PRAMAAN & Indian Forest and Wood Certification Scheme (IFWCS)

Prelims: *Current events of national and international importance | Government Policies & Interventions*

Why in News?

Recently, First PRAMAAN certificates under the Indian Forest and Wood Certification Scheme (IFWCS) were awarded.

- **Organised by –** Indian Institute of Forest Management (IIFM), Bhopal, as the scheme's operating agency.
- **Certificates were given to:**
  - Andhra Pradesh Forest Development Corporation (APFDC) – plantations covering 33,000 hectares.
  - A bamboo farmer from Odisha, associated with the Odisha Bamboo Development Agency (OBDA).
- **Certification Categories –** It offers certification in the following categories:
  - **Forest Management**
  - **Tree Outside Forest Management**
  - **Chain of Custody**
- **Forest Management Certification**
  - Assessment is conducted according to the **Indian Forest Management Standard (IFMS)**.
  - IFMS is part of the **National Working Plan Code (NWPC), 2023**.
  - Certification relies on **independent third-party audits.**

    - Certification is not solely dependent on **voluntary self-declaration**.
- **Accreditation Architecture**
    - Certification bodies are accredited by the **National Accreditation Board for Certification Bodies (NABCB) operates under the Quality Council of India (QCI)**.
    - The accreditation architecture is benchmarked against **international certification frameworks**.
    - This approach aims to enhance acceptance among both **domestic and international buyers and regulators**.
- **Significance**
- **Environmental –** It promotes **sustainable forest management**.
    - It supports responsible and **deforestation-free sourcing of timber**.
    - It enhances the ecological and social value of forests and agroforestry systems.
- **Economic & Trade –** It enables Indian producers to comply with emerging **global sustainability and due diligence requirements**.
    - Certification can facilitate access to **premium domestic and international markets**.
    - It strengthens sustainable forest-product supply chains in India.
- **Livelihood –** It integrates **smallholder farmers, tribal communities, and forest-dependent populations** into formal certification systems.
- Potential beneficiaries include:
    - Women **Self-Help Groups**
    - Marginal landholders
    - NTFP collectors/processors
    - Agroforestry and tree-based farmers
    - Farmer Producer Organisations/Companies.

Reference

PIB | PRAMAAN 1st Certificates

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