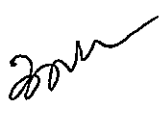


**PROCEEDINGS OF THE 12<sup>TH</sup> GOVERNING BODY MEETING OF THE  
"SOCIETY FOR IMPROVEMENT OF FOREST ECOSYSTEMS MANAGEMENT  
& LIVELIHOODS IN H.P." HELD AT H.P. SECRETARIAT SHIMLA ON 16<sup>TH</sup>  
JUNE, 2025 AT 11:00 A.M. UNDER THE CHAIRMANSHIP OF ADDITIONAL  
CHIEF SECRETARY (FORESTS) TO THE GOVERNMENT OF HIMACHAL  
PRADESH.**

The 12<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Governing Body of the "Society for Improvement of Forest Ecosystems Management & Livelihoods in H.P." registered for implementation of JICA assisted "Project for Improvement of Himachal Pradesh Forest Ecosystems Management & Livelihoods" was held in the Conference Hall, Armsdale Building, H.P. Secretariat, Shimla on 16.06.2025 under the Chairmanship of Additional Chief Secretary (Forests) to the GoHP. The list of the participants is annexed as Annexure-A.

At the outset, Project Director welcomed the Chairman and other members of the Governing Body. After giving the brief introduction and Progress of the Project, Agenda items were taken up one by one.

  
**Chief Project Director**  
Project for Improvement of H.P.  
Forest Ecosystems Management  
& Livelihoods, Shimla

## **Part-I**

**In this part Review of the Agenda Items of the Previous Governing Body Meetings were discussed vide Agenda Item No.-1.**



**Chief Project Director**  
Project for Improvement of H.P.  
Forest Ecosystems Management  
& Livelihoods, Shimla


**AGENDA ITEM No.-1:**

**REVIEW OF AGENDA ITEMS OF THE 11<sup>TH</sup> MEETING OF THE GOVERNING BODY OF SOCIETY FOR IMPROVEMENT OF FOREST ECOSYSTEMS MANAGEMENT & LIVELIHOODS IN ILP. FOR IMPLEMENTATION OF JICA ASSISTED PIHPFEM&L HELD ON 15.05.2024.**

Agenda Item No.	Agenda	Decision	Action taken
2	<p><b>Statement showing Physical &amp; Financial Progress for the FY 2023-24.</b></p> <p>The Governing Body was apprised about the Physical and Financial Progress of the various activities carried out in the FY 2023-24 and a report along with detailed annexure was placed before the Governing Body for perusal. GB was further apprised that the total outlay/APO of Rs. 102 Cr; Rs. 78.75 Cr. had been allotted to the Project for FY 2023-24, which has been fully utilized.</p>	<p>The Governing Body expressed satisfaction and approved the Physical &amp; Financial Statement for FY 2023-24.</p>	<p>Governing Body was apprised that the statement showing Physical &amp; Financial Statement for FY 2023-24 has been reviewed in 11<sup>th</sup> Governing Body Meeting.</p> <p><b>Agenda Item dropped.</b></p>
3	<p><b>APO for Financial Year 2024-25.</b></p> <p>The APO for the FY 2024-25 amounting to ₹79.50 Crores was placed before the Governing Body for consideration and approval.</p>	<p>The APO for FY 2024-25 amounting to ₹79.50 Cr. was approved by the Governing Body.</p> <p>The PCCF (HoFF) expressed the view that external intervention under this component may adversely impact the health of natural pastures. The Chairman / Governing Body concurred with this view and accordingly, the activity was deferred until the Mid-Term Review of the Project.</p> <p>The Chairman / PCCF</p>	<p>Governing Body was apprised that an expenditure of ₹42.46 Crores has been incurred during the financial year against the approved outlay of ₹79.50 Crores because GoIP (Finance Department) released only 42.46 Cr.</p> <p>Improvement of pastures/ Grasslands (including in situ SMC Works): The component has been kept on hold as per the decision of the Governing Body. Although the JICA India Mission for MTR has completed the visit on 9<sup>th</sup> May, 2025, but, final decision on this matter is still awaited.</p>

		<p>(HloF) appreciated the project for earmarking budgetary support towards the Mukhya Mantri Van Vistar Yojana, a state priority. The CPD was directed to study the success story of the scheme's implementation in the Lahaul Valley and explore its replication within the project framework, wherever feasible.</p> <p>₹25.00 Crores were earmarked for the Landslide Management &amp; Erosion Control in Forest Areas using Japanese Concept CHISAN initiative. However, the allocated budget remained unutilized during the financial year.</p>	<p>Inclusion of MMVVY: Budget provision was made and a total of 100 hectares of plantation has been carried out under the approved models of the scheme.</p> <p>The Chisan Activity could not be operationalized.</p> <p><b>Agenda Item dropped.</b></p>
4	<p><b>Allocation of funds for Damages caused due to torrential rains in Himachal Pradesh.</b></p> <p>The Governing Body was apprised that JICA would be willing to consider the allocation of the funds from "Contingencies" of the Project Loan Agreement as announced by the Chief Representative JICA (India) in the "Tri-partite Review Meeting" (TPRM) convened by Department of Economic Affairs (DEA) in August, 2023. Therefore, detailed proposal of ₹ 12.28 Crore was sent to JICA for review and approval. However, in the recent meeting held with JICA officials in New Delhi on 10-05-2024, JICA officials had apprehensions in approving the whole</p>	<p>The Governing Body approved the agenda. However PCCF (HloF) informed that HloF is also allotting funds for restoration of damages caused to nurseries. Accordingly, CPD should share the list of nurseries which are being allotted funds from JICA project to avoid duplicity in allocation of funds.</p>	<p>Governing Body was apprised that the JICA India did not agree to the request.</p> <p><b>Agenda Item dropped.</b></p>

