

Ministry of Rural Development
(MGNREGA Division)

Krishl Bhawan, New Delhi,
Dated the 5th July, 2012

To

The Principal Secretary/ Secretary
Department of Rural Development,
All states/ UTs

Subject: Advisory on live fencing to protect crops from wild animals/plantation

Sir/ Madam,

The Ministry has received requests from States to include construction of boundary walls around the cultivated land (adjoining wildlife areas) to protect crops from wild animals which stray out from the forest area and cause damage to life and property in the civil areas. As per Schedule 1 of MGNREGA, plantation is permitted on the lands owned by households belonging to the SC & ST or BPL or to the beneficiaries of land reforms or to the beneficiaries under the LAY of Govt. of India or that of the small farmers or marginal farmers as defined in the Agriculture Debt Waiver and Debt Relief Scheme, 2008 or to the beneficiaries under the Scheduled Tribes and other Traditional Forest Dwellers (Recognition of Forest Rights) Act, 2006:

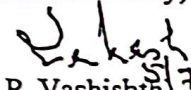
LIVE FENCING:

To protect the crops from wild animals, live fencing with energy plantation of fast growing utility tree and shrub species and aromatic plants etc suited to local agro-climatic conditions may be taken up. Technical advice from State Forest Departments/Horticulture Departments may be sought for selecting the tree and shrub species. Pucca boundary wall is a material intensive work and is not permissible. On the other hand, live fencing is a labour intensive work. It will not only protect the cultivated land from wild animals, but also generate extra income to the farmers in the form of timber, fodder, fuel etc. Further, it will help check soil erosion, conserve rain water, work as wind breaks and will help upgrade the environment. However, the following needs to be ensured:

- (a) While demarcating forest area from private land holding, ditch cum bund (DCB) should be constructed keeping ditch outside private land and bund inside so that the ditch cum bund works as mechanical barrier to wild animals till plantation made on DCB attains sufficient height. This ditch cum bund may be strengthened by planting fast growing utility trees and shrubs.

- (b) On field boundaries in between two holdings, energy plantation of fast growing utility trees should be taken up. In low rainfall areas, the plantation should be in the trenches. However, in high rainfall area, the plantation should be on the field bund.
- (c) The tree saplings of at least 4 feet in height should be used for live fencing, so that in one rainy season it is beyond the reach of the cattle and is not browsed.
- (d) Oil producing aromatic plants has also been found to be very effective against the elephants. These plants are profitable to the beneficiaries as the extracted oil from this plant has high market value along with its possible deterring effect against raiding elephants because it produces one kind of smell in the surrounding areas of the cultivated plots due to presence of the aromatic oil compound.
- (e) In between two tree plants, there will be gaps through which wild animals can enter. Shrubs are most suitable to fill up this gap. Shrubs are advantageous in following respects:
- (i) They produce a variety of fruits, medicines, minor products like fiber, gum, lac, fodder and fuel,
 - (ii) Shrubs can be well adapted to the adverse climatic conditions and a variety of soils.
 - (iii) Shrubs are suitable for soil conservation as their roots penetrate the soil densely.
 - (iv) Being small, they can be pruned and easily managed,
 - (v) Being compact in size, these are resistant to high wind velocity and wild animals,
 - (vi) They can even be grown in areas having poor soil and dry conditions,
 - (vii) Some shrubs are good in nitrogen fixing thus increase soil fertility.
 - (viii) There are few shrubs which are weeds and cause problems in the area, such shrubs should be avoided.
- (f) While selecting the species for live fencing in a particular area, the following should be considered:
- (i) The species are indigenous to the area,
 - (ii) The soil and climate of the area is suited to the growth of particular species,
 - (iii) The species selected is fast growing,
 - (iv) The species selected meet the fodder, fruit, fuel and other requirements of the household.
 - (v) The species selected is useful for water and soil conservation,

Yours Faithfully,


(S.P. Vashishth) 7/12
Director (MGNREGA)