

Voice of FIPPI

INDIAN WOOD & ALLIED PANELS

Volume 18 • Issue 4

A Quarterly Journal on Plywood and Panel Industry

October - December 2024



Industry Initiative for Raw Material Sustainability

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Hon'ble Minister of Commerce & Industry Shri Piyush Goyal met stakeholders from the plywood and panel manufacturing industry on 24th December 2024 and discussed ways to further boost domestic production and strengthen the quality of plywood and furniture manufacturing in the country.

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Indian Wood & Allied Panels is published four times a year.

Printed & Published by Federation of Indian Plywood & Panel Industry (FIPPI).

Processed & Printed at Polykam Offset, C-138, Naraina Industrial Area, Phase – I, New Delhi-110028, India.

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Revitalizing India's Plywood Industry: Challenges, Opportunities, and the Path Forward

Dr. P.P. Bhojvaid Former Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (PCCF) and (HoFF) Haryana, India.

Introduction

India's plywood industry, rooted in colonial exploitation of natural forests, has evolved through ecological challenges and shifts to agroforestry. While facing competition from ASEAN countries and policy hurdles, it holds immense potential. By embracing innovation, sustainability, and supportive policies, the industry can drive economic growth, rural livelihoods, and global competitiveness exemplifying a case of Atamirbhar Bharat (Make in India).

The Historical perspective

The plywood industry in British-occupied India was born out of necessity and imperial vision, deeply tied to the vast forest resources the subcontinent offered. With an eye on maximizing revenue and supporting infrastructure demands, the colonial rulers treated Indian forests as inexhaustible reservoirs of timber. Teak, Sal, and other hardwood species were extensively harvested to meet the growing demand for shipbuilding, railway sleepers, and later, industrial and domestic construction. By the early 20th century, the plywood industry began to emerge as a distinct sector. The advent of World War II spurred its growth, as the British Empire leaned heavily on India for materials, including ply boards, to meet wartime needs. Factories mushroomed in key forested regions like Assam, Bengal, and parts of the Western Ghats, close to sources of premium-quality timber. With no serious focus on forest sustainability, the industry relied entirely on forest-grown logs, felled with little consideration for regeneration.

The paradigm shift

After Independence in 1947, the plywood industry continued its colonial-era dependency on natural forests. The 1950s and 1960s saw significant expansion, driven by India's ambitious development projects, including dams, roads, and urban housing. This period saw skyrocketing demand for plywood, with forest-grown timber as the backbone of the sector. However, this golden age came at a heavy ecological cost. Forests were stripped at alarming rates, with limited regard for conservation. By the 1970s, the impacts of this exploitative approach became evident. Widespread deforestation prompted government intervention, culminating in the Forest Conservation Act of 1980, which signaled the end of an era. The 1990s brought a pivotal shift with a ban on green felling in the forests of northeastern India and areas above 1,000 meters in elevation, causing a severe shortage of hardwoods and an irreversible damage to the plywood industries. Research at the Forest Research Institute (FRI) in Dehradun, however, established eucalyptus and poplar wood as effective substitutes for traditional hardwoods in plywood manufacturing. This marked a transition to more sustainable

practices, with the focus shifting toward plantations and farm-grown timber. Large-scale plantations of fast-growing species like eucalyptus and poplar were introduced, supported by advancements in sawing and seasoning techniques developed at FRI. This revival began in Haryana and later spread to Punjab, Uttar Pradesh, and other states, fostering the growth of plywood production in these regions.

Agroforestry in Haryana and Yamuna Nagar: A Magical Transformation

By the mid-1980s, Haryana farmers adopted agroforestry practices, particularly cultivating poplar and eucalyptus. This transition was catalyzed by the state forest department's plantations along roadsides, canals, and railway lines, demonstrating the viability of growing fast-growing species on short rotations. Initially, large absentee landowners embraced these plantations as low-maintenance alternatives to crops and as a deterrent against land encroachment.

Yamuna Nagar, a city in northern Haryana along the Yamuna River, emerged as a key player in this transformation. In the early 1960s, it had already developed a thriving wood trade, utilizing logs transported downstream from Himachal Pradesh and Uttarakhand. When this practice ceased with the formation of new states, the Yamuna Nagar's enterprising community started sourcing wood from other regions to sustain their trade.

Haryana's favorable policies further supported the plywood industry's growth. The absence of restrictive wood transit rules and licensing requirements, combined with reliable electricity, excellent road infrastructure, and the entrepreneurial spirit of Yamuna Nagar's business community, acted as catalysts. These factors made Haryana pioneer and preferred state for establishment of agroforestry based plywood industry in India.

Contemporary State of Plywood Industry

Today, the plywood industry in India occupies a pivotal role in the economy and the livelihoods of countless farmers and workers along its extensive value chain. A thriving plywood sector instills confidence among farmers who cultivate trees on agricultural land, knowing their produce serves as a critical raw material for the industry. This symbiotic relationship between agroforestry and manufacturing not only strengthens rural incomes but also promotes sustainable farming practices, providing environmental benefits such as carbon sequestration and contributing to climate change mitigation.

The industry's value chain, from growing a nursery to processing wood for finished products, generates substantial employment opportunities, making its health a matter of socio-economic importance. Its ripple effects extend to rural

development, labor markets, and overall economic growth. In Haryana alone, over 500 plywood units employ approximately 50,000 individuals, providing livelihoods for both semi-skilled and skilled labor. However, the sector is now at a crossroads, facing numerous challenges that threaten its sustainability and competitiveness.

Challenges for sustainability of plywood Industry

Taxation policy: India's taxation policy for farm-grown wood, such as Eucalyptus and Poplar used in the plywood industry, imposes an 18% GST rate, unlike most agricultural produce taxed at 0-5%. This discourages agroforestry, burdens farmers lacking GST registration, complicates compliance, and inflates costs for plywood mills, affecting their competitiveness. High transportation costs and tax complexities drive informal trade, reducing government revenue. Lowering GST on farm-grown wood to 5% would incentivize agroforestry, ensure affordable raw materials, and boost rural livelihoods. Implementing a Reverse Charge Mechanism (RCM) could simplify GST compliance, fostering sustainable forestry, supporting carbon sequestration, and strengthening wood-based industries.

ASEAN Competition: Indian plywood manufacturers are grappling with unprecedented challenges, largely due to the rapid expansion of plywood industries in ASEAN countries like Indonesia, Malaysia, and Vietnam. These nations, with their abundant resources, advanced manufacturing capabilities, and export-oriented strategies, dominate the global plywood market, leaving Indian manufacturers struggling to compete. ASEAN countries benefit from access to vast natural forests and sustainable timber plantations, ensuring a steady supply of tropical hardwoods. Coupled with cost-efficient production, low labor costs, economies of scale, and superior technology, they produce high-quality plywood that adheres to international standards like the Forest Stewardship Council (FSC).

This dominance has led to significant adverse impacts on the Indian plywood market. ASEAN products, perceived as superior in quality and consistency, are also significantly cheaper, eroding the market share of Indian manufacturers, especially in the premium segments. Trade agreements like the ASEAN-India Free Trade Agreement (AIFTA) have further intensified competition by reducing import duties, facilitating an influx of plywood and veneers into India. This has contributed to the closure of numerous small and medium-sized plywood units in places like Yamunanagar, Haryana, which has been a national hub for plywood production. Additionally, many Indian manufacturers, struggling with cost pressures, have resorted to importing veneers and timber from ASEAN countries, exposing themselves to supply chain risks and undermining local raw material sourcing.

Technological and environmental disparities further exacerbate the plight of Indian plywood manufacturers. The industry lags in adopting advanced machinery and production techniques, resulting in lower efficiency and quality compared to ASEAN counterparts. Moreover, the lack of global certifications and sustainable forest management practices makes Indian plywood less appealing in international markets. These

challenges are compounded by declining exports, as ASEAN manufacturers dominate regions where Indian products once held a foothold.

Way forward: Despite these challenges, opportunities exist for the Indian plywood industry to innovate and rebuild. Technological up gradation is imperative; investing in advanced machinery and production techniques can enhance quality, reduce costs, and help Indian manufacturers compete with ASEAN producers. Embracing sustainability through responsible forestry practices and acquiring global certifications like FSC will make Indian plywood more attractive to eco-conscious buyers. Diversification into specialized products like fire-retardant, waterproof, and decorative plywood could also help carve out a niche in the market.

The Ministry of Commerce and Industry, in consultation with the Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS), has issued a Quality Control Order (QCO) to regulate the production, sale, and import of plywood and flush doors. This order will come into effect from 2025 and is aimed at ensuring uniform quality standards, enhancing consumer confidence, and safeguarding domestic industries from substandard imports. Key Provisions of the QCO include features namely: a). Mandatory BIS Certification, b) Standards for Quality to ensure durability, moisture resistance, and safety in end-use applications. A grace period up to 2025 has been provided to facilitate the transition, including testing and certification processes. When in force the QCO is likely to ensure fair competition by eliminating the influx of substandard imports from ASEAN under free trade agreements and promote "Make in India" by encouraging quality improvements. The implementation of the QCO will elevate product quality standards in India while addressing the concerns of the plywood production industry regarding substandard imports. It is a significant step toward creating a competitive, sustainable, and quality-driven market ecosystem.

India's burgeoning real estate and furniture sectors provide a robust domestic market for plywood manufacturers. Government initiatives like "Make in India" and import substitution policies could further bolster the industry. Supportive measures such as subsidies for technology upgrades and anti-dumping duties on imports can protect domestic players. Additionally, strategic collaborations with ASEAN countries, including joint ventures and technology-sharing partnerships, could enable Indian manufacturers to adopt best practices and compete effectively.

Conclusion

The plywood industry's survival and revival hinge on a combination of innovation, modernization, and sustainability. Provincial and federal governments must take urgent and coordinated measures to address the sector's challenges. A comprehensive strategy should include socio-economic reforms, policy adjustments, and technical interventions to rejuvenate the industry. Without timely action, the sector risks significant decline, endangering not just livelihoods but also the market for farm-grown wood, which offers environmental and economic benefits. By addressing these issues, India can unlock the full potential of its natural resources, enhance its manufacturing capabilities, and secure a brighter future for all stakeholders involved. □

Plantation Activities in Haryana

RC Dhiman, Advisor Greenlam Industries Ltd., New Delhi (Ex Unit Head Wimco Seedlings, ITC-PSPD) and RK Sapra, Former MD Haryana State Forest Development Corporation.

Introduction

Plantation forestry is a major activity undertaken by the state forest department (SFD). With strategic and deliberate planning for the conservation oriented management of natural forests, production forestry has gradually shifted to non-forest areas. The state has ably crafted its plantation programme for conservation and improvement of ecologically sensitive limited native forests existing in the Shiwalik and Aravalli hills and for production of commercially important trees on farm fields. The state has been addressing diverse purposes of making plantations with ecologically, socially, economically, and industrially important species being appropriately planted inside and outside recorded forest areas. Haryana is invariably tagged as a model state for developing a strategic and symbiotic association between wood based industry (WBI) and farmers for growing wood on their fields. As a result, it being a small state in term of recorded forest area (4.03%) largely existing in block & strips forests along Roads, Railways, Canals, Bunds, Bundhs etc. has developed a very large cluster of WBI in Yamuna Nagar district which produces around 60% of the county's total plywood from the farm grown wood.

The plantation activities in the state include ingredients of afforestation, reforestation and assisted natural regeneration of government forests; plantation management of community and Panchayat lands; and promotion of plantations outside forest areas under agroforestry, social forestry, urban forestry, parks, gardens etc. While plantation activities on forest land includes planting of native and some introduced species along with medicinal herbs and shrubs; those outside forests include forest, fruit, ornamental and shade trees. Initially, the SFD was the sole agency for growing and planting trees. Gradually the logistic and financial support for raising plantations poured in from other sources and the state now works closely with number of agencies including government and private sector players to expand forest and tree cover. The state has been drawing support for plantation activities from central government agencies like Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change; Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare, Ministry of Rural Development, National Highway authority, National Horticulture Board, National Medicinal Plant Board, and some others; state agencies like state Agriculture Department, state Horticulture Department, state Rural Development Department, and some others; and private sector players like WBI, CSR sources, NGOs, Panchayats, Urban bodies, Housing Welfare Societies and some others. Special plantation drives are undertaken during Van Mahotsava, World Environment Day, World Forestry Day, Birth Anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi etc.

SFD is known for mastering some nursery and plantation techniques which include raising tall plants in large bags for establishing plantations on specific sites; techniques for ridge & mound plantations for bio-drainage in water logged sites and also in saline affected sites, and trench and pit planting in water stressed sites (Figure 1). Major plantation activities on forest land are taken up during monsoon season with some trial

and normal plantations of some species like poplars are planted during winters. Those planted on farm land are spread throughout the year as they are planted on well prepared fields with adequate irrigation facilities. Plantation activities undertaken by different agencies are reviewed here. The data sets included were picked up from the published reports those include Annual Administrative Reports (ARR), department brochures, official website of SFD and some others. The main author while working at FRI (ICFRE) during 1990s, at Wimco Seedlings (WIMCO & ITC) during the 1st and 2nd decade, and ICRAF as Haryana State Coordinator TOFI during 2022 & 23 has promoted and closely followed plantation activities in the state. The co-author is a retired officer of SFD who has worked in different capacities from DFO to top level and has personally handled plantation activities for many years. The data sets presented here being latest available in public domain and these may be interpreted for general trends in plantation schemes, plantation volumes, nursery stock production, species composition, planting methods etc. which may also prevail in the near future if something drastically does not change in forestry sector in general and plantation forestry in particular.

Planting stock production

There are multiple stock-holders in nursery production and supply system in the state. The major one is the SFD which has a very large network of nurseries that meets the bulk demand of plants planted in the forest area, community land and partially on farm land under different schemes and programmes promoted by the state and centre governments. State maintains traditionally established nursery for growing bare root and containerized planting stock of different species. It has open bed nurseries for some species like poplars and containerized nurseries that include small poly bags of around 9"X4" size for growing normal size plants to large size poly bags of 30X45 cm for growing tall plants. For raising tall plants, composite nurseries of open beds for germinating seed and growing seedlings for some time before shifting into large poly bags are also maintained. Such plants during rearing phase are kept in open beds with adequate space among themselves for proper height and girth growth. The state also maintains 2 High-tech clonal production facilities at Seonthi and Bithmara and the 3rd one is recently created under TOFI Project in Yamuna Nagar District. Private sector nursery growers like Wimco Seedlings (ITC), individual companies and small nursery growers also grow and supply significant quantity of planting material in the state. A sizeable quantity of the planting material, especially of eucalyptus and at times of poplar and melia, is also procured by the SFD and private players from outside state. During peak planting season, some planting material especially of poplar invariably moves from here to the adjoining states. A brief of planting stock production for state plantation programmes is given below.

2.1 SFD nurseries

Nurseries in the SFD grow planting stock of species planted in almost all land uses and for multiple production functions that

being of forest, fruit, landscape, ornamental, shade providing and medicinal and herbaceous species. The data of planting stock production was retrieved from the official website of SFD during June 2024 (year of nursery data not mentioned) which reported 2.058 Crore plants in the nurseries of 22 forest divisions in the state. There are 342 species entries in the database that include forest, fruit, ornamental, shrubby and herbaceous species. There are some duplicate and overlapping entries of multiple names for some species like Euc, Safeda and eucalyptus for eucalyptus; dek, drek, Malabar neem, bakain for *Melia* spp., semel and simbal for *Bombax ceiba*; kala neem, ulloo neem, neem, neem chameli for *A. indica*; and shisham, kala shisham for *D. sissoo*. The actual number of species grown in forest nurseries thus could be little less but is certainly more than 300. The variety of plants grown in its nurseries indicates wide diversity at species and subspecies levels as indicated by the local nomenclature given to some of them. Besides forestry, most nurseries grow planting stock of fruit and wild fruit plants like mango, jamun, guava, harar, peach, apple, amla, anar, lasoora, ber, grapes, nimboo, mausomi, papaya, bel, karonda, Iml, and some others. There are also entries of large number of flowering and ornamental trees/plants like amalatas, gulmohar, harsingar, bottlbrush, gulab, guldodi, goodhil; shade giving trees like bargad, pipal, pilkhan; and many herbs like ajwain, aloevera, ashwagandha, elaichi, tulsi, brahami buti etc.

Explaining and discussing all 342 entered assorted species under one head was difficult and hence the enlisted species were broadly grouped among the traditional timber species, commercial grown trees, horticulture/wild fruit plants, and others categories and the respective stock position is discussed below. Many tree species has overlapping production functions and utilities and therefore the grouping is broad based keeping in view their close association with traditional timber, commercial, horticulture and others categories.

2.1.1 Traditional timber tree species

The planting stock of 10 leading traditional timber trees of the state indicates shisham to occupy the top slot with 40.35% stock (19.52 Lakh) out of a total of 73.16 Lakh plants in this category. Arjun was 2nd with 15.12% stock (11.06 Lakh), jamun 3rd with 14.56% stock (10.65 Lakh), neem 4th with 13.20% stock (9.66 Lakh), and Jamoa 5th with 6.19% stock (4.53 Lakh). Whereas, shisham, neem, arjun, jamun and bel were reportedly grown in all the 22 forest divisions, jamoa and behra were grown in 19, Khejri and kikar in 17, and babul in 12 divisions. Some exceptional entries of around 1000 number plants of kala shisham in Jind (20) and Sirsa (800) divisions; 3000 number of meetha neem in Rewari (1900), Karnal (300) and Hisar (800), and 2470 of wood apple plants in Rewari (980) and Jind (1490) indicates the diversity of species included in planting stock production. Some tree species like deodar (2500 in Morni-Pinjore), sain (13700 in Morni-Pinjore and Yamuna Nagar), chir pine (55680 in Morni-Pinjore), sal (1000 in Yamuna Nagar) and some others have notional presence without significant number. The planting stock of 2 native and traditional commercial timber trees- ardu and simbal is very low compared to some others now commercially grown trees which got better linkages with the WBI in the state.

2.1.2 Commercially important tree species

This category includes those trees which are grown by the

tree growers largely for sale of their wood in the open market and may be partially for their own domestic use. Some of them are also planted on forest land especially in protected forests constituting strip and block forests. SFD reported 24.12 Lakh plants of a dozen commercially important fast growing trees in its nurseries. The main species grown are eucalyptus (11.65 Lakh), poplar (1.46 Lakh), ardu (0.18 Lakh), melia (2.90 Lakh), casuarina (0.49 Lakh), simbal (0.30), toona (0.85), albizzias (5.32 Lakh), silver oak (0.54 Lakh), and kadam (0.42 Lakh). Planting stock of eucalyptus was reported in 16 divisions with maximum being in Yamuna Nagar (3.96 Lakh), Ambala (3.55 Lakh) and Morni-Pinjore (20.7 Lakh) divisions; poplar on the other hand was reported from only 3 divisions viz., Yamuna Nagar (0.95 Lakh), Kurukshetra (0.5 Lakh) and Charkhi Dadri (1000). Albizzias were reported from all the divisions; melia, kadam and silver oak from 20; toona from 15; casuarina from 13; simbal from 11; and ardu from 7 divisions. There is also a small number of plants for other emerging commercially important species like kadam, mahogany, casuarina, teak, chandan, gamari etc. 3200 plants of mahogany were reported in 4, gamari 40275 plants in 6, teak 2350 plants in 4, and chandan 890 plants in 2 divisions.

