

**15 -ാം കേരള നിയമസഭ**

**16 -ാം സമ്മേളനം**

**നക്ഷത്ര ചിഹ്നം ഇല്ലാത്ത ചോദ്യം നം. 985**

**02-02-2026 - ൽ മറുപടി**

**ചങ്ങനാശ്ശേരി മണ്ഡലത്തിൽ വനം വകുപ്പ് നടപ്പിലാക്കിയ പ്രവൃത്തികൾ**

<b>ചോദ്യം</b>		<b>ഉത്തരം</b>	
<b>ശ്രീ. ജോബ് മൈക്കിൾ</b>		<b>ശ്രീ. എ. കെ. ശശീന്ദ്രൻ (വനം-വന്യജീവി വകുപ്പ് മന്ത്രി)</b>	
(എ)	<p>ഈ സർക്കാർ അധികാരത്തിൽ വന്നശേഷം വനം വകുപ്പ് മുഖേന ചങ്ങനാശ്ശേരി മണ്ഡലത്തിൽ നടപ്പിലാക്കിയ പ്രവൃത്തികളുടെ വിശദവിവരം ലഭ്യമാക്കുമോ;</p>	(എ)	<p>ഈ സർക്കാർ അധികാരത്തിൽ വന്ന ശേഷം ചങ്ങനാശ്ശേരി മണ്ഡലത്തിൽ നടപ്പാക്കിയിട്ടുള്ള പദ്ധതികൾ സംബന്ധിച്ച വിവരം അനുബന്ധം 1 ആയി ചേർക്കുന്നു.</p> <p>വൃക്ഷസമൃദ്ധി പദ്ധതി പ്രകാരം 2021-22 മുതൽ 2024-25വരെ 40941 വൃക്ഷത്തൈകൾ MGNREGS പദ്ധതി പ്രകാരം വനംവകുപ്പിന്റെ സാങ്കേതിക ഉപദേശത്തോടെ മാടപ്പള്ളി ബ്ലോക്ക് പഞ്ചായത്ത് വച്ചു പിടിപ്പിച്ചിട്ടുണ്ട്. കൂടാതെ കാവുകളുടെ സംരക്ഷണത്തിനായുള്ള ധനസഹായ പദ്ധതി പ്രകാരം തുരുത്തിപ്പള്ളിക്കാവ്, തുരുത്തിപ്പള്ളി ശ്രീ ഭഗവതി ക്ഷേത്രം, നെടുങ്കുന്നം, ചങ്ങനാശ്ശേരി, വലച്ചുൻ കാവ്, ശാസ്താംകോയിക്കൽ കാവ്, തൃക്കാടിത്താനം, ചങ്ങനാശ്ശേരി എന്നീ കാവുകൾക്ക് 25,000/- രൂപ വീതം ധന സഹായം നൽകിയിട്ടുണ്ട്.</p> <p>പ്രസ്തുത പ്രവൃത്തികളുടെ ഉത്തരവുകളുടെ പകർപ്പുകൾ അനുബന്ധമായി ചുവടെ ചേർക്കുന്നു.</p>
(ബി)	<p>ഓരോ പ്രവൃത്തിയുടെയും നിലവിലെ സ്ഥിതി, അനുവദിച്ച തുക എന്നിവ വ്യക്തമാക്കുമോ; ഉത്തരവുകളുടെ പകർപ്പ് ലഭ്യമാക്കുമോ?</p>	(ബി)	<p>ഈ സർക്കാർ അധികാരത്തിൽ വന്ന ശേഷം ചങ്ങനാശ്ശേരി മണ്ഡലത്തിൽ നടപ്പാക്കിയിട്ടുള്ള പദ്ധതികൾ സംബന്ധിച്ച വിവരം അനുബന്ധം 1 ആയി ചേർക്കുന്നു.</p> <p>വൃക്ഷസമൃദ്ധി പദ്ധതി പ്രകാരം 2021-22 മുതൽ 2024-25വരെ 40941 വൃക്ഷത്തൈകൾ MGNREGS പദ്ധതി പ്രകാരം വനംവകുപ്പിന്റെ സാങ്കേതിക ഉപദേശത്തോടെ മാടപ്പള്ളി ബ്ലോക്ക് പഞ്ചായത്ത് വച്ചു പിടിപ്പിച്ചിട്ടുണ്ട്. കൂടാതെ കാവുകളുടെ സംരക്ഷണത്തിനായുള്ള ധനസഹായ പദ്ധതി പ്രകാരം തുരുത്തിപ്പള്ളിക്കാവ്, തുരുത്തിപ്പള്ളി ശ്രീ ഭഗവതി ക്ഷേത്രം, നെടുങ്കുന്നം, ചങ്ങനാശ്ശേരി, വലച്ചുൻ കാവ്, ശാസ്താംകോയിക്കൽ കാവ്,</p>

		<p>തുകൊടിത്താനം, ചങ്ങനാശ്ശേരി എന്നീ കാവുകൾക്ക് 25,000/- രൂപ വീതം ധന സഹായം നൽകിയിട്ടുണ്ട്.</p> <p>പ്രസ്തുത പ്രവൃത്തികളുടെ ഉത്തരവുകളുടെ പകർപ്പുകൾ അനുബന്ധമായി ചുവടെ ചേർക്കുന്നു.</p>
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സെക്ഷൻ ഓഫീസർ

പദ്ധതിയുടെ പേര്	സ്ഥലം	അനുവദിച്ച തുക (രൂപയിൽ)	നിലവിലെ സ്ഥിതി
നഗരവനം	എസ്.ബി. കോളേജ് ചങ്ങനാശ്ശേരി	2,00,000	പൂർത്തീകരിച്ചു
സ്കൂൾ നാഴ്വര യോജന	പയനിയർ യു.പി. സ്കൂൾ, അയക്കാട്ടുവയൽ	65,800	പൂർത്തീകരിച്ചു

# ***Nagara Vanam* - Green Lungs for Urban and Semi-Urban Landscapes**

## **1. Introduction**

Urbanization comes with its own environmental costs. By 2050, it is expected that 70% of the world's population will be living in cities and Kerala is no exception. Cities occupy less than 3% of the global terrestrial surface, but account for 78% of carbon emissions and 60% of residential water use. Increase in water-impermeable built-up area (buildings, pavements and road using tar, mortar, concrete and steel), reduction in open green areas, increase in pedestrian & vehicular traffic, congestion, pollution, sewage & garbage etc. are the known maladies of urbanization in Kerala.

Most of our urbanized areas suffer from increased temperature through "heat island effect" that arises due to reduction in vegetation, higher prevalence of dark surfaces with low albedo and increased anthropogenic heat production. The concept of Urban Forests that are patches of greenery in urban/ semi-urban spaces that provide an umbrella of benefits ranging from recreational & educational opportunities, climate change mitigation, pollution abatement, biodiversity conservation and provisioning of ecosystem goods and services to society become important in this context. World Health Organization suggests ensuring at least a minimum availability of 9 sq. m green open space per city dweller.

Population is becoming increasingly concentrated in the urban-rural continuum of Kerala, which is marked by a striking reduction in public utility green spaces. This points to the urgent need of creating green spaces in public areas in the urban/ semi-urban landscapes. Integrating green spaces into developmental planning and urban development projects is important in this regard. Further, there has to be demonstrative green plots



in urban/ semi-urban landscapes that can subsequently be replicated by the Local Self-Government Institutions (LSGI) and other agencies. With this in view, Kerala Forest Department proposes to pilot a few such demonstrative forest patches in the urban/ semi-urban landscapes through the *Nagara Vanam* (Urban Forests) project.

