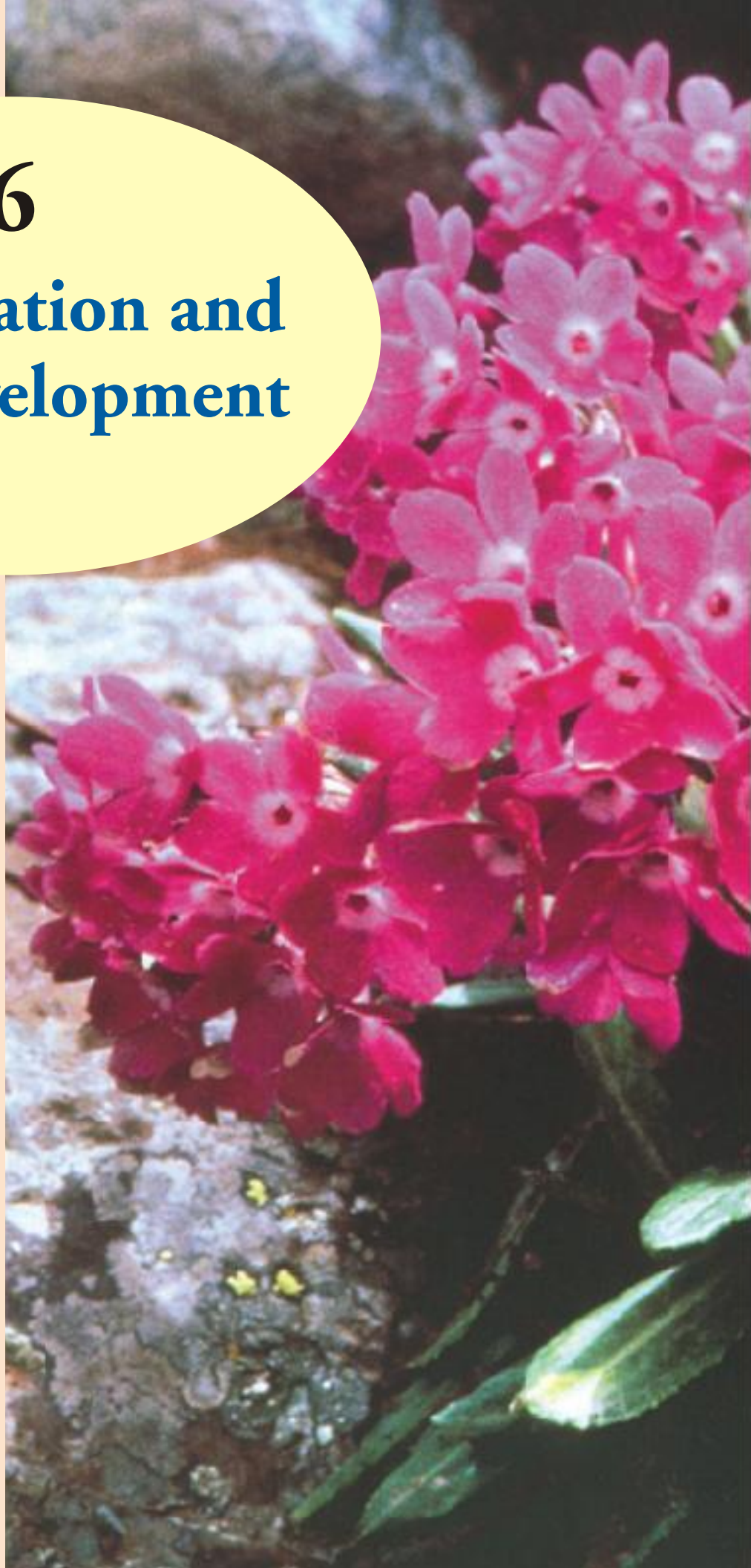


6

**Regeneration and
Eco-Development**



National Afforestation and Eco-development Board

Introduction

The National Afforestation and Eco-development Board (NAEB) was set up in August 1992 for promoting afforestation, tree planting, ecological restoration and eco-development activities in the country. Special attention is being given to the regeneration of degraded forest areas and lands adjoining forest areas, national parks, sanctuaries and other protected areas as well as the ecologically fragile areas like the Western Himalayas, Aravallis, Western Ghats etc.

