

"One Beat Guard- One Village" Programme 2021-22



Jammu & Kashmir Forest Department
Govt. of Jammu & Kashmir

Introduction

The Forest and tree cover of J&K is 55%. However, as per the National Forest Policy, 1988, a mountainous State/ UT should have two-thirds of its geographical area under green cover. The role of trees outside forests, i.e., on farm lands, common lands and other non-forest lands is well recognized in enhancing the green cover and increasing the income of the farmers & creation of livelihood opportunities. The extent of such lands & homesteads is substantial in Jammu & Kashmir which can be covered with grasses, fodder tree varieties as well as multi purpose tree species with the involvement of PRIs and local people.

In order to broaden the scope & scale up the greening efforts, the Forest Department has initiated greening outside the forest areas with "One Beat Guard - One Village Programme". It is a low cost innovative method of greening with the involvement of all the stakeholders especially the Panchayats / BMCs & Joint Forest Management Committees.

"One Beat Guard-One Village Programme"

As per the programme, it is envisaged to cover 1000 villages under low cost greening interventions with the involvement of PRIs and other local institutions. One revenue village shall be adopted by one Beat Guard who shall be involved from the beginning of this green intervention and shall carry out all the operations such as distribution, planting along with Village Panchayat/ BMCs and monitor the same for next 3-5 years so that maximum survival and growth could be achieved and plants are established.

Objectives

- To employ low cost greening method for greening of non-forest areas.
- To facilitate raising of trees and grasses on the community lands by the local communities for their benefit.
- To facilitate meeting the needs of the people for small timber, fuel-wood, fodder and grasses from non-forest lands.

- To reduce the pressure on the forests on account of grazing by increasing the production of the grass & fodder outside the forest area.
- To standardize the modalities on involvement of different stakeholders, viz. Panchayats, JFMCs, BMCs, NGOs etc.
- To promote Agroforestry.

Steps being taken during 2021-22

A significant amount of land is available in the form of Kahcharai & other common lands with panchayats which requires rejuvenation and planting with grass, fodder & other multipurpose tree species. Such lands can be covered with the involvement of PRIs/BMCs by providing them with seed balls/ naked root plants. During the current year about 1000 villages shall be covered under the programme covering all the districts of J&K. Each Territorial Forest Division shall adopt 35 revenue villages for giving planting material worth Rs 0.10 lakh which shall include 600 saplings and 2000 seed balls (inclusive of 1000 seed balls of grass species) per village to be planted, maintained and protected by PRIs/BMCs and local people. The saplings will consist of fruit, fiber, fodder, fuel wood and timber species of trees & seed balls will consist of fodder & legume species.

Seed ball is an affordable, sustainable & effective conservation tool for establishing vegetation in difficult areas and is an effective means of fast plantation by encasing the seeds in a mixture of common soil & compost.

Further the objective of providing the saplings is to diversify and promote Agroforestry. Agroforestry is crucial to smallholder farmers and other rural people because it can enhance their food supply, income and health. It is an integrated approach that can contribute to smallholder's food security and capacity to adapt to climate change, while at the same time increasing biodiversity in agricultural landscapes and contributing to climate change mitigation. Agro-forestry systems as such are multifunctional systems that can provide a wide range of economic, socio-cultural, and environmental benefits.

Process Involved

An agreement shall be executed between Forest Department and the concerned Panchayat/ BMCs/ JFMCs wherein the beneficiaries shall agree to the proposal of Forest Department for Low Cost Greening interventions and shall be ready to receive and distribute plant saplings and seed balls with the intention of planting/sowing in their field or on Kahcharai Area/Wasteland/Community lands where protection can be ensured.

The Forest Guard will provide/handover low- cost greening planting material like seed balls, saplings of local species/fodder species, plants and grass slips to the Sarpanch of Gram Panchayat or a person authorized by the Gram Panchayat.

If the Seed balls/plants are planted in private land, it is the responsibility of the beneficiary to protect the saplings. In case of Kahcharai/ Wasteland/Community



land the Gram Panchayat shall get a resolution passed from GS to ensure the protection of the planting material, so planted on the said land.



Making of seed balls

The concerned Forest Guard will record the distribution of seed balls/plants/grass slips in Guard Book, and it shall be jointly signed by the Sarpanch Gram Panchayat/authorised person and Forest Guard. In case of planting/sowing in private lands, the beneficiary can take all the usufructs/final harvest. In case of Kahcharai/ Wasteland/Common land, the benefit of usufructs, final harvest belongs to Gram Panchayat.

During the operation of the agreement, the Forest Guard shall visit the planted areas along with Sarpanch or person authorized for monitoring and for such scientific and technical observation required for evaluation of greening intervention.

Cost effectiveness

Most of the low cost greening interventions will not involve expenditure towards fencing; hence the expenditure per hectare basis is expected to be much lower and cost-effective.

Conclusion

This greening initiative aims to scale up the greening efforts of Forest Department and support the afforestation of suitable areas including vacant lands outside forests. This will lead to increase in the production of grass & fodder outside the forest areas for benefit of the people.

This shall also result in larger annual coverage of area under greening with the involvement of all stakeholders. The concept of low cost greening interventions with the involvement of PRIs is likely to supplement afforestation schemes in achieving the overall objective of bringing two-thirds of geographical area under green cover.



Jammu & Kashmir Forest Department

May to Oct:

Forest Complex, Sheikh Bagh

Lal Chowk, Srinagar -190001

Phone: 0194-2483937, Fax: 0194-2455027

Nov to April:

Van Bhawan, Below Gumat, Jammu-180001

Phone: 0191-2560585, Fax 0191-2547276

Website: www.jkforest.gov.in

email: pccfjkforest@gmail.com