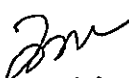
	<p>proposal. During the course of discussion, Project Team could convince JICA to approve funding for at least the following:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) Damage caused to nursery infrastructure works done earlier.</li> <li>2) Damage caused to assets created for Income generating activities of SIIGs.</li> </ol> <p>These two items were approved by JICA. Accordingly restoration works pertaining to only above items have been compiled, amounting to Rs. 2 Crore (approx). This was put before the GB for approval.</p>		
5	<p><b>Status of Expenditure and Reimbursement Claim (YoY basis).</b></p> <p>The Governing Body was apprised that PMU is filing the reimbursement claims on monthly basis to the Donor Agency and Donor Agency is approving the same on regular basis. All the reimbursement claims are being approved by JICA well on time and the latest filed claim for the month of March'2024 is in process will be approved shortly in due course of time.</p>	The Governing Body showed satisfaction on the status of reimbursement claims.	<p>Governing Body was apprised that the status of reimbursement claims has been reviewed in 11<sup>th</sup> Governing Body Meeting and the latest status of Reimbursement Claim is taken up as new Agenda Item No.-3.</p> <p><b>Agenda Item dropped.</b></p>
6	<p><b>Jadi-Buti Cell Models for Commercial Propagation of Medicinal Plants.</b></p> <p>Chief Project Director informed the Governing Body that "Jadi-Buti Cell" under JICA assisted PHIPFEM&amp;L is working on 15 different Propagation Models which</p>	The Governing Body approved the Agenda.	<p>Governing Body was apprised that the propagation of the models approved by the Governing Body has been adopted within the Project area.</p> <p><b>Agenda Item dropped.</b></p>

  
**Chief Project Director**  
 Project for Improvement of H.P.  
 Forest Ecosystems Management  
 & Livelihoods, Shimla

	<p>were approved in the previous Governing Body Meetings.</p> <p>In addition to these on-going models, Jadi-Buti Cell has prepared one more Model for Commercial Propagation of <i>Terminaliabelirica</i> (Baheda). This was put for approval by GB.</p>		
7	<p><b>Planting and Transfer of Technology to Stakeholders.</b> The Governing Body was informed that a Project Proposal on "Production of Good Planting Stock of Harar(<i>Terminaliachebula</i>), Baheda (<i>Terminaliabelirica</i>), Amla (<i>Emblicaofficinalis</i>) and Reetha (<i>Sapindusmukorassi</i>) was submitted by Dr. YS Parmar University of Horticulture and Forestry, Nauni, Solan H.P. for carrying out Planting and Transfer of Technology to Stakeholders under the JICA Forestry Project. The estimated cost of the proposal was Rs.47.08 Lakhs for 3 years w.e.f. 2024-25 to 2026-27. Under the Project Proposal 56,900 grafted plants were proposed be supplied to JICA Forestry Project from three places by the UIIF Nauni, Solan. The cost and carriage of planting material will be borne by the Project as already mentioned in the propagation models. Initially, the plantation will be undertaken under Mandi, Suket, Nurpur and Bilaspur Forest Divisions and replicated to other appropriate Project areas.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Budget requirement for three years is proposed as</li> </ul>	<p>Agenda item approved with the condition that the JICA Project will procure grafted <i>Terminaliachebula</i>(Harar ) plant @Rs.100/- per plant and other plants on rates proposed by the UIIF Nauni.</p>	<p>Governing Body was apprised that an MoU was signed with Dr. YS Parmar University of Horticulture &amp; Forestry, Nauni, Solan, at rates approved by the Governing Body. Subsequently, 4400 grafted plants of Harar (<i>Terminaliachebula</i>), Baheda (<i>Terminaliabelirica</i>), Amla(<i>Emblicaofficinalis</i>), and Reetha (<i>Sapindusmukorassi</i>) were procured during FY-2024-25 as per the financial year's allotment, and an additional 23000 plants of these species will be procured during FY-2025-26.</p> <p><b>Agenda Item dropped.</b></p>

Chief Project Director  
Project for Improvement of H.P.  
Forest Ecosystems Management  
& Livelihoods, Shimla

	<p>under:-</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. <i>Terminalia chebula</i> (Harar) = 14,500 @ Rs 120 per plant</li> <li>2. <i>Terminalia bellirica</i> (Baheda) = 15,000 @ Rs 70 per plant</li> <li>3. <i>Emblica officinalis</i> (Amla) = 13,900 @ Rs 70 per plant</li> <li>4. <i>Sapindus mukorossi</i> (Reetha) = 13,500 @ Rs 70 per plant.</li> </ol>		
8	<p><b>Proposal for Intervention in Sacred Groves as a part of "Satoyama".</b></p> <p>The Governing Body was appraised that the existence of sacred groves in India dates back to an ancient pre-agrarian hunter gathering era and their presence has been documented since the early 1800s.</p> <p>Sacred groves are therefore, today very important reservoirs of biodiversity conservation areas in the entire Himalayan Region and in addition they have important cultural and religious values for the Local communities since time immemorial. Large number of sacred groves is identified in the State by Himachal Pradesh Council for Science Technology and Environment, Shimla. Some of the sacred groves have prospect of becoming biological diversity heritage sites and their protection and management has to be</p>	<p>The Governing Body approved the Agenda.</p>	<p>Governing Body was appraised that proposed intervention has been done under Satoyama in the Sacred Grove as per proposal received from the concerned DMUs.</p> <p><b>Agenda Item dropped.</b></p>

  
**Chief Project Director**  
 Project for Improvement of H.P.  
 Forest Ecosystems Management  
 & Livelihoods, Shimla

ensured for the conservation of native species.

United Nations Sustainable Development Goal Target 11.4 calls on countries to "strengthen efforts to protect and safeguard cultural and natural heritage." Bio-diversity conservation being an important component of JICA Forestry Project, and keeping in view the importance of Sacred Groves, proposals have been invited from the two Forest Divisions of Kullu Circle and one Forest Division of Wildlife Circle Shimla for carrying out following activities in the Sacred groves:

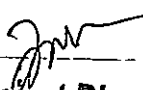
Identification and creating an inventory of key biological resources of the Sacred groves.

Protection/fencing of critical areas

Signage with detail description of flora

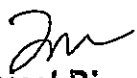
Water conservation, rejuvenation of existing water bodies and Plantation of native species

An estimated amount of Rs. 1 Cr will be spent on these activities during the current financial year. The funds for these activities are available under Component 2: Biodiversity Conservation (2.4.2.1 Satoyama Based Biodiversity Conservation Activities).


