

F.No.29-36/2021-Estt./RTI
Government of India
Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare
Department of Agriculture, Cooperation & Farmers Welfare
Directorate of Extension

Krishi Vistar Bhavan
IASRI Campus, Pusa
New Delhi -110 012
Dated the 28 November, 2022

To,

Sh. Staines Sunder Singh
7/24, Bashyam, 2nd Street, Otteri
Chennai-600015
(Tamil Nadu).
Email : mail2staines@gmail.com

Subject:- Supply of information under the RTI Act, 2005 - Application from Sh. Staines Sunder Singh, Tamil Nadu, seeking information under RTI Act, 2005. (Reg. No. DOEXT/R/T/22/00083 dated 28.10.2022).

Sir,

I am to refer to your RTI application dated 28.10.2022 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 I get the information of the welfare schemes that the government has made for the farmers.	<p>A. Support to State Extension Programs for Extension Reforms : A Centrally Sponsored Scheme "Support to State Extension Programs for Extension Reforms" popularly known as ATMA Scheme is being implemented in 704 districts of 28 States & 5 UTs in the country (including all the 25 districts of Arunachal Pradesh). 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.</p> <p>B. 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 (SMETIs) by involving SAUs, KVKs, NGOs, Vocational Training Organisations, Youth Organisations etc.</p> <p>C. 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 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 7 days of a week. The Department has engaged M/s IFFCO Kisan Sanchar Limited as Service Provider. 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.</p> <p>D. Agri-clinics&Agri-Business Centres (AC&ABC) : Annexure- I</p>

2.	Can I get the information about the amount that the government has allotted for farmers.	A. Support to State Extension Programs for Extension Reforms : During the year 2022-23, an amount of Rs. 710.96 crore (Centre Share) has been tentative allocated to carry out under ATMA Scheme.
3.	Can I get the information of No. of loans got by the farmers that is been cancelled by the government.	Does not pertains to Directorate of Extension
4.	Can I get the information about the steps taken by the Government to develop farmers and farming.	Same as in S.No.1 above.
5.	Can I know how often the officers visit farmers to know the struggles they face.	A. Support to State Extension Programs for Extension Reforms : Since, the implementation of the ATMA scheme is in the domain of State Governments, applicant is advised to seek details of officers visit to farmers from the Commissioner of Agriculture-cum-State Nodal Officer (ATMA), Government of Tamil Nadu, Chepauk, Chennai-600005, (Tamil Nadu) or Project Director (ATMA) of the concerned district.

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
28/11/22
(Deepa Pande)

Dy. Director (Admn) & CPIO

Ph.011-25846467

[e-mail : 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, ND.
3. Dr. Jagdish Prasad Yadav, Joint Director/ IT Incharge DA&FW, & Section Officer (IT) Krishi Bhavan, DA&FW New Delhi with request to upload RTI reply on DOE website www.krishivistar.gov.in. Soft copy is being sent on e-mail.

SCHEME : 'AC & ABC'

ANNEXURE - I

"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 agriventures 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. Currently there are 120 NTIs imparting trainings. 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).

Achievements: Since inception of the programme, 82,672 candidates have been trained and 36,195 agri-ventures have been established in the country till 31.10.2022 creating job opportunities to the tune of 11,293 thousand man-days. Among the ventures established, 3346 have been granted with subsidy as on 31.10.2022. A total expenditure of Rs. 361.21 crore has been incurred under the programme as on 31.10.2022. The agriventures established under the scheme are acting as active supplementary institutions for Government Extension mechanism in the States/UTs.

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 and Jan Samarth Portal of Government of India for Credit Linked Subsidy Programmes.

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