

No. FAWL-L/1/2026-TreeCell/e-323873/ 5106

**GOVERNMENT OF NCT OF DELHI
DEPARTMENT OF FORESTS & WILDLIFE
A-BLOCK, 2ND FLOOR, VIKAS BHAWAN, I.P. ESTATE,
NEW DELHI – 110002.**

Dated:- 08/07/26

NOTICE

Sub: Inviting public comments on the Draft *Delhi Preservation of Trees (Agro-forestry and Exempted Plantation Species) Rules, 2026* to promote agro-forestry in the NCT of Delhi.

Whereas, experience in the implementation of the *Delhi Preservation of Trees Act, 1994* has shown that plantation and agro-forestry activities undertaken by private landowners on their own land, particularly involving fast-growing and commercially cultivated tree species, have not received adequate encouragement due to procedural requirements relating to permission for felling and transit of trees;

And whereas, the absence of a simplified, predictable and transparent regulatory framework has acted as a disincentive for individuals and landowners to undertake plantation on private land, as trees raised through human agency for agro-forestry or commercial purposes become difficult to harvest or utilise upon maturity;

And whereas, promotion of agro-forestry and plantation on private land is essential for increasing green cover, enhancing carbon sequestration, supplementing timber and biomass supply, reducing pressure on natural forests, supporting livelihoods, and contributing to climate-change mitigation and environmental sustainability;

And whereas, several States and Union Territories have adopted simplified regulatory mechanisms for plantation and agro-forestry species on private land, recognising the need to balance environmental protection with ease of doing business and encouragement of tree plantation outside forest areas;

And whereas, it is considered necessary to align the regulatory framework under the *Delhi Preservation of Trees Act, 1994* with the aforesaid policy objectives, national guidelines and best practices, while retaining appropriate safeguards to prevent misuse and to ensure protection of forests, ridge areas, and trees protected under law or court directions;

And whereas, the draft *Delhi Preservation of Trees (Agro-forestry and Exempted Plantation Species) Rules, 2026* have been prepared and are enclosed with this Notice;

And whereas, it has been decided to invite comments, suggestions and objections from the general public and all other stakeholders on the said draft Rules;

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Now, therefore, in view of the above, all citizens, stakeholders and concerned are requested to furnish their comments, suggestions or objections on the enclosed draft *Delhi Preservation of Trees (Agro-forestry and Exempted Plantation Species) Rules, 2026* by **30th July, 2026** through e-mail at:

dcfpm.gnctd@gov.in

Comments received after the stipulated date may not be considered.



Deputy Conservator of Forests (P&M)

GOVERNMENT OF NATIONAL CAPITAL TERRITORY OF DELHI
DEPARTMENT OF FORESTS AND WILDLIFE

DRAFT NOTIFICATION

Whereas the Delhi Preservation of Trees Act, 1994 (Delhi Act 11 of 1994) was enacted with the primary objective of conserving tree cover and protecting the environment in the National Capital Territory of Delhi;

And whereas, experience in the implementation of the said Act has shown that plantation and agro-forestry activities undertaken by private landowners on their own land, particularly involving fast-growing and commercially cultivated tree species, have not received adequate encouragement due to procedural requirements relating to permission for felling and transit of trees;

And whereas, the absence of a simplified, predictable and transparent regulatory framework has acted as a disincentive for individuals and landowners to undertake plantation on private land, as trees raised through human agency for agro-forestry or commercial purposes become difficult to harvest or utilise upon maturity;

And whereas, promotion of agro-forestry and plantation on private land is essential for increasing green cover, enhancing carbon sequestration, supplementing timber and biomass supply, reducing pressure on natural forests, supporting livelihoods, and contributing to climate-change mitigation and environmental sustainability;

And whereas, several States and Union Territories have adopted simplified regulatory mechanisms for plantation and agro-forestry species on private land, recognising the need to balance environmental protection with ease of doing business and encouragement of tree plantation outside forest areas;

And whereas, the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, Government of India, has circulated Model Rules and Guidelines for felling of trees in agricultural and private lands with the objective of promoting agro-forestry, reducing regulatory barriers, and ensuring safeguards through digital registration, traceability and verification mechanisms;

And whereas, it is considered necessary to align the regulatory framework under the Delhi Preservation of Trees Act, 1994 with the aforesaid policy objectives, national guidelines and best practices, while retaining appropriate safeguards to prevent misuse and to ensure protection of forests, ridge areas, and trees protected under law or court directions;

Now, therefore, in exercise of the powers conferred by section 29 and 34 of the Delhi Preservation of Trees Act, 1994 (Delhi Act 11 of 1994), and after previous publication as required under sub-section (1) of section 34 of the said Act, the Lieutenant Governor of the National Capital Territory of Delhi, being satisfied that it is necessary in the public interest so to do, hereby makes the following rules, namely:—

“DELHI PRESERVATION OF TREES (AGRO-FORESTRY AND EXEMPTED PLANTATION SPECIES) RULES, 2026”.

