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Government of India
Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare
Department of Agriculture, Cooperation & Farmers Welfare
(Horticulture Division)

Krishi Bhawan, New Delhi
Dated 5th June, 2018

Office Memorandum

Subject: **Minutes of the National Workshop on DBT/HORTNET organized by Department of Agriculture, Cooperation & Farmers Welfare at Yashada, Pune, Maharashtra on 03.05.2018 - Reg.**

The undersigned is directed to forward herewith the minutes of the National Workshop on DBT/HORTNET organized by Department of Agriculture, Cooperation & Farmers Welfare held at Yashada, Pune, Maharashtra on 03.05.2018 for information and necessary action.

Encl. a/a

(S.N. Jasra)
Under Secretary to the Government of India
Ph. No. 011-23388474
Email: midhinfo@gmail.com

Distribution:-

1. All Participants (as per list attached)
2. Tech. Dir, NIC with a request to upload the minutes on MIDH website.

Copy to:

(i) PPS to AS (JS)
(ii) PPS to JS (MIDH)

MINUTES OF THE NATIONAL WORKSHOP ON DBT/HORTNET ORGANIZED BY DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE, COOPERATION AND FARMERS WELFARE AT YASHADA, PUNE, MAHARASHTRA ON 03.05.2018

The National Workshop on DBT/HORTNET was organized by Department of Agriculture, Cooperation and Farmers Welfare at YASHADA, Pune in Maharashtra under the Chairmanship of Shri Jalaj Srivasatava, Additional Secretary, DAC&FW. The meeting was attended by Shri Dinesh Kumar, Joint Secretary (MIDH), DAC&FW besides other officers from State/UT Horticulture Missions, officers of National Informatics Centre as per list annexed.

The Workshop began with an introductory address by Joint Secretary (MIDH), DAC&FW, Shri Dinesh Kumar explaining the purpose of holding the conference i.e. to sensitize the Implementing Agencies towards the use of DBT/HORTNET. He reminded that w.e.f 1.4.2018, it has become mandatory to pay the subsidy into the beneficiary account by Direct Benefit Transfer i.e. DBT and the same needs to be reflected in HORTNET portal. JS(MIDH) also informed that for the purpose of release of the funds during 2018-19, the expenditure made by the implementing agencies during 2017-18 must be reflected on to HORTNET/DBT portal. States were also requested that AADHAAR number of the beneficiary needs also to be linked with DBT portal. JS MIDH invited State representatives from Haryana, Andhra Pradesh, Telangana and Odisha to share their best practices. He informed the participants that Utilization Certificate will hence forth be matched with DBT/HORTNET portal as per the expenditure reported by the State.

- Addl. Secretary Govt. of India, emphasized that instead of having separate portals created by States one should work under one Portal. He spoke about the importance of Aadhaar linkage with the system and the benefits there-of. The end-objective is to double the farmers' income as per the mandate of the Hon'ble PM and requested the participants to work towards that prime objective.
- SHM, HARYANA was honored for their extraordinary achievement for implementation of DBT/HORTNET in the State during 2017-18. States of Chhattisgarh and Andhra Pradesh also shared the honour of good work. Md. Arif Ali, Technical Director & Project Coordinator HORTNET from NIC Hyderabad and Shri K Rajasekhar, DDG & HOG (CDG) Hyderabad were also awarded a certificate of recognition and momento by the Chief Guest. All participants were also awarded Certificates of Participation.

- SHM Haryana made an elaborate presentation on Best Practices followed in the State highlighting the key measures taken by the State to eliminate duplicity. The Admin module was explained to the States to help them understand the State level Customization to be done at their end. (Presentation enclosed)
- Sr. Programmer & DBA, MIDH Telangana, presented the Account & Auditing Module. Telangana's presentation was focused on Current Scenario, Problems and Gaps Identified explaining the probable solutions. Sr. Programmer & DBA, Telangana explained HORTNET's Mandatory Fields applicable in Telangana, Type of beneficiaries A/c accepted by HORTNET, RBI Guidelines related to DBT. He also explained advantages of having a separate Bank A/c for disbursement of Subsidy as it helps to monitor Successful and Rejected Transactions. Further, he explained the process followed in Telangana for Proceedings Approval and process of DBT. The need of maintaining each record to be presented before auditors. Sr. Programmer & DBA, Telangana further explained how to identify rejected beneficiaries and the process of resending the subsidy to rejected beneficiaries. He advocated to include electronically generated Cash Book and Ledger online in HORTNET which would record each transaction prove beneficial in Auditing. He has suggested to incorporate "Available Balance" to enter in HORTNET and the need to enter Cheque wise, Component wise, District wise and Category wise (Gen, SC &ST) Fund to be incorporated in HORTNET to know Component wise, District wise & Category wise Expenditure & Balances. This provision would facilitate State & Central Official a clear picture of Expenditure & Balances District wise, Category wise & Component wise. He also requested to include "on Daily basis Receipt & Payments i.e. Cash Book, Ledger Entry Screens". So that all expenditure can be recorded in one platform. He explained Advantages of Accounts Module

  1. Balance Sheet can be depicted in HORTNET,
  2. Complete and Systematic Recording of all the transactions
  3. Error Free Digital Report generation

  Sr. Programmer & DBA has explained advantages of integration between HORTNET and Bank:

1. Host to Host integration
2. Automation of encryption and decryption processes.
3. Reverse MIS for seamless updation of Statement of Expenditures
4. No delay & Risk of transit loss/ delay due to physical movement of financial instruments

5. Single payment instruction file for bulk payments
6. Minimal demand on administrative time and zero cost
7. Once the File is moved to the Bank, the onus of the Bank for its responsibility of executing all transactions

Telangana requested to include the below features in HORTNET:

1. Need for Bank reconciliation.

> To overcome the bank rejections due to wrong IFSC code the transactions would revert to district and hence it was suggested that the same should be brought to the notice of Head office.

