

Karnataka Biodiversity Board

Agenda notes for the 32nd Board Meeting

1. Reading and recording of proceedings of the 31st Board meeting:

The proceedings of the 31st Board Meeting held on 07/04/2016 were communicated to all the members. As there were no comments from the members, the proceeding may be adopted. **(Annexure-I).**

2. Action taken on 31st Board Meeting Proceedings:

Action taken on proceedings of 31st Board Meeting is placed in **(Annexure-II).**

3. Research Studies:

As discussed in the 31st Board Meeting Dr. M.D.Subashchandran presented the concept note for creating database on ethno-medicine and accreditation of folk healers. The matter was discussed and was resolved to request Dr. M.D.Subaschandran to submit a strategy for taking up the creation of Database, during next Board meeting. As resolved by the Board Dr. Subashchandran has submitted a report on the same. Hence the matter is placed before the Board for suitable decision. **(Annexure-III).**

3. Formation of Biodiversity Management Committees at Corporation and Municipality levels.

As per Section 21 of Biological Diversity Act 2002 it is mandatory to form a Biodiversity Management Committees at all local bodies. However, inspite of several reminders, no action has been initiated by the BBMP to form Biodiversity Management Committees in Bangalore City Corporation. In the absence of Biodiversity Management Committees, it is often difficult to process IPR applications in the true spirit of law. Hence the matter is placed before the Board for suitable decision.

4. Expert Committee on Agro Biodiversity:

As per the Section 13(1) of the Biological Diversity Act 2002 (Read with Section 25), the Karnataka Biodiversity Board has constituted an Expert Committee on Agro Biodiversity in its 23rd Meeting. The committee in its meeting on 23rd July 2014 has initiated the idea of giving incentives to the farmers who are maintaining traditional varieties of Crops. Applications were called through Krushi Vignana Kendras (KVK). Out of 26 Applications received, the committee shortlisted the following 6 members:

Farmer Name & Address	Remarks
1 Sri. N.R.Surendra, Nijiyappanadoddi, Ramanagara Taluk & Dist.	Paddy(35), Finger millet (25), Minor millets(6) and Banana (3) varieties
2 Sri. A.N. Anjaneya Kumbaluru, Harihara Taluk, Davanagere Dist.	Paddy (150) and Bitter gourd(1) varieties
3 Sri. Shankar H. Langate, Gundyanahatti, Khanapura Taluk, Belagavi Dist.	Paddy (74), Tomato(5), Brinjal(5), Okra(3), Ridge Gourd(3), Bitter Gourd(3), Pumpkin (3), Radish (2), Cluster bean (2) and Cucumber(3) varieties
4 Sri. Kallappa P. Neginal, Chikkabagewadi, Bailahongala Taluk, Belagavi Dist.	Sorghum(23), Foxtail millet(6) and Pearl millet(3) varieties
5 Sri. Prasad Rama Hegde, Kanakodlu, Yellapura Taluk, Uttara Kannada Dist.	Banana(8), Medicinal plants(18), Jackfruit(3) and Appemidi(4)
6 Sri. Ramakrishna Gajanana Bhat, Devatmane, Sirsi Taluk, Uattara Kannada Dist.	Paddy (150) varieties

The Committee also suggested to constitute a sub-committee which can look into the information available regarding farmers, who are maintaining traditional varieties of crops in department of Agriculture. The sub-committee recommended another 10 farmers (One farmer each from Agro Climatic Zone) for giving incentives which are already awarded by the Department of Agriculture.

Farmer Name & Address	Remarks
1 Sri. Al haj sha Khaleef, Badagala, Bidar Taluk & Dist.	Sugarcane (20), Mango (26), many fruit cops, Desi cow and Buffalo breeds
2 Sri. Sri Basavaraj Jeevanigi, Pattana, Gulaburga Taluk & Dist.	Integrated farming & Organic farming
3 Smt. Shekamma Vani, Kallatavarageri, Koppala Taluk & Dist.	Organic farming
4 Sri. S.C.Veerabhadrappa, B G kere, Molakalmuru Taluk and Chitradurga Dist.	Tamarind and Coconut varieties and natural farming
5 Sri. Veerakempanna, Anuru, Shidlaghatta Taluk, Chikkaballapura Dist.	Maintenance of Sheep Breeds and Goat Breeds

6	Sri. Syed Gahnikahan, Kirugavalu, Malavalli Taluk, Mandya Dist.	Mango (116) and Paddy varieties
7	Sri. H.N.Dharmalingam, Hasaganuru, Alur Taluk, Hassan Dist.	Integrated farming
8	Sri. Ashok B. Thubachi, Yamakanamaradi, Hukkeri Taluk, Belagavi Dist.	Organic farming
9	Sri. Madhukeshwar Hegde, Kallahalli, Sirsi Taluk, Uttara Kannada Dist.	Integrated farming
10	Sri. Varanasi Krishnamurthy, Adyanadka, Bantwala Taluk, Dakhina kannada Dist	Organic farming

The committee finally approved 16 farmers for giving incentives for maintaining traditional varieties of crops.

