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CIRCULAR NO. 03 / 2003 / U.1

Sub: Social Forestry Programme of the Forest Department, Andhra Pradesh-
Certain Guidelines - Issued - Regarding.

Ref: 1. Circular No.04/2002/U.1 (ref.no. 19908/2002/U.1), dated 07.08.2002

2. Circular No.02/2003/ PMU -1/5 (ref.no. 17309/2000/PMU.I/5), dated 13.02.03.

3. G.O.Rt.No.6205, General Administration (SC.IFS) Dept., dated 2.12.2002 communicated through PCCF ref.No.210/2002/ M.1, 3.12.2002.

4. G.O. Rt. No. 62, Environment, Forests, Science & Technology (For. III) Department, dated 5.3.2001 communicated in PCCF ref.no52301/94/U.2, dated 28.3.2001.

- 1.1. Since 1968 when the term "Social Forestry" has been introduced in the Common Wealth Forestry Conference, it has assumed more and more importance due to increasing need for forestry activities outside the forest areas in the form of Agro-Forestry, Farm-Forestry, Community Land and Avenue Plantation etc.
- 1.2 The Government of Andhra Pradesh gives utmost importance to the planting programme and therefore "Clean and Green" has been adopted as one of the most important State Government Programmes. The Government has accordingly created three additional posts of Conservators of Forests for Social Forestry activities vide G.O.Ms. 3rd cited above.
- 1.3 The Social Forestry activity which was taken up in a big way under CIDA and NREP programme could not be sustained in the same way after 1990 due to lack of regular flow of funds as the CIDA scheme was completed by that time.
- 1.4 Under NREP and CIDA project a number of plantations have been raised in Tank-Foreshore Areas and other Community Lands and subsequently handed over to Panchayats for further maintenance with all the relevant records by the Forest Department.
- 1.5 In order to derive maximum benefits by the Panchayats from the Social Forestry Programmes of the State and to streamline the activities of the Planning & Extension Divisions in tune with the Government policy the following guidelines are issued :-
2. **OLD PLANTATIONS:** The Divisional Forest Officers (Planning & Extension Divisions) should maintain a list of old plantations, which have been raised under

CIDA, NREP or any Scheme. Many of these plantations may not be in good conditions, whereas quite a few of them may be mature or over mature (Eucalyptus, Bamboo etc.) ready for harvesting and a few of them may be giving usufructs (Cashews etc.).

2.1 As mentioned already, these plantations were handed over to the Panchayats but could not be maintained due to lack of funds and clear guidelines.

2.2. The following actions are to be taken up with respect to these plantations:

(i) All the plantations should be inspected by the Forest Range Officer and the Divisional Forest Officer (Planning & Extension) and the present status of the plantations has to be updated for each division in the proforma given in **Annexure – I**.

(ii) The plantations which have attained the rotation age and which are fit for harvesting should be harvested. But this should precede the preparation of a harvesting plan and its approval by the concerned local body authority.

(iii) In terms of the G.O. 4th cited, the amount realized from the sale of plantations should be credited to the general funds of the Panchayat and the same should be utilised for carrying out the tending operations like SMC works, cleaning of jungle growth, dressing of coppice stumps, singling of coppice shoots in the harvested plantation and also for replanting activities.

(iv) If there is a sizable balance amount after attending to the tending operations etc., the Panchayats may be motivated to take up multiple row avenue planting on the road sides in the jurisdiction of Panchayats.

(v) Where the plantations have failed, action should be taken to replant the area with suitable species, by motivating the Panchayats. The Panchayats should prepare the Plan for raising plantations and get approval from the Zilla Parishads for release of funds.

(vi) **The Whole idea behind the above is to improve the green cover in the State, generate income to the Panchayats and create wage employment to the local people.**

3.1. **NURSERY:** Nursery is the first important step for tree planting. It should at once reflect the expectation of the people, professional competence and social commitment of the Foresters. The nursery should also serve as the extension centre of the Forest Department to develop tree-consciousness among the people.

3.2 The expectation of the people can only be realised by raising a good nursery after a detailed demand survey in order to ascertain **their choice of species**. This is very **important and therefore the demand survey should be carried out regularly**.

3.3 The Forest Department resorts to raising of seedlings in two types of Nurseries - Temporary and Permanent - each of which has a few common functions but quite a few are different as discussed below.