Objectives

The detailed objectives of the NAEB are to:

- ◆ Evolve mechanisms for ecological restoration of degraded forest areas and adjoining lands through systematic planning and implementation, in a cost effective manner;
- ◆ Restore through natural regeneration or appropriate intervention the forest cover in the country for ecological security and to meet the fuelwood, fodder and other needs of the rural communities.
- ◆ Restore fuelwood, fodder, timber and other forest produce on the degraded forest and adjoining lands in order to meet the demands for these items;
- ◆ Sponsor research and extension of research findings to disseminate new and proper technologies for the regeneration and development of degraded forest areas and adjoining lands;
- ◆ Create general awareness and help foster a people's movement for promoting afforestation and eco-development with the assistance of voluntary agencies, non-government organizations, Panchayati Raj institutions and others and promote participatory and sustainable management of degraded forest areas and adjoining lands;
- ◆ Coordinate and monitor the Action Plans for

tree planting, ecological restoration and eco-development; and

- ◆ Undertake all other measures necessary for promoting afforestation, tree planting, ecological restoration and eco development activities in the country.

Name of the Schemes

NAEB operates following three major schemes: -

- ◆ National Afforestation Programme (NAP) Scheme
- ◆ NAEB Scheme: The major components of the Scheme are:-
 - ◇ Grants in Aid for Greening India (GIA for GI) Scheme
 - ◇ Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E)
 - ◇ Communication
 - ◇ Support to Regional Centres (RCs)
- ◆ Eco Development Forces (EDF)

National Afforestation Programme (NAP) Scheme

Introduction and Objective

It continues to be the flagship scheme of NAEB, in so much as it provides support, both in physical and capacity building terms, to the Forest Development Agencies (FDAs) which in turn are the main organ to move forward institutionalization of Joint Forest Management. The FDA has been conceived and established as a federation of Joint Forest Management Committees (JFMCs) at the Forest Division level to undertake holistic



Fig 54. Jatropha Block Plantation by CSFER, Allahabad

development in the forestry sector with people's participation. This is a paradigm shift from the earlier afforestation programmes wherein funds were routed through the State Governments. This decentralized two-tier institutional structure (FDA and JFMC) allows greater participation of the community, both in planning and implementation, to improve forests and livelihoods of the people living in and around forest areas. The village is reckoned as a unit of planning and implementation and all activities under the programme are conceptualized at the village level. The two-tier approach, apart from building capacities at the grassroots level, significantly empowers the local people to participate in the decision making process. Under Entry Point Activities, community assets are created with a 'care and share' concept. The objectives of the scheme are given below: -

- ◆ Protection, and conservation of natural resources through active involvement of the people.
- ◆ Checking land degradation, deforestation and loss of biodiversity
- ◆ Ecological restoration and environmental conservation and eco-development
- ◆ Evolving village level people's organization which can manage the natural resources in and around villages in a sustainable manner
- ◆ Fulfillment of the broader objectives of productivity, equity, and sustainability for the general good of the people.
- ◆ Improve quality of life and self-sustenance aspect of people living in and around forest

areas.

- ◆ Capability endowment and skill enhancement for improving employability of the rural people.

Progress/ Achievements made during the year

- ◆ Seven hundred and fifteen FDAs have been operationalised so far at a cost of Rs. 1,521.10 crores to treat a total area of 9.24 lakh ha. (as on October 31, 2006). Rehabilitation of jhumlands (shifting cultivation) have been given specific focus under the programme, and so far 19 jhum projects have been sanctioned in North-Eastern (NE) States and one in Orissa.
- ◆ As on October 31, 2006, Rs. 109.46 crores was released to FDAs during the year for implementation of National Afforestation Programme.

Comparison of progress as compared to previous years

Year-wise progress of National Afforestation Programme in the Tenth Five Year Plan is given in Table-17.

State-wise Status of FDA Projects is given in Table-18.

Implementing organization

The NAP Scheme is being implemented through two-tier decentralized mechanism of Forest Development Agency (FDA) at Forest Division Level and Joint Forest Management Committees (JFMCs) at the village level.

