

Government of Jammu & Kashmir  
Forest, Ecology & Environment Department  
Civil Secretariat, J&K.

**NOTIFICATION**

Srinagar, the 7<sup>th</sup> July, 2022

**S.O 327** .-- In exercise of the power conferred by Section 28 of the Indian Forest Act (Section 16 of Act, 1927), the Lieutenant Governor, hereby make the following rules; namely:-

1. **Short title, extent and commencement:-** (1) These rules shall be called the Jammu and Kashmir Social Forestry (Plantation) Rules, 2022.
  - (2) These rules shall apply to the whole of Union Territory of Jammu & Kashmir.
  - (3) These rules shall come into force from the date of their publication in Official Gazette.
2. **Definitions: -** In these rules unless the context otherwise requires, -
  - a) "Act" means the Indian Forest Act, 1927(Section 16 of 1927).
  - b) "Administrative Secretary" means the officer holding the Administrative charge of Forest, Ecology & Environment Department, J&K.
  - c) "Block Officer" means officer incharge of the concerned block of the Social Forestry Department.
  - d) "Chairperson" means Ex-officio Head of the Executive Committee (VPPC).
  - e) "Director" means an officer holding the charge as Director in the Department of Social Forestry, J&K.
  - f) "Divisional Forest Officer" means an officer holding the charge of the Social Forestry Division concerned.
  - g) "Executive Committee" means committee constituted under these rules.
  - h) "Farm Forestry" means practice of growing trees on Farm lands for commercial/ non-commercial purposes.
  - i) "General Body" means Gram Sabha of concerned Panchayat.
  - j) "Government" means the Government of Union Territory of the Jammu & Kashmir.
  - k) "Range Officer" means Officer incharge of the range of the Social Forestry Range concerned.
  - l) "Register" means the document used to record the proceedings of Executive Committee or General Body or any other detail connected to the functioning of VPPC.
  - m) "Regional Director" means an officer holding the charge as Regional Director, Jammu or Kashmir of Department of Social Forestry.
  - n) "Village Woodlot(VWL)" means plantation unit raised by the VPPC/SFD on non forest lands as a common property resource of Gram Panchayat.
  - o) "VPPC", means Village Panchayat (Plantation) Committee constituted at Panchayat level under these rules.
  - p) "Union Territory" means Union Territory of Jammu & Kashmir.
  - q) "Rules & norms", means rules within the ambit of this Act and norms as prescribed by Govt. from time to time.

r) "Terms" means terms of VPPC,EC,GB/Gram Sabha (it shall be in consonance with Panchayat body of the concerned Halqa Panchayat).

(2) Words and expressions used herein and not defined shall have the meanings respectively assigned to them under Section 16 of Indian Forest Act, 1927.

(3) **Composition of Committees:** - (1) There shall be constituted Village Panchayat (Plantation) Committee (hereinafter called as VPPC) for each Panchayat for the purpose of creation, protection and management of plantations on all types of non-forest lands within the jurisdiction of concerned Panchayat excluding farm forestry on private lands established under these rules.

(2) The VPPC will function with a two-tier system, consisting of an "Executive Committee" (EC) and the "General Body (GB)".

(3) The Gram Sabha of the concerned Panchayat shall be General Body of the VPPC with representation of one adult male/ female member of each independent household of Panchayat, within which plantation units is located.

(4) Executive Committee, VPPC shall have 11 members, headed by concerned Sarpanch as its Chairperson (**Ex-officio**) as per Annexure "A" to these rules.

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

(5) The members of Executive Committee shall be nominated/elected simultaneously with the election of Gram Panchayat.

(6) The 50% presence of General Body (Gram Sabha) members including Chairperson shall be minimum quorum to take any decision with adequate presence of female members.

(7) The Gram Sabha will elect Executive Committee of VPPC as per the composition given at Rule 3 (iv). A resolution to this effect be placed on record register.

