

FSC Certified Raw Material available online with UPFC  
 Certification for 13 Forest Divisions of Uttar Pradesh  
 commemorated with Awareness Workshop on Forest Certification  
 19<sup>th</sup> June, 2015; Lucknow



Seen on the dias (from L to R) are Mr. Umendra Sharma, PCCF, Monitoring and Working Plan; Mr. Rakesh Kumar, Executive Director, EPCH; Mr. Sanjeev Saran, Principal Secretary, Forests and Environment, Govt. of Uttar Pradesh; Mr. Iqbal Singh, Managing Director, U P Forest Corporation; Mr. S K Upadhyay, Addl. Managing Director, UP Forest Corporation; and Mr. Sachin Raj Jain, Director, GICIA, Noida

To commemorate the achievement of FSC certification for 13 Forest Divisions of Uttar Pradesh, a workshop on "Forest Certification" was organized on 19th June 2015 by Uttar Pradesh Forest Corporation (UPFC) at Naveen Bhawan, Uttar Pradesh Avs evam Vikas Parishad, MG Road, Lucknow.

This was graced by the Principal Secretary, Forests and Environment,



Mr. Sanjeev Saran, Principal Secretary, Forests and Environment, Govt. of Uttar Pradesh, lighting the lamp

Govt. of Uttar Pradesh, Mr. Sanjeev Saran as Chief Guest; PCCF, Monitoring and Working Plan, Mr. Umendra Sharma; Managing Director, U P Forest Corporation, Mr. Iqbal Singh; Additional Managing Director, UP Forest Corporation, Mr. S K Upadhyay; Mr. Rakesh Kumar, Executive Director, EPCH; and Mr. Sachin Raj Jain, Director, GICIA, Noida. The workshop was initiated and conducted by Mr. S K Upadhyay.

SCS Global Services, a Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) affiliate auditing firm, has certified Shiwalik, Bijnore, Najibabad, Pilibhit, Shahajahanpur, North and South Kheri, Gonda, Bahraich, Shravasti, Gorakhpur, Katarniyaghat and Sohelwa Forest Divisions in Uttar Pradesh, for meeting all necessary qualifications for Forest Stewardship Council's standards for 'Well Managed Multi-FMU Forest Certification', where FMU stands for Forest Management Unit. The Uttar Pradesh Forest Corporation had taken up the project to carry out FSC Forest

Management Assessment on 8th August 2013 and after rigorous efforts and full harmonization by forest officers, policy makers, forest workers, etc. the whole process has been successfully concluded in 18 months. Attaining the standard requirements was not an easy task and UPFC faced a lot of difficulty to meet up with the international standards, which are as per the international requirements of Responsible Management of the forests.

The certification process helped UPFC to identify key gaps in forest management and assist the forest department for making the right efforts to fill those gaps. With the certification, Uttar Pradesh Forest Corporation has under it the largest FSC certified area for commercial timber production in India and the biggest in Asia, in terms of government owned forests.

Mr. Sanjeev Saran applauded UP Forest Corporation's achievement and motivated forest officials to invest their interest in maintaining the continuity of the certification. He also shared his thoughts about prospects of UP's certified forest produce, which includes key species like Eucalyptus, Mango, Sheesham, Sal, Teak and Acacia Nilotica, etc. in the handicrafts industry and advised about creation of an alliance with other government agencies associated with handicraft development.

Demand for FSC certified wood products is strongest in the international market and this trend continues to grow with time. FSC caters to the regulations from developed countries including Lacey Amendment Act (2008) USA, European Union Timber Regulation (EUTR), FLEGT (Forest Law Enforcement in Governance and Trade), Illegal Logging prohibition Act, 2011 (Australia) etc., which put a ban on illegally sourced timber,



*Mr. Sanjeev Saran, Principal Secretary, Forests and Environment, Govt. of Uttar Pradesh*



*Mr. Iqbal Singh, Managing Director, UP Forest Corporation*

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wood products and paper products. It is now evident, that the certified FSC material would now enable woodware exporters to trade 100% FSC wood in the international market, giving a boost to the handicrafts industry.

Mr. Umendra Sharma promised a robust monitoring system to safeguard the continuity of the certification in process. Mr. Iqbal Singh shared, following the certification, UP's timber produce has gained international recognition and will eventually benefit local exporters. The officials made presentations regarding the journey of certifications, ensuring its validity in future and its effect on a global scenario. Mr. S K Upadhyay announced that UPFC will commence sale of certified timber in July 2015. And the registered candidates would be able to participate in e-Auction for FSC certified timber.

Mr. Rakesh Kumar congratulated the Uttar Pradesh Forest Department and Uttar Pradesh Forest Corporation on this achievement and said that forest department and EPCH can work together for the welfare of the handicrafts and woodware industry by providing them sustainable raw material from responsible sources. He also shared that various schemes related to raw material banks can be instigated where there will be a scope for all the forest departments and forest corporation to sell their timber to the handicrafts industry. Expressing his views on responsible forestry, Mr. Sachin Raj Jain, said that forest certification is directly linked with climate change and is a need of the hour. ■