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**NEW CENTRALLY SPONSORED SCHEME (CCS) ON MANAGEMENT OF
GREGARIOUS FLOWERING IN NORTH-EAST INDIA**

(Source: Ministry of Environment & Forests)

New Centrally Sponsored Scheme(CSS) on Management of Gregarious Flowering in North-East India is being administered by the Ministry of Environment and Forests. For this, a Central Monitoring Committee (CMC) has been constituted under the chairmanship of Director General of Forests and Special Secretary (DGF &SS) to review the progress of implementation of various activities envisaged in the 'Action Plan'. So far, four meetings of CMC have taken place. The fourth meeting of the CMC was held on October 18,2006 under the chairmanship of DGF&SS in New Delhi, in which the representatives of the State Governments concerned along with Shri AMK Rao, Rodent Specialist, Ministry of Agriculture participated. Some of the important decisions taken in the meeting are ;

- (i) A committee under the chairmanship of Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (PCCF), Assam with PCCF Mizoram, PCCF Tripura and Shri A.M.K. Rao as members has been constituted to draft a 'Comprehensive Flowering Policy' and 'Guidelines for Creation of Bamboo Development Fund.'
- (ii) Chief Conservator of Forests, Regional Office, Ministry of Environment and Forests, Shillong has been entrusted with the responsibility to obtain report/coordinate in constitution of a 'Regional Coordination Committee' for management of gregarious flowering.

2. An update regarding visit of JBIC appraisal mission related to Tripura Integrated Forestry Development Project is as follows:-

Project Name	- Tripura Integrated Forestry Development Project
Aid Agency	- JBIC
Project Period	- 6 years
Proposed Outlay	-390 crores

3. Present position of the project:

JBIC Appraisal Mission is to visit Tripura, the project is yet to sanctioned. The loan agreement is likely to be signed in March, 2007.

**PROGRAMMES / PROJECTS BEING UNDERTAKEN BY MINISTRY OF
SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY IN ARUNACHAL PRADESH & NAGALAND**

(Source Ministry of Science & Technology)

Ministry of Science & Technology has undertaken the following programmes for Arunachal Pradesh and Nagaland:-

1. STRENGTHENING SCIENCE EDUCATION

- (i) A programme for upgradation of science laboratories in selected colleges in Arunachal Pradesh and Nagaland and re-training of science teachers;

- (ii) To provide to colleges/institutions in Arunachal Pradesh and Nagaland, free of cost and on a continuing basis, (a) each of the 22 journals published by CSIR institutions, and (b) popular science magazines, booklets and info-material published by CSIR;
- (iii) To establish at the Arunachal Pradesh University Itanagar (or at another suitable location) and in Nagaland University, Kohima, a Bio informatics Infrastructure Facility (BIF).
- (iv) To organize a 1 one-month long vacation training programme in bio-resources at Arunachal Pradesh University, Itanagar and Nagaland University, Kohima.
- (v) To provide to selected college libraries and scientific institutions in Arunachal Pradesh and Nagaland a comprehensive atlas “Bio-diversity mapping of the NE region using GPS/remote sensing – DOS/ DBT”;
- (vi) To provide in the calendar year 2007, 20 telescopes to each State in the North East (40 to Assam); and
- (vii) To provide information packages of Vigyan Prasar Publications and information material to 100 schools each in Nagaland (in English) and Arunachal Pradesh (50% in Hindi).

2. BIO-RESOURCE TECHNOLOGIES; TECHNOLOGY TRANSFER CULTIVATION AND PROCESSING INCLUDE :-

- (i) A programme for mapping of bio-diversity and conservation (ex-situ) in Arunachal Pradesh and “Mapping and quantitative assessment of distribution and population status of plant resources of Eastern Himalayan region” involving 9 institutions in 8 NE States including NERIST, Itanagar and Nagaland University, Kohima.
- (ii) Take up a special & large-scale project for characterization & conservation (ex-situ) of bio-diversity, coordinated by a national institution, working with local agencies/ institutions in Arunachal Pradesh. To carry out in Nagaland a consultative assessment of status and need for possible upgradation of existing tissue culture facility at Dimapur to bio-resource facility by JC Bose Institute, Kolkata;
- (iii) Establish a programme for capacity building and training of local scientists/ researchers and selected institutions of Arunachal Pradesh and Nagaland;
- (iv) Revamping of the orchid research center at Tipi (East Kameng district), conversion of the facility to a bio-resource center and establishment of a sub-facility at Ziro;
- (v) For temperate zone aromatics – research, promotion, cultivation and value addition, DST has sanctioned a project for large scale cultivation of lavender in the Dirang area with value addition in the form of distillation of valuable lavender oil, and tie-up with industry for marketing.

