

Government of Himachal Pradesh  
Department of Forests.

No FFE-B-F(5)9/2018

Dated: Shimla-2, the

5<sup>th</sup> September, 2018

NOTIFICATION


The Governor, Himachal Pradesh is pleased to notify the Scheme i.e. *Samudayik Van Samvardhan Yojna* as per enclosed **Annexure-A** (Pages 1 to 8). This scheme shall be implemented with immediate effect.

By Order,

Tarun Kapoor  
Addl. Chief Secretary (Forests) to the  
Government of Himachal Pradesh.

Endst. No. As above Dated. Shimla-2, the 05-09-2018  
Copy forwarded to the following for information and necessary action:-

- 1) The Addl. Chief Secretary (Finance) to the GoHP, Shimla-2.
- 2) The ACS(Env., Sci. & Technology) the GoHP, Shimla-2
- 3) The Pr.CCF (HoFF) Shimla-1. He is requested to circulate this scheme to all the CCFs/CFs/DFOs(WL & T) in H.P.
- 4) The Pr.CCF (WL), H.P., Shimla-1.
- 5) The Member Secretary, Himachal Pradesh Council for Science Technology and Environment, H.P. Shimla.
- 6) The Director, Himalayan forest Research Institute, Panthaghati, Shimla.
- 7) The Director, University of Horticulture and Forestry, Nauni, Solan, H.P.
- 8) The Director, Institute of Himalayan Bioresource Technology, Palampur, Kangra, H.P.
- 9) The Under Secretary (GAD) to the GoHP w.r.t. Cabinet Item No. 9 dated 24-08-2018.
- 10) Guard File.

  
(Sat Pal Dhirman) 5-9-2018  
Joint Secretary (Forests) to the  
Government of Himachal Pradesh  
Ph.No. 0177-2621874

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## HIMACHAL PRADESH FOREST DEPARTMENT

### SAMUDAYIK VAN SAMVARDHAN YOJANA

(A Scheme to strengthen participation of local communities in conservation and development of forests through plantation of useful plant species)

#### 1. Introduction

Himachal Pradesh has total geographical area of 55673 sq. km. out of which 37033 sq. km. is legally classified as forest forming about two third of the total geographical area. The actual forest cover is though only 27.12 percent. The forest wealth of the State plays a crucial role in meeting a large part of the daily requirements of fuel wood, fodder, small timber and fruits etc. of the rural communities. A large number of rural households also collect a variety of medicinal herbs from the forests for generating a substantial portion of their cash income. In addition, many other prime growth sectors of State's economy, like hydro-electric, tourism, irrigation, drinking water supply and horticulture also have a direct stake and linkage in the conservation and integrity of the State's forest cover for their continued growth. From the national perspective also, situated as it is in the fragile Himalayan region, a good forest cover in the State has a strategic role in flood control, water regulation and climate mitigation in the neighboring States.

The increasing population and the developmental needs has brought the forests under tremendous stress. There is an imminent need to maintain the integrity of the existing forest cover on one hand, and to bring more areas under forest cover on the other to meet the growing environmental, ecological and social challenges. Under the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), the State government has set an ambitious target of bringing 30% of State's geographical area under tree cover by 2030. Most of the culturable forest land now available for afforestation lies in the vicinity of villages and habitations facing tremendous biotic pressure. Bringing such land under forest cover without active involvement of local communities may not be successful. It, therefore, becomes imperative to involve local communities and have long-term partnership with them for afforesting such land. This partnership with the local communities will go a long way in meeting the SDGs, in improving the environment, and in enhanced ecosystem services to the local people.

