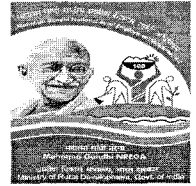


No. SMS-1/2012-13-RDD-  
Rural Development Department  
Government of Himachal Pradesh



From:

The Principal Secretary (RD) to the,  
Government of Himachal Pradesh

To

1. All the Deputy Commissioners-cum-,  
District Programme Coordinators (MGNREGA),  
in Himachal Pradesh,
2. All the Project Directors,  
District Rural Development Agencies,  
in Himachal Pradesh,
3. All the Project Officers,  
District Rural Development Agencies,  
in Himachal Pradesh,
4. All the Block Development Officers-cum-,  
Block Programme Officers (MGNREGA),  
in Himachal Pradesh.

Dated: Shimla-171009, the <sup>September</sup> 3<sup>rd</sup> August, 2012.

Subject:-

Advisory on development of pasture lands under MGNREGA  
for drought proofing.

Sir/Madam,

In view of the scanty rains during current Monsoon season, there are possibility of shortage of fodder for Cattle. In order to address the issue of shortage of fodder, the Government of India, Ministry of Rural Development has issued **Advisory on development of pasture lands under MGNREGA for drought proofing as under :-**

As per schedule I of MGNREGA, land development and drought proofing (including afforestation and tree plantation) may be taken up on community land. These works could address the issue of shortage of fodder during these critical times and normal years. The wasteland may also be reclaimed for this purpose. Development of pasture lands will not only meet the demand of fodder but will have other benefits such as :-

- (i) Provide employment opportunities to the rural poor and strengthen their livelihood resource base;
- (ii) Supply fodder for the landless cattle rearers.

**2. Guidelines on Plantation and Pasture Development :-**

2.1 During scanty rainfall or no rainfall, the growth of grasses is likely to be lower and in most cases there is no growth. Cattle suffer the most absence of grasses or fodder plants. In such cases, if fodder trees are available, the cattle can survive with the leaves of fodder trees.

Continued on page-2-

2.2 For fodder germination and growth, it is advisable to work the soil (ploughing) before sowing. As the seeds of the grass are very light, these could be mixed with dung and black soil and pellets during sowing. For better growth, it should be sown on the contour bunds of contour trenches because the grass seeds need less moisture.

2.3 While selecting the species for plantation in a particular pasture, it should be ensured that the species are indigenous and the soil and climate of the area is suited to the growth of particular species. The selected species should provide other benefits like firewood in addition to the fodder.

3. Technical inputs may be provided by the local Forest/Agriculture Department. Adequate soil and water conservation works like trenches may be taken up in the area for conserve moisture in the soil. The area may be fenced up with the fencing to ensure the cattle do not enter the area.

4. The participation of Gram Sabhas may be ensured in the plantation/pasture development work.

5. As far as possible local SHGs should be fully involved.

6. The sharing of fodder (grasses/leaves) may be worked out by the Gram Sabha in an equitable and transparent manner.

You are, requested to adopt above guidelines while implementing the scheme and also brought it to the notice of implementing agencies for compliance.

Yours faithfully,

  
Special Secretary (RD) to the,  
Government of Himachal Pradesh

Endst. No. as above Dated: Shimla-171009, the 3<sup>rd</sup> August, 2012.  
Copy forwarded for information and necessary action :-

1. The Pr. Secretary (Agri.) to the Government of Himachal Pradesh,

2. The Pr. Chief Conservator of Forests, Talland, Shimla-2,

  
Special Secretary (RD) to the,  
Government of Himachal Pradesh

No. J-11017/40/2011-MGNREGA (UN)

Government of India

Ministry of Rural Development

(MGNREGA Division)

Krishi Bhawan, New Delhi,

Dated the 14<sup>th</sup> August, 2012

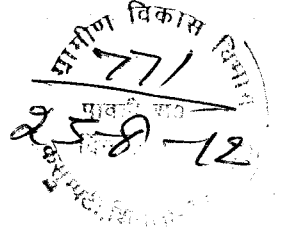
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SS(DD)

To

The Principal Secretary/ Secretary  
Department of Rural Development,  
All states/ UTs



**Subject: Advisory on development of pasture lands under MGNREGA for drought proofing**

Sir/ Madam,

Many States are experiencing drought like situation due to vagaries of the monsoon. This has become a common phenomenon and has been recurring after every 3-4 years, resulting in shortage of fodder for cattle.

2. As per Schedule I of MGNREGA, land development and drought proofing (including afforestation and tree plantation) works may be taken up on community land. These works could address the issue of shortage of fodder during these critical times as well as in normal years. The wastelands may also be reclaimed for this purpose. Development of pasture lands will not only meet the demand of fodder but will have other benefits such as:

- Provide employment opportunities to the rural poor and strengthen their livelihood resource base
- Supply fodder for the landless cattle rearers.

### 3. PLANTATION AND PASTURE DEVELOPMENT

3.1 During scanty rainfall or no rainfall, the growth of grasses is likely to be lower and in most cases there is no growth. Cattle suffer the most in

25/8

DD (S104)

23/8

for Rants  
25/8/12

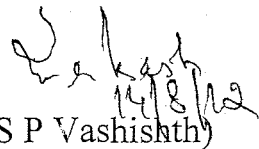
absence of grasses or fodder plants. In such cases, if fodder trees are available, the cattle can survive with the leaves of fodder trees.

3.2. For better germination and growth, it is advisable to work the soil (ploughing) before sowing. As the seeds of the grass are very light, these could be mixed with dung and black soil and pellets during sowing. For better growth, it should be sown on the contour bunds of contour trenches because the grass seeds need less moisture.

3.3. While selecting the species for plantation in a particular pasture, it should be ensured that the species are indigenous and the soil and climate of the area is suited to the growth of particular species. The selected species should provide other benefits like firewood in addition to the fodder.

4. Technical inputs may be provided by the local Forest/Agriculture Department. Adequate soil and water conservation works like trenches may be taken up in the area to conserve moisture in the soil. The area may be fenced up with live fencing to ensure the cattle do not enter the area.
5. The participation of Gram Sabhas may be ensured in the plantation/pasture development work.
6. As far as possible local SHGs (Self Help Groups) should be fully involved.
7. The sharing of fodder (grasses/leaves) may be worked out by the Gram Sabha in an equitable and transparent manner.

Yours faithfully,



(S P Vashishth)

Director (MGNREGA)