



NATIONAL BIODIVERSITY AUTHORITY

(A statutory body under the Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change, Government of India)

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F.No.NBA/Tech.Gen/22/215/24/25-26/

Date: 17.09.2026

OFFICE ORDER

Sub: Extension of tenure - Re-constitution of the Expert Committee on Normally Traded as Commodities as per Section 40 of the Biological Diversity (Amendment) Act, 2023 - reg.

Ref: 1. F.No.NBA/Tech.Gen/22/215/24/25-26/ dated: 17.09.2025
2. F.No.NBA/Tech.Gen/22/215/24/25-26/2790 dated: 04.02.2026
3. F.No.NBA/Tech.Gen/22/215/24/25-26/3187 dated: 24.03.2026

In exercise of powers conferred under section 13(2) of the Biological Diversity Act, 2002 as amended in 2023, an Expert Committee on Normally Traded as Committees was re-constituted vide office order 1st cited above to review the already issued notification of Normally Traded as Commodities under Section 40 of the Biological Diversity Act, 2002. The tenure of the committee was for period of Six Months from the date of its constitution. The tenure of the committee was extended from time to time.

(2) Vide office order dated 24.03.2026, the tenure of the Expert Committee was extended up to 30th August 2026.

(3) In this connection, it is to inform that the tenure of the Expert Committee **is extended up to 31st December 2026 or until further orders**, whichever is earlier, from the date of issue of this order.

(4) The composition of the committee and other terms and conditions will remain the same, as per the order referred to above.

This is issued with the approval of the Competent Authority.

(B. Balaji)
Member Secretary, NBA

To:

1. Shri A. K. Goyal, IFS, (Retd.), Former Special Secretary, Ministry of Panchayati Raj, New Delhi. Email : akg@nic.in; akg1901@gmail.com [Chair]

2. Dr R.S.C. Jayaraj, IFS (Retd.) , Ex-Principal Chief Conservator of Forests, A&N Islands Coimbatore. Email: rsc.jayaraj@gmail.com, Email: 9442531990 [Co-chair]

3. The Chairperson, Protection of Plant Varieties and Farmers' Rights Authority (PPVFRA), Plant Authority Bhawan, Dev Prakash Shastri Marg, Near NASC Complex, Opposite Todapur Village, New Delhi-110 012. Tel.(O) +91-11-25848127; +91-11-25841696. Email: chairperson-ppvfra@nic.in

4. The Additional Secretary & Director General, Directorate General of Foreign Trade (DGFT), Vanijya Bhawan, 'A' Wing, 16 Akbar Road, New Delhi-110 011. Email: dgft@nic.in; dgftedi@nic.in

5. The Director General, Directorate General of Commercial Intelligence and Statistics (DGCI&S), 565, Anandapur, Sector -I, Plot No. 22, Ward No. 108, Kolkata-700 107. Tel.(O) +91-033-24431201. Email: bandana.sen25@gov.in

6. The Joint Secretary (Seeds), Department of Agriculture, Co-operation and Farmers Welfare (DAC&FW), Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare, Govt. of India, Krishi Bhawan, New Delhi 110 114. Tel.(O). +91-11-23381503. Email: jsseeds-agri@nic.in

7. The Deputy Director General (Crop Science), Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR), Division of Crop Science, Krishi Bhavan, New Delhi-110 001, India. Tel.(O) +91-11-23382545. Email: ddgcs.icar@nic.in

8. The Deputy Director General (Horticultural Science), Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR), Division of Horticultural Science, Krishi Anusandhan Bhawan-II, New Delhi-110 012. Tel.(O) +91-11-25842068. Email: ddghort@icar.org.in

9. The Secretary, Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority (APEDA), 3rd Floor, NCUI Building 3, Siri Institutional Area, August Kranti Marg, (Opp. Asiad Village), New Delhi-110 016, India. Tel.(O) +91-011-41486017. E-mail: sudhanshu@apeda.gov.in; headq@apeda.gov.in

10. The Chief Executive Officer, National Medicinal Plants Board (NMPB), Ministry of Ayush, Government of India, Indian Red Cross Society (IRCS) Annexe Building, 1st & 2nd Floor, 1, Sansad Marg, New Delhi 110 001. Tel.(O). +91-11-23721822. Email: ceo-nmpb@nic.in

11. The Member Secretary, Karnataka Biodiversity Board, Ground Floor, "Vanavikas", 18th Cross, Malleshwaram, Bengaluru – 560 003 Email: kbb.ka.ms@gmail.com ; kbb-ka@nic.in

