

GOVERNMENT OF ANDHRA PRADESH
Forest Department.

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Office of the Chief Conservator
of Forests, A.P. Hyderabad.

Sri A.K. Mathur, I.F.S.,
Chief Conservator of Forests.

CIRCULAR No. 12/83.

Sub: Social Forestry - Afforestation of D-graded
Forests - Raising of Mixed Plantations in
Govt. Waste Lands etc. - Reg.

Afforestation of degraded forests/raising of mixed plantations/Govt./Panchayat owned waste lands placed at the disposal of the Forest Department, is one of the important Social Forestry programmes under the proposed C.I.B.A. aided Social Forestry Project the Centrally Sponsored Rural Fuelwood Plantation Programme, Drought Prone Areas Programme and National Rural Employment Programme. In Chief Conservator of Forests Circular letter No. 15952/82/U2 dated 27.3.1982 (Cir. No. 4/82/U2) instructions were issued that upto 10% of the area to be afforested/planted in any locality under the above programme should be with miscellaneous species which yield fodder, fruits and Minor Forest Produce also in addition to fuel and small timber and the balance area planted with Eucalyptus or any other fast growing fuelwood species as considered suitable for the edaphic and climatic conditions of the area to be planted.

My inspections of the plantations raised during 1982 under the above programme during the last few months and also discussions held with the D.F.Os. and C.Fs. has however shown that C.C.Fs. instructions as mentioned above, have not been implemented practically anywhere in the State as most such afforestation plots/mixed plantations raised on waste lands during 1982-83 also are almost pure Eucalyptus plantations only. The reasons given by the D.F.Os. for raising pure plantations of Eucalyptus only excluding all other species, are that most miscellaneous species are slow growing and are also badly browsed by cattle etc making it very difficult to raise successful plantations of such species in the long run. They also argued that erection of a barbed wire fence or a digging cattle proof trench around the plantations which is a must where even a small part of the area is planted with miscellaneous species will substantially increase the overall cost of raising these plantations, and hence not attempted.

The reasons given by D.F.Os. for raising almost pure plantations of Eucalyptus to the excluding of other miscellaneous species do hold good to some extent but keeping in view the social objective of afforesting degraded forests or in raising mixed plantations on waste lands which is to meet the varied requirements of the local community like fuel, fodder, fruits and other Minor Forest Produce, it is obligatory on our part to raise plantations of suitable miscellaneous species atleast to cover 10% of the area to be afforested/planted as already instructed. Instead of mixing the miscellaneous

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species with Eucalyptus in lines or raising the miscellaneous species in pure lined alternating with Eucalyptus it is suggested that a compact area in the form of a square of about 10-20% of the total area to be planted in any locality and located in the centre of the plantation could be planted with miscellaneous species which will thus be surrounded on all sides by Eucalyptus, to reduce to the maximum extent the possibility of damage or browsing by cattle. Such small square plot can also be protected from cattle by digging a cattle proof trench around and thus reducing considerably the overall cost of raising the plantation.

Seedlings of miscellaneous species to be used for such planting could preferably be also tall plants (up to one meter) raised as polythene bag plants in bigger (longer) containers to permit adequate root development to help such seedlings establish and grow beyond the level of cattle damage early.

All the D.F.Os. are therefore informed that from 1983 onwards in all afforestation of degraded forests/mixed plantation programmes on waste lands 10-20% (as considered desirable at Conservators of Forests/Divisional Forest Officers level) of the area at any spot shall be earmarked for planting with suitable miscellaneous species mainly comprising of Sal-babul, Bamboo, Sissoo, Neem, Tamarind, Babul, Amla, Mahua etc. with each species planted pure in lines. The number of miscellaneous species to be raised in any one plot may also be kept to a maximum of 3 only with species chosen depending on the soils and climatic conditions and local needs. The Divisional Forest Officers are informed that disregard of these instructions from now on will entail disciplinary action against the Divisional Forest Officers for not implementing Chief Conservator of Forests instructions properly and fully.

The receipt of this circular letter may be acknowledged at once.

Sd/- A.L.Rao,
Addl. Chief Conservator of Forests
(S.F).

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