

Jan-Bhaghidari

*One year of working in partnership with
Village Panchayat Plantation Committees*

MATURE BAMBOO PLANTATION IN VWL-
AN ASSET OF GARH GRAM PANCHAYAT



GENERAL BODY MEETING OF VPPCS GURSEER,
MANZSEER & PETHSEER IN BARAMULLA DISTRICT



Success Story of Mand West Gram Panchayat in Udhampur District



In Social Forestry Division Udhampur, a Village Wood Lot was established on Village Common land over an area of 50 Ha. by planting 58900 plants of different local species during the year 1990-91 in Gram Panchayat Mand West in Udhampur District with the support of Village Committee. The Village Committee played key role in protection and management of the Village Wood Lot. Over these years, interim benefits like fodder, fuelwood were availed free of cost from the plantation unit by the residents of the Gram Panchayat. During 2018-19, the Village Committee resolved to get mature trees harvested from the said plantation unit.



SMT. NISHA SHARMA BDC CHAIRPERSON TIKRI BOCK, MEMBERS OF VPPC AND GRAM PANCHAYAT ALONG WITH DFO, SF UDHAMPUR INSPECTING THE PATH IN VILLAGE CHANAS OF MAND WEST PANCHAYAT

With the approval of Competent Authority, 1514 trees were disposed of through open auction and VPPC realized an amount of Rs. 4.35 lacs as its 75% share. VPPC decided during 2021-22 to use Village Fund for construction of a bridge path to develop hassle-free connectivity for the residents. The work was taken up under the supervision of VPPC and 1.55 Km pucca bridge path was constructed during the month of February – March, 2022. The initiative of VPPC to develop facility of approach path out of the Gram Panchayat Fund has been well appreciated by local people. For sustainable management of the said unit, VPPC has now decided to take up additional plantation to further improve its stocking.

Such initiatives have been taken by Gram Panchayats in other Districts as well and Department is making endeavour to share these success stories amongst Gram Panchayats to develop feeling of healthy competition and inspiration which would strengthen the spirit of collaborative working between Department and Gram panchayats.

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Preface



Roshan Jaggi, IFS
PCCF / Director
Department of Social Forestry, J&K



The Social Forestry programme began in Jammu & Kashmir in early eighties with the financial aid of World Bank. The objective was to utilize available wastelands/ unculturable lands for raising plantations to meet needs of local communities like Fodder, Fuelwood, Small Timber, NTFP so that pressure on natural forests could be reduced.

The programme progressed very well and large-scale plantations were raised on state/ community lands, fringe forest areas, along Highways/ Roads, Canals, River banks, Institutional lands like School, Colleges, Army stations, Campus of Paramilitary Forces. Culture of growing trees on farm lands also got established and sizeable plantations of Poplar, Eucalyptus, Bamboo, came up on farm lands under Farm Forestry land use.

During initial years in the absence of Panchayati Raj System in J&K, Village Forest Committees played the role of a link between Department and local people. However, real turning point came in 2019 when Government operationalised three tier Panchayati Raj System and decided to devolve different functions, powers, responsibilities and funds to PRIs to enhance their participation and involvement in decision making, execution of developmental works and delivery of public services to citizens.

The afforestation in Gram Panchayats on community/state lands, their protection & sustainable management, equitable distribution of benefits to local people and management of Gram Panchayat Fund established out of the sale proceeds of mature plantations – these all-important activities are now performed by Village Panchayat (Plantation) Committees (VPPCs) with the assistance of departmental functionaries. VPPCs which are functioning in all 4291 Gram Panchayats of UT.

During last one year, Department has been able to leverage the cooperation and assistance of VPPCs by tackling an area of 2900, Ha. and raising plantation of about 31 lakh plants, benefitting 1618 Gram Panchayats across Jammu & Kashmir.

Recently the Jammu and Kashmir Social Forestry (Plantation) Rules-2022, have been notified by Government which is an important step towards the active involvement of PRIs in implementation of Afforestation programmes like Green J&K Drive, Har Gaon Haryali, Fodder augmentation, Van Se Jal – Jal Se Jeevan. It would be our endeavour to build a strong partnership with Gram Panchayats to harness the potential of increasing Green Cover Outside Forest areas, which plays significant role in boosting economic activity and maintaining environmental stability.

Publication of Jan – Bhagidari is an attempt to enlighten the stakeholders about the context, the goals and activities undertaken in last one year. We hope that readers would provide constructive feedback which would help in making course corrections.

25th July, 2022

ROSHAN JAGGI

Objectives of the Department



Afforestation works, mainly outside Forest Areas



To meet Forest based needs of local people



To reduce pressure on natural forests



Raw Material to Forest based Industries



Livelihood generation



Environmental Security

Main Activities



Afforestation on Non Forest Lands viz:

- Village Common Lands/ State Lands.
- Institutional Lands.
- Along Roads/Highways/ Canals.



Afforestation on Fringe-Forest Areas



Promotion of Farm Forestry



Awareness & Capacity Building through IEC Activities

Utilizing Available Lands to achieve the Objectives

I) VILLAGE WOOD LOT (VWL)



VWL CHALAD, PANCHAYAT BOURA DISTRICT KATHUA

Plantations raised on village common lands/state & revenue lands to establish assets which serve as common property resource for the population of Gram Panchayats.

