

**Minutes of meeting of Core Group Members to discuss draft constitution of National Poplar Commission, India held under the chairmanship of DG, Indian Council of Forestry Research and Education, Dehra Dun on December 3, 2009 at ICFRE, Dehradun.**

The meeting of Core Group Members to discuss draft constitution of National Poplar Commission (NPC), India and other related matters was held under the chairmanship of DG, ICFRE. The list of participants is at Annexure I.

At the outset Dr. Sas Biswas welcomed Dr. G.S. Rawat, DG, ICFRE, members of the Core Group and the participants from different Organizations and States. Dr. Biswas deliberated on the purpose of the meeting with a prelude on the organization of International Poplar Commission within the framework of the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) of the United Nations and National Poplar Commission (NPC). He mentioned about the function of IPC (International Poplar Commission), its linkages with National Poplar Commission of the member countries, and the IPC mandate about the establishment of a NPC by member nations. The description of the competence and scope of National Poplar Commission or other body and of any changes thereto, are transmitted to the Director General, FAO who circulates this information to the member Nations of the Commission. Dr Biswas informed that India is a full member of the IPC and have participated in their meetings and elected boards of officials in recent past. ICFRE is represented in the meetings of IPC through participation and presentations in different working group sessions. Director General, ICFRE as Chairman of NPC/Head of delegation of participants was invited by the IPC and represented India in the 22<sup>nd</sup> Session (Santiago, Chile) in 2004 and 23<sup>rd</sup> Session (Beijing, China) in 2008.

Dr. Sas Biswas on behalf of ICFRE made a presentation on the status of Poplar and Willows in India. The participants interacted on various aspects of the presentation urging for updating the country report with latest development in the field of inventorization, multi-location trials, production, conservation, strengthen, market trials, guidelines on the release of varieties and clones through legal mechanism, value addition etc. before the 24<sup>th</sup> Session of IPC on the subject to be held in India in 2012. Dr. GS Rawat, Director General, ICFRE drew the attention of the participants towards the newer initiatives of the Organization particularly with respect to plantation of poplar in Bihar under the Bihar Project.

It was followed up by a presentation by Dr. Dinesh Kumar, Scientist, FRI on the ICFRE initiatives on the coverage of large tracts in the State of Bihar through the introduction of the planting stock of the Poplar, with a positive potential impact on the social and economic conditions of the State. Participants dwelt upon on the material and methodologies adopted on the successful introduction of this species in the non-poplar and non-latitudinal zone of the globe.

After this presentation Dr. Sas Biswas made a presentation on the draft Constitution of National Poplar Constitution, India within the framework of MOEF, Govt. of India and the mandate and objectives of ICFRE while outlining 16 Clauses (I-XVI) covering and explaining the components such as Status, Membership, Functions, State Poplar Body at Govt. and NGO levels, Seat of NPC at ICFRE, Dehra Dun, Sessions, Executive Committee of NPC-India, Appointment of Secretary, Expenses, Rules of Procedure, Amendments, Acceptance of NPC, Authentic Languages etc. The draft constitution of NPC is at Annexure II. Participants deliberated at length the draft and suggested for in-depth study of the text in terms of legal text

and vetting, providing the sub paragraphs of the Clauses under decimal system, funding source, increase in the duration of the Executive Committee to four years then the 2 years mentioned in the draft which would coincide with the four years of the duration of the Session of IPC organized periodically. Inclusion of Members from other sectors such as industries was also suggested.

The participants also suggested for development of a Museum exhibiting and contributing the Poplar and Willows oriented culture of the region before the organization of IPC Session in India in order to showcase the extension activities. It was suggested that the minutes of the meeting along with the draft constitution of National Poplar Commission may be circulated and posted on the ICFRE website for a period of two weeks to invite comments and its incorporation and further needful. The chair suggested for holding next meeting in this regard in January 2010 to assess the preparedness for the organization of the 24<sup>th</sup> Session of IPC and other related matters.

