

CHAPTER - 12

FORESTRY

12.1 Rajasthan, being the largest state in the country, has geographical area of 34.22 million ha which is 11% of country's geographical area. There is marked difference in the physiographic features of the State. The Aravallis, one of the oldest mountain systems, divide the State into two unequal parts. The Aravallis cover over 30% of the State. A vast expanse of arid and semi-arid tract lies in the west of the Aravallis.

12.2 Rajasthan has the distinction of having largest population of cattle, sheep and camels. The livestock constitute an important component of State's economy, particularly in its western parts, where nearly two third of the population is engaged in animal husbandry and allied activities. Livestock population in Rajasthan is approximately 10% of country's total livestock, which contributes nearly 10% of the national milk, 30% meat and 40 % of the country's wool production. It contributes 15% of the revenue of the state. Livestock rearing is an important occupation of farmers to augment farm income. Annual growth rate of livestock in the state is 1.05%. The ratio of livestock to human population in the state is approximately 1:1 as against the national average of 1:2. This indicates the excessive biotic pressure on the limited forest resources of the state and is also a threat to agriculture.

12.3 National Forest Policy (NFP) 1988 envisages that 33% of the geographical area should be under forest or tree cover. Rajasthan, keeping in view the peculiar conditions, has come out with state specific Rajasthan State Forest Policy, 2010.

12.4 The present forest area of State is only 9.5% of its total geographical area, which is far below the national average of 23%. Due to inhospitable climatic and edaphic conditions coupled with severe biotic pressures, forestry is very challenging. Realizing these unavoidable constraints, a realistic goal for 20% forest cover has been set for the state in Rajasthan State Forest Policy, 2010.

12.5 During Eleventh FYP the total provision is Rs. 19700.00 lakhs including Rs. 8082.36 lakhs under externally aided projects RFBP I & II. The actual likely expenditure till 31.3.2012 against the outlay and provisions will be Rs. 34257.81 lacs.

Important achievements during the Eleventh FYP are as under:

- Afforestation activity is undertaken in 65573 hectares.
- Enhancement of growing stock of the state forests from 19 million cum to 31 million cum.
- Employment generation of 475 lakhs man days.

- Involvement of local people in forest management under Joint Forest Management, 5396 Village Forest Protection & Management Committees have been constituted and these institutions are acting as “Social Hub” besides being custodian of natural resources in their areas. These committees are managing around 9.13 lakhs hectares of forest / plantation area.

During Twelfth Five Year Plan, the objective of forestry are:

- To increase the green cover of the state.
- To conserve forest, wild life & entire bio-diversity of the forest eco system.
- To arrests the march of the desert & combating desertification.
- To enhance bio-diversity of forest land.
- To augment supply of firewood, fodder & other forest produce.
- To ensure livelihood security of people living around forests including the tribal community by employment generation.
- To enhance recharge of ground water by rain water harvesting.
- To involve local people in forest protection and management and Empowerment to Village Forest Protection and Management Committee to be ensured.

12.6 An amount of Rs. 161937.81 lakhs for 12th Plan and Rs. 27702.03 lakhs for Annual Plan 2012-13 are proposed. The scheme wise details of outlay are as under:

Table No. 12.1

(Rs. In lakhs)

S. No.	Schemes	Proposed Outlay	
		Twelfth Five Year Plan 2012-17	Annual Plan 2012-13
1	Biodiversity conservation	1846.61	348.41
2	Working Plan Forest Demarcation & Settlement	500.00	16.60
3	Reforestation of degraded forests	12000.00	1249.69
4	Eco-tourism	2000.00	300.00
5	Communication and Buildings	3200.00	2050.00
6	Environmental Forestry	650.00	92.14
7	Preservation of Wild Life	7000.00	296.08
8	Farm Forestry	2500.00	466.50
9	Research & Training	375.05	39.37
10	Intensification of Forest Management	450.00	90.00
11	Bhankhra Canal	950.00	188.33
12	Gang Canal	1375.00	272.13
13	Loan from NABARD(Wild life)	944.00	944.00
14	Loan from NABARD(Afforestation)	9404.90	1342.00
15	Climate Change and Combating Desertification	12000.00	439.75
16	13th Finance Commission	6622.00	2208.00
17	Strengthening of JFM	250.00	20.00
18	Goverdhan Drain	741.00	741.00

