



ABSTRACT

Schemes - Centrally Sponsored Scheme - Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGS) – Land Development Activities in the lands of SC/STs Farmers, Small and Marginal farmers and beneficiaries of Indira Awaas Yojana and Land Reforms – Guidelines for taking up farm pond works - Approved – Orders issued.

Rural Development and Panchayat Raj (CGS.1) Department

G.O.(Ms) No.17

Dated: 15 .02.2013

Read:

1. G.O.(Ms.)No.61, Rural Development and Panchayat Raj (CGS-1) Department, dated 23.07.2012.
2. From the Commissioner of Rural Development and Panchayat Raj, Chennai – 15 Letter No.65883/ 2011/ MGNREGS –II (1), dated 21.01.2013.
3. G.O. Ms. No.48, Revenue (DM.3(1) Department, dated 13.02.2013.

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ORDER:

In the Government order first read above, orders have been issued approving the Guidelines for undertaking Land Development Activities and works on lands belonging to Scheduled Castes / Scheduled Tribes, Small and Marginal Farmers and beneficiaries of Indira Awaas Yojana and Land Reforms under the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme.

2. Hon'ble Chief Minister has announced on the floor of the Assembly that special provisions for livelihood would be made for the drought affected Delta districts. Accordingly, in the Government Order 3rd cited, the Government in Revenue Department has detailed the package of measures approved for relieving the distress caused to the affected farmers and labourers in the Cauvery delta areas of eight districts.

3. The Commissioner of Rural Development and Panchayat Raj in the letter second read above, has sent proposal for special guidelines to provide farm ponds in the lands of individual farmers in the districts of Thanjavur, Tiruvarur, Nagapattinam, Trichy, Karur, Ariyalur, Pudukkottai, Cuddalore and other districts, if any, notified by Government and requested the Government to approve the draft Guidelines for the construction of farm ponds under Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme.

4. The Government after careful examination of the proposal of the Commissioner of Rural Development and Panchayat Raj, have decided to accept it and approve the Guidelines for the provision of farm ponds on lands belonging to SC/ST, Small and Marginal farmers as annexed to this Government order.

(BY ORDER OF THE GOVERNOR)

C.V. SANKAR,
PRINCIPAL SECRETARY TO GOVERNMENT.

To
The Commissioner of Rural Development and Panchayat Raj, Chennai – 15.
All District Collectors, (through the Commissioner of Rural Development
and Panchayat Raj, Chennai-15)
All Project Directors, District Rural Development Agencies,
(through the Commissioner of Rural Development
and Panchayat Raj, Chennai-15)

Copy to:

The Secretary,
Ministry of Rural Development,
Department of Rural Development,
Government of India,
Krishi Bhavan,
New Delhi – 110 114.
The Honourable Chief Minister's Office, Chennai-9.
The Special Personal Assistant to Hon'ble Minister (MA & RD),
Chennai – 9.
The Agriculture Production Commissioner and Secretary to Government,
Agriculture Department, Chennai -9.
National Information Centre, Chennai-9.

//Forwarded by order//

SECTION OFFICER.

ANNEXURE

Guidelines for the provision of farm ponds on lands belonging to SC / ST, Small and Marginal farmers and other categories of farmers approved under MGNREGS.

1. Introduction:

The National Rural Employment Guarantee Act, 2005 envisages “provision of irrigation facility, horticulture plantation and land development facilities on the lands owned by households belonging to the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes or below poverty line families or to beneficiaries of land reforms or to the beneficiaries under the Indira Awaas Yojana of Government of India or that of the small farmers or marginal farmers as defined in the Agriculture Debt Waiver and Debt Relief Scheme, 2008”(Paragraph 1 (iv) of Schedule I).

Section 27(1) of NREGA Act also envisages taking up of land development activities on the lands of SCs and STs households, small and marginal farmers.

As per the announcement of the Hon’ble Minister for Municipal Administration and Rural Development on the Floor of Legislative Assembly on 09.04.2012, and in consonance with the provisions stated above, Government by its order in G.O.Ms.No.61, Rural Development and Panchayat Raj (CGS-1) Department, dated: 23.07.2012 approved the guidelines for taking up of Land Development Activities.

As per the announcement of the Hon’ble Chief Minister on the floor of the Assembly to mitigate the drought situation in the Delta areas of Thanjavur, Tiruvarur, Nagapattinam, Trichy, Karur, Ariyalur, Pudukottai and Cuddalore, it has been decided to construct farm ponds under the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme on the lands belonging to individual farmers belonging to Scheduled Castes / Scheduled Tribes and Small and Marginal Farmers and other categories of farmers approved under Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme.

Para (1) (ii) of Annexure I in G.O.Ms.No.61, Rural Development and Panchayat Raj (CGS-1) Department, dated: 23.07.2012 provides for the construction of farm ponds and para 2 (vi) also provides for the construction of dug out farm ponds on the lands of individual farmers.

In this regard, considering the request of the farmers in the Districts of Thanjavur, Tiruvarur, Nagapattinam, Trichy, Ariyalur, Karur, Pudukottai and Cuddalore and other districts notified as drought hit, these Special guidelines have been drawn up for the provision of farm ponds on individual lands of farmers.

2. Objectives:

1. Providing farm ponds on individual farmer’s lands to help the farmers to mitigate the shortage of water for crops during critical periods.

2. To harvest runoff from local catchments.
3. Enhance the percolation effect through these structures.

3. Scope of Operation:

It has been proposed to construct around 15,000 ponds on the lands of individual farmers in the following drought affected delta districts of Thanjavur, Tiruvarur, Nagapattinam, Trichy, Ariyalur, Karur, Pudukottai and Cuddalore and other districts as notified by Government.

