

Copy of letter No. VE4-7171/86 dt. 29.9.1986 from the Chief Conservator of Forests, (Vigilance) Trivandrum to the Chief Conservator of Forests, (Development), Trivandrum.

Sir,

Sub:- Planting works- Application of Manure –

1. Application of manure is a common item in all the plantation works those days. On scrutinizing the estimates received in this office almost all estimate provide for this item. A very conservative estimation revealed enormous amount being spent on this item. Considering minimum of 25 grams of manure per plant, the cost of manure, cost of application and the cost of transportation of manure works out to approximately Rs.1200 per hectare. In some cases the quantity varies from 50 to 100 grams. Considering that approximately 3000 hectares of planting works are taken every year nearby 50 lakhs is being spent on this item alone.

2. In social Forestry basketted seedlings are planted. Species planted are mostly hardy and easy to establish species like Acacia auriculiformis. Eucalyptus, casurina, cravelia robusta. Etc. Such a hardy species if planted in bagged containers and at right time will not have any problem of establishment. Therefore, it may be thought of whether manuring is essential for all the species that too when basketted seedlings are planted.

3. Manuring is being done in all the plantations irrespective of the nature of site. Not only degraded areas, but also some good areas are included in the planting. In the same plantation, there may be areas with good soil depth and good nutritional statue at the lower portions of hills than in upper portions with steep gradient. Thus, it may not be essential to manure all plantation and some times all portions of a plantation. In this connection, I suggest soil testing.

4. Soil analysis:

A representative sample of soil may be collected from plantation area and got tested from the nearest soil testing laboratory to ascertain the nutritional status of the soil before planting. Manuring can be done if found very essential after knowing the status of soil.

5. Type of Fertilizer:

There is no uniformity in the manure being applied. There are so many companies manufacturing and selling the manures. There are so many types of manures. There are complex fertilizers, the mixtures and the straight fertilizers. To ensure uniformity all over the state, some guide-lines may be issued as to which type of manure has to be applied.

6. Accounting of the Fertilizer purchase:

Keeping stock registers for the fertilizer purchased may be insisted upon.

7. Verification of the stock:

After bringing the fertilizer from the store to the plantation site an inspection of the quantity by a superior officer may also be insisted upon.

8. Since the methods of application is already discussed and finalized in the last Senior officer's conference – no suggestions are made.

Yours faithfully,
(Sd) Chief Conservator of Forests (Vigilance)

Copy to the Conservator of Forests, Central Circle, Trichur for information.

(TRUE COPY)

FOR CONSERVATOR OF FORESTS.