These *Nagara Vanams* will be developed as multi-canopy, close to natural, forests with species indigenous to the area by incorporating the concepts of high-density planting which involves intensive planting of trees, shrubs, herbs and climbers to create dense forests in a short time. This shall be done in collaboration with LSGI, Residential Associations, Business and Commercial establishments, local organizations and will serve as a platform for educating / sensitizing the public about the ecological, biological and recreational values of forests and also help to kindle a conservationist attitude in their minds.

## **2. Aim and Objectives of *Nagara Vanam***

The over-all aim of *Nagara Vanam* project is to provide the benefits of natural forests to the urban / semi urban dwellers of Kerala by creating miniature forest patches in their surroundings through high-density planting of indigenous species, availing extensive public participation.

The specific objectives of the Programme shall be:

- 1) To create miniature forest patches in the urban/ semi-urban landscapes so as to enable the public to feel and experience forests;
- 2) To enhance green areas in the urban/ semi-urban landscapes to reduce the ill-effects of urbanization and climate change;
- 3) To demonstrate to the public about native and indigenous species, biodiversity value and ecosystem services;
- 4) To impart education and awareness to the public on the role of forests in mitigating climate change and clean environment;

- 5) To create representative vegetation in the urban/ semi-urban landscapes mimicking the original forests/ ecosystems prevalent in the area; and
- 6) To increase the aesthetic value of urban and semi-urban areas.

### **3. Operational Aspects**

#### **3.1. Key design principles**

The following are the key design principles that need to be kept in mind while developing *Nagara Vanam*:

- Miniature forests in small plots in urban/ semi-urban areas,
- Reliance on indigenous species and exclusion of exotic and invasive species
- Mimicking the natural forests in the area
- High density planting and tall seedlings
- Multi-layered canopy
- Intensive tending operations
- Quick establishment as natural forests
- Cost effective for establishment and maintenance, and
- Public participation

**3.1. Forest in small plots:** Urban areas are extremely constrained for space. So *Nagara Vanam* plots should be conceived to be developed in plots as small as minimum of five cents, upwards. The size of the plots shall be a key factor in deciding the combination of species to be planted. Depending on situations, theme based planting (eg. *Nakshathra Vanam*) can also be done. Preference shall also be given to species which attracts birds and butterflies as appropriate.

**3.2. Indigenous species:** Kerala has varied agro-ecological conditions. Indigenous species suiting to local situations has to be chosen for the *Nagara Vanam* plots. Weather conditions and status of soil are other key

considerations in this regard. An indicative list of species suitable to different soil conditions are given below:

- 3.2.1. Laterite or red soils:** Irul (*Xylia xylocarpa*), Karimaruth (*Terminelia crenulata*), Nelli (*Embllica officinalis*), Mavu (*Mangifera indica*), Plavu (*Artocarpus heterophyllus*), Njaval (*Syzygium cumini*).
- 3.2.2. Sandy soil:** Poovarasu (*Thespesia populnaea*), Nenmenivaka (*Albizia lebbek*), Ungu (*Pongamia pinnata*), Varangu (*Carallia brachiata*), Veliparuthi (*Hibiscus tiliaceus*).
- 3.2.3. Water-logged areas:** Manimaruthi (*Lagerstroemia speciosa*), Neermaruthu (*Terminia lialarjuna*), Ungu (*Pongamia pinnata*), Cholavenga (*Bischofia javanica*), Pambarakumbil (*Trewia nudiflora*).
- 3.2.4. Saline/inundated soil:** (*Avicenia officinalis*), *A. marina*, *Rhizophora mucronata*, *Acanthus elicifolius*, Blatty (*Sonneratia caseolaris*) etc.
- 3.2.5. Other suitable species:** Nanku (*Mesua ferrea*), Venkotta (*Lophopetalum wightianum*), Kattupunna (*Calophyllum trapezifolium*), Vetty (*Aporosa lindleyana*), Kara (*Elaeocarpus glandulosus*), Elichuzhy (*Diospyros microphylla*), Ebony (*Diospyros ebenum*), Moottipazham (*Baccaurea courtallensis*), Puthilanji (*Drypetes roxburghii*), Kurangumanjal (*Mallotus philippensis*), Ambazham (*Spondias pinnata*), Ooravu (*Persea macrantha*), Venthekku (*Lagerstroemia lanceolata*), Asokam (*Saraca indica*), Vayyankatha (*Flacourtia jangomas*), Kilimaram (*Commiphora caudata*), Thellipayin (*Canarium strictum*), Neermathalam (*Crateva nurvala*), Kadambu (*Anthocephalus Cadamba*), Elangi (*Mimuspos elengi*), Pali (*Palaquium ellipticum*), Malaveppu (*Azadirachta indica*), Vellakil (*Dysoxylum malabaricum*), Chandanavembu (*Toona ciliata*), Ithi (*Ficus gibbosa*), Ponnampayin (*Myristica malabarica*), Njaval (*Syzygium cumini*), Kattuchamba (*Syzygium mundagam*), Chamatha (*Butea monosperma*), Manjakadambu (*Haldina cordifolia*), Kumbil (*Gmelina arborea*), Kudampuli (*Garcinia gammi-gutta*).

**3.2.6. Medicinal plants:** Medicinal plants like Mara manjal (*Coscinium fenestratum*), Palakappayani (*Oroxylum indicum*), Thippali (*Piper longum*), Brahmi (*Bacopa monnieri*), Sathavari (*Asparagus racemosus*), Kasthurimanjal (*Curcuma aromatica*), Kattarvazha (*Aloe vera*), Chittaratha (*Alpinia galanga*), Menthonni (*Gloriosa superba*), Sandal (*Santalum album*), Chittamruthu (*Tinospora cordifolia*) etc. may also be considered.

**3.2.7. Other species:** In addition, various wild shrubs, herbs, lianas and climbers may also be planted.

**3.3. Mimicking the natural forests in the area:** As far as possible, the *Nagara Vanam* should mimic the forests natural to the area. Forests or sacred groves or other natural vegetation in the vicinity could act as reference sites for this.

**3.4. High density planting and tall seedlings:** Since these forests are going to be developed in small plots of urban/ semi-urban landscapes, high-density planting has to be resorted to. However, the selection of species for such small plots has to be based on potential crown spread, top height, shade / sun-loving nature, pioneer-climax species and tree-shrub-herb-climber considerations. Similarly, as far as possible, only tall seedlings have to be used for planting in *Nagara Vanam* plots.

**3.5. Multi-layered canopy:** Species growing in multi-layered canopy have to be carefully integrated into these forests. Again, forests or sacred groves or other natural vegetation in the vicinity could act as reference sites for this.

**3.6. Intensive tending operations:** This is the most important part of high density planting. Various types of soils viz, lateritic, sandy, water-logged, saline and clayey soils and all climatic extremities are observed in Kerala. The success of high density planting of this sort depends largely on improving the fertility of soil through methods like replacing impoverished soil with fertile top soil, adding coconut husk, coir-pith, farm yard manure, lime etc. However, only cost-effective and organic methods have to be

resorted to here. After-care shall include watering, weeding, engaging watch & ward, fencing (if needed), manuring etc.

- 3.7. **Quick establishment to natural forests:** The *Nagara Vanam* plots are to be developed into miniature natural forests as fast as possible. This is going to be the key element of the programme. Delayed establishment may mean more chances of failure of such forests.
- 3.8. **Cost effective for establishment and maintenance:** Establishing high-density forests in urban areas across the world is seen accompanied by high cost. However, considering reasons of ethics and financial prudence, it is to be kept in mind that *Nagara Vanam* project has to be an affordable, cost effective initiative suiting to the local and regional conditions that can be replicated easily.
- 3.9. **Public participation:** Social Forestry wing of the Forest Department can establish a few *Nagara Vanam* plots in each district of Kerala in various agro-climatic zones as demonstration plots. Involvement of LSGIs, Residential Associations, Business and Commercial establishments, local organizations, Industrial Units, Government Organizations etc. has to be ensured right from the beginning. Forest Department shall provide technical support to any organization willing to emulate such models in their area.
4. **Financial aspects:** A maximum of Rs.2.00 lakh per five cents for five years will be provided for this. Any additional cost for this has to be mobilized locally through donations and in-kind support.
5. **Layout of planting:** It is of paramount importance that the *Nagara Vanam* plots have to be planted methodically considering the canopy composition, species-mix etc. This may vary from region to region. An indicative lay-out is given below as example.