(8) The Block Officer (Social Forestry) concerned shall act as Member-Secretary and shall be responsible for assisting the VPPC to co-ordinate its activities with other Government Departments and shall also be responsible for the maintenance of records in close liaison with Panchayat Secretary.

(9) If any inclusion or change in the member constituent of VPPC (EC) is necessitated after its initial constitution, the VPPC (EC) through Member Secretary shall make the recommendations to the concerned VPPC (GB) viz. Gram Sabha whose decision shall be final and binding.

4. **Meetings and Procedure:** - (1), The VPPC (EC) shall meet at such a place as may be convenient to members or in such villages where such plantations are to be raised or have been raised, on the dates that may be notified by the Chairperson, at least seven (7) days in advance.

(2) At-least four meetings of the VPPC (EC) and two meetings of the VPPC (GB), shall be held in a calendar year.

(3) The VPPC (EC) shall maintain record of the proceedings of the meetings held from time to time under the signature of the Chairperson of the committee in the record register and a copy of the same /minutes of such meetings duly attested shall be sent to the concerned Range Officer for record by the Member Secretary.

(4) The VPPC (EC) within its Jurisdiction shall make decisions / resolutions on the following aspects:-

- a) Description of boundaries of the area to be covered/ already covered under plantation/afforestation programmes.
- b) The produce to be removed by the villagers and method of sharing.
- c) Actions that are prohibited.
- d) Regulation on allowing or closing of grazing.
- e) Any other matter specific to the village/ plantation unit.

(5) In case of any point of disagreement between villagers, the objections, claims and rights thereof will be heard by the VPPC (EC) and proceedings thereof shall be recorded. The decision by the majority vote of the Members of the Committee, shall be binding upon and final.

5. **Village woodlots (VWL ).---** (1) Village woodlots should be established as plantation units on available village common Lands/State/Revenue Lands etc.The sites for afforestation works to establish a village woodlot within its Gram Panchayat shall be identified by VPPC (EC) in consultation with Social Forestry Department. The concerned Range Officer Social Forestry Department shall, participate in the Gram Panchayat Development Plan formulation process and inform the Gram Sabha about number of plantation units (along with financial implications) to be taken up during next financial year in the said Panchayat as per the recommendations of VPPC (EC) and the guidelines of the scheme.

(2) The afforestation and management plan of each plantation unit shall be approved by the VPPC (GB) viz. Gram Sabha concerned as part of the Gram Panchayat Development Plan and shall be technically vetted by the DFO/Regional Director concerned and accepted by the Director, Social Forestry for implementation in the next financial year within the permissible ceiling under the relevant scheme.

(3) The VPPC (EC) shall carry out execution of approved works through e- tenders in accordance with directions/guidelines of Finance Department in vogue. The process shall be carried out by the Divisional Forest Officer in consultation with VPPC, in accordance with the laid down procedure. The VPPC (EC) may also get the work done through MGNREGA or through convergence under MGNREGS (if permissible under Scheme guidelines).

(4) The Village Wood Lot(s) (VWL) shall be handed-over to concerned VPPC (EC) for future management with proper handover/ takeover to be made between the concerned Divisional Forest Officer & Chairperson, VPPC within 3 to 5 years of establishment. The VPPC (GB) shall be solely responsible for maintenance of plantations of such units thereafter. However

services of Social Forestry Department shall remain available to VPPC (EC) for technical guidance whenever or wherever required under norms.

(5) In case of any damage reported, the VPPC (EC) shall recover the cost of damage (as per the latest rates issued by the Forest Department) from the offender. The amount recovered from the offenders should be deposited in the account of VPPC (EC) and the proceedings shall be recorded in the record register.

(6) In case of failure of the VPPC (EC) in recovering the damage, the department shall have the right to proceed against the defaulter for legal action as warranted under rules.

(7) Technical Sanctions/ Administrative Approval of works to be executed under these rules shall be accorded in terms of delegation /extent of powers to these officers of Forest Department under relevant rules in this regard.

