

**MINUTES OF 126TH MEETING OF FOREST TRAINING ADVISORY COMMITTEE
HELD ON 22ND APRIL, 2022 AT "ARANYA BHAWAN"**

The 126th meeting of the Forest Training Advisory Committee was held on 22nd April, 2022 at Aranya Bhawan, (8th Floor)

The following officers attended the meeting:-

Sl. No.	Name and Designation	Position in the Committee
1	Sri Vivek Kumar, IAS Addl. Chief Secretary, Department of Forests, Govt. of WB	Chairman
2	Dr. J. T. Mathew, IFS PCCF & HoFF, WB	Member
3	Sri V. K. Yadav, IFS PCCF, Res. Mon. & Dev., WB	Member
4	Sri Debal Ray, IFS PCCF, Wildlife & CWLW, WB	Member
5	Dr. Sangeeta Dubey, IFS Addl. PCCF, HRD, WB	Member
6	Sri Sakti Sankar Dey, IFS Addl. PCCF & CCF, PMC, WB	Member
7	Sri Debanshu Mallick, IFS CCF, Res. & Dev., WB	Member
8	Sri Arun Kumar Mukhopadhyay, IFS CF DC, WB	Member Secretary
9	Sri Soumitra Dasgupta, IFS PCCF, General, WB	Invitee
10	Sri Sandeep Sundriyal, IFS PCCF & CEO, WBCAMPA	Invitee

Agenda - I Confirmation of the minutes of 125th Forest Training Advisory Committee Meeting.

Discussion: The Member Secretary read out the minutes of the 125th Forest Training Advisory Committee Meeting held on 31st October, 2017 and the Committee confirmed the minutes.

Agenda - II Action Taken Report of 125th Forest Training Advisory Committee meeting held on 31st October 2017.

AGENDA No.	AGENDA	ACTION TAKEN
2	<p>a) Revision of the training rules</p> <p>b) Training need assessment</p> <p>c) Finalization of Recommendation</p>	<p>a) Revision of the Training Rules of the DR/Fr., HFG & FG have been initiated and submitted to the Principal Secretary to the Govt. of W. B. vide No. 8905/PMC/3F-14/2017, dated 24-11- 2017 .The matter is initiated by PMC and HRD and a committee is formed vide by PCCF (HOFF) vide O.O no 22-MISC/PMC2022 dt 19/4/2022 and the committee submitted the draft training rules and salient features of the draft training rule was placed before the committee. The new revised training rules would be submitted to the Department of Forests, Govt. of West Bengal for issuance of Govt. Notification.</p> <p>b) The Committee has been formed under the leadership of Sri Rajesh Kumar, IFS, CCF / R&D / WB.</p> <p>c) The report submitted by the committee sent to PCCF (HOFF), WB vide No. 508/PCCF-RMD/2E-1(1), dated 28-03-2018.</p>
3	Approval of Training Calendar for the year 2017-18	Training has been undertaken as per approved Training Calendar
4	<p>i) Approval of training courses (59th, 107th, 108th & 109th Batch)</p> <p>ii) Re-designation of one Range officer in training institute as caretaker</p>	<p>i) As per approved the 59th, 107th, 108th & 109th batch training course have been completed</p> <p>ii) Range Officer In-charge was re-designated as 'Caretaker' in both the Training Centers viz Dowhill & Hijli.</p>
5	Approval of shifting of trainees of 107 th Batch from WBFS, Dowhill to SFTI, Hijli	Action taken.
6	Progress of JICA Funded Project at WBFS, Dowhill & SFTI, Hijli	The JICA Funded Project (Phase-I) at WBFS, Dowhill and SFTI, Hijli have been completed in September, 2018. The Completion Report of the Project has been submitted to the CPMU, Delhi
7	<p>Miscellaneous:</p> <p>i) Training of promotee FR</p> <p>ii) Releasing of the Trainees by the DFOs to attend training</p> <p>iii) Training of Compassionate ground appointee</p> <p>iv) Approval of Board of Examiners</p> <p>v) Cost of Training programme</p>	<p>i) Refreshers Courses were organized (6 nos).</p> <p>ii) Complied.</p> <p>iii) These trainees were partly included in the regular training. No training was organized due to Covid-19 since 2020. Training is proposed during 2022-23. Exhaustive list is to be prepared.</p> <p>iv) Complied.</p> <p>v) The approved training cost is being followed.</p>

Agenda - III Approval of the 'Training Calendar' for the year 2022-23.