S. No.	Schemes	Proposed Outlay	
		Twelfth Five Year Plan 2012-17	Annual Plan 2012-13
19	CAMPA Fund	500.00	50.00
	Total	63308.56	11154.00
	EXTERNALLY AIDED PROJECTS		
1	Rajasthan Forestry and Biodiversity Project Phase II	98454.00	16523.00
	Total	98454.00	16523.00
	SOIL CONSERVATION SECTOR		
1	Soil Conservation in Ravinous area	175.20	25.00
2	10% State Share for RVP/FPR	0.05	0.03
	Total	175.25	25.03
	Grand Total	161937.81	27702.03

12.7 Scheme wise details of Twelfth Five Year Plan (2012-2017) and Annual Plan 2012-13 are as under:

Biodiversity Conservation

12.8 The vast floral and faunal diversity of the state is evident from the fact that there are about 2500 species of plants, 450 species of birds, 50 species of mammals, 20 species of reptiles and 14 species of amphibians besides numerous species of insects, butterflies, micro flora and fauna. One of the objects of RFP 2010 is to conserve floral and faunal diversity and gene pool reserve through a network of protected areas, such as National Parks, Sanctuaries, Conservation Reserves and Community Reserves. Conserving rare and endangered species of flora and fauna of the state by undertaking in-situ and ex-situ conservation measures, apart from conserving and managing biodiversity-rich ecosystems such as grasslands, orans and wetlands etc. The existing area under various Protected Area Network (PAN) is 2.8% of the state's geographical area, which compares favourably with that recommended by the Wildlife Institute of India for Rajasthan which envisages 3.1% of geographical area of the state under PAN. The Wildlife Institute of India report has not included the proposed world heritage sites like Sambhar Lake, other wetlands, sacred groves, locally called Orans and other similar areas rich in biodiversity, which are monuments of our rich cultural heritage. These widely dispersed areas provide ideal habitats to a variety of endemic flora and fauna. On a conservative estimate these areas constitute about 1.8% of the geographical area. Some of these areas have been already declared as Closed Areas for the purpose of imposing ban on shooting of wild animals. These areas could be conveniently brought under scientific management for the purpose of biodiversity conservation. Considering all these aspects it is proposed to have 4.8% of geographical area of the state for biodiversity purposes.

12.9 A provision of Rs.1846.61 lacs is proposed for 12th FYP and the provision proposed for 2012-13 is Rs.348.41 lacs.

Working Plan, Forest Demarcation & Settlement

12.10 Working Plans are an important document for Forest Management. Working Plan is the instrument by which the resource inventory of forest divisions is assessed from time to time. But over the years the importance of Working Plans has been diluted and preparation of working plan has been relegated to back seat. In order to facilitate preparation of working plans, it is proposed that the Working Plan offices be equipped with Computer hardware & software, printers, UPS facilities etc. along with Operators on contract.

12.11 Consolidation, Demarcation & Settlement is an important component in forestry as it demarcates the forest boundary and enables the custodians of the forest to know the land under their possession. Constriction of boundary pillars has been given top priority.

12.12 Forest land records and maps are very essential for forest management and administration. It is essential that beat maps are available at beat level, range maps at range level and division maps at division level. It is proposed that new copies of existing maps will be prepared under the XIIth Plan and will be made available at all level. The following strategies will be followed in this regard:

- Top priority for Construction of Boundary Pillars.
- Timely Preparation of working plans.
- Survey, demarcation, mutation and notification of remaining forest areas.
- Modernization and outsourcing of survey work, preparation of maps of forest areas including superimposition of revenue maps on forest maps.
- Strengthening of land record keeping system at division level & at range level.

