

Government of India
Ministry of Rural Development
Department of Rural Development
(Mahatma Gandhi NREGA Division)

Krishi Bhawan, New Delhi

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SUB: - Joint Guidelines for Convergence with National Medicinal Plants Board (NMPB), Ministry of AYUSH and Department of Rural Development, Government of India to promote medicinal plants under Mahatma Gandhi NREGA

1. **Background:** Medicinal plants are not only a major resource / base for the traditional medicine and herbal industry, but also provide livelihood and health security to a large segment of Indian population. Ministry of AYUSH through its various research organizations specially, through NMPB, initiated both conservation as well as cultivation of medicinal plants. It is noticed that there is a good scope for convergence between the plantation of medicinal tree species in AYUSH under NMPB and tree plantation activities under Mahatma Gandhi NREGA.
2. Role of Mahatma Gandhi NREGA, Department of Rural Development:
 - i. Mahatma Gandhi NREGA is a demand driven programme with bottom up approach. The Gram Panchayat is responsible for identification of projects in the Gram Panchayat area to be taken under the scheme as per recommendations of the Gram Sabha /Ward Sabha, and for executing and supervising such works.
 - ii. As per Para 4. (1) of the Schedule – I of the Act, the focus of the Scheme for plantation works is categorised as below:
 - a. Category: A: Public Works Relating To Natural Resources Management - Afforestation, tree plantation and horticulture in common and forest lands, road margins, canal bunds, tank foreshores and coastal belts duly providing right to usufruct to the households covered in Paragraph 5.
 - b. Category B: Community assets or Individual Assets for Vulnerable Sections (only for households in Paragraph 5) -Improving livelihoods through horticulture, sericulture, plantation, and farm forestry; and development of fallow or waste lands of households defined in Paragraph 5 to bring it under cultivation.
(As per Paragraph 5 of the Schedule – I of the Act works creating individual assets shall be prioritized on land or homestead owned households belonging to SC, ST, nomadic tribes, denotified tribes, other families below the poverty line, women-headed households, physically handicapped headed households, beneficiaries of land reforms, the beneficiaries under PMAY(G), beneficiaries under ST and other traditional forest dwellers and on after exhausting above categories, on lands of the small and marginal farmers.)

- iii. Para 7.6.4 of Annual Master Circular 2020-21 mentions that:

*Plant species should be selected as per agro-climatic conditions, market opportunities, forward linkages, income generation etc. Economically beneficial perennial plants species including high yielding clones./ varieties (should be listed with due consultation of experts from Horticulture department/ Forest department/ ICAR/ ICFRE/ Agriculture Universities/ KVKs/ **Ayush Department** etc. before the start of the planning process. Plantation of Tasar host plants Arjuna and Asana or **medicinal plants** may also be considered in consultation with respective State Rural Livelihoods Missions. This list of plant species will facilitate informed choice for the identified vulnerable households (including usufruct rights beneficiaries) during the Labour budget (LB) planning exercise. The technical prescriptions for the finalized plants species also need to be prepared before the estimate preparation.*

Raising nurseries are permitted for individual and communities and can be gainfully used to propagate perennial medicinal plants.

- iv. The plantation activities can be gainfully utilized for supporting quality raw materials for medicines as per NMPB. There are some trees which yield oil from seeds etc., while many other trees are known for the usage of their barks and leaves in the management of various diseases. A suggestive list of trees having medicinal use is attached as Annexure. Promoting medicinal plants under Mahatma Gandhi NREGA will help the farmers, local communities, and tribes for possible addition into their income. Also, this initiative will provide ample resources of quality raw material for AYUSH industry.
3. National Medicinal Plants Board (NMPB), Ministry of AYUSH and Line Departments will provide the following support:
- Technical assistance in identifying permissible medicinal plantation activities under Mahatma Gandhi NREG Scheme (NREGS)
 - Forward linkage for the sale of raw materials relevant to Ayush Industry.
 - Providing material assistance for topping up the material expenditure under convergence with scheme.
 - Providing necessary handholding for various silvicultural operations, plant protection etc. on the plantations as well as for inter-cropping for making best use of land and opening of additional streams for income.
 - Arranging training and orientation of plantation beneficiaries and various community level livelihood workers viz. Krishi Sakhi, Van sakhi etc. for providing followup support to the beneficiaries.
4. It should be ensured that only permissible works under Mahatma Gandhi NREGS are taken up after following due process. Therefore, following points need to be adhered:
- The relevant provisions mentioned in Paragraph- 5 of the Schedule – I of the Act need to be adhered to in selection and prioritizing individual beneficiaries.
 - All non-negotiable under Mahatma Gandhi NREGS will be followed while taking up activities for promotion of medicinal plants.
 - The cost of material component including the wages of the skilled and semi-skilled workers shall not exceed forty percent at the District level.

