestry through diversification of crops and polyculture would have higher economic returns to the farming community and generate additional rural employment opportunities.



*Setting the context - sharing of insights by industry players on agroforestry promotion in Assam*



*Participants in the consultation workshop comprised of representatives from government departments, industries, local communities (including Joint Forest Management Committees) and NGOs*

### C. INAUGURAL SESSION

The conference was inaugurated by Mr. Chandra Mohan Patowary, Hon'ble Minister for Environment and Forests, Government of Assam in the presence of dignitaries including Mr. Ravi Shankar Prasad, IAS, Additional Chief Secretary, Department of Environment & Forests, Government of Assam, Mr. K. S. P. V. Pavan Kumar, IFS, Addl. Principal Chief Conservator of Forests & Project Director, Assam Project on Forest and Biodiversity Conservation (APFBC) Society and Dr. Sonali Ghosh, IFS, Chief Conservator of Forest & Chief Executive Officer, Assam Agroforestry Development Board. The dignitaries were welcomed and felicitated by members of the Joint Forest Management Committees attending the workshop.

As part of the inaugural session, an e-flyer on Agroforestry Promotion in Assam was released by the Hon'ble Minister. The flyer presents an overview of agroforestry potential in Assam and the role of agroforestry in securing the livelihoods of forest-fringe communities in Assam and SDGs in general. The launch of the flyer is aimed at the promotion of agroforestry and securing partnerships among various players in the agroforestry sector including government departments, industries, farmers, and forest-fringe communities.

**Mr. K. S. P. V. Pavan Kumar** welcomed the participants and set the stage for the discussions and deliberations of the workshop. In his welcome address, he added to the context of the workshop and emphasized the importance of stakeholder consultations and understanding the perspectives of various stakeholders in setting the direction, strategies, and roadmap for the development of agroforestry in Assam.

**Mr. Ravi Shankar Prasad** provided the opening remarks to the workshop. In his speech, he highlighted that agriculture and allied activities have overriding importance as a source of livelihood to the people in Assam and that convergence between forestry and agriculture sectors can help in diversifying the livelihood options of the forest fringe communities and make them resilient to absorb climate hazards. Mr. Prasad also mentioned that the Government of Assam has pledged to increasing the forest cover of Assam by 2% to the current forest cover and agroforestry including TOF (Trees outside Forest) ventures would be an important means to achieve this.

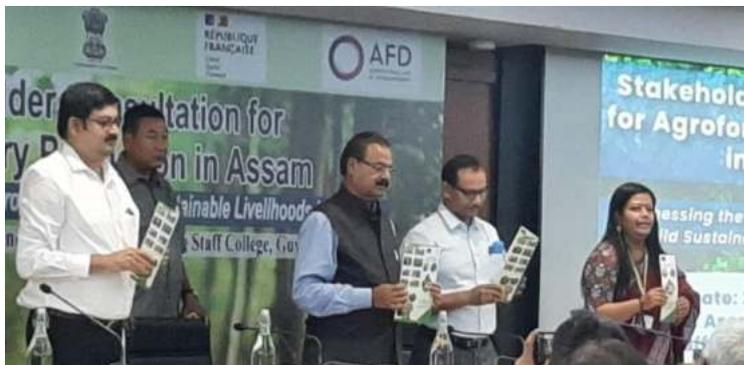
Representatives from the local community were then invited to share their experiences about their involvement in Agroforestry based livelihood activities. **Ms. Mailo B Marak from the Panbari Eco Development Committee (EDC)** spoke about the importance of Eri cultivation to the livelihoods of the local community. Members of the community have been earning approximately Rs. 5,000 per month from the sale of silkworm pupae and silk threads. Ms. Marak also stated that the provision of improved machines for cutting and weaving Eri threads can further boost their incomes. **Ms. Bulu Bora Medhi from Ouguri EDC** highlighted the benefits of the training on weaving and tailoring activities. **Ms. Madhusmita Rabha from Nagaon Joint Forest Management Committee (JFMC)** acknowledged the role of the Forest Department in developing skills related to the manufacture of bamboo handicrafts and jewellery. Ms. Rabha also mentioned that additional support with promotion and the creation of market linkages would help them earn higher income from the activity.

Participants from the industry, research institutes, government and non-government organizations were also invited to share their ideas for agroforestry promotion in Assam with the Hon'ble Minister. Some of the key highlights of the discussions included incentivising

plywood and other wood based industries that stopped functioning after the ban on green felling in 1996, identifying potential business activities that can augment green cover through plantations outside forest areas, establishing models of sustainable income for the local community, empowering women members of the communities through agroforestry-based livelihoods, and integrating models of productivity and profitability that benefit all stakeholders and contribute to the conservation of forest ecosystems and biodiversity of the state.

