

MINUTES OF THE
NATIONAL WORKSHOP FOR STATE NODAL AGENCIES (SNAs) AND RESOURCE
AGENCIES (RAs) ON TESTING OF MANUAL FOR MONITORING AND REPORTING
NATIONAL GREEN CORPS (NGC) ACTIVITIES OF THE MINISTRY OF
ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS, GOVERNMENT OF INDIA

The Ministry of Environment and Forests (MoEF), Government of India, organized a National Workshop for state level Nodal Agencies (SNAs) and Resource Agencies (RAs) on Testing of Manual for monitoring and reporting National Green Corps (NGC) activities, at the Ghalib Hall, SCOPE Convention Centre, New Delhi on Friday, August 31, 2012. A total of 37 SNAs and RAs participated in the workshop, apart from Ministry officials. CPREEC, Ministry's Centre of Excellence, was assigned the task of facilitating the consultation. The list of participants is enclosed.

Introductory Session :-

Shri. P. Sudhakar, Joint Director, CPREEC welcomed the gathering and set the initial note for the national meet.

Additional Secretary, MoEF, Dr. N. Chatterjee, in her opening remarks, stated that the purpose of the workshop was effective implementation and monitoring of the Scheme. AS referred to the indicators highlighting the outcomes of the EEAT Scheme, namely :-

1. About 3 million children and teachers from 75,000 NGC schools adopt measures that are environmentally sustainable.
2. 70% of participating schools demonstrate environmentally sustainable discipline. At least 10% of the schools also show environmental stewardship and are engaged in scientific discovery.
3. 25% of participating school surroundings show environmentally sustainable practices.
4. 70% of projects covered under EEAT are engaged in environment friendly action including issue based engagement and policy advocacy.

These have been incorporated as the outcome of EEAT at the end of the 12th Plan Period. An exercise has been held to develop the process indicators to arrive at the outcomes from the NGC Schools and a Manual has also been developed through a process of consultation which will help eco-clubs, teachers, students and district administration to report accordingly on the activities relating to EEAT in the NGC schools. The purpose of this workshop was to test the Manual for monitoring and reporting of NGC activities.

Shri. B.M.S. Rathore, Joint Secretary, MoEF, introduced the revised formats as well as the Manual for monitoring and reporting NGC activities to the participants. JS added that the Manual has been designed so as to be simple, focused and helpful to teachers and students to take up the activities without any difficulty. JS also discussed in detail the exercises provided in the Manual and how to respond to such exercises. The importance of the exercises was highlighted and the Joint Secretary requested the participants to examine the manual in detail and suggest ways of improvements, if any.

Hand Print:-

JS further introduced the issue of "Hand Print". He stated that a Hand Print is a measure of our positive actions towards environment and sustainable development while Foot Print is a negative action. The students can be motivated towards positive actions while doing this exercise, which will also help them to have positive thinking towards environmental conservation. To study the hand prints, an illustrative indicator should be provided to the students.

Journey from Grey to Green:-

While discussing this exercise, JS asked the participants to describe the term 'Green'. The participants came out with the following conceptions:-

- Plantation
- Sustainable living
- Tree cover
- Water quality and water conservation
- Waste management
- Biodiversity register
- Species indicators
- Indigenous and exotic plants
- Seed banks and nurseries
- Traditional knowledge about medicinal plants
- Energy - various sources
- Working toilets

Group Work :-

Shri.Pramod Sharma, CEE divided the participants into six groups. Each exercise was taken by 2 groups and was facilitated by the representatives of CPREEC and CEE. The task set for group discussions was to find out answers for the following questions:

- The data to be generated from the exercises in the self assessment manual
- The challenges to be faced in real time implementation

- The changes required and suggestions for improving it

The first exercise was on data generation. The second exercise is exclusively for the eco clubs to ascertain the environmental action implemented in their school and the third exercise helps them in ascertaining the condition of their neighbourhood.

The group works were presented for discussion in the fora. Upon conclusions of the group works, JS said that piloting of these activities in schools should be taken up and the outcomes to be captured.

Application of IT:-

In the post lunch session, Shri. Anil Oberoi, PCCF, IT Task Force, Department of Forests, Government of Madhya Pradesh emphasized that, for any programme, there should be a clear vision, national character and brand value. The Management Information System (MIS) reporting and monitoring should be interactive and creative in ensuring NGC mobility and services.

Shri.Oberoi suggested that it is possible to launch MIS system for NGC in a simpler way with possible integration of additional MIS technologies in a phased manner. NGC portal will make it happen. Real time tracking of eco clubs and monitoring of its activities is possible once full-fledged MIS is in place. A well established MIS will open up vistas in sharing and accessing of information on NGC among all stakeholders.

