

## SARA FM PUBLIC SUMMARY—2023

SARA (Society for Afforestation, Research, and Allied Works), Bangur Nagar, Dandeli (Uttara Kannada) is highly thankful to all the stakeholders who have shown interest in our activities.

SARA came into existence in September 12, 2001 and registered with the Karnataka Society Registration Act, of 1960. Since 2011, SARA has been an FSC forest management society and supported by West Coast Paper Mills Limited, Dandeli, and SARA is committed to the FSC Standard Principles and criteria.

SARA management has managed and distributed seedling and clonal plants to FMUs and made a brief publicly available summary of the primary elements of the SARA management plan. Please, feel to write us on [saraworks@gmail.com](mailto:saraworks@gmail.com).

A summary will provide information on the parameters enumerated as Standards, Management Plan, objectives, silviculture plan, Species, monitoring system, procurement of FSC-100% Wood, long term fiber sustainability plan rolling, technical guidance and to all stakeholders, milestones, AGM, and CSR activities as societal benefits and health and safety, and skill development programs. Stakeholder meetings provided in SARA management under technical guidance to each farmer.

### Standards:

SARA management has followed the norms and standards of MOEF & FSC-FM standard certification for Logging, FSC Forest Stewardship Standard of FSC-STD-IND-01-2022 EN, FSC-STD-60-004 V2-1 EN in their operation. SARA Management has followed the principles and confirmed to FSC-STD-IND-01-2022 EN, 6 of 119 – FSC-PRO-60-006 V2-0 EN. The SARA has implemented and transformed FSC- P&C Version 5-1, FSC-STD-60-002 (V1-0) EN structure and National Forest Stewardship Standards in their operation. SARA plantation operations have followed the standard for SOP, development, and maintenance of National Forest Stewardship Standards FSC-STD-60-006 (V1-2) EN.

The SARA has well-defined operational documents & applied management plan, FSC Standards, objectives & implementation in the SARA Operation. SARA has implemented the directives and guidelines, policies, ILO conventions, GMO Interpretations, FM Evaluations, Group entities, Processing appeals and complaints, pesticide policy, Ecosystem services Procedures, Promoting Gender equality, Guidelines for the Right to Free, Prior, and Informed Consent (FPIC) in the operations. SARA has supported farmers with norms of FSC-POL- 01-004, FSC-POL -30-001, FSC-POL-30-401, FSC-POL-30-602, FSC- STD-20-007, FSC-STD-30-005, FSC-PRO- 01-008&009, FSC-PRO-30-006, FSC-DIR-20-007, FSC- GUI-30-003(FPIC) and FSC-GUI-60-005 FSC-POL-20-003 respectively for the certification.

SARA–FSC-FM management plan has a part of FSC- P & C. It has implemented Conservation manual programs in the FFM UTG and Coppices Plantation operations criteria's (6.5, 7.0, 7.1, 7.4, 8.2, 8.5, & 9.1) which includes an objective, FMP, silviculture operation, and monitored reports in the year 2019-22 supported by West Coast Paper Mills Limited, Dandeli.

It has distributed quality saplings of 1,45,53,543 to 1989 beneficiary FMUs, and areas of 10865 Acres in pulpwood plantations till year 2023.

SARA activity aimed for extension of eco-friendly move and development of SARA- FSC Pulpwood logging as a resource for future requirements. SARA Farm forestry Model & Coppices plantations under technical guidance on Marginal /degraded or agriculture lands are raised as high yields, pulpwood plantations to maximize plantation productivity and FMUs revenue generation.

SARA acts as a catalyst in improving forest cover, ecology, and farmers' socio-economic status.

The SARA focus has been on the importance of trees outside forests (TOF) and preserving, recharging, and replacing groundwater.

It encouraged long-term association as group entities of FMUs on positive results of pulpwood plantation such as tree culture, afforestation, intercropping, water conservation, and protecting the environment in their plantation operation with their species. With a registration that every tree planted, sequesters carbon and act as a water percolation medium to recharge groundwater. Company undertook an afforestation program on degraded, waste, marginal lands, and agricultural lands.

SARA has embarked on a plan and initiative toward self-sufficiency to generate the raw material by coordinating with farmers and utilizing their Farming Lands. The commencement of the farm forestry model and coppices plantation activities was a turning point for the company and farmers. The social forestry initiative has spread to eleven sections of Karnataka, Maharashtra and Goa state as a means of survival for the small farmers and improvising the socio-economic status of their communities.

SARA has provided quality-planting materials at subsidized rates to FMUs. The scheme is well accepted and adopted by rural people and FMUs. This social farm forestry program has improved productivity, minimized soil erosion, and observed improvement in moisture content due to the mulching of Acacia, Eucalyptus, Subabul, and Casuarina leaves (Nitrogen- Fixation Plant) plantation on the FMUs land. SARA focus on afforestation, quality high-tech nursery production, research & development in plantation forestry to encourage farm forestry model, protect the environment, and rural development, conducted on environment Impact assessment and social impact assessment in 2022 available at administrative office.

