

F. No. 29-01/2023-Estt./RTI  
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 14 November, 2023

To,

Sh. Kavın Prasanth  
2/1A, Kottaipalayam Post  
Near V.J. Syntex pvt. Ltd, Coimbatore-641110  
(Tamil Nadu)  
Email : kavinprasanth1610@gmail.com

Subject:- Supply of Information under RTI Act, 2005 – Application received from Sh. Kavın Prasanth, Tamil Nadu, vide Registration no.DOEXT/R/T/23/00060 dated 19-10-2023– reg.

Sir,

I am to refer to your RTI application dated 19-10-2023 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:

S.No	Information sought	Reply
1.	Can you provide data on the total budget allocation for agricultural development in the current fiscal year?	Total budget for current financial year 2023-24 : A. Agri-Clinic & Agri-Business Centres (AC&ABC) – Rs. 29 crores. B. Kisan Call Center (KCC) : Rs. 25 crore C. Support to State Extension Progrms for Extension Reforms (ATMA Scheme) : Rs. 591.97 lakh (Centre Share) has been tentatively allocated during the current financial year i.e. 2023-24.
2.	What are the key initiatives or programs undertaken by the department to promote sustainable agriculture practices?	<b>Support to State Extension Progrms for Extension Reforms (ATMA Scheme)</b> : The scheme promotes decentralized farmer-friendly extension system in the country. Under the scheme, Grants-in-Aid is released to the State Governments with an objective to support State Government's efforts to make available the latest agricultural technologies and good agricultural practices in different thematic areas of agriculture and allied sector to farmers through different extension activities viz: Farmers Training, Demonstrations, exposure Visits, Kisan Mela, Mobilization of farmers Groups and organizing Farm Schools etc.
3.	Please provide details of the number of agricultural extension services and programs offered to farmers.	A. Agri-Clinic & Agri-Business Centres : Annexure-I B. Kisan Call Centre : Annexure-II C. Support to State Extension Progrms for Extension Reforms (ATMA Scheme) : Same as point no. 2 above.
4.	Can you share information about any subsidies or financial assistance scheme available to farmers for crop cultivation and livestock rearing?	Does not pertain to Directorate of Extension.
5.	What measures are in place to address issues like crop insurance and compensation for crop loss due to natural disasters?	Does not pertain to Directorate of Extension.

6.	Please provide data on the quality and availability of agricultural inputs such as seeds, fertilizers, and pesticides.	Does not pertain to Directorate of Extension.
7.	What steps are taken to promote organic farming and reduce the use of chemical pesticides in Agriculture?	<b>Scheme –ATMA Scheme :</b> Latest agricultural technologies and good agricultural practices in different thematic areas of agriculture and allied sector including promotion of organic farming and reduce the use of chemical pesticides in agriculture are taken up under the ATMA Scheme through different extension activities. For more details about the implementation of ATMA Scheme in Tamil Nadu, the applicant is advised to contact State Nodal Officer (ATMA), Government of Tamil Nadu, Chepauk, Chennai-600005 (Tamil Nadu). ATMA Scheme Guidelines, 2018 are available in public domain (vide <a href="http://extensionreforms.dacnet.nic.in/PDF/atmaguid23814.pdf">http://extensionreforms.dacnet.nic.in/PDF/atmaguid23814.pdf</a> )

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](mailto:shaileshk.mishra29@gov.in)

Yours faithfully,

*Deepa Pande*  
14/11/2020  
(Deepa Pande)

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

Email : [deepa.pande65@gov.in](mailto: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](http://www.krishivistar.gov.in). Soft copy is being sent on e-mail.

**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 agripreneurs 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 agripreneurs 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](http://www.agriclinics.net)

**Scheme : Kisan Call Centre (KCC) :**

The Kisan Call Centre (KCC) scheme was launched on 21st January, 2004 to provide answer to farmers' queries on agriculture and allied sectors 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 official 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 7 days of a week. The scheme is being run by service provider on contract basis. These centers 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.