Interim benefits like fodder, fuelwood, small timber, NTFP are availed free of cost for bonafide purposes by the residents of Gram Panchayat. 75% of amount realised on harvesting of mature plantation/forest produce is retained by VPPCs in Village Fund which is utilized for raising new plantations and small developmental works as per resolution of VPPC.

II. REHABILITATION OF DEGRADED FORESTS (RDF)



160/K, SOLKI, KALAKOTE, RAJOURI DISTRICT

The degraded fringe Forest areas near habitations are treated to rejuvenate them. These rehabilitated fringe Forest areas meet needs of local communities like Fodder, Fuelwood, small timber, NTFP which helps to reduce pressure on Natural Forests.

III. STRIP PLANTATIONS



ROADSIDE AVENUE PLANTATION GUPKAR ROAD SRINAGAR

Land along National Highways, Roads/ Canals, River Banks, Railway Tracks is utilized to raise plantations to reap economic and environmental benefits.

IV. INSTITUTIONAL PLANTATIONS



**STUDENTS AND PRI MEMBERS DOING INSTITUTIONAL
PLANTATION IN GHAGWAL SCHOOL AUG.2021**

Vacant lands of Government Departments / PSUs Army / Paramilitary forces, colleges / schools are utilized to raise plantations.

V. AGRO AND FARM FORESTRY



**DISTRIBUTION OF POPLAR CLONES TO FARMERS UNDER
FARM FORESTRY IN PULWAMA DISTRICT**

The interested progressive farmers / growers are encouraged to take plantation of economically important species on their farm lands to enhance their income and also to reap environmental benefits.

1) DEVOLUTION OF POWERS TO GRAM PANCHAYATS AND ROLE OF VPPCS

Under amended J&K Panchayati Raj Act, Government has taken decision for active involvement of Gram Panchayats in micro planning, execution of developmental works and their management to ensure people's participation in decision making & monitoring of developmental activities.

In Social Forestry, Village Panchayat (Plantation) Committee (VPPCs) have been actively working in all 4291 Gram Panchayats to directly take up responsibilities of land identification, micro planning for Afforestation, raising plantations & their maintenance, distribution of interim benefits & management of Village Fund created through monies obtained by the disposal of mature plantations.

2) GREEN JAMMU AND KASHMIR DRIVE

⇒ Green J&K Drive is a flagship initiative of Government of Jammu and Kashmir to give thrust to afforestation on different types of Forest & Non-Forest lands by actively involving all stake holders, particularly the Panchayati Raj Institutions. The objective is to take up Afforestation activities on massive scale by creating people's whole hearted support and spirit of ownership.

⇒ Forest Department & its allied wings including J&K Social Forestry Department work in unison to achieve yearly targets.

⇒ During 2021-22, against the target of 130 lakh, 137.20 lakh plants were planted up. Social Forestry's contribution was 22.84% and 31.34 lakh plants were planted along with 7.34 lakh low cost greening units, tackling 2900 Hectare area in 1618 Gram Panchayats. Village Panchayat (Plantation) Committees (VPPCs) played active role in achieving targets. 3.67 lakh plants of improved varieties/Clones were distributed under Farm Forestry to about 1200 farmers/ growers during the year.

Green J&K Drive-2021-22

137.20 lakh Plantation

Contribution of Social Forestry Department
22.84%

31.343 lakh Planting

7.58 lakh low cost
greening

CAMPA-

13.22 lakh plants

CAPEX-

6.992 lakh plants

CONVERGENCE (MG-NREGA)
2.443 lakh plants

GIM-

1.611 lakh plants

Farm Forestry
3.672 lakh plants

Voluntary Plantations
3.407 lakh plants

Through VPPCs/ EcoClubs/ NSS & NCC volunteers/
students/ NGOs/ department's watch & ward Staff

Institutional Arrangement before 2019

- ⇒ SRO-61 of 1992, Regulated Departmental Working.
- ⇒ There were two types of Committees viz.
 1. *VILLAGE (REHABILITATION OF DEGREDED FORESTS)*
 2. *VILLAGE PLANTATION (PROTECTION AND MANAGEMENT) COMMITTEE*
- ⇒ These Village Committees (VCs) acted as a bridge between the Department and local communities to ensure their participation in departmental programmes.
- ⇒ The VCs were having no representation of Gram Panchayats.
- ⇒ Their role and responsibility was limited to joint protection measures and sharing of benefits from mature plantations.

Post 2019-Changes

COMPREHENSIVE ENGAGEMENT OF GRAM PANCHAYATS THROUGH CONSTITUTION OF VILLAGE PANCHAYAT (PLANTATION) COMMITTEES (VPPCS)

- ⇒ In 2019, Government vide order No. 182-FST of 2019 dated: - 19.06.2019 & No. 298 - FST of 2019 dated:- 24.09.2019, **with approval of Administrative Council**, issued orders for **devolution of Powers to Panchayats as per the J&K Panchayat Raj Act-1989 (Amended upto 10/2018)** in respect of Department of Social Forestry.
- ⇒ The Village Committees rechristened as VPPCs with broad based role & responsibility to take up all activities related to plantations and management thereof.
- ⇒ 4291 VPPCs constituted in respective Gram Panchayats across 20 districts of J&K UT, which are performing in close coordination with Department of Social Forestry.
- ⇒ Institutional Involvement of VPPCs, is deepening the community participation in creation and Management of plantation-based assets in Gram Panchayats.