(8) The VPPC (GB/EC) should encourage establishment of wood lots and their sustainable management. The Panchayat may take up plantation units utilizing its own financial resources also. The Department of Social Forestry will regularly inspect and monitor the establishment and impact of Village Woodlots. The Panchayats who are found to develop and manage best woodlots shall be conferred with the recognition and honour by the department to generate healthy competition amongst Gram Panchayats.

(9) The agreement for raising the Village Wood Lot shall be signed between the VPPC (EC) and the concerned Range Officer and duly countersigned by the Divisional Forest Officer as per the schedule appended at **Annexure "B"** and agreement there under.

(10) The VPPC (GB/EC) shall enforce the rules framed for the protection of the village woodlots, regulation of concessions, benefits and grazing as approved in the resolution.

**6. Execution of Works.---**(1) After the approval of the annual plan by the VPPC (GB), and its acceptance by Director (SF), the VPPC shall be informed by the Block Officer (Member Secretary, VPPC (EC) accordingly. The Department of Social Forestry shall issue the administrative approval/ technical sanctions and place the funds for raising the plantations as per the technical sanction so issued at the disposal of concerned VPPC (EC). The VPPC (EC) shall take up the execution of work by engaging the local labour from within the concerned Gram Panchayat. In case sufficient labours are not available, it shall be managed from adjoining Gram Panchayat. The procedure for execution of work is given at clause 5 (3).

(2) Once the execution of work is completed, the joint inspection shall be carried out by VPPC (EC) and representative of Department of Social Forestry not below the rank of Range Officer. In case the works are executed, the representative of contractor shall also be present. On receipt of satisfactory work done certificate, the Divisional Forest Officer (SF) shall release the payment in favour of the bonafide labour or contractor as the case may be.

(3) When the VPPC takes up the execution of work out of fund from Village Panchayat Fund, these funds shall be released by Joint Account Holders of VPPC (EC) i.e Chairperson, Member Secretary and the Treasurer on receipt of satisfactory work done certificate.

(4) The department shall follow GFR-2017 in execution of works under these rules.

(5) The works shall be allotted through e-tendering.



**7. Monitoring.-** (1) The Director, Department of Social Forestry shall monitor implementation of rules and other connected issues and submit comprehensive reports to Government on the implementation/progress made as & when required by the Government and shall establish a comprehensive monitoring mechanism for regular monitoring of the execution of works.

(2) The Administrative Secretary, Department of Forest, Ecology and Environment shall make overall review of the implementation of the rules especially with respect to devolution of powers to the panchayats and the issues connected thereto.

**8. Interim usufructs:-** The plantation assets normally start yielding interim benefits from 2<sup>nd</sup> year onwards in the form of grass/leaf fodder, which gets enhanced in the form as fuel-wood, small timber, other MFPs once planting gets established. Each plantation unit shall be managed as per prescriptions of its Management Plan.

**9. Sharing of Interim Usufructs ---** (1) The interim benefits like grass/leaf fodder, fuel wood, small timber and other MFPs shall be shared with households of the VPPC (GB) on equitable basis. The distribution process shall be regulated by VPPC (EC) & officials of Department of Social Forestry and the proceedings thereof shall be recorded in the record register..

(2) VPPC (EC) may take decisions to auction/dispose of the surplus interim produce, if any, as per the descriptions given in Annexure B-Schedule-II).

(3). The VPPC members shall be duty bound to assist in protecting the plantations and to become eligible for availing usufructs free of cost from such plantations units.

(4). The usufructs shall be removed in cut and carry method & area shall remain closed for grazing till it gets fully established. Any decision to open up the closures for grazing would be taken up by VPPC on the advice of Department of Social Forestry and keeping in view the status of plantation and natural regeneration.

