

**No J-12039/2/1/2016MGNREGA-IV**  
**Government of India**  
**Ministry of Rural Development**  
**Department of Rural Development**

Krishi Bhawan, New Delhi

Date: 07.06.2016

**To**  
**All Commissioners/Secretaries/Special Secretaries**  
**In charge of MGNREGA**  
**Department of Rural Development**  
**All the States/UTs**

**Sub: Research Studies to be commissioned by States for evaluating the different aspects of implementation of Mahatma Gandhi NREGA reg.**

Sir,

With a view to ensuring an objective and scientific assessment of the implementation of MGNREGA in the States/UTs and build a credible body of evidence that advocates the rights and entitlements of the most vulnerable and marginalised, the States may independently commission time-bound research studies relevant to your State concerns in consultation with the Ministry of Rural Development.

2. For the FY 2016-17, the States are requested to identify at least two areas or domains of implementation. The suggestive list of research studies that could be taken up is attached. However, the States may take the final decision on areas to be studied. The studies need to be well-scoped and conceptualised with reputed state or national level academic and research institutions, in consultation with MoRD and must necessarily yield actionable insights.
3. The cost of the studies may be incurred through the 6% administrative expense under MGNREGA. State-Specific procedures for a transparent selection of research/academic agencies per usual norms may be carried out for commissioning the research studies.
4. The consolidated research reports and abstracts of actionable result insights may be submitted to the Ministry before the end of the FY 16-17.

Yours faithfully,

(Aparajita Sarangi)  
Joint Secretary (MGNREGA)

Encl: as above

7/6/16

## Suggested List of Research Topics:

SN	Research Theme	Research foci	Type of Study and Suggested Scoping
	<p>Technical Quality and Economic Assessments of the Category B assets under MGNREGA and their impact on improving the income status of the beneficiary HH</p> <p>* a specific sub-category may be selected by the state, say ponds, horticulture, dug wells etc.</p>	<p>Testing the assumptions that MGNREGA assets do /do not support sustainable livelihoods</p>	<p><b>Field Survey, economic(Rol) and technical assessments of works and beneficiaries</b></p> <p>a. Random selection of districts /blocks/GPs to constitute a representative sample.</p> <p>b. Selection of a representative sample of completed works under Category B.</p> <p>c. Two level assessments -quality assessment of works and economic assessments of productivity and other economic variables through the beneficiaries with a matching cohort non-beneficiary sample. <b>This may include pre and post asset falling demand under MGNREGA.</b></p>
2.	<p>Technical Quality and Agro-economic Assessments of the Category 'A' assets of water conservation and rejuvenation of water bodies under MGNREGA.</p>	<p>Testing the hypothesis of the 'green impact' of MGNREGA works using agro-economic parameters</p>	<p><b>A Field Survey, economic and technical assessments of works</b></p> <p>a. A purposive sample of districts with large watershed works.</p> <p>b. Technical Assessments and a sample beneficiary survey within the command area.</p>
3.	<p>End to end analysis of delay in payments.</p>	<p>Testing the assumptions of delay in payments and reasons thereof.</p>	<p><b>A prospective study</b></p> <p>a. Random selection of a representative sample of districts/blocks/GPs.</p> <p>b. Random selection of a representative sample of JC/workers from ongoing works.</p> <p>c. Tracking time taken, delays and problem-solving efforts at each level, from the closure of musters till the credit of payments in the bank accounts of the beneficiaries.</p> <p>c. Assessments to identify gaps and good practices at each level, esp. after the uploading of the FTO.</p>

