

## DETAILED REPORT

### **CHIEF MINISTER'S SEUJI DHORA ACHONI**

It is a mission benefiting people and places on environmental issues. It is also an ambitious scheme of the Forest Department of Government of Assam, **involving the school children of the State for tree plantation and greening programme**, now being undertaken in the State. The total Geographical Area of the State is 78,438 sq. km., whose total population in 2001 was 2,665,528 with a Literacy percentage of 64.28 %. In 2003, the Forest & Tree Cover of the State was 36.67 % of the total Geographical Area of the State .

Once a State known for its green landscape, the lungs of Assam is being squeezed tight by the process of rapid deforestation. While the tracts of forests in and around the State are being destroyed by human intervention, flora and fauna both lie threatened.

The **Fact-file** is, the total area of the City is 216.79 sq. km. The area covered by hills in the city is 71.17 sq. km., out of which private settled land is 5.44 sq. km., Govt. Land - 14.49 sq. km, Reserved Forests -26.42 sq. km. & others - 23.89 sq. km. The Hillside story being, the total population of City in 2001 was 15,00,000 inclusive of hill dwellers -1,23,979. The forest cover of the City in 1990 was 13.60 % with total no. of hills in the City being 18, along with total households in hills at 26,985, with permanent structures on - 8,681, semi-permanent structures-7,510, temporary structures -10,794 & no. of villages on hills-75. The climate in Summer with max. temperature of 38<sup>o</sup> C & min. of 20<sup>o</sup> C, in Winter with max. temperature of 30<sup>o</sup> C & min. 10<sup>o</sup> C. The highest rainfall recorded on 7<sup>th</sup> October, 2004 was 141 m.m. The altitude is 54 Mts. above MSL.

**The Causes for concern** included annual flooding, soil erosion & landslides from surrounding hills, siltation / clogging of rivers & drainage systems, dust storms/air pollution and loss of green cover on the hills. Above all the current draught like situation throughout the State even during the monsoon season.

**The turning point** was the launching of the “**CHIEF MINISTER'S SEUJI DHORA ACHONI**” by the Hon'ble Chief Minister of Assam and Hon'ble Minister of Environment & Forests, Assam etc., on the 1<sup>st</sup>.September, 2006, by involving the School Children of the State for **environmental protection** whilst **maintaining the ecological balance** and **establishing tree plantations**.

**Involvement of** the NGOs, Educational institutions, Youth groups, Press & Media etc. were sought in the scheme through appeals, hoardings, signages, awareness & motivational campaigns etc.

**The choice of trees** selected were, Ornamental, Fruit & Shade bearing, Fuel-wood/ Timber yielding species, Medicinal / Aromatic plants & Bamboo plantations. Free seedlings and technical supervision is being provided by the **Nodal Officer**, “**CHIEF MINISTER'S SEUJI DHORA ACHONI**”.

The sites selected for plantation were the degraded & barren hillocks, Govt. land, Educational Institutions, River front & Parks, along Road Dividers & High Ways, Life & Heritage sites, Private land & unused Public land.

**Targets to be achieved-** On the 1<sup>st</sup> Sept.,2006 an Awareness Meeting was held with about 22,000 students in presence of the Hon'ble Chief Minister of Assam at the Nehru Stadium, Guwahati, along with distribution of Saplings. The success of the scheme is gradually becoming visible throughout the state, as evident from the mass involvement of the school children and the communities in tree plantation drives, along with environmental awareness.

**The concept** of “**CHIEF MINISTER’S SEUJI DHORA ACHONI**”, also spread to all the parts of the State in 2006. Several district level awareness meeting/drive with distribution of Saplings amongst students were organized throughout the State.

**Looking ahead, the aim is to make Assam the greenest & cleanest State in India by the year 2010, Hopefully with a projected Forest Cover much above the national average of 33 % prescribed in the National Forest Policy.**

It is a dream of our Hon'ble Chief Minister, that the saplings and the students will grow together and take care of each other in the future. The mature trees will one day help the students with many benefits by providing fruits, clean & fresh environment to live, shade from the scorching sun and economic gain at maturity by way of timber, fodder & fuel etc. and thus they will become true friends of each other.

