

ROLE AND ITS OBJECTIVIES

The need for a Research and Development infrastructure for wood and wood based panel industries in the country was recognized in early sixties. It was necessary to pursue the chosen path for management of natural resources consistent with the overall strategy for national development for a developing country like India which has abundant natural forest resources. The Indian plywood Manufacturers' Research Association (IPMRA) was formed in 1962 as a cooperative research laboratory under the umbrella of Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) for undertaking applied research on PLYWOOD, an important wood based panel material.

The Institute was re-designated as Indian Plywood Industries Research Institute in 1970 and its administrative control was transferred to the Ministry of Industry in 1978.

Realizing the need for trained manpower for wood based panel industries, training facilities in Mechanical Wood Industries Technology were established during 1988 with the assistance of Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO)/United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)/Government of India (GOI).

As recognition to the greater role of the Institute in conservation of natural resource, the administrative control was transferred to the MoEF in 1990.

As a reflection to its premier position in training for Mechanical Wood Industries Technology as a centre of excellence, the name of the Institute was changed to Indian Plywood Industries Research and Training Institute in 1992.

The Institute is a Society registered under the Karnataka Societies Registration Act, 1962; Union Minister for Environment & Forests is the ex-officio President of the Society. Statutory members include Secretaries to Government of India in Ministries of Environment & Forests, Agriculture, Science & Technology, Planning, Director General of Forests, Chief Secretary, Government of Karnataka, Director General, ICFRE and nominations of scientific organizations like CSIR and regulatory bodies like BIS. Membership is also open to industries. It is recognized (since 1989) as a Scientific & Industrial Research Organization by the Government of India under the Department of Scientific and Industrial Research Scheme, 1989.

It is also recognized (since 1999) as a nodal centre by Forest Research Institute and University, Dehra Dun for pursuing Research programme for award of Ph.D. degree.

The Institute has its headquarters at Bangalore spread over an area of about 7 hectares where the most modern R & D, testing & training facilities are housed. It has an outreach field station (FS) established in 1963 located at Kolkata. IPIRTI Centre at Mohali in Punjab was established in 2008 to cater the needs of the industry in the North West region.

IPIRTI's thrust area is Conservation of Natural Forests through efficient utilization of existing wood resources & development and adoption of technologies for manufacturing wood alternates and panel products from plantation timber and bamboo including renewable fibres to meet the vital needs of our developing society.

4b(ii). The general superintendence, direction and control of the affairs of the Institute are vested with the Board of Governors (BoG). The Research Advisory Committee (RAC) constituted by the Board of Governors finalizes research and training agenda of the institute.

The Institute is headed by the Director. Research work in the Institute is carried out by a team of both experienced and young scientists with the assistance of technical staff, Research Scholars and others. The Institute has many divisions, viz., Timber Identification and Preservation, Adhesive Technology, Process Development Engineering, Saw Milling and Saw Doctoring (PDES), Product Application (PA), Training and Information Technology. In order to give more focused attention on the utilization of bamboo resource as well as testing and standardization and extension activities, Centre for Bamboo Development (CBD), Centre for Testing and Evaluation of Wood Composites (CENTEC) and Extension Division were created.

IPIRTI FIELD STATION, KOLKATA

This outreach field station was established in the Year 1963 and equipped with research & development, training and testing facilities related to adhesives, plywood and other panel products. IPIRTI field station, Kolkata is also a recognized BIS laboratory under BIS lab recognition scheme, specialized laboratory category. Mechanical and Chemical testing labs of IPIRTI Field Station are in the Process of getting NABL accreditation.

IPIRTI CENTRE, MOHALI, PUNJAB

The Indian Plywood Industries Research and Training Institute (IPIRTI) Centre (IPIRTI – CENTRE) at Mohali (Chandigarh) was established on 11/3/08 as a joint venture of Indian Plywood Industries Research and Training Institute (IPIRTI), Bangalore, an autonomous body of the Ministry of Environment & Forests, Government of India, Department of Industries and Commerce (DIC), Govt. of Punjab and Northern India Plywood Manufacturers Association (NIPMA) for serving the needs of wood based industries in the Northern Region. IPIRTI Centre is a specialized laboratory got recognized by the Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS) under the Laboratory Recognition Scheme. It is fully equipped with the latest test equipment and is manned by trained personnel so as to facilitate testing of wood and wood based panel products as per relevant Indian and other National Standards besides providing solutions to the floor level problems of the industries in the region and upgrade skills of technical manpower through short-term courses on manufacture and testing of wood based panel products.