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(Mukhya Mantri Krishi Sa Sajuli Yozana)

**Proposed Draft Guidelines for the Scheme of Financial Assistance to
Farmers for procurement of farm tools/farm implements.**

Introduction

Agriculture occupies the primary position in the economy of the state of Assam. Over 70 percent of the state's population relies on agriculture as farmers, as agricultural labourers, or both for their livelihood. The traditional type of agriculture carried out in primitive manners still determines the way of life of the people of Assam. Assam produces both food and cash crops. Agricultural land area in the world has limit, but the demand for food is ever increasing due to population growth. To increase productivity in the limited land so as to meet the expanding demand arising from population growth as well as higher income is very important mission. The usage of scientific tools in cultivation is very limited in the state of Assam. In order to encourage our farmers to use scientific implements for better productivity, in pursuance of the budget announcement it is proposed financial assistance of Rs. 5000 per farmer. This scheme will cover a total of 5 lakh farmers in the State.

Aims and Objectives of the scheme

- a. To promote farm mechanization for cultivation of different crop
- b. Transfer of technology to the farmer's field.
- c. To increase the production and productivity of different crops through farm mechanization.
- d. To increase profitability of farmers besides saving in labour and time.
- e. To promote the scientific cultivation practices by encouraging farmers in procuring scientific farm tools.

Salient features of the Scheme

Agriculture in Assam is characterised by stagnation, low productivity and frequent occurrence of floods and low levels public and private investments. The small and fragmented land holdings and frequent floods in the state are a causative factor for farmers to have lower income and agriculture activities

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become non-remunerative in the State. To boost the agriculture productivity, it is pertinent to make interventions through financial assistance to the poor farmers. Hence the Finance Minister of Assam had announced in his budget speech to assist the farmers to promote the use of scientific farm implements. To encourage the farmers to procure and use such implements, the Department of Agriculture proposed a scheme, Mukhya Mantri Sa Sajuli Yojana (Chief Minister Farm Tool Scheme) for the purpose. Under this scheme the following is proposed

- Rs 5,000/- will be provided to each farmer.
- The number of beneficiaries will be a total of 5 lakh farmers
- The assistance is to procure farm tools/ farm implements.
- Scheme will be implemented on Direct Benefit Transfer by electronic transfer into accounts of the beneficiaries
- The selection of beneficiaries will be done by a District Level Committee headed by the Deputy Commissioner of the District. The Principal Secretaries will chair the DLC in case of BTAD and Autonomous Districts.
- The Scheme will be implemented under over all supervision of the State Level Monitoring Committee chaired by the Agriculture Production Commissioner.

Eligibility :

1. Only small and marginal farmers are eligible for the benefit under the scheme.
2. The beneficiary should be more than 21 yrs old.
3. He or she should be involved in cultivation for at least three consecutive years.
4. The beneficiary should be a resident farmer.
5. All KCC card holders are eligible.
6. The applicant/Beneficiary should have a live bank account.
7. Only one farmer per family shall be eligible for the benefit under the scheme.
8. Tenant farmers / share croppers may also be considered subject to a minimum area of cultivation, say 1 acre / 3 bighas.

Selection of Beneficiaries

- Agriculture Department will publish advertisement through print and electronic media inviting application from respective website.
- Applications will be collected by the AEAs along with Bank account details of the beneficiaries along with the mobile numbers, if available
- The beneficiaries will be selected GP/VDP wise.
- A Gaon Panchayat wise list of beneficiaries may be compiled by the ADOs concerned and will be placed before the District level committee after scrutiny.
- The list of farmers from AEAs/ ADOs will be approved by DLC.
- SC/ ST farmers will be selected as per State Reservation Act i.e SC-7%, ST (P) 10% and ST (H)-5%.
- After approval the beneficiary list will be sent to Director of Agriculture along with bank account details and the mobile number details.

Implementation

- ❖ The Director of Agriculture will move Finance Department through Agriculture department for financial sanction by way of grant in aid for implementation of the scheme which shall be sanctioned and released to the Director Agriculture on submission of the requisition for the same.
- ❖ The Director, Agriculture shall take steps to coordinate the preparation of the list of beneficiaries as approved by the respective district level committees.
- ❖ The Scheme fund will be drawn and kept in the account of ASFAC account as the Director do not have any Bank Account to convenience the implementation of the scheme through direct benefit transfer by electronic mode of transfer of benefit.
- ❖ The scheme will be operated on Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT) mode.
- ❖ After receiving the approved beneficiaries list from the Districts, the Director will make arrangements to send a request to ASFAC to transfer the amount to the beneficiaries bank account by electronic mode.
- ❖ The APC being the custodian of the ASFAC Bank account, will transfer the amount to the individual Bank accounts of the beneficiaries, through RTGS/NEFT. from the Bank account of ASFAC.

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- ❖ The Financial Assistance will be sent to the beneficiaries account in a single instalment of Rs 5000/- per beneficiary only.
 - ❖ The individual beneficiary will give an undertaking that the financial assistance provided under the scheme will be utilised for procurement of farm implements only failing which he will be liable for suitable legal action.
 - ❖ Prior to the transfer of the funds into the beneficiary account the LDM for the district shall ensure that the funds transferred are not adjusted against any outstanding dues that are recoverable in the said account. This should be certified to the Director, Agriculture prior to the implementation of the scheme by the district level committee.
 - ❖ The DAO will ensure the beneficiaries selection process has been done in a transparent manner and following the guidelines strictly and approved by the DLC. He will also certified to that effect that all due diligence were made thoroughly and the beneficiaries selected are genuine.
 - ❖ The list of approved beneficiaries will be published in the District website of the DCs. The same may also be kept in the office notice boards of the DC s and DAOs.
 - ❖ The DAOs will prepare a list of the suggestive farm implements and made available to the farmers to facilitate the procurement in consultation with the District Level Committee for the selection of the beneficiaries under this scheme
 - ❖ The District Agriculture Officers will ensure that the financial assistance given to the farmers are spent for the purpose of procuring farm tools only.

Administrative/Contingency

- 3% of the scheme amount will be allowed as administrative/contingency expenses.
- Sufficient Publicity will be made to make the scheme successful.
- The expenses related to awareness generation activities including distribution of IEC materials, publication of advertisements, conducting awareness campaigns among the farmers, holding meetings etc will be covered under administrative and contingency amount.

State level Monitoring Committee

Sl. No	Designation	members
1.	Adl CS, Agriculture and APC	Chairman
2.	Principal Secretary, Finance Dept	Member
3.	Commissioner and Secretary Agriculture	Member
4.	Director Agriculture	Member
5.	Director Horticulture	Member
6.	Chief Engineer, Agriculture	Member
7.	Sr FAO, Agriculture Dept	Member

District level Committee

	Designation	Member
1.	Deputy Commissioner/Principal Secretary	Chairman
2.	Honble MLAs of the LACs from the District	Members
3.	ADC, Agriculture	Member
4.	LDM	Member
5.	GM NABARD	Member
6.	EE/AEE(Agriculture)	Member
7.	Three social workers nominated by DC	Members
8.	District Agriculture Officer	Member Secretary

Submission of Utilisation Certificate.

(1) For purposes of audit the scheme once implemented shall be certified by the Director, Agriculture and records of the transfers made by way of Direct Benefit transfer shall be retained. The utilisation certificate shall be submitted as per due procedure with the countersignature of the Agriculture Production Commissioner.

Director Agriculture, Assam.