

Ref.No. 79281/79-D3
Dated: 20-11-1979.

Office of the Chief Conservator of Forests,
Andhra Pradesh, Hyderabad.

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CIRCULAR NO. 32/79.

Sub:- Improvement of bamboo forests-mapping of flowered areas
and tending of regeneration-Instructions-Issued.

Our State has about 28,00,000 Sq.Km. of bamboo forests. Of late bamboo has become a very important forest product because of the increasing demand as raw material for pulp and paper industry, cottage industry and for rural housing. The annual production of bamboo is ~~xxx~~ about 3.5 lakhs tonnes and surveys have indicated higher potential.

It has also been observed that bamboo stocking is getting depleted after flowering mainly because of biotic factors like grazing and fires. It has also been observed that it is possible to hasten the establishment of regeneration and improve the stocking by taking suitable measures.

In view of this it is felt that we should have a correct picture of flowering of bamboo as and when it occurs and the subsequent development of regeneration in order to take suitable measures to improve the stocking. The following instructions are therefore issued for strict compliance from now on.

1) The existing bamboo series maps on a scale of 2"-2mile or 1"-1 mile should be used for recording in as great detail and precision as possible all bamboo flowering that occurred during last 10 years indicating the condition and status of the resultant regeneration. Maps on this scale have already been prepared for the recently held bamboo-workshops and copies of the same could be used. Precise area where bamboo flowered gregariously or Semi-gregariously and the year of such flowering should be marked on the maps. Areas that have flowered in the last 10 years can be marked by enquiries from the local subordinates, local people and paper mills staff. Areas of future flowering should be marked on the maps regularly.

2) History sheet should be maintained for each series in which the progress of regeneration, suggestion for improvement and operation carried out with costs may be recorded.

These are 2 basic records which should be maintained in each division office. Maps on a scale of 1:150,000 or 1"-1 miles should be prepared for each division and kept in Conservator of Forests Office.

3) The Divisional Forest Officers and CF should make it a point to inspect bamboo forests and prepare schemes for improvement of bamboo stocking. Fencing, fire tracing, removal of weed, soil working etc., are some of the works which are helpful. The paper mills have also shown interest in such works and they could also be used to gather information and to take up such works.

4) Immediately a special party preferably with an Asst. CF may be formed in each division to map all bamboo flowered areas of the last 10 years and improvement works to be carried out therein. This job should be got completed by 31-3-1980 positively so that schemes could be prepared for each division for implementation right from 80-81 itself as on plan or non-plan. The CF may make a special mention of this in their monthly DOs and similarly the Divl. Forest Officers in their diaries.

Receipt of this may be acknowledged.

S/- A. Ramakrishna,
I/c. Chief Conservator of Forests.