

PRINCIPAL CHIEF CONSERVATOR OF FORESTS, HARYANA
FOREST DEPARTMENT, GOVERNMENT OF HARYANA

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No. C-18-95/2300-2350
To:

Dated 19/12/2012

1. APCCF (Forestry), Haryana
2. APCCF (Wildlife), Haryana
3. All CCFs (Territorial & CFP), Haryana
4. All CFs (Territorial & CFP), Haryana
5. All DCFs / DFOs (Territorial & CFP), Haryana.

Sub: **Ridge Plantation**

As you are well aware, the basic purpose of Ridge Plantation Technique is to reclaim wet sites / waterlogged areas. The detailed guidelines on Ridge Planting Technique have been given in the Standing Order No. 9 (Afforestation of wet sites) issued by Sh. S.S. Dalal, IFS (Retd.), the then Conservator of Forests, North Circle. The said Standing Order has been circulated among all the field functionaries/officials. All the senior officers and Field level officials have also been directed vide this office letter No. 2065-2104 dated 01-08-2012 and letter No. 1129-60 dated 03-08-2012 and previously also to follow the instructions laid down in this Standing Order strictly.

During the field visits by the undersigned, it has been observed that the ridges have been / are being made without any justification and without following laid procedure/ guidelines. The following discrepancies / defects have been observed throughout the state during the field inspections:-

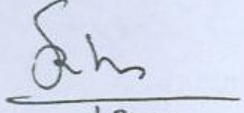
1. Ridge plantation has been / is being done in areas other than wet / waterlogged sites. Ridge plantation has been / is being done even in sandy / dry areas.
2. No proper alignment has been / is being done before construction of Ridges. Clods have not been / are not being broken properly which leads to damages of ridges during rains. The earth used for construction of Ridges is not being compacted in layers which leads to erosion / damage to the ridges.
3. The height of ridges has not been found to be as per highest flood level of the plantation site. With the result that prolonged submersion of ridges has been observed in many areas which ultimately results into failure of plantation.
4. The specifications of height, top width, base width and side slope are not followed properly that results into sub standard earth work and ultimately leads to failure of plantation.
5. As per the Standing Order, Eucalyptus is the principal species for planting on ridges. Where soil conditions do not permit the planting of Eucalyptus, only single / narrow ridges should be constructed and species like Terminalia arjuna, Jamun, Jamoa may be planted at a spacing of 2 meter apart. It has been observed in the field that the species like Papri, Drek, Shisham, Ailanthus etc. has been planted on the ridges with a spacing of 2x2 meter or even 2x1 meter which is

technically wrong and unjustified. In some of the areas plantation has been done at a spacing of less than 2 meters which reflects inflation of earth work leading to extra spending on earth work.

6. It is provided in the standing order that the spacing (centre to centre of two adjacent Ridges) for narrow/single ridges should normally be 9 meter and for broad ridges should normally be 12 meters. It has been noticed during field inspections that these specifications regarding spacing have not being / are not being followed properly. A spacing as low as 2-3 metres between two narrow / broad ridges has been found in some areas. It is well known fact that the majority of strip forests along the roads have been diverted in the process of road widening and space available for plantation is meager. It is decided that the spacing between two narrow/single ridges should not be kept less than 4 meters and spacing between two broad / double ridges should not be kept less than 6 metres in any case. Double / broad ridges are to be constructed only along boundary of farmer's fields.
7. In many plantation areas, no trough has been / is being made around plants to accumulate rain water and to facilitate subsequent irrigation and the dug out soil of trough has been / is being kept in the form of a mound / clod without leveling which defaces the ridges and leads to erosion/ damage to the ridge.
8. It has also been noticed that ridges have been / are being constructed very close to the road berm to accommodate multi rows of ridges which causes traffic hazards in the long run. Along the canal/drains, the ridges have been found constructed by cutting the side slopes of canals which is technically wrong and may cause damage to the canal.

Keeping in view above observations, it is decided that in future no ridge plantation will be done without the prior approval of the concerned Conservator of Forests. The Conservator of Forests will inspect the site with DFOs and RFOs. The Conservator of Forests will satisfy himself about the necessity for construction of ridges in the areas and issue a certificate in this regard. Then the DFO will decide the specification, lay out pattern and species to be planted as per the Standing Order and inform the RFO in writing. The alignment will be done by Forester and will be checked by RFO. In case of any deviations found in the specifications / defects / sub standard work, the responsibility will be of DFO and RFO. If any official undertakes ridge planting without prior approval of Conservator of Forests, he will bear the entire cost of plantation and earth work and the expenditure will be treated as irregular expenditure.

These instructions must be followed strictly.


Principal Chief Conservator of Forests
Haryana, Panchkula.

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