

GOVERNMENT OF TRIPURA
FOREST DEPARTMENT



2020

Guideline on Decentralised People's Nursery



Guidelines for Decentralized People's Nurseries

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1. Introduction

1.1. Nurseries raised outside the Forest Department through members of JFMC, SHG, JLG or individuals are termed as Decentralized People's Nurseries (DPNs).

1.2. Generally, DPNs are raised outside the Department and close to planting sites. These can be raised by the forest dependent people themselves on assurance of buy back from the Department or Project. DPNs can be utilized for upscaling forestry activities (agroforestry, farm forestry and afforestation), ensuring a closer involvement of the Joint Forest Management Committees (JFMCs) from the pre-plantation stage itself and providing them a livelihood option as an income generating activity. Departmental nursery capacity can be effectively augmented with DPNs. Such nurseries can also be utilized for raising of ornamental seedlings for urban forestry, roadside beautification etc.

1.3. Establishment of these nurseries will also lead to more effective exercise in selecting the species of plantation by the JFMCs on the basis of their perceived and existing needs. Existing expertise can be tapped in the creation of such nurseries.

1.4. Nurseries established close to planting sites are helpful in reducing the damage to seedlings due to transportation and offer the required flexibility in choosing the right weather conditions for undertaking the plantations.

1.5. The Forest Department had issued guidelines on Quality planting materials through decentralized people nurseries vide letter dated No.F.17(177)/For-Dev/2007/21,709-41 dated 13.09.2012 which now require revision in view of the requirement of rapidly expanding the number of such nurseries with attendant safeguards. The programme needed the following improvements:

- The nursery participants would need to be assured assistance only for one season so that they have interest in acquiring necessary skills or making adequate investments.
- Timely selection of participants for receiving support would be needed so that the nursery men are able to mobilize necessary inputs well in time.
- Good quality seed would need to be ensured. In the absence of superior quality seed, the nurserymen might be tempted to collect seeds from unknown sources resulting in production of inferior quality seedlings.

2. Decentralized Peoples Nurseries with a new approach

Based on the above lessons, suitable strategies, as mentioned below, have been devised to promote decentralized nurseries on a large scale. These nurseries should take the following aspects into consideration.

- 2.1. To encourage the individual/JFMC/SHG/JLG to go for DPN, seed money or start-up fund is to be provided by the respective community institutions, else people may not come forward for raising DPN due to non-availability of funds.
- 2.2. The selected groups should demonstrate their willingness by mobilizing and utilizing funds for initiating the activity. The Department will not release any fund for the activity in the beginning.
- 2.3. The nurseries should plan to produce healthy plants of superior genetic base, covering fruits, non-timber forest produce, timber, fuel, fodder and even ornamental species, having good demand in the locality. However, the plant propagules of these species produced through vegetative methods have distinct advantages over the seedlings, due to uniform growth, early bearing, higher yields and superior quality produce.
- 2.4. Cut-off dates for site selection for new DPNs is 31st March. The cut-off date for grading, assessment and making final payment for purchase of seedlings will be 30th April for Teak and Gamar stumps and 30th June for other polybag seedlings.

3. Implementation arrangement:

The following will be the schedule of implementation for DPNs:

3.1. Signing agreement between the Department and JFMC/SHG

Prior to initiation of the work an agreement (format given in Annexure) will be signed between the JFMCs/ SHGs/ JLGs of JFMC and the Department through the concerned Range Officer. This agreement will also allow provision for takeover of seedling by the Department in case the JFMCs/SHGs/JLGs request it or circumstances compel the same.

3.2. Technical guidance for DPN nursery

Beat Officer and Member Secretary of the JFMC has to coordinate with the interested JFMC/SHG/JLG to provide all technical guidance required right from selection of mother trees to till the JFMC/SHG/JLG members decide to raise the DPN nursery. The members have to be encouraged to participate in meeting, selection of mother trees, site selection for nursery and plantation areas. The technical guidance will be given for grafting/ culm cutting/ layering etc. for vegetative propagation. During the first year, procurement of materials such as seeds, polybags, shade net, fertilizers etc. is required for which necessary guidance will be imparted. In the subsequent year, the members themselves must be able to procure the required materials as per specifications and will be made self-reliant.

4. Selection of site:

4.1. The site selection is very crucial for success of the DPNs. Since agreement will be executed with JFMC/SHG/JLG, nursery has to be raised either in forest land in case of JFMC/SHG/JLG or on private land in case of SHG/JLG/individual. The sites have to be in convenient place so that it is nearer to plantation site and in the vicinity of JFMC/SHGs. The site should have easy access to forest soil for using it in polybag filling. Permanent water source nearby would be ideal to do away with water stress problems. The mother bed and nursery beds should be well drained and should be free from water logging problems. These nurseries

can be established close to existing plantations so that the potential buyer can be easily motivated to purchase and plant seedlings on their own lands.

