

Government of India
Ministry of Environment & Forests
(Trade & Environment Cell)

**ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT & FORESTS FOR
THE YEAR 2008-09**

Material from Trade & Environment Cell

VOLUME I: EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

PROFORMA FOR PROVIDING INFORMATION

1. **Name of the Division/ Name of the Scheme/Programme:** Trade & Environment Cell
2. **Brief objective:** Provide technical inputs in the area of Trade & Environment especially under World Trade Organisation (WTO) negotiations, examining linkages between Ministries priority areas and International Trade and their impact on domestic as-well-as International Market.
3. **Progress/achievements made during 2008-09:** Website on Trade & Environment by the Madras School of Economics operationalised, 10th Meeting of IMCG conducted, studies initiated on issues pertaining to transfer of technology and attempts to interlink Climate Change and Environment with International Trade. Ministry's position submitted to the Department of Commerce on Multilateral, bilateral and plurilateral negotiations under World Trade Organisation (WTO) and bilateral free trade agreement on issues pertaining to the environment.

VOLUME: DETAILED ANNUAL REPORT

PROFORMA FOR SUBMISSION OF INFORMATION

1. **Name of the Division:** Trade and Environment Cell
2. **Name of the Scheme:** Trade and Environment
3. **Brief introduction and objectives :**

With privatisation, liberalisation and globalisation of the Indian Economy, environment and forest sectors are also undergoing signs of change. Also with the looming dangers of global warming and climate change, environment has emerged as a matter of great concern at both the national as well as international level. Environment and forests sectors have also started figuring as areas of interests in the bilateral and Free Trade Agreements. India being a founder member of the World Trade Organisation (WTO) is governed by its basic binding principles and has been actively participating in such trade negotiations. The Doha Round of Trade Negotiations launched in November, 2001 has introduced negotiations in the environmental goods & services, as a result, both the environmental goods and environmental services have emerged as areas of significance for India. Para 31(iii) of the Doha Ministerial Declaration (DMD) enjoins upon the WTO members to reduce or eliminate tariffs on environmental goods and services.

Trade & Environment Cell of the Ministry undertakes following items of work:

- (a) Provide technical inputs to the preparatory process in the area of trade & environment, in particular, items under negotiations in the WTO and other multilateral, bilateral and regional fora.
- (b) Act as the nodal section within the Ministry to deal with references received from the Ministry of Commerce and Industry; and

- (c) Implementation of the ongoing consultancy project on Trade & Environment.

4. Activities undertaken during the year 2008-09

During the year 2008-09, the Trade & Environment Cell examined and submitted position of the Ministry of Environment & Forests (MoEF) on the offers put on table under the aegis of the World Trade Organisation (WTO), both in the areas of Environmental Goods and Services. The 10th meeting of the Inter Ministerial Consultative Group on Trade and Environment was held during the month of October, 2008. As per the decision taken during the 10th meeting of the IMCG two studies have been initiated with a purpose to examine various attempts being made to link environment with climate change. A group to explore the linkages between technology transfer and production processes has also been set up. Also under the ongoing project on Trade & Environment, a website dedicated to the Trade and Environment has been successfully launched by the Madras School of Economics. Detailed papers on the Trade and Environment on the Environmental Goods, Environmental Services, Regional Trade Agreements in Environmental Goods and Services have been developed under the project.

PROFORMA FOR SUBMISSION OF INFORMATION

4. Name of the Division
5. Name of the Scheme
6. Brief introduction and objectives
7. Activities undertaken so far
8. Progress/Achievements made during 2008-09 along with slides and photographs.
9. Comparison of progress vis-à-vis that achieved in previous years (in case of ongoing schemes) supported by time-series graphs and charts, etc.
10. State-wise status (