5. At State level, the monitoring of medicinal plantation activities should be done the already existing State Level Coordination Committee (SLCC) for convergence, headed by the Chief Secretary. Secretary dealing with Ayush activities may also be made member of that Committee.
6. At District level, the monitoring of medicinal plantation activities should be done the already existing District Level Coordination Committee (DLCC) for convergence, headed by the Collector/DPC.
7. As Annual Action Plans are finalized by Gram Sabha, the NMPB / Line Departments may suggest medicinal plants for promotion by Block level Program Officer to the Gram Panchayats for consideration by Gram Sabha. The decision of Gram Sabha will be final.
8. Joint awareness meeting should be held in the village for the medicinal plantation activities chosen under convergence for benefits available to them under Mahatma Gandhi NREGS.

The States / UTs are requested to promote medicinal plantation activities after following due process in accordance with guidelines of Scheme.

Yours Sincerely

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ANNEXURE

SUGGESTIVE LIST OF MEDICINAL TREE SPECIES

ZONE	STATE	SPECIES
Alpine / Temperate		1. Talisapatra (<i>Abeswebbiana/A. pindrow</i>); 2. Agar (Aquallariaagallocha); 3. Sunishanna (<i>Taxus buccata</i>); 5. Devadaru (<i>Cedrusdeodara</i>); 5. Sarala Devadaru (<i>Pinus longifolia</i>)
Sub-tropical / Tropical		1. Asoka (<i>Saracaasoca</i>); 2. Nagakesara (<i>Mesuaferrea</i>); 3. Dalchini (<i>Cinnamomumzeylanicum</i>); 4. Patra (<i>Cinnamomumtamala</i>); 5. Karpura (<i>Cinnamomumcamphora</i>); 6. Lavanga (<i>Syzygiumaromaticum</i>); 7. Jambu (<i>Syzygiumjambosa / S. jabolana</i>); 8. Arjuna (<i>Terminalia arjuna / T. tomentosa</i>); 9. Nimba (<i>Azadirachtaindica</i>); 10. Vilayati Neem (<i>Melia azadirachta</i>); 11. Chinha (<i>Tamarindusindicus</i>); 12. Haritaki (<i>Terminalia chebula</i>); 13. Vibhitaki (<i>Terminalia bellerica</i>); 14. Amalakai (<i>Phyllanthus emblica</i>); 15. Lodhra (<i>Symplocosracemosa</i>); 16. Agnimantha (<i>Premnaintegrifolia</i>); 17. Bilva (<i>Aegle marmelos</i>); 18. Gambhari (<i>Gmelinaarborea</i>); 19. Patala (<i>Stereospermumsauveolens</i>); 20. Syonaka (<i>Oroxylumindicum</i>); 21. Udumbara (<i>Ficusglomerata</i>); 22. Vata (<i>Ficusbenghalensis</i>); 23. Asvattha (<i>Ficusrelisiosa</i>); 24. Plaksha (<i>Ficuslacor</i>); 25. Parisha (<i>Thespeciapopulnia</i>); 26. Sirisha (<i>Albezzialebek / Albezzia alba</i>); 27. Tejohva (<i>Zanthoxylumarmatum / Zanthoxylumsp</i>); 28. Palasa (<i>Butea monosperma</i>); 29. Paribhadara (<i>Erythrina indica</i>); 30. KantakaPalasa (<i>Erythrina suberosa</i>); 31. Chaulmogra (<i>Hydnocarpuslaurifoliaetc</i>); 32. Puga (<i>Areca catechu</i>); 33. Sallaki (<i>Boswelliaserrata</i>); 34. Chandana (<i>Santalum album</i>); 35. Ratka Chandana (<i>Pterocarpussantalum</i>); 36. Beejaka (<i>Pterocarpusmarsupeum</i>); 37. Simsapa (<i>Dalbergiasisso</i>); 38. Bhallatak (<i>Semecarpusanacardium</i>); 39. Muchakunda (<i>Pterospermumacerefolium</i>); 40. Punnga (<i>Calophylluminophyllum</i>); 41. Rohitaka (<i>Tecoma undulate</i>); 42. Vrikshamla (<i>Garcinia indica</i>); 43. Kokum (<i>Garcinia gambosa / G. Morella</i>); 44. Arishtaka (<i>Sapindustriifolius / S. mukirassi</i>); 45. Aralu (<i>Ailanthus exelsa</i>); 46. Madhuka (<i>Madhucalongifolia</i>); 47. Amra (<i>Mangiferaindica</i>); 48. Bakula (<i>Mimusopselangi</i>); 49. Kutaja (<i>Wrightiatinctoria</i>); 50. Kanchanara (<i>Bahunia variegata/B. purpurea</i>)etc
Tropical / Arid	Dry Lands of Gujarat; Rajasthan; Madhya Pradesh;	1. Guggulu (<i>Commiphorawhightii</i>); 2. Peelu (<i>Salvadorapersica</i>); 3. Kharjura (<i>Phoenix sylvestris</i>); 4. Sami (<i>Prosopis specichera</i>); 5. Babbula (<i>Acacia nilotica or A. arabica</i>); 6. Khadira (<i>Acacia catechu</i>); 7. Sallaki (<i>Boswelliaserrata</i>); 8. LaghuAgnimantha (<i>Clerodendrumphlomidis</i>); 9. Kadara (<i>Acacia chundra</i>); 10. Vitkhadira (<i>Acacia ferosiana</i>) etc.