

Subject: Conduct of meeting of Biodiversity Management Committee (BMC) during Fourth Phase of Back to Village Programme (B2V4).

The Government of J&K has constituted Biodiversity Management Committees (BMCs) in all the 4,290 Village Panchayats and 76 Urban Local Bodies (ULBs) as per the Biological Diversity Act, 2002 & Rules, 2004 for conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity. The BMCs are mandated to document the biodiversity (all life forms, plants, and animals) under their jurisdiction in the form of Peoples Biodiversity Register (PBR). The PBRs have already been prepared for all the Village Panchayats, however being a dynamic document, it is updated periodically. Other responsibilities of BMCs are:

1. Conservation and sustainable utilization of biological resources.
2. Eco-restoration of local biodiversity.
3. Documentation & protection of traditional knowledge.
4. Management of biodiversity heritage sites.
5. Conservation of traditional varieties/breeds of important plants & animals.
6. Biodiversity education & awareness creation.

As per the Operational Guidelines issued by National Biodiversity Authority, a BMC shall hold minimum four meetings in a year and meet at least once in 3 months. Hence, it is advised to all the officers/officials nominated for the **“Fourth Phase of Back to Village Programme (B2V4)”** to attend the meeting of Biodiversity Management Committees of the villages allotted to them and deliberate on issues pertaining to conservation of biodiversity and sustainable utilization of biological resources, besides creation of awareness on biodiversity. The meeting of BMC will be facilitated by Panchayat Secretary/VLW.

The agenda points that may be taken up during the meeting of the BMC are given as under:-

1. Creation of awareness on Biological Diversity Act, 2002 and functions of the BMC including their responsibility on documentation of biodiversity.
2. Listing of Vaid, Hakims and traditional health care practitioners in the village.
3. Listing of individuals possessing traditional knowledge in the village.

4. Listing of Sacred Groves, Sacred Water Bodies, and potential Biodiversity Heritage Sites (Areas outside forests with rich biodiversity which can be conserved and managed by the Village Panchayat).
5. Identification of Non Timber Forest Produce (NTFP) found within the jurisdiction of BMC which can be sustainably collected and utilized.
6. Conservation of traditional varieties/breeds of economically important plants/animals.
7. Need assessment for capacity building of Biodiversity Management Committees.