

CORRECTED SCHEME

Name of the Scheme: Financial Assistance to facilitate community level action for growth of agriculture and for preparing conservation management plan of community forest resources.

1. Introduction:

- a. Tribal population of Goa is predominantly dependent on the agriculture for their livelihood. Considering that nearly 70 percent of tribal population lives in remote villages dependent on agriculture and marginal forest produce, agricultural growth will be the engine of broad-based economic growth and development with food security, poverty alleviation, conservation of forest and natural resources. Therefore there is a need to mobilize the best of science and development efforts including traditional knowledge and modern scientific approach through partnerships involving national and international research institutions, NGOs, farmers' organizations and private sector in order to tackle the present and future problems of food security and production.
- b. Small and marginal farmers amongst tribal population mostly working in group can collectively cultivate the land which increases the efficiency per acre of the land. They also need to be provided with all the agriculture extension services like inputs, market information and processing units, farm machinery and all latest techniques, crop rotation of paddy with vegetable and pulses by applying organic fertilizers and diversifying them with other allied agricultural activities like Dairy, vermi-composting, honeybee keeping etc. farmers need clerical assistance to avail various schemes of the department of agriculture, horticulture, animal husbandry, Water Resources Department available for the development

and growth of agriculture. Thus requires to facilitate and support community level action to private voluntary organizations, including farmers groups aimed at improving food security, reducing poverty, and assuring sustainability in the management of natural resources.

2. Objective:

To provide financial assistance to facilitate and support community level action to private voluntary organizations, including farmer's co-operatives, committees constituted by Gramsabhas aimed at improving food security, reducing poverty, and assuring sustainability in the management of natural resources.

3. Target Population:

Cultivators/Agriculturist of Scheduled Tribe Community or Forest dwelling Scheduled Tribes dependent on Community Forest Resources in the areas/villages in which Forest Right Act is implemented and have formed:-

- 1) Tribal Farmers co-operatives formed with the objective of improved productivity or for the marketing of the farm or forest produce.
- 2) Committee constituted by Gramsabhas to manage Community Forest Resources under the provisions of Forest Right Act.

4. Eligibility Criteria:

1. Tribal Farmers co-operatives registered under the cooperative societies Act and formed with the objective of improved productivity or for the marketing of the farm or forest produce
2. Committee constituted by Gramsabhas to manage Community Forest Resources under the provisions of Forest Right Act.
3. Forest Right Committees constituted under the Forest Rights Act

4. Village Panchayat in whose jurisdiction the farmers co-operative or Committees under the Forest Rights Acts are constituted.

5. Benefit under the Scheme :

Financial Assistance will be given for running the activities for farmer's cooperatives or for the committees constituted under the Forests Rights Act:

- 1) Wages of one clerical assistant and one peon at the rates fixed under minimum wages Act.
- 2) Fixed amount of Rs. 25,000/- per annum for incurring expenditure on stationary, printing etc
- 3) One time financial assistance of Rs. 1,00,000/- for procurement of Desktop Computer, UPS, computer Table, Cupboard, Table and Chairs etc.
- 4) Rent per annum for the premises using for office purpose as per the rent certificate issued by PWD (Bldg Division), State of Goa.

6. Application process:-

The application in the prescribed Form to be submitted to the Zonal Agriculture Officer along with

- a. Notification in case of the constitution of the Forest Rights Committee/s under the Forest Right Act
- b. Notification in case of the constitution of the Committee to manage Forest Community resources under the Forest Right Act
- c. Registration Certificate in case of Farmers cooperative
- d. Resolution of the Gramsabha
- e. Brief project report on the activities which will be undertaken for the development and growth of agriculture, management of community forest produce or registration of claims of the forest dwelling scheduled Tribes and other Traditional Forest Dwellers.
- f. Constitution and composition of the Farmers co-operative or of the committees constituted under the FRA

g. Rent Certificate issued by PWD (Bldg Division), State of Goa.

h. Land Ownership documents/NOC from the owner.

After verification of the application and all the documents, Zonal Agriculture Officer shall forward the application along with all the documents to the Director of Tribal Welfare for approval & Sanction.

7. Requirements under the scheme :-

- 1) ST certificates of the members of the farmers cooperatives, (50% of the members of the Farmers Co-operative should be of ST category).
- 2) Schedule Tribe Certificates of beneficiaries (minimum 10 ST beneficiaries).
- 3) Land Ownership documents/NOC from owner shall be obtained by the members of the Farmers cooperative/beneficiaries.
- 4) Undertaking to be given by the beneficiary that the resources provided under the scheme will be shared by the Forest Rights Committees, Committees formed for the management of Common Forest Resources, for the farmer's co-operatives and for the delivery of services of the tribal welfare department to the needy people.
- 5) Recommendation Certificate to avail the benefit from concerned ZAO.
- 6) Adhar Card Copy
- 7) Mandate Form

8. Sanctioning Authority:-

Director of Tribal Welfare shall sanction the case.

9. Procedure for sanctioning of Amount:

- 1) Director of the Tribal Welfare upon receipt of the application in the prescribed Performa with required document shall carry out scrutiny of the application.
- 2) After scrutiny Director of Tribal Welfare shall sanction the proposal and the amount to be disbursed to Farmers Co-

operative Society or the Committee constituted under FRA with the copy to Zonal Agriculture Officer.

- 3) 50% of the total amount sanctioned will be disbursed as 1st installment to the farmers Co-operative Society or the committee under FRA.

10. Submission of Utilization Certificate :-

Zonal Agriculture Officer shall monitor the functioning of the society or the committee under FRA and shall submit the utilization certificate after obtaining the same from the society or the committee to the Director of Tribal Welfare. After receipt of the Utilization certificate of the 1st installment, the Director of Tribal Welfare shall release the balance amount. Zonal Agriculture Officer shall submit the Utilization certificate of the balance amount to the Director of Tribal Welfare.

11. Monitoring of the scheme:

If there is any doubt in the matter of eligibility or for operationalization of the scheme or if any situation arises which is not envisaged at the time of formulation of the scheme, the same would be resolved by the Monitoring committee whose decision will be final.

The committee is consisting of:

1.	Secretary Tribal Welfare	: Chairman
2.	Secretary, Agriculture	: Member
3.	Additional Secretary Finance or the Officer not above the rank of Under Secretary	: Member
4.	Principal Chief Conservator of Forests or any other official not below the rank of Chief Conservator of Forest	: Member
5.	Director of Agriculture or Dy. Director of Agriculture	: Member
6.	Director of Tribal welfare	: Member Secretary

11. Relaxation of the provision of the scheme:-

The Government shall be empowered to relax the clauses or conditions of the scheme if a genuine requirement arises.

12. Evaluation of the Scheme:

Performance of the Scheme will be evaluated after two years of its implementation and if required scheme will be suitably modified to meet the new challenges/ requirements so as to achieve the set objective.

Yearly performance reports/activity report of the committees for whom financial assistance is granted will have to be submitted to the Director of Tribal Welfare along with audited statement of accounts through the concerned ZAO as the case may be. No financial assistance will be granted in case a committee fails to submit such performance report/annual Activity report.