



ABSTRACT

Forests - "Green Tamil Nadu Mission" - Administrative and Financial Sanction for implementation during the year 2021–2022– Orders issued.

Environment, Climate Change and Forests (FR-6) Department

G.O.(Ms)No.126

Dated: 09.12.2021

திருவள்ளூர்ஆண்டு-2052

பிலவ, கார்த்திகை-23

Read:

1. From the Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (Head of Department), Chennai, Ref.No.SF2/20912/2021, dated 06.10.2021.
2. Government Order (Ms) No.154, Agriculture and Farmers Welfare (AP5) Department, dated 22.10.2021.

Order:

Forests and Trees are essential for sustaining life on our planet. Forests and Trees contribute to food security, sustainable agriculture protection of biodiversity, sustainable livelihoods and economic prosperity. Forests and Trees are important carbon sinks and have a central role to play in meeting the challenge of climate change.

2. Increasing Forest and Tree cover is important to ecology and economy as a viable nature-based solution which will aid in mitigating adverse impact of climate change. Extreme weather events in the recent past have increased, leading to large scale devastation along coasts, urban settlements, farmlands, forests, and grasslands impacting life, property and biodiversity. There is a need to arrest these and mitigate the impact of these events.

3. Trees are nature's climate solution and play an important role in climate change management. Though, tree planting is not the only solution, enhancing forest cover is undoubtedly the single most important intervention for a sustainable clean and green future. Tree plantations have been a vital source of fuel, fibre, food, fodder and timber, providing an important buffer during times of crop losses due to pests or extreme weather incidents. Agro forestry has contributed greatly to the resilience of farms and farmers. Trees beyond forests will aid and support carbon storage, reduce pressure on forest resources while meeting the needs of humanity.

4. The State of Tamil Nadu intends to sustainably manage its forest and tree cover recognising it's key role in climate change adaptation and mitigation. The State plans to augment the national efforts in creating the additional carbon sink of 2.5 to 3 billion tonnes in its forest and tree cover by the year 2030 as a part of its Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC) commitments under the Paris Agreement by adopting two-pronged strategy as below:

- (i) Forest land restoration by encouraging planting of indigenous/native species which locally adapt to rainfall and temperature extremes and promote biodiversity, critical in addressing the concerns of climate change.
- (ii) Increasing Tree cover outside conventional forests for climate change adaptation and mitigation and for improving income opportunities of farming communities, by actively promoting agro forestry.

5. Accordingly, the Honourable Finance Minister, while presenting the Revised Budget for 2021-2022, made an Announcement on the floor of Tamil Nadu Legislative Assembly on 13.08.2021 that "under the leadership of the Hon'ble Chief Minister, this Government will launch the Green Tamil Nadu Mission with the objective to increase the Forest and Tree Cover in the State from present 23.8% to 33% of the geographical area of the State by the year 2030-2031 as per the Vision of the Government of Tamil Nadu".

6. In consonance with the aforementioned announcement, Government orders are issued for the launch of "Green Tamil Nadu Mission" with following objectives:

- i) Increase the Forest and Tree Cover in the State from present 23.8% to 33% by the year 2030-2031 as per the National Forest Policy, 1988 and Vision of the Government of Tamil Nadu, through Afforestation activities on the degraded forest landscape and tree planting activities outside the forest areas.
- ii) Expand tree cover on farmlands to complement agricultural crops. Build a robust data base on farmers and the growing stock in their land for developing a strong institutional marketing linkage for tree growers to enhance income opportunities.
- iii) Improving growing stock and biodiversity in the State of Tamil Nadu through community-public-private participation (CPP Mode).

7. Under this Mission, 265 crores seedlings of native trees of economic and ecological significance will be planted over a period of 10 years on suitable public lands like Urban areas, Farms, Educational Institutions, Temple grounds, Sacred Groves, Industrial Areas, Tank Foreshore, Padugai areas, areas under the control of Defence and Police establishments etc., covering an area of about 13,500 sq.km. Utmost care will be taken to ensure that suitable tree species with optimum growth are planted considering edaphic and climate conditions of the site. This will ensure optimum survival after planting. Planting of non-native species,

tree planting drives on grasslands and wetlands, and promotion of monoculture will be discouraged. The details of area coverage is given in the Table 1.

Table 1

Sl. No	Targeted area	Area in Sq. km	% of Land Area
i.	Total geographical area of Tamil Nadu	1,30,060	-
ii.	Current forest and tree cover	31,194.02	23.98
iii.	Targeted forest and tree cover	42,919.80	33.00
iv.	Area under Forest and Tree Cover to be covered to achieve 33% of total geographical area with various plantation models.	13,500.00	9.015

8. Under the “Green Tamil Nadu Mission”, the role of Agroforestry would be instrumental in getting closer to the objectives of achieving 33% geographical area under Forest and the Tree cover as per the National Forest Policy, 1988 and the vision of the Government for which the Government of India has already issued the Operational Guidelines under the National Mission for Sustainable Agriculture (NMSA).

9. The adverse impact of climate change will be felt more strongly in coastal and inland areas of the State causing changes in frequency and intensity of storms, increase in temperature and precipitation, sea level rise, shoreline erosion, droughts, inundation of urban and rural areas and increased salinity leading to depletion of availability of freshwater. In order to manage the impact of climate change, the Government have already announced two other Missions viz., Tamil Nadu Climate Change Mission and the Tamil Nadu Wetlands Mission in addition to Green Tamil Nadu Mission.

