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CIRCULAR No.01-200/PMU.I/3

Sub: Palmyrah Trees - Propagation of Palmyrah trees in the Forest Department -Certain guidelines - Issued - Reg.

Ref: Circular No.03-2003/U.1, dated 5-3-2003 communicated in Prl.C.C.F. Ref.No.9332/2003/U.1

In the reference cited above certain guidelines have been issued (**Annexure.IV**) on how to give pre-treatment to Palmyrah nuts before dibbling in the field. These guidelines are reproduced below:

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 benefits 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 by the Department in this direction have given partial success only. In some cases, the germination is found 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 should be dug out of suitable size 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-dug 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 when 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.

The reasons for poor germination of palmyrah nuts or the poor establishment of Palmyrah seedlings are the following:

1) Palmyrah nuts are collected and kept in heaps/gunny bags for a longtime

before they are dibbled in the field. The long duration in the heap/gunny bag induces the Palmyrah nuts to germinate inside the heap/gunny bag and within a short time their viability is lost.

2) Some times the graziers or the villagers dig out dibbled palmyrah nuts for the sake of "thegalu" as it is quite a delicious food.

In order to overcome these problems the following procedure/strategy may be adopted for propagation of palmyrah trees by the department:-

1. Tender/quotation may be called for raising palmyrah trees for the rate/seedling with two leaves. Full payment should be made only after the seedling attains an age of 1 to 3 months.
2. Some VSS members may be given training for pretreatment of palmyrah nuts as described in the beginning of this Circular and they should be encouraged to give tender/quotation.
3. Some portion of the tender amount may be advanced to the tenderer to start the work. However, the full payment should be done only after actual count of the established seedlings (aged 1 to 3 months) and entry to this effect in the M.Books.

The procedure outlined above when followed properly will not only result in successful propagation of palmyrah but also it will in a small measure enhance the livelihood opportunities of a few VSS members.

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