

GOVERNMENT OF MEGHALAYA  
FORESTS AND ENVIRONMENT DEPARTMENT



OFFICE OF THE  
PRINCIPAL CHIEF CONSERVATOR OF FORESTS  
WORKING PLAN, RESEARCH & TRAINING AND DISTRICT COUNCIL AFFAIRS  
MEGHALAYA, SHILLONG

No. MFRT/G/260/ 704

Dated Shillong, the 4<sup>th</sup> July, 2024

To

The Principal Secretary to the Government of Meghalaya  
Community and Rural Development Department  
Shillong

ISSUED

Sub.: Organization of a Training on Cultivation of Agar.

Sir,

With reference to the above-mentioned subject, it is stated that Agarwood is a resin-infused fragrant wood derived from tropical evergreen Agar tree. Agarwood is valued for its distinctive fragrance and healing properties. It has been used for over 2,000 years for medicinal, aromatic and religious purposes. The resin is widely used for production of incense, perfume, cosmetics and medicines. The resin develops and accumulates in stem and branches of agar tree as an immune response to biological, physical and chemical stress.

Agarwood can retain its fragrance over very long period when handled appropriately. Longevity of agarwood fragrance permits its storage and long distance trade as a high-value commodity, much in the same way as precious stones and metals. Fine grade agarwood is one of the most expensive natural raw materials in the world. Price of good quality agarwood chip varies from Rs. 80,000 to Rs. 1.00 lakh per kg. Similarly, price of agar oil varies from Rs. 6 lakh to Rs. 2 crore per kg. In the year 2001 a single large size agar tree fully infused with resin in Hojai district in Assam was sold in more than rupees 1 crore. Several trees having value between Rs. 15 to 30 lakh still exist in Northeast India. A 10 to 15 years old agar tree may fetch about Rs. 10,000. One hectare good quality agar plantation containing 10,000 trees has the potential to earn as high as Rs.10 crore in 10 to 15 years.

Agar trees naturally grow in all parts of Meghalaya except high altitude Shillong plateau. Eco-climatic conditions for a major part of Meghalaya are suitable for Agar trees.

Processing of agarwood, especially extraction of resin imbedded wood as agarwood chips is very labour intensive. Raising of agar plants in nurseries and creation and maintenance of agar plantations also generate large wage-employment for tribal residents in rural areas of the State. Plantation, maintenance, harvesting, value addition, marketing and trade of agarwood and agarwood products therefore has huge potential to generate income and employment for residents of the State. Agar sector can therefore play an important role in realising the aspiration to make the State US\$ 10 Bn economy by 2028.

To facilitate expansion, scientific management, harvesting, utilisation, and value addition of agar resources, this office has prepared a draft Meghalaya Agar Policy, 2024. The same is presently under consideration of the State Government. The Policy is likely to be notified shortly.





Pending formal notification of the Policy, this office received financial Assistance from the Meghalaya Basin Development Authority (MBDA) to undertake various preparatory activities. These activities include organisation of training on nursery and plantation techniques for agar for 1,000 members of VECs and potential agar cultivators. The training will also expose the participants to the processing, value addition, trade and economic potential of the Agar.

The training will be organised at Meghalaya Forest Training School (MFTS), Baiza, Williamnagar with effect from 1<sup>st</sup> September, 2024 to 17<sup>th</sup> October, 2024 in 20 batches, each consisting of 50 farmers from the Development Blocks suitable for agar cultivation. The training will include both classroom lectures by experts and field visit to agar nursery, agar plantations and naturally growing agar tree stands. A detailed training schedule is enclosed.

You are requested to advise concerned Block Development Officers (BDOs) to nominate farmers who are willing to undertake agar plantation or already have agar plants on the land owned by them. Expenditure on boarding and lodging of the participants at the Meghalaya Forest Training School will be borne by this Office. The expenditure on to-and-fro travel may be borne either by the participants themselves or by the BDOs from any appropriate source.

The name of the participants may be shared with the Principal Forest Training School, Baiza, Williamnagar (Mob. 70050 14520, Email: [principalmftsbaiza@gmail.com](mailto:principalmftsbaiza@gmail.com)) under intimation to office of the undersigned (0364-2227311, Email: [pccfmeghcstrandt@gmail.com](mailto:pccfmeghcstrandt@gmail.com)) latest by 16<sup>th</sup> August, 2024 so that necessary arrangements for the training may be made by this office.

This is for favour of your kind information and necessary actions.

Yours faithfully,

Encl.: As above.

(H C Chaudhary, IFS)

Principal Chief Conservator of Forests  
Working Plan, Research & Training and District Council Affairs  
Meghalaya : Shillong.