#### 2. The Scheme – Goal and Objectives

The State of Himachal Pradesh has its very large population living in rural areas with traditional bond with Nature. This bond needs to be rejuvenated and strengthened towards sustainable flow of ecosystem services from the forests, so essential to fulfill day-to-day household needs of the rural communities. The "Samudayik Van Samvardhan Yojna" (SVSY) Scheme envisages rejuvenating this bond by strengthening participation of local communities in conservation and development of forests through plantation of useful plant species and community management of forests. This active partnership with local communities is believed to result in achieving the twin objectives of improving the quality

communities is believed to result in achieving the twin objectives of improving the quality of forests and increasing the forest cover leading to enhancement of Eco System Services and also playing a pivotal role in rural economy.

The major objectives of the scheme are as follows:

- Scheme shall aim to provide maximum economic benefit to the members of JFMCs/VFDSs in the form of valuable Forest Products and other usufruct yielding high economic returns in the market as well as productive usage of water.
- To improve the flow of ecosystem service from the forests around villages through community based management of the designated forests
- To enhance the forest cover in the State on forest land lying in the vicinity of villages through planting of tree species of local importance
- To rejuvenate the traditional village level institutions related to conservation and sustainable use of natural resources through awareness, education and organization of village communities

### 3. Key Components of the Scheme

The key components of the Scheme are -

- identification of suitable open/ degraded forest areas around selected villages for development into forest through active participation of participating Community User Groups.
- strengthening of the capacity of the selected community user groups in development and long-term management of forests over the designated forest land.
- planting of suitable tree species of local importance to ensure sustained and enhanced flow of ecosystem services to the participating community user groups.
- facilitating development of community user group based mechanisms towards sharing of ecosystem services from the designated forests and building capacity of the community user groups for putting such mechanisms in place.

In the first instance, the institutions like Joint Forest Management Committees (JFMCs), Village Forest Development Societies (VFDSs) already existing in the State under the instrument of Participatory Forest Management (PFM) Rules 2001, shall be strengthened under this scheme. The successful implementation of the scheme will result in enhanced and sustained flow of grass, leaf fodder, fire wood, small timber, and NTFPs to the participating community user groups towards fulfilling their day-to-day household needs and in generating cash income for better livelihoods.

Therefore the following will be the distinct components of this Scheme:

#### 3(a). Organizing and Managing JFMCs/VFDSs

##### i) Maintaining database and categorization of JFMCs/VFDSs

About 2000 to 3000 JFMCs/VFDSs have been constituted under various projects and schemes in the State of Himachal Pradesh over the years. Some of these still be active and functioning. Some have become dormant after the culmination of the projects and

schemes. All these JFMCs/VFDSs shall be brought under the ambit of this Scheme and their database shall be maintained at HP Forest Headquarter level. Based on their activeness, these will be divided into three categories as **Category A** (Very Active), **Category B** (Moderately Active) and **Category C** (Dormant). A computer based application (software) shall be developed by the department to maintain the database.

**ii) Nodal Officer at State Level**

A senior officer shall be declared as Nodal Officer in the office of PCCF (HoFF) at Forest Headquarter level. He shall be responsible to maintain the database and also oversee the overall implementation of this scheme in the State. The Nodal Officer shall keep regular communication with the JFMCs/VFDSs through the concerned DFOs. The Field staff mainly the concerned Forest Guard shall keep in regular touch with the JFMCs/VFDSs for guidance.

**iii) State and District Level Seminars**

The Nodal Officer shall organize State Level and District Level Seminars annually for the members of these JFMCs/VFDSs for information dissemination and knowledge sharing. This will provide a common platform for the JFMCs/VFDSs to bring their issues for discussion and decision making.

**iv) Publication of Newsletter**

A Newsletter shall also be brought by the Nodal Officer through the Publicity Division of the Department which shall be circulated amongst the JFMCs/VFDSs for knowledge update. The members of these JFMCs/VFDSs shall also be encouraged to write short articles and success stories in the Newsletter.

**v) Activities of JFMCs/VFDSs**

The JFMCs/VFDSs shall be encouraged to take up other activities apart from those specified in this scheme by using their own funds or by taking loan. They can also take up activities under other schemes to increase their cash income.