  
Chief Project Director  
Project for Improvement of H.P.  
Forest Ecosystems Management  
& Livelihoods, Shimla



9	<p><b>Training Calendar for FY 2024-25.</b></p> <p>The Governing Body was appraised regarding Training Calendar for FY-2024-25.</p>	<p>The Governing Body approved the agenda.</p>	<p>Governing Body was appraised that the majority of the trainings scheduled for FY-2024-25 have been successfully completed as per the calendar and the remaining sessions are incorporated in current year plan.</p> <p><b>Agenda item dropped.</b></p>
10	<p><b>Utilization of Balance Provision under Project Management Consultancy (PMC).</b></p> <p>The Governing Body was appraised that as per the Project Document (Schedule 2 Allocation of Proceeds of Loan), there is a provision of Rs. 7.07 Crore (123 Mill. Yen) in Category-B for the procurement of "Consulting Services" for the Project. As such, the modalities were worked out in the FY 2018-19 and the International Competitive bidding (ICB) was floated with the prior concurrence of JICA (India) office and finally SOFRECO a France based company was shortlisted for the Project Management Consultancy with the tendered amount of Rs. 4.67 Crore. An agreement in this regard was signed in June, 2019 for the period of 3 years (ending in June 2022). Further PMC services were extended for 1 year up to June, 2023, with the prior approval of 7th Governing Body meeting; vide Agenda No.-11 and JICA India Office, to complete the assigned tasks.</p> <p>Since, the services of PMC have been completed in the month of June, 2023, and the unspent balance in Category-B for the procurement of "Consulting Services" for the Project is of Rs. 4.00 crore out of the total provision as per Schedule 2 provisions. The Project is to end in 31st March 2028 (If not extended further), therefore, for further strengthening of the</p>	<p>Governing Body approved Project Management Consultancy (PMC) as per above proposal for rest of the Project period after taking approval from Donor Agency (JICA) and by floating an RFP duly approved by the competent authority.</p>	<p>Governing Body was appraised that the matter was discussed with JICA India in various meetings and JICA India suggested to engage Local Expert at PMU Level instead of PMC, as previous experience with international firm (PMC) was not satisfactory as their Experts were not familiar with local conditions and did not completed their man months.</p> <p>Further it was appraised that JICA Forestry Project started in 2018-19 and is in its middle of implementation. JICA India has stressed upon to strengthen the Livelihood Sector of the Project.</p> <p>It is therefore proposed to hire the services of a Local Expert (Livelihood) with vast relevant experience in Livelihood Sector, so that Livelihood Sector of the Project can be strengthened. The TORs and remuneration etc. will be placed before the Chairman Governing Body for approval on Single File.</p> <p>Governing Body approved to hire the services of a Local Expert (Livelihood) after obtaining approval of the Chairman Governing Body on single file.</p> <p><b>Agenda item dropped.</b></p>

  
**Chief Project Director**  
 Project for Improvement of H.P.  
 Forest Ecosystems Management  
 & Livelihoods, Shimla

	Project implementation and documentation, services of consultants are needed in various fields like Livelihoods, Gender and CIISAN based Technology for the rest of the Project Period.		
11	<p><b>An Internship Program for students of different streams to utilize their skills for promotion of business activities under Project.</b></p> <p>Governing body was apprised that an internship gives opportunities for career exploration and development, and to learn new skills for students of different streams. It also offers the employer the opportunity to bring new ideas and energy into the workplace, develop talent and potentially build a pipeline for future full-time employees.</p> <p>Member secretary apprised that in JICA Forestry Project, we are working on various components including Livelihood activities and the trained manpower which is very much required from time on time. In addition to meet this requirement, Co-Chairman of Governing Body also suggested that internship program has also been designed in Wild Life wing of HPFD and project can also get some idea for initiation such program.</p> <p>In this context, worthy Chairman suggested that there should be a in-depth working on this internship program according to academic qualifications and modalities to get the budget allotment for this program.</p>	<p>The agenda was approved in-principle.</p> <p>Chairman was directed to study the internship schemes/ programs prepared by other government departments / wildlife wing of HPFD and seek approval from competent authority. However, the GB was of the view that the internship being a learning experience for the interns, should be without any stipend.</p>	<p>Governing Body was apprised that JICA Forestry Project is strategically investing in training the current staff on marketing and efforts are being made to make them HPSRI.M Compliant groups.</p> <p>Therefore, it was proposed to withdrawn the agenda item.</p> <p><b>Governing Body dropped the Agenda item.</b></p>

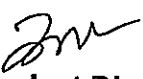
  
 Chief Project Director  
 Project for Improvement of H.P.  
 Forest Ecosystems Management  
 & Livelihoods, Shimla

12	Enhancement of the Emoluments of Staff hired through outsource agency.	<p>GB accepted that the honorarium/salary of the Project staff should be comparable with similarly placed staff in other projects etc.</p> <p>It was further suggested to prepare a detailed proposal containing comparison of post-wise qualification and experience of JICA staff with those engaged in other projects/ agencies.</p> <p>Therefore, CPD should send the proposal to Chairman GB on single file for consideration.</p>	<p>Governing Body was apprised that as decided in the 11<sup>th</sup> Governing Body Meeting, a comparative proposal was submitted to the Chairman Governing Body on a single file and the proposal is pending for decision.</p> <p>Agenda item stands.</p>
----	--	---	---

### Review of the Pending Agenda Items of the 10<sup>th</sup> Meeting of Governing Body:

#### Agenda Item No.-1- Review of the 10<sup>th</sup> Meeting of Governing Body.

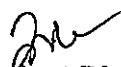
Agenda Item No.	Agenda	Decision	Action taken
7	<p>Livelihood through Bamboo Products - A Pilot Project for Bilaspur (Ghumarwin area).</p> <p>CPD informed that bamboo artisan communities have been identified and a launch workshop was held on 24.02.2024, in the presence of Hon'ble TCP Minister, Sh. Rajesh Dharmani and Rs. 2.56 Lakh has been disbursed and utilized by DMU Bilaspur.</p> <p>Further, a detailed action plan is being prepared by FCCU/DMU Bilaspur and the activities will be started after the model code of conduct is over.</p>	<p>Chairman directed that progress report of pilot project be shared in the next GBM.</p>	<p>Governing Body was apprised that a Study was conducted through the PMU Staff and field staff of Bilaspur Forest Division to find out the availability of all types of bamboo in Bilaspur Division on private land. The study was done by following random sampling system and the data collected was analyzed at both beat and village level.</p> <p>Further it was apprised that, it was noticed during analysis that there is not much availability of bamboo on private land, thus such activity on large scale cannot be sustained. Since the bamboo artisans are very poor people and can't afford to purchase bamboo regularly round the year, therefore to take bamboo based livelihood activity on large scale does not seem to be a profitable venture.</p> <p>It was proposed that, the existing group of artisans shall be imparted skill based training at village level in the project area along with financial support to purchase small equipment and</p>

  
**Chief Project Director**  
 Project for Improvement of H.P.  
 Forest Ecosystems Management  
 & Livelihoods, Shimla

tools as per provision in the project. Sufficient funds are available under Livelihood Improvement Support Component for these activities.


