

DIRECTORATE OF AGRICULTURE AND FOOD PRODUCTION, ODISHA, BHUBANEWSAR

Letter No- 15(08)29/2018-30749 Date:- 01.11.2018

To

The Deputy Director of Agriculture cum Project Director ATMA.  
Bolangir/ Gajapati/ Kandhamal/ Kalahandi/ Koraput/ Malkanagiri/ Mayurbhanj/ Nuapada/  
Rayagada/ Sundergarh.

Sub.: Proceedings of the Review meeting of "Special Programme for Promotion of Millets in Tribal Areas (Odisha Millets Mission)" held at IMAGE on October 25<sup>th</sup> 2018.

Sir,

With reference to the captioned subject, enclosed please find herewith the Proceedings of the Review meeting of "Special Programme for Promotion of Millets in Tribal Areas (Odisha Millets Mission)" held at IMAGE on October 25<sup>th</sup> 2018 under the chairmanship of Director of Agriculture & Food Production, Odisha. And you are requested to act accordingly.

This is for your information and necessary action.

Yours faithfully,

Director of Agriculture and Food Production,  
Odisha, Bhubaneswar

Memo No- 30750

Dated- 01.11.2018

Copy forwarded to Director, NCDS, Bhubaneswar and Programme Secretariat (WASSAN) for information and necessary action and is requested to act accordingly.

Director of Agriculture and Food Production,  
Odisha, Bhubaneswar

Memo No- 30751

Dated- 01.11.2018

Copy submitted to the Principal Secretary to Govt. Agriculture & Farmers' Empowerment Department, Odisha, Bhubaneswar for favor of kind information.

Director of Agriculture and Food Production,  
Odisha, Bhubaneswar

**Proceeding of the one day state level review meeting on implementation of  
Special Programme for promotion of millets in tribal areas (Odisha Millets Mission)  
held on 25<sup>th</sup> October 2018 at IMAGE, Bhubaneswar.**

A one day state level review meeting on implementation of Special Programme for promotion of millets in tribal areas (Odisha Millets Mission) was held on 25<sup>th</sup> October 2018 at IMAGE, Bhubaneswar under the Chairmanship of Director of Agriculture and Food Production, Odisha. Objective of the meeting was to review the progress of the implementation of Odisha Millets Mission (OMM) and identify different issues arising during the course of implementation of the programme.

After self-introduction, The Joint Director Agriculture (Millet), Odisha Millet Mission, said that OMM is a top priority programme for Government of Odisha. The focus of the programme is to improve the production and consumption of millets through different activities. Government of Odisha has also taken a historic decision to include the millets in state nutrition schemes and public distribution system. Though many strides have been made in the Odisha Millets Mission, many problems especially related to fund releases needs to be resolved.

Director, NCDS, Bhubaneswar and Joint Director Agriculture, Millet Mission also shared experiences in OMM.

Progress of Odisha Millets Mission was presented by State Coordinator, Programme Secretariat (WASSAN) on following subjects:

1. Target Vs Achievement of the Capacity building (CB) for FY 2017-18 & 2018-19.
2. Target Vs Achievement of area coverage for FY 2018-19.
3. Status of purchase of implements for custom hiring centres.
4. Status of selection of entrepreneurs for processing machines.
5. Status of selection of nodal agency for seed centres.
6. Status of submission of final farmer list for FY 2018-19.
7. Status of DBT for FY 2018-19.
8. Timeline of fund releases for FAs, CBO in FY 2017-18 & FY 2018-19.
9. Status of fund releases for FAs, CBO in FY 2017-18 & FY 2018-19.
10. Status of registration of farmers for Ragi procurement for KMS 2018-19.
11. Issues and challenges in implementation of project and procurement activities.
12. Issues related to bills and vouchers.

Detailed discussion took place on the each of the activities after the presentation.

Representatives of FA have said that fund releases are delayed by more than 6 months. Time gap between proposed fund release month and actual release of payment is more than 6 months. In case of districts such as Kandhamal, delay is more than 10 months.

As there is late release of funds, some of the programme components are not achieved as per target. It is suggested that salaries of FA staffs and CRPs may be delinked from the 70% mandatory fund utilisation. If targets still don't get achieved, then MoA may not be signed with concerned FA.

