

**Government of Himachal Pradesh
Department of Forest**

File No. FFE-B-F(5)-1/2018-I Dated: Shimla-2, the 13th August, 2025

NOTIFICATION

The Governor, Himachal Pradesh is pleased to notify the "Rajiv Gandhi Van Samvardhan Yojana (RGVSY)" as per enclosed **Annexure-A** in the public interest, with immediate effect.

By Order

(Kamlesh Kumar Pant)
Additional Chief Secretary (Forest) to the
Government of Himachal Pradesh

Endst No. As above

Dated: Shimla, the 13th August, 2025

Copy forwarded to following for information:-

1. All the Administrative Secretaries to Govt. of HP.
2. All Head of Departments, HP.
3. All Deputy Commissioners, HP.
4. The Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (HoFF) HP. Shimla -171001 with request to circulate this notification to all the CCFs/ CCFs/CFs/DFOs (T) & (WL) in HP.
5. The Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (Wildlife) HP. Shimla-1.
6. The Managing Director, HPSFDC, Shimla-9
7. The Joint Secretary (GAD) to the Govt. of HP w.r.t. the Cabinet item No 01 dated 07-08-2025.
8. The Pvt. Secretary to the Hon'ble Chief Minister H.P.
9. The Pvt. Secretary to the Chief Secretary to the Govt. of HP.



(Vijay Kumar, IAS)
Special Secretary (Forest) to the
Government of Himachal Pradesh

Rajiv Gandhi Van Samvardhan Yojana (RGVSY)

1. Introduction

The Rajiv Gandhi Van Samvardhan Yojana (RGVSY) aims to strengthen conservation and development of forests by moving away from traditional departmental plantations to a community-driven approach. The Scheme involves Mahila Mandals, Yuvak Mandals, and conservation-oriented Self Help Groups (SHGs), hereinafter referred to as Community-Based Organizations (CBOs).

Under this Scheme, CBOs will be financially supported to undertake afforestation activities and will be incentivized for ensuring high plant survival rates. The Scheme promotes sustainable livelihoods, biodiversity conservation, and ecological restoration while ensuring community ownership of the process.

2. Objectives

- Increase community participation in afforestation and forest conservation.
- Ensure long-term survival of plantations through performance-based incentives.
- Support livelihoods by engaging local communities in forestry activities.
- Enhance forest cover and improve ecosystem services such as carbon sequestration, water conservation, and soil stabilization.
- Encourage local participation in forest restoration by involving women and youth-led groups.
- Promote biodiversity by planting native and high-value plant species.

3. Financial Outlay

- **Total Budget:** ₹100 crores over 5 years (2025-2030).
- **Annual Allocation (2025-26):** About ₹20 crores for planting trees over 1000-1500 hectares.
- **Funds Source:** CAMPA (Compensatory Afforestation Management and Planning Authority) funds.

4. Eligibility of CBOs

To be eligible for participation in the **Rajiv Gandhi Van Samvardhan Yojana (RGVSY)**, a Community-Based Organization (CBO) must fulfill the following conditions:

4.1 Legal Registration:

- The CBO should be a registered entity under relevant laws as:
 - Joint Forest Management Committee (JFMC)

- Village Forest Development Society (VFDS)
- Mahila Mandal, Yuvak Mandal, or Self-Help Group (SHG)
- Any other registered community group engaged in conservation or rural development.

4.2 Bank Account:

- The CBO must have a functional bank account in its registered name.
- If no such account exists, a new account must be opened before signing an agreement for plantation work.

4.3 Office Bearers:

- The CBO shall submit a list of its office bearers, including:
 - President
 - Secretary
 - Treasurer

4.4 Executive Committee for Oversight:

- The CBO shall form an Executive Committee of 3 to 5 members to oversee:
 - Proper execution of plantation works.
 - Fund management and transparency.
 - Regular reporting to the Forest Department.
- The Executive Committee shall be constituted through a formal resolution of the CBO, and its composition must be communicated to the concerned Range Forest Officer (RFO).

4.5 Experience & Commitment:

- Preference will be given to CBOs with prior experience in afforestation, NTFP collection, or forest conservation activities.
- The CBO must commit to protecting the plantation site for five years and ensuring a survival rate of at least 50%.

