Government of Andhra Pradesh
Forest Department

Rc.No.84904/84-U4.
Dated: 4.8.1984.

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

Sri A.L.Rao, I.F.S.
Chief Conservator of Forests
(Social Forestry,)

Circular No.14/84.

Sub:- Social forestry - Avenue Plantation programme - Raising tall plants - Regarding.
Ref:- CCF(SF)Circular No. 5/84., dt:24.3.84.
CCF(SF)Circular No.10/84., dt:31.3.84.
CCF(SF)Circular No.11/84., dt:19.4.84.

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In the Circular letters refered to above, and Circulars issued earlier on same subject instructions were issued on various aspects of raising and maintaining tall plants nurseries and Avenue Plantations.

2. It has been reported by some of the Divisional Forest Officers that the Technique being adopted for growing tall plants in sunken beds and taking out the seedlings after digging on all sides and at the bottom severing the roots, is at times result in severe shock to the seedlings, and also the root system of the seedling is getting exposed due to the soil sorrounding the roots falling off inspite of all precautions taken while the seedlings are liefted out from the bed and the root system tied in a gunny. In order that this can be avoided and tall seedlings grown with minimum disturbance to the root system, it was also suggested by those Divl.Forest Officers that the tall plants may be grown only in pots of adequate size through out.

3. The disadvantage of growing tall seedlings in conventional mud pots, is that the tap root gets constricted consequently effecting the height growth of the seedlings also. Thus it takes much longer time to grow a tall plant of say. 2 mtrs. height in a much longer time to grow a tall plant of say 2 mts height in a pot compared to the sunken bed technique. A compromise method can therefore be adopted where the conventional mud pot, but without the bottom couldbe used for growing the tall plants to facilitate the tap root growing down wards into the ground, while the majorpart of the seedlings root system remains confined to the pot. Due to the free development of the tap root the rapid height growth of the seedlings will notbe effected, and at the time the root system is not disturbed while lifting the plant from the Nursery bed. While lifting the seedlings from the nursery bed, the tap root can be cut off at thebottom end of the pot with a sharp knief, and the seedlings conditioned later on for about a week to get over the shock, before they are actually planted out. Before transporting such seedlings grown in the bottom less pot to the planting site, a pantile should however be kept covering fully the bottom of the pot, to prevent soil coming out of the pot and thus exposing the root system. However even in case the bottom-less pot isused, the pots should be arranged in a sunken bed to facilitate flood watering, instead of keeping them above the ground. The divisional Forest Officers may ~~adlop~~ adopt the above technique if they as consider it necessary in place of sunken bed method from now on.

4. In a number of Divisions, avenue plantations are being raised in multiple rows, the second and subsequent rows being grown where even there is adequate source, and they are usually

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of Eucalyptus or Sisso which are fast growing and can be harvested for use as fuel or small timber on comparatively short rotations. In some divisions very expensive barbed wire fencing is provided to cover the strip of land on either side being planted with multiple row avenues to prevent the small seedlings of Eucalpytus etc. from being trampled by cattle, or being broused by goats etc. Erection of a barbed wire fence around these long strips of land is a very expensive proposition, costing as much Sr. Rs.15,000 to 20,000 per km and should be avoided developing alternate techniques to grow such multiple row avenue plantations satisfactorily. To avoid trampling damage or brousing by goats etc., tall seedlings of Eucalyptus sissoo etc could be planted also in the second and subsequent rows Such seedlings particularly of Eucalyptus and sissoo can easily be grown in 6-8 months in slightly bigger containers than those used normally for growing Eucalyptus seedlings now. Such tall seedlings could be atleast one meter tall and can be grown in 12 cms. to 25 cms. polythene bags of 200/250 guage. Even assuming that each such seedlings will cost much more than the normal Eucalyptus seedlings there will still be very considenable saving in the total cost of raising of such multiple row strip plantations when comparad to providing a barbed wire fence to protect the smaller seedlings. An advantage is that most of the expenditure in growing the tall plants would be utilised as wages paid to the labour. Such tall plants need however be planted in slightly bigger size pits which could be 45cm.cube with a saucer found around each after planting to keep in the maximum amount of rain water. All DFOs are requested to adopt the above technique atleast from 1985 planting of multiple row avenues, completely dispensing with barbed wire fencing, where necessary the number of watchers to be appointed for protection of the multiple row avenue plantations, can be increased to some extent reducing the number of kms, being protected by each watcher, to provide better protection.

5. Inspite of repeated circular instructions and also instructions issued through inspection notes of the Chief Conservator of Forests(SSF) it is observed that the species composition of avenue plantation nurseries and avenue plantations being raised is not as per the instructions issued. One reason for the a ove appears to be lack of adequate preperation for callection of seeds of required species in time for raising these nurseries which is resulting in sowing whatever seeds are available as the time of sowing. This shows that there is not adequate control and supervision exercised by the DFO on the Rangers work in thisdirection, and there is also no advance planting to collect the seeds of the required species and as and when they are available, and store them till the time of sowing. All the DFOs are requested to go through the circular letters issued by Chief Conservator of Forests on this and arrange for collection of seeds required of different species, as a central activity at the division level if necessary and then distribute the seeds to the required extent to each of the Range Officers concerned.

All the conservators of Forests and Divl. Forest Officers are requested to acknowledge the receipt of this circular letter.

Sd/- A.L.Rao,
Prl. Chief Conservator of Forests.

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