Funds for the new 25 extended blocks have not been released yet. The JDA Millet Mission said that all efforts are being made to release the necessary funds as soon as possible.

During 2017-18 the achievement was very low. Only 3334 Ha achieved against the target of 5488 ha ( @ 196 ha x 28 blocks). Highest achievement was in case of Nuapada with 75% while lowest achievement was in Koraput district. Representatives of FA said that due to delayed fund release achievement were less.

During 2018-19 as against a target of 16,000 Hac, The FAs has submitted 12,334 Hac as achievement with a short fall of 3666 ha ( only 77% achieved). Rayagada achieved highest area coverage with 95% while Nuapada achieved only 37% of its targeted area coverage. Extended dry spells, erratic rainfall and lack of proper contingency crop planning were cited as reasons for poor performance by FAs. Director of Agriculture and Food Production, Odisha, expressed his displeasure on the achievements particularly on Improved Agronomic Practices of millets.

. It was suggested that an exposure visit may be made to Anantapur district of Andhra Pradesh to understand the process of protective irrigation. Protective irrigation funds available under OMM and Convergence plan should be mandatorily taken up by FAs in each block and suitable proposals may be submitted to DDA cum PD ATMA. The Collector & District Magistrate will make necessary steps in this regard. In addition Ragi crop may also be insured in suitable blocks.

Custom hiring centres have been established in all blocks. Nodal CBO have also been identified for managing seed centres in all districts. Millet machinery entrepreneurs have also been identified in all districts but enterprise promotion did not start as processing machinery specifications were yet to be finalised.

It was observed that apart from Gajapati, no other district has submitted the final farmer beneficiary list. Due to delay in submission of farmer list by the FAs, the DBT to farmers could not be initiated in many districts. Besides, DBT registration of new beneficiary farmers was also found to be unsatisfactory. Malkangiri achieved highest DBT registrations with 79.16% where as Rayagada was lowest with 14.59%. It was also found that mobile registration is very poor in the district..The Director of Agriculture and Food Production, Odisha, insisted to submit the beneficiary list within 3 days by the FAs.

Bills and voucher submission is becoming a major issue. Scheme officers from the dist said that the FAs and CBOs are not submitting the bills and vouchers in proper order violating the OGFR rules. Thus there is need for financial manual with an uniform bill & voucher format and proper certificates. Without proper documents, ATMA is unable to clear the bills in time. The Director of Agriculture and Food Production, Odisha, expressed that a financial protocol is being prepared and will be shared to all.

It is also proposed to allocate Rs 20,000/- per month for FAs to engage additional coordinator if they improve their performance and achieve the assigned target.

#### **Procurement:-**

After lunch break the discussion were made on ragi farmer registration. It is reported that only 17,402 farmers have been registered. The performance of online registration for ragi farmers is very less in non OMM blocks. Deadline for online registration of farmer should also be extended to 15<sup>th</sup> November 2018. Massive awareness campaigns should be launched in the districts to aware ragi farmers and efforts by all concerned be taken to enrol more farmers to be registered in PACS/ LAMPCS. In addition, there are many local NGOs engaged by different departments who can also be involved to improve the ragi farmer registration.

Director, NCDS, Bhubaneswar said that as per their estimates, there are more than 2 lakh millet farmers in the district. In this context, it is important to involve Agriculture department officials, OLM staffs, NGOs engaged by other departments in the farmer registration process to speed up the registration process.

It was reported by the Scheme Officers and FAs that many PACS/LAMPS are not accepting FRA land pattas. Many farmers have also deposited land as guarantee against a bank loan. Due to this, they are not able to submit a copy at PACS/LAMPS. In some cases, PACS/LAMPS are rejecting the applications as the name on the Aadhar card and Bank pass book is not matching. Landowners are also not providing the consent certificate. In some cases, even sarpanch are not very keen on authenticating the tenant farmers. They suggested that, if VAW/AO/AAO authenticates the tenant farmer as cultivator in the block, then number of registrations will increase.

Though Collector & District Magistrate of Sundergarh district has sent a proposal for including Sundergarh for procurement, due permission from A&FE dept needed for procurement and online registration.

Based on the deliberations, a summary presentation was presented to the Principal Secretary, department of Agriculture & Farmers Empowerment, Govt. of Odisha and Director, Agriculture & Food Production, Odisha.