2.1.3 Horticulture species

Significant number of tree, shrub and herb species plants belonging to horticultural category is regularly grown in forest nurseries. Fruit and wild fruit trees includes mango, jamun, guava, peach, apple, amla, anar, lassora, ber, grapes, lemon, mausomi, papita, belpatra, karonda, Iml, and some others. Out of which 7 leading fruit species includes amrood, amla, anar, nimboo, papita, grapes and mango which collectively had around 18.13 Lakh plants. Guava and amla were reported in all the 22, papita in 21 (except Faridabad), nimboo in 20 (except Sonipat and Faridabad), anar in 21 (except Morni-Pinjore), grapes in 13, and mango in 12 divisions. Out of a total 18.13 Lakh plants of these 7 species, amrood had a major share of 52.33% (9.52 Lakh) followed by amla 21.19% (3.97 Lakh), anar 7.70% (1.40 Lakh), and nimboo 6.11% (1.24 Lakh). Species like amla has wild germplasm and improved varieties and is primarily grown for fruits rather than wood production and hence such species were included in horticulture category. Growing fruit and other than forestry plants in forest nurseries is in practice since long. Beautification plan of Faridabad District implemented during 1994-96 has mention of growing 42 plant species in forest nurseries that had significant number of fruit plants like nimboo, papita, anar, amrood, imli, ber etc.

2.1.4 Other species

All other planting stock of different tree/plant species including that of shrubs and herbs is included in this category. The leading species number-wise were pahari papri (9.71 Lakh), miscellaneous (4.08 Lakh), amlatas (3.94 Lakh), gulmohar (3.13 Lakh), pilkhan 2.47 (Lakh), pipal (1.70 Lakh), bargad 1.27 (Lakh) and others those each had less than 1 Lakh plant number. Some shrubs and herbs like chandani (1.58 Lakh), gulab (2.45 Lakh), gudhil (2.09 Lakh) and some others had significant numbers. Of all these gulmohar, bottlebrush, amltas, pahari papri, bargad, pipal, pilkhan, har singar, lagerstroemia, chandani, gulab, mehandi, gudhil etc. plants were grown in all most all the divisions

2.2 Private nurseries

Private sector nurseries including that of companies and individuals started coming up around 4 decades back and have now increased in significant number for producing planting stock of selected species planted in the state. Unlike SFD nurseries, private nurseries are largely single species based, though some of them trade plants of other species by procuring from different sources. The planting stock of all the commercial trees is grown in the SFD nurseries but their volume is low than market demand. A major share of poplar, eucalyptus and some of melia is now grown in private nurseries. According to some estimates around 90 Lakh to 1 Crore eucalyptus and around 65-70 Lakh poplar saplings were planted during 2023-24 in the state, out of which the share of plants produced in the SFD nurseries was hardly 10%. Bulk of eucalyptus clonal material is procured by the SFD from outside nursery growers especially from Andhra Pradesh, some share is supplied by the plantation companies like Wimco Seedlings (ITC), Pragati Biotech and some others. There was a private clonal production facility for eucalyptus in Ambala District a decade back that remained under operations for only a few years.

Plantation activities

State has a very small share of natural forests which is largely located in Siwaliks and Aravalli hills and is mainly under conservation. Plantation activities in these forests have been very low just to improve the stocking by artificial plantations and assisted natural regenerations. Major plantation activities inside forest areas has been in protected forests mainly strip and block forests around Road, Railways, Canal, and Bandhs and some plantations in Community and Panchayat land. The volume of plantations is however much higher outside forests especially on farmland, urban areas, institutional land and some others. There may be some overlapping and/or duplicity in plantation figures reported collectively for the state and individual schemes in different reports and this may be considered as a simple trend in plantation activities.

3.1 Plantation volumes and schemes

With establishment of poplar and eucalyptus culture on farmland during 1970's, various plantation projects/programmes/schemes initiated in the state 1980's onward for increasing the tree and forest cover in the state. These include many schemes and programmes under Plan and Non Plan budgetary allocations. Four externally aided projects viz., World Bank Project on Social forestry between 1982-1990, European Union Project on Rehabilitation of common lands in Aravalli between 1990-1999, European Union Project on Haryana Community Forestry Project between 1998-2007, and JICA Project on Integrated Natural Resource Management and Poverty Alleviation between 2004-11 made significant impact on promoting plantations on non-forest land. Some other schemes which had visibility and made headlines include: Green Faridabad Project (1994-96), Development of Agro-forestry-Clonal and Non-Clonal (2008-09 onward), Extension Forestry on Farm Lands along National/State Highways (onward 2010-11), Har Ghar Haryali (2015), Paudhgiri Campaign (2018 onward), Plantation of herbal garden over 500 ha (2018-19), creation of 58 herbal parks, Clean Development Project (CDM) Sirsa, Plantations of grafted fruits on 10% Panchayat land by SFD (around 2021-22), Diversification

of intensive agriculture with alternate crops including poplar and eucalyptus, Aravali Plantations etc.

Under Extension Forestry scheme, the Forest Department carried out plantations on farm lands along highways in the shape of shelterbelts and also maintained them for two years. The department and farmers protected the plantations jointly for three years, after which these were handed over to the farmers. Farmers were the owner of the entire produce at the time of final harvest. National Highway Authority has now started its own scheme -Green Highway and developing its highways with its own budgetary allocations whereas plantations on state and other link roads are being handled by the state itself. During the beginning of the current century, the plantation schemes for waterlogged areas and pollution control along highways were implemented using clonal eucalyptus. The planting of clonal eucalyptus was also taken up on the farmlands of small and marginal farmers free of cost and/or at subsidized rates to promote tree farming and to improve their income. Currently, the state is implementing two plantation schemes viz., TOFI Project funded by USAID is being implemented in 7 states, Haryana being one of them and the second one is state Van Mitra Scheme under which subsidy is given on planting and maintaining trees. Trees are also now being planted under "Ek Per Maa ke Naam" scheme initiated by the Hon'ble Prime Minister this year.

Planting trees is a regular activity every year. However; the number of plants planted, schemes, sub-schemes, fund sourcing, species compositions and tree growers interest are constantly changing. The number of planted plants varied from over 5 Crore /year to just over 1 Crore /year. This statement get supports from the nursery stock position reported to be 5.9 Crore plants in June 2011 and 2.058 Crore now (website figure in June 2024). In both these cases share of forest timber species was around 60% and the other categories include shade trees, fuelwood, ornamental, fruit species. Some of the plantation data available between 2010 to 2018 in the ARR had variable area coverage which varied from just over 10000 ha to around 24000 ha. Area planted in hectare (year-wise) was 19947 (2010-11), 16576 (2011-12), 21741 (2012-13), 23950 (2013-14), 23845(2014-15), 22475 (2015-16), 19284 (2016-17), 12706 (2017-18), 10752 (2018-19) ha.

Name of schemes and sub-schemes under which tree plantations made during different years is generally quoted. These schemes go on changing with time based on many factors of which fund sourcing and state needs are important. A list of such schemes is given in Table- 1 (for two specific years), above para (past schemes making impact in plantation activities), and Para 3.1.2 (CAMPA plantations). During 2018-19, 1.34 Crore saplings were planted under different plantation schemes (departmental plantations – 0.97 Crore, distribution of saplings - 0.37 Crore). Out off a total of 12398.99 ha, an area of 5866.79 ha was covered under Community Forestry Programme in which the share of Clonal and Non-clonal agroforestry (eucalypts clones supplied under this scheme) was maximum of 53.01%, followed by FF seed (21.81%), HGH (9.99%), CADA (9.80%) and CAMPA (5.38%). If both the FF clonal and FF seed are put t gather, the contribution of farm forestry (FF) was three-fourth (75%) indicating that this scheme immensely helped in promoting the eucalyptus culture among the farmers in the state. The distribution of saplings was about 28% of the plantations carried out in the state.

Table 1. plantation area covered under different schemes during 2015-16 and 2018-19.

A. Plan		(2015-16 AAR)	2018-19 AAR
a)	State schemes	Ha+RKM	Ha+RKM
1	Development of Agroforestry clonal and non-clonal	4657.15+0	5866+0
2	Special component plan for SC/ Forestry activities in SC villages	2571.03+0	
3	Social and farm forestry	2290.65+0	
4	Greenbelt in urban forestry	0+593.39+0	0+537.40
5	Extension forestry (Rail, Road & Canal)	28.00+2337.36	
6	Rehabilitation of degraded forests	1302+697.50	168+0
7	Strip plantations on Govt. land	0+3060	
8	Compensatory afforestation	0	
9	Desert control	115+0	32+0
10	Revitalization of Institutions in Aravali hills	670+0	451+0
11	Herbal Nature Park/herbal forestry	550+0	
b)	Centrally sponsored Schemes Plan		
1	National afforestation and Forestry/afforestation activities by SFDA	1769+0	
B. DRDA & other Agencies			
1	CAMPA –CA plantations	3282.91	700.43+6135.21
2	Eco-restoration in Aravali hills	483+0	
3	Railway Line plantation Jind to Sonipat	0+107.50	
4	CADA Project	1936.67	
5	Wood based Industries	750+0	400+149
Grand total		19372.41+10239.26	8652.03+6929.11
Grand total in Ha (1 Ha=3.3 RKM)		21994.21	12398.99

State has invariably been supplying plants free and subsidized rates to farmers. A data set available between 2001-2 to 2010-11 indicate an average of 460 Lakh plants planted/ year out of which 42% (193.96 Lakh) were planted by the SFD and 58% were supplied to tree growers free of cost (Table 2). The share of free supply of plants to farmers varied from a low of 34.65% in 2006-7 to a high of 59.26% in 2001-02 (Table 2). The scheme continued latter with certain changes. During 2015-16, 2.39 Crore plants were planted (departmental plantations – 1.96 Crore; distribution of plants - 0.43 Crore) over an area of 4657.15 ha and 1000 RKM strip forests in the state. The distribution of

seedlings was about 22% of the planting carried out and 18% of total planting carried out in the state during 2015-16. A total of 10.29 Lakh were supplied free and 32.21 Lakh at subsidized rates for Rs. 42.01 Lakh costing Rs. 1.30/plant.

During the year 2014-15, there was planting of 1.804 Crore plants over an area of 20423.28 ha and 11293.26 RKM strip land, out of which 0.648 Crore were planted over 5291.19 ha & 8668.86 RKM on FL (forest land), and 1.156 Crore plants on 15132.09 ha & 2624.4 RKM on NFL (non-forest land) (AAR 2015). The area & plants planted under NFL and FL were roughly in a ratio of 75% & 25%. There may be some error in this figure

Table 2. Plants planted and supplied to the farmers either free of cost or at subsidized rates.

Year	Area Planted (Ha)	Plants		Total	Share of plants supplied to farmers
		Planted (Lakh)	Supplied to farmers (Lakh)		
2001-2	14368	157.66	108.41	266.07	59.26
2002-3	20557	222.31	255.03	477.34	46.57
2003-4	18135	195.97	269.52	465.49	42.10
2004-5	14311	168.92	309.98	478.9	35.27
2005-6	18519	195.85	260.2	456.05	42.94
2006-7	17005	162.53	306.52	469.05	34.65
2007-8	14739	173.02	276.98	450	38.45
2008-9	28920	249.11	272.91	522.02	47.72
2009-10	20217	190.58	317.29	507.87	37.53
2010-11	19447	223.66	283.03	506.69	44.14
Total	186218	1939.61	2659.87	4599.48	42.17
Avg.	18621.8	193.961	265.987	459.948	42.17

Table- Area (ha) and its share (%) of plants planted on FL and NFL in the state*

District	FL		NFL		Total	
	(Ha)	(%)	(Ha)	(%)	(Ha)	(%)
Panchkula	1410.08	14.84	1597.03	9.78	3007.11	11.64
Ambala	234.58	2.47	1788.14	10.95	2022.72	7.83
Yamuna Nagar	582.05	6.13	1159.49	7.10	1741.54	6.74
Kurukshetra	412.43	4.34	414.45	2.54	826.88	3.20
Kaithal	452.74	4.77	532.16	3.26	984.9	3.81
Karnal	541.02	5.70	609.36	3.73	1150.38	4.45
Panipat	389.1	4.10	953.02	5.83	1342.12	5.20
Sonipat	523.05	5.51	825.75	5.06	1348.8	5.22
Jhajjar	426.09	4.49	862.37	5.28	1288.46	4.99
Rohtak	204.05	2.15	813.62	4.98	1017.67	3.94
Gurugram	128.83	1.36	200.2	1.23	329.03	1.27
Faridabad	211.63	2.23	447.5	2.74	659.13	2.55
Palwal	184.75	1.94	516.64	3.16	701.39	2.72
Mewat/Nuh	499.18	5.25	546.24	3.34	1045.42	4.05
Mahinderagarh	247.67	2.61	688.5	4.22	936.17	3.62
Rewari	413.49	4.35	524.55	3.21	938.04	3.63
Hisar	365.25	3.84	664	4.07	1029.25	3.98
Fatehgarh	728.55	7.67	438.95	2.69	1167.5	4.52
Bhiwani	616.35	6.49	1504.84	9.21	2121.19	8.21
Sirsa	542.39	5.71	695.27	4.26	1237.66	4.79
Jind	386.35	4.07	551.83	3.38	938.18	3.63
Total	9499.63	100	16333.91	100	25833.54	100
Average	452.36		777.81		1230.17	

**There were 21 districts during 2014-15 for which data is presented compared to 22 now.*

as varying plant spacing are adopted by farmers, whereas, FD plant them on FL at standard spacing specific to scheme. A large number of farmers plant fewer plants on field boundaries and around homes compared to FL.

There was planting of 25833.54 ha in the state out of which 64% (16333.91) was on NFL and 36% (9499.63 ha) on FL. Planting on NFL was maximum of 1788.14 ha (10.95%) in Ambala District followed by 1597 ha (9.78%) in Panchkula, 1504.84 ha (9.21%) in Bhiwani, 1159.49 ha (7.10%) in Yamuna Nagar, 953.02 ha (5.83%) in Panipat, 862.37 ha (5.28%) in Jhajjar, 825.75 ha (5.06%) in Sonipat, 813.62 ha (4.98%) in Rohtak districts and all these districts had plantations above state average of 777.81 ha in NFL. All other districts had area planted less than state average with 5 bottom districts of low planting being Gurugram (202.2 ha), Kurukshetra (414.45ha), Fatehabad (438.95 ha), Faridabad (447.5 ha), and Palwal (516.46 ha). Ten out of 21 districts had more area planted under NFL than that under FL and these districts were Ambala (8.48%), Yamuna Nagar (0.97%), Panipat (1.73%), Jhajjar (0.79%), Rohtak (2.83%), Faridabad (0.51%), Palwal (1.22%), Mahinderagarh (1.61%), Hisar (0.23%), and Bhiwani (2.72%). This is a general trend of plantings under NFL category in districts those have well established agroforestry under which farmers increasingly plant trees on farmland.

Four leading districts had planted more plants than state average of 5.50 Lakh number. Ambala with a maximum of

12.84 Lakh (11.11%) plants followed by 11.74 Lakh (10.16%) in Panchkula, 9.67 Lakh (8.37%) in Bhiwani; and four bottom districts with low planting on NFL were Gurugram with 1.28 Lakh (1.11%), Mewat with 2.99 Lakh (2.59%), Fatehabad with 3.08 Lakh (2.67%), and Faridabad with 3.20 Lakh (2.77%) plants. Ten districts had more plants planted on NFL than FL and these districts were Ambala (9%), Yamuna Nagar (0.72%), Panipat (4.54%), Sonipat (0.19%), Jhajjar (0.87%), Rohtak (2.4%), Faridabad (0.48%), Palwal (1.24%), Mahenderagarh (2.07%) and Bhiwani (1.2%).

Bulk of plantations (>80%) made under forest category has been in Protected Forests (PF) and all other categories had less than 20% of planting in the state. Plantations under Forest lands (except PF) had a share of 10.81% in reserve forests, 5.6% in US4&5 forests, 1.88% U/S38 forests and 0.98% in UCF. Under PF category a major share of 42.11% plants was in Road side plantations, followed by 33.34% in Canal side, 20.73% in Compact blocks, 2.35% along Bundhs and 1.47% in Rail sides.

The distribution of Road, Rail, Canal and Bundh infrastructure is different in different districts and therefore the extent of plantations under these categories may purely be based on their extent in the respective district. Whereas, Road side plantations were in all districts, Canal side plantations were in 20 districts (except Gurugram), Bundh side plantations in 9 districts (Panchkula, Ambala, Kurukshetra, Panipat, Gurugram, Faridabad, Mewat, Rewari, and Sirsa), whereas, Rail

side plantations were in 8 districts those include Kurukshetra, Sonipat, Jhajjar, Rohtak, Mahinderagarh, Hisar, Bhiwani and Jind. Compact block plantations were also in 8 districts which include Panchkula, Ambala, Yamuna Nagar, Faridabad, Palwal, Hisar, Fatehabad, and Jind. The top 3 districts in term of plantations on Road sides were Kurukshetra (2.03 Lakh plants), Sonipat (2.018 Lakh) and Bhiwani

(2.01 Lakhplants) whereas 3 top districts in term of Canal side plantations were Fatehabad (2.27 Lakh plants), Bhiwani (2.07 Lakh plants) and Sirsa (1.99 Lakh plants). Mewat District had made plantations of 28230 plants on

plantation of 500 plants/ha under native spp. There are many sub-schemes under which CAMPA plantations are made. Monitoring of CAMPA plantations between 2011-12 to 2021-22 recorded the plants planted under 15 sub-schemes viz., Tall Planting ; Ridge planting , Beautification of district Roads; National Highway plantations; Assisted Natural Regeneration, Native Species plantations; Eco-restoration; Alkali site plantations; Bio-drainage ; Community & Institutional land, Urban Forestry; Tree grower scheme, Herbal forestry; and City forests). The details of area planted under CAMAP schemes during the 2nd decade is given in Table 3 below.