12. The Member Secretary, Madhya Pradesh State Biodiversity Board, 1st Floor, Kisan Bhavan, Mandi Road, Arera Hills, Bhopal – 462011 Email: mpsbb@mp.gov.in

13. The Member Secretary, Uttarakhand State Biodiversity Board, 423, Indira Nagar Colony, P.O. New Forest (FRI), Dehradun-248006. E-Mail: sbboard-uk@gov.in , sbbuttarakhand@gmail.com

14. The Secretary, Spices Board, Sugandha Bhavan, Cochin, Kerala. Tel.(O) +91-044-2333223. Email: secy.kochi-sb@gov.in

15. Shri T. Rabikumar IFS, Principal Chief Conservator of Forest, Office of the Pr. Chief Conservator of Forest, Forest Complex, Sheikh Bagh, Near Lal Chowk, Srinagar, Jammu & Kashmir. Email: trabikumar@gmail.com

16. Shri Tarun Kathula, Scientist-G/Advisor, Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change, Indira Paryavaran Bhawan, Jor Bagh Road, Aliganj New Delhi – 110003. Email: tk.kathula@gov.in

17. Shri. R. Sreenivasa Murthy, IFS (Retd.), Former Member Secretary, Madhya Pradesh State Biodiversity Board, Madhya Pradesh. Mobile: 9644004102, 9424790077, Email: rseenu60@gmail.com

18. Dr. Gouri Joshi, Environmental legal Consultant, Anuradha, Sanjeevraje Nagar, Phaltan, Pune, Maharashtra 415523. Email: bonjaee.envirolegal@gmail.com; bonjaee@gmail.com

19. Dr. Kousthubha Upadhyaya, Adviser(Ayurveda), Ministry of Ayush, Ayush Bhawan, New Delhi – 110023. Email: adviser-ayush@gov.in

20. Shri G. Kamala Vardhana Rao, IAS, Chief Executive Officer, Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI), FDA Bhawan, Kotla Road (near Bal Bhavan) Mandi House, New Delhi – 110002. Email: ceo@fssai.gov.in; Phone: 011-23220995 / 23220996

21. Shri. Nitin Kumar Yadav, IAS, Additional Secretary, Department of Commerce, Ministry of Commerce and Industry, Vanijya Bhawan, New Delhi-110 011. Email: nitinyadav.ias@gov.in; Phone: +91-11-23039409



(B. Balaji)
Member Secretary, NBA

Annexure -1

GUIDELINES

The following guidelines are issued for proper conduct of the meetings to achieve the expected outcomes.

- (1). The expert committees are being constituted mainly to advise the NBA on technical, techno-legal, administrative, scientific, statutory and miscellaneous matters, as the NBA does not have the required in-house expertise and experience in various disciplines. The role of the expert committee is more or less similar to that of 'Amicus Curiae' in the court of Law.
- (2). The Chair of the EC is authorised to decide the mode of the meeting to be convened, either physical or through virtual mode or Hybrid mode.
- (3). The Chair of the Committee, in consultation with the Member Secretary, NBA can (1) invite additional experts in the subject matter, if required, to the meeting of EC as special invitees, (2) to hold or conduct a meeting in any part of India, if it is deemed fit, to expedite the task assigned in consultation with NBA.
- (4). The Chairman and members are requested to kindly make it convenient to attend the meeting at the fixed venue and time. The NBA will arrange transport from the Airport / Railway station/bus stand to and from the venue of the meeting.
- (5). In respect of the travel cost, the fares by Air (economy class) / train (AC I class / AC II tier), incurred by the Chairman, Co-chair and the non-official members / special invitees shall be reimbursed on production of the tickets and boarding pass along with bills in the prescribed format provided by NBA. The lodging and boarding will be

provided by the NBA. The AC taxi fare will be reimbursed as and when the bill is produced with the TA Bill. Alternatively, road mileage will be paid based on the declaration of Kms.

