## **Press Release**

Visit of Sri C P Goyal, Director General of Forests and Special Secretary, MoEFCC, Govt of India to North Tripura District.

Sri C P Goyal, Director General of Forests and Special Secretary, MoEFCC, Govt of India along with team of senior officers visited Dharmanagar, North Tripura District today on 19<sup>th</sup> July 2023 on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Anniversary of Notification of Agar wood Policy 2023.

Sri C P Goyal along with Shri KS Sethi, PCCF Tripura, and other senior officers of the Ministry attended the Agarwood Grower's Conclave at Town Hall, Dharmanagar where more than 800 Agar growers from across the State attended the program. Tripura Forest officials who were present in the function highlighted the efforts taken by the State Government in promotion of Agarwood sector in the State. Officials from the Ministry recognized and appreciated the efforts taken by the State Government in promotion of Agarwood Sector and committed that Ministry will take all necessary steps for simplification of export procedure and other measures required for development of Agarwood sector in the country. The program ended with distribution of awards to outstanding Agarwood growers and traders of Tripura; the best performing JFM committees as well as Forest Protection Units of the State by DGF & Special Secretary, MoEF&CC, Gol.

A field visit to Agarwood plantations raised at Kadamtala had been organized in the afternoon to expose the officials of the Ministry to the extent of Agarwood resources available in this locality. During the visit, they witnessed the process of extraction of agar chips and distillation of oil at agar processing unit of one of the entrepreneurs. During the interaction arranged with agar growers of the State at Kadamtala, various difficulties faced by them in export of agar wood products were discussed and they requested the Ministry officials to simplify the process of agarwood product export.

Late in the evening, DG Forests inaugurated two "One Station One Product" stalls at Dharmanagar railway station meant for selling of Agarwood products. These stalls will be operated by two entrepreneurs from Dharmanagar.

Sri Goyal also made a courtesy call to Prof. (Dr.) Manik Saha, Hon'ble Chief Minister, Tripura. Shri KS Sethi PCCF & Principal Secretary (Forests) was also present during the meeting. Hon'ble CM thanked the DG Forest for his visit to Tripura and informed that the State Government is looking for substantial economic development through promotion of Agarwood Sector and requested the GoI to extend all possible help in this regard.

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