

Report on the Orientation of Divisional Forest Officers (Lower Assam Zone) On

MICROPLANNING AND ENHANCING LIVELIHOOD OPPORTUNITIES



Organised by

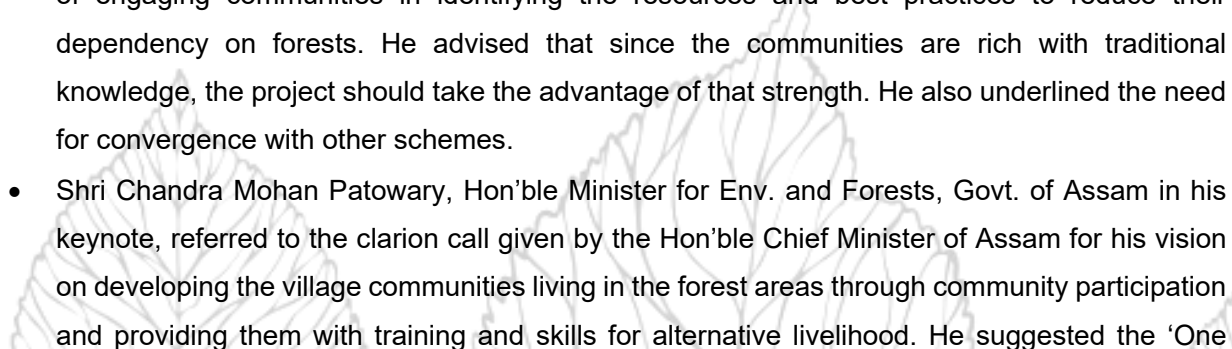
Project Implementation Support Agency (PISA) of

Assam Project on Forest and Biodiversity Conservation (APFBC), Phase II

At Hotel Novotel Guwahati, Assam

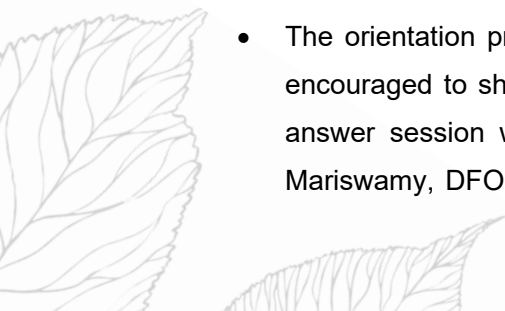
On 11th August, 2022

SUMMARY:

- With the overall goal to develop an understanding of the Divisional Forest Officers on microplanning and enhancing livelihood opportunities of the forest fringe communities, a day-long orientation programme was organised by the Project Implementation Support Agency (PISA) of Assam Project on Forest & Biodiversity Conservation (APFBC) at the Hotel Novotel, Guwahati on 11th August 2022. A total of 61 participants took part in the programme which included senior Forest Officials, DFOs from the Lower Assam Zone, members of the Project Management Unit (PMU), Project Management and Monitoring Consultant (PMMC), and Project Implementation Support Agency (PISA).
 - The Hon'ble Minister for Environment and Forests, Govt. of Assam Shri Chandra Mohan Patowary graced the occasion as the Chief Guest. Besides the gracious presence of the Hon'ble Minister, the orientation programme was also addressed by Shri Ravi Shankar Prasad, Additional Chief Secretary, Department of Environment & Forests, Govt. of Assam, Shri Sandeep Kumar, Addl. Principal Chief Conservator of Forests, Lower Assam Zone, Shri K. S. P. V. Pavan Kumar, Addl. Principal Chief Conservator of Forest & Project Director, Assam Project on Forest and Biodiversity Conservation, Dr. Sonali Ghosh, CCF cum Component Director - Community Engagement, Assam Project on Forest and Biodiversity Conservation, Shri P. Sivakumar, CCF Southern Assam Circle, and other senior officials from Assam Forest Department.
 - In his welcome address Shri K.S.P.V. Pavan Kumar addressed the participants about the activities carried out during Phase I of the project from 2015 to 2019. Shri Kumar highlighted the achievements of Phase-I and presented the roadmap for Phase II. He mentioned that the Phase II of the project would put more emphasis on creating market linkages. Talking about the objectives of the workshop, he said that orientation of the DFOs was of utmost importance as it would provide them with an opportunity to understand the processes involved in PRA & micro plan exercises. Shri Pavan Kumar formally welcomed the Hon'ble Minister and Additional Chief Secretary.
 - Shri Ravi Shankar Prasad, Additional Chief Secretary guided the participants with his vision of building a strong connection between forest communities and the project. He stressed the need of engaging communities in identifying the resources and best practices to reduce their dependency on forests. He advised that since the communities are rich with traditional knowledge, the project should take the advantage of that strength. He also underlined the need for convergence with other schemes.
 - Shri Chandra Mohan Patowary, Hon'ble Minister for Env. and Forests, Govt. of Assam in his keynote, referred to the clarion call given by the Hon'ble Chief Minister of Assam for his vision on developing the village communities living in the forest areas through community participation and providing them with training and skills for alternative livelihood. He suggested the 'One
- 

community – One Nursery’ approach to promote plantation by the community itself. He talked about setting up skill development centres with support from other government programmes. He emphasised the implementation of the project in mission mode to achieve the desired goal.

