

FOREST UPDATE

Forest 

FIGHT AGAINST DENGUE DUE ROLE PLAYED

By Punjab Forest Department

PUNJAB
FOREST
DEPARTMENT

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IRRIGATED PLANTATION

RANGE MANAGEMENT

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SOCIAL FORESTRY

EVENTS

FIGHT AGAINST DENGUE DUE ROLE PLAYED BY PUNJAB FOREST DEPARTMENT

The biggest war at hand is none other than Dengue fever epidemic! And work on war footing is being carried out on the directions of Honorable Chief Minister, Punjab. Following his instructions with the same letter and spirit, the Secretary Forestry, Wildlife, Fisheries and Tourism Department and the Punjab Forest Department are striving hard to combat the menace and in this context, have taken the following effective steps:

A seminar in connection with dengue fever was conducted by the Punjab Forestry Department, whereby Forestry officials posted at Lahore were educated about the preventive measures against the Dengue Fever.



Major (Retd.) Shahnawaz Badar, Secretary FWF&T Deptt. Chairing a high level meeting preventive measures against Dengue

Extensive sprays of larvicidal and mosquitocidal medicine were done in all offices and colonies of Punjab Forest Department and Recreation Parks like Jallo and Changa Manga etc. to eliminate dengue mosquitos. These sprays were done twice a week and still continue to date. Muhammad Mehbub-ur-Rehman, CCF Central Zone, Lahore is personally monitoring these activities on daily basis.



Muhammad Mehbub-ur-Rehman directing the staff for preventive measures in Forest Complex

Awareness is the best strategy to ward off dengue epidemic and Punjab Forest Department has done this with great sense of responsibility and commitment. A proof of this hard work is reflected in the innovative campaign involving distribution of about 1000 CDs regarding preventive measures. The CD's containing visual clips to promote awareness were distributed by Divisional Forest Officer, Publicity Forest Division and his Team along with DFO Lahore, Kasur and SDFO Changa Manga. These CDS were distributed at recreational Park Jallo by Syed Muhammad Akmal Rahim, DFO Publicity, at Changa Manga National Park and Kot Radha Kishan,

Railway Station by Muhammad Sharif (Designer, Publicity division, Lahore). The campaign did not end at this and was continued the next day with the distribution of CD's on the Mall Road and 24-Cooper Road, Lahore by the staff of Publicity Forest Division. Another effective step in the struggle against the spread of Dengue fever was evacuation and spraying of all stores of the forest Department and **auction** of old unserviceable articles. Special efforts have been made to dispose of old tyres as these have been reported to be best breeding places for dengue mosquitoes.



Pest Control Forest Division arranged spray in different offices of Punjab Forest Department at Lahore



Muhammad Sharif, Designer Publicity Division is distributing CD's at Kot Radha Kishan Railway Station

Parking places and neglected areas within the premises of offices were thoroughly cleaned and sprayed.

SECRETARY VISITS TO FAISALABAD

Maj. (Retd.) Shahnawaz Badar, Secretary FWF&T Departments conducted an inspection of Gojra Park along with Muhammad Mehbub-ur-Rehman CCF, Central Zone, Lahore, Naseer Khan, CF Faisalabad and Deputy Secretary planning also accompanied the Secretary planning. The Secretary also inspected newly constructed Forest park at Gojra and directed field staff to plant large sized tress.



Major (Retd.) Shahnawaz Badar, Secretary FWF&T Deptt. M. Mehbub-ur-Rehman, CCF CZ, Lahore, Shahid Rashid Awan, DS Planning FWF&T Deptt. And CF Faisalabad during inspection of Gojra park.

MOSQUITO REPELLANT PLANTS: DUAL ADVANTAGE

The 2011 dengue outbreak in Punjab, Pakistan has got the government on its toes and desperate efforts, in every possible way, are being made to eliminate the menace. All sorts of preventive measures, awareness programs, spraying and fumigation are in action. Everyone seems to be putting in their best efforts to find a solution to this epidemic. One such promising solutions, that also has an advantage of being environmentally friendly is the plantation of 'mosquito repellant plants'. These plants can serve a dual role beautify the premises as well as repel mosquitoes.

