Central Sector Scheme On Promotion And Strengthening Of Agricultural Mechanization Through Training, Testing And Demonstration

1. Background of the Scheme:

Promotion and Strengthening of Agricultural Mechanisation is an ongoing Central Sector Scheme and during XI plan period the scheme has been modified, for more effective implementation while maintaining existing funding pattern. The scheme aims at promotion of agricultural mechanisation through popularising new technology based equipment, human resources development in field of agricultural mechanisation and quality improvement of machines and equipment. The scheme has the following five major components during XI Plan period, out of which fifth component is new.

(i) Human resource development in field of farm mechanisation through existing FMTTIIs.
(ii) Testing of agricultural machines and equipments for their performance evaluation and quality up-gradation through existing FMTTIIs.
(iii) Demonstration of newly developed agricultural/horticultural equipments at farmers’ fields.
(iv) Training of farmers by outsourcing the training.
(v) Establishment of parallel line for testing for tractors at CFMTTI, Budni (MP) (New component).

2. Operational Guidelines:

2.1 Human resource development in the field of farm mechanization through the existing Farm Machinery Training & Testing Institutes.
Farm Machinery Training & Testing Institutes at Budni (MP), Hissar (Harana), Garladinne (AP) and Biswanath Chariali (Assam) will continue to train farmers, trainers, and officials of State Governments, Entrepreneurs and manufacturers etc. in field of agricultural mechanization as per restructured training programmes, at Annexure I.

Trainees admitted under User Level Courses will be paid stipend @ Rs. 1200/- per month per trainee to cover boarding expenses for a month and to defray to and fro travel expenditure, on actual basis by ordinary mode of transport. For eligibility of admission to various training programmes, training calendar and course-wise technical details etc. Directors of these Institutes may be contacted at following addresses. Details of websites of these institutes are available at URL stated against each.

Objectives:
(i) Test efficacy of implements/machines at farmers’ fields.
(ii) Performance and acceptability assessment of implements and machines, covered under the programme.
(iii) Introduction of improved/newly developed agricultural implements and machines in crop production system.

2.3.2 Basic Considerations:
(i) Demonstrations under the Scheme will be organized by ICAR, and State Government’s organizations. Government of India will provide 100% assistance for procurement of implements/machines and contingency expenditure, as per norms.

(ii) ICAR and State Governments shall identify equipments and machines suitable for region and shall forward detailed proposal indicating cost of implement/machine, number of units required and total requirement of funds indicating contingency expenditure separately based on number of demonstrations to be conducted.

(iii) During demonstrations, acceptability of agricultural implements/machines among the farmers shall be assessed.

(iv) Each demonstration shall cover a minimum area of 0.40 ha or one hour as the case may be. Demonstration shall be organized in a project area concept. For hilly areas minimum size of plot will be 0.20 ha.

(v) Demonstration site should be accessible easily to other farmers of neighboring villages and to extension workers coming from different locations.

(vi) As far as possible, owner of demonstration site will be a progressive farmer.

(vii) Expenditure to be incurred on purchase of equipment/machine by each State Government/Implementing Agency will be within overall sanctioned amount by Government of India as per Store Purchase Rules of respective Stat Government/Implementing Agency.

(viii) Contingency expenditure for hiring of prime mover, wherever necessary, transport cost of equipment and attachments, cost of inputs, publicity, printing of handouts containing technical information of equipment selected for demonstration and other expenditure which is considered necessary for conduct of demonstrations may be included in proposal. Expenditure towards recruitment of staff, TA/DA for staff, deputed for demonstrations, will not form part of contingency expenditure.

(ix) Contingency expenditures for conduct of demonstrations under the scheme, will be assessed by respective State Government/Implementing Agency and proposal submitted to Government of India for approval at beginning of each year. Expenditure on demonstration will be met out of approved funds. Strict economy will be achieved in incurring contingency expenditure. However total contingency expenditure per demonstration will not exceed following maximum limit

**Implementation:**

(i) All demonstrations will be carried out, under close supervision of Implementing Agency which will record observations of all important events so that same may form feedback for State Government, Central Government and research organizations.

(ii) Concerned technical officer will keep records of expenses, incurred for demonstration.

(iii) When demonstrations have been completed, analysis shall be made to bring out cost effectiveness and benefits of technology over previous/traditional technology.

(iv) No expenditure will be met from the scheme for recruitment of staff, purchase of tractor/power tiller, computer, video camera, etc. or for any of infrastructural development.

(v) The scheme has been sanctioned for Eleventh Plan Period during which Government of India will provide funds, but in event of discontinuance of Scheme, during Plan Period no funds from Government of India will be available but in case States feel need for continuation of such demonstrations further, expenditure will be met by respective State Government.

(vi) State Governments/Other implementing agencies will ensure completion of targeted number of demonstrations fixed for the year.