Composition of VPPCs

S.No.	Category	Nos.	Designation
1	<i>Chairperson (Ex-officio)</i>	1	<i>Sarpanch</i>
2	<i>Women Member</i>	2	<i>Member</i>
3	<i>SC/ST/OSC/OBC Member (Maximum three)</i>	3	<i>Member (at least one female member)</i>
4	<i>Members of Panchayat</i>	2	<i>Members (to be nominated by Gram Sabha).</i>
5	<i>Ex-officio Member</i>	1	<i>Concerned Patwari</i>
6	<i>Member Secretary</i>	1	<i>Officer in-charge S.F. Block</i>
7	<i>Treasurer (Ex-officio)</i>	1	
	Total:	11	

As per J&K Social Forestry (Plantation) Rules - 2022, Panchayat Secretary, RDD will be treasurer Ex-officio.

Formation of VPPCs

As per provisions of aforementioned Government Orders, VPPCs have been constituted throughout J&K by the department on Gram Panchayat level in all 4291 Panchayats.

DISTRICIT WISE BREAK UP (VPPCs)

S.No.	District	No. of Gram Panchayats	No. of VPPCs constituted by SFD as on date
1	Jammu	305	305
2	Samba	101	101
3	Kathua	257	257
4	Udhampur	236	236
5	Reasi	153	153
6	Ramban	143	143
7	Doda	237	237
8	Kisthwar	136	136
9	Rajouri	312	312
10	Poonch	229	229
	Total (J)	2109	2109
1	Srinagar	21	21
2	Budgam	296	296
3	Ganderbal	126	126
4	Anantnag	335	335
5	Kulgam	178	178
6	Pulwama	190	190
7	Shopian	98	98
8	Baramulla	402	402
9	Bandipora	151	151
10	Kupwara	385	385
	Total (K)	2182	2182
	Total (J&K)	4291	4291

Functioning of VPPCs

As provisioned in Govt. orders/rules, the VPPCs are being involved actively in all afforestation and allied works of the Department in following ways:

1. Identification of Land.
2. Micro Planning and approval of plan in Gram Sabha.
3. Execution & Monitoring of works.
4. Maintenance & Watch & Ward of Assets
5. Sharing of Interim benefits from Plantation assets.
6. Role in long term Management of plantations as per Management Plans and Conflict Resolution.
7. Sharing of Final Harvest (Village Woodlots) and Utilisation of Money from Gram Panchayat Fund.
8. Awareness Creation through Education, Publicity & Extension.

Involvement of VPPCS in activities during 2021-22

i) Identification of Land & Plantation under different schemes

S.F. Division	No. of Plantation units established	No. of Plants Planted under regular schemes	No. of VPPCs involved
Jammu	45	284546	115
Kathua	62	268739	54
Udhampur	43	189018	39
Ramban	31	155723	62
Doda	70	351000	49
Rajouri	29	212450	65
Poonch	48	248180	98
Srinagar	33	229973	240
Anantnag	13	333309	18
Pulwama	19	299772	17
Baramulla	75	382800	47
Kupwara	16	178841	109
Total	484	3134351	913

ii) Ceremonial Plantation Events on National and Forestry Days

S.F. Division	No. of Events held	No. of VPPCs involved
Jammu	199	177
Kathua	317	291
Udhampur	273	166
Ramban	180	107
Doda	152	83
Rajouri	196	153
Poonch	151	90
Srinagar	78	78
Anantnag	60	120
Pulwama	110	110
Baramulla	144	134
Kupwara	109	109
Total	1969	1618

iii) Voluntary Planation Drives

S.F. Division	No. of Events held	No. of VPPCs involved
Jammu	199	211
Kathua	125	125
Udhampur	103	103
Ramban	30	30
Doda	147	135
Rajouri	30	20
Poonch	25	21
Srinagar	35	86
Anantnag	40	75
Pulwama	10	10
Baramulla	120	72
Kupwara	50	173
Total	914	1061

iv) Management of Old Planation Units/Usufruct/Final Harvest Sharing

S.F. Division	Fuelwood shared through VPPCs (Qtls)	Fodder shared through VPPCs (Qtls)	Major Harvest amount shared with VPPCs (Rs. In lacs)	No. of VPPCs involved
Jammu	1914.00	4954.00	0.00	140
Kathua	1405.00	1354.00	0.00	278
Udhampur	2017.00	4732.00	0.34	112
Ramban	336.00	934.00	1.22	48
Doda	135.00	390.00	0.00	175
Rajouri	7480.00	5521.00	3.30	270
Poonch	250.00	7945.00	0.25	165
Srinagar	57.00	447.00	0.00	57
Anantnag	200.00	345.00	20.84	150
Pulwama	180.00	77.00	21.05	155
Baramulla	513.00	1941.00	93.94	96
Kupwara	2093.00	3472.00	26.59	0
Total	16580.00	32112.00	167.53	1646

v) Training/Awareness and Extension Activities

S.F. Division	No. of Interactions/Meetings held with VPPCs	No. of Field Visits by VPPCs	No. of capacity building and other extension programmes held with VPPCs	No. of VPPCs involved
Jammu	372	45	18	341
Kathua	505	55	03	291
Udhampur	220	93	11	389
Ramban	165	20	10	165
Doda	339	100	339	185
Rajouri	301	45	110	304
Poonch	90	20	08	229
Srinagar	69	25	33	66
Anantnag	40	15	10	70
Pulwama	48	49	13	145
Baramulla	125	33	35	103
Kupwara	58	53	04	101
Total	2332	553	594	2389