(5). Any individual/household whose membership stands terminated by VPPC (GB) for any of the reason, which may include damage to plantations and non-adherence to rules and regulations on protection of plantations, shall be debarred to avail benefits/usufructs sharing which shall be in addition to any other action/penalties imposed on such defaulters/offenders.

**10. Final Harvest of Plantations.-** (1)The decision on final harvest of plants in plantation units (VWL) shall be taken by VPPC (EC) in accordance with the Management Plan & on advice of the Department of Social Forestry. The sanction to fell the trees shall be accorded by the competent authority following the laid down procedure as per the existing rules/guidelines of Government in this regard.

(2). The produce shall be disposed of in open auction/e-auction after completing the procedure & financial proceeds (75% of the total revenue realized) shall be deposited in the joint account which would constitute the Village Panchayat Fund. 25% of the proceeds shall be deposited by Department of Social Forestry in Treasury as part of Govt. revenue.

(3). The plantations raised on road sides/canal banks/wetlands and within the Govt. Institutions shall also be raised/managed by VPPC with the assistance of Department of Social Forestry and concerned Department/Institution. These plantations shall be managed as per the prescriptions of Management Plan and final harvest shall be shared in the ratio of 1:3 between the Department of Social Forestry and VPPC respectively. However, the 50% of VPPC share realized from the institutes like schools shall be earmarked for taking up developmental activities within the same institute.

(4) The Village Panchyat Fund shall be established by each VPPC for proper management of funds earned from such plantation assets. Each joint account shall be maintained in interest generating mode in Nationalized Bank/ J&K Bank in the name of Chairperson, Member Secretary & Treasurer of the VPPC.

**11. Operationalisation of Village Panchyat Fund.**-- The Village Panchayat Fund shall receive funds (75%) from sale of interim usufructs, the final harvest and from other sources, if any, which VPPC may manage to earn. The utilization of funds shall be proposed by VPPC (EC) by formulating action plan for the financial year, which may include fresh plantations, re-forestation on felled units, minor public utility works as per needs of the inhabitants of Gram Panchayat. It would be as per procedure prescribed in Clause-8 of Annexure B The account shall be operated jointly by Chairperson, Member Secretary and Treasurer of VPP (EC).

**12. Termination & Appeal :-** (1) The VPPC (GB) may take action including termination of the membership of any member, who fails to perform his functions under these rules.

(2) Any person aggrieved by the order of termination, may prefer an appeal within a period of 15 days to the Gram Sabha concerned.

(3) Any person causing damage to the plantation assets and violating rules may be treated as offender/ defaulter and shall be booked under law with the consent of VPPC(EC).

**13. Maintenance of Records:** - The record of the proceedings of the VPPC shall be maintained in three registers as follows:-

- a) **Register No. 1** shall contain the proceedings of the Executive Committee under section (A) constitution of the Committee and section (B) Record of resolutions and meetings held by the committee.
- b) **Register No. 2** will record the business / proceedings of the General Body & shall record resolution and meetings held by General Body(Gram Sabha).
- c) **Register No.3** shall contain the information about usufruct sharing details and its records such as grass, fuel wood, fodder, fruits, fallen/ dry trees etc. given to members of VPPC and revenue realized thereof alongwith expenditure if any.

(the formats for these registers shall be notified by the Director, Social Forestry).

**14. Village Woodlots on Private lands/Birathari Land/Trust Land or of similar type of land .-** (1) The existing cases regarding claims of proprietorship on Village Woodlots established by the Department on private or on similar nature of lands which may

belong to other departments/organizations, trusts etc. shall be looked into/disposed off on case to case basis on grounds of their merit in light of authentic Land Revenue Records at District level in a Coordination Committee, consisting of following which will meet once in two months:-

1)	Deputy Commissioner Concerned	Chairman/Chairperson
2)	Divisional Forest Officer(Social Forestry) Concerned	Member Secretary
3)	Tehsildar Concerned	Member
4)	Representative of VPPC Concerned	Member

(2) Provided that plantation raised on such land/area will vest with Social Forestry Department till the crop attains maturity and thereafter the benefits of final harvest shall be shared in the ratio of 3:1 between land owner/trust/birathari, and Department of Social Forestry respectively. However, the land owners shall have liberty for deciding future land use of the areas.

