

Trees Outside Forests Certification Standard – India



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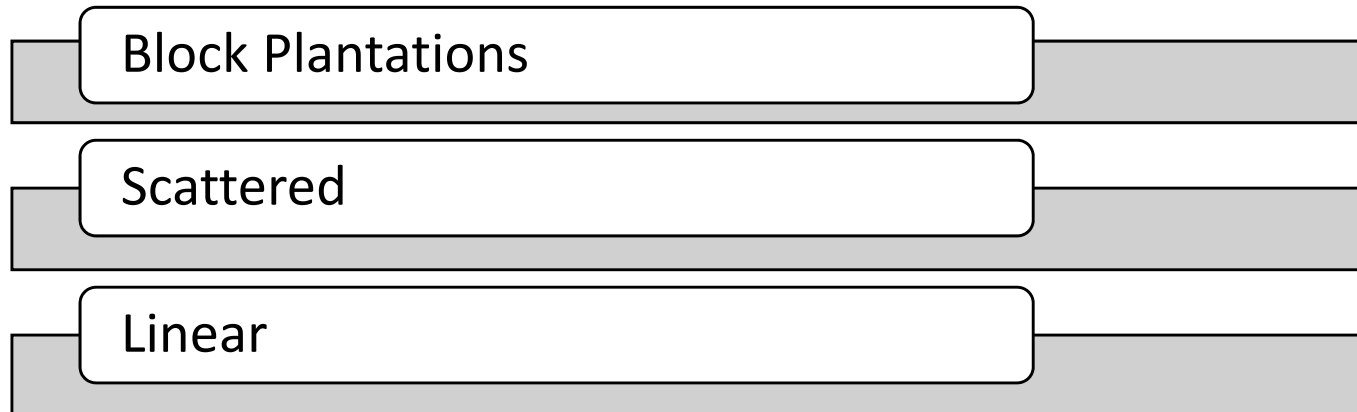
Definition: Trees Outside Forests (TOF) – India

Trees Outside Forest -

“all trees growing outside recorded forest areas”, where recorded forest means ‘reserve forests’, ‘protected forests’ or ‘unclassified forests’.

Tree cover –

Patches outside recorded forests area and less than the minimum mappable (1 ha) and upto 0.1 ha. Such patches comprise –



Status TOF in India

- The Tree cover of the country is estimated to be **9.38 million ha** which is **2.85%** of the geographical area.

| | Area (million ha) | Geographical% | Growing stock |
|--------|-------------------|---------------|-----------------------|
| Forest | 70.8 | 21.54% | 4218.380 million cube |
| TOF | 9.38 | 2.85% | 1603.997 million cube |

- Increase of **1243 sq. km** in the tree cover from 2015 to 2017 assessments
- In India TOF has become the main source of industrial wood (**about 95%**) since last 2-3 decades.
- Annual potential production of timber from TOF is **74 million cu. m.**
- MoEFCC has set up a expert committee group to increase the Tree cover in the country to meet National Determined Contribution to create carbon sink in the country.
- Their economic value as industrial wood or as carbon sink has not been realized.
- TOF have contributed in a big way in meeting domestic needs and providing income to local people and also the environmental services.

TOF Classification on the basis of their occurrence in India

Urban forestry: grown in urban and semi-urban areas for *(can be owned privately and government entities)*

- aesthetic values
- fruits bearing qualities
- shade and ecosystem services

Agroforestry: land use system which integrates trees, agriculture crops and livestock/pastures on farmlands and rural landscapes to enhance *(privately owned)*

- productivity
- profitability
- diversity
- ecosystem sustainability



Scattered Trees

- A single tree/ bunch of trees/ bamboo clumps etc., grown in or in association with farm lands, not cultivated systematically for any economic, social or ecological benefit.
- trees in parks, homestead and home gardens.



Avenue Plantations/Multi-purpose lots

- shelterbelts
- windbreaks
- other linear plantations along streets
- plantations along railway, highways, canals, etc.



Objectives of Developing TOF Certification Standard in India

- To enhance and expand the purview of forest certification by bringing the trees grown outside forest under it.
- To establish framework for certification of small land holders farm forestry and agro-forestry plantations, which are mainly grown for subsistence, food and wood security and identified environmental benefits.
- To help farmers manage their trees responsibly, as per possible best practice, so that they are not left out in growing need of certified raw material.
- To help and encourage timber based industries to include certified TOF raw material in their procurement policies and supply chain management.
- To give consumers an assurance that the product is made from wood coming from responsibly managed TOF.
- To reduce the dependence on Natural Forest for certified forest produce.