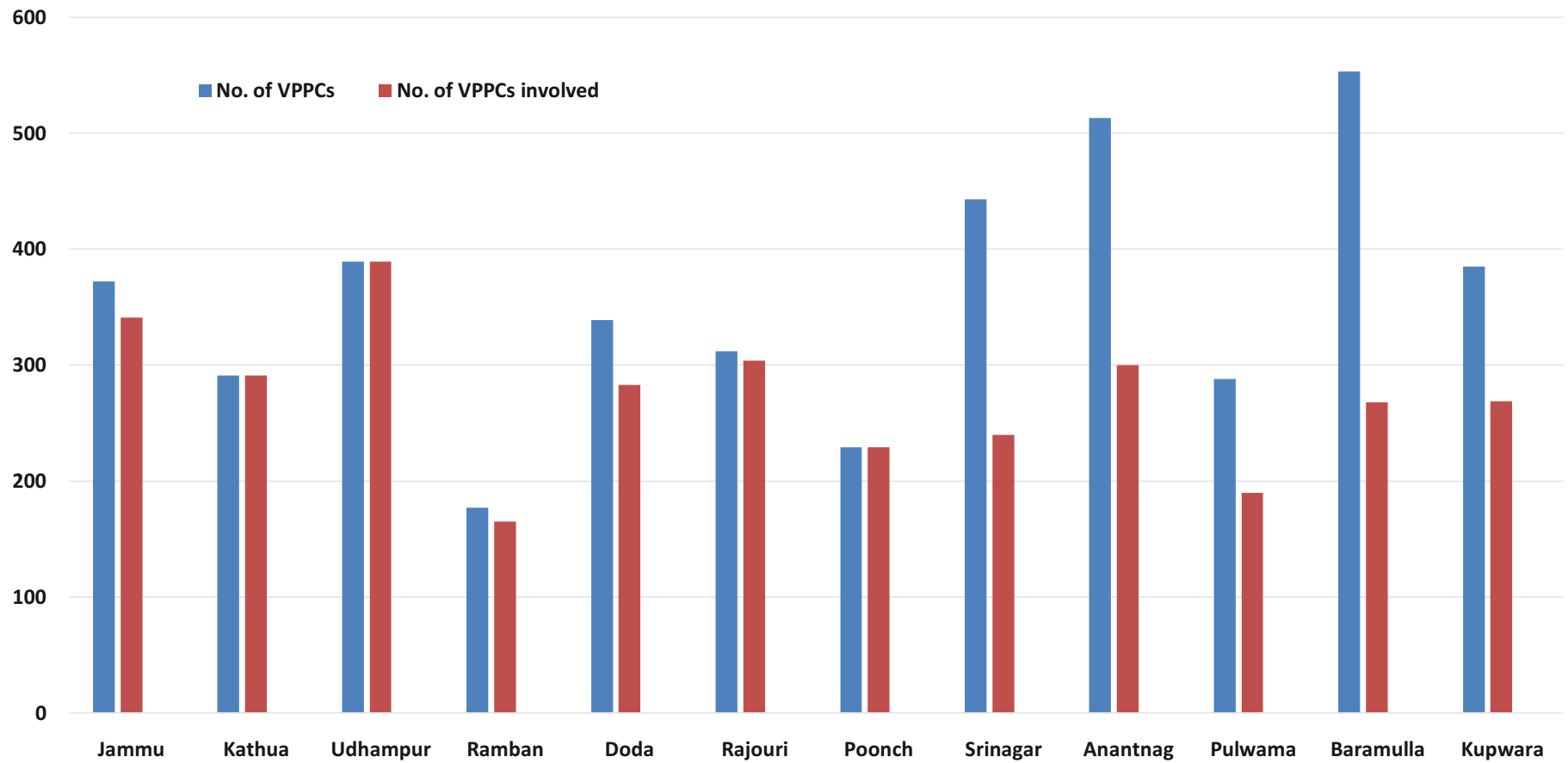
Division-Wise Progress on involvement of VPPCs (4/2021 to 3/2022)

S.F. Division	Total No. of VPPC	No. of VPPC involved during the FY 2021-22	<i>Involvement %age</i>
Jammu	372	341	92%
Kathua	291	291	100%
Udhampur	389	389	100%
Ramban	177	165	93%
Doda	339	283	83%
Rajouri	312	304	97%
Poonch	229	229	100%
Srinagar	443	240	54%
Anantnag	513	300	58%
Pulwama	288	190	66%
Baramulla	553	268	48%
Kupwara	385	269	70%
Total	4291	3269	76%