## DRAFT GUIDELINES FOR “CHIEF MINISTER’S SEUJI DHORA ACHONI”

### 1. GOAL OF “CHIEF MINISTER’S SEUJI DHORA ACHONI”:

- (a) To make Assam as the Greenest state in the country within the coming years.
- (b) To extend Assam’s green cover by active involvement of the school children.
- (c) To Educate People, especially Children on Environmental Issues.

### 2. Eligible organizations:

For eliciting and nurturing community participation, Assam Forest Department will provide limited material support to the Educational Institutions for afforestation, tree planting and environmental education. Corporate bodies and Public Sector Undertakings will be approached for extending financial support, as part of their social obligation.

### 3. Qualifying Criterion:

GOVT. SCHOOLS WILL BE CONSIDERED FOR IMPLEMENTATION OF THE ACTIVITIES OF “CHIEF MINISTER’S SEUJI DHORA ACHONI”

### 4. Support Activities:

Raising of seedlings, planting, regeneration of degraded hills and community land, homestead land and environmental awareness etc.

### 5. Identification of proposed land:

The land on which plantation activities are proposed should be properly identified. Details of the land such as survey numbers, area and names of owners should be given location-wise. These details should be verified and authenticated by the concerned landowner or land owning agency / authority.

### 6. Scheme Size and Plan:

The scheme should be location specific. The choice of trees should be made in consultation with the local community as far as possible.

### 7. Evaluation of the projects:

THE NODAL OFFICER OF “CHIEF MINISTER’S SEUJI DHORA ACHONI”, WILL ARRANGE FOR PERIODIC MONITORING AND EVALUATION OF THE PROGRAMME SUPPORTED UNDER THE SCHEME.

### 8. General

PCCF Assam may issue such criterions and conditions from time to time for carrying out various activities under the Scheme. His decision in all such matters will be binding and final.

### FACT-FILE on Land Use Pattern of Assam with Forest & Tree Cover

- Country’s requirement of **Forest Cover** in respect of Geographical area, as per **National Forest Policy**, should be = **25 %** in **2007** & **33 %** in **2012**
- Data on **Forest Cover** of the Country as per **State of Forest Report, 2003** released on 19.07.2005 in New Delhi, by the **Forest Survey of India**, state that :-

✓ <b>Forest Cover of Assam in 2003</b>	= <b>35.48 %</b>
➤ Total Area of Forest Cover	= 27,826 sq. km
➤ Very <b>Dense Forest</b>	= 1,684 sq. km
➤ <b>Medium Dense Forest</b>	= 11,358 sq. km
➤ <b>Open Forest</b>	= 14,784 sq. km
➤ <b>R.F area</b>	= 18,060 sq. km
➤ <b>U.S.F area</b>	= 27,018 sq. km
➤ <b>1<sup>st</sup></b> .highest in the State – <b>N.C. Hills</b>	= 88.71 %
➤ <b>2<sup>nd</sup></b> highest in the State – <b>K.A. Hills</b>	= 76.74 %
➤ <b>Lowest</b> in the State - <b>Morigaon District</b>	= 7.51 %
✓ <b>Forest Cover of the Country in 2003</b>	= <b>20.64 %</b>

**Text for few – S.M.S messages on - “CHIEF MINISTER’S SEUJI DHORA ACHONI”  
for Reliance/Airtel/Cell One**

1. Please join the Clean & Green Assam mission –  
“CHIEF MINISTER’S SEUJI DHORA ACHONI”  
- Contact Nodal Officer/ 9864037479/2543839
  
2. Celebrate your Special Day/Occasion by Gifting a Seedling....  
for Free Seedling contact –  
“CHIEF MINISTER’S SEUJI DHORA ACHONI” -Tel. 2630046
  
3. Plant a Seedling in your Home – collect free seedlings from  
- *Memorial Day Seedling Gift Centre* under  
- “CHIEF MINISTER’S SEUJI DHORA ACHONI” at Forest Complex, Panbazar
  
4. Leave a priceless gift to the Children of Assam – Plant a seedling ...  
join “CHIEF MINISTER’S SEUJI DHORA ACHONI”
  
5. To really save life, first plant a Tree.....  
join “CHIEF MINISTER’S SEUJI DHORA ACHONI”
  
6. Let’s start rebuilding our future with TREES.....  
join *Green Earth Project* - “CHIEF MINISTER’S SEUJI DHORA ACHONI”