1. Short title and commencement.

(1) These rules may be called the Delhi Preservation of Trees (Agro-forestry and Exempted Plantation Species) Rules, 2026.

(2) They shall come into force on the date of their publication in the Official Gazette.

2. Application.

These rules shall apply to private land within the National Capital Territory of Delhi, other than land forming part of—

(a) forests, ridge areas or deemed forests; or

(b) any land in respect of which felling of trees is prohibited or restricted under any law for the time being in force or by order of any court or tribunal.

Explanation:- It is clarified that exemption/ deemed permission mechanism shall not be applicable in cases involving forest status disputes, ridge areas, environmental violations, compensatory afforestation obligation or subsisting judicial directions.

3. Definitions.

In these rules, unless the context otherwise requires,—

(a) “Act” means the Delhi Preservation of Trees Act, 1994;

(b) “tree” shall have the same meaning as assigned to it under clause (h) of section 2 of the Act;

(c) “private land” means agricultural land owned, held or lawfully possessed by an individual, family, trust, society or private entity and not vested in the Central Government, the Government of National Capital Territory of Delhi or any local authority;

(d) “plantation / agro-forestry” means trees raised by individual/entity on private land for timber, fuel, fodder, commercial, agricultural or soil-improvement purposes, including farm forestry and block plantations;

(e) “exempted plantation species” means such tree species specified in Schedule-I which are commercially cultivated or fast-growing plantation species and do not form part of natural forests or ridge ecosystems;

(f) “forest tree” means a naturally occurring tree forming part of forest or ridge ecosystems, irrespective of ownership;

(g) “felling” includes cutting, uprooting, lopping, pollarding or removal of a tree;

(h) “Tree Officer” means the Tree Officer appointed under section 3 of the Act;

(i) “portal” means the e-Forest portal of the Department of Forests and Wildlife, Government of the National Capital Territory of Delhi, accessible at <https://dpta.eforest.delhi.gov.in>, or any successor or integrated system.

4. Exemption from requirement of prior permission.

Notwithstanding anything contained in sections 5 and 6 of the Act, no prior permission shall be required for the felling, removal or disposal of trees of exempted plantation species situated on private land, subject to these rules.

5. Exempted plantation species.

The exempted plantation species for the purposes of these rules shall be those specified in Schedule-I.

SCHEDULE-I (See rule 3(e) and rule 5)

1. Poplar (*Populus deltoides*)
2. Safeda (*Eucalyptus* spp.)
3. Sejhana (*Moringa Oleifera*)
4. Gamari (*Gmelina arborea*)
5. Malabar Neem (*Melia dubia*)

6. Conditions and limitations.

The exemption under these rules shall not apply where—

- (a) the land is forest, ridge or deemed forest land; or
- (b) felling of trees is prohibited or restricted by any law, notification or order of any court or tribunal.

7. Registration of plantation.

- (1) The owner of private land shall register the plantation of exempted plantation species on the portal.
- (2) Registration shall include—
 - (a) ownership related document;
 - (b) geo-tagged photographs and KML file of the land; and
 - (c) species and number of trees.
- (3) Upon registration, the portal shall generate an automatic Plantation Registration Certificate.

8. Intimation and default permission for felling.

- (1) For felling of up to ten trees, the owner shall upload the Plantation Registration Certificate and geo-tagged photographs of the trees proposed to be felled and, upon such submission, where no objection is recorded, the Tree officer shall issue necessary permission within Seven working Days. Provided that any objection shall be based only on violation of these rules or any law or order of a court or tribunal.
- (2) For felling of more than ten trees, the owner shall submit an intimation on the portal and—
 - (a) the Tree Officer shall conduct a site inspection within fourteen working days from the date of submission; and
 - (b) where no objection is recorded within the said period, The Tree officer shall issue necessary permission within three weeks. Provided that any objection shall be based only on violation of these rules or any law or order of a court or tribunal.

9. Transit, transport and use.

- (1) Timber or produce obtained from exempted plantation species may be transported within or outside the National Capital Territory of Delhi without any separate transit permit.

(2) The felling permission issued by the Tree officer shall act as a valid transport document for the timber.

(3) Random verification may be undertaken to prevent misuse.

10. Exemption from compensatory plantation.

Trees felled in accordance with these rules shall not attract compensatory plantation under section 8 of the Act.

11. Savings.

Nothing in these rules shall apply to trees or plantations—

(a) specifically notified as protected under any law for the time being in force; or

(b) in respect of which felling of trees is prohibited or restricted by any order or direction of a court or tribunal.

12. Power to amend.

The Government may, in public interest, amend Schedule-I or procedural requirements under these rules by notification.

13. General savings.

Nothing in these rules shall affect the operation of any law relating to forests, environment or wildlife, or any binding direction of a court or tribunal.