

Need for a strong policy regime to drive Forest/ Trees outside Forest (ToF) certification in India

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Certification for Sustainability of Forests / Trees outside Forests (ToF)

- Forests cover 31% of earth's surface area and provide us with various goods and ecosystem services. Globally, India, with nearly 25 % forest and tree cover, stands at 10th position accounting for 2% of total forest cover of the world
- Forest certification, an emerging global movement, is an important tool and enabler of sustainability in forest management and meeting our international commitments under the **SDGs, UNFCCC, UNCBD and UNCCD**. It is increasingly recognized as the demonstrable evidence for sustainable management of Forests/ToF
- Certification supports economic growth, fair trade, consumer protection, rights of tribals, health and safety of workers and livelihoods of forest communities

Forest Certification: "A voluntary process whereby an independent third party assesses quality of forest management and production against a set of requirements – standards predetermined by a certification organization" (FAO)

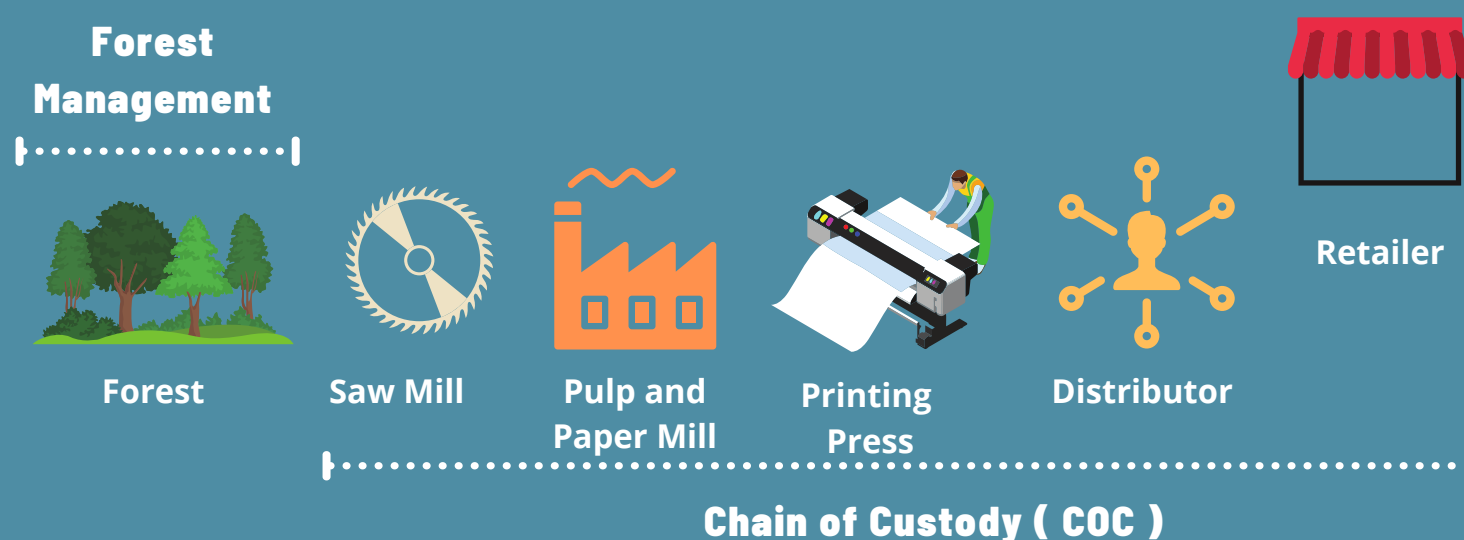
**Environmentally
Appropriate**

**Economically
Viable**

**Socially
Beneficial**

Types of Forest Certification

Forest Management Unit (FMU) certification: Process leading to issue of Certificate by an independent party, which assesses forest/ plantation against defined standards – Forest Managers, Private Owners



Chain of Custody certification (CoC) Tracking wood products from certified forest / plantations to point of sale to ensure that the product is obtained from a certified source Forest – Primary & Secondary Manufacturers- Traders- Retailers.

Global Forest Certification Schemes



- Globally: (status mid-2019)**
- FSC area: 200 mha; PEFC area: 325 mha**
- Area under double certification: 93 mha**
- Total certified area: 432 mha**
- 70,000+ CoC Certificates**

NCCF- PEFC Forest Management /ToF Certification Standard

- Only available Indian Scheme of Forest Certification
- Developed by NCCF through a multi-stakeholder Standard Development Group, endorsed by the Programme for the Endorsement of Forest Certification, giving it an international recognition.
- NCCF's ToF Scheme brings much-needed recognition to the wood and timber produced by the farmers on their lands and ensure better markets and higher income for their agroforestry produce. It is currently under the process of endorsement by PEFC.