**vi) Webpage/Website**

A webpage/Website shall also be developed separately for knowledge updates, information dissemination and it will be linked with official web portal of the Government.

**3(b) Developing Community plantation models through JFMCs/VFDSs**

**i) Identification of Scheme Sites:**

All JFMCs/VFDSs formulated in the State of Himachal Pradesh shall be covered and brought under the ambit of this scheme in a phased manner. At the first instance, the schemes will be implemented in the villages where JFMCs/ VFDSs, established under the PFM Rules, are already functional. The constitution of the JFMCs will be reviewed and, if need be, suitably modified to include right holders.

**ii) Identification and Allocation of Land Banks:**

Each selected JFMC/ VFDS community user group shall be allocated upto 50 hectare of open/ degraded forest land as close to the village as possible. The period of allocation shall be minimum 25 years and may be kept up to 35 years as some plantation models may take long time for successful establishment. The DFOs shall identify such land for each of the JFMC/VFDS selected by them. Each of the identified land banks shall be (a) properly demarcated on ground, and (b) fenced with barbed wire. Geo-coordinates of the fenced area shall be recorded and polygons prepared for satellite based monitoring.

**iii) Development and Management of Land Bank:**

The JFMC will formulate Forest Management Plan for the selected forest area. For initial mobilization of community members and facilitating formulation of Management Plan, a village Group Organizer will be identified and engaged by the JFMC/VFDS for a suitable period and funding support in the form of honorarium amounting Rs. 2000/- per month shall be provided under the scheme by the Forest Department. The implementation of this Management Plan will be carried out by the JFMC/VFDS and funds for this purpose will be provided by Forest Department. The Forest Guard and Block Officer of the selected forest area will be associated with the JFMCs/VFDSs as technical members in the Executive Committee, for providing technical input to the "Committee" in the preparation of management plan as also for its implementation. One nominee of the local Biodiversity Management Committee (BMC) will also be associated as member of the Executive Committee of JFMC. The Technical Members will also ensure that the management plan is prepared in consonance with working plan prescriptions and other technical guidelines of the department. The Block Officer will also be the Treasurer of the JFMC.

The management plan will incorporate all works required to be undertaken for the conservation, rehabilitation and improvement of selected forest areas and major focus would be to raise various plantation models yielding high economic returns so as to provide economic benefits to the members of JFMS/VFDS. Some of the important species of commercial significance include Anardana (*Punica granatum*), Chilgoza (*Pinus gerardiana*), Burashphool (*Rhododendron arboreum*), Kafal (*Myrica esculenta*), Bamboo for baskets (*Arundinaria spp; Dendrocalamus strictus*), 'Chuli', 'Harar', 'Amla' etc. The plantation of following types for higher economic returns are suggested:

- (a) Maintaining high nutritional value & higher yielding Grass lands
- (b) Plantation of high value Non-timber Forest Produce Species
- (c) Plantation of high value Fruits & Fodder Species
- (d) Medicinal plants of high economic value
- (e) Plantation of valuable timber species

Some of plantation models of the types as suggested above shall take some time for successful establishment during the initial years. The Management Plan shall include the various components needed to develop such plantation models yielding high economic

returns and enhancing water availability. The JFMCs/VFDSs shall also be allowed to develop plantation models having species of purely environmental and ecological importance if they pass such resolution.

Amongst the planned activities, water conservation shall also be given high priority. The interventions required for water conservation such as Check Dams, Water Harvesting Structures, maintaining watersheds for rejuvenating Water Springs and Streams shall be provided in the plan which shall benefit in enhancing water availability for plantations, agricultural & horticultural crops and other productive usage. Wages for the activities planned in the Management plan shall be paid under this scheme in accordance with the provisions made in the plan as per departmental norms till successful establishment and reaching of these plantations in harvesting stage.