**15. Rehabilitation of Degraded Forests (RDF) .-(1)** Under the component of Rehabilitation of degraded forest areas (RDF), the area shall be taken up as per the provisions of the working plan & with the consent of Territorial Forest Department. The plantation in given area will be done through the Department of Social Forestry following the standard norms and procedures under the existing and new schemes of the Department of SF. However, the VPPC (EC) will be involved for protection of plantation & would be allowed to cut and carry grasses/ leaf fodder from such RDF units under supervision of concerned Range Officer (SF) and subject to working plan prescriptions and guidelines of the scheme(s). The VPPCs shall be duty bound to offer their services for protection of such plantations including protection from fire.

(2) The Social Forestry plantations raised over degraded areas in demarcated forests shall remain free from all encumbrances excepting as laid down under rules and the Territorial Forest Department shall assume charge/management of such plantations within 5 to 11 years of their raising/plantation as per norms.

(3) The RDF units raised by the Department of Social Forestry shall be handed over to the Forest (Territorial Department) with proper handover/takeover alongwith record/inventories to be made between the concerned DFOs with the approval of concerned Regional Director (SF) & Conservator of Forests (T).

**16. Strip Plantation:-** The plantations raised on road sides/canal banks/wetlands under strip plantation component shall be raised/managed by VPPC with the assistance of Department of Social Forestry and concerned Department/Organization owning the land. These plantations shall be managed as per the prescriptions of Management Plan.

**17. Institutional Plantation:-** (1) Under this component, the areas available with Government Institutions like Schools, Colleges, Universities, Government Offices, Army, PRIs and Police Camps shall be used for plantations of suitable ornamental and other useful species.

(2) Village Panchayat (Plantation) Committee (EC) will render help to identify the Institutions for plantation under this component. The plantation in the institutions will be done by involving the members of VPPC/Members of Institutions/Students and representatives of civil society. The plantations shall be managed by concerned institution, and Department of Social Forestry shall render technical guidance/ assistance required if any in this regard. In case of any

damage to such plantation works VPPC may take appropriate action in consultation with concerned institution.

(3). Whenever such plantations are required to be felled for use of land by the concerned institute/or removal due to threat to life and property, the Department of Social Forestry shall dispose of plantations as per laid down standard procedure of e-auction/open auction on the recommendations of VPPC (EC). The revenue realized on this account shall be shared between VPPC and Department in the ratio of 3:1. The VPPC may earmark 50% of such share for taking up Developmental works/ activities in the said institution on the request of the head of the said institute.

**18. Farm Forestry.**-(1) It would primarily include farmers interested to take up plantations on their farm lands, the saplings may also be made available to NGOs/VA (Volunteer Associations), Trust(s), individual households and other interested groups of society by Department of Social Forestry in consultation with VPPCs of concerned Gram Panchyats. The VPPC (EC), however, shall assess the viability & potential of successful raising & managing plantations before distribution of saplings.

(2) The distribution of plants under Farm Forestry shall be made as per prevailing rates sanctioned by the Department of Social Forestry under the farm forestry component and render their services in generating awareness to raise & protect plantations.

(3) The VPPC (EC) shall be involved to ensure that plants taken under farm forestry component are planted by the beneficiaries at right time and proper maintenance thereof is ensured.

**19. Outreach & Capacity Building Programme .-**(1) The plantation drives shall be carried out by the Department of Social Forestry by involving VPPCs and the general public/institutions through outreach programmes. The distribution of pamphlets, booklets and success stories of field work shall be shared with the VPPC members to increase outreach & acceptability of the plantation initiatives.

