



**SOLAR POWER DEVELOPERS ASSOCIATION**

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**SPDA/PG/2021/304**

**April 13, 2021**

**To,**  
**Shri Prakash Javadekar**  
**Hon'ble Minister for Environment,**  
**Forest & Climate Change**  
**Govt. of India**  
**New Delhi**

**Subject: Grow Forest Certificate Mechanism : A Road to Sustainability**

Respected Sir,

Greetings from Solar Power Developers Association.

We are an independent industry association, committed to promoting the solar sector in India. We provide a neutral platform for policy advocacy, discussions, and examination of issues critical to the development of the solar sector and are well recognized by the Ministry of New and Renewable Energy (GoI). SPDA represents around 50-member companies from the solar, wind sector providing their assistance in policy evolution and a healthier investment climate for renewable energy projects and services. We shall be reducing the carbon foot print and help mitigation of climate change through our part of clean energy initiatives and innovative ideas like grow forest certifications.

Our President Sh. Vineet Mittal who is also Chairman of Avaada Group and a social entrepreneur, pioneer and evangelist of sustainable development has been a vanguard of the clean energy transition in emerging economies across Asia and Africa. His passion for sustainability originates from the ancient Indian Vedic philosophy of 'Mata bhoomi putro aham prithiwaya' – The Earth is to be protected like a mother and nurtured for future generations. Avaada is a culmination of his vision of conducting business for higher purpose. His socially beneficial public policy campaigns like Community Development Certificate (CDC) and **Grow Forest Certification Mechanism (GFCM)** are very well-received.

Since, we all know that forests play an important role in mitigation and adaptation to climate change. Carbon sequestration by forests has attracted much interest globally as it is a relatively inexpensive means of mitigation of climate change. Now, when the climate change is causing increasing alarm and worry, the significance of **Grow Forest Certification Mechanism (GFCM)** comes into existence.

GFCM, in short, is a tool/process as a sustainable method to assist Government of India in achieving its Nationally Determined Contribution through Public-Private Community Participation Model (PPCP).

GFCM will encourage the industries, organisations, institutions, individuals etc to plant trees or grow forests and redeem its benefits through grow forest certificates obtained on the basis of plantation area (in acres/hectares)/ tree cover/ harvesting potential/carbon sequestration potential.



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The detailed flowchart of GFCM along with the key stakeholders involved, their responsibilities, and procedure upto the issuance of Grow Forest Certificate is enclosed.

Moreover, National Forest Policy (NFP), 2018 also talks about climate change mitigation through sustainable forest management. The draft policy document also talks about degraded land and how it can be improved by undertaking afforestation activities using public private partnership models.

Hence, It is requested that this innovative concept can be included under Green India Mission or CAMPA under National Action Plan on Climate Change. Our Association shall be partner to create an enabling legal and regulatory framework to allow private / social sector to work on degraded forest on right to use basis.

We look forward to your kind support in the matter.

Thanking you.

Yours Sincerely

Praveen Golash

Joint Secretary - SPDA