

No.J-11018/1/4/2015-MGNREGA IV
Government of India
Ministry of Rural Development
(MGNREGA Division)

Krishi Bhawan, New Delhi
Dated : 27th October, 2016

To

The Prl. Secretary/Secretary/Commissioner
Department of Rural Development(MGNREGA)
All States/UTs

Subject: - Afforestation/Horticulture under MGNREGA, the progress in the FY 2016-17 and the planning for the FY 2017-18.

Madam/Sir,

As per para 4 (1), 1.(v) of Schedule I, of Mahatma Gandhi NREGA, Afforestation, tree Plantation and horticulture works can be taken up in common and forest lands, road margins, canal bunds, tank foreshores and coastal belts. Usufruct right are to be duly provided to the households covered in paragraph 5 of the schedule I under MGNREGA.

2. The Annual Master Circular (AMC) clearly delineates the maintenance strategy for Block and linear plantations. **It is suggested that the maintenance of plantation works should be done by allotting the plants to Job card holders (maximum upto 200 plants per Household) and where ever possible with due permission usufruct rights to be provided to the Job card holders who are engaged in the maintenance of plantation works so as to enhance their livelihood aspects.** Estimates are to be prepared for plantation works including the required maintenance period (three to five years) as per the nature of plant species thereby exploring convergence possibilities with other schemes and funds.

3. During the maintenance period the payment should be done based on survival and accomplishment of tasks (watering, weeding, manuring etc.) West Bengal has issued orders regarding payment modalities for Roadside and Block Plantations which is attached for a reference. States/UTs can fix the payment rates as per their SoR.

4. For the coming FY 2017-18, States/UTs are advised to list out few economically beneficial plants species, to be planted in individual and common lands in due consultation with all concerned stakeholders like experts from Horticulture/ Forest/ ICAR/ ICFRE/ Agriculture University/ KVKs etc. Plant species should be selected as per agro-climatic conditions, market opportunities, forward linkages, income generation etc. This should be done before the start of the planning process, and once finalized the list of plant species needs to be shared with MoRD,

and also to be entered in MIS of NREGASoft through State DBA. If the State/UT decides for making provision of usufruct rights, while conducting plantation works in the common lands, in such condition these finalized list of plant species will become an informed choice for the identified para 5 households, for making their own choice during the Labour budget (LB) planning exercise. The groups/individuals/committees who are interested to take up nursery works under MGNREGA, should be properly trained for improving their skills in raising of quality nursery. The technical prescriptions for the finalized plants species also needs to be prepared before the estimate preparation.


5. To conduct the above said activities in a better manner, it is suggested to prepare a month-wise schedule of activities for plantation works with responsible stakeholders (as provided in AMC in para 2.5.2.6 for a guidance), which may become a tool for the State/UT to monitor and for the timely implementation of all plantation works.

6. For the FY 2016-17, "Roadside Tree Plantation" is one of the focus areas of the Ministry and the Ministry is regularly monitoring its progress, as per the targets undertaken by the States/UTs. The progress on Roadside Tree Plantation for FY 2016-17 is reflected in MIS report R6.25 and report relating to maintenance work at MIS report R6.21.

7. It is also suggested that the plantation works which are in the maintenance period needs to be estimated, and the estimated costs needs to be worked out to get reflected in the coming FY 2017-18, LB proposals.

Encl. : As above

Yours faithfully,


(Aparajita Sarangi) 27/10/16

Joint Secretary(MGNREGA)

GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL
PANCHAYATS & RURAL DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT
5TH FLOOR, JOINT ADMINISTRATIVE BUILDING
BLOCK HC, PLOT 7, SECTOR - III,
SALT LAKE CITY, KOLKATA - 700 106

Memo No 4036(22) -RD/P/NREGA/18S-07/C6/Pt-I)

Dated 20.08.2015

From: Sudipta Porel, WBCS(Exe)
Deputy Secretary to Govt. of West Bengal

To: The Principal Secretary, GTA
The District Magistrate, all
The AEO, Siliguri Mahakuma Parishad

