

**Government of West Bengal  
Department of Panchayats & Rural Development  
Jessop Building (1st Floor)  
63, Netaji Subhas Road  
Kolkata-700 001**

Memo No.39 (18)/ Comm. RD/O/NREGA

Dated: 22 June, 2012

To  
The District Magistrate  
&  
District Programme Coordinator, MGNREGA (All Districts)

**Sub: "Go Green Project"**

Madam/Sir,

Kindly note that as monsoon is fast setting in and the scope of work in the sector having heavy earthwork as the main activity is shrinking, we need to diversify to other activities in order to ensure that employment generation under MGNREGS keeps going. As you are aware, a number of objectives of MGNREGS, besides creating employment opportunities, like creation of durable community assets, protecting environment and women empowerment could be achieved if the women self-help groups can be roped in for plantation of trees during the ensuing "**Aranya Saptaha**". It is expected that you have already drawn your plan of action for plantation under MGNREGS. However, I could collect information from the Comprehensive Area Development Corporation (CADC) that more than a crore saplings have been raised in the nurseries promoted by the Corporation. Quite a substantial number of the saplings have been raised with support under MGNREGS as convergent initiative between the CADC and the district MGNREGA authority. It is imperative that these saplings are put to effective use. Moreover, in the districts where the CADC is either non-existent or inactive on this particular front, we have nurseries on public or private land with or even without support from the MGNREGS. Resources of all these nurseries can be tapped effectively in order to ensure that this "Aranya Saptaha" we launch our special "**Go Green Campaign**".

Self-Help Groups under SGSY/ NRLM often find it difficult to engage themselves in productive activities for lack of appropriate support. In a second kind of convergence we would like to promote use of the Self-Help Groups in the "**Go Green Campaign**". You may consider selecting one/ two SHGs from one of the Gram Sansads in each Gram Panchayat (this is the minimum that we would like to propose and you may take multiple Gram Sansads and multiple SHGs as well) the members of which would be assigned the task of planting the saplings after necessary preparations. As we have the standard estimate for plantation, labour wages may be paid to the SHG members engaged in the plantation and subsequent watering of the saplings.

As we have witnessed, one of the most critical aspects of social forestry is protection of the saplings from the very first day of plantation. However, the existing guidelines of MGNREGS do not make any provision for watch and ward of the saplings planted under the programme. To tide over this, you may consider two alternative approaches:

- A. Arranging watch and ward (through the SHG members) from the own resources of the Gram Panchayats or from any other untied resources with the Gram Panchayat.

- B. Entering into a contract with the SHG/s in terms of which watch and ward becomes the responsibility of the Group/s without any financial support from the Gram Panchayat. In such a case the agreement should clearly specify the ratio of sharing of the final produce between the SHG/s and the Gram Panchayat (may be at a ratio of 30% in favour of the SHG and 70% in favour of the Gram Panchayat). However, the minor forest produce will be solely used by the SHG/s only.

Since this year we have little time for going in a large scale for the "Go Green Project", we propose robust monitoring and documentation of the entire exercise in the districts so as to ensure that the strengths and weaknesses of the initiative are analyzed for replication during 2013-14 in a much larger scale. You may consider specifically assigning one Coordinator (may be the DSAC at the district level and the BSAC at the block level or you may also consider taking people from the DRDC / SRD / ISGP for such monitoring and documentation). The department expects to come out with methodologies for optimum utilizations of all line departments at the GP level to combat global warming. This may also evolve as an important model of convergence between MGNREGA and NRLM.

Once you firm up your plan on this, we would expect a copy of the plan at this end and appropriate instructions down below for effective implementation.

Yours faithfully,

  
(Dibyendu Sarkar)

Commissioner, MGNREGS, West Bengal

Memo No.39 (18)/1(4) Comm. RD/O/NREGA

Dated: 22 June, 2012

Copy forwarded for favour of information and necessary action to:

1. The Administrative Secretary, W. B. C. A. D. C.
2. Private Secretary to the Hon'ble Minister in Charge, Panchayats & Rural Development Department.
3. PS to Principal Secretary, Panchayats & Rural Development Department.
4. Shri Tapan Kumar Maity, State Coordinator, IEC, with the request to coordinate the project in close association with the District Nodal Officers and the DSACs.

  
(Dibyendu Sarkar)

Commissioner, MGNREGS, West Bengal