(L)	(S) (H) (C) (M)	(L)	(S) (H) (C) (M)	(L)	(S) (H) (C) (M)	(L)	(S) (H) (C) (M)
(S) (H) (C) (M)	(L)	(S) (H) (C) (M)	(L)	(S) (H) (C) (M)	(L)	(S) (H) (C) (M)	(L)
(L)	(S) (H) (C) (M)	(L)	(S) (H) (C) (M)	(L)	(S) (H) (C) (M)	(L)	(S) (H) (C) (M)
(S) (H) (C) (M)	(L)	(S) (H) (C) (M)	(L)	(S) (H) (C) (M)	(L)	(S) (H) (C) (M)	(L)
(L)	(S) (H) (C) (M)	(L)	(S) (H) (C) (M)	(L)	(S) (H) (C) (M)	(L)	(S) (H) (C) (M)

L – Large tree, S – Shrub, H – Herb, C – Climber, M – Medium / Small tree

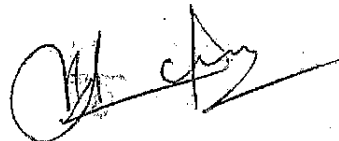
## 6. Other implementation aspects

The concept of *Nagara Vanam* is to establish miniature forests in urban/ semi-urban premises. However, participation and involvement of public, civil society organizations, Residential Associations and LSGIs are going to be the key to this programme. To ensure this, a Memorandum of Understanding can be signed with these institutions for the protection and upkeep of these forests in the long-term. These forests, once developed and established, can also act as nature education areas for the public.

Only organic methods shall be used to increase soil fertility. Exotic species shall not be used. Vegetative planting materials of shrubs, herbs and climbers collected from the region shall also be used. Poly bags shall be discouraged completely and bio-degradable materials shall be promoted as containers for raising planting material.

- 6.1. **Soil testing:** Assessment of the site quality before taking up the initiative, through soil testing is desirable. The selection of species and silvicultural operations to be carried out can be decided based on the results.
- 6.2. **Watering arrangements:** This is essential for the initial years to ensure the success of establishing the *Nagara Vanam* plots. Appropriate methods shall be employed depending on site-specificity.
- 6.3. **Maintaining records:** There has to be a Journal for each *Nagara Vanam* plot maintained by the institutions involved. This Journal shall record all activities being carried out in the *Nagara Vanam* along with photographs and other details. Forest Department can guide the organizations in this regard.
- 6.4. **Assistance for replication:** To replicate *Nagara Vanam* in their institution, a list of species that can be planted shall be provided to the interested parties by the Forest Department. Techniques of raising seedlings and planting stock shall also be imparted to interested agencies by the Department.

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Principal Chief Conservator of Forests  
Head of Forest Force  
Forest Headquarters  
Thiruvananthapuram - 14



2682/2017/BDC  
1851/2017/h

# GOVERNMENT OF KERALA

## Abstract

Forest & Wildlife Department- Implementation of Biodiversity Programme- Guidelines - Revised-Orders Issued.

## FOREST & WILDLIFE (E) DEPARTMENT

G.O.(Rt) No.485/2016/F&WLD

Dated ,Thiruvananthapuram ,24.12.2016

- Read:-
1. G.O(Rt.) No: 402/2010/F&WLD dated 14.09.2010
  - 2.G.O.(Rt.) 354/2013/F&WLD dated 12.09.2013
  - 3.Minutes of the Chief Conservator of Forests Council Meeting held on 29.06.2016
  4. Letter No: BDC1-17000/2015 dated 29.07.2016 from the Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (Wildlife ) & Chief Wildlife Warden.

## ORDER

As per the Government order read as 1<sup>st</sup> above, Government have issued administrative sanction and Guidelines for implementation of the following schemes under "Biodiversity Conservation Programme"

1. protection of sacred groves.
2. Conservation of mangroves.
3. Identification of oldest tree, raising platform and displaying information board.

These guidelines were later revised vide Government Order read as 2<sup>nd</sup> above for the implementation of the scheme "Protection and conservation of sacred groves" for extending financial support to the owners of sacred groves, with a view to preserve the Kavus, the rich repository of biological resources.

Now vide paper read as 4<sup>th</sup> above, the Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (Wildlife )& Chief Wildlife Warden has requested Government to reconstitute the State Level Expert Committees, with Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (Social Forestry) as the Chairman, for selection of sacred groves, for financial assistance and Vanamitra award, in place of Additional Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (Biodiversity Cell), and to issue modified guidelines accordingly.

Government have examined the matter in detail and are pleased to reconstitute the above committee with Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (Social Forestry) as the Chairman in place of Additional Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (Biodiversity Cell) and the guidelines are modified accordingly. The revised guidelines are appended herewith.

(By Order of the Governor)  
P.MARA PANDIYAN

Additional Chief Secretary to Government

PCCF (GZ) & CWLD  
PCCF (SP)

To

The Principal Chief Conservator of Forests & Head of Forest Force, Thiruvananthapuram.

9/1

(GZ) & CWLD

11/11/16

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11/11/16

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The Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (Development), Thiruvananthapuram  
The Additional Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (Biodiversity Cell),  
Thiruvananthapuram.

The Director, Kerala Forest Research Institute, Peechi

The Director, Jawaharlal Nehru Tropical Botanic Garden and Research Institute, Palattu

The President, Travencore Devaswam Board

The President, Malabar Devaswam Board.

The President, Ayyappaseva Sanghom.

The Accountant General (A & E/Audit), Thiruvananthapuram.

The Finance Department (Agri-B wing)

The Planning and Economic Affairs (A) Department.

Revenue Devaswam Department.

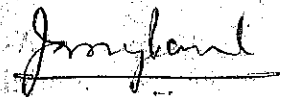
LSG (Agri) Department

The Web & New Media Division, I&PRD

Forest & Wildlife (D) Department.

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Section Officer

INTERNATIONAL BIODIVERSITY CAMPAIGN GUIDELINES FOR IMPLEMENTING  
SCHEMES UNDER BIODIVERSITY CONSERVATION

1. GUIDELINES FOR SELECTING AND DECLARING OLDEST TREE (MARAMUTHASSY)

The intent of this scheme is to attract public attention and appreciation to old trees of the locality. In many locations across the state, especially in urban areas, very old trees are surviving amidst growing pressure. These trees have been providing ecological services over the years to society. An opportunity is provided to society to appreciate and express gratitude for the tree for the ecosystem services and produce given to society over these years. This will help build a bond between man and trees over the long term. This will result in improved protection of trees by society.

In short, programme will provide an opportunity for community, especially the children, to honour, revere and appreciate these trees for the selfless service provided to society over the years.

The following guidelines are issued for selection and declaration of Maramuthassy in each District.