Table 3. Plantations made under CAMPA between 2010-11 to 2020-21.

year	Compensatory Afforestation(CA)		NAV	Grand total	Area (Ha)	Plants (No.)	Area (ha)	Plants (No.)
	RKM(ridges)	ha(CB)	Total (Ha)*	Plants (No.)				
2010-11	1111.01	0	336.67	475462	1102.11	547524	1438.78	1022986
2011-12	1200.34	0	363.74	456392	1485.51	533275	1849.25	989667
2012-13	1123.89	0	340.57	393872	1671.35	5232107	2011.92	5625979
2013-14	2186.39	0	662.54	635413	875.85	350220	1538.93	985633
2014-15	727.41	0	220.43	441903	1767.5	437025	1987.93	878928
2015-16	3032.45	161.75	1080.67	367780	3933.5	1114779	5014.17	1482559
2016-17	248.7	431.98	507.34	1080755	5030.09	1120813	5537.43	2201568
2017-18	0	2193.37	2193.37	556854	881.16	551955	3074.53	1108809
2018-19	0	3664.37	3664.37	1122126	1846.84	1063600	5511.21	2185726
2019-20	0	293.97	293.97	293782	301.25	298875	595.22	592657
2020-21	0	1239.65	1239.65	1182924	1294	1028750	2533.65	2211674
Total			10903.3	7007263	20189.2	12278923	31092.5	19286186
Average			991.21	637024	1835.4	1116266	2826.61	1753290

* Ridge/trench area was converted to ha by dividing it by a factor of 3.3.

Bundhs and Bhiwani a maximum of 27500 plants along Road sides. Under Compact block category maximum plantation of 3.62 Lakh plants was in Panchkula District.

Out of a total of 1.16 Crore plants planted in different categories of NFL; 43.70 Lakh (37.82%) were on farm land, 32.62 Lakh (28.23%) on private land, 27.30 Lakh (23.62%) on Panchayat land, 6.98 Lakh(6.04%) on any other land, 4.34 Lakh (3.75%) on institutional land, and 62100 (0.54%) on community land.

3.1.1 CAMPA related plantations

CAMPA is one of the main source of funding for raising plantations for which some mention is made above, yet , this section provides a little detailed analysis of plantation made under this scheme. CAMPA promotes new Compensatory Afforestation (CA) and Net Afforestation Value (NAV) plantations, maintenance of old plantation work, Assisted Natural Regeneration(ANR), Artificial regeneration including maintenance of plantations under assisted regeneration; and establishment, upgradation and maintenance of nurseries. Plantations made under CAMPA Scheme are better documented, monitored and regulated as per guidelines issued from time to time (<https://campa.haryanaforest.gov.in/>). 5 Compensatory Afforestation (CA) models with 1000 plants/ha are CA tall Plants, CA small plants, CA small plants on ridges, CA Trench cum Pit Planting and CA native species. Under NAV, 3 models are- planting on ridges at the rate of 250 tall plants (TP) and 500 small plants, planting of 200 plants under eco-restoration; and

There was an average of 2826.61 ha plantation and 17.53 Lakh plants per year. Plantations under NAV was more (1835.4 ha and 11.16 Lakh plants) compared to CA plantations (991.21 ha and 6.37 Lakh plants). The third party monitoring of the CAMPA plantations for the year 2020-21 mentioned planting of 21.31 Lakh plants and the model wise area planting was 7.94 Lakh under CA Tall Plants, 3.30 Lakh under CA Small plants, 26927 under CA (Ridge), 56226 under CA (Native), 7.02 Lakh under NPV (TP). 1.77 Lakh under NPV (Ridge), 45000 under NPV (Eco-restoration), and 25000 under NPV (Native).

3.1.2 MGNREGA plantations

Mahatama Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGS)(90:10:: Centre: state share) is yet another scheme under which appreciable plantations are carried out in the state. 262 activities are identified as permissible works out of which 181 kinds are related to natural resource management (NRM), 52 related to direct plantation activities spread over individual, community, wasteland, and many other land types. The works under MNREGA are related to drought proofing including afforestation and tree planting are permissible works as per Schedule-I-para-4(I),I.(v) “afforestation, tree plantation and horticulture in common and forest lands, Road margins, Canal bunds, around tank and coastal belts duly providing right to usufruct to the households covered in paragraph 5”. Planting stock for these schemes is largely supplied by the SFD.

Besides above, there are many other stakeholders/agencies who directly or indirectly promote plantations those may or may

have not been documented. Available literature scan mentions some plantations activities under the following schemes, many of which are implemented in the state. These agencies include schemes promoted by central government agencies, private sector, urban bodies, housing societies, NGOs and many more. Under government sources, besides MGNREGS scheme discussed above, National Rural Livelihood Mission (NRLM) (60-40%), Integrated Watershed Management Programme (IWMP), National Highway authority, Member of Parliament Local Area Development Scheme (MPLADS), Adarsh Gram Yojana (VAGY), Pradhan Mantri Adarsh Gram Yojana (PMAGY), Vidhayak Adarsh Gram Yojana, Pradhan Mantri Adarsh Gram Yojana, Shyama Prasad Mukherji Rurban Mission (SPMRM), Swaranjayanti Khand Uthan Yojana (SKUY), Pradhan Mantri Jan Vikas Karyakram (PMJVK) (60:40%) etc. Member of Parliament Local Area Development Scheme (MPLADS) program has 19 activities out of which activity No. 4 mentions- tree plantations under Social forestry, farm forestry, horticulture, pastures, parks and gardens in Government and Community lands or other surrendered lands.

3.2 Horticultural Plantations

Fruit trees are largely grown on farmland for overlapping produce that includes fruits and wood. These trees are included for the green cover, growing stock and potential wood availability in the Trees Outside forests (ToF) inventories prepared by the Forest Survey of India. The state forest department regularly raises and promotes planting of fruit/wild fruit species in significant number as discussed in planting stock production and supply systems under para 2.1.3. A brief on fruit trees is thus provided to capture trends and green cover in the state.

Long term trends in per cent area of fruit growing crops to total crop area has gradually increased from 0.42% in 1966-67 to 0.71% in 1970-71, 0.99% in 1975-76, 1.16% in 1980-81, 1.25% in 1985-86, 1.15% in 1990-91, 1.93% in 1995-96, 2.94% in 2000-01, 4.26% in 2005-06, 6.62% in 2010-11, 7.58% in 2015-16 and 8.23% of 2020-21 (<https://hortharyana.gov.in/en/statistical-data>). The state had an area of 69139.46 ha under fruit trees with 1010488 tone fruit production during 2022-23. Out of a total area of 69139.46 ha under fruit crops, 343264.8 ha was under vegetables, 169 ha under medicinal plants, 1562.7 ha under flowers and 6142.6 ha under spices. Fruit trees grown are mango, guava, citrus, ber, grapes, aonla, chicku, litchi, peer, plum, bel, anar, datepalm. Some medicinal value trees like harar, behra etc. are also grown separately by the department under medicinal plant categories. Among fruit trees, citrus orchards are spread over 23920 ha (23.09%) followed by guava 15963.22 ha (23.09%) area, mango 7765.95 ha (11.23%) area, ber 4318 ha area (6.25%), chiku 1306.1 ha area (1.89%) and other fruit crops with less than 1% area and fruit production respectively. Sirsa District in the state is at the top position with 22.13% area (15298.7 ha) and 44.32% fruit production in the state, followed by Yamuna Nagar with 13.98% area (9664.75 ha) with 9.87% fruit production, Hisar 8.15% (5636 ha) with 2.72% fruit production, Jhajjar 5.97% (4129.2 ha) with 4.70% fruit production, Mewat 5.41% (3742 ha) with 0.92% of fruit production and others. National Horticulture Mission (60:40) Central Government sponsored scheme was implemented in 18 districts in Haryana during the year 2017-18. Various components covered under this were -area expansion under fruits, establishment of big and small modern nurseries, Integrated Pest Management, rejuvenation of

old plants, training of farmers, production of vegetable seeds and mushroom etc.

3.3 Plantations supported by private sector

Private sector is now one of the main player in promotion of tree plantations especially commercially important species which are grown by farmers to produce wood to wood based industry. The activity started during 1975 by planting first ever poplar plantations in Yamuna Nagar district has gradually expanded both in geographical locations and species composition. Eucalyptus is now the top planted tree in almost all the districts while poplar is extensively planted in Yamuna Nagar and in some adjoining districts of the state. Both these trees are now back bone for the peeling industry in the state and elsewhere. During 2023-24 around 9 to 10 million eucalyptus plants and 6.5-7 million poplar saplings were planted in the state. Other commercially important trees like melia, dek, casuarina, teak etc., also started making in-Roads in some parts of the state. Initially, the production and supply of the planting stock of private sector promoted trees was provided by them which gradually shifted to small nursery growers who are now supplying bulk of it in case of poplar, eucalyptus and a few other species mentioned under para 2.1.2.

Private sector promoted plantations on farmland witness periodical variations largely due to demand and supply of wood. During years of low wood prices, farmers hesitate to undertake new plantations, while they aggressively plant trees when the market is upbeat on wood prices as is being now. Poplar wood prices dropped to the low-end range three times around 1995, 2004 and 2017 and plantation activities were very low during those periods. Once the wood prices start increasing, plantation activity also start expanding with every incremental increase in wood prices. Figure 1 is drawn based on tracked poplar wood prices at Yamuna Nagar mandi and plantations made within the state till 2022. Poplar planting in the state varied from around a couple of Lakhs during 2003-4 when prices were very low (Rs. 300/qtl) to all time high of around 65-70 million last year (2023-24) when its wood rate touched all time high price of Rs. 1800/qtl which was highest ever recorded so far.

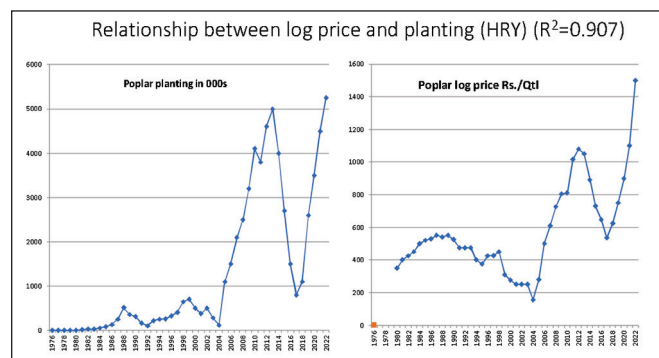


Figure 1: Plantation and wood price trends for poplar in Haryana.

4 Monitoring and evaluation of plantations

Monitoring survival of plantations is inbuilt mechanism in the forest department for which department has created a special wing of Monitoring and Evaluation (<https://cdnbbsr.s3waas.gov.in/s3c5866e93cab1776890fe343c9e7063fb/uploads/2021/04/2021043096.pdf>) vide order 31930-76 dated 17.1.92. The procedure proposed is to monitor 50% of first

year plantation sites covering at-least 30% of planted area, 20% area of 2nd year and at least 10% of 3rd, 4th and 5 the year plantations. Audit by Monitoring and Evaluation wing of the Forest department conducted for different plantations raised under CAMPA has revealed first year survival varying between 60-70%. 2018-19 year plantations had 69.41% survival, 2019-20 had 60% survival and 2020-21 had 61.38% survival. Monitoring of 2020-21 plantations over 755.4 ha area and 3848.75 RKM strip forests with sampling of 1421269 number plants in 378 sites had 872377 number survival (61.38%) with further 21 sites were less than 20% survival, 41 sites between 20-50%, 142 sites between 50-70% and 174 sites over 70% survival. Further internal state monitoring of 5 years CAMPA plantations from 2016-17 to 2020-21 with a sampling of 1361 plantation sites spread over 3817.882 ha and 12619.99 RKM with 4647966 plants revealed overall survival of 60.25% with 72 sites having less than 20% survival, 105 sites with survival between 20-50%, 523 sites with 50-70% survival and 531 sites with survival >70% (<https://campa.haryanaforest.gov.in/>).

3rd party monitoring of 2020-21 CAMPA plantations was carried out by TERI in which there were 741 plantation sites with 2155817 No. of plants, 50% required sampling was based on 1079809 plants in 288 sites and the final monitoring was done for 1307368 plants out of which 1038444 plants were recorded survived (79.43%). 14 sites had survival less than 70%, 125 sites between 70-80%, 130 sites between 80-90% and 19 sites above 90% survival (<https://campa.haryanaforest.gov.in/>).

State appears to be serious to check the mortality of plantations for which the state issued instruction to take action against the carelessness of front line staff viz., Forest Guards, Dy Rangers and Forest Rangers. Issued order states that no action is needed (except replacing mortality next year plantations) in plantation recording >80% survival. However, the front line staff is to be cautioned in writing to be more vigilant in future. A stringent disciplinary action including recovery of money from those front line staff whose raised plantations recorded less than 70% survival subject to if the mortality was due to factors not under their control. Despite all such actions, low survival of government plantations is a cause of concern.

5 Conclusion

Forest Department has traditionally been a major agency making plantations in the state, though many other stakeholders gradually joined the hands. The role of forest department in raising such plantations is multifaceted that include to conserve the existing biodiversity and natural forest resources along with meeting the ever- increasing demand of forest and tree resources by promoting plantation on whatever land-uses are available for this purpose. With development happening all around, forest areas are under constant pressure for conversion to non forestry purposes. Onward 1980 till 2011 an area of 4036.19 ha has been diverted to Non forestry purposes. Center government with the help of state is trying to recover such loss by creating plantations under CAMPA with local species. Plantation efforts by some agencies especially those based on planting stock supply system from private sector, and those planted by unorganized sector like housing welfare societies, institutes and many others may not be getting recorded and reported. On the other hand, some efforts like Faridabad creating a world record of planting 2.35 Lakh plants in 3 hours, Miyawaki Afforestation at Palwal, Plantation of Guru Nanak Scared forest, Yamuna Nagar and the planting target for the current year (2024-25) of 44 Lakh eucalyptus and 4.5 Lakh poplar with budgetary allocation of 150 Crore with additional 10 Crore for herbal gardens are well covered by the press and appear in public domain.

A continuous and integrated approach adopted by the state has gradually increased forest and tree cover to 6.8% of the geographical area. The state forest policy 2006 has set a target of achieving 20% of the GA under forest and tree cover. The scope for its expansion is huge largely outside forest areas including farm land. Efforts made so far confirms that this sector has supported plantation activities with the help of WBI and may continue to do so in future as well. It would be interesting to see the contours of transformation from 6.8% forest and tree cover to 20% envisaged under the state forest policy in the following years with drastic changes happening all-around and in every sector.



Figure 2: Ridge planting in saline sites (left) and tall plant production in poly bags (right). □

Akhilesh Chitlangia, MD and CEO, Duroply, in an interview with Indian Wood and Allied Panels, explains how Duroply's Brand Promise of 'Lifetime Guarantee – Nine Times Safety, Plywood ka Naya Standard' is a gamechanger in the industry



Akhilesh Chitlangia, MD and CEO, Duroply

Q: What is Duroply 'Lifetime Guarantee – Nine Times Safety, Plywood ka Naya Standard.'

Akhilesh: We observed that customers always look out for availability of individual features in various plywood products. We understand the importance of preserving our customers' lifelong emotions and protecting their investments. Therefore, we decided to club together nine most sought-after features by the customers and have offered them in our premium range of plywood. This way we are proud to offer our esteemed customers complete peace of mind as they are assured of almost all safety checks in the Duroply products.

As a customer centric innovation led Company, we aim to provide our customers with the ultimate plywood solutions that exceed their expectations, thus reaffirming the trust our customers have in Brand Duro.

Q: Can you elaborate on the nine safety features that you have introduced and how you are delivering on these promises?

Akhilesh: India's one of the most experienced and premium plywood companies, Duroply is the first plywood brand to offer such complete solution in its range of products. I am listing down below the nine features that we are offering to our customers and how these features make the plywood last generations thus benefitting the customers:

Five Heat Treatment: Duroply's plywood undergoes a rigorous five-stage heat treatment process, thus enhancing its strength and durability.

Duro Advanced Fireshield Technology: With advanced fire-resistant technology, Duroply's plywood provides superior protection against fire hazards.

Termite Proofing: Duroply's plywood is treated with termite-proofing agents, ensuring long-lasting resistance against termite infestation.

72-hour Boiling Water Proof Grade: Duroply's plywood is certified to withstand boiling water for up to 72 hours, demonstrating exceptional durability and resilience.

Super Log Criterion: Duroply's plywood meets the super log criterion, guaranteeing enhanced durability and longevity.

Superior Calibration: Each sheet of Duroply's plywood undergoes precise calibration, ensuring uniform thickness and impeccable quality.

PFS Super Bonded: Duroply's plywood is bonded using PFS super bonding technology, providing superior strength and stability.

Low Formaldehyde Emission: Duroply's plywood adheres to strict emission standards, ensuring a safe and healthy indoor environment. Duroply ensures usage of E0 grade adhesives as these emit minimal harmful gases and adhere to best of European and US standard protocols.

QR-Based Fraud Protection: Duroply implements QR-based fraud protection measures, safeguarding customers against counterfeit products and ensuring authenticity.

Q: Which brands of Duroply these nine features are available?

Akhilesh: We have initially launched 'Lifetime Guarantee – Nine Times Safety, Plywood ka Naya Standard' across our top six brands: Duro Titanium, Duro Derby, Durobord, Duro Pumaply, Duro Door, and Duro Plus.

Q: What extra benefit Duroply customers can expect from your brand?

Akhilesh: 'Lifetime Guarantee – Nine Times Safety, Plywood ka Naya Standard' together with 'Duro Lifetime Guarantee' from insect infestation are an unparalleled assurance to our esteemed customers. Duroply offers a lifetime guarantee of 25, 21 and 10 years on most of its plywood products, further solidifying its commitment to quality and customer satisfaction. This comprehensive assurance program ensures that customers receive unparalleled protection and peace of mind with every purchase of Duroply products. □



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L A M I N A T E

The Greenply Industries Limited: Augmenting Raw Material availability-for sustainability

JK Jain, National Head for Plantation and Special Projects

The sustainable availability of indigenous Fibrous Raw material at reasonable cost is the main bottleneck for the development / survival of wood based industries in India. In view of forest conservation policy and other state laws prohibiting allotting / owning the land by the industries, it has become a major challenge to ensure the sustainable Raw Material availability for the survival of industry and its programmatic growth, essential for future existence.

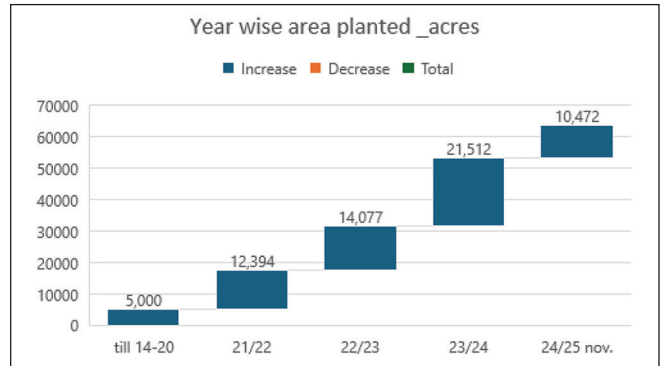
Greenply is the pioneer industry amongst the Indian interior infrastructure companies to take various self-sustainable initiatives to combat the problem by development of Fibrous Raw Material through promotion of large scale plantations under TOF areas with suitable species. The far sighted vision of Management and its apt execution have successfully developed a very good mutual trust between local inhabitants and Greenply. Efforts are directed to keep the environment amelioration, eco balance of the area and socioeconomic upliftment of local inhabitants as prime consideration.

