

Original Research Article

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Analysis of the Action Plan and Suggestions for the Implementation of the Jan Van Yojana, Jharkhand

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ABSTRACT

Jharkhand is a land of biodiversified forest having forest cover area of 33.81%. In the Indian constitution, Forest is the subject of “concurrent list”. The State government of Jharkhand has launched an ambitious welfare plantation scheme known as “JanVanYojana” since the year 2016. The objective of the scheme is to increase the green cover, maintain the environmental balance, conservation of the underground water, to reduce the pressure on notified forest, to increase the farmer’s income as well as to increase forest cover in the state by people’s participation. Under this scheme, there is a provision of planting timber plants with spacing of 3 m x 3 m plant to plant and 2 m x 2 m on the ridge and fruit crop plant species at a distance of 5 m x 5 m in block plantation. The current study was carried out to investigate action plan taken and suggestions for better implementation of the scheme. Primary data from plantation sites of the beneficiaries’ of Ranchi districts and secondary data were collected from Department of Forest, Environment and Climate change, Government of Jharkhand. The data of the beneficiaries’ shows that the scheme has not been implemented properly as least applicants have been approved as well as there has been a steady decline in the number of beneficiaries during the years of plan implementation. The reasons behind the inappropriate implementation are lack of knowledge among beneficiaries about economic values of the fruit and timber yielding crops and their participation on adoption of the scheme, lack of skills or training and irrigation system, lack of awareness regarding the yojana, lack of canvassing and publicity of the scheme among beneficiaries as well as less funding approved for the scheme implementation and untimely distribution of planting material. Therefore, in addition to implementation, it is very necessary to follow up the reports of the scheme and develop an action plan to implement the audit findings.

Keywords

Jan Van Yojana,
Forest Cover,
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Introduction

The Jharkhand is devised by combining two words ‘*Jhar*’ means ‘bush’ and ‘*Khand*’ means ‘land’. Jharkhand was created as the 28th state

of India. It was carved out from Bihar on 15th November 2000. The literal meaning of Jharkhand is “Land covered with Forest”. The total forest and tree cover put together, it constitutes about 33.81% of the geographical

area of the state (Annual Report, Government of Jharkhand, 2019-20). It has an area of 79,716 Km² and the total recorded forest area of the state is 23,611 Km² which is 29.62 % of the geographical area of the state but the national forest policy, 1988 aims at bringing 33 % of the geographical area of the country/state under forest and tree cover (FSI,2019) (Table 1). The recorded forest area of state is greater than the country's percentage forest cover (21.54% and total forest cover of India is 7,08,273 km²). The reserved, protected, and unclassified forests of the state are 18.58%, 81.28% and 0.14%, respectively. The total forests and tree cover constitutes about 33.81% of the total geographical area of the state (ISFR, 2019).

Jharkhand is one of the biodiversity rich states and forest is the subject of "concurrent list" in the Indian constitution. The central government as well as the state government launches different schemes for expansion of forest cover area. In this series, the State government of Jharkhand has launched a welfare scheme Jan Van Yojana in the year 2016 (JanVanYojana, Government of Jharkhand, Resolution No. 5965and dt-27.11.2015). The objectives of the scheme is to increase the green cover and maintain the environmental balance, conservation of the underground water by plantation, to reduce the pressure on notified forest by planting the trees in the private land, to increase the farmers income as well as to increase forest cover in the state by peoples participation (CM JanVanYojana Booklet, Government of Jharkhand, 2016).

Under the scheme, there is a provision of planting timber plant species *viz.* Rosewood, Teak, Ghamhar, Mahogany, Clonal Eucalyptus and Acacia with 3 m x 3 m plant to plant distance and on the ridge at a distance of 2 m x 2 m in 30 cm x 30 cm pits. Whereas, fruit crop plant species *viz.* Kalmi Mango,

Guava, Gooseberry, Litchi, Jackfruit and Bealare planted in a pit of 60 cm x 60 cm at a distance of 5 m x 5 m only in block plantation fashion. The plantation is made in block plantation or linear afforestation on the ridge of the field. In one acre of land a total of 445 plants of timber and 160 fruit plants can be planted. For a single beneficiary the minimum limit of planting area is 0.5 acres and the maximum limit is 50 acres.

Under this scheme, applications from the beneficiaries are invited in the prescribed format to provide incentives by publishing advertisements in local newspapers every year in the month of September. Beneficiaries are required to submit the following documents along with the application form to their district Divisional Forest Officer within the stipulated time frame are as: Report of the Circle Officer on Land Ownership and Possession, Letter of contract, copy of the bank passbook of the beneficiary. The beneficiary has to obtain the report of the concerned Circle Officer for the possession of his private land. The application including supporting document of the beneficiaries is scrutinized by the concerned Divisional Forest Officer and preference is given to those having planting area more than 1 acre of land.

