

CITIZEN'S CHARTER

Organization

The Social Forestry Project was started in Jammu & Kashmir as a World Bank aided Project in 1981-82, initially for a period of five years. The Project was extended up-to 1990-91. Since then the Project works have continued as an activity under the State funding with the main objective of raising plantations outside the conventional forests with active involvement of society to meet the requirement of fuel-wood in the shortest possible time, to provide, small timber, fodder, fruits and other minor forest products for basic requirements of the rural poor. The Government vide order No: 481-FST of 2004 dated: 28-10-2004 converted the Social Forestry Project into a full-fledged Department & assigned the department the job of taking up plantations of medicinal plants on a massive scale apart from continuing with the activities being done by Social Forestry project viz.

1. **Raising of Village Wood Lots**
2. **Rehabilitation of Degraded Forests.**
3. **Raising of Strip Plantation.**
4. **Farm Forestry.**
5. **Institutional Plantations.**

The main function of Social Forestry Department is to create nurseries to produce planting stocks for raising plantations & distribution of plant material to the people (rural/urban), farmers, Govt. agencies for planting in their premises/fields with ultimate goals of Greening the State, improving the environment, generating the employment and conserving the natural forests.

Vission/Mission

Afforestation on the wastelands is a priority area to meet the aforesaid objectives besides ensuring a sustained income to the poor populace and contributing towards betterment of rural economy and amelioration of the environment. In this backdrop, following measures could be expected in near future:-

- Taking-up the Social Forestry activities at its full capacity as per availability of resources and infrastructure.
- Taking-up cultivation of medicinal plants on Government as well as private lands on commercial models.
- Development of additional nurseries to raise more plants in order to give boost to the farm forestry sector which is an important sector of Rural Development.

Many of the plantations raised during early years are mature and warrant replacement. These plantations, if harvested, can yield good revenue to local

people by virtue of SROs (61&17) as well as to Govt. A comprehensive management plan is in pipeline which would entail harvesting of mature plantations, preserving of different treatments to different plantations depending upon the silvicultural and physical requirement of the crop/plantations vis-à-vis replanting the same.

Objective/Purpose

These are briefly summarized as under:

1. Rehabilitation of degraded forests so as to optimize their productivity and restore their potential to provide ecosystem goods and services on sustainable basis.
2. Extending tree cover outside forests on available waste lands/avenue plantations on railway tracks/ road sides/canal banks & in institutions etc. to reduce pressure on natural forests for supply of forest produce.
3. To conserve and improve ecology and environment in the region.
4. To mobilize community participation through Joint Forest Management in creating, maintaining, protecting and managing the Social Forestry plantations.
5. To help in poverty alleviation by providing livelihood/employment to the rural poor particularly the land less and other weaker sections of society.
6. To encourage farmer community to plant trees on farm bunds/agro forestry.
7. To increase the productivity of wastelands.

Duties

The primary duty of Department of Social Forestry is to carry afforestation programme under various components which include Raising of Village Wood Lots, Rehabilitation of Degraded Forests, Raising of Strip Plantations, Raising of Institutional Plantations, Wet Lands plantations, Silvi Pasture Works, Intuitional Plantations etc. Besides plants are distributed among farmers under Farm-Forestry scheme. Nurseries are being maintained to raise planting stock for transplanting in the field under the said schemes.

The afforestation works undertaken by the Department helps in rehabilitation of degraded forests, enhancing the sylvan beauty of the State and to meet people's demands of small timber, fuel, fodder in addition to providing livelihood to the rural population involved in plantation activity, thereby relieving pressure on natural forests of the State.

The plants raised by Social Forestry have become a major source of raw-material for the fruit boxes to boost the Horticulture Industry in the State, small timber for construction and furniture industry, a source of fodder to live-stock, fuel for the poor class and above all reducing the pressure on natural forests this conserving the environment & ecology.

Main activities/functions

The Department of Social Forestry is entrusted with the assignment of extending Forest and green cover in the State giving thrust to Agro Forestry besides the development of Medicinal Plants, under the Joint Forest Management Programme as per the Guidelines of SRO-61 of 1992 and SRO-17 of 1999. The Department is to maintain all the assets created under the Social Forestry Project and to create nurseries to produce planting stocks, raise plantations, distribution of plant material to the locals, farmers, Govt. agencies for planting in their fields/premises with an ultimate goal of greening the state, improving the environment, generating the employment and conserving the natural forests.