- In his opening remarks, Dr. Amiya Kumar Sharma, Executive Director, Rashtriya Gramin Vikas Nidhi gave an overview of APFBC and shared his experience and learnings from Phase I with the participants. In his presentation, he pointed out the need for effective convergence with other line departments and the registration of the Farmer Producer Company (FPC).
- Shri Ajay Kumar Singh, Managing Director, Vision EIS Consulting Pvt Ltd. elaborated on the goals and objectives of the APFBC Phase II. He emphasized stronger market linkages for creating a marketplace for the products of the JFMCs/EDCs. He also explained the role of the Project Implementation Support Agency (PISA) as the community engagement support agency of APFBC for Phase II.
- In his effortless presentation carved out of his experience, Shri P. Sivakumar, CCF, Southern Assam Circle build a strong case for change in the selection pattern of Entry Point Activities (EPA). Giving examples of several programmes implemented during his tenure in various divisions, he suggested that a need-based integrated micro-planning was key for the success of the APFBC Phase II. He said that the timely release of funds is imperative for the implementation of various activities.
- Shri Pradipta Baruah, Director, Orang Tiger Reserve talked about the activities under Guwahati Wildlife Division during Phase I. He recommended that skill development programmes for relevant vocations should be given importance and superior planning was required for that. He also talked about the products being marketed under the brand name ‘Banashristi’.
- In the Technical Session Dr. S.N. Goswami, PRA and Micro Plan Expert explained the process of preparing micro plans, its approach, the proposed exercise schedule, the PRA tools, the structure and the challenges. He mentioned that micro plans should be need-based and site-specific. He further stated that the capacity building of the JFMC/EDC members in collective visioning and decision-making for the sustainability of interventions. He also discussed the activities that may be taken under EPA.
- After the session of Shri Goswami, Shri Sanjeev Pandey, Team Leader, PISA discussed various aspects of gender concerning forestry projects and its relevance in gender budgeting in JFMCs/EDCs.
- PISA team has developed a robust online monitoring system for project activities and real-time data sharing. Shri Arvind Gupta, MIS Expert, PISA introduced the personnel management system developed on a mobile application platform. He presented the entire structure of the GIS-based MIS with the help of flow charts and online demonstrations. He also mentioned that the social media accounts such as Twitter handle, Facebook profile, Instagram profile and YouTube channel, where activities are reported regularly with images, have been created.
- The orientation programme was based on a participatory approach where participants were encouraged to share their ideas and suggestions and also raise questions. The question & answer session was facilitated by Dr. Simanta Kalita, Project Manager, PISA. Shri Tejas Mariswamy, DFO, Cachar & Silchar SF Division shared that during the project’s first phase,



producers (beneficiaries) were not being paid on time due to a lack of proper supply chain as money was not flowing back on time. He expressed concerns over this gap. Dr Amiya Kumar Sharma responded to his question and suggested that running the outlet as an independent unit may address this issue to a large extent. Shri. Ajay Kumar Singh added that institutionalisation of the whole process of production and market linkages along with capacity building is also important for sustainability.

- Dr. Sonali Ghosh agreed with the issue pointed out by Shri Tejas Mariswamy and cited an example. She said JFMC could produce only 135 bamboo rakhis whereas the demand was for more. Dr. Ghosh also asked Shri P. Sivakumar and Shri Pradipta Baruah about the Entry Point Activity. To her question, Shri P. Sivakumar said that EPA should always be need-based and the same EPA activity in all JFMCs/EDCs should be avoided. He also suggested increasing the JFM area for harvesting the forest which will give the community more revenue.
- Shri. Brahmananda Patiri, DFO, Chirang Division informed that the main source of livelihood of the community is eco-tourism along with fishery-related activities in the area of the Udalguri, Kokrajhar, and Chirang. He enquired whether such activities could be implemented in other JFMCs also. In reply to his query, Shri P. Sivakumar said that eco-tourism in forests fringe and other activities such as fishery on revenue land could be promoted.
- Dr. Vijay Palve, OSD, Working Plan Officer (Lower Assam) enquired about the impact of Phase I activities and asked if this was visible and had been evaluated. He also wanted to know if there was any increase in the per capita income of the community members. Dr. Simanta Kalita answered and said that the baseline survey has been conducted at the start of Phase II to keep track and monitor the impact. The evaluation of Phase I has also been done and the social impact of the project has been highlighted.
- Dr. Sonali enquired if there were some cases of successful convergence. Responding to this Dr. Sharma said that NEDFi is launching a scheme which can be dovetailed with the AFPBC, He also mentioned the Assam State Rural Livelihood Mission (ASRLM), and Assam Financial Corporation (AFC) to give loans directly to the JFMC/EDC members at a low-interest rate.
- Shri Ratul Saha, Senior Project Consultant, PMMC, suggested that rather than conducting a SWOT of the entire village, an analysis of a particular component should be conducted. Shri. Probal Deep Das, Social Sector Consultant, PMMC, said that emphasis should be given to the gender component in the project.
- Ms. Shamim Akhtar, RFO, Loharghat Range thanked the PISA Team for enlightening participants on the structure and process involved in micro-planning
- Dr. Sonali Ghosh, CCF RE&WP cum Director, Community Engagement, APFBC thanked the Hon'ble Minister, Additional Chief Secretary and other dignitaries for their precious time and valuable suggestion. She also thanked all the Senior Forest Officials and DFOs for participating in the programme.