One such plant is *Ageratum houstonianum* which contains *coumarin*, the smell of which is detested by mosquitoes. It is also used in some commercial mosquito repellants. It is an annual plant with an average height of 6-12" and grows in full sunlight to partial shade. Yet another plant that wards off mosquitoes is *Ocimum basilicum* (Basil) that is also an annual and averages 2 ft in height, preferring full sunlight as well as partial shade. Its leaves are also used in cooking for its aroma.

Lemon Grass (*Cymbopogon citrates*), a perennial reaching a height of 2-3 ft, apart from its culinary and medicinal uses, is known for its mosquito repellant properties. It is usually used in tea, curries and soups.

Lemon Balm (*Melissa officinalis*) Its leaves can be used in potpourris, flavor hot and iced teas, and used as a substitute for lemon peel in cooking.

Citronella Grass (*Cymbopogon nardus*) grows to 2 m and possesses red base stems. These plants are used for the production of citronella oil, which is used in soaps, as mosquito repellant in insect sprays and candles, and also in aromatherapy, which is famous in Bintan Island, Indonesia. The chief chemical constituents of citronella are geraniol and citronellol, that are antiseptics, and thus are used in household disinfectants and soaps. Besides oil production, citronella grass is also used for culinary purposes, in tea and as a flavoring.

Lavender (*Lavandula angustifolia*). It can attain a height of 18-24". Its flowers can be dried, in potpourris, and sachets.

Red-Flowering Gum Tree (*Eucalyptus ficifolia*). It is a tree with a height of 25-30 feet. It grows best in full sunlight and is drought tolerant. Its leaves are fragrant, and it has very showy red flowers in spring and summer.

Red-Flowering Gum Tree (*Eucalyptus ficifolia*) This tree is mosquito repellant and owes this property to the presence of some aromatic volatile/essential oils. This eco-friendly mode of getting rid of mosquitoes must be adopted and should be a man an integral part of the integrated management strategies and projects against dengue mosquito, Aedes aegypti.



CHALLENGES OF NEW MILLENNIUM AND FORESTRY

Forestry practices in Pakistan are century old and very little improvement or innovation has taken place since independence. In fact, the quality of management and resource-base has deteriorated over the years, mainly due to increasing population, land hunger, inadequate research, lack of public participation and coordination within the forest departments. The new millennium and more precisely the twenty first century poses a number of challenges for the forest professionals in the country. The significant inventions of last century like computer, remote sensing, satellite imageries, Geographic Information Systems (GIS) and rapid progress in the field of information technology has entirely changed the management of natural resources. In the field of forestry itself a number of new areas like Landscape Ecology, Ecosystem Management, Biodiversity Conservations, Environmental Improvement, Community Forestry, Agroforestry, and Farm Forestry have emerged. The foresters in other parts of the world particularly in the developed countries have benefited a lot from new technologies and research within the forestry disciplines. They have developed management information systems (MIS) and Resource Based Management Systems (RBM) to facilitate technically sound decision making by adopting these innovations. The resource managers in the country had not been able to keep pace with these innovations due to a number of diverse factors. There has been very little improvement in the situation inherited at the time of independence. We are still facing the challenge of low forest cover, shortage of timber, firewood and other forest produce, erosion and siltation of dams. *(Mahmood Iqbal Sheikh, former DG, PFI and CCF Punjab Forest Department)*

