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CIRCULAR No.6B/2005/G.1

Sub: Raising of Plantations by the Forest Department - Management of Planting Programme - certain guidelines Issued - Regarding.

- Ref: 1. Circular No.04/2002/U.1 communicated through Prl.CCF ref.no. 19908/02/U.1, dated 7-8-2002.
2. Circular No.05/2002/PMU.I/3 (communicated through PCCF ref.no.173097 2000/PMU.I/3, dated 23.8.2002 and Circular NO.5-A/2002/PMU.I/3 (communicated through PCCF ref. no. 17309/2000/PMU.I/3, dated 18.9.2002
3. Circular No.06/PMU.I/3/2002 & Circular No.06-A/G.1/3/2005, communicated through PCCF ref.No.17309/2000/G.1, dated 27-9-2002 and 8-5-2005

Plantations are raised during the rains. If the plantations are raised in the beginning of the rainy season, the plants receive more rainfall, get easily established and start growing fast during the rainy season itself. In all such cases plantations become very successful.

However, this does not happen generally for several reasons eg., pre-planting operations not done in time or a long dry spell after the first showers of monsoon or intermittent long dry spell in between the rainy days or the planting programme not organized/ planned properly etc. All these factors lead to late planting and the plantations are not quite healthy and the number of casualties is very high.

In view of the facts stated in the above paragraphs, it is found that the management of planting programme depends on two main factors namely:-

- (1) Human factor and (2) Climate factor.

By human factor it is meant about proper planning and implementation of the plan in time for carrying out the pre-planting operations, completing the planting programme within a specified period so that the plantation receives more rainfall during the year of planting and by climate factor it is meant about timely rain or dry spell during the planting period or after planting.

We are in need to over-come both these factors in order to raise very successful plantations because we are committed to do so for value changes of the forest area.

The following guidelines are issued in order to overcome these factors to raise successful plantations in a fool proof method:

(1) (a) Pre-planting operations: Pre-planting operations like clearance of thorny bush growth, uprootal of stumps should be taken up in the previous year of planting during the month of October/November. Once these operations are over, the other operations like ploughing, pitting and SMC works like PTs and trenches could be completed during the month of December/January for the plantations to be raised under Semi-Mechanical Method.

(b) For the plantations to be raised under the techniques other than semi mechanical, all the pre-planting operations like surveying the area, removal of thorny growth, SMC works as discussed in the reference cited 2nd and 3rd and pitting should be completed before the end of January of the previous year.

On the whole, in the year of planting only seedlings are to be planted with / without fencing and subsequent tending operations as prescribed in the FSR.

2. Planting Plan : A great deal of effort has to be made in organizing the planting programme. Each plantation area should be taken as a unit. Once the planting programme is taken up it has to be completed within a period of 10-15 days without any interruption. Therefore it has to be assessed as to how much area has to be covered with planting daily. Once this is known, it should be calculated as to how many persons should be engaged in daily planting programme so that every day they can achieve the target without any difficulty. It is therefore very much necessary to prepare a Planting Plan for each of the plantations indicating as to how many VSS members will participate in the planting programme, how many seedlings will be transported to the planting site and how the seedlings will be distributed in the planting area by VSS members where from the water (the reasons explained below) has to be brought to the planting site etc., etc.

Planting Plan should be prepared by the FRO under the guidance of the DFO. The FSO will be the Plantation Manager to implement the Planting Plan in full consultation with the VSS members.

The Conservators of Forests are requested to see that Planting Plan is approved by the DFO and discussed with the VSS members before the end of May of the planting year in South-West monsoon area and it may be as late as July of the planting year in North-East monsoon area.

(3) (a) Climate factor: One of the biggest problems the Forest Department faces in raising the plantations is the lack of timely rainfall apart from the above two factors discussed above. Once we take up the planting programme the rains may stop and there may be a long dry spell. Planting is stopped for fear of casualties in the plantations. After a few days when it starts raining, again the planting is taken up. The process goes on. All these lead to a situation where we are totally dependent on the vagaries of monsoon and we are never sure when we can complete the planting programme.

(3) (b) The uncertainty of rainfall at the time of planting can be eliminated by watering the plants at the time of planting. After the first onset of monsoon once the soil is moist, the Planting Plan should be put into operation and an effort should be made to complete the planting programme within ten days. Planting should be done without removing the bags but giving few vertical cuts as mentioned in Circular cited 1st While

planting the seedling watering should be done necessarily. The quantity of water should not be less than 2 litres for each plant. It is hereby clarified that hence from in all South-West Monsoon area the planting has to be completed by 30th June as the monsoons sets in before 15th June thereby giving a clear time of (15) days to take up and complete the planting programme. Similarly in areas under North-East monsoon, planting should be completed by 15th October. One watering at the time of planting is fully justified because it will help in timely completion of the work with better results. It may be noted here that we water the avenue Plantations more than 20 times.

(3) (c) Once the seedling is planted in this technique with watering even if there is a dry spell of 10-15 days after planting the seedling would withstand this dry condition and it will be established shortly after receipt of rainfall.

4. Cost of watering for each plant may not be more than Re.1/- plant. Most of our plantations have 400 plants/ha. The cost of watering should be made up by deleting some not so important schedule of operations so that the unit cost remains unchanged.

5. It is pertinent to mention here that a technique similar to this was introduced by me in the planting programme of Eucalyptus clones in APFDC which has proved quite successful with respect to better growth and higher survival percentage of more than 95%.

All the officers are therefore requested to go through the guidelines carefully, discuss with the officials working with them thoroughly and follow them from 2006 planting season onwards very scrupulously for which selection of planting site and pre-planting operations should be taken up this year only.

Sd/-(S.K. DAS)
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