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Secretary
Ministry of Panchayati Raj



Atul Chaturvedi
Secretary
Department of Animal Husbandry & Dairying

Vini Mahajan
Secretary
Department of Drinking Water & Sanitation

Nagendra Nath Sinha
Secretary
Department of Rural Development

Jatindra Nath Swain
Secretary
Department of Fisheries

Sanjay Agarwal
Secretary
Department of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare

Leena Nandan
Secretary
Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change

Indu Shekhar Chaturvedi
Secretary
Ministry of New and Renewable Energy

Ajay Tirkey
Secretary
Department of Land Resources

D.O. No. M-11015/124/2021-CB

Dated: 31st March 2022

Dear Chief Secretary,

Theme 5: Clean and Green Village

As you are aware, India is a signatory to United Nations 2030 Agenda for achieving inclusive, people-centric and holistic Sustainable Development through 17 identified Goals. To this extent, the Government of India is operating with strategic visioning, prioritization, and implementation methods to achieve Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) with the motto of "Leaving No One Behind", through "Whole of Government and Whole of Society" approach.

2. You will appreciate SDGs are cross-cutting in nature and a particular SDG can be mapped to many Ministries which can be addressed through various schemes. Keeping this aspect in view, Ministry of Panchayati Raj has initiated thematic approach of relevance for Panchayats and villages through aggregating 17 SDG goals into 9 broad themes for localization of SDGs at grass-root level and their attainment through concerted and collaborative efforts of all concerned stakeholders. These themes address more than one SDG and concern more than one Ministry/ Department. **Theme 5 – Clean and Green Village** addresses targets in SDG 6- **Clean Water Sanitation**, SDG 7 – **Affordable & Clean Energy**, SDG 12 – **Responsible Consumption and Production**, SDG 13 - **Climate Action**, SDG 14 – **Life Below Water** and SDG 15 – **Life on Land**.

3. Climate change is a matter of grave concern and calls for urgent action at all levels in multiple ways. The critical issues connecting people and nature, urgent need to protect environment from further degradation, try and restore to the maximum extent what can be done by man, to ensure environment sustainability and secure the future of our planet, for the future generations, are so important that targets related to these had been put down globally for the year 2020 -

15.3 By 2020, combat desertification, restore degraded land and soil.

15.2 By 2020, ensure the conservation, restoration and sustainable use of terrestrial and inland freshwater ecosystems and their services, in particular forests, wetlands, mountains and drylands.

15.1 By 2020, promote the implementation of sustainable management of all types of forests, halt deforestation, restore degraded forests and increase afforestation and reforestation.

14.4 By 2020, effectively regulate harvesting and end overfishing, illegal fishing.

12.4 By 2020, achieve the environmentally sound management of chemicals and all wastes throughout their life cycle.

However, progress has been tardy and we continue to lag behind.

contd..2/-

4. "Green" refers to a world in which natural resources, including oceans, land, and forests, are sustainably managed and conserved to improve livelihoods and ensure food security, and most importantly protect the environment for future generations. "Clean" refers to access to safe & adequate drinking water and sanitation services, low-pollution, low-emission world in which cleaner air, water, and oceans enable people to lead healthy and productive lives. Thus, a GP that chooses to focus on becoming a **Clean and Green Village**, would need to have clarity regarding the preservation and maintenance of the components that covers water resources, and its link to rivers and streams, and land resources and soil health. Effective maintenance of Open Defecation Free (ODF) status attained in 2019, efficient and effective functioning of solid and liquid waste management practices and systems, grey water treatment, prevention of water source contamination are certain other major works that need to be focused upon if a village is to be a Clean Village. In order to become a Green Village, the GP would need to address ecological, economic, and equity issues by bringing about changes through community level social regulations, co-operation, and their proactive participation for a green, clean, non-toxic, low carbon, self-reliant, eco-resilient rural India. The Green village initiative focuses on activities like tree plantation, organic farming, conservation of village ecosystems & biodiversity, promotion of new and renewable energy sources including eco-friendly innovations.

