



**Embassy of India
Djibouti**

Visit of ITEC Agricultural Experts from India
From 15-21 October 2019

Like other countries in Africa and around the world, Djibouti is also facing the effects of climate change. To alleviate the devastating effects of environmental changes the Government of Djibouti decided to undertake a massive plantation drive for greening Djibouti. The Government of India through its recently opened Embassy in the Djibouti decided to assist and collaborate for Djibouti Government's plantation drive in and around the regions of the capital city, Ali Sabieh, Dikhil, Tadouraj and Obock under the International Technical and Economic Cooperation (ITEC).

The Government of India, Department of Agricultural Research & Education (DARE) in Ministry of Agriculture deputed Dr A K Handa, principal Scientist (Agroforestry) ICAR-CAFRI Jhansi and Dr J M S Tomar, Principal Scientist (Forestry), ICAR- IISWC, Dehradun under ITEC Programme to assist Djibouti Government in its plantation drive for one week from 15 to 21 October, 2019.

Mr Tabareck Mohamed, Agriculture Advisor, Minister of Agriculture, Gov. of Djibouti. During the meeting we discussed and finalized our programme for visiting different sites and regions of Djibouti.

The ITEC Experts attended the inauguration programme of plantation drive jointly organized by the Djibah Seafood Company and the Government of Djibouti at Loyada, a town near capital city. The programme was inaugurated by President of Djibouti H.E. Ismail Omar Guelleh on 16.10.2019. The programme was aimed at planting one million trees in Djibouti. The programme was attended by the officials of Government of Djibouti, Officials from Djibah Seafood Company, officials from UNDP, FAO and other organizations. After the programme ITEC Experts interacted with the progressive farmers and officials from Ministry of Agriculture.

On 17.10.2019, the ITEC Experts had a discussion with Hon'ble Minister of Agriculture Djibouti Mr Mohamed Ahemed Awaleh in presence of Ibrahim Elmi Mohamed Permanent Secretary Govt of Djibouti, A. Legroun Abdelkrim, Consultant to the Minister of Agriculture and Mr Tabareck Mohamed, Agriculture Advisor. During the meeting the Hon'ble Minister briefed ITEC Experts about the ecological problems that Djibouti is facing and expressed his desire to seek technical assistance for the development of a state of the art nursery to grow forestry and horticulture plants with capacity of raising one million plants at one site and half million plants at another site to meet the objectives of Green Djibouti Plantation drive. They also visited different nurseries sites at Damerjog and Ambouli. At Damerjog, and met Ms Idil Nour Director of Food Security and Mr Mouktar Mohamoud Director of Agriculture

at Ambouli. The Experts mentioned that at Damerjog there was sufficient area to have a high tech nursery with a capacity to raise one million plants each year and at Ambouli to raise half million plants each year. However it was observed that at both the places the infra structure available was not in good shape and needed to be renovated or reinstalled with modern infrastructure of a high tech nursery having controlled irrigation and temperature facilities. At both the places efforts have been made to raise the plants of Moringa, Neem, Date palm, leucaena etc. The Experts observed that there is lot of scope to enhance the capabilities of the nursery managers and other manpower engaged in nursery work in the aspects related to quality production of saplings as the sapling raised were not properly hardened due to which high mortality was observed in the nursery condition and the quality of the saplings available in the nurseries were not very good. The capacity of the nurseries can be raised by efficiently using the available space in the nurseries. The irrigation facilities in the nurseries needed to be further strengthened.

On 18.10.2019 Experts visited regions of Ali Sabieh and Dikhil as part of a field visit to understand the local landscape of the region. During the visit they interact with Mr. Abdi Bough Regional Director, Mr Ahmed Ibrahim, Agricultural Engineer and Mr Yonis Abdi Hassan a progressive farmer for the Ali Sabieh region and with Mr Abdouarham Banjid Regional Director, Mr Djama Guidi progressive farmer and President of Farmers Cooperative in the Dikhil region. During the visit Experts observed that the farming practices in this area were completely pastoral based and the farmers were dependent mostly on animals like camels, goats for their subsistence. Mr Djama Guidi, a progressive farmer with more than one ha land was growing variety crops/ vegetable, fruits and medicinal & aromatic plants. Mr Djama Guidi has developed very good infrastructure for nursery and there is need to identify such progressive farmers and further strengthen their capabilities for raising quality planting material in these regions. On the way the Experts also visited the Hydro electric project (dam), site of Ambouli friendship Dam constructed by the Turkish government. It will help store water for irrigation in the arid country with a stock volume of 14 million cubic meters.

The ITEC Experts visited Tadjourah and Obock region on a field visit on 19.10.2019. Obock is about 250 km away from Djibouti city.. Our visit was organised by Mr Chehem Moussa, Agro Pastorilism and Mr Bashir Agriculture Engineer for Tadjourah region and by Mr Ahemed Ali Mohamed Vice President, Regional Council, Mr Ibrahim Ahmed Hamadou Regional Director and Mr Houmed Bourhan Kanano a progressive farmer for the Obock region. During their visit they interacted with the local farmers and officers. From the discussion they had with the farmers we got to know that most of the farmers were interested in cultivating crops that could provide fodder for their cattle.

On 20.10.2019, the ITEC Experts had a meeting with Hon'ble Minister of Agriculture Djibouti Mr Mohamed Ahemed Awaleh along with Ambassador of India and other officials of Ministry of Agriculture, Djibouti Mr. A. Legroun Abdelkrim, Consultant to the Minister of Agriculture and Mr Tabareck Mohamed. The Experts briefed them about the observations made during our visit to various regions of the country. During the meeting the Hon'ble Minister explained about the problems that Djibouti is facing in the drive of greening Djibouti and expressed his desire to seek technical support for the development of hi-tech nursery and providing drone technology for aerial seed/ seed ball spreading in barren mountainous region of Djibouti.

On 21.10.2019, the Experts visited FAO office and had a discussion with Mr Leone Magliocchetti Lombi to know the ongoing activities of FAO in Djibouti and their impact in different regions. FAO has been constantly working in Djibouti for the sustainable and responsible use of the country's natural resources so as to ensure food security and nutrition for all and help Djibouti to cope with the adverse effects of climate change that the country

has been suffering. The Experts also visited the UNDP office in Djibouti where they discussed with Mr Idris Bexi Warsama, Energy and Climate Change Expert, UNDP about various projects undertaken by UNDP in Djibouti in the field of agriculture and initiatives taken to mitigate the climate change effects likely to be faced by Djibouti over the period of time. Mr Idris briefed ITEC Experts about the afforestation drives and other steps that UNDP has taken so far in this direction.

The Agricultural ITEC Experts mentioned that tree plantation on a large scale will help Djibouti to face the challenges of harsh climatic conditions and to improve the general landscape of the region to provide livelihood and nutritional security to the rural masses and a source of fodder for the livestock. India can assist in Green Djibouti Plantation drive to achieve its objective through strengthening of infrastructure for raising quality planting material, use soil & water analysis kits, technical guidance for raising and planting the suitable tree species in the country, green house/ poly house with automatic sprinkler systems, and water conservation techniques, among other things.
