

CHAPTER 17

FORESTS AND SOCIAL FORESTRY

(I) Forests Introduction

17.1 Forests are one of the major renewable sources of our State. They play an important role in maintaining the ecological balance of the nature. They include harmonious cycling of water resources, storage of soil & moisture, moderating influence of floods, control over air, water and noise pollution moderation of temperature, better rainfall distribution, providing decentralised rural employment and food supply to disadvantaged section of population. Due to continued degradation and destruction of the forests in our State in the past, the evil effects in the form of soil erosion, floods, increased run-off, loss of genetic diversity etc. are manifest. The loss of forest cover is causing great concern to ecology in general and environment in particular. Forest, being the precious natural renewable resource, a sustainable management of this resource is most essential.

17.2 The major objectives of the plan in forestry sector are :

- (1) assist rural communities living in and around forests;
- (2) improve and increase productivity of forests;
- (3) conserve and develop flora and fauna;
- (4) provide employment to the rural poor in general;
- (5) increase production of minor forest produce;
- (6) associate rural poor with forest development through decentralised micro-planning.

17.3 Maharashtra State has a total geographical area of 30.7713 million ha. of which, forests account for 6.387 million ha., thereby, constituting 22.7% of the State's geographical area. The area covered by forests in Maharashtra is 63,874 sq.km. which is about 21 per cent of the total geographical area of the State. The State ranks third in the country in relation to the extents of forest area.

17.4 The outlay for Ninth Plan 1997-2002 and Actual Expenditure for 1997-2001 and anticipated expenditure in 2001-2002 and approved outlay for 2002-2003, and Xth Plan is as under :—

IXth Five Year Plan 1997-2002 Outlay (1)	Annual Plan 1997-2001 Expenditure (2)	Annual Plan 2001-2002		Annual Plan 2002-2003 Approved Outlay (5)	Xth Five Year Plan 2002-2007 Outlay (6)
		Approved Outlay (3)	Anticipated Expenditure (4)		
50000.00	33103.96	5405.65	3984.00	3079.76	56762.00

The Annual Plan 2002-2003 and Xth Five Year Plan (2002-07)

17.5 A total outlay of Rs. 3079.76 lakhs is proposed for the Forestry sector in the 2002-2003 Annual Plan.

(Rs.in lakhs)			
Sr. No. (1)	Activity (2)	Approved Outlay Annual Plan 2002-2003 (3)	Xth Five Year Plan 2002-2007 (4)
I- FORESTRY SECTOR			
1	Research Extension and Training	...	40.00
2	Survey of Forest Resources	...	250.00
3	Wildlife and environmental conservation.	...	286.00
4	Forest Protection	...	154.51
5	Plantation	...	1004.00
6	Forest produce	...	111.43
7	Communications	...	47.01
8	Investment in Public Sector & other Undertakings	...	10.00
9	Other schemes	...	246.87
10	Maharashtra Forestry Project under State Plan	...	779.77
11	Ajanta/Ellora Development Plan
12	Externally Aided Project
13	Administrative Building	...	150.00
Total for Forestry & Wildlife ...		3079.76	56762.00

17.6 The Forest Programme in the Annual Plan 2002-2003 and Xth Five Year Plan are as below :—

Direction and Administration

Under this scheme no outlay has been proposed from Xth Plan. The expenditure on salary and other items made under non-plan.

II-Extension Research & Training

Research:

17.7 An outlay of Rs. 40.00 lakhs has been approved in 2002-2003 and for Xth Five Year Plan 2002-07 Rs.150.00 lakh for six Research Centres namely at Kamara, Chanda, Jalna, Nagpur, Wada and Pune. It is also proposed to undertake research test and field trials of the experiment, as per the approved quinquennial 5 years research programmes.

IV-Survey of Forest Resources:

17.9 An outlay of Rs. 250.00 lakhs have been provided in 2002-2003 for Xth Five Year Plan 2002-07 Rs.1650.00 lakh for survey and demarcation of forest and acquired forest areas.

V-Wildlife and Environment Conservation.

17.10 Wildlife conservation work in the five National Park in the 28th sanctuaries are carried out by 100% centrally sponsored scheme and 50% assisted scheme. An outlay of Rs. 286.00 is approved during the annual Plan 2002-2003 for Xth Five Year Plan 2002-07 Rs.1520.00 lakh.

V-Forest Protection

17.11 Forest protection has attained utmost importance in the present day context. The proposals provide for protection of forests from all types of damages lake biotic and abiotic. Forests are also proposed to be protected from fires. The existing check posts are proposed to be strengthened. The number of mobile squads will be increased and all rounds and ranges will be connected with wireless by creating divisional forest wireless controls. Forest protection committees will be formed to involve people in forest protection and incentives will be provided for forest protection. An outlay of Rs. 154.41 lakhs approved for Annual Plan 2002-2003 for Xth Five Year Plan 2002-07 Rs.715.00 lakh.