- The Assistant Conservator of Forests (Social Forestry) in the respective District shall be the Authorized officer for inviting nominations, processing the same for finally declaring the Maramuthassy of the district.
- Assistant conservator of Forests (Social Forestry) will address all the Grama Panchayats in the District concerned to recommend oldest tree with respect to each local body.
- Any NGO/individual/institution can submit nomination for selecting a particular tree in their locality to declare as maramuthassy to the respective Grama Panchayath.
- Nominations for Maramuthassy shall be selected from amongst those trees located in public land, premises of schools, offices/public/government institutions etc. Selection shall be based on age followed by ratify and uniqueness.
- Only one tree will be selected and declared as Maramuthassy in each District.
- Wide publicity shall be given by the Assistant Conservator of Forests (Social Forestry) in inviting nominations for trees to be identified as Maramuthassy.
- The nominations shall be screened by a District Level Committee comprising of Assistant

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Conservator of Forests (Social Forestry) or Chairman of the Representative of Panchayat (2) . An elderly cultural leader of the District (3) , Representative of an NGO/ organization (4) or an environmental NGO or an NGO of the District as members.

- The Additional Principal Chief Conservator of Forests / Chief Conservator of Forests (Social Forestry) having jurisdiction of the area shall constitute the District Level Committee for screening the nominations.
- The selected tree along with a proposal covering various aspects viz: vernacular name, scientific name, cultural / biological significance, age, height, girth and other features, criteria for selecting the tree etc. shall be submitted to the Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (Social Forestry), who will submit proposal for all the districts to the Government for approval and notification.
- An information board covering its name, age, taxonomy, distribution, ecological value and economic significance etc. may be displayed in front of the Maramuthassy notified so as to provide basic information for the benefit of the public.
- Suitable platform around the tree may be provided for protection and aesthetic appearance. The platform shall be made of Laterite stone and plastering shall be avoided.
- The platform shall be made with adequate precaution against tampering with or damaging the roots of the tree.
- A public programme for honouring and appreciating the services provided by the tree over the years with the full participation of local school children and community shall be organized for declaring the Maramuthassy. This can be developed as an annual event.

## 2. REVISED GUIDELINES FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE SCHEME FOR PROTECTION AND CONSERVATION OF SACRED GROVES.

Sacred groves are rich repositories of biological resources that have been preserved in their pristine conditions by religious belief of the community. These sacred groves are under severe pressure and require support for their conservation. Most of these groves are preserved despite many pressures and the owners need to be appreciated and recognized by society for their conservation efforts. It is proposed to provide financial support to owners of sacred groves and initiate Awards for the best managed groves by inviting applications /nominations after wide publicity where necessary support for activities such as for documentation of flora and fauna, awareness creation, protection activities, rebuilding lost / degraded sacred groves, giving incentives and awards etc.

1. The Scheme will be taken up in accordance with the guidelines issued by the Government for implementation of the Centrally Sponsored Scheme under the "Intensification of Forest Management Scheme" for protection and conservation of Sacred Groves as and when the funds

are received from the Government of India , as well as for implementing the scheme under conservation of Biodiversity funds by State Government.

2. The Scheme will be co-ordinated and monitored by the Social Forestry Wing of the Kerala Forest Department.
3. The Scheme will be implemented through the respective Assistant Conservator of Forests (Social Forestry) of each district.
4. The Assistant Conservator of Forests (Social Forestry) of each District will give wide publicity about the scheme so as to invite maximum applications.
5. The interested Devaswam /Owners/temple trusts shall apply to the Assistant Conservator of Forests(Social Forestry) of the concerned District in prescribed format. Those who were selected for financial support during the previous years will not be considered under this scheme.
6. The Assistant Conservator of Forests (Social Forestry) will shortlist 5 applicants in each District based on extent in area and biodiversity value for long term conservation.
7. The owners/trusts of 5 short listed sacred groves will prepare a proposal/Micro plan for protection and conservation of the concerned sacred grove in consultation with the Assistant Conservator of Forests.
8. In the case when any District failed in submitting 5 proposals before the expert committee, the sacred groves having maximum extent among the applications received in other Districts will be considered for financial support.

9. A State Level Expert Committee will be set up comprising the following

- i. Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (Social Forestry) – Chair Person.
- ii. Director, Kerala Forest Research Institute, Peechi or his nominee.
- iii. Director, JNTBGRI, Palode or his nominee.
- iv. Deputy Conservator of Forests (Wild Life)
- v. Prof. Sobheendran , Environmentalist.
- vi. Prof. E. Kunhikrishnan , Subject Expert.
- vii. The President, Travencore Devaswam Board or his nominee.
- viii. The President, Malabar Devaswam Board or his nominee.
- ix. The President , Ayyappaswam Sanghom or his nominee.

The State Level Committee Shall:

- i. Scrutinize , evaluate and recommend in order of priority , sacred groves in each District for long term and one time support under the Scheme.
- ii. Approve the proposal/Micro Plan/Management Plan for each sacred grove.
- iii. Render any other advise sought for by Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (Social Forestry).

10. Proposal along with detailed estimate (Sanctioned by competent authority of the Social Forestry Wing) will be prepared with technical support of the Assistant Conservator of Forests (Social Forestry).
11. The owners / Trusts of the Sacred Groves selected for support under the Scheme will enter into an Agreement with the First Party (Copy of the Agreement enclosed) prior to the commencement of the programme.
12. Prior to signing of agreement the owner /trust /Devaswams shall produce relevant documents to prove ownership of the sacred groves.
13. The fund requirement will be made available through the respective Assistant Conservator of Forests (Social Forestry).
14. On signing the Agreement , 10% of the total project cost subject to a maximum of Rs. 25,000/- will be released as 1<sup>st</sup> installment for arranging the works. Subsequent installment shall be made as when required by the beneficiary on production of vouchers and records for the completed works subject to a minimum of 25% of the total project cost. First installment shall be adjusted in the final claim. In case of proposals requiring Rs.25000/- or below , the entire amount shall be released on production of proper vouchers.
15. The Devaswam /trusts/owner/managing the sacred groves shall maintain proper accounts and vouchers with respect to the expenditure incurred under the scheme and shall produce the same for inspection, as and when required by the First Party, the Assistant Conservator of Forests (Social Forestry) . The Owner /Trustee/ Devaswam signing the Agreement shall be liable for this.
16. In case of breach of conditions of Agreement , the agreement shall be terminated after giving an opportunity to be heard and the amount released to the owner /Trustee/Devaswam in so far has not been utilized as per approved proposal shall be refunded to the Government forthwith as determined by the Assistant Conservator of Forests (Social Forestry).
17. The Scheme will be monitored by the **Social Forestry Wing** and evaluated by the Vigilance wing of the Kerala Forest Department.

### 3. GUIDELINES FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE SCHEME FOR PROTECTION AND CONSERVATION OF SACRED GROVES.

A scheme has been prepared for conservation of mangroves with the following components:

1. *Providing incentives to the owners for maintaining mangroves.*
2. *Financial Support for regeneration activities.*
3. *Entry point activities.*

4. *Extension and awareness.*

Mangroves are rich repositories of biological resources having structural adaptations and physiological characteristics, enabling them to thrive in the estuarine habitats. Kerala coast once supported a large tract of mangrove vegetation. Kerala once had 700 sq.km of mangrove forests, which now has dwindled, to a great extent.

It is proposed to support the owners of mangrove areas by awarding monetary incentives at the rate of Rs.4000 per acre for their noble gesture of maintaining the existing mangroves and protecting them from destruction and making available the ecosystem services from these mangroves to society.