TO FETCH A PAILOF WATER - WATER SHADE MANAGEMENT

Pakistan is a land of many splendours and vivid contrasts with a diversity of terrain, fauna and flora. The landscape encompasses the sandy beaches, blue lagoons, and the mangroves along the Arabian Sea, running wild in the sandy deserts and desolate plateaus, becoming serene and clam in productive irrigated Indus basin finally culminating in the tree-clad mountains, picturesque valleys and the eternal glaciers in the Himalayas in the north. The country is drained by six mighty rivers, namely Kabul, the Indus, Jhelum, Chenab, Ravi and part of Sutlej, innumerable rippling streams and some seasonal rivulets. Of these, the Indus alone flows down towards the south to meet the Arabian Sea; the rest join it on the way. Dependent on rains and snowmelt, water in the rivers shown marked seasonal fluctuation. The large ice masses form a rich source of water for canal irrigation and generation of electricity, so necessary for boosting up the agricultural and industrial production. Given life by this water, the vast arid Indus plain forms the granary of the country. Agriculture, thus, is the mainstay of the economy, contributing about 30 % of GNP and employing 55 % of the labour force. Due to arid and semi-arid conditions and erratic cycle of rains, the agricultural economy is entirely dependent on sustained supply of water from its rivers, reservoirs and the canals. The watersheds in the north and northwest of the country are the only source of perpetual supply of water to fill up the large man-made reservoirs and lakes. If the level of water goes down beyond certain limits, sufficient water cannot be released for power generation and productive agriculture. Without the hydroelectric power which is required to run the tube wells and the industrial units all over the country, the whole system could come to a grinding halt. On account of shortage of water in the reservoirs, the government has to resort to load shedding for long periods resulting in colossal loss in industrial and agricultural production and has to face lot of bickering and demonstration by the affected people. The simple but very obvious fact has therefore to be recognized that it is only the trees and other vegetation in the watersheds which is keeping the fragile ecosystem intact and as well play a highly significant role in the food security of millions of people. According to estimates 36% of land in the country is affected by water erosion. The Tarbela catchment erosion has been measured at the rate of 2-4 Kg annually sq. meters. Soil at the rate of 4-7 thousand tones / sq. mile is carried annually in the rivers of Chenab and Jhelum. Sediment load in the Indus is one of the highest in the world. The reservoir of Mangla is getting silted up at the rate of 48.27 million M³ per year and that of Tarbela at the rate of 167.75 million cubic meters per year. According to experts, due to sedimentation in the two most vital reservoirs of the country, the nation is losing Rs. 2340 million every year due to loss of fertile soil, shrinkage of storage capacity, reduction in agricultural products, power generation and industrial output. Without effective watershed protection it is estimated that Tarbela might be completely silted up in about 35 years; conversely an evaluation of the impact of watershed management activities undertaken in the Mangla catchment concluded recently that the economic life of the Mangla Reservoir, provided it were solely dependent upon the rate of siltation, has been lengthened by about 60 years through reduction in soil erosion and siltation rates achieved during the past 25 years in the catchment areas falling in the moist temperate ecological zone.

(M. Ishaq, Former Director General PFI irrigated Peshawar and Ex CCF Punjab Forest Department)

WORKING PLAN OF PLANTATIONS

Maj. (R) Shahnawaz Badar, Secretary FWF&T Departments chaired a meeting of all CFs of DWP and DFOs and discussed the progress regarding the preparation of Working Plan. Syed Muhammad Ajmal Rahim, CF Sargodha who has additional charge of CF DWP circle, Lahore explained the objective and need of working plan which is considered as 'Bible' of Forests. Secretary Forests showed his deep interest and realized the importance of working plan for the management of irrigated plantations. CF DWP, Lahore informed that he has written six working plans, out of which, three working plans have been notified: **Changa Manga, Daphar & Kundian Plantations**. While draft of working plan of Pipili Pahar, Shorkot and Kamalia Plantations are lying with Chief Conservator of Forests, Central Zone, Lahore since last year and pending for the approval from the CCF. Secretary Forests directed the Chief Conservator of Forests to submit these pending working plans to Administrative Deptt. for notification within 10 days. He fixed the target dates for other working plans too.

