

GOVERNMENT OF KERALA

Abstract

Forest and Wildlife Department—Participatory Forest Management in Cardamom Hill Reserves—Constitution of Committees for proper implementation of the programmes—Sanctioned Orders issued.

=====

FOREST AND WILDLIFE (B) DEPARTMENT

G.O (MS) No. 31/2001/F&WLD.

Dated, Thiruvananthapuram, 21/4/2001.

=====

Read:- Letter No. C2.23540/98 dated, 22.3.2001 from Chief Conservator of Forests (Eco-development and Tribal Welfare).

ORDER

A discussion was held by Minister (Forests) with the representatives of the Cardamom Growers Association on 8.11.2000 regarding the problems of Cardamom Growers. It was decided to implement the Participatory Forest Management for proper management of the areas by conserving and preserving the forest and ecology of the Cardamom Hill Reserves. It was felt that the programme can be successfully implemented only through the combined effort of the Cardamom Growers and the Forest Department. Hence consensus was arrived at to constitute committees at Circle, Division, Range and Sections levels for proper implementation of the programmes and to form squads with the representatives of the farmers for the protection of the forests as well as the crops.

The above partnering organizations need common forums at different levels to take important decisions and the Chief Conservator of Forests (Eco-Development and Tribal Welfare) after deliberations with the representatives of Cardamom Growers has forwarded to Government, as per letter read above, a proposal to have a two tier organizational arrangement to effectively tackle the problems of Cardamom Hill Reserves. (1) Unit level and (2) High level Committees. The proposal contains an introduction to the context of Participatory Forest Management in the Cardamom Hills, the structure of the organization, functions and responsibilities at various levels of the implementing agency and the process of micro planning and approval.

Government have examined the proposal in detail and found that the complex tenure relationships and administrative control over the area demand a novel approach to achieve the objectives. The proposal contains enough provisions to create an organizational infrastructure to address the problem from different angles.

In the above circumstances, the proposal of the Chief Conservator of Forests (Eco-development and Tribal Welfare) for the Management of Cardamom Hills Reserve as a participatory programme is approved by Government.

The Participatory Forest Management in Cardamom Hill Reserve is designated for convenience as the Cardamom for Rain Forest Conservation (CRC). It shall address the following aspects.

1. Shade for Cardamom
2. Fuel for Cardamom processing.
3. Landscaping, which includes retention of forests and reforestation in ecologically critical locations such as steep slopes, stream banks etc.
4. Mulching for soil enrichment in the cardamom plantations.

5. Promotion of biodiversity and watershed value

The Cardamom for Rain Forest Conservation will be operationalised through the following 2 tier management levels.

1. Unit Level Organization (ULO) (Execution Level)
2. High Level Monitoring Committee (HLMC) (Policy)

The organization, functions and responsibilities at these two levels are appended herewith.

By Order of the Governor,

P. CHERIAN PHILIP

Joint Secretary to Government.

To

The Principal Chief Conservator of Forests, Thiruvananthapuram.

The Chief Conservator of Forests (Eco-Development and Tribal Welfare).

The Accountant General (Audit), Kerala, Thiruvananthapuram.

Stock File/Office Copy.

Forwarded/ By Order

Section Officer.

Organisation, Functions and Responsibilities of Committees under Participatory Forest Management in the Cardamom Hills (CRC).