1. The scheme will be co-ordinated and monitored by Social Forestry wing of the Kerala Forest Department.
2. The Scheme will be implemented through the respective Assistant Conservator of Forests (Social Forestry) of each District.
3. The Assistant Conservator of Forests (Social Forestry) of each District will invite application by giving wide publicity about the scheme through the media.
4. The interested owners shall apply to the Assistant Conservator of Forests (Social Forestry) of the concerned District in the prescribed format along with the proof of original ownership (title deed, tax receipt and a certificate from the village officer stating ownership of land) and a sketch of the area.
5. The owners of selected mangroves with the assistance of the Assistant Conservator of Forests (Social Forestry) will prepare a detailed sketch of the area indicating the details of the mangroves present and activities proposed to ensure their conservation.
6. A District Committee will be set up comprising the following :
  - i. Assistant Conservator of Forests (Social Forestry) -- Chairman
  - ii. Representative of District Panchayath - Member
  - iii. Representative of Research Institution - Member
  - iv. Representative of Reputed NGO - Member
7. The Additional Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (Social Forestry) / Conservator of Forests (Social Forestry) having jurisdiction over the area will approve the composition of the District Committee.
8. The District Committee shall scrutinize, evaluate and select the mangroves to be supported in each District under the scheme. The District Committee will decide on the extent of the

- mangroves and the amount of incentive to be paid to the owner of the mangrove.
9. The owners of mangroves selected for support under the scheme will enter into an MoU with the Assistant Conservator of Forests (Social Forestry) prior to the commencement of the programme.
  10. The Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (Social Forests) will make available necessary fund to owners through the respective Assistant Conservator of Forests (Social Forestry).
  11. The owners shall sign an MoU with the Assistant Conservator of Forests (Social Forestry) at the time of giving the seedlings for planting in their land to the effect that the seedlings planted will be protected for one year before the incentive for surviving seedlings can be given.

**4. GUIDELINES FOR THE SELECTION OF VANAMITHRA AWARD FOR BEST PRACTICES IN BIODIVERSITY CONSERVATION.**

- a. The Assistant Conservator of Forests (Social Forestry) shall give wide publicity in this regard.
- b. Application for consideration shall be submitted to the Assistant Conservator of Forests (Social Forestry) of the concerned District.
- c. Individuals, Educational Institutions, NGOs, farmers etc. will be considered for the award. They are required to furnish a note justifying the claim for the award including photographs.
- d. The Assistant Conservator of Forests (Social Forestry) shall scrutinize the applications received and recommend two nominations after field verification before the state level committee along with his recommendations.
- e. There will be only one award in each district.
- f. Selection will be done by a State Level Expert Committee comprising the following members viz., Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (Social Forestry) (Chairman), one representative each from Kerala Forest Research Institute (KFRI), Kerala Agricultural University and Jawaharlal Nehru Tropical Botanic Garden (JNTBGRI), Deputy Conservator of Forests (Wildlife) and an environmentalist as members. The decision of the Expert Committee will be final.
- g. Activities which contributed to the conservation of the biodiversity values of the locality viz., conservation of sacred groves, mangroves, medicinal plants, agro-biodiversity etc. will be considered for awards.



# *Vidhya Vanam* - Educational Forests

## 1. Introduction

Urbanization comes with its own environmental costs. By 2050, it is expected that 70% of the world's population will be living in cities and Kerala is no exception. Cities occupy less than 3% of the global terrestrial surface, but account for 78% of carbon emissions and 60% of residential water use. Increase in water-impermeable built-up area (buildings, pavements and roads using tar, mortar, concrete and steel), reduction in open green areas, increase in pedestrian & vehicular traffic, congestion, pollution, sewage & garbage etc. are the known maladies of urbanization in Kerala.

Most of our urbanized areas suffer from increased temperature through "heat island effect" that arises due to reduction in vegetation, higher prevalence of dark surfaces with low albedo and increased anthropogenic heat production. The concept of Urban Forests that are patches of greenery in urban/ semi-urban spaces that provide an umbrella of benefits ranging from recreational & educational opportunities, climate change mitigation, pollution abatement, biodiversity conservation and provisioning of ecosystem goods and services to society become important in this context. World Health Organization suggests ensuring at least a minimum availability of 9 sq. m green open space per city dweller.

Population is becoming increasingly concentrated in the urban-rural continuum of Kerala, which is marked by a striking reduction in public utility green spaces. This points to the urgent need of creating green spaces in public areas in the urban/ semi-urban landscapes. Integrating green spaces into developmental planning and urban development projects is important in this regard.

Today's children are tomorrow's torch-bearers of conservation. Keeping this in view, in order to connect children to nature, Kerala Forest Department had introduced the concept of 'Forestry Clubs' in the Schools during early 1980s. There are over one thousand Forestry Clubs existing



across the State. It is felt that the functioning of these Forestry Clubs needs to be revived along with establishing new Clubs wherever they are not formed till now. With this in view, Forest Department has recently initiated a programme to revive and expand the activities of Forestry Clubs in Kerala through “Mission Forestry Clubs”.

The overall aim of this Mission is to promote a sense of awareness, belongingness and participation among students in learning and experiencing nature, forests, biodiversity and conservation by reviving and expanding the network of the Forestry Clubs in the schools of Kerala. Forestry Clubs shall be a forum for students to come together and organize themselves to learn and act on forests and environment related issues.

One of the activities proposed for the Forestry Clubs is establishing miniature forests in the premises of schools and colleges. These demonstrative green plots in school/ college premises shall be known as *Vidhya Vanam* (educational forests). Such forests are to be developed as multi-canopy forests with species indigenous to the area by incorporating the concepts of high-density planting, viz, intensive planting of trees, herbs, shrubs and climbers to create dense forests, in a short time. They can serve as a platform for educating / sensitizing the students about the ecological, biological and recreational values of forests and also help to kindle a conservationist attitude in their minds.

## **2. Aim and Objectives of *Vidhya Vanam***

The over-all aim of *Vidhya Vanam* programme is to inculcate, in the future leaders of the country, love for forests and nature by creating miniature forest patches in school / college premises through high-density planting of indigenous species with their active participation.

The specific objectives of the programme shall be:

- 1) To create miniature forest patches in the school/ college premises so as to enable the students to feel and experience forests;

- 2) To provide hands-on experience to the students on various aspects of raising forests.
- 3) To enhance green areas in the school / college premises to reduce the ill-effects of urbanization and climate change;
- 4) To demonstrate to the students about native and indigenous species, biodiversity value and ecosystem services;
- 5) To impart education and awareness to the students on the role of forests in mitigating climate change and clean environment;
- 6) To increase the aesthetic value of school/ college premises.

### **3. Operational Aspects**

#### **3.1. Key design principles**

The following are the key design principles that need to be kept in mind while developing *Vidhya Vanam*:

- Miniature forests in small plots in school / college premises
- Reliance on indigenous species and exclusion of exotic and invasive species
- Mimicking the natural forests in the area
- High density planting and tall seedlings
- Multi-layered canopy
- Intensive tending operations
- Quick establishment as natural forests
- Low-cost for establishment and maintenance
- Public participation
- Theme based planting
- Organic methods and inputs, and
- Voluntary inputs and learning-by-doing.

**3.1. Forests in small plots:** Most of the school/ college premises may be able to spare only small patches of land for developing *Vidhya Vanam*. They



are conceived to be developed in plots as small as five cents, upwards. The size of the plots shall be a key factor in deciding the combination of species to be planted. Depending on situations, theme based planting (eg. *Nakshathra Vanam*) can also be done. Preference shall also be given to species which attract birds and butterflies and also medicinal plants as appropriate.

**3.2. Indigenous species:** Kerala has varied agro-ecological conditions. Indigenous species suiting to local situations has to be chosen for the *Vidhya Vanam* plots. Weather conditions and status of soil are other key considerations in this regard. An indicative list of species suitable to different soil conditions are given below:

**3.2.1. Laterite or red soils:** Irul (*Xylia xylocarpa*), Karimaruth (*Terminelia crenulata*), Nelli (*Emblica officinalis*), Mavu (*Mangifera indica*), Plavu (*Artocarpus heterophyllus*), Njaval (*Syzygium cumini*).

