

GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL
Panchayats & Rural Development Department
Joint Administrative Building
Block HC-7, Sector -III, Salt Lake
Kolkata-700 106

Memo. No. 4626-RD/P/NREGA/18S-01/08

Dated: 10/10/2014

From: Dibyendu Sarkar, IAS
Commissioner in the Department

To: The Principal Secretary, GTA
The District Magistrate and District Programme Coordinator (all),
Additional Executive Officer, Siliguri Mahakuma Parishad

Sub: Plan of action on roadside tree plantation

Ref: Letter no.11017/17/2008-MGNREGA (UN) (II) dated 31-07-2014

Madam/Sir,

You are certainly aware of the plan action on roadside tree plantation as communicated by the Ministry vide its letter referred above. It is expected that you have already initiated action for roadside plantation by using MGNREGA job-seekers as beneficiaries having usufruct rights on the trees planted. However, even if implementation of the proposed plan of action has not as yet been initiated in your district for the current financial year, you are requested to follow the guidelines in implementation of plantation activities especially by the side of different roads including the road constructed under PMGSY, MGNREGA and other rural roads as well as different National and State Highways. Kindly note that the action plan has detailed different phases of activity as well as the procedures in its implementation. After initial approval of the Gram Sansad, clearance has to be obtained from the agency responsible for construction and maintenance of the road concerned. One of the major areas of intervention is allocation of rights to the job-seekers so far as plantation, maintenance and enjoying usufruct rights are concerned. The guideline indicates 200 plants per household for which the households are to be provided with employment round the year. The first 100 days are to be covered as unskilled workers under MGNREGA, whereas rest of the days are supposed to be covered as semi-skilled workers for which payment may be made out of material component of work. However, we propose to allot 200 plants to a group of 4 SHG members who can be progressively used for providing support towards plantation and maintenance of the saplings. This will ensure provision of work closer to 100 days only for an individual household after which this can be rotated amongst other members of the group. In terms of usufruct rights over the plants you may think of collective ownership of the group concerned or also an alternative way of assigning equal number of plants to the individual members, i.e., at a rate of 50 plants per household. However, payment to households fully depend on survival of plants for which scales have been fixed by the Ministry. Since the entire process requires at least 10-months lead time from the preparatory phase to plantation, action has to be initiated immediately for 2015-16 financial year. A time line for this has been indicated in annexure-V of the guideline issued by the Ministry of the Rural Development, Government of India. The Ministry's guideline also contained the following formats:

Format I: Plantation for permission to plant on roadside (Government lands) and for usufructs

Format II: Permission for roadside tree plantation and allocation of usufruct rise annexure-I model estimate nursery one for preparation of saplings.

Annexure-II: Schedule of activities for preparation of nurseries under MGNREGA.

Annexure-III: Schedule of activities for roadside tree plantation.


Annexure-IV: Model estimate for roadside tree plantation under MGNREGA and

Annexure-V: Plan of action for roadside tree plantation for the year 2015-16.

Kindly note that the model estimates and the plans are only indicative and depending upon the situation in the district you are free to make necessary changes. Please note further that the guidelines shared by the Ministry provided an excellent opportunity to create green and sustainable assets for the rural poor to strengthen their livelihood resource base.

This also provides an opportunity to contribute towards maintenance of ecological balance of the area and an opportunity for participation of the wage-seekers in planning, plantation, maintenance and exercising their rights over the produces. Incentive based payment system as envisaged in the plan may also be seen as a major contributing factor in ensuring sustenance of the plants.

Yours faithfully,


(Dibyendra Sarker)
Commissioner, MGNREGS

10.10.14

Enclosed: Plan of action on roadside tree plantation under MGNREGA as communicated by the Ministry