**Mr. Chandra Mohan Patowary** provided his keynote address after the discussion. In his speech, the Hon'ble minister stressed on preparing a proper roadmap for the promotion of agroforestry in Assam. He emphasised that conserving biodiversity, addressing human-elephant conflict must also be the key objectives of the agroforestry models to be tested in Assam. He also urged representatives from the industrial sector to come up with agroforestry-based plans so that forest fringe communities and farmers can also be benefitted. He assured that the government will make necessary policy changes wherever needed to ensure the benefit of all the stakeholders and the protection of natural forests in Assam. Mr. Patowary concluded his address with emphasis on the need for collaborative research involving the forest department and Assam Agricultural University to address issues related to agroforestry development in the State.

**Dr. Sonali Ghosh** concluded the inaugural session with a vote of thanks to the dignitaries and the participants. In her address, Dr. Ghosh expressed her gratitude for the insights shared which would help in preparing the roadmap for agroforestry promotion in the State.



*Release of the flyer on Agroforestry Promotion in Assam*



*Welcome address by  
Mr. K. S. P. V. Pavan Kumar, IFS,  
Addl. Principal Chief Conservator of  
Forests & Project Director, APFBC  
Society*



*Opening remarks by  
Mr. Ravi Shankar Prasad, IAS,  
Additional Chief Secretary,  
Department of Environment &  
Forests, Government of Assam*



*Keynote address by  
Mr. Chandra Mohan Patowary,  
Hon'ble Minister for Environment and  
Forests, Government of Assam*

## D. TECHNICAL SESSION – I: AGROFORESTRY FOR BUSINESS

This session aimed at understanding the industry perspective on the development of agroforestry in Assam with a special focus on high-value products like medicinal plants, bamboo, and plywood.

The chair of the session **Dr. Chandrashekhar M. Biradar, Country Director - India and Chief of Party - TOFI, The Centre for International Forestry Research (CIFOR), and The World Agroforestry (ICRAF)**, commenced the session with an overview on the importance and role of industries in contributing to green cover outside the forest area, to meet the needs of both industries as well as the well-being of forest-fringe communities and farmers. Summaries of insights shared and key takeaways from the session are given below:

1. **Mr. Jatindra Sharma, IFS, Field Director, Kaziranga Tiger Reserve**, spoke about the linkages between medicinal plants and shared the conservation value of medicinal plants in NE and their role in agroforestry, biodiversity conservation and livelihood. Mr. Sharma highlighted the potential of newly discovered medicinal plants such as *Garcinia assamica*, *Carissa kopilli*, *Smilax sailenii*, among others which can contribute to the goals of biodiversity conservation and socio-economic development in forest-fringe areas.
2. **Mr. Ajay Niding, Vice President, Orient Paper Mills**, began his presentation with an insight on the annual consumption of wood and bamboo raw materials in Assam which is above 4,00,000 MT. Mr. Niding also shared about his company's policies for the purchase of wood and bamboo and the existing governance of the network of Farmer Producer Organizations (FPOs) and cooperatives to facilitate the marketing of wood procured from farmers.
3. **Mr. J. K. Jain, Vice President, Greenply Industries**, explained the mission of his industry and how they contributed to natural resource sustainability. Mr. Jain shared that the company aims to plant 15 million seedlings to cover around 5000-6000 hectares of land under plantation during 2022-2023 in the country. He also emphasized the need for the deployment of superior genetic material which would help in increasing the per unit productivity, in turn ensuring maximum returns to beneficiaries.

Concluding remarks were presented by co-chair of the session **Dr. Om Prakash, IAS, Commissioner and Secretary, Department of Agriculture**. In his remarks, Dr. Prakash, highlighted the potential of agroforestry in achieving the goals of increasing farmers' incomes and safeguarding the ecological wealth of Assam.

### **Key takeaways from the session:**

1. Need for development and promotion of agroforestry models that include propagation of medicinal plants to support biodiversity conservation goals.
2. Strong community institutions, farmer groups and supporting them through open and transparent procurement and marketing linkages are key in development of the sector.
3. Propagation of agroforestry species with superior genetic material through tissue culture could contribute to better availability of raw material and increased business productivity. This would also provide maximum returns to beneficiaries including farmers and forest fringe communities.

## **E. TECHNICAL SESSION – II: AGROFORESTRY FOR GOVERNMENT**

This session aimed to provide light on some of the thrust areas that would be required to promote the agroforestry sector with a special focus on financing, technology upgradation and various agroforestry models in Assam.

This session gave insights on some of the important agroforestry models and financing avenues to help enhance productivity, profitability, diversity and substance and sustainability of ecosystems and communities in the state. This session also highlighted some of the challenges such as shrinking land size, and long gestation period of agroforestry models which may constrain the effective implementation of such models in the state.