3.4 Temporary Nursery:

- (i) The temporary nursery raised for the purpose of distribution of seedlings to the public should necessarily be preceded by a **Demand Survey** for the composition of species.
- (ii) The nursery should be raised by SHG (VSS / DWCRA / Schools) as far as practicable under a buy back scheme preferably.
- (iii) It may not be possible to raise the valuable seedlings of species like Teak, Bamboo etc., in all the temporary nurseries from the beginning. However, the demand for the seedlings of these species can be met fully by transporting and transplanting teak stumps and bamboo rhizomes etc. in the polythene bags from the **Permanent Nursery** at an appropriate time during the nursery season.
- (iv) If we plan meticulously, it will be possible on the whole to raise and **distribute the seedlings of their choice to the people as per the Demand Survey.**
- (v) It may be necessary to transport the seedlings from the Nursery to distant villages for distribution to the people.

4 Permanent Nursery:

- (i) Permanent Nursery should be a **centre of excellence for the Department** in addition to serving other functions of the Temporary Nursery as mentioned in Para 3.1.
- (ii) There should be a nursery programme for all the year round for certain commercial species like Teak, Bamboo etc., fruit bearing species like Neem, Tamarind, Kanuga, Neredu, Soapnut etc., and indigenous long rotation multipurpose species like Neem, Banyan (Marri), Peepal (Ravi) etc. All efforts should be made to raise rare and valuable species like Tapasi (*Sterculia urens*), Rosewood in **Permanent Nurseries** for planting in tribal VSS areas / Departmental planting programme.
- (iii) CMAs should be established, if essential, otherwise the programme should be taken up to produce clones / grafts.
- (iv) Mist Chambers may be established, if essential, otherwise the programme should preferably be carried out with the establishment of poly propagators which are cheaper, labour intensive and not dependent on continuous power supply.
- (v) Production of Vermi-compost should be taken up in the permanent nursery not only for using in the nursery or planting programme; but as a commercial proposition also.
- (vi) As mentioned earlier, the nursery should serve as an extension centre and therefore it is essential that a few permanent boards are displayed at the important points of the nursery highlighting the importance of forests and tree planting.

- (vii) In the permanent nursery also an identified poor family belonging to weaker section may be involved in the maintenance of a fixed number of seedlings, say 30,000 to 50,000 and a fixed amount be paid to them every month for maintenance of the family. The savings made by the family should be converted into a durable asset for the family for generating income through forward linkages. Our staff may play key role in bringing the family above the poverty line through sustained efforts over a period of time.
5. **AVENUE PLANTATIONS:** Every year the Planning & Extension Divisions are raising avenue plantations. Many of these plantations are quite successful although they do not have the impressive effect on the public.
- 5.1 It has, therefore, been decided that Avenue Plantations should be taken up with a lot of planning giving importance to raising of multiple row avenue wherever it is feasible, even if it means only on the part of the total stretch of the avenue plantation. In other words, if we cannot raise the avenue plantation with multiple rows for the entire stretch, certain portion of the stretches must be of multiple rows. **Raising of only single row avenue plantation is totally discouraged.**

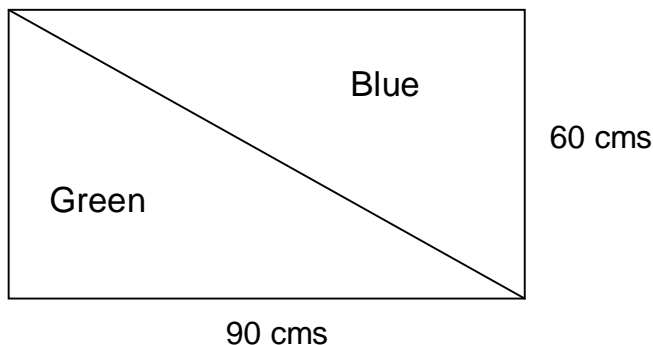
Detailed guidelines have been issued in the reference 1st cited which may be followed meticulously.

6. **KARTHIKAVANAM:** Nothing can be said to exaggerate the importance of Bio-aesthetic Plantation (Karthika Vanam) on the road side. Karthika Vanam should preferably be located near the road in the community land or RF within a maximum distance of 100 – 200m from the road / highways.
- 6.1 Detailed guidelines have been issued in paragraphs 5.3 to 7.1 of this office ref. 2nd cited above which may be followed meticulously.
- 6.2 The officers are once again requested to note that such a plantation should be raised with meticulous planning, implemented with utmost care and maintained permanently with the involvement of the local community / beneficiary.
7. **DISPLAY OF BOARDS OF THE FOREST DEPARTMENT:** Forest Department of Andhra Pradesh has been using boards of different sizes depicting the messages. It is considered necessary to standardize the size and design of the board uniformly for the entire State.
- 7.1 The subject has been discussed thoroughly in the APEX Body of the office of the Principal Chief Conservators of Forests and accordingly, the following instructions are issued :-

The Boards will be three - sizes as follows:-

- (i) 90 cm X 60 cm.
- (ii) 120 cm X 90 cm.
- (iii) 180 cm X 120 cm.

