



IRRIGATION OF INDIVIDUAL LAND UNDER MGNREGA

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Introduction:

MG NREGA came into force on September 7, 2005 and its implementation was notified in a phased manner. In phase I, it was introduced in 200 most backward districts of the country on February 2, 2006. 130 districts were further included under NREGS in phase II with effect from April 1, 2007. The scheme was extended to the remaining 274 districts of India from April 1, 2008. The objective of the act is to enhance livelihood security in rural areas by providing at least 100 days of guaranteed wage employment in a financial year to every household whose adult members volunteer to do unskilled manual work.

The primary objective of the Act is augmenting wage employment. Its auxiliary objective is strengthening natural resource management through works that address causes of chronic poverty, like drought, and so encourage sustainable development.

Schedule I, Para 1 lists permissible works in their order of priority:

- i. Water conservation and water harvesting;
- ii. Drought proofing (including afforestation and tree plantation);
- iii. Irrigation canal including micro and minor irrigation works;
- iv. Provision of irrigation facility to land owned by households belonging to the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes or to land of beneficiaries of land reforms or that of the beneficiaries under the Indira Awas Yojana of the Government of India;
- v. Renovation of traditional water bodies including desilting of tanks;
- vi. Land development;
- vii. Flood control and protection works including drainage in water logged areas;
- viii. Rural connectivity to provide all-weather access; and
- ix. Any other work which may be notified by the Central Government in consultation with the State Government.



- b. Para (iv) of Schedule I permits work on individual land “provision of irrigation facility to land owned by households belonging to the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes or to land of beneficiaries of land reforms or that of the beneficiaries under the Indira Awas Yojana of the Government of India”.

This was amended to include horticulture plantation, land development and Below Poverty Line families vide Notification dated March 6, 2007 i.e. “provision of irrigation facility, horticulture plantation and land development facilities on land owned by households belonging to the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes or to Below Poverty Line families or to beneficiaries of land reforms or to the beneficiaries under the Indira Awas Yojana of the Government of India”.

This was further amended vide Notification dated July 24, 2009 to add small and marginal farmers i.e. “provision of irrigation facility, horticulture plantation and land development facilities to land owned by households belonging to the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes or below poverty line families or to beneficiaries of land reforms or to the beneficiaries under the Indira Awas Yojana of the Government of India or that of the small farmers or marginal farmers as defined in the Agriculture Debt Waiver and Debt Relief Scheme, 2008”. □ NREGS thus provides an opportunity for the households from SC/ST/ BPL families, beneficiaries of land reforms /IAY and of SF/ MF to take up land development, irrigation facility, and horticulture plantation on their land to mitigate drought, enhance agricultural productivity and generate steady income.

In the last three years, most of the MGNREGA works were carried out on common land i.e. Water conservation and water harvesting; drought proofing (including afforestation & plantation); irrigation canals including minor irrigation works; renovation of traditional water bodies including desilting of tanks; land development; flood control and protection works including drainage in water logged areas; and rural connectivity to provide all weather access.

Over the years there is increase in individual based works but concentrated in few states only. Number of field studies carried out in the field also show that there is increase in production on the individual land treated under NREGA. Therefore, there is need for the guidelines to facilitate the works on individual lands to have some standard norms with flexibility to cater the local needs, so that the positive impact of such works is maximized.



Works that may be taken up on individual land under mgnrega:

Works on individual land permitted under mgNREGA are irrigation facility, horticulture plantation and land development. The works under these facilities can be taken up are- Irrigation facility: Construction of Dug well, Farm pond, Diggi, Tanka, Water hose and Tank cum Dug well, Ground water recharge structure, Construction/ lining of water courses/ Irrigation channel and other works of irrigation facility measurable and popular in the area as irrigation facility. Land development facilities: Construction of contour/ graded bund, land leveling & shaping, reclamation of saline/ alkaline land, construction of drainage channels, full package of on farm development, soil cover on waste land by transporting silt from nearby tank, development of waste land/ fallow land. Horticulture, Plantation: all activities related to horticulture including sericulture and plantation and nursery rising.

Conditions for taking up nrega works on individual land:

General: In order to ensure due compliance with the amendment notified by MORD vide Notification dated 22nd July 2009 and creation of durable assets and strengthening the livelihood resource base of the rural poor, the following directions were issued in accordance with Section 27(1) of NREGA vide MORD letter No. 11060/3/2009- NREGA dated 1st September 2009 shall be followed.

i) Works on the land of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes households will be taken on priority. Once works on the lands of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes are saturated in a Gram panchayat, works on lands of small and marginal farmers may be considered.

Following conditions as notified vide Notification dated 18th June 2008 shall be fulfilled.

a) The individual land owner shall be a Job card holder and also work in the project.

b) For each such project, the labour material ratio of 60:40 shall be maintained at the

Gram Panchayat level.

c) Projects shall be approved by the Gram Sabha and the Gram Panchayat and shall be part of the annual shelf of projects.

d) No contractors or machinery shall be used in the execution of work.



e) No machinery shall be purchased. Other conditions: Only registered job card holders to be employed on the work. Social audits through gram sabhas will be an integral feature. The responsibility of maintenance of NREGA works on individual land will rest with the beneficiary household. The ceiling of NREGA works on individual land shall be rupee 1.5 lakh per Job Card holder. In some areas because of strata and ground water level, the cost of excavating dug well will be more than 1.5 lakh. In such cases, the justification will be recorded while preparing labour budget with duly endorsement by the DPC. However, beyond this ceiling, more work under convergence with other ongoing schemes will be planned for value addition. Generally there should be one time investment on an individual land on the activities selected. The effort will be to meet out the demand of works on an individual land by all eligible categories of NREGA workers than only the initial set of beneficiaries under this category should be considered for second round of investment for the work on their land. This is to ensure fair distribution of benefits under this category as well as to maintain balance of work on individual land and works on common property resources.

Technical: conditions required to be fulfilled shall be:

- a. For horticulture plantation, adherence to seasonality for planting, distribution of inputs and other inter culture operations (a typical illustration at Annexure- IV)
- b. Construction of Dug well shall be taken up only after water availability and clearance from State Ground water department.
- c. The required survey, planning and designing will be carried out as required and prescribed in the technical manual prepared at the State level for such works.

PROCESS OF INCLUSION OF MGNREGA WORKS ON INDIVIDUAL LAND

The households, who wish to take up MGNREGA works on their land, may approach Gram Panchayat with his application for demand of work as well as for carrying out NREGA work on his land in the format (Annexure-1) with following document.

- a) Caste certificate in case of SC, ST.
- b) Certificate/ copy of the land record. The Rozgar sahayak/ Gram Panchayat Secretary will assist in preparation of the application to interested households and will verify/ collect and attach following documents and will fill up the data input sheet (Annexure-II) for the eligible household



beneficiary. The Patwari will verify the ownership of land proposed for development.

- a) If house hold is BPL, then this will be verified from the BPL list issued by the competent authority.
- b) For construction of dug well, will collect and attach water availability certificate from concerned Ground Water Department. The Gram Panchayat will put up his application for demand of work and carrying out NREGA work on his land for inclusion in the AAP and shelf of projects.

REFERENCE:

1. The National Rural Employment Guarantee Act, 2005 (NREGA), Operational Guidelines, 2008, 3rd Edition
2. MGNREGA, briefing book, January, 2013
3. http://nrega.nic.in/circular/social_audit.htm
4. <http://www.nrega.nic.in/netnrega/home.aspx>
5. http://mnregaweb4.nic.in/netnrega/all_lv1_details_dashboard_new.aspx
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