The chair of the session **Mr. Suman Mahapatra, IFS, Additional PCCF & CEO State CAMPA**, commenced the session with an emphasis on the need for development of agroforestry models that could help in agroforestry promotion in Assam. Deeper insights were shared by representatives from the Assam Agriculture University and the National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD). Summaries of the presentations and key takeaways from the session are given below:

- 1. Ms. Ranjita Bezbaruah, Scientist, and Principal Investigator of All India Coordinated Research Project, Agroforestry, Horticulture Research Station, Assam Agricultural University (AAU)**, stressed on the issues of shrinking land-holding patterns and the role of agroforestry in optimizing farm productivity and enhancing livelihood opportunities for small farmers, landless, and women. Ms. Bezbaruah also highlighted various approaches to include plantations in the farmland. She also spoke about the agroforestry models and suitable tree species identified by the AAU for propagation of agroforestry in Assam.
- 2. Mr. Devesh Tewari, Assistant Manager, National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD), Assam**, shared the financing avenues of NABARD on contract farming and the entire gamut of NABARD interventions and agroforestry models supported in Assam. He also spoke about the Assam Bamboo Cane Policy – 2019 and its aspects on conservation, propagation, harvesting, and industrial & non-industrial processing for the promotion of bamboo cultivation. Highlighting the issues of long gestation period for agroforestry plantations, Mr. Tewari stressed the need for an appropriate framework to be put in place to evaluate agroforestry projects with perceived financial and socio-economic impacts to ensure easy access to loans and grants.

The session chair, Mr. Suman Mahapatra thanked the speakers for sharing their insights and concluded the session with emphasis on the need for developing bankable models that could help in promoting agroforestry while securing credit from financial institutions.

### **Key takeaways from the session:**

1. Need for collaborative research between the Assam Agroforestry Development Board, the Assam Forest Department and the AAU for development and promotion of agroforestry models that include the propagation of aromatic and medicinal plants to support biodiversity conservation goals.
2. To overcome the current challenges of limited access to finance, it is important to develop a framework to evaluate and support agroforestry projects to facilitate access to finance – in collaboration with NABARD and other financial institutions.

## F. TECHNICAL SESSION – III: AGROFORESTRY FOR COMMUNITIES

The session was chaired by **Mr. K.S.P.V Pavan Kumar, IFS, Addl. Principal Chief Conservator of Forest & Project Director, Assam Forest and Biodiversity Conservation (APFBC) Society** and co-chaired by **Dr. Amiya Kumar Sharma, Executive Director, Rashtriya Gramin Vikas Nidhi**.

The session started with an overview by the co-chair on the current livelihood practices at the community level. Dr. Amiya Kumar Sharma discussed the reliance of the community on cash crops and stressed on the importance to include the aspect of animal husbandry when planning agroforestry interventions. Mr. Sharma spoke about the need for awareness among the community on all related livelihood aspects for their socio-economic well-being. He also stressed on the human-animal conflict issues which adversely affect the lives and livelihoods of the forest-fringe communities. He emphasized the collaborative role of the Assam Agroforestry Development Board, the Forest Department and development partners to explore options to address the issues through an integrated approach. He welcomed the participants to share their views and enrich the discussion with their field experience of working with the communities in promotion of agroforestry.

Summaries of presentations and insights shared by the speakers and key takeaways from the session are given below:

1. **Mr. Amiya Kumar Das, Program Head – Agriculture and Livelihood, Grameen Sahara** provided an overview of their organization's focus on crop intensification and spice promotion in agroforestry to support livelihoods of the forest fringe community. The organization is implementing this in the field through the promotion of agriculture-based livelihoods in Goalpara, Kamrup districts of Assam and Ri-Bhoi in Meghalaya. For promotion of agroforestry, Grameen Sahara is supporting farmers in the production, promotion, and marketing of locally found spices to enhance livelihood of the rural community.
2. **Ms. Joanna Dawson, Anthropological Visioner** and **Mr. Gautam Baruah, Chief Operations Architect, Balipara Foundation**, spoke about the role of their Rural Futures Model in providing payment for restoration, agroforestry, sustainable business, and scientific management of natural resources. Under this model, the organization has facilitated enhancing the rural incomes linked to forest restoration among rural and forest-fringe communities, paving the way for socioeconomic mobility linked to natural capital regeneration. The key focus of this model is not only to engage communities but also to impart the technical knowledge and development of managerial skills such that they can invest in creating sustainable businesses such as nurseries and homestays. Ms. Dawson also shared the social context of their approach outcomes in providing universal access to basic assets, enhancing youth & civil engagement, reducing migration, and engaging youth members of the community in the conservation of indigenous knowledge.
3. **Mr. Anubhav Mittal, CEO, Bio Craft Innovation**, provided insights on the bamboo-based granules as an alternative to plastics and how their start-up could support plantation and commercial farming on a large scale and help reduce land erosion and

sustain rural livelihoods in the state of Uttarakhand. Mr. Mittal also shared the impact of their start-up towards converting agricultural waste to valuable industrial feedstock, ensuring sustainable land restoration, as well as supporting small and marginal farmers through plantations.