Governing Body approved to impart skill based training at village level in the project area along with financial support to purchase small equipments and tools as per provision in the project.

Agenda Item dropped.

  
Chief Project Director  
Project for Improvement of H.P.  
Forest Ecosystems Management  
& Livelihoods, Shimla

## **PART-II**

**In this part the Agendas which required the approval of the Governing Body for execution of the works in the field as per Project Document, were discussed vide Agenda Item No.-2 to 12.**

  
**Chief Project Director**  
Project for Improvement of H.P.  
Forest Ecosystems Management  
& Livelihoods, Shimla

**AGENDA ITEM No.-2:**

**Statement showing Physical & Financial Progress for the FY 2024-25:-**

The Governing Body was apprised about the Physical & Financial Progress of the various activities carried out in the FY-2024-25 and a report along with detailed annexure was placed before the Governing Body as Annexure-A for its approval. Governing Body was further apprised that the total outlay/APO of Rs. 79.50 Cr. for FY 2024-25. However, Rs. 42.46 Cr. has been allotted to the Project, which has been fully utilized on the various project activities.

**Decision:-**

The Governing Body showed satisfaction and approved the Physical & Financial Statement for FY-2024-25.



**Chief Project Director**  
Project for Improvement of H.P.  
Forest Ecosystems Management  
& Livelihoods, Shimla

### AGENDA ITEM No.-3:


#### Status of Expenditure and Reimbursement Claim (YoY basis):-

The Governing Body was apprised that Reimbursement Claims are being filed every month to the donor agency. Out of the total Project Cost of Rs. 800 Cr, Rs. 640 Cr. is the loan portion i.e. reimbursable amount. This reimbursable portion is being utilized on the activities mentioned in the main project components i.e. (A) Sustainable Forest Ecosystems Management (B) Biodiversity Conservation (C) Livelihood Improvement (D) Institutional Capacity Strengthening and Consulting Services (PMC). The non-reimbursable portion is Rs. 160 Cr. of State share, is being spent on General Administrative Expenses (salaries/TA/Medical of Dept. employees deputed in the Project) and GST/levy etc.

Year on year status of reimbursement claims was placed before Governing Body as given below:-

(INR in Crore)

Sr. No.	FY	Total Expenditure	Loan amount (Reimbursable amount)	Reimbursement Claim received	Counterpart funding- State share(Non-reimbursable)	Remarks
1	2018-19	11.59	9.91	9.91	1.68	
2	2019-20	18.17	15.34	15.34	2.83	
3	2020-21	34.08	32.70	32.70	1.38	
4	2021-22	45.90	43.70	43.70	2.20	
5	2022-23	70.00	67.37	67.37	2.63	
6	2023-24	78.80	75.18	75.18	3.63	
7	2024-25	42.46	40.09	33.73	2.37	Reimbursement claim of Rs. 6.36 Cr. for the month for the m/o march'2025 i.e. w.e.f. 17.03.2025 to 31.03.2025 is in process with JICA.
	Total	301.00	284.29	277.93	16.72	

  
Chief Project Director  
Project for Improvement of H.P.  
Forest Ecosystems Management  
& Livelihoods, Shimla

INR in  
Crore

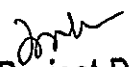
Sr. No.	Reimbursable amount	Reimbursement Claim received	Balance claims with JICA	%age of claims received till date	Remarks
1	284.29	277.93	6.36	97.76 %	Reimbursement claim of Rs. 6.36 Cr. for the month for the m/o march'2025 i.e. w.e.f. 17.03.2025 to 31.03.2025 is in process with JICA.

Further it was apprised that the cumulative reimbursement claims of Rs. 284.29 Crore have been filed with JICA and out of this Rs. 277.93 Crore have been received till date. The remaining amount of Rs. 6.36 Crore (2.24 % of total claims filed) for the month of March'2025 is in process and will be disbursed before the end of this month.

The Agenda Item was placed before Governing Body for information.

**Decision:-**

The Governing Body appreciated the status of Reimbursement Claims.

  
Chief Project Director  
Project for Improvement of H.P.  
Forest Ecosystems Management  
& Livelihoods, Shimla




**AGENDA ITEM No.-4:**

**Balance Sheet of the Society for FY 2023-24 and Audit Statement:**

The Balance Sheet of the Society for the FY-2023-24 was placed before the Governing Body as Annexure-B for approval. The Governing Body was apprised that the audit of the Society (including 31 field offices) have been conducted by the Chartered Accountant.

**Decision:-**

After detailed discussion Governing Body approved the annual Accounts & audited Statement for the FY-2023-24.

  
**Chief Project Director**  
Project for Improvement of H.P.  
Forest Ecosystems Management  
& Livelihoods, Shimla

**AGENDA ITEM No.-5:**

**Utilization of funds to meet up the APO provided for 2025-26 under Component –III**

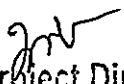
Governing Body was apprised that, under Component-III of JICA Forestry Project, 920 Self Help Groups (SHGs) have been formed under 460 VIDS/BMC sub-committees and are being supported through skill-based training, capital cost assistance and marketing support for 26 identified Income Generation Activities (IGAs) opted by them. However, most SHGs have adopted only a single IGA, limiting their year-round income generation potential and diversification into multiple IGAs requires additional support from the Project.

