

NFSNM-Seed Components

(erstwhile SMSP)

ASSISTANCE FOR FOSTERING SEEDS OF NEW VARIETIES

(erstwhile SVP & CSP)

OBJECTIVE

Seed is one of the vital input that governs the production and yield of the crop, so it is of foremost importance to make available best quality seed for bumper production and ensuring food security of the nation. The good quality seed in itself can improve the crop productivity from 15-20%. In country like India, farmers are still using their farm saved seeds for sowing their crop. To improve the quality of farm saved seed the department was implementing a component under erstwhile SMSP namely "Seed Village Program" so that the farmers can improve the quality of their farm saved seed in Cereals, Pulses, Oilseeds, Fodder Crops and Green Manures. Similarly, in another component namely "Certified Seed Production through Seed Village" under erstwhile SMSP was implemented by the department for promoting the production of certified seed in Pulses, Oilseeds, Fodder and Green Manure.

Now, for giving impetus on the objective of improving the Seed Replacement Rate (SRR) and Varietal Replacement Rate (VRR) a new, revised and comprehensive scheme is needed. Similarly, a lot of research and development work is being carried out by ICAR, SAUs, CAUs and other organizations for development of new and high yielding varieties which are bio-fortified and climate resilient. The rate of incorporation of these varieties in the seed chain has to be expedited and the old varieties need to be phased-out. One of the important reasons for this was lack of awareness of new varieties, reluctance of farmers to leave old varieties and high cost of breeder seed. A considerable work has been done in last 4-5 years to improve the awareness among different stakeholders about the newly released varieties, but still the cost of breeder seed was one of the biggest factors that impedes the pace of dissemination of new varieties in seed chain. Keeping in view the above factors a new component namely "Assistance for Fostering Seeds of New Varieties" is formulated that has subsumed the earlier "Seed Village Program" and "Certified Seed Production through Seed Village". Along-with support on the cost of Foundation and Certified seeds, assistance on the cost of breeder seeds of newly released varieties is also available.

COMPONENTS & PATTERN OF ASSISTANCE

Assistance on Breeder Seeds (100% GoI): For incorporation of seeds of newly released and notified varieties in seed chain the cost of breeder seed is a big factor. The cost of breeder seed is generally high and assistance on the cost of breeder seed of new varieties will give a boost in rapid incorporation of new varieties in seed chain and ultimately improving the Varietal Replacement Rate (VRR). It will further help the implementing agencies to popularize the new varieties and in reducing the cost of foundation seed production.

- i. Financial assistance of 50% on the Breeder Seed cost (100% GoI Share) decided by Seed Division, DA&FW, GoI, is available for distribution of Breeder Seed of newly released varieties/hybrids which are ≤ 5 years old (from the date of notification) to seed growers for foundation seed production (Table-B).
- ii. Notified varieties/hybrids of Cereals, Coarse Cereals, Pulses, Fibres and Fodder Crops are eligible for assistance under this component.
- iii. Assistance will be provided on the basis of lifting of allocated breeder seed (by Seed Division, DA&FW, MoA&FW, GoI) from ICAR-Institutes, CAUs, SAUs and other Breeder Seed Producing Centres (BSPCs) of Government Organizations and as per actual sowing by the registered seed growers (which may be a seed grower or an organization).
- iv. The agency taking assistance on breeder seed cost needs to pass the assistance as such to the seed growers (which may be a seed grower or an organization).
- v. As seed production is a highly technical task, therefore assistance can be provided for the distribution of breeder seed for a maximum up to 5 hectares per seed grower. In the case of the Agency, the ceiling would be capped at 5 hectares/variety/crop in a season.
- vi. The land shall be its own or shall be on lease with the seed grower at the time of taking assistance.
- vii. The implementing agencies shall ensure that the same seed growers shall not be repeated every year. The benefit of the assistance shall be provided to maximum seed growers.
- viii. The breeder to foundation seed production taken under this initiative shall be mandatorily captured on SATHI portal.

Assistance on Foundation Seeds (100% GoI): To reduce the cost of Certified Seed production, assistance on Foundation Seed distribution to the seed growers is available @ 50% of Foundation Seed (Table-B).

- i. Financial assistance of 50% on Foundation Seed cost (100% GoI) decided by the seed producing agency or as decided by Seed Division, DA&FW, GoI (whichever is less) (Table-B) is available for distribution of Foundation Seed only for the purpose of certified seed production to seed growers (which may be a seed grower or an organization) of newly released varieties/hybrids which are ≤ 8 years old (from the date of notification).
- ii. Notified varieties/hybrids of Cereals, Coarse Cereals, Pulses, Fibres and Fodder Crops is eligible for assistance under this component.
- iii. The agency taking assistance on Foundation Seed cost needs to pass the assistance as such to the seed growers (which may be a seed grower or an organization).
- iv. The assistance will be given only once either for Foundation Seed-I or II distribution. The agency cannot claim assistance if it has already taken assistance for distribution of FS-I of same variety in the preceding year.
- v. As the seed production is highly technical task, therefore the assistance can be provided for distribution of foundation seed for maximum upto 5 hectares per seed grower. In case of Agency, the ceiling would be capped at 5 hectares/variety/crop in a season.
- vi. The land shall be its own or shall be on lease with the seed grower at time of taking assistance.

