

**PROCEEDING OF STATE LEVEL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE (SLEC) MEETING  
OF NATIONAL MISSION ON SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE (NMSA)  
HELD ON 5<sup>TH</sup> JULY, 2016 FOR DISCUSSION ON MISSION  
ORGANIC VALUE CHAIN (MOV) IN ASSAM**

**DATE** : 5<sup>TH</sup> JULY, 2016  
**TIME** : 4.00 P.M  
**VENUE** : CONFERENCE HALL OF ADDITIONAL CHIEF SECRETARY,  
AGRICULTURE & APC, GOVT. OF ASSAM, CM BLOCK, DISPUR,  
GUWAHATI-6

**Members Present :**

Sl. No.	Name	Designation
1	Sri V. B. Pyarelal, IAS	Addl. Chief secretary & APC & Chairman, SLEC, NMSA
2	Sri Amlan Baruah, IAS	Commissioner & Secretary, Agriculture, Assam
3	Sri Bhabendra Nath Saikia	Director of Agriculture, Assam
4	Sri Prabin Kr. Hazarika	Director of Horticulture & Food Processing, Assam
5	Dr. Sarat Saika	Chief Scientist, HRS, Kahikuchi
6	Sri Anil Kr. Bhuyan	Superintendent Engineer (Agri)
7	Sri Manjeet Talukdar	Chief Executive Officer, ASFAC
8	Sri Rabin Ch. Doley	Joint Director of Agriculture
9	Dr. Pranab Kr. Mahanta	Deputy Director of Agriculture ( Hort)
10	Sri Pritam Baruah	Asst Director of Agriculture, ASFAC
11	Sr Khagendra Sarmah	SDAO ( Horticulture)

The State Level executive Committee meeting of National Mission on Sustainable Agriculture (NMSA) to discuss various issues regarding implementation of "Mission Organic Value Chain Development in Assam" was held in the Office Chamber of Additional Chief Secretary & APC, Government of Assam, Dispur, on 5<sup>th</sup> July 2016 under the Chairmanship of Additional Chief secretary & APC, Agriculture department, Assam.

The Chairman welcomed all the members present and requested the Director of Horticulture & Food Processing, Assam to brief the objectives of the meeting.

**Discussing the Agenda Item No-1 on "Mission Organic Value Chain Development in Assam"** Director of Horticulture & Food Processing, Assam informed that Government of India, Ministry of Agriculture, Farmers Welfare & Co-operation, New Delhi has launched a project under the title of "Mission Organic Value Chain Development in NER" to be implemented during the 12<sup>th</sup> five year plan period. The scheme is under "National Mission of Sustainable Agriculture" (NMSA). Govt. of India has allotted an amount of Rs. 2439.30 Lakh

for the year 2015-16 as 100% Central Share and already released an amount of Rs. 2207.32 Lakh in April, 2016, which has already been deposited at ASFAC account. Administrative approval for an amount of Rs. 1052.43 Lakh has also been obtained for the financial year 2016-17. The Committee discussed the matter and as the fund is already available at ASFAC, the components are be prioritized and implemented accordingly, following the guideline of the scheme.

**Discussing the Agenda Item No 2:** The Committee considered the proposal of Director of Horticulture & FP, Assam, to implement the following components during 1<sup>st</sup> phase, and approved accordingly.

Approved list of activities along with the physical and financial target

Sl. No.	Component	Provision (Rs. Lakhs)	Allocation during 2015-16	
			Physical	Financial (Rs. in lakh)
A. Value Chain Production				
A1. Development of Organic Production Clusters				
A.1.1.	Clusters development and formation of Farmer producer Companies, as per SFAC norms. For 10 FPCs each comprising of 400 farmers @ Rs. 20.375 lakh/FPC Rs. 4075/- per farmer maximum as per SFAC Guidelines	Rs. 20.375 lakh/FPC of 500 farmers	10 FPC (4000 farmers)	163.00
A.1.2	Assistance on-farm input production infrastructure (@ Rs 3750/ha/year) x 2 years. Subject to maximum of 2 ha per beneficiary. For development of facilities for liquid manures, botanical extracts and vermicompost etc.)	3750/ha/yr	5000 ha	375.00
A.1.2.1	Assistance for off-farm inputs (@ Rs 3750/ha/year) for two years subject to maximum of 2 ha per beneficiary. For purchase of liquid biofertilizers, liquid biopesticides, PROM, neem cake, neem oil etc.	3750/ha/yr	5000 ha	375.00
A.1.3	Assistance for quality seed and planting material (50% of maximum 35000/ha limited to the actual cost as per crop). Provide details of crops, seed/planting material and plan for procurement/production	17500/ha	5000 ha	700.00
<b>Sub Total (A1)</b>				<b>1613.00</b>

