

## **Minutes of the Meeting taken by Secretary (EF&CC) to review the activities of Eco-clubs under the National Green Corps Programme on 21.6.2016 at MoEF&CC**

A meeting to review the activities being carried out by Eco-clubs in various states under the National Green Corps (NGC) programme of the Ministry was held at 12.00 noon on 21.6.2016 under the Chairmanship of Secretary (EF&CC). Representatives of various states and Resource agencies participated in the meeting, List of participants is Annexed.

Secretary (EF&CC), welcomed the participants and stated that NGC is an important programme of the Ministry and Eco-clubs are its vital constituents. Even with meagre support from Govt of India, the programme is widely acceptable and is having such a large spread. There is need to build synergy between the activities carried out by Eco-clubs and other youth organisations such as NCC/NSS/NYKS and Scouts and Guides etc.

Dr Amita Prasad, Additional Secretary, MoEF&CC, emphasized that the very purpose of this review meeting is to strengthen the NGC programme through interaction, taking benefit and learning from the experience of other States.

Sh Lalit Kapur, Advisor (EE), made a brief presentation on the NGC programme wherein he informed about the objectives of NGC, number of Eco-clubs supported over the years, activities proposed to be taken up by Eco-clubs during FY 2016-17 and the main features of self assessment manual 'Journey from Grey to Green' as prepared by the Ministry.

Thereafter presentations were given by the nodal agencies of various states present during the meeting. The State-wise details are as follows:

### **1. PUNJAB**

It was informed that 5500 eco clubs are supported under the NGC programme and awareness activities like Lectures/Popular talks/Seminars, Competitions, Rallies/Marches, Street play/Skits/Dramas, Celebrating Environment Related Days, Vanmahotsav, Visit to Ecologically Important Areas are performed by the Eco-clubs. State Level Events like Capacity building of DSSs, Training of NGC Teachers and Visit of students and teachers to Climate Change Theatre were also carried out.

### **2. KARNATAKA**

It was informed that each district is having 250 Eco-clubs. Total number of Eco-clubs set up is 8500 including 6974 in Govt. and Govt. Aided High Schools and 1526 in Higher Primary Schools. Under NGC, one day Video Conference was arranged on 9th January, 2012 with the Officers of EMPRI, DDPI, Headmasters and Teachers In-charge of all Eco-clubs of thirty-four Educational Districts to explain and discuss the working of NGC programme and its challenges in the implementation phase. State level training programs, and events on important environment days were also organised.

### **3. HIMACHAL PRADESH**

It was informed that 3000 ECO Clubs have been established in the State involving Appx. 1,50,000 students and appx. 4000 teachers. They are celebrating important environmental days like water Day, Earth Day, Biodiversity Day, World Environment Day, Ozone Day, Wetland day conducting environment rallies, undertaking plantation campaigns in and around the schools, cleanliness campaigns in the schools and surrounding areas, environmental competitions like quiz, slogan, and essay writing, and Environmental SKITS. The Eco clubs have started environment audit of the school concerned. **They are also providing award to**

**best eco clubs of the state** every year on the occasion of world environment day on 5th June. Monitoring at district level is done by the Deputy Director Education/District Science Supervisor.

#### **4. GUJARAT**

6660 Eco Clubs have been constituted in 26 Districts of the State. Activities like Seminars / Talks / Debates on the Subject of Ecology and Environment, Cleanliness Drives in and around school campus, Visiting Science Express Climate Change Special, Competitions like Painting Competition, Essay Competition etc., Observing various ecological days like WED, WWD, WOD. Participation in Nature Education Camps., Visit to nearby PAs/Nature Parks, Recognizing District wise Young Eco Ambassadors of the State are conducted under NGC.

#### **5. MAHARASHTRA**

Programme covers 8818 schools across the state. Activities performed are based on Awareness, Observation, data collection and covers various subjects namely water conservation, cleanliness, solid waste management, biodiversity conservation, energy conservation and innovations. 30,784 schools participated on 15th August 2015 and a total of 5,80,078 saplings were planted and the survival rate is 75 to 90 %. It was highlighted that under the programme students are collecting bamboo from cremation site of the village which are used as tree guards. Further 21 schools from the Konkan region participated in beach cleaning programme.

#### **6. MADHYA PRADESH**

It was informed that all the 50 Districts of the State are covered and 12500 Eco-clubs have been established under NGC. State level events include State Level Orientation Trainings, Monitoring, State Level Mowgli Bal Utsav, Haryali Mahotsav, Climate Change Awareness. The state is also giving **Best Ecoclub Award**. Various Environmental Days like World Earth Day - 22 April, World Biodiversity Day - 22 May, World Environment Day - 5 June, World Day to Combat Desertification & Drought- 17 June, World Ozone Day - 16 September, World Wetland Day-2 February are also celebrated.