The meeting ended with vote of thanks to the chair and the participants.

## Annexure I

### **List of the participants of the meeting of Core Group Members to discuss constitution of National Poplar Commission, India held at Indian Council of Forestry Research & Education, Dehra Dun on December 3, 2009**

1. Dr. G.S. Rawat, IFS  
Director General, ICFRE
2. Shri M.S. Garbyal, IFS  
Deputy Director General  
Administration, ICFRE
3. Shri Omkar Singh, IFS  
Deputy Director General  
Education, ICFRE
4. Shri Sandeep Tripathi, IFS  
Director (Research), ICFRE
5. Dr. Rabindra Dumar, IFS  
Deputy Director General  
Extension, ICFRE
6. Dr. V.R.R. Singh, IFS  
Head, Silviculture Division  
Forest Research Institute, Dehra Dun
7. Dr. Sas. Biswas  
Head, Botany Division  
Forest Research Institute, Dehra Dun
8. Professor (Dr.) Kulveer S. Bangarwa  
Department of Forestry  
CCS Hissar Agriculture University  
HISSAR – 125 004, Haryana
9. Shri Gulshan K. Ahuja, IFS  
Chief Conservator of Forests (Production),

- State Forest Department, Govt. of Haryana,  
Panchkula, (Haryana)
10. Dr. Rakesh Shah, IFS  
Chief Conservator of Forests (Administration),  
State Forest Department, Govt. of Uttarakhand, Dehra Dun
11. Shri Dharendra Singh, IFS  
Conservator of Forests (M & E),  
State Forest Department, Govt. of Punjab  
9-Quiet Office Sector 40-B  
CHANDIGARH
13. Shri Mohd. Umar Khan  
Divisional Forest Officer, Shivalik  
Govt. of Uttar Pradesh  
82, Paper Mill Road  
SAHARANPUR (U.P.)
14. Shri Babu Lal  
Assistant Silva Sal,  
State Forest Department, Govt. of Uttarakhand  
HALDWANI (UTTARAKHAND)
15. Shri Rajendra Singh Bisht  
Deputy Ranger, Silva Sal  
State Forest Department, Govt. of Uttarakhand  
HALDWANI (UTTARAKHAND)
16. Dr. Subhash Nautiyal  
Scientist-F  
Botany Division  
Forest Research Institute, Dehra Dun
17. Dr. Dinesh Kumar  
Scientist E,  
Silviculture Division  
Forest Research Institute, Dehra Dun

## **Annexure II**

### **DRAFT CONSTITUTION OF NATIONAL POPLAR COMMISSION - INDIA**

- Prelude
- **CLAUSE I :** Status
- **CLAUSE II:** Membership
- **CLAUSE III :** Functions
- **CLAUSE IV:** State Poplar Body at governmental and non governmental levels
- **CLAUSE V :** Seat of the National Poplar Commission
- **CLAUSE VI :** Sessions
- **CLAUSE VII:** Executive Committee of the National Poplar Commission of India
- **CLAUSE VIII:** Appointment of Secretary
- **CLAUSE IX:** Expenses
- **CLAUSE X :** Rules of Procedure
- **CLAUSE XI :** Amendments
- **CLAUSE XII:** Acceptance of constitution of NPC
- **CLAUSE XIII:** Withdrawal
- **CLAUSE XIV:** Termination
- **CLAUSE XV :** Entry into force
- **CLAUSE XVI:** Authentic Languages

## DRAFT

### CONSTITUTION OF NATIONAL POPLAR COMMISSION UNDER ICFRE, AN AUTONOMOUS BODY UNDER MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT & FORESTS, GOVERNMENT OF INDIA

While placing the International Poplar Commission within the framework of Food and Agriculture Organization of United Nations through a convention, establishment of National Poplar Commission was urged to the member nations in the year 1977 which was later approved by the FAO Conference. Following is the text with regards to the establishment of National Poplar Commission:

