

# 'Cut farmland trees only after permission'

TNN | Apr 21, 2023, 08.50 AM IST



Kolhapur: Deputy conservator of forests for Kolhapur G Guruprasad has appealed to farmers from the district to apply for permission before cutting trees in their farmlands so that they can get good rates for them as firewood.

Permissions for non-tribal applicants to cut trees in non-urban areas of the forest department under the Maharashtra Tree Felling Act, 1964, and Maharashtra Forest Rules, 2014, can be received by applying online on the forest department website [www.mahaforest.gov.in/forestportal](http://www.mahaforest.gov.in/forestportal). If the farmers fill up the online form and submit it to the range forest officer from the concerned tehsils, they can get permission for cutting down these

trees as per the Maharashtra Public Service Rights Act, 2015.

Guruprasad said, "The farming class fulfills their basic needs by farming, and earns their livelihood by selling trees in their land. However, they get a very low price by selling these trees to traders. If the farmers sell their wood directly in the market instead of selling it to traders, they can get a good price. For firewood, there are markets available in Kolhapur and Belgaum districts. Both district have demand for firewood that is used for brick kilns. At Ichalkaranji in Kolhapur district, firewood has huge demand for textile industry/sizing. A truck loaded with 20 to 25 cubic meters of wood can fetch Rs70-80 thousand. Also, they can sell the timber to saw mills in the district to get a good price."

"If one tree is felled after getting permission, one tree needs to be planted in the rainy season to help maintain the ecological balance," he added.