5. IMPLEMENTATION:

5.1 Role of Community-Based Organizations (CBOs)

Each CBO will be responsible for:

- Plantation & maintenance in designated forest areas (minimum 1 hectare, maximum 5 hectares) as per guidelines.
- Protecting the plantation area from grazing, fire and encroachments.
- Ensuring 50% or more survival to qualify for incentives.
- Documenting plantation work and assisting in periodic monitoring.

- Keep records of activities and payments received.
- Ensure transparent fund utilization and submit Utilization Certificates.

5.2 Role of the Forest Department

The Forest Department will:

- Provide quality planting material from department nurseries.
- Offer technical guidance on pit digging, moisture conservation, and protection.
- Ensure timely fund disbursement as per performance benchmarks.
- Conduct periodic monitoring and validate survival rates.

5.3 Site Selection and Planning

For effective implementation of the **Rajiv Gandhi Van Samvardhan Yojana (RGVSY)**, a structured process for site selection, planning, and approval shall be followed to ensure scientific afforestation and optimal fund utilization.

5.3.1 Identification of Suitable Plantation Sites:

- Each Divisional Forest Officer (DFO) shall prepare and submit a list of blank/degraded forest areas within their jurisdiction that are suitable for afforestation.
- The sites should be identified based on ecological need, community accessibility, and potential for long-term protection and maintenance.
- Plantation areas will be selected using GIS-based assessments and community willingness, forest dependence and long-term engagement of community groups criteria.

5.3.2 Community Consultation and Site Finalization:

- The site selection shall be done in consultation with the concerned Community-Based Organization (CBO) to ensure local involvement and ownership.
- Priority will be given to sites in the vicinity of the participating CBO to facilitate regular monitoring and care.

5.3.3 Preparation of a Site-Specific Plantation Plan:

- A detailed plantation restoration and management plan for each site shall be prepared by CBO with technical support from Forest Department, covering:
 - Protection measures (fencing, fire prevention, grazing control, etc.).
 - Plantation strategy (species selection based on local ecology).
 - Soil and moisture conservation measures.
 - Water availability and provisions for irrigation, if necessary.
- The site-specific plan should be jointly prepared by DFO and CBO.
- Planting of fruit-bearing trees will be prioritized under the Scheme.

5.3.4 Approval and Fund Disbursal:

- The CF shall approve the site-specific plan and submit a Forest Circle-wise consolidated list of selected sites to the Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (PCCF) HoFF for final approval and fund allocation.
- The amount allocated for each site shall not exceed ₹1.2 lakh per hectare as per scheme norms.
- Each forest range will have at least two Mahila Mandals, Yuvak Mandals and conservation-oriented SHGs participating.

5.3.5 Annual Fund Demand and Planning:

- Each year, by December, all DFOs shall submit fund requirements for the next financial year, covering:
 - Maintenance funds for ongoing plantations.
 - New site allocations for afforestation.
- The consolidated demand shall be reviewed and approved by the PCCF HoFF, ensuring timely financial planning and smooth implementation in the next financial year.

6. Fund Disbursement & Payment Mechanism

6.1 Fund Disbursement

- Each CBO will receive upto ₹1.2 lakh per hectare from CAMPA funds as per site specific plan approved and additional incentives based on survival.
- Financial Assistance of ₹1.2 lakh per hectare will be provided for plantation efforts.
- The Forest Department will make all efforts to make sure that each Mahila Mandal/Yuvak Mandal/other SHG gets at least 2 hectares of area for plantation.
- In case area is not available for planting, Forest Department will ensure planting by Mahila Mandal/Yuvak Mandal/other SHG on pro rata basis.
- A total amount of ₹ 2.4 lakh per 2 hectares with a norm of 800 tall plants per hectare with 20% materials (wooden fence posts) and 80% wage costs. The wooden fencing will be done by Forest Department, wherein Forest Department will charge wooden fence posts and women or youth members of the CBOs can be involved in fencing on wages. Each CBO will have discretion to spend amount as per their decided activities. They carry out all plantation activities on their own including fencing or seek help for specific activities from forest officials. In case CBO asks Forest Department to do a particular work, CBO will ask for an estimate and then, get it approved in their respective General Body meeting. The Forest Department will spend funds and will give utilization certificates/verified receipts to CBO.
- Tall plants for these plantations will be provided by the Forest Department.