Sub: Rate of Plantation Maintenance under NREGA BRIKHA PATTAs

Sir,

It has been decided by the State Government to provide Plantation Maintenance wage in MGNREGA Brikha Patta Scheme at the following rate:

- 1) With survival rate above 90% of the total planted saplings and with all maintenance works complied as per estimate like watering, application of fertiliser, mulching, weeding etc:

The maintenance wage will be (1) Rs.10/- per survived plant each month for Road Side Plantation and (2) Rs.5/- per survived plant each month for Block Plantation.

- 2) With survival rate above 90% of the total planted saplings but without any maintenance works complied as per estimate like watering, application of fertiliser, mulching, weeding etc:

The Maintenance wage will be (1) Rs.5/- per survived plant each month for Road Side Plantation and (2) Rs.3/- per survived plant each month for Block Plantation.

- 3) With survival rate in the range 75-90% of the total planted saplings and with all maintenance works complied as per

estimate like watering, application of fertiliser, mulching, weeding etc:

The Maintenance wage will be (1) Rs.5/- per survived plant each month for Road Side Plantation and (2) Rs.3/- per survived plant each month for Block Plantation.

4) With survival rate in the range 75-90 % of the total planted saplings but without any maintenance works complied as per estimate like watering, application of fertiliser, mulching, weeding etc:

The Maintenance wage will be (1) Rs.3/- per survived plant each month for Road Side Plantation and (2) Rs.2/- per survived plant each month for Block Plantation.

The estimate should be for the entire period of 3-5 years (the varieties having quick maturity should have less maintenance period) and the calculated wage to the beneficiary family in a year for first 100 person-days (150 for FRA beneficiaries) will be unskilled one and rest shall be treated as semi-skilled wage. The sample estimate circulated by Government of India is enclosed herewith which is to be revised as per state stipulated rate and norm. The saplings issued in the form of Patta shall be not less than 50 and not more than 200 per family.

Maintenance wage is to be disbursed each month for the preceding month only after getting work certified by the competent person regarding the rate of survival and compliance of estimated maintenance work.

With regards,

Yours faithfully,

Encl: As stated


(Sudipta Porel) 20.05.15

Deputy Secretary to Government of West Bengal

GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL
Panchayats & Rural Development Department
Joint Administrative Building
Block HC-7, Sector -III, Salt Lake
Kolkata-700 106

No. 3479(21)- RD/P/NREGA/18S-07/06 (PT-I)

Date: 17/07/2015

To: The District Magistrate, District Programme Coordinator (All)
Principal Secretary (GTA)
Additional Executive Officer (SMP)

Sub: Permission for plantation by the side of PMGSY roads

Madam/Sir,

While taking up roadside plantation against the roads built through PMGSY and also providing Briksha Patta to the individuals/ user groups/self-help groups is one of the priorities for plantation activities under Mahatma Gandhi NREGA. Some of the districts have raised the issue of obtaining permission from the PMGSY authority for providing Briksha Patta to identified beneficiaries. It has been indicated that the district PMGSY authority in some of the districts have not extended any permission on the ground that the land often belongs to the villagers and the roads have been built on the basis of their voluntary contribution in terms of land. Naturally it is the villagers who are authorised to provide such 'No Objection' for Briksha Patta.

It is clarified that roadside plantation is an initiative for strengthening the roads built under PMGSY and the land already taken possession of by the PMGSY authority will be utilised for such plantation. Accordingly, as the nodal department for construction of roads under PMGSY, we would like to clarify that no further permission from any agency whatsoever is required for plantation of trees by the side of PMGSY roads as well as for providing usufruct rights to identified beneficiaries for using the benefits out of the trees thus planted. This clarification may be construed as en-block permission by the department for all plantation activities and conferring Briksha Patta to identified beneficiaries for all PMGSY roads of the State.