5. Selection of mother trees for seeds/ mother clumps/ vegetative propagation material:

The mother trees or the candidate plus trees have to be identified in advance by the Range Officers of the concerned Range. The trees should have desired characters such as fast growing, healthy, desired traits as per the needs. The location and phenology (time of flowering and fruiting) would be shared by the Range Officer with the concerned JFMCs/SHGs from time to time.

6. Collection of seeds/ vegetative propagation material in time:

Collection time is important as the seeds have certain viability period and if collection is delayed, they lose their viability and do not germinate in mother beds. The seeds from the mother tree have to be collected at the right time.

7. Pre-sowing treatment for seeds:

The collected seeds require certain pre-sowing treatment to break the hard seed coat for aiding quick germination of the seeds. Most of the forest tree species do not require pre-sowing treatment, but in case of teak, it is very much required for good germination.

8. Planting in mother beds:

The treated seeds have to be sown in mother beds, preferably under shade to protect from sun scorching. Regular watering and weeding is required as the germinated seedlings will be very susceptible during the period. The beds have to be of proper mixture with fine sand, it should be well drained, raised beds.

9. Transplantation into poly bags:

Healthy seedlings have to be pricked and from the mother bed and transplanted in already filled poly bags with forest soil and potting mixture. The seedlings are planted by dibbling method and care has to be taken to avoid damage of roots.

Retain some of the seedlings in the mother bed for gap filling in poly bags.

10. Release of first instalment of funds by the Department to the JFMC/SHG/JLG:

The seedlings have to be eligible as per the minimum norm for quality of polybags/seedlings prescribed by the Department. The first instalment will be released after 45 days of transplanting in the polybags for 50% of the rate as per departmental norms (SOR). **The release will be made in the bank account of the JFMC/SHG/JLG through e-transfer.**

No reimbursement for DPN will be admissible in case the works are not brought up to the stage of transplantation into polybags and establishment in 45 days.

11. Watering, weeding, fertilizing:

Regular watering and weeding are necessary for the proper establishment of seedling in the polybags. Fertilizers in the form of organic manure can be used for boosting the growth of the seedlings in the polybags. Gap filling of the seedlings with the ones retained in mother bed has to be done for full stocking. The seedlings have to be maintained in the nursery till they attain a standard height for planting or the required growth as per established practices.

12. Purchase of seedlings:

The Department/ Project through the local Range Officer will disburse the final 50% of the buyback amount within 30th April for the purchase of teak/ Gamar stumps and within 30th June for other seedlings. **The rates shall be the rate per seedlings/ stumps as per Departmental norms (SOR) plus 20% incentives for JFMS/SHG/JLG's. In case of the takeover of DPN seedlings before 30th June, an assessment based on a proportionate amount of works completed will be done for deciding the final amount to be paid.**

13. Transportation:

The seedlings have to be carefully loaded and transported to ensure least damage to seedlings. The duration of lifting the seedlings from the nursery for planting in the pits in field must be as less as possible. Transportation of the seedlings has to coincide with the onset of monsoon and the fields must have adequate moisture to support growth of the seedlings.

14. Record keeping:

DPNs should maintain all required records such as nursery journal containing information on expenditure incurred, year of raising nursery, species raised, sale proceeds of the seedlings etc. These have to be checked and monitored by the Beat Officer and if required necessary instructions have to be passed to the members. **All DPNs should have a signboard as per SOR of Forest Department. Range Officer and Member Secretary also need to keep geo-reference photographic evidence of the DPN raised.**

An adequate provision in the Departmental Annual Work Plans for payment of the second instalment of DPN has to be kept, in case the seedlings are retained for two years in a DPN.

Annexure-I

**Agreement between the JFMC/ SHG
and the Forest Department for raising of Decentralized Peoples Nurseries.**

1. Whereas the JFMC/ SHG, is desirous of raising Decentralized Peoples Nursery at (location of the plot giving CS plot, Mouja, Beat) in accordance with the resolution of the JFMC/ SHG on (copy enclosed).

2. And whereas the said JFMC/ SHG agrees to abide by the guidelines of the scheme of decentralized nurseries for raising number of seedlings of species.

3. And whereas the said JFMC/SHG also allows periodic inspection of the nursery by the Beat Officer to ensure its upkeep and care.

4. And whereas the said JFMC/SHG also agrees that the nursery seedlings can be taken over by the Department in case the JFMC/SHG requests it or circumstances compel the same. In such case no rent or otherwise will be payable till the time the seedlings are shifted to government premises.

5. Therefore, this agreement is made between the Range Officer, Range (representative of the Department) and the JFMC/SHG, represented by the president of the JFMC/SHG for raising and buy back of the Decentralized People Nursery for the above mentioned species and numbers, as per the guidelines published by the Forest Department on

Signature and seal of the Range Officer

**Signature/ LTI of the
President of JFMC/SHG**

Witnesses:

- 1-2. (At least two member of the Executive Committee of the JFMC/SHG)
3. Beat Officer concerned.