**Approach towards
TOF Certification in
India**

I. Landscape/standalone approach (defined on the basis of Forest type, area, size, occurrence and arrangement)

II. Buyer-led and Management Entity (ME) approach –

Conceptualizing implementation of TOF Certification Standard

Possible models for implementation of TOF Certification standard -

- Industry Driven - Buyer-led or Supplier –led
 - Responsibilities for implement certification requirements lies with Industry
- Farmers Association/Cooperative/NGO-
 - Responsibilities for implementation of certification requirements lies with association/cooperative/NGO
- Owners managing Urbanforestry –
 - Responsibility to implement certification requirements lies with organizations like City/town administration, RWAs, Municipal Corporations, Forest Departments, Private, Societies, etc.



TOF Resource Models in India

| | <u>Type</u> | <u>Approach</u> | <u>Driver</u> | <u>Type of Forests/Trees Outside Forests</u> | <u>Applicable Standard</u> |
|--|-------------|--|---------------------------------------|---|--|
| Forest Management certification | Model I | Landscape | Forest Management Entity | Natural Forest/Reserve forests/Protected area/conservation zones Example - Uttar Pradesh Forest Corporation | Country Specific Sustainable Forest Management (SFM) Standard |
| | Model II | Landscape | Forest Management Entity | Commercial Plantations Example – Plantations by Pulp & Paper, Plywood etc. | SFM Standard (+) additional indicators and safeguards |
| Trees Outside Forest (TOF) certification *There may be an overlap of FM – small scale & intensity & TOF certification in III. | Model III | Landscape/Plot based | Management Entity or Service-provider | Block plantations less than 25 hectare Example –PACL, SARA | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Standalone standard containing non-negotiable attributes of SFM standard (+) environmental & social safeguards Designed in guidance with PEFC Appendix- Interpretation for TOF Certification Additional safeguards for Intensive agroforestry models |
| | Model IV | Standalone - even includes one tree under its scope of certification | Supplier, Buyer or Service-provider | Scattered, agroforestry set ups and Linear stratum of trees with economic utility (commercial trees)/Agroforestry practices/Urban trees/ stand-alone trees at homestead/home gardens/multipurpose tree lots like shelter belts/ windbreaks etc. | |

Forest and TOF Certification model Illustrations

MODEL 1 –

Forest Type: - Natural Forests/ Reserve Forests/Protected areas/Conservation Zones

Management Type: - Government Entity/Private Company

Applicable standard: - Country Specific Sustainable Forest Management (SFM)

Illustrations:- Uttar Pradesh Forest Corporation (UPFC), a state government entity has certified approx. 418,600 ha against SFM standard with approx. 62 species under the scope of certification. The area under the scope of certification mainly consists of Reserve forests, Protected and Natural Forests of the State Forest department.

MODEL 2-

Forest Type:- Monoculture/Commercial woodlots/
Energy Plantations/ Pulpwood Plantations.

Management Type: - Private / Government

Applicable standard: National SFM + Additional check and balance to address environmental concerns + Social concerns.

Illustrations:- Industries raise plantations species of their interest like *Eucalyptus spp.*- Pulp & Paper; *Dalbergia spp.* & *Tectona spp.* – Plywood; and manage them as a management entity. SFM standard is being used to certify such plantations however, considering the severity of plantations on ecology and society it is necessary to put extra safeguards to assess and mitigate the impacts of Plantations.

MODEL 3- (Can be Intensive or Extensive TOF)

- **Type:** - Block Plantations less than 25 ha (as per Plantation Labor Act, or any other classification e.g., Land ceiling Act for avg. 20 acres.)
- **Management Type:** - Aggregated and managed by cooperatives, NGOs or any other third party.
- **Applicable standard:** TOF Certification – derived from SFM and PEFC Guidance
- **Illustration III-** Here, Cooperative/Federation is the FME, aggregating and managing these units in congruence with certification requirements. These cooperatives purchase timber from these farmers and sell it to pulp & paper/plywood industry as certified raw material. Patneswari Agri. Cooperative Limited (PACL) is one such certified organization that operates under this model.



MODEL 4- (Can be Extensive or Intensive TOF)

- **Type:** - Trees of Economic Utility / shelter belts/ wind break/ scattered trees / stand-alone trees/unorganized plantations
- **Management Type:** - Can be Buyer-led /Supplier –led
- **Applicable standard:** A stand-alone standard consisting of non-negotiable attributes of Sustainable forest management + environmental & social safeguards, this can be considered as advanced version of Controlled sources but more robust and rigorous.

Intensive and Extensive TOF in India

(refer: PEFC Appendix)

| | Intensive Setup | Extensive Setup |
|---------------------|--|--|
| Agroforestry | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Medium & Large Farmers Intercropping Cropping Complex models of Agroforestry Use of chemicals Water intensive crop Use of Machines Contract labors Vicinity to conservation areas | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Small Land (Small & marginal farmers) Monoculture Traditional Farming Less or no use of Fertilizers Absentee Farmers Homesteads |
| Urban Forest | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Use of chemicals & machines, Privately owned Greenbelts and reclamation area established by industries | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Along the canals, railways, Aesthetic purpose Managed by Forest Departments |

STANDARD DEVELOPMENT PROCESS IN NCCF



