

To

Dated: 21st. April 2009

The District Magistrates/ District Programme Coordinator

Sonbhadra, Mirzapur, Chandauli
and Allahabad (Sankargarh block).

Subject: Monitoring of Special Plantation Drive 2009-10.

Sirs,

This is to inform you that the State Government has issued orders for Special Plantation Drive in Bundelkhand and Vindhyaachal in year 2009-10, in which it is planned to plant 55 million plants in eleven districts of the above regions. The project is to be financed through the resources of NREGS and Forest Department. This is a major attempt of achieving convergence of technical and manpower resources of the Forest Department and the financial resources available under NREGS for achieving the twin objectives of providing employment to NREGS workers and Natural Resource Management; which in turn has beneficial impact on strengthening the source of livelihood of poor households of the area.

You will agree that the concurrent monitoring and mobilization of NREGS job card holders for the work is of crucial importance for the successful implementation of the project. Here it is also pertinent to mention that this project was launched in the districts of Bundelkhand in year 2008-09, where NGOs and other independent organizations were deployed for carrying on the concurrent monitoring, feedback and evaluation of the work being executed. One NGO was allotted 1-2 blocks to monitor the work and was financed from the administrative expenses admissible under NREGS. The experience was that this helped not only in mid-course corrections, but it also gave crucial informations which were not available from the departments. Besides, this helps in lending credibility to the implementation process as a third party validation.

The Arthik Anusandhan Kendra (AAK) of Allahabad is being assigned the work of monitoring, training and mobilization of NREGS workers and other functionaries involved in the project. There area of operation will be in blocks of Vindhyaachal, exact villages and blocks will be finalized once the plantation sites are made available by the Forest Department. The work of evaluation is planned to be

assigned to the Banaras Hindu University. The matter has been taken up with the Vice – Chancellor, BHU.

You may recommend about the other reputed NGOs and institutions which are willing and capable of taking up this work in your area, as because of the vastness of the project area this is not possible for any one organization to cover the above works in entire project area. The government orders on Special Plantation Drive have a provision for identification of NGOs for the above work by the DPCs as well for their respective areas. I will keep you informed with the further developments in this matter.

You are requested to intimate all concerned to extend their cooperation to Arthik Anusandhan Kendra in carrying out the above assignments on plantation sites/ blocks, where they are going to take up this work. This letter is in English as I am on election duty in West Bengal and I cannot type in Hindi, so please bear with this inconvenience.

(Manoj Kumar Singh)
Commissioner
Rural Development
Government of Uttar Pradesh.

Copy to: Shri Haro Govind Singh, Arthik Anusandhan Kendra with a request that the list of sites received from some of the Forest Divisions is being enclosed with this mail, you have to do the following:

1. Identify the villages/ blocks where you can take up this work, keeping in view your logistics and resources.
2. Intimate the same to the undersigned and the respective District Magistrates.

Job of Your Organization:

1. Visit the sites/ villages, organize meetings of the villagers/ Pradhan/ Rojgar Sevaks/ Panchayat Secretary, Forest guard and other officials and especially the NREGS job card holders.
2. Explain to them the relevance of the programme to their livelihood.

3. Take their feedback on relevance and the changes they want in mode of implementation or any other suggestions pertaining to the programme.
4. Help the Block officials in preparing the list of NREGS job card holders of the project Gram Panchayat and hand it over to Range Officer of Forest Department. See to it that the list mentions their bank account number and bank's name.
5. Ensure that the muster rolls being issued to the Forest Department by the Programme Officer accompany the list of NREGS job card holders with bank details.
6. Mobilize the workers, block officials and banks to open up the bank account of workers if it is not done yet.
7. Keep a check that the muster rolls are uploaded on NREGA MIS once amount has been disbursed against them.
8. Train the involved officials and workers with the provisions/ Schedule of Rate of NREGS.
9. Ensure that there is a model pit, staggered trench, drinking water, medicines, shade, crèche at sites.
10. Also to ensure that adequate number of women workers are working on the project.
11. The quality of earth work and plantation is monitored.
12. Help in formation of Self Help Groups, preferably of women job card holders, who will be assigned the task of watering and management of sites under the guidance and control of the Forest Department.
13. Documentation of the processes at each step and implementation work – with photographs.
14. To provide regular/ timely feedback about the progress to the undersigned – also to apprise of the problems being encountered and the deviations noticed in implementation.
15. Any other issue which may come from time to time.