GOVERNMENT OF ANDHRA PRADESH

ABSTRACT

Launch of Mission Haritha Andhra Pradesh and Inception of Vanam-Manam Programme on 29 July 2016 - Implementation Guidelines

ENVIRONMENT, FORESTS, SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY DEPARTMENT

G.O.MS.No. 71 Dated: 23-07-2016

ORDER:

1. About 26 per cent of the total geographical area of Andhra Pradesh State has tree cover, of which forests are spread over an area of 36,915 square kilometres, about 23 per cent of the total geographical area, and the tree-cover outside the forests is about 4,243 square km, which is around 3 per cent of the total geographic area. However, substantial part of the forest area is degraded and the overall trend indicates declining tree cover.

2. In this background, the Government, after a critical review of all aspects of the matter, has decided to launch Mission Haritha Andhra Pradesh (MHAP) with a goal to achieve tree cover over 50 per cent of the total geographical area of the State by bringing an additional 40 lakh hectares of land under tree cover by 2029. This would entail bringing about 4 lakh hectares of land under tree cover every year, apart from improving the quality of tree cover in the degraded forest areas through density improvement using appropriate species.

3. To translate this goal into concrete reality, the Government has decided to launch Vanam – Manam Programme on 29 July 2016. The Government has decided to plant at least one crore saplings across the State on the launch day and sustain the plantation drive throughout the rainy season. Detailed instructions for effective implementation of Mission Haritha Andhra Pradesh are being issued separately. The following instructions are being issued for the specific purpose of Mission's launch on 29 July 2016.

**Vanam – Manam Programme Launch**

4. Hon'ble Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh will launch Mission Haritha Andhra Pradesh and initiate the implementation of Vanam-Manam Programme on 29 July 2016. The Hon'ble Minister in-charge of the district along with other Hon'ble Ministers, and People's representatives will launch the Programme in the district on the same day with the active participation of all citizens of the area. Similar launch will be done in every Constituency, Mandal, Village, ULB, and every institution in the State - both public and private - every school, college, university, Industry, religious institutions, etc., on the same day.

5. It has been decided that more than one Crore seedlings will be planted on 29 July 2016 on pre-identified vacant Government lands, Degraded Forest lands, Endowment lands, Schools, Colleges and Universities, Residential Schools and Hostels, Lands surrounding Industries and SEZs, Vacant Railway lands, Endowments lands, Housing Colonies, Homesteads, Roads, Canals, Bunds of Farm

lands. It is expected that on average 20,000 – 25,000 saplings will be planted in every Mandal depending the availability of plantation area, using appropriate plant species.

**People's Participation – Prakriti Pilusthondi**

6. The goals of Mission Haritha Andhra Pradesh to be implemented through Vanam-Manam programme would be realised only through universal citizen participation. Each and every citizen of Andhra Pradesh across the social, economic, demographic, geographic, gender, and political spectrum ought to become partners in this programme that would benefit not only the State but also the nation and the entire world through eco-regeneration. The Vanam-Manam Programme is a truly Glocal (Local Action for local and global benefit) initiative. Apart from its impact on environment and climate change, the programme is an effort to strengthen the bond between the nature and people. Therefore, effective and sustained mobilisation of all citizens through massive public information campaign is critical not only for the initial launch function on 29 July, but for sustaining the momentum for the next fifteen years and beyond.

7. The activities that would be taken up with immediate effect and sustained after launch of the Mission on 29 July, would include widespread dissemination of information to the citizens through print and electronic media, FM Radio, Film theatres, town-hall and street level meetings. To create awareness amongst school and college students and to secure their proactive participation, essay writing, painting, quiz, and elocution competitions shall be organised. In addition, Green Run, Cycle Rallies and Eco walks on different days shall be organised. Likewise, lectures and panel discussions shall be organised on climate change concerns, environment and biodiversity conservation issues. Screening films and documentaries on forests and wildlife conservation in various schools, colleges, universities and theatres could be integral part of the campaign.

8. The Headmasters of Schools, Principals of Colleges and Vice-chancellors of Universities, Persons in charge of the Residential schools and Hostels shall ensure cent per cent participation of teachers / faculty and students in promotion of awareness regarding the Mission / Programme and its impact on environment / climate change and ensure proactive participation in plantation and protection of the planted saplings.

9. The participation of religious and social leaders and civil society institutions, community institutions, self-help groups must be secured in spreading awareness disseminating information on the Mission / Programme.

10. A Facebook page and Twitter handle (Vanam-Manam) have been launched. The same should be used on the Social media for canvassing the Mission / Programme and to provide an opportunity to all citizens to post their views, suggestions, value-added inputs, pictures and videos of plantation programme. Inspirational slogans, songs, video-clippings on relevant themes should be posted in the social media.

**Programme Implementation**

11. The government directs that Micro-level Plantation Plans should be prepared for each and every village/ ULB covering vacant lands, institutions, industries, roads, canal bunds, degraded forest areas, homesteads. The Departments of Forest and Horticulture shall ensure production and delivery of appropriate plant material as decided by the District Collector. The Plan should include measures for plantation, protection, watering and maintenance of the plants for not less than four to five years. Only species appropriate to the area should be chosen for plantation. Planting shall be done only after adequate preparation, duly ensuring all essential safeguards for security and maintenance of plants.