VI-Plantation

17.12 Plantation in forest area is taken up in various forms. Plantation of fuel wood/firewood/forest produce resource plantation, small timber plantation, fodder project, teak & babbu plantation, plantation of minor forest produce. An outlay of Rs. 1004.00 has been approved for 2002-2003 for Xth Five Year Plan 2002-07 Rs.14897.00 lakh.

VII-Share Capital contribution to Forest Development Corporation of Maharashtra Ltd.

17.13 Under this programme, provision of share capital to Forest Development Corporation of Maharashtra Ltd., is made outlay of Rs. 10.00 lakhs has been provided for the Annual Plan 2002-2003 for Xth Five Year Plan 2002-07 Rs.450.00 lakh.

VIII-Other Schemes for Annual Plan 2002-03

In Forest Sector following Schemes are proposed ;—

Scheme	Outlay
(1) Amenities to staff and Labour	13.82
(2)Construction of forest Rest House	5.01
(3)Development of Park	3.02
(4) Road construction from Kanhari Gumpha to main gate.	10.00
(5) Joint Forest Management	60.22
(6) Construction of road from Naukavihar Bridge to MAF Co.	10.00
(7)Demolish encroachment from Malad City Survey	15.00
(8)Other Schemes	129.80
Total ...	246.87

Maharashtra Forestry Project

17.14 Maharashtra Forestry project continuance work to be execute under state plan out lay Rs.779.77 is sanction for 2002-2003 & for Xth Five Year Plan 2002-07 Rs.990.00 lakh.

17.15 Eco-Development Programme will be implemented in 210 villages. Directorate of Social Forestry will cover 150 selected villages while wildlife wing of the Department will work in 60 villages in the vicinity of protected areas. Non Government Organization (NGO) will be actively involved in the implimentation of this programme. Wildlife Wing of the Department has been strengthened by creation of additional staff under this project.

OECF Japan assisted Ajanta Ellora Development Plan.

17.16 OECF Japan assisted Ajanta Ellora Project has been formulated to develop the surrounding area of Ajanta and Ellora. The Programme consists of afforestation, development of resources and creation of tourism facilities. The outlay for 2002-2007 is Rs. 805.00 lakh.

17.17 Centrally Sponsored Schemes namely Tiger Project (Wildlife & Nature Conservation), fuel & fodder development project, integrated afforestation & Eco-development project etc. are being implemented by the Forest Department.

17.18 Centrally schemes - expenditure & outlay for 2002-2003 & Tenth Five Year Plan 2002-2007 is given below :—

(Rs.in lakhs)				
Sr. No.	Activity	Anticipated Expenditure 2001-2002	Approved outlay 2002-2003	Xth Five Year Plan 2002-07
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)
CENTRALLY SPONSORED SCHEMES -				
1.	Tiger Project (Wildlife & Nature Conservation) (50%/100)	537.23	1034.00	4970.00
2.	Association of Scheduled Tribes & Rural Poor in afforestation of degraded forests.	18.96	57.23	429.89
3.	Fuelwood & Fodder Development Project (50%).	56.06	7566.00	300.00
4.	Integrated afforestation & Eco-development Project.	136.23	291.39	2503.75
5.	Extension Training & Research development of Forest and pasture seed.	5.85	20.24	123.34
6.	Modern Forest Fire Control Methods	216.00	2913.52	14500.00
7.	Non-Timber forest including medical plants	88.41	223.81	1691.06
Total		1058.74	4615.85	24518.04

II SOCIAL FORESTRY

Introduction

17.19 Maharashtra has a total geographical area of 30.7713 million ha. of which, forests account for 6.387 million ha., thereby, constituting 22.7% of the State's geographical area. As per NRSA estimates, the State possess 7.06 million ha., of waste lands comprising of 1.78 million ha., of forest wastelands, 2.873 of community wastelands and 2.4 million ha., of private wastelands. Being the most urbanised State in the country, the resultant biotic and other developmental pressures have resulted in land degradation in the State proceeding at an alarming pace. The State is in the forefront of regions suffering from water induced soil erosion in the country. The fact that unevenly distributed and under stocked forests of the State are unable to meet even the basic needs fore forest produce, has given credence to the

option for adopting social forestry practices in a big way on all the available non forest lands. The Directorate of Social Forestry, set up since 1982, has been undertaking extension and habitate rehabilitation programmes on non forest public as well as private lands, thereby, helping to mitigate the gap between demand and supply of various forest produce in the country side. Of late, the Directorate of Social Forestry is engaged in the restoration of waste lands on watershed basis.