Table-17. Year-wise progress of National Afforestation Programme in the Tenth Five Year Plan

Year	No. of new FDA projects operationalised	No. of JFMCs	Project Area (ha.)	Release (Rs. crores)
2002-03	237	8209	405631	151.26
2003-04	231	7850	283272	207.98
2004-05	105	3474	107963	233.00
2005-06	95	2391	55232	248.58
2006-07 (as on 31.10.06)	@	@	@	109.46

Table-18. State-wise Status of FDA Projects

(as on 31.10.2006)

Sl. No.	Name of State/ Union Territory	No. of FDA Project proposals sanctioned	Total project cost (in Rs. crores)	Area (in ha.)
1	Andhra Pradesh	32	83.02	47400
2	Arunachal Pradesh	19	27.04	21416
3	Assam	29	37.12	26955
4	Bihar	10	15.87	12315
5	Chhattisgarh	32	73.83	42514
6	Goa	3	2.39	1250
7	Gujarat	21	61.21	30445
8	Haryana	18	53.44	22105
9	Himachal Pradesh	27	52.38	32378
10	Jammu & Kashmir	31	74.61	47839
11	Jharkhand	30	56.43	39850
12	Karnataka	45	112.15	59180
13	Kerala	24	47.54	16250
14	Madhya Pradesh	49	112.48	76520
15	Maharashtra	45	99.77	65738
16	Manipur	13	26.58	18374
17	Meghalaya	7	12.00	7400
18	Mizoram	19	60.12	26770
19	Nagaland	16	37.71	25528
20	Orissa	40	69.65	55022
21	Punjab	9	17.65	8235
22	Rajasthan	33	39.35	28190
23	Sikkim	7	31.33	15280
24	Tamil Nadu	32	93.98	52253
25	Tripura	12	25.57	19405
26	Uttar Pradesh	58	104.35	63004
27	Uttarakhand	37	54.17	39134
28	West Bengal	17	39.36	22856
Total		715	1521.10	923606

New initiatives under the scheme

A number of initiatives have been taken by the Ministry to expedite the implementation of the scheme as well improve the qualitative aspects of implementation. These include:

- ◆ Electronic transfer of funds from Government of India to the FDAs to cut-down the delays
- ◆ Stepping-up of monitoring and evaluation of the FDA projects by activation of State-level

Coordination Committees for NAP, increased field visit by officers, and expeditious commissioning by the States of first independent concurrent evaluation of FDA projects

- ◆ Increased number of training programmes for the frontline staff and JFM committee members
- ◆ Organising district-level inter-departmental linkage workshops for promoting linkage of

NAP with other developmental programmes for enhancing the sustainability of JFM

- ◆ Comprehensive amendment in Guidelines of NAP scheme are prepared to promote further decentralization by delegating more responsibilities to State Forest Departments with respect to processing of the FDA project proposals, greater organic linkage of JFMCs with Gram Panchayats, increased security of the elected members of JFMCs through longer tenure of JFMC presidency, capacity building of particular frontline staff of Forest Department and JFMC members especially with regard to local management and administrative responsibilities.

National Afforestation and Eco-development Board (NAEB) Scheme

Introduction and Objectives

Increasing forest and tree cover (FTC) of the

country to one- third of its geographical area, as envisaged in the National Forest Policy 1998, is essential for economic and ecological security of the country. Achieving the target of one- third of forest and tree cover, however, stipulates fourfold increase in current annual tree planting mostly on lands outside recorded forest area. Tree plantation on lands outside RFA, however, may be encouraged if returns to the growers are increased. This is largely attributed to the low volume and poor quality yield of tree product, mainly for the reason that the tree growers do not have easy access to quality planting material (QPM) due to both paucity of QPM production facilities in the rural areas of the country and low awareness about gains of using QPM. Recognizing these constraints, it was decided to restructure the existing Grants-in-Aid Scheme, providing assistance to voluntary agencies for tree planting, by incorporating the additional components of QPM production facilities and creation of mass awareness about QPM. The



Fig 55. Fodder collection by village women

restructured Scheme named “Grants in aid for Greening India” broadly focuses on three aspects of the tree planting namely:-

- ◆ Raising mass awareness about QPM and tree planting
- ◆ Enhancing the capacity for QPM production
- ◆ Tree planting with people’s participation

Progress/Achievements made during the year

Financial assistance of Rs 38.29 lakhs has been provided to six State Forest Departments, for setting-up nine Hi -Tech nurseries. Funds to the tune of Rs 20 lakhs have also been provided to five State Forest Departments for awareness generation, extension and training. In addition, Rs 155.28 lakhs have been provided to various agencies, including voluntary organizations, for ongoing tree planting projects.

Comparison of progress as compared to previous years

The following progress reflects the number of projects for tree planting supported under the previous Grants-in-aid to Voluntary Agencies scheme (until 2004-05) and the present Grants-in-aid for Greening India Scheme during 2006-07.

