

Monthly Progress Report (MPR) on important events

Coir Board

MAY 2020

SIGNIFICANT ACHIEVEMENTS/EVENTS DURING MAY 2020 (from 1st to 25th May 2020)

I. Science & Technology

- **Validation of coir pith by ICAR**

As directed by the ADG, ICAR, samples of coir pith have been submitted at Indian Institute of Soil Sciences, Bhopal for testing the physio-chemical properties for confirmation and certification to fulfil the criteria for standard fertilizer as stipulated by ICAR. The report on samples of raw coir pith, C-POM and Coir-Krishimithra has been received from IISS, Bhopal which will be forwarded to ICAR, New Delhi to initiate the validation process of coir pith subject to the approval from the competent authority.

- **Inclusion of 5% coir geotextiles for construction of roads in seven States**

Govt. of India have decided to include coir geotextiles under new material/new technology category and allocated 5% of the length of rural roads to be constructed in the seven states as per the details given below. This was conveyed to all the state Rural Road Development Agencies of the seven states by the National Rural Infrastructure development Agency . For implementation of the same a Master Plan has been prepared and is under process for approval of the competent authority

- **CoE with IPIRTI**

The MoU submitted by Indian Plywood Industries Research & Training Institute (IPIRTI) on *“Evaluation of coir composites as an alternative to existing panel products for its various end user applications”* is under process for approval. They had submitted a detailed proposal for establishing a Centre of Excellence on Coir composites (CECC) for utilization of coir fibres for transforming into high value added coir composites for various end user applications. A detailed discussion on the topic was held through Video Conferencing chaired by Secretary, Coir Board on 18.5.2020 and proposed for due modifications in the institutional fee, setting up of infrastructure etc. IPIRTI have submitted the modified proposal which is under process.

- **Meeting with the scientists of TERI**

A meeting with the team of Scientists headed by Dr. Aswini Kumar, Director, TERI were conducted on 14.05.2020 through video conferencing to discuss about the scope of the proposed project with TERI. Instead of calculating carbon foot print for Coir Board as an organization and for coir products, it was suggested to modify the scope as saving in carbon foot print while using a coir product instead of its synthetic alternative. TERI has agreed to revise the scope of the project and to submit the modified proposal.

- **Review meeting of the collaborative project with NEIST, Jorhat**

Review meeting was conducted to review the progress of the works conducted as part of the following collaborative projects.

1. Development of flexible composite material using coconut husk and leather waste for industrial applications – Principal Investigator from NEIST – Dr. Dipul Kalita
2. Development for appropriate product by studying the possible use of coir dust in oil industry with reference to North-East India for absorption of oil spill - Principal Investigator from NEIST – Dr. Jayanta Jyoti Bora

The PI's of the respective projects made presentation on the works done as part of the project. AS part of the project NEIST has developed, flexible composite sheets with leather waste and coir and products such gaskets, foot wears and wallets were developed from the regenerated leather material. As part of the second project NEIST has developed oil absorbing mats from coir.

- **Meeting of the BIS sub panel constituted for drafting the guideline on “Coir Non Woven Composite Geo-textile”**

The last meeting of Geosynthetic Sectional Committee (TXD 30) of BIS has constituted panel under the convener ship of Director, CCRI for drafting the BIS standard for “Coir Non-Woven Composite Geotextile”. The meeting was held on 25.05.2020 through VC and finalized the draft which will be submitted to BIS TXD 30 for further consideration.

II. SKILL UPGRADATION & MAHILA COIR YOJANA

Various activities for the development of the coir industry are being done through the Regional and Sub Regional offices of the Board all over India. The following special achievements/events have been reported during the period under report.

- A meeting was convened through Video Conferencing on 15.05.2020 with the representatives of MSME-DIs, Coir Associations/Federations etc. for generating proposals for setting up of Coir Clusters under MSE-CDP of Ministry of MSME. The Board expects to receive 42 Nos. of proposals for Coir Clusters from the State of Kerala, Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh, Odisha, Karnataka and West Bengal.
- The Board has initiated action to set up a Technology Centre for Coir in association with MSME-DI, Thrissur under their proposed Technology Centre under MSME TCSP Scheme at Kochi.
- The Board also initiated action for setting up of MSME-TCSP Technology Centre for Coir Wood at Bangalore in association with Govt. of Karnataka.
- As part of switching over to conduct online training programmes, video tutorials on various processes involved in coir industry have been uploaded in the Board's website. Further 100 video tutorials as per training syllabus are under preparation for conducting the training programmes

III. DOMESTIC MARKETING

Participation in Domestic Exhibitions

To popularize Coir and Coir Products and boosting up the sales through the Board's showrooms, the Board is participating in important exhibitions all over the country. Due to national lockdown, Board has not participated in any exhibitions during the month of May 2020.