- (vi) To investigate the possibility of a further cultivation and product conversion of other high value crops for oil (geranium, rose clarysage, rosemary) in temperate areas, including specifically in the Lumla area of Tawang, including through a) the Sadbhavna programme of the Indian Army) and b) support a programme of stevia cultivation (100 hectares) and product conversion in the Siang valley in Arunachal Pradesh.
- (vii) For establishment of cultivation/ value addition in geranium in the Subansiri (Ziro) area –plant material, establishment of local nuclei nurseries, packages of practices, cultivation, product conversion, DST/DBT will carry out an expert review and assessment in consultation with the State Government.
- (viii) For ex-situ conservation of indigenous resources and establishment of gene bank, DST (JC Bose Institute, Kolkata) will review available infrastructure and prepare a proposal for technical and financial support;
- (ix) To support, through the Arunachal Pradesh S&T Council, 2 projects in 2 separate areas of the State and provide assistance to the Government of Nagaland for documentation of traditional medicinal practices based on indigenous herbs and plants.
- (x) To support a special programme for the induction of poly-houses/ green houses for intensive cultivation in the Tawang area through the local community in conjunction with the Sadbhavna programme of the Indian Army (190 Mtn Brigade).

3. ENERGY AND TRANSPORTATION

- (i) To support the establishment of 50 micro/ mini-hydel (<100 Kw) projects (25 each in 2007 and in 2008) for remote villages in Arunachal Pradesh and Nagaland, based on indigenously developed technologies (IISc Bangalore).
- (ii) To support the establishment of an entrepreneurially run fabrication unit for turbines for mini/ micro hydel projects at a location in the North East and for fabrication of pico (<10 kwe) hydel generator sets at Dimapur.
- (iii) To support, at two mountain locations in Arunachal Pradesh, one each in Siang and in the Tawang area, the establishment of powered ropeways for goods only, in collaboration with RITES on the models already inducted (fully funded) in Uttaranchal by TIFAC.

4. METEOROLOGY

- (i) To investigate the possibility of siting of a Doppler weather radar at or near Pasighat in Arunachal Pradesh and in Nagaland .
- (ii) Establish Automatic weather Stations in different districts of Arunachal Pradesh and Nagaland 13 and 8 respectively;

- (iii) Install 20 telemetry stations in the North East to monitor seismic activity. (4 in Arunachal Pradesh, and 2 in Nagaland)

5. MAPPING

- (i) DST has approved the extension of the neighbourhood mapping programme in Nagaland and will extend the programme to Arunachal Pradesh, based on the proposal by the Government of Arunachal Pradesh.
- (ii) DST/ NATMO will provide district level planning maps to the Government of Arunachal Pradesh.
- (iii) Survey of India will provide 5,000 print atlases and 150 CD atlases for use in Middle/ High schools in the States of Arunachal Pradesh and Nagaland.;
- (iv) Survey of India will carry out mapping of select urban agglomerations in the States of Arunachal Pradesh and Nagaland;
- (v) DST will convert the Natural Resource Data Management Centre at Kohima to Spatial Data Infrastructure Centre and provide linkages to the Natural Spatial Data Institute, Delhi.

6. HEALTH CARE

- (i) DST will support the provision of two mobile diagnostic facilities in Arunachal Pradesh and one in Nagaland, on the DST/ TIFAC model implemented in Uttaranchal.
- (ii) DST has approved a programme of induction of 350 nano-membrane filters for rural areas to provide clean drinking water in Arunachal Pradesh and 150 nano-membrane fitters for rural areas in Nagaland
- (iii) Setting up of 15 Iron Removal plants for clean drinking water in Arunachal Pradesh and 33 in Nagaland in 2007;
- (iv) Support the trial induction of 20 each non-powered nano-membrane water filters (with attachment for iron removal) in rural areas in Arunachal Pradesh and Nagaland.
- (v) Support the establishment of a tele-medicine facility at one location in the East Siang district in Arunachal Pradesh and at one location in Nagaland.
- (vii) DBT will establish a Genetia Counseling Unit (GCU) in Nagaland.

