

TOPIC: SELECTION AND PREPARATION OF NURSERY SITES.

Selection of nursery sites:

The size of land to be selected for nursery depends on –

- 1) Morphological characteristics of the plant species.
- 2) Size of the stock to be planted
- 3) The annual production target
- 4) Method of raising the seedlings
- 5) The degree of permanence of the site.

For intermediate nursery, the area actually occupied by the seedlings plus the access roads and storage sheds constitute the nursery area. In a permanent nursery, additional room has to be provided for crop rotation in order to maintain the organic matter and nutrient status of the soil. Where mechanical equipment is to be used, equipment maintenance and storage centers have to be provided for in the nursery.

Preparation of a nursery site:

Major operations in the preparation of a nursery site include –

- 1) Land clearing: Clear-fell for permanent nursery, while under-brushing and selective thinning of trees are the required operations in temporary nurseries.
- 2) Removal of all plant stubbles and / or trash and burn them at a demarcated incinerator. All other debris must be packed off the plot.
- 3) Leveling the site: This should be carried out before laying out operations. This is majorly, not to give room for erosion.
- 4) Laying out of the site in accordance with plan.

5) Establishment of windbreaks. These may include leguminous trees because of their immense agricultural advantages. Other shade-providing trees may be used provided such trees can provide required shade density during the dry season / drought outbreaks.

6) Fencing the nursery. The entire nursery may be fenced if compelling factors (like theft or marauders) exist in the area. If raising seedlings with epigeal germination, fencing within the nursery may be necessary in order to keep off the rodents that may want to feed on the cotyledons of the germinating seedlings.

Erection of major installations: These may involve storage sheds, farm house, incinerators, pipes for sprinkler irrigation etc.