10. For effective management of the above three Missions and to ensure that they achieve their underlying objectives, the Government have also created a new Special Purpose Vehicle (SPV) viz., Tamil Nadu Green Climate Company (TNGCC) which in turn shall setup a specialized Project Management Unit (PMU) for coordinating and monitoring of project activities in partnership with the Tamil Nadu Infrastructure Fund Management Corporation Limited (TNIFMC).

11. Under the Green Tamil Nadu Mission, the target for raising and planting of the seedlings for the year 2021-2022 has been proposed as 1.20 crore. The Forest Department has already raised 73 lakhs seedlings for implementation of “Tamil Nadu Mission on Sustainable Green Cover in Farmlands” as part of National Mission on Sustainable Agriculture. In addition to the above, about 47 lakhs seedlings have to be raised and planted during the current financial year 2021-2022 at a cost of Rs.21.00 crore.

12. The Government accord administrative and financial sanction for Rs. 21.00 crore (Rupees Twenty one crore only) for raising and planting of 47 lakhs seedlings in the current financial year (2021-2022). The Government also accord administrative and financial sanction for Rs.17.80 crore (Rupees Seventeen crore and Eighty lakhs only) for raising nursery of 130 lakhs seedlings for planting during next financial year (2022 – 2023). The details are shown in Table 2.

Table 2

Year	Area (in ha.)	No. of seedlings (in lakhs)	Amount Sanctioned now (Rs. in crore)
2021-2022	5,000	47	Rs.21.00 (Raising of nurseries and planting during 2021-2022)
2022-2023	5,000	130	Rs.17.80 (Raising of nurseries for planting during 2022-2023)

13. The source of the funding to meet the above expenditure for successful implementation of the Green Tamil Nadu Mission during the financial years 2021-2022 and 2022-2023 are detailed in the Table 3.

Table 3

(Rs. in crores)

Sl. No.	Funding Source	Fin. Year 2021-2022	Fin. Year 2022-2023
i.	Tamil Nadu Pollution Control Board	15.00	10.00
ii.	Tamil Nadu Forest Plantation Corporation Ltd., Tiruchirappalli	5.00	5.00
iii.	Tamil Nadu State Compensatory Afforestation Fund	1.00	2.80
	Total	21.00	17.80

14. For the successful and effective implementation of the Green Tamil Nadu Mission, the Government hereby issue the following directives to the Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (Head of Department), for compliance:

- (i) The Green Tamil Nadu Mission should be a People's Movement by soliciting their engagement and by actively involving multiple agencies, organizations (Government / Non-Government), individuals, farmers, local bodies, Joint Forest Management Committees, Women Self Help Groups, private institutions/ agencies, academia, business houses, school and college students, youth organizations and media houses etc.

- (ii) Remote Sensing and geospatial based decentralized monitoring mechanism for geo-tagging of all the planted seedlings should be developed for the purpose of concurrent/ real-time monitoring and supervision of planted seedlings along with their status of growth.
- (iii) Third party monitoring (midterm and final) on various performance indicators of the Mission shall be undertaken by reputed institutions like Madras School of Economics, Madras Institute of Development Studies, Institute of Remote Sensing, Anna University, Chennai, Tamil Nadu Agricultural University, Centre for Ecological Sciences, Indian Institute of Science, Bengaluru, Salim Ali Centre for Ornithology and Natural History (SACON) and other institutions.
- (iv) Carbon sequestration in biomass, leaf litter and soil and revenue benefits generated for small and marginal farmers and other participating institutions shall be assessed periodically as per standard protocols.
- (v) Adopt and implement best practices on social audit for achieving desired success in this community driven greening programme to ensure fairness and transparency.

15. The Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (Head of Department) shall send Utilization Certificates to the Government after completion of works only after documenting, tracking and validating the activities.

(BY ORDER OF THE GOVERNOR)

**SUPRIYA SAHU
PRINCIPAL SECRETARY TO GOVERNMENT**

To

The Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (Head of Department),
Chennai-600015.

The Chairman, Tamil Nadu Pollution Control Board,
Chennai-600032.

The Director of Environment,
Chennai-600015.

The Chairman, Tamil Nadu Forest Plantation Corporation Limited,
Chennai.

The Managing Director, Tamil Nadu Forest Plantation Corporation Limited,
Tiruchirappalli.

The Chief Executive Officer,

Tamil Nadu Compensatory Afforestation Fund Management and Planning Authority,
O/o.the Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (HoD), Chennai-600015.

The Principal Accountant General (A & E),
Chennai-18.

The Accountant General, Chennai-600 018.

The Pay and Accounts Officer (South), Chennai-35.

The Pay and Accounts / Treasury Officer concerned.

Copy to :

Office of the Hon'ble Chief Minister, Chennai-9.

The Senior Personal Assistant to Hon'ble Minister (Forests), Chennai-9.

The Private Secretary to Principal Secretary to Government,
Environment, Climate Change and Forests Department, Secretariat, Chennai-9.

The Special Personal Assistant to Hon'ble Minister (Finance and HRM), Chennai-9.

The Resident Audit Officer, Chennai-600009.

SF/SC.

// Forwarded: By Order //

M. Magala
9/12/2021

SECTION OFFICER

9/12/2021