The lucid impact of the activities of the Department of Social Forestry is th4e creation of 8.65 crore plants outside the Forests which bears a volume of 3.02 crore cubic meter with an annual cut of 10 % on a rotation of 12 years fetches about Rs 1200-1500 crores annually in the private sector.

To following schemes in vogue at present:-

01. **Raising of Nurseries** where improved and better quality planting material is raised in abundance to meet the requirement;
02. **Rehabilitation of Degraded Forests:** Degraded Forest areas are closed with fencing and natural regeneration is supplemented by artificial planting. Some times nurse crops are raised first to provide shade (function of Nursing), before the main crop is planted.
03. **Village Wood Lots:** These are raised over unproductive revenue/the Village common lands. VWL are raised to make villages self sufficient with regard to fuel-wood, fodder and small timber besides earning money for their involvement in forestry works, which adds to the rural economy.
04. **Strip Plantations:** Strip plantations are raised along side roads, railway line and canals to provide aesthetic beauty, shade to travelers besides acting as a source of revenue to the Government.
05. **Silvi Pasture Development:** Forest lands/revenues lands/other Government lands in the fodder scarcity regions are brought under this scheme. Fodder trees and high yielding grasses like Legumes as Napier, Red clover etc. are given priority under this scheme.
06. **Wet Land Development:** Water logged unproductive Government lands or village common lands are planted with tree species which can withstand with water logged conditions to reclaim such lands and to supplement rural wealth from these otherwise waste lands.
07. **Institutional Plantation:** Tree planting is done on marginal/ Institutional lands of Government offices, Institutional premises etc. to add the beauty of the institutions and develop micro-climate. In addition such plantations supplement the production of timber.

Department of Social Forestry helps to induce community and individual participation in creating, maintaining and protecting the plantation programme to be launched for such purpose, so as to share benefits in the contemplated Joint Management Programme. It also helps to provide employment to unemployed and under employed people, particularly the landless agricultural labourers and other traditionally weaker sections of rural community. The Department of Social Forestry has created the desired level of awareness among the people about the significance of planting trees.

List of services being provided

Brief of services (direct/indirect) being provided:

1. Department provides plants to people at subsidized rates.
2. Providing specialized technical know-how in the field of the agro forestry and tree planting.
3. Providing employment to locals by engaging them in plantation initiatives taken up under various Schemes/Components, feeding & meeting the requirement of fruit industry, plywood/Board industry and sports industry.
4. Providing of fire wood, small timber, fodder, grasses and other NTF Produce to locals. As per provisions of SRO – 61 of 1992 / SRO – 17 of 1999 (modified), the interim and final harvest is being shared with the locals through Village Forest Committees in cash or kind.
5. Upliftment of socio-economic conditions of farmers.
6. Environmental improvement.
7. Adding to the aesthetic scenario.
8. Soil and water conservation.
9. Reducing the thrust on natural forests for wood/timber/grazing etc.
10. Awareness about importance of trees/plantations.

The Divisional Heads are wholly responsible for execution of all afforestation & other works of the department in their jurisdiction under the control & technical guidance of Regional Heads in a grand supervision & command of Director of the Department (HoD), however the issues/cases which lie beyond the competence of the Director are referred/guided to/by the Administrative Department (Forests).

The Department expects from public

Massive tree plantation is the only option to mitigate environmental hazards confronting the mankind and the society at present. Life on this planet is possible as long as trees exist. It is our moral obligation to preserve greenery, protect tree belts and go for large scale plantations on all wastelands, farm lands and areas available around our houses, road sides and canal banks. **The Department expects full support & active participation of public of the State in this regard.**

Grievance Redressal Mechanism

The respective Divisional Forest Officers / Range Officers & Block Officers of the Department can be visited/approached for getting any technical guidance & services.

Under Right to Information Act the following PIOs/Appellate Authority can be contacted/approached for any information under RTI norms.

