

## State forest dept to assess 5 pools of carbon stock

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Nagpur: To combat climate change by conserving nature and increasing its forest and tree cover, the Maharashtra forest department is taking lessons from The Energy and Resources Institute (TERI) to calculate carbon stock. In a first, a three-day capacity-building workshop on 'Carbon stock assessment of forest eco-systems' for senior IFS officials from the rank of PCCFs to assistant conservators kicked off in the city on Monday.

Similar sessions will also be held for range forest officers, foresters and forest guards from August 22. A seven-member team led by expert Dr JV Sharma, who is director of forestry & biodiversity division of TERI, is guiding the officials.

"The front-line staff of forest department lacks adequate knowledge regarding measurement of five pools of carbon stock of the forests. The five pools include above ground biomass, below ground biomass, soil organic carbon, deadwood and leaf litter. Therefore, it is crucial that the front-line staff need capacity-building trainings on the latest techniques related to biomass carbon stock assessment," said senior officials attending the workshop.

State PCCF (head of forest force) UK Agrawal told TOI that with the adoption of United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change "PM Narendra Modi has committed to create an additional carbon sink of 2.5-3 billion tonnes through additional forest and tree cover by 2030".

"It is in this backdrop the capacity-building training will assist the state forest department in meeting the requirements in respect of forest carbon inventory methods that would in turn assess the contribution of forests in sequestration of atmospheric carbon. This will serve multiple purposes as it will help not only the state but will also contribute at national to create carbon sink," said Agarwal.

The top official added, "Assessing carbon stock is a new concept for us. The capacity-building will also enable forest department to understand and design projects under various carbon forestry schemes such as afforestation/reforestation and clean development mechanism and reducing emissions from deforestation and degradation."

On the advantage of training sessions, Agrawal said, "Forest department will be able to evaluate quality of its forest in every division and accordingly officials can take further actions for improvement of forest cover and contributing to achieving national target of 2.5-3 billion tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub> by 2030."

### TOP PRIORITY

- Introducing new, more efficient and cleaner technologies in thermal power generation
- Promoting renewable energy generation and increasing the share of alternative fuels in overall fuel mix
- Reducing emissions from transportation sector
- Promoting energy efficiency in the economy, notably in industry, transportation, buildings and appliances
- Reducing emissions from waste

- Developing climate resilient infrastructure
- Full Implementation of Green India Mission and other programmes of afforestation
- Planning and implementation of actions to enhance climate resilience and reduce vulnerability to climate change

Source: <https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/nagpur/state-forest-dept-to-assess-5-pools-of-carbon-stock/articleshow/70745392.cms>