4. **Dr. S. N. Goswami, Micro plan Expert, Project Implementation Support Agency (PISA)**, spoke about the vision of the Assam Project on Forest and Biodiversity Conservation Project (APFBC) Phase II to contribute toward the conservation of nature for healthier ecosystems and happier communities. He presented the potential models in agroforestry that would be implemented in Phase II of the APFBC Project. In his presentation, he stressed on the importance of exploring market opportunities for promotion of agroforestry products and facilitating the creation of production facilities and production clusters in identified high-potential villages for streamlining the production of goods. As a key step in the promotion of agroforestry under the Project, Mr. Goswami emphasized the need for micro plans to be developed at the grassroots level to identify appropriate, site-specific agroforestry options, training of community members on sustainable livelihoods, strengthening market linkages and developing overall community awareness to maximize the participation of members from the forest-fringe communities.

Mr. K.S.P.V Pavan Kumar delivered the concluding address by highlighting the need for the development partners to work on potential models of agroforestry with due regard to the specific needs of the community to achieve the desired goals.

#### **Key takeaways from the session:**

1. Need for creation of adequate awareness among farmers and members of forest-fringe communities on different models of agroforestry.
2. Development of appropriate agroforestry models with due consideration of site-level scenario, needs and current livelihood practices of the community.
3. Identification of market opportunities for promotion of agroforestry products and high-potential villages to set up production clusters.
4. Focus on imparting both technical knowledge and managerial skills among the community to enable the creation of sustainable business models that can support agroforestry development in forest-fringe areas.



*Discussions and presentations from technical sessions I, II and III*



## G. CONCLUDING SESSION

**Dr. Sonali Ghosh** concluded the consultation workshop with a vote of thanks for the participants, their insights, and the consultations during the different sessions. She presented the key thematic areas that emerged during the consultations including availability of quality raw material, creation of assets to set up production clusters, market linkage opportunities, incentives for farmers and community members, human-wildlife conflict, and others.

Dr. Ghosh stated that the Assam Agroforestry Development Board would develop future strategies based on the deliberations and recommendations arrived at the workshop.



*Concluding remarks by Dr. Sonali Ghosh, IFS, CCF & Chief Executive Officer, Assam Agroforestry Development Board*

The links to the media coverage of the event is shared in **Annexure III**



## STAKEHOLDER CONSULTATION FOR AGROFORESTRY PROMOTION IN ASSAM

Venue: Assam Administrative Staff College, Khanapara, Guwahati  
24<sup>th</sup> June 2022

### PROGRAMME SCHEDULE

9:30 – 10:00 hrs	<b>REGISTRATION</b>
10:00 – 11:00 hrs	<p><b>SETTING THE CONTEXT</b></p> <p><b>Potential of agroforestry for socio-economic development in Assam</b> Mr. Amit Kumar, Associate Partner, Business Consulting, Ernst &amp; Young</p> <p><b>Opportunities in upscaling agroforestry operations in Assam</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Mr. Biswajit Chakrabarty, Senior Director FICCI, North-East Advisory Council &amp; Assam State Office</li> <li>▪ Mr. Ujjawal Kumar Sinha, Senior Program Manager, ITC</li> <li>▪ Mr. Suresh M R, Chief Operating Officer, Cycle Pure Agarbathies</li> </ul> <p><b>Q&amp;A and discussion</b></p>
11:00 – 12:00 hrs	<p><b>INAUGURAL SESSION</b></p> <p>Welcome and Felicitation: Mr. K. S. P. V. Pavan Kumar, IFS, Addl. Principal Chief Conservator of Forest, &amp; Project Director, Assam Project on Forest and Biodiversity Conservation (APFBC) Society</p> <p>Opening Remarks: Mr. Ravi Shankar Prasad, IAS, Additional Chief Secretary, Department of Environment &amp; Forests, Government of Assam</p> <p>Release: Flyer on the Agroforestry Promotion in Assam</p> <p>Experience Sharing by Forest-Fringe Communities</p> <p><b>Keynote Address: Mr. Chandra Mohan Patowary, Hon'ble Minister for Environment and Forests, Government of Assam</b></p> <p>Vote of Thanks: Dr. Sonali Ghosh, IFS, CCF &amp; Chief Executive Officer, Assam Agroforestry Development Board</p>
12:00 – 12:30 hrs	<b>Tea Break</b>
12:30 – 13:00 hrs	<p><b>TECHNICAL SESSION – I: Agroforestry for Business</b></p> <p><i>Chair:</i> Dr. Chandrashekhkar M. Biradar, Country Director -India and Chief of Party-TOFI, The Centre for International Forestry Research (CIFOR), and The World Agroforestry (ICRAF), New Delhi</p> <p><i>Speakers:</i> <b>Medicinal Plants under Promotion of Agroforestry</b></p>

