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Dear *Colleagues*

In order to provide a comprehensive opportunity for all round development of rural areas, the Department of Rural Development, GOI in convergence with Department of Animal Husbandry & Dairying (DAHD), GOI has formulated joint guidelines for undertaking fodder development works.

These Joint Guidelines for Convergence of activities of Department of Animal Husbandry & Dairying (DAHD) and Department of Rural Development, GOI to promote fodder farms is enclosed.

I shall be grateful if the Animal Husbandry Departments of all State/UTs could prioritise these works as per the guidelines of the Schemes.

With Regards,

Yours sincerely

O.P. Chaudhary
(O.P.Chaudhary)

To

Additional Chief Secretary/Secretary/Pr. Secretary,AH & VS (All States/UTs)

Commissioner / Director, AH & VS (All States/UTs)

Joint Guidelines for Convergence with Department of Animal Husbandry & Dairying (DAHD) and Department of Rural Development, Government of India to promote fodder farms.

1. Background

Animal Husbandry and Dairying (AHD) constitutes a major employment activity in rural areas and 9.2 Crore farmers are dependent on it. AHD is a fast-growing sector of the economy with a CAGR of above 8.3% for the last five years. Optimal development of AHD activities within the village would result in reduced dependence of rural landless and small and marginal farmers on wage labour for sustenance and will also provide a number of livelihood opportunities for self-employment.

The proviso below Sub Para (2) of Para 4 of Schedule I of Mahatma Gandhi NREG Act, lays down that, "the District Programme Coordinator shall ensure that at least 60% of the works to be taken up in a district in terms of cost shall be for creation of productive assets directly linked to agriculture and allied activities through development of land, water and trees." This has been emphasized again in the Union Budget 2020-21, in which besides other activities, MGNREGS is to be dovetailed to develop fodder farms also Para 23(13) of Budget speech for FY 2020-21).

In order to provide a comprehensive opportunity for all round development of rural areas, the Department of Rural Development, Government of India in convergence with Department of Animal Husbandry & Dairying (DAHD), Government of India has formulated the present guidelines for undertaking fodder development works.

2. Role of Mahatma Gandhi NREGA, Department of Rural Development

Mahatma Gandhi NREGA is a demand driven programme. Under this programme, presently, out of 261 permissible works, a number of works promote animal husbandry and dairying activities in the rural areas. Some of these works may be taken up on the private land of individual household (as per Para 5 of Schedule - I of Mahatma Gandhi NREG Act) while some can be undertaken on community land i.e. on Government /Gram Panchayat land, which are as follows:-

- i. Construction of cattle, goat, piggery and poultry live stock shelter for individuals and community
- ii. Construction of agricultural produce storage for SHG and food grain storage building for community
- iii. Village/Rural haat at the community
- iv. Construction of compost, vermi-compost, NADEP and Berkeley compost pits for individual and community

- v. Creation of infrastructure for irrigation facilities to promote livestock farms and cattle shelters (pipe line network, bore well / tube well for assured water supply not permitted)
- vi. Infrastructure facilities for Azolla cultivation for individual and community.
- vii. Development of pasture lands or Silvi-pasture: For development of pasture lands and for drought proofing, plantation of fodder trees or horticulture plants or a mix and perennial grasses like Anjan (*Cenchrus ciliaris*), Fox tail grass (*Chloris gayana*), Napier (*Pennisetum purpureum*) or any appropriate legumes like Stylo etc. approved by the concerned department of the State can be taken up under MGNREGS on both individual and community land. This should be done in consultation with the concerned technical departments. This activity shall be taken up only once in a particular land in consultation with the concerned technical Departments. (Para 7.6.11 of Annual Master Circular 2019-20). One time expenditure on seeds / saplings for plantation of fodder trees or horticulture plants or a mix thereof and perennial grasses like Anjan (*Cenchrus ciliaris*), Fox tail grass (*Chloris Gayana*), Napier (*Pennisetum Purpureum*) or any appropriate legumes like Stylo etc. approved by the concerned department of the State is permitted for pasture land development.

