

GREENING CHANDIGARH

ACTION PLAN 2016-17

Chandigarh Administration

CHAPTER-IV

STRATEGY TO IMPROVE THE FOREST AND GREEN COVER

Green space and adequate area under tree cover is essential to maintain environment of the cities and towns. Urban areas do not have only local environmental impacts but also large ecological footprints. Although tree plantation has been done on a large scale in the urban areas but a need based model dovetailing environmental considerations, will have to be adopted by all Greening Agencies in their plantation drives. The selection and quality of species play most important role in the success of greening and improving the survival percentage of the plantations. Therefore, the selection of species has to be judicious for which a number of indicators have been short-listed as follows:-

- Location of plantation site.
- Site conditions like, soil, ground water table.
- Climatic conditions like rainfall, temperature.
- Ornamental and aesthetic requirement.
- Environmental considerations like pollution abatement.
- Distance of the plantation site from the residential building, public utility services.

To ensure greater survival percentage of saplings planted, *salient requirements* have been identified which are as follows:-

- Proper Site Selection.
- Selection/choice of species.

- Raising healthy seedling in the Nursery.
- Planting healthy and tall saplings.
- Protection from grazing etc.
- Post Plantation care particularly for maintenance and water upto 3 years old plantation.
- Post plantation care.
- Monitoring and concurrent evaluation.

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To increase efficiency and effectiveness of forest areas as carbon sink and green lungs of the city, it has to be recognized clearly by all greening agencies that every effort should be made for horizontal expansion of the forest cover/ green cover in & around Chandigarh. Simultaneously, efforts have to be made as well for vertical expansion of existing green areas by way of developing them into multi-strata forests.

POTENTIAL AREAS AVAILABLE FOR GREENING DURING 2016-17

I) Enrichment Plantation in the Catchment area of Sukhna Lake:

1. Plantation of Fruit bearing species such as Mango, Jamun, Amrood, Imli, Amla, Gular etc in dedicated plantation plots in

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Sukhna Wildlife Sanctuary.

2. Plantation of indigenous & palatable variety of trees & shrubs on gentle slopes & plain area of Wildlife sanctuary.
3. Hill tops & slopes of Sukhna Wildlife Sanctuary will be enriched with green cover by parch sowing of seeds by contour trenching and trench-cum-ridge method.
4. Plantation of stem cuttings of soil conserving species like Arundo-donax (Nara-a soil binder plant) along choe (rivulets) -banks to reduce erosion of choe banks by runoff water during monsoons.

II) Enrichment plantation in forest area in city – Forest size increase

The Reserved and Unclassed Forests in & around the city are:-

1. Lake Reserved Forest
2. Sukhna Choe Reserved Forest
3. Patiala-ki-Rao Reserved Forest
4. Unclassed forests in Sukhna Choe, Lake & Patiala-ki-Rao

As per the India State of Forests Report-2015, density of these forests ranges from dense to moderately dense. However at places there are open patches also. Wildlife is found in abundance in these forests. Plantation of Fruit Bearing

Species in dedicated plots will be carried out within the city Forest areas also, to improve the quality and the biodiversity of the forests area.

III) Plantation within the city other than Forest area

- 1) Plantation of trees and shrubs in Parks and green belts under the jurisdiction of Municipal Corporation and Engineering Department.
- 2) Vacancy filling by planting along the roads, green belts etc. by Municipal Corporation & Engineering Department.
- 3) Enrichment plantation in southern sectors.

IV) Plantation in Schools, Colleges, Offices and residential houses and other vacant spaces

Since the Plantation area is limited in Chandigarh, therefore apart from the abovementioned areas, plantations on private lands, complexes of Schools, Colleges, University, Hospitals, Police Lines and Residential Complexes and offices will be undertaken in collaboration with students, Resident Welfare Associations, Market Associations, Environmental N.G.O.'s etc.

"Forests : Nature at your service"