



ABSTRACT

Massive Tree Plantation - Announcement made by Hon'ble former Chief Minister under rule 110 – Plantation of 68 lakh seedlings on Panchayat lands, Government lands, Government and Private institutions, schools, colleges and other suitable areas at an estimated cost of Rs.165.47 Crore under Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme – Sanction accorded – Orders issued.

Rural Development and Panchayat Raj(CGS.1) Department

G.O.(Ms) No.31

Dated : 15.03.2017

Read:

1. From the Director of Rural Development and Panchayat Raj, letter Roc No.11672/2016/MGNREGS-I-1, dated 22.08.2016, 24.10.2016, 22.11.2016, 21.02.2017 and 10.03.2017.
2. Announcement made by Hon'ble former Chief Minister on the floor of the Legislative Assembly under Rule 110 on 29.08.2016.

ORDER:

The Hon'ble former Chief Minister has made the following announcement on the floor of the Legislative Assembly on 29.08.2016 under Rule 110 :-

“சுற்றுச்சூழல் சமநிலையைப் பாதுகாத்திடவும், ஊரகப் பகுதிகளை பசுமை மயமாக்கவும், வனத் துறையினருடன் ஒருங்கிணைந்து 68 லட்சம் பழமரக் கன்றுகள் மற்றும் கட்டடப் பணிகளுக்கு, பயன்படும் மரக்கன்றுகள், தேசிய ஊரக வேலை உறுதி திட்டத்தின் கீழ் ஊராட்சி நிலங்கள், அரசு நிலங்கள், அரசு மற்றும் தனியார் நிறுவனங்கள், பள்ளிகள், கல்லூரிகள் மற்றும் பிற பொருத்தமான இடங்களில் இந்த ஆண்டு நடப்பட்டு பராமரிக்கப்படும்.”

2. In the Letters first read above, Director of Rural Development and Panchayat Raj has stated that in G.O.(Ms) No.14, Environment and Forests(FR.6) Department, dated 04.02.2016, orders have been issued for the implementation of Massive Tree Planting Programme of planting 68 lakh seedlings(60 lakhs seedlings to be planted by Rural Development and Panchayat Raj Department and 8 lakh seedlings to be planted by Forest Department) in commemoration with Hon'ble former Chief Minister's 68th Birth Day under Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme fund.

3. The Director of Rural Development and Panchayat Raj has also stated that to maintain ecological balance, to increase green cover in rural areas and to mitigate

adverse environmental pollutants thereby increasing the quality of human, bird and animal life, plantation of 68 lakh fruit bearing and timber producing tree saplings will be done by Rural Development and Panchayat Raj Department in convergence with Forest Department. Under this Massive Tree Plantation Programme, jungle clearance, pitting, planting, provision of tree guard and watering for 1 year will be done. These tree saplings will be planted on Panchayat lands, Government lands, Government and private institutions, schools, colleges and other suitable areas. The Massive Tree Plantation Programme is one of the innovative programmes, which not only increases the green cover in Tamil Nadu, but provides additional revenue sources to the Village Panchayats.

4. The Director of Rural Development and Panchayat Raj has further stated that a separate time and motion study was undertaken in 6 districts located in 5 different zones. Watering activity with special reference to Block Plantation was taken up for Time and Motion Study so as to ascertain the correct out-turn. The study was conducted with the water source available either at the plantation site or within a distance of 100m.

5. Further, the Director of Rural Development and Panchayat Raj has worked out the cost of various activities of plantation under this programme as follows:-

1.	Pitting – 1 x 0.6m x 0.6m x 0.6m @ Rs.305.27/Cum	Rs.65.94
2.	Planting – 1 x Rs.10.03/No. as per RSoR	Rs.10.03
3.	Watering cost and Other Mandatory activities such as weeding, mulching and Manuring, etc. (Rs.13.864 Per plant per month for 12 months)	Rs.166.37
1.	Watering cost (Rs.2.18 x 68) (twice per week in the month of February to July – 52 days, once in a week in the month of January, August, September – 13 days, 2 weeks in October, one week in December)	
		Rs.148.24
2.	Weeding & Mulching cost (Twice in a year) (Rs.4.385 x 2)	Rs.8.77
3.	Manuring cost (Twice in a year) (Rs.4.68 x 2)	Rs.9.36
4.	Sub total cost per plant/year	Rs.166.37
4.	Transportation Cost per Plant	Re.1.00
Cost per plant for all plantation activities inclusive of all maintenance for one year		Rs.243.34/plant

Total Cost for Plantation and Maintenance of 68 lakh seedlings for one year is Rs.165.47 Crore (Rs.243.34 x 68 lakh = 165.47 Crore).