5. If a Gram Panchayat resolves to transform itself into a **Clean and Green Village**, it would envision, inter alia:

- Awareness generation amongst the citizens on the importance of reducing wastage, ensuring sustainable production and consumption, reducing the adverse impact on environment.
- Promotion of measures within the Gram Panchayat that would reduce environmental pollution, such as reducing the use of plastics within the Gram Panchayat area
- Taking steps to create an in depth understanding of the term climate change and its impacts among the Gram Sabha, Panchayat committees and other community volunteers
- Mapping land use pattern, water bodies, forest, hill slopes, wet lands, degraded forest within the Gram Panchayat
- Developing appropriate norms for sustainable utilization of resources from common lands, water bodies and forests on materials like non-timber forest produce, sand, fish and water
- Assessing the water needs, sources, schemes, solid and liquid waste being generated –
- Setting the water and sanitation goals and targets for the Gram Panchayat
- Selection of appropriate technology choice for water supply and sanitation in the Gram Panchayat based on participatory and area assessment
- Ensuring maintenance of toilets of public places including those in markets and Gram Panchayat premises
- Developing a comprehensive energy programme based on need assessment.


This would require full support of Ministry/Departmental functionaries of Drinking Water and Sanitation, New & Renewable Energy, Environment, Forest & Climate Change, Rural Development, Land Resources, Agriculture, Animal Husbandry, Fisheries and Panchayati Raj among others. In addition, if non-Governmental organizations, College students, Youth Organizations such as Nehru Yuvak Kendra volunteers etc. are also involved in the task of facilitating the Gram Panchayat to become a 'Clean and Green Village', then the goal can be realized faster. It would also be important to measure progress in this regard through a set of 45 relevant Indicators in the Local Indicator Framework (LIF) identified by the Expert Committee in its report on 'Localization of SDGs in Panchayati Raj Institutions' which has already been shared with all States and stakeholders and is available on the web site of Ministry of Panchayati Raj: [https:// www.panchayat.gov.in](https://www.panchayat.gov.in).

6. It is suggested to all States/UTs to organize meetings of all Gram Panchayats during the Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav (AKAM) iconic week allocated to Ministry of Panchayati Raj between April 11 to April 17, 2022 followed by meeting of Gram Sabha on 24th April, 2022 on the occasion of National Panchayati Raj Day wherein GPs may resolve to focus on any one or more of the Nine Themes identified for realization of SDGs. GPs that decide to focus on attainment of **Theme 5: Clean & Green Village** would need to be encouraged with special hand-holding support to work towards that goal, in particular raising awareness levels and for preparation of a Clean and Green Village action plan as a basic step in that direction. Role and responsibility of all stakeholders would need to be clearly delineated and understood and resource mapping to be undertaken factoring in resources available under various schemes of Central and State Government culminating in implementation of the Panchayat Action Plan on the Theme, integrated into the GPDP. It is felt that convergent action by all concerned Ministries/Departments among others at Central and State Government levels will go a long way in protecting the future of the planet. Eventually, all GPs/villages have to become Clean and Green, if SDGs are to be attained by 2030 and challenges posed by Climate change are to be addressed.

7. In Government of India, the Nodal Ministry for the **Theme 5 – Clean & Green Village is Department of Drinking Water & Sanitation**. All other Ministries and Departments, which are signatory to this Joint Letter, will provide full support under their ongoing schemes to this effort at the GP/Village level. We expect and hope that similar convergent actions would be undertaken at the State and District level too and progress regularly monitored at High Level Committee constituted at State and District level.

With regards,

Yours sincerely,



(Sanjay Agarwal)

Department of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare



(Atul Chaturvedi)

Department of Animal Husbandry & Dairying



(Vini Mahajan)

Department of Drinking Water & Sanitation



(Leena Nandan)

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(Jatindra Nath Swain)

Department of Fisheries



(Sunil Kumar)

Ministry of Panchayati Raj

To,
The Chief Secretaries,
All States/UTs

Copy to: Additional Chief Secretaries/ Principal Secretaries/Secretaries,
All Related Departments, All States/ UTs