Following decisions were made under the chairmanship of Principal Secretary, Agriculture & Farmers Empowerment:-

#### **A. Implementation of Odisha Millet Mission:**

1. Salaries of CRPs shall be delinked from the programme expenditure of CBO. ATMA will monitor and evaluate the performance of CRPs regularly and ensure payment on timely manner. NCDS will develop appropriate format for evaluation before 15<sup>th</sup> November 2018.
2. The FAs will submit Monthly Action Plan, schedule of activities with timeline for the succeeding month and the physical, financial achievement for the preceding month of the block to the concerned AAO with a copy to the PD, ATMA for subsequent monitoring. The District Coordinator of Programme Secretariat will consolidate all the block wise information, appraise to the PD, ATMA and suggest suitably. Without submission of these information the programme facilitation costs of FA will not be released.
3. Convergence with other schemes on protective irrigation, land development, intercropping should be prepared by FA and submitted to the AAO with a copy to DDA cum PD ATMA. The District Coordinator of Programme Secretariat will consolidate the block wise information and liaison with other departments for convergence and submit a convergence programme to DDA cum PD ATMA. The DDA cum PD ATMA will convene a meeting of the line departments under the Chairmanship of Collector & District Magistrate for convergence.
4. DDA cum PD ATMA shall engage one senior clerk / Head clerk at least one day in a month to verify the bills, vouchers submitted by FAs and suggest rectification. It will be the sole responsibility of dealing clerk/accountant/ cashier to ensure verification of bills/vouchers and appraised the Scheme Officer for approval by DDA cum PD ATMA for adjustment / payment of correct bills & vouchers.

5. A ToT shall be arranged by Programme Secretariat for the dealing clerk/accountant/ cashier on financial manual at state level. Each trained dealing clerk/accountant/ cashier shall in turn be the resource person of the district level training programme for FAs.
6. Bills/Vouchers submitted by FA have to be vetted within 10 working days by the concerned clerk/accountant/ cashier of ATMA.
7. FAs have to resubmit the revised bills/vouchers based on the feedback of clerk/accountant/ cashier of ATMA within 7 working days.
8. The district level Scheme officer of Odisha Millets Mission will ensure the timely submission of bills, vouchers & progress report by FAs and the payment/ adjustment of correct bills / vouches in time.
9. Online fund flow tracking system will be developed by Programme Secretariat (WASSAN) within December 2018. ADAPT team shall also be involved in the process.
10. Financial Manual for Odisha Millet Mission shall be finalised before 30<sup>th</sup> November 2018.
11. Process Manual with breakups for Odisha Millet Mission shall be finalised before 30<sup>th</sup> November 2018.
12. Guidelines for bulk machinery purchase and technical sanctions for Odisha Millet Mission shall be finalised before 30<sup>th</sup> November 2018.

**B. Procurement:-**

1. Letter should be sent to Cooperation Department, TDCCOL, OLM, RCS and Collector & District Magistrate of 7 districts to ensure that only copy of bank pass book is made mandatory for registration. No applications should be rejected due to non submission of copies of FRA patta or consent certificate or Aadhar or land documents.
2. DAO/AAO shall ensure online farmer registration of ragi farmers in the block as per the target.
3. DDA cum PD ATMA with support of Programme Secretariat shall convene a meeting with non OMM local NGOs to seek their support in registration of farmers for ragi procurement on voluntary basis. As per the requirement, application forms have to be printed and distributed among NGOs/OLM staffs /VAWs/AOs in non OMM blocks.
4. DDA cum PD ATMA shall ensure adequate number of registration forms are printed as per the need. Programme Secretariat and FAs will inform to DDA cum PD ATMA the number of forms required.
5. State Secretariat to conduct meetings to explore support from non OMM NGOs, If any fund required to meet the travel or other expenses of non OMM NGOs, that may be borne by the State Secretariat.
6. Procurement locations should be chosen nearer to the ragi cultivation areas. The Programme Secretariat and FAs will submit the proposed places to DDA cum PD ATMA for final approval of the Collector & District Magistrate.

Dr C.R. Das, Senior Research Officer, NCDS, Bhubaneswar delivered the vote of thanks to participants and the chair.



Director of Agriculture & Food Production  
Odisha, Bhubaneswar