

**INSTITUTE OF WOOD SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY, BANGALORE
BHARAT KA AMRUT MAHOTSAV – WEEK 44 to WEEK 56**

**Webinar
on
Sustainability, Certification and Legality in Wood Products**

21 January 2022

AzadiKaAmritMahotsav is an initiative of the Government of India to celebrate and commemorate 75 years of Independence of progressive India and the glorious history of its people, culture and achievements. Honourable Prime Minister of India, Sri.NarendraModi inaugurated 'AzadiKaAmritMahotsav' celebration by flagging off 'Dandi March' from Sabarmati Ashram, Ahmedabad on 12 March 2021, 75 weeks before our 75th anniversary of Independence and will end past a year on 15th August 2023.

As part of this celebration, ICFRE is conducting various programs like technical series, workshops, exhibitions, documentary shows, poster and essay competitions, cycle rallies etc. so far Institute of Wood Science and Technology has organized four programs.

Now, as part of Week 44 to 56 celebration of Bharat KaAmrutMahotsav, the Institute conducted a webinar on **“Sustainability, Certification and Legality in Wood Products on 21 January 2022** to hear the views of representatives from Wood Based Industries, Academia and Practitioners of forest certification. In this webinar five panelists and four invited speakers expressed their views on the afore mentioned topic and about 250 participants from across the country participated. This list of panelists and invited speakers are given below.

1. List of Panelists

- a. Sh. SajjanBhajanka, President, FIPPI
- b. Dr. ManmohanYada, Professor, IIFM., Bhopal
- c. Dr. SneeshBuxr, IG., MoEF&CC
- d. Dr. M.P. Singh, Director, IWST., Bangalore
- e. Sh. JikeshThakkar, Exicutive Director., AIPM

2. List of Invited Speakers.

- a. Dr. H.R. Prabuddha, IFS., IWST, Bengaluru
- b. Dr. H.D. Kulkarni, Vice President Plantation (Retd.), ITC Ltd.
- c. Ms. ShilpaNaryal, Head Sustainability-South East Asia, Intertek.
- d. Dr. Shiv S. Panse, Forest Governance Expert & Technical Advisor Sustainable Forest and Natural Resource Management.

At the outset, Sh. Shivakumar C.M, Head Extension, IWST., Bangalore welcomed the panelists, speakers and participants. Followed by Dr. M.P. Singh, Director, IWST., Bangalore highlighted the importance of Sustainability and Certification of forests, wood and wood products in India. Subsequently, invited speakers made brief presentation on their topics.

Dr. H.R. Prabuddha, IFS. IWST, Bengaluru made brief presentation Sustainability, Certification and Legality in Wood Products: World and Indian Scenario. In his presentation he highlighted about the various certification systems practiced across the globe and challenges associated with certification in India. For instance, FSC certification scheme consists of 10 principles, 55 criteria's and 200 indicators related to SFM. Similarly, Network for Certification and Conservation of Forests (NCCF), a NGO from India has come up with 59 criteria and 239 indicators for SFM which is endorsed by the PEFC. Adhering to too many Criteria and Indicators (C&I) makes certification a very complex process and it becomes difficult to implement in Indian conditions.

Dr. H.D. Kulkarni, Vice President Plantation (Retd.), ITC Ltd., made a detailed presentation on "Relevance of sustainability certification for agri-wood in India and shared his firsthand experience in dealing with certification agencies when he was working in ITC ltd. He also stressed upon creation of Indian system of certification for wood produced from the agricultural lands and plantations.

Ms. ShilpaNaryal, Head Sustainability-South East Asia, Intertek did presentation on "Sustainable development for greener supply chain in the Global Value Chains". In her presentation she talked about the complexity associated with the concept sustainability and

existing certification systems like FSC and PEFC. She also urged for creation of Indian system of certification for the benefit of farmers and wood based industry.

Dr. Shiv S. Panse, Forest Governance Expert & Technical Advisor Sustainable Forest and Natural Resource Management made a detailed presentation on “Sustainability and Legality Assurance Standard for Wood Products in India”. In his presentation he gave a framework for creation of Indian certification system.

Dr. ManmohanYada, Professor, IIFM., Bhopal observed that to ease forest certification process in India, already IIFM (Indian Institute of Forest Management), Bhopal has come up with 8 criteria and 37 indicators for SFM through Bhopal India Process. The same C&I developed by IIFM have been adopted in the National Working Plan Code, 2014 and they are being implemented in most of the forest divisions across the country. Hence, it would be desirable come up with Indian framework of forest certification based on C&I developed by the IIFM.