12. The programme shall be implemented as people's programme and government's role is to facilitate and support the people's initiative. Every plant must have a 'guardian' who shall take responsibility for protection, watering, application of manure, and proper nourishment to the plant. The Tree Guardian could be an individual or a group of individuals and may be responsible for one or more plants. In institutions, the head of the institution shall assign responsibility for the maintenance of plants to the staff / students of the institution.

13. Every citizen of Andhra Pradesh shall be involved in the plantation programme implementation. Active participation of people's representatives, government officials, academicians, NGOs, School children, College students, members of DWCRA Groups, SHGs and VSSs, media representatives, proactive involvement of Industries and Corporate enterprises, Paper Mills, CII, FICCI, temples, churches, mosques and other faith based institutions, etc. shall be secured.

14. After the launch of the programme on 29 July, the plantation will continue throughout the rainy season. Thereafter all measures for protection and watering will continue along with preparatory activities for the 2017 plantation season. The delivery of saplings required for planting on the launch day shall start with immediate effect, duly ensuring that they are carefully maintained at the site until plantation. Care must be taken to ensure plants do not suffer physical damage / 'transport shock' during transit from nursery to the planting site. All plants should be geotagged if they are not in blocks and should be geo-fenced if they are in blocks. The application developed for geo-tagging is available on the FMIS platform. Separate instructions will be issued in this regard.

**Programme Coordination**

15. The District Collector will coordinate and oversee the entire programme – encompassing planning, implementation, follow-up action, plant protection, and preparatory activities for 2017 plantation season and monitoring of the programme. In every district a District Vanam-Manam Programme (DVMP) Committee is hereby established under the Chairmanship of the District In-charge Minister, with the District Collector as the Member-Secretary. The DVMP Committee will include the Ministers belonging to the District, all key officials of the District, people's representatives, media representatives, Industry representatives, Banks, educational institutions, ULB representatives, citizens with passion for environment, etc. The District Collector will issue notification constituting the DVMP Committee after obtaining the approval of the District In-charge Minister. The Committee will meet

as frequently as possible to plan, coordinate and monitor the programme. The officials of Forest and Horticulture Department will assist and support the DVMP Committee.

16. One senior IFS Officer and one senior IAS officer has been appointed to support the District Vanam-Manam Programme Committee in each district. All Nodal Officers are requested to take up intensive tour in the respective districts, review the plantation plan prepared, suitably revise and upgrade where needed, closely monitor the programme implementation and ensure compliance of the above instructions.

17. In addition, the District DVM Programme Committee will establish similar Committees at the Division, Mandal, Village, and ULB levels to ensure seamless planning, coordination and monitoring of Vanam-Manam Programme implementation. The head of the institution (offices, schools, hospitals, projects, public sector enterprises, etc.) will be responsible for implementation of the programme in the premises of the institution.

18. The District Collectors are hereby instructed to take immediate measures to ensure successful launch of Mission Haritha Andhra Pradesh and its effective implementation. The Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (PCCF) and Commissioner Horticulture are requested to instruct all field officials of the department to provide proactive support for effective implementation of the programme. The Secretary / Commissioner of Education and Welfare Departments are requested to issue instructions to all the institutions under their control. All Secretaries to Government and Head of Departments (HODs) are requested to instruct the officials / autonomous institutions / public sector enterprises under their control to participate vigorously in successful launch and effective implementation of Mission Haritha Andhra Pradesh / Vanam-Manam Programme.

(BY ORDER AND IN THE NAME OF THE GOVERNOR OF ANDHRA PRADESH)

DR P. V. RAMESH
SPECIAL CHIEF SECRETARY TO THE GOVERNMENT

To

1. All District Collectors
2. All Special Chief Secretaries / Principal Secretaries / Secretaries / Special Secretaries to the Government
3. Heads of all Government Departments
4. The Principal Chief Conservator of Forests and Head of Forest Force
5. Commissioner and Ex-Officio Secretary to Government, Horticulture Department
6. The Commissioner of Rural Development and Panchayat Raj
7. The Commissioner School Education / Intermediate Education
8. The Commissioner Collegiate Education
9. Chief Executive Officers of all Public Sector Enterprises
10. Vice-Chancellors of Universities and Heads of Autonomous Institutions
11. Commissioners of all Urban Local Bodies in the State

Copy to the following for their information and necessary action:

1. The Chief Secretary to the Government
2. Communications Advisor to the Hon'ble Chief Minister
3. The Principal Secretaries / Additional and Joint Secretary to the Hon'ble Chief Minister
4. The OSD / PS to all Hon'ble Ministers with a request to bring to the notice of the Hon'ble Ministers
5. The Registrar-General of Hon'ble High court of Telangana and Andhra Pradesh
6. Secretary to the State Legislature
7. President of Confederation of Indian Industries (CII) / FICCI
8. All Chief Conservators of Forests / Conservators of Forests / DFOs in the State
9. All Project Directors of DRDAs and DWAMA in the State