- 7.2 The boards should be painted in blue and green diagonally. As per the existing practice the diagonal line has to be drawn from the top most position on the left hand side to the bottom most position of the right hand side. The upper portion of the board should be painted in blue and the lower side in green as shown below:



- 7.3 A few boards of the smaller size (90 cm to 60 cm) may be displayed with the messages in fluorescent paint for putting up on the highways where the forestry has been taken up vigorously or the existing forest is quite rich and attractive.
- 7.4 The list of the messages in English/Telugu is given in the **Annexure-II** (enclosed). The officers are requested to display these messages only. On the National Highways a few boards carrying messages in HINDI may also be displayed.
8. **Cow Dung Slurry Preparation and its application:** The Cow Dung slurry is a very important and potent fertilizer which can be utilized to boost up the growth of the seedlings in the nursery and in exceptional cases in the plantations like avenue. The method of preparation and its application are given in the **Annexure-III** (enclosed).
- 8.1 **Propagation of Palmyrah:** Palmyrah palm is a very important species, which has played significant role in rural economy. It has been the policy of the State Government to propagate Palmyrah trees extensively.

The Conservators of Forests (Territorial, Wildlife and Planning & Extension) are requested to take up pre-treatment of Palmyrah seedlings before dibbling in the field. In case of avenue plantations, the Palmyrah nuts can be planted on the road boundary abutting the private land in a row of 1m apart. The boundary of the Karthika Vanam may also be dibbled with Palmyrah nuts on 3 sides leaving one side for entry of visitors. The method of pre-treatment of palmyrah nut is given in the **Annexure - IV** (enclosed).

Sd/-(**S. K. DAS**)
Principal Chief Conservators of Forests

ANNEXURE – I

1.	Sl. No.
2.	Name of the Village / Mandal / Range.
3.	Year of raising species.
4.	Present survival.
5.	Condition of Plantation growth.
6.	Whether fit for harvesting.
7.	Expected Yield
	i) Physical.
	ii) Financial.
8.	Suggested SMC Works & estimated amount required.
9.	Remarks.

ANNEXURE - II

List of the messages in English & Telugu

List of Messages in English

1. It's better life with trees.
2. He who planteth a tree, is the servant of GOD.
3. Tree means water, water means bread, bread means life.
4. Life would indeed be dull and colourless, without these magnificent Birds and Animals - Jawaharlal Nehru
5. The earth provides enough to satisfy every man's need, but not every man's greed - Mahatma Gandhi

List of the Messages in Telugu

1. వన సంపద - మన సంపద.
2. ఇంటింటా చెట్టు - ఊరూరా వనం.
3. వన క్షేమం - మన క్షేమం.
4. ఇద్దరు పిల్లలు హద్దు - ఎన్నో చెట్లు ముద్దు.
5. పచ్చదనం, పరిశుభ్రం - ప్రగతికి సోపానం.
6. వృక్షో రక్షతి రక్షితః.
7. చెట్లు ప్రగతికి మెట్లు.
8. పచ్చని చెట్లు - లాభాన్నిచ్చు పదిరెట్లు.
9. నేటి బాలలే రేపటి పౌరులు - నేటి మొక్కలే రేపటి వృక్షాలు.
10. మంచి తనం మనిషికి అందం - పచ్చదనం ప్రకృతికి అందం.
11. వన సంరక్షణ - మన సంరక్షణ.
12. చెట్లు పెంచండి కాలుష్యాన్ని నివారించండి.
13. శ్రమదానంతో మొక్కలు పెంచదాం - అందరికీ ఆనందాన్ని పెంచదాం.
14. పోషించండి నాటిన చెట్లు - పొందండి లాభం పది రెట్లు.
15. మొక్కలు పెంచండి - కరువును నివారించండి.