IV. EXPORT MARKET PROMOTION

Promotion of exports of coir and coir products and carrying on propaganda and publicity for that purpose is an important function assigned to the Coir Board. The Export Market Promotion Programmes implemented by Coir Board is to promote the export of coir products to markets abroad which are borne under the ongoing scheme Coir VikasYojana. Coir Industry is an export oriented industry and export helps the industry to adjust the imbalance between the production and demand in the domestic market. Exports help to attain sustainable development with a healthy growth rate.

V. COIR UDYAMI YOJANA (CUY)

Coir Udyami Yojana is a credit linked subsidy Scheme. The Scheme provides for financial assistance to the tune of 40% of the investment in Building and Plant & Machinery for setting up of coir production units. The remaining amount towards investment is funded through term loan (55%) from Banks and 5% through beneficiary contribution. Assistance under the Scheme is made available to individuals, Companies, Self Help Groups, Non Governmental Organizations, Institutions registered under Societies Registration Act 1860, Production Co-operative Societies, Joint Liability Groups and Charitable Trust. The maximum admissible cost under the Scheme is Rs.10 lakhs plus working capital, which shall not exceed 25% of the project cost.

(B) PRIME MINISTER'S EMPLOYMENT GENERATION PROGRAMME (PMEGP)

Prime Minister's Employment Generation Programme is a credit linked subsidy scheme for setting up of new micro enterprises. The Scheme provides subsidy at the rate of 25% of the project cost in rural areas and 15% in urban areas to the General Categories and 35% in rural areas and 25% in urban areas to the Special Categories, which includes SC/ST/OBC/ Minorities/Women/Physically Handicapped/Ex-servicemen, NER, Hill and Border areas. Coir projects with maximum cost up to Rs.25.00 lakhs in Manufacturing Sector and Rs.10.00 lakhs in Business/Service Sector are eligible for assistance under the Scheme. The Scheme is opened to individuals, Self Help Groups, Institutions registered under Societies Registration Act 1860, Production Co-operative Societies and Charitable Trust.

1. Maharashtra through Coir Board |Sub Regional Office, Sindhudurg
2. Andaman Nicobar Island through Coir Board |Sub Regional Office, Port Blair
3. Lakshadweep through Coir Board |Sub Regional Office, Kavaraathi
4. Telangana through Coir Board |Sub Regional Office, Hyderabad.

VI. SFURTI

Review Meeting of SFURTI Coir Clusters through Video Conferencing on 04-05-2020

A meeting to review the progress of implementation of SFURTI Coir clusters was held on 04.05.2020 through Video Conferencing under the Chairmanship of Joint Secretary of MSME cum Chairman, Coir Board. In the meeting, Chairman has reviewed the progress of implementation of all the clusters. It has been decided that all the clusters should complete the cluster implementation within the stipulated time. The representatives of the Technical Agencies, Implementing Agencies, CDEs, SPVs, cluster stakeholders and officials of Coir Board were also participated in the meeting through video conferencing. In the meeting Chairman has ordered to undertake initiatives for the implementation of LEAN system in the clusters.

Review Meeting of SFURTI Coir Clusters through Video Conferencing on 18-05-2020

A meeting to review the progress of implementation of 41 coir clusters under SFURTI was held on 18.05.2020 through Video Conferencing with all NAs. The meeting was chaired by Joint Secretary to MSME cum Chairman, Coir Board. Chairman has informed to find the feasibility to implant solar power facility in all the completed clusters for power generation. Chairman has inquired whether it is possible to conduct online classes for the implementation of LEAN system in the coming up clusters at this COVID-19 situation. Chairman has also instructed to take action to call for EoI for more pith clusters under SFURTI in all coir producing states in the country.