**3.2.2. Sandy soil:** Poovarasu (*Thespesia populnaea*), Nenmenivaka (*Albizia lebbeck*), Ungu (*Pongamia pinnata*), Varangu (*Carallia brachiata*), Veliparuthi (*Hibiscus tiliaceus*).

**3.2.3. Water-logged areas:** Manimaruthi (*Lagerstroemia speciosa*), Neermaruthu (*Terminalia arjuna*), Ungu (*Pongamia pinnata*), Cholavenga (*Bischofia javanica*), Pambarakumbil (*Trewia nudiflora*)

**3.2.4. Saline/inundated soil:** (*Avicenia officinalis*, *A. marina*), *Rhizophora mucronata*, *Acanthus elicifolius*, Blatty (*Sonneratia caseolaris*) etc.

**3.2.5. Other suitable species:** Nanku (*Mesua ferrea*), Venkotta (*Lophopetalum wightianum*), Kattupunna (*Calophyllum trapezifolium*), Vetty (*Aporosa lindleyana*), Kara (*Elaeocarpus glandulosus*), Elichuzhy (*Diospyros microphylla*), Ebony (*Diospyros ebenum*), Moottipazham (*Baccaurea courtallensis*), Puthilanji (*Drypetes roxburghii*), Kurangumanjal (*Mallotus philippensis*), Ambazham (*Spondias pinnata*), Ooravu (*Persea macrantha*), Venthekku (*Lagerstroemia lanceolata*), Asokam (*Saraca indica*), Vayyankatha (*Flacourtia jangomas*), Kilimaram (*Commiphora caudata*), Thellipayin (*Canarium strictum*), Neermathalam (*Crateva*

nurvala), Kadambu (*Anthocephalus cadamba*), Elangi (*Mimuspos elengi*), Pali (*Palaquium ellipticum*), Veppu (*Azadirachta indica*), Vellakil (*Dysoxylum malabaricum*), Chandanavembu (*Toona ciliata*), Ithi (*Ficus gibbosa*), Ponnampayin (*Myristica malabarica*), Njaval (*Syzygium cumini*), Kattuchamba (*Syzygium mundagam*), Chamatha (*Butea monosperma*), Manjakadambu (*Haldina cordifolia*), Kumbil (*Gmelina arborea*), Kudampuli (*Garcinia gammi-gutta*).

**3.2.6. Medicinal plants:** Medicinal plants like Mara manjal (*Coscinium fenestratum*), Palakappayani (*Oroxylum indicum*), Thippali (*Piper longum*), Brahmi (*Bacopa monnieri*), Sathavari (*Asparagus racemosus*), Kasthurimanjal (*Curcuma aromatica*), Kattarvazha (*Aloe vera*), Chittaratha (*Alpinia galanga*), Menthonni (*Gloriosa superba*), Sandal (*Santalum album*), Chittamruthu (*Tinospora cordifolia*) etc. may also be considered.

**3.2.7. Other species:** In addition, various wild shrubs, herbs, lianas and climbers may also be planted.

**3.3. Mimicking the natural forests in the area:** As far as possible, the *Vidhya Vanam* should mimic forests natural to the area. Forests or sacred groves or other natural vegetation in the vicinity could act as reference sites for this.

**3.4. High density planting and tall seedlings:** Since these forests are going to be developed in small plots of school/ college premises, high-density planting has to be resorted to. However, the selection of species for such small plots has to be based on potential crown spread, top height, shade/ sun-loving nature, pioneer-climax species and tree-shrub-herb-climber considerations. Similarly, as far as possible, only tall seedlings have to be used for planting in *Vidhya Vanam* plots.

**3.5. Multi-layered canopy:** Species growing in multi-layered canopy have to be carefully integrated into these forests. Again, forests or sacred groves or other natural vegetation in the vicinity could act as reference sites for this.



**3.6. Intensive tending operations:** This is the most important part of high density planting. Various types of soils viz, lateritic, sandy, water-logged, saline and clayey soils and all climatic extremities are observed in Kerala. The success of high density planting of this sort depends largely on improving the fertility of soil through methods like replacing impoverished soil with fertile top soil, adding coconut husk, coir-pith, farm yard manure, lime etc. However, only cost-effective and organic methods have to be resorted to here. After-care shall include watering, weeding, engaging watch & ward, fencing (if needed), manuring etc.

**3.7. Quick establishment to natural forests:** The *Vidhya Vanam* plots are to be developed into miniature natural forests as fast as possible. This is one the key element of the programme. Delayed establishment may mean more chances of failure of such forests.

**3.8. Cost effective establishment and maintenance:** Establishing high-density forests in urban areas across the world is seen accompanied by high cost. However, considering reasons of ethics and financial prudence, it is to be kept in mind that *Vidhya Vanam* project has to be an affordable, cost effective initiative suiting to the local and regional conditions that can be replicated easily.

**3.9. Public participation:** Social Forestry wing of the Forest Department, through the Forestry Clubs, can establish *Vidhya Vanam* in two schools / colleges in each district of the State as demonstration plots.

#### **4. Financial aspects:**

A maximum of Rs.2.00 lakh per five cents for five years will be provided for this. The funds for this will be routed through Forestry Clubs in phases based on progress and need. Any additional cost for this has to be mobilized locally through in-kind support.

**5. Layout of planting:** It is of paramount importance that the *Vidhya Vanam* plots have to be planted methodically considering the canopy composition, species-mix etc. This may vary from region to region. An indicative layout is given below, as guidance.

(L)	(S) (H) (C) (M)	(L)	(S) (H) (C) (M)	(L)	(S) (H) (C) (M)	(L)	(S) (H) (C) (M)
(S) (H) (C) (M)	(L)	(S) (H) (C) (M)	(L)	(S) (H) (C) (M)	(L)	(S) (H) (C) (M)	(L)
(L)	(S) (H) (C) (M)	(L)	(S) (H) (C) (M)	(L)	(S) (H) (C) (M)	(L)	(S) (H) (C) (M)
(S) (H) (C) (M)	(L)	(S) (H) (C) (M)	(L)	(S) (H) (C) (M)	(L)	(S) (H) (C) (M)	(L)
(L)	(S) (H) (C) (M)	(L)	(S) (H) (C) (M)	(L)	(S) (H) (C) (M)	(L)	(S) (H) (C) (M)

L – Large tree, S – Shrub, H – Herb, C – Climber, M – Medium / Small tree

## 6. Other implementation aspects

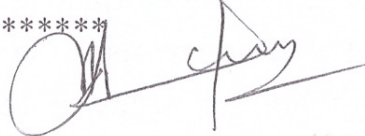
The concept of *Vidhya Vanam* is to establish miniature natural forests in school/ college premises. Hence, participation and involvement of students through Forestry Clubs is the key to this programme. To ensure this, a Memorandum of Understanding can be signed with Forestry Clubs for the protection and upkeep of these forests in the long-term. These forests, once developed and established, can also act as nature education areas for the students.

Only organic methods shall be used to increase soil fertility. Exotic species shall not be used. Vegetative planting materials of shrubs, herbs and climbers collected from the region shall also be used. Poly bags shall be discouraged completely and bio-degradable materials shall be promoted as containers for raising planting material.



- 6.1. **Soil testing:** Assessment of the soil quality before taking up the initiative, through soil testing is desirable. The selection of species and silvicultural operations to be carried out can be decided based on the results.
- 6.2. **Watering arrangement:** This is essential for the initial years to ensure the success of establishing the *Vidhya Vanam* plots. Appropriate methods shall be employed depending on site-specificity.
- 6.3. **Maintaining records:** There has to be a Journal for each *Vidhya Vanam* plot maintained by the institutions involved. This Journal shall record all activities being carried out in the *Vidhya Vanam* along with photographs and other details. Forest Department can guide the organizations in this regard.
- 6.4. **Assistance for replication:** To replicate *Vidhya Vanam* in their institutions, a list of species that can be planted shall be provided to the interested parties by the Forest Department. Techniques of raising seedlings and planting stock shall also be imparted to interested agencies by the Department.

