

GOVERNMENT OF KERALA

Abstract

Forest & Wildlife Department – State Level Co-ordination Committee for monitoring and evaluation of Forest Development Agency Projects- Amendment to guidelines approved –Orders issued

FOREST & WILDLIFE (E) DEPARTMENT

G.O.(Rt) No. 438/05/ F&WLD.

Dated, Thiruvananthapuram, 5-8-2005

- Read: (1) G.O (Rt) No. 223/ 02 F&WLD dated 17-7-02
(2) Letter No. PFM/FDA-1/2004 dated 24.08.04 from the Principal Chief Conservator of Forests.
(3) G.O.(Rt) No. 238/05 F & WLD dated 15.4.05

ORDER

In the G.O read as first paper above Government had issued guidelines for formation of Forest Development Agencies for the implementation of National Afforestation Programme and also constituted a State Level Co-ordination Committee to monitor and evaluate the functioning of Forest Development Agencies. Subsequently the Ministry of Forest and Environment revised the original guidelines after remaining the scheme as National Afforestation Programme. The Principal Chief Conservator of Forests as per his letter read above has requested to revise the guidelines in tune with revision mad be the Ministry of Forest and Environment. Government after examined the State Level Co-ordination Committee but the revised guidelines as proposed by the Principal Chief Conservator of Forests could not be issued along with the Government Order.

Government have examined the proposal in detail and are pleased to issue the revised guidelines appended to this order for the administration of the State Level Co-ordination Committee constituted as per the G.O. read as 3rd paper above.

(By Order of the Governor)

L. RADHAKRISHNAN,
Secretary to Government

To

The Principal Chief Conservator of Forests, Thiruvananthapuram
P.S. to Minister (Forests)
P.A to Secretary (Forests)
Stock File, Office Copy.

Forwarded / By Order

Section Officer

CONSTITUTION OF STATE LEVEL CO-ORDINATION COMMITTEE FOR PFM

INTRODUCTION

One of the major factors impacting on the effective conservation of forest is the helpless dependence of rural communities on the forest Biomass Resources for meeting their fuel, fuel-wood, small timber and other livelihood needs. The traditional rural development schemes, some how, could not address this problem effectively and reduce the dependence of the rural people on forest resources. Therefore, it has not been possible to establish linkages between rural development, assured rural employment generation and forest conservation.

There have been a variety of Government of India programmes and schemes, in addition to the afforestation/regeneration components of on-going State Plan Forestry Schemes, including Externally Aided Integrated Forestry Projects aimed at afforestation and biomass regeneration, which again have not been able to reverse the trend of degradation of forest resources. It is imperative, therefore, that a close linkage is permanently established between rural development and forest conservation through an integrated forestry development and rural employment generation scheme, which would also help in the creation of durable community assets in the target villages. The scheme for Integrated Village Afforestation and Eco-development (Samanvit Gram Vanikaran Samirdhi Yojana), which was later renamed as National Afforestation Programme (NAP), was launched by the Ministry of Environment & Forests, Government of India, to closely inter-link the approaches of integrated forest development and rural employment generation into a single umbrella scheme. The State Forests & Wildlife Department subscribe to the findings of the Ministry of Environment and Forests, Government of India and decide to accept the above approaches for forest dependent villages.

The MoEF has directed that all State Governments constitute State Co-ordination Committees for monitoring PFM and allied activities as per letter No 35.38.2/2002-BII dated, 15th July 2003.

“Monitoring and Evaluation is considered essential for successful implementation of National Afforestation Programme (NAP) through Forest Development Agencies (FDAs) in the State. This has been amply highlighted in my earlier letter dated 3rd January 2003 wherein all PCCFs were inter alia, also requested to initiate steps for constitution of State Level Coordinating Committee (SLCC) to monitor implementation of FDA projects under the scheme. However it is seen that very few States have so far constituted SLCCs. The next meeting of the National Steering Committee of NAP is likely to be held sometime in August-September 2003. It is once again reiterated that the SLCC may be put in place expeditiously and the up-to-date progress and performance of FDA projects be placed before SLCC for review. The minutes of the SLCC meetings may be sent to the Ministry before next National Steering Committee meeting of the NAP”

The guidelines for the formation of FDAs has outlined the Constitution, duties and responsibilities of State Level Co-ordination Committee. In the light of the above directions of the GOI and guidelines contained in GO (Rt) No. 223/02/F&WLD dated, 17/7/2002. The State Level Co-ordination Committee has to be constituted as follows:

State Level Co-ordination Committee

1. Chief Secretary- Chairman
2. Secretary, Forest & Wildlife Department- Convener
3. Principal Chief Conservator of Forests

4. Concerned Secretaries of the line departments
5. Chief Conservator of Forests (E&TW)

The State Level Co-ordination Committee shall meet at least once in a year

Duties and Responsibilities

- (a) Monitor PFM in the State
- (b) Monitor the performance of FDAs in the State.
- (c) Monitoring and evaluation of Projects under taken by FDAs and recommending reports to the funding agencies.
- (d) Develop eligibility criteria for incentives and rewards, and selection of FDA for rewards based on performance.
- (e) Recommend corrective steps for improving the performances of FDAs so that the grants to FDAs are not terminated by the funding agency due to non-utilization of funds as prescribed or lack of adequate progress in implementing the schemes.
- (f) Recommend to the funding agency, extension of time for completion of projects by FDAs.
- (g) Constitution of Project Monitoring Committees as required by the funding agency.
- (h) Approval of modalities for recruitment of contract staff.
