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**Government of West Bengal
Department of Forest
Aranya Bhawan
Block- LA-10A, Sector- III, Salt Lake City,
Kolkata-700098**

No.36-For/11M-138/13

Date: 07/01/2014

M E M O R A N D U M

Scheme for Engagement of Aranya Bandhu to facilitate works of Afforestation

To encourage afforestation in rural areas engagement of local persons as ARANYA BANDHU has been under active consideration of the Forest Department, Govt. of West Bengal for some time past.

After careful consideration of the acute necessity and importance of the matter the State Government in the Forest Department is introducing a scheme for engagement of Aranya Bandhu with the terms and Conditions appended below:

Jurisdiction:

"**Aranya Bandhu**" would be self employed workers. Maximum 1(one) "**Aranya Bandhu**" will be selected in each Gram Panchayat of the state of West Bengal. Where there is less number of Aranya Bandhu in a Forest Division, more than one G.P. may be covered by one Aranya Bandhu.

Functions of "Aranya Bandhu":

- a) To raise and supply Quality Planting Materials (Seedlings) to Tree Growers, Forest Department and Panchayat Bodies and to involve planting and maintenance.
- b) To create awareness among local people for planting more trees and protecting the same.
- c) Collection of applications from Tree Growers along with Application Fee and Processing Fees and submit the same to the Competent Authority for obtaining felling permission.

- d) Submission of Applications to the Range Officer / Beat Officer for issue of Transit Permit and get Permission in favour of Tree Growers as admissible under Rules.

Selection:

A. Eligibility Criteria for selection as Aranya Bandhu:

1. Person should be permanent resident of the concerned Gram Panchayat.
2. Age : Minimum-21 years
Maximum - 45 years
3. Educational Qualification: Minimum Madhyamik Pass

B. Selection procedure:

1. Applications will be invited on behalf of the Managing Director, West Bengal Wasteland Development Corporation Ltd. through advertisement in News papers.
2. Aranya Bandhus will be selected through an interview by a Selection Committee for every District comprising of concerned CCF(Chairman), DFO(Member-Secretary), ADFO(Member) and Range Officer (Member)

Training:

Selected candidates will undergo institutional and practical training by the Forest Directorate.

Income generation for Aranya Bandhus:

- a) From sale of seedlings, rose in their private nurseries, to the Tree Growers.
- b) Facilitation charge from tree growers in lieu of rehiring services to them right from collection of applications upto issue of T.P. in case of tree felling in private lands.
- c) By raising plantations in private lands.
- d) Through involvement in NTFP collection and selling in market under the overall supervision, guidance of local forest officials as per admissible rules.

Facilitation charges:

- 1) The price of seedlings and plantation cost to be charged by Aranya Bandhus from private tree growers will be in accordance with the prevailing rates in the concerned Forest Division.
- 2) The Facilitation charge may be decided by the Waste Land Development Corporation/Forest Directorate.

The applicant may be required to pay the facilitation charge to the Aranya Bandhu on completion of all formalities of obtaining permission both for felling and transportation of the timber and fire wood as per rules. The Facilitation charge taken from the applicant will be over and above the Govt. Revenue, security money etc.. as provided in "West Bengal" Trees (Protection & Conservation in Non-forest Areas) Act, 2006" and "West Bengal Trees (Protection & Conservation) Act, 2007".

Agreement with Aranya Bandhus:

After completion of training, the Aranya Bandhus will sign an agreement with the concerned Divisional Forest Officers having jurisdiction over the concerned Gram Panchayat on non-judicial stamp paper worth Rs. 10/ as shown in the Annexure 1.

Implementation of the Scheme:

The scheme will be implemented by the Waste Land Development Corporation.

(P.K Das, WBCS (EXE))

Joint Secretary to the Govt. of West Bengal
Department of Forests

ANNEXURE- 1

AGREEMENT ON NON JUDICIAL STAMP PAPER

Agreement between the 'Aranya Bhandhu' & the Wasteland Development Corporation Ltd.

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The agreement is being executed today, (Date)
between
Sri/Smt S/D/O
Vill.....Post OfficePolice
Station.....
Gram Panchayat District
(henceforth the person will be treated as 'Aranya Bhandhu') & the Divisional
Forest Officer..... (Name of the
Division).

AGREEMENT IS AS FOLLOWS

1. The 'Aranya Bhandhu' shall mandatorily reside in his/her respective Gram Panchayat
2. The 'Aranya Bhandhu' will perform duties as self employed worker and will render services to the tree growers. They will also perform other related works entrusted by the Directorate of Forests on mutually agreed terms & conditions.
3. If the performance of 'Aranya Bhandhu' is judged to be unsatisfactory over a period of six months, the concerned DFO may terminate this agreement. The concerned 'Aranya Bhandhu' may appeal to the concerned CCF against the DFO's order of termination and the decision of the Appellate Authority, i.e. the CCF will be binding on both Parties i.e. DFO & Aranya Bhandhu.
4. An 'Aranya Bhandhu' shall neither consider nor project himself/herself as employee of Forest Directorate/ Department.
5. 'Aranya Bhandhu' shall not undertake any activity which would be inappropriate with reference to the function of 'Aranya Bhandhu'.
6. Forest Department will provide necessary Input to the 'Aranya Bhandhu' once only at the initial stage of functioning. The nature of these inputs will be detailed by Forest Directorate/Department. Afterwards, 'Aranya Bhandhu' will purchase or repair the accessories at his/her own cost.
7. 'Aranya Bhandhu' shall submit report in each month in the prescribed format (to be developed by concerned DFO) to the concerned DFC.
8. This agreement shall automatically stand terminated on attainment of 60 years of age by the 'Aranya Bhandhu' and if the 'Aranya Bhandhu' violate the terms and conditions specially mentioned in clause (1) & (5). However, with one month's prior notice on either side this agreement may be terminated. In both cases, the 'Aranya Bhandhu' will have to return the supplied accessories in good condition to the concerned DFO & for this, he/she will not be entitled for any compensation.

9. The 'Aranya Bhandhu' will not claim any honorarium or financial benefit or absorption in regular establishment from State Government in return of his/her services.

10. Any legal dispute or problem related to this will be solved only in the jurisdiction of the Hon,ble High Court, Calcutta.

11. Besides, an 'Aranya Bhandhu' will have to abide by all the orders circulated by the Forest Directorate/ Department from time to time.

_____ Signature of 'Aranya Bhandhu'	_____ Authorised Signature of Wasteland Development Corporation Ltd.
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Description of witness with Signature

1st witness

Name:	Signature
	:
C/O:	
Occupation:	
	Date:
Address:	
Police	
Station:	

2nd witness

Name: C/O:	Signature
	:
Occupation:	
Address:	Date:
Police Station:	