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Principal Chief Conservator of Forests  
Head of Forest Force  
Forest Headquarters  
Thiruvananthapuram 14

24 FEB 2022

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സംഗ്രഹം

വനം വന്യജീവി വകുപ്പ് - വനം വകുപ്പ് - മഹാത്മാഗാന്ധി ദേശീയ ഗ്രാമീണ തൊഴിലുറപ്പ് പദ്ധതിയുമായി സംയോജിപ്പിച്ചുള്ള വൃക്ഷത്തെ ഉൽപാദനം/ നദീതീര/പരിപാലനം - വൃക്ഷ സമൃദ്ധി പദ്ധതി - പ്രൊപ്പോസൽ അംഗീകരിച്ച് ഉത്തരവാകുന്നു.

വനം വന്യജീവി (ഇ) വകുപ്പ്

സ.ഉ.(സാധാ) നം.52/2022/F&WLD തീയതി,തിരുവനന്തപുരം, 16-02-2022

- പരാമർശം:-
1. വന്യജീവി വകുപ്പ് മന്ത്രിയുടെ അദ്ധ്യക്ഷതയിൽ ബഹു.വനം വന്യജീവി വകുപ്പ് മന്ത്രിയുടെ സാന്നിധ്യത്തിൽ 14.09.2021 തീയതിയിൽ നടന്ന യോഗത്തിന്റെ നടപടിക്കുറിപ്പ്.
  2. പ്രിൻസിപ്പൽ ചീഫ് ഫോറസ്റ്റ് കൺസർവേറ്റർ (പ്ലാനിംഗ് & ഡവലപ്പ്മെന്റ്)-ടെ 09.11.2021 , 4/12/2021 തീയതികളിലെ എസ്.എ2-78/2021 നമ്പർ കത്ത്.
  3. സ.ഉ (സാധാ) നം.2373/2021/ത.സ്വ.ഭ.വകുപ്പ്, തീയതി 24/11/2021
  4. വനസേനാമേധാവിയുടെ 01.2.2022 തീയതിയിലെ എസ്.എ2-782 /2021 നമ്പർ കത്ത്

ഉത്തരവ്

വനം-തദ്ദേശ സ്വയം ഭരണ വകുപ്പുകൾ സംയുക്തമായി വനവൽക്കരണ പരിപാലന പ്രവർത്തനങ്ങൾ നടത്തുന്നതിനും ഇതിലേയ്ക്കായി തൊഴിലുറപ്പ് പദ്ധതിയിൽ ഉൾപ്പെടുത്തി വൃക്ഷത്തെ ഉൽപ്പാദിപ്പിക്കുന്നതിനുള്ള നടപടികൾ സ്വീകരിക്കുന്നതിനും പരാമർശം (1) പ്രകാരം തീരുമാനമായിട്ടുണ്ട്. ഇതിൻപ്രകാരം സോഷ്യൽ ഫോറസ്റ്റി വിഭാഗം ഉദ്യോഗസ്ഥർ, മഹാത്മാഗാന്ധി ദേശീയ തൊഴിലുറപ്പ് പദ്ധതി സ്റ്റേറ്റ് മിഷൻ ജോയിന്റ് ഡയറക്ടർ, ജില്ലാ കോർഡിനേറ്റർമാർ എന്നിവർ യോഗം ചേർന്ന് വനം-തദ്ദേശസ്വയം ഭരണ വകുപ്പ് തലത്തിലും ദേശീയ തൊഴിലുറപ്പ് പദ്ധതി സ്റ്റേറ്റ് മിഷൻ തലത്തിലും കൈക്കൊള്ളേണ്ട നടപടികളെ കുറിച്ച് ധാരണ ഉണ്ടാക്കിയിട്ടുള്ളതായും ചെയ്യേണ്ടുന്ന പ്രവർത്തനങ്ങൾക്കായി സമയക്രമം നിശ്ചയിച്ച് നൽകിയതായും പരാമർശം(2) പ്രകാരം പ്രിൻസിപ്പൽ ചീഫ് ഫോറസ്റ്റ് കൺസർവേറ്റർ (പ്ലാനിംഗ് & ഡവലപ്പ്മെന്റ്) റിപ്പോർട്ട് ചെയ്തിട്ടുണ്ട്.

വനം വകുപ്പ് സോഷ്യൽഫോറസ്റ്റി വിഭാഗവും തൊഴിലുറപ്പ് പദ്ധതിയും സംയുക്തമായി ഏറ്റെടുക്കുന്ന വനവൽക്കരണ പ്രവർത്തനങ്ങളുടെ ഭാഗമായി, വൃക്ഷത്തെ നല്ലിനങ്ങൾ സ്ഥാപിക്കുന്നതിനുള്ള പ്രാരംഭ പ്രവർത്തനങ്ങൾക്കാവശ്യമായ സാധന സാമഗ്രികൾക്കുള്ള ചെലവ് ഓരോ പഞ്ചായത്തുകൾക്കും അവരവരുടെ സാഹചര്യം വിലയിരുത്തി ഗ്രാമ/ബ്ലോക്ക് പഞ്ചായത്തുകളുടെ തനത് ഫണ്ടിൽ നിന്നോ ദേശീയ തൊഴിലുറപ്പ് പദ്ധതിയുടെ സാധന ഘടകത്തിൽ നിന്നോ ചെലവഴിക്കുവാൻ പരാമർശം (3)

PSD  
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HOF  
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23/2  
PCCF (P&D)  
2/3/22

PCCF (SF)	
DCF (SF)	
LCF (TSE)	
LCF (E)	
LA (SF)	
SECTION	



പ്രകാരം അനുവാദം നൽകി തദ്ദേശ സ്വയം ഭരണ വകുപ്പ് ഉത്തരവായിരുന്നു. മേൽ പദ്ധതിയിൻകീഴിൽ നല്ലി സ്ഥാപിക്കുന്നതിനുവേണ്ടി സാങ്കേതിക സഹായവും നല്ലിയാവശ്യമായ വിത്തും വനംവകുപ്പ് വാങ്ങി കൊടുക്കേണ്ടതായിട്ടുണ്ടെന്നും തുടക്കം എന്ന നിലയിൽ നല്ലിയിനം വിത്തുകൾ നല്ലി ഉൽപ്പാദനത്തിനായി വനം വകുപ്പിൽ നിന്നും നൽകേണ്ടതായി വരുമെന്നും, കൂടാതെ രണ്ട് വകുപ്പുകളുടെയും സംയോജിത പ്രവർത്തനത്തിന് സാങ്കേതിക സഹായം നൽകേണ്ടതുണ്ടെന്നും, ആയതിനാൽ ഈ വിഷയത്തിൽ കൂടുതൽ വ്യക്തത വരുത്തേണ്ടതുണ്ടെന്നും പരാമർശം (2) പ്രകാരം പ്രിൻസിപ്പൽ ചീഫ് ഫോറസ്റ്റ് കൺസർവേറ്റർ (പ്ലാനിംഗ് & ഡവലപ്പ്മെന്റ്) ആവശ്യപ്പെട്ടിരുന്നു. തുടർന്ന് ഇക്കാര്യങ്ങൾ ശുപാർശ ചെയ്ത് 'വൃക്ഷ സമൃദ്ധി പദ്ധതി' എന്ന പേരിൽ സമഗ്രമായ ഒരു പ്രൊപ്പോസൽ പരാമർശം (5) പ്രകാരം വനസേനാമേധാവി സമർപ്പിച്ചിരുന്നു. കേന്ദ്ര സർക്കാർ കാലാകാലങ്ങളിൽ നിശ്ചയിക്കുന്ന മഹാത്മാഗാന്ധി ദേശീയ ഗ്രാമീണ തൊഴിലുറപ്പ് പദ്ധതിയുടെ മാർഗ്ഗ നിർദ്ദേശങ്ങൾക്ക് വിധേയമായി വരും വർഷങ്ങളിലും വൃക്ഷത്തെ നല്ലികൾ സ്ഥാപിക്കുന്നതിന് തൈകൾ നട്ട് 5 വർഷം വരെ പരിപാലിക്കുന്നതിനും തദ്ദേശ സ്വയം ഭരണ-വന്യജീവി വകുപ്പുകളുടെ സംയോജിത പ്രവർത്തനം ആവിഷ്കരിക്കുന്നതിനും തദ്ദേശസ്വയം ഭരണ വകുപ്പും യോജിപ്പ് അറിയിച്ചിട്ടുണ്ട്.