4.	Scaling best practices in Convergence in planning.	Unpacking the best practices of convergence under Mahatma Gandhi NREGA	<p><b>A Best Practice mixed method study</b></p> <p>a. Identify administrative districts showing best models of convergence.</p> <p>b. Generate governance and administrative descriptors <b>through micro-analysis of decision trails, behaviours and timelines.</b></p>
5.	Awareness about work entitlements among workers	Testing the assumptions of no demand vs unmet demand	<p><b>Intervention Study</b></p> <p>a. selection of the most backward districts/blocks or blocks/GPs with presumably no demand</p> <p>b. Specific IEC as implementation intervention for a defined period of time for randomly selected blocks.</p> <p>c. pre and post assessments in control and intervention blocks</p>
6.	Awareness among especially excluded groups	Testing the assumptions of demand registration by the excluded and the poorest	<p><b>Field Survey</b></p> <p>a. Random selection of districts /blocks/GPs.</p> <p>b. Selection of the poorest, most vulnerable HH by utilising socio-economic criteria(SECC data? ) with a large representative sample</p> <p>c. short survey instrument to test on worker awareness on demand, unmet demand, registration of demand and updation of job cards and understanding of active and non-active JC in the preceding FY.</p>
7.	Demand and inclusion in IPPE and non-IPPE blocks	Testing the hypothesis on IPPE impact on participation of excluded in generating demand, provision of wage employment as well as asset creation	<p><b>A pre-post natural field experiment.</b></p> <p>a. A large sample of the IPPE and non-IPPE blocks under MGNREGA.</p> <p>b. random selection of a large sample of active JCs</p> <p>c. Analysis of participation, shelf of works and execution of works.</p>
8.	Demand, technical quality of works and delay of payments in CFT and Non CFT blocks	Testing the assumptions and finding course correction for the effectiveness of the CFT project	<p><b>A comparative study of the implementation and capacity within the CFT states.</b></p> <p>a. Selection of best rated CFT, medium rated CFT, failed CFT and non-CFT blocks.</p>

			b. 4 levels of surveys-CSO, functionaries, PRI and Workers.
9.	Study of the drought affected districts and the implementation of MGNREGA to provide livelihood security and arrest distress migration	Testing the assumptions on rural labour economy, opportunities in farm and non-farm sector, wage rates, patterns of migration and its interlinkage with strong vs weak implementation of MGNREGA	<b>A prospective study of the implementation and capacity in the Drought affected districts and its impact on livelihood security and distress migration.</b> a. Random Selection of a representative sample of drought affected districts b. Large representative survey at three data touch points through the FY.
10.	Impact of IEC and monitoring interventions on Worker Awareness and its impact of the implementation of Mahatma Gandhi NREGA in Drought Affected districts.	Test the impact of specifically created IEC and monitoring interventions for drought-possibly relating to days of entitlement, multiple channels of demand/Rozgar Diwas, provision of work and payment of wages	<b>An Intervention Study/Field Experiment</b> a. Random selection of drought affected districts for specific interventions and no intervention conditions. b. Analysis of pre and post intervention impact on selected parameters.
11.	The implementation of the accountability provisions and awareness on complaints and grievance redressal under MGNREGA	Testing and cross-validating the implantation mechanism on paper with the actual awareness and usage of the accountability provisions among workers. An analysis of grievances raised and action taken.	<b>A multi-level archival analysis and a linked subset as well as a larger superset representative sample survey.</b> a. A random selection of districts/blocks/GP and the archival analysis of records relating to complaints and grievance redressal. b. A larger sample survey with workers and a tied subset survey of those workers as mentioned in the records of the GPs/blocks/24X7 helpline records etc.
12.	SHG groups and their utilization of Mahatma Gandhi NREGA	Test the assumptions of the possible role of SHG groups in the implementation of MGNREGA and identify the appropriate levels/possibilities as: a. Convergent access to entitlements? Or, b. Participation in planning? Or, c. Participation in oversight? Or, d. Role in grievance redressal? Or Neither/all of the above	<b>A Field Survey</b> a. Multi-level Representative sample of SHG groups, Ward level and GP level, Block level and district level federations. b. Survey on economic, social and gender related factors along with their current interlinkage with MGNREGA. Survey items to also include their possible roles, if any.

13.	Assessment of the transparency provisions under MGNREGA.	Testing the assumptions that all the provisions on transparency and suo-moto disclosures are followed on the ground and understood as such by the workers.	<b>Field Observation and sample survey</b> a. Random selection of a large representative sample of districts. b. Random selection of a representative sample of GPs. c. 100% observation check on all the transparency provisions at multiple sites in the GP, worksites, records, wall paintings etc. d. Random selection and survey of a representative sub-set of active workers in the selected GPs on understanding transparency from the worker perspectives.
14.	The impact of Aadhaar Based Payments and DBT in weeding out ghost beneficiaries	Test the assumptions of the use of technology in identifying and plugging leakages and quantify the same.	<b>A large scale sample survey</b> a. Random Selection of a representative sample of districts/blocks/GPs, with Complete DBT and non-DBT districts b. Cross-validation of the MGNREGA MIS with the beneficiary identities and payment received.