UNIT LEVEL ORGANIZATION (ULO) -EXECUTION LEVEL

1. Each Unit Level Organization shall be covered under the Charitable Societies Institution Act 1860.
 1. The Headquarters of the ULO shall be fixed by the General Body of the concerned ULO.
 2. The CHR Area will be divided into as many units as necessary for effective implementation of CRC programmes. Each unit will have under their jurisdiction cardamom lands of roughly 500 hectares in extent or roughly 100 growers holding cardamom cultivations. The limits of the area of jurisdiction of a unit will be fixed with natural boundaries based on watershed lines as far as possible.
 3. All the cardamom growers within the area of a Unit shall be registered as members of Unit Level Organization (ULO). A General Body Meeting of the Unit shall be held at least once in three months and all matters in respect of implementation of CRC in the area deliberated upon and decisions taken.
 4. Annual Membership fee of Rs. 10/- (Rupees ten only) will be levied on each member.
 5. A Unit Level team consisting of the following members shall be the Executive Committee of the Unit, i.e.
 - 5.1 The Forester of the area or the designated forest guard (Ex-Officio).
 - 5.2 Field Officer of the Spices Board (Ex-Officio).
 - 5.3 Officer or Scientist nominated by the Kerala Agricultural University (Ex-Officio).
 - 5.4 Ward Members of the Grama Panchayat, falling within the area (Ex-Officio)
 - 5.5 A maximum of nine members elected by cardamom growers of the area by the General Body Meeting of the unit.
 - 5.6 Concerned Revenue Department Official. (Ex-Officio)
 - 5.7 Chairman: Cardamom Grower members of the unit shall nominate a chairman from among themselves.
 - 5.8 Convener: Cardamom Grower members of the unit shall nominate a Convener from among themselves.
 - 5.9 The Executive Committee will carry out routine functions of administration on behalf of the ULO.
 - 5.10 The Executive Committee shall meet at least once a month and review the functioning of CRC within their area of jurisdiction.
 - 5.11 The Executive Committee will ensure total transparency in all matters related to its functioning.
 - 5.12. The Executive Committee shall submit monthly reports regarding their activities to the Range Officer with copy to the Convener of HLMC.
 - 5.13. The ULO will delegate necessary powers to the Executive Committee for efficient discharge of functions.
6. The ULO shall prepare locality specific microplan and submit the same for approval of the HLMC. Special teams shall be constituted by the ULO for providing technical assistance on

various aspects of CRC. The microplan will be in the local language (Malayalam /Tamil) with translation in English if necessary.

7. The ULO shall support the forest officials in enforcing standing Rules and Regulations and carry out activities as per the microplan.
8. The ULO shall organize security Guards and depute them for patrolling within their area to prevent, (a) illicit cutting of and removal of forest trees, (b) theft of Cardamom, other produces and valuables of farmers and, (c) causing damage to the environment and natural wealth of the region. It will raise funds by way of contribution from farmers and other agencies to financially support the squads, supervise their functioning and take disciplinary action including dismissal of erring members of the squad. Uniform and Identity Cards shall be issued to the members of the security squad by the ULO.
9. The ULO shall supervise and regulate shade regulation activities in the Cardamom Gardens, collection of firewood for cardamom curing houses within their area, maintain proper records as per the microplan and furnish timely reports to the Range Officer.
10. The ULO shall organize and ensure high quality execution of the approved Microplan.
11. The ULO may organize awareness campaigns in support of CRC among the people within their area and enlist their active support of and participation in all the programmes.
12. The ULO shall monitor all major events in the area, which will have direct or indirect impact on the natural wealth of the region and report to the Range Officer with copy to the HLMC.
13. The ULO shall maintain a bank account for all official transactions of money. This will be a joint account of Chairman and Convener of the ULO nominated by the Executive Committee. The Committee will maintain proper accounts and records and submit the same for regular audits.

HIGH LEVEL MONITORING COMMITTEE (HLMC) – POLICY AND PLANNING LEVEL

1. The Headquarters of the HLMC shall be at Vandanmedu.
2. The High Level Monitoring Committee (HLMC) will consist of:
 - (1) The Conservator of Forests, High Range Forest Circle, Kottayam.
 - (2) The Co-ordinator, PFM High Range Circle, Kottayam.
 - (3) The Divisional Forest Officer, Kottayam.
 - (4) The Divisional Forest Officer, Munnar.
 - (5) The General Manager, Kerala Forest Development Corporation, Kottayam.
 - (6) The Cardamom Settlement Officer, Devikulam.
 - (7) The Revenue Divisional Officer, Devikulam.
 - (8) The Director (Research), Spices Board, ICRI, Myladumpara.
 - (9) The Director (Development), Spices Board, Kochi.
 - (10) Members representing Cardamom Plantations from Idukki District in the Spices Board.
 - (11) Associate Director (Research), High Range Division, Kerala Agricultural University, Thrissur.
 - (12) Associate Professor, Cardamom Research Station, Pampadumpara.
 - (13) Two members each nominated by
 - i. The Cardamom Growers' Association, Vandanmedu,
 - ii. The Kerala Cardamom Growers' Union, Cumbum,
 - iii. The Cardamom Planters' Association, Bodinayakanur and

iv. The Co-ordination Committee of Cardamom Growers' Associations, Vandanmedu.

