



- Value added products - Though Sandalwood is associated with wide range of value added products, a systematic research approach with innovative and novel ideas have to be incorporated to design and develop innovative products from heartwood, sapwood, distilled wood and other plantation and industrial residues.
- **Study of Australian Sandalwood model** - the MoEF&CC, MoA&FW, MoAYUSH and NITI Aayog shall facilitate sending forest officers/scientists/administrators to visit Australia towards learning the state-of-the-art sandal cultivation technology and its replication in India through its research system.
- The ICFRE/ICAR/SAUs shall conduct systematic plantation design and evaluation programme towards early harvest for higher productivity and profitability.
- **Traceability and value chain management** - the MoEF&CC, MoA&FW, MoAYUSH etc., shall establish institutional mechanism to develop database and ensure traceability of sandal and the associated value added products for effective supply chain management.

#### (IV) DOMESTIC/INTERNATIONAL MARKETS AND VALUE ADDITION

- **Liberalising farm grown Sandalwood export** – The Government of India through MoCI should liberalise export of farm grown Sandalwood by removing it from the prohibition list and it should be kept under OGL category.
- **Information and access to market source** – the MoEF&CC, MoA&FW, MoAYUSH, shall develop mechanisms to disseminate information on domestic and international market. The ministry of commerce shall develop information access portal for the market sources through e-portal market mechanism. The existing e-NAM portal of agriculture shall be referred for the purpose.
- **Price support system** – the MoEF&CC shall develop price supportive system for sandal and its products. The consuming industries shall develop comprehensive sandal contract farming by judicially incorporating assured buy-back system for various products (sapwood, heartwood, rootwood, chips & dust)
- **Value addition and by-products development** – the ICFRE, ICAR, SAUs, DBT, DST shall initiate research on value addition technology for efficient utilization of Sandalwood and the





associated plantation and industrial residues. For this purpose, the services of skill council of India, Make in India, startup India, QCI etc need to be utilized to create startups and MSMEs for technology development and marketing of value added products.

#### (v) CERTIFICATIONS AND INSTITUTIONAL MECHANISMS

- **Sandal certifications** – the MoEF&CC shall develop standards and protocol for incorporating sandal in the existing Indian wood certification scheme. The IIFM Bhopal shall prioritize development of procedures and protocols for incorporation and promotion of sandal certification scheme.
- **Awareness and capacity building on technology and marketing** - the MoEF&CC, MoA&FW, MoAYUSH, ICFRE, ICAR, SAUs, DBT, DST shall conduct adequate capacity building programme in a de-centralized manner to create awareness on technology leveraged sandal cultivation, process and product development and the associated trade and market systems.
- These organizations and institutions shall extend necessary financial support both for public and private sector organizations to sensitize and create awareness.
- **Institutional mechanism** – It is recommended that the GoI should establish an exclusive Sandalwood Board of India similar to various other Boards such as Tobacco Board, Spice Board and Coffee Board, under the Ministry of Commerce, Government of India. If GoI enacts the Act as proposed above, the Sandalwood Board should be established at Central and State level under the provisions of the Act. If it takes longer time to enact the Act, SDC strongly recommends that GoI should consider establishment of the Sandalwood Board, as per the proposal at **Enclosure 2**.

Establishing the Sandalwood Board of India in Bengaluru, leveraging the expertise of ICFRE-IWST and the region's rich history in Sandalwood cultivation, is a crucial step towards promoting sustainable Sandalwood cultivation and trade. By providing comprehensive support and regulation, the Board will ensure growth and prosperity of the Sandalwood industry, benefiting farmers, traders, and the economy as a whole. This dedicated body will address the various challenges and opportunities in the Sandalwood sector, driving innovation, quality improvement, and market development. The Sandalwood Board of India will play a pivotal role in making India a global leader in Sandalwood production and trade, ensuring the sustainable and equitable growth of this valuable resource.





## SDC RECOMMENDATIONS IMPLEMENTING AGENCIES

Coordinated efforts of various implementing agencies are crucial for the promotion of Sandalwood cultivation and trade in India. By providing financial support, technical guidance, regulatory simplifications, and market access, these agencies can create a conducive environment for the sustainable growth of the Sandalwood industry, benefiting growers, traders, and the overall economy.

At present, various agencies in the GoI and State Governments are dealing with Sandalwood. The promotion of Sandalwood cultivation and trade in India requires coordinated efforts from these various implementing agencies. Each agency plays a crucial role in ensuring the success of initiatives aimed at increasing Sandalwood production, ensuring legal compliance, enhancing market access, and promoting sustainable practices. Once the GoI establishes the Sandalwood Development Board, all the recommendations of the SDC should be implemented by that Board in coordination with various other agencies wherever required. Till such time, the recommendations of SDC should be implemented by various agencies as per the following.

### I. Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare (MoA&FW)

#### 1. Policy directive

- o Treat farm grown Sandalwood as farm produce

#### 2. Financial Support and Incentives:

- o Provide financial support for farmers raising Sandalwood plantations through schemes like the Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana (RKVY).
- o Offer subsidies for planting material, cultivation practices, and security measures.

#### 3. Technical Guidance and Training:

- o Develop and disseminate technical guides on Sandalwood cultivation.
- o Conduct training programs for farmers and extension workers on best practices in Sandalwood Agroforestry.

#### 4. Research and Development:

- o Fund research projects focused on improving Sandalwood yield, disease resistance, and sustainable Agroforestry models.





## II. Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEF&CC)

### 1. Regulatory Framework and Policy Amendments:

- o Amend the Indian Forest Act, 1927 appropriately, as detailed in chapter 9.
- o Direct the State Governments to liberalise the cultivation and trade of farm grown Sandalwood from felling and transit regulations.

### 2. Funding for R&D and certification

- o Provide adequate funds to undertake research Sandalwood improvement.
- o Provide resources and support for obtaining and maintaining certification.

### 3. E-Portal Market Mechanism for Facilitating the trade of Sandalwood

- o The creation of a dedicated e-portal market mechanism for Sandalwood aims to streamline and facilitate the sale of this valuable resource. Such a platform should address the challenges of market access, price variability, legal compliance, and provide a transparent and efficient marketplace for sellers and buyers.

## III. Ministry of Aayush: through National Medicinal Plants Board (NMPB) the following actions need to be undertaken.

### 1. Funding and Support:

- o Provide financial support for various stages of Sandalwood cultivation, including seedling development, plantation establishment, and protection.
- o Fund research and development projects focused on improving Sandalwood yield and quality.

### 2. Awareness and Capacity Building:

- o Conduct awareness campaigns and training programs on the benefits and methods of Sandalwood cultivation.
- o Develop educational materials and conduct workshops for farmers and stakeholders.

### 3. Value Addition and By-Product Development:

- o Promote technological advancements and industry-linked institutional mechanisms for value addition and by-product development.





- o Facilitate partnerships between growers, processors, and buyers to enhance the value chain.

#### **IV. Ministry of Commerce & Industry**

- o Liberalise export of farm grown Sandalwood by placing all Sandalwood exports under OGL category
- o Get the proposed Sandalwood (Promotion and Facilitation) Act, 2025 enacted.
- o Establish Sandalwood Boards at central and State levels.

#### **V. ICFRE, ICAR, SAU collectively work on the following**

##### **1. Quality Planting Material (QPM):**

- o In collaboration with ICFRE-IWST., Bengaluru, ICFRE-IFGTB Coimbatore and CAFRI Jhansi can work on QPM certification for Sandalwood.
- o Develop standards for QPM and facilitate the accreditation of sandal-based nurseries.

##### **2. Agroforestry Models:**

- o ICFRE-IWST, CAFRI, SAU can work together on Agroforestry, develop region-specific Agroforestry models incorporating Sandalwood.
- o Conduct research on tree-crop combinations and their interactions to optimize Sandalwood Agroforestry systems

#### **VI. National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD)**

##### **1. Institutional Credit:**

- o Include Sandalwood cultivation in credit schemes offered by public and private financial institutions.
- o Develop indicative unit costs of investment for Sandalwood to facilitate its inclusion in agriculture and allied activities documents.

##### **2. Insurance Schemes:**

- o Work with insurance firms to develop institutional insurance products for Sandalwood based on input costs product.





## VII. State Governments/Forest Departments

### 1. Simplification of Procedures:

- o Ensure that farm grown sandal deregulated for felling and benefit for simplify and expedite the process for granting permissions for Sandalwood extraction and transport.
- o Ensure that legal and regulatory frameworks at the State level are aligned with the central policies.

### 2. Monitoring and Enforcement:

- o Implement robust monitoring systems to prevent illegal logging and trade of Sandalwood.
- o Ensure strict enforcement of regulations to protect Sandalwood resources.

### 3. Community Involvement:

- o Engage local communities in the protection and sustainable management of Sandalwood resources.
- o Provide incentives and support for community-led Sandalwood plantations.

## VIII. ICFRE-IWST can act as a Certification Body

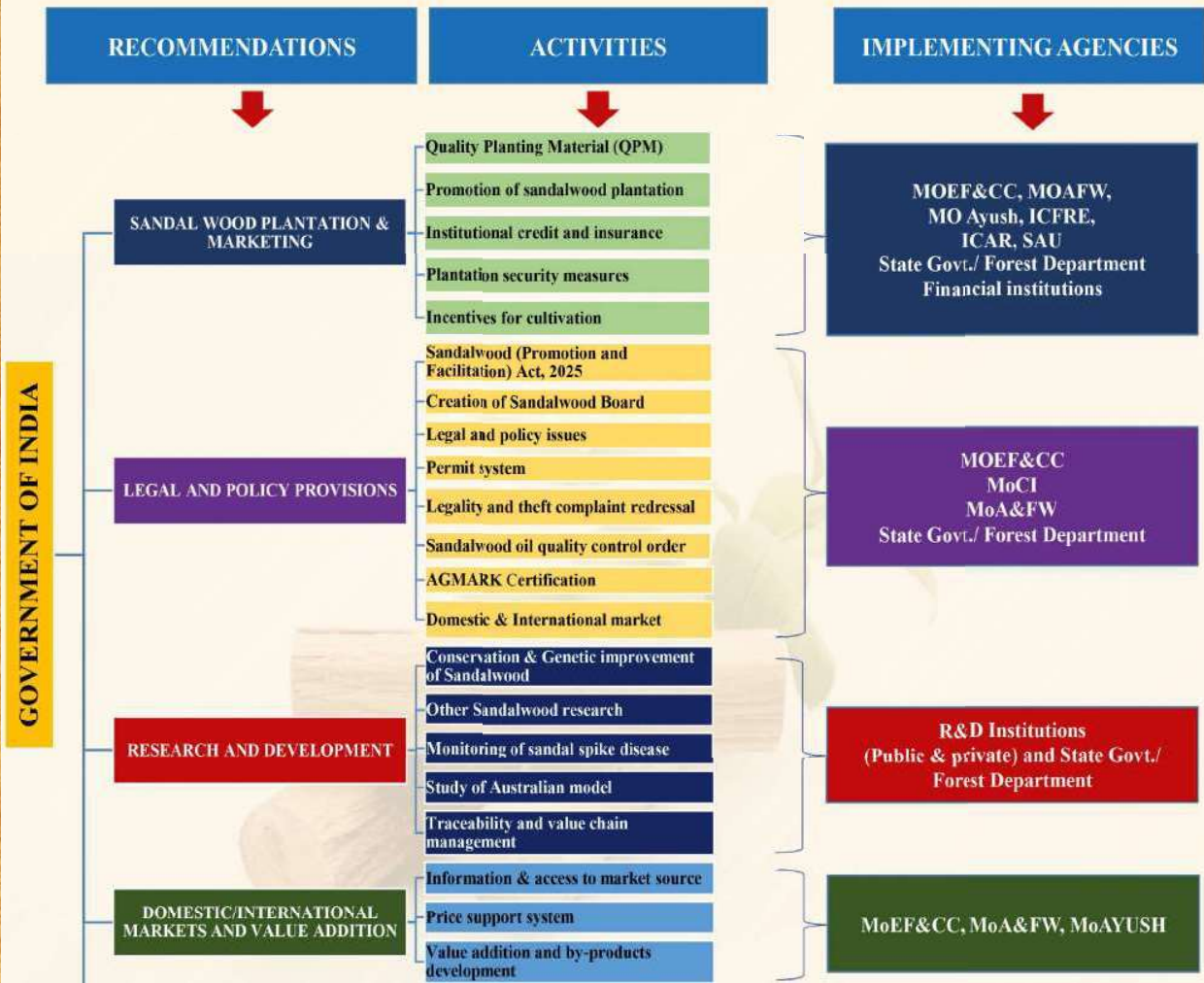
### 1. Quality Certification:

- o Develop and implement certification standards for Sandalwood to ensure quality and traceability.
- o Work with growers and traders to obtain certification, enhancing market trust and value.

### 2. Awareness and Training:

- o Conduct training programs on the importance and procedures of certification.
- o IWST can incorporate any agency/Institute in the certification system.





