

F. No. 29-01/2023-Estt./RTI-Vol-I
Government of India
Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare
Department of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare
Directorate of Extension

Krishi Vistar Bhavan
IASRI Campus, Pusa
New Delhi -110 012
Dated the 6 June, 2023

To,

Ms. Akshata Vinayak Mestry
Sun Fantasy Apartment, Ambegaon BK, Pune-411046
(Maharashtra).

email: *akshatamestry841@gmail.com*

Subject:- Supply of Information under RTI Act, 2005 – Applications received from Ms. Akshata Vinayak Mestry, Maharashtra, vide Registration no.DOEXT/R/T/23/00037 dated 12.05.2023– reg.

Madam,

I am to refer to your RTI application dated 12.05.2023 seeking information on the subject cited above under the RTI Act, 2005. So far as the Directorate of Extension is concerned, the requisite information is given as under:

Information Sought	Reply
Information about Farmer Welfare Schemes	1. Scheme - Central Sector Component "Establishment of Agri-Clinics and Agri-Business Centres (AC&ABC) – Annexure-I 2. Scheme –Kisan Call Centre – Annexure-I 3. Scheme – Support to State Extension Programs for Extension Reforms (ATMA) –Annexure-II 4. Scheme - Skill Training of Rural Youth (STRY) –Annexure-II

2. It is to mention that the First Appeal, if any, against the reply of CPIO may be made to the First Appellate Authority within 30 days of receipt of this reply. The particulars of the First Appellate Authority are as follows:-

Dr. Shailesh Kumar Mishra, Director (Extn),
Directorate of Extension,
Department of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare,
Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare,
Room No. 204, Krishi Vistar Sadan,
Pusa, New Delhi-110 012
Ph-011-25849881 and e-mail Id = shaileshk.mishra29@gov.in

Yours faithfully,

Deepa Pande
6/6/23
(Deepa Pande)

Dy. Director (Admn) & CPIO
Ph.011-25846467

Email : deepa.pande65@gov.in

Copy to:

1. Under Secretary (Extension) & CPIO, Department of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare, Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare, Krishi Bhavan, ND for information.
2. Section Officer (RTI), Deptt. of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare, Krishi Bhavan, New Delhi.
3. Dr. Jagdish Prasad Yadav, Joint Director/ IT Incharge, Krishi Vistar Bhavan, New Delhi with request to upload RTI reply on DOE website www.krishivistar.gov.in. Soft copy is being sent on e-mail.

1. Scheme : Central Sector Component, "Establishment of Agri-Clinics and Agri-Business Centres (AC&ABC)"

Under the scheme, Agriculture Extension of umbrella scheme Krishonnati Yojana of Department of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare, Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare, Government of India, Extension Division is implementing a Central Sector component, "Establishment of Agri-Clinics and Agri-Business Centres (AC&ABC)" since April, 2002 to supplement the efforts of public extension, support agricultural development and create gainful self-employment opportunities to unemployed youths with qualification in agriculture and allied sectors.

Aim: The programme promotes involvement of trained agri-preneurs in providing advisory and extension services to the farmers in agriculture and allied areas through agri-ventures established as self employment ventures with financial supports. These agri-preneurs are actively involved in providing advisory and extension services to the farmers on various technologies including soil health, cropping practices, plant protection, post harvest technology etc.

Implementation: The National Institute of Agricultural Extension Management (MANAGE), Hyderabad is the implementing agency for Training Component and National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) is the implementing agency for Subsidy Component of AC&ABC programme. MANAGE implement, through selected Nodal Training Institutes (NTIs) under MoU with MANAGE, in various parts of the country. The NTIs also provide hand-holding to the trained candidates for establishment of agri-ventures in agriculture and allied areas and facilitates in providing loan assistance from banks and subsidy support through NABARD.

Eligibility: Under this, residential training of 45 days duration is imparted to unemployed candidates in the age group of 18-60 years who possess degree/ diploma in agriculture and allied subjects, intermediate in agriculture, science graduates with PG in agri related courses and graduates in life sciences, environmental sciences and Microbiology.

Benefits under the Scheme: There is a provision of credit linked back-ended upfront composite subsidy on the bank loan availed by trained candidates under the programme. **The subsidy is 44% in respect of women, SC/ST and all categories of candidates from North-Eastern and Hill States and 36% in respect of other categories.** The subsidy is admissible for loans up to Rs.20 lakhs in case of individual and Rs.100 lakhs in case of Group Projects (for ventures set up by a group of 5 trained candidates).

Benefits of MUDRA loan scheme have been inducted under AC&ABC programme. Also, the programme has been on-boarded with DBT Bharat Mission for implementation of Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT) and Aadhaar particulars have been made mandatory for getting benefits under the scheme. Online process has been rolled out on 01.01.2018 through <https://acabcmis.gov.in> for training programmes under the scheme and details of subsidy distribution are captured on the online portal. Recently, the AC&ABC programme has been on-boarded with PRAYAS Portal for real time monitoring by PMO.

Details of the scheme may be seen at the website www.agriclinics.net

2. Scheme : Kisan Call Centre :

The KCC Scheme was launched on 21st January, 2004 to provide answer to farmers' queries on agriculture and allied sectors **including information on weather** over phone in their own language. A country wide common eleven digit number 1800-180-1551 has been allocated for Kisan Call Centre. The replies to the queries of the farming community are given in 22 local languages. KCCs operate from 17 locations in the country covering all the States/UTs. Calls are attended from 6.00 AM to 10.00 PM on all seven days of a week. The Department has engaged M/s IFFCO Kisan Sanchar Limited as Service Provider. These centres are manned by the Call Centre Agents known as Farm Tele Advisors (FTAs) who are graduate or above (PG or Doctorate) in agriculture & allied sectors. The calls which are not answered by the FTAs are escalated to Level-II Experts who are from State Department of Agriculture/SAU/KVKS/ICAR Institutes.

3. Scheme : – Support to State Extension Programs for Extension Reforms (ATMA)

A Centrally Sponsored Scheme “**Support to State Extension Programs for Extension Reforms**” popularly known as **ATMA Scheme** is under implementation since 2005. Presently, the scheme is being implemented in 704 districts of 28 States & 5 UTs in the country (**including all the 34 districts of Maharashtra**). The Scheme promotes decentralized farmer-friendly extension system in the country. The objectives of the Scheme is to support State Government’s efforts and to make available latest agricultural technologies and good agriculture practices in different thematic areas of agriculture and allied areas to farmers through different extension activities viz. Farmers Training, Demonstrations, Exposure Visits, Kisan Mela, Mobilization of Farmers Groups and organizing Farm Schools etc.

For more details about implementation of ATMA Scheme in Maharashtra, the applicant is advised to contact State Nodal Officer (ATMA), Commissionerate of Agriculture, Government of Maharashtra, Sugar Complex, Shivaji Nagar, Pune-411005 (Maharashtra).

The scheme guidelines are available in public domain vide <http://extensionareforms.dacnet.nic.in/PDF/atmaguid23814.pdf>

4. Scheme : Skill Training of Rural Youth (STRY) :

STRY was launched in 2015 with the aim to impart short term skill training to rural youths and farmers in agriculture and allied areas. The training under STRY is of 7 days duration (for 15 trainees per batch) and training activities are coordinated through State level Training Institutes (SAMETIs) by involving SAUs, KVKs, NGOs, Vocational Training Organisations, Youth Organisations etc.