7. BAMBOO SECTOR

(a) Support to State-Policy

- State Government will establish a counterpart agency for the bamboo sector, with a multi-disciplinary core team.

- DST/NMBA will carry out a study of the access and regulatory regime for bamboo in Arunachal Pradesh, and of the fiscal and incentive regime for value added products;
- To support an actionable study with the objective of establishing a road map for the development of the bamboo sector in Arunachal Pradesh.
- In Nagaland, DST/Nagaland Bamboo Development Agency (NBDA) will encourage/support a review of the access and regulatory regime for bamboo, fiscal and incentive regime for value added products and an actionable study for establishing a roadmap for the development of the bamboo sector in Nagaland.

(b) Gasification of Bamboo for electricity:

- Establishment of a 25 Kwe fabricated gasifier with producer gas engine for a residential school at Namsai, Lohit district;
- Establishment of a 25 Kwe (35 kg/hour) gasifier to provide electricity for a residential educational establishment (Central Institute of Himalayan Culture Studies, Dahung) in Arunachal Pradesh and for lighting, pumping of water for irrigation and for poultry farm in Nagaland ;
- To support for off-grid and remote villages in Arunachal Pradesh and Nagaland, a programme of induction of six bamboo gasifiers in 2007 (in the 25 Kwe-75 Kwe range), to provide electricity to villages, or to institutions;
- In Nagaland one 100 kwe electrical gasifier has been fabricated and completed for bamboo processing facility at Dimapur.

(c) Manufacture of bamboo composites:

- A formerly closed plywood unit (Arunachal Plywood Industries Ltd.) has been converted to the manufacture of bamboo composite, with technology support from NMBA, and new processes.
- In Lohit district. Expansion and modernization of existing bamboo ply unit of M/s Arunachal Agro Bamboo Products, Chowdham has been taken up from May, 2006.
- To support 2 more entrepreneurial units in Arunachal Pradesh in 2007 for manufacture of bamboo composite material/revival of closed plywood units;

(d) Bamboo processing

- Cluster based bamboo (Zingnu Bamboo) flattening unit for supply to manufacturers of bamboo composites established by a first generation entrepreneur, with NMBA support at Lathaw, in Lohit district.

- Mat making unit being established at Namsai, Lohit district, by a woman entrepreneur (M/s Suta Bamboo) with NMBA support.
- To support the establishment in 2007 of a Bamboo Technology Park, in East Siang district, at Pasighat in Arunachal Pradesh and entrepreneurial units in Nagaland;
- To support the establishment of an entrepreneurially managed bamboo processing facility at jairampur and a fully equipped bamboo processing facility at Tuli in collaboration with Government of Nagaland ,
- To provide training in the use of commercial and indigenous natural dyes on bamboo and bamboo products to craftspersons through a training and demonstrative workshop conducted by the IIT Delhi;
- Industrial pallets have been developed in Arunachal Pradesh (APIL), using bamboo engineered material (shuttering plywood grade) to substitute the use of timber pallets by the tea industry (ICD Amingaon).
- Integrated bamboo processing and treatment facility at Dimapur and shuttering Board Manufacturing Unit in Dimapur has been approved.

(e) Structurals- whole bamboo/bamboo composite material:

- Demonstrative pre-fabricated modular structures in high altitude areas established at forward locations of the Indian Army in August, 2006 in Tawang area.
- A project (Arunachal Pradesh) taken up to develop a cluster of 20 houses in village Niglok under Ruksin block, and with cost-sharing through local MLA LADS funds, to demonstrate structural applications for housing in rural areas.
- Rehabilitation of a 50 bedded Child Hospital at Pasighat, Arunachal of size 5000 sq. ft. taken up using bamboo engineered materials – roofing and cladding.
- Supporting GOI's Sarva Shiksha Abhiyaan (SSA), in Lohit district, 16 schools are being built by the NMBA in the form of pre-fabricated structures using bamboo engineered material.
- DST would encourage utilization in /Government housing and constructional programmes of bamboo based engineered material in Arunachal Pradesh and will support on cost sharing basis and up to 50000 sq ft, the induction of bamboo pre-fabricated structures for public domain buildings in Nagaland .