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# ENCLOSURES



## ENCLOSURE 1



### **Draft Sandalwood (Promotion and Facilitation) Bill, 2025**

#### **Draft Sandalwood (Promotion and Facilitation) Bill, 2025**

An Act to encourage and expand Sandalwood plantation in a complementary and integrated manner with other Agroforestry models and livestock; to improve productivity and livelihood of farmers while also meeting raw material requirements for Sandalwood industries and to reduce reliance on imports from foreign countries;

WHEREAS it has been identified various factors such as restrictive legal provisions for harvesting and transportation of Sandalwood trees planted on farm lands, inadequate attempts at liberalization of restrictive regulations, lack of institutional support mechanisms, lack of quality planting materials, inadequate research on Agroforestry models suitable across various ecological regions, inadequate marketing infrastructure and price discovery mechanisms, lack of post-harvesting processing technologies and facilities etc.

AND WHEREAS the agricultural lands in India provide an opportunity to supply Sandalwood along with food, while simultaneously meeting the objective of creating carbon sinks, which is also in line with India's commitment to the Paris Climate Agreement;

AND, it is necessary to transcend the boundaries of the forests in order to meet India's Sandalwood requirements from within the country (Atmanirbharta), to reduce pressure on the forests,

AND, it is necessary to have a framework for electronic Certificate of Origin and Ownership and establish a standard for the legality and chain of custody of Sandalwood that is accepted worldwide (Vocal for Local) to promote efficient, transparent, and barrier-free inter-state and intra-state trade and commerce of Sandalwood;

AND, it is necessary to promote and facilitate certification of Sandalwood nurseries, seeds and other planting materials through institutional mechanism for registration of nurseries and their accreditation to farmers;

AND, it is necessary to establish institutional mechanism investing in Sandalwood research, extension and capacity building and related services;

AND, it is necessary to establish a national guidance framework on agreements for Sandalwood to facilitate establishment and promotion of Sandalwood based enterprises and matters related to providing institutional credit and insurance cover to Sandalwood Agroforestry or incidental thereto.





NOW, THEREFORE, it is expedient to enact a legal framework for hassle-free felling, transportation, marketing and utilization of Sandalwood grown on non-forest lands and to increase the income of farmers.

BE it enacted by Parliament in the \_\_\_\_\_ Year of the Republic of India as follows:—

## CHAPTER 1

### PRELIMINARY

#### 1. Short title, extent and commencement.-

- (1) This Act may be called Sandalwood (Promotion and Facilitation) Act, 2024.
- (2) It extends to the whole of India.
- (3) It shall come into force on such date as the Central Government may, by notification in the Official Gazette, appoint.

#### 2. Definitions.— In this Act, unless the context otherwise requires, -

- (i) “Sandalwood (*Santalum album*)” means a tree indigenous to peninsular India.
- (ii) “Trees outside forests” mean trees located on all lands excluded from the definition of forests as per prevalent laws and their interpretation, subject to the limitation of their applicability to private property. They include:
  - (a) Trees on farmlands and built-up areas, both in rural and urban areas;
  - (b) Planted or domesticated trees on private lands;
  - (c) Trees growing in meadows, pastoral areas and on farms, or in towns, gardens and parks; and
  - (d) Trees growing on lands using alley cropping and shifting cultivation, permanent tree cover crops (e.g. coffee, cocoa), windbreaks, hedgerows, home gardens and fruit-tree plantations.
- (iii) “Imported Sandalwood” means all Sandalwood and Sandalwood products imported from other countries.





- (iv) “Sandalwood growers” mean individuals or organizations engaged in the production of Sandalwood by themselves or by hired labour or otherwise, and includes farmers, Farmer Producer Organisations, Forest Protection Committees, wood-based industries, carving units, companies, partnership firms, limited liability partnerships, co-operative societies, societies, and any associations or body of persons duly incorporated or recognized as a group under any ongoing programmes, schemes or resolutions of the Central Government or the State Government.
- (v) “Trader or agent” means a person who buys Sandalwood or imports Sandalwood by way of inter-state or intra-state trade or a combination thereof, either for self or on behalf of one or more persons for the purpose of wholesale trade, retail, end-use, value addition, processing, manufacturing, export, consumption or for such other purpose.
- (vi) “Inter-state trade” means the act of buying or selling of Sandalwood, wherein a trader or agent of one State buys Sandalwood from Sandalwood growers or a trader of another State and such Sandalwood is transported to a State other than the State in which the trader purchased such Sandalwood or where such Sandalwood originated.
- (vii) “Intra-state trade” means the act of buying or selling of Sandalwood, wherein a trader of one State buys the Sandalwood from a Sandalwood grower or a trader of the same State in which the trader purchased such Sandalwood or where such Sandalwood originated.
- (viii) “Electronic trading and transaction platform” means a platform set up to facilitate direct and online buying and selling for conduct of trade and commerce of Sandalwood through a network of electronic devices and internet applications, where each such transaction results in physical delivery of Sandalwood.
- (ix) “State” means State or Union territory (UT).
- (x) “Sponsor” means a person, trader or agent who has entered into a farming agreement with the Sandalwood grower for growing trees.
- (xi) “Farming agreement” means a written agreement between the Sandalwood grower and sponsor, such as:





- (a) Trade and commerce agreement', where the ownership of Sandalwood remains with the Sandalwood grower during production and he gets the price of produce on its delivery as per the agreed terms with the sponsor;
  - (b) Production agreement', where the sponsor agrees to provide farm services, either fully or partially, and to bear the risk of output; and
  - (c) Any other such agreements or a combination of the agreements specified above.
- (xii) “Local bodies” means Panchayats and Municipalities, by whatever name called, within the meaning of Article 243B (1) and Article 243Q (1) of the Constitution of India, and, in the absence of any Panchayat or Municipality, institutions of self-government constituted under any other provision of the Constitution of India or any Central or State act, and in their absence, any officer or group of officers authorized by the State government.
- (xiii) “Sandalwood-based industries” include all those industries dealing with Sandalwood and Sandalwood products.

## CHAPTER 2

### CONSTITUTION OF SANDALWOOD BOARD OF INDIA (SWBI)

#### 3. Constitution of Sandalwood Board of India -

- (1) The Central Government shall prescribe for constitution of Sandalwood Board of India to provide for improved linkages between Sandalwood growers, traders or agents, Sandalwood-based industries or enterprises, research institutes and related government representatives including the states for coordinated efforts to augment Sandalwood in India and matters thereto related to research, development, utilization and trade.
- (2) The Sandalwood Board of India shall be under the Chairmanship of any eminent personality connected with Sandalwood as nominated by the Ministry of Commerce
- (3) The Sandalwood board of India shall function at Bengaluru under the ministry of commerce investing in research, extension and capacity building, coordination and related services;





4. **Constitution of Sandalwood boards at the State level -**

- (1) Sandalwood boards may be constituted at the State level by resolutions of respective State Government. The Chairmanship of such council shall be the eminent personality connected with the Sandalwood of the respective State nominated by the State government.
- (2) The State level Sandalwood boards shall function under the overall guidance of the Sandalwood board of India.

5. **Power to make rules for standards with regard to planting stock.-** The Sandalwood Board of India shall have the power to make standards or delegate such powers to any other institution or state bodies to establish systems for the followings:

- (i) Release new clones or cultivars for Sandalwood
- (ii) Accreditation of Sandalwood nurseries and certification of Sandalwood seeds and quality planting stock;

6. **Power to make rules or standards regarding the legality of Sandalwood.-** The Sandalwood Board of India shall have the power to make standards or delegate such powers to any other institution or State bodies:

- (i) to make rules or delegate its function for the establishment Information Technology-based systems (also through mobile apps) for issuance of Certificate of Origin and Ownership (“COO”) to all Sandalwood growers, which may be used for all purposes of trading and transaction of Sandalwood, insurance and collateral guarantee for banking support including future trading;
- (ii) to include following information and documents needed to fulfil the requirement of due diligence system:
  - (a) Description, including trade name and type of relevant commodities and products
  - (b) Quantity of the relevant products (No./mass/volume)
  - (c) Identification of the area (district, State) of production
  - (d) Geo-coordinates of all the plots of land where relevant Sandalwood products are produced with date
  - (e) Names and address of the businesses/persons from whom they have been supplied relevant products and to whom the products have been supplied





- (iii) to authorise 'local bodies' to be second-party certifiers for the issuance of COO to the first party (Sandalwood growers) in the IT based system mentioned in (i) and risk assessment mechanism verifiable through remote controls for due diligence;
- (iv) to authorize FPOs, traders, agents or industries as third-party certifier through Information Technology-based systems (also through mobile apps) for issuance of Certificate of Origin and Ownership (“COO”) and to mark and grade Sandalwood;
- (v) to prescribe a system in India for electronic registration of a Sandalwood trader or agent to “Electronic trading and transaction platform” and of the modalities of chain of custody along production, harvesting, transport, trading and consumption, in order to corroborate the legality and chain of custody of Sandalwood with minimal cost to Sandalwood growers and sponsors;
- (vi) to prescribe for IT based online registration of such Sandalwood based industries and enterprises conforming to above provisions of legality of Sandalwood so as to promote demand for such Sandalwood and help farmers increase their income;

**7. Inter-state or intra-state trade and commerce.-** Subject to the provisions of this Act and rules made therein by the Sandalwood Board of India, any Sandalwood grower, trader, or electronic trading and transaction platform shall have the freedom to carry on inter-state or intra-state trade and commerce in Sandalwood in a trade area.

**8. Power to make rules for national framework on farming agreements.-** The Sandalwood Board of India shall prescribe rules or guidelines for a national framework on farming agreements between Sandalwood growers (farmers) and sponsors for growing trees that protect and empower Sandalwood growers to engage with sponsors at a mutually agreed remunerative price framework in a fair and transparent manner, and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto or delegate such powers to state bodies for a particular State.

**9. Functions of State-level Sandalwood boards (SLSB).-**

- (1) May facilitate vertical integration of the above-mentioned linkages between all stakeholders in the State;
- (2) May have their own electronic trading and transaction platform for intra-state trade and commerce in their area following the chain of custody regime electronically.





**10. Powers of State-level Sandalwood board.-**

- (1) The State-level Sandalwood board shall be the final authority on the establishment and promotion of Sandalwood-based industries to encourage all Sandalwood industries, especially new establishments, to promote farm forestry plantations and monitor progress of the same to ensure sustainable Sandalwood supply to all Sandalwood based industries in the State.
- (2) The State-level Sandalwood board shall be the final authority on demarcation and designation of any catchment area for trader, agent and sponsor so as to encourage Sandalwood growers (farmers) to grow trees on their lands.
- (3) It shall decide on incentive programme, if any for the farmers who grow trees, depending upon the succession rate after one year of plantation for continuing the plantation for longer time.
- (4) The State-level Sandalwood board shall be empowered to provide for upgradation and deployment of tools and techniques for on-site harvesting, conversion, storage and other such value additions to Sandalwood, notwithstanding any other provisions in any other Acts.

**CHAPTER 3  
Miscellaneous**

11. **Power to levy fine.-** Whoever contravenes the provisions of this Act or the rules made thereunder shall be liable to pay a fine levied by the State-level Sandalwood board or the Sandalwood board of India, which shall not be less than twenty five thousand rupees (INR 25000) but which may extend up to twenty five lakh rupees (INR 2500000), and where contravention is a continuing one, further penalty not exceeding five thousand rupees for each day after the first day during which the contravention continues.
12. **Appeals.-** Appeal against the decision of the State-level Sandalwood board shall only lie to Sandalwood board of India.
13. **Bar of jurisdiction of civil court.-** No civil court shall have jurisdiction to entertain any suit or proceedings in respect of any matter, the cognizance of which can be taken and disposed of by any authority empowered by or under this Act or the rules made thereunder.
14. **Power of Central Government to give directions.-** The Sandalwood Board of India may, for carrying out the provisions of this Act, give such instructions, directions, orders





or issue guidelines as it may deem necessary to any authority or officer subordinate to the Central Government, any State Government or any authority or officer subordinate to a State Government, and traders and sponsors.

15. **Indemnity for acts done in good faith.**- No suit, prosecution or other legal proceedings shall lie against the Sandalwood Board of India or the State Sandalwood Board, or any officer of the Central Government or the State Government or any other person in respect of anything which is, in good faith, done or intended to be done under this Act or of any rules or orders made thereunder.
16. **Act to override other laws.**- Save as otherwise provided in this Act, the provisions of this Act shall have effect, notwithstanding anything inconsistent therewith contained in any State Act or any other law for time being in force or any custom or usage or any instrument having effect by virtue of any law.



## ENCLOSURE 2



### **Draft Proposal to establish Sandalwood Board of India**

#### **Draft Proposal to Establish Sandalwood Board of India**

##### **Introduction**

The proposal to establish the Sandalwood Board of India aims to promote, regulate, and streamline the cultivation, production, and trade of Sandalwood in India. This board may be constituted based on the lines of other boards like Tobacco Board, Spice Board, and Coffee Board under the Ministry of Commerce, Government of India. The main objective of Sandalwood Board is to ensure sustainable growth, quality control, market development, and fair-trade practices in the Sandalwood industry. Sandalwood is a valuable resource, both economically and culturally, and its promotion requires a dedicated body to address various challenges and opportunities.