11.7.16

### Discussion on Clusters development/Formation of FPO as per Agenda

**Item No: 3:** Director of Horticulture & Food Processing, Assam informed that as per approved AAP; 10 (ten) Cluster's of Commodities are to be identified for formation of FPO's and to undertake different activities of organic farming like organic adoption, on-farm & off-farm input management, cultivation of selected crops as per market demand, organic certification and ultimately market linkage. The list of FPO's proposed under the scheme was placed for discussion and approval as below:

Sl. No.	District	Crop	No. of FPC targeted	Area (in Ha.)
1	Sonitpur	Vegetable	1	500
2	Dhemaji	Red Rice/ Vegetables	1	500
3	Golaghat	Vegetable/Ginger	1	500
4	Goalghat	Chilli/Turmeric/Ginger	1	500
5	Jorhat	Red Rice/Spices	1	500
6	Kamrup	Pine Apple/Orange/ Black Pepper/Ginger	1	500
7	Chirang	Pine Apple/Banana	1	500
8	Cachar	Pine Apple/Banana	1	500
9	Nalbari	Vegetable/ Chilli	1	500
10	Kokrajhar	Pine Apple/Ginger	1	500
Total -			10Nos.	5000Ha

The committee discussed and approved the list of 10 (ten) FPOs with locations, as proposed under Agenda Item no.3. The Chairman stressed that FPOs in states like Maharashtra have played an important role in Agri-Horti produced marketing and in the same light the FPO<sup>s</sup> in Assam should also be promoted. He also advised the Director of Horticulture to entrust the responsibility to form FPO in the state to a senior officer, as well as <sup>Also</sup> each FPO of the above list should have one Nodal Officer from each ~~concerned~~ <sup>concerned</sup> district who will be responsible for implementation of the programme, so that the FPOs can be made self sustainable.

The matter regarding formation of FPO's by engaging suitable Resource Institute (RI)/Resource Agencies (RA), were also discussed and it was decided that the RI/RA should have experience in (i) formation of FPO , (ii) Organic Certification and (iii) development of market linkage of organic commodities, for

sustainability of the scheme. As the role of FPOs/FPCs in development of Agri-Horti sector is very important, the Chairman advised that RI/RA should be selected in a transparent manner so that they can compete <sup>with</sup> each other to make the FPO movement ~~a~~ successful ~~one~~. The committee decided to select the RI/RA having national reputation; who are empanelled with the SFAC by floating EoI/Tendering process. The RI/RA will arrange for Organic certification of the FPOs through appropriate Certification bodies.

The Committee discussed the draft EoI/Tender document placed before the Committee by the Director Horticulture & FP, Assam, and it was advised by the committee to route the draft EoI/Tender document through the FAO/ FA of the Department so that it complies with the Financial rules & regulations.

Regarding the proposal on implementation of components like **On-farm & Off-farm input production at Agenda Item No: 4** : Director of Horticulture & Food Processing, Assam informed that as per AAP, Govt. of India has earmarked an amount of Rs. 375.00 lakh for Assistance <sup>for</sup> on-farm input production infrastructure @ Rs 3750/ha/year) x 2 years. Subject to <sup>R</sup> maximum of 2 ha per beneficiary for development of facilities for liquid manures, botanical extracts, ~~and~~ vermicompost, etc. and another Rs. 375.00 lakh for Assistance for off-farm inputs (@ Rs 3750/ha/year) for two years subject to maximum of 2 ha per beneficiary, for purchase of liquid biofertilizers, liquid biopesticides, PROM, neem cake, neem oil, etc. It was also informed that as per Guideline, Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT) for the amount earmarked against these two components are to be followed. The proposal for payment of Rs. 375.00 lakh for DBT under the component of On-farm input production, upon completion of works, by the selected beneficiaries of the FPO's was discussed and approved by the Committee.