12.13 Erection of 2.20 lac boundary pillars, plain table survey of 2500 Sq. Km. and preliminary of 1500 Sq km is proposed to be completed during 12th FYP. A provision of Rs. 500.00 lacs is proposed for 12th FYP and the provision proposed for 2012-13 is Rs. 16.60 lacs.

Reforestation of Degraded Forest

12.14 The NFP, 1988 envisages at least 1/3rd land area of the country to be under forests but looking to the inhospitable climatic and edaphic conditions it has been felt practical to strive for 20% vegetal cover in Rajasthan. Most of the forests are concentrated in the southern and southeastern parts of the State, whereas, there is hardly any forests in the western parts of the state.

12.15 Recorded forest area of Rajasthan is 32702.24 Sq.Km. which is 9.56% of the state's geographical area. Out of 32702.24 Sq.Km. recorded

forest area, only 16036 km. is forest cover as per SFR, 2009 published by FSI, Dehradun. The breakup of forest cover as per above report is as follows:

- Very Dense (Tree density > 70%) 72 Sq.Km.
- Dense (Tree density between 40 to 70%) 4,450 Sq.Km.
- Open (Tree density between 10 to 40%) 11,514 Sq.Km.
- Scrub- degraded forest lands (tree density < 10) 16,665.35 Sq. Km.

12.16 It is thus evidence from the data above that only about 14% of the forest area is having good forest cover, 35 % of the forest area is open with 10-40% forest cover and almost 51% of the forest area is either in scrub form of degraded to heavily degraded fall. Thus, forest cover is 4.69% of the total geographical area of the state.

12.17 Rajasthan State Forest Policy, 2010 lays down that the productivity of forests should be increased through appropriate management interventions and use of modern technology to meet the needs of present as well as future generations.

12.18 Approach to 12th FYP provides for improving the forest cover. Improving forest cover must include both canopy cover improvement (intensification) and extension of afforestation of degraded forest land (extension). To meet the country's demand for timber and non-timber forest produces, we need to pursue a comprehensive approach encompassing horizontal as well as vertical use of space and adequate financial support.

12.19 A provision of Rs. 12000.00 lacs is proposed for 12th FYP and the provision proposed for 2012-13 is Rs. 1249.69 lacs.

Eco-tourism

12.20 Rajasthan is fortunate to have richness of natural beauty, flora and fauna accompanied with places of religious, historical and archeological importance. The rich cultural and historical heritage of the state attracts people from other states of India as well as from all over the world. Tourism over past decade has emerged as the key sector in the economic development of the state. The tourist traffic in the state has been growing at the rate of more than 9 %. Rajasthan has a very significant role to play in the Indian tourist scene as out of 1.8 million tourists visiting India every year, the state attracts about 30% of the foreign tourists.

12.21 Eco-tourism is generally described as tourism associated with protected areas and Eco tourist is a word which has been coined for nature or wildlife tourists. Eco-tourism aims at providing eco-tourist with nature tourism opportunities and also aims at generating economic

return to strengthen protected areas (PAs) and augment economic benefits for local people.

12.22 So far tourism in Rajasthan has been attracting domestic and foreign tourists towards its National Park and Wild Life Sanctuaries in large numbers but looking to the enchanting beauty and splendor of the picturesque forest wealth present in the hills of Aravallis and Vindhya, there is still lot of scope of opening avenues of tourism related to nature and forests. The forests of Rajasthan have tremendous potential in the tourism sector. Rajasthan is one of the states that can claim two Tiger Projects, the most famous water bird Sanctuary in Asia and twenty five wild life sanctuaries besides 3 conservation reserves. These protected areas offer greatest opportunity of eco-tourism both for domestic and foreign tourists. The development of "Green Tourism or Eco-tourism" will not only enhance the tourist arrivals in the state but also earn sizable foreign exchange together with employment generation largely in an around forest areas benefiting rural and tribal population of the state.