Yours faithfully,


(Dibyendu Sarkar)

17.07.2015
Commissioner, P&RD Department

GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL
PANCHAYATS & RURAL DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT
9TH FLOOR, JOINT ADMINISTRATIVE BUILDING
BLOCK HC, PLOT 7, SECTOR – III,
SALT LAKE CITY, KOLKATA – 700 106

Memo No -RD/P/NREGA/1SB-01/14

Dated 22.08.2015

From: Dibyendu Sarkar, IAS
Commissioner, MGNREGA, WB

To: The Principal Secretary, GTA
The District Magistrate, all
The AEO, Siliguri Mahakuma Parishad

Sub: Violation of Briksha Patta order & action thereon

Sir,

One of the major maladies in implementation of plantation works under Mahatma Gandhi NREGA was lack of appropriate maintenance support to ensure survival of the plants. Once planted, the saplings often became no one's concern. Even the person entrusted with the watch and ward responsibility was very loosely associated and there was no relationship between the wages paid to the watcher and the rate of survival of plants. This resulted in huge loss of plants after plantation and the survival rate was pretty low. As a result, although West Bengal was one of the frontrunners in terms of number of saplings planted, we had much to be desired in relation to the survival rate of plants.

On the other hand, if we see the experiments with block plantation in Bankura and other districts, especially in the Western part of the State, the story is entirely different. In most of the orchards, the land was leased by the Self-help Groups and they had clearly determined usufructuary rights on the plants. They ensured that the plants survived and their income substantially increased by selling the fruits.

It is in this perspective that the system of 'Briksha Patta' has been introduced by the Government of India and the State Government communicated the detailed guidelines on this to the districts. It was categorically mentioned in the guidelines issued by the Department that all plantations excluding those in the IBS sector will have to follow the 'Briksha Patta' principles. Even the IBS sector the release of maintenance wage will follow similar guidelines as in the 'Birksha Patta'.

Another order was issued vide this Office No.3844 RD-P/NREGA/18B-01/14 dated 10.08.15 where it has been clearly spelt out that any plantation violating the 'Briksha Patta' guidelines will not be treated as work implemented under Mahatma Gandhi NREGA. Despite all such stipulations there are reports from the field that plantations are still being done without assigning 'Briksha Patta' which is gross violation of the instructions.

Under the circumstances we would like to reiterate the importance of 'Briksha Patta' in survival of plants and as essential part of our plantation strategy under Mahatma Gandhi NREGA. However, this concept of Briksha Patta does not directly apply to the backyard plantation in the IBS sector, ^{IBS} block plantation involving SHG members (there indirectly there is assignment of usufruct rights to the SHG members) and the plantation by the Forest Department where the Forest Protection Committees have similar kind of rights.

To review progress of 'Briksha Patta' in the context of plantation under Mahatma Gandhi NREGA as well as the level of compliance in the field on the directions issued on this, I would like to have a report on the following

| Name of the Block | Total saplings planted | Total saplings planted under Roadside Plantation | Total Briksha Patta issued | No. of works implemented without Briksha Patta assignment (with saplings thus planted in bracket) | Amount involved (Rs.) | Action taken against such violation (may add separate pages) | Amount recovered from the GPs for implementation of works clearly disapproved by the State | Remarks of the District |
|----------------------|------------------------|--|----------------------------|---|-----------------------|--|--|-------------------------|
| Name of the District | | | | | | | | |
| District total | | | | | | | | |

With regards,

Thanking you,

(Dibyendu Sarkar)

22.08.2015

GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL
PANCHAYATS & RURAL DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT
9TH FLOOR, JOINT ADMINISTRATIVE BUILDING
BLOCK HC, PLOT 7, SECTOR – III,
SALT LAKE CITY, KOLKATA – 700 106

Memo. No. 5001 (21) — RD/P/NREGA/18S-07/06 Dated: 03.11.2015

From: Sudipta Porel, WBCS(Exe)
Deputy Secretary to Govt. of West Bengal

To: The Principal Secretary, GTA
The District Magistrate, all
The AEO, Siliguri Mahakuma Parishad

Sub: Clarification regarding Brikha Patta

Sir/Madam,

I am directed to circulate the following clarification regarding Brikha Patta.