Other interventions like soil conservation measures, fire protection measures, removal of obnoxious weeds like lantana, development of multilayered forest, development of silvi-pastoral areas etc. will be planned and proposed for the selected forest area. The plan will also incorporate community regulations with respect to fire protection and control, poaching, collection and extraction of medicinal plants & grazing etc., which may have a bearing on the rehabilitation/improvement of selected area. A detailed year wise work schedule required to be implemented along with its cost structure will be included in the plan. The financial projections in the Management Plan will be based on prevailing cost norms of Forest Department. The JFMC/VFDC may further identify user groups and incorporate their plans in the Management Plan. In such an eventuality, the interventions connected with a user group will be implemented through the concerned user group under the overall supervision of JFMC/VFDS.

The management plan prepared by JFMC/VFDC will be submitted to the concerned Range Officer for its technical scrutiny. The Range officer will evaluate the management plan technically and financially and will ensure that the proposals are in consonance with requirement of selected area, objectives of the Scheme and overarching departmental guidelines. If the management plan requires some modifications, the Range Officer in consultation with JFMC, will get those changes effected in the Management Plan and then after recording his recommendation on the Plan, will return it to JFMC. The Management Plan thereafter will be submitted to Divisional Forest Officer for final approval.

The Divisional Forest Officer, after scrutiny, and if need be, with modifications, will approve the Management Plan and will send the approved copy to the concerned JFMC. On receipt of approval of Management Plan, The JFMC will start implementation of the approved Management Plan.

**iv) Scale of Implementation:**

In the first year, the scheme will be implemented in 20 selected locations in the state covering as many agro-climatic zones as possible. The scheme will be up-scaled in a phased manner in subsequent years by bringing in new locations each year. The annual

outlay of the scheme for subsequent years will be determined on the basis of Management Plans to be formulated for the selected sites and the new sites being taken up in each subsequent year. However, the Forest Department will target to provide at least Rs. 10 Crore annually for this scheme in the subsequent years.

**v) Implementing Officers:** The scheme shall be implemented by the concerned Divisional Forest Officers under guidance of the concerned Conservator of Forest.

**vi) Engaging of Labour**

Sometimes, the local people are engaged in their own household, agricultural and horticultural activities. In these circumstances, they may not be able to work in the plantations under this scheme. Therefore, the JFMCs/VFDSs shall be allowed to engage labour in such areas for short periods as per requirement.

**3(c) Sensitization and Awareness building**

The JFMCs/VFDSs shall be sensitized and awareness building shall be done amongst public for better management of forest areas in and around the Scheme sites. The forest conservation issues like prevention and control of forest fires, illegal felling, illegal harvest of medicinal plants etc. shall be addressed through awareness programmes. The DFOs shall give funds to the **Category A** JFMCs/VFDSs maximum upto Rs 10000 each per annum for carrying out sensitization and awareness campaign amongst local people under this scheme. The **Category A** JFMCs/VFDSs shall also be encouraged to carry out sensitization activities under other schemes.

**3(d) Creation of Market linkages and setting up of processing facilities**

Small processing units shall also be set up by JFMC/VFDS individually or by few JFMCs/VFDSs collectively for value addition in the forest produce. Concerned DFOs will also facilitate in developing market linkages for selling of produce at better prices for higher economic returns. For this DFOs will facilitate so that grant, loan can be made available under any government scheme. For capacity building and visits to markets or study tours, funds of Rs One lakh per annum will be kept at the level of State Nodal Officer who will release funds as per need.

**3(e) Raising of Nurseries by JFMCs/VFDSs**

Some JFMCs/VFDSs shall be encouraged for raising nurseries. Some of the interested **Category A** JFMCs/VFDSs can apply for grant. They will be provided a grant by the concerned DFO for raising of nurseries of high economic value plants such as Junglee Anar (*Punica granatum*), Juglans species (Walnut), Kainth (*Pyrus pashia* for using as root stock for pears), Medicinal plants etc. Rs One lakh shall be provided by the concerned DFO in three instalments for nurseries of 10,000 seedlings or more. First instalment of Rs Forty Thousand will be paid and thereafter Rs Thirty Thousand will be paid after every six months. Nursery raising will be a commercial activity of the JFMCs/VFDSs. Apart from using the plants raised in these nurseries in developing the plantations over the allocated sites, they can also sell these plants to the public or institutions for cash income in order sustain the nursery on long term basis. They have to become self sufficient. Thus those

nurseries who take the grant will have to survive and provide plants in the long run. They can charge for the plants.