12.23 A provision of Rs.2000.00 lacs is proposed for 12th FYP and the provision proposed for 2012-13 is Rs.300.00 lacs.

Communication and Building

12.24 Building of Van Bhawan was constructed in late 70s. Since then the number of officers as well as supporting staff has increased manifold. The existing accommodation in van bhawan is now insufficient. It has been proposed to construct additional two floors and also remodel the existing structures. The funds spent on aforesaid work will be provided from state plan and it will be recouped from interest of CAMPA funds. Besides van bhawan the front line staff also needs proper buildings in the field to perform their duties properly.

12.25 A provision of Rs.3200.00 lacs is proposed for 12th FYP and the provision proposed for 2012-13 is Rs.2050.00 lacs.

Environmental Forestry

12.26 The principal aim of forest policy is environmental stability and ecological security through increasing vegetal cover which will lead to reduction in soil erosion and consequently dust particle in upper stratosphere. The reduction in stratosphere temperature is likely to increase the possibility of rains. Increased sequestration of carbon from the atmosphere will reduce threats of global warming and climate change problems.

12.27 A provision of Rs.650.00 lacs is proposed for 12th FYP and the provision proposed for 2012-13 is Rs.92.14 lacs.

Preservation of Wild Life

12.28 Rajasthan is very rich in flora and fauna. There are two national parks covering an area of 31076 ha, 25 wild life sanctuaries covering an

area of 895012.3 ha and 3 conservation reserves covering an area of 22226.54 ha. Thus, the total area under national parks, wild life sanctuaries and conservation reserves is 948314.84 ha which is 2.9% of total recorded forest area of Rajasthan. Large number of big and small water birds scattered all over the state including the recently created Wetlands along Indira Gandhi Nahar have enhanced the habitat diversity in the state.

12.29 It is necessary to create inviolate spaces for the wild life so as to minimize human interference in the protected areas in the interest of their conservation. To achieve this, relocation of villages situated inside these areas should be carried out amicably in phased and time bound manner. Relocation package incorporates adequate means of livelihood, proper shelter and grazing needs of the people being relocated.

12.30 Participatory eco development works will be taken up to secure the cooperation and participation of local people residing on the fringes of protected areas as well as inside the protected areas.

12.31 In protected areas, emphasis will be on Famine Proofing of Sanctuaries, habitat improvement by way of natural regeneration, drainage line treatment and grassland development in gaps. Only selective planting should be proposed on minimum essential scale. It will enable treatment of more areas in given funds.

12.32 Promoting Eco-tourism by construction/ improvement of Nature Trails, Wide publicity by way of wide distribution of folders, training of Nature Guides and providing camping facilities etc.

12.33 Development of Wetlands will be taken up inside as well as outside forest areas, based on species of birds, reptiles and flora preservation of wetland ecology.

12.34 A provision of Rs.7000.00 lacs is proposed for 12th FYP and the provision proposed for 2012-13 is Rs.296.08 lacs.

Farm Forestry

12.35 The recorded forest area in state is 9.56% only. In order to increase it to 20%, it is essential to plant areas outside recorded forests. This scheme provides scope for achieving aforesaid goal. Under this scheme, the seedlings are raised in nurseries and are sold on price fixed by the state to private people, farmers and industrial institutions etc. so that they may plant them on land available with them.

12.36 A provision of Rs. 2500.00 lacs is proposed for 12th FYP and the provision proposed for 2012-13 is Rs. 466.50 lacs.