Dr. SuneeshBuxy, IGF.,MoEF&CC., complemented the IWST for organizing this webinar and briefed about the initiatives taken by the ministry in respect of promotion of agro-forestry in the country. He also informed that the out of this webinar should be sent to ministry for further necessary action in respect of forest and wood certification in India.

Both Sh. Sh. SajjanBhajanka, and Sh. JikeshThakkar observed that, there is to develop Indian framework of certification for the certification of forests and Agri-wood in India to provide certified wood to the industries.

All the panelists agreed to come up with simple and cost effective Indian framework for certification of forests and Agri-wood would help the farmers and industry to adopt the certification system in India.

Shivakumar C.M, Head Extension, IWST., Bangalore extended vote of thanks to panelists, speakers and participants.

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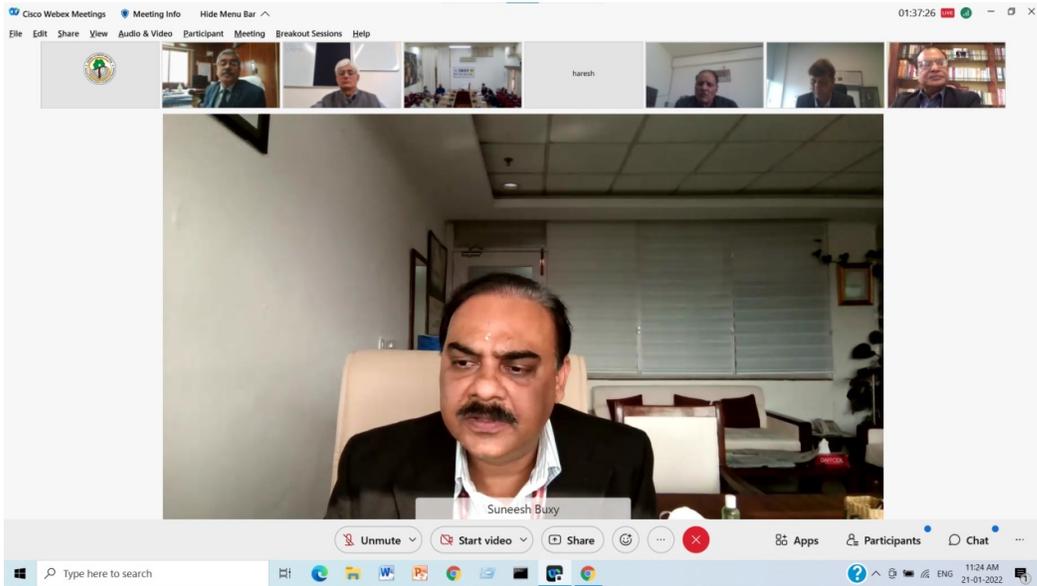
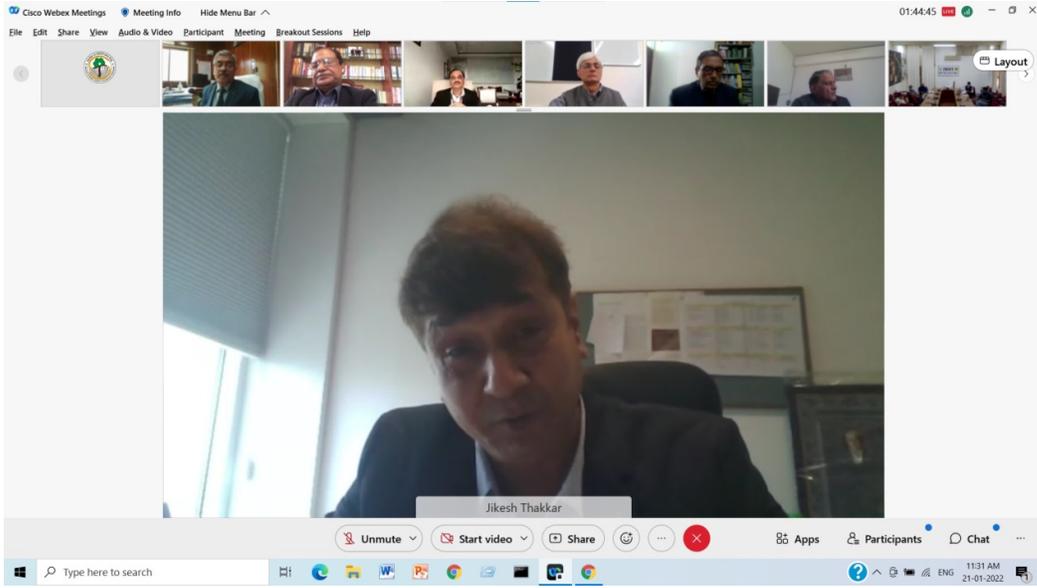
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