Sandalwood has been an integral part of India's cultural, economic, and ecological heritage. Known for its fragrant heartwood and essential oil, Sandalwood holds significant value in the global market. Karnataka, often referred to as 'Land of Sandalwood,' boasts a storied history of Sandalwood cultivation and trade. The State's climate and soil conditions create an ideal environment for growing Sandalwood, contributing significantly to both its economy and cultural heritage. Karnataka's reputation for producing superior quality Sandalwood spans centuries. The region's favourable climatic conditions and fertile soil have fostered a thriving Sandalwood industry, making it a linchpin of the State's economy. Over the years, products such as Mysore Sandal Soap have garnered international acclaim, underscoring Karnataka's rich legacy in Sandalwood production. This historical prominence has established the State as a central hub for the Sandalwood trade, significantly contributing to its cultural and economic identity.

Despite its historical and cultural importance, the Sandalwood industry is beset by numerous challenges. Illegal logging, pest infestations, and restrictive regulations pose significant threats to the sustainability of Sandalwood cultivation. Moreover, the long gestation period required for Sandalwood trees to mature often discourages farmers from investing in this valuable crop. A lack of financial incentives and technical support further exacerbates these challenges, hindering the industry's growth and potential.

The Institute of Wood Science and Technology (ICFRE-IWST) in Bengaluru plays a pivotal role in addressing these challenges. As a premier research institution, ICFRE-IWST specializes in the study and conservation of Sandalwood. Through its innovative research, ICFRE-IWST has developed





advanced techniques for Sandalwood cultivation, pest management, and production of quality planting material. These advancements position ICFRE-IWST as a leading organization in Sandalwood research, providing essential insights and solutions for the promotion of Sandalwood in the industry.

Considering the above, establishing the Sandalwood Development Board of India in Bengaluru under the Ministry of Commerce, Government of India represents a strategic move to consolidate and amplify these efforts. By leveraging the expertise and resources of ICFRE-IWST, the Sandalwood Development Board aims to create a sustainable and thriving Sandalwood industry. This initiative seeks to address the existing challenges, provide farmers with the necessary support and guidance, and promote the growth and trade of Sandalwood both domestically and internationally. Formation of the Sandalwood Board of India in Bengaluru is a critical step towards revitalizing the Sandalwood industry. It underscores the commitment to preserving India's Sandalwood heritage, addressing current challenges, and promoting sustainable growth.

### Objectives

The key objectives of the Sandalwood Board of India are:

1. **Promote Sandalwood Cultivation:** Encourage the cultivation of Sandalwood through financial support, technical guidance, and awareness programs.
2. **Regulate Trade and Ensure Quality:** Standardize and regulate the trade of Sandalwood to maintain high quality and prevent illegal activities.
3. **Market Development:** Develop domestic and international markets for Sandalwood and its products.
4. **Research and Development:** Support research initiatives to improve Sandalwood cultivation practices and develop value-added products.
5. **Sustainability and Conservation:** Ensure sustainable practices in Sandalwood cultivation and conservation of genetic resources.

### Structure of the Sandalwood Development Board

#### 1. **Governing Body:**

- o **Chairperson:** Appointed by the Ministry of Commerce.
- o **Members:** Representatives from different ministries of Government of India, ICFRE, ICAR, SAUs, NABARD, NMPB, State Forest Departments, Sandalwood Growers' Associations, Traders and Experts in Sandalwood Research and Agroforestry.





**2. Executive Committee:**

- o Executive Director: Responsible for day-to-day operations.
- o Deputy Directors: Oversee specific functions such as cultivation support, market development, quality control, and R&D.

**3. Regional Offices:**

- o Proposed to establish four regional offices at Nagpur (Maharashtra), Gandhinagar (Gujarat), Guwahati (Assam) and Kannauj (Uttar Pradesh) which are major potential Sandalwood growing states to provide localized support and services.

**Functions and Responsibilities**

**1. Promotion of Cultivation:**

- o Financial Support: Provide grants, subsidies, and low-interest loans to farmers for Sandalwood cultivation.
- o Technical Guidance: Develop and distribute detailed cultivation manuals and conduct training programs for farmers.
- o Quality Planting Material (QPM): Ensure the availability and certification of high-quality planting material.

**2. Market Development and Trade Regulation:**

- o Market Access: Facilitate market access for growers through e-portals, trade fairs, and buyer-seller meets.
- o Price Support: Implement mechanisms to ensure fair pricing and introduce a buy-back arrangement to protect farmers from market volatility.
- o Export Promotion: Work with international trade bodies to promote Indian Sandalwood in global markets.

**3. Quality Control:**

- o Certification: Develop standards for Sandalwood quality and establish certification processes.
- o Monitoring: Implement monitoring systems to ensure compliance with quality standards and prevent illegal trade.





**4. Research and Development:**

- o Fund R&D: Allocate funds for research projects aimed at improving Sandalwood yield, disease resistance, and developing value-added products both for public and private sector institutes.
- o Collaboration: Collaborate with research institutions like ICAR, ICFRE, and universities for advanced research and technology transfer.

**5. Awareness and Capacity Building:**

- o Campaigns: Conduct awareness campaigns on the benefits of Sandalwood cultivation and legal regulations.
- o Training Programs: Organize training programs for farmers, extension workers, and stakeholders on best practices in Sandalwood Agroforestry.

**6. Legal and Compliance Assistance:**

- o Regulatory Guidance: Provide guidance on legal compliance related to Sandalwood cultivation, extraction, and trade.
- o Documentation Support: Assist in the preparation of necessary legal documents for Sandalwood transactions.

**7. Sustainability and Conservation:**

- o Genetic Resource Conservation: Develop and implement strategies for the conservation of Sandalwood genetic resources.
- o Sustainable Practices: Promote sustainable cultivation practices to ensure long-term viability of Sandalwood resources.

**Detailed Action Plan**

**1. Promotion of Cultivation:**

- o Financial Support:
  - Provide financial assistance to farmers for establishing Sandalwood plantations through grants, subsidies, and low-interest loans.
  - Collaborate with NABARD and other financial institutions to include Sandalwood in their credit schemes.





- Develop indicative unit costs of investment for Sandalwood to facilitate its inclusion in agriculture and allied activities documents.

**o Technical Guidance:**

- Develop and disseminate a comprehensive technical guide on Sandalwood cultivation, covering all aspects from planting to harvesting.
- Conduct training programs and workshops for farmers, extension workers, and stakeholders on best practices in Sandalwood Agroforestry.
- CAFRI to be designated as the nodal agency for providing technical support and certification of Quality Planting Material (QPM).

**o Quality Planting Material (QPM):**

- Ensure the availability of certified QPM through the establishment and accreditation of Sandalwood nurseries.
- Develop standards for QPM and monitor their adherence through regular inspections and quality checks.

**2. Market Development and Trade Regulation:**

**o Market Access:**

- Develop an e-portal dedicated to the sale and trade of Sandalwood, providing a centralized platform for growers and buyers to connect.
- Organize trade fairs, exhibitions, and buyer-seller meets to promote Sandalwood products and facilitate direct interactions between growers and buyers.

**o Price Support:**

- Implement mechanisms to stabilize prices and ensure fair returns to farmers, and buy-back arrangements.
- Establish market linkages with domestic and international buyers to enhance market access and ensure stable demand.





o **Export Promotion:**

- Work with international trade bodies and export promotion councils to promote Indian Sandalwood in global markets.
- Develop and implement strategies to enhance the competitiveness of Indian Sandalwood in international markets, including quality certification, branding, and marketing campaigns.

3. **Quality Control:**

o **Certification:**

- Develop and implement quality standards for Sandalwood, including criteria for grading, processing, and packaging.
- Establish a certification process to ensure that only high-quality Sandalwood is traded, enhancing market trust and value.

o **Monitoring:**

- Implement robust monitoring systems to track the production, processing, and trade of Sandalwood, ensuring compliance with quality standards and preventing illegal activities.
- Collaborate with state forest departments and law enforcement agencies to enforce regulations and prevent illegal logging and trade of Sandalwood.

4. **Research and Development:**

o **Fund R&D:**

- Allocate funds for research projects aimed at improving Sandalwood yield, disease resistance, and developing value-added products.
- Encourage collaborative research initiatives between research institutions, universities, and industry stakeholders to drive innovation and technological advancements.





o **Collaboration:**

- Foster partnerships with research institutions such as ICFRE, ICAR and other SAUs to conduct advanced research on Sandalwood.
- Facilitate technology transfer and dissemination of research findings to farmers and industry stakeholders through training programs, workshops, and publications.

5. **Awareness and Capacity Building:**

o **Campaigns:**

- Conduct awareness campaigns to educate farmers and stakeholders about the benefits of Sandalwood cultivation, legal regulations, and market opportunities.
- Utilize various media channels, including print, electronic, and social media, to reach a wide audience and disseminate information.

o **Training Programs:**

- Organize training programs and workshops to build the capacity of farmers, extension workers, and other stakeholders in Sandalwood cultivation, processing, and trade.
- Develop educational materials and training modules on best practices in Sandalwood Agroforestry, value addition and quality control.

6. **Legal and Compliance Assistance:**

o **Regulatory Guidance:**

- Provide guidance and support to farmers and stakeholders holding patta lands on legal compliance related to Sandalwood cultivation, extraction, and trade.
- Develop and disseminate guidelines and procedures for obtaining necessary permissions and complying with regulations.

o **Documentation Support:**

- Assist farmers and stakeholders in preparing and maintaining the necessary legal documents for Sandalwood transactions, including transit permits, sale deeds, and certification documents.





**7. Sustainability and Conservation:**

**o Genetic Resource Conservation:**

- Develop and implement strategies for the conservation of Sandalwood genetic resources, including the establishment of gene banks and conservation plots.
- Collaborate with state forest departments, research institutions and conservation organizations to preserve the genetic diversity of Sandalwood.

**o Sustainable Practices:**

- Promote sustainable cultivation practices to ensure the long-term viability of Sandalwood resources.
- Provide training and support to farmers on sustainable Agroforestry practices, soil conservation, water management, and pest control.

**Budget and Funding**

**1. Initial Funding:**

- o Seek an initial grant from the central government for the establishment of the Sandalwood Board, including infrastructure, staffing, and initial operational costs.
- o Estimated initial funding requirement: INR 1000 crore.

**2. Ongoing Funding:**

- o Government Grants: Secure regular grants from the Ministry of Commerce, Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare, Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, and other relevant ministries.
- o Revenue Generation: Generate revenue through certification fees, trade facilitation services, and market access programs.





## Implementation Plan

### 1. Phase 1: Establishment:

- o Set up the Sandalwood Development Board headquarters in Bengaluru and appoint key officials.
- o Develop bylaws, operational guidelines, and standard operating procedures.
- o Estimated timeline: 6 months.

### 2. Phase 2: Infrastructure Development:

- o Establish regional offices in major Sandalwood growing states.
- o Set up the e-portal for market access and information dissemination.
- o Estimated timeline: 12 months.

### 3. Phase 3: Program Rollout:

- o Launch financial support schemes, training programs, and awareness campaigns.
- o Initiate market development activities and quality certification processes.
- o Estimated timeline: 18 months.

### 4. Phase 4: Monitoring and Evaluation:

- o Implement monitoring systems to track progress and ensure compliance.
- o Conduct regular evaluations and stakeholder consultations to refine programs and policies.
- o Estimated timeline: Ongoing.





# ANNEXES



## ANNEX 1



Government of India  
Economic Advisory Council to the Prime Minister  
NITI Aayog Bhawan, Sansad Marg, New Delhi - 110 001  
\*\*\*\*\*

No. EAC-PM/Sandalwood/2021

3<sup>rd</sup> March 2021

### OFFICE MEMORANDUM

**Subject: Constitution of Sandalwood Development Committee**

#### Introduction

1.1 Sandalwood is the most important segment of the vast Flavours & Fragrance Industry in the country. Its oil is used in Attar industry, perfumery, soaps & toiletries, scented tobacco, pan masala and pharmaceutical applications. Indian Sandalwood and its oil & products are famous world over because of which the international market was dominated by India.

1.2 Sandalwood is the fragrant heartwood procured from the species of genus *Santalum*, of family *Santalaceae*. In India, Sandal distribution occurs in the Deccan plateau i.e. Karnataka, Tamil Nadu and small parts of Kerala and Andhra Pradesh. However, recently, non-traditional states have picked up Sandalwood Cultivation due to scope for long term income generation. Sandalwood tree is hemi-parasitic i.e. it requires a primary host, intermediate host as well as a long-term secondary host making it an ideal one for agroforestry. It is able to withstand soil pH up to 9 but, is unable to grow in waterlogged sites. It is capable to grow in regions with any kind of rainfall. It can tolerate extreme temperatures from 4-46° C. As per surveys, heartwood initiation generally happens between 6-9 years of age. Girth as well as age of the tree influence yield of oil from the heartwood, the highest being for a girth of >80 centimeters.

1.3 There is a huge scope for sandalwood cultivation in nontraditional states like Gujarat, Rajasthan, AP, MP and Maharashtra. A preference for horticultural species like Indian Gooseberry, Pomegranate, Citrus, Guava, Mango etc. as secondary long-term host ensures intermediate returns during the 15-20 years it takes for the trees to mature.