The plantation project has helped in creation of huge carbon sink, effective to mitigate the global warming impact, apart from great contribution toward soil and water conservation in the plantation areas. It helps in achieving greening mission of India to cover 33% of the area under forest cover.

For each tree we use, we will maintain 4-5 trees of different stages. It means we intend to maintain 400% green cover to meet our requirements. Moreover, lops and tops of the trees, caters the local need of fuel and fodder. It will not only conserve the natural forest but preserve it for the future by reducing the pressure on it.

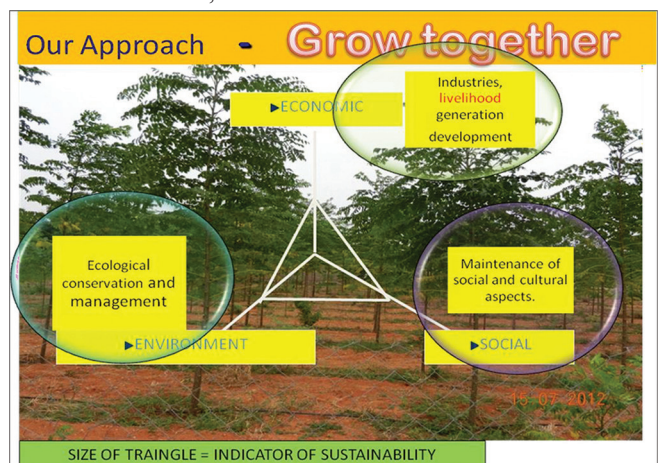
It will also provide huge employment opportunities in rural area, particularly for landless section and women. Each acre of plantation along with nursery development, during its entire rotation, generates around 200 man-days of work. Out of this, around 60% goes to women.

So far Greenply has planted around 53 million of saplings covering around 63000 acres of land at different catchments, adjoining to the manufacturing units.



1. The approach---

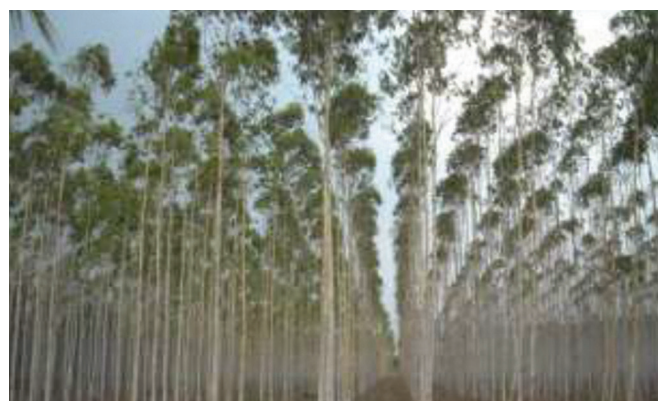
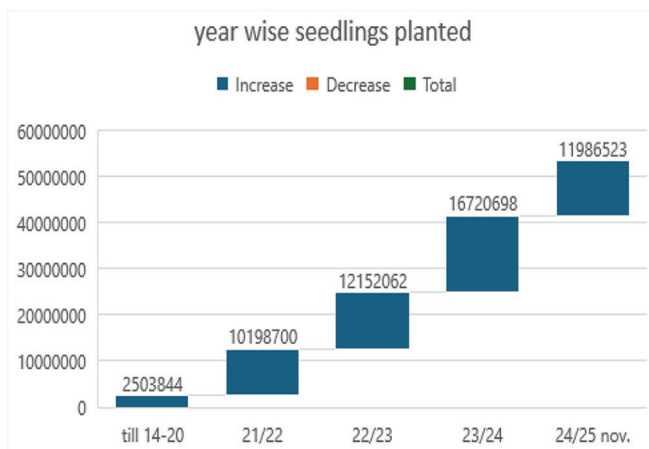
- The approach is to work and grow together, maintaining triple bottom line striking the balance amongst Economic, Environment and social.



- Multifold strategies are being adopted in line with the specific requirement, adaptability to local environment and micro conditions, suiting to location of different manufacturing units.

Salient Features of Plantation Project

1. To promote Massive Plantations on marginal and degraded lands.





2. Development and distribution of best quality seedlings of fast-growing short rotation tree species with the aim to improve productivity and raise plantations to achieve raw material self-sufficiency and its sustained availability in future.
3. Promote perfect backward integration with tree growers of locality.



4. Provide the technical knowhow at free of cost to the tree growers from Pre -nursery to post harvest stage in the catchment areas.
5. To establish demonstration plots and interaction with local inhabitants by periodical meetings for their encouragement, promotion environmental awareness.
6. To demonstrate improved forestry techniques to achieve higher productivity per unit area in collaboration with best regional forestry research organizations located in different parts of the India.



7. To go for Clonal propagation of pulpwood tree species, by selecting elite parental trees with desirable characters to provide genetically superior planting stock for plantations.



8. To create an eco-friendly environment and to improve the socio-economic status of tree grower.
9. To conserve natural resources and reduce pressure on natural forests.
10. To create large employment opportunities in rural areas, particularly for women in the developmental work.

2. Specific Area wise strategies

Greenply is having 5 units in India and area wise specific strategies are adopted for best possible advantages

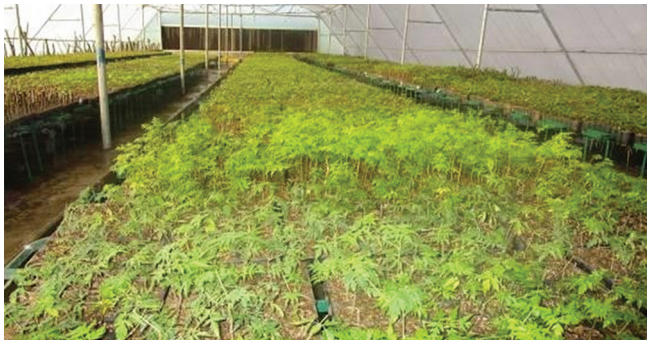
1. Tizit—Nagaland
2. Rajkot—Gujarat
3. Kriparampur- West Bengal
4. Vadodara—Gujarat—Under establishment
5. Sandila—Uttar Pradesh- Under establishment

1. Tizit unit –Nagaland

The plantation activities started around decade back on small scale, with the development and free of cost distribution of seedlings to the local farmers for plantation in their fields.



Initial seedling Nursey at TIZIT, unit Nagaland.



Clonal propagation of Melia dubia in Tizit.

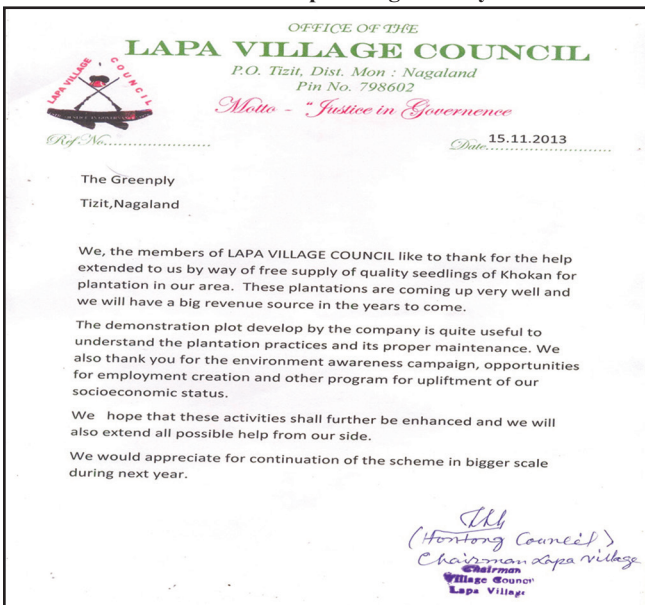
Several campaigns were launched to create awareness, which has started giving favorable results and local people are coming forward to share their lands for plantations.

Mutual trust is the key to success in such schemes.

One of the letter from local council, reproduced below, indicates the example of mutual trust of Greenply with local inhabitants and their willingness to participate in this developmental activities.



Chairman Lapa Village Society



At TIZIT, we intend to go for plantation on around 400 acres of land annually with fast growing species having short gestation period of around 6-7 years.

Due to Concerted efforts of Greenply, the unit could get the FSC FM certificate

The first unit in Indian panel Industries



FSC – FM certificate



Afforestation of Denuded hills in Nagaland

The species promoted are Duabanga, Melia, Terminalia, Chukrasia, Eucalyptus, suiting to the site.

2. Unit Rajkot- Gujarat

The initial survey reveals that some of the areas in Gujarat had good farm forestry plantations in the past but the plantation activities were discouraged due to lack of proper market in the area. Therefore assured market oppertunities, to the farmers,could rejuvenate the area. In Gujarat, all the farm forestry plantation crops are kept free any Govt. control, like felling or tansit rules. It is also one of the motivating factor, for the farmers to opt plantations crops for better returns.

Greenply have started well planned programme here in the catchment.

- Developed a demonstration plot having Eucalyptus, Subabul and Melia dubia in around 10 acres of area, along with clonal propagation centre.



- Provide market opportunities to local farmers by purchasing the local available wood.
- To have buy back arrangements with the farmers, intend to go for plantation of short rotation crop with the help of social forestry wing or by their own.
- The social forestry wing of forest department provides support and seedlings for the farmers to go for plantations.

Eucalyptus with cotton as intercrop Our farmer getting Award from gujarat forest

Clonal propagation centre at Rajkot for quality saplings



Eucalyptus with cotton as intercrop.



Our farmer getting Award from gujarat forest.

3. Unit Kriparampur- West Bengal

In West Bengal, we intend to go for plantations to develop suitable species, according to our need and agro climatic zone.

- We have four zones to work---
 - ✓ first, nearby factory,
 - ✓ second -Nadia, 24 North Paragana and Bankura, midnapore area.
 - ✓ Third—Baripada, Koraput area in Odisha
 - ✓ Fourth ---Vijayanagaram, Srikakulam and Vizag area of A.P
- The suitable species are—
 - ✓ Lambu—(KHAYA)
 - ✓ Melia dubia
 - ✓ Casuarina
 - ✓ Eucalyptus
 - ✓ Kadamb
- The target is to go for around 250-300 acres of plantation every year



Kadamb and Lamboo plantations and reclamation of problematic soils in west Bengal area.



Eucalyptus in Orissa area.

4. Vadodara—New MDF Plant

We are in process of establishing a new MDF unit in Vadodara district of Gujarat.

This is the potential catchment for agroforestry in the Gujarat. Adopting the best possible approach. Greenply has taken up the plantation project, prior to establishment of the MDF project, well in advance.

Greenply plans to maintain the plantations equivalent to

more than 3 times of the requirement, and steps are taken on the ground.

During current year we have ensure the planting of around 16 Million clones and good quality seedlings, sufficient to meet our entire requirement of Raw material on maturity.

The rotation normally here is 3-4 years.

CATCHMENT AREA OF PLANTATION



GROWING TOGETHER

In order to have quality seedlings arrangements are made to supply quality seedlings at the nearest point to the farmers. We have several training programs for the farmers and continuous meetings with them we have signed MOU with Navasari Agriculture university to provide continuous support in R&D areas.

With those concerted efforts we could get the FSC FM certification for the unit from its inception

First in Indian Panel industry to get the FSC -FM

SCS Global Services does hereby certify that an independent audit has been completed and conformity to the applicable standard(s) has been confirmed for:

Greenply Specialty Panels Private Limited
 Survey No-17/1, Savli Hatol Road, Village Shehpura, Taluka Savli District, Vadodara, GJ 391520, India

This operation meets all of the necessary qualifications to be certified for the following claim:
Well Managed Plantation Certification

Greenply Specialty Panels Private Limited has been shown to meet all of the necessary qualifications to be certified as a Well-Managed Plantation in accordance with the Forest Stewardship Council's Principles & Criteria, as elaborated by the SCS Final Interim Standard for Forest Management Certification in India under the Forest Stewardship Council, V2-1, SCS COC Indicators for FMEs V8-0, FSC-STD-30-005 V2-0.

For the following product(s):
Eucalyptus camaldulensis; *Leuceana leucocephala*; *Dentrocalthus strictus*; *Bambusa arundinacea*; and *Melia dubia*

Certificate Code: SCS-FM/COC-009824
 Valid from: 3 July 2023 Expiry date: 2 July 2028

SCSglobal SERVICES

Brendan Grady, Technical Director, Forestry
 SCS Global Services
 2000 Powell Street, Ste. 600, Emeryville, CA 94608 USA

Printed July 9, 2023

- Socioeconomic Impact and environmental Amelioration by the project undertaken by the Greenply-Adhoc estimates are as under--

Adhoc Estimates			
Tangible benefits	Million		Value Rs Cr
Timber	2.54	MT	1523
Fuel/fodder	0.25	MT	76
Employment	12.69	M.days	635
soil organic manure	1.27	MT	635
carbon sequestration	1.27	MT	800
Total			3668
Intangible	Actual impact could not be assessed		
Rain water Harvest			
Soil erosion			
forex saving			
Socioeconomic upliftment of society			

The project has played a vital role towards the sustainability along with environment amelioration and socioeconomic upliftment of local inhabitant particularly the agrarian community—Growing together. □



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Plantation Initiatives & RM Sustainability by Centuryply

Century was established in 1986 with the vision of providing path-breaking solutions in wood and wood-related industries. It took a continuous emphasis on innovation and an intense focus on product quality over the last 3 decades to bring that vision to reality. And in that time, as consumer needs diversified, Century grew its range of offerings too. From plywood to laminates, veneers, flooring and exteriors, and engineered wood products. Along the way, Century pioneered new technologies for the Indian market and set the bar higher and higher on business standards. Century is the first company in India, which provides traceable and sustainable MDF product to the market.

CenturyPly, as an environmentally responsible brand, always advocates eco-friendly solution in its whole range of products and services. With the blend of innovation and sustainability together, the brand has emerged to be an eco-friendly manufacturer of plywood. The company uses 95% of plantation timbers as product raw-materials, which eventually compensate for the loss of resources and sustains ecological balance. CenturyPly also supports sustainable manufacturing by providing genetically improved, pure, high yielding and disease resistant clones of Eucalyptus and Poplar to the farmers under **Century Plantation Project** at Hoshiarpur, Punjab & Badvel, Andhra Pradesh manufacturing facilities.

Over the years, as an eco-friendly entity, we have taken a conscious call of shifting our product raw material from using 100% forest timber to 90% plantation timber, which we believe is a unique initiative to sustain the balance of nature. In line with the sustainability goals, Century has initiated a comprehensive plan for Eucalyptus plantations. The deliberations on plantations & sustainability align with the organizations' commitment to environmental stewardship and supports local farmers by

encouraging cultivation of Eucalyptus wood. Century strives not only to fulfil our operational requirements but also to make a positive and lasting impact on the communities and the environment we operate in.

Century under its **Century Plantation Project** promotes plantation drive at Hoshiarpur, Punjab & Badvel, Andhra Pradesh manufacturing facilities:

1. Our Plantation Initiatives:

- Providing the genetically improved, pure, high yielding and disease resistant clones of Eucalyptus to the farmers.
- Providing the saplings direct to the farmers site at 50% subsidised cost, with a well-designed & convenient mechanism.
- Explaining practically on the “ROI on the plantation, a farmer is going to make “with an assurance to buy back on a particular MSP, in worst case scenario”.
- Making the farmer understand about soil, sapling/ species and right method of planting according to weather and the growth period cycle.
- Train farmers on proper planting, maintenance, and harvesting techniques to ensure sustainable yields.
- Teach farmers how to integrate eucalyptus into mixed farming systems (Agro-Forestry Models) to maintain biodiversity and soil health. Encourage intercropping with legumes or other crops to reduce monoculture risks and enhance soil quality.
- Conducting farmer meetings for eucalyptus plantations is an important step to educate, inform, and engage farmers about the benefits, challenges, and best practices of eucalyptus cultivation.

❖ Badvel Plant, Andhra Pradesh:



❖ Hoshiarpur Plant, Punjab:



2. Initiative & Outcome of Century Plantation Project:

PLANTATION SUMMARY CENTURY BADVEL-Andhra Pradesh				
TERM	Year	No. of Farmers Benefited	Plants Distributed	Coverage Area (Acre)
1st Term	2023-24	1,214	44,13,904	4,013
2nd Term	2024-25	935	52,28,758	4,753
G. TOTAL		2,149	96,42,662	8,766

➤ **Badvel Plant (Andhra Pradesh):** PLANTATION SUMMARY CENTURY BADVEL-Andhra Pradesh TERM Year No. of Farmers Benefited Plants Distributed Coverage Area (Acre)

PLANTATION SUMMARY CENTURY HOSHIARPUR-Punjab				
TERM	Year	No. of Farmers Benefited	Plants Distributed	Coverage Area (Acre)
1st Term	2017-18	1,509	13,08,908	2,618
2nd Term	2018-19	2,181	19,08,956	3,818
3rd Term	2019-20	3,283	24,98,660	4,997
4th Term	2020-21	1,157	9,21,860	1,844
5th Term	2021-22	2,792	20,37,990	4,076
6th Term	2022-23	2,739	20,49,600	4,099
7th Term	2023-24	1,988	14,80,220	2,960
8th Term	2024-25	1,172	11,63,315	2,327
G. TOTAL		16,821	1,33,69,509	26,739

➤ **Hoshiarpur Plant (Punjab):** PLANTATION SUMMARY CENTURY HOSHIARPUR-Punjab TERM Year No. of Farmers Benefited Plants Distributed Coverage Area (Acre)

3. Sustainable forestry practices for fibrous Raw Material development:

Sustainability in wood raw materials involves practices and systems that ensure the responsible use, regeneration, and conservation of forests, while supporting ecological, social, and economic balance. Optimizing raw material usage is a critical focus area across industries to reduce costs, enhance efficiency, and promote sustainability.

- We develop best silvicultural practices and other forest management practices in our plantation program to induce natural regeneration, the harvesting of mature trees, planting, and thinning to improve timber quality and sustained growth.
- **Reforestation:** Planting trees to replace those harvested, ensuring a continuous supply of wood.
- **Agroforestry:** Integrating trees with crops or

livestock systems to enhance biodiversity and sustainability.

- Supplying excellent high yielding soil and climate specific clonal saplings.
- Robust extension services to farmers.
- Training on plantation techniques.
- Encourage small and marginal farmers with fallow, low-productive and rain-fed lands to raise the plantations.
- Our plantations teams conduct workshops on awareness among farmers and impart technical training for raising high-yielding plantations. Assistance is also provided during harvest, post-harvest care, and sale to the factory.
- On the ground, we implement plantation extension tools and ensure 100% traceability for our farmers & plantations. □

Date of implementation of mandatory Indian Standards by BIS (Bureau of Indian Standards) for export of panel products to India

It is hereby informed that the Ministry of Commerce and Industry of India has notified that the export of panel products to India is subject to the Mandatory Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS) Certification requirements from 1 March 2024. However, the said regulations have been postponed and will come into force from 28 February 2025.