The main objectives of Social Forestry in Maharashtra are :—

- (1) to augment the production of firewood, fodder, small timber, fruits etc. by undertaking massive tree planting in community and private waste and open lands in rural areas with the active support and involvement of local population and contain deforestation.
- (2) to increase the scope of rural employment and create infrastructure for wood based village industries.
- (3) to help restore ecological balance, provide recreation and in general improve the quality of life in rural areas.

The outlay and expenditure for Ninth Five Year Plan 1997-2002, Anticipated expenditure in 2001-2002, approved outlay 2002-2003 and Tenth Five Year Plan 2002-2007.

(A) Financial Aspects

TABLE

IXth Five Year Plan 1997-2002 Outlay (1)	Annual Plan 1997-2001 Expenditure (2)	Annual Plan 2001-2002		Annual Plan 2002-2003 Approved Outlay (5)	Xth Five Year Plan 2002-2007 Outlay (6)
		Approved Outlay (3)	Anticipated Expenditure (4)		
10200.00	2282.99	139.31	150.00	180.00	11579.00

(Rs. in lakhs)

(B) Physical Achievement

TABLE

Item (1)	Unit (2)	IXth Plan 1997-2002		Annual Plan 2002-2003 Target (5)	Xth Plan 2002-2007 Target (6)
		Target (3)	Achievement (4)		
(1) Village Economic Division	No.	150 (230 New)	150	...	150
(2) Plantation	Hect.	15250.00	3239.12	300.00	1500.00
(3) Coastal Stabilization through Afforestation	Hect.	95	80
(4) Smriti Udyan	No.	3	3.00	...	14
(5) Kisan Nursury	No.	2728.00	841.30	20	750.00
(6) Technological upgradation of Central Nursury	no.	11	3.99	...	29.00

17.20 The outlay for Social Forestry programme for the Annual Plan 2002-2003 and Tenth Five Year Plan 2002-2007 are as under:—

Sr. No.	Programme	(Rs.in lakhs)	
		Outlay	
		Annual Plan 2002-03 (3)	Xth Plan 2002-07 (4)
(1)	(2)		
1	Training	5.78	150.00
2	Technological Upgradation of Central Nurseries	—	600.00
3	Tree Planting Community other non private land in identifying watershed	40.00	500.00
4	Publicity extention	10.00	150.00
5	Smrity Udyan	—	1200.00
6	Kisan Nurseries	70.00	1500.00
7	Village Eco Development Programmes (Vaniki Project)	—	4600.00
8	Commercial Plantation on Private Land	—	400.00
9	Plantation in Campus of Universities/Colleges/Schools/Industrial Institution	54.22	1000.00
10	Instalation of Telephone and Supply of Moped to the Officer	—	81.00
11	Monataring Evaluation	—	248.00
12	Cannal & Road Side Plantation	—	750.00
13	Maintain of Dearai	—	400.00
Total		180.00	11569.00

II. Training, Publicity/Extension Movitation, Plantation Nursury Scheme, Kisan Nursury, Coastal Stabilisation through afforestation

17.21 An Outlay of Rs. 5.78 lakhs for 2002-2003 and Tenth Five Year Plan Rs.150.00 lakh have been provided for a Training Institue in a Pune to train the Social Forestry staff. Besides the staff, village level functionaries like the Gram Sevaks ,Patwaries, Nurses, villagers/farmers in general, personnel or other Govt.departments are also to be trained. An outlay of Rs. 10.00 lakhs has been kept apart for publicity and Extention for 2002-2003 and Xth Five Year Plan Rs.150.00 lakh..

Tree plantation on community/other non-private land in Indetified water sheds

17.22 Social Forestry activity is expected to be carried out in a comprehensive manner in conjunction with other related activities like Social Conservation, Minor Irrigation in identified watersheds. Suitable treatments in the form of afforestation to all common wastelands is meant for effective treatment of watersheds.

Under this scheme land will be divided into following three zones considering the depth of soil.

Zone I	Zone II	Zone III
Depth of Soil	Depth of Soil	Depth of Soil
Less than 10 Cms.	10 to 30 Cms.	30 Cms & above.

An outlay of Rs. 40.00 lakhs is provided in Annual Plan 2002-2003 and Xth Five Year Plan Rs.500.00 lakh for carrying out PPO/PYO works on.

17.23 The scheme of Kisan Nursury was initially sponsored by the National Wasteland Development Board with 100% assistance under the name ofn Decentralised Nurseries. The object is to popularise afforestation activities by enlisting participation of villagers and also to create job opportunities in the rural area. However, 1993-94 onwards, this programme has been taken up from the State funds. Through this programme the requirement of seedlings of the S.F.Department as well as that of public could be met substantially. The beneficiaries are selected as far as possible from SC/ST and Marginal farmers.

Approximately 20 to 25 thousand seedlings in a year will be prepared by a beneficiary.

Outlay of Rs.40.00 lakh has been provided for 2002-2003 and Xth Five Year Plan Rs.1500.00 lakh.

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