

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 5 March, 2024

To,

Sh. Samarendra Mishra
H-312, 2nd Floor, Karampura,
New Delhi-110015.
Email : samarendramishra62@gmail.com

Subject:- Supply of Information under RTI Act, 2005 – Application received from Sh. Samarendra Mishra, New Delhi vide (i) Registration No.DOEXT/R/E/24/00003 dated 07-02-2024 and (ii) Reg. No. DOEXT/R/T/24/00015 dated 14-02-2024– reg.

Sir,

I am to refer to your RTI application dated 07-02-2024 and 14-02-2024 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:

SN	Information Sought	Reply
1.	On what basis, MoU was signed by Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare and Digital Green Trust for implementation of Digital Agriculture Extension Program (VISTAAR), violating standard governmental protocols and procedure?	<p>The information sought by the applicant are in the form of questions. As per para 2(f) of RTI Act, 2005 answers cannot be provided for questions like, What, When, Why, How etc. Only available information can be furnished and no hypothetical information can be provided under RTI Act, 2005.</p>
2.	How was MoU signed between MoA&FW and Digital Green Trust without floating any Expression of Interest (Eoi)? This is in complete violation of standard government protocols and procedures.	
3.	How was MoU signed between MoA&FW and Digital Green Trust without Internal Finance Department (IFD) approval ? This is in complete violation of standard government protocols and procedures.	
4.	Why a controversial foreign funded NGO like Digital Green Trust, who has not filed FCRA reports and other mandatory compliances upto date with Government of India, has been made an implementing partner for a pilot program of Government of India (Digital Agriculture Extension program-VISTAAR)?	
5.	When the Digital Agriculture Extension program (VISTAAR) was supposed to be /was committed by Agriculture Ministry to be launched by Hon'ble Prime Minister of India at Red Fort on 15 th August, 2023, what is the reason for delay in roll-out of the program despite full support from MoA&FW?	
6.	One year of signing of the MoU between MoA&FW and Digital Green will be completed on February, 06 th , 2024. What has been the progress so far in the project related activities, as per originally planned and approved timelines?	
7.	Why SOPs/Guidelines and other related committee formations etc. of the scheme have not yet been approved and Office Memorandums not been issued even after completion of a year of the MoU being signed between the two parties ?	
8.	Why Digital Green Trust (a foreign funded and leftist, pseudo secular NGO) has got the access to all certified/authenticated material (including data and audio-video content) of ICAR and MANAGE for the implementation of VISTAAR program? This is clearly mentioned in the signed MoU between MoA&FW and Digital Green Trust.	
9.	What is the reason for hiring of third-party technology firm like TEKDI Technology in implementation of VISTAAR program when in-house expertise is very much available with Government of India through organizations like National Institute of Smart Government (NISG) and National Information Center (NIC), for the design, implementation and maintenance of portal meant to be launched for Digital Agriculture Extension program (VISTAAR)?	

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
5/3/2024
(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.