Name of the Public Authority: - **Department of Social Forestry**

Details of Public Information Officers/
Appellate Authorities in Department of Social Forestry

Public Information Officers

Name of the Officer (S/Shri)	Tanveer Ahmad Parea
Designation	Divisional Forest Officer, S.F. Division, Srinagar
Jurisdiction (Districts)	Srinagar/Budgam/Ganderbal & RD, DSF, Kashmir's Office
Phone/FAX (O)	0194-2472776
Mobile No.	9682177189
Email Address	dfosocialforestrysgr@gmail.com
Name of the Officer (S/Shri)	Arshad Ahmad Lala
Designation	Divisional Forest Officer, S.F. Division, Baramulla
Jurisdiction (Districts)	Baramulla/Bandipora
Phone/FAX (O)	01952-237986
Mobile No.	9419062033
Email Address	-
Name of the Officer (S/Shri)	Fayaz Ahmad Bhat
Designation	Divisional Forest Officer, S.F. Division, Kupwara
Jurisdiction (Districts)	Kupwara
Phone/FAX (O)	01955-253350
Mobile No.	9797434243
Email Address	-
Name of the Officer (S/Shri)	Shamma Roohi
Designation	Divisional Forest Officer, S.F. Division, Anantnag
Jurisdiction (Districts)	Anantnag/Kulgam
Phone/FAX(O)	01932-224228
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Name of the Officer (S/Shri)	Manzoor Ahmad
Designation	Divisional Forest Officer, S.F. Division, Pulwama
Jurisdiction (Districts)	Pulwama/Shopian
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Name of the Officer (S/Shri)	<i>Hitashi Sharma</i>
Designation	Divisional Forest Officer, S.F. Division, Jammu
Jurisdiction (Districts)	Jammu/Samba/RD, DSF, Jammu's Office
Phone/FAX (O)	0191-2502942
Mobile No.	9469864047
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Name of the Officer (S/Shri)	<i>Munish Bardwaj</i>
Designation	Divisional Forest Officer, S.F. Division, Kathua
Jurisdiction (Districts)	Kathua/Samba
Phone/FAX (O)	01922-234687
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Name of the Officer (S/Shri)	<i>Abhinav Rahmotra</i>
Designation	Divisional Forest Officer, S.F. Division, Udhampur
Jurisdiction (Districts)	Udhampur/Reasi
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Name of the Officer (S/Shri)	<i>Safeer Hussain Shah</i>
Designation	Divisional Forest Officer, S.F. Division, Doda
Jurisdiction (Districts)	Doda/Kishtwar
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Name of the Officer (S/Shri)	<i>Mahesh Kumar</i>
Designation	Divisional Forest Officer, S.F. Division, Ramban
Jurisdiction (Districts)	Ramban
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Name of the Officer (S/Shri)	<i>Rakesh Saraf</i>
Designation	Divisional Forest Officer, S.F. Division, Rajouri
Jurisdiction (Districts)	Rajouri
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Name of the Officer (S/Shri)	<i>Naveed Iqbal</i>
Designation	Divisional Forest Officer, S.F. Division, Poonch
Jurisdiction (Districts)	Poonch
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Mobile No.	9492941711
Email Address	dfosphoonch@gmail.com

Name of the Officer (S/Shri)	<i>Shewta Deonia</i>
Designation	Dy. Conservator of Forests, M&E
Jurisdiction	Direction Office
Phone/FAX (O)	0191-2554624 (Jammu)/ 0194-2313717 (Srinagar)
Mobile No.	8713803186
Email Address	jksforestry@rediffmail.com

1st Appellate Authorities

Name of the Officer (S/Shri)	<i>Mohinder Gupta</i>
Designation	Regional Director, DSF, Jammu
Jurisdiction (Districts)	Jammu Province
Phone/FAX (O)	0191-2505742
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Email Address	rdsjdjmu@gmail.com

Name of the Officer (S/Shri)	<i>Mehrajudin Malik</i>
Designation	Regional Director, DSF, Kashmir
Jurisdiction (Districts)	Kashmir Province
Phone/FAX (O)	0194-2461186
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Name of the Officer (S/Shri)	<i>Zuhaib Chowdary</i>
Designation	Dy. Conservator of Forests, C&E
Jurisdiction (Districts)	Direction Office
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**SOCIAL FORESTRY
DEPARTMENT**

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