

SANJHI VAN YOJNA SCHEME - 2001

GOVERNMENT OF HIMACHAL PRADESH
DEPARTMENT OF FOREST

File No FFE-C (9).1/2001

Dated 23.8.2001

Notification

The Governor of Himachal Pradesh is pleased to promulgate the following scheme for sustainable management of forest resources in the State in collaboration with the local communities, namely:

1. This scheme shall be called Sanjhi Van Yojna Scheme, 2001.
2. It shall come into force with immediate effect.
3. The existing Sanjhi Van Yojna Scheme, 1998, the Parisharam Hamara Van Hamara Scheme, 2000 and the Apna Van, Apna Dhan Scheme, which was to be launched during the year 2001 shall stand clubbed with the Sanjhi Van Yojna Scheme, 2001.
4. **Objectives:** The present scheme shall have the following objectives:
 - i. Involvement of grass root level institutions such as gram panchayats, mahila mandals, yuvak mandals, ex-servicemen 's bodies, schools, Village Forest Development Societies (VFDSs), User groups, other Community Based Organisations (CBOs) and NGOs in sustainable management of forest resources
 - ii. Grant of 100 % income from plantations to the VFDSs and Panchayats
 - iii. Grant of total usufruct rights to the VFDSs;
 - iv. Regeneration of degraded forest areas and conservation & sustainable use of better forests through community involvement.
 - v. Involvement of local communities in the choice of species to be planted under the scheme;
 - vi. Creation and enhancement of social, physical and financial capital of the participating communities for poverty reduction;
 - vii. Special emphasis on involvement of women in the scheme;
 - viii. Address problem of rural unemployment by utilising degraded forest land for large scale plantations;
 - ix. Establish linkage between Food for Work Programme and the present scheme by making payments in the shape of food grains under the scheme;
 - x. Increasing productivity of the Forest areas by improvement of nursery stock and adoption of mixed plantations.
 - xi. Training of forest staff, VFDS members and CBOs / NGOs for facilitating and strengthening community participation.
 - xii. Gradually empower local communities and local level institutions to become more pro-active in sustainable forest management.
 - xiii. To help VFDSs achieve financial viability and sustainability by introducing proper mix of short and long duration cropping patterns as a short and long term objective to ensure their continued participation in the scheme.
5. **Strategy:**
 - i. Recognise that participatory processes are critical to Sustainable Forest Management in HP.

- ii. Recognise that to institutionalise participation, strengthening of local institutions like the Panchayat, Forest Development Societies, User groups etc., *and* the forest department is essential.
- iii. Recognise the link between rural poverty reduction and the sustained and increasing availability of forest resources and access to them for the rural communities particularly the poor, to target pockets of poverty in the state.
- iv. Recognise that the role of the HPFD, as the main facilitating agency for PFM, shall need to be complemented by a regular, equitable participatory system through which stakeholders on their own meet, debate strategic issues, consider optimal solutions and form partnerships. In strengthening the latter, the engagement of Non Governmental Organisations (NGOs) and Community Based Organisations (CBOs) would be encouraged.
- v. Recognise that Gender issues form a thematic concern in PFM. Thus a gender sensitive approach shall need to be adopted within the HPFD and amongst the organised community groups involved with PFM.

6. **Implementation:** The scheme shall be governed by the PFM Rules, 2001 promulgated vide Notification No. Fts.II(B)15.10.87 dated 23.08.2001.

7. **Coverage:**

- i. To begin with the existing 364 VFDSs and 153 VFDCs formed earlier under the Sanjhi Van Yojna and the Himachal Pradesh Forestry Project in Kullu and Mandi shall be brought under the umbrella of this scheme;
- ii. The scheme shall be extended to other areas subsequently.
- iii. In tribal areas of the state the scheme shall be implemented from the current financial year i.e. 2001-02.

8. **Process Approach:** Since Participatory Forest Management entails a process approach, the Sanjhi Van Yojnascheme shall not be target driven. For the long-term success and the sustainability of the village level institutions, it is important that proper and adequate methods of community organisation and management are followed. Thus, normally in the first year where the scheme is introduced, major emphasis shall be on the systematic and sequential formation of VFDSs, training of staff, CBOs and community members. Towards the end of the first year, a well documented but simple and understandable micro-plan needs to be ready for approval and implementation during the next year. The procedure for approval of micro-plans as laid out in the PFM processes has to be strictly followed. The forest department may also begin creation / extension of nurseries in the first year so that plants are ready in the second year.