From 2019, SARA has raised farm forestry model and coppices plantation under technical guidance projects in eleven sections of Karnataka, Maharashtra & Goa State. In return, SARA has supported by WCPM to source its 100% FSC-certified pulpwood through sustainable, responsible, legal, and well-managed plantations. The Overview of SARA (Plantations) operations as on October 31, 2023 covered and benefited as under

- ✚ 1989 No of farmers.
- ✚ 10865 Acres Area

A continuous process of SARA, distributing quality *Eucalyptus*, *Acacia mangium* / hybrid, Casuarina Seedlings/Saplings, and Subabul (*Leucaena leucocephala*), *Melia dubia* plants distribution aims every year in SARA Management Plan. SARA has given specific attention & guidance on land preparation of farmers by the SARA team for the best survival and growth of plantations.

SARA is maintaining the Ecosystem, conserving old aged trees, ponds, check-dam, pathways, temples, flora, and faunas as biodiversity and declared HCV-VI total areas (3.0 acres) within the plantation areas. SARA classifies the area and protect the HCVs included in the plantation areas with utmost priority and has the proper reports for managing the same. Plantation areas sites includes small farmers, agricultural land, and wasteland or degraded land outside the forest (OTF) to minimize soil erosions, increase forest cover and maintain other ecological aspects. SARA is giving technical guidance to registered new FMUs and existing farmers for the proper maintenance of the farms. Trainings are provided timely to maintain the farms by designated personnel doing field visits from time to time.

HCVF - Section	Area (acres)	Conserved	Ecosystem	Flora & Fauna	Temples	Check dams	Year
Kulluvalli	2.0	Yes	Yes	Recorded	Maa Temple	Yes	2011
Ch. kiitur	0.5	Yes	Yes	Recorded	Shiva Temple	NA	2021
Khanapur	0.5	Yes	Yes	Recorded	Shiva Temple	NA	2022

SARA decided to maintain the existing plantations with a concentration on yield potential. SARA Experts identified conservation area having water bodies for the wild animals in the sections. From Land and Ecological and restoration, and conserved area, SARA has recorded maintained Temple, water body, old Trees, naturally grown NTFP, flora, fauna, species, Vegetation, to feed local staff needs within the dense plantations at section covering the area of 3 Acres. Defined annual and rotational harvesting plans of species planted in areas. SARA expects a yield of all species (pulpwood logging) determined based on the quadrate principles and AAH subjects to allow the team to release an order for clear-cut felling in each section of SARA Plantations.

- Data Based Monitored, recorded in MIS.
- Identify information on flora-fauna, RTE species, and soil parameters for the Ecosystem.
- Environmental & social impact assessment, pre- and post-harvesting activities such as fertilizer usage, and pesticide policy strictly applied in the plantation areas.

Felling activities has undertaken in the SARA plantations in each financial year, in the financial year Oct 31, 2023, SARA has procured pulp wood logs (barked/debarked) in account FSC (100%) pulpwood.

SARA is establishing & giving technical guidance to FMUs (Farmers) on management objectives, safety, Silviculture Operation, Planting techniques, Uses of Fertilizers, and maintenance of plantation within rotational years for FFM (Farm Forestry Management) & coppices plantations.

Harvesting techniques & their felling techniques in the SARA plantations, that soil erosion is controlled.

SARA management & officials gave technical guidance regularly to their FMUs on

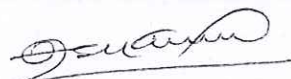
- ✦ Nursery techniques and Nursery management to outsourced/partner nurseries near Sections.
- ✦ Land Survey, Identification, and selection of plantation site, soil properties like type depth, PH, EC, and boundary demarcation.
- ✦ Eco-system components and their significance.
- ✦ Plantations model and benefits, FSC principles and criteria and its implications.
- ✦ Pre-planting activities like land preparation (Ripping/Pitting), alignment and planting execution
- ✦ Post-planting activities like supplementary nutrient application, weeding and necessary irrigation.
- ✦ In the early stage establishment of intercropping like legumes and vegetables.
- ✦ Guidance on health and safety measures.
- ✦ As per the species specification post-harvest management.
- ✦ Harvesting Techniques.
- ✦ Felling safety measure & its effects.

SARA is not involved any plantation activities of the species that is mentioned in annexures 1, 2, or 3 of the CITES (Convention on International Trade in endangered species of the Wild Fauna and Flora).

All above information is true as per SARA management. Stakeholders and public can verify the above information at SARA office and Section offices.



M.P.S Yadava  
Associate Director (SARA)



Ashok Kumar Sharma  
Vice – Chairman (SARA)

Date: Nov 11, 2023