Funding Pattern

Sl. No	Details	Amount (Rs. in Crore)
1.	Labour Component (100% Central Share)	164.79
2.	Material Component • 75% Central Share: 0.51 • 25% State Share : 0.17	0.68
Total		165.47

6. The Director of Rural Development and Panchayat Raj has further stated that all the rate proposed for every activity under Massive Tree Plantation has been worked out based on Rural Schedule of Rates 2016-17 issued vide G.O.(Ms) No.48, Rural Development and Panchayat Raj(CGS.1) Department, dated 04.04.2016 exclusively for Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act works. The watering cost for plantation has been revised based on the rate arrived in the fresh Time and Motion Study during 2016-17. Moreover, the proposed Jungle Clearance will be taken only wherever jungles are available in the proposed Massive Tree Plantation site following the Rural Schedule of Rates 2016-17.

7. The Director of Rural Development and Panchayat Raj has therefore requested the Government to accord sanction for plantation of 68 lakh seedlings on Panchayat lands, Government lands, Government and private institutions, schools, colleges and other suitable areas at an estimated cost of Rs.165.47 Crore under Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme.

8. The Government, after careful examination of the proposal of the Director of Rural Development and Panchayat Raj hereby accord sanction for Plantation of 68 lakh seedlings on Panchayat lands, Government lands, Government and Private institutions, schools, colleges and other suitable areas at an estimated cost of Rs.165.47 Crore (Rupees one sixty five crore and forty seven lakh only) under Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme and approve the guidelines therefor annexed to this order.

9. This order is issued with the concurrence of Finance Department vide it's U.O. No.1414/ACS(F)/2017, dated 02.03.2017.

(BY ORDER OF THE GOVERNOR)

HANS RAJ VERMA
PRINCIPAL SECRETARY TO GOVERNMENT

To

The Director of Rural Development and Panchayat Raj, Chennai – 15. (w.e)
All District Collectors (Through the Director of Rural Development and Panchayat Raj, Chennai – 15)
All Project Directors, District Rural Development Agencies (Through the Director of Rural Development and Panchayat Raj, Chennai – 15)
The Accountant General, Chennai – 6/18/35 (Through the Director of Rural Development and Panchayat Raj, Chennai – 15)

Copy to:

The Secretary, Ministry of Rural Development,
Government of India, Krishi Bhavan, New Delhi – 110 114. (w.e)
The Chief Minister's Office, Secretariat, Chennai-9.
The Senior Personal Assistant to Hon'ble Minister (Municipal Administration, Rural Development and Implementation of Special Programme), Chennai-9.
The Principal Private Secretary to the Principal Secretary to Government, Rural Development and Panchayat Raj Department, Chennai-9.
The Finance (Rural Development) Department, Chennai-9.
The Rural Development and Panchayat Raj(OP.2) Department, Chennai – 9.
The National Informatics Centre, Chennai – 9.
Stock File/ Spare Copy.

//Forwarded by order//


15/3/2017
SECTION OFFICER

47.

Annexure -I
GUIDELINES FOR MASSIVE TREE PLANTATION
Maintenance Plan for Block Plantations
(G.O.(Ms) No.31, Rural Development and Panchayat Raj(CGS.1)Department,
dated 15.03.2017

1. Introduction

As a measure to improve the green cover, Tamil Nadu has taken up massive tree plantation of 68 lakh seedlings in convergence with the Forest department under MGNREGS.

2. Need for Maintenance

The sustenance of any asset requires a well programmed maintenance activity. At present, the provisions made for maintenance of plants involves only watering of the plants which is now proposed to be further expanded and a clear maintenance plan is now spelt out.

Watering is the most important maintenance activity required for the survival and growth of the plants apart from activities like weeding, manuring and mulching.