9. **Funding:**

- i. The funding under Sanjhi Van Yojna scheme to the VFDSs for works to be carried out by them shall be made in the form of Grant-in-Aid (GIA) to the concerned society by the Divisional Forest Officer (DFO) concerned.
- ii. The Grant-in-Aid shall be governed and regulated as per the GIA Rules notified vide Notification No. FFE-B-(G)9-6/99 dated 31.05.2000.
- iii. The GIA shall be deposited in the bank account of the VFDS and unspent funds shall be allowed to roll over to the next financial year.

10. **Contribution by the VFDSs:** On the pattern of *Vikas Mein Jan Sahyog* policy of the Government, each VFDS shall be required to make a cash contribution of 15 % of the annual outlay under the approved micro-plan. This contribution can be made in instalments during the year provided each instalment shall be 15 % of the GIA being released to the VFDS at one time. In the case of plantation work this contribution can be in the form of *shramdan* and deducted from the wage bill for the plantation work.

11. **Maintenance:** The maintenance of physical assets created shall be the responsibility of the VFDS concerned. For plantations, however, the forest department shall continue to supply planting material to the VFDS on demand, free of cost for three years including the year of plantation. Thereafter, for any more supply of plants price shall be charged from the VFDS.

12. **Income Generation Activities:**

- i. In order to enhance the economic stake of rural communities in the conservation and sustainable utilisation of forest resources as well as to create means of income for the VFDS and its members, forestry related income generation activities be promoted under Sanjhi Van Yojnascheme. Such activities may include water harvesting and its use for irrigation / drinking purposes. *In situ* or *Ex situ* growing of medicinal plants of high economic value within the selected areas or even on private lands. Value addition to medicinal raw drugs through simple semi-processing etc., and training in these. Introduction of improved grasses and development of village pastures. High-density fuelwood / fodder plantations. These examples are illustrative only and suitable income generation activities can be adopted as per the local conditions.
- ii. The income generation activities, however, may commence only in the second or third year of the micro-plan. The proportion of funds earmarked to support income generation activities shall be as enumerated in the subsequent paragraphs.

13. Input Sharing Arrangement:

- i. The HPFD shall encourage social fencing by the VFDS as a matter of policy. Wherever necessity of physical fencing arises it shall be done by using local materials like bushes etc. In order to encourage social fencing, funds that are normally spent on fencing, including cost of materials, shall be made over to the VFDSs. The VFDS 's shall then be free to use this money for protection of the plantations as they deem fit.
- ii. Tools, implements and other material required for carrying out activities under the approved micro-plans shall be arranged by the VFDS.

14. Usufruct Sharing:

- i. 100 % of forest produce including NTFPs and all intermediate harvest from the closed area(s) shall go to the VFDS.
- ii. 75 % of the final harvest shall go to the VFDS and 25 % to the Panchayat. However, out of its share of 75 % from the final harvest, 40 % shall be earmarked to regeneration/conservation activities within the closed area(s) of that VFDS

15. Norms for allocation of budget:

The statement of annual plan of operations under various micro plans shall be submitted by the DFOs to their respective Conservators, who shall scrutinize these APOs vis-à-vis Micro plans submitted to them and shall allot the budget accordingly. Component wise allocations shall be made as per the ratio proportions given in the following table. However, in the first and second year of the execution of the scheme, emphasis shall have o be placed on the initial processes of establishing nurseries, preparation of the micro-plans, soil and moisture conservation measures, workshops, and training. This shall help achieve sustainability. Accordingly in the first two years of the scheme, the budget allocation shall be at variance from the norms given in the table below:

Table showing norms for allocation of budget

SI No	Activity		Proportion of Budget
1	Lump sum	Preparation of MP	Rs. 5000/- for each MP
2	Micro plan activities. 80% (of this 15 % is to be contributed by the VFDS)	Plantation incl. grasses, NTFPs	60%
		Soil & Water conservation	15%
		Income Generation Activities	25%

SI No	Activity		Proportion of Budget
3	Departmental Expenditure 20%	Establishment of Nursery	50%
		Trainings	20%
		Workshops	10%
		Monitoring	10%
		Contingencies	10%

By Order:

(Avay

Shukla)

F.C. – cum – Secy. (Forests) to the Govt. of Himachal Pradesh
Enst. No. FFE-C(9)1/2001-09-24

Dated Shimla-2, the, 23.8.2001