- vii. The implementing agencies shall ensure that the same seed growers shall not be repeated every year. The benefit of the assistance shall be provided to maximum seed growers.
- viii. Assistance on both Breeder and Foundation seed distribution shall not be given to same seed grower (in case of an individual) in a season.
- ix. The foundation to certified seed production taken under this initiative shall be mandatorily captured on SATHI portal.

Assistance on Certification Charges (100% GoI): The component is available to increase the Certified Seed production by promoting the Seed Growers or Agencies to undertake Certified Seed production by providing assistance on Seed Inspection Charges.

- i. 50% assistance on seed inspection charges paid by the Seed Growers or Agencies is available under this component.
- ii. Available for the production of both Foundation and Certified seed.
- iii. The maximum assistance available will be upto 50% or maximum of Rs.400 / hectare (whichever is less) on inspection charges taken from Seed Growers or Agencies (for the seed production taken on their own farms).
- iv. The assistance is only available for inspection charges taken by the certification agency on the Breeder and Foundation Seed distributed under this component.

Assistance on Certified Seeds (60% GoI Share & 40% State Share in Normal States; 90% GoI Share & 10% State Share in North-Eastern & Hilly States and 100% GoI Share for Central Agencies): To promote the rapid adoption of newly released and notified seed varieties by farmers at the grassroots level, assistance on distribution of certified seeds is available. Financial assistance of 50% or as decided by Seed Division, DA&FW, GoI (whichever is less) (Table-B) is available for distribution of Certified Seed to farmers. This initiative aims to enhance the Seed Replacement Rate (SRR) in different respective crops.

- i. Only notified varieties or hybrids of Cereals, Coarse Cereals, Pulses, Fibers, and Fodder Crops are eligible for distribution under the assistance.
- ii. Only ≤ 10 years old notified varieties/hybrids are eligible for assistance.
- iii. Truthfully labelled seed of notified varieties is not eligible.
- iv. Assistance for distribution of certified seed under this component is available for maximum 01 hectare/farmer.
- v. The same farmer to which certified seed is distributed on assistance shall not be repeated for at least two years.
- vi. The seed to be distributed shall be produced by the implementing agencies through the proper generation system of seed production, either on their own farms or through their locally registered seed growers, with documented proof of breeder seed procurement. It is to be further ensured that the seed-producing agency have not procured the seed to be supplied from any third party.

- vii. The seed distribution under this component shall be mandatorily captured on SATHI portal.

Assistance on Capacity Building (100% GoI): To impart the knowledge of Seed Production, Inspection, Rouging, Harvesting, Processing, Packing, Treatment, Storage, Certification, etc assistance is available for organizing one-day training program for seed growers.

- i. Assistance of Rs. 50000 per training or less (whichever is applicable) for a group of 150 farmers is available (Table-A). The agency can opt for smaller group of 30-50 seed growers. Assistance in such case will be reduced to a pro-rata basis.
- ii. The implementing agency will organize only one training for a group of seed growers in a season.
- iii. For the total number of seed growers covered for distribution Breeder and Foundation seed under this component the training to maximum 1/3rd of such seed growers shall be done by the implementing agency in a particular season.
- iv. The farmers trained in one season shall not be repeated for at-least two years.

Table-A: Assistance for Capacity Building of Seed Growers

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S.No	Details	Rate (in Rs)	Amount Available (in Rs)
1	Stationery/Literature	Rs. 40/Seed Grower	6,000/-
2	Honorarium to Expert	Rs. 3000/Expert	6,000/-
3	(Maximum 02 Expert)		
4	Lunch/ Refreshment (02 Teas & 01 Lunch)	Rs. 150/Seed Grower	22,500/-
5	Other Miscellaneous Charges (For booking of hall, tent, chairs, microphone, speakers, etc.)		15,500/-
		Total	50,000/-

Implementing Agencies

- i. Department of Agriculture States/UTs, State Seed Corporations, National Seeds Corporation (NSC), National Level Agencies working in field of seed (such as NAFED, IFFDC, KRIBHCO, HIL, NFL, BBSSL), SAUs, CAUs, ICAR-Institutes, KVKs (controlled by SAUs, CAUs or ICAR-Institutes), Farms of Department of Agriculture and Seed Hubs (of ICAR-Institutes/SAUs/CAUs) are eligible for financial assistance under this component.
- ii. Those States/UTs/Agencies that are not using SATHI Portal will not be eligible for assistance.