*“Each contracting Nation shall make provision as soon as possible and to the best of its ability, either for the establishment of a National Poplar Commission, or, if not possible, for the designation of some other suitable national body, and shall transmit a description of the competence and scope of the National Commission or other body and of any changes thereto, to the Director-General of the Organization who shall circulate this information to the other Member Nations of the Commission. Each contracting nation shall communicate to the Director-General the publications of its National Commission or other body”*

In view of the above, establishment of National Poplar Commission of India was considered. As recommended in national level consultative meeting held through the participation of different poplar growing states and union territories of the country (hereinafter referred to as the states), NGOs and other stakeholders and as approved National Poplar Commission (NPC) has been constituted for the development of poplar and willows growing within the country:

#### **CLAUSE I**

##### **1. Status**

1.1: National Poplar Commission shall be placed within the framework of the Ministry of Environment & Forests (MoEF), Government of India following the mandate and the objective of ICFRE organization and the constituent institutes envisioning the increase in forest cover and enhancing forest

productivity through operationalization of National Forestry Action Programme and National Forestry Research Plan, and with a mission to generate, preserve, disseminate and promote knowledge, technologies and solutions for addressing issues related to forests, environment and wildlife and to facilitate management of these resources on a sustained basis for benefit of the humankind through research, education and extension. The NPC aims at implementing and integrating the objectives-derived and well researched progress on development of poplar and willows.

1.2: The NPC shall aim at achieving the purpose and objectives of Ministry of Environment & Forests and other inter-organizational institutions. The Director General (DG) of Indian Council of Forestry research & Education, Dehradun (ICFRE) shall be hereafter referred to as the Chairman, NPC. The Director of a member institute of ICFRE through nomination by the DG, ICFRE, and the Directors or the Principal Chief Conservator of Forests / Chief Conservator of Forests of different state forest departments and the heads or their nominees of different NGOs involved in working on the research and development of poplar and willows in different states shall be the executive members of the NPC.

## **CLAUSE II**

### **2. Membership**

2.1: The member states of the National Poplar Commission shall be such Member States or associate members as accept the recommendation of the consultations or convention.

2.2: The National Poplar Commission may, by a two-thirds majority of its membership, admit to membership such other States and Union Territories that are under the MoEF, Government of India and the member institutes of the ICFRE. Any other agencies and centres working for the development of poplar and willows could also be entertained as the member through submission of application and a declaration made in a formal instrument that they accept the recommendation as in force at the time of admission.

## **CLAUSE III**

### **3. Functions**

#### **3.1 : The functions of the Commission shall be:**

**3.1.1:** to study the scientific, technical, environmental, social and economic aspects of poplar and willow introduction and cultivation;

**3.1.2:** to promote the exchange of ideas and material between research workers, managers, producers and users;

**3.1.3** to arrange inter-organizational, interdisciplinary, collaborative and joint research and development programs;

**3.1.4:** to stimulate the organization of international, national and regional level workshops and seminars. To conduct field study tours;

**3.1.5:** to report and make recommendations to the conference/ consultative meetings of the members of the National Poplar Commission through the chairman of the commission and communicating with the Head of SFDs and NGOs; and

**3.1.6:** to make recommendations to the State Forest Departments, NGOs, industries and other stakeholders through the chairman of the commission after having resolved at Heads of SFDs level.

## **CLAUSE IV**

### **4. State Poplar Body at governmental and non governmental levels**

**4.1:** Each member state, that is, SFD, industrial body, institutions and non governmental body shall transmit a description of the competence and scope of the State Poplar Body to the National Poplar Commission of information or any changes thereto. This may be used for further transmission by NPC to the International Poplar Commission for effective circulation and use. Each member State Poplar Body shall communicate to the Chairman, National Poplar Commission about the technologies and valued product developed and

the publications made with reference to the poplar and willow.

## **CLAUSE V**

### **5. Seat of the National Poplar Commission**

5.1: The seat of the Commission shall be in Dehradun (Uttarakhand) at the Headquarters of the Indian Council of Forestry Research & Education (ICFRE) or member institute of ICFRE.

