

**Minutes of discussion held regarding handing over of
cashew plantation under Forest & Environment Department
and planting of cashew grafts on bald hills
under the chairmanship of
Hon'ble Minister, Forest and Environment on 19.7.2011
in his Secretariat chamber**

The discussion regarding handing over of cashew plantation under Forest & Environment Department and planting of cashew grafts on bald hills with other matters concerning Orissa State Cashew Development Corporation (OSCDC) took place under the chairmanship of Hon'ble Minister, Forest & Environment wherein Chairman, OSCDC; officials of OSCDC; Special Secretary, Forest & Environment Department; PCCF, Orissa, PCCF (WL) and MD, OFDC Ltd participated. Initiating the discussion, the Chairman, OSCDC explained following concerns relating to OSCDC.

- The OSCDC is in possession of Ac.75,480.524 dec. (about 30,000 ha) of cashew plantation located at 578 sites in 20 Districts of the State. These plantations are managed by 6 Divisions of OSCDC with headquarters at Khurda, Chandikhole, Dhenkanal, Baripada, Jeypore and Sundargarh.
- 284 cashew plantation over an area of 12,337 ha have become senile and old which need to be replaced by high yielding hybrid cashew grafts. So far 5216 ha of such plantation has been covered under re-planting programme.
- The cashew plantations existing on non-forest land and in control of Forest & Environment and other Departments need to be transferred to OSCDC for better productivity as per discussion held at the level of Hon'ble Chief Minister.

- New plantation of cashew with hybrid cashews grafts needs to be taken on bald hills in the State.

The above mentioned concerns of the OSCDC were discussed in details and following decisions were taken.

- (a) For harvesting old and senile cashew trees on non-forest land, the OSCDC shall move proposal with status of land to the DFO concerned, who will accord necessary felling permission. The PCCF, Orissa will instruct the DFOs for expediting disposal of such proposal.
- (b) Scheme for harvesting old and senile cashew trees existing on forest land require permission of Central CCF, Eastern Regional Office of MoEF, Bhubaneswar. Necessary scheme/proposal shall be drawn for such harvest with planting of mixed species on the said forest land and shall be submitted to concerned DFO for onward transmission to obtain approval of Central CCF under FC Act. The planting of hybrid cashew or undertaking new cashew plantation on forest land is prohibited under the provisions of FC Act.
- (c) Cashew plantations under control of Forest & Environment Department exist on forest land except 2206 hectares (1862 hectares cashew and 344 hectares mixed plantation) raised by OFDC Ltd at its own cost over non-forest land. Regarding transfer of cashew plantation on non-forest land to OSCDC, the matter may be taken up with OFDC Ltd. Handing over of cashew plantation on non-forest land with staff of OFDC Ltd who are maintaining those plantations may be considered by the Board of Directors of OFDC Ltd.
- (d) Cashew plantations existing on forest land, which is about 10,000 ha under control of 13 Forest/Wildlife Division and 15341 ha under control of OFDC Ltd., shall

be managed by the Department/ OFDC Ltd for increasing productivity. However, these plantations shall be gradually converted to mixed plantations from forest conservation point of view.

- (e) Bald hills are existing in the State, both over forest and non-forest land. For plantation over bald hills of forest land, the Department is taking necessary afforestation measures with emphasis on soil and water conservation measures under State Plan Scheme. Cashew grafts which may be obtained from OSCDC can also be planted on the bald hills under the said scheme.
- (f) Cashew plantations on bald hills existing over the Revenue Land, shall be taken up by OSCDC after obtaining permission from Revenue & DM Department for planting of cashew trees.
- (g) The cashew processing facility being developed by OSCDC may be utilized by the Department and OFDC Ltd for cashew produced from the forest land.

(h) The OSCDC & OFDC may collaborate for marketing tie up for value addition of Cashew.
The meeting ended with vote of thanks to the Chair.