- DST/NMBA will support the field induction of 20 (H/A + pre-fabricated) structures for use by the Indian Army for troop shelters.
- Government of Nagaland with NMBA support has constructed a large span structure at Kisama, Kohima.

(f) Bamboo products:

- Propagation and cultivation of bamboo.

(g) Bamboo shoots processing

- Cluster level training workshop and demonstration for cluster level bamboo shoot processing held in Lohit district (Namsai) in June, 2006. 5 SHGs have taken on equipment packages and have carried out shoot processing and packaging (<200 kg/day) in this season.
- To support the establishment by entrepreneurs of a unit for industrial scale bamboo processing, with capabilities of processing other horticultural produce as well in Arunachal Pradesh and Nagaland.
- M/s Nagaland Foods, Industrial State, Ganeshguri, Dimapur) has been supported by NMBA for processing and canning of bamboo shoots.
- In Nagaland following programmes have also been supported/approved :
 - (i) establishment of a pilot production facility for bamboo based hygiene products and wound dressings, at Dimapur,
 - (ii) Community level processing low cost equipment (> Rs 28,000 and simple technology packages, producing up to 100 kg of processed shoot on a daily basis; were developed, standardized and validated.
 - (iii) Mat supply chain development activities initiated in February 2006 in the Tuli area of Nagaland.
 - (iv) To support the expansion of mat weaving activities to other clusters in the State, for supply to industrial scale manufacturing units, and to support the induction of mechanized mat weaving equipment with sliver lines, to increase productivity and out-turn.
 - (v) Optimized system for low cost kiln based charcoal production, with briquetting option developed has been successfully inducted in Nagaland by NMBA.
 - (vi) Establishment of a further 45 kilns in villages across Nagaland by NBDA with NMBA cost-sharing support (50%).

- (vii) For the first time, 5,000 plants of *Phyllostachys pubescens* (Chinese Moso monopodial bamboo) from IHBT Palampur sent to Nagaland Bamboo Development Agency for field trials in Nagaland.
- (viii) Multi-locational trials of tissue cultured bamboo being carried out at Wokha, with Tissue cultured *Bambusa balcooa* prepared at Hosur and hardened at HPC Jagi Road with NMBA support under a DBT coordinated programme.
- (ix) To support the establishment of a bamboo plant hardening facility, and at least 2 Vegetative Propagation Centres to prepare good quality bamboo plant material with NMBA support, to make available bamboo plant material for plantation/homestead cultivation.
- (x) Survey of India has carried out mapping of incidence of *Melaconna baccifera* in the State. 3 plot sheets (1:100,000) handed over to Nagaland (Wokha, Zunebhoto and Mokokchung districts) for verification and updating.

(h) Disaster Management

- To support the Government of Nagaland for a programme of capacity building for early prediction and management of natural disasters such as flash floods, earthquakes and other areas of interest to the State Government

(i) Community enterprise : bamboo charcoal

- To induct 3 batteries of bamboo charcoal Kilns in the Subansiri area in Arunachal Pradesh.

PERIODICAL RENEWAL OF WORKS IN NATIONAL HIGHWAYS DIVISIONS IN THE STATE OF ASSAM.

(Source - Ministry of Shipping, Road Transport and Highways)

Deptt. of Road Transport and Highways has conducted periodic renewal of the works in the State of Assam and has accorded approval as follows:-

Sr. No.	Name of the work	Amounts sanctioned (in Lakh)	Date of Sanction
1.	Km 302/02 Km 310/0 of NH-37 under Nagaon, NH Division	Rs.130.58	15.11.2006
2.	Km 279/02 to Km, 284/0 and km. 290/0 to 295/0 of NH-37 under Nagaon, NH Division	Rs.164.28	15.11.2006