## **CLAUSE VI**

### **6. Sessions**

6.1: Each member state forest department, industry, educational institution and the State Poplar Body shall be represented at sessions of the NPC by a single delegate who may be accompanied by a nominee and by specialist. Nominees and specialists may take part in the proceedings of the NPC. Representation of the member SFDs and State Poplar Body in a majority shall constitute a quorum.

6.2: The Chairman of the Commission, in consultation with the executive members of the NPC shall convene a regular workshop or conference once every two years. Special meetings of the may be convened by the chairman in consultation with the executive members.

6.3: The workshop/conference/meeting of the Commission shall be organized at the place determined by the Commission anywhere within the country, preferably in poplar and willows growing or working state or region or at Dehradun, that is, the seat of the Commission.

6.4: The executive committee of the Commission shall elect, at the beginning of each workshop/conference, from amongst the delegates, a Chairman and two Vice-Chairmen.

6.5: There shall be a General Committee of the workshop/conference consisting of the Chairman and the two Vice-Chairmen of the workshop/conference, and the Chairman and the executive members of the Committee.

## **CLAUSE VII**

### **7. Executive Committee of the National Poplar Commission of India**

7.1: The Executive Committee of the Commission shall consist of nine members and up to five co-opted members representing different SFDS, NGOs and others.

7.2: Nine members of the Executive Committee shall be considered by the Commission from among individuals nominated/suggested by the Chairman, NPC/ SFDS/ State Poplar Body. Members of the Committee shall be appointed in their personal capacity based upon the expertise and special competence.

7.3 : The period of the Executive Committee shall be for a period of two years.

7.4: In order to ensure the co-operation of the experts, the Executive Committee may co-opt one to two additional members. The term of office of the additional members shall be two years.

7.5: The Executive Committee shall, between workshop /conference/ consultative meetings of the Commission, act on behalf of the Commission as its executive organ. The Committee shall in particular make proposals on the program of work of the Commission, study scientific and technical inquiries and provide advisory services and support to the concerns in implementation of the program elements as approved by the Commission.

7.6 : The Executive Committee shall elect from amongst its members a Chairman and a Vice-Chairman.

[Jammu & Kashmir, Himachal Pradesh, Haryana, Punjab, Chandigarh, Uttarakhand, Uttar Pradesh, West Bengal, Sikkim, Arunachal Pradesh and Bihar] NGOs (WIMCO, Rudrapur, Yamunanagar etc )

## **CLAUSE VIII**

### **8. Secretary**

8.1: A Secretary of the Commission shall be appointed by the Chairman of the National Poplar commission of India from amongst the senior worker in service or having superannuated of the Organization, that is, ICFRE and shall be responsible to the chairman. The Secretary shall perform such duties as the work of the Commission may need.

## **CLAUSE IX**

### **9. Expenses**

9.1 Expenses incurred by the nominees, specialists and others representing the member states (SFD), State Poplar Body and industry, when attending workshop/ conference/ meeting of the NPC, shall be borne by the respective organizations.

- 9.2 Expenses of all the executive members when attending sessions of the Executive Committee shall be borne by the organization they belong.
- 9.3 Expenses incurred by experts or specialists invited in their personal capacity to attend workshop/conference/meeting or participate in the work of the Commission shall be borne by such individuals except when they have been requested to present certain findings or assigned a specific task on behalf of the Commission.
- 9.4 The expenses of the Secretariat of the National Poplar Commission shall be borne by the organization, that is, ICFRE.
- 9.5 When the NPC or Executive body hold workshop / conference / meeting elsewhere than at the seat of the Commission, that is Dehradun, all additional expenses related to workshop/conference/meetings shall be borne by the host organization. The expenses for field study tours and publications relating to workshop/conference/meeting of the Commission other than the report of the Executive Committee shall be borne by the host organization.