#### **7. RAJASTHAN**

They informed that under NGC 33 Districts are covered. State Steering Committee has been formed. 264000 students are actively involved under the programme. They are conducting activities like Seminar, Lectures, Camps/Field visits, Plantations/Cleanliness drives and Awareness Rallies.

#### **8. CHANDIGARH**

The Department of Environment has set-up 136 Eco-clubs in various Govt./Recognized Schools of the Union Territory, They celebrate World Environment Day, Anti Crackers Day, Biodiversity Day, Pollution Prevention Day, World Earth Day and also carry out Eco-Friendly Campaigns.

#### **9. KERALA**

3500 schools have established Eco-clubs under the NGC. Observation of World Environment Day, Ozone day, National Science Day, Wetland day. Participation in National Children's Science Congress, National nature Camping Programme at Thenmala, Haritha Keralam - Oru manushyanu oru maram- (One man one tree) -Planting trees, Visit to Science

Express Train- Climate change Special. Participation in Kerala Science Congress 2015 and Eco-club teachers training programme have been organised under NGC. **Best Eco club is also awarded at District and State level.**

#### 10. PUDUCHERRY

A total of 390 Eco-clubs have been established in as much schools. It was mentioned that tree saplings were supplied by the nodal agency to all schools in Puducherry for implementing mega tree plantation drive. Plastic free zone awareness rally was also conducted.

#### 11. TAMIL NADU

8000 Eco clubs are functioning in 32 districts @ 250/district under NGC. There are 69 Eco-club Co-ordinator/other District Education officers to monitor the programme. It was highlighted that training programme was conducted on functioning of Eco clubs, air, water, soil pollution, solid & liquid waste management, climate change, biodiversity & greening of school campus cleaning, nature camps etc. Activities like School campus cleaning, Tree plantation, Environmental awareness rallies, Celebration of at least six green days, Vermi composting, Enviro expo are also conducted. To create Environmental awareness among students online quiz is conducted and winners were awarded with Certificate of Appreciation.

#### 12. TRIPURA

1000 Eco Club are established under NGC. State Level Steering Committee formulated Action Plan for implementation of the programme. District Level Workshop was conducted with Eco Club Teacher-in-Charge for strengthening and effective implementation of the programme. The Eco Club Schools organized various programmes throughout the year like Rallies highlighting various issues such as water conservation, non use of plastic carry bags, noise pollution etc.. Door to door campaign for conducting Energy Audit, Water Audit etc., Plantation at School premises, along Road side, River bank etc., Environmental Quiz Competitions, Debates, Essay & Slogan Competition on environmental issues, Flower Garden, Kitchen Garden, WASTE PIT/LOW COST DUST BINS are also being developed and maintained by Eco Club Schools.

#### 13. SIKKIM

766 Eco Club are established under NGC. Grey water Treatment, rainwater harvesting, Biodiversity park, herbal garden, kitchen garden, green house have been set up under NGC. Best community practices like car pool, CFLs/ LEDs, use of solar energy kitchen, 3Rs of waste management zero waste policy are followed. State Green Schools Award are also being awarded.

#### 14. ODISHA

7500 eco clubs are established under NGC. Activities like Plantation drive, Garden Development, Awareness Campaign, Solid Waste Management, Nursery Development, Organising Competitions (Drawing & Painting, Debate, Essay, Quiz), Cleanliness Drive under Swachh Bharat Abhiyan are conducted throughout the year.

#### 15. TELANGANA

2500 Eco-clubs have been set up in 10 districts of Telangana State @ 250 schools per District. Activities like Haritha Haram, Vriksha Raksha Bhandhan, Eco- Friendly Ganesh Utsav,

celebration of Ozone Day, Eco-friendly Diwali, Eco-friendly Holi, Earth Day, International Day for Biological Diversity, World Environment Day are carried out under NGC.

Secretary (EF&CC) appreciated the activities and the enthusiasm with which they are being carried out by the nodal agencies under the NGC programme. He stated that the phenomenal response that NGC has received with meagre support has made the network more than 1,00,000 Eco clubs across the country in 15 years, making it one of the largest conservation networks. It is good to see that States have also come forward to support the programme.

