

Minutes of the 16th Meeting of Mission Operation Greens held on 15.06.2020Minutes of the 16th Meeting of Mission Operation Greens held over Webex
(online meeting portal) at 3.00 pm on 15.06.2020

The meeting was held under the chairmanship of Joint Secretary, FPI to review the progress made in respect of new scheme Operation Greens - "TOP to TOTAL" and to review the status of implementation of on-going projects by the PIAs. Members of the Mission Operation Greens (MOG), PMA (GT & NABCONS) and PIAs attended the meeting. The list of participants of the meeting is at Annexure-I.

2. At the outset, Chairman welcomed the participants and intimated the purpose of the meeting. Members were informed about new scheme Operation Greens - "TOP to TOTAL" for short-term price stabilization measures as part of Atmanirbhar Bharat Abhiyan. It was informed that the new scheme was approved on 10.06.2020 and that the scheme guideline was notified and uploaded in the website on 11.06.2020. During last MOG meeting held on 12.06.2020, the detailed presentation about the scheme, registration process, application template and methodology adopted for selecting eligible crops, production cluster & trigger price were explained to the members. He requested the State Government to:

- i. give wide publicity of the scheme so that full advantage of benefits available under the scheme can be availed by various stakeholders;
- ii. advise the State Marketing Federation/Board or similar Agency to make procurement from the small & marginal farmers and take the advantage of the scheme;
- iii. advise the State Horticulture department to provide a list of major fruits & vegetables due for harvest during June to Dec, their harvesting season months, and production & average price information for last three years in the production clusters as per Horticulture Statistics at a Glance 2018 (available on https://mofpi.nic.in/sites/default/files/list_of_states_districts_as_per_horticulture_statistics_at_a_glance-2018.pdf)

He further requested the different agencies such as APEDA, SFAC, NCDC, State Marketing Federation/Board etc. to facilitate meetings with the concerned stakeholders through video-conferencing, so that Ministry can explain the scheme to them in detail.

3. Detailed presentations were made by the PMA (GT & NABCONS) on the progress of on-going projects and specific request of the PIAs.



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4. The agenda wise recommendations of the Mission are as under:

Agenda No.1:**New scheme Operation Greens - "TOP to TOTAL" for short-term price stabilization measures under Atmanirbhar Bharat Abhiyan**

Member were informed about the Operation Greens Scheme, being implemented by MoFPI has been extended from tomato, onion and potato (TOP) crops to other notified horticulture crops for providing subsidy for their transportation and storage from surplus production area to major consumption centres. After Inter-Ministerial Consultation and SFC meeting held on 03.06.2020, the Scheme was approved by Hon'ble Minister on 10.06.2020 and the scheme was notified and uploaded in the Ministry's website on 11.06.2020.

Shri Shyam Sundar Agrawal, Deputy Director made detailed power-point presentation on the scheme guidelines. It was explained that the objective of intervention is to protect the growers of fruits and vegetables from making distress sale due to lockdown and reduce the post -harvest losses. Ministry will provide subsidy @ 50 % of the cost of the following two components, subject to the cost norms:

- v. Transportation of eligible crops from surplus production cluster to consumption center; and/or
- vi. Hiring of appropriate storage facilities for eligible crops (*for maximum period of 3 months*);

Regarding eligible crops, it was informed that fruits namely Mango, Banana, Guava, Kiwi, Lichi, Papaya, Citrus, Pineapple, Pomegranate, Jackfruit and vegetables namely French beans, Bitter Gourd, Brinjal, Capsicum, Carrot, Cauliflower, Chillies (Green), Okra, Onion, Potato and Tomato have been included in the Scheme. Any other fruit/vegetable can be added in future on the basis of recommendation by Ministry of Agriculture or State Government.

Duration of Scheme is for the period of six months from the date of notification i.e., 11/06/2020. Food Processors, FPO/FPC, Co-operative Societies, Individual farmers, Licensed Commission Agent, Exporters, State Marketing/Co-operative Federation, Retailers etc. engaged in processing/ marketing of fruits and vegetables are the eligible entities for availing the subsidy under the scheme.

Regarding submission of claim for subsidy, it was informed that eligible entities, who comply with the aforesaid essential criteria may undertake the transportation and/or storage of eligible crops from notified surplus production cluster, without any prior approval from MoFPI and thereafter submit their claim on online portal

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<https://www.sampada-mofpi.gov.in/Login.aspx>. Applicant should register on the portal before carrying out transportation/storage of fruits and vegetables

Regarding scrutiny and settlement of claims, it was informed that application for claim will be evaluated by the existing PMAs under Operation Greens Scheme. Their recommendation will be considered in the Mission Operation Greens meeting, which will be held regularly on weekly basis (every Monday, in case of holiday, next working day) at 03:00 PM. After approval by Mission Operation Greens, the claim will be processed for release of subsidy by the division.

