

**Explanatory Memorandum and objectives of the State Plan Scheme-  
Additional Central Assistance for Restoration and Regeneration of  
Forest Cover in the State for the year 2010-11.**

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1- Punjab situated in the northern part of India has a geographical area of 5.04 million ha. of which more than 84% is under agriculture. The recorded forest area of the state is 3,084 sq km, which constitutes 6.12% of the geographical area, and 0.4% of the country's forest area. By legal status, Reserved Forest constitutes 44 sq km (1.43%), Protected Forest 1,137 sq km (38.87%) and Un-classed Forest 1,903 sq km (61.71%). About half of the forest area is located in the plains in the form of government owned linear strips along railway tracks, roads, canals, drains and bunds with a few scattered block forests. In the Shiwalik tract of the state, forests are mainly owned by individuals/communities which are being managed under the Punjab Land Preservation Act, 1900. About 55% of forests in Punjab are of the above nature and are owned privately on by community.

2- As per the guidelines issued by MoEF vide letter No. 6-1/2009-B-1 dated 06.10.2009 regarding Additional Central Assistance of restoration and Regeneration of Forest Cover, a project for the period of two years i.e., 2010-11 to 2011-12 has been formulated. The project will be implemented in all the 15 territorial Forest Divisions through involvement of Joint Forest Management (JFM) Committees, the number of which in the State is approximately 650. The fund requirement for the year 2010-11 is Rs. 500 lac. The proposed project broadly covers following three activities: -

- Ecological restoration and regeneration of degraded forests through afforestation.
- Conservation of the existing forests and promotion of natural regeneration.
- Soil and Moisture Conservation Works.

Under this Scheme 750 ha. area will be planted (450 ha. Degraded Forest, 100 ha Enrichment Planting and 200 ha. Natural Regeneration) and Soil Conservation Works over an area of 100 ha. will be taken up at a total cost of Rs. 500.00 lac during 2010-11. Besides, advance work over 750 ha. area will be done for next plantation season of 2011-12.

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