(14) Range Officers of the three forest Ranges, i.e. Devikulam, Kumily and Ayyappancoil.

(15) District Soil Conservation Officer, Thodupuzha.

Special Invitees:

(1) Member of Parliament representing Idukki Parliamentary Constituency.

(2) M.L.A's representing Devikulam, Udumbanchola, Idukki and Peermade Assembly Constituencies.

(3) President, Idukki Jilla Panchayat.

Chairman:

Conservator of Forests, High Range Circle will be the Chairman of the Committee.

Convener:

A representative of the Cardamom Growers will be appointed as Convener, by the Committee.

3. The High Level Monitoring Committee will meet at least once in 6 months to transact regular business and hold extra-ordinary meetings as and when necessary to deal with emergent issues.
4. The committee shall formulate and recommend to Government policies to be followed in the Cardamom Hills consistent with the values highlighted in the Introduction.
5. The Committee will provide effective leadership (Co-ordination, Supervision, Monitoring, Planning, Review, Evaluation) to the Range Level Committees for implementation of programmes as under CRC including.
 - (1) Ecological Farming;
 - (2) Participatory Forest Management;
 - (3) Participatory Research and application;
 - (4) Integration of Conservation and Development.
1. The Committee will arrange for leadership training for the officers and the local people for progressive development of human and natural resources for realizing optimal resource use consistent with the values suggested above.
2. The Committee may recommend Officers, farmers, scientists and organizations who contribute commendable service to the Cardamom Hills for realizing the values to be honoured with awards/citations.
3. The Committee may institute awards and honorariums to individuals/organizations for meritorious contributions for realizing the values.
4. The Committee may mobilize funds and resources and oversee its effective utilization for identified activities and programmes for furtherance of the values through implementation of Micro plans. They will supervise and regulate all benefit sharing activities under CRC.
5. The Committee will ensure that adequate transparency is maintained in all public activities/transactions pertaining to CRC
6. The Committee will take action against any of its members/any member of CRC subordinate Committee/any sub-ordinate committee who deliberately violates Rules and Regulations and the decisions of the Committees under CRC. Provided in the case Ex-

officio members the committee will take up the matter with appropriate authorities for taking disciplinary action against them.

7. The Committee will consider and take decisions on complaints and suggestions submitted by sub-ordinate committees/Cardamom Growers/Participating Officers.
8. The Committee may constitute special teams for attending to specific issues in order to enable the committee for recommending policies and action plans for development of the area consistent with the identified values. The Committee shall bear the expenses of these special teams.
9. The Committee may formulate/support/participate in community based conservation programmes and join hands with similar efforts elsewhere.
10. The Committee may support/participate in activities for enhancement of the quality of life in the region.
11. The Committee shall prepare a Master plan for the Cardamom Hills of Idukki district will scrutinize and approve the Micro plans prepared by the ULO and recommended by special teams constituted for the purpose. If there are features which require special orders from higher authorities in the Government specific recommendations would be submitted for the purpose by the HLMC.
12. The Committee will maintain proper accounts and make arrangements for timely auditing of the same and also of the accounts of sub-ordinate committees.
13. The Committee shall maintain liaison with various departments and agencies for the smooth functioning of CRC in the region.

FORMAT FOR MICRO PLAN

1. Location map
2. Land use map -Vegetations, houses, roads, public institutions, playgrounds etc.
3. Area – Extent
4. Landscape map – slopes, watershed, tree density, streams, state of soil erosion etc;
5. Species of trees according to abundance
6. Rainfall – period of rainfall, drought seasons
7. Population – category-wise
8. List of farm holdings – area
9. Public Institutions in the area
10. Cardamom map – Cardamom areas, non-cardamom areas, tree density, cardamom productivity.
11. Future Vision map – This has to be prepared by the entire community inhabiting the area. The details shall include.

