

**Shri. S. K. DAS., I.F.S.,**  
Principal Chief Conservator of Forests.

**CIRCULAR No.6-C/2006**

Sub: Compensatory Afforestation Scheme - Certain guidelines for Sloppy Lands - Regarding.

- Ref: 1) Circular No.02/2003/PMU.I/3, communicated in Prl.CCF's Ref. No.17309/2000/PMU.I/3, dated 13-2-2003 (Field Companion - Vol.I)  
2) Prl.CCF Ref.No.4775/2003/F.5, dated 21 -02-2005 (F.C. Vol.II)  
3) Circular No.02/2003/PMU-1/3, Dated 13-02-2003.

Certain guidelines have been issued in the reference cited 2<sup>nd</sup> to raise plantations under Compensatory Afforestation Scheme with the semi mechanical method. These instructions were issued where the land is suitable for raising the plantations under semi mechanical method. This has created an impression among the Divisional Forest Officers and the Conservators of Forests to accept only those lands for Compensatory Afforestation which are suitable for raising, plantations under the semi mechanical method. However the extent of such land available is quite limited.

As the State Government is taking a number of major projects involving forest land, there is need for large extent of compensatory land and since plain land with gentle slope is not available, the next best option will be to accept land where there is very good depth of soil even if the land has different degrees of slopes. Out effort will be to raise very good successful plantations under a sound technique giving full importance to SMC measures with a good choice of species depending upon the rainfall of the area.

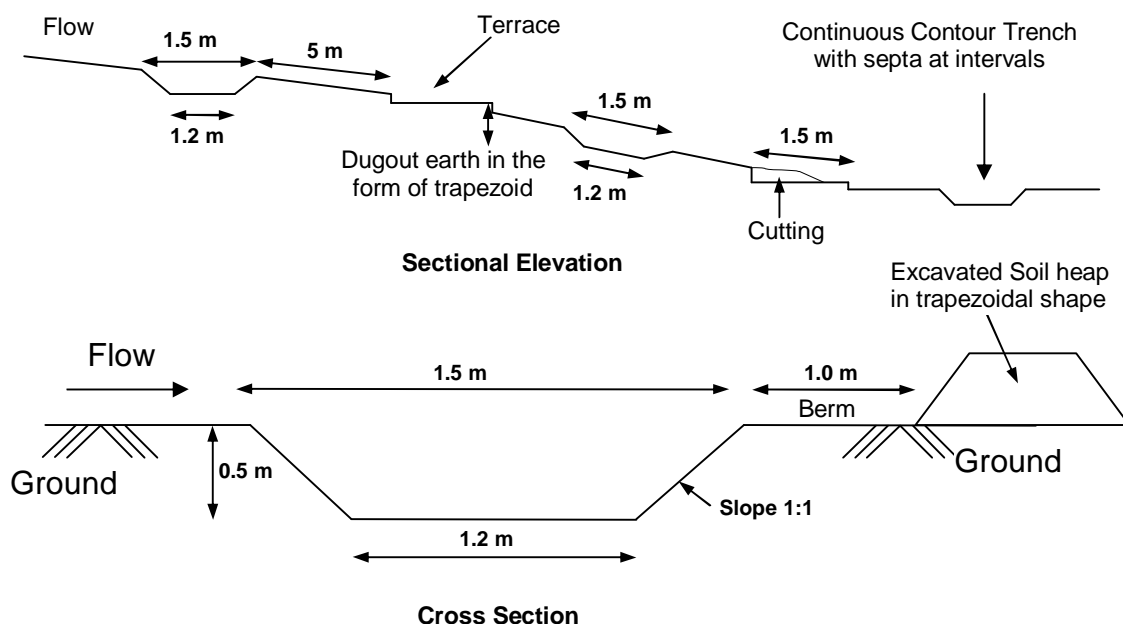
The technique for raising plantation the hilly areas has been discussed in the Circular cited 1<sup>st</sup>. In partial modification of the techniques outlined in the above circular, the following technique should be adopted in the sloppy areas for Compensatory Afforestation Scheme.

**TECHNIQUE-I:**

The technique involves alternate trenches and terraces with septa at a slope distance of 5m. from the top of the sloppy land. The width of the terrace should be 1.5 m. The terracing should not be continuous. A septum of 1.0-1.5 m may be provided after an interval of every 10-15 m. The terracing should have an inward slope of 10-15%. Abutting the wall inside the terrace, a trench should be dug out with the width and depth of 30 cm in the terrace area. This trench also should be provided with septa after 5 to 7 m. The idea is to conserve rain waters in the trench during the rainy season.

The dimension of the trench should be 1.5 m width and 0.5 m depth with bottom width of 1.20 m. As mentioned already there should be alternate trenches and terraces with an interval of slope distance of 5m from the ridge i.e., at the top the trench should be dug out first and then the terrace and so on.

**Diagram illustrating the technique (Not to Scale)**



The planting will be done in the terrace and trenches in the pits of 45 cm X 45 cm X 45 cm. While planting the bag seedling in the pits, there is no need to remove the bags. Only three vertical cuts in the bags may be given before planting. After planting, the base of the seedling may be raised to 5-7cm by putting more soil in order to protect the seedlings from inundation during the rains.

At the time of planting 100 gm of SSP may be applied as basal dressing and ½ cft dry cow dung powder may be put in the pit and mixed well with the soil.

**CHOICE OF SPECIES:-**

Our choice of species should mainly be restricted to Pongamia and Bamboo only. These two species should be raised as pure crops in blocks at an espacement of 5 m X 5 m. Because of this espacement the slope distance between a trench and terrace has been kept at 5m.

In the Scheduled areas additionally, some fruit bearing species like Jack fruits, Tapsi may also be planted at an espacement of 10 m X10 m and Usiri at an espacement of 5 m X 5 m.

## **TECHNIQUE-II:**

Where the soil depth is not adequate and it is not possible to have intensive terracing and trenching as discussed above, the technique of afforestation is provided under Category-II. Degraded hill slopes without viable root stock in Circular No.02/2003/PMU-1/3 dated 13-02-2003 in the reference 3<sup>rd</sup> cited shall be followed. Such lands should not be accepted for compensatory afforestation in general. It may happen that out of a large chunk of area, an area of 5-10 ha. falls under this category. However, while afforesting such areas following instructions shall also be kept in mind:-

- i) The area should be closed by providing suitable fencing against biotic pressure.
- ii) The area should be treated fully with suitable soil and moisture conservation measures.
- iii) Trenches of size 2 m length, 1.5 m wide and 0.5 m depth with bottom width of 1 m will be excavated and the planting will be done in these trenches by following trench cum pit method.
- iv) More than one year old seedling at the rate of 300-400 plants per ha of species mentioned above should be planted while ensuring that the distance between the two plants is kept at minimum of 5m.
- v) The planting will be done in 45 cm<sup>3</sup> pits.

## **MAINTENANCE OF PLANTATIONS :-**

All such plantations should be tagged on to the nearest VSS and maintained with usual schedule of operations like soil working, clearance of jungle growth etc. The plantations should be maintained for 3-4 years or till such time when they are fully established.

Sd/-(**S.K. Das**)  
Principal Chief Conservator of Forests