

**Minutes of the 3rd meeting of the Programme Steering Committee of
OTELP held on 20.08.2005 at 4.00 P.M. in the 2nd Floor Conference Hall of
Orissa Secretariat, Bhubaneswar**

List of Members present is at Annexure – I

2. At the outset, Commissioner & Secretary, STSCDD and Chairperson, OTELP welcomed e Chief Secretary and all other members of the committee. Chief Secretary stressed the need that the PSC should meet twice a year. It was decided to hold the meeting of PSC in the months of February and August every year.

3. Confirmation of Proceedings of 2nd meeting of PSC:

The proceedings of the meeting dt.25.08.2004 were confirmed.

4. Review of progress of implementation of OTELP:

Programme Director, OTELP made a presentation on the over all status and progress of implementation of the programme.

The programme was formally launched by the Honourable Chief Minister, Orissa on 2nd October, 2004. The State Level Programme Management Committee and Programme Steering Committee have been constituted and the State Level Programme Support Unit has been set up with the posts of Subject Matter Specialists for PSU and ITDAs having been filled up partly on contractual basis

through open advertisement and partly by officers from different Govt. departments through selection by a Selection Committee, so constituted for the purpose. Fifteen FNGOs have been selected to function as Programme Implementing Agencies (PIAs) in 10 blocks of the 4 districts of Phase – I. Ten out of these selected FNGOs have already signed MoU with the respective PA, ITDAs and have been assigned 110 micro watersheds in nine blocks of the programme area of Phase – I to be covered under Watershed Development and Livelihoods support activities. These cover 332 no. of Programme villages with 52539.45 ha of non forest area and nearly 20000 ha of forest area to be treated. Establishment of community level institutions like VDA, SHG, VSS have been taken up along with PRA exercise and base line survey for assessment of the resources in the programme villages followed by formulation of Village Development and Livelihoods Plans which include treatment plan for the watersheds, Education and Literacy Plan, Health, Sanitation & Drinking Water Plan, Vocational & Skill up gradation Plan, Household wise / SHG wise feasible livelihoods Plan with good economic returns, food security Plan and Marketing Plan etc. All the staff of PSU/ITDAs, the representatives of all the 10 FNGOs and their Watershed Development Team members are participating in different training programmes and exposure visits to get acquainted with the methodology of watershed development programmes in general and institution building & capacity building processes in particular. Awareness generation camps are being conducted to get the communities acquainted on Programme activities along with land rights, other developmental Programmes and Schemes of Govt., Panchayati Raj Institutions etc. Entry Point Activities are being taken up on the basis of identified need to instill confidence and trust in the community and to build up partnership with programme villages. Plantation of 3,02,462 seedlings has already been taken up during 2005-06 over an area of 1844.28 ha. A UNOPS/DFID/IFAD/WFP Joint Review Mission has reviewed the progress of implementation during 21st to 27th April 2005 and the Mission has given a

satisfactory report on the momentum gained in programme implementation since its formal launching.

Chief Secretary observed that progress in implementation of various programmes has picked up after an initial delay in launching of the programme. Development Commissioner and Additional Chief Secretary stressed the need to coordinate with the facilitating NGOs closely, as they have been identified as Programme Implementing Agencies in the respective micro-watershed areas. Principal Secretary, Forest and Environment mentioned the need for value addition in MPF processing, like deseeding of tamarind, preparation of dry Amla etc. After detailed discussion, the following suggestions were made to be included in the future action plan:

- Special thrust should be given for planting species like papaya, drumsticks, lemon, amla etc. in all the programme villages, which will benefit the villagers to meet their health and nutritional need as well as livelihood support. The plan for the next year (2006-07) should include plantation of at least 10 lakhs seedlings of above species. Regular liaison will have to be kept with the Department of Agriculture / Horticulture and nurseries are to be raised in all programme villages during this year for production of required number of seedlings to be planted next year.
- A special programme to provide basic skills relating to plantation to children of Ashram Schools may be taken up. Each school should have a small nursery or be associated with a nursery close by. Grafting of horticultural species is an important skill and each student in Ashram School should acquire this. A few Teachers may be given short training of a week or 2 weeks and the help students acquire skills.

- There should be emphasis on value addition to minor forest produce (MFP), necessary skill upgradation to achieve this and ensuring better price to the poor primary collectors in the tribal area.
- Area specific activities may be taken up in the programme villages under livelihood support component. Activities like bee keeping may be thought of as feasible alternatives, as they also help pollination.
- The extent of forest area to be assigned to the Vana Samrakshana Samities (VSS) should be decided based on the population of the village so that the usufruct benefits can be equitably distributed among the villagers.
- Involvement of Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRIs) should be ensured at the village level for effective monitoring.

5. Annual Action Plan & Budget of 2005-06:

The tentative Annual Action Plan as approved in the 3rd meeting of SLPMC with a financial outlay of Rs. 26.07 crores was proposed. It was reviewed during the visit of UNOPS/DFID/IFAD/WFP Joint Review Mission from 21st April, 2005 to 27th April, 2005. The Director (Projects), Ministry of Tribal Affairs, Govt. of India also attended the review. The Mission observed that the activities involved in this initial phase are highly process oriented requiring elaborate planning and this participatory planning process needs constant dialogue with the communities and learning by PSU/ITDA/FNGOs staff, which can not

absorb large amount of budget and the Mission therefore proposed for a critical review. In view of this, the Annual Action Plan has been recast with a financial projection of Rs.10.17 crores. The committee after detail deliberation approved the revised Annual Action Plan and Budget for the year 2005-06.

6. Review of compliance to observation of Joint Review Mission:

The committee deliberated upon the action taken by the PSU and STSCDD in regards to the observations of the Joint Review Mission as presented by the Secretary, STSCDD and the Programme Director, OTELP and approved the same.

7. Selection of new block to be covered under Phase – I of the programme:

The Secretary, STSCDD informed the committee that the programme activities have been taken up in nine of the ten Phase – I blocks. It has not been possible to start the activities in Daringibadi block of Kandhamal district due to stay order issued by the High Court in the matter of case filed by BARD, an NGO, not selected as FNGO to work under the programme. Necessary counter has been filed by the STSCDD and effort is being taken to get the stay vacated. The committee deliberated upon the issue and it was decided to include Kotagarh block of the same district in place of Daringibadi block to be covered under Phase – I. The Programme Director was asked to take follow up action in this regard.

The meeting ended with a vote of thanks to the Chair and Members present.

ANNEXURE IParticipants in the 3rd Programme Steering Committee meeting of OTELPon 20/8/2005

1. Dr Subas Chandra Pani, Chief Secretary and Chief Development Commissioner
2. Sri Ajit Kumar Tripathy, Development Commissioner & Additional Chief Secretary
3. Sri S P Nanda, Principal Secretary, Forest and Environment
4. Sri S N Tripathi, Commissioner & Secretary, Panchayati Raj Department
5. Sri P K Mishra, Special Secretary, Finance
6. Sri K M Rout, Additional Secretary, Revenue Department
7. Sri V Babji, Manager, SIDBI, Bhubaneswar
8. Sri G Bhaskar Reddy, Director, Watershed Mission
9. Sri G V Venugopala Sarma, Commissioner & Secretary, ST & SC Development Department and Chairman, OTELP
10. Sri Deepak Mohanty, Programme Director, OTELP