

# BHOO MITHRA SENA

Environmental Education & Awareness 3435-03-003-98 plan voted

## 1. OVERVIEW

- a. Introduction: Addressing environmental issues is a multidisciplinary task and for its objective accomplishment a strong action on awareness building is essential. If taken up at the cutting edge levels, it helps in changing the attitude of the society. For attaining this objective, it is appropriate to exploit the enormous manpower available with the students because they form the most important community having influence in the family and also devoid of any vested interests. The central programme 'National Green Corps' is being pursued at school level ecoclubs. For strengthening the commitment of students at college level in the State, it is proposed to launch the 'Bhoo Mithra Sena' programme. Through this programme, it is intended to establish Bhoo Mithra Sena Clubs (BMSC) in all districts through the colleges of the State.
- b. Objectives
  - To encourage the college students appreciate environment and environmental issues of the locality
  - To provide environmental education opportunities for college students and involve them in addressing environmental issues of the locality
  - To utilize the enormous manpower available with college students as conduits for awareness of the society
  - To make students practice and advocate sustainable lifestyles
- c. Coverage: 'Bhoo Mithra Sena' will be supported in all colleges of higher education in the State
- d. Membership:
  - Selection will be based on first cum first serve basis for eight colleges in each district.
- e. Methodology:
  - The scheme shall be operated through 'Bhoo Mithra Sena clubs (BMSCs) to be formed in Participating Colleges(PCs)
  - Each such BMSC should have at least 25 student members, who show interest in environment related issues. There is no upper limit.
  - Each BMSC will be advised/ supervised by a Faculty-in-charge (FIC), who is selected from among the lecturers of the member college on the basis of his/ her interest in environment related issues by the Principal
  - Each BMSC will be provided with resource material in Malayalam apart from a lumpsum grant of Rs. 50,000/- for organising different activities (WHERE action components are a must, apart from awareness component). In

subsequent years an annual grant can be considered upto Rs 20,000/- based on performance.

- Directorate of Environment & Climate Change (DoECC) will coordinate the implementation of the scheme in the State.

f. Selection of participant clubs

- Criteria for selection of Colleges: All Government and Aided colleges and University campuses located within Kerala State shall be eligible to participate. Eight colleges from each district shall be selected on first cum first serve basis every year.
- Participants for BMSC in a college will be the students who are interested in environmental causes and are ready to contribute a token sum of Rs. 10/- per year for the BMSC.
- The National Service Scheme members will also be recognized as the members of the BMSC for the purpose of this programme.
- Existing Environment Committee/ eco clubs of the colleges shall also qualify for recognition as BMSC.

2. FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

- Each PC with a BMSC would be given an initial assistance of Rs. 50,000/- The student members of the BMSC and FIC would decide on using the sum for their activities in consultation with the Principal.
- Rs. 500/- per BMSC shall be earmarked for preparation/selection, printing and distribution of resource material.
- 10% of total annual expenditure on the scheme in the state shall be earmarked towards administrative expenses including unforeseen expenses.
- Instituting awards as follows shall also be considered subject to approval of Government:

(a) Best BMC : (This amount shall be given to the concerned participating College and the Principal may utilize the amount for undertaking any environment management action plan)

- First : Rs. 75,000/-
- Second : Rs. 50,000/-
- Third : Rs. 25,000/-

(b) Best FIC : (This amount shall be given to the concerned FIC and the FIC may utilize the amount as he/she may deem fit)

- First : Rs. 25,000/-
- Second : Rs. 15,000/-
- Third : Rs. 10,000/-

v. Fund-flow mechanism

- The grants and funds for the BMSCs will be released by DoECC to the Principal of the PC. This amount will be managed by the Colleges through a separate bank account exclusively for this purpose.