CAMOUFLAGE WITH TREE AND SHRUBS

Camouflage means to cover up. It specifically relates to the process of changing the appearance of troops, ships, tanks, guns, trucks, etc. by paints, nets, shrubs, climber to conceal them from the enemy. It could be used for armies when camping, moving along roads or in offensive or defensive positions. Most probably man got an inspiration for such a cover from birds, animals, or insects who mimic objectives like as leaves, branches, trees, bricks, stones etc. in their environment to save themselves from their enemies predators. Use of plants not necessarily for camouflage but also for landscape improvement and environmental development especially roads, canals or railside which invariably also serves as cover has not been uncommon. Necessity of trees along roadside has been felt since times immemorial. Roadside planting practices date back to the 16th century. In the Indopak sub-continent, it was Sher Shah Suri who conceived the arduous job of planting trees along the Grand Trunk road from Calcutta to Peshawar. He also planted groups of trees not very far from the roads to enable the caravans and the army to rest during movement. Several such camp sites which were maintained by the British and upgraded by the forest departments in Pakistan still exist. Punjab Forest Department prepared a project in mid fifties to rejuvenate tree planting along GT road from Waghat to Attock. The project did not find a favour with the planners and had to be referred to the Federal Government. There too it was not considered feasible and was rejected. Fortunately the project was mentioned by chance to Field Marshal Ayub Khan who gave instructions to approve it and release the requisite funds immediately. He made his personal remark on the file that if the trees were not needed for shade, these were definitely needed for camouflage and such avenues were important from the point of view of army and convey movements. Encouraged, the Punjab Forest Department prepared some more avenue planting projects and planted several main and arterial roads in Sialkot, Gujranwala and Gujrat Districts. *(Syed Muhammad Akmal Rahim, Divisional Forest Officer, Publicity Forest Division, Lahore)*

ADP MEETING

A meeting, chaired by Major (R) Shahnawaz Badar, Secretary Forests, was held on November 4, 2011 to evaluate the progress of Development Projects over the year 2001. DG Fisheries, Muhammad Mehbub-ur-Rehman, Dr. Muhammad Arshad & Raja Khalid Hussain were present along with all Conservators of Punjab Forest Department. The Secretary Forests took deep interest in the steps taken for improvement and expressed his satisfaction on the progress of ADP.



Major (Retd.) Shahnawaz Badar, Secretary FWF&T Deptt. Chairing ADP meeting along Senior Forest Officer

PRE-PAC MEETINGS

Major (R) Shahnawaz Badar, chaired a Pre-PAC meeting assisted by Mr. Rizwan Mahboob, Add. Secretary FWF&T Deptt. Mr. Mahmood Latif, Director, Budget & Accounts (Forests), Mr. Shahid Rahid Awan, Dy. Secretary Planning, Muhammad Mehbub-ur-Rehman, CCF, Rao Khalid Mahmood, CF Lahore, Dr. Muhammad Rafique, CF Gujranwala, Naseer Ahmad Khan, CF Faisalabad, Syed Muhammad Akmal Rahim, CF, Extension & Publicity Circle, Lahore explained their audit paras along with progress of verification.

A second Pre-PAC meeting was held at Rawalpindi chaired by Mr. Mahmood Latif, Director Budget & Accounts (Forests), Lahore. Raja Khalid Hussain, CCF Northern Zone, Rawalpindi, Syed Muhammad Ajmal Rahim, CF Sargodha and Mr. Iftikhar Ahmad Qureshi, CF Rawalpindi along with all DFOs of Northern Zone attended the meeting.

TRANSFER AND POSTING

Following transfers have been issued by the Administrative Department:

Mr. Khyar Hayat, EDO Gujrat has been posted as DFO Okara, while Mr. Siddique Doggar, DFO Okara has been posted as DFO Working Plan, Lahore. Mr. Faisal Haroon, DFO Chichawatni is posted as DFO Multan, while Jawad Shah, DFO, DG Khan is posted as DFO Chichawatni. Mr. Tariq Mahmood is posted as CF, Publicity and Exertion.

FORESTRY OPERATIONS MEETING

A meeting was chaired by Muhammad Mehbub-ur-Rehman, CCF Central Zone, Lahore regarding ADP, Forestry Operations and Dengue preventive measures in his office. Dr. Muhammad Rafique, CF Gujranwala, Naseer Ahmad Khan, CF Faisalabad, Rao Khalid Mahmood, CF Lahore, Saqib Sheikh, CF Range Management and Syed Muhammad Akmal Rahim, CF, Extension & Publicity Circle, Lahore were also present. All Forestry Operations were reviewed and all pending references were taken into consideration. Then CCF Central Zone directed all Conservators of Forests to ensure that prevention measures of dengue had been taken and to furnish the report regarding compliance of instructions issued by Honorable Chief Conservator of Forests.



Muhammad Mehbub-ur-Rehman, CCF Central Zone, chairing a meeting regarding ADP with Senior Forest Officer Naseer Khan Dr. M. Rafique, Syed M. Akmal Raheem and Saqib Sheikh