	<p>Mr. Jatindra Sarma, IFS, Field Director, Kaziranga Tiger Reserve</p> <p><b>Agroforestry development from an industry perspective</b> Mr. Ajay Nioding, Vice President, Orient Paper Mills</p> <p><b>Q&amp;A and discussion</b></p>
<b>13:00 -14:00 hrs</b>	<b>Lunch Break</b>
<b>14:00 -15:00 hrs</b>	<p><b>TECHNICAL SESSION – II: Agroforestry for Government</b></p> <p><i>Chair:</i> Mr. Suman Mahapatra, IFS ACCF &amp; CEO Assam State CAMPA</p> <p><i>Co-Chair:</i> Dr. Om Prakash, IAS, Commissioner and Secretary, Agriculture</p> <p><i>Speakers:</i> <b>Financing options to operationalize agroforestry models</b> Mr. Nabin Kumar Roy, General Manager, National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD), Assam</p> <p><b>Latest research, technology, and marketing in agroforestry</b> Ms. Ranjita Bezbaruah, Scientist, and Principal Investigator of All India Coordinated Research Project, Agroforestry, Horticulture Research Station, Assam Agricultural University</p> <p><b>Q&amp;A and discussion</b></p>
<b>15:00 - 15:30 hrs</b>	<b>Tea Break</b>
<b>15:30 – 16:30 hrs</b>	<p><b>TECHNICAL SESSION – III: Agroforestry for communities</b></p> <p><i>Chair:</i> Mr. K. S. P. V. Pavan Kumar, IFS, Addl. Principal Chief Conservator of Forest &amp; Project Director, Assam Project on Forest and Biodiversity Conservation (APFBC) Society</p> <p><i>Co-Chair:</i> Dr. Amiya K. Sharma, Executive Director, Rashtriya Gramin Vikas Nidhi (RGVN)</p> <p><i>Speakers:</i> <b>Market linkages and supply chains for promotion of agroforestry – lessons and best practices –</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Mr. J. K. Jain, Vice President, Greenply Industries</li> <li>▪ Mr. Anubhav Mittal, CEO, Bio Craft Innovation</li> <li>▪ Mr. Makhan Gattani, Managing Director, Gattani Industries</li> </ul> <p><b>Agroforestry as a sustainable income-generating activity – lessons and best practices</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Dr. S. N. Goswami, Microplan Expert, Project Implementation Support Agency (PISA)</li> <li>▪ Mr. Amiya Kumar Das, Program head, Agriculture and Livelihood, Grameen Sahara</li> <li>▪ Mr. Gautam Baruah, Rural Futures, Chief Operations Architect, Balipara Foundation and Ms. Joanna Dawson, Anthropological Visioner, Balipara Foundation</li> </ul> <p><b>Q&amp;A and discussion</b></p>
<b>16:30 - 17:00 hrs</b>	Vote of Thanks: Dr Sonali Ghosh IFS, CCF & Chief Executive Officer, Assam Agroforestry Development Board

## Annexure - II

### List of Participants

Sl. No.	Name of Participant	Designation	Organization
1	Mr. Abdul Quavi	Individual Consultant	-
2	Mr. Abdul Wahid Choudhury	Senior Procurement Specialist	Project Management Unit, APFBC Society
3	Mr. Ajay Kumar Singh	Managing Director	Vision EIS Consulting Pvt. Ltd.
4	Mr. Ajay Nioding	Vice President	Orient Paper Mills
5	Mr. Akshat Nagar	Plantation Expert	Project Management & Monitoring Consultant (PMMC)
6	Mr. Amit Bajaj	Director	Ernst & Young
7	Mr. Amit Kumar	Associate Partner	Ernst & Young
8	Mr. Amiya Kumar Das	Program Head-Agri and Livelihood	Grameen Sahara (NGO)
9	Dr. Amiya Kumar Sharma	Executive Director	RGVN
10	Ms. Ankita Kakati	Coordinator, PRA & Micro Planning	Project Implementation & Support Agency (PISA)
11	Ms. Ankita Rabha	Community Member	JFMC, Kulsi
12	Mr. Anubhav Mittal	CEO	Ibanss - Bio Craft Innovations Pvt. Ltd.
13	Mr. Aranya Biswas	Sr. Executive	Arinova Exim India Pvt. Ltd
14	Ms. Archita Duarah	Coordinator, Training & Capacity Building	PISA
15	Mr. Arup Das	Field Head	PISA
16	Mr. Arvind Gupta	Senior MIS Executive	PISA
17	Mr. Atanu Chatterjee	Senior Program Officer	ITC
18	Ms. Avarana Chatterjee	Office Manager	PISA
19	Mr. B. D. Sanma	Assistant Director	Spices Board of India
20	Mr. Bhaskar J Paul	Biodiversity Expert	PMMC
21	Mr. Bidyut Bikash Das	Coordinator, Convergence	PISA
22	Mr. Biswajit Chakrabarty	Senior Director, North East Advisory Council & Assam State Office	FICCI
23	Ms. Bulu Medi Borah	Treasurer	JFMC, Pobitora
24	Dr. Chandrashekhar Biradar	Country Director India and Chief of Party TOFI	CIFOR
25	Mr. Debabrata Biswas	Director	SandMartin Exports Private Limited
26	Ms. Deena Baruah	E&S Specialist	PMMC
27	Mr. Devesh Tewari	Assistant Manager	NABARD
28	Mr. Dhanmoni Deka	Field Head	PISA
29	Mr. Dhruva Jyoti Deka	Farmer	-
30	Mr. Dhruva Jyoti Sengupta	Team Leader	PMMC
31	Mr. Dibankar Deb	Silviculturist Assam	Assam Forest Department