Research and Training

12.37 With the increasing recognition of the importance of forests for environmental health, energy and employment, emphasis may be laid on scientific forestry research, necessitating adequate strengthening of the

research base as well as constituting of new priorities. Some broad priority areas of research and development needing special attention are:

- Increasing the productivity of wood and other forest produce per unit area per unit time by the application of modern scientific and technological methods.
- Re-vegetation of barren/marginal/waste/mined lands and watershed areas.
- Effective conservation and management of existing forest resources (mainly natural forest ecosystems).
- Development of substitutes to replace wood and wood products.
- Research related to wildlife and management of PAN areas, such as national parks and sanctuaries.
- Evolving people oriented silvi-cultural practices.

12.38 Instituting human resource development through a proper system of career planning, upgrading the technical and professional skills of forestry personnel, villagers and other important stake holders. Forest conservation and development programmes cannot succeed without the willing support and co-operation of the people. It is essential, therefore, to inculcate in the people, a direct interest in forests, their conservation and development, and to make them conscious of the value of trees, wildlife and nature in general. This can be achieved through the involvement of educational institutions, right from the primary state. Farmers and interested people should be provided opportunities through institutions like Krishi Vigyan Kendras, Trainers' Training Centres to learn agri-silvicultural and silvi-cultural techniques to ensure optimum use of their land and water resources. Short term extension courses and lectures shall be organised in order to educate farmers. For this purpose it is essential that suitable programmes are propagated through mass media, audio-visual aids and the state government's extension machinery.

12.39 A provision of Rs. 375.05 lacs is proposed for 12th FYP and the provision proposed for 2012-13 is Rs. 39.37 lacs.

Intensification of Forest Management Scheme

12.40 Forest management requires an integrated and coordinated series of actions directed towards the well-being of the people living in and around forest area. Local situations and requirements of people vary largely and are area specific. It is required to manipulate the forest resources, without compromising with scientific principles, in such a manner that well being of the people is ensured on a sustained basis. It becomes necessary to emphasize on social, economic and cultural factors to a much greater extent if we want to manage our forests for future generations.

12.41 Forest degradation has both local and global impacts, loss of ground cover in local watersheds results in increased erosion leading to sedimentation of water channels, which ultimately has a negative impact on downstream irrigation and availability of water for other purposes. In some cases, these impacts can be quite high. Drastic changes in the water table may also occur, which in turn reduces the crop yield and availability of water for drinking purposes. Therefore, it becomes necessary to conserve these resources for benefit of local people by involving them and sharing the usufructs on a sustained basis. This can be done only when the existing resources are conserved on one hand and they are augmented on the other. In the above backdrop present set of schemes under “Intensification of forest management schemes” are going to ensure sustainable forest management on an operational scale. Under this scheme comprehensive range of management activities have been emphasized for the first time based on working plans, viz., infrastructure and communication for protection staff, fire control, boundary demarcation using new techniques, Control and eradication of forest invasive species and management of bamboo forests. Due to meager financial resources, these activities could not be undertaken on a large scale in the past. Based on cultural, social and economic conditions of the people in this zone, area specific proposals are prepared under “Intensification of forest management schemes”.

12.42 A provision of Rs. 450.00 lacs is proposed for 12th FYP and the provision proposed for 2012-13 is Rs. 90.00 lacs.

Bhakhara Canal Plantation

12.43 Bhakhara Canal system has a length of 1000 Km. in Sri Ganganagar & Hanumangarh districts. Large part of this system has been notified as protected forests where the plantations are being raised.

12.44 A provision of Rs. 950.00 lacs is proposed for 12th FYP and the provision proposed for 2012-13 is Rs.188.33 lacs.

Gang Canal Plantation

12.45 Gang Canal system has a length of 1170 Km. in Sri Ganganagar. After felling of mature trees along this system fresh plantation are being raised.

12.46 A provision of Rs.1375.00 lacs is proposed for 12th FYP and the provision proposed for 2012-13 is Rs. 272.13 lacs.

Loan from NABARD (Wild Life)

12.47 National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development has provided loan assistance of Rs. 3894.51 lac under Rural Infrastructure Development Fund-XV for construction of water harvesting structures in sanctuaries. An amount of Rs. 944.00 lac is proposed for the year 2012-13.