16. చెట్లు నాటినవాడు - భగవత్సేవకుడు.
17. వ్యక్తికొకచెట్టు - భుక్తికొకమెట్టు
18. వనచైతన్యం - నవచైతన్యం
19. చెట్లు పెంచితేక్షేమం - చెట్లు నరికితేక్షామం.
20. సామాజికవనం - పెంచుదాంమనం.
21. చెట్టునుపెంచు - ఆరోగ్యాన్నిపంచు.
22. ప్రజల సహకారం - ప్రగతికి శ్రీకారం.
23. శ్రమిస్తే పురోగతి - లేకుంటే అధోగతి.
24. కృషితోనాస్తి దుర్భిక్షం.
25. పచ్చదనం పరిశుభ్రం - చెట్టులేనిదే మనంలేం.

List of Messages in Hindi

1. हरियाली लाइए, खुशहाली पाइये।
2. पेड पौधो का करो सम्मान
ये है ईश्वर के बरदान।
3. बृक्ष करा, जीवन मीठा।
4. जीवन दाता वृक्ष बिघाता।
5. वन जीवो का रोको भक्षण,
परियावरण का करो रक्षण।
6. मत लो तुम बृक्ष की जान
घरती होगी रेगिस्थान।
7. आज समय की यही पुकार
बच्चे दो और बृक्ष हजार।

ANNEXURE - III

COW DUNG SLURRY - A METHOD OF PREPARATION

Approximately 20 Kgs of raw Cow Dung (Fresh - not more than 6-8 hours old) should be put into a big pot (preferably an earthen pot - locally called Golem) in the nursery site and mixed with 1 Kg of D.A.P. with a little water so that the entire mixture is of toothpaste like consistency.

This mixture in the pot should be exposed to sun i.e., the pot should not be covered. It takes 7-10 days depending on the temperature to get the entire mixture fermented properly. The sign of it can be seen by movement of air bubbles from the bottom to the top of the pot.

One mug of this fermented mixture should be mixed with 5 mugs of water and the solution should be sieved through a fine cloth in order to get a homogeneous solution. This homogeneous solution is cow dung slurry and this is a very powerful fertilizer to boost the growth of the plants when applied periodically and methodically.

Application:

The cow dung slurry should be applied to the plants once or twice a week at the rate of 100 ml to 250 ml per plant depending on the size of the plants, and 12 hours before and after application watering should not be done.

Precaution:

Sieving should be done through a fine cloth so that no suspended particles can pass through the solution. Some times the subordinate staff with over confidence sieve the solution through gunny bags or other such cloths and as a result a lot of suspended particles pass through the cloth and remain in the solution. This solution if applied to the nursery seedlings **will do enormous damage instead of doing any good to the plants.**

ANNEXURE - IV

PRE - TREATMENT OF PALMYRAH NUTS

It has been a long standing practice in the Forest Department to dibble Palmyrah nuts mainly in the boundary of the forest areas with the idea to keep the line of demarcation of forest area very clear on the ground in addition to getting innumerable benefit from the Palmyrah trees when they grow. In fact the important role of Palmyrah trees can hardly be exaggerated in a rural economy. However the efforts in this have given partial success only. In some cases, the germination is found to be quite satisfactory whereas in most of the cases the germination has been very low. All this has happened due to non-application of proper technique which is described below:

We should give pre-treatment to Palmyrah nuts before they are dibbled in the field. The brief method of pre-treatment is given below:

1. The Palmyrah nuts collected from the fruits should be cleaned in water, and dried in the Sun adequately.
2. An earthen pit of suitable size should be dug depending on the quantity of Palmyrah nuts to be given pre-treatment. The Palmyrah nuts should be put in the earthen pit and filled to almost $\frac{3}{4}$ th of the depth. Fresh cow-dung should be put over these Palmyrah nuts to a thickness of 8" to 10" and it should be covered with soil layer up to the top of the pit to a thickness of 4" to 6". Over this, water should be sprayed once in 2 to 3 days so that the entire mass in the pit is of toothpaste like consistency. The Palmyrah nuts should be kept for 7 to 10 days in the pit, after which they should be removed from the pit and cleaned in water. Immediately after this, the Palmyrah nuts should be taken to the field and dibbled one meter apart by using an iron crowbar in the hole of 6" to 8" deep. Precaution should be taken at the time of dibbling to see that there are no shepherds or graziers around to avoid the probable damage from them as otherwise after some time they may come and dig out the Palmyrah nuts for sake of "thegalu" (kernel) which is liked by them not only as a tasty food but it gives an element of satisfaction to their adventuring spirits.

Within a period of 2 to 3 months, the Palmyrah nuts start germinating. The rate of success is not less than 65%.

This Method has been adopted by me from certain observations in Andhra villages and practiced during the time I worked as Conservator of Forests with a great success. The method is foolproof and the success is assured.