3.	Km 542/0 to Km 548 of NH-37 under Dibrugarh, NH Division	Rs.108.78	15.11.2006
4.	Km 12/295 to Km 18/0 of NH 37A under Nagaon, NH Division	Rs.93.64	15.11.2006
5.	Km 340/0 to 346/0 of NH 37 under Nagaon, NH Division.	Rs. 95.99	15.11.2006
6.	Km 320/0 to 324/0 of NH 37 under Nagaon, NH Division	Rs. 65.92	15.11.2006
7.	Km. 453/670 to Km 462/318 of MH 37 under Jorhat, NH Division	Rs. 221.02	15.11.2006

The terms and conditions of the approval provide that :-

- (i) If the cost of tender exceeds 5% of the sanctioned estimated cost, the revised estimates be got sanctioned from the Ministry;
- (ii) Guidelines issued by the Ministry regarding invitation of tenders for execution of works of NHs and other centrally financed schemes relating to advertisements should be adhered to, depending on the requirement.
- (iii) The arrangements be made for the submission of quarterly reports in respect of the work by the Executive Engineer to the Director General (Road Development) & Special Secretary, Government of India.

My heart aches do you hear me ?

**Whether a Boro bleeds
Or an Assamese wreathes,
Whether a Dimasa is pierced
Or a Kabri's limbs broke
Whether a santali is severed
Or a Naga is kidnapped
My heart aches and
My tears rool.**

**At every blast in the crowd
Our brothers and sisters die,
When a bridge is torn apart
Our movement gets paralyzed
When a pipe line is blast
Our growth is reversed
Will this madness end
Will we ever see peace?**

**The rest of our mother land
Make history, and
Break their own records
Again and again
Be in Industry,
Be it agriculture,
Be it Hi-tech
In all fields they score**

**Life is to live and not to end
Every one is precious,
A gift from God.
Every one a brother and
Every one a sister,
Let's smile at the other,
Let's Stretch out our hands,
As a messenger of peace.**

**J. Das
St. Pauls Centre
9th Mile, Guwahati**

NEWS NOTES

Defence Forces and Community Welfare (The Sentinel dated 26-11-2006)

The Army has been conducting civic action programme under Operation Sadbhavana and Operation Samaritan. The Assam Rifles, in association and under the control of the Army, has also been doing good work in this regard. The scope of the programmes cover community development projects of values generally not exceeding RS 10-15 lakh per project, if not less. Such projects can be executed within a short gestation period of a few months and have a visible impact towards improving community livelihood and welfare.

The Government of India spends more than Rs 10 crore every year on these programmes, directly. There are other supportive activities undertaken through various indirect assistance efforts.

3,614 HOUSES CONSTRUCTED UNDER BHARAT NIRMAN PROGRAMME (Press Trust of India)

In Meghalaya, 3614 houses were built under the Bharat Nirman Programme during 2005-06. The Centre has allocated Rs 14.35 crore for 2005-06 with Rs 9.19 crore having been released upto March this year an official release said. The Bharat Nirman programme envisaged construction of 60 lakh houses over the next four year.

The Union Rural Development Ministry has undertaken it for the poor as a centrally sponsored scheme where the cost between Centre and state is shared as 75.25 basis. Grant of Rs 27.500 is provided per house in hilly areas and Rs 25,000 for the plains.

The implementation guidelines of the scheme specifically target rural BPL households with the selection of beneficiaries by Gram Sabhas.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Nonetheless the NE newsletter is found to be informative to the common people of North-East published on monthly basis. As a postmaster, I have been familiar/accustomed with it by reading it with great enthusiasm and satisfaction. I would feel very obliged if you kindly publish it and send me a free copy at the earliest.

Sir OSEK Apum,
Branch Postmaster, Debing B.P.O., East siang,
Distt. Arunachal

Most respectfully, I beg to state that “Krsiti Bikash Samaj” of Boliaghat Kownerpur have come to know about NE newsletter published by NE Division, Ministry of Home Affairs and request for free copy regularly.

Secretary, Krsiti Bikash Samaz, Boliaghat,
Sivasagar, Assam.

I have come across copies of the NE newsletter and I would like to subscribe and receive the same regularly. Kindly send me the same regularly at the given address.

(KHUPCHINPAU GUTE)
Paite veng, (Near Faith Home),
Airport Road, Imphal