Under the scheme, 75% of the cost incurred over the plantation and maintenance of the planted trees are borne by the State Government/Forest Department for the first 3 years only. The selected beneficiaries obtain plants from the nursery and plant them by digging the pit of the sprescribed measurement. After plantation in first year two weeding, fertilizers, organic fertilizers, pesticides are applied and responsibility of the protection of the plants is solely on beneficiaries. In order to receive the incentive amount for plantation, the claim is made on the basis of livelihood in the month of November and on the basis of verification by

the Divisional Forest Officer scrutiny is made in December, finally the claimed amount is debited directly to the beneficiary's bank account in the month of January. In second year, weeding is done once in timber yielding plants and twice in fruit yielding plants. Like the first year, after verification on the basis of survival, the amount of the second year is transferred to the beneficiaries account. The payment of the incentive amount for the third year is also done through the same procedure. At the time of felling of trees, the permission of the port and transport permit will be issued by the concerned Divisional Forest Officer within the stipulated time.

For implementation of any scheme, it is very important to follow up the reports of the scheme and develop an action plan, and then only it is executed successfully for the benefits of the mankind. The current study was carried out to investigate the action plan taken by government and to provide suggestions for the better implementation of the scheme.

Materials and Methods

The data of plantation sites of the beneficiaries' of the state of Jharkhand were collected from NIC, Ranchi and Van Bhawan (Department of Forest, Environment and Climate change, Government of Jharkhand), Ranchi during year 2016-17 to 2019-2020. Also made on the basis of meeting held with the beneficiaries of Budmu and Ormanjhi blocks of Ranchi district, concerned Forest Guards and Forest Rangers.

Results and Discussion

The state of Jharkhand was carved out of the state of Bihar in 2000. The state is located in the eastern part of the country and has Madhya Pradesh and West Bengal as neighbors apart from Bihar and Orissa. The

Population of Jharkhand according to the 2011 census stands at about 32 million, making it the 13th most populated state in India. Out of total population of Jharkhand, around 75.95 % and 24.05% populations reside in rural areas and urban areas, respectively. The total tribal population in state is 22%, 32.3% of rural population and 21% of urban population are tribals. Jharkhand ranks 6th in terms of scheduled tribe population and 10th in terms of percentage share of the scheduled tribe population to the total population of the state (Jharkhand Economic Survey 2016–17). Tribal people depend mainly on forests and forests products. Tribes and forests have the symbiotic relationship (Saha and Sengupta 2014). The population growth rate recorded in the last 10 years (2001-2011) was 19.50% and urban population has increased by 32.29 %.

Agriculture is the main livelihood for the 80% of rural population of the state and their primary source of income. The agricultural economy of the state is characterized by dependence on nature, low investment, low productivity, mono-cropping with paddy as the dominant crop, in inadequate irrigation facilities and small and marginal holdings. The dependence of agriculture on the unpredictable rainfall can be gauged from the fact that about 92% of the total cultivated area is unirrigated.

The data regarding application status of the beneficiaries are represented in the Table 2. The total number of the application received for availing the benefits of the scheme during year 2016-17 is 1119, in year 2017-18 is 807, in year 2018-19 is 1671 and in year 2019-20 is 1649 (Table 2). The data suggests that the total number of the application received for availing the benefits were very low with respect to the total population of the state during the consecutive years of the scheme.

Table.1 India vs Jharkhand: Forest cover area (FSI 2001, 2011, 2015 & 2019)

Year	Forest area of India (sq km)	Forest area of India (in Percent)	Forest area of Jharkhand (sq km)	Forest area of Jharkhand (in Percent)
2001	675,538	20.55	22,490	28.40
2011	692,027	23.81	22,977	28.82
2015	701,673	21.34	23,478	29.45
2019*	712,249	21.67	23,611	29.62

*The forest cover area of Jharkhand increased from 22490 square kilometres to 23616 square kilometres in the period up to 2001-2019 i.e. the forest cover increased to 944 square kilometres

*Forest and tree plantations increased by 58 square kilometres compared to 2017

*In 2019, Total forest area of Jharkhand: 23611 sq km of forest, 688sq km of Shrub, 2657sq km of Tree out of forests; A total of 26956 square kilometres i.e. 33.81% of the total geographical area of the state

Table.2 Data of Application status under JanVanYojana, Jharkhand (Source: <http://janvan.jharkhand.gov.in/>)

S.No.	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20
Total No. of application	1119	807	1671	1649
Approved Application	1101	757	1634	1582
Pending Application	18	50	37	67
Approved Area for Plantation (in Acre)	3429	2587	5383	4531.66
Pending Area for Plantation (in Acre)	323	365	251.53	285.16

