

GOVERNMENT OF TAMIL NADU

ABSTRACT

Forests – Scheme for implementation of “Tree Cultivation in Private Lands in Tamil Nadu” during the year 2007-2008 at a cost of Rs.10.00 crores – Details of scheme approved - Orders – Issued.

Environment and Forests (FR6) Department

G.O.Ms.No.117
26.10.2007

Dated:

Read:

1. From the Principal Chief Conservator of Forests Letter No. RE2/ 14457/2007, dated.14.3.2007 and 11.5.2007.
 2. G.O. (D) No. 142, Environment and Forests Department, dated. 7.6.2007
 3. From the Principal Chief Conservator of Forests Letter No. RE1/14457/07, dated.16.7.2007, 26.7.2007, 3.8.2007, and 19.9.2007
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ORDER:

While moving the Forest Department Demand, the Hon’ble Minister for Forests has announced that a programme viz. “Tree Cultivation in Private Lands” will be implemented in Tamil Nadu during 2007-2008. Based on the above Announcement, the Principal Chief Conservator of Forests has sent a proposal for the implementation of the said Scheme at an estimated cost of Rs. 10 crores.

2. The Principal Chief Conservator of Forests has stated that Tree cultivation is one of the most natural and sustainable form of Land use that provides for ecological security as a whole and complements all other forms of land uses. Tree cover conserves water, soil and environment and thereby, pave way for rural prosperity, through profitable agriculture, in conjunction with tree-culture. In view of the raising demand for wood, from the wood based

industries, tree cultivation offers a viable economic alternate to farmers for utilisation of their uncultivated lands. Trees have the unique quality of withstanding the vagaries of monsoon, the ability to face prolonged droughts and also to produce sizeable income after maturity. He has also stated that the National Forest Policy 1988 mandates bringing in one third of the geographical area of the country under tree cover, for ecological amelioration. This implies extending tree cover outside the existing Reserved Forest areas. National Forest Policy also specifies that the wood based industries should aim at meeting their raw material requirements

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from tree resources cultivated outside the Reserved Forest areas. This mission can be accomplished only by undertaking massive Tree Planting programmes in areas outside the forests. The areas of focus may be farm lands, which are unsuitable for profitable agriculture, farm bunds, fallow lands etc., Facilitation efforts for tree growing, harvesting, and marketing will be done by the Government. This will achieve the aim of making **“Tree Growing a People’s Movement”** in Tamilnadu.

3. The Principal Chief Conservator of Forests has furnished the salient features of this unique scheme as indicated below:-

- i. The choice of species recommended for the farmers for their lands will be those capable of assuring the mandated profit since the species are in high demand and sought after by wood based industries.
- ii. Two methods of plantations have been formulated namely (i) Block plantation and (ii) Inter cropping plantation.
- iii. For block plantation small and marginal farmers shall be preferably chosen. In case of non availability of small and marginal farmers, large farmers may also be chosen.
- iv. Block plantation will be done only on uncultivated waste lands lying fallow for at least three years. The area of plantation assistance will be restricted to one hec. or 2.5 acres only for each farmer.
- v. For block plantations, support to farmers will be attempted through market tie up in the second and third year.
- vi. For intercropping plantations only small and marginal farmers shall be chosen and there is no support in the second and third year.

4. The Principal Chief Conservator of Forests has stated that for implementation of the scheme an amount of Rs.10.00 Crores is required for raising and planting of seedlings in private lands and for financial support to farmers who are selected under this scheme for preparation of the waste lands for cultivation for the first year.

5. The following are the proposed models with details of expenditure for the implementation of the Scheme:-

I. Block Plantations :

It is proposed to take up block planting of useful trees in fallow lands of farmers to an extent of 10,060 acres in Tamil Nadu during 2007-08. For this model of block plantation, though all categories of farmers are eligible, small and marginal farmers shall be preferred. But this will be done only on uncultivated wastelands lying fallow for at least three years consecutively. (Current year fallow and preceeding 2 years fallow. Certificate to this effect has to be obtained from the Revenue authorities) Each beneficiary will be entitled for assistance for a maximum of 2.5 acres in this model with the following break up details for the species:-

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- i. 4600 acres of casuarinas saplings including 14.50 lakhs of casuarina clones proposed to be supplied from Research wing of Forest Department will be planted at an average cost of Rs.4,244.52/- per acre and the total cost will be Rs. 1,95,24,800/-.
- ii. Eucalyptus species including 6.00 lakhs Eucalyptus clones to be supplied from TAF CORN will be planted in 1890 acres at an average cost of Rs.5518.35 /- per acre and the total cost will be Rs.1,04,29,700/-
- iii. Further 10 lakhs numbers of Ailanthus excelsa seedlings will also be planted in an area of 3570 acres at a cost of Rs.3206/- per acre and the total cost will be Rs.1,14,45,500/-
- iv. The total amount involved in the block planting is Rs. 5,64,89,900/-
(or)
Rs.5,64,90,000/- including farmers grant. The total area to be covered is
10060 acres

II. Inter – Cropping Plantations:

Under Inter cropping plantation scheme it is proposed to plant by providing long gaps in between the saplings of tree at the rate of 160 seedlings per acre. Due to the reduction in the thickness of trees, the farmers can plant inter cropping plants in the tree gaps.