Weeding involves removing undesirable vegetation. Removing of weeds consists of physically beating down or crushing them, or cutting the weeds back at or above ground level. Mulching is the process of covering the topsoil with plant material such as leaves, grass, twigs, crop residues, straw etc. to adjust soil temperature and to retain soil moisture by slowing evaporation process. Manuring is an important activity which provides the plants with the much needed nutrients for growth.

3. Duration of Maintenance Activities

The duration of maintenance shall be 3 years starting immediately after the plantation.

4. Provisions in the Scheme Guidelines of Gol and the Tamil Nadu's perspective

As per 2.5.3.3 of the Annual Master Circular issued by Gol under MGNREGS "Maintenance of rural public assets created under MGNREGS is a permitted activity". Moreover, Maintenance will be considered as a separate work like any new work.

Further, the Annual Master circular suggests that "The maintenance of plantation works should be done by allotting the plants to job card holders (maximum up to 200 plants per household) and wherever possible with due permission usufruct rights to be provided to the job card holders who are engaged in maintenance of plantation works so as to enhance their livelihood aspects". The important aspect of the above provision is the incentive for the beneficiaries to avail the usufruct benefits from the plants maintained by the family. This will serve as a motivational factor for the beneficiaries.

However, as per of the Tamil Nadu Panchayat (Procedure for conducting public auction of leases and sales in panchayats) Rule 2001, section 3(V) properties and rights to be auctioned sub-rule 2(v) states that the **Panchayat shall lease out or sell in public auction the usufructs of trees on the Panchayat roads, topes and on roads belonging to Highways and Rural Works Department.**

Hence, it is not possible to provide usufructs benefits arising out of Block plantations to the beneficiaries. However, the concept of allotting the plants to job card holders for maintenance may be adopted.

5. Mode of Payment

As per 2.5.2.6 of the Annual Master Circular issued by Gol under MGNREGS, Monthly payments for the maintenance of plants shall be based on survival of plants and accomplishment of notified tasks.

The maintenance wage is disbursed each month for the preceding month only after getting work certified by the competent person regarding the rate of survival and compliance of estimated maintenance work.

The cost upto 100 days of employment is treated as unskilled wage component and any wage over and above this is provided as semiskilled wage component.

Since, the payment is linked to the survival of the plants; it is decided to pay the maintenance wages based on number of plants survived and accomplishment of notified tasks during the given month. That means it is decided to fix rate per surviving plant.

6. Proposed Methodology

Government of India vide letter No.J-11018/1/4/2015-MGNREGA-IV has indicated that the maintenance of plantation works should be done by allotting the plants to Job card holders. It is also indicated in the above letter that the payment modalities can be fixed by the States as per their Schedule of Rates. With regard to watering, weeding, mulching and manuring etc the existing rates in the Schedule of Rates may be adopted.

Hence, based on the above the following modalities may be adopted for the implementation of the maintenance of block plantation taken up under MGNREGS.

6.1. Rates for Maintenance Activities

- a) The rates for maintenance depend upon the various activities involved in maintenance like Watering, Weeding, mulching etc.
- b) All the activities are subjected to seasonal variations, for instance watering or the frequency of watering may be very less in monsoon season compared to summers. Similarly, weed growth is pronounced immediately after rains and weeding will be necessary during that period.
- c) As per the Time & Motion study carried out for the Block plantations, the cost per plant for watering is Rs.2.18/plant for one time watering.

- d) The schedule of maintenance activities during a year is given in Annexure II. As per the climatic conditions in Tamil Nadu watering will be required for 68 days in a year i.e. 5.67 times watering per month on an average. Thus cost of watering per plant per month will be Rs.12.353 [(Rs.2.18x68)/12].
- e) Generally weeding and manuring will be required twice a year per plant. The cost per plant for weeding as per RSoR is Rs.4.385/plant and manuring is Rs.4.65/plant. Hence, cost of weeding per plant per year is Rs.8.77 (Rs.4.385x2) i.e., Rs.0.731/plant/month. Similarly, the cost of manuring per plant per year is Rs.9.30 (Rs.4.65x2) i.e., Rs.0.78/plant/month.
- f) Hence, the total cost of maintenance is Rs.13.864 (12.353+0.731+0.78) per plant per month.
- g) **Hence, the rate for maintenance may be fixed as Rs.13.864 per plant per month for Block Plantation.**

Note: Creation of water sources- In all Block plantation sites, permanent water sources shall be created from the available resources from SFC, CFC, Panchayat Union & Village Panchayat General funds for ensuring availability of water throughout the year.

