

Institutions for planning & implementation

The institutional framework proposed for the mission must help it to meet the aims and objectives. In line with the Mission document, the following core principles inform the institutional framework:

- a) Strengthening of decentralized forest governance
- b) Convergence of Mission activities with other existing schemes, programs and Missions
- c) Use of existing institutional spaces, rather than creation of new institutions

The Mission envisages a new approach in forest management i.e. through **Strengthening Institutions for Decentralized Forest Governance**. As the implementation of the Mission would require several cross-sectoral linkages and innovations there is a need for adequate and appropriate institutions with sufficient manpower. The main features of institutional framework are as follows.

4.1 Village level

It will be the Gram Sabha and the Committees mandated by the Gram Sabha, including revamped JFMCs, which will plan and implement the Mission activities at the village level. The revamping of JFMCs includes setting up of JFMCs by the Gram Sabha following due process as may be specified in State Panchayati Raj Act or in the JFM guidelines. The plans will be approved by the respective Gram Sabha. It will have explicit linkages with Panchayat level planning to ensure maximum convergence. Financial powers may be jointly exercised by the JFMC President and the Member Secretary. States may develop their own mechanism for execution of the works by forming a committee and naming a Member Secretary for each JFMC at local level.

In urban areas, ward level committees/RWAs linked to Municipality/Municipal Corporation will have role in implementation of the Mission activities.

4.2 Landscape/Cluster Level

In conformity with the Mission objectives, it is imperative to have a cluster level institution to facilitate planning, problem solving and seeking convergence opportunities at the level of cluster (L2 landscape). This will facilitate common approach to different issues arising in the

villages of that particular cluster. It may be serviced by sub-Range/Range. The revamped JFMCs office bearers will be represented in the Cluster /landscape level committee, along with ex officio members. The Chair of the Committee may be elected by the elected office bearers. Cluster level institution like federation of JFMCs in a given landscape/cluster would therefore be key to oversee and agree upon development of landscape level plan on one hand while planning for those activities that affect them as cluster /sub cluster. For e.g. setting up of Common Facility Centre for NTFP processing that could service the entire cluster.

4.3 District level

It will be revamped Forest Development Agency (FDA), under the Chair of elected representative for General Body of the FDA, that will facilitate the Mission activities at the district level. It will have explicit linkages with District Planning Committee. Each State Government shall appoint a Member Secretary for each District FDA and District level Steering Committee which will ensure convergence of schemes and programs.

4.4 State Level

A revamped State Forest Development Agency, as autonomous society, will facilitate the Mission implementation within the state. To provide for maximum convergence opportunities and strategic direction to the Mission, a steering Committee under the Chairmanship of Chief Secretary shall be setup by each State Government.

4.5 National Level

At National level, the Mission will have an all inclusive Governing Council, Chaired by the Minister, Environment and Forests to provide for overall guidance and synergy of action and the Mission Director as Member Secretary. There shall be a National Executive Council chaired by the Secretary (E&F) which will have overall responsibility for the Mission. There shall be a Mission Directorate at the National level with the Mission Director as its CEO with overall accountability for the Mission deliverables and will be supported by a team of experts and secretarial staff.

4.6 So overall, the following institutional structure will exist at National, State and District level:

I.	National Governing Council	
II.	National Executive Council	National Level
III.	Mission Directorate	
IV.	State Steering Committee	
V.	Revamped SFDA	State Level
VI.	District Steering Committee	
VII.	Revamped FDA	District Level

VIII. Cluster level Committee

Sub-District Level

IX. Revamped JFMC
Level

Gram Sabha/ Panchayat

Indicative composition of institutions at various levels with roles and responsibility is enclosed at Annexure-IV. Each state shall constitute the institutional structure accordingly as per the local conditions and issue orders under intimation to the Government of India. MoEF& CC will issue separate OMs for the national level institutions and inform the states.