Sl. No.	Name of Participant	Designation	Organization
32	Mr. Diganta Deka	Farmer	FPO, Chaygaon
33	Ms. Dimpri Bora	IFS, Divisional Forest Officer, Kamrup West Division	Assam Forest Department
34	Mr. Dipan Deka	AFS, Range Forest Officer, Kulsi	Assam Forest Department
35	Mr. Dwijendra Mohan Barman	Dy. Director (Dev)	Spices Board of India
36	Dr. G. Murtem	Dy. Mission Director	Arunachal State Bamboo Mission
37	Mr. Gautam Baruah	Chief Operations Architect	Balipara Foundation
38	Mr. Gyan Prasad Sharma	Institution Development Specialist	PMMC
39	Ms. Gyanasree Borthakur	Project Head	PISA
40	Ms. Hemanta Sharma	Trainer	JFMC, Kulsi
41	Mr. J K Jain	Vice President	Greenply Industries Ltd (Assam)
42	Mr. Jatindra Sarma	IFS, Chief Conservator of Forest, Field Director, Kaziranga Tiger Reserve	Assam Forest Department
43	Ms. Jaya Marak	Weaver	JFMC, Panbari
44	Ms. Joanna Dawson	Anthropological Visioner	Balipara Foundation
45	Ms. Jumuka Boro	Farmer	FPO, Chaygaon
46	Ms. Jyoti Bikash	Farmer	JFMC, Ouguri
47	Ms. Jyoti Prasad Borah	President	JFMC, Pobitora
48	Mr. Jyotirmoy Saswmy	Artisan	Baredala Hasta Silpa Co-operative Society
49	Ms. Jyotshna Boro	Farmer	FPO, Chaygaon
50	Mr. K. S. P. V. Pavan Kumar	IFS, Additional Principal Chief Conservator of Forests, & Project Director, APFBCS	Assam Forest Department
51	Ms. Kalpana Borah	Member	JFMC, Pobitora
52	Mr. Kamal Deka	Artisan	Baredala Hasta Silpa Co-operative Society
53	Mr. Kanak Deka	President	Baredala Hasta Silpa Co-operative Society
54	Mr. Kaushik Goswami	Accountant	Project Management Unit, APFBC Society
55	Mr. Kishore Kumar Dutta	Office Assistant	Assam Forest Department
56	Ms. Madhusmita Rabha	Community Member	JFMC, Kulsi
57	Ms. Mailo B Marak	Weaver	JFMC, Panbari
58	Mr. Makhan Gattani	Managing Director	Gattani Industries
59	Ms. Manjula Rabha	Farmer	FPO, Chaygaon
60	Mr. Manoj Sharma	Project Coordinator, M&E	PISA
61	Ms. Monica Bora Medhi	Weaver	JFMC, Pobitora
62	Mr. Montu Nath	Junior Assistant	Assam Forest Department
63	Mr. Mrinal Paul	Livelihood & Marketing Expert	PMMC