Under this scheme it is proposed to plant economically important tree species like Malai Vembu, Teak, Silver Oak, Pungan, Kumil, Vagai, Tamarind, Silk Cotton, etc., in 14,700 acres at an estimated cost of Rs.1832/- per acre at a cost of Rs.2,69,30,400/-. The total cost will be Rs.4,16,30,000/- including farmers grant.

III Seed:

For procurement and supply of quality seeds an amount of Rs.10,54,000/- is provided.

IV . Publicity :

For centralized publicity of this scheme, an amount of Rs.8,26,000/- is provided for.

This may be spent after the brief outline of publicity activities is approved by Government.

6. The works to be undertaken by the Forest Department after identification of farmers under this scheme are as follows:

All activities upto planting such as raising of seedlings, transportation of seedlings to the site, pitting and planting (including operations of soil working) will be done by the Forest Department to ensure that :

- 1) Only eligible persons get the benefit
- 2) There is no pilferage of plants.

All these operations will be strictly in accordance with the schedule of rates of the Forest Department .

To meet out the expenses for the works towards land preparation, watering, fencing, plant protection, manuring etc., it is proposed to give farmer's grant at the rate of Rs. 1500/- per acre for the block planting for first year only and this will work out to Rs. 1,50,90,000/- for 10,060 acres. In respect of inter cropping model the farmer's grant is restricted to Rs. 1000/- per acre for the first year only and this will work out to Rs. 1,47,00,000/- for 14,700 acres. No Financial commitment to Government in the coming years in this scheme by way of grants to farmers and for maintenance. This grant will be given to the farmers based on the survival percentage during February/March 2008. This grant will be given in the form of Demand Draft to the farmers.

7. On consideration of the detailed proposal of the Principal Chief Conservator of Forests for implementation of the scheme and on his request orders have been issued in the G.O. second read above sanctioning a sum of Rs.3.00 crores which is 30% of the total estimate of Rs.10.00 crores for raising the nursery for carrying out works under "Tree Cultivation in Private Lands in Tamil Nadu" during 2007-2008.

8. In the above said circumstances, the Government after careful examination accept the above proposal of the Principal Chief Conservator of Forests and accord administrative sanction for a sum of Rs.10.00 crore (Rupees ten crores only) for the implementation of the scheme for raising and planting of 85.44 lakhs of seedlings in 24,760 acres of private lands of farmers under "Tree Cultivation in Private Lands in Tamil Nadu" programme for implementation during 2007-2008. The cost table of the scheme are furnished in the Annexures. The Government also accord sanction for the release of Rs.7.00 crores (Rupees seven crores only), being the balance amount of the scheme after deducting Rs.3.00 cores already sanctioned for raising the nursery in G.O. second read above.

9 . The Principal Chief Conservator of Forests is requested to take necessary follow up action to implement the scheme during 2007-2008. He is also requested to consider to assist farmers, whose lands have already been developed, under the scheme for distribution of 2 acres of wasteland for whom no assistance was given for planting material. This will help dovetailing of this departments schemes for development of Wasteland already distributed and developed by Government. The Principal Chief Conservator of Forests may send a report to Government in this regard.

10. The guidelines given in paras 5 and 6 above shall be strictly followed for implementation of the scheme.

11. The expenditure sanctioned in para 8 above shall be debited to the following head of accent.

"2402-00 Soil and Water Conservation-103. Land reclamation and Development - Schemes in the Eleventh Five Year Plan – II State Plan – J.G. Comprehensive Wasteland Development Programme – Participation of Approach Tree Cultivation in Private land –II subsidies -01. Individual Based Subsidy".(DPC.2402.00 103.JG.1117).

12. This order issues with the concurrence of Finance Department vide its U.O.No. 69482/AH&F/07, dated.22.10.2007.

(By order of the Governor)

R.RAJAGOPAL
SECRETARY TO

GOVERNMENT

To

The Principal Chief Conservator of Forests, Chennai-15.

The Chief Conservator of Forest (P&D/SF/FCA/R&T),
Chennai-15.

The Accountant General I/II, Chennai-18.

The Accountant General, Chennai-18.

The Accountant General, (Audit), Chennai-18.

The Pay and Accounts officers, Chennai-35.

All treasury officers (Through the Principal Chief Conservator of Forests).

The Secretary to Hon'ble Chief Minister, Chennai-9.

The Special Personnel Assistant to Hon'ble Minister (Finance), Chennai-9.

The Special Personnel Assistant to Hon'ble Minister (Forest), Chennai-9.

Copy to:

The Finance (A&HF)(BG)(LC),Department, Chennai-9.

The Agriculture Department, Chennai-9.

The Private Secretary to Secretary, Environment and Forests Department ,

All officers in Environment and Forests Department,

Environment and Forests Department (FRVII) Department.

SF/SC.

/Forwarded by Order/

SECTION OFFICER