#### **4. Scheme Period**

Forestry being a long gestation activity, this scheme will be operated on a long term basis as it will form an integral part of forest management in the State. Initially the Scheme is being launched with a Plan period of 25 Years. However, to build in the learnings from the implementation of the scheme, the Scheme will be reviewed in the 10<sup>th</sup> year and necessary modifications if any would be incorporated. The Management Plan developed under the scheme will be formulated for an initial period of 5 years and shall be revised every 5 years.

#### **5. Budgetary Outlay for the Scheme**

For the year 2018-19, a provision of Rs. 2 Crore has been made for this scheme. Efforts will be made to dovetail the scheme into externally aided projects and other schemes for upscaling.

#### **6. Fund Flow Mechanism**

Based on the approved Management Plan, the JFMC/VFDs in consultation with Technical members will prepare Annual Plan of Operations (APO) for each year and will submit it to the DFO for the sanction of Budget for a Financial Year. The proposal for a financial year will be submitted by the end of December of previous year so that Forest Department could make appropriate provisions for the Scheme in its budgetary projections. The DFO may modify the APO on technical considerations or on account of funds position. The DFO will convey the approved APO and allocation of budget to the concerned JFMC/VFDS as soon as the budgetary allocations for the financial year are received by him from the State Government. The budget as per the approved APO, will be released and deposited into the account of concerned JFMC/VFDS in the shape of Grant-in Aid. The JFMC/VFDS will get the works executed at its level by preferably engaging willing local community members. On completion of a particular work, the same will be measured and certified by concerned Forest Guard. The Bank account of the JFMC/VFDS will be operated with the joint signatures of President of JFMC/VFDS and Treasurer. All payments will be made by JFMC/VFDS by Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT) into the account of concerned payee. At the completion of each work approved in APO, the JFMC/VFDS will submit a completion report and Utilization Certificate (UC) to DFO for record.

#### **7. Direct Benefits to the Participating Community Groups**

The participating community groups shall have many direct benefits from the scheme, which include –

- (a) Wages to members of the community user groups towards implementation of various scheme activities
- (b) Entitlement to ecosystem services including grass, leaf fodder, medicinal herbs, small timber, fire wood, water from check dams, etc. from the designated forest



- area managed by the group. No fee/ royalty shall be charged on use of such ecosystem services from the designated area.
- (c) Eligibility for participating in the annual award scheme for best performing community groups.
  - (d) For benefit sharing, out of total income from sale of fruits, fodder, medicinal plants and NTFPs, 90% amount shall be distributed amongst the beneficiaries i.e. the members of JFMCs/VFDSs on equitable sharing basis and remaining 10% shall be retained by the concerned JFMC/VFDS to meet their expenses of miscellaneous activities like meetings, workshops etc. The JFMC/VFDS will formulate its own procedures for equitable distribution of benefits.

**8. Institutional Tie Ups**

The institutions like Himalayan Forest Research Institute, University of Horticulture and Forestry, Nauni, IHBT Palampur shall be involved for providing technical knowhow, guidance and imparting training to the JFMCs/VFDSs.

**9. Monitoring & Evaluation**

Results of this scheme shall be visible only after some years and therefore it will be implemented on a long term basis. The scheme shall be reviewed after ten years. The concerned officers of the department shall carry out regular monitoring of the scheme. A third party evaluation will be done before its review for assessment of impact of the scheme. External Agencies will be engaged for third party monitoring and evaluation. The findings of third party assessment shall be used for modifying the scheme if needed after its review.



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