INTRODUCTION:

Community Engagement is one of the key

interventions of APFBC Phase II which aims at empowering forest-dependent communities by providing income-generating alternate livelihood opportunities for conservation and sustainable use of forests. It is imperative that the support of the forest dependents communities is critical in forest and biodiversity conservation.

Realising the importance of community cooperation and engagement in the preservation and protection of the forest, the Project Implementing Support Agency (PISA) has been entrusted with the “Community Engagement” Component of the project.

PISA would facilitate the preparation and revision of the Micro plans which would be undertaken by the forest fringe communities of the EDCs and JFMCs under the APFBC Phase II. The micro plan will contain a description of each problem being faced by the communities along with their feasible solutions, assessment of need, capacity, and resources available to address the problem. It would outline the strategy and steps for meeting the requirements of people through a systematic prioritization of needs. Micro plans will be created using Participatory Rural Appraisal by encouraging

and ensuring a wide range of community participation, including women, other vulnerable groups and weaker sections of the society. The micro plan thus prepared, will be submitted to the Divisional Forest Officers for critically analysing and approving the Plans.

A day-long Orientation Programme on “Microplanning and Enhancing Livelihood Opportunities” was organised for the Divisional Forest Officers (DFOs) from the Lower Assam Zone at Hotel Novotel, Guwahati on 11th August 2022 by Project Implementation Support Agency (PISA) of Assam Project on Forest & Biodiversity Conservation (APFBC). The detailed program is placed as ***Annexure 1***. The List of Participants is shared as ***Annexure 2***.

The overall goal of the training programme was to develop an understanding of the Divisional Forest Officers on microplanning and enhancing livelihood opportunities of the forest fringe communities. It aimed to familiarise them with the microplanning processes and the structure of the micro plan which will be prepared at the grassroots level in 125 new Joint Forest Management Committee (JFMC)/ Eco Development Committee (EDC) areas in Phase II of the project. It also emphasised the practical solutions and suggestions from the DFOs for the overall upliftment of the forest fringe communities.

APFBC- EXPERIENCE & LEARNING FROM PHASE I:

DR. AMIYA KUMAR SHARMA, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, RASHTRIYA GRAMIN VIKAS NIDHI

Dr. Amiya Kumar Sharma gave an overview of APFBC where he shared his experience and learnings from Phase I of the project. He mentioned that the vision of the Project is to restore forest ecosystems through collaborating with the Forest Dependent Communities (FDCs) and enhance their livelihood & ensure conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity. He also mentioned that Phase I of the Project was spread across the state covering 95 Joint Forest Management Committees (JFMCs) and 45 Eco Development Committees (EDCs) under which 140 micro plans were prepared. He suggested that convergence with other line departments and registration of Farmer Producer Company (FPC) will give this project a new route.



APFBC- GOALS OF PHASE II AND ROLE OF PISA:

SHRI AJAY KUMAR SINGH, MANAGING DIRECTOR, VISION EIS CONSULTING PVT LTD



Shri Ajay Kumar Singh talked about the goals of APFBC Phase II which is to restore forest, conserve wildlife and improve the livelihood of the forest-dependent communities. He also shed light on convergence with the line departments and market linkages of the products of the JFMCs/EDCs for ensuring a sustainable livelihood for the Forest Dependent

Communities (FDCs). He explained the role of the Project Implementation Support Agency (PISA) as the community engagement agency of APFBC Phase II. He also shared that a total of 125 new micro plans are to be prepared along with a revision of the old 140 micro plans of the JFMCs/EDCs followed by skill training and

market linkage. He sought support from the Forest Officials for activation of JFMCs, revision of micro plans of Phase I, convergence activities at the district level, conducting a livelihood training session, providing a working plan and JFMC/EDC boundary to the PISA field team etc.

APFBC – ACHIEVEMENTS AND CHALLENGES OF PHASE I:

SHRI P. SIVAKUMAR, IFS, CCF, SOUTHERN ASSAM CIRCLE



Shri P. Sivakumar presented some achievements of Phase I of the project through an illustrative PowerPoint presentation. He showed some Entry Point Activities (EPA), building of infrastructures and skill training programmes that were carried out in Nagaon South Division, Nagaon Division, Sonitpur West Division, Sonitpur East Division, Lakhimpur Division, Dhemaji Division and Kaziranga National Park and Tiger Reserve. The activities that were taken up were repairing of forest road, renovation of Heritage Inspection Bungalow (IB), construction of anti-poaching camps,

construction of staff quarters, construction of community halls, construction of highlands for animals during a flood, the introduction of speedboats, excavators, dumpers, tractors, all-terrain vehicles, construction of weaving and tailoring centre, computer training, market linkage of products of JFMCs/EDCs. Other activities included fuelwood plantation and creation of plant nurseries, an awareness programme on man-elephant conflict etc.

