1. Introduction:

During the first Capacity Building Session of the Monitoring teams of six project villages held on 24th February 2015, a decision was taken to visit Chandanmura & Bordowal Project villages on 3rd of March, 2015. Accordingly the MS, TBB along with the team of SPU and a staff of TBB (hereinafter TBB Project Team) conducted two meetings on the same day.

The TBB Project team first assembled in the Melaghar Range office for making preliminary preparations and having discussion with the monitoring team member of Kemtali project village. Thereafter, the Team headed towards Chandanmura village and reached at around 11.30 am. The BMC members and the monitoring team organized meeting at the Village Panchayat Office. A total of fifteen (15) members were present in the meeting (List at Annexure I). The meeting continued for approximately two hours. And then the team along with MS TBB headed for Bordowal. The monitors took initiative and the meeting was conducted at Bordowal SB School at 3.30 pm. Initially the presence of members was very less but gradually people started joining and finally there were twenty (20) members. All the participants seemed enthusiastic and interested about the project.

2. Aim & Objectives:

The main aim of this meeting was to interact with the villagers and to monitor the follow up actions taken by the Monitoring team after the 1st Capacity Building Session at the office of TBB. Also to identify few resources of the villages which can be commercially traded. Most importantly, the BMC members were also apprised of the launching program and were requested to attend the program without fail as they are going to be the main participants during the said event.
3. Agenda/Program Schedule:

The meeting at Chandanmura Village Panchayat started at 11.30 am & meeting at Bordowal SB School started at 3.30pm. The agenda for both the meeting was common as follows:

- **Agenda 1**: BMC Resolution & Letter from BMC regarding names for Monitoring Team.
- **Agenda 2**: To monitor follow up actions by the Monitoring team of villages
- **Agenda 3**: Discussion on the Questionnaire with villagers.
- **Agenda 4**: Verbal invitation for the Project Launching

Following questions in questionnaire were discussed with the villagers:

1. How many families are present in the village
2. Source of income of each family
3. What does they grow/cultivate
4. List of tradable resources
5. Who are directly related to these resources
6. Whether they are sold at local market or outside market
7. Any value addition is done before selling
8. Anybody from outside the village collecting anything from the village in bulk amount
9. Who are they who collects resources from village
10. What does they collect
11. Frequency of collection
12. Where does it go
13. What does they do with those what they collect (what is the end product)
14. How much the outsiders earn from that
15. How much the local people get for those resources
16. How often these resources are been collected/bought

4. Number of participants:

A total of fifteen members from Chandanmura attended the meeting at Chandanmura Village Panchayat. The chairperson, secretary, three BMC members, two monitors, and other villagers were present in the meeting. Among them three members were present in the earlier meeting at Melaghar. At Bordowal BS School in the beginning only teachers from schools and few BMC members were present but gradually people started assembling and finally there were around twenty members from Bordowal village.
5. Discussion:

5.1: Chandanmura Project Village

5.1.1 The session started at Chandanmura Village Panchayat office with a welcome note by MS, TBB where he has welcomed the chairman, Mrs. Sheema Das and all the BMC members and other villagers. The reference was given about the "One day Meeting of Biodiversit Committees on the BD Act and ABS held on 16th February 2015 at Melaghar.

5.1.2 For the benefits of those members who could not remain present in the previous meeting, the MS, TBB once again reiterated about the basic tenets of the UNEP-GEF Project to strengthen the implementation of the Biological Diversity Act, which aims at reaching economic benefits to the local people through a mechanism, of which the BMC form an integral part.

5.1.3 Since the tenure of the existing BMC at Chandanmura got expired a few months back, a resolution was adopted by the existing members to select the Chairman and new members. The prescribed Resolution Form was filled entering the name of the Chairperson and other members and issued by the Chairman and Member Secretary through their signature. Later, individual photographs of all the members were captured by the TBB team.

5.1.4 In the discussion it was told that as how the bioresources present in their village could be a community asset and in turn help the villagers earn more benefits for the social & economic upliftment of their jurisdiction. Few potential bio resources as mentioned by the villagers are listed: Rice, Black Tulsi, Boyra, Kamranga, Amlaki, Olive, Arjun tree, Cinnamon, Kulekhara, Basak, Thankuni, Bael, Aloevera, Supari. Among these Rice, Black Tulsi, Rice, Boyra, Kamranga may be the tradable resource of interest for the project purpose.