A well planned systematically launched and administered MIS of NGC will strengthen the scheme, make it transparent, accountable and respond to the challenges appropriately. The establishment of MIS of NGC requires a minimum of 3 months to begin in a smaller way and, upto a year's time establish its presence in a larger way. It involves various steps, starting from portal development, module development to virtualization. Shri.Oberoi also suggested that it is possible to integrate geo-spatial information on MIS of NGC. He explained the whole concept with the help of the, prototype developed for NGC, as well as the web portal of Madhya Pradesh Department of Forests.

He concluded that the envisioned MIS of NGC has a scope for all the stakeholders of NGC, including students, teachers, DIMCs, SNAs, RAs and MoEF, GoI.

Road Map (NGC):-

Shri. P. Sudhakar, Joint Director, CPREEC proposed the road map for the NGC scheme by inviting consensus from the participants and dignitaries on the dais. The road map with different milestone will be as follows:

1.	Revision of the formats/manual, if any	September 25, 2012
2.	Training of Master trainers for pilot launch at Bhopal	Tentatively between 20 th Sep to 7 th Oct
3.	Pre-testing in states through Pilot launch in 15 schools	November 15, 2012
4.	Design, development and printing of Manual <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • National meeting on feedback and consultation of MIS 	November 30, 2012 November 2012
5.	Introducing MIS tools in schools	December 2012
6.	Training NGC Teacher Coordinators	December 1 - 31, 2012
7.	Implement with 25% schools	February 25, 2013
8.	Reporting	April 15, 2013

Additional Secretary and Joint Secretary suggested that a similar national level exercise should be undertaken for NEAC Scheme also.

National Environmental Awareness Campaign (NEAC):-

To bring about convergence between NGC and NEAC, the national meet was also used as a platform to discuss issues and concerns of NEAC. The Member Secretaries of respective Regional Committees were invited to express their opinion about NEAC 2012-13. Dr. Amit Love, Member Secretary, Western Regional Committee and Dr. H.Kharkwal, Member Secretary, North Eastern Regional Committee provided the following inputs:-

- The resource material generated for NEAC has been found to be rather heterogeneous, varying widely in terms of quality.
- Uniform resource material to be generated and distributed by CoEs, keeping in view the context specificity.
- Resource material needs to be translated into local regional languages.
- Overlapping of sub-themes has been shared in the proposals, also there is problem of multiple sub-themes. It would be useful to have fewer sub-themes, that are specific enough and directly related to the key theme.
- Orientation on the theme of NEAC to the RRAs and Master Trainers to be designed and coordinated by CoEs
- Alternative mode of funding to RRA should be contemplated.
- Quality over quantity of proposals should be given priority for sanctioning.
- Grants to be given only for focused thematic activities.
- Matrix of criteria to be followed while scrutinizing the proposals
- Registration of NGOs and its authenticity to be verified (whether black listed with any other agencies)

After discussions, the following was recommended:-

- A National Level Expert Group for NEAC scheme will be constituted and the group will interact both electronically and in person to discuss the issues and concerns of NEAC scheme. The group needs to be set up soon. **[Action : MoEF]**
- Success stories in the form of case studies may be documented by RRAs.
- Capacity building of RRAs is to be started. As a first step in this direction, a workshop for orientation of RRAs (zone wise) will be organized by CPREEC at Chennai on September 24, 2012. **[Action: Additional Director EE , MoEF& CPREEC]**
- The Resource Material for the capacity building of RRAs & CPREEC is to be made ready by September 18 and distributed to the participating RRAs . **[Action :MoEF& CPREEC]**
- Additional Secretary suggested that the Minutes of the previous consultation meetings held on May 11, 2012 for RRAs, on July 26, 2012 with Chair and Member Secretaries of 6 NEAC Regional Committees and the meeting held in Guwahati for North Eastern Region may be used to prepare the background note. **[Shravan, Consultant, Monitoring Cell MoEF to share the minutes with CPREEC].**
- As existing RRAs from different states and UTs, were more than 10 years old and it was proposed that proposals be invited from aspirant RRAs. **[Action : MoEF]**
- The participating agencies of NEAC can play a facilitative role at district levels.
- Convergence between NEAC and NGC should be brought in with the help of governmental and non-governmental institutions for effective outcome and outputs. **[Action :MoEF]**
- A Static web based data base and application process system is to be developed for NEAC scheme. **[Action : MoEF]**