Sl. No.	Name of Participant	Designation	Organization
64	Mr. N. Anand	IFS, Chief Conservator of Forests, Research Education & Working Plan	Assam Forest Department
65	Mr. N. P. Singh	Plant Head	Century Plyboards
66	Mr. Nimit Jain	Finance Advisor	Project Management Unit, APFBC Society
67	Ms. Nirmala Borah	Weaver	JFMC, Pobitora
68	Dr. Om Prakash	IAS, Commissioner and Secretary, Agriculture Department	Government of Assam
69	Mr. Prabhat Saikia	Asst. Professor	LTK College
70	Dr. Pranab Mahanta	Deputy Director of Agriculture (Hort.)	Department of Agriculture & Horticulture
71	Mr. Priyanku Chowdhury	Junior Photographer	DIPR
72	Mr. Probal Deep Das	Manager	Ernst & Young
73	Ms. Purva Rabha	Farmer	FPO, Chaygaon
74	Mr. Rajib Das	IFS, Divisional Forest Officer, Forest Resource and Survey Division	Assam Forest Department
75	Mr. Rajib Deb	Founder	SandMartin Exports Private Limited
76	Dr. Rajib Kagyung	Asst. Professor	ADP College
77	Ms. Ranjita Bezbarauh	Scientist	Assam Agricultural University
78	Mr. Ratul Saha	Wildlife Expert	PMMC
79	Mr. Ravi Shankar Prasad	IAS, Additional Chief Secretary, Department of Environment & Forests	Government of Assam
80	Ms. Rehena Sultana	Procurement Executive	Project Management Unit, APFBC Society
81	Ms. Richika Agarwalla	Partner	Asama Enterprise
82	Ms. Rina Borah	Member	JFMC, Pobitora
83	Ms. Rina Rabha	Member	JFMC, Kulsi
84	Ms. Rinkumoni Rabha	Weaver	JFMC, Kulsi
85	Mr. Ritendra Marak	Weaver	JFMC, Panbari
86	Mr. Rubul Gogoi	Founder	Arinova Exim India Pvt. Ltd
87	Mr. Sailen Das	AFS, Divisional Forest Officer, Genetic Cell Division	Assam Forest Department
88	Dr. Saurindra Narayan Goswami	PRA & Micro Plan Expert	PISA
89	Mr. Samar Jyoti Deka	Artisan	Baredala Hasta Silpa Co-operative Society
90	Mr. Samir Ali	Field Head	PISA
91	Ms. Sarabjeet Kour	Project Coordinator	PISA
92	Dr. Saurindra Narayan Goswami	PRA & Micro Plan Expert	PISA
93	Mr. Sanjeev Kumar Chowbey	Director	Natural Panel Industries Private Limited
94	Mr. Santanu Dey	Research Assistant Kohima	Nagaland University
95	Dr. Sarat Saikia	Chief Scientist	Assam Agricultural University

<b>Sl. No.</b>	<b>Name of Participant</b>	<b>Designation</b>	<b>Organization</b>
96	Mr. Satyaban Sarma	Field Head	PISA
97	Mr. Sayan Ghosh	Program Manager	Rain forest alliance
98	Dr. Simanta Kalita	Project Manager	PISA
99	Ms. Shakti Saha	Community and Gender Expert	PMMC
100	Ms. Shatabdi Bhattacharya	Personal Assistant to PD-PMU	Project Management Unit, APFBC Society
101	Mr. Shayam Kumar Khakhlary	GIS Analyst	Assam Forest Department
102	Ms. Shayani Mukherjee	Support Consultant	PMMC
103	Mr. Simba Saharia	Associate professor and HOD	Nowgong College
104	Ms. Smriti Gupta	Support Consultant	PMMC
105	Ms. Snigdha Borgohain	Communication Expert	PMMC
106	Dr. Sonali Ghosh	IFS, CCF & CEO, Assam Agroforestry Development Board	Assam Forest Department
107	Ms. Sriya Gottumukkula	Support Consultant	PMMC
108	Ms. Subhadra Rahana	Weaver	JFMC, Panbari
109	Ms. Sulakshana Mitti Kala	Liaison Officer	Directorate of Information, Public Relations
110	Mr. Suman Mohapatra	IFS, APCCF & CEO, CAMPA	Assam Forest Department
111	Mr. Suresh MR	COO-N Ranga Rao and Sons	Cycle (Karnataka)
112	Mr. Thilish Marak	Weaver	JFMC, Panbari
113	Mr. Ujjal Kumar Sinha	Senior Program Manager	ITC
114	Mr. Vijay Pakz	OSD	Assam Forest Department
115	Mr. Vinay Gupta	IFS, Additional Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (SIO)	Assam Forest Department
116	Mr. Vishal Sancheti	Founder	Jaisal Herbal Depo
117	Mr. Y. K. Chaudhury	Unit Head	Century Plyboards