He suggested that a need-based and integrated micro plan will be more fruitful in carrying out the activities of the APFBC Phase II. He also mentioned that the timely release of funds helps in the proper implementation of the activities. He emphasised Production Forestry than Protection Forestry and urged for the implementation of a harvesting plan and to focus on market linkage thereafter which will generate revenue in due course of time. He suggested EPA such as the construction of roads, and community halls should be taken up under different schemes of the government and thus convergence plays an important role in this regard



SHRI PRADIPTA BARUAH, AFS, DIRECTOR, ORANG TIGER RESERVE

Shri Pradipta Baruah talked about the activities under Guwahati Wildlife Division during Phase I of APFBC. He mentioned awareness programmes among the general members of the EDCs, orientation programmes of the EDC executive members, micro plan preparation, and construction of community hall as Entry Point Activity (EPA). Moreover, he also shared that skill development programmes such as mushroom cultivation, training on weaving and

tailoring, computer training, entrepreneurship orientation programme, new products development programme, design workshop, and formation of collective units were carried out in Phase I of APFBC. He also mentioned products being marketed under the brand 'Banashristi'. He mentioned about a limitation of Phase I, which was delays in the release of funds and delay of payments to the beneficiaries of the EDCs for their products.

QUESTION & ANSWER SESSION:

FACILITATED BY DR. SIMANTA KALITA, PROJECT MANAGER, PISA



Dr. Simanta Kalita facilitated the Questions and Answers session. He requested the participants to put relevant questions to the speakers of the first session and also to share their experiences relevant to the topics discussed.

The first question came from Shri Tejas Mariswamy, IFS, DFO, Cachar & Silchar SF Division where he shared that creation of an outlet in Phase I for market linkages of the products was done but it was seen that there was a lack of supply chain as money was not flowing back on time. He said that products were taken without making cash payments to the producers and it was expected that people would get paid once the products were sold. He showed his concern over this gap and asked the speakers how to address this issue in Phase II. Dr. Amiya Kumar Sarma, Executive Director, RGVN suggested promoting entrepreneurship for running the outlet as an independent unit which will address this issue to a large extent. He also added that to have a sustainable system introduction of entrepreneurs from the community will give a permanent solution to this issue. Shri Ajay Kumar Singh, Managing

Director, Vision EIS Consulting Pvt Ltd. added by saying that it's not only about creating an outlet and linking it to a market rather institutionalisation of the whole process of production and market linkages along with capacity building in terms of developing the entrepreneurship skills amongst the beneficiaries and to train them about bookkeeping, managing resources and funds and such related skills are very important.

Dr. Simanta Kalita thanked Shri Tejas Majiswamy for his thought-provoking question and assured behalf of the PISA Team to take it into account while planning.



Dr. Sonali Ghosh, IFS, CCF cum Director, Community Engagement, APFBC said that she agreed with the issue pointed out by Shri Tejas Mariswamy about the gap in the supply chain. She cited an example in this context where she mentioned selling 135 bamboo rakhis produced by the JFMC members of Kamrup West Division in 2022 where it was seen that the demand was more but the supply was less. She asked the PISA Team members to address the issue and try to lessen the gap with proper planning. Dr. Ghosh also asked Shri P. Sivakumar and Shri

Pradipta Baruah about the Entry Point Activity (EPA) and how to gain the trust of the community. Shri P. Sivakumar, IFS, CCF, SAC, and Silchar took the opportunity to answer the question. He said that EPA should always be needed based on the particular community. He also added that repetition of the same EPA in all JFMCs/EDCs will not serve the purpose of the project. This present uniform EPA such as the building of community halls, and the construction of 2-3 km of the road which is carried out in all of Assam will not make any major impact at the village level. He further said that need-based EPA can be identified in the preparation of the percentage of the component of income generation. He also suggested increasing the JFM area for harvesting the forest which will give the community more revenue, and more sharing of the amount. He urged the officials and the implementing agency PISA to put extra effort into generating revenue from the project for the Forest Dependent Communities. Shri Pradipta Baruah, AFS, DFO, Mangaldoi Wildlife Division & Field Director, Orang Tiger Reserve agreed to the points put forward by Shri Sivakumar. He said more emphasis should be given to the need-based activities of each JFMC/EDC than uniform EPAs. He also mentioned that as a large number of the beneficiaries are daily wage earner the gap in flow of money from selling the products should be taken care of.

Shri Brahmananda Patiri, AFS, DFO, Chirang Division mentioned that in the JFMC area of the Udalguri, Kokrajhar, Chirang the main source of livelihood of the community is eco-tourism along with fishery-related activities. He asked the speakers if such activities can be implemented in other JFMCs too. In reply to his query, Shri P. Sivakumar said that eco-tourism in forest land

and other activities such as fishery in revenue land of the village can be promoted in any suitable JFMC/EDC area.

Dr. Vijay Palve, IFS, OSD, Environment & Forest, Govt. of Assam, Working Plan Officer (Lower Assam) came up with the fourth question where he enquired about the tremendous changes mentioned in Phase I of the project and asked if the change is visible. He also questioned the increase in the per capita income of the beneficiaries. He asked if there is any baseline to compare and claim the achievements. Dr. Simanta Kalita took the privilege to answer the question by mentioning the baseline survey conducted at the start of Phase II where monthly production and income figures have been captured in 10% of sample households. He said that repetition of such surveys will be done in the later part of the project to keep track and monitor the improvements and gaps. He also mentioned that during the microplanning process an initiative has been taken to get the average income of the households, which will be recorded in the micro plans to see the change that the project has been able to achieve after a period of two years of implementation. He also mentioned the short film which was released later in the programme where the beneficiaries expressed their views on the difference in their income before and after the intervention of the project.