In exercise of the powers conferred by Section 16 of the Bureau of Indian Standards Act, 2016, the Government of India, after consultation with the Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS) makes the following order: Tajuk ringkas: Plywood and Wooden flush door shutters (Quality Control) Order, 2024

Enforcement date: 28 February 2025

2. MANDATORY Use of Standard Mark – The goods or articles specified in column (1) of the Schedule shall comply with the corresponding Indian Standard specified in column

(2) of the Schedule and shall have the Standard Mark under license from the Bureau of Indian Standards in accordance with Scheme-I of Schedule-II to the Bureau of Indian Standards (Conformity Assessment) Regulation, 2018 :

Provided that nothing in this Order shall apply to goods or articles manufactured domestically for export.

3. Certification and Enforcement Authority: The Bureau shall be the authority that certifies and enforces the goods or articles as specified in column (1) of the Schedule below.

4. Penalty: Any person who violates the provisions of this Order shall be punishable under the provisions of the Bureau of Indian Standards Act, 2016. Further information regarding penalties can be referred to the link: <https://www.bis.gov.in/the-bureau/bis-act-rules-and-regulations/>

SCHEDULE.

Goods or Articles (1)	Indian Standard (2)	Title of Indian Standard (3)
Plywood and Wooden flush door shutters	303:1989	Plywood for general purposes
	2202 (Part 1):1999	Wooden flush door shutters (solid core type) - Plywood face panels
	710:2010	Marine plywood
	5509:2021	Fire retardant plywood
	1328:1996	Veneered decorative plywood
	2191 (Part 2):2022	Wooden flush door shutters (cellular and hollow core type) - Particle board and hardboard face panels
	2191 (Part 1):2022	Wooden flush door shutters (cellular and hollow core type) - Plywood face panels
	2202(Part 2): 2022	Wooden Flush Door Shutters (Solid core type) — Particle Board, High Density Fibre Board, Medium Density Fibre Board and Fibre Hardboard Face Panels
	4990: 2011	Plywood for concrete shuttering works - Specification
	10701: 2012	Structural plywood - Specification



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Sustainability at **Action TESA** is a two-step journey: replenishing what is taken from the Earth & inspiring others to amplify the movement. And how they took it to the next level?

Step 1: Comprehensive Plantation Initiatives at Sitarganj

High-Tech Nursery Facilities

Action TESA has established a state-of-the-art Clonal Production Centre (CPC) at its Sitarganj facility in Uttarakhand. Equipped with six advanced mist chambers, the center produces 70 lakh high-yielding eucalyptus clones annually, ensuring farmers receive superior planting material. Additionally, the facility includes a dedicated open area for hardening and grading saplings, guaranteeing only the best are distributed to farmers.

Quality Sourcing of Clonal Species

In addition to its in-house production, Action TESA collaborates with leading clonal-producing nurseries across India to ensure a consistent supply of high-quality eucalyptus clones tailored to specific requirements. Each sapling undergoes rigorous grading and inspection at the CPC before being distributed to the field, ensuring superior quality and performance.

Step 2: Farmer Engagement and Amplifying the Movement

Encouraging farmers to participate in the sustainability journey involves a systematic and well-planned approach.

Empowering Farmers

Farmers are central to Action TESA's plantation program. The company provides high-yielding, site-specific eucalyptus clones at subsidized rates, delivers saplings directly to farmers' doorsteps, and offers ongoing technical support. A dedicated team of experts guides farmers through field preparation, maintenance, and harvesting, ensuring the success of their plantations and the broader movement.

Comprehensive Overview of the Program

1. Growing a Greener Tomorrow: Action TESA's Landmark Plantation Drive

To ensure a steady supply of sustainable raw materials, Action TESA has launched an extensive plantation program, focusing on fast-growing eucalyptus and poplar species. Over the last three years, the company has distributed more than 114.63 lakh high-yielding clonal saplings, covering approximately 11,463 acres in Uttar Pradesh and Uttarakhand. This calculation is based on 1,000 plants per acre for eucalyptus and 400 plants per acre for poplar, recognizing that boundary plantations are more prevalent than block plantations in these regions.

Year	Plants Distributed (Lakh)	Area Covered (Acre)
2022-23	17.00	1,700
2023-24	54.96	5,496
2024-25 (till Nov.)	42.67	4,267
Total	114.63	11,463

2. Ensuring Excellence: High-Quality Clones for a Resilient Future

In addition to in-house sapling production, Action TESA collaborates with top clonal-producing nurseries across India to source high-quality, disease-resistant clones. These saplings undergo rigorous grading and inspection at the company's Clonal Production Center (CPC) before being distributed to farmers, ensuring optimal performance and resilience.

3. Empowering Farmers: Knowledge Sharing for Maximized Yields and Profitability

Recognizing the importance of empowering farmers with knowledge, Action TESA's teams conduct on-field workshops and training sessions. These sessions cover essential topics such as:

- Site preparation and planting techniques.
- Irrigation schedules and pest management.
- Post-harvest care and marketing guidance.

By offering hands-on training tailored to local conditions, the company ensures that farmers maximize yields and profitability.

4. Kalpa-Taru: Revolutionizing Farmer Engagement and Plantation Management

Action TESA is introducing the Kalpa-Taru app to enhance farmer engagement and streamline plantation management. This innovative app is equipped with advanced features such as:

- Geo-Satellite Imaging for tracking plantation growth.
- Geo-Fencing to map farm plot.
- Plant Calculator for precise sapling requirement as per planting type.
- Growth/Wood Calculator to estimate yields.



- Expense Reports to monitor investment on plantation.
- Weather Forecasting to guide farmers on optimal planting and care schedules.

The app ensures seamless communication with Action TESA's technical team, enabling farmers to access real-time solutions and adopt best practices for crop management, ultimately leading to higher yields and profitability.

5. Ensuring Farmer Prosperity with Transparent Buyback Assurance

To provide farmers with financial security, Action TESA offers a buyback assurance at a minimum selling price. However, farmers retain the freedom to sell their produce to other buyers if better prices are available in the market. This transparent approach fosters trust and confidence among farmers.

6. Leveraging Geo-tagging for Enhanced Transparency and Plantation Tracking

Action TESA has implemented a cutting-edge geo-tagging system to enhance transparency in its plantation activities. Through a dedicated app, field teams are required to upload selfies from plantation sites, capturing real-time geographical coordinates and timestamps. This data helps in accurately tracking plantation activities and serves as a valuable reference for future analysis and decision-making.

7. On-Ground Efforts and Dedicated Teams: Essential for Achieving Optimal Results

Awareness Workshops: Farmers are educated on the economic and environmental benefits of eucalyptus and poplar plantations. Special emphasis is placed on comparing the return on investment (ROI) of these plantations with traditional crops.



Technical Training: Farmers receive step-by-step guidance on planting techniques, irrigation, pest management, and soil care, tailored to local conditions. This training ensures that plantations thrive and deliver optimal yields.

Harvest and Post-Harvest Assistance: The company provides support during harvest, emphasizing proper handling and storage to maintain wood quality. Farmers are also guided on market linkages and sale processes.

Transparent Wood Procurement System: The Company has implemented a robust system for direct wood purchases from farmers. To ensure transparency, the purchase price for the material brought to the gate

is disclosed and regularly communicated to farmers. Additionally, farmers can easily access the latest pricing information through the company's toll-free number, fostering trust and enabling informed decision-making



Mill & CPC Visits: To foster transparency and trust, farmers are regularly invited to visit Action TESA's mills and nurseries. These visits offer firsthand insights into sapling production and the manufacturing process, building confidence in the company's commitment to quality and sustainability.



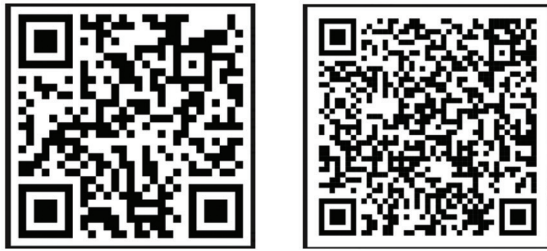
Top Management Involvement: Action TESA's senior leadership actively participates in plantation activities, regularly interacting with farmers during field visits and workshops. The saplings planted in the fields are monitored daily by the top management, reinforcing the importance of these initiatives as a core business priority.



8. Testimonials – The proof of the pudding is in the eating.

Action TESA has transformed the farming experience for countless individuals through its plantation initiatives. Hear directly from few farmers who have successfully adopted our sustainable practices and benefited economically and environmentally.

Scan & Witness the transformation:



But that's not all. Action TESA has reexamined its production process under new sustainability mantra, prioritizing zero harm to the environment and committing to environmental sustainability beyond compliance.



- **Zero Liquid Discharge (ZLD) Plant:** Action TESA is the only company in the SIDCUL Industrial Area, Sitarganj, with a state-of-the-art Zero Liquid Discharge (ZLD) plant. This advanced system ensures that no liquid waste is released outside the facility. Instead, all liquid waste is thoroughly treated, reprocessed, and reused within the production process, exemplifying Action TESA's commitment to resource conservation and sustainable practices.
- **Solar Power Initiatives:** Action TESA has installed a 4 MWp captive solar power plant as part of its renewable energy efforts to power operations sustainably. Additionally, the company is setting up a 5.4 MWp solar plant, expected to be operational by March 2025. These initiatives highlight Action TESA's dedication to clean energy, reduced dependency on fossil fuels, and minimized greenhouse gas emissions.

This Sustainability Initiative Can Boost Farmers' Income without Affecting Earnings from Traditional Crops

- **Boundary Plantations:** Ideal for farmers who wish to utilize the edges of their fields without affecting traditional crops.



- **Block Plantations:** Suitable for farmers with larger landholdings dedicated entirely to tree plantations.



- **Intercropping:** Encourages growing crops like vegetables or grains alongside eucalyptus or poplar to maximize land productivity and income.



Achievements and Recognition

Action TESA's sustainable initiatives have been widely recognized, including multiple awards at India's premier agricultural exhibition, Pantnagar Kisan Mela. These accolades highlight the company's dedication to promoting sustainable forestry and empowering farmers through innovative practices

Vision for the Future

Action Tesa

The Action Group, one of India's largest business conglomerates, was established in the early 1970s under the guidance of Shri N. K. Aggarwal, a respected leader, visionary, and philanthropist. Its journey began with Action Shoes, a footwear brand that quickly gained popularity and became a household name. Driven by a spirit of continuous growth, innovation, and a commitment to excellence, the group has diversified its operations across multiple sectors including footwear, electronics, real estate, chemicals, flex manufacturing, coal mining, and engineered wood panel products.

The Green Vision

With a vision to plant 3 crore trees by 2026, Action TESA is committed to driving sustainable growth while ensuring environmental stewardship. Through advanced technologies, renewable energy adoption, and farmer-centric initiatives, the company aims to redefine the future of sustainable manufacturing in the wood panel industry.

Action TESA's unwavering focus on innovation and sustainability underscores its belief that "Grow More Wood, Use More Wood, Wood is Good" is not just a slogan but a roadmap to a greener, more prosperous future. □

Minutes of the 41st Annual General Meeting of the Federation of Indian Plywood & Panel Industry held on 6th November 2024 at 4:00pm through Virtual Mode

Members Present

1. Shri Sajjan Bhajanka, President, FIPPI and Chairman M/s. Century Plyboards (I) Ltd.
2. Shri Jaydeep Chitlangia, Secretary General-FIPPI and Mentor-M/s. Duroply Industries Ltd.
3. Shri Moiz Vagh, Managing Director, M/s. Hunsur Plywood Works Pvt. Ltd.
4. Shri Rajesh Mittal, Chairman-Cum-Managing Director, M/s. Greenply Industries Ltd.
5. Shri Krupesh Bhai Thakkar, Managing Director, M/s. Rushil Décor Ltd.
6. Shri Jikesh Thakkar, Secretary AIPM, ILMA and Director M/s. Rushil Décor Ltd.
7. Shri Madhusudan Lohia, M/s. Merino Industries Limited
8. Shri M.L. Gattani Managing Director M/s. Gattani Industries
9. Shri Rajiv Daga Managing Director M/s. Archidply Industries Ltd.
10. Shri Yogesh Arora, Greenlam Industries.
11. Shri P.K. Mayan Mohamed, Managing Director, The Western India Plywoods Ltd.
12. Shri Ajit Kumar Jena, Riandgo Veneers Pvt Ltd.
13. Shri Dilip Jacob, Managing Director, M/s. Jacsons Veneers Pvt. Ltd.
14. Shri Prakash More, Managing Director, M/s. Mayur Plywood.
15. Shri Surendra Agarwal, M/S Austin Plywood Industries.
16. Mr. Navneet Gujjar, President, Kandla Timber Association.
17. Shri Naresh Tewari, President, NIPMA.
18. Shri J.K. Bihani, President, Haryana Plywood Manufacturers Association.
19. Shri Subhash Jolly, President, WTA.
20. Shri S.N. Chamaria, Managing Director, M/s. Eximcorp India Pvt. Ltd.
21. Dr. M.P. Singh, Director General, Federation of Indian Plywood & Panel Industry (FIPPI).
22. Dr. C.N. Pandey, Principal Technical Advisor, FIPPI.
23. Shri J. K Jain, Principal Sustainability Advisor, FIPPI and Head, Greenply Raw materials.
24. Shri Vinesh Venugopal.
25. Shri Anthony Fernandes.

Leave of Absence

1. Shri S.P. Mittal, Vice-President, FIPPI & Chairman M/s. Green Panel
2. Shri N.K. Agarwal, Chairman, M/s. Balaji Action Buildwell
3. Dr. Prasnth, President, South Indian Plywood Manufacturers Association

Shri Sajjan Bhajanka, President of Federation of Indian Plywood & Panel Industry (FIPPI), extended a hearty welcome to all the Hon'ble Members of FIPPI. He felt very happy to see the presence of FIPPI member industrialists and other Associations' representatives on one platform. FIPPI should continue as an Apex Body of all the plywood and panel manufacturers in the country. As individual associations we are so segregated that none of us have the required strength and our voice is not heard at the policy & decision makers' levels. It was therefore felt that we all should come together on a single platform unitedly and make our representations to the respective Ministries & various bodies in future. Therefore, we took a decision to re-strengthen FIPPI by co-opting all the plywood and panel industry Associations as affiliated members of FIPPI with waiver of the joining fee and annual fee for them. We should reaffirm continuation of this arrangement of waiver of the joining fee and annual fee for association bodies in the future so that FIPPI continues its existence as an Apex Body of all the plywood and panel manufacturers.

Shri Sajjan Bhajanka expressed his gratitude to the members of FIPPI for reposing faith in his leadership since 2004. One of our very important achievements was getting Excise duty reduced from 16% to 8% in the year 2007. That one decision of the Government changed the entire scenario, as a large part of the unorganized sector became compliant and lot of people came in the duty paying structure and many malpractices diminished. Thereafter, when GST was introduced, our product was put up in 28% category. We therefore again fought and represented to the GST council and got it reduced to 18%. FIPPI is now recognized by Ministry of Commerce & Industry, Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, Ministry of Finance, Ministry of Agriculture, Cooperation and Farmers Welfare, Ministry of Chemicals & Fertilizers, Niti Ayog, Bureau of Indian Standards, FICCI and all Wood Panel Institutions in India as well as International Organization like ITTO, FAO, INBAR, and European Panel Federation & IWPA. We have been strongly taking up issues with the Ministries. The members will be happy to know that during the pre-budget consultation, the Finance Ministry always takes our suggestions and we keep on representing on issues which are in the interest of this sector. We fought vehemently for non-imposition of antidumping duty on phenol and other products and to Shri Sajjan Bhajanka's knowledge, the last initiative by the domestic industry in phenol has been turned down by the Finance Ministry and for the time

being there is no likelihood of anti-dumping duty on phenol from Thailand and South Africa, so this is another achievement.

Shri Sajjan Bhajanka stated that he is happy to inform members that Dr. M.P. Singh, Director, IFS, former Director, Institute of Wood Science & Technology, after retiring from Indian Forest Service in the post of Principal Chief Conservator of Forests in Jharkhand, has agreed to join FIPPI as Director General on a full time basis with effect from 1st October 2024. As the industry is facing challenges on multiple fronts, Dr. M.P. Singh with his vast experience and knowledge on Plywood & Panel Industry can play vital role in heading the Federation. Shri Sajjan Bhajanka also informed members that due to challenges in the implementation of Quality Control Order, Dr. M.P. Singh who is very well versed on the subject, can give vital inputs for the benefits of the industry.

Shri Sajjan Bhajanka stated that we have to raise the budget of FIPPI to make it more functional and accommodate more officials, as earlier Dr. C.N. Pandey's fund was met from M/s. Centuryply account. Therefore, we have to raise membership fee of FIPPI which now will be minimum Rupees One Lakh and will be based on sales turnover as mentioned in the slab circulated to members. Shri Sajjan Bhajanka informed members that now we will include members in policymaking and there will be online meetings where members will be invited and all the members concerns will be taken care of. FIPPI has been functioning since long in the Paper Mill Association. We have also decided to purchase an office in the Vikrant Tower, Rajendra Place, Delhi. We are also proposing some amendments in the Memorandum and Rules and Regulations of the Federation with the objective of making FIPPI more relevant in the changing scenario of the sector in the country. We also have on agenda to finalize the strategic roadmap for FIPPI and to elect a Management Committee of the federation for the tenure of 2 years. He also stated that since 2004 he is continuing as the President of FIPPI and these 20 years the members have not allowed him to leave the Presidentship. He thanked the members for their support and thanked Shri Rajesh Mittal for agreeing to become President of FIPPI.

Shri Bhajanka further requested Dr. M.P Singh DG, FIPPI to take up the deliberation as per agenda items. Introducing the items as per agenda, Dr M.P. Singh DG, FIPPI requested Dr. C.N Pandey, Senior Technical Advisor, FIPPI to apprise the members about the work done by FIPPI since the last Annual General Meeting.

Agenda 1: Work done by FIPPI since the last Annual General Meeting.

- 1.1 The Federation of Indian Plywood & Panel Industry (FIPPI) has been active in advancing India's wood-based industry, focusing on agro and farm forestry, industry standards, and sustainable practices. FIPPI focused on promoting agro/farm forestry to ensure wood availability for industry needs. A Joint Plantation Promotion Committee was established, and a Plantation Monitoring and Advisory Service (PMAS) concept was endorsed to support sustainable wood supply by monitoring plantations, assessing productivity, and reducing supply chain gaps.
- 1.2 FIPPI has requested exemptions from BIS certification

for plywood sheets thinner than 4mm, due to challenges in sourcing quality timber for these products within India. This exemption aims to support Indian manufacturers who face high costs and limited local timber options.

