

Society for Afforestation, Research and Allied Works (SARA)

Forest Management (FM) Public Summary—2024

SARA Works, Bangur Nagar, Dandeli (Uttara Kannada) is thankful to all the stakeholders who have shown attention in the activities.

SARA came into existence in 12th September 2001 and registered with the Karnataka Society Registration Act, of 1960. Since 2011, it has been a FSC Forest Management Society (FMS) and supported by West Coast Paper Mills (WCPM), Dandeli, and is committed to the Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) Standard Principles and criteria.

SARA management has managed and distributed seedling and clonal plants to Forest Managed Units (FMUs) and made a brief widely available summary of the primary elements of the SARA management plan. Please, feel free to write us on saraworks@gmail.com.

A summary will provide information on the parameters enumerated as standards on plantation management plan, objectives, silviculture operational plan, species used, plantation monitoring system, wood procurement as FSC100%, long term fiber sustainability plan rolling, technical guidance and for all the stakeholders, milestones, annual general meeting (AGM), and Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) activities as societal benefits, health, safety and skill development programs. Stakeholder meetings provided in SARA management under technical guidance (UTGs) to each farmer.

Standards:

SARA management has followed the norms and standards of Ministry of Environment and Forest (MoEF) and FSC- FM standard certification for logging, FSC Forest Stewardship Standard (FSS) 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 FSC-STD-IND-01-2022 EN, 6 of 119 FSC-PRO-60-006 V2-0 EN. SARA has implemented and transformed FSC- P and C V 5-1, FSC-STD-60-002 (V1-0) EN structure and National Forest Stewardship Standards (NFSS) in their operation. SARA plantation operations have followed the standard for SOP, development, and maintenance of NFSS, FSC-STD-60-006 (V1-2) EN.

The SARA has well-defined operational documents and applied management plans, FSC The SARA has well-defined operational documents and applied management plan, FSC Standards, objectives and implementation in the SARA operation. SARA has implemented the directives and guidelines, policies, International Labour Organizations (ILOs) conventions, Genetically Modified Organism (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 and 009, FSC-PRO-30-006, FSC-DIR-20-007, FSC-GUI-30-003 (FPIC) and FSC-GUI-60-005 and FSC-POL-20-003 respectively for the certification.

As per the criteria 3.2.2 SARA recognizes and respects all the legal and customary rights of the indigenous people.

SARA-FSC-FM management plan has a part of FSC- Principles and Criteria. It has implemented conservation manual programs in the Field Force Management (FFM), UTG, plantation operations criteria (6.5, 7.0, 7.1, 7.4, 8.2, 8.5, and 9.1) which includes an objective, Fixed Maturity Plan (FMP), silviculture operation, and monitored reports in the year 2020-24 supported by WCPML, Dandeli.

It has distributed quality saplings of 1,93,30,823 to 2861 beneficiary FMUs, and areas of 13021 Acres in pulpwood plantations till the year 2024.

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 and 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 sustainable status.

The SARA focus has been on the importance of trees outside forests (**TOF**) and preserving soil structure, infiltration, recharging, and making available ground water.

An encouraged long-term association as group entities of FMUs, for tree integration in farmland through a farm forestry / agroforestry model, which are having intercropping system advance, via habitat conservation that subsequently protecting the environment by adding different species in it. Planted each tree contributing to harvesting the atmospheric carbon, added role on increasing the water percolation ability, resulting into recharge the groundwater. The company is encouraging to afforestation activities on degraded waste, marginal lands which are under the custody of farmers.

SARA has developed a plan and initiative toward self-sufficiency to generate the raw material by coordinating farmers and facilitating their farming lands. The commencement of the farm forestry model and coppices plantation activities was a turning point for the company raw material security and better revenue generation to 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 helped in quality-planting materials availability with minimal cost to FMUs by developing partner nurseries closest to the region. This scheme is created the self-help groups for local employment and added value in developing a FMUs confidence to take up plantation by acceptance of their produced planting material. 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 focuses on afforestation, quality high-tech nursery

Production, research and 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.

SARA maintains the Ecosystem, conserving old 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 protects the HCVs included in the plantation areas with utmost priority and has the proper reports for managing the same. Plantation areas sites include small farmers, agricultural land, and wasteland or degraded land outside the forest (OTF) to minimize soil erosion, 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. Training is 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
Kulluwalli	2.0	Yes	Yes	Recorded	Maa Temple	Yes	2011
Ch. kiittur	0.5	Yes	Yes	Recorded	Shiva Temple	NA	2021
Khanapura	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 areas 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 quadrature 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 and social impact assessment, pre- and post-harvesting activities such as fertilizer usage, and pesticide policy strictly applied in the plantation areas.

Felling activities have been undertaken in the SARA plantations in each financial year, in the financial year Oct 31, 2024, SARA has not procured pulp wood logs (barked/debarked) in account FSC (100%) pulpwood.

SARA is establishing and 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) and coppices plantations.

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

SARA management and officials imparting the technical assistances on regular bases to the FMUs, who are establishing partner nurseries and plantations around the regions. In plantation identification of beneficiary, land topography, soil type observations for depth and selection of species and organizing the suited planting material

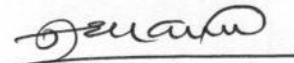
- Nursery techniques and Nursery managed outsourced/partner nurseries near Sections
- Land Survey, Identification, and selection of plantation sites, soil properties like type depth, P^H, EC, and boundary demarcation.
- Eco-system components and their significance.
- Plantations model and benefits, FSC 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.
- Undertaken safety measures during harvesting of trees and their effects.

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

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



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Date: Nov 11th, 2024