

INDUS TREE CRAFTS FOUNDATION

PEST MANAGEMENT POLICY



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1. Introduction

- This Pest Management Policy outlines the guidelines and principles for effective and responsible pest management practices within the Bamboo plantation project of Indus Tree Crafts Foundation (ICF). The policy aims to ensure the sustainable management of forests while minimizing the impact of pests on ecosystem health, biodiversity, and productivity. This policy is applicable to all stakeholders involved in the project, including forest managers(farmers), workers, contractors, and consultants. This document also provides guidance to farmers and staff about the use of Organic and Chemical based inputs for Pest Management in the Bamboo Plantations proposed for FSC® Certification.

2. Objectives:

- The objective of this policy is to ensure:
 - Promote best practices to minimize associated risks to human health and the environment when using chemical pesticides.
 - To ensure our staff understand the pest management system.
 - To ensure the pest management system's implementation in group and on farm level.
 - Eliminating the use of most hazardous chemical pesticides.

3. Definitions:

- **Biopesticides:**

Pesticides That Are Derived From Such Natural Materials As Animals, Plants, Bacteria, And Certain Minerals.

- **Chemical Pesticide:**

Synthetically Produced Pesticide.

- **Highly Hazardous Pesticide (HHP):**

Chemical Pesticides That Are Acknowledged To Present Particularly High Levels Of Acute Or Chronic Hazards To Health And Environment According To Internationally Accepted Classification Systems, Or Are Listed In Relevant Binding International Agreements Or Conventions, Or Contain Dioxins, Or Heavy Metals.

In Addition, Pesticides That Appear To Cause Severe Or Irreversible Harm To Health Or The Environment Under Conditions Of Use In A Country May Be Considered To Be And Treated As Highly Hazardous

- **Pest:**

Any Species, Strain Or Biotype Of Plant, Animal Or Pathogenic Agent Injurious To Plants And Plant Products, Materials Or Environments And Includes Vectors Of Parasites Or Pathogens Of Human And Animal Disease And Animals Causing Public Health Nuisance.

- **Pesticide:**

Any Substance, Or Mixture Of Substances Of Chemical Or Biological Ingredients Intended For Repelling, Destroying Or Controlling Any Pest, Or Regulating Plant Growth.

4. Reference/Normative Documents:

- Following documents has been referred while developing this policy:

- FSC Pesticides Policy (FSC-POL-30-001 V3-0 EN)
- FSC Lists Of Highly Hazardous Pesticides (FSC-POL-30-001a EN)
- FSC Principles and Criteria (FSC-STD-01-001 V5-2)

5. Integrated Pest Management (IPM):

- All farmers or members involved in the group should be clearly communicated on this document and shall act accordingly.
- Silvicultural activities such as weeding or soil loosening is allowed to be conducted by the farmers for bamboo plantation.
- Behavioural method for pest management can also be used for plantation.
- Farmers shall not use any prohibited chemical input for pest management in their management units.
- Integrated Pest Management (IPM) shall be the cornerstone of pest management practices within the bamboo plantation. IPM emphasizes a comprehensive and proactive approach to pest management, focusing on prevention, monitoring, and the use of ecologically sustainable techniques.

a. Prevention and Early Detection:

- Farmers shall prioritize preventive measures to minimize pest infestations. This includes promoting healthy and diverse forests, implementing silvicultural practices that enhance natural resistance to pests, and maintaining appropriate forest stand densities.
- Farmer group shall establish effective communication channels to report and share information on pest occurrences, including rapid alerts among stakeholders.

6. Control Measures:

- Control measures shall be applied when pest populations reach levels that pose a significant threat to forest health and sustainability, as identified through monitoring and risk assessments.
- Control measures shall be targeted, selective, and based on scientific evidence. The preference should be given to environmentally friendly methods such as biological controls, traps, and mechanical techniques.
- The use of chemical pesticides shall be a last resort and shall comply with local laws, regulations, and best practices. Farmers shall prioritize low-impact pesticides, follow recommended application rates, and ensure proper storage, handling, and disposal of pesticide products.

7. Monitoring and Evaluation:

- ICF shall maintain records of pest management activities, including monitoring data, control measures implemented, and their effectiveness. These records shall be regularly reviewed and updated.
- Monitoring and evaluation of pest management efforts shall be conducted to assess the outcomes, identify areas for improvement, and ensure compliance with the objectives of the project.

8. Compliance with Legal and Regulatory Requirements:

- Farmers shall comply with all local laws, regulations, and permits regarding pest management practices. This includes obtaining necessary permits for pesticide use, adhering to recommended application rates and safety guidelines, and respecting any restrictions or bans on certain chemicals.

9. Policy Implementation:

- The pest management policy shall be communicated to all stakeholders involved in the project, and their commitment to implementing the policy shall be obtained.
- The FSC project shall establish mechanisms for monitoring and ensuring compliance with the pest management policy. Non-compliance shall be addressed through appropriate corrective actions, including training, audits, and, if necessary, termination of contracts.

- Regular reviews and audits shall be conducted to assess the effectiveness of the pest management policy, identify areas for improvement, and ensure its alignment with FSC's rules and regulations.
- This Pest Management Policy serves as a guideline to foster responsible and sustainable pest management practices within the project. It is subject to periodic review and updates to incorporate advancements in pest management science and evolving environmental considerations

10. Continuous Improvement:

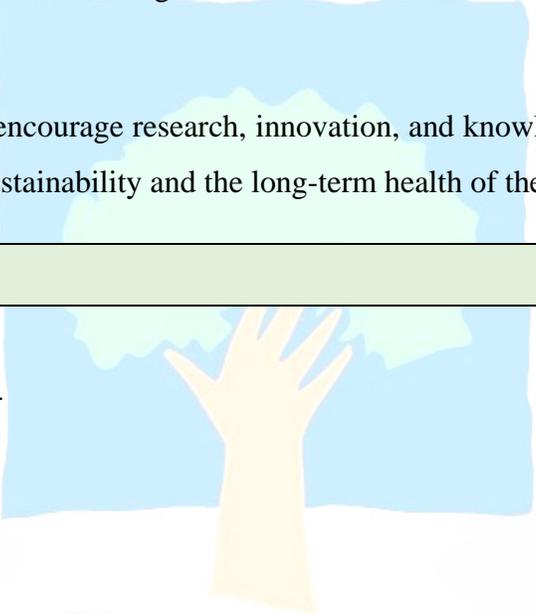
- ICF shall regularly review and update the pest management policy and associated procedures based on new scientific knowledge, technological advancements, and lessons learned from practical implementation.
- The bamboo project shall encourage research, innovation, and knowledge sharing in the field of pest management to enhance sustainability and the long-term health of the forest ecosystem.

11. Authorized Signatory:

Name: Remya Devan

Designation: Project Manager

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