Year	No. of tree planting projects supported*	Expenditure (Rs. Cr.)**
2002-03	141	4.00
2003-04	251	8.49
2004-05	266	8.97
2005-06	157	10.49
2006-07	55	2.13

* Includes continuing projects, sanctioned in previous years also.
 ** Includes expenditure on grants given for Awareness Generation , Hi- Tech Nursery And Plantation Programme components of the Grants in Aid for Greening India Scheme.

State-wise Status

The progress of the Scheme during the year is given in Table-19

Implementing organizations

The scheme is being implemented by Government Departments, Urban Local Bodies, Panchayati Raj Institutions, Public Sector Undertakings, Autonomous Bodies, Registered Societies, Non-Profit Organizations, Cooperatives, Charitable Trusts, Voluntary Agencies, Registered Schools, Colleges, Universities and State Forest Departments.

Eco-Development Forces (EDF) Scheme

Introduction and Objective

Eco-Development Forces was established in 1980s as a scheme being implemented through Ministry of Defence (MOD) for ecological restoration of terrains, rendered difficult either due to severe degradation or remote location or difficult law and order situation. The scheme of Eco-Development Force is based on twin objectives of ecological regeneration in difficult areas, and promotion of meaningful employment to ex-servicemen.

Under this scheme, the establishment and operational expenditure on the Eco Task Force (ETF) Battalions raised by Ministry of Defence is reimbursed by Ministry of Environment and Forests while the inputs like sapling, fencing, etc. as also the professional and managerial guidance is provided by the State Forest Departments. In ETF battalions, the MOD deploys its ex-servicemen, preferably from within the area of operation, whereas the nuclear core of the force is constituted of regular servicemen. Some of the ETF Battalions have undertaken successful eco-restoration of highly degraded sites, for example the limestone mining areas in the Mussoorie Hills.

Activities undertaken so far

Four ETF Battalions are being supported under the EDF Scheme. These battalions are located at Pithoragarh, Samba, Bikaner, and Dehradun. Two new battalions have been approved in Assam.

Progress/Achievements made during the year

The progress of ETF Battalions during the year is given in Table-20.



Table-19. The progress of the Scheme during the year

Sl. No.	State	No. of tree planting projects supported*	No. of High Tech-Central Nurseries supported/Awareness Generation Programme	Amount (Rs. lakhs)**
1	Andhra Pradesh	1		3.14
2	Chhatisgarh	1		3.14
3	Gujarat	1		3.14
4	Jharkhand	1		2.44
5	Maharashtra	1		2.51
6	Orissa	1		1.95
7	Rajasthan	3		5.84
8	Tamil Nadu	7		22.29
9	Uttar Pradesh	2		5.68
10	Uttrarakhand	3		6.63
Sub Total		21		56.76
HI-tech & Awareness				
1	Kerala		1	9.00
2	Uttarakhand		1	2.00
3	West Bengal		1	4.00
4	Chhattisgarh		2	14.00
5	Karnataka		2	14.00
6	Jharkhand		1	9.00
Sub Total (ROI)				52.00
Grand Total (ROI)				108.76
North East				
1	Arunachal Pradesh	3		8.09
2	Assam	4		12.55
3	Manipur	10		27.10
4	Mizoram	2		3.42
5	Nagaland	12		38.58
6	Meghalaya	3		8.79
Total		34		98.53
Hi-tech & Awareness				
FDA Tripura			1	6.29
TOTAL (NE)			1	6.29
Grand Total (NE)			1	104.82
* Includes continuing projects, sanctioned in previous years also.				
** Includes expenditure on grants given for Awareness Generation, Nursery and Tree Planting components of the Grants in Aid for Greening India scheme				

Table-20. The progress of ETF Battalions during the year

Battalion	Location	Target	Achievement
127	Uttarakhand	400 ha.	400 ha.
128	Rajasthan	500 ha.	500 ha.
129	J & K	160 ha.	160 ha.
130	Uttarakhand	500 ha.	571 ha.

All ETF Battalions have undertaken works like raising nursery, and plantation and protection measures to protect the plantation area. They have also constructed stone dams as also other soil and moisture conservation works. Besides, the battalions also take up maintenance of old plantations.

Closer monitoring of physical progress and coordination between the Ministry, Territorial Army and State Governments has witnessed for timely availability of land and other resources for planting, redeployment/disembodying of surplus ETF personnel in order to cut down costs, and further improvement in the quality of work.