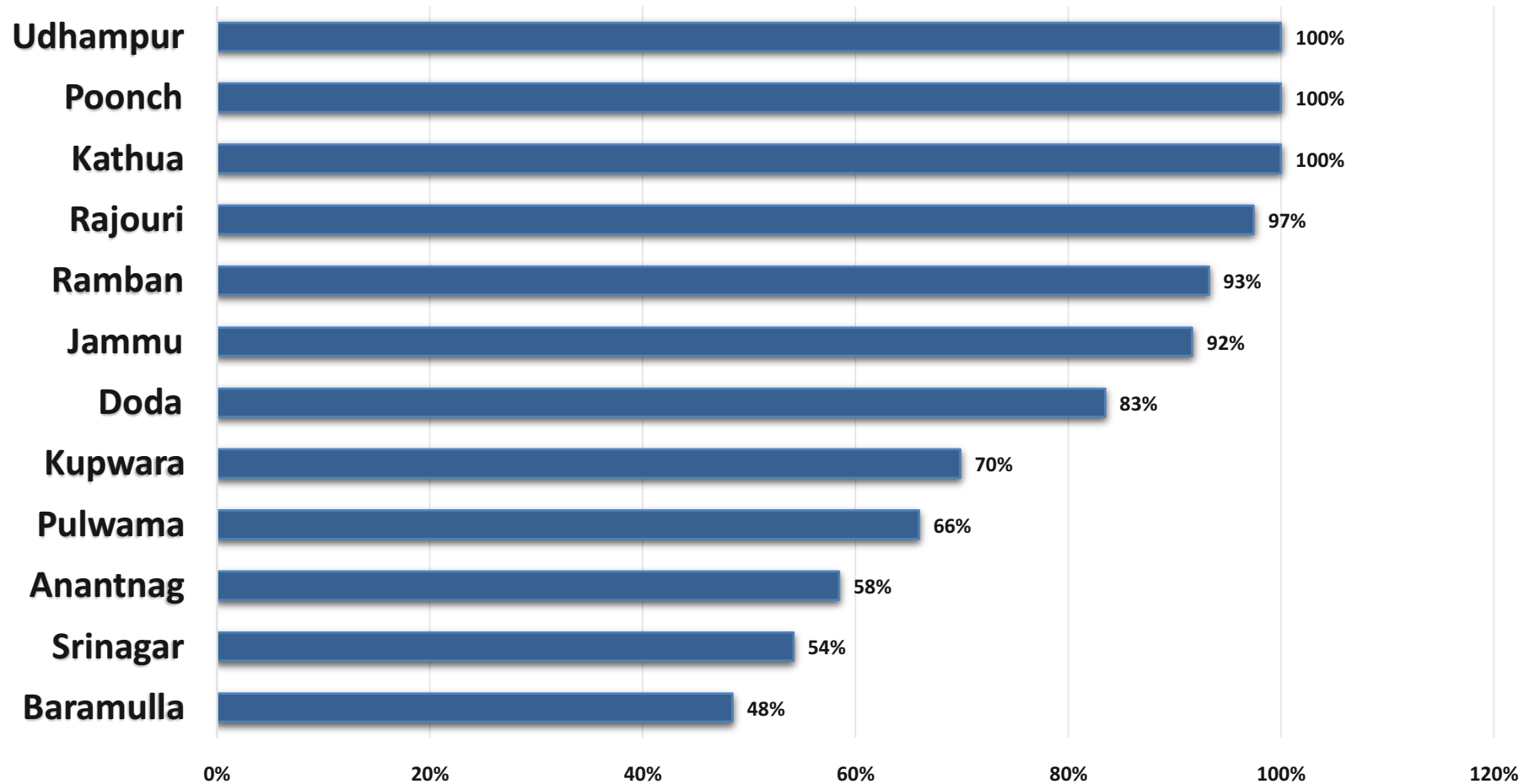
No. of VPPCs involved Activity-Wise

S.No.	Activity	No. of VPPCs involved during 2021-22
i)	Identification of Land & Plantation under different schemes	913
ii)	Ceremonial Plantation Events on National and Forestry Days	1618
iii)	Voluntary Plantation Drives	1061
iv)	Management of Old Planation Units/Usufruct/Final Harvest Sharing	1646
v)	Training/Awareness and Extension Activities	2389
	Total VPPCs (4291)	Total involved (3269)
		(76%)