Dr. Sonali Ghosh asked Dr. Amiya Kumar Sarma about the possibility of linking beneficiaries to micro-credit. She also asked Dr. Sarma to cite some examples of state schemes that can be taken up during convergence. Responding to this Dr. Sarma said that NEDFi is launching a scheme soon where they will be

giving loans to beneficiaries directly at a low-interest rate. He suggested that Assam Forest Department should reach to North Eastern Development Finance Corporation Ltd (NEDFi), Assam State Rural Livelihood Mission (ASRLM), and Assam Financial Corporation

(AFC) to give loans directly to the JFMC/EDC members at a low-interest rate.

Dr. Simanta Kalita on behalf of the PISA Team thanked all the speakers and announced the session was closed.

WELCOME ADDRESS:

SHRI K.S.P.V. PAVAN KUMAR, IFS, APCCF & DIRECTOR, APFBC



Shri K.S.P.V. Pavan Kumar shared the evolution of the APFBC and the activities carried out during Phase I of the project from 2015 to 2019. He stated that 140 JFMCs/EDCs were formed during Phase I and the project facilitated the creation of market linkages for some of the Forest Dependent Communities

(FDCs). He wished that the Phase II of the project will bridge the existing gaps which remained in Phase I. He also mentioned that the Phase II of the project will lay more emphasis on creating market linkages for the communities. He stated that orientation of the DFOs is of utmost importance as they will understand the processes involved in PRA & micro plan exercises which will help them to have a better understanding of the micro plans before approving it for each JFMC/EDC. He further informed that PRA activities will resume in the respective JFMCs/EDCs from September onwards and urged the officials to provide support to the implementing agency PISA.

WELCOME BY THE APCCF, LOWER ASSAM ZONE:

SHRI SANDEEP KUMAR, IFS, ADDL. PCCF, LOWER ASSAM ZONE

Shri Sandeep Kumar welcomed everyone present in the programme and wished that the DFOs and other officials are oriented through this programme and wished the programme a grand success.

OPENING REMARKS:

SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD, IAS, ACS, DEPARTMENT OF ENV & FORESTS, GOVT. OF ASSAM

In his opening remarks, Shri Ravi Shankar Prasad stated that the project should engage the communities and identify the resources and best practices for their development to reduce their dependency on forests. He said that the communities are rich with traditional knowledge (ethnobotany) and we should try to explore the strength of the community for the conservation of biodiversity. He further stated that

convergence with other line departments is vital to meet other needs of the communities. He mentioned one scheme of the government 'Pradhan Mantri Shram Yogi Maandhan Yojana' (for old age protection and social security of unorganised workers) for the Forest Dependent Communities which will give them some benefit and is feasible through convergence.

KEYNOTE ADDRESS:

SHRI CHANDRA MOHAN PATOWARY, HON'BLE MINISTER FOR ENV. AND FORESTS, GOVT. OF ASSAM

Shri Chandra Mohan Patowary referred to the clarion call given by Chief Minister of Assam, Dr. Himanta Biswa Sarma who has envisioned developing the village communities living in the forest areas through community participation and providing them with training and skills for alternative livelihood. He called for a 'One community – one nursery' approach and shared his idea of creating indigenous plant nurseries by each community (JFMC/EDC) so that the community itself would promote plantation. He suggested setting up skill development centres around the forest area from which the youth will be benefitted. In this regard, he referred to Deen

Dayal Upadhyaya Grameen Kaushalya Yojana (DDU-GKY) scheme of the government. He also emphasised doing the project in a mission mode to achieve its desired goal. At last, he released a short film 'Conservation through alternative livelihood' produced by PISA. The short film showcases success stories of Phase I beneficiaries who were dependent on forests previously and are now running small-scale businesses after skill training imparted by APFBC and earning a living on their own. The film also has messages from the Addl. Chief Secretary, Environment and Forests and Project Director, APFBC.



VOTE OF THANKS:

DR. SONALI GHOSH, IFS, CCF RE&WP CUM DIRECTOR, COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT, APFBC

Dr. Sonali Ghosh ended the first half of the session with a thanks note to Shri Chandra Mohan Patowary, Hon'ble Minister for Environment and Forests, Govt. of Assam for taking out his precious time and sharing his valuable feedback. She also thanked all the

Senior Forest Officials and DFOs for participating in the programme. Lastly, she thanked the Project Implementation Support Agency (PISA) for organising the programme smoothly.

PROCESSES AND STRUCTURE OF MICRO PLAN:

DR. S.N. GOSWAMI, PRA AND MICRO PLAN EXPERT, PISA



Dr. S.N. Goswami explained what a micro plan is, its objectives, its strategy, its approach, how a micro plan is developed, the non-negotiables, the components of the micro plan, the process of micro planning, the proposed exercise schedule, the PRA tools and applicability matrix, the structure of the micro plan and the

challenges of micro planning. He mentioned that micro plans should be need-based and site-specific. He also talked about the funding in a micro plan which can be done by converging available resources in different developmental schemes. He further mentioned about the capacity building of the JFMC/EDC members in collective visioning, resources assessment and consensus-based decision-making for the sustainability of the resources and development of the livelihoods, forests and villages. He further added a detailed elaboration on the selection of entry point activities (EPA). He explained the kind of activities permissible under the EPA and why certain types of activities should not be selected. He emphasized measurability and requested to select only such activities which will be possible to objectively measure. He suggested avoiding activities such as repairing the existing road because such activities are difficult to measure.