1) Guideline issued vide Memo. No. 1342-RD/P/NREGA/18B-01/14 dated 17/03/15 mentioned only plantation by Gram Panchayats and question has been raised whether same condition is applicable in case of Plantation raised by Panchayat Samiti.

Keeping the other conditions same, in case of Panchayat Simiti, Executive Officer of PS will issue the Patta to Brikha Pattadars.

2) Guideline issued vide Memo. No. 4626 dated 10.10.14 stipulates the number of saplings per family for patta as 50-200. As per order vide No.2790 dated 09.06.15(convergence with SSM/school) horticulture/plantation scheme will be implemented at school premises or adjacent location through Brikha Patta.

Now in case of such scheme through Brikha Patta in such institutions, the lower limit for patta is hereby waived but payment for maintenance of such plantation will be as per surviving plants in the spirit of the G.O. No. 41342-RD/P/NREGA/18B-01/14 dated 17/03/15 626 dated 10.10.14.

3) The wage-rate for maintenance will be same as enumerated in Memo. No. 4036(22)-RD/P/NREGA/18S-07/06 dated 20.08.15.

With regards,

Yours faithfully,



(Sudipta Porel)

GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL
Panchayats & Rural Development Department
Joint Administrative Building
Block HC-7, Sector -III, Salt Lake
Kolkata - 700 106

No. 801(21)-RD/P/NREGA/18B-01/14

Date: 15/02/2016

To
The Principal Secretary (OTA)
The District Magistrate (AI)
The Additional Executive Officer (Siliguri Mahakuma Parishad)

Sub: Plantation under MGNREGA and Briksha Patta

Madam/Sir,

Kindly refer the series of correspondences on plantation under MGNREGA and for issuing Briksha Patta to the local job seeker households. You will certainly appreciate that the mechanism of assigning plants to the job seekers is aimed at providing further employment to the households for continued maintenance of the plants as well as for ensuring sustainability of plantation. Since through Briksha Patta the household will have specific rights to the usufructs as well as the final products, their stake in ensuring survival of the plants is expected to be very high.


In our earlier letter dated 17.03.15, we circulated some formats for obtaining approval from the concerned Department as well as issuing Briksha Patta to the stakeholders. In order to simplify the process further we would like to propose the enclosed 4 formats in lieu of earlier two (Briksha Patta 1, Briksha Patta 2, Briksha Patta 3, Briksha Patta 4). The following will be the process to be adopted by the gram Panchayats/other PIAs:

1. Identification of the patches of land for plantation including identification of the owner Government agency of such land.
2. Sending request to such Government agency for assigning the land to the gram panchayat with a specific objective of raising plantation there at.
3. However, ownership of the land will continue to be with the department concerned. In a letter of request it will also be mentioned that the plants raised on such land will be given to individual job seeker households as Briksha Patta.
4. The concerned Government agency will issue permission in favour of the GP/PIA for use of such land for plantation with Briksha Patta rights to individual households.
5. Once permission from the concerned Government agencies obtained the Gram Panchayat/PIA will seek applications from individuals/SHG members for assigning plants as Briksha Patta.
6. Once applications are received the Gram Panchayat will issue patta rights to the applicants with specific provisions that the patta is restricted to the plants only and not to the land where on such plants are being raised.

Please follow the instructions and use the formats Briksha Patta 1-4 accordingly.

Where Briksha Patta is issued on land taken on long term lease from individual land owners, provision of Briksha patta will be suitably modified to indicate three-stake holder distribution of the produce as indicated in our earlier letter dated 17.03.15.

Yours faithfully,


Dibyendu Sarkar
Commissioner, P&RD Department