

Government of West Bengal
Department of Panchayats & Rural Development
Joint Administrative Building
Block: HC, Plot No. 7
Salt Lake City, Sector-III
Kolkata- 700 106

Memo No. 5580-RD/O/NREGA/18M-13/08

Dated: 06.11.2013

To
Shri R Subramanyam
Joint Secretary (RE-I)
MGNREGA
Ministry of Rural Development
Government of India

Sub: National level award for MGNREGA
Ref.: Letter no. J-11060/10/2012-MGNREGA-1 dated 17.06.2013

Sir,

Kindly find attached the detailed documents and necessary papers containing proposals received from four districts of West Bengal for the Award in Excellence in implementation of MGNREGA during 2012-13.

The proposal from Dakshin Dinajpur District may kindly be considered in the Special Initiative category. The District has taken an excellent step in implementation of a special project termed as "Composite Project on Lac Cultivation". The prime objective of the project is to ensure greater participation of the women-folk under the programme. In the project, the people who have come forward to participate in the programme mainly belong to the tribal households. One activity cluster comprising of women members of the SGSY with the aid of an external agency moved forward under the banner of the programme towards cultivation of Lac on Flemingia Semialata plant acting as a host plant. The cluster members worked in their own field right from leveling of land, fencing, construction of approach road, raising of seedlings, plantation activities, manuring together with inter-cropping of other varieties of vegetables. The asset that has been created is a twenty five acre of developed and fenced land, nursery for the plants, one re-excavated pond for pisciculture and one brick road. All these assets have been created under the assistance of the programme. The special project has largely benefitted the economically backward section of the society; mobilized the cluster members who are all women and has led the way towards empowerment of women as envisaged in the Act. We see this as a path breaking initiative towards convergence between MGNREGS and 'Ajeevika'. We strongly recommend the project and the District for the award.

The District Programme Coordinator, Jalpaiguri District has submitted a proposal for the Award for initiatives in implementation of the MGNREGA Audit of Scheme Rules, 2011. Use of Information and Communication technology (ICT) in the different fields of implementation of the programme in general and particularly towards ensuring transparency and accountability as stipulated in the Act is the second initiative that

the District has undertaken which is recommended by the Department. In the District, transparency and accountability throughout the system of implementation of schemes could be ensured through provision of key role for the stakeholders in the form of monitoring. The meetings of the Gram Sabhas (public assembly) acted as very useful platforms where the details of the projects implemented were shared, discussed and scrutinized. Active participation of the stakeholders at every stage of implementation marked the success of the task. Capacity building exercises were undertaken for the auditors who were to be engaged for the social audit exercise. Field visits were taken up by the members of the group forming the team, subsequently; the reports were compiled on the basis of the field visits. The report was afterwards shared with the people through public hearing. The positive impact the scheme has introduced is the following:

- The issue of transparency and accountability has taken a front seat in implementation of the programme,
- Public hearing at a common place where there is unhindered access of all the stakeholders of the programme has brought back the sense of commitment for the members; largely been responsible for reducing gaps in implementation,
- The role of the implementers, PIAs have been to facilitate a free and fair process of audit by the society

The feedback in the form of delay in registration of households, delay in distribution of Job Cards, non-receipt of dated receipts for demand for work, late payment of wages, absence of worksite facilities etc. throw light to the important corners of the programme where interventions can be planned. We strongly recommend conferring the Award for excellence in MGNREGS implementation to the District.

The third proposal is from Bankura District which has also been able to maintain extremely steady performance across the years. The initiative of the District with special emphasis on IEC, introduction of toll free help line in the District, extensive campaign in local language call for special mention. In the convergence platform with the NBA the District recorded rural sanitation works to look up. Other Departments viz., Forests, Sericulture, Irrigation, Horticulture etc. have worked in the desired manner to make the convergent initiative a successful one. With increased person-days generation, greater area of land could be brought under forest cover and a substantial outcome could be achieved for the Job Card holders who worked in their own degraded land.


The District also recorded progress in developing an Eco Tourism park at Susunia located at the Susunia hillock which was accomplished by dovetailing MGNREGS fund with BRGF. A total number of 5 Acres of land could be developed under the project.

Abundance of fallow, barren wasteland in the District provided a backdrop for creation of orchards. Eighty Four orchards were raised under the programme covering an area of 182 Hectares within 54 villages. One Hundred Forty Five Self Help Groups and 1601 households have benefitted from these projects. We strongly recommend conferring the Award for excellence in MGNREGA implementation to the District.

The fourth proposal is of the Burdwan District. The District has brought in positive changes in the livelihood of the rural poor through sustainable employment generation and good governance in the MGNREGA administration. In terms of total person day generation, expenditure and engagement of job-card holding families in MGNREGA implementation, the district's performance has been outstanding. The District could record an expenditure to the tune of Rs. 464.92 Crore, generated person-days to the tune of 2.37 Crore, provided employment of 100 days to 40,182 households in the financial year 2012-13. Considering its overall performance, we strongly recommend the case of Burdwan District for the Award. The District has further nominated two of its Gram Panchayats, viz., Erur and Bhatar as the best performing Gram Panchayats within the Districts. The proposal in relation to the same may also kindly be perused.

Kindly note that the delay in submission of the proposal from the State is mainly due to the fact that all the offices of the State was closed on the Puja Holidays and we have received the last proposal only after the office resumed after the vacation. We would expect an opportunity for the District Magistrate and District Programme Coordinators concerned for presenting their case to the Award Committee.

Yours faithfully,


(Dibyendu Sarkar)

Commissioner, MGNREGS, West Bengal

Encl.: As per list

Memo No. 5580/1(4)-RD/O/NREGA/18M-13/08

Dated: 06.11.13

Copy forwarded for favour of information to the District Magistrate and District Programme Coordinator, Dakshin Dinajpur / Jalpaiguri / Bankura / Birbhum.


(Dibyendu Sarkar)

Commissioner, MGNREGS, West Bengal

List of documents submitted by the State Government in the National Level Awards for MGNREGA to recognize the outstanding contributors

1. Name of the Districts:
 - a. Dakshin Dinajpur
 - b. Jalpaiguri
 - c. Bankura
 - d. Burdwan
2. Hard copies of the District specific filled in proposal format
3. Relevant soft copies together with Power point presentation, photographs and short films on different projects



6/1/2018
DIBYENDU SARKAR, WBCS
Commissioner, MGNREGS,
& Special Secretary
Panch. & R. D. Deptt.
Govt. of W. B.