(2) The Department shall organize capacity building measures to enhance the knowledge and skills of the VPPC (EC) to strengthen their role & effectiveness in afforestation programmes.

(3) Best performing VPPC at Province Level/District Level would be identified in an objective manner and incentivized with awards to sustain their interest.

**20. Corporate Social Responsibility Scheme (CSR) :-** The VPPC/Department of Social Forestry would be authorized to receive the funding under corporate social responsibility component or other sources adopting the procedure laid down by the Government in this regard, so that financial resources under Village Panchayat Fund could be augmented. These funds shall be properly budgeted utilized and audited in consultation with VPPC (EC) under existing norms.

**21. Grievance Cell:** - A grievance cell shall be established in the office of the Divisional Forest Officer, Regional Director and Director Social Forestry to address the genuine grievances of the public, if any received, pertaining to the implementation of these rules.



**22. Repeal and Saving.-** (1) All previous rules and orders corresponding to Jammu and Kashmir (Rehabilitation of Degraded Forests and Village Plantation) rules, are hereby repealed.

(2) Notwithstanding anything contained in the aforesaid rules so repealed, any action taken or done or orders issued shall be deemed to have been issued under the corresponding provisions of these rules.

**By order of the Lieutenant Governor.**

*Sd/-*

**(Sanjeev Verma), IAS**

Commissioner/Secretary to Government  
Forest, Ecology & Environment Department

Dated:- 07.07.2022

No. FST-Gen/52/2021

Copy to the:-

1. Secretary, Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, Govt. of India.
2. Additional Chief Secretary (Financial Commissioner), Finance Department
3. Principal Secretary to the Government, Hon'ble Lieutenant Governor.
4. Principal Secretary to the Government, General Administration Department.
5. Joint Secretary ( J&K), Ministry of Home Affairs, GoI.
6. Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (HoFF),J&K
7. Secretary to the Government, Department of Law, Justice and PA.
8. Director, Social Forestry Department, J&K.
9. Director, Archives, Archaeology and Museums, J&K
10. Pvt. Secretary to Chief Secretary.
11. Pvt. Secretary to Commissioner/Secretary, Forest, Ecology and Environment Department.
12. Incharge website/e-office file/stock file (w.2.s.c).

*Suhail ul Islam*  
**(Suhail ul Islam)JKAS**

Deputy Secretary to the Government

**Rule 3(iv)**  
**Annexure – “A”**

GOVERNMENT OF JAMMU & KASHMIR  
DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL FORESTRY, J&K

UID

Constitution of Village Panchayat (Plantation) Committee (VPPC)

Name of Halqa Panchayat

District

ID of Halqa Panchayat

Police Station

Unit/Closure

Village

Name of Sarpanch

Block \_\_\_\_\_

S. No.	Name with particulars	Designation VPPC (EC)	Signature
1.			
2.			
3.			
4.			
5.			
6.			
7.			
8.			
9.			
10.			
11.			

 Date of Constitution: \_\_\_\_\_



Rule 5(ix)  
Annexure-B.

**AGREEMENT**

THIS AGREEMENT is made and executed at \_\_\_\_\_ today on \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_ 20 \_\_\_\_\_ by and between:-

**Chairperson of Village Panchayat Plantation Committee (VPPC),** \_\_\_\_\_ hereinafter referred to as the party of first part which expression shall be deemed to include its successors.

AND

**The Range Officer,** \_\_\_\_\_ (S.F. Range \_\_\_\_\_) **Social Forestry Division** \_\_\_\_\_ hereinafter referred to as the party of second part which expression shall include its successors in office and assigns.