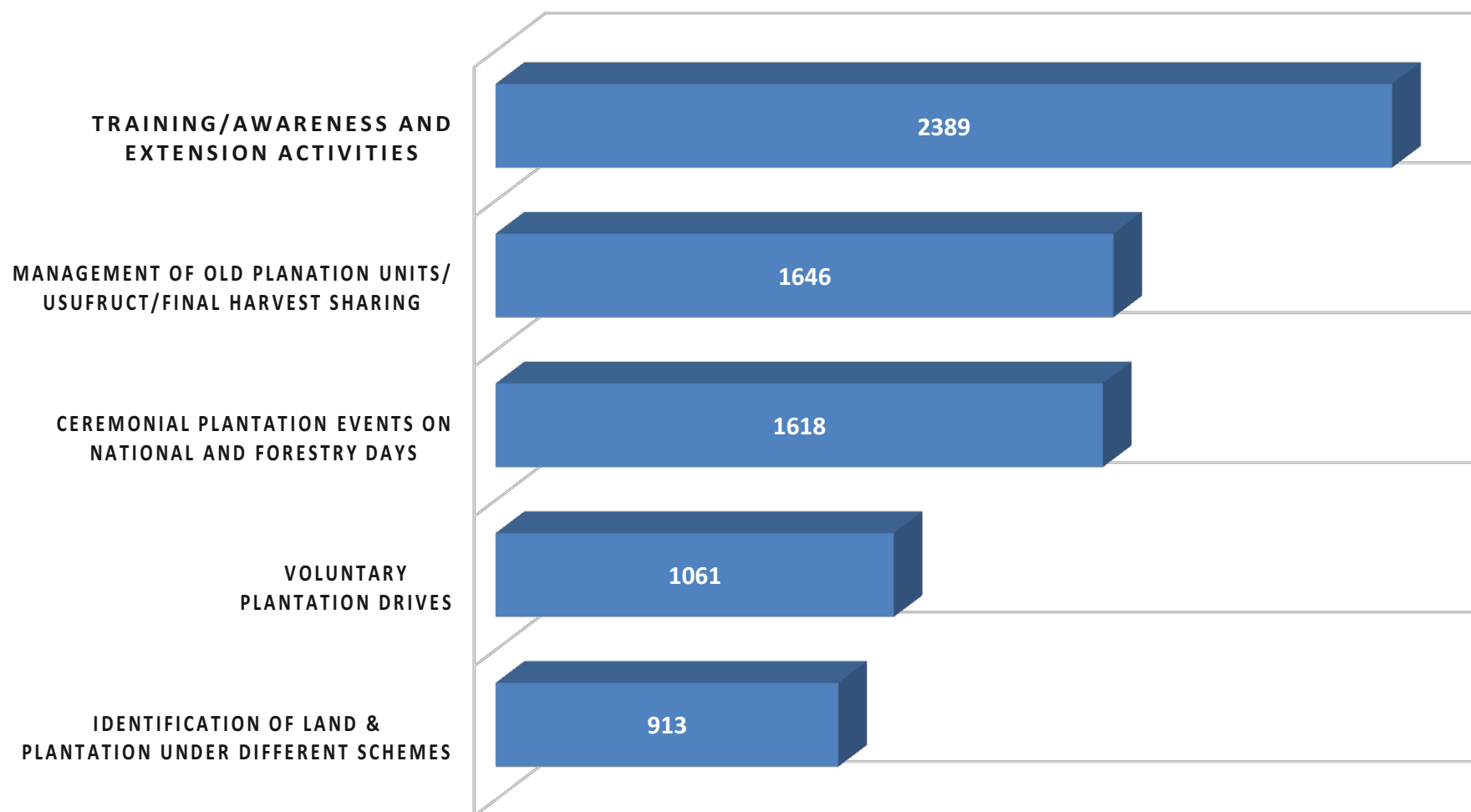
DIVISION WISE VPPC INVOLVEMENT

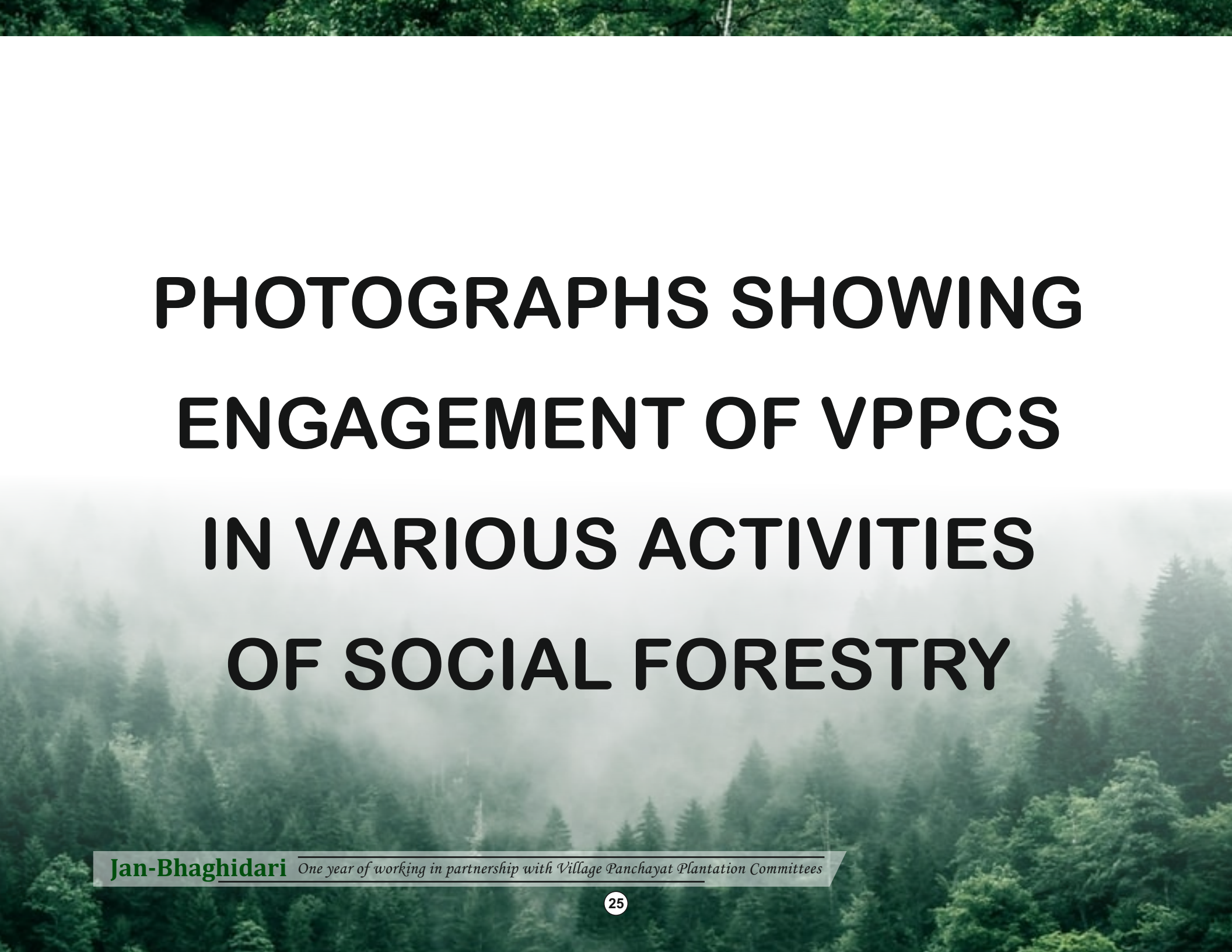


DIVISION WISE VPPCs INVOLVED

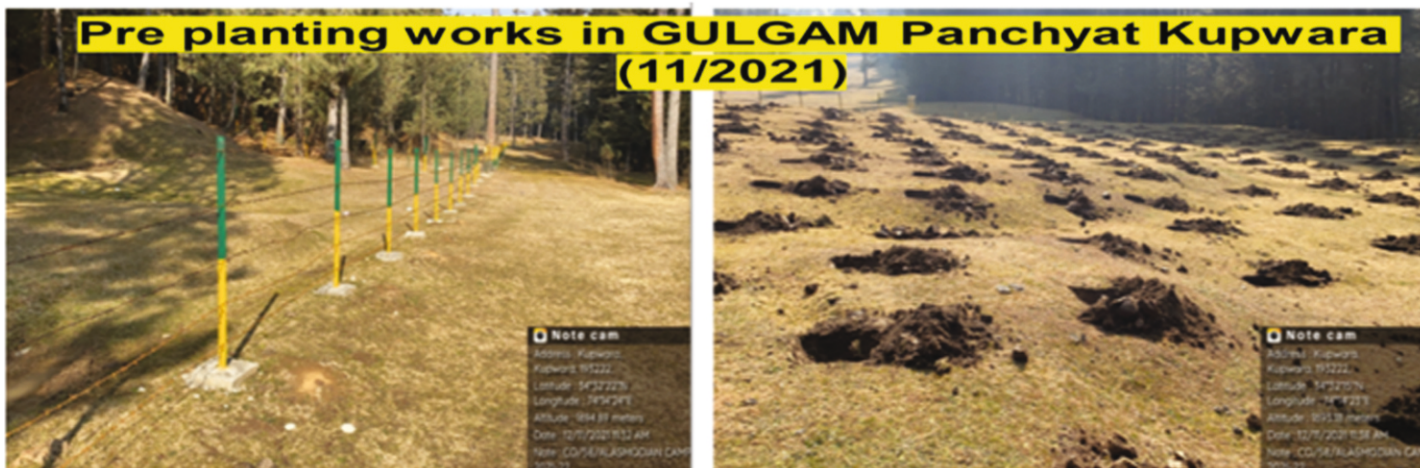


ACTIVITY WISE VPPC INVOLVEMENT





PHOTOGRAPHS SHOWING ENGAGEMENT OF VPPCS IN VARIOUS ACTIVITIES OF SOCIAL FORESTRY



VPPC MEMBERS AND LOCAL PEOPLE PARTICIPATING IN PLANTATION DURING 11/2021

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Chairperson, DDC Udhampur Shri Lal Chand launching plantation drive at Udhampur during 08/2021



Launching of Plantation in Departmental Closures by VPPCs/PRIs Members



VPPC OF ZALOORA, BARAMULLA ON 29/10/2021



VPPC OF MAND WEST, UDHAMPUR ON 29/01/2022



VPPC OF BASANTPUR, KATHUA ON 23.07.2021



PLANATION BY DDC COUNSELOR NEERA, RAMBAN ON 29/01/2022



PLANTATION WITH VPPC, KANGA, (RAMBAN) ON 16.12.2021



PLANTATION WITH VPPCS OF POONCH ON 11.01.2022



PLANTATION WITH VPPC, KHIAPORA,
CO. 45/GULMARG ON 30.11.2021



PLANTATION WITH VPPCS OF
MAHANPUR(KATHUA) ON 27.07.2021



**CEREMONIAL PLANTATION DRIVE VPPC
JAGHER, KATHUA ON REPUBLIC DAY-2022**



**CEREMONIAL PLANTATION DRIVE LED BY DC,
KUPWARA ALONGWITH VPPCS ON REPUBLIC DAY-2022**



**CEREMONIAL PLANTATION DRIVE WITH
VPPC, SEER, BARAMULLA ON 26.01.2022**



**PLANTATION DRIVE LED BY CHAIRPERSON DDC,
UDHAMPUR IN PRESENCE OF DIRECTOR, SF ON 6.8.2021**

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GREEN MARCH AND PLANTATION DRIVE WITH VPPC SHAHKOT AND STUDENTS AT BARAMULLA



