

File No. 4-3/2020-NBM  
Government of India  
Ministry of Agriculture & Farmer Welfare  
Department of Agriculture, Cooperation & Farmers Welfare  
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Krishi Bhawan, New Delhi  
Dated the 06<sup>th</sup> July, 2021


To  
All SMDs of the SMAF implementing States/UTs

Subject: Virtual Meeting of Project Sanctioning Committee (PSC) under SMAF Scheme on 17th June, 2021 at 11:00 AM to review the implementation of SMAF Scheme-reg.

Sir/Madam,

I am directed to send approved minutes of virtual meeting of Project Sanctioning Committee (PSC) scheduled on **17th June, 2021 at 11:00 AM** under the Chairmanship of Smt. Chhavi Jha, Joint Secretary (NRM) of this Department to review the implementation of SMAF Scheme.

Yours faithfully,

  
(Dr Mehraj Ajij Shaikh)  
Assistant Commissioner (NRM-SMAF)  
Ph No. 011-23070955; Email: ac.nrm-agri@gov.in

**Encl: As above (01).**

**Copy to:**

1. All the Members of the Project Sanctioning Committee (As per the list)

**Copy for information to:**

1. PS to Joint Secretary (NRM), DAC & FW
2. PA to Addl. Commissioner (NRM), DAC & FW

**Department of Agriculture, Cooperation & Farmers Welfare  
(NRM Division)**

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**Minutes of Virtual Meeting of Project Sanctioning Committee (PSC) of Sub-Mission on Agroforestry (SMAF) Scheme held on 17<sup>th</sup> June, 2021 under the Chairpersonship of Smt. Chhavi Jha, Joint Secretary (NRM), DAC&FW, Krishi Bhawan, New Delhi**

The Meeting of Project Sanctioning Committee (PSC) constituted for Sub-Mission on Agroforestry (SMAF) Scheme was held on 17<sup>th</sup> June, 2021 to review the progress & implementation of the Scheme as well as consideration of proposed Annual Action Plan of the States/UTs concerned for the year 2021-22. The meeting was attended virtually by approximately 30 participants comprising PSC members, SMDs of SMAF implementing States/UTs and officials from DAC&FW. The representative from State Govt. of Meghalaya, Mizoram, M.P., Odisha, Andhra Pradesh and J&K could not participate in the meeting. List of Participants is enclosed at Annexure-I.

2. The chairperson, Smt. Chhavi Jha, Joint Secretary (NRM) welcomed all the participants and highlighted the progress & implementation of the scheme and expressed concerns on the unsatisfactory progress of the scheme in a few States with regard to physical/financial performance, refund of unspent balance, uploading of inputs/information on MIS portal <https://nmsa.dac.gov.in> and implementation of new PFMS guidelines issued by Department of Expenditure for releasing of funds to the States/UTs w.e.f. 1st July, 2021. The Joint Secretary (NRM) also informed that the SMAF scheme is being undertaken by the State of Manipur for the first time from the current financial year 2021-22. She appreciated the refund of old unspent balance by Madhya Pradesh (Rs. 381.48 lakh) and Kerala (Rs. 123.66 lakh).

**3. Review of progress and implementation of Scheme:**

Dr Om Prakash Sharma, Additional Commissioner (RFS & NRM) made a presentation on the scheme with respect to progress made, activities undertaken, new initiatives taken, status of utilization of funds, implementation of new guidelines for releasing of funds, fund allocations, Annual Action Plan (AAP) for the year 2021-22. He also asked information in various formats and urged State-representatives to submit success stories with good photographs depicting success of the scheme on the ground.

The progress of the scheme in respective States was deliberated and it was requested to all the States to refund/surrender the funds remaining unspent for more than two years as per instructions of Ministry of Finance, Govt. of India and also submit the progress reports and pending Audited UCs and UCs of previous years, in the prescribed formats at the earliest for further processing of AAPs and timely release of funds to the State for implementation of Sub-Mission on Agroforestry (SMAF) in the current financial year 2021-22.