Promoting Country Specific Certification Schemes in India

International Standards

- They are of Generic Nature
- They may imply **higher costs (auditing, travel, logistics, etc.)**

Indian Conditions

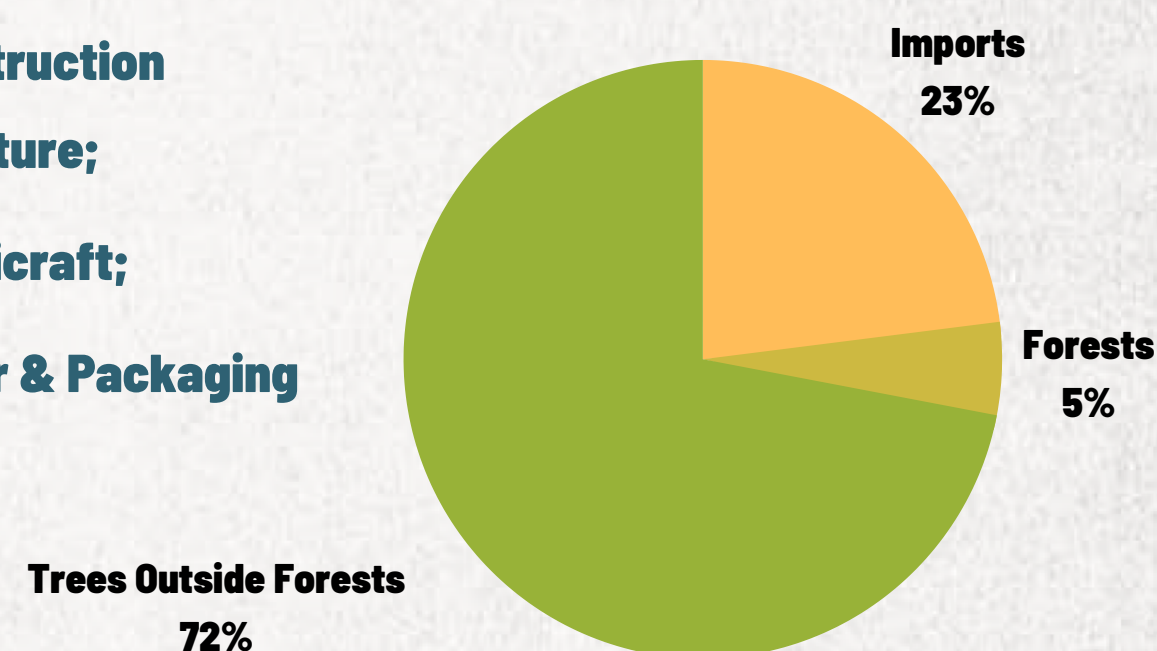
- Diverse legal and administrative frameworks of FM
- Diverse social, cultural & geographical conditions** of forests in different states
- Forest diversity and variability of FM in India

Advantages of Domestic Scheme

- Driven by national stakeholders
- Promote and facilitate national and international trade
- Integration of local needs and expectations
- Pilot Tested in Indian Conditions
- Economical (e.g. domestic auditors, ease and flexibility in use)

Certification to promote industries of Wood Sector

- Construction**
- Furniture;**
- Handicraft;**
- Paper & Packaging**



Consumption of Wood

Source : High Level Expert Group Report on India's Agricultural Exports submitted to 15th Finance Commission.

In India, certification is picking up at a slow pace. To promote certification , our recommendatins are:

- Mainstreaming forest certification should be on top of the sustainability agenda- globally, nationally and locally.
- Need of a strong policy guideline / legislation for forest certification.
- Voluntary schemes should influence National/ International legislations.
- Promote certification in collaboration with central ministries, state governments, industry, civil society organizations and forest-based stakeholders.
- Promote Sustainable Public Procurement by focusing on due diligence, responsible sourcing and certification in public/ private sector's procurement policies.
- Increase domestic production of wood through production forestry and agroforestry and gradually reduce imports
- "Grow More Wood and Use More Wood" is Good for Environment

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- Yadav, M., Kotwal, P.C. & Menaria, B.L. (2007). Forest certification: a tool for sustainable forest management. Bhopal, India, Indian Institute of Forest Management