CEREMONIAL PLANTATION LED BY DDC MEMBER SHRI RAJINDER KUMAR & BDC CHIARMAN SHRI CHANDER MOHAN SINGH AT PANTHALON REPUBLIC DAY



CEREMONIAL PLANTATION LED BY BDC CHAIRMAN POUNI, SHRI PAWAN KUMAR ON REPUBLIC DAY-2022



CEREMONIAL PLANTATION AT ITO, SRINAGAR WITH VPPCS ON REPUBLIC DAY



**CEREMONIAL PLANTATION DRIVE LED BY
VPPC CHATRAL, POONCH ONREPUBLIC DAY2022**



**PLANTATION DRIVE WITH VPPCS AT
DEGREE COLLEGE AKHNOOR ON 04.08.2021**



**CEREMONIAL PLANTATION DRIVE LED BY VPPC,
SERI RAMBAN ON INDEPENDENCE DAY 2021**



**CEREMONIAL PLANTATION DRIVE LED BY
VPPC KRALPORA, KUPWARA ON 26.01.2022**



Ceremonial plantation led by DDC Chairman Kupwara (Shri Irfan Panditpori) at Yamlar Rajwar on 26-03-2022



Ceremonial plantation led by DDC Chairman Rajouri (Shri Naseem Liyaqat Chowdhary) on 22/03/2022



Ceremonial plantation led by DDC Chairperson Ramban (Dr. Shamshad Shan) at GMS, Dharmakund on 03-08-2021



Ceremonial plantation led by DDC Chairperson (Shri Mahan Singh) in presence of PCCF/Director, SFD at Degree College, Kathua on 04-08-2021



Ceremonial plantation led by C/S, Forests & PCCF/Director, SFD & BDC Members at GMS, Dhallion 18-02-2022



Ceremonial plantation led by DDC Vice Chairperson, Bandipora on 22-11-2021



Ceremonial plantation led by DDC Chairperson, Poonch (Ms. Tazeem Akhtar) on Independence and Republic Days





USUFRUCT SHARING AT KATHUA ON 23.07.2021



USUFRUCT SHARING AT KRALPORA, BANDIPORA ON 21.10.2021



USUFRUCT SHARING AT ATHWOOT, BARAMULLA ON 31.10.2021



USUFRUCT SHARING AT GUNDADALKOTE, RAMBAN ON 13.09.2021



USUFRUCT SHARING AT SHOPIAN ON 14.08.2021



USUFRUCT SHARING AT BARNARA ON 28.07.2021



USUFRUCT SHARING AT SIRLA ON 23.07.2021



USUFRUCT SHARING AT DEVPORA ON 14.08.2021



MEETING WITH VPPCS OF RAMBAN DISTRICT ON 03.08.2021



MEETING WITH VPPCS OF UDHAMPUR DISTRICT ON 28.07.2021



MEETING WITH VARIOUS VPPCS OF KATHUA DISTRICT ON 02.08.2021



MEETING WITH VARIOUS VPPCS OF SEER AREA OF BARAMULLA



INTERACTION WITH VPPCS AT MEHTABPUR ON 23.12.2021



INTERACTION WITH VPPCS KANGA, RAMBAN ON 30.11.2021



INTERACTION WITH VPPCS JARRANWALIGALI, POONCH ON 31.01.2022



INTERACTION WITH VPPCS GUREZ, BANDIPORA ON 03.10.2021



**INTERACTION OF CS, FORESTS AND PCCF/DIRECTOR, SFD
WITH VPPCS AT MAJALTA UDHAMPUR ON 11-02-2022**

**INTERACTION OF CS, FOREST AND PCCF/DIRECTOR, SFD
WITH VPPCS OF CHENANI, UDHAMPUR ON 11-02-2022**



INTERACTION OF SHRI SANJEEV VERMA, IAS, COMMISSIONER/SECRETARY, FORESTS AND SHRI ROSHAN JAGGI, IFS, PCCF/DIRECTOR, SOCIAL FORESTRY WITH VPPCS AT KAHTUA ON 18.02-2022

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**ESSAY COMPETITION IN PRESENCE OF
VPPC, SEER, BARAMULLA ON 31.08.2021**



**PLANT DISTRIBUTION THROUGH VPPCS,
BARAMULLA ON 02.11.2021**



**GREEN MARCH IN PRESENCE OF 20
VPPCS AT NAGROTA, JAMMU 23.12.2021**



**VOLUNTARY PLANTATION DRIVE AT RAJGARH,
RAMBAN LED BY DDC MEMBER MOHSHAFI ON 12**



**INTERACTION OF PCCF/DIRECTOR, SFD
WITH VPPCS OF KULGAM (12-2021)**



**PLANTATION DRIVE WITH VPPCS AT NIT, HAZRATBAL (12-2021)
IN PRESENCE OF PCCF/DIRECTOR, SFD**



**INTERACTION OF PCCF/DIRECTOR, SFD
WITH 28 VPPCS OF PULWAMA AND SHOPIAN (12-2021)**



**INTERACTION OF PCCF/DIRECTOR, SFD
WITH VPPCS OF GANDERBAL (12-2021)**

**Final Harvest (75% Share) of Rs. 1.23 crore received
by various VPPCs from Hon'ble LG on 30-7-2021**





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