## **CLAUSE X**

### 10. Rules of Procedure

10.1: The Commission may, by a majority of two-thirds of its membership, adopt and amend its own rules of procedures, which shall be consistent with the General Rules of the National Poplar Commission. The Rules of the Commission and any amendment thereto shall come into force upon approval by the Chairman of the commission, and from the date of such approval.

## **CLAUSE XI**

### 11. Amendments

11.1: This constitution of the National Poplar Commission may be amended by the by a two-thirds majority of the membership and as represented in the executive committee of the Commission.

11.2: Proposals for amendments may be made by any member SFD, industry, educational institution or state Poplar Body in a communication addressed to the Chairman, NPC not later than 120 days before the workshop / conference / meeting at which the proposal is to be considered. The chairman shall immediately inform all member SFD, industry, educational institution or state poplar body of the Commission of all proposals for amendment.

11.3: Amendments shall become effective only with the concurrence of the representative members of the commission and as from the date of such concurrence. The chairman of the NPC shall inform all member SFD, industry, educational institution, state Poplar Body and the Secretary, International Poplar Commission of such amendments.

11.4: Amendments involving new obligations for representative members of the Commission shall come into force in respect of member SFD, industry, educational institution, state Poplar Body only upon acceptance of amendments involving new obligations shall be deposited with the chairman of the commission. The chairman of the commission shall inform all representative member bodies of the Commission and the Secretary, International Poplar Commission of the FAO of such acceptance. The rights and obligations of any representative member bodies of the Commission that has not accepted an amendment involving additional obligations shall continue to be governed by the provisions of the constitution in force prior to the amendment.

## **CLAUSE XII**

### 12. Acceptance

12.1: Acceptance of this constitution of NPC by any member SFD, industry, educational institution, state Poplar Body of the commission shall be effected by the deposit of an instrument of acceptance with the chairman of the commission and shall take effect on receipt of such notification by the chairman.

12.2: Acceptance of this constitution by non-member bodies shall become effective on the date on which the Commission approves the application for membership in conformity with the provisions of Clause II of the constitution of NPC.

12.3: The chairman shall inform all representative members of the Commission and other non members, and the Secretary International Poplar Commission of all acceptances that have become effective.

12.4: Acceptance of this constitution may be made subject to reservations which shall become operative only upon unanimous concurrence by the representative member bodies of the Commission. The chairman, NPC shall notify forthwith all representative member bodies of the Commission of any reservations. Members of the Commission not having replied within three months from the date of the notification shall be deemed to have accepted the reservation.

### **CLAUSE XIII**

#### **13. Withdrawal**

13. 1: Any representative member states (SFD), State Poplar Body and industry of the Commission may give notice of withdrawal from the Commission at any time after the expiry of one year from the date of its acceptance of the norms of this commission. Such notice of withdrawal shall take effect three months after the date of its receipt by the chairman of national Poplar Commission, who shall inform all member states (SFD), State Poplar Body and industry of the Commission, all non member states (SFD), State Poplar Body and others, and the Secretary International Poplar Commission of such receipt.

### **CLAUSE XIV**

#### **14. Termination**

14.1: The constitution of this National Poplar Commission shall be considered terminated if and when the number of representative member states(SFD)and other bodies falls below three unless the remaining representative members of the Commission unanimously decide otherwise. This would be subject to the

approval of the executive committee of the commission. The chairman of NPC shall inform all representative states and bodies of the country, and the Secretary, International Poplar Commission of such termination.

## **CLAUSE XV**

### 15. Entry into force

15.1: This Commission shall enter into force as soon as nine members representing different SFDS, NGOs and others have become parties to it by the deposit of an instrument of acceptance in accordance with the provisions of Clause XII of this constitution of NPC.

## **CLAUSE XVI**

### 16. Authentic Languages

16.1: The English and Hindi texts of this Commission shall be equally authentic.

[ Draft prepared by Dr. Sas. Biswas, Head , Botany Division, Forest Research Institute (ICFRE), Dehradun, Uttarakhand ]