6.2. Payment

1. As per the instructions of Gol the payment may be made to beneficiaries on the monthly basis **based on the survival rates of the plants and accomplishment of notified tasks** and Payment shall be made before 15th of every month.
2. **The payment shall be made to beneficiaries on pro-rata basis based on the actual no. of plants surviving keeping the wage rate per plant as a constant parameter.**
3. In exceptional circumstances, if the plants die due to reasons such as flooding, cyclone or other natural phenomenon then the same shall be written off after due certification by the concerned Assistant Executive Engineer. In such cases the payment for the month shall be made on the no. of plants surviving as per the previous payment period. However, the payment for the succeeding month shall be based on actual no. of plants surviving.

6.3. Selection of Beneficiaries

1. As per the Guidelines of Gol, the households who are covered under para 5 of schedule I of the Act are only to be provided with the maintenance of the plants.
2. For each of the site one or two or even more number of MGNREGS families should be identified considering the no. of plants. Preferably those families who have completed 100 days of work in the previous year should be selected.

3. Beneficiaries who reside near the plantation sites or those who hold lands nearby shall be preferred.
4. A Clear awareness should be given to the families selected and details of maintenance should be informed based on the type of seedlings planted.
5. The house hold shall be selected, in such a way that, more than one job card holder is available so that the maintenance activities are not hindered even if one member is not available.
6. The beneficiaries may be required to give an undertaking that they will not claim any rights to the usufructs, shall not claim any right to the land under plantation, nor indulge in any other activity detrimental to the plantation as a whole.

6.4. Allocation of Plants

1. As far as Tamil Nadu is concerned the average number of plants in a Hectare is 1,111 and the average number of plants in an acre is 449 or 450.
2. The guideline specifies that a maximum of 200 plants shall be provided to each household for maintenance. **However, considering the annual wage entitlement of Rs.20,300 (Rs.203/dayx100 days) for an household, a maximum of 120 plants may be allocated to an household in the case of block plantation, based on the Time and Motion Study.**

Note: In case of causality replacement, the same household/worker may be engaged to do activities like reopening of the pit, planting and refilling, for which the RSoR rate should be adopted. This portion of the work/wage will not be considered as part of maintenance, but the person/day(s) shall be added to his total entitlement of 100 days.

6.5. Schedule of Activities

The month wise schedule of activities to be undertaken is given in the Annexure-II, for 3 years maintenance. This is only an indicative schedule and the districts shall draw up maintenance schedule for each plantation site based on the species of plant, age of the plant and climatic conditions.

6.6. Plantation Asset Register

Each panchayat shall maintain a register containing the detail of the various plantation sites within the panchayat. This should include the location, classification of land, ownership details, extent, no. of plants, species type, age of the plant, date of commencement of maintenance, completion of maintenance period and the household responsible for maintenance.

6.7. Preparation of Estimates

- All the existing plantation sites established under MGNREGS should be inspected and the number of seedlings/saplings survived should be assessed and recorded. The year/date of planting should also be recorded so as to calculate the further period of maintenance required.
- One single maintenance estimate may be prepared every year for all the block plantations works within the panchayat. This shall include sub-estimate for various locations within the panchayat.
- As per G.O.(Ms) No.94 Rural Development and Panchayat Raj(CGS.1) Department, dated 08.08.2016 guidelines for construction of vermin compost sheds and its operation, it has been ordered by the Government that the manure/compost produced through the Vermi-compost unit may be utilised for plantation activities of the respective Village Panchayat at free of cost. As per the above provision the farm yard manure may be provided by the village panchayat for the purpose of manuring the block plantations.
- In the case of new plantations, provision for 1st year maintenance shall be included in the original estimate itself.
- 20% casualty replacement rate may be adopted for plants for the First year of growth and 10% casualty replacement rate for the second year. This cost shall be added to the overall maintenance cost of the corresponding year.
- The works taken up for maintenance of plants and the cost of maintenance shall be reflected in the labour budget of the concerned Village Panchayat.
- The District Collector will accord Administrative Sanction to the works and Technical sanction will be accorded by the competent authority as per G.O.(Ms) No.203, Rural Development and Panchayat Raj Department, dated 20.12.2007, amendment to the Tamilnadu Panchayats (Preparation of Plans and Estimates for works and mode and conditions of Contracts) Rules 2007 and G.O.(Ms) No.54, Rural Development and Panchayat Raj(PR.1) Department, dated 22.5.2014.