The Member Secretary proposed before the committee the Training Calendar for the year 2022-23.

a) 6 (six) months regular training course for Foresters (DR/Fr)

- 2 (two) nos. (at the Dowhill and Hijli campus respectively)
Phase – I 18th May, 2022 to 17th November, 2022
Phase – II 21st November, 2022 to 20th May, 2023
- Batch size- 40 nos.
- Total number- 80 nos.
- Training cost : Rs. 1,00,000/- (Rupees one lakh only) pre trainee
- Total Training Cost :Rs. 80,00,000/- (Rupees eighty lakh only)

b) 6 (six) months regular training course for Forest Guard (FG)

- 2 (two) nos. (at the Hijli and, Dowhill campus respectively)
Phase – I 18th May, 2022 to 17th November, 2022
Phase – II 21st November, 2022 to 20th May, 2023
- Batch size- 40 nos.
- Total number - 80 nos.
- Training cost : Rs. 1,00,000/- (Rupees one lakh only) pre trainee
- Total Training Cost :Rs. 80,00,000/- (Rupees eighty lakh only)

c) 1 (one) month training of promotee Foresters (DR/Fr)

- 6 (six) nos. (three each at the Dowhill & Hijli Campus)
18th April to 17th May, 2022, September, 2022 & November, 2022 at Dowhill and June/2022, August/2022 & March/2023 at Hijli.
- Batch size- Hijli – 40 nos.
Dowhill – 20 nos.
- Total number - 200 nos.
- Training cost: Rs. 20,000/- (Rupees twenty thousand only) per trainee
- Total Training cost : Rs. 40,00,000/- (Rupees forty lakh only)

d) 1 (one) month training of promotee Forest guard (FG)

- 11 (eleven) nos. [at the Hijli, Dowhill, Rajabhatkhawa/Sukna Campus)
3 nos in Hijli : April-May/2022, September/2022 & January/20223
3 nos in Dowhill : June/2022, August/2022 & March/2023

5 nos in Rajabhatkhawa/Sukna: August/2022, November/2022,
December/2022 & February/2023, March/2023

- Batch size- Hijli - 40 nos.
Dowhill – 20 nos.
- Total number - 280 nos.
- Training cost: Rs. 20,000/- (Rupees twenty thousand only) per trainee
- Total Training cost: Rs. 56,00,000/- (Rupees fifty six lakh only)

- Decision:-**
- The Training Calendar and Training Cost as proposed by the Member Secretary for the year 2022-23 was approved.*
 - Chairman suggested to include training of all levels of staff of Forest Directorate including special refresher courses and it has been agreed upon and CF/DC has to come up with fresh proposals for such refresher courses.*

Action: CF/DC

Agenda - IV Development of a Hybrid module in the event of a fresh outbreak of Covid-19

Discussion:- The Member Secretary apprised before the Committee the necessity of development of a Hybrid Module of training for fear of a fresh Covid-19 outbreak. It is proposed to have theory classes in online mode & practical, tour etc. in offline mode. Duration of training would be in 3 (three) months and cost of training Rs. 60,000/- (Rupees sixty thousand only) per trainee.

Decision:- *The Committee approved the proposal & cost of conducting of Hybrid Module*

Action: CF/DC

Agenda - V Approval of Thematic Training Courses (Thematic Module)

Discussion:- The Member Secretary proposed before the committee on the Thematic Training Module for Refresher Courses to used for in-service training.

Subjects

- Tranquilization & wild animal handling
- Basic Silviculture techniques
- Grafting of Forestry species & nursery
- Application of Modern technologies e.g GPS, Drone
- Computer application in Forestry
- Use of Guns & ammunition
- Team building & Communication skill
- Soil Conservation in Forestry aspects
- Timber management
- Wildlife management
- Zoo management
- Forest Laws & Wildlife Laws

One week Refresher Course

- Number of trainee in each - 40 nos.
- Number of Modules- 12 (twelve) nos.
- Location : Hijli, Dowhill, Rajabhatkhawa & Sukna
- Category of staff: FR, DR/Fr., FG, Banashramik, PDL & others.
- Training cost- Rs. 16,400/- (Rupees sixteen thousand four hundred only) per training /training course.
- Total Training cost : Rs. 78,72,000/- (Rupees seventy eight lakh seventy two thousand only)

One day online Refresher Course

- Number of training-24 (twenty four) nos.
- Training cost- Rs. 5,000/- (Rupees five thousand only) per training course.
- Total Training cost : 1,20,000/- (Rupees one lakh twenty thousand only).
- Subjects- Talk by Retired Forest Officers on Forestry & wildlife issues, legal aspects etc.

- Decision:**
- The Committee approved the proposal of Thematic Training Course and the cost.*
 - The Committee proposed that special course should be organized on Forest Conservation Act, 1980 & its rules including the procedure etc.*

Action: CF/DC

Agenda - VI Opening of new Head of Account for maintenance of State Training Centers.

