

Messrs. POLISETTY SOMASUNDARAM

TOBACCO PACKERS & EXPORTERS
(STAR EXPORT HOUSE - RECOGNISED BY GOVERNMENT OF INDIA)
(ISO – 9001 : 2008 CERTIFIED COMPANY)
8-24-31, P.O.BOX No.54, GUNTUR – 522 001. (SOUTH INDIA)

FORESTRY POLICY

Curing is a cautiously controlled process used to attain the texture, colour and on the whole quality of a specific tobacco type.

Different methods are used, often depending on the type of tobacco. For example, Burley tobacco is 'air cured', where the tobacco leaf is hung in unheated, ventilated barns to dry naturally until the leaf reaches a light to medium brown colour. For some curing methods additional heat is required for which farmers use fuels.

Sustainable wood sourcing

Not every one of tobacco farmers need wood for their operations, but where they do we encourage farmers to source it from woodlands grown for fuel supply purposes and to plant trees to supply their own needs. The trees are usually grown alongside tobacco farms as an environmentally sustainable crop.

Our afforestation programmes encourage tree planting to provide a sustainable source of wood for farmers who require it for tobacco curing. In our monitored villages we have a long-running afforestation programme, which has seen several trees planted and is considered to be the largest private afforestation system in our factory surrounding villages. And in our factory surrounding distributed many free saplings to rural communities.

Substitute fuels and fuel efficiency

We are as well encouraging a few of our surrounding farmers to cure their tobacco with appropriate, locally obtainable alternative fuels. These can consist of gas, sawdust, coal, candlenut shells or liquid petroleum gas, and ground nut or rice paddy husks. All fuels have environmental impacts, so we are also liaising with CTRI/TOBACCO BOARD for taking their guidelines to reduce fuel consumption, for example by using innovative designs for curing barns.

Managing for sustainability... by making forest sustainability an integral part of our business strategy and using scientific, state-of-the-art forest management practices;

Renewing the forest... by promptly regenerating the forest in accordance with recognized standards and taking corrective action when necessary to prevent forest degradation;

Maintaining the state and productivity of the ecosystem... by using procedures and materials designed to protect soil, water, air, wildlife, and landscape values;

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Conserving the biodiversity of the ecosystem... by maintaining genetic, species and ecosystem diversity for a healthy forest environment;

Protecting the forest from insects, disease and fire... by conducting our operations to minimize adverse impacts on forests and cooperating with protection associations and government agencies;

Reducing pesticide use... by adopting reasonable alternatives to the use of chemical pesticides;

Training and involving our employees and contractors... by ensuring that they are knowledgeable, skilled and experienced in forest management and are aware of the significant environmental impact of their activities;

Listening to our communities... by maintaining an open dialogue with the public and encouraging their input;

Sharing our knowledge with others... by communicating with our shareholders, customers, employees and other interested parties to ensure that they understand our commitment to our forest policy;

Seeking ISO certification... by progressing toward certification of all operations where feasible.

In implementing this policy, we will comply with all applicable laws, regulations and company policies. In addition, we will ensure the continual improvement of our performance. We will monitor and adapt our forest management practices.



P.SHYAM SUNDAR

Chairman & Managing Director