Secretary (EF&CC) informed that the schemes and programmes of Youth Organisations including the Eco-clubs were reviewed by the Hon'ble Prime Minister recently. It was noticed that there is no synergy between the activities performed by various youth organisations such as NSS, NCC, Nehru Yuva Kendras, Scouts and Guides and Eco-clubs. A need was felt to bring them together as almost all the groups are present in all parts of the country. He emphasized that activities may therefore, be planned in such a way to bring all the youth groups together. He further stated that sometime back information with respect to the details of student volunteers, Eco-club Incharges and the activities performed by Eco-clubs during the month of May and June was sought by the Prime Minister's Office. However, information, in this regard, from most of the states is still pending. He requested that the submission of this information be expedited so that it is submitted to the Prime Minister's office without further delay.

Secretary (EF&CC) informed that on the occasion of International Youth Day on 12<sup>th</sup> August, for the fortnight 1<sup>st</sup> -15<sup>th</sup> August 2016, Government of India has selected the theme as "All NSS, NCC, Eco-clubs" and the suggested activities during this fortnight are "youth volunteers sensitize citizens and slum dwellers about safe sanitary practices and DSWM" and Youth groups take mass pledges on mygov.in and undertake cleaning drives in various locations in the cities and upload pictures on swachhbharat.mygov.in. All the SNAs were accordingly advised to undertake these activities during 1<sup>st</sup> to 15<sup>th</sup> August, 2016 on mass scale. The report of the activities so conducted shall be sent to MoEF&CC digitally by 16<sup>th</sup> August, 2016.

Secretary (EF&CC) highlighted that it is encouraging to see the type of activities and the scale at which these are being performed by the Eco-clubs across the country. He ensured that the Ministry will try to work out how to take the programme forward by enhancing the grant and incentivizing the programme. He also suggested to institutionalise an award mechanism for the best performing Eco-clubs/volunteers/ incharges.

AS (AP) also opined that Ministry will consider to enhance the funding to the Eco-clubs under the NGC Programme. For even better results, she emphasized the need to synergize the activities carried out by the Eco-clubs with the other youth organisations. She suggested to set-up a small group to recommend the ways to incentivise the scheme. The committee may comprise of representatives from State of Punjab, Tamil Nadu, Sikkim, Maharashtra, Odisha and CEE. Further she informed that the Ministry will develop a year long calendar (theme wise) for NGC programme. In addition to their routine activities, the Eco-clubs will also focus on these activities every month. After discussion with the participants, following month-wise thematic activity chart for the remaining month of this fiscal year was finalised:-

<b>Month</b>	<b>Themes</b>
July	Tree plantation/ greening neighbourhood
August	Cleanliness drive
September	Climate Change
October	Waste Management
November	Biodiversity/Prakriti Mela

December	Energy Conservation
January	Environment Audit/Open defecation free village
February	Water Conservation/Lake Conservation

AS (AP) suggested that catchy slogans on conservation and protection of environment shall be developed and used in the rallies and programmes. The SNAs were advised to organise competitions in this regard. She also advised the Eco-clubs to proactively make use of social media to connect with youth. She highlighted that two important activities are coming up during July-August. During July-August massive programme for plantation be taken up by all the Eco-clubs. The Forest Departments of all the States shall provide saplings, free of cost to the Eco-clubs. During the fortnight of 1<sup>st</sup> to 15<sup>th</sup> August, which is dedicated to the International Youth Day, the Eco-clubs should carry out the activities as suggested by Government of India on mass scale. She also suggested to involve the School Development Management Committees to review the Eco-club activities in their routine meetings.

AS (AP) advised the Resource Agencies specially the Centre for Environment Education, Ahmedabad to device education and awareness material like posters and small booklets for distribution among the various Eco-clubs. CEE was also suggested to simplify the self assessment manual entitled journey from grey to green as prepared by the Ministry. However, till then the manual should be used in its present form to assess the outcome of activities performed by Eco-clubs. She informed that for better implementation and monitoring of the NGC Programme, Ministry is developing an online portal with the help of NIC. The features and working of the portal will very soon be shared with all the State Nodal Agencies.

**After detailed deliberations, the following decisions were taken:**

1. The Ministry will examine the requirement to enhance the grant to the Eco-clubs.
2. The year long activity calendar should be used by SNAs so as to give special emphasis on monthly thematic activities in addition to routine activities.
3. A Committee comprising of representatives from State of Punjab, Tamil Nadu, Sikkim, Maharashtra, Odisha and CEE and the Ministry was set up to recommend the ways to incentivize the scheme. The committee is to submit its report within a period of one month.
4. During July-August, massive programme for plantation be taken up by all the Eco-clubs.
5. The Forest Departments of all the States shall provide saplings, free of cost to the Eco-clubs.
6. During the fortnight 1<sup>st</sup> -15<sup>th</sup> August 2016, all Eco-clubs should take up following suggested activities:-
  - Youth volunteers sensitize citizens and slum dwellers about safe sanitary practices and DSWM and
  - Youth groups take mass pledges on mygov.in and undertake cleaning drives in various locations in the cities and upload pictures on swachhbharat.mygov.in.

