

GOVERNMENT OF KERALA

Abstract

Forest Management- involvement of People- Participatory Forest Management with local communities implementation – Orders issued.

FOREST & WILDLIFE (E) DEPARTMENT

G.O.(Ms) 94/95/F&WLD

Dated, Thiruvananthapuram, 18-12-1995

Read: (1) G.O (MS) 85/95/F&WLD. Dated 22-11-95
(2) Letter No. PC15958/95, Dated 09-11-95 from the Principal Chief Conservator of Forests, Thiruvananthapuram.

ORDER

The National Forest Policy envisages people's involvement in protection and development of forest as the people living in and around forest could be motivated to involve themselves in the protection and development of forests and at the same time they can be allowed to enjoy certain benefits regarding collection firewood, fodder, thatching grass etc. Government of India have also issued policy guidelines for peoples participation in the management of Forests. These guidelines indicate the responsibilities of the people living in and around the forests as well as the benefits to be extended to them.

As per Government Order read above Government have accorded administrative sanction for the implementation of the World Bank aided Kerala Forestry Project during 1997-2000. Joint Forest Management programme was examined by the World Bank Consultants and the AID MEMORIE issued after discussion with the representative of the World Bank the Participatory forest Management programme was agreed to as essential ingredient of the Scheme.

In the light of the recommendation of the Principal Chief Conservator of Forests in his letter read above, government are pleased to accord sanction for the Joint Forest Management System for the protection and development of the forests.

Three situations were identified as follows for evolving participatory model on a pilot basis:

- (a) In the ARNA of Dry – deciduous forests of Attappady
- (b) In the Area where settlement exists with in the forests
- (c) A few Pilot Cases in the normal forest fringe areas.

For these three specified models in all nine plots may be selected, two plot for (a), three plots for (b) and four plots for (c)

Model (a): The two places suggested for the Dry-deciduous forests of Attappady shall be located in Mannarghat Forest Division-under whose jurisdiction the Dry-deciduous forests of Attappady are situated.

Model (b): The three plots suggested under (b) shall be located in Paruthipally Range of Thiruvananthapuram Division, Thodupuzha Range of Kothamangalam division and Kannothe Range of Kannur Division.

Model (c): The four plots suggested under this model shall be selected in Anchal Range of Punalur division, Erumeli Range of Kottayam Division, Peechi Range of Thrissur division and Edavanna Range of Nilambur North Division.

The plots shall be selected by the concerned Divisional Forest Officer and approved by the conservator of Forests. The extent of the plots shall be roughly 100 (hundred) Ha.

Formation of committee:

A committee comprising the following composition shall be constituted for the study and evaluation of suitable models.

- (a) Divisional Forest Officer .. Ex-officio Chairman
- (b) Range Officer .. Ex-officio Secretary
- (c) Ten members from the people living in and around the plots. These members will be chosen by the Divisional Forest Officer in consultation with the concerned Panchayat President and MLA, its people actually involved in the programme.
- (d) Village Extension Officer .. Ex-Officio member
- (e) In Tribal areas, Tribal Extension Officer .. Ex-officio member
- (f) One representative from NGO as nominated by the Chairman

Quorum of the Committee:

One third the members of the committee shall constitute the quorum. The meeting shall be convened by the Secretary.

Function of the Committee:

- (a) The committee shall study the status of the Forests, causes for degradation, activities required to restore the original status of the Forests etc.
- (b) The extent of pressure of the Forest wealth in the plot, this should be quantified in detail indicating the details of families enjoying the different benefits etc.,
- (c) Measures necessary to reduce/eliminate all pressure on the Forest wealth of the plot and at the same time suggestions for meeting the needs of the people involved to the extend, hitherto they were enjoying.
- (d) The committee shall finalise the study and frame the report within three months of its constitution.

As far as possible, the committee shall meet as close to the plots so that the information gathered could be physically verified by them if found necessary.

An allowance of Rs.50/- per meeting shall be paid to the non-official members. The expenditure on this account will be met from the contingencies.

(By Order of the Governor)

Sd/-

JOHN MATHAI
Secretary to Government