GENDER PERSPECTIVE IN JFMC/EDC CONTEXT:

SHRI SANJEEV PANDEY, TEAM LEADER, PISA



Shri Sanjeev Pandey explained that the participation of both men and women in all aspects of the project is important for the success of the project. He mentioned that at times men and women may have different viewpoints and they both contribute in unique ways to the conservation of biodiversity.

MONITORING AND EVALUATION OF COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT:

SHRI ARVIND GUPTA, MIS EXPERT,
PISA

Shri Arvind Gupta mentioned Project Management and Information System (PMIS), where he explained the personnel management through a mobile application, data collection, and reporting framework which helps in real-time monitoring of the activities of the project. He also mentioned the social media accounts such as Twitter handle, Facebook profile, Instagram profile and YouTube channel where activities are reported regularly with images.



OPEN HOUSE SESSION:

FACILITATOR: DR. SIMANTA KALITA, PROJECT MANAGER, PISA



Towards the end of the programme the floor was opened for questions, comments and suggestions which was facilitated by Dr. Simanta Kalita. Shri Ratul Saha, Senior Project Consultant, PMMC, APFBC asked the question to Dr. Saurindra Narayan Goswami about his presentation on microplanning regarding SWOT analysis.



He suggested that rather than conducting a SWOT of the entire village, a SWOT analysis of

particular components should be conducted separately. Dr. Saurindra Narayan Goswami responded to the question by saying that it is the SWOT analysis of the village for vision building of the village in this initial stage of the project and separate SWOT analysis of the different components will be carried out in the later part of the project. Shri Probal Deep Das, Manager, Social Sector Consultant, PMMC, APFBC said that a lot more emphasis should be given to the gender component in the project. He also mentioned monitoring of three things regularly- the gender composition among the members of the implementation team, within the JFMC Executive Committees and at the beneficiary level and the positive impact of it. Dr. Kalita thanked Shri Probal Deep Das for rightly pointing out about the gender component. He also explained that a system has been

developed where not only the PISA Team members but also the composition of the executive committee members of the JFMCs/EDCs are being digitized and gender-segregated data will be available for JFMC Executive Members and beneficiaries of all training programmes and participants of the awareness meetings. Shri Sunnydeo Choudhary, IFS, DFO, North Kamrup Division said that Phase II of the project should aim at fulfilling the gap in the market linkage of Phase I. He also suggested fixing measurable targets so that the outcome of the project can be measured with respect to target fulfilment.



Dr. Kalita thanked Shri Sunnydeo Choudhary for the pertinent suggestions made by him. Shri Rizwan Uz Zaman, Technical Consultant, Assam Climate Change Management Society

said that he is in support of Shri Ratul Saha's point and mentioned that the project is on biodiversity & forest conservation and should stick to it while doing a SWOT analysis. Shamim Akhtar, RFO, Loharghat Range thanked the PISA Team for enlightening about the structure and process involved in micro-planning which will help in bridging the gap between the forest officials and the community. She also hopes to protect the forest and biodiversity as well as to provide alternative livelihood to the forest fringe communities through proper implementation of the project.



Dr. Simanta Kalita thanked everyone for their valuable suggestions and assured us that gender focal points will be identified within the PISA Team so that the gender aspect of the project can be better coordinated.

CONCLUDING REMARKS:

SHRI K.S.P.V. PAVAN KUMAR, IFS, APCCF CUM PROJECT DIRECTOR, APFBC

Shri K.S.P.V. Pavan Kumar said that the Project envisions strengthening the forest-dependent communities through alternative livelihood opportunities and proper linkage to the market which is the key to the success of the APFBC

Phase II. He thanked the officials for their active participation in the programme and also thanked the implementation agency PISA for organising the same successfully.

Photo Gallery:



Welcome address by Shri K.S.P.V. Pavan Kumar



Dr. Amiya Kumar Sharma shared his experience & learnings from Phase I



Shri Ajay Kumar Singh explained about the goals of Phase II and role of PISA



Shri P. Sivakumar shared his experiences of Phase



Shri K.S.P.V. Pavan Kumar during Q & A session



Question put forward to the speakers by Dr. Sonali Ghosh



Opening remarks by Shri Ravi Shankar Prasad, ACS, Env & Forest, GoA



Keynote Address by Shri Chandra Mohan Patowary, Hon'ble Minister for Environment & Forests, GoA



Question and Answer Session in progress



Question to the speakers by Shri Tejas Mariswamy



Session by Dr. Saurindra Narayan Goswami



Session by Shri Sanjeev Pandey



Open House Session conducted by
Dr. Simanta Kalita



Ms. Shamim Akhtar, RFO, Loharghat Range
sharing her feedback



Shri B.N. Patiri, DFO, Chirang interacting during
the Open House Session



Felicitation of the Hon'ble Minister

Annexure 1: Programme Schedule of the Orientation of Divisional Forest Officers (Lower assam Zone)