(vii) Expenditures towards repair and maintenance of equipments/machines under the scheme shall be met by the concerned State Government/Other Implementing Agency and/or from contingency amount.
(viii) Procurement of equipments/machines under the scheme will be made by concerned
State Government/Other Implementing Agency, as per prevailing Financial/Store Purchase
Rules.
(ix) Equipments/machines procured under the scheme will be part of inventory of State
Government/Other Implementing Agency and necessary store purchase procedures/rules
will be followed, in this regard.
(x) Annual Audited Statement of account together with certificate of actual utilization of
grants received by State Government/Other Implementing Agency will be submitted to
Department of Agriculture & Cooperation, Government of India, within one month of
expiry of financial year in format as at Annexure V.
(xi) Financial and physical progress will be submitted by State Government for every
quarter. Quarterly progress report shall be submitted by State government/Other
Implementing Agency in format given in Annexure IV.
(xii) No fresh funds will be released unless Utilization Certificate for earlier releases is
submitted by State Government.
(xiii) State Government/Other implementing Agency shall ensure that 16% beneficiaries
under scheme belong to SC category, 8% to ST category and 30% women as per
Government of India guidelines.

2.3.4 Supervision:
(i) State Department of Agriculture/ Other Implementing Agency concerned will ensure
effective implementation and supervision of Scheme by officers specially designated for
the purpose. Officers from Farm Machinery Training and Testing Institute at Budni (M.P.),
Hissar (Haryana), Garladinne (A.P.), Biswanath Chariali (Assam) and officers from the
Ministry of Agriculture shall be undertaking random visits to see actual demonstration and
assess performance of equipment demonstrated and their acceptability among farmers.
(ii) Success story of demonstrations will be published in popular journals/periodicals for
the benefits of other farmers in the State and also for farmers of other States.

2.4 Training of farmers by outsourcing the training.

2.4.1 Objectives:
(i) Supplement efforts of FMTTIs in human resource development and to train large
number of farmers at nearby places.
(ii) Develop and improve upon technical know-how of users of agricultural implements
and machines for its proper and effective utilization.

2.4.2 Basic Considerations:
(i) Training programmes will be conducted through institutions identified by State
Governments such as SAUs, Agricultural Engineering colleges, ICAR institutions,
polytechnics, etc.
(ii) Institutions identified for training should have adequate infrastructure/machinery and
equipments for organising the training programmes.
(iii) Identified institutions shall conduct the User level training programmes (U1 to U12) as
given in Annexure I in batches of 20 to 25 farmers.
(iv) Financial assistance @ Rs5200/- per farmer per month will be provided to institutions
identified for training of farmers which includes stipend of Rs. 1200/- per farmer per week
of training, actual to and fro travel expenses by ordinary mode of transport in ordinary
class, upto maximum of Rs. 300/- per farmer, boarding and Lodging Charges @ Rs. 1200/-
per farmer per month and Institutional charges (including stationary, training material,
honorarium) @ Rs. 2500/- per farmer per month.
Financial assistance except travel expenses will be proportionate to duration of training. For example, for one week of training, stipend, boarding & lodging charges and institutional charges would be @ 25% of monthly amount plus actual travel expenses not more than Rs. 300(maximum).

(vi) Detailed proposal for actual trainings shall be submitted by implementing agencies to DAC through their controlling agencies, indicating name of course, duration of course, number of courses proposed to be organised, number of trainees in each batch and requirement of funds, as per format at Annexure VI.

(vii) Proposals received from implementing agencies shall be examined by a Technical Committee comprising officials from DAC and ICAR and accordingly funds will be released to implementing agencies.

(viii) Once the institution is identified for training, training calendar for the year shall be prepared by the institution, for wider circulation.

(ix) Implementing agency shall ensure that 16% beneficiaries under the scheme belong to SC category, 8% to ST category and 30% women as per Government of India guidelines. Yearly and quarterly progress report shall be submitted by implementing agency, in format at Annexure VII.

(x) Annual Audited Statement of account together with certificate of actual utilization of grants received by implementing agency will be submitted to Department of Agriculture & Cooperation, Government of India, within one month of expiry of financial year as per format at Annexure V. No fresh funds will be released unless Utilization Certificate for earlier releases is submitted by implementing agency.

2.5 Establishment of parallel line of testing for tractors at CFMTTI, Budni (MP) (New component).

2.5.1 Objectives:
(i) Create parallel infrastructure for laboratory testing of tractors at Budni in order to cut down waiting time and time of testing of tractors.
(ii) Upgrade and modernize existing infrastructure to meet International Standards.

2.5.2 Basic Considerations:
(xi) Establishment of parallel test line at CFMTTI Budni will be implemented by Budni institute under administrative control of Mechanization & Technology Division, Department of Agriculture & Cooperation.

(xii) Technical committee constituted by Department for implementation of parallel test line shall monitor activities under this project.