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D.O. No. Z-11018/5/2007-IT (P.T.) |

February 16, 2011

Dear

I am glad to inform you that the Government of India has approved implementation of the National e-Governance Plan - Agriculture in the Centre and in 7 States in Phase - I for a sum of Rs. 227.79 crore. These seven states are Assam, Himachal Pradesh, Jharkhand, Karnataka, Kerala, Madhya Pradesh & Maharashtra.

- Delivery of services to various stakeholders shall be done through multiple modes including Government Offices, Internet Touch Screen Kiosks, Krishi Vigyan Kendras, Kisan Call Centres, Agri-Clinics, Common Service Centres and Mobile Phones (Broadcast, IVRS, Voice-recognition and Interactive Messaging, using USSD i.e. Unstructured Supplementary Service Data). Comprehensive Agriculture Portal and State Agriculture Portals developed under this Project will not only standardize and facilitate data flow within and outside the State, but will also capture best features of various applications already implemented in different parts of the country.
- Common applications (with adequate provision for localization) with respect to **12 clusters of services** listed in **Annexure - I** are to be developed and implemented down to the block level in the selected 7 States within a period of 9 months from now.
- **National Informatics Centre (NIC) has been selected** as an agency to develop the Solution Design and System Requirement Specifications (SRS), Solution Development, Solution Testing & Acceptance, Solution

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Implementation, Training & Change Management, Solution Warranty and Support and other activities as stipulated in the EFC Memorandum and Services Level Agreement being signed with NIC. A copy of the EFC Memorandum and Service Level Agreement has been e-mailed to you separately.

• **Key activities to be undertaken by the State Governments :-**

- i) Data digitization and localization
  - ii) Civil Infrastructure Preparation
  - iii) Hiring of manpower on contract basis
  - iv) Setting up of Project Monitoring Unit (PMU)
  - v) Infrastructure and logistic related support to NIC for training and capacity building
- Since the entire task is to be accomplished in a period of 9 months, preparatory and other work to be done by the States will also need to be done very expeditiously. Timelines for various activities have been shown in Annexure - II.
- Some States may have one or more of the services envisaged in NeGP-A already in place. **The States may also have some other pressing need to which it may like to give closer attention. Therefore, 25% of the amount earmarked for software development has been left to the discretion of the State to take care of their local requirements.** Hence, such additional or different requirements peculiar to your State may kindly be identified during SRS preparation.
- While further details will be sent subsequently, I would request you to kindly commence immediate action as per the following points:-
- i) Acknowledge receipt of this letter, so that it is known that action on implementing NeGP-A in your State has started. **It is highlighted here that the entire Project cost of Rs. 227.79 crores is to be shared in 90:10 ratio. State share will need to be given only for manpower (0%, 30% & 50% State share during first 3 years) and site preparation (45% State share except sites for the Training Centres which will be funded fully by the GoI).** Confirmation of the State Government, that this 10% share will be borne by the State Government, may be sent.

- (3) (18)
- ii) Prepare a list of existing IT infrastructure in the format given in **Annexure - III**. It may kindly be noticed that this data had been sought earlier also vide D.O. No. Z-11018/5/2007-IT dated 13.07.09. Computer hardware will be supplied as per the norms given in **Annexure - IV** after deducting the hardware already available (from any other scheme or project of the Government of India or the State Government which will not become obsolete within next 3 years). For the purpose of obsolescence, a 5 years' life of hardware has been considered. In order to expedite progress of the project and also to take advantage of volume discount, hardware and system software are to be procured centrally with representatives of the State Government being part of the purchase committee. Therefore, a senior level officer having expertise and reasonable knowledge of techno commercial aspects of procurement of IT goods may be nominated. Animal Husbandry Department has not been included in the Departments to be provided computer hardware as the same is being covered under a different national level project. It is also possible that some States have offices, which are critical from operational point of view for this Project, at intermediate levels viz. zonal level (over a group of districts) and sub divisional level (over a group of blocks). The State may propose hardware for these locations also so long as the overall numbers broadly remain within the norms given in Annexure - IV.
- iii) **Some states may have another IT initiative or project going on either under a State Government scheme or a programme of the Government of India.** For instance, some states might have got assistance for computerization under Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana. Details of any such parallel initiative/scheme may be conveyed to this Department, so that duplication may be avoided.

- iv) Start site preparation at the State, District and Block levels in accordance with the cost ceiling given in **Annexure-V** in Agriculture, Horticulture and Fisheries Departments as per current readiness and State's priorities.
- v) At an appropriate time, put in place requisite manpower on contract either directly or through identified placement agency. Details of manpower needed at various levels and normative emoluments have been depicted in **Annexure-VI**.
- vi) Finalise an agency for data digitization and localization and also a place in every district headquarters where such data entry will be done. Site preparation charges and requisite IT infrastructure for such data entry will be provided from this Project only. Actual data entry can obviously start only after modules for this purpose are provided by NIC. Till then, relevant material as per **Annexure-VII** may be collected and compiled even as process for identifying data-digitisation agency is going on.
- vii) Identify whether any of the services (including its sub-components) is already successfully implemented in the State, if yes, details thereof and additional service if any to be developed for the State may also be pin-pointed.
- viii) Nominate representative from the State Government not below the rank of Commissioner/Director of Agriculture/IT in the Operations Committee headed by the Additional Secretary (IT) in the Department of Agriculture & Cooperation, Government of India.
- ix) Constitute State Empowered Committee and District NeGP-A Implementation Team as per membership indicated in **Annexure-VIII**.
- x) Complete submission of date for farmer's portal by February 28, 2011 as already requested earlier repeatedly.

**A sum of Rs. 1 crore is to be released to your State as initial amount for undertaking activities listed above. Name and other relevant details (for facilitating electronic transfer of money) of the autonomous agency of the State to which the amount is to be released may be conveyed. Exact**

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amount as per normative allocation with respect to activities to be done by the States will be released in next financial year.

**I would request you to immediately start working on implementation of the Project *inter alia* on the points listed above.** If there are some nebulous areas, please revert to the undersigned. Fortnightly review of the Project with all 7 states shall be undertaken from last week of February, 2011 on every alternate Friday at 4.00 PM through video conference in which you may also invite officers of State IT Department and State Unit of the National Informatics Centre.

Yours sincerely,  
-Sd/-  
**(Sanjeev Gupta)**

**(As per list - 7 States)**

**Note:** Annexures to this letter have been marginally changed compared to the ones which were sent along with e-mail dated February, 17, 2011. Please consider the attached annexures as final.

Sd/-  
**(Sanjeev Gupta)**  
**Joint Secretary**  
**February 18, 2011**

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