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#### 4. Approval of Annual Action Plan (AAP) for 2021-22:

It was informed that the Annual Action Plan (AAP) for the year 2021-22 are received from 12 states and examined in the division. The AAP submitted by six States viz. Gujarat, Karnataka, Kerala, M.P., Odisha and Telangana have been found in order and in principle approval of competent authority was sought in view of COVID restrictions. The Committee took a note of it and approved the same.

| SI No | States    | Allocation of Funds during 2021-22 | Approved AAP with Project Cost of                          |
|-------|-----------|------------------------------------|--|
| 1     | Gujarat   | Rs 400 lakh                        | Rs 647.6 lakh<br>(CS: Rs 388.6 lakh & SS: Rs 259.1 lakh)   |
| 2     | Karnataka | Rs 500 lakh                        | Rs 833.34 lakh<br>(CS: Rs 500.0 lakh & SS: Rs 333.34 lakh) |
| 3     | Kerala    | Rs 60 lakh                         | Rs 100.0 lakh<br>(CS: Rs 60.0 lakh & SS: Rs 40.0 lakh)     |
| 4     | M.P.      | Rs 50 lakh                         | Rs 80.5 lakh<br>(CS: Rs 48.3 lakh & SS: Rs 32.2 lakh)      |
| 5     | Odisha    | Rs 200 lakh                        | Rs 366.5 lakh<br>(CS: Rs 219.9 lakh & SS: Rs 146.6 lakh)   |
| 6     | Telangana | Rs 100 lakh                        | Rs 163.4 lakh<br>(CS: Rs 98.0 lakh & SS: Rs 65.3 lakh)     |

The AAP of the States viz. Maharashtra, Manipur, Nagaland, Punjab, Rajasthan, U.P. were to address. However, the AAP from remaining 11 states viz. Andhra Pradesh, Bihar, Chhattisgarh, Haryana, Himachal Pradesh, Jammu & Kashmir, Jharkhand, Ladakh, Meghalaya, Mizoram and Tamil Nadu are still awaited.

5. The Annual Action Plans 2021-22 submitted/ presented by the following States were discussed in the PSC as mentioned below;

(i) **Punjab:** The Nodal Officer of SMAF in Department of Forest from Govt. of Punjab made a presentation on the Annual Action Plan 2021-22. It was informed that during the last three years, the state has undertaken plantation work, for which the maintenance cost has to be borne by Center and State, proportionately which is higher than the allocated funds of Rs 2.0 crore. Therefore, the state is unable to confine its Annual Action Plan 2021-22 within allocated funds and the proposed action plan for Rs 10.0 crore (Rs 6.0 Cr CS and Rs 4.0 Cr SS) be considered. He also requested to remove the condition of discouraging water guzzling species like Eucalyptus since it is an important agroforestry species and preferred by farmers and industry. The Chairman informed that in view of the total Scheme BE Rs 34.0 crore for 2021-22, it may not be possible to consider the proposed action plan, hence the plan should be revised as per allocated funds. However, the Department would examine these issues and discuss, separately.

(ii) **Nagaland:** The Annual Action Plan submitted by the State Govt. of Nagaland was discussed. It has been observed that the proposed AAP of the State envisages 1st year maintenance cost for plantations carried out during 2020-21 whereas there was no new plantation activity undertaken by the State during FY 2020-21. Therefore, the maintenance cost for 1st year of plantation does not

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arise. Hence, the State was advised to resubmit the revised plan for further consideration of this Department. The representative of the State agreed to submit the revised plant very soon.

(iii) **Rajasthan:** The proposed AAP 2021-22 of the State was discussed and it was observed that the AAP of the State is not as per current year's allocation of funds to the State. Besides, there is an old unspent balance of Rs 254.96 lakh lying with the State out of a total central share of Rs 600.00 lakh released during 2017-18. Hence, the State Govt. of Rajasthan was requested to submit the revised plan as per allocation to the State for 2021-22 and refund the old unspent balance at the earliest to consider the release of funds during 2021-22 for implementation of SMAF activities.

(iv) **Tamil Nadu:** It was informed that the State authority has changed the nodal department (Deptt. Of Forests) to Deptt of Agriculture for implementation of SMAF scheme with immediate effect from March, 2021. However, the AAP 2021-22 is still not received from the State. The representative from the State has assured that the AAP 2021-22 and pending UCs will be sent within 10 days. He also requested to enhance the cost norms under this scheme to make it comparable with other plantation schemes in the State. The chairman informed that the Department has already taken a view to revise the cost norms and it is proposed to revised cost norms in the ensuing EFC proposal on the scheme.

(v) **Manipur:** The State of Manipur has recently been approved to implement the Scheme w.e.f. 2021-22. The proposed AAP of the State was discussed and the State Govt. of Manipur was asked to confine the AAP within the funds allocated to approximately 2.0 crore and resubmit the same for consideration of DAC&FW.

(vi) **Haryana:** The AAP 2021-22 is still not received from the State. The representative from the State has assured that the AAP 2021-22, pending UCs and refund of old unspent balance shall be sent at the earliest possible. It was informed that the State Finance Department is in the process for refund the unspent balance lying with the State under the scheme.