Memo No. MFRT/G/260 | 705-738

Dated Shillong, the 4<sup>th</sup> July, 2024

Copy for along with a copy of the annexure for information and/or necessary action to:- **ISSUED**

1. The Principal Chief Conservator of Forests & HoFF Meghalaya, Shillong.
2. The Commissioner and Secretary to the Government of Meghalaya, Forest and Environment Department
3. The Member Secretary, State Rural Employment Society (SRES), Shillong.
4. The Deputy Commissioner, South Garo Hills District, Baghmara.
5. The Deputy Commissioner, East Garo Hills District, Williamnagar.
6. The Deputy Commissioner, North Garo Hills District, Resubelpara.
7. The Deputy Commissioner, West Garo Hills District, Tura.
8. The Deputy Commissioner, South West Garo Hills District, Ampati.
9. The Deputy Commissioner, East Khasi Hills District, Shillong.



10. The Deputy Commissioner, West Khasi Hills District, Nongstoin.
11. The Deputy Commissioner, South West Khasi Hills District, Mawkyrwat.
12. The Deputy Commissioner, Ri-Bhoi District, Nongpoh.
  
13. The Divisional Forest Officer, Training Division, Shillong.
14. The Principal, Meghalaya Forest Training School, Baiza, Williamnagar,
15. The Block Development Officer, Siju Block, Siju.
16. The Block Development Officer, Baghmara Block, Baghmara.
17. The Block Development Officer, Rongara Block, Rongara.
18. The Block Development Officer, Samanda Block, Samanada.
19. The Block Development Officer, Songsak Block, Songsak.
20. The Block Development Officer, Dambo-Rongjeng Block, Rongjeng.
21. The Block Development Officer, Dalu Block, Dalu.
22. The Block Development Officer, Dadenggre Block, Daddengre.
23. The Block Development Officer, Rongram Block, Rongram.
24. The Block Development Officer, Bajengdoba Block, Bajengdoba.
25. The Block Development Officer, Kharkhuta Block, Kharkhuta.
26. The Block Development Officer, Resubelpara Block, Rerapara.
27. The Block Development Officer, Rerapara Block, Rerapara.
28. The Block Development Officer, Betasing Block, Betasing.
29. The Block Development Officer, Ranikor Block, Ranikor.
30. The Block Development Officer, Mawkyrwat Block, Mawkyrwat.
31. The Block Development Officer, Shella-Bholaganj Block, Shella.
32. The Block Development Officer, Shallang Block, Shallang.
33. The Block Development Officer, Mawshynrut Block, Mawshynrut.
34. The Block Development Officer, Jirang Block, Jirang.



Principal Chief Conservator of Forests  
 Working Plan, Research & Training and District Council Affairs  
 Meghalaya: Shillong.





**Training on Nursery and Plantation Techniques for Agar  
Meghalaya Forest Training School (MFTS), Baiza, Williamnagar**

**Number of Participants in Each Batch: 50**

Batch No.	Development Block	Arrival at MFTS	Departure from MFTS
B1	Samanda	01.09.2024 (afternoon)	03.09.2024 (afternoon)
B2	Ranikor	03.09.2024 (afternoon)	05.09.2024 (afternoon)
B3	Rongara	05.09.2024 (afternoon)	07.09.2024 (afternoon)
B4	Songsak	08.09.2024 (afternoon)	10.09.2024 (afternoon)
B5	Shella- Bholaganj	10.09.2024 (afternoon)	12.09.2024 (afternoon)
B6	Resubelpara	12.09.2024 (afternoon)	14.09.2024 (afternoon)
B7	Dambo-Rongjeng	15.09.2024 (afternoon)	17.09.2024 (afternoon)
B8	Mawkyrwat	17.09.2024 (afternoon)	19.09.2024 (afternoon)
B9	Dalu	19.09.2024 (afternoon)	21.09.2024 (afternoon)
B10	Rongram	22.09.2024 (afternoon)	24.09.2024 (afternoon)
B11	Shallang	24.09.2024 (afternoon)	26.09.2024 (afternoon)
B12	Baghmara	26.09.2024 (afternoon)	28.09.2024 (afternoon)
B13	Bajengdoba	29.09.2024 (afternoon)	01.10.2024 (afternoon)
B14	Mawshunrut	01.10.2024 (afternoon)	03.10.2024 (afternoon)
B15	Siju	03.10.2024 (afternoon)	05.10.2024 (afternoon)
B16	Dadengre	06.10.2024 (afternoon)	08.10.2024 (afternoon)
B17	Jirang	08.10.2024 (afternoon)	10.10.2024 (afternoon)
B18	Rerapara	10.10.2024 (afternoon)	12.10.2024 (afternoon)
B19	Kharkhuta	13.10.2024 (afternoon)	15.10.2024 (afternoon)
B20	Betasing	15.10.2024 (afternoon)	17.10.2024 (afternoon)

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