- 1.3 A Standardization Cell was created to represent the wood panel industry on standards for building materials. FIPPI regularly participates in discussions on new standards and quality control initiatives & raised issues about the limited BIS labs and high operational costs, especially for MSMEs. Suggestions included simplifying certification processes and improving lab capabilities to support industry compliance. FIPPI is actively involved in revising standards for various wood and plywood products. These updates aim to enhance product quality and industry alignment with global standards. FIPPI has organized quality awareness workshops, collaborated with BIS on industry issues.
- 1.4 FIPPI participated in discussions on alternatives to PCP, a wood preservative, to mitigate environmental impacts and comply with sustainability goals. FIPPI being a member of the Indian Forest & Wood Certification Council under the TOFI program, aiming to support certification schemes for sustainable wood sourcing.
- 1.5 In pre-budget discussions, FIPPI proposed reduced import duties on timber and increased tariffs on certain finished wood products to support domestic manufacturers. FIPPI also proposed to keep wood products such as Plywood, MDF and particle boards in the exclusion list for India-ASEAN FTA since raw materials for these products are sourced from Agroforestry, not from forests, thereby contributing additionally to climate change mitigation targets for the country.
- 1.6 The quarterly FIPPI Journal also provides industry updates, policy insights, and international wood market reports. These activities underscore FIPPI's commitment to promoting a sustainable and competitive wood-based industry in India.

Agenda 2: To approve and authorize the office bearers to finalize the deal regarding buying of office space for FIPPI:

To expand the activities and to meet the objectives of the federation, it is proposed to take an office space measuring 600-700 square feet in Delhi. Members by consensus approved the concept and authorized Shri Jaydeep Chitalangia and Dr. M. P. Singh DG, FIPPI to finalize the deal in this respect and inform the progress. There was consensus amongst members to contribute as one time promotion charges to FIPPI to organize a seminar on the foundation day of FIPPI, i.e., 4th January 2025 and enable FIPPI to have a permanent address in Delhi.

Agenda 3: Strategic Roadmap for FIPPI

Dr. M. P Singh DG, FIPPI presented a strategic roadmap for FIPPI outlining the Vision and Mission Statements, Short, medium and long term goals along with the strategy to achieve these goals:

Vision Statement:

“Empowering the growth, sustainability, and global competitiveness of Indian Plywood and Panel Industry through collaboration, innovation, stewardship and advocacy.”

Mission Statement:

To make FIPPI a robust organization representing all firms, companies, corporations, associations, and individuals engaged in the ‘Plywood & Panel’ industry in India nationally and internationally, promoting their interests, fostering cooperation among members, and advocating for policies and institutions to support the sector’s growth, quality, competitiveness, sustainability, and stewardship.

Thematic Goals:

1. Enhance Membership Engagement and Improve communication channels - Increase membership by 50%; Host Quarter/ bi-annual meetings and workshops, dedicated website, social media, magazine, etc.
2. Innovations, Product Standardization and implementation: Quality and Standards- Sponsor need based product (HDF/ Block Board) standards project on priority and contribute towards finalization of widely circulated draft on Medium Density Fibre boards and Particle boards etc., Training and capacity-building programs, technology transfer for quality improvement and innovation, Quality control order.
3. Policy Advocacy and Institutional change -Establish relationships with key government (Commerce, Industry, Environment, Forests, Agriculture) stakeholders; Submit policy recommendations on regulations, and sustainability; Organize advocacy events and campaigns; Institutional mechanism of Timber Development Council with DPIIT and State Wood Council with the state governments;
4. Industry and Trade - Support market research and analysis, internal and international taxation (Reduction in GST/Reduction in Custom Duties for wood and increase in wood products, Wood products in Exclusion list under FTA),
5. Sustainability Initiatives - Develop and implement sustainability guidelines for members especially for raw material - Promote sustainable forestry practices -Collaborate with national and international organizations for best practices in sustainable supply chain; Study tours and learning from other countries; Campaign for increasing popularity of green materials; carbon footprint and climate change; Support certification programs or such other innovative schemes;

In keeping with the vision, mission and thematic goals of FIPPI, Dr. Singh DG FIPPI emphasized on having following strategic organizational adaptations:

1. Enhance membership engagement
2. Improved communication and visibility
3. Secretariat to support implementation of roadmap

4. Amendments in Memorandum and Rules & Regulations
5. Enhancing Budgetary Support
6. Cooperative participation of members through 5 Sub Committees under the executive committee for monitoring and adaptive management of the activities under the roadmap
 - i. Coordination, communication and advocacy (organization)
 - ii. Innovation, standardization and implementation (Product)
 - iii. Partnership, sustainability and stewardship (Raw material)
 - iv. International and internal trade and tariffs (Trade)
 - v. Policy advocacy and institutional change (Policy)

After discussion members approved the strategic roadmap of FIPPI to be taken forward by the management committee and present the progress on key performance indicators such as Membership growth, Policy influence, Industry growth rate, Sustainability metrics, Raw material carbon footprint, Waste reduction, Process improvisation, Learnings from abroad, Energy efficiency, Business sustainability reporting, Popularity of eco-friendly products, Supporting nature based solutions, Training and capacity-building metrics, Export growth and Global positioning and Quality certification adoption etc. in the next meeting..

Agenda 4: To make proposed amendment in the Memorandum and Rules and Regulations of the Federation of Indian Plywood & Panel Industry New Delhi

Dr. M.P. Singh DG, FIPPI proposed the following:

- i. To replace ‘Plywood’ with ‘Plywood & Panel’ in the MEMORANDUM OF ASSOCIATION OF FIPPI in Clause III, in sub clause (c), (e), (f), (g), (h) and (i) of Clause IV, to make the federation truly representative of panel industry as well.
- ii. To add ‘It includes developing strategy, institutions and policy in collaboration with the state and central government’ in sub clause (l) of Clause IV of MEMORANDUM OF ASSOCIATION OF FIPPI.
- iii. To add ‘and promoting partnership for sustainability through innovative schemes;’ at the end of sub clause (m) of Clause IV of MEMORANDUM OF ASSOCIATION OF FIPPI.
- iv. To substitute ‘Ordinary’ (members) with ‘Primary’ (members) wherever it appears in RULES & REGULATION OF FIPPI with no change in other associated terms and conditions.
- v. To add in Clause 11 of RULES & REGULATION OF FIPPI that:
 - a) ‘The Primary Members are liable to pay in advance an Annual Subscription calculated as 0.01% of the sales turnover for ‘plywood and panel’ products as defined in clause III of MEMORANDUM OF ASSOCIATION with the minimum of Rs 1 lakh.

- b) Annual subscription prescribed in Clause 11 of RULES & REGULATION OF FIPPI for Associate Members to be revised to Rs 1 lakh instead of Rs 5000.
- c) For Affiliated members, there shall be no Annual Subscription. Accordingly, it proposed to delete 'Each candidate for election as an Affiliated Member shall pay in advance the Annual Subscription of Rs.5,000' in clause 11.
- vi. To substitute 'COMMITTEE' prescribed in RULES & REGULATION OF FIPPI after clause 40 with 'MANAGING COMMITTEE', though it may be referred as Committee for brevity in subsequent clauses.
- vii. To modify the structure of the Office bearers of FIPPI in Clause 43 of RULES & REGULATION OF FIPPI, wherein there will now be one Chief Patron along with three Patrons followed by One President, One Senior Vice President, and two Vice Presidents.
- viii. To have five zones under Clause 45 of RULES & REGULATION OF FIPPI as follows:

Northern Zone: Haryana, Punjab, J&K, H.P, Delhi, U.P, Uttarakhand, M.P

Southern Zone: Karnataka, Kerala, T.N Teleangana, Pondicherry and Andhra Pradesh.

Eastern Zone: Chhattisgarh, Orissa, Jharkhand, Bihar and West Bengal

Western Zone: Rajasthan, Gujrat, Maharashtra,

North East Zone: North Eastern States

- ix. To substitute clause 46 as "Member of the federation shall be permitted to have more than one individual as representative of such member depending upon the expense of the entity to reflect its holistic representation.
- x. To substitute 'Executive Director' with 'Director General' in the heading of Clause 52 and replace 'Secretary' with 'Secretary/Secretary General/Director General' in Clauses 48, 52 and 63 of RULES & REGULATION OF FIPPI.

Members after discussion approved the amendments with consensus and suggested to inform the Registrar of Societies accordingly. Shri Jaydeep Chitlangia, General Secretary, FIPPI informed members that we have circulated the changes in the Memorandum and Rules and Regulation of FIPPI and members can comment and if they need any further changes, they can accordingly inform the Secretariat which can examine the same.

Agenda 5: Election of Management Committee of the Federation for a tenure of 2 years

Members by consensus approved the names for the management committee as given below.

The New Constituted Managing Committee for the year 2023-24 and 2024-25 is as follows:			
CHIEF PATRON	ADDRESS	OCCUPATION	DESIGNATION
Shri Sajjan Bhajanka	M/s. Century Plyboards (India) Ltd. P-15/1, Taratala Road, Kolkata-700088, West Bengal Tel.No.033-39403950 E-mail: sajjan@centuryply.com M:+91 9830020736	Business	Chairman-Cum- Managing Director
PATRON			
Shri S.P. Mittal	M/s. Greenpanel Industries Ltd. Thapar House, 2nd Floor, 163, S.P. Mukherjee Road, Kolkata-700026, West Bengal Tel.No.033-30515010 E-mail: spm@greenpanel.com M+919748401100	Business	Chairman-Cum- Managing Director
Shri M.S. Vagh	M/s. Hunsur Plywood Works Pvt. Ltd. P.B. No.2, Hunsur-571105, Karnataka Tel.No.08222-252025 E-mail:hunsurply@dataone.in M+919845119024	Business	Managing Director
Shri Nand Kishor Aggarwal	M/s. Balaji Action Buildwell Pvt.Ltd. G-11, Udyog Nagar, Main Rohthak Road, New Delhi-110041 Tel.No.011-41120000 E-mail:nk@actiontesa.com M:+91980034695	Business	Chairman
PRESIDENT			
Shri Rajesh Mittal	M/s. Greenply Industries Ltd., Madgul Lounge, 5th & 6th Floor, 23 Chetla Central Road, Kolkata- 700027, West Bengal Tel.No.033-30515000/8233 E-mail: rajeshmittal@greenply.com M:+919830061263	Business	Managing Director

SENIOR VICE PRESIDENT			
Shri Jaydeep Chitlangia	M/s. Duroply Industries Ltd., 113 Park Street, North Block, Kolkata-700016, West Bengal Tel.No.(033)22652274, M:+919830030159 E-mail: jaydeep@duroply.com	Business	Mentor
VICE PRESIDENTS			
Shri Jikesh Thakkar	Association of Indian Panel Board Manufacturers E-mail:jikeshthakkar@gmail.com M:+91-9925147404	Business	Executive Director
Shri Keshav Bhajanka	M/s. Century Plyboard (I) Ltd., P-15/1, Taratala Road, Kolkata-700088, West Bengal Tel.No.033-39403950, M: +91-9830324157 E-mail: keshav@centuryply.com	Business	Executive Director
DIRECTOR GENERAL			
Dr. M.P. Singh	Federation of Indian Plywood & Panel Industry	Professional	Director General
COMMITTEE MEMBERS (NORTH EAST ZONE)			
Shri M.L. Gattani	M/s. Gattani Industries Mariani Road, Chinmaram, Jorhat-785001, Assam E-mail: info@gattaniplywood.com M: +91-9435050037	Business	Managing Director
Shri Ajit Kumar Jana	M/s. Riandgo Veneers Pvt. Ltd., Panchajanya Bhawan, Boerthakur Mill Road, Guwahati – 781 007, Assam E-mail: anjana1955@gmail.com M:+919435732263	Business	Managing Director
COMMITTEE MEMBERS (EAST ZONE)			
Shri P K More	M/s. Mayur Veneer & Ply Industries 46C, Rafi Ahmed Kidwai Road, 5th Floor, Kolkata-700016, West Bengal Tel.No.91-33-22262395/96, M:+919830059739 E-mail: pmore@mayurply.com	Business	Managing Director
Shri Surendra Agarwal	M/s. Austin Plywood Industries Reet Regency, 12 Peary Mohan Roy Road, Near Chetla Agrani Club, Kolkata-700 027, West Bengal E-mail: sales@austinplywood.com M:+91-8100336666	Business	Chief Managing Director
COMMITTEE MEMBER (WEST ZONE)			
Shri Madhusudan Lohia	M/s. Merino Industries Ltd., 70, KLJ Complex-1, Shivaji Marg, Najafgarh Road, West Delhi-110015 E-mail: msl@merinoindia.com M:+919897822288	Business	Director
Shri Krupesh Thakkar	M/s. Rushil Décor Pvt. Ltd., #22 1st Floor, 5th Main, Chikkalasandra, Uttarhali Main Road, Bengaluri-560 061, Karnataka M:+91.9825600536	Business	Managing Director
Shri Arjun Jolly	M/s. Jollyboard Limited 501, Rewa Chambers, 31 Sir V. Thackersey Marg, Mumbai-400 020, Maharashtra Tel.No.(022) 22078531, M:+91 9820088076 E-mail:arjun@jollyboard.com	Business	Joint Managing Director
Shri Rakesh Agarwal	M/s. Amul Boards Pvt. Ltd., “Goyal Avenue” Plot No.318, Ward 12-B, Opp. Old LIC Block, Gandhidham-370 201 (Kutch) Tel.No.(02863) 226235, 2238649 E-mail: rakeshagarwal.1881@gmail.com M:+919825225655	Business	Managing Director

COMMITTEE MEMBER (NORTH ZONE)			
Shri Vivek Jain	M/s. Balaji Action Buildwell Pvt. Ltd. G-11 Udyog Nagar, Main Rohtak Road New Delhi-110 041 M:+91 9810099273 E-mail: vj@actiontesa.com	Business	Managing Director
Shri Rajiv Daga	M/s. Archidply Industreis Ltd. 2/9, 1st Floor, W.H.S. Kirti Nagar New Delhi-110 015 M: +91-9711070340 E-mail: rajivdaga@archidply.com	Business	Managing Director
Shri Prem Bhajanka	M/s. Century Plyboard (I) Ltd., P-15/1, Taratala Road, Kolkata-700 088 Tel.No.033-39403950, M+91 9818100006 E-mail: pkd@plymail.com	Business	Managing Director
Shri Mahesh Gupta	M/s. Magnus Plywood Suncity Colony Khanna Amloh Road Khanna-141 401 Ludhiana Punjab M:+91-8054777930 E-mail: magnusinternational@yahoo.com	Business	Managing Director
COMMITTEE MEMBER (SOUTH ZONE)			
Shri Saurabh Mittal	M/s. Greenlam Industries Ltd 66 Anandlok, August Kranti Marg, New Delhi-110049 M:+919810352605 E-mail: saurabh@greenlam.com	Business	Managing Director
Shri P.K. Mayan Mohamed	M/s. The Western India Plywoods Ltd. Baliapatam, Cannanore-670 010 Tel.No.+91-0497-2778151, M:+919895131690 Fax:91-0497-2778181 E-mail: westernply@gmail.com	Business	Managing Director
Shri Vishnu Khemani	M/s. Century Plyboard (I) Ltd., P-15/1, Taratala Road, Kolkata-700 088 M:+919840049301 E-mail: vk@sharonply.com	Business	Managing Director
Mr. Dilip Jacob	M/s. Jacsons Veneer & Panels Pvt. Ltd., Vadacode, P O., Kangarappady, Cochin – 682 021, Kerala Tel.No.0484 2410319/ 2410761, M:+919349259365 www.jacsonsveneers.com	Business	Managing Director
AFFILIATED REGIONAL ASSOCIATIONS			
Dr. Prasanth and Mr. S. Asgar Ali	The South India Plywood Mfrs Assn. C/o. M/s. Veneer Mills, No.1 & 2 5th Mainz Yadavigiri Industrial Area, Mysore-570 020 M:8214001777 E-mail: sipmaindia@gmail.com drprasanthma@appleplywodds.com	Business	Office Bearer
Mr. Naresh Tewari	Northern India Plywood Mfrs Association Punjab M:+91 9878045566 E-mail: naresh tewari2011@gmail.com	Business	President
Mr. Vikash Agrawal	Indian Laminate Manufacturers Association Nr. Vastrapur Lake, Opp. Sanjivani Hospital Vastrapur, Ahmedabad Gujarat-380015 M: +91-79-40053443, 9825073212 E-mail: ilma@live.in	Business	Office Bearer
Mr. Navnit R. Gajjar	Kandla Timber Association “Timber Bhavan”, Plot No. – 47, Sector-8, Gandhidham (Kutch), 370 201, Gujarat, India Tel. No.02836-230676,232613, M:+91-9825225103 E-mail:kata.gdm@gmail.com	Business	President

Mr. S.C. Jolly	Wood Technologists Association Green Park-102, Phase-I, Yamuna Nagar, Haryana E-mail: woodtech_india@rediffmail.com M: +91-7895887383	Business	President
Mr. J.K. Bihani	Association Haryana Plywood Mfrs. Association E-mail:jkbihani125@gmail.com M:9896335621	Business	President
SPECIAL INVITEES			
Dr. C.N. Pandey	Federation of Indian Plywood & Panel Industry New Delhi E-mail: cn.pandey@centuryply.com M:9836313900	Professional	Senior Technical Advisor
Shri J.K. Jain	Federation of Indian Plywood & Panel Industry M: 9560077511 E-mail: jinendra.jain@greenply.com	Professional	Senior Sustainability Advisor
Shri Rajeshwar Nair	M/s. Balaji Action Buildwell E-mail: rnair@actiontesa.com M:7303394606	Professional	Vice President Projects
Shri Purosottam Sharma	M/s. Green Panel Industries Ltd., M:6351776651 E-mail: purosottam.sharma@greenpanel.com	Professional	Research & Development Head

Agenda 6: To Pass the Audited Accounts for the year 2023-24

Shri Jaydeep Chitalangia informed that Statement of Income & Expenditure Accounts for the year 2023-24 has already been circulated to all members. As proposed by Shri Sajjan Bhajanka President and Seconded by Shri Moiz Vagh FIPPI the accounts for the years 2023-24 were approved, passed and recorded.

Agenda 7: To appoint Auditors AVK Association for the year 2024-25 and 2025-26

M/s. A.V. K Associates Chartered Accountant appointed as Auditors may be appointed for the years 2024-25 and 2025-26 and fixed their Remuneration as follows

“Resolved that AVK & Association Chartered Accountant, new Delhi be and hereby reappointed auditors to the Federation for the year 2023-24 and 2024-25 Rs. 41890/- which includes Audit fee and filing of GST Returns, TDS and filing of Income Tax Returns.

After going through the agenda items, Shri Bhajanka invited members to share any other inputs or comments.