The report of the activities so conducted shall be sent to the MoEF&CC digitally by 16<sup>th</sup> August, 2016.

7. Catchy slogans on conservation and protection of environment shall be developed and used in the rallies and programmes. The SNAs to organise competitions in this regard. The best five entries by each state shall be forwarded to the Ministry
8. School Development Management Committees also review activities of the Eco-clubs in their routine meetings.
9. Eco-clubs should proactively make use of Social Media to connect with youth.
10. All State Nodal agencies should utilize the Self Assessment Manual Journey from Grey to Green to assess outcome of activities taken up by the Eco-clubs and provide a consolidate report to the Ministry.
11. All State Nodal Agencies should immediately provide the following information as sought by Prime Minister office :-
  - Details of Eco-club volunteers and Incharges.
  - Progress of the activities undertaken during the month of May & June, 2016 in the prescribed format

The meeting ended with a vote of thanks to the chair.

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## List of Participants

Meeting taken by Secretary (EF&CC) to review the activities of Eco-clubs  
under the National Green Corps Programme on 21.6.2016 at MoEF&CC

<b>S. No</b>	<b>Name and Designation</b>	<b>Organization / State</b>
1.	Sh. Ajay Narayan Jha, Secretary (EF&CC)	MoEFCC
2.	Ms. Amita Prasad, Additional Secretary	MoEFCC
3.	Sh. Lalit Kapur, Advisor	MoEFCC
4.	Sh. Hari Singh, Deputy Secretary	MoEFCC
5.	Dr. Neelima Jerath, Executive Director, Science & Technology	Punjab
6.	Dr. Sadhana Tiwari, Chief Scientific Officer	EPCO, Madhya Pradesh
7.	Sh. Dilip Chakravarty, Environment Education Officer	EPCO, Madhya Pradesh
8.	Dr. S.B. Padhi, D.S.I. Director, CES	CES, Odisha
9.	Prarat Mohan Dash, Nodal Officer	CES, Odisha
10.	Sh. Chandraker Bharti, Secretary	Environment & Forest, Delhi
11.	Dr. B.C. Sabat, Senior Scientist ,	Environment & Forest, Delhi
12.	Sh. Ravi Sharma, NGC Coordinator, State Council of Science & Technology & Environment	Shimla, Himachal Pradesh
13.	Sh. Gopa Ram Mali, STC	Scout Guide, Jaipur, Rajasthan
14.	Sh. Bishu Karmakar, Scientist, Nodal Officer	Tripura Pollution Control Board
15.	Dr. K. Kokkal, Scientist & Joint Director(Nodal Officer)	KSCSTE, Kerala
16.	Sh. N. Raveendhar, Director I/C NGC	TSNGC, Telangana
17.	Dr. Jayanthi Murali, IFS, Additional Director, Department of Environment	Dept. of Environment, Tamil Nadu
18.	Sh. Rusovil John, Member Secretary, NPCB	NPCB, Nagaland
19.	Sh. B.B. Guny, Addl. Director of Forest	Forest Department, Govt. of Sikkim
20.	Sh. Rajen Pradhan, Sr. Programme Officer	Forest Department, Govt. of Sikkim
21.	Sh. P. Boopathy, STC, Education Department	Puducherry
22.	Sh. Ramachandra, Secretary of Govt. (EE)	Kerala
23.	Sh. A.R. Chhdha, PCCFSFD	Maharashtra
24.	P.J.S. Dadhwal, Additional Director	U.T. Chandigarh
25.	Sh. OP. Singh, APCCF (EGS)	Forest Department, GOR, Rajasthan
26.	Ms Kanchan, Programme Coordinator	MoEFCC
27.	Ms Kriti , Pr Officer	MoEFCC
28.	Dr. Simanta Kalita, Programme Coordinator	CEE
29.	Sh. Sharad Gaur, Programme Director, CEE	CEE
30.	Dr. Desh Bandhu, Globe Regional Director	IES
31.	Sh. Sudhakar, Joint Director, CPREEC	CPR Environmental Education Centre