5.1.5 Chandanmura BMC was constituted about a year ago but so far the BMC members have not conducted even a single BMC meeting. Hence it was clear that BMC members were attaching due importance to this aspect and taking this similar to other committees in the village. The MS, TBB made it explicitly clear to the BMC members that this Committee is way different from other committees in being a legal body and all the member enjoys legal rights to take punitive actions as BMC members against the one who is violating the BD Act. They were also told that financially also they have been empowered by creating a Local Biodiversity Fund (LBF) where first instalment of Rs. 30,000 has also been placed. But, it has been realized following discussions that most of the members do not even know about the existence of LBF and the fund placed thereof, which is a very sorry state of affairs and require immediate redressal.
5.1.6 For developing a better understanding, the BMC members were apprised to organize at least one meeting before the Project launch day (i.e. 13th of March, 2015) to discuss on a preliminary list of tradable bio-resoruces and companies/business men who are dependent on the villages for raw materials.

5.1.7 The newly constituted BMC also passed a resolution and forwarded two names of villagers to act as Monitoring Team of Chandamura village. The two members of the monitoring team are: Smt. Swapna Rani Barman & Shri. Chayan Kumar Das. Both the monitors were apprised of the main tasks to be performed by them, giving full time at least one day a week and for which they would also be paid some nominal honorarium besides meeting the cost of travel and other ligistics, if needed.

5.1.8 The members were informed about the survey team “Hamkamrai Bodol Mission” who will go to Chandanmura village as well for listing & economic valuation of tradable bio resources. The monitoring team and all the BMC members were requested to provide all kinds of assistance to the survey team during their visit to ensure best possible information collection and collation as it will benefit the villages themselves.

5.1.9 The meeting ended by apprising all the members about the one day Project Launch and Discussion Meet to be held at Agartala on 13th of March. A request has been made with all the members and monitor team to ensure their participation, which is must.

5.2 Bordowal Project Village

5.2.1 The next meeting at 3.30 pm was at Bordowal BS School. A total of twenty members including two BMC and two Monitors attended the meeting (List at Annexure II). It was a great moment for the TBB Project Team to welcome a senior citizen of Bordowal, Shri. Abid Ali Majumder, 95 years old who had come to attend the meeting and was made the chairman of the meeting.

5.2.2 Shri Alamgir Majumder, Monitor from Bordowal welcomed the gathering and shared his views and ideas from the previous meeting. He mentioned that this project is for the benefit of the local people.

5.2.3 Ms. Samhita, ray, SPC, TBB described the project in brief making the objective of the project clear to the villagers.

5.2.4 MS TBB interacted with the BMC members in various aspects. During the interaction villagers mentioned that there are many types of Bamboo and timber present in the village.

5.2.5 There are around 700 families in Bordowal, of which, about 400 families cultivate bamboo. The harvested bamboo from the village is either sold to the local market and/or feed to Nalchar Handicraft centers.

5.2.6 Bordowal is mainly based on Agriculture ecosystem. According to the local people, **Jackfruit, Bamboo & Timber** could be the potential bio resources for ABS.
5.2.7 The format of letters for the names of Monitoring Team was taken by the SPU TBB team which was filled by two names of the Monitoring Team and approved by the Secretary in the meeting. The two monitors are: Shri. Alamgir Majumder & Smt. Jayaprada Debnath.

5.2.8 The meeting ended by apprising all the members about the one day Project Launch and Discussion Meet to be held at Agartala on 13th of March. A request has been made with all the members and monitor team to ensure their participation, which is must.

6. Outputs & Recommendations:

6.1 The participants were made to develop clear understanding on various facts and relevant provisions as contained with the ABS mechanism. The participants have also been requested to spread this message and awareness among other members of the BMC and the villagers who could not attend this meeting.

6.2 The Team Members have been apprised of this fact as well that the bio-resources are community assets and hence the benefit accrued from ABS will be for the development of the entire village.

6.3 The monitoring team to spend at least one full day in a week for the survey of village, local & nearby markets in order to find the list of tradable bio-resources and their local market value. They must use the questionnaire to collect and collate the requisite information.

6.4 Monitoring team was asked to keep keen vigil on outside agencies/individuals engaged in siphoning out the bio-resources without the written permission of the BMC. In that case, the BMC members have to be informed to levy required legal clause of the BD Act.

6.5 Monitoring team should find out the business value-chain of various raw material leading to the final products in the markets (local and outside). This is needed to know the real value of the given bio-resources.

6.6 A monthly calendar can be made based on the frequency of bio resources collected from the village for commercial uses.

6.7 Monitoring team have to do a survey on the local market on Market day, a village survey to find out the resources available and the same day to report to the office of TBB.

6.8 Monitoring team will spend time on their respective villages depending on the market days so as to evaluate the market potentiality of respective bioresources.

6.9 The monitoring team will always keep in touch with the Board for any sort of queries.

6.10 One member from each BMC has to take lead for arranging transportation for attending the Project Launch Event on 13th March, 2015.

The meeting ended with thanks to the Chair and all the participants.