

(5)

(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

50

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.