WHEREAS the inhabitants of Mouza \_\_\_\_\_ under Village Panchayat \_\_\_\_\_ Police Station \_\_\_\_\_ and District \_\_\_\_\_ hereinafter referred to as "The beneficiaries, have requested the VPPC (EC) to approach to the Range Officer to establish a plantation on wastelands/ khalsa sarkar/village common land /community land etc. more particularly described in **Schedule-I** hereto; hereinafter referred to as "the said lands' and whereas the VPPC (EC) and the Range Officer have satisfied themselves, after making such enquiries as are deemed adequate and proper, that the beneficiaries are well and truly entitled and have complete right to the said lands, and whereas the Forest Officer (SF) and the VPPC (for and on behalf of the beneficiaries) have agreed, upon the mutual assurances and undertaking hereunder contained, to enter into the contract. **The papers pertaining to the title of said land are part of this agreement.**

**NOW THIS AGREEMENT SHALL HAVE FOLLOWING TERMS & CONDITIONS WHICH SHALL BE BINDING ON BOTH THE PARTIES:-**

1. VPPC (EC) shall establish and manage plantation on the said land under the supervision of the Range Officer and in accordance with the Management plan described in clause (2) below;
2. After identification of sites for afforestation of Village Wood Lot(s)(VWL) in the area by the VPPC (EC), the DFO concerned shall prepare a management plan as per guidelines of the Department of Social Forestry and place the same for approval before the VPPC (GB) viz. Gram Sabha and submit the same to Director (SF) duly vetted by Regional Director (SF) for acceptance by the Director (SF).
3. For a period of 5-10 years, or such length of time as may be mutually agreed upon between two parties, the VPPC shall arrange to manage and protect the plantation unit and shall assume full responsibility thereafter for management, maintenance and protection on its own and bear the necessary expenditure in this regard out of its own resources/ government funding or any other sources available with the VPPC.
4. The VPPC (EC) shall agree and undertake that the beneficiaries will ensure protection to the said plantation with brush wood fencing or other means till the time it is fully established as per assessment arrived at by the joint inspection of two parties.

5. For execution of plantation and other allied works , the VPPC (EC) shall, preferably utilize the services of the local residents, giving preference to landless agricultural labour and persons belonging to the traditionally backward segments of the population.
6. To enhance employability of locals, concerned Social Forestry Officer will provide regular training to the willing villagers nominated by the VPPC (GB) in order to develop skills enhance their capacity so that local people and VPPC members jointly manage the plantation assets on long term basis.
7. The concerned Social Forestry Officer (Block Officer Incharge) shall maintain a plantation journal, as per approved **Format** (to be appended with these rules), reflecting details of plants by species, survival, man days of labour generated and expenditures incurred. The plantation journal shall be presented during inspections so that proper record of the unit right from planting to its future management is maintained.
8. Before the commencement of this agreement the parties hereto have prepared a scheme more particularly set out in **Schedule II** here under which envisages inter-alia as under;
  - a. Harvesting of the interim minor Forest Produce such as firewood, fodder, grass, fruits, small timber for agriculture tools, harvested medicinal plant parts, However, it will be the prerogative of the VPPC (EC) to prohibit such collection (in part or entirely) after discussion with the Range Officer (SF)/beneficiaries if such prohibition is found necessary for improvement and proper management of the plantation.
  - b. The forest produce accruing at each thinning, cutting or interim harvesting of minor forest produce shall be distributed or sold to the beneficiaries or persons other than the beneficiaries, as per the decision of the VPCC (EC). All such interim proceeds shall be deposited in the Village Panchayat Fund Account and shall be utilized as per clause 8(c) of this agreement. The VPPC shall maintain objectivity & transparency for equitable & judicious distribution/use of interim usufructs by all members of Gram Sabha who are beneficiaries of the plantation asset.
  - c. In consonance with Management Plan of unit, at each major harvest, Department of Social Forestry will retain 25% share from the total receipts as Government revenue and 75% of cash balance will be transferred to Village Panchayat Fund as per provisions of the Agreement. The Village Panchayat Fund shall be maintained in a joint account of Chairperson of VPPC, Member Secretary (Block Office of Social Forestry) & Treasurer. The account shall be maintained in a Nationalized Bank like J&K Bank in interest generating mode. The funds from Village Panchayat fund shall be utilized for taking up works within the jurisdiction of Gram Panchayat like plantations, reforestation of felled Village Woodlots and to take up other common utility works. The VPPC (EC) shall propose the annual plan of works which shall be placed in VPPC (GB) for deliberations and final approval as part of the general Gram Panchayt Development Plan. The works plan (for afforestation works) after its approval from VPPC (GB) shall be sent to Director, Department of Social Forestry for technical approval. Works shall be taken up as per technical approval after meeting necessary codal procedure.
  - d. The VPPC shall abide by rules and regulations of Department of Social Forestry/guidelines of the Government regarding utilization of financial resources, maintenance of accounts and following the rules and procedures while executing the works & during future management thereof.
  - e. VPPC shall follow the rules and regulations in letter and spirit while taking up execution, management and harvesting of plantation assets.
  - f. During the operation of this agreement the Range Officer or his authorized representative shall be entitled to enter upon the said lands for inspection, supervision and other works connected with or incidental to the creation, maintenance and