1.4 There are 16 varieties of Sandalwood spread over the world. These are grouped into the following variants based on the regions in which they are grown:

- East Indian (*Santalum album*)
- Australian (*Santalum spicatum*)
- Hawaiian
- Pacific Islands

#### Uniqueness of East Indian Sandalwood

2. East Indian Sandalwood is known as the queen among the sandalwood species because it yields the superior quality essential oil used for perfumery and related industries. The species is hardy, can be grown in dry and degraded lands and in a variety of soils and is

1





ideal to be grown in combination with horticultural species as secondary hosts. There is no uniform pattern in formation of heartwood and oil content with increasing age. Therefore, the population of East Indian Sandalwood grown anywhere in the world may have same yield.

#### **Import/Export Trends of Indian Sandalwood**

3. India is hardly able to satisfy its domestic sandalwood needs and rely mostly on Australia and African nations to meet its requirements. In the 1970s when Indonesia had banned export of Sandalwood to meet its domestic requirements, India had utilized the occasion to meet the international requirements, thereby creating an environment for over exploitation and smuggling, giving rise to notorious Sandalwood smugglers like Veerappan. This eventually led to the decline in production in India. At that time, Australia started planting East Indian Sandalwood due to its high yield and entered the international market. India faced a wide gap between demand and supply. Now, India is a huge importer of Australian Red Sandalwood powder, Sandal Wood Oil from Ethiopia and Tanzania, Wooden Frames from China. Sandalwood currently enjoys vulnerable status in India.

#### **Reasons for Decline in Sandalwood production in India**

4. The following reasons could be attributed to the decline in Sandalwood production in India:

4.1 Legal Hassles Faced by Potential Sandalwood Farmers - In most of the states, although owner of the land is legally entitled to the sandalwood tree in his land, harvesting is strictly prohibited. Owner of the land cannot fell, sell, convert or dress sandalwood obtained from such a tree or possess, store, transport or sell the sandalwood.

4.2 Security Concerns - State Acts make the owner of the land to protect the Sandalwood tree from thefts. Due to increasing global demand, theft concerns have risen to an extent that plantations have perimeter fencing and armed guards resulting in increased input cost.

4.3 Quality Planting Material of Sandalwood - Traditionally, seedlings are raised in 1500 mm poly bags while it can be grown in much smaller root trainers of 270 mm size. Sandalwood plants require primary host at the nursery stage and long-term secondary host when planted in the field. Seedlings exhibit better growth when grown in small root trainers with a leguminous host.

4.4 Lack of Scientific Studies - Information is lacking on growth, cultivation methods, disease management, heartwood formation, oil yield and best possible compatibility with horticultural crops when grown on private lands under a controlled environment. For example, closely spaced plantations/tree resulted in poor growth and yield of oil in Gujarat.

4.5 Less Incentives for Sandalwood Cultivators - In 2017, the average procurement price of Sandalwood from farmers by Karnataka Soaps and Detergents Ltd (KSDL) was Rs.6,400/kg of heartwood and a 15-year-old tree is expected to yield 15 kg heartwood under cultivated conditions. This price is much less compared to the retail price. There is a





Monophony where there is only a single buyer - Forest Department or Government Undertakings.

4.6 Not able to generate sustained income – In order to meet the cost of protection and maintenance, sustained income needs to be generated.

4.7 No Scheme on Sandalwood Tree Insurance.

4.8 Threat from Invasive species like Lantana camara has altered ecology of natural sandal ecosystems.

4.9 Longer time, around two years, taken to get export license.

#### **Central Government agencies dealing with Sandalwood**

5. There are several Central Government agencies such as MoEF&CC, MoA&FW, Ministry of AYUSH, Ministry of Commerce, National Medicinal Plant Board, etc. dealing with Sandalwood. There is a need for a single agency in the Government of India to govern the state-owned sandalwood resources and to initiate policy making in this regard.

#### **Importance of developing indigenous Sandalwood plantation/industry**

6.1 If India needs to compete against contenders like Australia and Africa whose export trends have seen a steep incline, India will need to attempt to grow Sandalwood both in in-situ and ex-situ. Various inter-plantation methods must be adopted and efforts are required to convert unproductive waste lands into productive lands.

6.2 Moreover, Sandal or Chandan in India has religious importance, aesthetic value in terms of furniture making and other woodworks apart from usage in traditional perfume or attar. People are gradually turning back to using natural products which is likely to boost sandalwood oil-based attars in the global markets. Therefore, there is likely to be a huge domestic as well as international demand for a superior quality East Indian sandalwood – heartwood and oil. We should not let such an opportunity slip through our fingers. India can be Atmanirbhar while meeting the Sandalwood needs of our society in the present and in the future.

#### **Constitution of Sandalwood Development Committee**

7.1 Keeping in view that farming of sandalwood can act as a platform for rural employment generation and significant foreign exchange generation through exports of sandalwood and its various other bye products, it has been decided to constitute a Sandalwood Development Committee (SDC) with the following composition:

- |  |   |             |
|--|---|-------------|
| (i) Dr. Bibek Debroy, Chairman, EAC-PM     | - | Chairman    |
| (ii) Shri Ratan P. Watai, Member Secretary | - | Co-chairman |
| (iii) Secretary, MoEF&CC or his nominee    | - | Member      |
| (iv) Secretary, MoA&FW or his nominee      | - | Member      |
| (v) Secretary, M/o AYUSH or his nominee    | - | Member      |





- |        |   |   |                 |
|--------|---|---|-----------------|
| (vi)   | Secretary, Ministry of Commerce or his nominee  | - | Member          |
| (vii)  | CEO, National Medicinal Plants Board  | - | Member          |
| (viii) | Dr. M.P. Singh, Director / Dr Arun Kumar, Scientist - F,<br>Institute of Wood Science & Technology, Bengaluru | - | Member          |
| (ix)   | Dr Shyam Vishwanath, Director, Kerala Forest Research<br>Institute, Thrissur                                  | - | Member          |
| (x)    | Dr K.T. Parthiban, Dean, Forest College & Research Institute,<br>TNAU, Mettupalayam                           | - | Member          |
| (xi)   | Shri Pradeep Kapoor, Jagat Aroma Oils Distillery, Kannauj   | - | Member          |
| (xii)  | Shri K. Rajeswara Rao, Sr Adviser, EAC-PM   | - | Member Convenor |

The SDC may induct any other expert as its member.

7.2. Following would be the Terms of Reference of SDC:

- (i) To identify issues relating to Sandalwood plantation and marketing in consultation with various State Governments and agencies;
- (ii) To examine the legal provisions and suggest amendments to increase Sandalwood plantation and marketing in different parts of the country;
- (iii) To study the Australian model of Sandalwood plantation and its marketing, including its bye products, and suggest measures to adopt the same or any other better ways in India;
- (iv) To study the domestic & International markets/trade for Sandalwood and its bye products and suggest measures for promoting production and marketing to increase value addition and employment domestically; and
- (v) Any other matter relating to the development of Sandalwood in the country.

The SDC shall submit its report by August 2021.

  
(K. Rajeswara Rao)  
Senior Adviser, EAC-PM &  
Member Convenor, SDC

**Distribution:**

**Chairman, Co-chairman and Members of the Sandalwood Development Committee mentioned above**



**ANNEX 2**



**Government of India  
Central Vista Oversight Committee  
NITI Aayog Bhawan, Sansad Marg, New Delhi - 110 001  
\*\*\*\*\***

**No. CVOC/Sandalwood/2022**

**10<sup>th</sup> March 2022**

**OFFICE MEMORANDUM**

**Subject: Re-constitution of Sandalwood Development Committee**

The Sandalwood Development Committee (SDC), which was constituted vide erstwhile Economic Advisory Council (EAC-PM) OM No. EAC-PM/Sandalwood/2021 dated 3<sup>rd</sup> March 2021, met on 7<sup>th</sup> April 2021 under the chairmanship of Shri Ratan P. Watal. It was decided to circulate minutes of that meeting along with second meeting notice after the corona pandemic subsides. Subsequently, the erstwhile EAC-PM completed its term on 25<sup>th</sup> September 2021 and Shri Ratan P. Watal was appointed as Chairman, Central Vista Oversight Committee (CVOC) in November 2021.

2. It has now been decided to re-constitute the SDC under the chairmanship of Shri Ratan P. Watal, Chairman, CVOC as Chairman, Shri K. Rajeswara Rao, Principal Adviser, CVOC as Member & Convener and the nominees of various departments/organisations, who attended the meeting on 7<sup>th</sup> April 2021, as Members. Accordingly, SDC has been re-constituted as under:

- |   |                     |
|---|---------------------|
| (i) Shri Ratan P. Watal, Chairman, CVOC   | - Chairman          |
| (ii) Dr. Suneesh Buxy, Inspector General of Forests (representing Secretary, MoEF&CC)     | - Member            |
| (iii) Dr. Suresh K. Malhotra, Agriculture Commissioner (representing Secretary, MoA&FW)   | - Member            |
| (iv) Shri S. Suresh Kumar, Joint Secretary (representing Secretary, Ministry of Commerce) | - Member            |
| (v) Dr. J.L.N. Sastry, CEO, NMPB (representing Secretary, M/o AYUSH)                      | - Member            |
| (vi) Dr. M.P. Singh, Director / Dr. Arun Kumar A.N., Scientist-F, IWST, Bengaluru         | - Member            |
| (vii) Dr. Syam Viswanath, Director, Kerala Forest Research Institute, Thrissur            | - Member            |
| (viii) Dr. K.T. Parthiban, Dean, Forest College & Research Institute, Mettupalayam        | - Member            |
| (ix) Shri Pradeep Kapoor, Jagat Aroma Oils Distillery, Kannauj                            | - Member            |
| (x) Shri K. Rajeswara Rao, Principal Adviser, CVOC  | - Member & Convener |

The SDC may induct any other expert as its member.





3. Terms of Reference of the re-constituted SDC will be same as earlier, which are listed below:

- (i) To identify issues relating to Sandalwood plantation and marketing in consultation with various State Governments and agencies;
- (ii) To examine the legal provisions and suggest amendments to increase Sandalwood plantation and marketing in different parts of the country;
- (iii) To study the Australian model of Sandalwood plantation and its marketing, including its bye products, and suggest measures to adopt the same or any other better ways in India;
- (iv) To study the domestic & International markets/trade for Sandalwood and its bye products and suggest measures for promoting production and marketing to increase value addition and employment domestically; and
- (v) Any other matter relating to the development of Sandalwood in the country.

4. Minutes of the meeting of the earlier SDC held on 7<sup>th</sup> April 2021 are enclosed. Schedule of next meeting of the SDC as reconstituted above will be intimated in due course.

Encl: As above

  
(K. Rajeswara Rao)  
Principal Adviser, CVOC &  
Member Convenor, SDC

**Distribution:**

**Chairman and Members of the re-constituted Sandalwood Development Committee mentioned above**



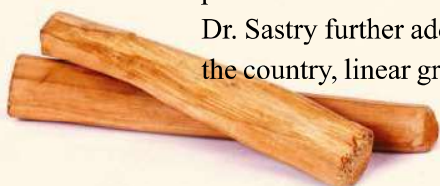
### ANNEX 3



**Government of India  
Economic Advisory Council to the Prime Minister**  
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**Minutes of the first meeting of the 'Sandalwood Development Committee' held on 7th April  
2021 under the Chairmanship of Shri Ratan P. Watal, Member Secretary,  
Economic Advisory Council to the Prime Minister**

1. First meeting of the 'Sandalwood Development Committee'(SDC) under the Chairmanship of Shri Ratan P Watal, Member Secretary, Economic Advisory Council to the Prime Minister (EAC-PM) was held on 7th April, 2021. The list of participants is enclosed.
2. Welcoming the participants, Shri K. Rajeswara Rao, Principal Adviser, EAC-PM & Member Convener, SDC informed that due to pre-occupation with other pressing engagements, Dr. Bibek Debroy, Chairman, EAC-PM will not be able to chair the SDC and it will be chaired by Shri Ratan P. Watal, Member Secretary, EAC-PM.
3. Shri Ratan P. Watal, Member Secretary, EAC-PM and Chairman, SDC also welcomed the participants and requested Shri K. Rajeswara Rao to make a Presentation to kick start the discussions. Then a Presentation was made outlining the purpose of constituting SDC and its Terms of Reference. The Presentation covered Sandalwood tree, its variants, unique features of Indian Sandalwood tree, importance of the Indian Sandalwood Industry and the reasons for the decline of Sandalwood production in India, etc.
4. Thereafter, as requested by Shri Watal, Chairman, SDC, participants expressed their views as under.
  - 4.1. Dr. J.L.N. Sastry, CEO, National Medicinal Plants Board (NMPB) stated that the plight of Sandalwood tree's protection begins from its 8th year of growth because actual commercial value is achieved after 15 years. Fencing and patrolling increases investment cost. Australian variety lacks a major component making it inferior to Indian variety. Therefore, first order of business should be to file for GI Tag for the Indian variety in order to prevent the Australians from reaping the benefits of our variety being grown in their plantations. Currently, the oldest trees (20-25 years old) are found along Tamil Nadu and Karnataka borders in 2 villages being protected by the villagers. Further, the age of the tree is in direct proportionality to the quality of oil produced by it. Therefore, trees should be left alone for longer period. This is currently being done by private parties like GMR, ITC, Mahindra, etc. who are able to spend on securing the trees for the long run. He suggested that since root of the tree produces more oil, aerial parts should be initially harvested for Sandalwood for sculpting, agarbathis, etc. Dr. Sastry further added that it has been observed that in seeds planted in other parts of the country, linear growth is observed without increase in girth width which is not ideal





for oil production. Therefore, saplings grown in home soil should be transplanted in other areas to achieve growth in girth width.