The Expert committee on Agro Biodiversity has also discussed on documentation of traditional varieties and land races in its meetings dt 23/7/2014, 30/12/2014 and 27/06/2016. The Member Secretary also constituted a committee comprising of experts from different Agricultural Universities and National Dairy Research Institute (NDRI) based on the recommendations of the committee, who have submitted list of land races and traditional varieties. The Expert committee on Agro Biodiversity met on 27/06/2016 and has approved the list.

The proceedings of the meeting is placed before the Board for consideration. (**Annexure-IV**).

5. Access and Benefit Sharing:

a) Updated list of Normally Traded as Commodities (NTAC) under Section 40 as notified by MoEF on 7th April 2016.

The MoEF-CC in consultation with NBA has notified an updated list of 385 species of plants under the Normally Traded as Commodities (NTAC) category (Section 40 of the Act). The species are further classified into the specific parts that are used as commodities and the source from which they are derived (cultivated, wild and mixed). (**ANNEXURE-V**)

The notification lists explanatory notes and the note no. 2 states that ‘The products that are derived from the items listed in the Table and traded as a matter of common practice shall also be treated as normally traded as commodities and in such cases, the onus of substantiation that the said products fall within common practice, shall lie on the claimant’.

The earlier notification of NTAC (dated 26th October 2009 with 190 species) had not exempted products derived from the list. Since, the new notification now exempts the products that are derived from the listed species, issue of applicability of ABS on food products like chocolates, jams, wineries etc, may have to be re-evaluated. Additionally, ABS payments are pending from some of the industries manufacturing medicines, nutraceuticals, cosmetics etc., since 2014-15 (as per the Board's resolution for commencement of ABS collection). The matter of collection of ABS from these industries for 2014-15 and 2015-16 (in the light of the new NTAC notification dated 7th April, 2016) is to be addressed.

Further, many classical Ayurvedic formulations may have plant species that are listed under the new list of Section 40 species. The implementation of the provisions of the Act and ABS Regulations for only those species that are not listed under Section 40 is improbable and difficult to keep a track since the products may contain both exempted and non-exempted species.

The matter was placed before the Expert Committee on ABS (Technical issues) of the Board on 4th August 2016 for technical review of various issues. The committee recommended that the Traders/manufacturers shall submit Form-I and ABS for those species that are not exempted under Section-40. Further, ABS shall have to be paid by industries for the years 2014-15 and 2015-16 since the notification of Section-40 shall not be applied retrospectively. The same would apply to Ayurveda manufacturing industries. The proceedings of the Expert Committee meeting is placed before the Board for deliberation. (ANNEXURE- VI)

6. UNEP-GEF-MoEF-Strengthening the Implementation of the Biological Diversity Act and rules with focus on ABS provisions:

a) Extension of the project:

The UNEP-GEF-MoEF-ABS project was due for completion in the month of June 2016, but, the technical and financial closure of the project has been extended upto December 2016 by NBA, vide letter no. F. 13/18/12-13/Vol.III/1038 dated 29th June 2016. As the project was to end in June 2016, the project staff had expressed their intention of moving out of the Board. Hence, an interview was conducted on 26th July 2016 for the recruitment of the new staff. Accordingly, a State Project Co-ordinator, 2 Technical Assistants were recruited to continue in the project.