- (6). In respect of official members, the travel cost (Air fare & road journey) to reach Chennai & back shall be borne by their parent organizations. However, if official members give a declaration that their parent organisation is not providing travel costs, then the NBA shall reimburse the travel costs after getting approval from the Competent Authority. The local lodging & boarding logistics, *i.e.*, transport cost at Chennai, will be borne by NBA.
- (7). As per the directions issued by the Ministry of Finance vide O.M. no. No. 19024/03/2021-E. IV, dated 16.06.2022, the Members are required to purchase the ticket from **three authorised travel agents viz. M/s. Balmer Lawrie & Company Limited (BLCL), M/s. Ashok Travels & Tours (ATT) and Indian Railways Catering and Tourism Corporation Ltd. (IRCTC)** only. The tickets booked other than these authorised agencies will not be reimbursed. The submission of a boarding pass shall be mandatory for reimbursement by the NBA.
- (8). The Chair, Co-Chair are entitled for Rs.6000/per day of sitting fee and all non-official members of the EC are entitled for Rs.4000/per day of sitting.
- (9). The Chairman and members may preferably arrive at the city of venue one day in advance before the scheduled date of meeting.
- (10). The committee is requested to submit the proceedings/summary of discussions to the NBA duly authenticated by all the members. In order to finalise and submit proceedings/summary of the meeting on the same day, outstation members are requested to plan their return journey on the next day of the meeting. If required, the Chair, Co-chair and a few selected members at the discretion of the Chairman, EC may stay for one more day and leave on the next day AN (Three nights), after finalising the draft proceedings of the meeting.
- (11). This may please be coordinated by the Coordinator in consultation with the Chair and Co-Chair of the EC. Under exceptional circumstances, the Chairman, EC may get the summary/ proceedings/ minutes finalised at later dates and send the document to NBA duly authenticated by all members (*through e-mail*) who were present in the meeting. In such case, a lump sum of Rs.3000/- will be paid to the Chairman to meet the postal expenses, mobile, internet charges and cost of secretarial assistance at his place of stay on request. For payment of a lump sum, a self-declaration to the effect that the expenditure has actually been incurred for the above purpose has to be furnished by the Chairman.
- (12). In the absence of Chairman, the Co-Chair will conduct the proceedings of the meeting.
- (13). The committee is requested to go through the subject area and refer to BD Act 2002 as amended in 2023, Biological Diversity Rules, 2024 and ABS Regulations, 2025, and other relevant laws, scientific articles, and books and browse the internet to facilitate lively and useful discussion on the subject. All members are requested to go through the previous Report submitted by the EC.
- (14). The Chairman and members may exchange notes and views through the Internet on the subject area to be discussed during the meeting.
- (15). Given the sensitivity and nature of deliberations of the Committee, members are requested not to engage in any bilateral discussion with non-members regarding the subject matter. However, they can collect information from non-members working in similar autonomous and statutory bodies that may be useful for the expert committee.
- (16). The Member Secretary, NBA, after obtaining prior permission from the Chairman, NBA, is authorised to invite, as and when required, any other experts/ professionals/ civil servants to the meetings of the Working Group as special invitees.
- (17). The Chair and Co-chair are authorised to conduct meetings anywhere in India in consultation with the Secretary, NBA.
- (18). The Chairman of the Expert Committee is vested with powers to constitute sub-committees to contribute/ draft interim reports and review specific chapters of the final report. The Coordinator shall assist the Chair and Co-chair in coordination and

organising work of sub-committees. Those who write chapters or contribute actively to compiling information will be paid a workday allowance by the NBA on the recommendation of the Chair of EC. However, the NBA will pay the amount as per its discretion. This is in addition to sitting fees.

- (19). The Coordinator will convene the meetings after consulting the Focal point in NBA. If required, he can visit anywhere in India with the prior approval of the Chairman of NBA.
- (20). The Coordinator may submit a summary of the proceedings of every meeting after getting the approval of the Chair, Co-chair and all Members through email. He will coordinate with the entire group/ sub-committees and see that the final report is submitted within time. If required, the Coordinator may travel separately to any city to meet the Chair of EC, Co-chair of EC, to plan the meetings after obtaining approval from the Chairman, NBA.
- (21). Since it is not possible to take all members of the committee to interact with Senior officers/ Chief Secretaries of States/ UTs, the Chair of the EC, in consultation with the Co-chair and Member Secretary, shall decide the composition of the delegation. Alternatively, the Chair, Co-chair, Member Secretary, & Convener may form a delegation of three and interact with officials of states and UTs and other stakeholders like SBBs, private individuals, communities/ NGOs/ Autonomous councils/ Panchayat Raj functionaries/ Associations, etc. The Member Secretary NBA may join the delegation if possible.
- (22). The Chairman of NBA reserves the right to dissolve the Working Group/ change the composition of the Expert Committee without assigning any reason.
- (23). The Chairman, NBA, NBA reserves the right to disband the committee without assigning any reason.

This is issued with the approval of the Competent Authority.



(B. Balaji)
Member Secretary, NBA