Tree & forest density, cardamom productivity multi cropping under shade, gene pool conservation zones, perennial & seasonal streams, water quality, water impoundments, micro & mini hydel points, cardamom curing centers, eco-tourism and forest health resorts, nature trails, roads, habitation, wind farms, watermills, schools, health centers, play grounds, cultural centres. (Items indicated are only suggestive)

11.1. Time frame for achieving goals (No time limit, but assume a “reasonable” time) of the vision map may be fixed.

12. Landmarks of progress to be achieved within the initial phase of the programme (5 years). This will give the list of objectives to be detailed in the item below:

13. List of objectives in the order of priority with the time frame under which each objective has to be attained.

Objectives – Time frame

1

2

-

17. Objectives V/S Activities

Activity chart

- i. Key activities
- ii. Sub activities
- iii. Micro sub-activities

Key Activities (suggested)

1. Tree planting – afforestation
2. *Participatory research for multi-cropping under shade conditions
3. Stream regeneration
4. Gene pool conservation
5. Erosion Control
6. *Protection
7. *Curing centers & Fuel (wood) requirements
8. Energy conservation
9. Micro-mini hydel
10. NTFP – Honey production etc.
11. *Shade regulation procedure
12. Water mills
13. Windmills
14. Conservation Education
15. Eco Tourism
16. Forest health resorts
17. *Account & Book keeping, auditing, reporting, monitoring, review
18. Community benefits – Health, Education, Cultural improvement
19. Support to community conservation efforts
20. *Finance – Membership fee, Apportionment at different levels
Protection squads
-Activity money
-Honorarium for technical teams
-Administrative expenses
21. *Policy & legal issues.
22. Publicity

Note: The items appearing with asterisk are essential to all micro plans. The remaining Items will be incorporated according to the potential of the region and actual Requirements.

Micro-planning Process - Special teams will be assigned with tasks related to their area of specialization. They will study the situation and prepare plans. This plan will be compiled and after approval and submitted to the ULO. The General Body of the ULO will approve the plan after necessary deliberations and forward the same to the Range Officer. The Range Officer in turn will see that the microplan does not contain activities destructive to the forest environment or contradicting the rules and regulations of the Cardamom Rules. If any such activities are proposed in the plan, this shall be brought to the attention of the HLMC, which shall deliberate on the issue and get appropriate changes incorporated in the plan before approval. If new policy decisions of the Government or any higher level is required for the implementation of the programme, the HLMC shall study various related aspects and recommend for approval of the Government.

Micro plan can be a theme wise document covering one or a few of the conservation objectives. The suggested list of objectives can be fully explored and more items can be added if required. The chapters with asterisks on Accounts & Book keeping, finance, protection, shade

regulation, policy & legal issues, fuel wood and tree planting are to be treated as essential components of any microplan.

FORMAT FOR MICRO PLAN

Explanations

A. Key Activity:

The rationale for this activity should be an introduction in two pages.

Page 1 should describe the existing condition

Page 2 should describe how this activity would benefit the region and the people.

B. Sub Activity:

Key Activity will be divided into sub activities. The sub activity will specifically answer the question

- * What is the activity?
- * What is the target to be achieved?

C. Micro Activity

- * The sub activity will be divided into micro activities, which are single and not intertwined with other micro activities and which are completed in a short span of a time.
- * Each micro activity has two components – technical inputs and financial inputs.

-Technical inputs

- * When the task performed?
- * Where is it performed?
- * Who is responsible?
- * Who are the participants?

-Financial inputs

- * Required finance
- * Source of finance

-Monitoring

- * Specified method of monitoring
- Who is responsible?
- What are the monitoring indicators?(quantity, time)

Micro plan Format

For incorporation in the document – model

A. Key Activity

-Introduction (two pages)

B. Sub-Activities

- B.1 What? (B1=C.1.+C.2+....)
- B.1.1 How much?
- B.1.2 Expected outcome at fixed intervals
- B.1.3 Possible constraints
- B.1.4 Methods to overcome constraints
- B.2 What?
- B.2.1