The proposal of DBT of Rs 375.00 lakh under the component of Off-farm input distribution was also discussed and the proposal was approved subject to the condition that DBT should be done only after purchase of the Off-farm inputs by the beneficiaries/ members of the FPOs.

**Regarding the Agenda Item No: 5:** on the proposal on implementation of Seed /Planting material components, Director of Horticulture & FP, Assam informed that as per AAP, Govt. of India has earmarked an amount of Rs. 700.00 lakh for Assistance for quality seed and planting material (50% of maximum 35000/ha limited to the actual cost as per crop). As organic cultivation needs organic source for the seeds/planting material to be used in the project and most of the varieties are local, instead of outside source; it was proposed to arrange

open pollinated seeds of vegetables and locally available planting material which are organic in nature. The Committee advised to make arrangement of seeds/planting materials to the FPO members, if needed, utilizing the service of the National Seed Corporation/Assam Seed Corporation Ltd. and to make the payment to the selected beneficiaries/ members of FPOs. Though it is not mentioned in the guideline to arrange for DBT in this component of the scheme, because of direct purchase, but it was decided in the meeting that for purchasing the seed/ planting materials, DBT arrangement should be followed, if possible.

While implementing the component, the Committee advised to arrange for a sustainable seed/ planting materials supply chain engaging the FPOs, so that they need not have to depend for outside <sup>sourcing</sup> source of seed/ planting materials in future.

**Discussing the Agenda Item No: 6:** on formation of "Assam Organic Mission" the Committee approved the proposal and advised to initiate work for the Mission in the light of Sikkim Organic Mission. It was also decided in the meeting that all the Organic schemes/ programme of the department, should come under single umbrella "Assam Organic Mission", which will be responsible for converting Assam as the Organic hub of NER. The Committee also felt that a team of Officers should visit to Sikkim to gather first-hand knowledge on formation and working of Sikkim Organic Mission and asked the Director of Horticulture & FP, Assam to place the proposal. Regarding the proposal of setting up of "Assam Organic Certification Body", the Committee decided to discuss the matter with the ASSCA and other organizations and requested to place the proposal in the next meeting.

**Agenda Item No: 7:** Director of Horticulture & FP, informed that as per approved AAP there is provision of Rs. 55.92 lakh for contractual staff, manpower, travel & contingencies, institutional strengthening and hire/purchase of machinery & equipments. For smooth functioning of the scheme, there is immediate need of contractual staff like Consultant and Data Entry Operator. Besides, to meet the day to day expenditures, travelling expenses, etc. the fund release proposal under the component of D.1.1 of AAP was discussed and approved by the Committee as below:

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11.7.16

Sl. No.	Item of expenditure	Amount ( Rs. in lakh)
1	Payment to the data entry operators, Consultant	7.38
2	Internet Connection etc. at HQ	0.42
3	Purchasing of Laptop, Hard ware & Soft Ware, projector, digital camera, etc.	4.00
4	Stationery	2.00
5	Travelling allowances for attending meeting in Delhi and within the state, TA, Contingencies for Districts	3.50
6	Hiring of vehicles for monitoring and field visit	1.50
7	Other maintenance expenditure of Mission Office	2.50
<b>Total-</b>		<b>21.30</b>

**Discussing the Agenda Item No: 8 :** On engagement of Contractual staff like Data Entry Operator, Consultant etc, the Committee advised the Director of Horticulture to engage such manpower in a transparent manner till the project period only. The required qualification for the Consultant and DEO should be as follows -

Post	Qualification	Remuneration
Consultant	Graduate in Agri with experience in Organic Certification	Rs. 50,000.00 /PM
Data entry Operator	Degree/ Diploma in IT/ Computer Science with Experience in Govt/ <del>environment specially in Agril/ Horti Deptt.</del> <i>Semi Govt sta establishment</i>	Rs. 12,000.00/PM

The Committee advised that since the service of Data entry operator will be of immediate need, walk-in interview for Data entry operator and advertisement for Consultant may be done.

Discussing the other items, the Committee decided to involve Spice Development Agency in Organic Value Chain Development in near future if the proposal is found to be feasible.

The meeting ended with thanks to the Chair.

*Sri V. B. Pyarelal*  
11.7.16

Sri V. B. Pyarelal, IAS  
Additional Chief Secretary & APC  
Cum Chairman, SLEC, NMSA