Orientation of Divisional Forest Officers (Lower Assam Zone)
on
Microplanning and Enhancing Livelihood Opportunities
Assam Project on Forest and Biodiversity Conservation (APFBC), Phase II

Venue: Novotel Guwahati, G. S. Road

Date: 11th Aug 2022

PROGRAMME SCHEDULE	
10:30 – 11:00	REGISTRATION
11:00 – 12:00	SETTING THE CONTEXT APFBC – Experience & Learning from Phase I Speaker: Dr. Amiya Kumar Sharma, Executive Director, Rashtriya Gramin Vikas Nidhi APFBC – Goals of Phase II and Role of PISA Speaker: Shri Ajay Kumar Singh, Managing Director, Vision EIS Consulting Pvt Ltd. APFBC – Achievements and Challenges of Phase I Speakers: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ☯ Shri P Sivakumar, IFS, CCF, Southern Assam Circle ☯ Shri Pradipta Baruah, AFS, Director, Orang Tiger Reserve Q&A and Discussion
12:00 – 13:00	INAUGURAL SESSION Welcome Address: Shri M. K. Yadava, IFS, Principal Chief Conservator of Forest, & Head of Forest Force, Government of Assam Felicitation: Shri K. S. P. V. Pavan Kumar, IFS, Addl. Principal Chief Conservator of Forest, & Project Director, Assam Project on Forest and Biodiversity Conservation (APFBC) Society Opening Remarks: Shri Ravi Shankar Prasad, IAS, Additional Chief Secretary, Department of Environment & Forests, Government of Assam Release of a short film on APFBC livelihood activities Keynote Address: Shri Chandra Mohan Patowary, Hon'ble Minister for Environment and Forests, Government of Assam Vote of Thanks: Dr. Sonali Ghosh, IFS, CCF cum Director, Community Engagement, Assam Project on Forest and Biodiversity Conservation (APFBC)
13:00 – 14:00	LUNCH BREAK
14:00 – 15:00	Processes and Structure of Micro plan Speaker: Dr. S.N. Goswami, PRA and Microplan Expert, PISA Gender Perspective in JFMC/ EDC Context Speaker: Shri Sanjeev Pandey, Team Leader, PISA Monitoring and Evaluation of Community Engagement Speaker: Shri Arvind Gupta, MIS Expert, PISA Q&A and Discussion
15:00 – 15:15	TEA BREAK
15:15 – 16:00	GROUP ACTIVITY: APFBC Phase II: SWOT Analysis and Way-forward Facilitators: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Dr. Simanta Kalita, Project Manager, PISA Ms. Sarabjeet Kour, Deputy General Manager, Vision EIS Consulting Pvt Ltd Ms. Gyanashree Borthakur, Project Head, RGVN
16:15 – 17:00	PRESENTATION BY THE GROUPS Concluding Remarks - Shri K. S. P. V. Pavan Kumar, IFS, APCCF cum Project Director, APFBC

Annexure 2: Attendance sheets

SL NO.	NAME	DESIGNATION	CONTACT NUMBER	E-MAIL ID
1	Sri Sandeep Kumar	IFS, Additional Principal Chief Conservator of Forest, Lower Assam Zone		
2	Dr Vijay Palve	IFS, OSD & Working Plan Officer, Lower Assam Circle	8097022065	drvijaypalve88@gmail.com
3	Sri K.S.P.V. Pavan Kumar	IFS, Additional Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (B & CC), & Project Director, APFBCS	9989522262	kspv.pavankumar@gmail.com
4	Sri P.J.Vijayakar	IFS, Additional Principal Chief Conservator of Forests(P&D)	8876588705	
5	Dr.Sonali Ghosh	IFS, CCF, REWP & Director- Community Engagement, APFBC	9412051211	ccf.rewp@gmail.com
6	Sri P.Sivakumar	IFS, CCF, Southern Assam Circle	9438084183	
7	Sri N. Anand	IFS, Chief Conservator of Forest,	9435190006	Anandifs7@gmail.com
8	Sri Vaibhav C Mathur, IFS	Chief Conservator of Forests & Field Director Tiger Project, Manas	9958615040	fd.namaste@gmail.com
9	Sri Muanthang Tungnun	IFS Chief Conservator of Forests, Dima Hasao District	9859165483	ccfdima@gmail.com
10	Sri Suhus Tarachand Kadam	IFS, Deputy Conservator of Forest	6900134855	suhas1627@gmail.com
11	Sri.Vasanthan B	IFS, Divisional Forest Officer, Karimganj/ Karimganj SF	9101746911	
12	Sri.Subudh Talukdar	AFS, Divisional Forest Officer, Aie Valley	9101541844	subodh1967talukdar@gmail.com
13	Sri.Tejas Mariswamy	IFS, Divisional Forest Officer, Cachar/ Silchar SF	8133010999	tejasm24@gmail.com
14	Sri.Brahmananda Patiri	AFS, Divisional Forest Officer, Chirang	9438128055	patiri2@gmail.com
15	Sri.Raju Kumar Brahma	AFS, Divisional Forest Officer, Dhansiri	8134965435	dfo.t.dhansiridivision@gmail.com
16	Sri.Tunu Langthasa	AFS, Divisional Forest Officer, Dima Hasao(East)	9435077674	dfodhfde.haflong@gmail.com
17	Sri.Tuhin Langthasa	Divisional Forest Officer, Dima Hasao(West)	9678670474	