harvesting of the said plantation and for such scientific and technical studies as may be considered by the concerned Forest Officer appropriate and relevant.

- g. This agreement shall remain in force for a period of thirty (30) days after distribution and/or receipt of net income from the sale of forest produce from final felling unless earlier determined by mutual consent of the parties after consultation with the beneficiaries.
- h. After approval from concerned Regional Director (SF), the concerned DFO (SF) shall handover the plantation units (VW Lots) to the concerned VPPC (GB) after three to five years of its establishment with proper inventory and agreement for record and reference. The VPPC will take all necessary measures to safeguard & protect the plantation & ensure its judicious sustained use for the benefits of the inhabitants of the Gram Panchayat in fair & equitable manner. VPPC will take appropriate action against any person found violating/non-adhering the rules & regulations concerning the protection & management of plantation asset.
- i. In the event of any disagreement between the parties hereto about the interpretation of the agreement or of any of its term, either party may refer the matter to the Director, Department of Social Forestry, J&K whose decision shall be final and binding on the parties.

**IN THE WITNESSES WHEREOF**, the parties to this Agreement have put their respective signatures on the day and date mentioned above.

WITNESSES

EXECUTANTS

1. \_\_\_\_\_  
VPPC \_\_\_\_\_  
Parentage \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Name  
Chairperson, VPPC, \_\_\_\_\_  
Party of 1<sup>st</sup> Part

2. Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Parentage \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Range officer  
Party of 2<sup>ND</sup> Part



## SCHEDULE - I

### Particular of Land to be used for raising plantation units

S.No.	Particulars	Detail
1	District	
2	NES Block	
3	Gram Panchayat	
4	Ward No.	
5	Geo Coordinates of piece of land to be used	
6	Title of Land as per Revenue Record	
7	Khasra No.	
8	Total area of the Land (in Ha.)	

## SCHEDULE - II

This schedule mentions the procedure to be followed for distribution of the interim forest produce/ usufruct from the plantation units and the disposal of final mature plantation crop.

S.No.	Particulars / produce	Supervisory Body
<b>A.</b>	<b>Distribution of the interim Forest produce</b>	
1.	Leaf Fodder	1. Block Officer (SF) as Member Secretary of VPPC 2. Two (2) representatives of the VPPC(EC) including one female member.
2	Grasses	
3	Small timber for Agricultural tools for bona-fide personal use by the beneficiaries (dry/fallen/poles only)	
4	Fruits/ Medicinal plants/ plants to be harvested	
<b>B.</b>	<b>Disposal of the final harvest from the plantation units</b>	
1	Timber in the form of Pole, Ballies, Logs etc.	1. Chairperson of VPPC 2. Range Officer submit inventory of produce for joint inspection along with the representative of VPPC. DFO shall invite the process of e-auction. 3. The e-action committee shall include 2 representatives of VPPC to be nominated by the Chairperson.
2	Standing mature trees	