Dr. Sastry opined that herbs and shrubs must be grown by younger generation and people in the 50+ age group should get into agro-forestry because work is less. Further, since most of the saplings are coming from the Mangalore variety of Sandalwood, it should get a GI protection. Trees of this variety have been known to grow with good girth width. He pointed out that currently, the Ayurvedic industry uses non-volatile compound of the Sandalwood oil, the residue of which may be used in the agarbathi industry.

- 4.2 Shri Pradeep Kapoor, Jagat Aroma Oils Distillery stated that the price of Sandalwood shot up in 1970s from Rs.250/kg to Rs.1,500/kg, paving the way for rampant felling of trees and increased cases of smuggling, thereby depriving the Attar industry of raw material. Attar industry started shutting down. New player- pan masala industry came into existence in late 70s, which further increased the demand for Sandalwood. Current price makes procurement unsustainable. He explained the plight of getting hold of Sandalwood oil shipment that took 3-4 years due to time taken for licensing, which was not feasible. Therefore, he stressed on the need to do away with regulations and let it be grown in private lands. The farmers should be allowed to sell to anyone in the country like any other agricultural produce. Considering that the security of Sandalwood trees is a big concern, Panchayat committees or community clusters should be involved in protection of trees against a monetary benefit.
- 4.3 Dr. Suneesh Buxy, Inspector General of Forests, MoEF&CC pointed out that the Indian Forests Act, 1927 prohibits felling and selling of the Sandalwood trees to protect the wild form so that there is no inter-mixing with the farmed variety. There is no restriction on farming under this Act. A free pass for transportation of wood blocks may be given to Sandalwood like Bamboo if it is not grown in forest area as in case of Australian Model. He suggested that there should be a Buyback Mechanism in place for Sandalwood.
- 4.4 Dr. K.T. Parthiban, Dean, Forest College & Research Institute, Mettupalayam stated that on the production side, inferior quality seeds are in circulation. Further, out of 165 identified host species, only 7-12 are in use. Therefore, scientific promotion of cultivation needs to be practiced. Multi-functional agro-forestry may be practiced. He pointed out that a re-classification of Sandalwood may be done on the basis on Santalol content rather than existing 16-18 species which may have existed years back. On the consumption side, other Sandalwood industries should be promoted like wood works, furniture etc. Further, there is no clarity on how much supply is actually required and there is no proper price-report system. A base price needs to be developed which will attract farmers. It may be sold to any person like any other produce. Currently, theft does not come under the purview of insurance for trees. Institutional credit system and trade linkages need to be





made similar to Red Sanders model. Shri J.L.N. Sastry pointed out that currently, SBI is ready to give insurance to Sandalwood trees, but at a very high premium.

- 4.5 Dr. M.P. Singh, Director, Institute of Wood Science & Technology (IWST), Bengaluru stated that a central level Sandalwood Development Board/Committee has already been proposed with Minister as Chairman and important institutes/stakeholders as its members. Secretarial service will be provided by IWST. He further added that online training is being provided to farmers virtually. Dr. M.P. Singh recommended that all research and training institutes may be made as Centers of Excellence.
- 4.6 Dr. Suresh K. Malhotra, Agriculture Commissioner, MoA&FW explained how MoA&FW through its sub-mission on agro-forestry is helping farmers cultivate Sandalwood in Tamil Nadu, Karnataka, Telangana, etc. High-Definition planting is being promoted at 2.5m<sup>2</sup> x 2.5m<sup>2</sup> capacity and Rs.65,000/ha is being provided over 3 years (40:40:30) to grow host crops. In order to promote quality planting material, viable varieties have been identified and nurseries are developed in three categories (micro, small and high depth) to provide quality planting material. Further, Sandalwood may be made as a plantation crop as in the case of oil palms. Australia is also using high-definition planting, however, since it is a parasitic plant, its viability should be studied. Inter-cropping with vegetable crops for supplement income must be encouraged.
- 4.7 Dr. Syam Viswanath, Director, Kerala Forest Research Institute, Thrissur informed that the Australians have already challenged us on Indian Sandalwood citing that its origin is actually in Timor. In this regard, we need to analyze the oldest population of trees which are in naturalized condition, located in Tamil Nadu, Karnataka and Kerala (62,000 trees in Marayur, which is protected by the State Government). These trees should be preserved for getting viable seeds. Sandalwood is an excellent species for agro-forestry. Space between the trees is very important to avoid them competing for resources. He identified the north-eastern states having a lot of natural Sandalwood trees growing with girth of 1.3m, especially Manipur (due to tradition) and Karbi Anglong region in Assam. Oil content is about 3-4%, which is really good. Other viable states are Punjab, Himachal, Rajasthan, etc. This trend should be encouraged in order to meet the growing domestic demand for Sandalwood. Like National Bamboo Mission, State Medicinal Plant Boards should be the nodal agencies in each state, treating them as a medicinal plant. Like KSDL, distillery should be set up in every state. Value should be set based on the percentage of oil rather than the weight of the wood. Source material i.e., seeds must be certified by forest departments. Nurserymen must be regulated.
- 4.8 Dr. Arun Kumar A.N., Scientist-F, IWST stressed on the importance of studying the





heartwood of any tree including Sandalwood. It takes minimum 20 years for the heartwood to fully develop. There is a direct relationship between girth and heartwood. Some trees may not have heartwood at all. It is not sure if heartwood is genetically inherited or not. Instead of growing Sandalwood by conglomerates, it should be treated as auspicious as Tulsi i.e., every house should have a plant. Every sapling being grown now is coming from one single source- Marayur. Spreading seeds out in the open farms must be dealt with caution as it can lead to pest management issues because Sandalwood is not a domesticated species.

- 4.9 Shri S. Suresh Kumar, Joint Secretary, Dept. of Commerce stated that trade related activities under Sandalwood comes under three categories requiring various levels of permission – Sandalwood (prohibited for export), Sandalwood chips and powder (restricted item, permission to be taken from DGFT on case-to-case basis to export) and Sandalwood oil (free for export, though exports are minimal). Almost \$10 Million import of Sandalwood oil occurs. There is no data on actually how much Sandalwood is being used in perfumery or AYUSH ministry. Also, there is no data whether industries, which state that they are using Sandalwood, are using original product.
5. Shri Ratan P. Watal, Chairman, SDC conveyed thanks to all the participants for their views and observed that there should be a mechanism in place to distinguish between wood and distillate. He stressed on the importance of Sandalwood in our culture. He stated that the Act was enacted to protect species grown in natural environment. He further mentioned that Shri Anantha Padmanabhan, who has been advising the Australian Government regarding the Sandalwood cultivation, has found ways to cultivate Sandalwood in half the time negating the belief that Sandalwood can only be grown in a natural environment. Further, there should be market arrangement which should specify where and to whom the Sandalwood should be sold to.

Opium is produced in India for medicinal purposes under a licensed cultivation. Such models may be considered for Sandalwood cultivation as well by private players. Shri Watal suggested to have a contract farming mechanism so that farmers are ensured that their product is sold at a fixed rate which may be settled say a year before felling. He further reiterated that Sandalwood comes under the purview of various departments and that going forward, there should be a permanent structure which will address the above discussed issues once in 6 months or 1 year. Shri Watal further observed that Sandalwood cultivation may be seen as a source of employment generation. Elasticity of employment i.e., how much employment does growing of Sandalwood generate must be examined. If it is more in case of any other specific plant say, mango, it should be studied why that is so and how we can replicate that in case of Sandalwood. This is crucial to determine the necessity for promoting Sandalwood Cultivation.





6. Shri K. Rajeswara Rao, Member Convener, SDC informed about receiving representations from some of the agencies involved in Sandalwood activities. He mentioned that in line with the Terms of Reference of the SDC, Stakeholder Consultation meetings will be organized in various States and some of the major agencies in that area will be invited to make their Presentations before the Committee. Such meetings may be feasible after the prevailing COVID-19 situation improves.
7. Meeting ended with a 'Vote of Thanks' to the Chair.

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**First meeting of the 'Sandalwood Development Committee' held on 7th April 2021 under the Chairmanship of Shri Ratan P. Watal, Member Secretary, Economic Advisory Council to the Prime Minister**

**List of Participants**

- 
1. Shri Ratan P Watal, Member Secretary, EAC-PM & Chairman, SDC - in chair
  2. Shri K. Rajeswara Rao, Principal Adviser, EAC-PM & Convener, SDC
  3. Ms Sneha Daniel, Asst Consultant, EAC-PM
  4. Shri S. Suresh Kumar, Joint Secretary, Dept. of Commerce
  5. Dr. Suneesh Buxy, Inspector General of Forests, MoEF&CC
  6. Dr. Suresh K. Malhotra, Agriculture Commissioner, MoA&FW
  7. Dr. J.L.N. Sastry, CEO, National Medicinal Plants Board
  8. Dr. M.P. Singh, Director, IWST, Bengaluru
  9. Dr. Arun Kumar A.N., Scientist-F, IWST, Bengaluru
  10. Dr. Syam Viswanath, Director, Kerala Forest Research Institute, Thrissur
  11. Dr. K.T. Parthiban, Dean, Forest College & Research Institute, Mettupalayam
  12. Shri Pradeep Kapoor, Jagat Aroma Oils Distillery, Kannauj



## ANNEX 4



**Government of India  
Central Vista Oversight Committee  
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**Record Note of discussions held during the stakeholder consultation meeting of the Sandalwood Development Committee under the Chairmanship of Shri Ratan P. Watal, Chairman, Central Vista Oversight Committee on 25th August 2023 at Aranya Bhawan, Karnataka Forest Department, Bengaluru**

1. Stakeholder consultation meeting of the Sandalwood Development Committee (SDC) was held under the Chairmanship of Shri Ratan P. Watal, Chairman, Central Vista Oversight Committee (CVOC) on 25th August 2023 at Aranya Bhawan, Karnataka Forest Department, Bengaluru. List of participants is enclosed.
2. Welcoming the participants, Shri K. Rajeswara Rao, Principal Adviser, CVOC & Member Convener, SDC briefed that at the behest of Shri Ratan P. Watal when he was the Member Secretary, Economic Advisory Council to the Prime Minister (EAC-PM), SDC was constituted in March 2021 and its first meeting was held on 7th April 2021. Subsequent to the completion of the erstwhile EAC-PM, Shri Watal was appointed as the Chairman, CVOC. Consequently, SDC was reconstituted on 10th March 2022 with Shri Ratan P. Watal, Chairman, CVOC as Chairman, Shri K. Rajeswara Rao, Principal Adviser, CVOC as Member Convener and the nominees of various departments/organisations, who attended SDC meeting on 7th April 2021, as Members.

However, owing to COVID-19 pandemic situation and thereafter, CVOC was busy with overseeing the New Parliament Building work, which is of national importance, SDC meetings could not be held. Now that the NPB has been inaugurated by the Hon'ble Prime Minister, it has been decided to re-start the work of SDC by having stakeholder consultation meetings. To begin with, the four Southern States viz, Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Kerala and Tamil Nadu are being covered in this first stakeholder consultation meeting.

3. Shri Ratan P. Watal, Chairman, CVOC and Chairman, SDC also welcomed the participants and briefed about his interaction with a perfume expert from France when he came to know that earlier perfumes were being manufactured using Indian Sandalwood oil but, Australia and some other countries have overtaken India. He added that Sandalwood and its by products like oil, etc are used in various industries and it has become a rare commodity in India. There is a lot of scope for its development in the country with proper coordination between various ministries/departments in the Government of India and the State Governments. He requested the participants to present their views on the following, which were mentioned in the meeting notice:





- (i) Issues relating to Sandalwood plantation and marketing in consultation with various State Governments and agencies;
  - (ii) Existing legal provisions (State & Central) and suggestions for amendments to increase Sandalwood plantation and marketing in different parts of the country;
  - (iii) Australian model of Sandalwood plantation and its marketing, including its bye products, and suggest measures to adopt the same or any other better ways in India;
  - (iv) Domestic & International markets/trade for Sandalwood and its bye products and suggest measures for promoting production and marketing to increase value addition and employment domestically; and
  - (v) Any other matter relating to the development of Sandalwood in the country.
4. As requested by the Chairman, SDC, Dr. Arun Kumar, Scientist 'G', IWST made a Presentation about Australian model of Sandalwood.
  5. Thereafter, the following participants presented their views:

#### **Karnataka**

1. Shri Rajiv Ranjan, PCCF & HOFF, Government of Karnataka
2. Ms Vanashree Vipin Singh, APCCF, Government of Karnataka
3. Shri D.S. Ramesh, Director of Horticulture, Government of Karnataka
4. Dr. P.K.M. Prashanth, MD, Karnataka Soaps and Detergents Limited
5. Dr. G. Vishwanatha, MD, Karnataka State Handicraft Development Corp. Ltd.