Shri Sanjay Chandra, from NIC team made detailed presentation on the Registration form and online Application template designed for submission of claims by the applicants for reimbursement of eligible cost as subsidy under the Scheme.

Regarding the Trigger Price required for intervention under the scheme, it was informed that M/s Agri Watch has compiled the 3-year average price information from AGMARK NET Portal for some crops namely Mango, Papaya, Pomegranate, Banana, Mosambi, Sapota, Guava, Pineapple for total 109 clusters in the State of Maharashtra, Gujarat, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh, West Bengal, Uttar Pradesh, Andhra Pradesh, Telangana and Odisha. It was informed that the data was compiled for those clusters where the data quality is relatively clean and better. There are certain gaps in the data maintained by the Agmarknet. It was informed that in case of some states (e.g. Bihar), no Agmarknet data is available. Similarly, in some states, important clusters may not have been included due to no availability or poor availability of data on Agmarknet. *Therefore, all the State Govt were requested to validate the information contained in the list and also provide the missing price information of a particular year.* It was informed that list of eligible crops, selected surplus production clusters and trigger price for intervention under extended Operation Greens Scheme was sent to all the members of the MOG and to the office of Chief Secretaries of all the States and UTs (**copy enclosed**).

In this regard, the following points were decided:

- a. For inclusion of clusters in the list, the average price during harvesting period of all three years is required;
- b. For inclusion of any production cluster *as per Horticulture Statistics at a Glance 2018*, the State Govt shall provide the requisite details such as major crops, their harvesting season months, the average price, production (MT) during harvesting period of last three years;
- c. Any other major crop (such as Kiwi, Litchi, Jackfruit etc.) may be recommended by State Govt, by providing their harvesting season months, and production & average price information for last three years in the production clusters as per Horticulture Statistics at a Glance 2018;



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- d. The list of eligible crops, selected surplus production clusters and trigger price for intervention may be revised from time to time by the Ministry. The revised list will be placed before next MOC meeting for consideration.

NAFED expressed apprehension regarding not meeting of essential criteria by the small and marginal farmers under the scheme to avail the benefit of subsidy. In this regard, it was clarified that State Marketing Federation/Boards or any similar agency designated by the concerned State Government can procure the eligible crops from the small & marginal farmers and take the benefits under the Scheme.

Regarding Trigger price required for intervention under the Scheme, NAFED suggested that this should be minimum price for procurement, instead of maximum price. In this regard, it was informed that for intervention under the scheme, the prevailing price in the notified production clusters should be either less the preceding 3 year's average market price at the time of harvest or price fall more than 15% compared to last year market price at the time of harvest, or price fall less than the benchmark price for procurement, if any, fixed by the State/Central Government for a specified period. To calculate trigger price, the maximum of the above three criteria is considered. Accordingly, to arrive at conclusion that there is stress in price, the prevailing price at which the applicant purchase from farmers in the relevant cluster should not be more than the trigger price. However, in the broader line case, the prevalence of actual APMC/Mandi price on the date of procurement by the farmer in the respective cluster will be confirmed from concerned State Government before processing of the claim.

Representative of Govt of Karnataka informed that they have shared the scheme guidelines with their district office and will give the feedback to the Ministry shortly.

Representative of Govt of Andhra Pradesh appreciated the Scheme and informed that there are number of FPOs engaged in transportation of fruits & vegetable in their State and they will be benefitted from the scheme. They further informed that their Agricultural Marketing Department is also engaged in transportation of the crops.

Representative of Govt of Gujarat raised apprehension of the data gap in the information regarding price/production maintained by the Agmarknet. All the State Govt were requested to validate the price information from their own source of data maintained by State Horticulture or any other agency.

Representative of Govt of Rajasthan informed that they had request for inclusion of production clusters for onion and tomato from their State, but none of them has been included in the list. In this regard, it was clarified that list of selected cluster (as per Annexure-I of the Scheme Guidelines) is meant for receiving of proposals for setting



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up of the integrated value chain development project. The cluster under new scheme is for short term intervention and therefore he was requested to provide the list of major fruits & vegetables being harvested during June to December, their harvesting season months, major clusters, average price, production data during harvesting period of last three years.

Representative of Govt of Assam informed that the major crops due for harvest in their State are pineapple, banana, spices etc. He was advised to provide the requisite information for inclusion of major production clusters from their State.

Representative of Govt of Tripura requested for reducing the minimum procurement quantity from 100 MT to 50 MT, as there is no State Marketing Federation like agency in their state. He also requested to reduce the minimum distance from 100 Km to 25 Km. In this regard, it was considered that *minimum quantity to be procured and transported/stored by applicant may be reduced from 100 MT to 50 MT for FPO/FPC, Co-operative, Individual farmers; from 500 MT to 250 MT for Food processor, Exporter, Licensed Commission Agent; from 1,000 MT to 500 MT for Retailers, State Marketing/Co-operative federation and cost norms for transportation may be increased by 10% for the North Eastern and Himalayan States.*