4. General Conditions:

The following general and technical conditions are to be fulfilled while executing the work on individual lands under MGNREGS.

1. Digging of farm ponds shall be a 100% Labour oriented work. **There shall be no material component under this category.**
2. The individual land owner shall be a job card holder and shall also work on the Lands belonging to SC / ST, Small and Marginal Farmers etc.
3. The projects undertaken on lands belonging to the individual farmers in a Village Panchayat shall be approved by the Gram Sabha and shall form part of the annual shelf of projects.
4. No contractor or machinery shall be used in the execution of the works.

5. Other conditions:

1. Only registered Job Card holders to be employed on these work.
2. Social Audits through Gram Sabhas shall be an Integral feature.
3. The responsibility of maintenance of farm ponds provided under MGNREGS will rest with the beneficiary household.

6. Implementation:

- (a) The details of lands on which farm ponds are to be provided and the identification of the farmers shall be done by the Assistant Agricultural Officer / Agricultural Officer concerned (Agriculture Department) and the list shall be communicated to the Block Development Officer (Village Panchayats), Rural Development and Panchayat Raj Department.
- (b) The Estimates of the work shall be prepared by the competent technical authority viz., the Overseer of Rural Development and Panchayat Raj Department.
- (c) According of Technical Sanction of works shall be done by AE (RD) as laid down in G.O.(Ms.) No.203, Rural Development and Panchayat Raj (PR.I) Department, dated 20.12.2007.

- (d) Village Panchayat wise detailed action plan shall be prepared by the Block Development Officer (Village Panchayats) in consultation with the Agriculture Department and shall be got approved by the Gram Sabha.
- (e) The estimation regarding the requirement of labourers for each of the individual farm ponds shall be assessed by the Overseer and details should be furnished to the Village Panchayat President through the Block Development Officer (Village Panchayats).
- (f) The proposal for works along with Gram Sabha Resolution and technical approval by the Assistant Engineer (RD) shall be submitted to the District Collector / DPC through the Project Director, DRDA.
- (g) The District Collector / DPC shall accord the Administrative Sanction.
- (h) The work shall be executed by the Village Panchayat.
- (i) The implementation of the work shall be supervised and monitored by an Executing Committee consisting of
 1. Assistant Engineer (Agricultural Engineering Department)
 2. Overseer / Assistant Engineer (Rural Development Department)
 3. Assistant Agricultural Officer / Agricultural Officer concerned (Agriculture Department)

7. Execution of work:

1. Nominal Muster Roll will be issued by the President of the Village Panchayat.
2. Attendance and monitoring of the work site shall be done by one of the workers of MGNREGS of the concerned Village Panchayat.
3. Pre-marking shall be done by the Overseer of Rural Development Department in the presence of the Executing Committee Members and certified by them.
4. Measurement of works for the purpose of weekly payment of wages to workers shall be done by the Overseer of Rural Development Department. Based on the quantum of work arrived at by the Overseer and certified by the Union Overseer, the wage shall be disbursed to individual MGNREGS Workers.
5. On completion of each of the farm pond, the measurement and check measurement shall be undertaken by the competent technical persons as laid down G.O. (Ms) No.203, Rural Development and Panchayat Raj (PR.I) Department dated 20.12.2007 which is reproduced below:

Sl.No.	Value of work	Measuring Officer	Check-Measuring Officer
	1	2	3
1.	Bill of value not more than rupees 1 Lakh	Overseer	Block Engineer / Assistant Engineer
2.	Bills of value more than rupees 1 Lakh	Block Engineer / Assistant Engineer	Assistant Engineer Executive

6. The Completion Report of each of the farm pond work shall be signed by all the Members of the Executing Committee as mentioned above to ensure satisfactory completion of the work.
7. Processing of bills and issue of fund release order shall be done by the Block Development Officer (Village Panchayats).
8. Maintenance of Registers and payment of wages shall be done by the Village Panchayat as it is being done now under the regular MGNREGS works.

8. Technicalities to be followed in the Selection of Farm Ponds

a) Site Selection

1. A farm pond should be made within the farm of the individual.
2. The site should preferably have an impermeable underground stratum. Otherwise, the water collected in the farm pond will immediately percolate down and no water will be available for protective irrigation, defeating the very purpose of the farm pond.
3. The site where the farm pond is built should not have a slope more than 2%. If the slope is higher, water tends to collect on one end of the farm pond, while other portions remain empty.
4. The catchment area of the site where the farm pond is to be located should not be more than 5 ha.
5. If there is well or a dip on the farm, the farm pond should be made upstream of it so that the well may benefit from recharge from the pond.

b) Capacity of farm ponds

1. The capacity of the farm pond should be determined on the basis of the rainwater that is estimated to flow from the farm and based on the area to be irrigated and quantum of water required for the crops to be irrigated.
2. It is preferable to construct deeper farm ponds than shallow ponds so as to minimize the use of farm land and also to minimize the evaporation loss.

The conditions of implementation and execution of work laid down in these guidelines shall be read harmoniously with the conditions laid down in G.O.Ms.No.61, Rural Development and Panchayat Raj (CGS-1) Department, dated: 23.7.2012.

The Principal Secretary to Government, Rural Development and Panchayat Raj Department is empowered to modify these guidelines, whenever necessary, in consultation with the Commissioner of Rural Development and Panchayat Raj.

C.V. SANKAR,
PRINCIPAL SECRETARY TO GOVERNMENT.

SECTION OFFICER.