6.2 Payment Mechanism with Survival-Based Incentives

To ensure effective plantation and long-term sustainability, the payment mechanism under **Rajiv Gandhi Van Samvardhan Yojana (RGVSY)** will be divided into two components:

1. **Work-Based Payments** – To cover the cost of plantation activities.
2. **Survival-Based Incentives** – To reward CBOs for ensuring high plant survival rates.

Work-Based Payment Structure

Stage	Payment %	Conditions for Release
1st Installment	50%	Upon approval of the work plan and to initiate Advance Works of Plantation
2nd Installment	50%	After completion of plantation work and verification by the Forest Department.

- All payments will be made directly to the CBO's bank account through electronic transfer.
- Range Officer shall submit a verification report to DFO concerned. After verification of claims, funds shall be transferred as per the above schedule by DFO to the account of CBO.

Survival-Based Incentive Mechanism

- To encourage proper care of plantations, additional incentives will be provided based on plant survival rates year of plantation.

YEAR	SURVIVAL PERCENTAGE	INCENTIVE/ HECTARE (IN RUPEES)	TWO
1ST YEAR	>50%	1,00,000	
	45-50%	80,000	
	35-45%	60000	
2ND YEAR	>50%	1,00,000	
	45-50%	80,000	
	35-45%	60000	
3RD YEAR	>50%	1,00,000	
	45-50%	80,000	
	35-45%	60000	
4TH YEAR	>50%	1,00,000	
	45-50%	90,000	

	35-45%	80,000
5TH YEAR	>50%	1,00,000
	45-50%	90,000
	35-45%	80,000

- For upkeep/protection of plants for 6th and 7th year corpus fund be will kept @ 10% of plantation cost where forest trees are less than one hectare. proportionate cost will be given.
- The first incentive will be released after one year based on a survival assessment i.e. incentive for plantation in 2025-26 will be given in 2026-27 in June-July. The consequent incentives shall be paid subsequently.
- If survival falls below 35% no incentive will be provided
- The entire incentive mechanism will be linked to field inspection reports submitted by the Divisional Forest Officer (DFO) through Range Officers, verified by the Conservator of Forests.

6.3 Verification & Monitoring Before Incentive Release

Field Inspections:

- Survival verification will be conducted by the Forest Guard, Range Officer, and DFO through physical inspections and photographic evidence.

Utilization Certification:

- The CBO must submit a survival report and any necessary records for verification by forest officials before receiving the incentive.

6.4 Maintenance Fund

The maintenance funds as per norms of the CAMPA will be provided for weeding, watering, and soil working and as per the site-specific plans approved by CF for each year of maintenance and they will be the part of the incentive structure.

7. Monitoring & Evaluation

7.1 Digital Monitoring System

A portal will be used to geo-tag plantations and monitor survival rates. Each plantation site will be photographed and recorded for transparency. A state-level digital dashboard will be maintained, where divisions update plantation status, survival rates, fund utilization, and community involvement data. CBOs will be trained to use mobile applications for site-suitability based site selection and self-reporting plantation survival rates, which will be cross-verified by forest officials.

The monitoring of the Scheme will be conducted by CAMPA, M&E of Forest Department and by DFO/CF levels as per the norms and guidelines of CAMPA.

7.2 Accountability & Corrective Measures

- In case of misreporting or fund misuse, the DFO shall initiate corrective action as per departmental guidelines. The matter will be reported to Conservator of Forests/DFOs who will take further action against CBO or subordinate officials as per the HP Financial Rules/CAMPA rules and guidelines.
- Periodic policy review meetings will be conducted at the state level to address implementation gaps and refine the Scheme.

8. Rights & Benefit Sharing

- CBOs can collect grass, fodder, fallen twigs, and NTFPs from the plantation site as per record of rights.
- No ownership rights over the land or standing trees will be granted.
- Any intermediate harvest proceeds will be shared as per Forest Rights Record.

9. Dispute Resolution Mechanism

Disputes will be resolved through joint discussions at the DFO level.

If unresolved, the matter will be referred to the Conservator of Forests, whose decision shall be final.