(vi) **Telangana:** The AAP of the State was discussed and it has been noted that DAC&FW has already approved their AAP 2021-22. However, the Utilization Certificate (UC) for funds released during the year 2018-19 as submitted by the State is not in the correct format. Inputs on physical and financial progress in the prescribed format are also awaited from the State. Hence, the State was requested to submit the physical and financial progress along with Audited UCs and UCs including State share in the prescribed format for consideration of releases of funds to the State at the earliest during CFY 2021-22.

(vii) **Uttar Pradesh:** It has been noted that after examination of AAP, the State Govt. of UP was requested to furnish the relevant information on the survival rate of plantation and implementation of SMAF in Namami Gange Villages raised by DAC&FW. The response is still awaited from the State. The State is advised to implement Agroforestry in Namami Gange districts also and submit a plan accordingly within the allotted funds.

(viii) **Ladakh:** The Action Plant of Ladakh is not yet submitted and the State was advised to submit the plan at the earliest. It was also requested to furnish physical and financial progress of last year alongwith UC. Representative from UT of Ladakh informed that the area is suitable for peripheral plantation hence; the annual plan shall be submitted for suitable multipurpose species including Poplar, Selex alba, etc. ADC (NRM/RFS) advised to undertake the plantation on farmlands with tree species exempted under felling and transit regulations by State Forest

Department. Plantation of non woody horticultural species may be taken under other schemes like MIDH.

(ix) **Karnataka:** Representative from Karnataka made a ppt presentation on progress and implementation of the Scheme in the State. The JS(NRM) appreciated their progress of work and actual works undertaken in the field and reiterated that other states need to replicate similar type of works under the scheme in their respective States.

(x) **Gujarat:** AAP for 2021-22 already approved. Requested to submit the inputs on physical and financial progress for release of funds.

(xi) **Maharashtra:** The AAP was examined and found that it is not as per allocation to the State. The representative from Maharashtra stated that the revised AAP 2021-22 shall be submitted soon with pending reports/ UCs.

(xii) **Kerala:** It was informed that the State has recently refunded Rs 1.23 crore of old unspent balance. The representative from Kerala urged for early release of funds to the state so as to take up matter speedy for release of state share. Chairman informed that the DAC&FW is in process of release of funds as 1<sup>st</sup> installment and will be released to states at the earliest possible.

(xiii) **Chhattisgarh/Bihar/Himachal Pradesh/ Jharkhand:** Representatives from these States stated that they are working on the Annual Action Plan and will submit the same at the earliest possible. The State Govt. of Bihar informed that in view of low cost norms, they will propose to undertake maintenance plan, only. The officer from the Govt. of Jharkhand informed that due to vacant posts in the forest department, the scheme works could not be undertaken during last year and efforts shall be made to implement the scheme in this year.

#### 6. **New guidelines for releasing of funds to States/UTs:**

It was informed that Department of Expenditure, Ministry of Finance, Govt. of India has issued revised guidelines/set of instructions for implementation w.e.f. 1st July, 2021 for releasing of funds to State/UT Govt. under Centrally Sponsored Schemes and monitoring utilization of funds through PFMS with a view to have more effective cash management and bring more efficiency in public expenditure management. In this regard, all the States/UTs concerned have already been informed vide **Letter no. 2-5/2020-NRM-RFS dated 11<sup>th</sup> May, 2021 followed by email dt. 26<sup>th</sup> June, 2021** and requested to undertake necessary action on priority to implement the new procedure from the stipulated date and furnish the updated status of preparatory activities in the prescribed format. However, the requisite inputs are still awaited from the States/UTs concerned despite several communications.

In this regard, Chairman informed that the current year funds shall be released only after compliance to the new guidelines for funding.

7. **Central Silk Board (CSB):** It was informed that CSB and DAC&FW have recently executed an MoU for promotion of agroforestry in the silk sector on 7<sup>th</sup> March, 2021. Hence, all the sericulture States are requested to converge the sericulture based agroforestry in consultation with CSB and the State deptt. of Sericulture. Dr Satyanarayana, Nodal Officer CSB informed that the proposals from Tamil Nadu, J&K and Andhra Pradesh on sericulture are in the pipeline and will soon being sent to

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DAC&FW for consideration and approval. ADG (NRM), ICAR suggested to undertake wood producing host species only for sericulture based Agroforestry.