Shri Navneet Gujjar President of Kandla Timber Association expressed his happiness in attending the FIPPI AGM and was happy to know that Dr. M.P. Singh is joining the Federation and thanked Shri Sajjan Bhajanka to bringing Dr. M.P. Singh in the Federation. He further informed that Kandla Timber Association is having around 150 members and he would bring Senior members as the representative of FIPPI.

Shri Prakash More suggested that we should make a WhatsApp group for FIPPI.

Shri S.N. Chamaria thanked for the invitation but stated that it is prerogative of the new President to constitute a new team and declined his continuation in the FIPPI committee. Shri Sajjan Bhajanka appreciated Shri Chamaria Ji for his contribution to FIPPI since last many years and wished continuation of his contribution and inputs on the policy matters. Shri Sajjan Bhajanka thanked Shri Chamaria Ji for his contributions in his entire tenure and said that it was because of Shri Chamaria Ji’s effort that in spite of so much of pressure he was able to fight and

did not allow anti-dumping duty on melamine and phenol which was a great achievement to FIPPI and respected his sentiments of not continuing in the FIPPI committee.

Shri Jaydeep Chitalangia appreciated Mr. Moiz Vagh for his active participation, and for being the senior most member in the FIPPI Managing Committee. Hunsur Plywood produces Quality product and always strives to give his best. Shri Jaydeep Chitalangia stated we all should learn from him and requested him to give his concluding remarks on today’s FIPPI meeting.

Shri Moiz Bhai thanked everyone for the appreciation shown to him and stated that there is nothing extraordinary about him and he would love to work with all the members who are doing a wonderful job, and we should keep it up and FIPPI is very important to all of us. Right now, what is happening is good but as rightly pointed out in the road map we have to definitely do much more. He was sure we can definitely do it. One more important thing that he wanted to stress is that we are all talking about Plywood Industry and we want all to make quality products but we all are having great difficulty in procuring the right kind of raw-material and this is one area where we have to work very hard. He appreciated the good meeting that was conducted and he was especially thankful to Shri Sajjan Bhajanka Ji who has been heading the Organization for 20 years and has done wonderfully well. He thanked Mr. Bhajanka ji for what he has done for the Association on behalf of all the members. He also appreciated the contribution of Shri Jaydeep Chitalangia who has contributed a lot to the Industry and hope and pray that all of us take a cue from him and also become active like him. He welcomed Dr. M.P. Singh, and appreciated him and Dr. Pandey for doing a good job. He thanked members for giving him this opportunity to address and talk to the Hon’ble members, and looked forward to working with all the members.

Shri Jikesh Thakkar expressed his happiness with the initiative taken by FIPPI in expanding the organization. As it is not easy to take all the members together and progress, which he has experienced in running his organization ILMA. He wished success to FIPPI so that it grows and the size of members also expand.

Shri Rajesh Mittal thanked everyone for giving him the confidence and especially Shri Sajjan Bhajanka for proposing his name to become President of FIPPI. Shri Sajjan Bhajanka’s guidance will always be required in running the Federation and FIPPI needed his active support as done in the last 20 years. We would continue with the direction that he had given to FIPPI. Moving forward, with a larger role in representing with the

Government, we will work on some new thoughts which we can introduce in the industry for the benefit of the FIPPI. We have to be aware as to what development is taking place internationally, promote education trips, organize seminars, work with the government for the benefit of the Industry and lastly he believed that he will get support, advice and guidance from all the senior members. □

Supplied to Farmers by Century Plyboards (India) Limited

STATEMENT - 1									
Plantation details ---									
		Till 2023-24		During 24-25 till sept 24		Cumulative till month			
Name of the industry	Species	Number of seedlings supplied	Area planted in Acre	Number of seedlings supplied	Area planted in Acre	Number of seedlings supplied	Area planted in Acre	Expected. yield /MT acre	Remark if any
Century Plyboards (India) Ltd.	Eucalyptus	10812016	16993.34	5405338	7768.03	16217354	24761.37		
	Kadam	626291	1450	96757	224	723048	1674		
	Melia Dubia	105192	244	20818	48	126010	292		
	4								
	5								
Total (1 to 5)									

Supplied to Farmers by Merino Industries Limited in Gujarat

STATEMENT - 1									
Plantation details of Merino Industries Ltd, Halol , Gujarat									
		Till 2023-24		During 24-25 till sept 24		Cumulative till month			
Name of the industry	Species	Number of seedlings supplied	Area planted in Acre	Number of seedlings supplied	Area planted in Acre	Number of seedlings supplied	Area planted in Acre	Expected. yield /MT acre	Remark if any
Merino Industries Ltd- Halol, Gujarat	Eucalyptus clonal species	59,23,200	7,059	6156800	5534	1,20,80,000	12,593	~ 40 GMT per acre with a rotation of 3 years	Seedlings supplied for framers’ field within 30-40 KM of radial distance of MIL Halol Factory
Total (1 to 5)									

Supplied to Farmers by Balaji Action Buildwell Pvt. Ltd., (Action Tesa) for Plantations

STATEMENT - 1									
Plantation details of Merino Industries Ltd, Halol , Gujarat									
		Till 2023-24		During 24-25 till sept 24		Cumulative till month			
Name of the industry	Species	Number of seedlings supplied	Area planted in Acre	Number of seedlings supplied	Area planted in Acre	Number of seedlings supplied	Area planted in Acre	Expected. yield /MT acre	Remark if any
Balaji Action Buildwell Pvt Ltd. (Action TESA)	Eucalyptus	7184188	7184.188	4267301	4267.301	11451489	11451.489	100 MT/Acre	this yield get in after 4 years.
	Poplar	50000	125			50000	125	150 MT/Acre	this yield get in after 6 years.
Total (1 to 5)		7234188	7309	4267301	4267	11501489	11576		

“Area covered for Plantation in Uttarpradesh- Aligarh, Amroha, Ayodhya, Badoth, Bahraich, Baliya, Barabanki, Bareilly, Bhadayun, Bulandshahar, Etah, Farrukhabad, Hapur, Hardoi, Itawah, Kasganj, Lakhimpur Kheri, Lucknow, Mainpuri, Meerut, Mirzapur, Moradabad, Muzaffarnagar, Pilibhit, Rampur, Saharanpur, and Sitapur. Similarly, in Uttarakhand, plantations have been carried out in districts including Almora, Bazpur, Champawat, Haridwar, Nainital, Palia, Ramnagar, Sahajhanpur, Samal, and U S Nagar”.

Minutes of the Managing Committee Meeting of Federation of Indian Plywood & Panel Industry (FIPPI) held on 22nd November 2024 under the Chairmanship of Shri Rajesh Mittal President of FIPPI

Members Present

1. Shri Sajjan Bhajanka Chief Patron FIPPI and Chairman M/s. Century Plyboard (I) Ltd.,
2. Shri M.S. Vagh Patron FIPPI and Managing Director M/s. Hunsur Plywood Works Pvt. Ltd.,
3. Shri N.K. Agarwal Patron FIPPI and Chairman M/s. Balaji Action Buildwell Pvt. Ltd.,
4. Shri Rajesh Mittal President FIPPI & Chairman-Cum-Managing Director M/s. Greenply Industries Ltd.,
5. Shri Jaydeep Chitlangia Senior Vice President FIPPI and Mentor M/s. Duroply Industries Ltd.,
6. Shir Jikesh Thakkar Vice President FIPPI and Managing Director M/s. Rushil Décor Limited
7. Shri Rajiv Daga Managing Director M/s. Rushil Décor Limited
8. Shri Abhishek Chitlangia President Manufacturing M/s. Duroply Industries Ltd.,
9. Shri J.K. Jana National Head of Plantation and Special Projects M/s. Greenply Industries Ltd.,
10. Shri Ajay Kumar Advisor (Economics, Strategy & Sustainability) M/s. Merino Industries Ltd.,
11. Shri P.K. More Managing Director M/s. Mayur Panel Pvt. Ltd.,
12. Shri Siraj Asgar Ali South India Plywood Manufacturers Association
13. Dr. M.P. Singh Director General FIPPI
14. Shri Anthony Fernandes Office Secretary FIPPI

Leave of Absence

1. Shri S.P. Mittal Patron FIPPI & Chairman M/s. Greenpanel Industries Ltd.
2. Shri M.L. Gattani Managing Director M/s. Gattani Industries
3. Shri Keshav Bhajanka Vice President FIPPI & Executive Director Century Plyboard (I) Ltd.,
4. Shri Amit Kumar Jana Managing Director M/s. Riangdo Veneers Pvt. Ltd.,
5. Shri Surendra Agarwal Chief Managing Director M/s. Austin Plywood Industries
6. Shri Rakesh Agarwal Managing Director M/s. Amul Boards Pvt. Ltd.,

Shri Rajesh Mittal President FIPPI welcomed all the members to the Managing Committee Meeting and especially Shri Sajjan Bhajanka Past President and Chief patron and requested him to give his opening remark.

Shri Sajjan Bhajanka welcomed all the members and congratulated Shri Rajesh Mittal for the First Managing Committee Meeting under his president ship and wished and hoped that under his leadership the Federation will achieve greater heights. With new arrangement of budgetary resources and support team under the guidance of Dr. M.P. Singh Director General, FIPPI will gain more strength and deliver on all fronts as per expectations of the members.

Before going into the agenda, Shri Bhajanka proposed members to discuss and approve the minutes of 41st Annual General Meeting held on 6th November with changes, modifications, alterations or suggestions if any on the draft minutes circulated by Dr. M. P. Singh, DG, FIPPI. Members unanimously endorsed the minutes of 41st Annual General Meeting held on 6th November 2024.

Dr. M.P. Singh Director General of FIPPI took up the Agenda items.

Agenda 1: Expediting the purchase of office space and related issues - Authorisation of official to execute the sale agreement, deed, etc.

Shri Jaydeep Chitlangia Senior Vice President informed the Managing Committee that a sale deed is to be executed with the owners for office space in Vikrant Tower, 4, Rajendra place, New Delhi 110008. In the meantime an interior architect engaged to do the finishing work to set up the Office has given an estimate of Rupees 10 Lakhs. Shri Sajjan Bhajanka proposed to authorise Shri Jaydeep Chitlangia and Dr. M.P. Singh to take all decisions for the execution of the Office premises and its renovation. The Managing Committee unanimously authorised and the following Resolution was passed:

“Resolved that the Managing Committee of the Federation of Indian Plywood & Panel Industry (FIPPI), unanimously hereby authorise Shri Jaydeep Chitlangia elected as Senior Vice President, FIPPI or Dr. Madan Prasad. Singh appointed as Director General FIPPI to execute the sale agreement, deed, etc, with the owners regarding the property bearing flat No.5A and 5B situated on 10th Floor in Vikrant Tower, 4, Rajendra Place New Delhi-110008 on behalf of Federation of Indian Plywood & panel Industry”.

Agenda 2: Implementing Road Map

Dr MP Singh DG, FIPPI requested support and guidance of members for implementing the roadmap.

- 2.1 Referring to thematic area 1: Organizational matters; DG, FIPPI sought clarification from the Managing Committee on the application of new annual subscription fee for the members. Shri Sajjan Bhajanka, Chief Patron clarified that new subscription structure shall be applicable for next financial year for the

members based on the turnover of preceding year. To clarify further, he mentioned that for the subscription fee for 2025-26, turnover for 2023-24 shall be the basis for calculation of the amount.

- 2.1.1 It was further pointed out by DG, FIPPI that few committee members do not continue to be primary members as per record on account of non-payment of the subscription fee. After discussion it was decided to observe a grace period till 31st December for such members nominated as committee members to become primary member of FIPPI on payment of existing subscription fee.
- 2.1.2 Dr M.P. Singh proposed to increase representation of regional manufacturing associations as affiliated members. Shri Rajesh Mittal President and all others approved the plan.
- 2.1.3 Shri Jaydeep Chitlangia Senior Vice President proposed that the committee should be represented by young generation also as Alternate members along with Principal members, which will facilitate in giving new ideas and development of new leadership. His proposal was seconded, and all members accordingly approved inclusion of Mr Ajay Agrawal from Action Tesa, Mr. Rushil Thakkar from Rushil Décor and Mr. Abhishek Chitlangia from Duroply in the committee. Further members authorised the President to include such members in the committee especially for the younger leadership.
- 2.1.4 It was also decided that provision should be made for more than one member for all primary members depending upon the expanse of the entity to reflect its holistic representation with suitable amendment in clause 46 of Rules and Regulations of FIPPI.
- 2.2 Under thematic area 2: Innovation, Product Standardization and Implementation, Shri Rajesh Mittal President advised to have two technical sub committees, one for plywood led by Shri Abhishek Chitlangia; and other for panels to be guided by Shri Jikesh Thakkar to discuss the issues related to product standardization and implementation of certification.
 - 2.2.1 Shri Moiz Vagh showed his concern towards QCO implementation which is very challenging and the major worry is with regard to availability of Laboratory and drawing of sampling. Dr. M.P. Singh informed the members that a delegation should be formed to meet with DG, BIS where the representation should not be only for technical persons but industry promoters should also join the delegation. Shri Sajjan Bhajanka proposed that SIPMA representative and Mr Naresh Tewari from NIPMA can be part of the delegation. Shri Rajiv Daga is based in Delhi and can be a part of the delegation for the meeting to

which Mr. Rajiv Daga agreed. Dr C.N. Pandey shall compile the issues to be taken up with DG, BIS on 29th November. These concerns of industries should be taken up with BIS on regular basis. Shri Jaydeep Chitlangia said that when we raise issues then we should also give possible solutions towards the issues and just raising the issue without providing any solution will not work.

- 2.3 Under thematic area 3: Trade Issues, there are two areas namely changes in custom duties and GST, which need to be taken up with concerned ministries. Dr M.P. Singh informed members that we have proposed in the budget also to reduce the import duty on wood chips and logs to 0% and are hopeful that the same may be done. Shri Sajjan Bhajanka informed that he had received a call from the ministry to reduce import duty on chips and logs but then the duty on veneer has to be increased which was not acceptable as these days many countries have stopped supplying logs and are supplying veneers. Shri Rajesh Mittal was of the opinion we could request for reducing duty on veneer and logs both.
 - 2.3.1 About GST, Shri Jaydeep Chitlangia informed that Ernst and young has a proposal and we can discuss that on 29-11-2024 and if Shri Sajjan Bhajanka is not in a position to attend we can share the proposal with him. Dr M.P. Singh requested for suitable experts from the industries to be nominated to the sub-committee on trade related issues as technical support and guidance.
- 2.4 Under thematic area 4: Sustainability of raw materials, Shri Sajjan Bhajanka informed about his discussion with Mr. B. Samath and Najib Hussain from ITC and shared with their understanding that supply gap is not more than 10% and this can be resolved if we pay little higher price to meet the gap by way of import. Shri Sajjan Bhajanka agreed with Shri N.K. Agarwal that the raw material costs towards import in North and South India is mismatched and there is an added advantage in Southern India in manufacturing of the finished product from imported wood. Shri J.K. Jain Principal Sustainability Adviser opined that since Northern India is landlocked geographically it is not feasible to import. He however, expressed optimism that whenever the supply of raw material is more than the consumption the price is bound to fall. Shri Jaydeep Chitlangia and Shri Jikesh Thakkar informed that a sub-committee was formed with IPMA and we had discussion with them in the meeting and have shared the data which if members wanted we can share with them.
 - 2.4.1 Shri Ajay Kumar from M/s. Merino Industries Limited informed that M/s. Merino Industries Limited is in a big way taking up plantation activities in meeting the Raw material. Shri Rajesh Mittal, President FIPPI desired that all members together can present their efforts to augment raw materials in their catchment area. Dr M.P. Singh felt that a Sub-Committee can be

formed to see the raw-material aspect and we can work on it holistically.

2.5 Under thematic area 5: Policy and Institutional Change, Shri Sajjan Bhajanka Chief Patron informed that a request letter with a draft for Timber Products Council was handed over to Hon. Minister during his Kolkata visit, which needs to be pursued again.

2.5.1 He informed that FIPPI also presented a comprehensive roadmap to MoEFCC on how plywood and panel products manufacturing can be supported in India. This presentation was circulated to forest departments of all states and UTs. This presentation can be updated and pursued at different levels once again.

2.5.2 Latest issue (April-June 2024) of Wood is Good magazine also talks about need of having comprehensive timber policy for the country. Sub-committee on this thematic area should work on all these aspects in future.

Shri Rajesh Mittal suggested that as far as possible Strength, Weakness, Opportunity and Threats for each thematic area should be elucidated.

Agenda 3: Organising Seminar for celebrating the foundation day on 4th January 2025

Dr M.P. Singh Director General FIPPI informed that for organizing the Seminar we have to make a committee as we need experienced people and expertise in the various fields; and as time is very less in hand whereas we have to compile a lot of information, so we may need more time in organizing the Seminar. Shri Sajjan Bhajanka the Chief Patron guided that when there is a clear vision on how to go about it, we can finalize the date of the seminar and organize it accordingly.

Agenda 4: Contributions and Template for the souvenir

Dr MP Singh DG, FIPPI informed that FIPPI has received contributions from following members:

1.	Shri Sajjan Bhajanka M/s. Century Plyboards (I) Ltd.,	4000000
2.	Shri Rajesh Mittal M/s. Greenply Industries Ltd.,	3000000
3.	Shri Jaydeep Chitlangia M/s. Duroply Industries Ltd.,	1000000
6.	Shri Rajiv Daga M/s. Archidply Industries Ltd.,	1000000
4.	Shri N.K. Aggarwal M/s. Balaji Action Buildwell Pvt. Ltd.,	2500000
5.	Shri M.L. Gattani M/s. Gattani Industries	500000
6.	Shri Saurabh Mittal M/s. Greenlam Industries Limited	500000
7.	Shri Ajit Kumar Jana M/s. Riango Veneers Pvt. Ltd.,	500000
9.	Shri S.P. Mittal M/s. Greenpanel Industries Ltd.,	1500000
10.	Shri Madhusudan Lohia M/s. Merino Industries Ltd	1000000

Contributions from other members are expected soon. We shall be writing to these industries to share their insights and write-ups with good quality photographs for the souvenir. We shall have journey of Plywood and panel sector and FIPPI in all five thematic areas namely organization, product, raw material sustainability, trade and policy. Dr Singh informed that Dr CN Pandey and Dr SK Nath have been requested to write on organization and product development. Shri Sajjan Bhajanka suggested to engage external experts or agencies also to have better quality publications. It should be published as coffee table book for better appreciation. The contribution of IPIRTI should also be reflected as FIPPI worked together with IPIRTI in the past.

It was also suggested to provide complimentary pages to IWST (IPIRTI), BIS, like organisations, and same was accepted in unanimity.