18	Sri.Jitendra Kumar	IFS, Divisional Forest Officer, Goalpara	8138599545/8638599545	dfo.t.goalpara@gmail.com
19	Sri.Jayanta Deka	AFS, Divisional Forest Officer, Hailakandi	9435257966	
20	Sri.Sunnydeo Indradeo Choudhury	IFS, Divisional Forest Officer, North Kamrup	9401592905	dfo.t.northkamrup@gmail.com
21	Sri Brahmananda Patiri, AFS	Divisional Forest Officer, Chirang Division		dfo.t.chirang@gmail.com
22	Sri.Jayanta Kr. Brahma	AFS, Divisional Forest Officer, Kokrajhar SF/ Kokrajhar Wildlife/ Parbatjhora	8638172422	
23	Sri.Jasim Uddin Ahmed	Divisional Forest Officer, Manas Tiger Reserve	943502053	
24	Smti. Shamim Aktar	Range Officer, Loharghat Range Kamrup West Division	7002758103	
25	Sri Dipan Deka	Range Officer, Kamrup West Division	7399001661	dipan_deka@rediffmail.com
26	Sri Babul Ch. Das	Deputy Range Officer	9954025505	
27	Sri Saurav Sarkhel	Accounts Assistant	9435720377	
28	Sri Ceaser Gayari	Surveyor	9706949597	goyariczzer@gmail.com
29	CA Nimit Jain	Finance Advisor, PMU	9864461995	jaincanimit@gmail.com
30	Sri Amit Kumar	Associate Partner, Business Consulting, E&Y	9868224425	amit42.kumar@in.ey.com
31	Sri Probal Deep Das	Manager, PMMC	8420396465	probal.das@in.ey.com
32	Sri Dhruba J. Sengupta	Team Leader, PMMC	9810777549	dhruba.sengupta@in.ey.com
33	Sri Ratul Saha	Senior Project Consultant, PMMC	9830334431	rahul.saha@in.ey.com
34	Sri Gyan Pd. Sharma	Institutional CW specialist, PMMC	9801307415	gyanpsharma@gmail.com
35	Sri Mrinal Paul	Livelihood Expert, PMMC	9827822278	mrinal.paul@in.ey.com
36	Dr. Amiya Kumar Sharma	ED, RGVN	9435118871	
37	Sri Ajay Kr. Singh	MD, Vision EIS	9810184398	ajaykumaringh@rediffmail.com
38	Smti. Sarabjeet Kour	DGM, Vision EIS	8800841301	sarabjeet.kour@visioneis.com
39	Sri Sanjeev Panday	Team Leader, PISA	9810222591	sanjeev.panday@visioneis.com
40	Smti. Gyanashree Borthakur	Project Head, PISA	9706069585	
41	Dr. Simanta Kalita	Project Manager, PISA	8638240868	simanta.kalita@gmail.com
42	Dr. S.N. Goswami	Micro-Planning & PRA Expert, PISA	9599115564	

43	Sri Janki Kr. Pegu	Micro-Planning & PRA Expert, PISA	8471812968	janki.rgvn@gmail.com
44	Sri Rituraj Borthakur	IEC Expert, PISA	9435033139	riturajborthakur75@gmail.com
45	Sri Arvind Gupta	MIS Expert, PISA	9415696247	
46	Sri Bidyut B. Das	Coordinator-Convergence, PISA	8826393347	bidyut.rgvn@gmail.com
47	Smti. Ankita Kakati	Coordinator-PRA & Micro-planning, PISA	8638562554	ankita.rgvn@gmail.com
48	Smti. Archita Duarah	Coordinator- Training & Skill Development, PISA	7002638026	archita@rgvn.com
49	Sri Satyaban Sharma	Coordinator, PISA	6002924277	
50	Sri Manoj Sarma	Field Head, PISA	9987402611	
51	Sri Samir Ali	Field Head, PISA	7002816309	samir.ali008@gmail.com
52	Sri Arup Das	Field Head, PISA	9954357528	
53	Sri Pradip Deka	Field Head, PISA	7002729974	pradiprajdeka@gmail.com
54	Sri Inamul Haque Ahmed	Field Head, PISA	9864207439	ahmedinamulh@gmail.com
55	Smti. Sangita Borah	Field Head, PISA	9365998647	sangitaborah299@gmail.com
56	Sri Dhanmoni Deka	Field Head, PISA	7002272048	Dhanmoni.deka.pisa@gmail.com
57	Sri Sumit Debnath	Computer Operator, PISA	9957715736	debnathguru123@gmail.com
58	Sri Deeptangshu Sharma	Project Executive, PISA	6002853131	
59	Smti. Suchi Tyagi	Admin, PISA	9971114750	
60	Smti. Avarana Chatterjee	Office Manager, PISA	7638827361	office@pisa.org.in
61	Sri Chandan Kalita	Office Assistant, PISA	9859292458	kalitachandan07@gmail.com