2. Registration Screen – Two Text Boxes required to Enter IFSC Code & Account Number to cross check the entries.
3. Aadhaar Linking to Beneficiary Name & Bank Account Details
4. GPS Tracking of Farmer Fields (Coordinate of Farmer's field) required
5. Option to select "Source of Funds" to be incorporated while releasing Funds
6. MIS for CoEs
7. Target Achievement Screen to be modified and Month wise & Cumulative Report need to be designed for Current Year & Committed Achievements
8. Value Addition Services for PHM Components & Nurseries needs to be incorporated

> Telangana additionally highlighted the issues of PFMS and suggested an alternative solution for implementing payments though the ICIC gateway. This was later examined by the NIC team through VC on 08.05.18 and is still under progress and testing.

- Andhra Pradesh has introduced a toll free help-line number **18004252960** to resolve problems of beneficiaries. The help line cell monitors the grievances of the beneficiaries.

- SHM Maharashtra suggested certain changes in the State workflow as the State has the highest number of applications and faced serious inconveniences in handling the applications. The State has a system of Lottery and advertises the opening and closing dates for any subsidy giving room to applicants to apply at convenience and does not advocate the pattern of first come first serve as this practice allows only tech-savvy farmers to file applications. They also suggested that scheme filing be made mandatory at the time of registrations and advocated for an urgent need for PFMS integration. The State requested that all important documents be made

mandatory for upload by the farmer at the time of registration to dilute the workload of the officials, documents like copy of 7/12, first page of passbook, Copy of Aadhaar. Also suggested the use of Biometrics at the time of registration to avoid duplicate and ghost beneficiaries. They suggested Segregation of registered farmer's applications to be made available component wise and category wise (Gen/SC/ST). They requested NIC to automate the lottery system in future and fix the order of seniority of registered applicants. This will require the State SHM to share the logic of lottery and definition of seniority to enable NIC to automate the facility. They indicated that preference for SC/ST farmers and women applicants be also introduced. Verification of bank accounts was suggested to be introduced to avoid invalid account numbers being entered. It was discussed that bank account verifications can only be done if a Linkage is established with Aadhaar UADAI and NPCI gateways which may take time In addition to Non-Project Based and Project Base; HRD, Mission Management and provision for advances to public institutions be also incorporated. Generation of component wise reports for all components was suggested. Intimation of stage wise status of proposal is facilitated through SMS to the beneficiaries. A detailed discussion was also held with Director SHM Maharashtra after the Workshop with NIC officials.

- A detailed demonstration was given by Md. Arif Ali, Technical Director and Project Coordinator, NIC Hyderabad on Project Based Module of MIDH. The session was chaired by Shri. S.K. Kaul. Asst. Commissioner (MIDH), Govt. of India. It was in general suggested that Project based schemes involved voluminous documentations and approvals at various stages by different bodies, the system may be developed in a semi-automated manner, wherein the physical file pertaining to the approvals may be routed along with an electronic copy maintained in the HORTNET System. Each State has been asked to give feedback on the module. Two levels of interface shall be created at the Central Level for the approvals of Shri Kaul and JS (MIDH). The PPT on the Project based module has been shared with Shri Kaul and States for expert comments and further directions and for suggestions for modifications is any.

- SHM Odisha expressed its concern over the e-sign server which was out of AMC and non-functional causing delays in release of payments. They also informed that all districts are not covered under NHM. The asked for facility to convert a PB scheme to NBP which is already available under HORTNET.

- Shri Rakesh Vardhan, Sr. Technical Director & National Project Director NIC New Delhi made a presentation of DBT portal and asked the non-reporting States to complete the DBT entries within a week. States of Assam, Goa, Puducherry, Jharkhand (Absent), MP, Nagaland and UP have agreed to submit the DBT data within one week.

- All were requested to follow the Manpower model of Haryana. MD SHM Haryana extended his support and agreed to help all other SHMs who required assistance by sending his technical team. Later it was decided that technical teams of Haryana, Telangana and Odisha can jointly assist other States who are willing to bear the travel and logistic cost of the visiting technical teams from the States.
- Bank account verification module was suggested to avoid ghost accounts being entered. It was suggested to seek an affidavit from the applicant that he / she has not taken subsidy under the same scheme to avoid multiple benefits. All changes done were requested to be reflected as on website separately for information of all. It was suggested to add a module to select a Govt. Agency in the Admin module. Vital credentials like bank A/c Aadhaar to have facility of double entry check validation. Timelines to be advertised for applications for Maharashtra.
- States were divided in three groups Group – I RAJASTHAN, ASSAM, TELANGANA, CHHATTISGARH, NAGALAND, TRIPURA and MIZORAM with Group Head has TELANGANA

    Group – II MANIPUR, PUDUCHERRY, GOA, ANDHRA PRADESH, HARYANA, ARUNACHAL PRADESH, SIKKIM, and UTTAR PRADESH with group head as ANDHRA PRADESH

    Group – III ODISHA, MADHYA PRADESH, BIHAR, PUNJAB, JAMMU & KASHMIR, TAMIL NADU, KERALA, JHARKHAND & MAHARASHRTA with group head as ODISHA. All groups have been advised to submit Annual plan for Implementation of HORTNET / DBT and submit the report with respective group heads for compilation of final report at New Delhi.

- SHM Maharashtra and Haryana have indicated their willingness to support the development team of HORTNET by providing man-power resource.
- Bihar and Jharkhand were absent however they are requested to submit the Implementation Plan to concerned group.
- Shri Pankaj Sharma STA (MIDH) extended the vote of thanks.