State Project Co-ordinator - Dr. Vidya Pradeep Kumar

Technical Assistant - Nischita. N

Technical Assistant - Darshan

Accounts Assistant - **Vacant**

This is for the information of the Board.

b) Status of the Project:

Since the inception of the UNEP-GEF-MoEF-ABS project in September 2014 various activities relating to strengthening and implementation of the Biological Diversity Act 2002 were carried out which included the formation of 20 BMC's at the taluk level and documentation of 20 PBR's. A number of training programmes were also conducted to create awareness on implementation of the provisions of the ABS regulations 2014. The details of the project status as on June 30th 2016 has been appended in **Annexure - VII**

c) Books printed under the project in local language:

Under the UNEP-GEF-MoEF-ABS project four books (Local Biodiversity fund- Operation and Maintenance, Access and Benefit sharing Mechanism, Biodiversity Management Committee- Operational tool kit and Guidelines for Operationalization of BMC) were translated into regional language (Kannada) as per the mandate of the project. These books will form the resource material for the trainings/workshops conducted by the Board.

The same is brought to the notice of the Board.

7. Creation of post of Chief Conservator of Forests to be taken on deputation basis:

Member Secretary, Karnataka Biodiversity Board is involved in day to day administration of the Board. It is necessary to have a senior Level officer of the cadre of Chief Conservator of Forests (CCF) who would carry the mantle of looking into operational issues at various level like coordinating with Circle CCFs, Zilla Panchayaths and nodal officers training aspects of the Board, facilitating the formation of Biodiversity Management Committees, writing of People's Biodiversity Registers, ABS issues, Biodiversity Conservation, Heritage Sites etc. The Board may consider recommending the Government to post a Chief Conservator of Forests rank officer to the Board.

8. Creation of two post of Finance Officer and Accountant on Deputation:

The Board is provided with financial assistance from Government of Karnataka and National Biodiversity Authority. Annually, financial transactions to the tune of 5-7 crores is being handled by the Board. The NBA while releasing the funds has made a precondition that the Utilization Certificates for the issued funds is to be signed by a Finance Officer and by the Member Secretary, Karnataka Biodiversity Board. The Board has been funding various research organizations like Pilikula Nisargadhama etc. The Board's accounts are being audited by the Accountant General annually.

Presently, the Board is utilizing the services of an accountant provided by the service provider who are often inexperienced and who do not have much knowledge about the office procedures. Also accountability of these employees is a matter of concern. In the absence of a full time accountant, it is difficult to manage the Board's accounts in a systematic way. Hence, it is proposed to create a post of Finance Officer of the cadre of Asst. Controller, preferably from State Accounts Department or the office of Accountant General and an accountant from State Accounts Department.

The matter is placed before the Board for deliberation and approval of the Board.

9. Creation of one post of Librarian to preserve / handle People's Biodiversity Registers documents / Research Studies / other Records of the Board.

There are several important books, PBR documents, Research papers and other records which will have to be preserved in systematic way. Karnataka Biological Diversity Rules 2005 Sub Rule 7/10 states that "The Member Secretary shall be in charge of the confidential papers of the Board and shall be responsible for their safe custody; he/she shall produce such papers whenever so directed by the Board / Government".

In the absence of suitable official to maintain these records, most of the records and files are lying unattended. It is often difficult to trace the old records / files. In view of the above, it is absolutely necessary to create a post of full time Librarian. The librarian would take care the entire responsibility of maintaining the records in a systematic way. Creation of one Record Room is also found necessary.

The matter is put up for deliberation and suitable decision.

10. Creation of Support Staff for office Administration with:

Presently the Board is having a post Administrative Officer without any supporting staff. This is resulting in improper maintenance and movement of files. At present the office work is entrusted with Technical Executives who will have to carry out filed work and there by the continuity in office work is lost. Since the Technical Executives do not continue for a longer period so the office files are difficult to be traced out due to change of hands. In order to have smooth functioning of the office the following sections need to be created. To handle each section independently the following posts of Office Assistants are absolutely necessary:

Sl. No	Sections	Designation	No. of Supporting staff required.
1	Establishment	Office Assistant	2
2	Finance	Office Assistant	1
3	Legal	Office Assistant	1
4	PBR	Office Assistant	2
5	BMC	Office Assistant	2
6	Website / Publicity	IT Professional	1

The matter is put up for deliberation and suitable decision.

11. Revised Budget Proposal for the year 2016-17.

The Board in its 31st Meeting held on 07/04/2016 has approved the Budget proposal for Rs. 6.73 crores for the year 2016-17. However, Government vide notification No: FEE 124 EPC 2016 dt 07/05/2016 has sanctioned Rs. 400 lakhs as grants for the year 2016-17. Accordingly, revised budget for the year 2016-17 is placed before the Board for approval. **Annexure - VIII**

12. Any other subject with permission of the chair.

**Member Secretary
Karnataka Biodiversity Board**