Loan from NABARD (Afforestation)

12.48 In order to tap the additional resources for forestry activities and to achieve target of 20% tree cover, a project has been prepared and posed to NABARD through the state government. Under the project works of rehabilitation of degraded forests, assisted natural regeneration, environmental plantation, pucca fencing of vulnerable areas, sand dune stabilisation in uncommand areas, farm forestry activities, creation of new nurseries, strengthening of existing high-tech nurseries and development of old nurseries will be taken up.

12.49 The proposed project envisages covering 17 of total 33 districts of the State. Most of the forest area, which is going to be treated under the proposed project will come from the open, scrub and degraded forests. Open and degraded forest areas and non forest areas lying on their periphery of Aravali and Vindhayan Hills and Eastern Parts of the State includes- Alwar, Bharatpur, Dausa, Dholpur, Karauli, Sawai Madhopur, Tonk, Ajmer, Bundi, Baran, Kota, Jhalawar, Chittorgarh, Pratapgarh, Rajasamand, Sirohi (excluding Abu Road Tehsil) and Udaipur. A provision of Rs. 9404.90 lacs is proposed for 12th FYP and the provision proposed for 2012-13 is Rs. 1342.00 lacs.

Climate Change & Combating Desertification

12.50 The scientific consensus holds that unless Carbon Dioxide and other greenhouses gas emission for the world as a whole are significantly reduced, there will be an unacceptable rise in temperature, changes in rainfall pattern, sea level rise, etc, all of which will have adverse consequences for large part of the world. India is one of the countries that will be adversely affected.

12.51 Forests are repositories of genetic diversity, and supply a wide range of ecosystem services thus helping maintain ecological balance. Forests meet nearly 40% of the overall energy needs of the country, and of over 80% of those in rural areas, and are the backbone of forest-based communities in terms of livelihood and sustenance. Forests sequester billions of tons of carbon dioxide in the form of biomass and soil carbon.

12.52 Large area of Rajasthan falls under the arid zone and is vulnerable to the climate change. An action plan for Climate Change Adaptation has also been prepared along with the State Forest Policy wherein it has been envisaged to enhance the forest cover from 9.56% to 20% of the area of the State.

12.53 Enhancing Forest Cover and Addressing the Issue of Climate Change: Enhancement of forest cover to achieve the target of 20% area under forest cover, the State Government has envisaged 3 pronged steps-

- Generating the forest cover on the degraded forest lands.
- Bringing community lands and waste lands under forest cover.

- Taking up massive programs of stabilizing sand dunes and thereby creating Mega Shelter Belts which work as wind barrier to curb spread of Thar Desert.

12.54 While the first issue is being addressed by the State Government under the normal ongoing programs, part of the 2nd category is being addressed through a program under externally aided project from JICA.

12.55 The task for 3rd category is more challenging but it is extremely essential to address the problem of climate change on one hand and the sustainable development of the area falling under Thar Desert on the other. For this it is required to carry out following programs:-

- There are large areas under Ministry of Defence. It is required that adequate forest cover on state lands should be developed.
- Eco task force is successfully carrying out plantation in desert areas. Raising of at least one eco task force battalion for greening forest area of the Rajasthan for creating Mega Shelter belts is taken on higher priority.

Combating Desertification

12.56 The "Great Indian Desert" also known as "Thar Desert" is around 3.18 lac Sq.Kms. It spreads over Punjab, Haryana, Rajasthan and Gujarat states. 2.08 lac sq.kms. which is most arid part of Thar Desert lies in Rajasthan State - spreading over North-West of the Aravalli ranges comprising of 12 districts viz. Jodhpur, Jaisalmer, Barmer, Pali, Jalore, Sikar, Churu, Jhunjhunu, Nagaur, Bikaner, Hanumangarh & Ganganagar. Thar desert is most densely populated and one of the most fascinating deserts in the world.