#### **Tamil Nadu**

1. Shri Subrat Mohapatra, PCCF & HOFF, Government of Tamil Nadu

#### **Andhra Pradesh**

1. Shri Ajaya Kumar Naik, PCCF (Research), Government of Andhra Pradesh





## Kerala

1. Shri R.S. Arun. CCF, High Range Circle, Government of Kerala
6. Shri Raghu Prasad, IG of Forests, MoEF&CC; Dr. Praveen K. Singh, Agriculture Commissioner, Ministry of Agriculture; Shri Sanjeet Kumar, DDG, EP(CAP) Division, Ministry of Commerce and Shri Saurabh Sharma, Manager (Mktg & Trade), National Medicinal Plants Board (NMPB), Ministry of Ayush from the Government of India and Dr. M.P. Singh, Director, IWST shared their views.
7. After detailed deliberations, the following emerged:
  - (i) Restrictions on sale of Sandalwood to other State agencies should be removed.
  - (ii) Legal framework of Sandalwood should be made uniform all over the country through the Indian Forest Act. Classification procedure for determining each class of Sandalwood shall be made uniform throughout the country.
  - (iii) Transportation, conversion and storage licence should be liberalized making it simple and seamless.
  - (iv) Uniform Price Realization Mechanism to be introduced.
  - (v) States to implement National Pass System brought out by MoEF&CC, GoI.
  - (vi) Agro Forestry to be promoted by following the Australian model for which Agro Forestry Mission/Sandalwood Development Mission may be implemented.
  - (vii) Agro Forestry shall be brought under banking/credit/insurance system so that loan and insurance may be provided for Sandalwood developers including farmers.
  - (viii) Community patrolling shall be promoted.
  - (ix) Fragrance companies shall be mandated to declare source of Sandalwood Oil.
  - (x) Quality at every stage starting from seedlings/saplings to be maintained and monitored.
  - (xi) States to coordinate with IWST to protect Sandalwood saplings from diseases and the public shall be made aware of the preventive/protective measures..
  - (xii) Awareness programmes to be undertaken by the State agencies periodically.
  - (xiii) Cluster development of Sandalwood plantation to be considered. Endowment lands could be considered for development of Sandalwood corridors. SPV for bulk growing development of Sandalwood plantation corridors to be considered by the States.





- (xiv) Forest Development Corporations of the States to be activated to promote Sandalwood.
  - (xv) Price for each class of Sandalwood to be made unique all over the country so as to increase the demand. There should be a uniform procurement policy throughout the country.
  - (xvi) The Sandalwood trade to be conducted twice a year in each state and the period of auction in the states to be at different times so as to attract major portfolios for buying the product at unique price throughout the country throughout the year. This could facilitate more revenue to the States.
  - (xvii) The rules shall be amended permitting the growers to cut a sandal tree when it acquires 50 centimeters or more in BH so as to encourage many plantations.
  - (xviii) States to make available Sandalwood and Sandal Oil to the general public at designated market places/stores other than their depots with proper control and monitoring. The limit for having Sandalwood and Sandal Oil without permit to be reviewed and enhanced.
  - (xix) Australian model of row-line Sandalwood plantation to be encouraged in different parts of our country also with an aim to regain the international market share and make India the largest exporter of Sandalwood and its derivatives globally.
  - (xx) Sandalwood industry starting from extraction of the root of the Sandalwood tree involves different type of laborers. So, development of Sandalwood industry would provide employment opportunity directly and indirectly.
  - (xxi) Documentation and procedure for obtaining Sandalwood storage licence, transit permits, etc shall be simplified.
  - (xxii) R&D to be done in extracting oil from Sandalwood tree leaves, etc.
  - (xxiii) States shall publicise availability of financial support from NMPB, Ministry of Ayush and encourage more Sandalwood plantations. NMPB/Ministry of Ayush also shall undertake advertisement campaign about their scheme of providing financial support for cultivation of medicinal plants including Sandalwood.
8. Concluding the discussions, Shri Ratan P. Watal, Chairman, SDC appreciated the participants for their active participation and informed that some more stakeholder consultation meetings will be held covering the other major states involved in Sandalwood.
9. Meeting ended with a 'Vote of Thanks' to the Chair.

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**Record Note of discussions held during the stakeholder consultation meeting of the Sandalwood Development Committee under the Chairmanship of Shri Ratan P. Watal, Chairman, Central Vista Oversight Committee on 25th August 2023 at Aranya Bhawan, Karnataka Forest Department, Bengaluru**

**List of Participants**

1. Shri Ratan P Watal, Chairman, CVOC & Chairman, SDC - in chair
2. Shri K. Rajeswara Rao, Principal Adviser, CVOC & Member Convener, SDC
3. Shri R. Raghu Prasad, Inspector General of Forests, MoEF & CC, Government of India
4. Dr. Praveen K. Singh, Agriculture Commissioner, MoA & FW, Government of India
5. Shri Sanjeet Kumar, DDG, EP (CAP) Division, Ministry of Commerce, Government of India
6. Shri Saurabh Sharma, Manager (M&T), NMPB, Ministry of Ayush, Government of India
7. Dr. M.P. Singh, Director, Institute of Wood Science and Technology
8. Dr. A.N. Arun Kumar, Scientist-G, Institute of Wood Science and Technology
9. Shri Rajiv Ranjan, PCCF & HOFF, Government of Karnataka
10. Ms. Vanashree Vipin Singh, APCCF, Government of Karnataka
11. Shri D.S. Ramesh, Director of Horticulture, Government of Karnataka
12. Shri S.S. Ravishankar, DCF-HQ, KFD, Government of Karnataka
13. Shri Subrat Mohapatra, PCCF & HOFF, Government of Tamil Nadu
14. Shri Ajaya Kumar Naik, PCCF (Research), Government of Andhra Pradesh
15. Shri R.S. Arun, Chief Conservator of Forests, High Range Circle, Government of Kerala
16. Dr. P.K.M. Prashanth, MD, Karnataka Soaps and Detergents Limited
17. Shri Umashankar Apali, GM (Mktg), Karnataka Soaps and Detergents Limited
18. Dr. G. Vishwanatha, MD, Karnataka State Handicraft Development Corporation Limited
19. Shri M.N. Nagendrappa, GM (Dev), Karnataka State Handicraft Development Corp. Ltd.
20. Shri Parashuram, Karnataka State Handicraft Development Corporation Limited



## ANNEX 5



### Government of India Central Vista Oversight Committee

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#### **Record Note of discussions held during the stakeholder consultation meeting of the Sandalwood Development Committee under the Chairmanship of Shri Ratan P. Watal, Chairman, Central Vista Oversight Committee & Chairman, Sandalwood Development Committee on 19<sup>th</sup> December 2023 at Aranya Bhawan, Gujarat Forest Department, Gandhinagar**

1. Stakeholder consultation meeting of the Sandalwood Development Committee (SDC) was held under the Chairmanship of Shri Ratan P. Watal, Chairman, Central Vista Oversight Committee (CVOC) & Chairman, SDC on 19<sup>th</sup> December 2023 at Aranya Bhawan, Gujarat Forest Department, Gandhinagar. Apart from the Members of SDC, officials of the Gujarat State Forest Department, 52 Sandalwood farmers/stakeholders attended the meeting. List of participants is enclosed.
2. Shri K. Rajeswara Rao, Principal Adviser, CVOC & Member Convener, SDC welcomed the participants. Shri Ratan P. Watal, Chairman, CVOC and Chairman, SDC in his opening remarks briefed in detail about the genesis of SDC constitution and its Terms of Reference. He informed that the first stakeholder consultation meeting of the SDC was held at Bengaluru and the representatives from all the four southern state Governments i.e. Karnataka, Tamil Nadu, Kerala and Andhra Pradesh attended the meeting and shared their views. He conveyed thanks to Shri S.K. Chaturvedi, PCCF & HoFF, Gujarat and his colleagues for hosting this meeting, which was being held exclusively for the stakeholders in Gujarat and requested the participants to present their views on the following:
  - (I) Issues relating to Sandalwood plantation and marketing in consultation with various State Governments and agencies;
  - (ii) Existing legal provisions (State & Central) and suggestions for amendments to increase Sandalwood plantation and marketing in different parts of the country;
  - (iii) Australian model of Sandalwood plantation and its marketing, including its by products, and suggest measures to adopt the same or any other better ways in India;
  - (iv) Domestic & International markets/trade for Sandalwood and its by products and suggest measures for promoting production and marketing to increase value addition and employment domestically; and
  - (V) Any other matter relating to the development of Sandalwood in the country.





3. Shri S.K. Chaturvedi, PCCF &HoFF, Gujarat expressed thanks to Shri Watal and SDC for having this stakeholder consultation meeting and stated that Sandalwood is one of the reserved species in Gujarat. He further stated that many farmers in Gujarat started Sandalwood plantation and the state Government is in the process of announcing a new 'Chandan Policy' for implementation from next year to promote Sandalwood cultivation in the state. Shri Chaturvedi added that there is a lot of scope for large scale plantation in the state and emphasised the need for quality plantation material/high quality seedlings.
4. Shri U.D. Singh, PCCF (D&M); Dr. A.P. Singh, APCCF (SF); Shri A.K. Srivastav, APCCF (R&T) from Gujarat Forest Department and farmers including from Chandan Vikas Association presented their concerns and views in Sandalwood development. Dr. M.P. Singh, Director, Institute of Wood Science & Technology, Bengaluru; Dr. Prabhat Kumar, Horticulture Commissioner, Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare; Shri Sanjay Kumar Chauhan, Asst Inspector General, MoEF&CC; Shri Sanjeet Kumar, Director EP (CAP), Ministry of Commerce & Industry; and Dr. Chandra Shekhar Sanwal, Dy CEO, Medicinal Plants Board, Ministry of Ayush also shared their views.
5. The following suggestions emerged during the detailed deliberations:
  - (i) Knowledge about how much distance to be maintained between Sandalwood plants, marketing opportunities, etc. should be imparted through capacity building training programmes.
  - (ii) Quality plantation material/high quality seedlings should be supplied. Clonal plantation through seeds or tissue culture should be promoted.
  - (iii) Minimum Support Price for Sandalwood may be considered.
  - (iv) Since theft is a major problem in Sandalwood development, insurance coverage should be considered.
  - (v) IWST will provide training in tissue culture and State Governments should provide infrastructure and capacity building support.
  - (vi) State Governments may consider to form a committee for trading of Sandalwood on the lines similar to that of Tobacco Committee.
  - (vii) Sandalwood Commission at the central Government level should be considered like Bamboo Commission.
  - (viii) There is no surety of income generation for Sandalwood farmers and the same may be considered at centre and state levels.





- (ix) State Governments should provide machines for measurement of heartwood. IWST should extend training in measuring the heartwood using the machine.
  - (x) Beekeeping Development Committee (BDC) report has been helping the central Government to take measures for beekeeping development in the country and the Sandalwood Development Committee report will also help in development of Sandalwood and the country will be able to export more quantities of Sandalwood and its by products. There is a need to reverse the present trend of significantly high imports than exports.
  - (xi) National Highways Authority of India should consider Sandalwood plantation along the national highways in the country by taking proper measures of protecting the same.
  - (xii) State Forest Development Corporations should facilitate Sandalwood farmers also.
  - (xiii) State Governments should promote Medicinal Plants Development Areas. States and Sandalwood farmers should avail funding for Sandalwood projects from NMPB and make use of the e-portal-cum-mobile application developed by NMPB.
  - (xiv) State Governments should make use of Compensatory Afforestation Fund Management and Planning Authority (CAMPA) to promote Sandalwood development also.
  - (xv) State Governments should facilitate meeting platform between Sandalwood farmers and marketing companies.
  - (xvi) R&D in Sandalwood should be promoted.
  - (xvii) National level policy for Sandalwood development is required for which Global policy should be studied.
  - (xviii) Private sector involvement in Sandalwood development is required. Marketing companies such as Dabur and Baidyanath should also be consulted.
  - (xix) Cluster based development of Sandalwood plantation should be encouraged.
6. Shri Ratan P. Watal, Chairman, CVOC & Chairman, SDC summarized the salient issues emerged during the deliberations and appreciated the participants for their effective participation. He informed that Forest College & Research Institute (FCRI), Tamil Nadu Agriculture University, Mettupalem, Tamil Nadu has organized another stakeholder consultation meeting on 22nd instant, which will be chaired by Shri K. Rajeswara Rao, Principal Adviser, CVOC & Member Convener, SDC and requested Dr. M.P. Singh, Director or Dr. A.N. Arun Kumar, Scientist-G, IWST to attend the same. He further informed that the SDC will have another one or two stakeholder consultation meetings covering the major balance states such as Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh and Uttar Pradesh involved in Sandalwood and thereafter, its report will be finalised.





7. Shri S.K. Srivastav, APCCF (R&T) on behalf of PCCF & HoFF, Gujarat Forest Department proposed a 'Vote of Thanks' to the Chair and all the other participants in the meeting.

