

F.No. K-11060/05/2021-22/L1/Moringa

Government of India
Ministry of Rural Development
Department of Rural Development
(Mahatma Gandhi NREGA Division)

Krishi Bhawan, New Delhi
Dated 27th September, 2021

To,

The Additional Chief Secretaries/ Principal Secretaries/ Commissioners
(in charge of Mahatma Gandhi NREGS)
Rural Development Department,
All State/UTs

Sub: - Joint Advisory for promotion of Moringa/Drum Stick in convergence with DAY-NRLM/SRLMs.

Madam / Sir,

You are aware that Moringa/Drum Stick (*Moringa oleifera Lam.*) plantation is a permitted horticulture activity as Community Asset or Individual Asset (for vulnerable sections for households under Paragraph 5 of the Schedule of the Act) and as Public Works. The Ministry has issued guidelines on 04th May, 2020 for promoting nutri-garden for individual beneficiaries and community in convergence with State Schemes and NRLM.

DAY-NRLM is promoting Moringa plantation through its various initiatives. Some of the SRLMs have raised Moringa nurseries for distribution among SHG members. DAY-NRLM has also trained and deployed a large number of Krishi Sakhi who are well versed with plantation and agri-nutri garden promotion. DAY-NRLM has established a large number of Producer Groups (PGs) with women farmer members for introduction of agro-ecological practices and forward linkages.

In order to promote Moringa plantation activity under Mahatma Gandhi NREGA this advisory has been formulated.

2. Role of National Rural Livelihoods Mission/ State Rural Livelihood Missions:

- i. Integrate Moringa plantation as an essential component of agri-nutri garden initiative of farm livelihoods interventions.
- ii. Identifying Cluster Level Federations (CLFs) for implementation of the project – Promotion of Moringa / drumstick under the individual lands of SHG members.
- iii. Train livelihoods staff, CLFs, PGs, Krishi Sakhi and SHG members for training on promotion of Moringa / Drumsticks and taking up plantation works.



- iv. Providing hand-holding support to CLFs, SHGs, PGs, Krishi Sakhi, and individual beneficiaries in implementation of promotion of Moringa/drum stick.
- v. Identifying the suitable SHG members (as per Para 5 of the Schedule-I of Mahatma Gandhi NREGA) for promotion of Moringa / Drumstick in individual lands in a cluster of villages to ensure marketable surplus and in each village block approach may be adopted to ensure marketable surplus.
- vi. Forward linkages for sale of Moringa / drumstick products in the market.
- vii. Providing advice to the plantation beneficiaries about the inter – cropping activities that could be taken up to generate additional streams of income, which sustain the interest of beneficiaries till plantation starts bearing fruit.
- viii. Will set up a communications network for advisories and support for disease and growth monitoring.
- ix. NRLM and SRLMs will obtain appropriate package of practices for Moringa / Drumstick from State Agriculture Universities.
- x. Each SHG member may be provided five plants from the nursery raised by CLFs.
- xi. DAY – NRLM is promoting Integrated Farming Clusters (IFC) – Moringa can be an important component of these also.
- xii. DAY – NRLM and SRLMs should promote value addition of Moringa products viz leaf, pods and seeds to realise more income by the SHG members.
- xiii. CLF wherein it is an agency for implementation, will be responsible for non-negotiable like quality of works, Geotagging, maintenance and all other non-negotiable of Mahatma Gandhi NREGS in the States.
- xiv. No contractor will be allowed for the execution of nursery raising/ Moringa Plantation as per this advisory.

3. Role of Mahatma Gandhi NREGA:

It should be ensured that only permissible works under Mahatma Gandhi NREGA are taken up after following due process. Therefore, following points need to be adhered:

- i. All non-negotiables (Social Audit for all works etc.) under Mahatma Gandhi NREGA will be followed while taking up activities for promotion of horticulture plants like creation of shelf of works for the promotion of Moringa / Drumstick.
- ii. The cost of material component including the wages of the skilled and semi-skilled workers shall not exceed forty percent at the district level.
- iii. The relevant provisions mentioned in Paragraphs -5 of the Schedule – I of the Act need to be adhered to in selection and prioritising individual beneficiaries.
- iv. The estimate prepared for plantation activities should include the maintenance period for 3-5years(depending on the species). All costs should form part of one estimate.

4. Monitoring & Coordination:

- i. The monitoring of progress should be done at the State/UT level under Chairmanship of state Secretary(in charge of SRLM and Mahatma Gandhi NREGS) alongwith State Mission Director, SRLM and Commissioner, Mahatma Gandhi NREGS.



- ii. At district level, the monitoring should be done by District Level Coordination Committee (DLCC) for convergence headed by the Collector / DPC alongwith District Programme Manager (DPM), SRLM and Additional DPC (ADPC).

5. **Miscellaneous:**

- i. For durability and productivity of plantation, it is necessary that month wise schedule of activities for tree plantation and responsibility of stake holders is worked out by the SRLM which will vary from State to State.
- ii. For enhanced participation of women in Mahatma Gandhi NREGA implementation, efforts should be made to progressively engage Federation of women Self Help groups as Project Implementing Agencies (PIAs) at the Gram Panchayat/ Block/District level.
- iii. The Cluster Level Federations (CLFs) constituted under the National Rural Livelihoods Mission could also act as the Programme Implementing Agencies (PIAs). This could be especially helpful for promotion of livelihood enhancing category B (Individual) assets.
- iv. For all such works (individual/ Community) of nursery raising and Moringa plantation where CLF, as identified by SRLM, is the programme implementing Agency, this will be the duty of SRLM to propose/place the works to Panchayat at intermediate level (Block Level) to be included and finalized in the Annual Action Plan . The decision of Block Panchayat will be final.
- v. For all such works (individual/ Community) of nursery raising and Moringa plantation where Gram Panchayat is the Programme Implementing Agency, this will be the duty of SRLM to propose/place the works to Gram Panchayat to be included in the Annual Action Plan of Gram Panchayat and will be finalized by the Gram Sabha. The decision of Gram Sabha will be final.

The State / Union Territories are requested to promote Moringa/Drumstick plantation activities after following due process in accordance with guidelines of the concerned scheme.


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