Salaulim Botanical Garden

With the inception of Goa Forest Development Corporation as an independent undertaking of the government w.e.f. 11.04.1997 the Corporation has been undertaking its regular works in maintenance of rubber and cashew plantations, and has been encouraged to diversify its activities. Accordingly a prestigious project on Development of Botanical Garden Cum Eco Re-creational Park at Salaulim Dam Site - Sanguem has been allotted to the Corporation.

Initially this project proposal was formulated by the State Tourism Department at an estimated cost of 15.47 crores out of which 8.47 crores was from government funding and Rs. 7 crores from private ventures. The project was to be completed within a period of 3 years, i.e by March, 2007. The foundation stone of this project was laid by Hon'ble Chief Minister on 30.05.2003. The project could not be completed as per time scheduled of 3 years, on account of unavailability of sufficient fund / grants from the government in spite of several proposals for funds and desired infrastructure to execute the works of the project. The proposed area under development was 14.25 ha. in the back drop of the imposing dam and its fascinating landscape and sylvan surroundings make it an ideal site to be developed on the lines of Vrundavan Garden of Mysore.

The project is aimed to meet educational as well as recreational criterions, through this Botanical Garden and Nature Trails visitors would be enlightened on the floral and faunal elements of nature. Other facilities to the visitors of this Eco Park would be a daylong visit to the area combining with other places of interest in the vicinity. As the project is located in Sanguem Taluka a remote area and economically undeveloped, this project would provide self-employment generating opportunities to the local youth and diversification of tourism activity, which otherwise are centered to the beaches in Goa, thus promoting adventure tourism in hinter land areas. This would help to remove the anomaly in developmental activities in the different talukas. The project encompasses following components

1. A Botanical Garden comprising of formal garden, palm section, Japanese/Rock Garden, water plant section etc.
2. Butterfly park and open aviary.
3. Eco- tourism related activities.

The development of the entire project is being undertaken in three phases:

Phase I : Park with lawns and ornamental plants (7.90 ha)
Phase II : Botanical Garden (6.30 ha)
Phase III : Eco tourism and other entertainment facilities (6.40 ha)

The Phase I has been completed

Phase II of the Eco-Recreational Park includes the development of Botanical Garden in an area of 6.30 ha. This area would show case the unique Bio-diversity of the Western Ghats as well as a host of endemic species which constitute a special gene pool and has
considerable ecological significance in so far as the Western Ghats is concerned. The area would include:

i) Palms & Gymnosperms.
ii) Bamboosetum
iii) Angiosperms
iv) Orchidarium
v) Fernarium
vi) Medicinal and aromatic plants.

Approximate estimated cost is about 90 lakhs

Phase III is spread over an area of 6.40 ha for which Land Acquisition Proceedings has already been initiated by the Land Acquisition Officer. This area would include.

i) Eco tourism related activities
ii) Spice garden
iii) Camping facility etc.

Approximate cost of works is about Rs. 6.00 crores.

Revenue:

The revenue collected as entry fees (form tow gates) and other receipts from Botanical Garden Cum Eco recreational park, Salaulim is given hereunder.

1) 2011-12 Rs.2.34 lakhs
2) 2012-13 Rs.4.22 lakhs
3) 2013-14 Rs. 6.74 lakhs

The increase in revenue over a period of three years is a testimony that the botanical Garden cum Eco-Recreational Parks, Salaulim Dam site had been attracting more visitors every year since its inception. It has also given a boost to rural economy around the park.