**Media coverage – snapshot**

1. Assam: Industry players, forest dept to harness potential of agroforestry - Agroforestry as a sector has the potential to enhance livelihoods in rural communities by providing a variety of food, fodder, and tree products. <https://www.eastmojo.com/assam/2022/06/24/assam-industry-players-forest-dept-to-harness-potential-of-agroforestry/>
2. 1<sup>st</sup> stakeholder consultation workshop to promote agroforestry as an alternative livelihood [http://www.easternchronicle.net/page-view?date=25-06-2022&page\\_no=3&edition\\_id=3](http://www.easternchronicle.net/page-view?date=25-06-2022&page_no=3&edition_id=3)
3. Assam holds workshop to promote agro-forestry at Assam Administrative Staff College, Guwahati - A stakeholders' consultation for Agroforestry promotion in Assam was held at the Assam Administrative Staff College, Guwahati today to understand the needs and challenges <https://www.sentinelassam.com/guwahati-city/assam-holds-workshop-to-promote-agro-forestry-at-assam-administrative-staff-college-guwahati-598970>
4. Assam Environment Minister urges industrial sector to come up with plans for welfare of farmers, forest communities - A stakeholders' consultation for Agroforestry promotion in Assam was held at the Assam Administrative Staff College, Guwahati with the objective to understand the needs and challenges in the promotion of agroforestry in Assam and to facilitate the exchange of knowledge and best practices in the sector. <https://m.economictimes.com/news/india/assam-environment-minister-urges-industrial-sector-to-come-up-with-plans-for-welfare-of-farmers-forest-communities/articleshow/92441069.cms>
5. Assam holds 1<sup>st</sup> stakeholders consultation workshop to promote agroforestry in the state <https://rongilibarta.com/assam-holds-1st-stakeholders-consultation-workshop-to-promote-agroforestry-in-the-state/>
6. "Assam govt ready to change policy to promote Agro-Forestry": Forest Dept. Forest minister Chandra Mohan Patowary stressed on preparing a proper roadmap for promotion of agro forestry in Assam. <https://www.time8.in/assam-govt-ready-to-change-policy-to-promote-agro-forestry-forest-dept/>
7. Bid to promote agroforestry in Assam – The News Mill <https://thenewsmill.com/bid-to-promote-agroforestry-in-assam/>
8. Asom Live 24 – ASOM LIVE@7| Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/asomlive24/videos/791509945349069/>
9. Attended the "Stakeholder Consultation for Agroforestry Promotion for harnessing the potential of agroforestry to build sustainable livelihoods in Assam" organised by APFBC Society and Assam Agroforestry Development Board at AASC, Guwahati today. @himantabiswa @CMOfficeAssam <https://twitter.com/cmpatowary/status/1540268700200103936?t=BJqb5Pqdx81lfffAWflpQ&s=08>

E-Flyer released on promotion of Agroforestry in Assam

Photo Source: Cifor-Icraf India office



Pineapple-Agroforest,  
Cachar district, Assam



Siris-Agarwood Agroforest  
Cachar district, Assam



Bamboo Agroforest,  
Assam



Traditional Piper-Agroforest  
in Assam



Traditional hill-Agroforest  
in Assam



Homestead Agroforest  
in Assam



Tea-agroforest in Southern  
Assam



Tea-agroforest in Southern  
Assam



**AGROFORESTRY PROMOTION IN ASSAM**  
Securing Livelihoods and boosting Local Economy



**Contact**  
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# AGROFORESTRY PROMOTION IN ASSAM

## Securing Livelihoods and boosting Local Economy



### Background

Assam is globally renowned for its rich bio-cultural diversity.

The forest ecosystems of the state – comprising luxuriant species and the varying habitats, landscapes, and regions in which they exist – are key to the spiritual, cultural, psychological and social wellbeing of its diverse communities. To further strengthen this connection, the Government of Assam is implementing various initiatives/projects to protect its ecosystems and communities and make them climate-resilient and sustainable.

Agroforestry can harness the benefits of trees for people and the environment. As per National Agroforestry Policy 2014, Agroforestry is a land-use system which integrates trees and shrubs on farmlands and rural landscapes to enhance productivity, profitability, diversity, and ecosystem sustainability. Agroforestry can become an important tool to build the resilience of farmers and rural people against threats of climate change and natural calamities. It can also help in increasing the forest cover, greening the rural employment and rural development opportunities by providing agroforestry tree produce-based economic opportunities.



### Development of Agroforestry in Assam

The Assam Forest Department under the Assam Project on Forest and Biodiversity Conservation (APFBC) Phase-II aims to protect the state's natural ecosystems and habitats. One of the mandates of the APFBC aims is to promote alternative livelihoods through initiatives such as 'Agroforestry' among the forest-fringe communities of the state.

Realizing the importance and role of agroforestry in promoting sustainable development of the most vulnerable communities in the state, the Government of Assam, on 10th December 2021, has also notified the creation of the Assam Agroforestry Development Board as a non-profit company.



### Primary objectives

- ◆ Fostering economic development while enhancing and preserving the green cover including Tree Outside Forest cover (TOF) in the state.
- ◆ Strengthening livelihoods in the rural and forest-fringe areas, decreasing the dependence on natural forests, and enhancing adaptive capacities of communities through the adoption of agroforestry practices as an alternative livelihood activity.
- ◆ Contributing to achieving at least 9 out of the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) with a key focus on ending poverty and hunger, combating climate change and its impacts and halting biodiversity loss. In addition, agroforestry shall actively contribute to gender equality, health, sustainable energy solutions, and responsible agricultural production.



### Inviting active collaborations and partnerships

- ◆ **For Government departments**  
Bringing investment opportunities to the state, source of revenue and local employment generation, achieving the national goal of 33 percent tree cover, mitigating climate change through carbon sequestration, and delivering on SDGs.
- ◆ **For farmers and forest fringe communities**  
Supplementing farm income and alternate livelihood options, availability of capital and quality seeds, access and facilitation for value addition and market linkages.
- ◆ **For industries**  
Actively contributing towards enhancing revenue from the agroforestry-based economy, investing in climate-resilient technology and potential to develop Public-private partnerships for promoting wood based-industries.



### Contact

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