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**Record Note of discussions held during the stakeholder consultation meeting of the Sandalwood Development Committee under the Chairmanship of Shri Ratan P. Watal, Chairman, Central Vista Oversight Committee & Chairman, Sandalwood Development Committee on 19th December 2023 at Aranya Bhawan, Gujarat Forest Department, Gandhinagar**

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**List of Participants**

1. Shri Ratan P Watal, Chairman, CVOC & Chairman, SDC - in chair
2. Shri K. Rajeswara Rao, Principal Adviser, CVOC & Member Convener, SDC
3. Dr. M.P. Singh, Director, Institute of Wood Science and Technology, Bengaluru
4. Dr. Prabhat Kumar, Horticulture Commissioner, Department of Agriculture & Cooperation, MoA&FW, Government of India
5. Shri Sanjeet Kumar, Director, EP (CAP) Division, Ministry of Commerce & Industry, Government of India
6. Dr. Chandra Shekhar Sanwal, Deputy CEO, National Medicinal Plants Board, Ministry of Ayush, Government of India
7. Shri Sanjay Kumar Chauhan, Assistant Inspector General of Forests, MoEF&CC, Government of India
8. Shri S.K. Chaturvedi, PCCF & HOFF, Forest Department, Government of Gujarat
9. Shri U.D. Singh, PCCF (D&M), Forest Department, Government of Gujarat
10. Shri A.P. Singh, APCCF (SF), Forest Department, Government of Gujarat
11. Shri S.K. Srivastav, APCCF (R&T), Forest Department, Government of Gujarat

**Farmers from Gujarat**

1. Shri Upendra Patel, Anand District
2. Shri Piyush Purohit, Vadodara District





3. Dr. Umesh Kabde, Anand District
4. Shri Jashubhai K. Patel, Rajkot District
5. Shri Agrubhai A Chauhan, Sabarkantha District
6. Shri Janakbhai Naranbhai Patel, Sabarkantha District
7. Shri Kirtibhai Ramanbhai Patel, Godhra District
8. Shri Ramanbhai V Patel, Vadodara District
9. Shri Rahulbhai Fatesinh Chaudhary, Surat District
10. Shri Khodaji Nehruji Thakor, Ahmedabad District
11. Shri Manojsinh Vaktusinh Rathod, Sabarkantha District
12. Shri Nileshkumar Ramansinh, Panchmahal District
13. Shri Sunilbhai M Chaudhary, Tapi District
14. Shri Tusharbhai Haribhai Patel, Panchmahal District
15. Shri Dursinh T Rathod, Gandhinagar District
16. Shri Samir N Joshi, Amreli District
17. Shri Chirag B Patel, Sabarkantha District
18. Shri Pragadeshkumar C Patel, Sabarkantha District
19. Shri Rakesh Kumar P Damor, Gandhinagar District
20. Shri Ketanbhai N Joshi, Banaskantha District
21. Shri Narendrakumar B Tadvi, Panchmahal District
22. Shri Parth Kukkad, Gandhinagar District
23. Shri Hardik B Patel, Surat District
24. Shri Dharnatbhai Hamirbhai Mariya, Jamnagar District
25. Shri Ravibhai Kalubhai
26. Shri Vasantbhai P Sariya, Surat District
27. Shri Mehulkumar Bhagabhai Chauhan, Lunavada District



28. Shri Shaileshbhai A Bamaniya, Lunavada District
29. Shri Harishkumar Ramanlal Vankar, Lunavada District
30. Shri Dalpatsinh Ramjibhai
31. Smt Priyankaben Ramanbhai Pateliya, Lunavada District
32. Shri Harshadbhai Shivabhai Bariya, Lunavada District
33. Shri Nileshkumar Ramansinh Bariya, Sahera District
34. Shri Promodkumar Raysinh Bariya
35. Shri Dilipbhai Gumanbhai
36. Shri Natvarsinh Nanusinh Bariya
37. Shri Sartanbhai Dhanabhai Patel
38. Shri Kamleshbhai D Bariya
39. Shri Narendra N Vaghani
40. Shri Hirabhai Shivabhai Bariya
41. Shri Ketanbhai Patel
42. Shri Arvindbhai V Patel
43. Shri Dhayabhai Gandabhai Patel
44. Shri Devangsinh Agarsinh Chauhan
45. Shri Jayantilal N Patel
46. Shri Manibhai N Patel
47. Shri Mitesh B Patel
48. Shri Chandrakant J Patel
49. Shir Nareshkumar N Parmar
50. Shri Ajabsinh S Gohil
51. Shri Kapilsinh A Gohi
52. Shri Piyush Dhorajiya



**ANNEX 6**



**Government of India  
Central Vista Oversight Committee**

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**Record Note of discussions held during the stakeholder consultation meeting of the Sandalwood Development Committee under the Chairmanship of Shri K. Rajeswara Rao, Principal Adviser, Central Vista Oversight Committee & Member Convener, Sandalwood Development Committee on 22<sup>nd</sup> December 2023 at Forest College & Research Institute, Tamil Nadu Agricultural University, Mettupalayam, Tamil Nadu**

1. As informed by Shri Ratan Watal, Chairman, Central Vista Oversight Committee (CVOC) & Chairman, Sandalwood Development Committee (SDC) during the stakeholder consultation meeting held on 19th December 2023 at Gandhinagar, another stakeholder consultation meeting of the SDC under the Chairmanship of Shri K. Rajeswara Rao, Principal Adviser, Central Vista Oversight Committee & Member Convener, Sandalwood Development Committee was held on 22nd December 2023 at Forest College & Research Institute (FCRI), Tamil Nadu Agricultural University (TNAU), Mettupalayam, Tamil Nadu. Apart from some of the Members of SDC and officials from FCRI, 29 Sandalwood farmers/stakeholders attended the meeting. List of participants is enclosed.
2. While welcoming the participants, Shri K. Rajeswara Rao, Principal Adviser, CVOC & Member Convener, SDC briefed in detail about the constitution of SDC and its Terms of Reference. He informed that so far two stakeholder consultation meetings of the SDC were held; one at Bengaluru which was attended by the representatives from all the four southern state Governments of Karnataka, Tamil Nadu, Kerala and Andhra Pradesh and the other at Gandhinagar, Gujarat which was attended by the officials of the state Government of Gujarat and Sandalwood farmers/other stakeholders from Gujarat. Shri Rajeswara Rao expressed thanks to Dr. A. Balasubramanian, Dean and Dr. K. T. Parthiban, Professor (Forestry), FCRI, Mettupalayam for organising this stakeholder meeting with the Sandalwood farmers and other stakeholders from Tamil Nadu. He requested the participants to share their experience and thoughts on the following for development of Sandalwood in the country:
  - (i) Issues relating to Sandalwood plantation and marketing in consultation with various State Governments and agencies;
  - (ii) Existing legal provisions (State & Central) and suggestions for amendments to increase Sandalwood plantation and marketing in different parts of the country;





- (iii) Australian model of Sandalwood plantation and its marketing, including its by products, and suggest measures to adopt the same or any other better ways in India;
  - (iv) Domestic & International markets/trade for Sandalwood and its by products and suggest measures for promoting production and marketing to increase value addition and employment domestically; and
  - (v) Any other matter relating to the development of Sandalwood in the country.
3. Dr. A. Balasubramanian, Dean (Forestry) & Nodal Officer; Dr. K.T. Parthiban, Professor (Forestry) and Member, SDC; Dr. I. Sekar, Professor (Forestry); Dr. M. Murugesh, Professor & Head, Department of Agroforestry; Dr. S. Radhakrishnan, Professor & Head, Department of Silviculture & Natural Resources Management; Dr. K. Baranidharan, Professor & Head, Department of Forest Products and Wildlife; and Dr. S. Varadharaj, Professor & Head, Department of Basic and Social Sciences, FCRI shared their thoughts for Sandalwood development in the country.
4. Thereafter, all the other participants shared their experiences and suggestions. The following emerged during the detailed deliberations:
- (i) It was recommended unanimously by all stakeholders that the farm grown Sandalwood trees need to be considered as an agricultural crop and all the rules pertaining to felling, transit and sales shall be deregulated and liberalized.
  - (ii) It was also recommended creation of an exclusive Sandalwood Development Board similar to Coffee / Coconut Board towards institutionalizing the entire Production to Consumption System in the Sandalwood development.
  - (iii) The Sandalwood needs to be promoted extensively by leveraging suitable plantation technologies to bring back the glory of Indian Sandalwood oil.
  - (iv) Significant awareness needs to be created through decentralized capacity building on the existing production, processing, marketing, value addition and other legal systems in Sandalwood.
  - (v) Systematic Research and Development mechanism need to be created by establishing a Centre of Excellence in Sandalwood.
  - (vi) Since sandal is a commercially important agroforestry crop, a mechanism for institutional credit and insurance system needs to be established in order to benefit and protect Sandalwood growing farmers in the event of risks and uncertainties.





- (vii) Sandal is a multi-purpose tree component and most concentration is given for wood and oil. However, the sandal leaves and seeds registered multifarious utility which necessitates systematic research and development for suitable value addition.
- (viii) Most of the stakeholders felt that suitable guidelines and directions need to be given regarding the department in which the case pertaining to Sandalwood theft can be handled. All stakeholders felt that since it is a crime, suitable direction may be given to Department of Home Affairs to handle all sandal theft cases with the Police Department.
- (ix) It was informed that the Revenue department officials are resisting to enrol farm grown sandal in the revenue records. Hence, suitable directions and guidelines need to be given to the Revenue department to resolve the issue.
- (x) The commercial importance of sandal needs to be handled through Public Private Partnership. For this purpose, an exclusive Farmers Producer Organisation (FPO) on Sandalwood may be encouraged to handle all the facets of plantation development, management, harvesting, value addition and marketing.
- (xi) Since sandal is a long rotation crop, the quality seedling production received greater attraction. Hence, certified nurseries to multiply quality planting materials with a credential of genetic potential need to be encouraged and created to ensure the decentralized availability of quality planting materials.
- (xii) All industries related to Sandalwood production and processing need to be identified and made available for the public towards marketing and trade of products.
- (xiii) Suitable surveillance and protection mechanism for Sandalwood plantation and the growers need to be designed and promoted.
- (xiv) For the existing Sandalwood trees, suitable guidelines may be developed for felling, releasing of payment in a fixed time frame, allotment of government budget in the annual plan, etc.
- (xv) Since Sandalwood is a long-term crop, the possibility of getting carbon credits and the associated monetary benefits may be considered. For this purpose, suitable directions and guidelines may be developed to reap the carbon benefits.
- (xvi) The establishment of Special Economic Zones (SEZs) for Sandalwood may be considered to encourage foreign investment & international trade in Sandalwood.
- (xvii) The Sandalwood cultivation and promotion at present is handled by various of departments from medicinal plants to forest department, which detracts the farmers in availing necessary subsidies. Hence, suitable policy guidelines may be developed to bring species under one umbrella/department.





(xviii) The stakeholders unanimously stressed that uniform rules for felling, transit and disposal need to be framed for the entire country.

(xix) The stakeholders indicated that necessary amendments in the Agriculture Produce (Grading and Marking) Act, 1937 need to be facilitated for incorporation of farm grown sandal products.

5. Shri K. Rajeswara Rao, Principal Adviser & Member Convener, SDC appreciated the keen interest shown by the participants by sharing their views for development of Sandalwood in the country and informed that the above suggestions emerged will be considered by the SDC and included in its report suitably.
6. Dr. I. Sekar, Professor (Forestry), FCRI proposed a 'Vote of Thanks' to the Chair and all the other participants in the meeting.

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**Record Note of discussions held during the stakeholder consultation meeting of the Sandalwood Development Committee under the Chairmanship of Shri K. Rajeswara Rao, Principal Adviser, Central Vista Oversight Committee & Member Convener, Sandalwood Development Committee on 22nd December 2023 at Forest College & Research Institute, Tamil Nadu Agricultural University, Mettupalayam, Tamil Nadu**

#### List of Participants

1. Shri K. Rajeswara Rao, Principal Adviser, CVOC & Member Convener, SDC - in chair
2. Dr. A. N. Arun Kumar, Scientist-G, Institute of Wood Science and Technology, Bengaluru
3. Dr. A. Balasubramanian, Dean (Forestry) & Nodal Officer, FCRI, Mettupalayam
4. Dr. K. T. Parthiban, Professor (Forestry), FCRI, Mettupalayam
5. Dr. I. Sekar, Professor (Forestry), FCRI, Mettupalayam
6. Dr. M. Murugesh, Professor and Head, Dept. of Agroforestry, FCRI, Mettupalayam
7. Dr. S. Radhakrishnan, Professor and Head, Dept. of Silviculture & Natural Resources Management, FCRI, Mettupalayam
8. Dr. K. Baranidharan, Professor and Head, Dept. of Forest Products and Wildlife, FCRI, Mettupalayam
9. Dr. S. Varadharaj, Professor and Head, Dept. of Basic and Social Sciences, FCRI, Mettupalayam
10. Dr. P. S. Devanand, Associate Professor (PBG), FCRI, Mettupalayam
11. Dr. Dr. B. Sivakumar, Assistant Professor (Forestry), FCRI, Mettupalayam
12. M. Sivaprakash, Associate Professor (Forestry), FCRI, Mettupalayam
13. Dr. S. Revathi, Research Associate, FCRI, Mettupalayam
14. Dr. M. V. Jawahar Vishnu, Research Associate, FCRI, Mettupalayam
15. Ms. Deepshika Singh, Research Scholar, FCRI, Mettupalayam