The Member Secretary apprised before the committee, need for creation of a separate Head of Account for maintenance of training infra-structure. At present there is no separate Head of Service managing infra-structure of Training Centers at Hijli, Dowhill, Rajabhatkhawa & Sukna. The Budget allocation of training is inclusive of training of WBFS Officers, Range Officers etc. The infrastructure of different Training Centers required to be maintained and upgraded continuously for providing the quality training of DR/Fr, FG and other Frontline Staff. Hence the necessity of a separate Head of Account under the State Development Scheme.

Decision:- *The Committee approved the proposal for opening of a new 'Head of Account' for management of State Training Centers at Dowhill, Hijli, Rajabhatkhawa & Sukna. Requisite proposal shall be submitted to the appropriate authority for approval of the Finance Department.*

Action: CF/DC

Agenda - VII DPR of Phase-II JICA funded Project.

The Member Secretary informed the Committee of a DPR (for the Phase-II of JICA funded Project) titled "Capacity Development for Forestry Management & training of personnel", submitted to the MOEF&CC/Govt. of India through the Chief Project Director, WBFBCP during November, 2021. Its approval by JICA & MOEF&CC/GOI is awaited.

Action: CPD/WBFBCP

Agenda - VIII Specific issues related to Human Resource Development

Discussion:- The Member Secretary apprised before the committee the difficulties faced due to shortage of staff & also requirement of Officer / staff as follows.

- i) Posting of Assistant Directors – 2 Nos. (Rajabhatkawa, Hijli) against vacancy- 2 nos.
- ii) Posting of Range Officers as Instructor – 7 nos. (Rajabhatkawa, Hijli, Dowhill) against the vacancy 7 nos.
- iii) Posting of Forest Guard – 2 nos. (Hijli, Rajabhatkawa) against vacancy 2 nos.
- iv) Utilizing the service of Retired Forest Officers for imparting training.

The Chairman suggested that officers and staff with good record should be posted to the training centers as training plays important role in Forest & Wildlife management.

Agenda – IX Development of website for training details.

Discussion:- The Member Secretary informed the committee that at present there is no separate website for the training institute unlike that of in the case of IGNFA, DFE and other GOI institutions. The separate web presence is required with a link to the mother website of the Forest Department, Govt. of West Bengal.

Decision:- *The proposed agenda of development of website for the Training wing was approved.*

Action: CF/DC

Agenda - X Honorarium for guest lecturer, examiner, head examiner

Discussion:- The Member Secretary apprised before the committee the proposed honorarium for Gust Lecturer, Examiner and Head Examiner etc. as follows. Earlier honorarium was Rs. 800/- (Rs eight hundred only).

- Offline Mode - Rs. 1,200/- (Rupees one thousand two hundred only)
- Online Mode - Rs. 500/- (Rupees five hundred only)

Decision:- *The Committee approved the proposed honorarium for Gust Lecturer, Examiner and Head Examiner etc. after discussion.*

Action: CF/DC

Agenda - XI Preparation of Audio-visual programmes on different topics on Forests & Wildlife for DR/Fr. & FG trainees in Bangla & English.

Discussion:- The Member Secretary apprised the committee on the necessity of a development of different audio-visual programmes for training in Bangla & English. A budget of Rs. 15.0 lakh (Rupees fifteen lakh only) was proposed. The Chairman appreciated the initiative and he gave directions to prepare with quality Audio-visual programme on important topics.

Decision:-

- i) *The Committee approved the proposal for development of different audio-visual programmes for training in Bangla & English.*
- ii) *The committee also recommended for recording it at the studio for good quality production. Professional Agencies may be hired to record field experience of retired Forest officers, Senior Forest Officers, the DR/Fr & FG trainees in innovative manner.*
- iii) *The CF,DC to initiate proposal in this regard during this financial year.*

Action: CF/DC

Agenda – XII Miscellaneous:-

Discussion:- The Member Secretary proposed before the committee for providing 15% Training Allowance to all concerned personnel posted in training institution as per Government of India proposal.

Decision:- *The committee in principle approved the proposal for training allowance to the concerned officers and staff posted in State Forestry Training Institution as the financial implication is not very high.*

The Chairman opined that the proposal in this regard should be submitted as soon as possible giving details of training allowance given by Govt. of India and other States. The financial implication need to be mentioned for approval of the Finance Department, Govt. of West Bengal.

Action: CF/DC



Addl. Chief Secretary
Department of Forests
Govt. of West Bengal
&
Chairman
Forest Training Advisory Committee