Dr MP Singh proposed that Content Sections may be organized as

Section 1. Messages: FIPPI’s leaders;

Section 2. Industry Insights

2.1 Organization including Events, Coverage of FIPPI conferences, seminars, and workshops

2.2 Product Developments: Research, product launches, and technological advancements

2.3 Trade and market development and issues

2.4 Sustainability: Eco-friendly practices and innovations

2.5 Policy and Regulatory Updates: News on policies, laws, and standards;

Section 3. Member Spotlight: Profile of a member company or individual;

Agenda 5: Purchase/ hiring/leasing of vehicle

Shri Rajesh Mittal President proposed that office bearers will take decision on this on 29th November. Shri Sajjan Bhajanka and all other members authorised to take a decision on this when the office bearers will be meeting on 29th November in Delhi.

General: Shri Bhajanka Chief Patron requested other members to make their comments or observations on any other issues. Shri Rajiv Daga thanked everybody for giving him the opportunity and said that it is a learning experience and he is gaining knowledge from the stalwarts of the Industry. Shri Abhishek Chitlangia thanked everybody and said that he was looking forward to working on the proposal of E&Y and other issues. Shri Jikesh Thakkar Vice President, FIPPI thanked all present in the meeting in virtual mode for their active participation. He is looking forward to such meeting in physical mode very soon, to which all members responded positively. Shri Rajesh Mittal President FIPPI requested Shri Jaydeep Chitlangia Senior Vice President for his closing remarks. In his closing remarks Shri Jaydeep Chitlangia thanked all the members for giving their valuable time and attending the meeting and it was good to see many young members coming and attending the meeting. He said that his memory goes back to 25-30 years when CPWD had banned wood and wood products in building construction and FIPPI represented very strongly on the issue and was able to convince them and the ban was removed for wood products. □

A delegation of Federation of Indian Plywood & Panel Industry (FIPPI) led by Dr. M.P. Singh Director General FIPPI met Mr. Pramod Kumar Tiwari Director General Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS) and submitted the following representation on behalf of FIPPI



FIPPI/16/3-DG-2024-25

December 26, 2024

To
Director General
Bureau of Indian Standards
9 Bahadur Shah Zafar Marg
Manak Bhawan, New Delhi-110002

Subject: Addressing Concerns Raised by MSMEs in Obtaining new / maintaining BIS Licenses for the Manufacture of Plywood and Panel Products.

Dear Sir,

At the outset, we would like to express our gratitude for the proactive measures undertaken by the Bureau of Indian Standards in revising standards to align with the international standards. Currently, 18 standards pertaining to Wood-Based Boards, Plywood, Wooden Flush Door Shutters, and Resin-Treated Compressed Wood Laminates have been included under the Quality Control Orders (QCOs) of 2024.

While these initiatives are commendable, the industry is encountering certain challenges due to complex licensing policy. We request your kind attention to the issues outlined below for your kind perusal:

Issues/Problems	Suggestions with justification
<p>1. BIS licensing scenario:</p> <p>There are close to 3500 units in this sector and currently, only about 25% of the total industries hold BIS licenses. Response from new industrial units to obtain BIS licenses has been poor, with only 30-35 new industries approaching BIS so far.</p>	<p>The number of industries in MSEs sector required being in readiness to obtain BIS licenses are large, and there is necessity to have targeted interventions to bring them under the ambit of BIS.</p> <p>Addressing their concerns will enhance compliance among SMEs and promote smoother operations in the sector.</p> <p>Operational Costs to get BIS Licenses & maintaining licenses are very high for MSMEs, and the same needs to be looked into, as an incentive for manufacturers to get themselves registered.</p>
<p>2. Insufficient Number of Laboratories:</p> <p>To serve approximately 3300 small, medium, and large manufacturers there are only 24, including BIS Labs in the country which is highly inadequate. As a result the wait time to get test reports for plywood samples is nearly 40-60 days.</p>	<p>It is suggested to establish more testing labs in different plywood manufacture clusters. This would encourage broader participation in quality compliance while helping MSMEs maintain competitive pricing with a quick turnaround time. As for MICRO and Small scale manufacturers it is almost impossible to set up labs in their units due to its economics. Establishing additional testing laboratories within major plywood manufacturing clusters across the country would reduce logistical costs and make testing more affordable.</p> <p>Additionally, with increasing environmental and health concerns, many users now require, Low or Zero Formaldehyde Emission levels, and most laboratories are not equipped for the same. There is only one lab at IWST, Bangalore. BIS may collaborate with local engineering colleges for adding more labs in its list.</p>
<p>3. Drawl of sample from Market:</p> <p>Sample drawn from market are often from un- authenticated sources and mechanism of check on duplicacy is needed.</p>	<p>At the time of picking of market sample, BIS officials must verify it from the purchase bill available with dealer. Many dealers are stamping the material in their own house, after purchasing the plain material.</p> <p>Intimation of picking of market samples must be given to License holder by way of SMS / email immediately to enable the license holder to take up the matter with BIS officials in case duplicate sample is picked.</p> <p>Samples drawn from the market, may be sent for testing to the BIS office in the branch or zone where the factory is located (for convenience of re-verification).</p> <p>Engraving of CML number or QR code on each product may be made mandatory to avoid duplicate marking.</p>
<p>4. Retrospective Application of License Cancellation Policy:</p> <p>If more than 50% of sampled products fail over the last two years, the license for that product is subject to cancellation. While these provisions became effective on 10th April 2023, the cancellation clause has been applied retroactively from 10th April 2021, preceding the circular's notification date.</p>	<p>Retrospective application of punitive measures contravenes the natural justice principle that punishments should not be applied retroactively. However, licenses at both regional and zonal levels have been cancelled based on sampling failures over the past two years preceding the circular's notification date.</p> <p>The provision of the above referred guidelines cannot be applied particularly in those cases where the license holders have followed proper procedure in the past 2 years:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> (a) To take corrective measures & inform the BIS Office (b) Special Visit fees is paid to BIS (c) Inspection of corrective measures is carried out and found complying (d) The marking have already been resumed after permission from the BIS Office. <p>Due to the anomaly caused by this retrospective application, we respectfully request that the effective date of the license cancellation provision be reviewed.</p>

Issues/Problems	Suggestions with justification
<p>5. Sampling and Surveillance requirements:</p> <p>As per the BIS circular no. CMD-1/2 dated 10th April 2023 the above products sampling requirements mandates drawing of 2 samples from the factory and 4 samples from the market annually for each licenses means if a plywood factory have 4-5 licenses or more around 24 to 30 samples in a year will be drawn, posing significant operational challenges for the industries besides adding a big financial burden for MSMEs in maintaining BIS Licenses.</p> <p>Since products like plywood, doors, and block boards are scheduled to come under the Quality Control Order (QCO) from 11th February 2025, the current sampling and surveillance requirements are exceptionally stringent, posing significant operational challenges for the industry</p>	<p>It is requested that a 50% reduction in sampling for the initial two years under QCO to facilitate a smoother transition. This approach will allow manufacturers to adapt to the new standards more effectively while minimizing excessive costs. Sampling and surveillance procedure need to be reviewed to attract more manufacturers opt for BIS license.</p> <p>Market samples should be drawn only once in a year for micro and small, and if a sample fails, corrective measures should be carried out and verified at the factory without repeated market sample testing.</p>
<p>6. Expedite refund of excess collection on marking fees:</p>	<p>Small enterprises are entitled for 50% concession in marking and other fees which is not integrated with BIS Portal. Small enterprises are paying full fees and when applying for refund it never comes without lengthy and multiple correspondences. Please expedite the refund of fees paid by SMEs.</p>
<p>7. Relaxing fees during license dormancy period:</p> <p>During the dormancy period of the license the licensee has to pay a 10 % Marking fees or minimum Rs.7000, for keeping the license dormant for one year. After the dormant period if one goes for renewal they demand arrear fees which is twice of the normal fees applicable for a small enterprises and renewal is kept pending for months.</p>	<p>Need to review and expedite payment of arrear fees.</p>

We believe that addressing these concerns will enhance compliance among SMEs and promote smoother operations in the sector.

FIPPI remains committed to supporting BIS in achieving its mission of delivering high-quality products to consumers. We sincerely appreciate your attention to these matters and look forward to your prompt action. We would be delighted to collaborate further to achieve our shared objectives.

Thanking you,

Yours faithfully,

For **FEDERATION OF INDIAN PLYWOOD & PANEL INDUSTRY**



Dr. M. P. Singh
Director General

*Readers are invited to send views, comments and suggestions if any, addressed to Editorial board
We also invite your valuable Advertisement and Article to be published in the Journal.*

“INDIAN WOOD & ALLIED PANELS”
Quarterly Journal - FIPPI

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Meeting with Members of Furniture Manufacturers & FIPPI



The Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade, Ministry of Commerce and Industry and Invest India held a roundtable discussion on “Furniture and QCOs”, which was chaired by Shri Ishrar Ali Director, DPIIT on November 29th, 2024, from 2.30 p.m. – 3.30 p.m. at Invest India Office, New Delhi. The proposed objective of the roundtable is to deliberate on the implementation of notified and draft Quality Control Orders (QCOs) in the furniture sector.

From Federation of Indian Plywood & Panel Industry Mr. Rajesh Mittal President FIPPI, Shri Jaydeep Chitlangia, Senior Vice President FIPPI and Dr. M.P. Singh Director General participated in the roundtable discussion.

Based on the discussion a communication was made by President FIPPI to all the Furniture Manufacturers Association with a copy to Joint Secretary DPIIT

To,

Association of Furniture Manufacturers and Traders (AFMT)
Association of Furniture Manufacturers of India (AFMI)
Modular Furniture Manufacturers Association (MDMA) Jaipur
Modular Furniture Manufacturers Association (MFMA) Telangana
Indian Manufacturer woodworking Traders & Association (IMWWTA)
Andhra Pradesh Modular Furniture Manufacturers Association (MFMA)
Furniture Manufacturers & Merchant welfare Association of Kerala

Subject: Adoption of Quality Plywood and Panel Products from the Indian Industry

Dear Members,

We appreciate the proactive role of the Furniture Manufacturers Association in fostering growth and innovation within the industry. Given the dynamic and rapidly evolving landscape of the furniture and allied sectors, it is imperative to prioritize quality, sustainability, and competitiveness in the adoption of materials.

The Indian plywood and panel product industry has witnessed remarkable progress in recent years, driven by technological advancements and adherence to stringent quality standards. The following key factors underscore the advantages of adoption high quality plywood, MDF, and particle boards manufactured in India:

1. Unparalleled Quality and Standards

- Indian manufacturers have harmonized their standards with international benchmarks, such as E1, EO, and CARB regulations for formaldehyde emissions.

- Products conform to the Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS), ensuring durability, safety, and superior mechanical and physical properties.
- Specific requirement of products, if any, for furniture manufacturing, can also be met from ply and Panel products, with our available technical expertise.

2. Environmental Sustainability

- Over 95% of raw materials for Plywood, MDF and particle board production come from Trees outside Forests (ToF), supporting agroforestry and reducing reliance on natural forests.
- Many Indian manufacturers offer FSC-certified products, aligning with global sustainability norms and reinforcing eco-friendly supply chains.

3. Cost-Effectiveness and Wide Range of Variability

- Indian composite panels provide an optional balance of cost-efficiency and high performance with wide range of variability in all these categories, Plywood, MDF and Particle boards.
- In Plywood, MDF and Particleboards, furniture manufacturers can decide the specifications of according to their requirement and affordability of the finished furniture products without compromising quality in business to business model.

4. Alignment with Market Trends

- The growing emphasis on modern, branded, low-maintenance furniture has made MDF and particle boards the preferred choice for modular kitchens, wardrobes, and other home furniture.
- These products are highly versatile, enabling precise machining and superior finishing for contemporary designs.

5. Government Initiatives Supporting Domestic Manufacturing

- The introduction of mandatory quality certification

(QCO) for plywood and panel products safeguards domestic industries from substandard imports, ensuring level playing field. Most of the industries are in pathetic situation due to uncontrolled import of substandard products at cheaper price.

- Policies encouraging agroforestry-based industries foster sustainable growth and balanced regional development.

6. Enhanced Competitive Edge

- Adoption of Indian-engineered wood products strengthens India’s position in the global market by offering reliable, sustainable, and superior-quality materials.
- Consistent supply and adherence to international environmental benchmarks
- Boost the industry’s reputation and marketability.

Call to Action

- 1. Promote the Use of Indian Products:** Advocate for the adoption of quality plywood, MDF, and particle boards manufactured by Indian companies
- 2. Support Mandatory Certification:** Endorse the enforcement of BIS standards to ensure quality and sustainability in the supply chain.
- 3. Educate Stakeholders:** Organize awareness campaigns to highlight the benefits of Indian composite panel products for the furniture industry.

By embracing these measures, we can collectively foster a resilient, sustainable, and self-reliant furniture sector that meets the aspirations of a growing economy while safeguarding the environment.

Yours sincerely,



Rajesh Mittal
President – FIPPI

Copy – Shri Sanjiv, Joint Secretary-DPIIT

Delegation Met Head of New Zealand Forest Service



A small delegation of Federation of Indian Plywood & Panel Industry met Head of the New Zealand Forest Service at the New Zealand High Commission to understand how we operate for collaboration on pine logs.

1. Dr. M.P. Singh- Director General Federation of Indian Plywood & Panel Industry
2. Mr. Ajay Baldawa – M/s. Century Plyboard (I) Ltd.
3. Mr. J.K. Jana – M/s. Greenply Industries Ltd.
4. Mr. Vijay Maheshwari – M/s. Duroply Industries Ltd.
5. Mr. Vishal Nijhawan Chaudhry – M/s. Chaudhary Timber Industries Pvt. Ltd.

The New Zealand officials are:

1. Mr. Sam Keenan- Deputy Director-General Te Uru Rākau – New Zealand Forest Service.
2. Ms. Anna Tyler- Principal Advisor- International Forestry- Ministry of Primary Industries.
3. Ms. Melanie Phillips- Regional Agriculture Counsellor, New Zealand High Commission. □

Greenply CMD Rajesh Mittal Appointed as President of Federation of Indian Plywood & Panel Industry (FIPPI)



The Federation of Indian Plywood and Panel Industry (FIPPI), the apex body representing manufacturers of plywood, panel boards, wood/bamboo, and agro-waste products, has been at the forefront of advancing India's wood-based industries. Known for fostering innovation, collaboration, and sustainability, FIPPI continues to shape the future of this critical sector.

Recently, Shri Rajesh Mittal, Chairman cum Managing

Director of Greenply Industries Limited (GIL), assumed the Presidency of FIPPI from his predecessor. Mittal, known for his visionary leadership at Greenply Industries, brings a wealth of experience to the role, aligning seamlessly with the company's unwavering commitment to advancing the plywood and panel industry. Mittal, along with the newly elected leadership team at FIPPI, aims to accelerate the adoption of sustainable practices, foster rural livelihoods, and ensure a thriving ecosystem for the wood-based industry in India. This aligns seamlessly with FIPPI's mission of nurturing a sustainable supply chain by integrating marginal farmers into agroforestry practices and promoting environmentally responsible manufacturing.

FIPPI's collaborative efforts with premier organizations like FICCI and CII as knowledge partners play a pivotal role in shaping national policies and advancing sectoral goals. By leveraging the collective expertise of its members, FIPPI remains a driving force behind the development and standardization of India's wood-based industries. Under Rajesh Mittal's leadership, FIPPI is well-positioned to champion the interests of India's wood-based industry, supporting small and medium enterprises, advancing sustainability, and driving innovation. This leadership transition marks a new chapter in FIPPI's commitment to fostering growth and ensuring a sustainable future for the sector. □

Granding Opening of Amulya Mica's Style Studio at Kolkata on 21st November 2024



Amulya Mica is thrilled to announce the grand opening of its newest Style Studio in Kolkata, at 51 C R Avenue near Central Metro Gate no.1 Kolkata-12, West Bengal on 21st Nov/24, a shift from existing Gallery 19, Kenderline, Opp. Indian Air Line Office, Bow Bazar, Kolkata. Strategically located near Central metro in one of the city's most bustling commercial districts, this new style studio marks a significant step in the company's expansion plan to reach every part of Eastern India. This exciting new store offers a wide range



of high-quality laminates, perfect for any home or business renovation project.

The grand inauguration ceremony commenced with a traditional puja followed by a ribbon-cutting event by the Managing Director, Mr. Rakesh Agarwal, and the Director of Marketing, Ms. Shailja Agarwal. The opening of the style studio also witnessed the launch of all new C4 1mm catalogue collection which is the fourfold benchmark of brilliance Inspired by the 4Cs of diamonds Color, Clarity, Cut and Carat. □

FIPPI Delegation Meeting with Hon'ble Minister



Hon'ble Minister of Commerce & Industry Shri Piyush Goyal met stakeholders from the plywood and panel manufacturing industry on 24th December 2024 and discussed ways to further boost domestic production and strengthen the quality of plywood and furniture manufacturing in the country. □

Panel & Particle Board: Domestic Industry Facing Significant Headwinds

The past two years have been extremely challenging for the domestic panel and particle board industries in India. Despite these challenges, these industries have continued to play a vital role in the nation's development through:

- a. **Employment Generation:** Providing large-scale employment opportunities to skilled, semi-skilled, and unskilled workers across the country.
- b. **Support to Farmers:** Creating a sustainable economic proposition for farmers by procuring their produce, such as eucalyptus and other species, and promoting large-scale plantations at subsidized rates by offering saplings.
- c. **Environmental Sustainability:** Contributing to the green cover agenda by investing significantly in R&D and supporting plantation drives.
- d. **Make in India Initiative:** Serving as an essential part of the "Make in India" value chain by enabling the production of end-to-end, India-made furniture and other wood-based products. Ensuring the highest quality standards for consumers remains a priority.
- e. **Atmanirbhar Bharat Contribution:** Aligning with the Prime Minister's vision of a Atmanirbhar Bharat, the sector has historically attracted a large number of new entrants and entrepreneurs, fostering growth and innovation.

However, this industry has been facing significant challenges due to the following reasons:

- a. **Unsustainable Pricing Pressure:** The influx of

substandard and low-quality furniture imports has created unsustainable pricing pressure on the domestic market.

- b. **Steep Increase in Raw Material Prices:** Raw material costs have risen sharply over the last 18 months, but these increases have not been passed on to end consumers.
 - In North India, eucalyptus prices have risen by over ~35%, from ₹5.5-6/kg to ₹7.5-8/kg.
 - In South India, eucalyptus prices have surged by over ~250%, from ₹3-3.5/kg to ₹7-7.5/kg.
- c. **Limited Price Adjustment for Finished Products:** Despite the rising input costs, the prices of particle boards have remained stagnant over the past 18 months, while panel prices have witnessed a decline of 10-12% on account of oversupply in the market.

The above-mentioned conditions have severely impacted the health and sustainability of the sector. As a result, manufacturing units are under immense pressure to sustain operations while continuing to contribute to the nation-building agenda by generating employment, supporting farmers, enhancing green cover, delivering high-quality "Make in India" products, and aligning with the vision of Atmanirbhar Bharat.

It is imperative for both the industry and the government to urgently introspect and take decisive measures to restore sustainability to this sector, ensuring its continued contribution to the nation-building agenda. □

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