Further Governing Body was apprised that the Mid-Term Review also highlighted the need for strengthening entrepreneurship, trainings, sustainable marketing platforms, branding, packaging, cluster formation, convergence and participation in exhibitions/meals etc. to enable SHGs to expand beyond local markets and gain wider recognition.

As the allocated budget under the relevant sub-component (3.3.5) has already been utilized, it was therefore, proposed that additional funds amounting to Rs. 6 Crore in FY 2025-26 are required for add on activities and marketing support to the SHGs from the other existing budget line i.e. 1.3, 3.3 & 4.2.

**Decision:-**

The Governing Body approved the agenda and suggested that sustainable livelihood of SHGs formed under JICA Forestry Project should be supported and monitored closely. Chairman emphasized to identify and necessary support to add on Income Generation Activities for financial stability of SHGs for long term.

  
Chief Project Director  
Project for Improvement of H.P.  
Forest Ecosystems Management  
& Livelihoods, Shimla

## **AGENDA ITEM No.-6:**

### **Collaboration between HP JICA Forestry Project and HP Milkfed for sustainable livelihoods to VFDSs/SHGs formed under PIHPFEM&L.**

Governing Body was apprised that, IIP JICA Forestry Project is committed to uplift the rural economy in the Project area to members associated with Village Forest Development Societies/Biodiversity Management Sub Committees which are the registered Societies under Society Act, 2006. Further, these members form SHGs (Self Help Groups) in their concerned Societies and Project provides skill based trainings and capital cost support to their 26 adopted IGAs (Income Generation Activities) followed by approved business plan. Out of these IGAs, dairy related livelihood is also one of the vibrant and demanded IGA to them.

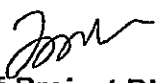
Further it was apprised that, IIP Milkfed is one of the pioneer organization of GoIP which deals in milk and milkrelated products across the State. The collaboration aligns with the vision of the Hon'ble Chief Minister, GoIP to augment milk production across the State. This strategic association aims to implement a sustainable approach to rural economic upliftment.

Therefore, a "Pilot Project" has been initiated in three Forest Divisions—Mandi, Nachan, and Suket where 18 SHGs across 14 VFDSs are already engaged in milk production. During this collaboration, IIP JICA Forestry Project will facilitate the capital cost support for tools, bulk chilling coolers, milk can coolers, milk containers, milk chillers, milk collection tankers etc. as per availability of milk quantity under identified SHGs/VFDSs and successful execution of this pilot Project will facilitate phased expansion to other Forest Divisions within the Project area.

**The Agenda Item was placed before Governing Body for approval.**

#### **Decision:-**

**The Governing Body approved the Agenda.**

  
**Chief Project Director**  
Project for Improvement of H.P.  
Forest Ecosystems Management  
& Livelihoods, Shimla

**AGENDA ITEM No.-7:**

**Convergence between HP JICA Forestry Project & HPSRLM to manage & operate the Multipurpose outlets, Marketing Collaborations for SHGs formed under PIHPFEM&L.**

Governing Body was apprised that, IIP JICA Forestry Project involves SIIGs and CIGs as basic unit for livelihood improvement activities. Further Governing Body was apprised that, IIPSRLM is successfully running IIM ERA stores in various locations of Himachal Pradesh.


Therefore, it was proposed to operate and manage the multipurpose outlets formed under JICA Forestry Project with convergence of IIPSRLM.

The Agenda Item was placed before, the Governing Body for approval.

**Decision:-**

The Governing Body agreed to the convergence between HP JICA Forestry Project and IIPSRLM as per provision in the DPR. Chairman directed that combined efforts to improve the quality and quantity of the products made by SIIGs be given top priority.

The Governing Body approved the Agenda.

  
Chief Project Director  
Project for Improvement of H.P.  
Forest Ecosystems Management  
& Livelihoods, Shimla

## **AGENDA ITEM No.-8:**

### **Facilitation & Handholding Support by Himalayan Forest Research Institute (HFRI) to Common Interest Groups (CIGs) constituted under 'Jadi-Buti Cell'.**


Governing Body was apprised that, Jadi-Buti Cell (JBC) is mandated to promote cultivation of medicinal plants through the members of VIDS and BMC sub-committees in the project areas. Over the years JBC has developed 17 propagation models of various medicinal plants and there are about 50 groups engaged in raising of medicinal plants.

Further Governing Body was apprised that, during 2024, the ICRI-Himalayan Forest Research Institute, Shimla conducted a series of trainings to the CIGs under the JICA Forestry Project. One major observation from the interactions during the trainings was that there is a need for a continued technical support to ensure the success of their activities under the project. The support from JICA has strengthened these CIGs in confidence and zeal to work outside their safe zone (homes), however, the continued support from JICA and other governmental agencies is required. These CIGs, especially women members have started to reflect on other dimensions of their lives beyond their economic constraints. *As desired and felt by JICA, Forestry Project, HFRI was requested to submit a proposal for hand holding the CIGs to have a sustained benefit of the interventions made by the JICA Forestry Project.* HFRI was requested to facilitate and handhold these groups by organizing workshops & rectifying the shortcomings if any in their practice.

The Project proposal has been received from HFRI amounting to Rs. 22.61 Lakh and was duly scrutinized by the Jadi-Buti Cell and placed before Governing Body as Annexure-C for approval. Sufficient funds are available under the Project Budget line NTFP based Livelihood Improvement (3.2).

### **Decision:-**

**The Governing Body approved the Agenda Item.**

  
**Chief Project Director**  
Project for Improvement of H.P.  
Forest Ecosystems Management  
& Livelihoods, Shimla

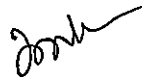
**AGENDA ITEM No.-9:**

**Training Calendar for the Financial Year 2025-26.**

The Governing Body was apprised about the Training Calendar for FY-2025-26 and placed before the Governing Body as Annexure-D for approval.

**Decision:-**

**Governing Body approved the Agenda Item.**



**Chief Project Director**  
Project for Improvement of H.P.  
Forest Ecosystems Management  
& Livelihoods, Shimla

## **AGENDA ITEM No.10:**

### **Proposal for Satoyama based Ecotourism and Biodiversity Conservation activities during the current FY 2025-2026.**

Governing Body was apprised that the Himalayan region of the state holds significant ecotourism potential due to its diverse natural resources, rich biodiversity and unique cultural heritage. Ecotourism, which emphasizes sustainable tourism activities necessarily a group activity with inputs from village communities and assist in planning implementation and sustainable operations can contribute to economic development and community empowerment in these areas.