12.57 The activities of afforestation, shelterbelt plantation, sand dune stabilization and pasture development etc. carried out in past have yielded very positive results. One of the objectives of RSFP, 2010 is combating desertification (through Shelterbelt plantations, Block plantations, Sand dune stabilization and Agro-forestry in desert areas) and preventing all kinds of land degradation.

12.58 In order to achieve the goal of 20% tree cover in the state we must address issue of climate change and take up activities under combating desertification in aforementioned districts during 12th FYP, where a provision of Rs. 12000.00 lacs is proposed for FYP and Rs.439.75 lacs for 2012-13.

13th Finance Commission

12.59 Looking to the increasing threats on meager forest resources of the state, forestry development activities will be carried out during 12th FYP period from funds provided by 13th Finance Commission also. Priority has been accorded to preparation of Working Plans, forest protection, infrastructure development & human resource development.

12.60 A provision of Rs. 6622.00 lacs is proposed for 12th FYP and the provision proposed for 2012-13 is Rs.2208.00 lacs.

Strengthening of Joint Forest Management

12.61 There are 5396 Village Forest Protection and Management Committees (VFPMCs) and 266 Eco Development Committees (EDCs) in the state. In addition there are 1745 SHGs. There are pockets where VFPMCs, EDCs and SHGs need strengthening by providing skill up gradation in various fields. This will help in consolidation of gains of Joint Forest Management.

12.62 A provision of Rs.250 lacs is proposed for 12th FYP and the provision proposed for 2012-13 is Rs.20.00 lacs.

Goverdhan Drain (ACA)

12.63 For providing water for the prestigious Keoladeo National Park, Ghana Bharatpur, additional central assistance was sought from planning commission to the tune of Rs. 6500.00 lac. Rs. 4331.06 lac is likely to be spent during 2011-12. An amount of Rs. 741.00 lac is proposed for the year 2012-13.

CAMPA Fund

12.64 To meet the payment of NPV for various government department projects in lieu of forest land under the provisions of Forest Conservation Act. An amount of Rs. 50.00 lac is proposed for the year 2012-13 and Rs.500.00 lac for 12th Five Year Plan.

Externally Aided Project: Rajasthan Forestry and Biodiversity Project Phase-II

12.65 The Japan International Cooperation Agency assisted Rajasthan Forestry & Biodiversity Project –II (RFBP-II) will be implemented for a period of 8 years (2011-12 to 2018-19). The project activities are proposed to implemented in 15 districts of the state namely Bikaner, Jaisalmer, Jodhpur, Pali, Sikar, Jhunjhunu, Nagaur, Churu, Barmer, Jalore, Sirohi, Bhilwara, Banswara, Dungarpur and Jaisalmer alongwith seven notified PAs.

12.66 RFBP-II revolves around core activities of afforestation, biodiversity conservation, SWCs, livelihood and poverty alleviation through appropriate forestry intervention. The project envisages covering 83650 ha (56650 ha in desert districts and 27000 ha in non desert districts) during project period of 8 years. Project activity will be executed through Village Forest Protection and Management Committees (VFPMCs), Eco Development Committees (EDCs) and Self Help Groups (SHGs). The project will be implemented through a Project Management Unit (PMU) as an autonomous society named as “Rajasthan Vaniki Evam Jaiv-vivdhtha Sanrakshan Society”.

12.67 A provision of Rs. 98454.00 lacs is proposed for 12th FYP and the provision proposed for 2012-13 is Rs. 16523.00 lacs.

Soil Conservation in Ravinous areas

12.68 Under this scheme, soil and Water Conservation Works are being executed on priority in such ravinous areas which are more susceptible to soil erosion. The works which will be taken up are construction of check dams, contour trenches, earthen bunds (in case of ravines) and planting and sowing of soil species.

12.69 A provision of Rs. 175.25 lacs is proposed for 12th FYP and the provision proposed for 2012-13 is Rs.25.03 lacs.