

Government of India  
Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change  
(Forest Conservation Division)

Indira Paryavaran Bhawan,  
Aliganj, Jorbagh Road,  
New Delhi – 110003.

**Dated: 16<sup>th</sup> August, 2021**

**To**

**The Addl. Chief Secretary (Forest)/UT Administrations**  
All State Governments/UT Administrations

**Subject: Diversion of forest land for non-forest purposes under Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 - Revised guidelines for Tusser Cultivation (Vanya Silk Cultivation) – reg.**

Madam/Sir,

National Forest Policy, 1988 recognizes that the holders of the customary rights and concessions in forest areas should be motivated to identify themselves with the protection and development of forests from which they derive their livelihood. The rights and concessions from forests should primarily be for the bonafide use of the communities living in and around forest areas, especially tribals.

The Policy also recognizes that the symbiotic relationship between tribal people and forests is essential for sustainable forest management. It emphasizes that the primary task of all agencies responsible for forest management, including the forest development corporations should associate the tribal people closely in the protection, regeneration and development of forests as well as provide gainful employment to them.

Tusser culture is a way of life for many tribal families and forest dwellers particularly in Central and Eastern India. Therefore, silk cultivation in forest areas which can be termed as “Vanya Silk Cultivation”, with active participation of local communities could be one such area which can benefit for them and help conservation and protection of forests by reducing their dependency on forests.

The issue of cultivation of silk worm in forest areas was examined in detail in the Ministry in consultation with Central Silk Board and Ministry of Textiles, Government of India. After careful consideration, following guidelines for Vanya Silk Cultivation under Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 are issued:

1. The State/UT Forest Departments shall encourage silk cultivation in forest areas by tribals and non-tribals who live in and around the forests and are dependent on such forests for their livelihood. Priority shall be given to the tribals and to those who enjoy traditional rights on such forests.
2. The State/UT Forest Departments shall permit such activities in already identified naturally grown forest areas for silk cultivation and the plantations raised for the purpose thereof in coordination with the State/UT Sericulture Department and Central Silk Board.

3. Central Silk Board and the State/UT Sericulture Departments shall ensure training of the growers involved in silk cultivation prior to taking up such activities in forest areas.
4. Cultivation of trees on which Vanya Silks or silk worms of Tusser, Oak Tusser, Eri, Muga and Frithi could be reared by tribals and non-tribal living in and around the forest for their livelihood without undertaking monoculture plantations are considered as forestry activity. Hence, no prior permission of the Central Government under Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 is required. The concerned Divisional Forest Officer/Deputy Conservator of Forests shall however, maintain the record of such activities and people involved in it.
5. The State/UT Sericulture Department or Central Silk Board shall issue the pass books to each silk worm grower.
6. Vanya silk cultivation in forest areas for which specific plantation of food trees are undertaken for providing host trees to the silk cocoons shall be treated as forestry activity provided such plantation activities do not involve any felling of trees. While undertaking such plantations, at least three species are planted, of which no single species shall cover more than 50% of the planted area. Where ever possible the species like *Morus alba* and *Morus multicaulis* (Mulberry) may be part of mixed forestry crop in such plantations.
7. Vanya silk cultivation shall be allowed on following tree species as host trees:

Sl. No.	Scientific Name	Local Name/Common Name
	<b>For Tusser:</b>	
(i)	<i>Terminalia arjuna</i>	Arjun
(ii)	<i>Terminalia tomentosa</i>	Asan
(iii)	<i>Shorea robusta</i>	Sal
(iv)	<i>Lagersiroemia indica</i>	Saoni
(v)	<i>Lagerstroemia parviflora</i>	Sidha
(vi)	<i>Syzygium cumini</i>	Jamun
(vii)	<i>Zizyphus mauritiana</i>	Ber
(viii)	<i>Lagerstroemia speciosa</i>	Jarul
	<b>For Oak Tusser (Temperate Tusser):</b>	
(xi)	<i>Quercus serrata</i>	Phanat
(xii)	<i>Quercus seniserrata</i>	Phanat
(xiii)	<i>Quercus dealbata</i>	Uyung
(xiv)	<i>Quercus semicarpifolia</i>	Phanat
(xv)	<i>Quercus leucotricophora</i>	Phanat
(xvi)	<i>Quercus glauca</i>	Phanat
(xvii)	<i>Quercus himalayana</i>	Phanat
(xviii)		Phanat
	<b>For Muga:</b>	
(xx)	<i>Machilus bombycina (Persea bombycina)</i>	Som
(xxi)	<i>Litsea polyantha (L.monoptela)</i>	
(xxii)	<i>Litsea salicifolia</i>	Soalu
(xxiii)	<i>Litsea cubeba</i>	Dighloti

(xxiv)		Mejankari
	<b>For Eri:</b>	
(xxvi)	<i>Heteropanax fragrans</i>	Kesseru
(xxvii)	<i>Evodia fraxinifolia</i>	Payam
(xxviii)	<i>Ailanthus excelsa</i>	Borkesseru
(xxix)	<i>Ailanthus grandis</i>	Borpat
(xxx)	Other <i>Ailanthus</i> species	Maharukh, bhotera
(xxxii)		

8. This activity could also be introduced on degraded forest lands under Joint Forest Management, especially in tribal cooperative societies with proper investment from public or private sources for raising a mixture of indigenous species including tree species suitable for silk cultivation as given in list mentioned in para 7 above. For this purpose, a Micro-plan shall be prepared jointly by the State/UT Forest Department, village communities, State/UT Sericulture Department and Central Silk Board for rearing of silk worms.
9. In order to ensure that the silk cultivation is within the carrying capacity of the forests, the concerned Divisional Forest Officer shall issue the permit based on the recommendations, which shall involve technical parameters evolved by the State/UT Sericulture Department and Central Silk Board for rearing of silk worms.
10. To preserve the ecology of a particular forest area, no exotic silk worm or any hybrid variety developed by using exotic genome, shall be introduced in forest areas.
11. This activity shall not be permitted in Protected Areas and Tiger Reserves.
12. Binannual monitoring of the forest areas under silk cultivation shall be done by a team comprising of the concerned Divisional Forest Officer, Director (Sericulture department) and the officials of Central Silk Board in order to ensure prevention of any epidemic in forest areas as well as proper handling of trees by growers. The monitoring report shall be submitted to the concerned Integrated Regional Office of the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change.

The States/UTs shall follow these guidelines while considering proposals for use of forest lands for Vanya Silk Cultivation.

Yours faithfully,

Sd/-

**(Sandeep Sharma)**

Assistant Inspector General of Forests

**Copy to:**

1. Secretary, Ministry of Textiles, Government of India
2. PCCF (HoFF), all State Governments/UT Administrations
3. Nodal Officer (FCA), O/o PCCF, all State Govt./UT Administrations
4. Regional Officers, all Integrated Regional Offices of the MoEF&CC.
5. Monitoring Cell, FC Division, MoEF&CC, New Delhi.