Further Governing Body was apprised that, keeping in view the indicative outline of the project activities under Ecotourism and in order to achieve the JICA Forestry Project objectives, following four sites have been identified in higher hills of the state in Project areas during the FY-2025-26:-

1. Kaisdhar (Phase II from Kaisdhar to Shillong, (Under DMU Kullu)
2. Bagasahran to Bishleo Pass and DharSarga (Under DMU Ani)
3. Churdhar Valley (Under DMU Chopal)
4. One more site to be identified for development of ecotourism during the current FY 2025-2026.

Following activities are proposed in the selected sites:

- i. Repair of Bridle path
- ii. Development of eco-trails
- iii. Interpretation and Information centre/sale outlet/Trekker huts/Rain shelters
- iv. Additional recreational activities
- v. Protection wall/ Light crash Barriers/Railings along the eco-trails
- vi. Eco-friendly sitting places
- vii. Repair of Drains and seasonal nallas
- viii. Establishment of charging stations
- ix. Development of natural water resources
- x. Entry/exist gates
- xi. Development of water bodies for trekkers/tourist and wild Animals
- xii. Singes and sign boards
- xiii. Solar lights
- xiv. Repair of Inspection hut.

The activities of the proposal will help in improving the protection of existing forest from fire and other hazards. The estimated cost on these activities for all the three proposed and one to be decided sites during the FY-2025-26 is Rs 5Cr.

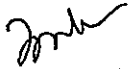
  
Chief Project Director  
Project for Improvement of H.P.  
Forest Ecosystems Management  
& Livelihoods, Shimla

Since, funds are available in the Budget and will be arranged from Component-II (Sustainable Biodiversity Management) and the activities proposed in the selected sites proposed to be taken up under Satoyama based Biodiversity Conservation.

The Agenda Item was placed before Governing Body for approval.

**Decision:-**

The Governing Body approved the Agenda Item.

  
Chief Project Director  
Project for Improvement of H.P.  
Forest Ecosystems Management  
& Livelihoods, Shimla



## **AGENDA ITEM No.11-:**

### **Introduction of Spring shed Management Activity under Satoyama in the JICA Forestry Project.**

Governing Body was apprised that Springs are the lifeline of millions of people in the hills and mountains of the Himalayan region. Though the Himalayas are the source of numerous perennial rivers, communities in this region largely depend on springs to meet their drinking, domestic and agricultural water needs, and to sustain the base flow of the rivers. Drying of springs is an emerging issue in the region as a result of which communities are facing unprecedented water stress. Drying up of spring sources has adversely affected rural water security.


Himachal Pradesh is predominantly an agrarian state with about 2/3rd of its population depending on agriculture for their livelihoods. As part of the Himalayan mountain ecosystem, the State is home to a wide range of natural water resources. 60% of the villages depend on rain and springs as main source of water for household and irrigation purposes. As per Ministry of Jal Shakti, Govt of India (2024) there are 8890 mapped springs in 12 district of the State. A sample survey of springs has revealed that over 50% of the springs have either dried or water discharge from them has significantly reduced (<50%) (Department of Environment Science and Technology, 2017).

Key components for Protection and conservation of Natural Water Sources springs are:-

- I. Prioritize critical springs based on their vulnerability to carry out rejuvenation through a landscape approach.
- II. Develop a detailed climate resilient spring shed development plan for the vulnerable springs.
- III. Develop village water security plan in the identified spring-sheds

Therefore, it was proposed that during the FY 2025-2026, 50 spring in 20 DMUs will be identified on pilot basis to carried out the following activities under the Spring shed Management.

1. Spring Inventory, Data Monitoring and Hydro geological Assessment.
2. Preparation of Rejuvenation plan with VFDS.
3. VFDS Mobilization & Capacity Building.
4. Implementation of plan.
5. Monitoring of plan and feedback.

  
**Chief Project Director**  
Project for Improvement of H.P.  
Forest Ecosystems Management  
& Livelihoods, Shimla

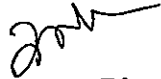
Further Governing Body was apprised that for this purpose Rs. 10 Lakh shall be spent on each spring shed and total expenditure will be about 5 cr. The activity shall be carried out on pilot basis and depending upon its success, it will be extended in other spring shed under the Project area in the coming years. Services and expertise will have to be taken by the JICA Forestry Project to train and educate the staff and communities in this subject in the initial year of implementation.

Since funds are available under the component II (Sustainable Biodiversity Management) and the activities proposed in the selected sites are proposed to be taken up under Satoyama based Biodiversity Conservation.

**The Agenda Item was placed before Governing Body for its approval.**

**Decision:-**

**The Governing Body approved the Agenda Item.**

  
Chief Project Director  
Project for Improvement of H.P.  
Forest Ecosystems Management  
& Livelihoods, Shimla

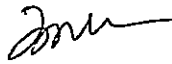
**AGENDA ITEM No.-12:**

**Annual Plan of Operations (APO) for the Financial Year 2025-26.**

As per the provisions of the JICA Project Document, the Annual Plan of Operations (APO) for the Financial Year 2025-26, amounting to ₹ 90.70 crore, was placed before the Governing Body (Annexure-I) for its consideration and approval.

**Decision:-**

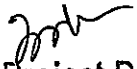
The Governing Body approved the Annual Plan of Operations (APO) amounting to Rs. 90.70 Crore for FY-2025-26.



**Chief Project Director**  
Project for Improvement of H.P.  
Forest Ecosystems Management  
& Livelihoods, Shimla

### **PART-III**

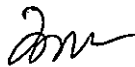
**In this Part, the Agenda which require concurrence/approval of Governing Body before being sent to JICA India through MOEF&CC / DEA for approval, were discussed vide Item No.-13 to 15.**

  
Chief Project Director  
Project for Improvement of H.P.  
Forest Ecosystems Management  
& Livelihoods, Shimla

## Preface

### **JICA Mid Term Review held on 5<sup>th</sup> to 9<sup>th</sup> May'2025**

Governing Body was apprised that, JICA India carried out Mid Term Review (MTR) of IIP JICA Forestry Project from 5th May to 9th May, 2025 and visited many field locations in Forest Circle Coordination Units (FCCUs) Kullu, WL Kullu and Mandi. During the review, Draft Proposal was discussed with JICA India Team and the outcomes of the Review were discussed vide Agenda Item Nos.-13, 14 and 15 in the Governing Body Meeting held on 16.06.2025. JICA India further suggested that the proposal should be sent through MoEF&CC after obtaining concurrence from Governing Body of the "Society" registered for implementation of "Project for Improvement of Himachal Pradesh Forest Ecosystems Management & Livelihoods".



