

Dr. Alka Bhargava
Joint Secretary (NRM/IC)

D.O. No. 7-1/2019-NRM-SMAF



भारत सरकार
कृषि एवं किसान कल्याण मंत्रालय
कृषि, सहकारिता एवं किसान कल्याण विभाग
Government of India
Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare
Department of Agriculture, Cooperation
& Farmers Welfare

Dated: the 4th February, 2019

Subject: Convergence of Sub-Mission on Agro-forestry (SMAF) with Sericulture sector - Joint Guidelines-reg.

Dear *Shri Sinha*,

As you would be aware the growing of trees outside forests (TOF) have twin benefits of supplementing farm income as well as being a major carbon sink. The Sub Mission on Agroforestry (SMAF) was launched in 2016-17 as a follow up of the recommendations of the National Agroforestry Policy 2014, with the prime motto of Har Medh Par Ped. However agroforestry/ farm forestry has largely been restricted to the plantation of fast growing soft wood species like Eucalyptus, Poplar, Melia, etc to feed the paper and match wood industry. These have a much longer gestation period as compared to agri crops, which one of the reasons for the slow momentum of SMAF in most States.

In order to create greater acceptance of the Mission among the farmers, DAC&FW is striving to connect with various user groups to establish forward linkages for an assured market for the producer, the Central Silk Board being one in the present context. Please find enclosed a letter from Shri R. R. Okhandiar, Member Secretary, Central Silk Board suggesting a convergence with SMAF for growing of trees for rearing of silkworms. You will appreciate that planting sericulture based tree species has tremendous potential of creating additional income opportunities to farmers.

In view of above, I would like to request you to direct the Mission Director of SMAF in your State to take up nursery development and raising of plantations of host plants viz Mulberry, Asan, Arjuna, Som, Soalu, Kesseru, Bada Kesseru, Phanat (Quercus), etc both as block plantations and on bunds of farm lands under SMAF, with post planting convergence with silk industry thereafter.

With regards,

Yours sincerely,

Alka Bhargava
4/2/19
(Alka Bhargava)

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