സർക്കാർ ഇക്കാര്യം വിശദമായി പരിശോധിച്ചു. വനേതര പ്രദേശങ്ങളിൽ, പ്രത്യേകിച്ചും പൊതു/സ്വകാര്യ ഉടമസ്ഥതയിലുള്ള പ്രദേശങ്ങളിൽ വൃക്ഷ വൽക്കരണ പരിപാല പ്രവർത്തനങ്ങൾ പ്രോത്സാഹിപ്പിച്ച് കേരളത്തിന്റെ ഹരിതാഭ വർദ്ധിപ്പിക്കാൻ ലക്ഷ്യമിടുന്ന, വനം-തദ്ദേശ സ്വയം ഭരണ വകുപ്പും മഹാത്മാഗാന്ധി ദേശീയ ഗ്രാമീണ തൊഴിലുറപ്പ് പദ്ധതിയും സംയോജിച്ചുള്ള 'വൃക്ഷ സമൃദ്ധി പദ്ധതിയ്ക്ക് അനുമതി നൽകി; ടി പ്രവൃത്തികളിൽ വനം വകുപ്പിന്റെ ചുമതലകൾ ചുവടെ ചേർക്കും വിധം വ്യക്തമാക്കി ഉത്തരവാകുന്നു.

- പദ്ധതിയുടെ പ്രാരംഭ വർഷത്തിൽ (2022 നീൽ വർഷത്തേയ്ക്ക് മാത്രമായി) മദർബൈഡ് നല്ലിയാവശ്യമായ ഗുണമേന്മയുള്ളതും യോജിച്ചതുമായ തൈകളും നീൽ വസ്തുക്കളും തദ്ദേശ സ്വയം ഭരണ വകുപ്പിന് വിതരണം ചെയ്യുക. 2022 നീൽ വർഷത്തേയ്ക്ക് ആവശ്യമായ 43.5 ലക്ഷം വൃക്ഷതൈകൾ ഉല്പാദിപ്പിക്കുന്നതിന് ചെലവ് വരുന്ന 45 ലക്ഷം രൂപ, BH: 2406-01-800-55-01-Extension Forestry (Plan) എന്ന ശീർഷകത്തിൽ നിന്നും വഹിക്കേണ്ടതാണ്.
- പദ്ധതി നടപ്പാക്കുന്നതിന് തൊഴിലുറപ്പ് പദ്ധതിയിലെ ഉദ്യോഗസ്ഥർക്ക് ആവശ്യമായ സാങ്കേതിക സഹായം പദ്ധതി കാലയളവിൽ നൽകുക.
- നല്ലികൾ സ്ഥാപിക്കുന്നതിന് തദ്ദേശ സ്വയം ഭരണ സ്ഥാപനങ്ങൾക്കും തൊഴിലുറപ്പ് തൊഴിലാളികൾക്കും പരിശീലനം നൽകുക.

(ഗവർണ്ണറുടെ ഉത്തരവിൻ പ്രകാരം)  
RAJESH KUMAR SINHA  
പ്രിൻസിപ്പൽ സെക്രട്ടറി

1. വനസേനാ മേധാവി, വനം വകുപ്പ് ആസ്ഥാനം, തിരുവനന്തപുരം.
2. പ്രിൻസിപ്പൽ ചീഫ് ഫോറസ്റ്റ് കൺസർവേറ്റർ (പ്ലാനിംഗ് & ഡവലപ്പ്മെന്റ്)

**F. No.: E. 1-5/2020 B I (NAEB)**  
**Government of India**  
**National Afforestation and Eco-development Board**  
**Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change**

7<sup>th</sup> Floor, Pt Deendayal Antyodaya Bhavan  
CGO Complex, Lodhi Road,  
New Delhi 110003

Dated: 14<sup>th</sup> October, 2020

To,

1. Addl. Chief Secretary/Principal Secretary (Forests)  
All States and UTs
2. Principal Secretary, School Education Department  
All States and UTs
3. Principal Chief Conservator of Forests  
All States and UTs

**Subject: "School Nursery Yojana" (SNY) – Circulation of Implementation Guidelines-Regarding.**

Sir/Madam,

As you are aware, that the ministry is making all efforts to improve and increase green cover in the country with peoples' participation. Considering that the young students, who are the future generation, need to be sensitized towards protecting our environment and ecology and in order to create awareness and inculcate a habit of caring for the nature by creating a bonding between students and plants, the Ministry proposes to implement a scheme 'School Nursery Yojana' in the country. The scheme 'School Nursery Yojana' is proposed to be implemented for the period of five years from 2020-21 to 2024-25.

2. The School Nursery Yojna aims to provide an environment for the students to understand and appreciate the significance of plants in maintaining and sustaining the natural ecosystem. The underlying principle of the scheme is the concept of 'Plant and Grow seedlings'. Primary objective is to generate consciousness about plants and environment and promote plantation activity through involvement of students.

3. Every year nursery is proposed to be taken up in 1000 schools. All schools recognized by State and Central boards are eligible and will be selected by Forest Department. Students of class Sixth, Seventh and Eighth may be engaged for participation in raising of seedlings and for plantation. All activities like developing nursery, raising and planting seedlings are to be done by students as part of extra-curricular activities.

4. Schools can also engage *Mali* for help and support in creating nursery and saplings of different species like forest trees, medicinal plants, horticultural and fruit trees etc. can be raised. Each school will be provided financial assistance for establishment of nursery to cover cost of procurement of tools, implements and other consumables etc.



5. All activities of nursery creation to be completed by December of the implementing year and seedlings raised by students are to be planted in next planting season. Students may carry the seedlings and plant in their homes or at any place of their choice and nurture them. Planting can also be done on vacant land in the school, other institutions, public or private land, home gardens etc. or during Van Mahotsav or through dignitaries with involvement of students. Land/place for planting may be identified well in advance.

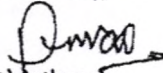
7. The cost of the project is proposed to be met from funds of National Authority of CAMPA. Monitoring of the scheme will be done by SFDA's and by Ministry also. Approved scheme guidelines of the SNY are enclosed herewith along with proposed State-wise number of projects to be taken up during the first year and format for submitting the proposals. The list is however tentative and number of school nursery can be modified.

8. All the States are requested to go through the 'Guidelines' for implementation of School Nursery Yojana and prepare proposal accordingly. The State Forest Department may coordinate with the Department of School Education in the States for identification of schools and implementation of the scheme.

SFDA's may be advised to forward consolidated proposal of all SNY projects from schools from concerned districts/divisions and the proposal may be submitted to NAEB within one months' period so as to enable scrutiny and approval of the proposal at the earliest.

Encl: as above

Yours faithfully,

  
(Pankaj Asthana)

Inspector general of Forests (NAEB)

Copy to: Member Secretary, SFDA, All States