**Chief Project Director**  
Project for Improvement of H.P.  
Forest Ecosystems Management  
& Livelihoods, Shimla

### AGENDA ITEM No.-13:-

#### Outcome of Mid Term Review


Governing Body was apprised that, during the review, Draft Proposal suggesting changes in the Project was submitted by IIP JICA Forestry Project to the JICA India team given below:-

1. Increase the Project period from FY 2027-28 to FY 2030-31.
2. Enhance the working area by 140 VFDS, BMCsc and 280 SIIGs in the existing Project ranges without engaging additional staff.
3. The company created under the project will not be supported by the Project. This is in line with JICA India's experience elsewhere in the country.
4. The Project should endeavor with clusters and Federation based approach and align the livelihood activities of SIIGs with IIPRI.M.
5. Great impetus should be given to create market linkages beyond IIPRI.M wherever possible.
6. All existing SIIGs may adopt additional Income Generation Activities for their sustainable livelihood.
7. To extend SATOYAMA beyond Protected areas in the entire Project area.
8. As per DPR vehicles have been provided to Ranges for 36 months. This period may be enhanced till end of the Project with additional budget requirement of Rs 30 Cr to be carved out from contingencies fund (100% reimbursable).

Component I- Sustainable Forest Ecosystem Management			
Item	Sub-component	Proposal	Outcome
1	Improvement of Pastures/Grasslands (1.2.6 & 1.4.9)	Adopt new methodology, sow indigenous grasses/legumes	Suggested reducing targets, developing scientific criteria
2	Forestry Intervention Outside Forest Areas (1.2.8)	Encourage horticultural clusters on private lands	Agreed to plant appropriate fruit species
3	Non-PFM Drainage Line Treatment(Ex-situ SWC work) (1.4.5)	Add ponds, rejuvenation, water harvesting structures	Suggested revisiting Micro Plans, geo-tagging
4	Sub-components (1.2.2/1.2.3/1.2.4/1.2.5/1.2.6/1.2.8&1.4.5/1.4.6/1.4.7/1.4.8/1.4.9)	2,000 ha forestry interventions, tall planting (200-500/ha) in the proposed/existing VFDS	Agreed in principle
Component II- Biodiversity Conservation			

Chief Project Director  
Project for Improvement of H.P.  
Forest Ecosystems Management  
& Livelihoods, Shimla

Item	Sub-component	Proposal	Outcome
1	SATOYAMA Biodiversity Conservation (2.4.2.1)	Extend to non-PA areas, merge with Component-I	Agreed in principle
<b>Component III- Livelihood Improvement Support</b>			
Item	Sub-component	Proposal	Outcome
1	Preparation of CD & LIP-CD Plan (3.1.1)	Around 140 new VFDSs as Batch V	Agreed in principle, prioritize identification
2	Transfer of Funds (3.1.2)	Rs.7 lakh fund for entry point activities in new VFDSs	Agreed in principle for Batch V
3	NITFP-based Livelihood Improvement (3.2)	Jadi Buti Cell co-terminus with project	Agreed in principle
4	Non-NITFP Livelihood Plan (3.3.1)	Around 280 SHGs/CIGs for income generation	Agreed in principle
5	CD & LIP Planning (3.3.2)	Community livelihood activities for proposed VFDSs	Enhance marketing linkages
6	Cluster-based Livelihood (3.3.5)	Seed money & capital support to SHGs	Suggested to study and adopt cluster model of Uttarakhand
<b>Component IV- Institutional Capacity Strengthening</b>			
Item	Sub-component	Proposal	Outcome
1	Impact Assessment (4.3.1.2)	ArcGIS Enterprise or equivalent software upgrade	Agreed in principle to support digital tech

  
**Chief Project Director**  
 Project for Improvement of H.P.  
 Forest Ecosystems Management  
 & Livelihoods, Shimla

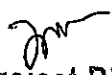
Further Governing Body was apprised about the Future Budget Plan subject to the prior approval of JICA (India) & MoEF&CC:-

<b>Future Budget Plan(as per MTR)</b>										
Sr. No.	Component Name	Provision (including Price Escalation @20%)	Expenditure till 31.03.2025	Expenditure %age	Balance Provision	Balance %age	Projection as per DPR up to remaining Project Period	Additional Works to be approved by JICA	Funds to be met from Contingencies	Total Budget Requirement
1	Sustainable Forest Ecosystem Management	227.41	158.44	69.7%	68.97	30.3%	30	80		268.44
2	Biodiversity Conservation	53.38	14.62	27.4%	38.76	72.6%	30	70		114.62
3	Livelihood Improvement Support	82.00	50.34	61.4%	31.66	38.6%	15	50		115.34
4	Institutional Capacity Strengthening	240.03	61.12	25.5%	178.91	74.5%	50	15.82	30.12	157.06
5	PMC (Category-B)	7.07	3	42.4%	4.07	57.6%	0	0		3
6	Physical Contingencies (Category-C)	30.12	0	0.0%	30.12	100.0%	0	0		0
	State Share :									0
7	Administrative Cost/GST etc	160	16.54	10.3%	143.46	89.7%	85	40		141.54
	<b>Total</b>	<b>800.00</b>	<b>304.06</b>	<b>38.0%</b>	<b>495.95</b>	<b>62.0%</b>	<b>210.0</b>	<b>255.82</b>	<b>30.12</b>	<b>800.00</b>

The Agenda was placed before Governing Body for information and concurrence.

**Decision:-**

Governing Body concurred to the Agenda items listed above with the direction to send the proposal to JICA India through MoEF&CC.