8. **ICAR:** Dr. Bhaskar Rao, ADG (NRM), ICAR advised to undertake mid-term Monitoring and Evaluation study of the scheme to see the actual plantation works in the field and suggested a suitable mechanism for better implementation of the scheme. JS (NRM) agreed with the suggestion for Monitoring and Evaluation of the scheme for showcasing the success of the Agro forestry scheme and informed that proposal of ICAR for this purpose may be considered.

ADG (NRM) also suggested for holding a conference to bring all stakeholders and implementing agencies on one platform. A National level agency may be identified for the same. The chairperson agreed and requested ICAR to send a proposal for the same.

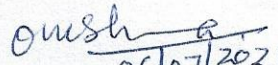
It was informed that during 2020-21, the proposal of establishment of agroforestry model demonstrations at 20 KVKs was sanctioned and 1st installment of Rs. 20.0 lakh to ICAR was released. Progress regarding the project may be furnished to DAC&FW. The Chairman desired that Extension Division – ICAR should submit physical / financial progress and UCs for releasing remaining 50 % of balance amount pertaining to previous year.

9. At the end of the Meeting, the Chairperson extended her thanks to all the members, participating States and UTs associated with the SMAF scheme and requested States to recast their Annual Action Plans 2021-22 as per the discussions held and submit the same to DAC&FW along with all the pending AUCs/UCs and Physical/Financial progress reports in the prescribed format at the earliest for further processing and timely release of funds earmarked for the current year. The states were also requested to send some examples of successful stories along with photographs/ short video films (1 to 3 minutes) of ground work for compilation in a booklet form. Further, she requested to update data on MIS portal, follow PFMS guidelines, etc. on priority.

The meeting ended with thanks to the Chairperson and all the participants.

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*Issued with the approval of competent authority.*

  
06/07/2021  
Dr Om Prakash Sharma  
Additional Commissioner (NRM/RFS)  
[omprakash.1967@gov.in](mailto:omprakash.1967@gov.in) ; Ph. 011-23381507 (O)

**Encl. Annexure-I** List of Participants

List of Participants in the virtual meeting of SMAF PSC:

1. Smt. Chhavi Jha, Joint Secretary (NRM), DAC&FW, Krishi Bhawan, New Delhi-In chair
2. Dr. Bhaskar Rao, ADG (NRM), ICAR, MoAF&W, New Delhi
3. Dr O.P. Sharma, Additional Commissioner (NRM/RFS), DAC&FW, Krishi Bhawan, New Delhi
4. Deputy Secretary (MIDH), DAC&FW, Krishi Bhawan, New Delhi
5. Deputy Secretary (MoRD), Krishi Bhawan, New Delhi
6. Dr. Mehraj A. Shaikh, Assistant Commissioner (NRM-SMAF), DAC&FW, Krishi Bhawan, New Delhi
7. Smt Anita Aarekal, APCCF (Forest Department), State Govt. of Karnataka
8. Shri Deepak Srivastava, APCCF (Forestry Department), State Govt. of Tamil Nadu
9. Shri Sanjay Kumar Sinha, Director, Hariyali Mission, State Govt. of Bihar
10. Mr. Shakil, Director, Horticulture / Agriculture, UT of Ladakh
11. Shri Vinabe, Director of Horticulture, Directorate of Horticulture, Pune, Govt. of Maharashtra
12. Shri. Niranjn Singh Rathore, Joint Dir (Ext.), Department of Agriculture, Govt. of Rajasthan
13. Shri B.Babu, Deputy Director (Horticulture), Govt. of Telangana
14. Sh. Atul Sirsikar, CCF(West), Hisar, Govt. of Haryana
15. Shri Tilak Raj Sharma, Nodal Officer cum DFO (Research), State Govt. of Himachal Pradesh
16. Dr. K. Sathyanarayana, Scientist-D, Central Silk Board, Bengaluru
17. Representative from State Govt. of Jharkhand
18. Representative from State Govt. of Chhattisgarh
19. Representative from State Govt. of Nagaland
20. Representative from State Govt. of Manipur
21. Representative from State Govt. of Uttar Pradesh
22. Representative from State Govt. of Gujarat
23. Representative from State Govt. of Kerala
24. Ms. Lali Rashmii, ASCO (NRM-SMAF), DAC&FW, Krishi Bhawan, New Delhi
25. Shri Rahul Kumar, Section Officer (NRM-SMAF), DAC&FW, Krishi Bhawan, New Delhi
26. ....

Copy for information and necessary action to;

1. Assistant Director General (Extension) ICAR
2. Managing Director, National Seed Corporation, New Delhi
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