Table.3 Compiled Data of different parameters of JanVanYojana, Jharkhand*(Source: <http://janvan.jharkhand.gov.in/>, Annual Report, GOJ, Department of Forest, Environment and Climate change, 2016-17, 2017-18, 2018-19 & 2019-20)

S.No.	2016-17		2017-18		2018-19		2019-20	
	1 st Year	3 rd Year	1 st Year	3 rd Year	1 st Year	3 rd Year	1 st Year	3 rd Year
No. of Beneficiaries	604	382	315	5	337	19	301	NA
Area for Plantation (in Acre)	1477.45	1054.52	757.13	16.55	991.35	37.25	882.73	NA
No. of Fruit Yielding Crops	57186	18014	26680	8947	124344	617	57362	NA
No. of Timber Yielding Crops	285343	117377	122158	29455	164046	3010	98116	NA
Approved Amount	8137047.22	1316995.15	4428807.43	46986	17703360.69	41796	10241501.33	NA

*On the basis of available data till date

Out of total received application, very low percent of the applicant have availed the benefits of the scheme ranges from 18.25% to 53.97% of the application received during

year 2016-17 to 2019-20. The highest numbers of the beneficiaries were in year 2016-17 (604 out of 1119 applicant) followed by year 2017-18 (315 out of 807 applicant)

followed by year 2018-19 (337 out of 1671 applicant) and finally lowest in year 2019-20 (301 out of 1649 applicant) (Table 3). Based on the above mentioned data, it is concluded that the number of beneficiaries who applied to avail the benefit of the scheme could not availed the benefits. The reason behind this may be that the scheme could not be properly canvassed and publicized; there was a lack of awareness regarding the scheme among the beneficiaries and lack of people's participation for proper implementation of the scheme. Approximately 90 to 95% of the application were get approved out of total number of application received under the scheme ranges from 757 to 1634 for different years during 2016-17 to 2019-20 (Table 2) because the government selection or scrutiny procedure of the application was very complex, lengthy and time taking.

The numbers of timber yielding plants were 285343, 122158 & 164046 and fruit yielding plants were 57186, 26680 & 124344 planted in 2016-17, 2017-18 & 2018-19, respectively. The drastic drops in the number of timber yielding plants to the 117377, 29455 & 3010 and fruit yielding plants to the 18014, 8947 & 617 after 3 years of the plantation made in 2016-17, 2017-18 & 2018-19, respectively (Table 3). The drastic decline in the numbers of the timber and fruit yielding plants planted at beneficiaries' private land from the plantation year to scheme duration benefits year (3 years duration) is may be due to the untimed distribution of planting material to the beneficiaries by the department, lack of skills or training among beneficiaries for the plantation and management of the plants, lack of the irrigation system with beneficiaries and lack of knowledge among beneficiaries about skilled specific cultural operations like propagation, pruning and harvesting of horticultural and timber crops as well as their economic values. The beneficiaries of the

scheme are low income farmers and they cannot be able to afford the expenditures for the management of the crops as the funding provide by the department is less and incentive reimbursed for the amount claimed made for alive plants to the beneficiaries after tedious or complex scrutiny of the claim. Therefore, the less and delayed budget allocated to the beneficiaries is also one of the main reason for the decline in the numbers of the both type of crop. When the number of timber yielding and fruit yielding plant species decreases, plantation area of plants will also be reduced, due to which there will be less expansion in forest cover area. So, it is necessary to follow up the reports of the scheme after implementation and make a better action plan for better implementation of the scheme.

In conclusion an increase in the population of humans and livestock results in an increase in demand of all type of produces as well as leads to the severe decrease in per capita land availability. Increasing population and their activities including burning fossil fuels, cutting down rainforests and farming livestock leads to add in enormous amounts of greenhouse gases ultimately leads to global warming and climate change. Global warming and climate change/environmental imbalance are very challenging issue now a day to the government and society. To overcome the situation and for benefit of the society, government has to plan policies and concerned schemes/programme. In this context, the government of Jharkhand has introduced a welfare scheme known as JanVanYojana. The yojana have not been properly implemented at beneficiaries' level due to certain reasons, which is very important to diagnose, in order to make the scheme successful. To implement properly and successfully, the scheme should be properly publicized and canvassed among beneficiaries as well as aware those about the

monitory benefits of the plantation. The beneficiaries should get the training for the plantation, management and skilled specific cultural operations like propagation, pruning and harvesting of horticultural and timber crops as well as also gets sufficient funding for the arrangement of the irrigation system. Then only, the scheme will be properly implemented and positive impact such as increase the green cover of the state, maintain the environmental balance, conserve the water, reduce soil erosion, reduction in greenhouse gases, increase farmer's income by increasing the scope of fruit and timber yielding industries as well as helpful in employment generation will occur. Therefore, besides the implementation, it is very much important to follow up the reports and action plan of the schemes.

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