Implementing Organisation

Directorate of Territorial Army, Ministry of Defence, New Delhi.

New Initiatives

Based on the request of the Government of Assam, the Standing Finance Committee of the Ministry has approved the proposal to raise two new ETF battalions in the State. The TA Directorate, Ministry of Defence and the Ministry of Environment and Forests have also jointly drafted guidelines for enhancing cost-effectiveness and people's participation in ETFs. As mentioned above, initiatives have also been taken to enhance interaction between the State Forest Departments and the TA Battalions to ensure timely earmarking and transfer of adequate lands and funds for tree plantation by State Governments to ETF Battalions.

List of autonomous, attached and regional offices of NAEB

The Board has seven Regional Centres located in various universities/ national level institutions.

These Centres help NAEB in promoting extension of replicable technologies and for dissemination of research findings. They provide technical and extension support to the State Forest Departments in effective implementation of regeneration of degraded forests and adjoining lands with people's participation and also act as a forum for the exchange of ideas and experiences amongst the States of the region as well as across the regions. In addition, these Centres carry out problem-specific studies as well as evaluation of NAEB's programmes in the field and organize training programmes and workshops focusing on priorities set out by NAEB. The details of the Board Centres are given in Annexure-IIB.

New initiatives of Regional Centres

The work programmes of the Regional Centres are being formulated to address the emerging needs of promoting sustainability of Joint Forest Management beyond the NAP scheme funding. The new areas include training for forest-based micro-enterprises, development of Joint Forest Management Committees- Self Help Groups, district-level inter-departmental linkage workshops for synergy of JFM with other schemes of Government, and studies on improved silvicultural practices for management of non-timber forest products. The work programme of the Regional Centres are also being now for the whole Plan period so as to provide critical policy and executive support for the scheme namely National Afforestation Programme.

UN Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD)

Introduction

The objective of UN Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD) is to Combat Desertification and mitigate the effects of draught in countries experiencing through effective actions at all level supported by International Convention and Partnership Cell in Desertification. National Afforestation and Eco-Development Board (NAEB) is the nodal point within the Ministry to co-ordinate it.

Progress / Activities undertaken during the year

- ◆ The UN General Assembly had declared the year 2006 as the International Year of Desert and Desertification (IYDD). In response to United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD) Secretariat's request the year was celebrated in the country to raise awareness among various stakeholders, including State Governments, R&D institutions, Civil Society Organisations and the private sector.
- ◆ The Ministry organized four regional workshops at Gandhinagar, Bhubaneswar, Jaipur and Hyderabad, in collaboration with State Governments, wherein the officials and other stakeholders participated. The regional problems and challenges due to land degradations were discussed in the workshops and the strategic needs, action plans and their mode of implementation were also deliberated. The need for decentralized planning, partnership building and gender issues in the action plan were adequately highlighted in these workshops.
- ◆ To encourage the Civil Societies Organisations (CSO) participation, financial assistance were provided by the Ministry to raise awareness among the people. Such workshops, held at Kutch, Guwahati and Bhopal aimed at enhancing partnership building and people's participation in combating land degradation. Apart from this, Arid Forest Research Institute, Jodhpur was provided financial assistance to organize a national level workshop on food security in dry zones at Jodhpur on October 3-5, 2006. To sensitize the students and teachers on sustainable consumption and development, a desert learning programme was organized in collaboration with Kendriya Vidyalaya Sangathan and M/s Ashoka Trust for Research in Ecology and the Environment.
- ◆ As an attempt to raise mass awareness, posters were released on the occasion of World Biological Diversity Day on May 22, 2006. This theme was carried forward further on June 5, 2006, when National Museum of Natural History organized a programme in Delhi on World Day to Combat Desertification and Drought on June 17, 2006. The theme of the World Environment Day 2006 was "Desert and Desertification: Don't Desert Dryland".
- ◆ The Third National Report on Implementation of UNCCD in India was prepared and submitted to the UNCCD Secretariat. The 7th meeting of Asian Focal Point of UNCCD was held at Bangkok during August 7-11, 2006, which discussed the effective way to implement the UNCCD processes, resource mobilization and other critical issues, in preparation to CRIC-5 meeting of UNCCD. The 5th meeting of the Committee of the Review of Implementation of Convention (CRIC) meeting is scheduled to be held on March 12-21, 2007 at Buenos Aires, Argentina, which would mainly discuss the strategic plan of the UNCCD for the next decade.