MOTIVATING PEOPLE TO PLANT TREES:-

The objective of this exercise is to motivate people to plant trees, to increase awareness among the citizens particularly the students about the importance of trees by inculcating tree consciousness among the citizens, to create a sense of responsibility among people to nurture and look after the trees and to motivate communities and colonies together to actively participate in combating pollution at local level. Awareness among citizens and students will be created through print & electronic media, posters, banners, nature trails, photography competition on nature themes, on the spot painting competition for students on environmental themes, conducting debate, seminars and quiz on environment and forest related issues etc.

a) Role of Non-Government Organisations and Voluntary Bodies:

NGO's, Environmental Groups, Rotary Clubs, Lions Club, N.S.S., Hindustan Scouts & Guides etc. will be involved:

- i) To co-ordinate with Resident's Welfare Associations& Market Associations for plantation,
- ii) To co-ordinate with the Eco-Clubs in Schools & Colleges for massive plantation,
- iii) To train people, particularly children to plant trees properly,

- iv) To identify such associations and schools which will be participating in the programme and identify a nodal person in each association to work with.
- v) To assess the number of seedlings required, as also the species which will be required.
- vi) The NGO's will be advised to identify and adopt old/ heritage trees growing in and around Chandigarh. For this they could take help of financial institutions/ cooperative sectors.

b) Role of Resident's Welfare Associations:

Resident Welfare Associations will act as basic co-ordinating unit in the programme. Their work will include:-

- i) Informing the residents about the tree plantation drive.
- ii) Collecting saplings (free of cost) from Forest Nurseries.
- iii) Gathering volunteers for planting.
- iv) Identifying the places for planting.
- v) Co-ordinating with the NGO's and Govt. Agencies and chalking out programme for plantations in their respective colonies.
- vi) Ensuring proper protection and regular watering of plants.

c) Role of the Forest Department:



Forest Department will co-ordinate the programme at various levels. It will distribute the saplings free of cost from its five Nurseries to the Educational institutions, Medical institutions, N.G.O.'s, Resident Welfare Associations etc. The Department will give technical know how about planting trees and its post planting care, choice of species etc.

d) Role of Municipal Corporation:

Municipal Corporation is having large numbers undeveloped parks and green belts. Due to financial and manpower constraints, it is not feasible for Municipal Corporation, Chandigarh to develop all these parks and green belts in one go. Therefore, Municipal Corporation may require Resident Welfare Associations in association with the local Councillor, other departments and Corporate Sector to develop and maintain these parks, green belts and roundabouts and to adopt them on certain kind of Memorandum of Understanding. Municipal Corporation is also selling ornamental, flowering and fruit plants at nominal price. Municipal Corporation will also technical knowhow the visiting individual/ extend to organizations. Executive Engineer (Hort.), Municipal Corporation will be the nodal officer for co-ordination of plantation drive to be undertaken by Resident Welfare Associations. Municipal Corporation will also allow, wherever feasible, the citizens to put a small name plate near the sapling planted by him/ her. It will give a sense of belonging to effect post planting care. The local area Councillor, being the public representative will be the Prime Mover in this campaign.

e) Role of the Horticulture Division of Engineering Dept.

Horticulture Division may guide all Government Schools and institutions to plant right kind of saplings depending upon the space availability and site conditions. The Department will be in constant touch with the Institutions. The Department is selling horticultural and forest plants at subsidized rates from its nursery in Sector-23.

f) Role of the Chandigarh Housing Board:

The Housing Board may motivate the residents of its housing colonies to plant & protect maximum number of trees in & around the colonies.

g) Role of Rural Development Department:

The Department may motivate village Panchayats to plant and protect tree saplings in and around the villages to improve the environmental ambience.

h) Role of Banks and other financial institutions:

Banks and institutions may sponsor 'Tree guards' and other fencing material to protect saplings to be planted by NGO's, Resident Welfare Associations etc.