

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING TO REVIEW THE WORKING
PERFORMANCE OF EXISTING
COIR CLUSTERS UNDER SFURTI
HELD ON 01.03.2017**

A meeting to review the present working performance of existing 6 Coir Clusters namely Cuddalore, Gudiyatham, Periyakulam, Singampunari, Pattukkottai & Salem established under SFURTI during XI Five Year Plan was held on 01.03.2017 at the Commissionerate under the Chairmanship of Additional Chief Secretary/Industries Commissioner and Director of Industries and Commerce. The following Officers, SPV members, Implementing Agency and Technical Agency were present in the meeting

1. Additional Commissioner of Industries and Commerce
2. Secretary, Coir Board, Kochi
3. Additional Director of Industries and Commerce (Industrial Cooperatives)
4. Joint Director (Costing)
5. Technical Agency, ITCOT
6. General Manager, District Industries Centre, Theni, Salem, Vellore, Sivaganga, Thanjavur & Cuddalore
7. Assistant Directors of District Concerned.
8. SPV members of SFURTI clusters.

At the outset, Additional Chief Secretary/Industries Commissioner and Director of Industries and Commerce expressed displeasure over the poor working performance of old coir clusters set up during XI Five Year Plan. The working performance of each cluster was reviewed as follows:

1. CUDDALORE COIR CLUSTER:

It was informed that the machines installed towards manufacturing pith block in Cuddalore Coir Cluster is kept unused as no production activity was commenced till date. When this issue was raised, the General Manager, District Industries Centre, Cuddalore informed that due to Thane Cyclone all the coconut trees had been uprooted and thereby affecting the entire coconut cultivation in the District. Consequently no coconut husk is made available now in Cuddalore District. As a result, no coir fibre extraction unit has been functioning in this District. At this juncture, Additional Chief Secretary/Industries Commissioner and Director of Industries and Commerce suggested that this machine may be shifted to another cluster namely Pattukkottai where similar production activity is taking place. While endorsing this view, the Secretary, Coir Board requested the SPV members of Pattukkottai Coir Cluster to takeover this machine and utilize it in the present production activities. This should be done before 31.03.2017.

2. GUDIYATHAM COIR CLUSTER:

Apart from Gudiyatham, another branch was set up in Thiruppathur where the machines producing garden articles from needle felt had been installed. Whereas, since its installation no production activity has been commenced in this cluster. The General Manager, District Industries Centre, Vellore informed that the SPV members in Thiruppathur are not interested in this cluster and hence he requested to transfer this to another cluster which is willing to utilize this machine. Immediately, Additional Chief Secretary/Industries Commissioner and Director of Industries and Commerce requested the Salem Coir Cluster to take over this machine and utilize it in the production activities. The Secretary, Coir Board also endorsed this view and instructed to comply this before 31.03.2017.

In respect of Gudiyatham, the SPV Chairman informed that the production is taking place only in a small manner as they are finding it difficult to go for big production for want of funds. He also felt that his cluster is facing marketing problems to sell these items. Hence, SPV Chairman requested to arrange for funds to improve the productivity. The Additional Chief Secretary/Industries Commissioner and Director of Industries and Commerce suggested that this cluster may approach any financial institution / bank to obtain working capital loans. While endorsing this view, the Secretary, Coir Board requested the SPV to take immediate action to improve the production in this cluster.

3. PERIYAKULAM COIR CLUSTER

No SPV members were attended the meeting from this cluster. The General Manager District Industries Centre, Theni informed that the SPV members are not interested in this cluster where automatic yarn spinning has been envisaged. Hence, he further informed that the production activity has been held up for the past 2 years. Since this cluster has been located in the Periyakulam Coir Society, the Secretary, Coir Board suggested that the society could itself take over the machines and carry out the production activities. The Additional Chief Secretary/Industries Commissioner and Director of Industries and Commerce suggested that the General Manager, District Industries Centre, Theni could explore the possibilities of admitting new members in the cluster and then run it with them. The General Manager, District Industries Centre, Theni agreed for this.

4. SINGAMPUNARI COIR CLUSTER

There are two branches one at Singampunari and one at Sukkampatti. Both the clusters are functioning with automatic yarn spinning but the production is very low. The SPV members informed that due to financial crunch, they are unable to go for production in a bigger way. At this juncture, the Secretary, Coir Board suggested that this cluster could have tie-up arrangement with Singampunari MSE-CDP cluster

so as to supply the yarn produced by them entirely. The Additional Chief Secretary/Industries Commissioner and Director of Industries and Commerce requested the General Manager, District Industries Centre, Sivaganga to arrange for finance by having tie-up with financial institutions / banks.

5. PATTUKKOTTAI COIR CLUSTER

At the outset, it was informed that the production of pith block is not taking place regularly in this cluster. Further, financial accounts and other production details are also not furnished by this cluster properly to the Coir Board as well as to the Implementing Agency (GM, DIC, Thanjavur). At this juncture, the Chairman of SPV informed that the production and marketing is taking place regularly. In that case, the Additional Chief Secretary/Industries Commissioner and Director of Industries and Commerce requested him to furnish such details, year wise, to the Implementing Agency. The SPV Chairman requested to arrange the following:

- Purchase of generator set
- Funds to meet out working capital
- Signing of exit policy

The Additional Chief Secretary/Industries Commissioner and Director of Industries and Commerce requested the General Manger District Industries Centre, Thanjavur to have discussion with SPV and work out modalities and requirements to report back.

6. SALEM COIR CLUSTER

The Chairman, SPV informed that the production of garden articles is taking place only in small manner due to dearth of funds. Hence, he requested the Coir Board to arrange funds to improve the production activity. At this juncture, as decided in the meeting, the SPV Chairman was requested to take over the needle felt machine from Thiruppathur Coir Cluster and utilize the same in the production activity.

Sd/-AMBUJ SHARMA
Additional Chief Secretary/
Industries Commissioner and
Director of Industries and Commerce


for Additional Chief Secretary/
Industries Commissioner and
Director of Industries and Commerce


14/3/17