  
 Chief Project Director  
 Project for Improvement of H.P.  
 Forest Ecosystems Management  
 & Livelihoods, Shimla



**AGENDA ITEM No.-14:-**

**Providing of funds for upcoming Durgesharanya-Kangra Zoological Park at Bankhandi from JICA Forestry Project:**

Governing Body was apprised that Hon'ble Chief Minister of HP desired some funding support from JICA for Durgesharanya-Kangra Zoological Park at Bankhandi.

Further Governing Body was apprised that, during the recent Project Mid Term Review, JICA raised its concern of marginal utilization of the State Share to 6% instead of the agreed 20% and emphasized to increase the State Share to 20% to avoid the loan disbursement issues at later stage. Further, it was suggested to find out modalities to increase the State Share immediately to avoid any disbursement issues of reimbursement claims in future.


As on F.Y-2024-25, Project has incurred the total expenditure of Rs. 301.01 Cr. upto March'2025 which includes Rs. 284.28 Cr. of JICA eligible loan portion and remaining Rs. 16.73 Cr. counterpart funding of State. As per the concern raised by the JICA Review Mission, the trend of the expenditure is 94:06 instead of agreed 80:20. The ratio of the expenditure incurred should be Rs. 241Cr. (80%) reimbursable portion and Rs. 60 Cr. (20%) under state share.

As such, it was proposed to book amount of Rs. 37 Crore for Durgesharanya-Kangra Zoological Park at Bankhandi under State Head to cover-up the gap and smooth disbursement of reimbursement claims. However, best efforts will be made to reimburse some amount from JICA otherwise entire amount will be booked under State Share.

**The Agenda was placed before Governing Body for approval.**

**Decision:-**

**Governing Body approved the Agenda; however it was decided to send a separate proposal to Finance Department on single file for allocation of Budget and further, directed to make the best efforts to reimburse some amount from JICA India.**

  
Chief Project Director  
Project for Improvement of H.P.  
Forest Ecosystems Management  
& Livelihoods, Shimla

**AGENDA ITEM No.-15:-**

**Project on Protection of assets created by HPFD under JICA Forestry Project in Kullu Division along River Beas**

Governing was apprised that, during a recent visit of JICA India regarding Midterm Review of IIP JICA Forestry Project with effect from 05-09<sup>th</sup> May 2025, a meeting was held between Shri Sundar Singh Thakur Hon'ble MIA Kullu and Shri Vineet Sarin Chief of Development Operations JICA India. In the meeting Hon'ble MIA raised the issue of over flooding of Beas river due to heavy rains and cloud burst in Kullu Valley and the losses caused to assets. He requested JICA India Team to fund a small Project for Kullu town by putting a protection wall along the river side mainly with objective to protect Kullu town and downstream area from flooding of Beas river.

A project proposal amounting to Rs. 9.28 Crore has been received from DMU Kullu with a estimated cost of Rs 9.28 Crore and placed before Governing Body as Annexure-F.

Further Governing Body was apprised that, the Chief of Development Operations JICA India during the meeting suggested that the proposal be first got approved from the Governing Body and thereafter be submitted to JICA India for consideration, because some of the activities suggested, do not fall within the components of JICA Forestry Project.

The funds for the Project will be carving out from Component IV- Institutional Capacity Strengthening and will be released only after seeking final approval from JICA India.

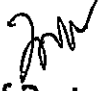
**The Agenda was placed before Governing Body for concurrence.**

**Decision:-**

**The Agenda was concurred by the Governing Body and decided to send the proposal to JICA India through MoEF&CC.**

**\*\*The meeting ended with vote of thanks to the Chair\*\***

\*\*\*\*\*

  
**Chief Project Director**  
Project for Improvement of H.P.  
Forest Ecosystems Management  
& Livelihoods, Shimla

**LIST OF PARTICIPANTS**

Sr.No.	Name/S./Sh./Smt./Ms	Designation
1	K.K. Pant, IAS	Additional Chief Secretary (Forest) to the GoHP Shimla
2	Sameer Rastogi, IFS	Pr.CCF (HoFF), Co-Chairman Governing Body and CPD JICA HP Forestry Project
3.	Amitabh Gautam, IFS	PCCF (WL) HP and Chief Wild Life Warden HP Shimla
4	Vijay Wardhan, IAS	Special Secretary (Finance) HP
5	Manjeet Bansal, IAS	Joint Secretary (Finance) HP
6	K. Lal Nun Sanga, IFS	APCCF (Finance)
7	Preeti Bhandari, IFS	CF WL (S) Shimla
8	Kalyani Gupta	Deputy CEO HPSRLM
9	Kamal Dev Sharma	Associate Director, Research CSK HPKV Palampur
10	D.D. Sharma	DPD HPCDP JICA Hamirpur
11	Deepak Kumar	AGM (SLBC) Head UCO Bank
12	Pankaj Sharma	Chief Manager SCBC UCO Bank
13	Dr. Rakesh Verma	Senior Veterinary Officer, Animal Husbandry Department
14	Shreshtha Nand, HPFS	Project Director, HP JICA Forestry Project
15	Kuldeep Chand	NABARD
16	Suresh Sharma	JDI DOA HP
17	Dr. Sushil Kapta	Director (JBC) HP JICA Forestry Project
18	Gauri Shankar	Finance Officer, HP JICA Forestry Project
19	Pawan Kumar	Supdt. (Gr-I), HP JICA Forestry Project
20	Vinod Sharma	PM (Marketing & Rural Financing) HP JICA Forestry Project
21	Dr. Kaushalya	PM (Forestry & Biodiversity) HP JICA Forestry Project
22	Arvind Verma	PM (Finance & Audit) HP JICA Forestry Project
23	Dr. Rajesh Chauhan	Manager (Marketing) HP JICA Forestry Project

24	Reena Sharma	PM (Training & Livelihood) HP JICA Forestry Project
25	Disha Gautam	PM (GIS/MIS/IT), HP JICA Forestry Project
26	Dinesh Kumar	Accounts Manager, HP JICA Forestry Project
27	R.P. Negi	Media Specialist, HP JICA Forestry Project
28	Pooja thakur	Steno, HP JICA Forestry Project
29	Pritish Dafraik	SMS ( Marketing) HP JICA Forestry Project