

Government of Andhra Pradesh  
Forest Department

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Dated-31.3.1983.

Office of the Chief Conservator  
of Forests, Andhra Pradesh, Hyd

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

Circular No.7/83

- Sub- Social Forestry + Avenue Plantation - Nursery  
Development improved technique- Reg.
- Ref- 1)CCF's Circular No.29/81(Ref.No.47114/81-E2)  
dt-15.9.81.  
2)Chief Conservator of Forest's Circular No.  
31-81-E2(Ref.No.48682/E2/81)dt-23.9.81.  
3)CCF's Circular No.2/83(Ref.No.7397/83/U4)  
dated-3.2.83.

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In the Circular letters cited above, detailed instructions were issued indicating the method of raising tall seedlings of various species for avenue plantation raising. It is hoped that all the Divisional Forest Officers have already taken necessary action to raise adequate number of tall seedlings for avenue plantation raising using the above techniques so that large number of such tall seedlings will be available for avenue and canal bank plantation raising commencing with 1983 rains.

2. During my tour in certain districts of Uttar Pradesh in February 1983, to study the implementation of the World Bank aided Social Forestry Project there. I had observed some modifications to the technique for raising tall plants for avenue and canal bank planting giving very satisfactory results. In the Uttar Pradesh technique, the tap root of the seedlings in the subjen bed is cut at a depth of about 20-25cms. with a sharp implement, 4 to 5 months before the seedlings are to be taken out of the nursery bed (i.e., when they have already attained heights of upto 2 meters) for planting in the field. Severing the tap root as above is achieved by digging a narrow trench between 2 rows of seedlings to a depth of about 25cms. and then using a 'L' shape implement with a sharp edge sever the tap root of the seedlings growing on either side of the trench. After the tap root is thus severed the trench is re-filled and the bed flood irrigated as usual. During this operation of tap root severing, the lateral roots of those seedlings on other three sides remain intact, allowing these seedlings to get over the shock quickly and start growing again. Experience in Uttar Pradesh appears to have shown that even Neem and Tamarind seedlings which are very sensitive to tap root damage, when subjected to the above techniques of tap root severing about 4-5 months earlier and then lifting out with a ball of earth at the time of planting out by cutting the lateral roots on the other 3 sides, can easily be planted out as tall plants with very ~~mortality~~ little mortality. It is suggested that this

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modified technique for raising tall plants for avenue and canal bank plantation raising be tried in 50 percent of the beds in all the nurseries where such tall seedlings are being grown with immediate effect to observe the results as well as to gain experience in using this technique. The balance 50% of beds the techniques described in the earlier Circulars may be followed for this year. It needs no special mention that this technique will be used in nursery beds where tall plants are being grown for planting during 1983 rains(july).

3 In spite of clear and repeated instructions issued earlier it is noticed that in large number of nurseries, pots of various sizes are being used for raising seedlings for avenue and canal bank planting. In some nurseries large sized polythene bags of 400-500 gauge are also being used to grow such tall seedlings for upto 1½ to 2 years. In all such cases it is clearly noticed that the seedlings do not grow fast and also become stunted without reaching the expected size of upto 2 meters in about 16 to 18 months, which is the general height reached by seedlings within same period when raised in sunken beds following the instructions issued in the 2 circulars cited above. Immediate action should therefore, be taken to transfer all these seedlings which are being grown in pots or polythene bags into sunken beds and maintained properly. All seedlings which attain a height of over 1.5 meters (Minimum) by July, 1983, should only be utilised in Avenue or canal bank plantations as required during 1983 rains, and the balance seedlings allowed to grow in the beds to attain the desired height for 1984 planting. Under no circumstances should under sized seedlings be used for raising avenue-canal bank plantations from 1983 onwards.

It is also observed that instructions issued in the Circulars regarding forming circular trench cum mound for raising avenue plantations are not being followed, and the existing practice of planting in pits only is being followed, accompanied by regular pot watering for one to two years. The reasons for continuing above technique ignoring the Chief Conservator of Forests circular instructions for introducing improved, less expensive techniques which are known to produce better results with higher establishment and growth rates of the planted seedlings is not known. It is ordered ~~that~~ that from 1983 planting season onwards instructions issued in the various Chief Conservator of Forests circular letters for raising and maintaining avenue canal bank plantations should be scrupulously observed, failing which action will be taken to recover the expenditure incurred for raising such plantations from the individuals concerned, while also initiating disciplinary action.

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

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