6.8. Measurement

- Measurement shall be based on no. of plants surviving and no. of plants for which the scheduled activities have been completed.
- The measurements and check measurement shall be as per G.O.(Ms) No.203, Rural Development and Panchayat Raj Department, dated 20.12.2007, amendment to the Tamilnadu Panchayats (Preparation of Plans and Estimates for works and mode and conditions of Contracts) Rules 2007 and G.O.(Ms) No.54, Rural Development and Panchayat Raj(PR.1) Department, dated 22.5.2014.

6.9. Execution and Monitoring

- Maintenance plan for each type/variety of plants shall be prepared in consultation with Forest and Horticulture Department and it will be handed over to the identified beneficiaries as Ready reckoner. This should include details about watering, application of fertilizer, mulching, weeding etc., (preparatory for each type of plants).
- Weekly inspection shall be done by UO /AE / UE / BDO / Zonal Dy.BDO for verification of mandatory tasks to be done by the beneficiaries.
- A separate Maintenance card shall be designed indicating the various activities in a month (to be marked and maintained by the worker). The overseer shall make weekly inspections to record the completion of various activities and also to record the survival details. This maintenance card shall also be used for calculating the payment of wages for each household every month. The monitoring card will be designed and communicated by Director of Rural Development and Panchayat Raj separately.

6.10. Documentation

Proper documentation of the works should be done capturing various processes of plant maintenance. Photographs of the site before undertaking the work, during execution of the work and after completion of the work should be taken and properly documented.

The Secretary to Government, Rural Development and Panchayat Raj Department is empowered to modify the above guidelines, whenever necessary, in consultation with the Director of Rural Development and Panchayat Raj.

HANS RAJ VERMA
PRINCIPAL SECRETARY TO GOVERNMENT

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T. Latha
15/3/17
SECTION OFFICER

47.

Annexure -II
Schedule of Maintenance Activities for Plantation
(G.O.(Ms) No.31, Rural Development and Panchayat Raj(CGS.1)Department,
dated 15.03.2017)

Year	Month	Activities
1 st year	Jan	Watering 5 times, Weeding
	Feb	Watering 8 times, Mulching and Manuring (To be provided by village panchayat)
	March	Watering 9 times
	April	Watering 9 times
	May	Watering 9 times
	June	Watering 9 times
	July	Watering 8 times, Casualty replacement (20% of the total plants).
	August	Watering 4 times, Mulching and Manuring (To be provided by village panchayat), Casualty replacement (20% of the total plants)
	Sept	Watering 4 times
	Oct.	Watering 2 times
	Nov.	Mulching and Maintenance
	Dec	Weeding, Watering 1 time
2 nd year	Jan	Watering 5 times, Weeding
	Feb	Watering 8 times, Mulching and Manuring (To be provided by village panchayat)
	March	Watering 9 times
	April	Watering 9 times
	May	Watering 9 times
	June	Watering 9 times
	July	Watering 8 times, Casualty replacement (10% of the total plants).
	August	Watering 4 times, Casualty replacement (10% of the total plants)
	Sept	Watering 4 times
	Oct.	Watering 2 times
	Nov.	Mulching and Maintenance
	Dec	Weeding, Watering 1 time
3 rd Year	Jan	Watering 5 times, Weeding
	Feb	Watering 8 times, Mulching and Manuring (To be provided by village panchayat)
	March	Watering 9 times
	April	Watering 9 times
	May	Watering 9 times
	June	Watering 9 times
	July	Watering 8 times
	August	Watering 4 times
	Sept	Watering 4 times
	Oct.	Watering 2 times
	Nov.	Mulching and Maintenance
	Dec	Weeding, Watering 1 time

HANS RAJ VERMA
PRINCIPAL SECRETARY TO GOVERNMENT

//True Copy//

P. L. Verma
15/3/17
SECTION OFFICER

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