3. Role of Department of Animal Husbandry and Dairying (DAHD), Government of India and State Animal Husbandry Departments

3.1 The Department of Animal Husbandry and Dairying (DAHD), Government of India is responsible for matters relating to livestock production, dairy development, preservation, protection from diseases and improvement of stocks and fodder development. DAHD and the State AHD department will provide the following support:

- i. Technical assistance for promoting fodder development and identifying animal husbandry & dairying related activities from the permissible list of works under Mahatma Gandhi NREGA in consultation with Districts Officials / Milk unions/ SHGs/ Departments/NRLM.
- ii. Providing financial assistance or linkages for successful utilization of the infrastructure created for AHD under Mahatma Gandhi NREGS.
- iii. Identification of Panchayats for development of fodder farms for individuals and community use in Aspirational and other districts. For Fodder development, DAHD will map fodder scarce districts and blocks and provide the list to MORD/States. In all aspirational districts which are fodder scarce, 100 Panchayats will be earmarked every year for the next three years, for taking up fodder development. In other districts, the state specific strategy will be formulated in consultation with RD officials.
- iv. Identification of individual beneficiaries (as per Para 5 of the Schedule- I of Mahatma Gandhi NREG Act) by Programme implementation Agency (PIA) under Mahatma Gandhi NREGS. For example, Milk Unions may be involved to provide a list of farmers associated with it, for whom cattle shed is to be constructed. They can also help in identification of farmers interested in green fodder or Azolla cultivation. The list is to be provided to Gram Sabha for

consideration at the time of finalization/approval of Annual Action Plan. The decision of gram Sabha will be final.

3.2 Monitoring & Co-ordination

- i. Nodal Officer from DAHD will be responsible and assigned task of exploring potential of development of fodder within the State and Districts including review of progress and submission of progress reports against the original plan to the Gol.
- ii. At State level, the progress of fodder production works should be monitored by the already existing State Level Coordination Committee (SLCC) for convergence headed by Chief Secretary. At the end of the year, the nodal officer should put up the progress report showing achievements against the original coordination plan to the SLCC, who in turn would send a report to Government of India.
- iii. At District level, the monitoring of fodder production works should be done by the already existing District Level Coordination Committee (DLCC) for convergence, headed by the Collector/DPC.
- iv. Joint awareness meetings should be held in the village for SHG members for the activities chosen under convergence program such as popularization of dairy activities and for dairy farmers for benefits available to them under Mahatma Gandhi NREGA. These meetings should also be utilized for popularizing dairying among SHGs as well as other AH activities such as poultry.

4. It should be ensured that only permissible works under Mahatma Gandhi NREGS are taken up after following due process. Therefore, following points need to adhered:

- i. The relevant provisions mentioned in Paragraph- 5 of the Schedule – I of the Act need to adhered to in selection and prioritizing individual beneficiaries.
- ii. All non-negotiable under Mahatma Gandhi NREGS will be followed while taking up activities for promotion of fodder farms, animal husbandry and dairying.
- iii. Linkage of providing cattle with cattle sheds to be ensured before planning and execution of these works.
- iv. Providing material assistance for topping up the material expenditure under convergence with other schemes.
- v. The cost of material component including the wages of the skilled and semi-skilled workers shall not exceed forty percent at the District level.
- vi. The proviso below Sub Para (2) of Para 4 of Schedule I of Mahatma Gandhi NREG Act, lays down that, "Provided that the District Programme Coordinator shall ensure that at least 60% of the works to be taken up in a district in terms of cost shall be for creation of productive assets directly linked to agriculture and allied activities through development of land, water and trees." With the thrust on development of livelihoods, works prioritised in the convergent planning process for individual beneficiaries will be given priority.

5. The States / UTs are requested to prioritise these works after following due process of consultation in accordance with guidelines of Schemes.

Yours sincerely,



(Atul Chaturvedi)
Secretary (AHD)



(Nagendra Nath Sinha)
Secretary (RD)