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16. Ms. R. Premila, Research Scholar, FCRI, Mettupalayam
17. Ms. M. Gowsalya, Research Scholar, FCRI, Mettupalayam
18. Ms. N. Akshaya, Research Fellow, FCRI, Mettupalayam
19. Ms. Hindumathi, Research Fellow, FCRI, Mettupalayam
20. Ms. Shibani, Research Fellow, FCRI, Mettupalayam
21. Mr. S.B. Sivabharathi, Research Fellow, FCRI, Mettupalayam
22. Ms. Rachana P.M., Research Scholar, FCRI, Mettupalayam
23. Ms. Archana Nayak, Research Scholar, FCRI, Mettupalayam



### **Sandalwood Farmers and other stakeholders from Tamil Nadu**

24. R. Dhinesh Kumar, Uzhavi Organization, Theni
25. C. Boopathy, Pasumai Bharatham Agricultural Solutions, Trichy
26. G. Karthik, Trichy
27. B.R. Narayanasamy, Coimbatore
28. M. Motes, Kotagiri
29. P. Suresh kumar, Coimbatore
30. M. Aravindh, Coimbatore
31. Dr. A.T. Naveen kumar, Coimbatore
32. Dr. C. Muthumperumal, State Co-ordinator (TN), USAID-TOFI
33. K. Devarajan, President, Coimbatore Tree Growers Association
34. M.K. Doraisamy, Palladam
35. K. Palanisamy, Palladam
36. K. Balasanthanam, B&M Coconut Centre, Palladam, Tiruppur
37. K.M. Sakthivel, Thottakadu, Samiyampalayam, Salem
38. Logeshwaran, Samundi nagar, Salem
39. N. Maga Maga Belliappan, President, TOHFA, The Nilgiris
40. A. Dinesh, Enhanced Biofuels and Technologies India Pvt. Ltd., Coimbatore
41. S. Sathu, Coimbatore
42. K.M. Narjean, Lovedale, The Nilgiris
43. Padmanaban, Knowledge Sharing and Caring, The Nilgiris
44. R. Prem Anand, Sirumalai
45. S. Shanthakumar, Shree Shakthi Environmental Center, Kaduvettipalayam, Coimbatore
46. A. Kumaravel, Tiruppur
47. P. Gurusamy, Organic tree farmer, Ganapathi, Coimbatore
48. S. Jayalakshmi, Organic tree farmer, Ganapathi, Coimbatore
49. Sheik Dawood, Nilgiri Herbals, Mettupalayam
50. Vishal, RSK timbers, Mettupalayam
51. B. Paneer Selvam, Vanam India Foundation, Coimbatore
52. P.V. Vignesh, Vanam India Foundation, Coimbatore



## ANNEX 7



**Government of India  
Central Vista Oversight Committee**

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**Record Note of discussions held during the stakeholder consultation meeting of the Sandalwood Development Committee, covering the states of Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh and Jharkhand, under the Chairmanship of Shri Ratan P. Watal, Chairman, Central Vista Oversight Committee & Chairman, Sandalwood Development Committee on 24<sup>th</sup> April 2024 at Sanjay Gandhi National Park, Borivali(East), Mumbai**

1. Stakeholder consultation meeting of the Sandalwood Development Committee (SDC), covering the states of Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh and Jharkhand, was held under the Chairmanship of Shri Ratan P. Watal, Chairman, Central Vista Oversight Committee (CVOC) & Chairman, SDC on 24th April 2024 at Sanjay Gandhi National Park, Borivali (East), Mumbai. Shri Shailesh Tembhurnikar, PCCF & HoFF, Maharashtra welcomed the Chairman, Member Convenor, Members of SDC and all the other participants. He thanked the Chairman, SDC for selecting Maharashtra as a venue for the very important discussion on Sandalwood. List of participants is enclosed.
2. Shri Ratan P. Watal, Chairman, CVOC & Chairman, SDC briefed the participants about the formation of SDC. He mentioned that various ministries in the Government of India and the State Governments have been dealing with Sandalwood related policies in silo without having any cohesive approach for its development. He informed that stakeholder consultations meeting have already been held at Bengaluru, Gandhinagar and Mettupalayam and several issues relating to Sandalwood cultivation, extraction, insurance, marketing, processing, export, import, etc. have been identified. He added that this meeting was being held as part of the stakeholder consultation process to understand the status and the issues relating to the States of Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh and Jharkhand. Shri Watal emphasised the need to evolve a sandalwood price fixation mechanism on the lines of Tobacco Board at Guntur in Andhra Pradesh fixing price for Tobacco, which is applicable throughout the nation. He urged the participants to come out with strategies for Sandalwood cultivation and marketing so that everyone can be benefitted. He requested the participants to present their views on the following, which have been communicated in the meeting notice:
  - (i) Issues relating to Sandalwood plantation and marketing in consultation with various State Governments and agencies;
  - (ii) Existing legal provisions (State & Central) and suggestions for amendments to increase Sandalwood plantation and marketing in different parts of the country;





- (iii) Australian model of Sandalwood plantation and its marketing, including its bye products, and suggest measures to adopt the same or any other better ways in India;
  - (iv) Domestic & International markets/trade for Sandalwood and its bye products and suggest measures for promoting production and marketing to increase value addition and employment domestically; and
  - (v) Any other matter relating to the development of Sandalwood in the country.
3. Shri M Srinivasa Rao, PCCF (Production & Management), Maharashtra made a Presentation on the initiatives taken by Maharashtra in liberalising the policies relating to Sandalwood. He informed that Sandalwood is exempted from felling regime in entire state of Maharashtra vide Notification dated 23rd January 2021. However, under the provisions of Maharashtra Forest Rules (MFR), 2014, Sandalwood transport require Transit Pass. Under Rules 55 to 60 of MFR, there is a provision for conversion of Sandalwood. For Sandalwood processing, prior permission of State Level Committee is required. Two Sandalwood processing units are approved in the state during 2023. There is a demand to declare Sandalwood as an Agroforestry species so as to overcome the issues of transit pass regulations.

Shri Shailesh Tembhornikar, PCCF & HOFF, Maharashtra stressed the need for Apex Level Institution for Sandalwood development. He added that participation of private sector and developing data base are the need of the hour.

4. Shri Uttam Kumar Subudhi, PCCF (Development), Madhya Pradesh made a presentation on the status of Sandalwood in Madhya Pradesh. He mentioned that Sandalwood was planted in 4 districts in the state and highlighted various issues such as use of hosts, package of practices, thefts in plantations and the availability of Sandalwood seedlings.

Shri Aseem Srivastava, PCCF & HOFF, Madhya Pradesh stated that realistic cost analysis to be there for sharing with farmers desiring to undertake Sandalwood plantation. He stressed on the need for quality seedlings and marketing avenues for Sandalwood grown on agricultural lands, methodology for sustainable production of Sandalwood oil, identification of number of plants required at national level, uniform policy/approach as National Sandalwood Mission to promote Sandalwood and its oil business, establishment of a Central Body/Authority to implement uniform policy / National Sandalwood Mission and involvement of private sector for development of Sandalwood in the country.

5. Dr Dinesh Kumar Saxena and Shri Sanjeev Kumar, Addl PCCFs, Jharkhand stated that there are a few farmers in Jharkhand growing Sandalwood. Because of the availability of fallow lands, there is a lot of scope for Sandalwood development in Agroforestry in Jharkhand. They added





that if appropriate models are informed to farmers, it would definitely succeed in Jharkhand. Dr Saxena emphasised the need for development of Business Models and making the objective clear for promoting Sandalwood.

6. Shri Venkatachalam, CCF (Research & Extension), Chhattisgarh made a presentation explaining the status of Sandalwood in Chhattisgarh. He emphasised the need to promote tissue culture in Sandalwood.
7. Dr. Chandra Shekhar Sanwal, Deputy CEO, NMPB, Ministry of AYUSH, Government of India informed that there are 37 State Medicinal Boards and 7 Business cum Facilitation Centres of NMPB in the country and explained about various schemes related to Sandalwood plantation, conservation and research activities. He mentioned that Ministry of Ayush has funded 3,275 Ha of Sandalwood Plantation in Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh and Maharashtra. He added that while Sandalwood cultivation comes under the purview of the Ministry of Agriculture, NMPB, Ministry of Ayush can fund the states for R&D, Cultivation and Marketing activities. He stated that Single Window Clearance mechanism to be implemented by the states for Sandalwood development.
8. Shri Manoj Kumar Khandelwal, Asst Commissioner (Forestry), SU Division, MOEF&CC, Government of India informed that the funds for development of Sandalwood plantations can be explored through CAMPA and Green India Mission Scheme. He stated that at present there is no exclusive scheme for Sandalwood development by the Ministry. If proposals are received, they will be examined. He added that there is an annual ceiling of 4,795 MT of Sandalwood for import by DGFT. Due to increase in import mainly from Mauritius and Australia, there is a need to increase the ceiling for import of more Sandalwood. In order to promote Sandalwood on non-forest lands, National Mission on Sandalwood on the lines of National Bamboo Mission can be proposed. Frequent seller-buyer meets to be conducted to promote awareness and use of Sandalwood and its products. He mentioned about the formation of the Indian Forest and Wood Certification Council by MOEF&CC at IIFM, Bhopal.
9. Dr M P Singh, Director, IWST mentioned about overall activities of IWST towards Sandalwood development, propagation, training and testing. He also stressed about the need for having a National Level Board for effective promotion of the Sandalwood species. He suggested that Marayur in Kerala model to be adopted by other states also.
10. Shri Pradeep Kapoor, Jagat Aroma Oils Distillery, Kannauj (Member, SDC) explained the problems faced by the Fragrance & Flavours Industry. He stated that too many controls and over regulation on the Sandalwood species and trade in the country leading to more and more import. He added that use of Sandalwood oil by the Pan Masala and Gutka Industry from 1980





onwards led to increase in the price of the Sandalwood oil. He also mentioned about the production of Sandalwood oil through fermentation by a Dutch company. He informed that certain groups in the west are trying to bring Sandalwood under CITES, which would be a disadvantage for India. Shri Kapoor suggested to adopt some of the models of Australia such as Investment based model for promoting Sandalwood. Since the aroma industries using Sandalwood oil are mostly located at Kannauj in Uttar Pradesh, Shri Kapoor suggested to have a consultation meeting with UP Forest Department and other stakeholders in the state as well.

11. In his concluding remarks, Shri Ratan P. Watal, Chairman, SDC informed that the additional inputs/issues emerged during this meeting will appropriately be added in the draft report, which will be finalised after another 2-3 consultation meetings likely to be held at Marayur (Kerala), Vijayawada (Andhra Pradesh) and Lucknow (Uttar Pradesh).
12. Shri K Rajeswara Rao, Principal Advisor, CVOC & Member Convenor, SDC proposed a 'Vote of Thanks' to the Chairman and all the participants. He appreciated and thanked everyone for their active participation in the meeting and valuable inputs. Shri Rajeswara Rao conveyed special thanks to Shri B. Venugopala Reddy, Principal Secretary (R&F), Shri Shailesh Tembhumkar, PCCF & HoFF and their team of officials for hosting this meeting.

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**Record Note of discussions held during the stakeholder consultation meeting of the Sandalwood Development Committee, covering the states of Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh and Jharkhand, under the Chairmanship of Shri Ratan P. Watal, Chairman, Central Vista Oversight Committee & Chairman, Sandalwood Development Committee on 24th April 2024 at Sanjay Gandhi National Park, Borivali(East), Mumbai**

#### List of Participants

1. Shri Ratan P Watal, Chairman, CVOC, GoI & Chairman, SDC - in chair
2. Shri K. Rajeswara Rao, Principal Adviser, CVOC, GoI & Member Convener, SDC
3. Dr. M.P. Singh, Director, Institute of Wood Science and Technology, Bengaluru & Member, SDC
4. Dr. Chandra Shekhar Sanwal, Deputy CEO, National Medicinal Plants Board, Ministry of Ayush, Govt of India & Member, SDC representing Secretary, Ministry of Ayush
5. Shri Manoj Kumar Khandelwal, Assistant Commissioner (Forestry), SU Division, MoEF&CC, Govt of India & Member, SDC representing Secretary, MoEF&CC





6. Shri Pradip Kapoor, Jagat Aroma Oils Distillery, Kannauj & Member, SDC  
Government of Maharashtra
7. Shri Shailesh Tembhurnikar, PCCF & HOFF, Nagpur
8. Shri M.Srinivasa Rao, PCCF (P&M), Nagpur
9. Shri N.R. Praveen, CCF (Territorial), Pune
10. Ms K. Pradeepa, CCF (Territorial) - Thane, Mumbai
11. Shri G. Mallikarjun, CCF & Director, Sanjay Gandhi National Park Borivali (East), Mumbai  
Government of Madhya Pradesh
12. Shri Aseem Srivastava, PCCF & HOFF, Bhopal
13. Shri Uttam Kumar Subudhi, PCCF, Bhopal  
Government of Jharkhand
14. Shri Sanjeev Kumar, Addl PCCF (CAMPA), Ranchi
15. Dr. Dinesh Kumar Saxena, Addl PCCF, Ranchi  
Government of Chhattisgarh
16. Shri Venkatachalam, CCF (Research & Extension), Raipur



